

The Almanac

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

MARCH 21, 2025 | VOL. 60 NO. 28



WWW.ALMANACNEWS.COM

Confronting a legacy of contamination at EPA's Ravenswood Business District

By Eleanor Raab

Real estate in San Mateo County is among the most valuable in the United States. Even small parcels can fetch millions. Yet, in East Palo Alto's Ravenswood Business District, acres of land sit empty, their potential unrealized.

At first glance, these vacant lots appear to be prime real estate — offering stunning views of the Diablo Range to the east and the Santa Cruz Mountains to the west, with the San Francisco Bay Trail hugging the area's eastern edge. But beneath the surface, remnants of the area's industrial past linger. Arsenic, lead, cadmium, volatile organic compounds, and oil contaminate the soil and groundwater, rendering much of the district uninhabitable until extensive remediation is complete.

The city is now eyeing the Ravenswood Business District for redevelopment — offices, retail, open space and housing are all planned for the area,

which city officials envision as East Palo Alto's new "main street." If built as proposed, the taxes generated by the new Ravenswood Business District Area Specific Plan — passed in December 2024 — could be game-changing for a city that has long struggled to balance its budget. It could also introduce much needed grocery and restaurant options, and provide more green space to city residents, who currently lack many of those amenities.

However, environmentalists, community activists, and residents fear that redevelopment, if not constructed with environmental remediation as a priority, may pose serious risks to human health. They believe city officials will prioritize economic development over the community. Once buildings are constructed on contaminated sites, they say that addressing potential issues that bubble up amid climate change, as groundwater rises

See **CONTAMINATION**, page 15



Anna Hoch-Kenney

A sign warns of contaminated soil at a housing development construction site on Weeks Street in East Palo Alto on Feb. 13.

County jail sees 6th death in 2 years, as street racer dies weeks after sentencing

Harrison had fewer than two years of jail time remaining due to credits for good time and time served

By Arden Margulis

The 25-year-old man convicted in the deaths of a San Carlos couple who died following a crash in 2022 when he and another were street racing in Redwood City had been sentenced in his case just three weeks before he was found dead in his cell, officials said.

Kyle Harrison, 25, died on March 15 while in custody at the Maple Street Correctional Center due to unknown causes, according to the sheriff's office. Harrison had been sentenced

to eight years in prison on Feb. 15 for his role in the deaths of Grace Spiridon and Gregory Ammen on Nov. 4, 2022.

Harrison had less than two years of jail time remaining due to credits for good time and time served, according to District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe. He and then-17-year-old Cesar Morales were street racing when Morales crashed into the family's vehicle at over 80 mph. The two parents, ages 42 and 44, died on impact, while their 7-year-old twin daughters survived.

The San Mateo County Sheriff's office, coroner and district attorney are investigating Harrison's death. Once a cause of death is determined, the sheriff's office must release the findings to the public within 30 days.

"We are saddened by Mr. Harrison's death. His statement to the court and to the victims' family members at sentencing demonstrated true remorse for his crime and a sincere acceptance of his debt to society," said Wagstaffe. "His death less than three weeks after sentencing just

adds further to the tragedy of this case."

According to the individual with knowledge of the in-custody death, Harrison was set to be transferred to a state prison this week and was housed in a cell with one other person.

Harrison's death comes after scrutiny of in-custody deaths in San Mateo County continues. Since Sheriff Christina Corpus took office in 2023, six inmates, including Harrison, have died while incarcerated.

The pod that housed Harrison had received a routine safety

check before he was found unresponsive, according to the sheriff's office.

Jim Lawrence, chair of Fixin' SMC, an organization advocating for greater oversight of the sheriff's office, called for action following the latest inmate death.

"Once again, we are faced with the heartbreaking loss of another life in our San Mateo County Jail, making it the sixth inmate death since Sheriff Corpus took office," he said.

See **JAIL DEATH**, page 10

INSIDE

ARTSCENE 19 | FOOD & DRINK 22

Read up-to-the-minute news on AlmanacNews.com

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

This elegant townhouse is situated between Menlo Park and Atherton, just minutes from downtowns Redwood City and Menlo Park. Meticulously maintained and beautifully appointed, it features beautiful wood floors, high ceilings, stained-glass window, and handsome beams. Two updated bedroom suites have been tastefully designed.

Bright and open end-unit 2-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhouse for 1,585 +/- sf

Updated granite kitchen with casual dining area

Large living room with gas fireplace, sliding doors to rear patio, and office niche

Primary suite with cathedral ceiling and large walk-in closet + second bedroom suite

Tranquil patio with lush landscaping

Two deeded parking spaces

Lot size of 1,226 +/- sf

Redwood City School District, Garfield Community, McKinley Middle, and Menlo Atherton High (buyer to verify enrollment)

HOA Dues \$416/month



Sophisticated Living in Prestigious Menlo Park
120 Amherst Avenue | Menlo Park | \$1,398,000 | 120AmherstAvenue.com

**CALL FOR A
PRIVATE SHOWING**

Nestled in the heart of Sharon Heights, a charming neighborhood that is a true hidden gem, this condo is one of the most sought-after places to call home. Just minutes from Stanford University and a vibrant shopping center, it offers unparalleled convenience to fabulous dining and upscale shopping, plus one of the finest medical centers in the world is just minutes away!

Fabulous single-story 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath end unit with 2,780 +/-sf

Inviting formal entrance with soaring ceilings and balcony views from multiple rooms

Spacious primary suite with mountain views, walk-in closet, luxe bath, and sliding glass door to the balcony

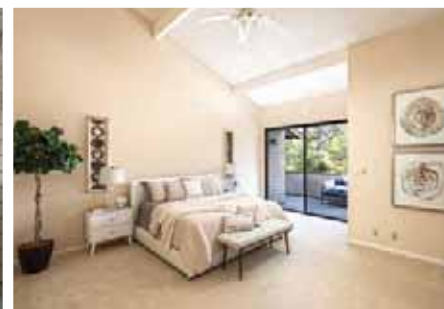
Bright kitchen with balcony, large pantry, built-in desk, and sunny breakfast room

2 deeded secure parking spaces in gated garage plus generous storage unit

Community pool, spa, and clubhouse

HOA dues \$1,338/month

Exceptional Single-level Living in Desirable Sharon Heights
60 Mansion Court | Menlo Park | \$1,998,000 | 60MansionCourt.com



**JUDY &
CINDY**
BOGARD-TANIGAMI TEAM



JUDY BOGARD-TANIGAMI
License # 00298975
650.207.2111
judy.bogard@theagencyre.com



CINDY BOGARD-O'GORMAN
License # 01918407
650.924.8365
cindy.ogorman@theagencyre.com





2327 Sharon Road, Menlo Park
OFFERED AT \$1,598,000

BRIAN AYER
650.242.2473 LICENSE# 01870281



1619 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park
OFFERED AT \$3,498,000

MARY JO MCCARTHY
650.400.6364 LICENSE# 01354295



1534 San Antonio Street, Menlo Park
OFFERED AT \$1,399,000

DULCY FREEMAN
650.804.8884 LICENSE# 01342352



92 Cebalo Lane, Atherton
OFFERED AT \$3,995,000

THE DREYFUS GROUP
650.485.3476 LICENSE# 01121795



961 High Road, Woodside
OFFERED AT \$16,995,000

THE DREYFUS GROUP
650.485.3476 LICENSE# 01121795



941 High Road, Woodside
OFFERED AT \$4,995,000

THE DREYFUS GROUP
650.485.3476 LICENSE# 01121795



5 Palm Circle Road, Woodside
OFFERED AT \$2,699,000

DANIELA HAALAND
650.980.8866 LICENSE# 02045462
ANNA STEPCHENKO
305.824.7157 LICENSE# 02203473



0-250 Heacox Road, Woodside
OFFERED AT \$690,000

KIM HANSEN
415.806.8230 LICENSE# 01927728



222 8th Avenue #302, San Mateo
OFFERED AT \$1,495,000

BRIAN AYER
650.242.2473 LICENSE# 01870281



3319 Brittan Avenue #10, San Carlos
OFFERED AT \$798,000

OMAR KINAAN
650.776.2828 LICENSE# 01723115



9 Burnham Court, San Carlos
OFFERED AT \$3,298,000

JOHN SHROYER
650.787.2121 LICENSE# 00613370



162 Madera Avenue, San Carlos
OFFERED AT \$2,998,000

JOHN SHROYER
650.787.2121 LICENSE# 00613370



1904 Chula Vista Drive, Belmont
OFFERED AT \$2,288,000

JAMES MINKEY
650.576.1732 LICENSE# 01073312



374 Charles Street, Sunnyvale
OFFERED AT \$1,999,999

MARY GILLES
650.814.0858 LICENSE# 01789710
SALLY RANDALL
650.520.8771 LICENSE# 02143785



375 Stowell Avenue, Sunnyvale
OFFERED AT \$1,198,000

LORI ORION
650.539.5674 LICENSE# 01883566
ANDY ORION
650.539.4426 LICENSE# 01903703



500 West Middlefield Road 164,
Mountain View
OFFERED AT \$598,000

KATHRYN BEDBURY
650.740.4494 LICENSE# 01817656



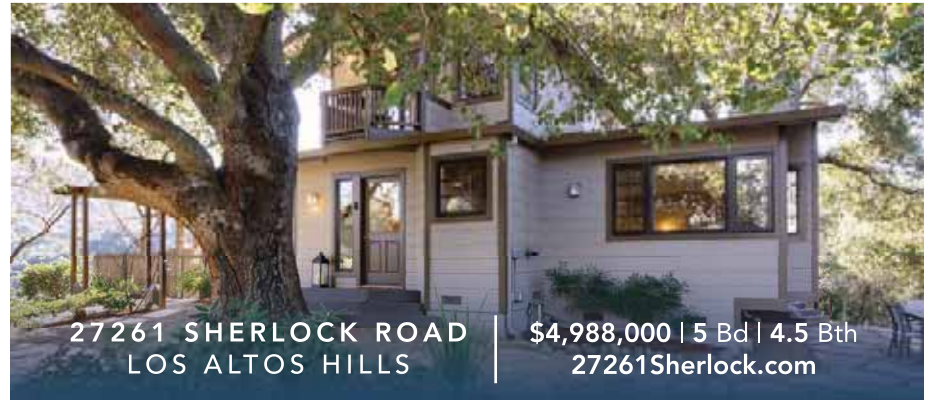
YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS



DeLeonRealty_USA



27885 FAWN CREEK COURT | \$4,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
LOS ALTOS HILLS | 27885FawnCreek.com



27261 SHERLOCK ROAD | \$4,988,000 | 5 Bd | 4.5 Bth
LOS ALTOS HILLS | 27261Sherlock.com



8 REYNA PLACE | \$9,988,000 | 4 Bd | 7 Bth
MENLO PARK | 8Reyna.com



5 OAK FOREST COURT | \$5,988,000 | 4 Bd | 5.5 Bth
PORTOLA VALLEY | 5OakForest.com



159 WAVERLEY STREET | \$3,988,000 | 3 Bd | 2 Bth
PALO ALTO | 159Waverley.com



25893 W. FREMONT ROAD | \$15,950,000 | 5 Bd | 9 Bth
LOS ALTOS HILLS | 25893WFremont.com



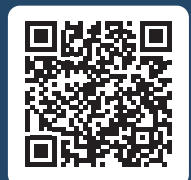
12355 STONEBROOK COURT | \$11,500,000 | 6 Bd | 9 Bth
LOS ALTOS HILLS | 12355StonebrookCt.com



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



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR
MORE DETAILS OR VISIT US
AT **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 | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224



Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Sue Crane, Portola Valley public servant, dies at age of 92

She was last living founder of Ridge Vineyards

By Angela Swartz

Sue Crane, a former Portola Valley Town Council member and the last living founder of Ridge Vineyards, died on March 14, 2025, surrounded by family at her home in The Sequoias. She was 92.

Born in Jersey City, N.J., on Sept. 11, 1932, to Rachel and Aaron Gorlin, Crane was the oldest of three siblings. Crane graduated with a degree in psychology at Beaver College (now Arcadia University) in Pennsylvania in 1954. The same year, she married Hewitt Crane, known familiarly as Hew, at the Pierre Hotel in New York City.

In 1956, Hew brought the couple to Menlo Park, where he would eventually become a visionary recognized for his creativity and organizational skills at Stanford Research Institute, now SRI International.

Sue spent two years working as an executive secretary for Sunset Magazine, then headquartered in Menlo Park, before becoming pregnant with her first son, Russ, in 1958. Son Doug was born in 1959 and Dan in 1961.



Courtesy town of Portola Valley

Portola Valley Mayor Jeff Aalfs, right, presents Sue Crane with the Founders' Award for Lifetime Contributions to the Town of Portola Valley on May 10, 2023.

With three SRI colleagues and their families, Hew and Sue Crane co-founded Ridge Vineyards in 1959 on Monte Bello Road in Santa Clara County. Ridge's stature as one of the world's premiere wineries was reinforced in 2006 when its cabernet took first place in the 30th anniversary of the rematch of the 1976

"Judgment of Paris," comparing the best of French and California wines.

The Cranes moved to Portola Valley in 1964 to raise their sons. Civic engagement and volunteerism played a big part in Sue's life once she moved to town.

See **SUE CRANE**, page 14

Sequoia Union motion to sever in M-A lawsuit denied

Students' attorneys suggest coverup between police, administrators

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The Sequoia Union High School District motion to separate from the joint claims that were made against the district and the town of Atherton in the lawsuit involving the arrest of two Menlo-Atherton High School students in April 2023, was denied by the United States District Court on March 11.

The claims of the lawsuit are made jointly toward the town of Atherton, police officers David Metzger, Diego Romero, Igor Davidowich, Joshua Gatto, Dimitri Andruha, SUHSD and former M-A Vice Principals Stephen Emmi and Nick Muys.

If it had not been denied, the motion to sever would have separated the claims against the district from allegations made toward the town of Atherton and its police officers by the plaintiff referred to as K.C. in the suit. If it was granted, the lawsuit against the district would have been weaker, said John Burris, the plaintiff's attorney.

In October, U.S. District Judge Rita Lin denied the majority of the Sequoia Union High School District's motions to dismiss the claims made against it in the suit.

The lawsuit stems from an incident that occurred in the

Menlo-Atherton office where K.C. was denied the return of a confiscated water toy by school administrators. That led to a series of events that escalated the situation.

K.C., who no longer attends Menlo-Atherton, is named as a student of the Successful Transition Achieved with Responsive Support program, which provides special education students with academic, behavioral and social-emotional support.

As a student with an intellectual disability, K.C. had an individualized education plan that outlines policies for de-escalation strategies and positive behavioral interventions. The lawsuit alleges that school staff violated his disability rights by not following procedures per his education plan by contacting the police. That allegedly caused an "emotional disturbance episode."

After the incident in the school's office, the lawsuit claims that K.C. and another student, D.B., were met by police officers at a nearby bus stop and were forcefully arrested and detained.

The motion by the district argues that "there is substantial risk of prejudice to the district

See **M-A LAWSUIT**, page 17

Menlo Park council rejects appeal on teacher housing project

Battle over second entrance comes to end after appellant's request is denied

By Eleanor Raab

An affordable housing project for educators on the former Flood School site in Menlo Park will move forward after the City Council shot down an appeal on Tuesday night. The project has received pushback from neighbors in the years since it was first proposed, including a citywide ballot measure aimed at stopping the development, and a proposed mayoral recall motivated by the project.

The city council voted 4-0 on March 11, with Council member Cecilia Taylor absent, to reject the appeal after more than four hours of discussion and public comment.

The appellant, Skip Hilton, a resident of the Suburban Park neighborhood where the project is located, challenged the Planning Commission's entitlement of the project, arguing that there were safety concerns due to the lack of a second public vehicle entrance, and what he said were "significant deficiencies and inaccuracies" in the traffic studies commissioned by the developer and the city.

The project, now approved, will consist of 88 units, with all but the manager's unit being offered at below-market rates targeted specifically at educators. The site is owned by the Ravenswood City School District, which spoke in favor of the project at the meeting. The

property has sat empty since the James Flood Magnet School was closed in 2011, and the buildings demolished in 2018.

Steven Spielberg, a representative from developer Alliant Communities project, told the council that if it did not approve the project at this council meeting, funding would be in jeopardy.

"We had hoped this appeal hearing would have come and gone by now, but tomorrow morning I need to submit a form that says we're approved, or we're really not going to be able to move forward (with the financing application)," he said. "We might be able to re-apply next year, and there might be other funding opportunities

along the way, but essentially a denial tonight would set this project back significantly."

The appeal

At the meeting, Hilton told the council that he is ultimately in favor of the site becoming affordable housing for teachers in the city, but that he feels the project "can be greatly improved for future residents with some obvious, common sense changes that were not fully considered by the planning commission," such as a second entrance on the east side of the property. He said that he believes some of the planning commissioners felt forced to make a decision to approve the use permit for the development. Specifically, he said that the

transportation analysis did not assess the project's impact to the already congested intersection at Bay Road and Ringwood Avenue, that the public transit, bicycle and pedestrian analysis was misleading and inaccurate, that the project was inconsistent with the city's general plan and that the project lacked environmental and traffic mitigation measures. He also said that the city and developer did not attempt to find "creative solutions" to some of the traffic and environmental impacts.

"My goal would be that those creative solutions are now brought to the table," he said. "I don't believe this is going to

See **TEACHER HOUSING**, page 11

Local nonprofit raises money to save historic Dairy House

In need of restoration, ice house is one of oldest structures in San Mateo County

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Park are working to raise a total of \$400,000 to complete a project to save the 150-year-old Dairy House in Wunderlich Park. The nonprofit organization is hoping to begin restoration efforts this summer.

The local park organization sees it as a mission to help San Mateo County Parks with some of the preservation and historic projects onsite, said Executive Director Kym Teppo. The nonprofit was involved in the restoration of Folger Stables in 2010, another historic structure in Wunderlich Park.

The Dairy House is an ice house made of limestone and is in dire need of restoration, Teppo said.

"If we don't do some major preservation efforts on it, it's going to crumble and fall down," she added.

The Dairy House was built in 1874 by Simon Jones, a farmer and owner of exporting business S.L. Jones & Co. in San Francisco. In an era before refrigerators, the historic structure was used to preserve perishable goods including fruits, dairy and meat.

According to Teppo, the Dairy House is one of the oldest



Courtesy Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Park

Historic Dairy House in Wunderlich Park.

structures in all of San Mateo County and is one of the very few ice houses that still exist in the country.

The organization began fundraising and planning for the project in 2021 and has raised about \$300,000 over the years. It is aiming to close the gap on the remaining \$100,000 needed to start the project. Recently, a donor agreed to match any donations made until the end of March.

According to Teppo, the project has been evaluated, designed and is ready to break ground. Despite

the remaining \$100,000 needed, the organization said it is ready to begin the project once it has its permits.

"The problem with a lot of these structures is that once they're gone, people wish that they were still there," said Teppo. "Once these things are gone, they're gone forever."

The Dairy House showcases how food was managed before electricity and how people provided for themselves in the winter when fresh food was not available, Teppo said.

The history of the Chinese

Exclusion Act of 1882 also plays into the Dairy House, she added. Jones, who exported his goods to China, also hired Chinese laborers to work on his property and testified against the act.

The work of the Chinese laborers can be seen across the various stone walls on the property and in the Dairy House, which were built using a technique known as dry stacking. This is a centuries-old building method that involves the arrangement of stones without the use of grout.

The Dairy House is currently closed to park guests and is tarped off to prevent further decay from the winter rain. It will continue to be off limits until the restoration process is completed, Teppo said.

Visions after restoration

In prior years, the Dairy House was used as part of the Friends of Wunderlich Park educational programming for school field trips and guest experiences. The organization often held history tours for third- and fourth-grade students who were learning about California history.

Teppo hopes that the renovated Dairy House will allow the organization to continue its programs as well as incorporate new interpretive elements to the site.

"We're thinking of ham hocks hanging from the ceiling and bushels of apples in the actual facility itself, so that people can see what it would have looked like in the 1800s and how it would have been used," Teppo said.

The Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Park is asking for the community's help in preserving the history of the structure through donations. For more information about the Dairy House preservation project visit <https://www.huddartwunderlichfriends.org/save-the-dairy-house>. ■

Email Staff Writer

Jennifer Yoshikoshi at

jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.

The Almanac

NEWSROOM

Editor editor@almanacnews.com

Staff Writers Arden Margulis, 223-6518
Jennifer Yoshikoshi, 223-6536

Home/Real Estate Editor Linda Taaffe,
223-6511, ltaaffe@almanacnews.com

Arts & Entertainment Editor
Heather Zimmerman, 223-6515,
hzimmerman@almanacnews.com

Features Editor Julia Brown, 223-6531,
jbrown@almanacnews.com

Food Editor Adrienne Mitchell,
223-6539, amitchel@almanacnews.com

Audience Engagement Assistant
Editor Zoe Morgan, 223-6519, zmorgan@
almanacnews.com

**Audience Engagement Assistant Editor/
Visual Journalist** Anna Hoch-Kenney,
223-6530, ahochkenney@almanacnews.com

Lifestyle Assistant Editor Karla Kane,
223-6521, kkane@almanacnews.com

Embarcadero Media Foundation
Staff Writers

Simmerdeep Kaur, 223-6533

Emily Margaretten, 223-6517

Lisa Moreno, 223-6526

Gennady Sheyner, 223-6513

Contributors Kate Daly, Ashwini Gangal,
Neil Gonzales, Maggie Mah

ADVERTISING

Major Accounts Sales Manager
Connie Cotton, 223-6571

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

■ **Newsroom:** (650) 223-6525

■ **Emails:** Editor@AlmanacNews.com
Letters@AlmanacNews.com

■ **Submit Legal Notices:**
AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/

■ **Submit Obituaries:**
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. To become a paid subscribing member. Go to AlmanacNews.com/join to start supporting The Almanac today. To request or stop delivery, call 854-2626.

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.

Portola Valley explores new housing sites

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The town of Portola Valley is exploring alternative affordable housing sites to Dorothy Ford Park, after backlash from the community when the town made its original proposals. The Ad Hoc Site Evaluation Committee presented the Town Council with four potential sites during a recent council meeting.

Building on Dorothy Ford Park "encroaches on our recreational resources," said committee member Karen Askey. "Dorothy Ford Park is one of Portola Valley's heavily used open spaces serving residents and our surrounding communities from

Little Leagues to hikers."

The property also is home to wildlife and two heritage oak trees.

As a replacement, the committee evaluated four sites for housing: Village Square, Thomas Fogarty Winery Open Space, Christ Church and Hawthorns Area.

The Village Square located at 884 Portola Road was presented as a potential site for mixed-use housing development including 50 affordable units. The property owner and developer, Stanley Lo, had previously attempted to build moderate-income homes in 2005 but was denied by the town.

According to the committee, Lo indicated that he would also want to build an additional 25 market-rate units to subsidize the low income housing.

The Village Square location is also accessible to the Town Center, library and parks.

Thomas Fogarty Winery Open Space parcel at 19501 Skyline Blvd. is a 215-acre property that would allow for a 14-acre parcel with the potential for 50 low-income units, 10 to 20 units or affiliated housing for forestry and open space employees. According

to the committee, the parcel includes independent evacuation routes but has no sewer.

Council member Helen Wolter questioned whether the town would be obligated to fund the development of infrastructures such as sewers. Interim Planning and Building Director Terrence Grindall said that the town would want to work with the developer to see if its possible to build a water system, whether it be a well or septic.

The Fogarty owners expressed interest in working with the town and selling the 14-acre site to the Portola Valley Open Space Committee, said Askey.

Christ Church is already included in the town's housing element for six above-market rate units but the church has expressed interest in offering low-income housing. The property is a flat 2.9 acres.

The Hawthorns Property is a 79-acre parcel owned by Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. The land has been divided into two projects: Hawthorns Area Plan and Hawthorns Historic Complex.

The Hawthorns Area Plan is a yearslong project that started

in 2021 that aims to reopen its public trails and protect and restore the native habitat. The Hawthorns Historic Complex is a planning effort that began in early 2024 to stabilize its historic cottage onsite and determine the future use of the property.

According to the Ad Hoc Site Evaluation Committee, one of the goals approved for the historic complex by the Midpen board includes the consideration of "short- or long-term housing that supports the district's mission." The property, however, currently has a conservation easement that protects the land as well as some historic designation and finance issues.

Council members expressed their support for the Village Square parcel and Fogarty property.

The council asks that the committee and town staff look into the zoning for the Village Square, the range of total units the developer is interested in building and a budget proposal. For the Fogarty site, the council is interested in the necessary zoning on the parcel and whether low income housing can be built on the property. ■

LEHUA GREENMAN



"Spring:
A lovely
reminder of
how beautiful
change can
truly be."

650.245.1845 COMPASS

Menlo Park, Atherton spared from high fire hazard designation

Officials warn residents should remain alert in case of regional crisis

By Angela Swartz

Leading into the much-anticipated release of the state's mapping of high fire severity zones, Menlo Park and Atherton fire, police and city officials had concerns that portions of their cities could fall into high fire hazard.

That's part of the reason why the cities of Atherton and Menlo Park, along with the Menlo Park Fire Protection District and Atherton and Menlo Park's emergency preparedness groups, hosted a forum Thursday evening, March 13, about reducing wildfire risk. The district provides emergency response and fire prevention services to 90,000 residents in Atherton, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and parts of unincorporated San Mateo County.

Menlo Park Fire Protection District Chief Mark Lorenzen said there is heightened awareness about wildfires because of the devastating fires in Southern California in January.

"We have seen a change in the climate," he said during the March 13 meeting held in Atherton's Holbrook-Palmer Park. "We have seen fires burn all winter long. I feel really reluctant to say it can't happen here."

The cities were ultimately not included in high fire hazard zones released in late February by Cal Fire — save 12 parcels in the Stanford Weekend

Acres neighborhood. Parts of Woodside and Portola Valley are included in high or moderate fire hazard zones on the map. But Atherton City Manager George Rodericks said the March 13 session still provided a great opportunity to remind and refresh residents on fire safety, fire prevention, evacuation and general preparedness for emergencies like earthquakes and floods.

What fire hazard severity maps tell you

Cal Fire distinguishes between "hazard" and "risk" in its maps. The maps measure hazard. Hazard is based on the physical conditions that create a likelihood and expected fire behavior over a 30- to 50-year period without considering mitigation measures such as home hardening, recent wildfire or fuel reduction efforts.

Risk is the potential damage a fire can do to the area under existing conditions, accounting for fuel reduction projects, defensible space and fire-resistant building construction, according to Cal Fire.

Recent San Mateo County fire history

Before joining Menlo Park Fire in 2022, Lorenzen served 31 years with the Ventura County Fire Department, the last 10 of which as its fire chief. While working for Ventura County, Lorenzen led responses to the



Angela Swartz

Menlo Park Fire Protection District Chief Mark Lorenzen presents on fire risk at a March 13 emergency preparedness meeting in Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton.

2017 Thomas Fire and the 2018 Hill and Woolsey fires.

Lorenzen noted it was traumatic for him to watch the recent wildfires play out in Southern California based on his past work in Ventura. Menlo Park Fire sent its own firefighters and engines down south to help in the winter firefighting efforts.

The fire chief noted that the Peninsula is fortunate not to have similar winds that Southern California — like the Santa Ana winds, strong, hot, dry, dust-bearing winds that descend to the Pacific Coast from inland desert regions. Still, "as we saw with CZU Fires, that doesn't mean fires can't burn here," he said.

He noted that the fires he previously saw in Southern California "haven't burned like that before."

The 2020 CZU Fires burned over 80,000 acres in Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties, coming close to Portola Valley.

The 2022 Edgewood Fire in the Emerald Hills area of Woodside and Redwood City only burned 20 acres, but caused local evacuation orders and left thousands of residents without power. Four firefighters suffered minor injuries from the blaze. The then-fire chief for Woodside Fire Protection District said at the time that the lack of high winds accompanying the fire helped the fire not spread as rapidly.

In 2023, 104 of 179 housing units of an affordable housing development in North Fair Oaks were destroyed by a fire. Embers from that fire threatened nearby residences. The fire department faced challenges finding enough water to fight that fire alone, Lorenzen noted.

Concern about water resources

During the recent fires in the Los Angeles-area firefighters contended with empty fire hydrants and a lack of water to fight the fires in general.

Residents at the March 13 meeting wondered if a similar situation could happen on the Peninsula and if there are plans to stockpile water for such a fire emergency.

Lorenzen noted that hydrants can go dry because pumps stop working during power outages. When structures like homes are on fire, water is often wasted because pipes burst and become open spigots.

Lorenzen also noted, hopefully, that there are a significant number of homes in Atherton with swimming pools with 20,000-30,000 gallons of water that firefighters can tap into.

Menlo Park has two reservoirs that can be tapped into in the Sand Hill Road area. In 2013, the city selected the city's corporation yard at 333 Burgess Drive as the site for the first emergency well and completed construction in 2020.

The city is also evaluating three sites for potential emergency wells at the following locations:

- Will Oaks School field, 620 Willow Road
- Fire Station No. 1, 300 Middlefield Road
- Stanford Research Institute parking lot, 333 Ravenswood Ave.
- St. Patrick's Seminary, 320 Middlefield Road

In addition to emergency wells, the city is also investigating locations for a future underground reservoir to increase supply reliability.

Palo Alto has groundwater wells and storage that provide emergency water supply service.

See **DESIGNATION**, page 18

Menlo Park will continue to pay planning commissioners

\$200 stipend seen as recognition for work

By Eleanor Raab

Menlo Park will continue to pay its planning commissioners a \$200 monthly stipend after a 4-0 vote of the City Council at its March 11 meeting. Council member Cecelia Taylor was absent.

The pilot program began in February 2024, and will return to the council annually for review.

The city asked planning commissioners to provide feedback on the program, and most commissioners said that they appreciated the stipend as recognition. One commissioner commented that in lieu of a stipend, they would prefer investment in training, additional Menlo Park "swag" (e.g. T-shirts and jackets) and special recognition events.

Council members commented that the amount commissioners

are paid may be too little to actually incentivize recruitment, with Council member Jeff Schmidt saying that "what's left over after taxes can maybe buy you a cup of coffee." But Mayor Drew Combs said that if the stipend makes commissioners feel more valued, it is worth continuing the program.

When the stipend pilot program was originally implemented, the council said that it hoped a stipend would help with recruitment and retention of commissioners.

The stipend only applies to planning commissioners and not any other advisory body member because "the council recognizes the proportionally higher legislative, technical and procedural demands placed upon the Planning Commission," according to a staff report on the issue.

Paying planning commissioners costs the city \$16,800 annually if all commission seats are filled.

Council members are paid \$950 a month to represent their district. The Menlo Park Council members voted to increase the council's monthly stipend from \$640 monthly to the current amount — the first increase since the year 2000.

Menlo Park is currently trying to fill 16 vacancies across the city's seven commissions — five on the Finance and Audit Commission, four on the Housing Commission, two on the Complete Streets Commission, two on the Parks and Recreation Commission, one on the Planning Commission, one on the Environmental Quality Commission and one on the Library Commission. ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

To Sell Or Not To Sell



Dear Monica: My parents are in their 80s and want to sell their home of 40 years so they can move to assisted living. Should they sell? **David L.**

Dear David: A simple answer is perhaps they should if they need the equity to make the move and this is their only source of funds, and no they shouldn't if they have enough money to make the move without selling. They will have considerable capital gains to pay if they sell so they shouldn't sell if there is another option, such as a line of credit or help from family. If one or both of them dies, there won't be any gains to pay and this is a real savings for the heirs. Talk to your financial advisor before making a decision.

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



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





25893 W. FREMONT ROAD
LOS ALTOS HILLS



RESORT-STYLE AMENITIES AND UNPARALLELED LUXURY

Tucked away on a serene acre, this remarkable estate seamlessly blends luxury and livability with unmatched privacy and proximity. Spanning 10,462 square feet of thoughtfully curated living space, plus over 400 square feet of utility rooms, the home showcases high-end finishes and impeccable craftsmanship across a multi-level layout designed for modern lifestyles. Expansive living areas flow into a gourmet chef's kitchen, cinema-grade theater, sauna, executive office, and a wine cellar with a tasting room, offering a perfect blend of spaces for grand entertaining, working from home, and serene relaxation. Five generously sized bedrooms, each with its own en suite bathroom, include a lavish primary suite that serves as a personal sanctuary. Outside, the lush, resort-like grounds evoke the ambiance of a tropical getaway, featuring a sparkling pool, outdoor kitchen, fireplace, and an unrivaled sense of serenity unique to Los Altos Hills. Additionally, you will enjoy two garages, solar panels, and home automation. Despite its secluded feel, this estate is just a short walk from downtown Los Altos and a quick drive to Silicon Valley's top tech companies, commute routes, and top-tier schools, including Gardner Bullis Elementary (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE

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

25893WFremont.com

Offered at \$15,950,000

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

Woodside Town Council reviews new ADU ordinance

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Woodside Town Council reviewed the first draft of a new ordinance that will allow for the conversion of barns into accessory dwelling units during a recent council meeting. Council members recommended staff look further into total floor area, sites located on uphill slopes, promotion of equestrian heritage and traffic impacts before the next reading.

According to Planning Director Sage Schaan, the new regulations would help increase the production of accessory dwelling units by creating more flexibility in construction regulations. This will increase the town's total number of housing units, Schaan added.

The ordinance, which council considered on March 11, was also drafted to align with updated state laws that require local jurisdictions to approve new detached dwelling units up to 800 square feet, up to 16 feet tall and as close as 4 feet to the side and rear property lines, said Schaan.

The staff's proposal would

allow for the full conversion of one existing barn or stable to be converted into one or more dwelling units. The converted barn cannot be altered in height, size or location and must maintain its equestrian and rural integrity per the town's objective design standards, said Associate Planner Melanie Olson during a presentation to the council.

Town staff recommend that the new ordinance remove existing limitations to the size of the units and allow for it to be up to 50% of a barn's floor area.

"Since barns can be up to 3,000 square feet in some zoning districts, it makes sense to remove the limit of the ADU to 1,200 square feet," Olson said.

Amendments to height limitations

The ordinance proposes a change that would allow the downward slope of a unit to exceed an overall height of 17 feet as long as the downward facing slope does not exceed 28 feet. The proposal also recommends a height exception for dwelling units with shed roofs, which slope downward in a single direction.

Changes to existing code would also permit one additional dwelling unit per property that is 800 square feet or less and 16 feet tall or less.

Dwelling units built above garages would be allowed to have 12-foot plate heights and an overall height of 18 feet. Any greater height will increase the setback of the building from the property line, Olson said.

Council deliberations and public concerns

All council members supported the ordinance and its target to increase the production of accessory dwelling units. Residents however shared their concerns for lack of sewer and impacts to traffic.

As the conversion of barns to dwelling units diminishes the town's inventory of barns, Council member Dick Brown asked if there are any efforts to encourage residents to build more barns.

"Our whole equestrian inventory is shrinking and I hate to see us encouraging converting (barns) that maybe could be retained for equestrian purposes," said Brown.

Schaan responded that this conversion could be useful for property owners that have an existing barn that isn't being used for livestock. The ordinance also does not prohibit owners from building additional livestock facilities or converting it back to a barn if they choose to.

Council member Jenn Wall asked for clarification on whether the square footage of dwelling units apply to the total floor area of a property. Schaan said the current code indicates that the first 800 square feet of a unit on a property does not count toward the total floor area and would not impact the square footage on a property.

Some areas of Woodside are zoned as special conservation planning districts which have environmental constraints such as high fire risk or a creek running through the property. "The more potential constraints on a property, the larger the minimum lot size was supposed to be," Schaan said.

He welcomed the council to look into these special districts as there is potential for exemption to be made in the new ordinance that might allow for more

production of units.

Woodside residents spoke during public comment asking how the town would handle increased housing density without available funds to upgrade road infrastructure. Town Manager Kevin Bryant reassured residents by explaining that the town leans toward building additional dwelling units because it allows for less concentration and more dispersed housing.

Concerns about building a sewer for new housing were addressed by Mayor Brian Dombkowski who said that density is planned for areas that have sewer systems or are adjacent to them. Wall added that with additional dwelling unit productions, the property owner would have to demonstrate that the property is capable of having a septic system or connecting to a sewer line.

With the council's direction, the town staff will revisit the draft ordinance and make necessary amendments before the next review. ■

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



Dana Parsons

August 29, 1949 - March 13, 2025

Dana Parsons, age 75, died suddenly at his home in Portola Valley on the morning of March 13, 2025. He is survived by his wife, Ann, his son, Matthew and his wife, Abigail, and his daughter, Emily and her fiancée, Jacob Forster. Dana was predeceased by his parents, Earl and Gloria Parsons. A native of the Bay Area, Dana grew up in Palo Alto, attending Gunn High School and San Jose State University. In 1992, he proudly moved his young family to Portola Valley where he lived for the remainder of his life with profound love and appreciation for his surroundings. Prior to his retirement, Dana was the owner and President of Kilty & Dayton, an office products distribution company, ultimately selling his beloved business to Corporate Express.

Dana was an accomplished photographer and had many other passions, including surfing, the music of the 60's and 70's, and traveling the world with his family. His friends and family will remember, and carry forward, his playful sense of humor, helpful advice, and loving demeanor. They will miss him immensely.

PAID OBITUARY

JAIL DEATH

continued from page 1

"This is an unconscionable pattern that demands immediate and decisive action. We are, and remain hopeful, our county leadership will prioritize and agendize this matter."

In February 2023, Corpus hired Meliora Public Safety Consulting to review jail conditions. The firm found that the corrections division was at a "critical juncture due to the number of vacancies" and warned that the "workload and schedule cannot be safely sustained."

This news organization asked for information on current vacancies in the corrections division and was told the sheriff's office was working on the request.

Of the five known causes of death for inmates, two were suicides, two were drug-related, and one was ruled a homicide.

"(County Chief Health Officer Kismet Baldwin-Santana) informed me she has a very limited role in correctional health and referred my questions to the Director of Correctional Health, Michael del Rosario. To date, I have not received his response to my questions," said Lawrence.

"Therefore, we, Fixin, are left asking, what if our (board of supervisors) had taken the opportunity to install a

fully independent civilian oversight commission and Inspector General's Office, as proposed by Fixin?" he added.

Harrison's death also follows the approval of Measure A, which granted the county Board of Supervisors the authority to remove the sheriff after a hearing. The measure passed with 84% of the vote.

Supervisor Ray Mueller, who championed Measure A, declined to comment on the death.

The family of Hunter Berger, an inmate who died by suicide, has filed a lawsuit against the sheriff's office, alleging jail staff ignored "obvious red flags" and failed to intervene. The case has yet to go to trial.

In July, the National Alliance on Mental Illness called for an independent review of the then-five inmate deaths in an op-ed published in The Almanac.

"The deaths in the county jail... have raised significant questions and should prompt an independent review," NAMI San Mateo County President Chris Rasmussen wrote.

The charter amendment granting the Board of Supervisors authority to remove the sheriff will take effect once the County Elections Office certifies the vote, which must occur by April 3. The board must then formally accept the results, and the amendment will become law 10 days later.

The charter amendment was sent to voters after the release of a 408-page report by Judge LaDoris Cordell into the sheriff's office that called for her immediate resignation.

"Aenlle and Sheriff Corpus' dishonesty about their personal relationship, their incompetent management of the Sheriff's Office, and Sheriff Corpus' shocking willingness to relinquish control of the office to a real-estate-broker-turned-reserve-deputy, who failed to complete the Field Officer Training Program, have combined to leave the Sheriff's Office in utter disarray," wrote Cordell in the conclusion of her report. ■

*Email Staff Writer Arden Margulis
at amargulis@almanacnews.com.*

express

Today's local news
& hot picks

Fresh news
delivered
daily

Sign up today at
AlmanacNews.com/express

TEACHER HOUSING

continued from page 5

put the project at risk. I think the project is a great project and we do want this housing to exist, but ... we have an opportunity to improve (it and make (it) better.”

City staff rejected Hilton’s arguments. Chris Turner, senior planner for Menlo Park, stated that the plans had all been reviewed by city planning experts, fire officials and other relevant agencies, all of which found that the project was compliant with applicable codes and standards.

The city acknowledged that one of the bicycle and pedestrian commute diagrams in its transportation analysis relied on an entrance to Flood Park that would be locked at certain hours of the day, but said that an alternative route that does not cut through the park does not add any time to a bike commute to Caltrain, and does not change the city’s analysis of bicycle and pedestrian access.

Council member Jeff Schmidt said that the city is at a point where it has to “walk the walk” and approve affordable housing proposals.

“I’ve lost count of how many times apparently everyone in the city has said they support affordable housing,” he said. “If we don’t get this built, then we

should probably stop saying that we support affordable housing, because this one is way down the line in the process.”

Fire safety

Several other public commenters told the council that they fear the project is not fire safe due to the lack of a second entrance and the presence of overhead electrical wires at the entrance of the

Menlo Park Fire Protection District Chief Mark Lorenzen told the council that fire safety officials generally review and approve building plans when permits are issued, not entitlements, and that the high-level reviews needed for the entitlement process are complete.

“Nobody’s in violation of any codes,” said Lorenzen. “Obviously, we will apply the codes, and when the building plans come to us, we will review them for compliance.”

Turner said that the city would not issue building permits until the fire district has signed off on the plans, as they do with any other development project. Lorenzen also mentioned that it is likely that the overhead wires would need to be undergrounded, which could be expensive for the project, but said that the fire district would “be happy to have conversations with the developer

about how we can remedy this.”

“Once we submit (building plans) ... if there is an issue (with the power lines) and we can’t work it out, fire, life, safety always wins,” said Spielberg. “We certainly wouldn’t want to build a project that wasn’t safe for future residents.”

Debate over a second entrance

Throughout the life of the project, Suburban Park neighbors have been advocating for a second entrance. The council received dozens of emails in advance of the meeting and about a dozen public comments at the meeting asking the council members to require a second entrance to the project based on both fire safety and traffic concerns.

“This second entrance will not only improve overall safety as well as effective responsiveness in case of emergency, but also reduce daily commute times. ... This simple addition will help existing Suburban Park residents as well as future residents of the new development.” wrote Suburban Park resident Alison O’Callaghan in an email to the council. Many of her neighbors echoed her sentiments.

Several other residents from Flood Triangle, the neighborhood that traffic would be directed through should a second

entrance be added, told the council that they already bear an unfair traffic burden due to their proximity to Flood Park, which will only increase now that the county has improved park facilities.

Mayor Drew Combs, who represents both Suburban Park and Flood Triangle, said he is concerned that adding a second entrance would only serve to shift traffic from one neighborhood to another, which would be unfair to the residents of Flood Park.

Linda Klein, the attorney for Alliant Communities, said that comments alleging that the developers were not willing to create a second entrance were making misleading statements, because they do not have easements to the Caltrans and Haven House family shelter property on the east side of the project.

“Haven House has made it very clear that they’re not interested in giving us full access through their property,” she said. “Caltrans, as you imagine, is not in the business of providing their public property to private individuals.”

“We are willing, but lack the property rights to do so, and those property rights are not feasibly obtainable,” she added.

Turner and Spielberg reminded Hilton and the council that as an affordable housing development, the project is subject to the

state density bonus law, which allows waivers from development standards that would physically prevent the project from being constructed.

The project is also exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because it is classified as urban infill, similar to building a new single-family home on a vacant lot in a city. Therefore, it was not legally required to complete several of the analyses that Hilton said were deficient, and it is also not legally required to include any additional mitigation measures for environmental or traffic impacts.

Spielberg also pointed out that the 88 units of housing now planned for the site would generate much less traffic for the neighborhood than the site’s previous use as a school.

“When it was an active school, there were approximately 300 students and 40 staff members that were all coming and going from this one access point, twice a day, five days a week at a pretty traffic-intensive time,” said Spielberg.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors waded into the fray, voting 5-0 at their March 4 meeting to allocate \$9 million to the project, conditional on the parking lot being designed to accommodate a future second driveway. ■

HARRELL® DESIGNER WORKSHOP SERIES /




WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26 FROM 6:30-7:30 PM.

WHOLE HOUSE REMODEL MEETS OUTDOOR LIVING

Ready to start your Remodeling Journey and want to learn more? Join us in our Mountain View showroom for a complimentary workshop hosted by Divya (Designer) and Lisa P (Outdoor Living Designer). Hors d’oeuvres will be served. 2284 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View

IT’S TIME TO RENEW.





HARRELL®
DESIGN+BUILD

Reserve your seat
Scan the QR Code
Or visit HarrellDesignBuild.com
650.230.2900

LICENSE B479799



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.

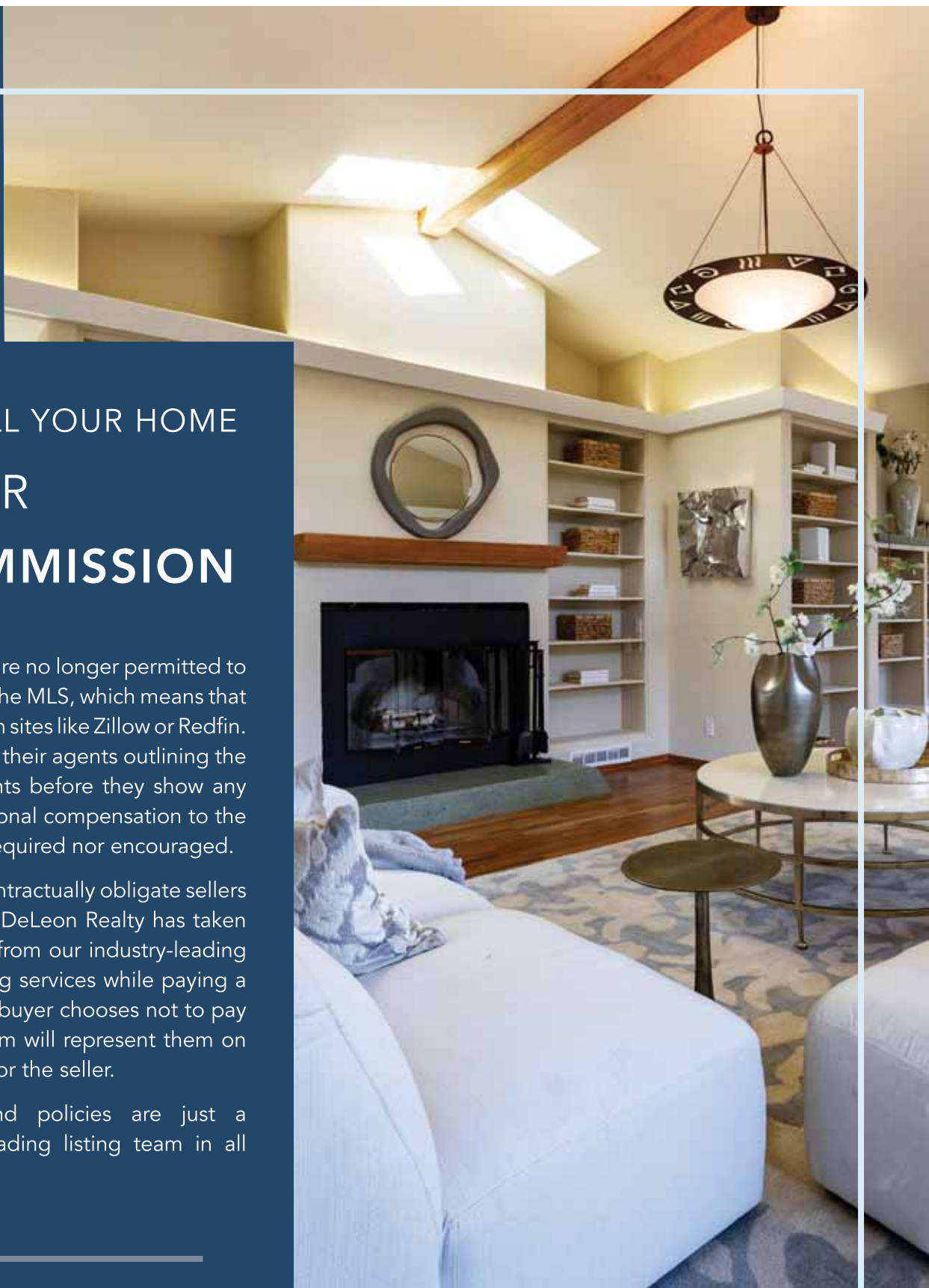
While some listing agents will still try to contractually obligate sellers to pay 2% or more to the buyer's agent, DeLeon Realty has taken a different approach. Our sellers benefit from our industry-leading home preparation, staging, and marketing services while paying a total commission of 3%. Additionally, 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 電話: **650.785.5822**
Equal Housing Opportunity | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224



27261 SHERLOCK ROAD
LOS ALTOS HILLS

Listed at **\$4,988,000**
27261Sherlock.com

OPEN HOUSE WITH LIVE MUSIC
SAT & SUN 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

For more information about this property,
please contact

Michael Repka | DRE #01854880
650.488.7325



27885 FAWN CREEK COURT LOS ALTOS HILLS



1.25-ACRE RETREAT WITH PALO ALTO SCHOOLS

One-and-a-quarter acres of land in the lush terrain of Los Altos Hills plays host to this magnificent home that effortlessly marries luxury with livability, and serenity with convenience. A flood of natural light cascades through nearly 3,800 square feet of airy, well-appointed interiors that have been thoughtfully designed and updated with a modern lifestyle in mind. Expansive gathering areas, cozy fireplaces, a chef's kitchen equipped with top appliances, and a sanctuary-like primary suite with an adjoining office await inside. Enjoy a harmonious connection to nature on peaceful grounds with ample room for leisure and gatherings, as well as a winding pathway meandering through the tree-canopied landscape. Additional amenities include air conditioning, and a 3-car garage with plenty of storage. While exceedingly private, this home is just a short distance from all the area has to offer – from vibrant shopping and dining in downtown Los Altos, to esteemed country clubs, trails and nature preserves, leading tech companies, and key commute routes, everything is within easy reach. And as an added bonus, children may attend top-ranked Palo Alto schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE WITH LIVE MUSIC

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

27885FawnCreek.com

Offered at \$4,988,000

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



Terry Fred Carlson

November 20, 1961 – March 7, 2025

Terry Fred Carlson passed away peacefully on March 7th, 2025, surrounded by his wife and daughter after a long battle with brain cancer.

Terry was born on November 20th, 1961, in Rockford, Illinois, the oldest of four to Fred and Connie Carlson. From an early age, he developed a deep love for agriculture, but it was his caring nature, sense of humor, and kind heart that truly defined him.

After graduating from Jefferson High School, Terry attended Kishwaukee College, where he studied agriculture, farm management, and animal husbandry. He raised hogs and grew corn, soybeans, and wheat. He was a dedicated member of the Winnebago County Pork Producers Association and Winnebago Young Farmers Association. After working in agriculture, he furthered his education by earning his bachelor's degree and MBA from Rockford University. He then spent a decade at Nylint Toys before joining the video game industry.

He married the love of his life, Danielle Gaubert, in 1995 and subsequently moved to California. Shortly after, they were blessed with their beautiful daughter, Jessica.

Terry enjoyed many summers in Eagle River, WI, and Lake Tahoe, NV. Outside of traveling, Terry loved to golf, hunt, ride his bike around Menlo Park, and stay up-to-date on the price of corn by never missing an episode of RFD-TV. One of Terry's favorite passions was spending time in his garden. If he wasn't planting new flowers, mowing the lawn, or tending to his many fruit trees and roses, you could find him swimming in the pool after a long day in the sun. Every morning, he loved walking the dogs around the block, greeting neighbors with a big smile.

After 25 years, Terry retired from Namco Hometek, which later became Bandai Namco Entertainment Inc. (BNEA) in 2022. He took great pride in his career and loved to say, "I worked for Pac-Man." He was proud of his Swedish heritage and served on the board of the Swedish Historical Society of Rockford.

In 2023, Terry was diagnosed with Glioblastoma. Throughout his battle with cancer, he was constantly met with love, support, and prayers. His unwavering strength, faith, and determination to fight were an inspiration to many people in and outside of the brain tumor community.

Terry's legacy lives on through "Terry's Tribe," a community dedicated to honoring his life. His memory will be celebrated every year at Head for the Cure's 5k in San Francisco and through Jessica's advocacy work for brain tumor awareness. Terry's kindness, resilience, and love for his family and friends will be forever cherished.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 30 years, Danielle; daughter, Jessica; mother, Connie; brothers, Timothy (Tammy) & Daniel (Molly) Carlson; and his nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his father, Frederick Carlson; and sister, Valerie Ann Woods.

Our family would like to extend a sincere thank you to Terry's medical team at UCSF for prolonging his life and for their dedication to researching Glioblastoma. A special thank you to our caregiver, JR, for always making us laugh and bringing light to the darkest days.

A private burial will be held. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Terry's name to: The UCSF Brain Tumor Research Fund (giving.ucsf.edu/fund/brain-tumor-center) OR Terry's Tribe Fundraiser for Head for the Cure (impact.headforthecure.org/team/624256).

PAID OBITUARY

SUE CRANE

continued from page 5

Sue Crane served on the Portola Valley Planning Commission from 1980 to 1982. She was a council member from 1982 to 1993. She played an integral role in purchasing the land to create the Town Center and played a key part in guiding the general plan in 1979. She served on the Friends of the Portola Valley Library board. She volunteered for Planned Parenthood and as a mediator, and was active in land conservation efforts.

In recent years, she served as the liaison between The Sequoias senior living residences, where she called home since 2014, and the town. She was a member of the town's Housing Element Committee, which helped steer the town's 2023-31 housing plans.

The council presented Sue with a lifetime achievement award for her contributions to the town in 2023.

John Richards, who worked with Crane on the council, said that she was always determined to "get small town government right," and "she has managed to always be a positive voice getting there."

Sarah Wernikoff didn't cross paths with Crane until 2020, but Crane reached out to Wernikoff when she heard Wernikoff was seeking a seat on the council.

"From our first conversation, I was immediately impressed by her — her depth of knowledge on issues past and present, her incredible memory and historical perspective, her energy and passion, her fun sense of humor, and of course, her values," said Wernikoff, who was a council member from 2020 to 2024, in an email. "What began as Zoom calls during COVID to discuss town issues quickly grew into a fast and special friendship — one that extended beyond community service, as we shared stories about our

families, friends and our lives."

Outside of her civic life, Crane developed a love of making pottery while raising her sons in the 1960s.

"Imagine three boys born in three years," said her youngest son Doug. "She used to go to the Palo Alto (Art) Center to take a class in pottery as an excuse to get out of the house."

Eventually, Hew Crane built a pottery studio at home with kilns and would make plates, bowls and platters. His wife would make her own glazes from vine prunings from the winery and calligraphy brushes from deer tails, said Doug. Later, she volunteered as a pottery teacher in Portola Valley's public schools, according to her family.

It's in a pottery class that she met Helen Bigelow, who would go on to be one of her neighbors at The Sequoias. In 2023, the pair teamed up to publish *Beyond the Barrels: The Women of Ridge*, which explored Ridge Vineyards' early days, the families, the land and untold stories of the women who contributed to this world-renowned vineyard from Crane's perspective.

Bigelow described Crane as "smart, aware, sensitive, perceptive, insightful, funny and fun."

"A highlight was the two years we spent working every Wednesday as she told me her story of being part of the founding families of Ridge, and I then hurried home to my computer and wrote the story for her," Bigelow said in an email. "For the rest of my life, I will love remembering my great friend Sue Crane."

Doug said that he will miss his mother's generosity and dedication to family. He also described his parents as very good connectors of people.

"Everyone (holds) such a high esteem for my mom," he said.

Sue Crane is preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Hew, who died in 2008, and her sister Diane. She is survived by her sister Brenda Goldman and her three sons: Russ, Doug and Dan. Russ lives in Santa Barbara with his wife Christa. Doug lives in Palo Alto with his wife Pilar Badillo. Dan lives in Portola Valley with his wife Harriet Rotter-Crane. Sue is also survived by her five grandchildren: Andrés, Gabriel, Sophie, Rachel and Melissa; and a great grandchild expected in the summer.

In lieu of flowers, Sue's family asks to consider donating to the Peninsula Open Space Trust at openspacetrust.org/ways-to-give or Branch Services, a new Portola Valley nonprofit that provides support services for people with intellectual delays and autism, at branchservices.org.

Memorial services have not yet been planned. ■

Lynette Ann Belingheri

October 4, 1945 – February 17, 2025

Lynette Ann Belingheri passed away suddenly and unexpectedly, but thankfully peacefully, on February 17, 2025 at the age of 79. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend and dog lover, whose warm heart, kind soul and boundless energy touched so many lives.

Lyn was born and raised in Redwood City and graduated from Sequoia High School. She was married at 18, had twin boys at 21, and then set about raising her family, supporting her husband, and working as time would allow at Henry Ford Elementary School, Kennedy Middle School, and Woodside High School (coincidentally, or perhaps not, at the same time that her sons attended each of these schools). After her sons had graduated from high school, Lyn began her educational journey at Cañada College, eventually earning a Bachelor's degree in Human Development from CSU East Bay and a Master's degree in Counseling (Career/College emphasis) from San Francisco State University. Lyn then went on to work in the private sector as a career counselor for an independent consulting firm, providing career and educational counseling to working adults, and in the public sector as a counselor at Cañada College, where she guided and mentored students for 18 years.

Beyond her professional life, Lyn's love for animals, in particular dogs, was evident through her involvement with Canine Angels and PAWS (Pet Assisted Wellness at Stanford). These organizations' missions to enhance the lives of people with permanent disabilities, or who were temporarily hospitalized, through the companionship and support of service animals, was something that Lyn cared deeply about.

Lyn is survived by her devoted husband of 60 years, Ralph Belingheri, and their two sons, Jeff and Greg. She was a proud and loving grandmother to Anthony, Nicole, Sean, and Marcus, and a cherished great-grandmother to Isla and Calum. Her family and friends were the greatest joy of her life, and she leaves behind a legacy of love and kindness that will keep her alive in each of our hearts for the rest of our lives.

A separate announcement will be made in the future regarding the details of a memorial service to celebrate Lyn's life. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to Canine Angels (<https://canine-angels.org>) in Lyn's memory.



PAID OBITUARY

CONTAMINATION

continued from page 1

beneath the sites, will become significantly harder.

Some city officials see rapid redevelopment of the area as the only real plan for cleaning up toxic sites that have languished for years, as cleanups are frequently accelerated when developers are interested in the land and bring in their financial resources.

East Palo Alto's toxic legacy

One of residents' biggest concerns as cleanups have lagged is that the pollution isn't just lurking beneath the soil, but has already affected their health.

According to East Palo Alto's 2016 general plan, life expectancy in the city is 62 years — 13 years shorter than the county average.

Data from the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment shows that asthma rates are about 40 percentage points higher than in neighboring cities like Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Atherton. The city is in the 80th percentile in the state for low birth weight — the rate of babies suffering from low birth weight in East Palo Alto is nearly double that in neighboring cities. Many health experts and activists link these health disparities to the decades of environmental contamination.

"Because the city had these kinds of toxic facilities running for so long, along with the history of contamination, we (in East Palo Alto) have just had a huge influx of cancer and asthma rates," said Fili Zaragoza, an East Palo Alto resident and environmental campaign organizer for Youth United for Community Action, a grassroots organization that has fought for decades against pollution in the city.

Volatile organic compounds, which have been found in abundance in the contaminated sites in the Ravenswood Business District, have been linked to cancer, asthma and low birth weight, according to a U.S. EPA fact sheet on the contaminants.

Cade Cannedy, program director at East Palo Alto-based environmental justice nonprofit Climate Resilient Communities, said that cleaning up these contaminated sites is a step that needs to be taken to close the gap in health outcomes.

"There's a lot of reasons for (the disparity in life expectancy), but part of the picture is the environmental injustices," he said.

Cannedy said that East Palo Alto's lower life expectancy is shaped by a combination of high



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Puddles collect after a storm in a ditch along Bay Road in East Palo Alto, right outside the Cooley Landing Substation and the Rhone-Poulenc property on Feb. 18.

asthma rates, respiratory conditions, and environmental risks like flooding and poor air quality in addition to the contamination present in the community. He explained that it is often hard to generate urgency around site cleanups when the contamination isn't easy to link to specific health outcomes.

"Even if we can't say exactly what percent of the life expectancy difference is due to any particular site's presence in the community, we can say that the confluence of all these factors is driving this disparity and that injustice needs to be addressed," he said.

Environmental injustices

For advocates like Cannedy and Zaragoza, the contamination isn't just an environmental issue, but also a matter of racial and economic justice.

"With us being a primarily community of color, we are straight victims of environmental racism," Zaragoza said.

Historically, cities like East Palo Alto — home to predominantly Black and Latino communities — have been disproportionately burdened by industrial pollution.

According to Kristina Hill, director of University of California Berkeley's Institute of Urban and Regional Development, racist housing policies, such as redlining and blockbusting pushed both people of color and polluting industries to the peripheries of Peninsula cities — low-lying, unincorporated areas near the Bay, which were less regulated and closer to shipping routes.

"There are lots of places where (people of color) were excluded from living in the city by racist housing covenants," Hill said.

"They had to live at the edge of the city, often in unincorporated areas where they had fewer protections, like no city council, none of the money that was allocated to cities. ... They lived in an area that was industrialized because nobody wanted the factories to be inside the fancier parts of the city."

East Palo Alto is the youngest city in San Mateo County, incorporated in 1983 after a long battle for self-determination.

According to Zaragoza, contamination is concentrated in the young city in part because, immediately following incorporation, East Palo Alto needed to generate income, so to do so, it "made a few bad development choices."

Following incorporation, Zaragoza said that the city took on much of the "dirty development" required to accommodate the Bay Area's expanding population and tech industries.

As a city that still struggles to balance its budget, Zaragoza said he worries that East Palo Alto will once again make poor development decisions in the Ravenswood Business District out of financial necessity, potentially compromising community needs such as affordable housing and health.

What's in the soil?

Data from the various state and federal agencies that regulate contaminated sites show that there are 62 contaminated ("open") or formerly contaminated ("closed") sites in the 2.5 square miles that make up East Palo Alto.

"That kind of density of contaminated sites is pretty unmatched in the Bay Area," said Cannedy.

The 207-acre Ravenswood

Business District is home to 17 open contaminated sites and eight closed sites, which may still have trace pollution in the groundwater and soil below the site.

"The reason that we don't draw a super strong distinction between a closed site and an open site is that a lot of the closed sites are sites that have been closed without adaptations that make them resilient in the context of climate change," said Cannedy.

Among the many contaminated sites in the district, two stand out: the former Romic Environmental Technologies site at 2081 Bay Road and the former Rhone-Poulenc site at 1990 Bay Road.

Bay Road Holdings, LLC, has proposed 1.3 million square feet of offices, retail and open space for the Romic site. Harvest Properties, Inc. has proposed a 1-million-square-foot mixed-use development with retail, community space, office and research facilities for the Rhone-Poulenc site. Neither developer returned this news organization's request for comment.

For decades, the Romic has been the face of contamination in East Palo Alto. The 12.6-acre site had been used as a hazardous waste management facility since the 1950s. Romic, which took ownership of the site in 1964, processed solvents, inks, antifreeze and fuels there until the plant was shut down through community action, led by YUCA, in 2007.

The company's 43-year operation was plagued with citations and violations. In the 1990s and early 2000s, Romic was cited for discharging cyanide into East Palo Alto's sewage line,

fining \$100,000 for an incident where a worker was severely injured by toxic fumes and fined \$849,500 for mislabeling chemicals, storing chemicals in improper containers, exceeding the capacity of hazardous waste containers, blending incompatible chemicals in the same container and modifying equipment without authorization. Despite these violations, Romic continued operating for over a decade without securing a permit renewal.

A galvanizing moment for the East Palo Alto community and YUCA, which had already been working to shut down Romic since 1994, came in June 2006 when a 4,000-gallon mixture of various volatile organic compounds reacted inside a tanker truck on the site. A large plume of chemicals erupted from the truck, spreading a fine mist of sticky, black chemicals over the Romic site, Bay Road, nearby homes, a PG&E substation and the adjacent marsh.

At the time of the incident, Lorraine Holmes, a longtime resident of East Palo Alto, was outside her house. She became ill after exposure to the chemical plume.

"I was in my backyard watering plants at the time. It took my breath away," Holmes told Palo Alto Weekly in 2006. "My doctor diagnosed chemical burns in my throat and esophagus. It was all the way back to my tonsil area."

Naomi Goodman, a retired environmental professional with over 40 years of experience characterizing chemical contamination, said that plumes of volatile organic compounds such as trichloroethylene, benzene and vinyl chloride extend up to 80 feet deep in the groundwater and soil at the Romic site. Investigations conducted between 1985 and 2020, also revealed the presence of metals, polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs), dioxins and furans.

"(The site) accepted drums of God knows what kind of solvents," said Goodman, who has been working with the Sierra Club to advocate for cleanup efforts in East Palo Alto. "They treated them, and, in some cases, stored them in unlined impoundments. (The site is) still highly contaminated."

Goodman said prolonged exposure to these chemicals could pose serious health effects.

"VOCs, some of them are cancer-causing, like benzene, others have non cancer health effects, such as damage to the kidney or liver, reproductive health impacts like low birth weight, neurotoxicity, it really

See **CONTAMINATION**, page 16

CONTAMINATION

continued from page 15

depends what chemical you're talking about," she said, adding that certain VOCs can cause respiratory problems, as well as nausea and headaches.

While Romic has long been the most well-known contaminated site in East Palo Alto, activists are also turning their attention toward the other potentially toxic sites throughout the business district and surrounding region.

Other contaminated sites in the Ravenswood Business District

Climate Resilient Communities and other local environmental groups have

developed a prioritization matrix to evaluate which contaminated sites pose the greatest threat to the community. The matrix, informed by community input, scores contaminated sites based on their proximity to residential areas, severity of contaminants and their susceptibility to flooding.

According to this matrix, the former site of the Rhone-Poulenc pesticide manufacturing plant, scored slightly higher than the Romic site in terms of potential risk.

"They stored a lot of drums out there — the drums leaked and the area flooded with high tides, and it spread a lot," said Goodman.

Of most concern is the arsenic, which the Rhone-Poulenc

site left "under buildings" and "has never been remediated," Goodman said, adding other heavy metals on the site, such as lead and cadmium, mercury and selenium, were also concerning.

"The levels they left on site are just really high," she said.

Arsenic contamination has been found beyond the site, including nearby industrial properties, a portion of the PG&E substation and several residential properties. The contaminated area extends 23 acres, and is regulated as a unit.

"You go down into the groundwater, and there's milligrams per liter of arsenic, which is just an outrageous amount," Goodman said.

As environmental and health research progresses, arsenic is

increasingly being ranked as a more hazardous pollutant than previously thought. Goodman and other environmentalists worry that the cleanup standards set for the site in 1991 may not be as protective as the existing ones. Goodman pointed to links between arsenic exposure and cancer, cardiovascular disease, skin lesions, low birth weight and diabetes.

Regulatory agencies say sites are contained

Representatives from both the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Regional Water Quality Control Board — the two state agencies that regulate cleanups in the Ravenswood Business District — said that current remediation and capping efforts are sufficient to prevent exposure.

The Romic site is also regulated federally by the U.S. EPA, but the agency declined to comment. President Donald Trump has ordered a prohibition on external communications from the agency.

"It is important to note that the community is not impacted by the contamination at these sites," said Russ Edmonson, a representative from the DTSC, in an email.

Ross Steenson, a representative at RWQCB, said that of the sites his agency oversees in East Palo Alto, do not currently pose a health risk to the public.

City officials share the same confidence. The updated Ravenswood Business District Area Specific Plan, officials said, is sufficient to protect residents from hazardous pollution as the area is built out.

The specific plan requires developers to check for contamination before they start building and take steps to keep workers, residents and future occupants safe, said Amber Sharpe, a project

manager at the consulting firm David J. Powers, which developed the environmental impact report for the city's specific plan, at the December meeting where the plan was approved. The plan also lays out rules for dealing with hazardous materials so that redevelopment doesn't worsen existing pollution.

According to Edmonson and Steenson, both the Romic site and the Rhone-Poulenc sites have received "aboveground clean closure" designations, meaning all surface infrastructure from the polluting land use was removed, and the sites were capped with concrete to prevent exposure.

Monitoring data shows that contamination at the Romic site is not spreading beyond the property's boundaries. Groundwater tests also show that the arsenic contamination is contained within its borders.

Though remediation is underway, some of these sites, including Romic and Rhone-Poulenc, have remained contaminated for decades. Activists argue that remediation measures like capping and containment, which still leave some measure of contamination underground, are not enough for the community, which has suffered the health and environmental impacts of the exposure, and deserves a true cleanup that is long overdue.

"Even generously, I feel like it's difficult to justify a contaminated site sitting there for a decade — let alone two, let alone three, let alone six," said Cannedy. "There are people that have lived and died in East Palo Alto ... before a site has been cleaned up. They've lived in the shadow of it for literally their entire life."

A March 2023 U.S. EPA memo estimated that under current conditions, Romic's enhanced biological treatment system will

See **CONTAMINATION**, page 17

East Palo Alto modular housing factory on hold after letter from U.S. EPA

United Hope Builders says it is committed to continuing project

By Eleanor Raab

United Hope Builders, a nonprofit organization dedicated to constructing affordable housing, may have to put its plans for a temporary modular housing factory in East Palo Alto on hold. Pastor Paul Bains, who runs United Hope Builders, told this news organization that the letter has caused his group to change its plans, but that it is still on track to have the factory up and running on a different site in East Palo Alto by the end of 2025.

A Feb. 21 joint letter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control told the nonprofit that its plan to store completed modular homes on its factory site — which is contaminated due to its past as a hazardous waste management facility — was too risky due to the possibility of unhoused people trespassing and living in the homes before they are shipped to their final destinations.

"Due to the restrictions that the U.S. EPA and DTSC asked us to implement, it would have cost us an additional \$23 (million) to 26 million to build on that same site," said Bains. "That's cost prohibitive for us."

The agencies told United Hope Builders that the organization must update the risk management plan that it originally submitted in 2021 to reflect the new proposed use. The agencies also asked the nonprofit to demonstrate the

security measures — such as updated fencing, additional signage and a site monitoring plan — that would be taken to prevent "inappropriate site use."

"The land use covenant strictly prohibits any residential use at the site, even if that use was unintentional" the letter to Bains reads. "The U.S. EPA has significant concerns that absent sufficient site security, the presence of completed homes on the property will lead to trespassing and people illegally seeking shelter in the completed homes."

In 2021, United Hope Builders leased seven acres of the former Romic Environmental Technologies site, which is currently undergoing cleanup due to the high levels of volatile organic compounds present in the soil and groundwater, to serve as the home base for its factory. According to the U.S. EPA, "exposure to VOCs can increase an individual's chance of developing ... cancer or non-cancer health impacts." To protect people from the pollution present on the lot, uses of the property are restricted by a land use covenant.

"If United Hope Builders intends to proceed with storing completed homes at the Site, United Hope Builders shall demonstrate how the site will be monitored to ensure there is no inappropriate site use," the letter reads. "United Hope Builders shall also specify a specific timeframe that the completed homes will temporarily be stored onsite."

Bains, who sits on the board

of this news organization's parent nonprofit, Embarcadero Media Foundation, said that United Hope Builders is committed to its factory plan. He said United Hope Builders is in talks to build it at another nearby site in East Palo Alto.

"We will definitely be building the factory," he said. "We will be employing our unhoused brothers and sisters in this factory. We will also be employing the formerly incarcerated in this factory, and we will be producing high-quality, high-grade affordable housing units."

He anticipates that the new factory location will be operational by "the third, no later than the fourth quarter of this year."

"(San Mateo County) has already committed \$1 million of the \$3.6 million that we need to raise — we just need another \$2.6 million and we should be able to have our factory up and running," he said.

Bains also thanked Bay Road Holdings, LLC, the owners of the former Romic site, for its willingness to work with United Hope Builders to get the project off the ground. Bains said that as United Hope Builders still has five years left on the lease with Bay Road Holdings, that they are trying to figure out how the site might still be used in service of creating affordable housing.

"They want us to be able to use the land to the best of our ability," he said. "They have given us permission to use the land for whatever is the best use to help United Hope Builders." ■



Anna Hoch-Kenney

A notice of development hangs on the chain link fence in front of the Catalytica Bay View Facility in East Palo Alto on Feb. 13.

CONTAMINATION

continued from page 16

achieve the agency’s cleanup goals within 10 to 19 years. But environmentalists like Goodman worry that even capped sites like the Rhone-Poulenc could still pose long-term risks, especially if the property floods, concrete cap cracks, or groundwater pushes up from underneath the site.

Redevelopment: A path to cleanup or a risk?

One of the issues that activists are facing is that remediating contamination is often inextricably linked to redevelopment, which is why the Ravenswood Business District Area Specific Plan update process has sparked this renewed interest in the contaminated sites in the city.

Edmonson, of the Department of Toxic Substances Control, said that because state and federal law follow the “polluter pays principle,” those responsible for contaminating the site are responsible for cleaning it up. If the property has changed hands, the new owner takes responsibility. If there is no viable responsible party, cleanup is sometimes funded by public money, though that is rare.

Cannedy said that under the current regulatory structure, the state agencies are not set up to be responsive to community health concerns.

“It’s ultimately up to redevelopment projects to decide if, when and how they want to address contamination,” he said.

Hill said slow cleanups aren’t just a result of cost or complexity, but also a result of state agencies not wanting to push for remediation efforts due to “fear of lawsuits from the property owner.”

“The property owner can sue or just delay, and write threatening letters from their attorneys to the state,” she said. “It slows everything down because the state isn’t willing to be as aggressive.”

In an ideal world, Hill said, the best policy would be to clean up the sites as quickly and entirely as possible before anything is built there.

However, development

proponents argue that delaying projects also delays remediation, since cleanup efforts often depend on investment from developers.

“I think we have to take contamination seriously and be very concerned about this, but by not building, it’s not as if these problems are magically going away,” said Vice Mayor Mark Dinan, who joined the council in December 2024. He has been a vocal advocate of development in East Palo Alto. Other city council members did not respond to requests for comment.

“If somebody is going to drop \$300 million developing a site, they are going to remediate it, whereas if it stays empty, nothing is going to happen and the problem will continue,” he added.

Dinan, who lives near the district, said contamination needs to be taken seriously, but argued that the city lacks the funding to conduct soil and groundwater testing on its own.

“Right now, there’s nothing being done except the bare minimum, but if we want more done, it’s going to require investment,” he said. “The contamination may continue to spread in the groundwater, and by not building on them, it’s not like this problem isn’t going to continue to be a problem, ... we just won’t have the resources to address it adequately.”

Stenson, of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, said the agency oversees contaminated sites across the Bay Area and that sites are often redeveloped. Once a site has been closed, it is generally considered safe to build on.

If removing all pollution from the site isn’t feasible, the agency can impose deed restrictions on the land to prevent it from being used for “sensitive” purposes such as housing, schools, hospitals and senior facilities, he said.

But environmental advocates argue that redevelopment alone won’t ensure a thorough cleanup, especially as past remediation plans may no longer meet today’s health standards. They also warn



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Piles of cars are visible over the fence at Infinity Auto Salvage on Bay Road in East Palo Alto on Feb. 13.

that climate change and rising groundwater could spread contaminants beyond the boundaries of deed-restricted sites, reaching areas with fewer protections.

“Since the city deferred a lot of stuff to individual projects, we are going to have to watch this like a hawk,” Goodman said. “Every time (a development) is proposed, we’re going to have to dive into their data.”

Cannedy said activists are not opposed to development of the area, but they want it done responsibly.

“It would be better if these empty sites were cleaned up and put toward a productive use for the community,” said Cannedy. “But if someone is going to stand to make a bunch of money redeveloping these sites, the least they could do is clean them up, and do so to a degree that is maximally protective of human health.”

Pushing for a cleaner future

Though activists turned their attention back to the contamination during the Ravenswood Business District Specific Plan update process, it is unclear how much influence the city or the council actually have to speed up remediation.

Much of that authority lies with state and federal agencies that control the contaminated sites, such as the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the EPA.

While these agencies occasionally impose enforceable cleanup timelines, state law doesn’t require them — or the owners of the contaminated sites they oversee — to remediate within a specific timeframe.

Activists want to change that. “Part of the thing we are interested in mobilizing people around is having a timeline for the remediation of these sites,” said Cannedy. “It’s hard when people are asking you, ‘Is this going to make me sick?’ We don’t know. Maybe not, probably not. ... But that risk is only being borne by specific communities, and that is the definition of an injustice.”

To push for stronger oversight in East Palo Alto, Belle Haven and North Fair Oaks, Climate Resilient Communities and YUCA have banded together with other local community organizations — Belle Haven Community Development Fund, Nuestra Casa, Belle Haven Empowered — to form a taskforce called the Peninsula Accountability for Contamination Team. SPUR, a San Francisco-based public policy research nonprofit, advises the group on policy matters.

“We’ve had people increasingly asking us about the contamination in the community,” said Cannedy. “I think the (impetus for forming PACT) was the Ravenswood Business District project and all the conversations we’ve had throughout that

process. ... We wanted to be responsive to their concerns.”

Sarah Atkinson, hazard resilience senior police manager at SPUR, said that while cities have little direct authority over the cleanup of contaminated properties regulated by the government, they are not completely powerless.

“At the moment there is a development proposal, cities and the community have an opportunity to ask for stricter or faster cleanup as part of the development negotiation,” she said. “It is difficult for cities to take proactive action like this. I think the best way to expedite remediation is for community members to get involved and document any contamination issues or public health issues.”

PACT is now working to launch a community health assessment related to contaminant exposure, host public town halls to share information on site cleanups and advocate for legislation, such as California Assembly Bill 1102, which would require groundwater rise and sea level rise risk assessments for developments near the Bay or ocean that sit within 1,000 feet of a contaminated site.

Cannedy said the community shouldn’t have to wait indefinitely for cleanup, noting that the Romic site has been vacant for 18 years with no clear end in sight. If that’s unacceptable, he said, “then we need to be putting more pressure on regulators.”

“The state really needs to be stepping up to address this contamination on a scale that’s commensurate with people’s life experiences,” Cannedy said.

Cannedy, Goodman and Zaragoza said their organizations will continue to monitor cleanup efforts in East Palo Alto and the Ravenswood Business District — and won’t let the community slip through the cracks. ■

Contributing Writer Eleanor Raab reported this story while participating in the USC Annenberg Center for Health Journalism’s 2024 Data Fellowship, which provided mentoring and funding.

M-A LAWSUIT

continued from page 5

defendants if K.C.’s claims against the town and its police officers are tried together with the claims against the district defendants.”

The district claimed the plaintiff failed to meet the requirements of describing a single transaction or occurrence which is necessary to file a joint complaint. The motion states that K.C.’s claims “are based on two separate and distinct incidents involving two

sets of alleged actors.”

Plaintiffs disagree. “We think it’s one continuous act. Even though it’s two entities, one act caused the other act to occur,” said Burris. “If it were not for the school district’s conduct, the police never would have been involved.”

Although the district did call the police on K.C., it argues that it had no control or influence over the police officers actions. The motion also mentions that D.B. was not mentioned in the call to law enforcement, therefore the allegations on the students’ arrests

are not part of the same transaction, according to the motion.

The lawsuit also claims that the district violated K.C.’s rights by releasing confidential student records to the Atherton Police Department without a court order or his parent’s consent, said K.C.’s attorney Evan Goldsen. The documents included the student’s disciplinary records.

“The information was actually used to support a narrative on behalf of Atherton police that K.C. is an aggressive student and he has a violent history, and

that is what essentially supported their criminal action taken against him,” Goldsen added.

K.C.’s attorneys believe that local police officers and school district administrators collaborated in the release of his student files following the April incident.

Goldsen told this news organization that the district may have filed the motion to sever as an attempt to distance itself from the negative perceptions in relation to the incident involving the police, which was documented through videos and shared

amongst the community.

“The worst part about this is that the district failed to do what the law required it to do to help someone like this. And in fact, made it worse by taking aggressive police action and school action,” Burris said.

K.C.’s attorneys said they are confident in the case and are planning to move forward with an amended complaint.

The law firm representing the Sequoia Union High School District did not respond for a comment to this news organization. ■

Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. M-298300

The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/ have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S): SUPER CLEAN SERVICES & MORE

373 3rd Ave Apt 4
Redwood City CA, 94063
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON: 08/21/2024
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S): SIMON HERIBALDO RAMIREZ SALGUERO
373 3rd Ave Apt 4
Redwood City CA 94063
JUANA ISABEL PENA ALVAREZ
373 3rd Ave Apt 4
Redwood city CA 94063
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY A Married Couple.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 27, 2025.
(ALM Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

HAMMER LANDSCAPE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300017

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) HAMMER LANDSCAPE, located at 1011 JONES COURT, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063.

Registered owner(s):
HAMMER LANDSCAPE LLC
1011 JONES COURT

REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

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 03/01/2025.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 05, 2025.

(ALM Mar 14, 21, 28 and Apr 4, 2025)

CREAM & MOSS STUDIO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300048

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) CREAM & MOSS STUDIO, located at 155 Sears Ranch Rd, La Honda, CA 94020. Mailing Address: PO BOX 331 La Honda, CA 94020.

Registered owner(s):
JENNA SWANSON
PO BOX 331
La Honda, CA 94020

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 March 07, 2025.

(ALM Mar 14, 21, 28 and Apr 4, 2025)

JPM COUNSEL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300120

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) JPM COUNSEL, located at 3604 Oak Knoll Drive Emerald Hills, CA 94062, Emerald Hills.

Registered owner(s):
JENNIFER PRENTISS MORRILL

3604 Oak Knoll Drive
Emerald Hills, CA 94062

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 14, 2025.

(ALM Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

TERE'S BOUTIQUE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299929

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) TERE'S BOUTIQUE, located at 3270 Middlefield Rd, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Mailing Address: 373 3rd Ave Apt 1 Redwood City, CA 94063.

Registered owner(s):
CARLOS PENA SALGADO
373 3rd Ave Apt 1
Redwood City, CA 94063

MARIA TERESA PENA
373 3rd Ave Apt 1
Redwood City, CA 94063

This business is conducted by: a Married Couple.

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 27, 2025.

(ALM Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

APARTMENT HOUSE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299930

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) APARTMENT HOUSE, located at 318 Redwood Ave, Redwood City, CA 94061.

Mailing Address: 373 3rd Avenue Redwood City, CA 94063.

Registered owner(s):
CARLOS PENA SALGADO

373 3rd Ave
Redwood City, CA 94063

MARIA TERESA PENA
373 3rd Ave
Redwood City, CA 94063

This business is conducted by: a Married Couple.

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 27, 2025.

(ALM Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

KATHRYN M BECK MEDICAL BILLING SPECIALIST FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299887

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) KATHRYN M BECK MEDICAL BILLING SPECIALIST, located at 603 Columbia Drive, San Mateo, CA 94402.

Registered owner(s):
KATHRYN M. BECK

603 Columbia Drive
San Mateo, CA 94402

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/07/1999.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 25, 2025.

(ALM Mar 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2025)

RG GOLFING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300012

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) RG GOLFING, located at 235 Westlake Center #215, Daly City, CA 94015.

Registered owner(s):
GO CLR, LLC

235 WESTLAKE CENTER #215
DALY CITY, CA 94015

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 05, 2025.

(ALM Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

BOGE LANDSCAPE DESIGN FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300009

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) BOGE LANDSCAPE DESIGN, located at 198 Elliott Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s):
ANNEGRET BOGE

198 Elliott Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/01/2024.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 05, 2025.

(ALM Mar 14, 21, 28 and Apr 4, 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)

FIESTA PARTY LIGHTING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299888

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) FIESTA PARTY LIGHTING, located at 516 Crest View Ave APT 429, Belmont, CA 94002.

Registered owner(s):
MIGUEL SANTA ANA OCHOA

516 Crest View Ave APT 429
Belmont, CA 94002

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 25, 2025.

(ALM Mar 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2025)

LIONSCAPE LAWN CARE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299869

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) LIONSCAPE LAWN CARE, located at 1330 Madera Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s):
STEVEN PONCE MERCADO

1330 Madera 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 February 21, 2025.

(ALM Mar 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.: 25-CIV-01566

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Krzysztof Gruca filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

KRZYSZTOF GRUCA to KRZYSZTOF LYSZCZARZ

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: 04/28/2025, 09:00AM, Southern Branch: Hall of Justice and Records of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, California 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: 03/03/2025

Stephanie Garratt

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(ALM Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Case No.: 25CIV00982

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Nikolaos Sanopoulos filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

NIKOLAOS SANOPOULOS to NIKOLAOS SOULTANAKIS

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: 04/21/2025, 9:00 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: 02/18/2025

Hon. Stephanie G. Garratt

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(ALM Mar 14, 21, 28 and Apr 4, 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

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.: 25-CIV-00631

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Isabella Avila and Alfred Tuineau filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

LAILA ROSE AVILA to LAILA ROSE TUINEAU

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: 04/02/2025, 9:00 AM, Civil - Room A, 1st Floor 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: January 29 2025

Judge Garratt

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(ALM Mar 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.: 25-CIV-00631

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Isabella Avila and Alfred Tuineau filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

LAILA ROSE AVILA to LAILA ROSE TUINEAU

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: 04/02/2025, 9:00 AM, Civil - Room A, 1st Floor 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: January 29 2025

Judge Garratt

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(ALM Mar 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

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Some bands have all the pluck

Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain brings anarchy to the uke in a performance at Stanford Live



Courtesy Stefan Mager

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain will perform at Stanford Live on March 23.

By Heather Zimmerman

A ukulele band walks into Windsor Castle to play for the queen ... It's not the set-up for a joke, but rather just one of the storied places that the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain has performed in its more than 40-year history.

The orchestra, which has a repertoire so wide-ranging that it encompasses, as their bio says, "Abba to ZZ Top, Tchaikovsky to Nirvana," performed in 2016 by royal request at a private birthday party for Queen Elizabeth II.

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain employs the instrument's many sizes and registers, from a soprano ukulele to a bass one, plus their own voices — but no other instruments — to create some richly textured, full-bodied renditions of just about any song you can think of.

Audiences at Stanford Live will get the opportunity on March 23 to hear from this unique seven-piece ensemble that has performed at renowned

venues such as the Sydney Opera House, Royal Albert Hall and Carnegie Hall and collaborated with artists like Madness and Robbie Williams.

"Everything is on the table," Laurie Higgins, who plays bass ukulele with the orchestra, said of their repertoire. No genres or songs are off-limits.

Considering that the group has sung a sea shanty-style a cappella rendition of The Who's "Pinball Wizard" — a performance that eschewed even ukuleles — he has a point.

Higgins, who also plays electric bass and double bass, has a diverse musical background in performing, recording and teaching, and has worked with artists such as Robbie McIntosh, Mutter Slater and Steve Jones. He joined the orchestra two years ago.

"I studied jazz, played in lots of rock and pop bands, orchestra, pit theater, pit bands. And what really suits all of that background for this band is that it's such an eclectic mix of music. And yeah, the ukulele, the bass

ukulele, is very transferable from all of that experience that I had before," he said.

Despite their impressive résumé, it's clearly the music alone that the orchestra takes seriously, opting for a collective stage persona that's light-hearted and very much tongue-in-cheek. (The orchestra's dry humor was well captured in an extensive series of "at-home" Zoom concerts they recorded during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.)

Their grand name or the fact that they all don tuxes to perform, for instance, spoofs on the "seriousness" with which other performers might regard themselves. That reflects the group's post-punk beginnings. The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain was founded in 1985 by musicians Kitty Lux and George Hinchcliffe after Hinchcliffe gave Lux a ukulele for her birthday.

Hinchcliffe and Lux's founding of an orchestra made up solely of ukuleles played on the instrument's reputation as a charming novelty. A quick listen

to the orchestra reveals, though, that the small stringed instrument can actually evoke many sounds.

Over the years, the group's set list has touched on wide swaths of current and vintage pop and classical compositions alike, including Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries," Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" and Kraftwerk's "The Model."

In choosing repertoire, the orchestra doesn't seek any particular qualities in the music, but just the unique nature of the group's instruments guides them to well-written compositions, Higgins said.

"I think because the ukulele is such an unusual instrument, it is a really good way of finding out how good a piece of music is. If we can make it work on the ukulele, then it's probably a good piece of music," Higgins said.

But simply arranging songs for this unusual instrument isn't enough: the ensemble frequently switches up the genre of a song, or blends several songs together. Their version of The Sex Pistols'

"Anarchy in the U.K." transforms the punk anthem into a bouncy, feel-good 1960s-style folk song.

"When you think of playing the ukulele, quite often people think of just strumming some chords. But every one of the several musicians in the band, we all have different roles to play to make up a complex texture for the song. So for instance, the bass and maybe two of the other ukuleles might form kind of a rhythm section, and then you have maybe doing some chords and then some lead lines, and obviously we've got all our voices as well. So we can make some really complicated pieces of music just using those quite simple ingredients," Higgins said of their arranging process.

One of the group's grandest examples of their penchant for mashups is their "Melange" number, performed for the BBC's "Proms" concert in 2009, that melds together fragments of easily a dozen songs or more in seamless harmonies. Launching with "Sympathy for the Devil" by the Rolling Stones, the piece segues into everything from "You Sexy Thing" by Hot Chocolate to Michael Bublé's "Save the Last Dance for Me" — all with The Beatles' "Hey Jude" providing a central musical motif.

While Higgins was fairly mysterious about the group's set list for their tour, so as not to spoil the surprise, he did say that one number audiences will hear mashes up "Motörhead and Roy Rogers."

The orchestra's musicians also use a range of techniques beyond strumming, including plucking and lightly striking the instruments percussively, to produce a broad range of sounds.

Their arsenal of techniques, wide-ranging repertoire and signature humor seems also to have inspired an array of album titles with plenty of musical puns, such as "Anarchy in the Ukulele," "One Plucking Thing After Another" and its followup, the band's most recent album "And Another Plucking Thing." ■

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@almanacnews.com.

Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain performs March 23, 2:30 p.m., at Bing Concert Hall, Stanford. \$25-\$100. live.stanford.edu.

Memoir tells of ‘ordinary’ people and extraordinary courage

Palo Alto resident Miriam Kurtzig Freedman recounts her mother’s life in ‘Boxes from the Attic: An Immigrant’s Story’

By Ashwini Gangal

When Palo Alto resident Miriam Kurtzig Freedman tells people she has written a book about her mother, Thea Arons, she’s often confronted with the question, “So who was she?”

Well, Thea was not a celebrity by any stretch. “Boxes from the Attic: An Immigrant’s Story,” a memoir Freedman has co-authored with Susan Wolfe, belongs in the archives of social history, for it tells the story of an ordinary woman whose life unfolded alongside the extraordinary horrors of 20th century, some of which affected her family directly.

Thea, who was born in 1909, belonged to a Jewish family in Holland and migrated twice in her lifetime; first, to what was then Palestine to pursue her dreams, career-wise and later romantically, and then to the United States when reality hit hard. She experienced life on three continents and picked up five languages — French, German, Dutch, Hebrew and English — along the way.

Thea spent the last 16 years of her life in Channing House, Palo Alto, where she died in 2006 at the age of 96.

“She didn’t cure cancer, she

didn’t run for president ... she was just a person, an ordinary person,” said Freedman in an interview with the Weekly. “Most of us are ordinary. And to me it’s very important for ordinary people to realize the greatness of their own lives. We all have our own stories.”

Why did she decide to tell her mother’s story? The answer couldn’t be simpler. “This is a woman who knew what she wanted, and she wanted her story told,” Freedman said. In writing this book, she has fulfilled her mother’s wish.

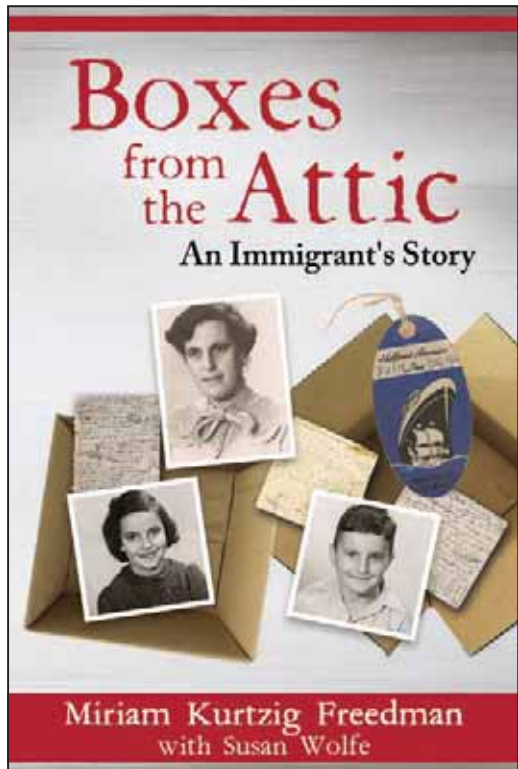
The author found the raw material, as well as the title, for her book in the attic of her house in Newton, Massachusetts, where she lived before moving to Palo Alto, her home for the last 12 years.

“My mother wanted her story told, which is why she left all these papers, all these diaries, all these notes,” she said. “I think her writing was her therapy, actually; she said her diary was her best friend.”

During the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, Freedman found the time to unpack and organize her mother’s notes and glean a timeline for the significant events in her life, which formed the “backbone” of what eventually became the book.

She writes with affection but also retains a sense of objectivity while telling her mother’s story, often referring to herself in the third person. She

was intentional about keeping a safe editorial distance between herself and the subject, and consciously avoided lacing the anecdotes with her own thoughts



Courtesy Miriam Kurtzig Freedman

The cover of “Boxes From the Attic: An Immigrant’s Story.”

Freedman, a lawyer and educator, has written extensively in these fields in the past. This memoir is her first literary undertaking of its kind.



Courtesy Miriam Kurtzig Freedman

Author Miriam Kurtzig Freedman, right, with her mother Thea Arons at the Baylands during the 1990s.



Courtesy Miriam Kurtzig Freedman

Author Miriam Kurtzig Freedman.

and feelings. “I tried very hard that when I was injecting my view or my memory, it would be a footnote ...” as opposed to a part of the main story, she said.

The book is both timeless and timely, not least because “immigrant” remains a loaded word today, just like it was during Thea’s time. “The moment we walked on that pier in Hoboken, New Jersey, my mother said, ‘Now we speak English,’” said Freedman, fondly recalling her mother’s insistence on speaking the language of the land.

Freedman was 9 years old when she arrived on American shores in 1951. She marvels at her mother’s courage as she looks back on the time Thea practically escaped from the Middle East and came to this country with her children. Back then, the newly founded state of Israel was riddled with political unrest and the government was disinclined to let people leave, especially families with children. With two little kids in tow, a determined Thea stood up to the border control authorities and managed to leave the country.

“She was someone who directed her own life, never the victim, always in charge. Even when things were terrible, she figured it out ... How do you have a woman, 39 years old, two little kids, no money, in this village (Haifa) in what is now Israel, saying ‘I’m not staying here, I’m going to go to America’ — how do you do that?” Freedman said, pointing out that similar stories of

courage are all around us. “And half the people walking around this city — that’s what they did. It’s very, very, very courageous to lift yourself up and go look for something that you think might be better for you.”

The process of writing the book has brought her closer to her mother’s memory and also has given her insight into herself. “I do feel more comfortable in my own skin,” she said. “I’m proud of who she was and who she helped me become. I really believe in the importance of family, honesty, hope, resilience, flexibility, honesty, courage ... all the things she showed.”

Freedman is thrilled that book clubs, both local and beyond, have discovered her memoir. Many readers have told her that reading Thea’s story has helped them empathize with their own grandparents, who immigrated to the country at different points in history.

She believes it resonates with people at a basic, human level. “We all have mothers, we all have stories, many of them are immigrant stories, and then we all have memories. It’s a wonderful book for the very reason she’s not famous,” she said, urging readers to open the boxes in their own attics. ■

Email Contributing Writer
Ashwini Gangal at
ashwinigangal@gmail.com.

For more information about
“Boxes From the Attic,” visit
miriamkfreedman.com.

SUMMERLearn more at 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**

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.

Food & Drink

INSIDE 'ZAREEN'S PAKISTANI KITCHEN'

Natalia Nazarova

The new cookbook by Zareen and Umair Khan explores recipes from their childhoods and restaurants

By Julia Brown

It may come as a surprise to fans of Peninsula restaurant chain Zareen's that its namesake Zareen Khan grew up initially uninterested in cooking. A picky eater whose childhood home was a block from the culinary heart of Karachi, Pakistan, she had preferred reading as a young child and dreamed of becoming a doctor.

But when Khan's older sister married a man with a passion for cooking, it piqued her interest in cooking and later helped her recognize the labor and love behind the food that her mother, sister and aunts made.

That experience, combined with cooking classes that she took with Azra Syed, whom she calls the "matriarch of Pakistani culinary instructions," sparked her passion for Pakistani cooking that has yielded three popular restaurants, recognition in the Michelin Guide and now a debut cookbook co-authored with her husband Umair Khan — an author, visiting professor at University of California, Berkeley, and founder of global tech services firm Folio3.

"Zareen's Pakistani Kitchen: Recipes from a Well-Fed Childhood," which was published March 18, comes out in

the midst of Ramadan and Women's History Month — apt timing for a book celebrating Pakistani food and women's empowerment.

The book features popular Pakistani, Indian and Bangladeshi specialties and staples. Recipes include several dishes that are among the favorites served at the restaurants — such as the chicken tikka masala, Desi-Paleo Salad and Memoni samosas — as well as South Asian street foods, but the cookbook is also "a food crawl down memory lane" with Zareen and Umair Khan's favorite homemade meals from their childhoods in Pakistan.

"Zareen's Pakistani Kitchen" is geared toward American home cooks, with the goal of making Pakistani cooking accessible without compromising authenticity. It's divided into sections ranging from starters to side dishes, breakfast to dessert and "meaty mains" to "vegetarian delights." In the back, menu suggestions are included for weeknight meal-planning, dinner parties, Valentine's Day and more.

The cookbook also serves as an extension of the restaurants' mission of supporting and empowering women, with miniature profiles spotlighting "a few remarkable women" such as Michelle Tam, food activist and creator of Nom Nom Paleo; poet, artist and author Rupri Kaur; and "The Great British Bake Off" winner chef Nadiya Hussain. Half of the earnings from cookbook sales will go to eight charities — six chosen by each of the women featured, and two picked by Zareen and Umair Khan.

Before diving into the recipes, "Zareen's Pakistani Kitchen" shares the voices of its authors. Umair Khan takes readers on a food crawl through Karachi, describing in vivid detail a culinary trip that includes eating biryani on the beach and feasting on a seafood dinner cooked on a boat by fishermen following a nighttime hunting excursion for mud crabs.

Zareen Khan's section serves as a quick overview of how she became a professional chef through home cooking — first upon moving to the United States and spending time experimenting with how to cook traditional Pakistani food on a married graduate student budget and without access to Pakistani groceries, then later as a working mom of picky eaters.

She left work in the corporate world to spend more time with her children, then started hosting Pakistani cooking classes out of her home. Rave reviews prompted the start of a frozen kabab delivery business, Curry Village Foods, that served as a precursor to Zareen's.

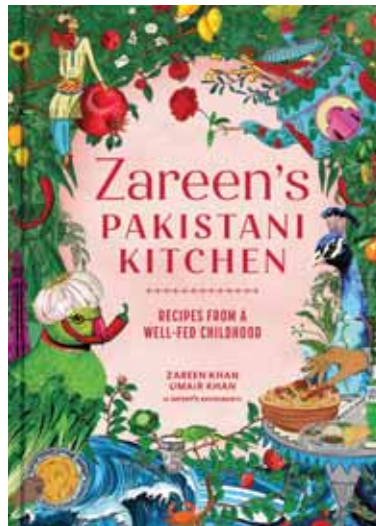
What began as deliveries to families out of a minivan later led to menus for Silicon Valley startups and VC firms, and in March 2014 the first Zareen's location opened in Mountain View near the Google campus. The menu was

small to start, but Zareen's was profitable in its second month. A second, larger location opened on California Avenue in Palo Alto in late 2016, followed by an expansion to Redwood City in fall 2020.

The pandemic temporarily halted work on the Redwood City restaurant. Revenue plummeted, and they weren't sure if the business would survive. But an unexpected source of income buoyed staff's spirits and helped keep Zareen's afloat: Customers started buying gift cards, many of which were returned unused.

"One loyal customer even approached me and asked if she could write out a check to me as a donation," Zareen Khan writes. "Their love kept our staff working and our restaurant running."

Peninsula Foodist spoke with Zareen and Umair Khan about balancing accessibility and authenticity, how they decided which restaurant recipes to include and the most nostalgic dishes in the book. This conversation has been edited for clarity and brevity.



Courtesy Sasquatch Books/Penguin Random House



Courtesy Neetu Laddha/neetuladdha.com

Above: Umair and Zareen Khan are the husband-and-wife founders of Zareen's, which has locations in Redwood City, Palo Alto and Mountain View. Top: Mince beef gola kebabs with spicy chutney at Zareen's restaurant.

Peninsula Foodist: The book is dedicated to "the generations of mothers and grandmothers who fed us with love" and it spotlights several women that you "love and admire." Why was it important to make women a focal point of this cookbook?

Umair Khan: When Zareen and I were first discussing the idea, I was obviously super excited as a writer that I'll be able to create something like this. Zareen, of course, was excited to showcase Pakistani food and her recipes and her cooking, but I think really it came from her that she didn't want this to be just a cookbook. She really did want it to be a project that takes forward that theme and mission of women empowerment that's there throughout our restaurants and the rest of our lives.

Zareen Khan: Where I am is because of so many other women who paved the way for me. I want to be one of those women to help the next generation behind us move forward. If somebody's not doing well or they are struggling in their job or the home, I feel like inspiring those women, supporting the charities that empower those women will also give them a chance to move forward and prove themselves and have belief in themselves.

Peninsula Foodist: A major theme of the cookbook is making Pakistani food accessible without sacrificing authenticity. How did you seek to find this balance?

Zareen Khan: I want it to be not so complex readers actually give up, so I simplified some of the recipes. It still won't take away from the authenticity of the dish, but it will make it slightly easier for even somebody who is novice or is excited about Pakistani food to try it and not be disappointed that it's such a long list of ingredients or takes so long. For me, it's very important that all this knowledge

that we've gained over generations is not lost in future generations because it's too complex or time-consuming.

Umair Khan: We really wanted to showcase Pakistani food as its distinct cuisine. It's a love letter to our childhood in Pakistan.

Peninsula Foodist: How did you decide which recipes to feature from the restaurant?

Zareen Khan: This book is based on some of the items we eat on a daily basis in Pakistan and India, and then we have also featured some of the dishes that are made on special occasions like biryani. We also wanted to feature some of the street food because you can't get it here. Overall we did want to keep it slightly easier, so some of the more complex recipes were dropped.

Umair Khan: We wanted representation of Pakistani home food, Pakistani street food, Zareen's restaurant food. Obviously you can have 500 recipes around that, that's how rich Pakistani cuisine is. So we chose the ones that are most representative, that are still going to be accessible for the American home cook.

Peninsula Foodist: Which recipes evoke the most nostalgia for you both?

Zareen Khan: The aloo gosht. When I was in Pakistan, I would come from college and it would always be the same dish and I'd hate it. But it's strange how things have turned out — now I kind of crave it. Aloo gosht is basically a curry with potatoes and meat, like a stew.

Umair Khan: It's the meat and potatoes staple of our childhood. It's only now that we look back at it from this gulf of many years across an ocean that we love it even more. There's so much stuff that's nostalgic for me, but again a simple thing there is



Zareen's, 365 S. California Ave., Palo Alto, 650-562-8700; 1477 Plymouth St., Mountain View, 650-628-6100; 2039 Broadway, Redwood City, 650-747-6400; Instagram: @zareensrestaurant.

Left to right: Tarka daal, a vegan recipe with yellow lentils and chile-cumin oil, and Memoni crispy fried chicken. Photos courtesy Neetu Laddha/neetuladdha.com.

also qeema, which is spicy ground meat, stir-fried and cooked with potatoes.

Peninsula Foodist: Zareen, you say in the book that "Karachi will always be my hometown. But Palo Alto is home." Can you expand on what makes Palo Alto home for you?

Zareen Khan: It's the community feeling I get from Palo Alto. I get it in the other locations too, but maybe because my main focus was always Palo Alto and the way the community supported me through COVID. It feels like I've been cared for.

Umair Khan: It grows on you. As immigrants we make new homes and new memories and new stories. I don't think there was any particular moment during COVID that I and Zareen realized that this is it, but there are various moments

that make you slowly realize that you built a wonderful new home and you belong. That sense of belonging doesn't come immediately, and you can't really take it for granted, especially these days.

It's more than geography, it's more than coastlines and great restaurants and attractions. It does come down to the people, and we've felt part of this community and we felt that we belong. This is home — it doesn't mean that Pakistan will ever stop being our motherland and Karachi our hometown.

Peninsula Foodist: What do you hope readers will take away from the book?

Umair Khan: In the writing I want them to feel something beautiful. The photographs are beautiful, the recipes — there's real joy in how they're laid out, how the book is laid out from the cover art down. I'm

excited about this being hopefully good cultural ambassadorship for Pakistanis and for Pakistani cuisine and Pakistani culture, but I just hope people think it's a thing of beauty.

Zareen Khan: While you're enjoying this work of art, I want people to also feel good that by supporting this book they are also supporting a lot of other causes that mean a lot to us and will have a good impact on the world. ■

"Zareen's Pakistani Kitchen: Recipes from a Well-Fed Childhood" is available from major booksellers and independent bookstores. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/zareenspakistanikitchen.

Email The Six Fifty Editor Julia Brown at jbrown@embarcaderomedia.org.

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

PVI PRESENTS THE 34TH ANNUAL

AUTHOR'S Salon

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025
GRAND BAY HOTEL

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

THE MULTIMILLION-COPY BESTSELLER

PVI
Peninsula Volunteers, Inc.
(650)326-0665 | 1pvi.org

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

KEPLER'S BOOKS

KEPLER PARK, EST. 1992

SCAN ME!

FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFO

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS DELIVERING DREAMS

AVAILABLE



262 O'Connor Street, Menlo Park
262OConnor.com



660 Palo Alto Avenue, Palo Alto
JudyCitron.com



660 Hawthorne Avenue, Palo Alto
660Hawthorne.com



900 College Avenue, Menlo Park
900College.com



CITRON

judycitron.com



Judy Citron

650.400.8424 | judy@judycitron.com | DRE 01825569

Talia Citron Knapp

650.400.8424 | talia@taliacitron.com | DRE 01987761

#2

Small Team SILICON VALLEY, 2024

#9

Small Team CALIFORNIA, 2024

\$2B+ SOLD

COMPASS