

The Almanac

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Business asked to remove Save Downtown Menlo sign

Resident complained about sign on public sidewalk

By Arden Margulis

The Menlo Park Police Department code enforcement unit told a local business to remove a sign advertising the Save Downtown Menlo ballot measure petition that was placed on public property. At least one resident reportedly complained about the sign.

On July 12, Menlo Park resident David Pollack reported an A-frame sign outside of Stephen Miller Gallery in downtown Menlo Park. The sign suggested passersby could sign the Save Downtown Menlo ballot initiative inside the gallery.

Signs are not allowed on public property, including sidewalks, without an encroachment permit, according to Menlo Park police spokesperson Nicole Acker. She said code enforcement told the business to remove the sign and the business complied.

"I'm aware of one case where an A-frame was on public property, and a code enforcement

officer sent a courteous email asking for it to be removed, at which point it was immediately moved. Now that the businesses know the rules, I would not expect it to happen again," Save Downtown Menlo proponent Alex Beltramo said in an email to this news organization.

Save Downtown Menlo is a group of residents and business owners which was formed in opposition to the Menlo Park City Council's plan to build affordable housing on some downtown parking lots to meet state mandates. It claims that the removal of parking would negatively impact downtown businesses and the city should look at other locations. The city says it extensively reviewed various sites as part of its housing element.

Save Downtown Menlo launched a citizen initiative to get a city-wide vote on a proposed ballot measure to require voters approve any repurposing of the downtown parking lots.

"As someone who manages campaigns for a living, the first

thing I am taught is that one is not allowed to post political campaign signs on public property," Pollack said. "Stores are welcome to put signs in their buildings."

Pollack, who works in campaign finance and consulting, is an opponent of the ballot initiative and a former candidate for San Mateo County assessor-recorder.

Save Downtown Menlo has been collecting signatures for its initiative through several methods, including encouraging businesses to gather signatures from customers. Stephen Miller Gallery is one of those businesses. According to Beltramo, the group has collected roughly 2,000 signatures, nearly reaching the 2,104 needed to send the initiative to a vote. Save Downtown Menlo is still collecting signatures.

Pollack said his opposition to the sign on public property was unrelated to his position on the ballot initiative.



Courtesy David Pollack

The Save Downtown Menlo sign located in front of the Stephen Miller Gallery, next to a SamTrans bus stop, was reported to Menlo Park police. The sign has since been removed to conform with city regulations.

See **SIGN**, page 17

Town Center Area Plan Citizen Advisory Committee takes shape

Includes residents from each district

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Membership on Woodside's Citizen Advisory Committee for its Town Center Area Plan has been finalized — one step forward in its progress to update its plan in a year-long process.

During a Town Council meeting on July 8, council members voted to approve the final appointment of 20 members who will serve on the committee.

During a June council meeting, some residents complained after a predetermined list of

members for the CAC was presented as a recommendation to the council. The list included current chairs to the Planning Commission, Architectural and Site Review Board, Circulation Committee, Trails Committee and Environment and Open Space Committee.

After various people nominated themselves to the CAC during public comment, the council decided to open applications for property owners to represent the town's five districts on the CAC. According to the staff report, the town received 18 applications and considered

19 candidates, including one individual who expressed verbal interest.

Woodside is collaborating with a consultant team from Good City Company, a Redwood City-based local government and land use consulting firm. The Good City team will be leading and facilitating the CAC meetings with the town manager and staff in attendance.

The final list of committee members with the addition of eight property owners was approved in a 4-1 vote with Councilmember Dick Brown opposing the list.

The 18 CAC members include a mix of Woodside property owners and current town committee members:

- District 1 - Julie Sequeira and Carly Rivera
- District 2 - Vanessa Johnson, Sue Poletti and Steve Lubin
- District 3 - Daniel Druker
- District 4 - Steve Patrick
- District 5 - Caroline New

Town committee members include Lee Ann Gilbert, Richard Ersted, Patricia Del Gavio, Christine Roberts, Lyle Weaver, Matt Garr, Don Lindsay, Ehsan Farkhondeh, Barry Kuhl and Sue Sweeney.

Next steps for update

The CAC will likely hold its first meeting in mid-August, according to Good City Principal Planner Troy Reinhalter. All committee meetings are open to the public and will be held at Independence Hall. The meeting will push the town forward into phase two of the project.

During this next phase, the community will begin to see an increase in community engagement efforts hosted by Good City. Residents may see the

See **COMMITTEE**, page 19

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Local News

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Taylor family files suit against GreenWaste Recovery

Dylan Taylor's family alleges wrongful death in complaint against GreenWaste

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Two months after a collision with a GreenWaste Recovery truck killed Dylan Taylor, a beloved Menlo Park and Atherton youth athletics coach and paraeducator, his family has filed a lawsuit against the waste management company and its driver.

"What happened nine weeks ago has torn our family apart," said Michael Taylor, Dylan's father.

The Taylor family alleges the accident happened due to GreenWaste's negligence and the driver's failure to make a safe turn. The lawsuit was filed by San Francisco-based attorney Mary Alexander in San Mateo County Superior Court on July 8.

The complaint details the occurrence of the GreenWaste driver colliding with Taylor, who was riding his bicycle, as the truck turned right onto Prior Lane in Atherton. The complaint alleges that when the truck turned in front of Taylor, it caused him to collide with the passenger door, throwing him to the ground, leading the garbage truck to run over him. This caused significant internal injuries leading to his death, according to the complaint.

According to the lawsuit, the family believes that the driver failed to give Taylor the right of way, take steps to avoid the collision and to stop the truck after the initial collision.

The complaint states that the



Courtesy Mary Alexander and Associates

Dylan Taylor, former paraeducator at La Entrada Middle School and Menlo Park youth athletics coach.

California Highway Patrol's investigation found that the driver was "at fault for the collision and was in violation of California Vehicle Code section 22107, 'Unsafe Turning Movement.'"

After the accident, the Atherton Police Department also began an investigation on the incident and found no

indication of alcohol or drugs as contributing factors to the collision. The full report has since been forwarded to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office for review, said Atherton Police Department Commander Dan Larsen.

"What we hope will come out of this lawsuit is that trucks like this that are supposed to be

serving the community are also protecting the community from drivers that are inattentive," said Alexander.

The lawsuit alleges that the driver was unfit and incompetent to operate a Freightliner garbage truck. This type of truck generally weighs over 40,000 pounds and can weigh approximately 25 tons when fully loaded, according to the suit.

"We are looking to hold GreenWaste accountable and responsible for what happened," said Michael Taylor. "We consider that their driver was negligent and the company was negligent for hiring him."

While the police report is being reviewed by the district attorney, Alexander explained that the Taylors felt it was best to move ahead with a lawsuit while "it was all fresh." Although the family is still grieving their son's death, they want to make sure there is accountability for his death, she added.

During a press conference announcing the lawsuit, Taylor's mother, Kristy, recalled the worst day of her and her husband's life.

"The grief is still all encompassing and overwhelming and we will never be the same," she said in her public statement. "The pain of losing him is unbearable and we miss him more than words can say. Nothing can bring him back, but GreenWaste needs to be

See **TAYLOR**, page 19

Menlo Park residents asked to shelter in place

Individual allegedly threatened local kids

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi and Arden Margulis

The Menlo Park Police Department issued a shelter in place alert for people near the 1300 block of Mills Street in downtown Menlo Park while they responded to a person barricaded in their residence after allegedly arguing with local children. The shelter in place alert was sent out around 4:05 p.m. and lasted until 5:15 p.m.

The individual was not apprehended after the alert ended and has mental health challenges, according to Menlo Park police spokesperson Nicole Acker.

The individual allegedly threatened neighborhood children with a knife after yelling at them previously, which prompted police to respond. The subject refused to leave their house to speak with officers when they arrived and disconnected during phone calls with the police.

According to publicly available emergency medical service dispatch logs, a battalion chief, fire engine and an unidentified-type unit were dispatched to a medical aid call in the area. ■

Email Staff Writers Jennifer Yoshikoshi at [jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com](mailto: jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com) and Arden Margulis at [amargulis@almanacnews.com](mailto: amargulis@almanacnews.com).

Pair arrested for allegedly showing handgun during sale

Police say thieves arranged to meet with victims on Facebook Marketplace

By Arden Margulis

An East Palo Alto man and a juvenile were arrested after the juvenile allegedly brandished a handgun in an attempt to steal clothing after meeting ostensibly to make a purchase through Facebook Marketplace on July 11, according to a press release from the Menlo Park Police Department.

The juvenile and victims arranged to meet in the Willows neighborhood in Menlo Park to

purchase clothes on the peer-to-peer marketplace. However, once they met, the juvenile allegedly showed a handgun to the victim, took the items and fled the scene.

Following a call to the police department, detectives canvased the neighborhood for security camera footage and interviewed witnesses. Detectives identified the car used by the suspects as a white Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck and used Flock Automated License Plate

Readers to get the license plate information.

Later in the day, detectives saw the suspect vehicle and initiated a traffic stop, where they observed the juvenile and adult wearing the allegedly stolen clothes. Both were arrested and charged with felony robbery, conspiracy and possession of stolen property. Police did not provide the value of the stolen goods, which would determine whether the stolen property charge would be a

felony or misdemeanor.

Even though the adult did not brandish the handgun, if found guilty of conspiracy, he could face the same sentence as if he had committed the crime.

Meta, which is coincidentally located 1.5 miles from where the crime occurred, recommends people meet in public, well-lit areas when exchanging goods in-person from Facebook marketplace. It also recommends users share their plans and location with trusted friends,

avoid carrying large amounts of cash and consider using delivery instead of in-person meetings.

Meta did not respond to requests for comment.

The Menlo Park Police Department incorrectly stated in its press release that the crime occurred on June 11, 2023, a detective assigned to the case told this news organization.

The East Palo Alto resident is currently released on his own

See **THIEVES**, page 9



RESOLUTION NO. 2452 (2025)

RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE

Lands of Timothy Robert Katz and Jennifer Lauren Der Yuen, husband and wife as community property

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

- A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR")...
B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the "Parcel") to the District's On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone...
C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes "real property" for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:
D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

- 1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.
2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: August 13, 2025
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices
500 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025
& via Zoom

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

- 3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i).
4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.
5. The General Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

Exhibit A

Exhibit A: Geographic Description of Lands of Katz and der Yuen. Includes map title, date (August 26, 2024), and detailed course descriptions (Course 1 through Course 9) for the parcel boundaries. Includes signatures and stamps of the San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission.

Passed and adopted by the District Board of the West Bay Sanitary District at a regular meeting thereof held on the 25th day of June, 2025 by the following vote:

Exhibit B

Exhibit B: Plat to accompany legal description of 10 Los Charros Lane. Includes a detailed survey map showing lots, courses, bearings, and distances. Includes a disclaimer, scale (1" = 60'), and signatures of LEA & Braze Engineering, Inc.

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The Almanac

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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 Mitchel, 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

Chasity Hale, 223-6527
Emily Margaretten, 223-6517
Lisa Moreno, 223-6526
Zoe Morgan, 223-6519
Gennady Sheyner, 223-6513

Editorial Interns

Grace Gao, Grace Gormley, Anya Motwani

Photo Intern

Kensie Pao

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

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown, 223-6562

ADVERTISING

Major Accounts Sales Manager

Connie Cotton, 223-6571

Multimedia Advertising Sales

Elaine Ogden, 223-6572

Real Estate Manager Neal Fine, 223-6583

ADVERTISING SERVICES

Advertising Services Manager

Kevin Legarda, 223-6597

Sales & Production Coordinator

Diane Martin, 223-6584

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

- Newsroom: (650) 223-6525
Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525
Email news and photos with captions to: Editor@AlmanacNews.com
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Council excited to create community ‘living room’ downtown

The area could include a stage, play area

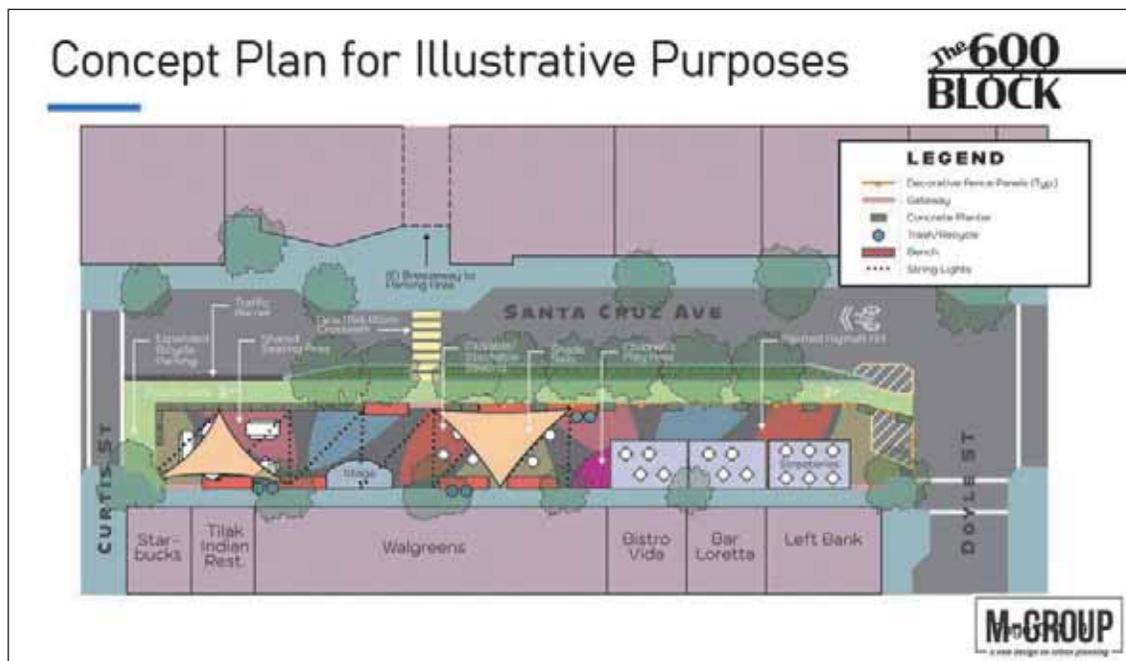
By Arden Margulis

After a plan to keep the 600 block of Santa Cruz Avenue closed to cars narrowly won city council approval, Menlo Park is now taking the next step in reimagining the space as a vibrant public plaza aimed at drawing residents and visitors downtown. Councilmembers are excited about making it a space “the city can be proud of.”

The Menlo Park City Council reviewed initial design concepts for new improvements to the 600 block, where vehicle access has been restricted since 2023. The city is far from having a plan or timeline for use of the space, but the initial concepts intrigued councilmembers.

The effort is part of the city’s broader goal of “downtown vibrancy,” one of its top five priorities for fiscal year 2025-26. The area under consideration spans approximately 2,500 square feet of additional public space, with another 1,200 square feet identified between the existing outdoor dining area and the bike lane.

Assistant City Manager Stephen Stolte said the city partnered with urban design consultants from M-Group to explore options that balance community



Courtesy Menlo Park

A conceptual plan made by M-Group for the 600 block of Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park.

needs, safety and aesthetics.

Concepts included flexible seating arrangements, protective barriers, shade sails, overhead string lighting and painted roadway treatments to help define spaces for different uses. M-Group also brought up the possibility of adding a sidewalk to connect the plaza with an already existing breezeway.

The city also wants to ensure the space is accessible and safe. City staff are evaluating

platforms to level uneven street grades and ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Protective planters and decorative fencing could be used to separate the plaza from a bike lane.

The city will also work with the Menlo Park Fire Protection District. Gage Schlice, the new fire marshal at the district, told the council he looked forward to making a space that both accomplishes the city’s goal and is safe

for residents.

By transforming the space, the city hopes to create a downtown “living room” where people of all ages feel welcome and connected.

Seemingly referring to Bistro Vida owner Ali El Safy’s idea for the space, the city is considering whether to include an event space with a stage and programming such as live music and movies.

Menlo Park Mayor Drew Combs has concerns about that

idea and thinks it would be better to focus on maintain a gathering place rather than an area for city programming.

Another area where Combs differed from his fellow councilmembers concerned a street mural. He said he is worried about maintenance of a street art installation.

“I’m not a fan of murals on the street, because it’s always the case that in a few months, they look very worn, and there’s chips. Unless we are really, actively retouching the mural, I think that they really very quickly make a place look worn down,” Combs said.

The project is partially funded with \$477,515 available in the city’s Capital Improvement Plan for downtown streetscape improvements. Additional costs for construction, equipment, and outreach would be determined as plans progress.

Next steps include launching a public outreach campaign in August to gather community input. Staff plan to host pop-up events at the site, provide online engagement opportunities and work directly with downtown businesses and organizations to refine design proposals. ■

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

Sheriff denies retaliation after witness sergeant placed on leave

Attorney questions timing of administrative move

By Bay City News Service

A veteran San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office sergeant — who is a witness in proceedings against Sheriff Christina Corpus — has been placed on administrative leave, according to the sergeant’s lawyer.

Sgt. Joe Fava was placed on leave without explanation last week, according to attorney Charles Stone.

“As we know, Sgt. Fava was recently identified as a key witness in removal proceedings against Sheriff Corpus as a result of her own attorneys failing to file documents with the court confidentially,” Stone said Monday.

“Given that recent revelation, I know that a lot of people find the timing of this administrative leave decision interesting, to say the least,” Stone said.

On Monday, Corpus strongly disputed the notion that Fava was placed on leave improperly or as any kind of retaliation,

calling such suggestions “patently false.”

The latest twist in the saga of accusations and counterclaims involving Corpus began in late June, when several documents that were supposed to remain confidential were instead filed publicly in San Mateo County Superior Court by Corpus’ lawyers.

One of those documents is a report stemming from an independent investigation by the law firm Kecker, Van Nest & Peters that alleges grounds for removing Corpus from office exist based on multiple factors, including testimony from Fava.

On Monday, the San Mateo County Organization of Sheriff’s Sergeants said it was worried that the decision to place Fava on leave was connected to his role in the Kecker report.

“As a key contributor to the Kecker investigation, he helped bring to light serious violations of policy, including retaliation and nepotism,” sheriff sergeant union officials said in a news

release. “Without transparency, this decision appears to reflect a broader pattern of retaliation against those who speak up.”

Corpus said in a news release Monday that such claims are part of a larger pattern involving her critics weaponizing “the press or internal complaints in service of political agendas.”

“Sergeant Fava was not placed on leave for any improper or retaliatory reason. His temporary administrative leave is entirely unrelated to any comments or cooperation he may have provided in the Kecker report,” Corpus said. “Any suggestion to the contrary is both irresponsible and reckless, and

it undermines the integrity of the internal affairs processes that govern all public safety personnel.”

Corpus has been accused of abuse of power, retaliation, using racial and homophobic slurs, nepotism and placing her

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JUL 30	DAYNA STEPHENS
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Schedule and artists subject to change without notice.

San Mateo County shares improved emergency alert system

Officials say, 'We all need to be on the same page'

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

In the wake of the Texas Hill Country floods, San Mateo County Emergency Management brought nearly 100 Bay Area emergency management professionals together to discuss the critical gaps in emergency communication systems.

"Flooding is one of the worst disasters and people don't really pay attention to it," said Shruti

Dhapodkar, director of the county's Department of Emergency Management. "More people die from flooding and more money is lost than from tornadoes or other natural disasters."

On July 9, the county hosted a seminar inviting professionals from 37 organizations across eight Bay Area counties, featuring crisis communication expert Jeannette Sutton. According to Dhapodkar, cities and counties

across the Bay Area sent representatives to the seminar, some coming from as far away as Napa and Monterey.

Using the recent Los Angeles fires, Hurricane Helene and the 2018 Paradise fire as examples, the seminar reflected on the technical, messaging and timing failures that led to the catastrophic deaths that followed.

While eyes are currently on the aftermath of the Texas Hill floods, New Mexico, North Carolina and Illinois are simultaneously experiencing major flooding events as well.

Flash floods are America's number one storm-related cause of death, leading to over 125 deaths per year, according to the National Weather Service. As of July 15, reports confirmed at least 134 people died during the Texas flood and over 100 remain missing.

"Disasters don't have boundaries," said Dhapodkar. "Just because we have cities, towns and counties does not mean that the disaster is not going to cross over county lines, so we all need to be on the same page."

During the seminar, Sutton presented her framework and warning lexicon, which are research-based tools that cover 48 types of hazards and 112 protective action statements. San Mateo County is one of the first in the nation to implement Sutton's evidence-based framework. The department calls its Alert and Warning initiative lifesaving.

Sutton's framework emphasizes what messaging gets people to take action during emergencies. Dhapodkar explained that even the capitalization of certain words, such as "LEAVE NOW," can be key to pushing individuals to take immediate action.

According to Dhapodkar, San Mateo County is ahead in bridging the gaps in emergency communication by implementing standardized alerts and warning policies, while also

standardizing research-based templates for issuing emergency messaging.

"We have a lot of people getting a lot of notifications so they can't discern between what is signal and what is noise," she added. "So we, as public officials, need to be very clear when we need them to take an action that could prevent them from a disaster."

Across San Mateo County's 32 agencies, more than 500 people have alert-sending authority. Dhapodkar acknowledged that these individuals need to be trained in how to be effective messengers and understand how to form clear and concise messages. Over the next year, the county will be working on improving gaps in messaging around emergency communications, she said.

When alerts or messages are shared, people will instinctively check with trusted sources such as their local pastor, the city or the fire department — this is called social milling.

As natural disasters are becoming more frequent across the nation, Dhapodkar said public officials want to avoid people spending extra time trying to verify information.

In order to steer the public away from social milling, the county is emphasizing the importance of "speaking as one voice," across all 32 jurisdictions, which include individual cities, fire and police departments.

"[The public will] see that clear and actionable language that people can depend on, so people are likely to take action quicker, which will save lives, because in evacuations every single minute counts," said Dhapodkar.

She shared that the evidence-based templates that San Mateo County utilizes are accessible online for any county, city or country and are available for any jurisdiction to adopt.

"The idea is not to keep this to ourselves but really promote

this nationwide because we don't want things like this to continue happening where communication and alert and warning failures lead to people dying," she said.

Flooding risks and safety measures

Parts of San Mateo County, including Portola Valley, Woodside, Menlo Park and Redwood City, are in high-risk flood zones. Dhapodkar said that while San Mateo County is also at risk of flash floods from storm surges, the area is also at risk of long-term flooding.

"Flooding is definitely a huge risk, but it's an extended risk over the next 30 years," she said.

On July 12, San Mateo County District 4 Supervisor Lisa Gauthier and Redwood City Mayor Elmer Martínez Saballos hosted "Tea and Conversation," an event inviting community members for casual conversations.

In a response to a question from Redwood City Pulse editor Michelle Iracheta about whether the county is prepared for a natural disaster like the Texas flood, Gauthier said the county has an early warning system in place.

"We continue to look at those solutions and to make sure that we're protecting our residents," she responded. "It's also important that you know who's in your neighborhood, so that we can help evacuate the most vulnerable."

OneShoreline, also known as San Mateo County Flood and Sea-Level Rise Resiliency District, collects and monitors data on rainfall through gauges around the county. Its flood early warning system supports emergency alerts and preparedness.

San Mateo County offers advice on how the community can stay safe during floods, as well as a list of locations where households can pick up sandbags. In the event of a flood, public officials advise against driving through flooded areas and walking through flowing water. Safety tips also include staying away from power lines and electrical wires, shutting off gas and electricity and being alert for gas leaks.

For more information on flood warnings and safety tips, visit smcgov.org/planning/flood-warning-and-safety.

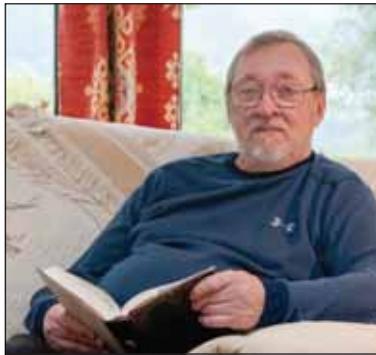
To see what areas of San Mateo County are in flood zones, visit smcgov.org/planning/femas-flood-zone-maps. ■

Dr. Jared "Jerry" Arnold Anderson

June 22, 1937 – July 27, 2024

47-year Woodside resident Jared "Jerry" Arnold Anderson passed away last summer at the age of 87. Jerry had an eclectic career as a research physicist, Silicon Valley entrepreneur, venture capitalist, inventor, winemaker and more...

Jerry came a long way from his roots in the small town of Palestine, Texas where he was born June 22, 1937. After graduating from Palestine High School in 1955, he went on to earn a B.S. degree in physics from the University of Texas at Austin; from there, he moved to California to study under esteemed physics Nobel laureate Luis Alvarez at UC Berkeley.



After receiving his Ph.D., Jerry conducted experiments at Lawrence Berkeley Labs and the Bevatron particle accelerator co-publishing 25 studies analyzing particle interactions, cosmic rays, deep space objects and other phenomena. In 1966, Alvarez chose Jerry to run a joint project between UC Berkeley and the Egyptian government using high-energy physics to scan for undiscovered chambers in pyramids on the Giza Plateau. From 1967-70, he worked at the Space Sciences Laboratory securing NASA contracts to conduct physics experiments using high-altitude balloons and satellites.

Later, as an entrepreneur, Jerry founded San Jose-based Valid Logic Systems, which specialized in computer-aided engineering, manufacturing and design, and Two Pi Corporation of Santa Clara that produced a 32-bit IBM-compatible minicomputer.

Jerry is survived by his son, Jared Arnold Anderson, Jr., who was his partner at Skywood Ventures, a Menlo Park venture capital firm that invested in information technology and healthcare startups. Jerry moved to a house in the Skywood Acres neighborhood of upper Woodside in 1977. Nine years later he purchased an adjoining three-acre property to start a vineyard growing Cabernet and Chardonnay vines. He crushed grapes, bottled and aged the wine on his property selling about 200 cases a year under the appellation Chaine d'Or Vineyards.

Jerry Anderson's funeral was held in his hometown of Palestine, Texas in August of last year and Jared Anderson, Jr., has planned a celebration in his father's memory on July 27th at the family home to mark the one year anniversary of his passing.

"Dad had a quote he loved from a character played by Robert Duvall in the 2003 movie "Secondhand Lions" that kind of epitomized his philosophy of life," Jared Anderson said: "If you need something, find it yourself – better yet, learn to do without."

PAID OBITUARY



Kate Bradshaw

Residents helped their neighbor on Woodland Avenue in West Menlo Park clear out a flooded driveway and line it with sandbags on Dec. 31, 2022.

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

The Almanac launches upgraded home page

Effort addresses reader feedback

By Zoe Morgan

When you visited The Almanac's website this week, you may have noticed that things look a little bit different. We have rolled out a new home page design, with the goal of making it easier for our audience to find and read our articles at almanacnews.com.

This change has been months in the making and was undertaken in direct response to feedback from readers about our previous page design.

Perhaps most obviously, you'll now see far more articles when you open our website from a desktop computer. Depending on your screen size, you can now see up to eight stories at once, rather than the three or four that were generally visible on our previous page.

We achieved this by switching from a two-column to three-column layout, including a right-hand column that doesn't include photos. The goal is for you to be able to quickly get a comprehensive sense of the most important news happening

in your community.

The additional story spots will also give our editors space to highlight a greater variety of articles, including our popular food, real estate and entertainment content.

If you're checking us out on a cellphone, the design likely looks more similar to what you're used to seeing. That's because most of the presentation issues we heard about from readers were in relation to our desktop design. On a cellphone, you'll continue to be able to scroll through our stories in a single, mobile-friendly column.

The changes to our home page don't stop with the top section. We've also added more content to the home page, so you don't have to sort through other pages on our site to find recent stories.

Readers previously reported that news stories often scrolled off our home page too quickly, making it hard to find an article from a day or two ago. To address that, we've now added a "More Local News" section where you'll find recent news coverage that is no longer at the

top of the page.

We've also significantly expanded the space on our home page for our lifestyles coverage. There are now separate sections for food, arts & culture and real estate coverage, each with space for three articles. We've also given more prominence to The Six Fifty, which is our publication covering culture and events throughout Silicon Valley.

One entirely new feature is our "Did You Miss" section, which will highlight some of our best work. In addition to the day-to-day news coverage that keeps our reporters busy, we also make a point as an organization to carve out time for in-depth reporting projects. This new section will make it easier for readers to peruse these stories.

As with all of our work, we



Screenshot

The Almanac has a new look on the home page. It's designed to deliver more local content, higher on the page.

always want to hear feedback from readers. If you'd like to share your thoughts on the new home page, or suggest additional changes to our website, contact me at zmorgan@embarcadero-media.org.

Zoe Morgan helps to lead audience engagement efforts for Embarcadero Media Foundation, The Almanac's parent organization. Email Editor Zoe Morgan at zmorgan@almanacnews.com.

THIEVES

continued from page 5

recognizance related to a charge of misdemeanor grand theft from June 11, 2023, when he allegedly stole a cellular device in Redwood City. He previously had a warrant issued for failing to appear in that case.

It is this news organization's

policy to not name suspects except in extraordinary circumstances until the District Attorney's Office files charges. The district attorney's office did not file charges by The Almanac's print deadline on Wednesday. ■

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

SHERIFF

continued from page 7

chief of staff — allegedly her romantic partner — in a high-paying role.

In March, voters approved Measure A amending the county charter to grant the San Mateo Board of Supervisors authority to remove the sheriff for cause with a supermajority vote. In June, the board unanimously accepted Chief Probation Officer John Keene's recommendation to remove her, marking the first such use of this provision in California history.

Corpus is also the subject of a San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury investigation, which accuses her of having a conflict of interest pertaining to the hiring and supervision of her department's former executive director of administration, Victor Aenlle.

The grand jury also accused

Corpus of three counts of retaliation, pertaining to the termination of former assistant sheriff Ryan Monaghan, the transfer of Captain Brian Philip, and the arrest of Deputy Carlos Tapia, the president of the deputy sheriff's association.

Corpus has denied wrongdoing, called the accusations against her politically motivated, sued the county, and vowed to fight through appeals. ■

LEHUA GREENMAN



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East Palo Alto rejects fee hike for builders

Concept was to penalize for missing housing target

By Lisa Moreno

East Palo Alto Vice Mayor Mark Dinan and council member Webster Lincoln denied on Tuesday a fee increase for new developments that do not meet the city's requirements for producing affordable housing.

Instead, council members agreed by a 5-0 vote to keep fees for rental developments the same, despite staff recommendations.

The city created its Inclusionary Housing Ordinance in November 2019 to ensure that new developments, whether they be rentals or for sale, create some affordable units.

Currently, the ordinance requires developers to make at least 20% of its units affordable for "very low income" renters and make for-sale properties accessible to "moderate income" residents. Developers who do not follow these requirements must pay a fee that changes every fiscal year.

In lieu of creating the affordable units, developers paid a \$273,400 fee for market-rate affordable properties for sale and \$299,200 for market-rate

rental units during the 2024-25 fiscal year.

The fees are altered each year based on the price of the city constructing its own affordable housing units and the money goes toward the city's affordable housing fund.

Based on staff research, East Palo Alto housing project manager Yajaira Morales proposed that the city decrease for-sale fees to \$268,800 and increase rental unit fees to \$306,100.

Home-ownership rates have decreased due to rising utility costs, which was reflected in the fee reduction, but construction costs for affordable housing units increased.

Despite staff research and recommendations to update the fees, some council members were wary of the potential changes.

Dinan said he was opposed to the inclusionary housing program altogether.

"You tax things you don't want and you don't tax things you do want, and in general, I'm opposed to inclusionary housing fees," he said.

During the 2025-26 year, the city will be reviewing its inclusionary housing ordinance

based on earlier recommendations from Dinan and council member Lincoln.

Lincoln is not in favor of altering fees, he said, before that review is complete.

Mike Kramer, who works with Sand Hill Property Company, one of the most prominent developers in East Palo Alto, said the city's affordable housing requirements have been difficult to keep up with.

"Please don't further increase the costs of developing new housing. We urge you to reject the increased inclusionary in lieu fee for rental units," said Kramer, who added that it is costly to build affordable units.

Council member Romero disagreed, urging the dais to move forward with the changes that would encourage developers to build the housing without paying fees.

"There is a development that is going forward right now that can take advantage of this number," Romero said. "...They have already said they're interested in building, I believe, it's 12 or 13 units that would be affordable."

Romero made a motion to accept the fee changes with

council member Ruben Abrica supporting it. Barragan abstained and Dinan and Lincoln denied the proposal. The council then agreed to keep the rental unit fee the same and decrease the fee for properties for sale.

"There are two members on this body that have consistently seemed to try to undermine any community benefits for

low-income folks," Romero said.

As utilities and living costs rise, Morales said, keeping fees the same for developers would impact the residents.

"What we currently have will be outdated," she said. ■

Email Staff Writer Lisa Moreno at lmoreno@almanacnews.com.

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

John Working, 100, a Palo Alto resident who served in the U.S. Navy, was a leader in Sierra Club and had spent 50 years teaching economics at Stanford University, died on Jan. 19, 2025.

Janet R. Wright, 92, a Palo Alto resident who worked as a legal secretary and then served as a department administrator at Stanford University's computer science and geology departments, died on June 15, 2025.

Thomas J. Reilly, 92, a Palo Alto resident and biochemist who loved to garden and

who worked for Stanford University and then for NASA, died on Dec. 7, 2024.

Michael L. Peck, 79, a Palo Alto resident who served as a naval aviator with tours in California, Guam and Hawaii, who received three Meritorious Service Medals and a host of other military awards before retiring in 1994, who later worked as a defense contractor, and who loved to play golf, died on June 11, 2025.

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

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ATHERTON

\$14,988,000 | 5 Bd | 7 Bth
188FairOaksLn.com



1271 PETERSEN COURT
LOS ALTOS

\$5,095,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
1271Petersen.com



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PALO ALTO

\$3,488,000 | 4 Bd | 2 Bth
3865Mumford.com



3503 ALMA VILLAGE CIR
PALO ALTO

\$2,788,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
3503AlmaVillage.com



548 EVERETT AVENUE
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\$1,288,000 | 2 Bd | 2 Bth
548Everett.com



448 FELTON DRIVE
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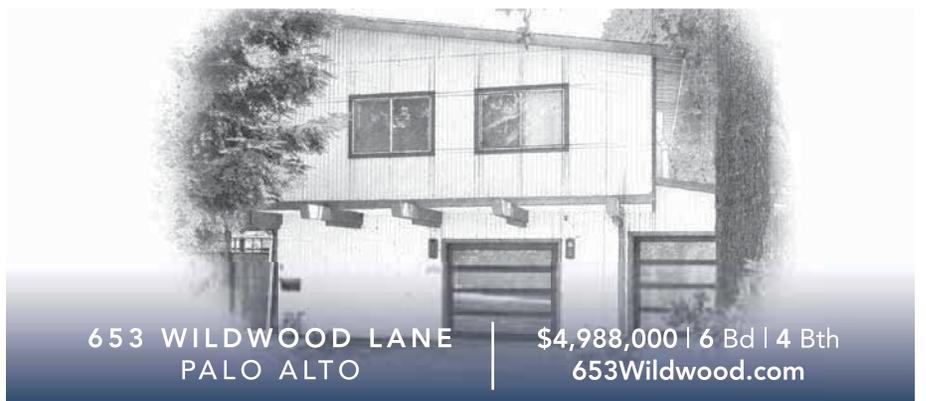
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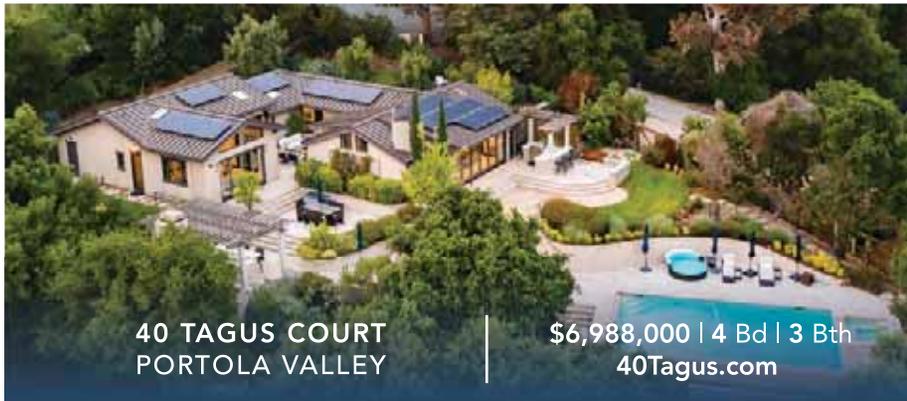




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Protesters once again target Palo Alto's Palantir office

Company criticized for assisting ICE with immigrant deportations

By Chasity Hale

Dozens of people, young and old, gathered at the end of Hamilton Avenue outside of Palantir's office in Palo Alto to protest the software company's collaboration with defense and immigration agencies on July 14.

Concurrent protests, organized by the youth-led climate advocacy group Planet Over Profit, took place at Palantir's offices in Washington, D.C., Seattle, New York City and Denver, where the company is headquartered.

Founded two decades ago by billionaires Peter Thiel and Alex Karp, Palantir has long provided software and services to federal agencies such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security. Palantir also works with police departments, private companies and international governments.

In recent years, the company has come under increased scrutiny for its role in surveillance work, raising concerns about privacy and human rights violations. In April, multiple outlets



Chasity Hale

Protesters picketed outside the Palantir building in Palo Alto on July 14.

reported that Palantir signed a \$30-million agreement with ICE to develop additional software for tracking migrants as immigration authorities ramp up raids in California and across the country. Palantir has also been criticized for its partnership with the Israeli Defense Ministry, announced last January, amid the Israeli military's ongoing attacks on the besieged Gaza strip, where more than 55,000 Palestinians have

been killed since Oct. 7, 2023. Palantir has also come under fire for its co-founder, Thiel's, links to Trump administration officials like one-time adviser Elon Musk and Vice President J.D. Vance.

Palantir, which was founded in Palo Alto but which moved its headquarters to Denver in 2020, did not immediately respond to a request for comment regarding recent protests.

At the demonstration, people

held handmade signs with phrases like "mass surveillance requires mass resistance" and "no one is illegal on stolen land." Two people stood at the crosswalk, holding opposite sides of a large white banner that read, "Stop the oligarchy." Others carried upside-down American flags that billowed in the light breeze. As protestors gathered on the sidewalk, they were met with a cacophony of car horns as passersby honked in support.

After a performance by the Raging Grannies, an activist group of older women who sing protest songs, the demonstrators formed a picket line and chanted: "Say it once, say it twice, Palantir powers ICE." Three large white rental trucks obscured the view of the front of the building, where the picket line took place, so the protestors took to Alma Street, briefly blocking off the road as two speakers addressed the crowd.

"Palantir's slogan is, 'Software that dominates,'" began Joao Paulo Connolly, an organizer with Bay Resistance Silicon Valley. "Who do they want to dominate? You, me, all of us."

"This struggle against Palantir brings all of our communities together. You may be an immigrant and Palantir software is being used to surveil and monitor you and to report you to ICE or to Homeland Security," Connolly continued. "You may be a U.S. citizen and you may think Palantir doesn't affect me. Yes it does. They are constructing a database with data on all U.S.

citizens, on all of us, to surveil us and control us."

(Earlier this year, President Donald Trump signed an executive order "promoting inter-agency data sharing," an effort that was initially spearheaded by Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, according to Wired. In May, the New York Times reported that Palantir had been enlisted in this effort to integrate distinct data sets across the federal government.)

After Connolly, a Palestinian-American educator with CalSTRS divest, a campaign to divest the California teachers' pension fund from arms and tech companies supplying Israeli forces, spoke. At the end of the speeches, as the crowd dispersed, some protestors announced that they would be heading to another protest at Tesla headquarters. People also passed out flyers for upcoming protests at other tech companies, underscoring growing resistance to tech billionaires' alignment with the second Trump administration.

The July 14 protest was the start of an 8-week campaign dubbed, "Stop Billionaires Summer," which will mostly take place in and around the Bay Area, said Alice Hu, an organizer with Planet Over Profit, in an interview.

"This is just the beginning," Hu said. "We are going to be here non-violently protesting and making it clear that we know what they're doing and they can't get away with it." ■

Email Staff Writer Chasity Hale at chale@almanacnews.com.

Menlo Park

Mid Year Market Report

January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025

Rossetti Realty Inc.

TOP 10 SALES **				
1. \$9,500,000	2. \$9,000,000	3. \$8,700,000	4. \$8,600,000	
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5. \$8,549,000	6. \$8,000,000	7. \$7,735,000	8. \$7,300,000	9. \$6,825,000
1325 Garden Lane	720 Vine Street	1180 N Lemon Avenue	662 Berkeley Avenue	450 Hermosa Way
				10. \$6,600,000
				1000 Hermosa Way

<p>ACTIVE LISTING</p> <p>MY 25: 260 (-6%)</p> <p>MY 24: 277</p>	<p>AVERAGE SALES PRICE</p> <p>MY 25: \$3,456,084 (+2%)</p> <p>MY 24: \$3,376,326</p>	<p>AVERAGE SALES PRICE/SQ FT</p> <p>MY 25: \$1,573 (+6%)</p> <p>MY 24: \$1,482</p>
<p>PENDING LISTING</p> <p>MY 25: 176 (-7%)</p> <p>MY 24: 190</p>	<p>AVERAGE SOLD DAYS ON MARKET</p> <p>MY 25: 19 (-24%)</p> <p>MY 24: 25</p>	<p>MONTHS OF INVENTORY</p> <p>MY 25: 2.00 (+33%)</p> <p>MY 24: 1.50</p> <p><small>If no further homes/condos were to come to market, the area would be SOLD OUT of residential real estate in the number of MONTHS above.</small></p>
<p>SOLD LISTING</p> <p>MY 25: 154 (-16%)</p> <p>MY 24: 183</p>	<p>SALE/LIST PRICE</p> <p>MY 25: 102.90% (+0%)</p> <p>MY 24: 102.60%</p>	<p>30 YEAR MORTGAGE RATE</p> <p>MY 25: 6.87% (-2%)</p> <p>MY 24: 7.02%</p> <p><small>6/16/2024 7.02% 6/17/2025 6.87%</small></p> <p><small>Source: Bankrate</small></p>

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Snowflake Inc has mltp Senior Financial Analyst - Sales Finance positions avail in Menlo Park, CA. Wrk crss-fnctionly with sales, prdct, lgal, fnance. Lead qtrly cnsmtion rvnue rvIEWS wth sales & prvide wrtten feedbck to the fnance data science team. Tlcmgt prmttd. Successful candidate's starting sal will be dtmnd based on permissible, non-discriminatory fctrs such as skills, exp, & geo lctn. This role is also elgbl for a cmptve bnfts pckge that incld: medical, dental, vision, life, & disability insrnce; 401(k) ret plan; FSA & HSA; at least 12 paid holidays; PTO; parental leave; ee asst program; & other co bnfts. \$114462 - 158700/yr. To apply, send rsme & trnspts w/ job title & Ref#8696491 to resume@snowflake.com. EOE.

The Almanac offers employment advertising.
If you wish to learn more about the employment advertising options, please visit AlmanacNews.com/employment_ads/.

SIGN

continued from page 1

“As a campaign finance expert, I don’t think it’s appropriate for any political signs, whether it’s something I am for or against, for a candidate or measure to use a public space or building,” Pollack said.

He said he reported two signs in downtown Menlo Park, one in person at the police station and the other via a call to the city’s non-emergency number.

Acker said police were only aware of the sign at Stephen Miller Gallery. She noted that while signs are common on sidewalks, the department took action because this sign was not directly in front of the business and was not advertising the business itself. She added that businesses can apply for permits for signs. No permit applications for signs related to Save Downtown Menlo signs appear on Menlo Park’s public permitting portal.

While Pollack wanted the signs removed from public property, he also thinks it’s important that patrons know how businesses stand on the initiative.

“When I see a sign on a store advertising for the initiative, I am less inclined to patronize as it looks to me, as a pedestrian and bike rider, that they are prioritizing their patrons who

use cars,” Pollack said.

When Pollack first reported the signs, he said the police department tried to “weasel out” of dealing with them.

He initially spoke with the public works department and city clerk’s office, which confirmed the signs were not allowed and directed him to the police department. After he called the non-emergency number, a dispatcher connected him with an officer on patrol.

“The officer said ‘Well, it is not in anyone’s way...’ (The officer) said that if he had heard from a business entity he could do something, I told him that was not true. He also tried to say it was a planning department issue but I knew it wasn’t after speaking with the department and the city clerk,” Pollack said.

After his complaint, he said the business removed the sign. With his complaint about another business, he said the business adjusted the sign to lean against the building.

“I think it’s technically not allowed but it’s kind of fine because the sign is leaning against the building. I personally don’t mind it but I can’t say if it’s legal or not,” Pollack said. ■

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



NOTICE INVITING BIDS

TOWN OF ATHERTON
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Notice: The Town of Atherton (Town) hereby gives notice that it will accept bids for construction of the following public work:

**ATHERTON LIBRARY CHILDREN’S GARDEN
Project Number: 56109**

1. Scope of Work: The scope of work consists of site, landscape and accessibility improvements including tree protection, unit paving, an accessible wood ramp with railings and custom infill panels, accessible wood fiber surfacing and edging, installation of whole wood products, wood fences with wire mesh infill panels, a property line fence, metal gates and railings, a wood frame play structure and deck connection, wood benches, wood steps, various custom garden elements including a willow hut and log benches, site furnishings, associated concrete curbs and footings, drip irrigation system installation and connection to the existing system, planting bed preparation and installation of planting.

2. Plans & Specifications: Plans & Specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton’s website at: <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/bids.aspx> at no cost. Additional information is contained in Town of Atherton Standard Specifications, which are available at: <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/285>. Contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the Town’s website. **No Plan holders list will be made be available.**

3. Project Schedule: The work shall be completed within NINETY (90) working days from the First Day of Construction, exclusive of procurement periods, as defined in the Notice to Proceed. Contractor will be given sixty (60) calendar days for custom poles procurement time after the City’s authorizes a Notice to Procure.

4. Bid Submission: SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, California 94027, until **1:30 p.m.** Pacific Daylight Time **August 19, 2025**, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. All proposals must be submitted not later than the date and time prescribed. The Bidder is wholly responsible to ensure its Bid is submitted on the date and at the time and place designated for the opening of bids. Any Bid received after the time and date specified shall not be considered. Any Bid may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled time for opening bids.

5. Engineer’s Estimate for the project is: **\$413,154**

6. Bid Requirements: Bids must be for the entire work and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: “Bid of (Contractor) for **ATHERTON LIBRARY CHILDREN’S GARDEN, Project No: 56109**”, along with date and time of bid opening.

Bidders shall refer to the **Bid Requirements** section of the project Plans and Specifications for additional information and requirements.

7. Required Contractor’s License: Bidder must possess a current **California Class “A” General Engineering or a California Class “B” General Building** contractor’s license issued by the State of California, at the time the Bid is submitted. The Contractor and all subcontractors shall be licensed by the State of California in the class appropriate for the work contemplated. Failure of Contractor or his/her subcontractors to possess such current license at the time of bidding may be deemed sufficient cause for rejection of the bid.

8. Portion of Work to be Performed by the Contractor: The General Contractor shall perform, with his own organization, work of a value amounting to not less than 50% of the total contract, excluding specialty items as may be indicated on the bid schedule.

9. Department of Industrial Relations Registration: A Contractor or Subcontractor shall not be qualified to bid on, be listed in a bid proposal, subject to the requirements of Public Contract Code 4104, or engage in the performance of any contract for public work, as that term is defined in Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1 of the Labor Code, unless currently registered and qualified to perform public work pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5. (<http://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html>)

10. Reservation of Rights: The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids; to make any awards or any rejections in what it alone considers to be in the best interest of the Town and waive any informalities or irregularities in the bids. If there is a reason to believe that collusion exists among any bidders, none of the bids of the participants in such collusion will be considered and the Town may likewise elect to reject all bids received.

11. Substitution of Securities: The successful bidder may substitute securities for retention monies withheld to ensure performance of the contract, in accordance with California Public Contract Code, Section 22300.

12. Prevailing Wage Rates: Bidders are hereby notified that provisions of California Labor Code regarding prevailing wages and apprentices are applicable to the work to be performed under this contract. Pursuant to Section 1773 et seq. the general prevailing wage rates have been determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations and appear in the California Prevailing Wage Rates. Copies are on file at the office of the City Engineer and are available to interested parties upon request. The successful bidder shall post a copy of the wage rates at the job site.

13. Bid Preparation Cost: Bidders are solely responsible for the cost of plan and specification printing and preparing their Bids.

14. Town Contact: Questions regarding the project should be directed to Robert Ovadia, PE, by written Requests for Information (RFI) to: Public Works Department, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027, no later than eight (8) business days before bid opening. RFIs may be emailed to jmiller@millercorp.com.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Ladera Pride celebration

Ladera Community Church will be hosting its 5th annual LGBTQ Pride parade and celebration on Saturday, July 26th from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. The parade will begin at the intersection of La Mesa Drive and La Cuesta Drive.

After the parade, there will be a family-friendly celebration with music, pizza, ice cream, photo booth and Pride swag. The event will be hosted at the church patio located on 3300 Alpine Road, Ladera.

For more information or to volunteer for the event, email peter.sass@gmail.com.

Boulder removal near Sky Londa

Caltrans will be removing two boulders that have become safety hazards on state Route 84 and 35 near Sky Londa in Woodside. On July 22, removals on Route 84 will occur approximately 1-mile south of Route 35. On July 23, the removal will take place on Route 35 near Castanea Ridge Road.

Drivers can expect a 15 to 20-minute traffic hold by California Highway Patrol while Caltrans crew drill and blast the boulders.

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Atherton speed hump survey

The Town of Atherton is conducting a survey on 13 speed humps the town has recently installed on several streets. The speed humps were installed as part of the town’s Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan in order to reduce speeds and discourage cut through traffic.

Unlike speed bumps, which are common in parking lots where cars move at very low speeds, speed humps are designed for streets. They slow traffic moderately while being wider and less pronounced than speed pumps.

The survey closes on August 18. It can be accessed at survey.monkey.com/r/SFCPPVZ.

— Arden Margulis

Caltrain raises base fare by 25 cents

Clipper card outage reported

By Michelle Iracheta

Caltrain riders saw a 25-cent increase in the base fare that started July 1 as the agency works to stabilize its finances and respond to changing ridership patterns.

The increase is part of a fare structure approved in 2022. A larger hike originally planned for 2023 was delayed to avoid discouraging riders during the early pandemic recovery. The agency said the smaller increase now is a step toward long-term financial sustainability.

However, as the increase took effect, public transit agencies across the Bay Area experienced fare payment malfunctions on the day of the launch, following a region-wide malfunction of the Clipper Card operating system.

Shortly after 7 a.m. on July 1, the Clipper Card X account wrote, "The Clipper system is experiencing an outage on all operators this morning. Please be prepared to pay your fare with another form of payment if

required by your transit agency."

Every operator that uses the payment system was affected, said John Goodwin, spokesperson for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the agency that oversees the operation of Clipper Card services and transportation planning across the Bay Area.

The cause is being investigated, but Goodwin said the agency suspects the changes in fares scheduled for July 1 may be to blame.

Caltrain is currently running more trains than ever; 104 on weekdays and expanded weekend service. Ridership is climbing, thanks in part to the launch of electric trains, according to Caltrain officials. In May, boardings were up 55% compared to the same time last year. April saw nearly 925,000 riders. Weekend ridership is now at its highest level in Caltrain's history.

Still, agency leaders say the old funding model built around five-day-a-week commuters no longer works. Before the



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Two new electric trains at the San Francisco CalTrain station wait for guests of a tour in 2024.

pandemic, fare revenue covered nearly 75% of Caltrain's operating costs. Today, the agency is projected to face an average annual deficit of \$75 million starting in FY2027.

Like other Bay Area transit agencies, Caltrain is experiencing rising operational costs that are outpacing revenue growth. The agency is working to reduce internal costs and identify new funding streams while continuing to coordinate with regional and state partners to secure external support.

Caltrain's situation mirrors that of other local transit agencies, including SamTrans, which recently adopted a two-year budget with similar concerns about long-term financial sustainability. Both agencies are exploring fare policy changes, cost containment measures, and potential participation in regional funding strategies such as the one proposed under Senate Bill 63.

On June 30, San Mateo County leaders gathered at the San Mateo Caltrain station to

rally support for the measure, which would go before voters in 2026. It could provide new revenue to transit systems across the Bay Area.

"Reliable public transit is critical for South County, as it is for the rest of San Mateo County and the Bay Area," said Redwood City Council member Chris Sturken. ■

Bay City News contributed to this story.

Email Editor Michelle Iracheta at miracheta@almanacnews.com.

**The local's guide to the
Bay Area food scene.**

**Peninsula
Foodist**

**Read about hot spots,
restaurant trends and the
lifestyles of those who love
everything about food.**

Stay tasty,
Adrienne
Editor, Peninsula Foodist

Sign up to receive the
Peninsula Foodist newsletter at
PaloAltoOnline.com/peninsula-foodist



Embarcadero Media Foundation file photo

A new citizens advisory committee will reimagine downtown Woodside.

COMMITTEE

continued from page 1

consultant team and town staff at local events, such as farmers markets. Phase two is focused on visioning what Woodside wants to get out of the Town Center, said Reinhalter.

The town will be using these opportunities to connect with the people of Woodside and hear directly from the community about how they can improve Town Center. This segment of the project will be ongoing throughout from July through December.

Good City Company will also be hosting formal workshops that invite members of the public to ask questions and provide feedback to the team. These agendized meetings will be facilitated by Good City consultants and town staff and will be held in local community spaces. Residents can expect to receive more information on these workshops closer to the dates they will occur.

“Our team of professional planners and experts come in from the outside, without bias and without attachment,” said Reinhalter. He added that he hopes Good City’s position as a

neutral party will help provide unbiased assessments of the Town Center Plan and effectively sift through viable ideas the town can implement.

Woodside previously had a failed attempt at updating the Town Center Area Plan in 2013 after the Town Center Area Plan Task Force presented the council with controversial ideas, including a multi-story parking garage, rearrangement of traffic lanes and housing in Town Center. Since the Task Force was shut down by the council, the town had not initiated an update to the plan until now.

By acknowledging past mistakes, Good City is committed to a more organized and transparent process this time around. Reinhalter said this is why they are focused on increased community engagement opportunities and to involve the town’s residents as much as possible.

For the latest information on the Town Center Area Plan project visit woodsidedca.gov/485/Town-Center-Area-Plan-Update. ■

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

TAYLOR

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held accountable.”

Michael Taylor told this news organization that with this lawsuit, he hopes that GreenWaste will accept liability for the accident and change necessary procedures and protocols to prevent something like this from happening again.

Alexander hopes that the company will increase training and education for its truck drivers as well as implement a stronger screening process when hiring candidates. She believes that is necessary for all waste management companies, not only GreenWaste.

GreenWaste declined to

comment on the lawsuit due to pending litigation. The company shared the following statement: “The safety and well-being of the communities we serve is central to GreenWaste’s mission. We are deeply saddened by this accident and offer our condolences to all those affected.”

The community continues to keep Taylor’s legacy alive through sports, scholarships and conversation. In May, a local family helped start the Dylan Taylor Fund at the Reikes Center in Menlo Park to raise money for a scholarship that will support youth programs. The local Ultimate Frisbee League that he created also renamed itself the Dylan Taylor Ultimate Frisbee League, according to his parents. ■

Public Notices

KING KATSU LAND
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: M-300904
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) KING KATSU LAND, located at 2085 Gellert Blvd #6, Daly City, CA 94015. Mailing Address: 115 Sutton Ave South San Francisco, CA 94080.
Registered owner(s):
MOONSTAR ENTERPRISE CORPORATION
115 Sutton Ave
South San Francisco, CA 94080
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 05/12/2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 18, 2025.
(ALM Jun 27, Jul 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

JR DESIGN BUILD
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: M-300837
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) JR DESIGN BUILD, located at 355 PALOMAR COURT, SAN BRUNO, CA 94066.
Registered owner(s):
JR HOME REMODELING INC.
355 PALOMAR COURT
SAN BRUNO, CA 94066
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 09, 2025.
(ALM Jul 18, 25, Aug 1 and 8, 2025)

FONETIK STUDIOS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: M-300702
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) FONETIK STUDIOS, located at 445 LANCASTER WAY, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94062.
Registered owner(s):
BRANDEN QUEZADA
445 LANCASTER WAY
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94062
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
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 May 27, 2025.
(ALM Jul 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

CRIQUEY STUDIO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 300854
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CRIKEY STUDIO, located at 701 2nd Ave, Unit 7, San Mateo, CA 94401.
Registered owner(s):
CRIKEY, LLC
701 2nd Ave, Unit 7
San Mateo, CA 94401
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 June 10, 2025.
(ALM Jun 27, Jul 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

TIMELAPSE GTM
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: M-300979
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) TIMELAPSE GTM, located at 820 Laurel Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
TIMELAPSE GTM LLC
820 Laurel Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
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 June 5, 2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 30, 2025.
(ALM Jul 18, 25, Aug 1 and 8, 2025)

NINA'S HOME BAKERY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: M-300754
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) NINA'S HOME BAKERY, located at 890 Green Ave, San Bruno CA 94066.
Registered owner(s):
VERONICA CRAWFORD JONES
890 Green Ave
San Bruno, CA 94066

This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/15/2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 30, 2025.
(ALM Jun 27, Jul 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

RUNNING OUT OF HAY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: M-301098
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) RUNNING OUT OF HAY, located at 552 Grand street, Redwood city, CA 94062.
Registered owner(s):
CLARE SUGARMAN
552 Grand street
Redwood city, CA 94062
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 11, 2025.
(ALM Jul 18, 25, Aug 1 and 8, 2025)

LEADER RESTORATION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: M-300805
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) LEADER RESTORATION, located at 303 Twin Dolphin Dr, 6th Floor, Redwood City, CA 94065. Mailing Address: 1805 Little Orchard Street Unit 106 San Jose, CA 95125
Registered owner(s):
LEADER REMODELING INC
1805 Little Orchard Street Unit 106
San Jose, CA 95125
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/04/2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 04, 2025.
(ALM Jun 27, Jul 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

ROYAL NAILS SALON
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: M-301011
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) ROYAL NAILS SALON, located at 681 Oak Grove Ave Suite D, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
CHARLES ROY HOGG JR.
681 Oak Grove Ave Suite D
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 08/01/2024.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 03, 2025.
(ALM Jul 18, 25, Aug 1 and 8, 2025)

GNRAL SERVICE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: M-300799
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) GNRAL SERVICE, located at 3603 Colegrove St APT 27, San Mateo, CA 94403.
Registered owner(s):
FRANCESCA GONZALES
3603 Colegrove St APT 27
San Mateo, CA 94403
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 June 04, 2025.
(ALM Jul 11, 18, 25 and Aug 1, 2025)

JUN SURGICAL MEDICAL CLINIC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: M-300797
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) JUN SURGICAL MEDICAL CLINIC, located at 3301 EL CAMINO REAL STE 101, ATHERTON, CA 94027.
Registered owner(s):
MIN JUN, INC.
3301 EL CAMINO REAL STE 101
ATHERTON, CA 94027
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/01/2024.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 03, 2025.
(ALM Jul 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

VERTIGO STUDIOS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: M-300660
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) VERTIGO STUDIOS, located at 601 Devon Drive, Hillsborough, CA, 94010.

Registered owner(s):
TBV LLC
601 Devon Drive,
Hillsborough, CA, 94010
State of Incorporation/Organization: Delaware
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/19/2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 19, 2025.
(ALM Jun 27, Jul 4, 11 and 18, 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-04003
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Kylie Anne Szymanski filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
KYLIE ANNE SZYMANSKI TO KATYA KYLIE ANNE SZYMANSKI
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: July 28, 2025, 9:00 AM, M/C 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: 6/20/2025
Hon. Stephanie G. Garratt
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Jun 27, Jul 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
IRENE JONES
Case No.: 25PRO00892
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of IRENE JONES.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: ALEXANDER JONES in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.
The Petition for Probate requests that: ALEXANDER JONES be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on August 08 2025 at 9:00 AM in Dept. 3 of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Petitioner in Pro Per:
Alexander Jones
4140 Rockwood Court
Granite Bay, CA 95746
408-335-4673
(ALM Jul 18, 25 and Aug 1, 2025)

**To place a legal notice visit
AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/**

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Courtesy Vin Eiamvuthikorn

Filipino Parangal Dance Company performs at the Peninsula International Dance Festival.

By Heather Zimmerman

How do you hold an international festival without artists traveling in from dozens of countries? That's less of a riddle than it might seem when the event is based on the Peninsula.

The Peninsula International Dance Festival features 21 companies and 250 dancers, all based in the Bay Area, representing cultures on five continents, with everything from taiko and flamenco to hip-hop and Appalachian dancing.

"Here on the Peninsula, the makeup of culture is incredible. It's multi-generational, it's multicultural. All of our performers are local. All of our organizations, they live here. Almost all of them tour internationally. They have awards. They are scholars, they are professors, they are choreographers. They are the top in their field," said Gregory Amato, artistic director for Peninsula Lively Arts, which presents the festival.

"Living here in the Bay Area, we have such a resource — we have such a mosaic of cultures and dance right here. People don't know that you have Tahitian dance, you have dance from

Congo, you have dance from the Philippines, you have all of these incredible artists here, and they're all 10 miles away from each other."

Though many of these companies may participate in local festivals and other events, Amato points out that this is a rare chance to see them all together.

Now in its fourth year, the festival came about at a time when arts groups and performance spaces were still trying to find a way through the COVID-19 pandemic, Amato said.

"I brought the idea to the table that I think the best way to come out of COVID is to celebrate us as a community, because we were all really struggling through COVID to try and — number one, to perform, because of all the limitations, and number two, we'd all kind of lost our identity a little bit. And one of the best ways to come at this is, having the best merge and get together, and then we can collectively show the community and show the audience that we are back," he said.

Amato drew inspiration for the festival in part from his travels as a dancer, performing in over 50 countries and from the long-standing San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival, created in 1978.

That event's co-founder, Carlos Carvajal, a previous artistic director at Peninsula Ballet Theatre, gave support to Amato's vision for the new festival.

"We're standing on the shoulders of people who came before me, and that's Carlos Carvajal, who had this vision for the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival," Amato said.

Amato and Peninsula Lively Arts Company Manager Chloe Watson organize the festival, which takes about six months, especially as many of the participating groups tour regularly and have seasons to plan around. It also takes coordination to ensure that, even among acts representing diverse countries, that there is still variety in the festival, including planning a mix of solo and group performances.

The weekend-long festival accommodates as many groups as possible by presenting completely different programs on Saturday and Sunday. Audiences get a new experience each day, with the opportunity to take in performances by companies such as Charya Burt Cambodian Dance; Perú Expressions; Chitresh Das Dance performing dances from India and International

Performing Arts of America performing dances from China, all on July 19, and groups such as Ballet Nlolo Kongo representing Congo; Kantuta Ballet Folklórico de Bolivia; Calpulli Tonalehqueh performing dances of native Mexico; ARAX Dance representing Armenian dance; and hip-hop artist Stuck Sanders representing the U.S. on July 20.

"A great thing about this festival is that we have all these different cultures (represented), but the collective energy of wanting to be a part of our community is so great. You have (over 200) people who all have the same goal in mind, which is not just to entertain, but to teach and to share," Amato said.

As part of the event, audiences also have an opportunity to learn more about the countries represented, with tables set up for each organization in the lobby.

After each show, audiences have a chance to see the participating groups in a more interactive setting.

"All the performers go out in front of the theater, and they have, for lack of a better term, a drum circle. So you have 100 performers out there with drums and musical instruments and in costume and interacting with the audience," he said.

Amato notes that the performance begins with a blessing from a representative from the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone, acknowledging that the theater is on Indian ground. It highlights the importance of remembering the people who have come before all of us.

"What we do is sacred. We tell all the dancers, before the show, 'We are standing on the shoulders of our teachers, of our parents, of our societies, of our culture, and they have hoisted us up on their shoulders to present who we are.' It is very spiritual, but it also requires a sense of being humble (realizing) that it's not just us. I mean, every step that any of these people ever learned, they learn from a master, they learn from their teacher, they learn from stories, from their parents," Amato said. ■

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

The Peninsula International Dance Festival takes place July 19-20, 2 p.m., at San Mateo Performing Arts Center, 600 N. Delaware St., San Mateo; peninsulalivelyarts.org.

Woodside artist's works turn over a new leaf

Amy Rattner incorporates an unusual medium in her 'Simplicity & Elegance in Nature' show at Viewpoints Gallery

By Angela Swartz

A unique combination of gold leaf, Japanese art, handmade paper, acrylic and collage, drawn together by the inspiration of local wildlife, are on display through July 27 at Viewpoints Gallery in downtown Los Altos.

The works, part of a collection titled "Simplicity & Elegance in Nature," were created by Woodside artist Amy Rattner.

Her art also leans into the aesthetics of the Art Deco movement in the 1920s and Japanese textile designs and woodblock prints created in the late 19th century. The Japanese Arts and Crafts movement, *mingei*, from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, celebrated a return to handmade crafts (mostly utilitarian) as a response to industrialization.

"Living in Woodside provides a lot of inspiration," said Rattner, a Stanford University alumna and a Woodside resident since 2008. "The window off our main deck is above the Glens, so we have a treetop view of all the trees we have in the Glens. There are large birds: hawks, vultures, ravens. ... I feel so fortunate to be able to live here, and if you sit long enough and wait, you'll see something really cool."

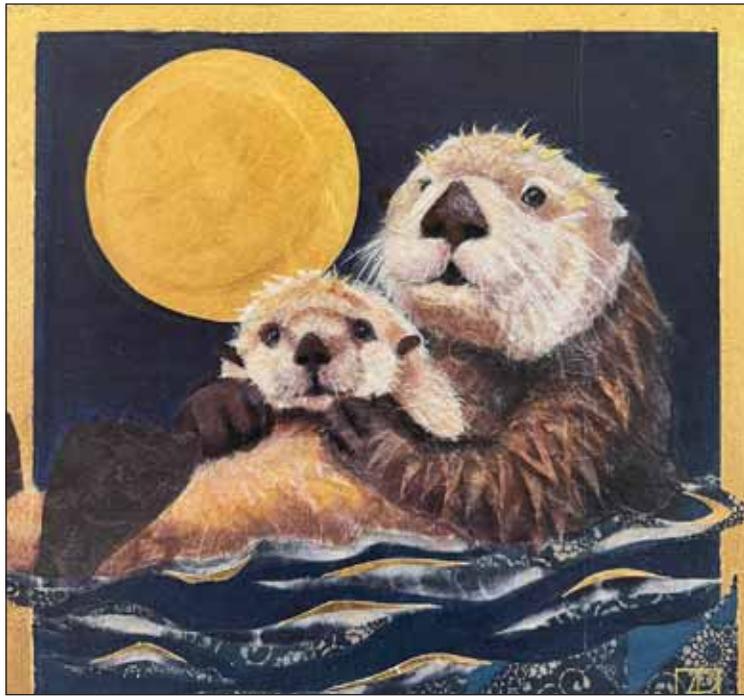
A recent tour of the Baylands with bird photographer Rick Morris, along with visits to Arastradero Preserve and Coyote Point, helped inspire the work. Rattner's art has been juried into local, national, and international exhibitions and has appeared in magazines such as Mountain Home, Southwest Art and Palette Magazine.

She notes that she wanted to do a collection that celebrated simplicity, and natural shapes of animals against a simple backdrop.

"It also comes from Japanese design, the concept that less is more," she said. "The art I'm drawn to has a simplicity to it. ... I'm proud of the collection. I'm definitely happy with it because I've had so much fun creating it; that's the biggest sort of yardstick I use (for success)."

The work is also a tribute to her mother, who grew up in Palo Alto and studied for a year in Kyoto, Japan, during college. Rattner's childhood home, located in the hills between Salinas and Monterey, was full of Japanese art: handmade baskets, woodblock prints and screens, along with and a koi pond.

During a trip to Santa Fe in October 2024, she noticed artists using gold leaf and wanted to try out a new medium. It was a



Courtesy Amy Rattner

Amy Rattner used gold leaf, acrylic and collage on a wood panel to create "Moonlit Mom and Pup."

challenging process to learn. She did extensive research, practiced a lot and learned how to use the medium through trial and error, such as learning to seal the gold so it didn't tarnish.

"It's something I don't know I would have considered otherwise," said Rattner, who typically works on one to two series of pieces a year. "It reminded me of the Japanese screens I had in my house (as a child). ... There are many, many layers of gold leaf and I re-leafed it if I couldn't clean it up."

Rattner discovered collage while taking a Stanford University Continuing Studies class with Michael Azgour in 2022, where she learned work in abstraction and collages.

She began painting wildlife over 18 years ago while on modified bed rest while pregnant with her second son. She was allowed to go to class and attended drawing class at Pacific Art League in Palo Alto. Before that, she ran her own design firm, Kindred-Storey Designs, which she started after doing graphic design and technical writing for Stanford's library.

She enrolled in Steve Curl's watercolor class as well.

"I made time to do it even though I had little ones," she said. "I loved the class and stayed going to that watercolor critique class for 15 years. It was a great way to meet other artists." The Pacific Art League ran a program called Community Sites that would place artwork (by artists like Rattner who were juried into the program) in local churches, libraries, hotels and cafes.

Rattner advises aspiring artists to set aside time daily to be creative.



Courtesy Amy Rattner

Artist Amy Rattner lives in Woodside.

"Exercise that part of your brain, move away from always being sort of results-oriented," she said. "Both touring galleries and being surrounded by art in Santa Fe and other artists in this area (the Peninsula) — (artists are) truly generous, wonderful people who are willing to share so much of what they do."

The collection at Viewpoints is still a work in process, as some of her larger pieces sold before the show even opened, and Rattner is creating new pieces to replace those she has sold.

Her collection will move to Art Bias in San Carlos, where she has studio space, in September.

For more information on Rattner, go to amyrattnerart.com. Work from this collection is available for sale. ■

Angela Swartz is a contributing writer.

"Simplicity & Elegance in Nature" works by Amy Rattner. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. Through July 27. viewpointsgallery.com.

Worth a Look

John Santos Sextet

Led by percussionist John Santos, the Santos Sextet performs Latin American classics, jazz favorites and original compositions. At this year's Stanford Jazz Festival, the celebrated ensemble (which also includes John Calloway on flute, Charlie Gurke on saxophone, Marco Diaz on piano, Saul Sierra, bass, and David Flores on drums) will be joined for a set of original music by violinist and vocalist Yilian Cañizares. Cañizares' signature style is a blend of Afro-Cuban rhythms with jazz and classical influences.

July 20, 7:30 p.m., Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford; \$12-\$62; stanfordjazz.org.



Courtesy Luis Malibrán

Violinist and vocalist Yilian Cañizares performs with the John Santos Sextet.

IMUA Hawaii Festival

Can't make it all the way to Hawaii this summer? Stanford Live is offering what may be the (musically) next-best thing. Ukulele master Jake Shimabukuro, who dazzles audiences worldwide with his virtuosity, is joined by singer/songwriter Paula Fuga and the musical collective Seven Suns for the IMUA Hawaii Festival, blending blues, folk and reggae influences and melodies and rhythms that "embody the spirit of Aloha," according to Stanford Live's event description.

July 19, 6:30 p.m., Frost Amphitheater, 351 Lasuen St., Stanford; \$15-\$135; live.stanford.edu.

Leonardo@Djerassi Open Studios

Leonardo@Djerassi is a month-long retreat held at Woodside's Djerassi Resident Artists Program for artists and scientists. Residents selected must represent one discipline influenced by the other: a scientist with a love of songwriting, for example. Over the course of the month, the residents create their own projects and collaborate to "transform the boundaries of art and science," according to the program's website. The event will showcase their work, and also includes a guided sculpture hike, artist presentations, and a complimentary lunch by the Djerassi Program's gourmet chef.

July 19, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Djerassi Resident Artists Program, 2325 Bear Gulch Road, Woodside; \$30-\$250; tinyurl.com/LeonardoAtDjerassi.

Music@Menlo

Stars shine brightly on their own as it is, but they make something pretty magical when we imagine them brought together in the sky as constellations. Summer chamber music festival Music@Menlo gets underway this weekend, kicking off a three-week program celebrating the unique power of the chamber ensemble with the theme "Constellations: Ensemble Magic." The 23rd annual festival runs July 18-Aug. 9 at Menlo School in Atherton and features top musical talents, as well as up-and-coming young musicians who receive an intensive training over the summer at Music@Menlo's Chamber Music Institute. This will mark the penultimate festival with co-founders David Finckel and Wu Han at the helm, with cellist Dmitri Atapine and pianist Hyeyeon Park set to succeed them as co-artistic directors in 2027.

July 18-Aug. 9 at Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton; For ticket availability and more information, visit musicatmenlo.org.

Food & Drink



CARRYING ON A LEGACY

SUSHI SAM'S IS REBORN IN A NEW LOCATION, IN FAMILIAR HANDS

Story by Jake Hutchinson
Photos by Anna Hoch-Kenney

For 36 years, Sushi Sam's Edomata served as the cultural epicenter for sushi on the Peninsula. When eponymous chef-owner Sam Sugiyama retired and closed the restaurant in December, there was a fear that perhaps another Bay Area culinary institution had been lost.

Those fears have been allayed with the relocation and rebirth of Sushi Sam's as Sushi Edomata.

The restaurant moved from its 3rd Avenue location — notes informing customers of the move still hang in the windows — to 25th Avenue, next to the septuagenarian San Mateo staple, The Swingin' Door.

You could be forgiven for missing it. As of yet, its black facade has no sign other than a neon "open" behind the glass, clearly visible only at night. Restaurant manager and owner Kelvin Ching said they're working on adding signage, though some within their legion of loyal customers prefer the low-profile look.

"A lot of people say, 'No, don't put a sign, Kelvin, I don't want everyone to know,'" Ching said.

Sushi Edomata is open from 5-9 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday for dinner and from noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday to Saturday for its lunch service, which began a month ago. That brief lunch service caters specifically to those loyal customers. It's important, especially since dinner reservations are already tricky to acquire.

The business remains in familiar hands and continues serving longtime clients.

'There are plenty of... Michelin-starred restaurants that we might be able to go to on an anniversary dinner, but Sushi Sam's is a place that is still great quality, but we can go casually as a family.'

YUKO AMIZAKI, LONGTIME CUSTOMER

Sam Sugiyama, 73, and his wife Mayumi, 68 — "the first lady of the Bay Area," as Ching fondly called her, who worked alongside him for many years making sushi — retired in a mighty celebration packed to the brim at their old haunt. At that moment, they handed the reins to their family. Sam's nephew, Koichi Ito, is the head chef at Sushi Edomata. His niece, Toko Ito, is the pastry chef who runs the dessert business, Kashi Edomata. And Ching, Toko's husband, handles the business side.

This is how it's always been: family led, family style.

LONGTIME LOYAL CUSTOMERS

Husband and wife Akira and Yuko Amizaki have been going to Sushi Sam's for more than 15 years, since before they were married. It's long enough that they've run into fellow customer Mark Zuckerberg. The Meta CEO and his wife, Priscilla Zuckerberg, donated \$100,000 to Sushi Sam's in 2020 along with seven of their other favorite restaurants.

Yuko and Akira Amizaki brought their daughter to the restaurant for the



Clockwise from the top: Customers eat at the packed Sushi Edomata in San Mateo. Head sushi chef Koichi Ito slices butterfish. Nigiri sushi, green tea tiramisu and a sushi roll.





Above: Sushi chefs prepare fresh sushi in front of a full sushi bar of customers at Sushi Edomata. Kelvin Ching, manager and owner of Sushi Edomata in San Mateo, smiles for a portrait from behind the host stand. **Left down:** Two varieties of nigiri at Sushi Edomata.



'I want to work as long as Sam. Sushi is my life.'

KOICHI ITO, CHEF-OWNER OF SUSHI EDMATA

location and has some logistical challenges, particularly the lack of any convenient parking lot and limited street parking.

"We still have regular customers come to us, even though it's very hard to park," Koichi Ito said with a smile. "But there's still people coming. That's my inspiration. I'm happy."

Ching said the restaurant was almost fully rebuilt, with the exception of the easternmost wall. Inside is a vision that Koichi Ito said he's had since a trip to a Manhattan sushi spot 15 years ago. He was inspired by a sprawling, wooden chef's counter.

"If I open a restaurant, I'm going to do this concept," Koichi Ito recalled.

Sushi Edomata has a modern interior, with light woods and tatami mat benches acquired from a customer who sources his tatami from Japan. The centerpiece counter is an immense slab of redwood.

The counter tucks 12 curved, wooden seats beneath its berth. The arrangement aims guests' eyes toward the chefs and an open kitchen backed by blue, scallop-shaped tiles on the wall. Smaller tables and benches wrap around the restaurant.

But every seat is in view of Koichi Ito, who enjoys the intimacy the new space provides. The 35-person capacity is a significant drop from the 60-person capacity at the old location, but it's more manageable.

"It's upscale compared to the last location," longtime customer Amizaki said. "It's modern, more spacious, but the spirit has carried on."

KOICHI'S JOURNEY

It's also the realization of a multigenerational dream that had been in the making since Koichi Ito was a teenager.

He grew up in Aichi prefecture in Japan, where Sam Sugiyama ran a previous restaurant of the same Edomata name. It was originally founded by Sam Sugiyama's grandfather, Mitsuhiko, and it was there that Koichi Ito would watch his uncle Sam work. By the time he was 13, he knew he wanted to be a sushi chef.

Sugiyama made a name for himself with quality fish and craft, but it was his warm, amiable personality and loving interactions with patrons that stood out.

That's what Koichi Ito said he learned most from Sam Sugiyama. While he takes trips to Japan and picks up inspiration for innovations, he knows he cannot just copy and paste. There is a formality in Japanese service that doesn't fit what Sam and Mayumi Sugiyama built here, Koichi Ito said. Just as important as quality is Koichi Ito and his 15-person staff's presence and familial engagement with customers, which helped them build multigenerational customer loyalty.

ROLLING OUT A NEW HOME

In an ideal world, the restaurant would have moved here earlier. The relocation plan had been in the works back in 2020, as discussions over renewing their lease at the 3rd Avenue location lingered. But the pandemic delayed the move.

Sam Sugiyama actually purchased the land Sushi Edomata sits on more than 15 years ago. It was previously occupied by various bars, one called Stingers, followed by the Mandala Lounge, which ended up on the TV show "Bar Rescue," rebranding as 38th Floor Bar before going out of business in 2016. It's not a particularly glamorous

He began his own culinary career in Japan in 1999 before joining Sam Sugiyama in San Mateo at Sushi Sam's five years later. Widespread appreciation and understanding of sushi in the United States was in its nascence in those days, and Sam Sugiyama's intentional schooling of his customers helped build admiration and loyalty for the craft locally.

"Not many people knew sushi," Koichi Ito said. "He tried to teach. He educated the customers."

Sam Sugiyama passed that education down in a way Amizaki said is not overbearing.

"They do it in a way that is not imposing or pretentious," she said. "It's still casual. There are plenty of ... Michelin-starred restaurants that we might be able to go to on an anniversary dinner, but Sushi Sam's is a place that is still great quality, but we can go casually as a family."

Koichi Ito influenced his uncle's culinary education, too. After visits to Manhattan, he suggested that they bring omakase — an array of the chef's choice of fish, presented artfully — to Sushi Sam's. Sam Sugiyama agreed, and it thrived.

The uncle and nephew also share a zodiac symbol. Born 24 years apart, both share the year of the dragon. That symbol is etched into their collective identity in more ways than one. It serves as the restaurant's mesmerizing logo — made by San Francisco-based artist Mayumi Sasage — of a blue dragon holding a sushi roll.

A FAMILIAR MENU

Koichi Ito carried over the same menu from Sushi Sam's, but he has also embraced the creative challenge of adding specials and innovating on a nightly basis to surprise and delight guests. He's also assembled a staff of young chefs from Japan to aid in this endeavor.

The fish is still sourced directly from Tokyo's famed Toyosu (formerly Tsukiji) fish market. Koichi Ito has a direct text line to get fish and add anything that might be in season. Despite being a pricier option than sourcing locally, it's one Ito believes provides higher quality, and typically fatter fish than ones found here. The Sunday timing for most fish deliveries is a major component of why they have thus

Sushi Edomata, 38 E. 25th Ave., San Mateo; 650-344-0888, Instagram: @sushi.edomata. Open Tuesday and Wednesday from 5-9 p.m., Thursday to Saturday from noon to 1:30 p.m. and 5-9 p.m.

far held off from opening the restaurant on Sundays, Ching said.

FACING THE FUTURE

This new chapter all comes with Sam Sugiyama's blessing. He splits his time between homes in Nagoya, Japan, and the Bay Area, popping by Sushi Edomata frequently to greet customers and drop off the product of his newest job: cork miniatures.

Behind the host stand is a wall cutout that glimpses into the larger dining area. In that thin strip of wall real estate reside the bite-sized, friendly sculptures that Sugiyama carves from corks.

"He's really good at it," said Toko Ito. "That's his new job," said Koichi Ito. "He delivers them every day. He still enjoys it after retirement. And then he sometimes comes here and sees the regular customers. It's too hard (to fully retire) because he's been working hard for how many years? So long."

Amizaki said Sam Sugiyama saved some of those figurines for her daughter before he retired.

"We have a couple of them at our home," she said. "The first one was a Hello Kitty. That was really sweet."

They're a big hit with kids, which hits a soft spot for Koichi Ito, reminiscing on his 13-year-old self. It's in line with what Sam Sugiyama did to pass down the culture and education of sushi in the Bay Area.

Koichi Ito wants the same thing and aspires to the same longevity as his uncle, health willing.

"I want to grow up with the customers," he said. "I want to work as long as Sam. Sushi is my life." ■

Email Contributing Writer Jake Hutchinson at jake@hutchinson.net.

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