



Is this Menlo Park's friendliest neighborhood?

Residents of horseshoe-shaped street celebrate 50th annual block party

By Sydney Feldman

Someone walking down Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park on a recent Sunday may have heard clanging cutlery interspersed with joyful chatter emanating from Rosefield and Hermosa ways.

Since 1976, residents of the horseshoe-shaped block have gathered annually to share food, outdoor activities and each other's company. They also like to bang pots and pans.

While the block party began 50 years ago, a community was already in the making. The group of "30-somethings" who had moved to the neighborhood between the late 1960s and early '70s began to socialize through their young kids, former long-time resident Bob Scheidtmann said.

"There was something in the water," quipped Skip Bushee, who has lived in the neighborhood since 1978.

Scheidtmann, who moved to the Hermosa-Rosefield block with his wife Debbie in 1972, said the nation's bicentennial in 1976 presented the perfect opportunity to hold a block party. The couple, who moved to Bend, Oregon, in 2017, returned for the party's 50th anniversary on Aug. 2.

The day of the first block party was a scorcher.

"It was maybe 106 that day," Scheidtmann said.

"104," Debbie Scheidtmann said.

"Excuse me," her husband said as a circle of original residents sitting in plastic chairs outside one of their houses on Rosefield Way laughed, "my wife corrects me."

"It was 110," exclaimed Bushee, who was not there.

Regardless of the exact temperature, Bob Scheidtmann said

See **BLOCK PARTY**, page 14



Michael Molcsan

Neighbors talk following an opening ceremony for the 50th annual block party on Hermosa Way in Menlo Park on Aug. 2.

Fed-up locals call for end to the 'racetrack' on mountain highways

Reckless drivers need to be reigned in on routes 35, 84 and 9, hundreds of petitioners say

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

More than 500 people across the Peninsula are pressuring elected officials to take action in making highways 35, 84 and 9 safer. In the last five years, 26 people have died on these curving mountain roads, especially near the Four Corners intersection in Woodside. Locals say they're fed up with drivers treating the two-lane highways like a racetrack.

After years of witnessing or experiencing accidents, petitioners from San Francisco to San Jose are calling for safer road designs, stronger traffic enforcement and public acknowledgement of the dangers of these roads from

Caltrans, Assemblymember Marc Berman (D-Menlo Park) and state Sen. Josh Becker (D-Menlo Park).

"Safe Corridor Initiative for Highway 35, 84 and 9," a petition started by Woodside resident Walker Wells, has already garnered hundreds of personal testimonials. Signers have shared stories about themselves or their loved ones getting injured on the highways, the concerns they have about their children's safety and why they stopped bicycling in the area.

"The man I was planning to spend the rest of my life with suffered a severe head injury on his motorcycle on Highway 84 in a hit-and-run. He survived but never recovered; he was in

his early 40s, but the accident made him an old man," wrote Janet Herringshaw of Pescadero in one of the testimonials.

Wells, who is also a member of the Woodside Circulation Committee, began researching the number of accidents and fatalities in 2025 when cyclist Eric Biron died after being hit by a pickup truck at the intersection of highways 35 and 84, also known as Four Corners. He told The Almanac that Biron's blood stained the pavement for weeks afterward.

On weekends, Four Corners draws hundreds of car enthusiasts and motorcyclists. Wells said the area has become the "watering hole for the race-track." The rise of car clubs and

social media accounts dedicated to roadside photography appear to have encouraged a greater number of people to seek out these thoroughfares for joyrides.

The death of East Palo Alto cyclist Jakub Solovsky, a member of the Western Wheelers, has sparked the recent uptick in public advocacy. Solovsky died at the scene on Saturday, July 11, after a speeding Porsche failed to navigate a curve in the road and hit him on Highway 35, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Petitioners sent their emails to dozens of recipients, including news outlets, Caltrans staff and local and state officials, calling for the adoption of solutions.

As of Aug. 11, 5,000 people have visited the Safe Corridor Initiative website, according to Wells.

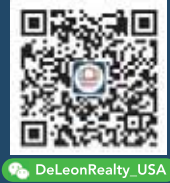
When creating the petition, Wells said he had an intuition that there were others in the community who were concerned about the increasing fatalities, but had nowhere to voice them. The site was intended to "centralize the voice" and allow people to share their stories and provide feedback to public officials in order to drive change.

Wells added that the issue is multijurisdictional, making it difficult for public agencies to take responsibility and

See **HIGHWAYS**, page 7



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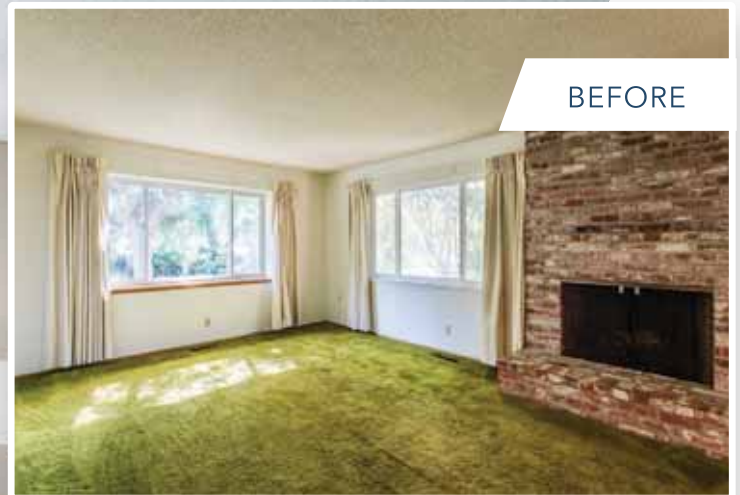
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Magali Gauthier

Camp counselor Ashley Romero, right, checks if campers can see through their blindfolds before playing a game at Camp Funtier in Huddart Park in Woodside on July 24.

Woodside day camp teaches kids about homesteading

Camp Funtier encourages imagination and learning through play

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Welcome to Camp Funtier. This summer, a small corner of Huddart Park in Woodside transformed into a makeshift town with a waterslide, arcade, casino and witch hut — all made out of wooden wine boxes, binder clips and string. The new summer camp concluded its inaugural year at the end of July, wrapping up a vision that founder

and Woodside parent Katie Johnson had held for decades.

At Camp Funtier, children between the ages of 6 and 12 led their own homesteads, with the freedom to build and design their own town. The campers even held elections and campaigns for key roles such as mayor, sheriff and town crier.

The camp was designed to encourage creativity and imagination while helping children stay engaged academically and

socially during the summer. Johnson said the theme of the program was inspired by the Oregon Trail game and the Anne of Green Gables books. Some campers also have described it as being like the video game Minecraft, but in real life.

The program is child-led, said Johnson, who teaches special education. During each one-week camp session, she

See **DAY CAMP**, page 14

Egg-throwing teens arrested in Atherton after Waymo joyride down El Camino

By Arden Margulis

Two teens were arrested after allegedly stealing six dozen eggs from a San Carlos Trader Joe's, then throwing them at cars while riding in a Waymo on El Camino Real down the Peninsula, authorities said.

According to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, deputies responded around 5:40 p.m. on July 28 to reports that two

14-year-old San Francisco boys had stolen eggs. Then, they heard that the juveniles allegedly fled southbound in a Waymo and were throwing eggs at passing vehicles on El Camino Real.

Atherton police officers stopped the Waymo near the intersection of El Camino Real and Atherton Avenue and detained the boys while deputies investigated.

Several drivers in Redwood City reported that an object had

struck their vehicles, according to police logs.

The Sheriff's Office said the case has been referred to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office for possible charges of petty theft and throwing an object at a vehicle. The names of the suspects were not released, due to their age. ■

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

Atherton Council heading for uncontested race

There are only four candidates for four seats

By Arden Margulis

Four candidates have qualified for the four Atherton City Council seats on the November ballot, which has three four-year terms and one two-year term up for grabs.

Christine David, who ran unsuccessfully for Atherton City Council in 2020, and Planning Commissioner Jerry Leugers both qualified to run for four-year terms. Incumbents Rick DeGolia and Bill Widmer are also seeking reelection.

Mayor Stacy Holland, whose term ends this year, did not file for reelection. She previously said she might not run again due to the birth of her daughter.

A two-year term ending in January 2029 is also up for grabs following Councilmember Diana Hawkins-Manuelian's resignation. Widmer chose to file for the shorter term rather than a four-year term.

Then-Planning Commissioner Eric Lane was appointed to fill Hawkins-Manuelian's seat until the 2026 election. Lane has not filed to run for election.

No additional candidates had filed as of The Almanac's Wednesday afternoon press deadline, prior to the 5 p.m. deadline. An uncontested election could be canceled and the candidates appointed to the seats. The City Council called a special meeting at noon on Tuesday, Aug. 18, to decide whether to hold the election, to allow for write-in candidates.

Christine David

David ran for election in 2020 but came in last in a four-person contest for two seats. In her

2026 candidate statement, she encouraged town residents to become involved in local politics and follow current issues. In 2020, she told The Almanac that she was concerned about the state overriding local planning decisions and supported the now completed Caltrain quiet zone project.

David previously served on the Parks and Recreation Committee but resigned in 2019 in protest of the City Council's decision to remove an off-leash dog area at Holbrook-Palmer Park from the town's master plan.

David described her occupation as nonprofit leader and is currently chair of the board of the nonprofit Friends of Atherton Library.

Jerry Leugers

Leugers is a planning commissioner and chair of the town's Transportation, Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee.

In his candidate statement, Leugers said he is running for City Council to prevent state housing mandates from changing the town and ensure sound fiscal management.

"I do not enter the city council race with an agenda other than I want to maintain the character of the town in the face of the increasing state legislation that overrides our own zoning laws," he wrote.

Leugers said that in preparation for running for election, he has attended all Atherton City Council meetings in the past year and attended committee meetings so he could better understand town operations. ■

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



Magali Gauthier

The Atherton City Council is facing an uncontested election for four seats.

Menlo Park council green-lights affordable townhome project despite budget woes

Habitat for Humanity asks the city to waive fees on the project

By B. Sakura Cannestra

Menlo Park City Council greenlit the next steps for Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco's 100% affordable townhome development project in the Belle Haven neighborhood, but the project lost one revenue source, tightening its budgetary prospects.

The City Council approved a vesting tentative map combining two plots of land at 335 and 355 Pierce Road to accommodate the project, known as Laurel Landing. Members also rejected a request to waive the city's development impact and permitting fees, citing Menlo Park's tight fiscal outlook, but asked Habitat for Humanity to resubmit the request closer to when the fees would be due.

Laurel Landing will have eight townhomes for low-income families, with two-, three- and four-bedroom units available. The townhomes will be affordable to those making up to 80% of the area median income, which supporters say offers a rare chance at homeownership in one of the state's most expensive housing markets.

In 2026, the area median income for a family of four in San Mateo County is \$200,800.

"Supporting affordable homeownership projects like this one helps ensure that the people who contribute to our community have the opportunity to live, work, and build their future here," District 1 resident Eduardo Hernandez wrote in a letter to the City Council.



Courtesy Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco

Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco is developing an eight-unit affordable townhome project in Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood.

Under the state's density bonus laws, this project qualifies for unlimited waivers of the city's development standards and up to five cost reduction requests, called concessions or incentives. Among Habitat for Humanity's concessions was a request for the city to waive its development impact and permitting fees, which are mostly collected for infrastructure purposes, such as improving public park spaces or the project's sewage connection. Habitat for Humanity estimated the fees to total around \$944,000, while the city estimated a total of about \$596,000.

Most of the discussion at the meeting was about the project's financials, particularly the fee waiver request. The city allocated \$3.6 million from its below-market housing fund toward the project — the city's largest

per-unit allocation toward any project so far.

The project previously had \$1.5 million earmarked from the Stanford Affordable Housing Fund, but city staff noted that the expected grant is no longer available. Habitat for Humanity Chief Real Estate Officer Felix AuYeung said at the meeting that the grant committee decided not to honor the awarded grant because the project didn't have enough units at a deep enough affordability level, though he questioned whether that applied to homeownership or only to rental units.

Councilmembers similarly questioned why the grant was rescinded. The fund is mostly overseen by Santa Clara County, and Mayor Betsy Nash and Councilmember Cecilia Taylor both said they previously

discussed the grant as part of a committee which guides how the land around Stanford University should be developed, alongside former Santa Clara County District 5 Supervisor Joe Simititan.

Despite the project's financial concerns, AuYeung affirmed the nonprofit's commitment to building the project and finding a way to close the funding gap if the fee waiver wasn't approved.

"I know and recognize this is a difficult decision," AuYeung said at the meeting. "Our commitment is that, regardless of how council makes this decision, Habitat will start construction on this project and it will not impact what the buyers ultimately pay."

If the city waived the fees,

See **TOWNHOME PROJECT**, page 7

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Portola Valley town cleanup

The town of Portola Valley is hosting its second town cleanup of the year from 8 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 22, in the Town Center parking lot. Portola Valley residents must bring the mailer insert or a GreenWaste garbage bill as proof of residency.

Accepted materials for drop-off include furniture, appliances, tree trimmings, untreated wood waste, scrap metal pieces, televisions, computers and construction and demolition debris.

Scrap metal must weigh less than 40 pounds each and be less than 2 feet in dimension. Untreated wood must be less than 6 inches in diameter and less than 5 feet in length. Construction debris must be 30 gallons or less.

GreenWaste will not accept medication and household hazardous waste, a category that includes batteries, motor oil,

fertilizers, cleaning products and paint. Other items banned items are large pieces of glass, poison oak or ivy, fluorescent light bulbs and tires.

Woodside holds open house for Town Center Area Plan

Woodside residents can visit the Town Center Area Plan Update Open House from Aug. 24 through 28. The event will be hosted at Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Town Hall but will be closed from noon to 1 p.m. On Aug. 27, it will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at Independence Hall.

The open house will feature project displays and offer community members an opportunity to share their feedback. There will be no formal presentation or agenda.

The town is currently conducting a survey on its preliminary concepts for the future of Town Center. The survey closes

on Aug. 31 and can be taken online at surveymonkey.com/r/WTCPA_Survey2.

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Stanford removing trees near Alpine Road

Drivers and cyclists may see reduced lane capacity near the Interstate 280 off-ramp and Alpine Road in Portola Valley due to a Stanford-sponsored project to remove 10 eucalyptus trees from the east side of Alpine Road.

Work will take place between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. on Aug. 16-20. Traffic controls will be implemented on the off-ramp and closures and lane changes will be clearly marked, according to a notice from the town of Portola Valley.

Eucalyptus trees are considered a nonnative invasive species and can be a conduit for spreading wildfires and pose danger to native wildlife and plants.

— Sydney Feldman

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Lower speed limit implemented in front of Woodside Elementary School

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Drivers on Woodside Road will have to slow down to 15 mph in front of Woodside Elementary School. As of Aug. 5, a new speed limit that has been in the works for years through the town's Circulation Committee took effect.

The new speed limit will be enforced within the school's property lines, only while children are present, said Town Engineer Louis Sun. Since the current speed limit signs don't make this clear, the town has ordered new signs to be installed.

In February, the Woodside Town Council approved

a resolution requesting that Caltrans, which controls Woodside Road, lower the speed limit near the elementary school. The council cited traffic studies that found that the average driver on Woodside Road was going faster than the posted 25 mph speed limit.

"This is a very narrow road with kids and people coming and going regularly. This area has been a problem area for a long time," said Ehsan Farkhondeh, chair of the Circulation Committee.

Parents and caregivers of Woodside Elementary students said they've witnessed near misses with cars as children try to cross the street before and

after school. Woodside Road, which has no sidewalk, leaves pedestrians to walk in the bike lane. This becomes especially dangerous when drivers attempt to pass other vehicles by overtaking them on the side of the road.

Even using the marked crosswalk doesn't guarantee a feeling of safety, according to Monika Kalyn, who is a nanny for two children.

"I was trying to cross the street and I pressed the button so you have the lights flashing, but some cars didn't stop," said Kalyn.

Community members have commented in previous Town Council meetings that

drivers who are unfamiliar with Woodside might not expect to be driving into a school zone.

"One challenge specific to this location is that the school does not have large signs announcing its presence and, along with the foliage near the road, makes it hard to see that (someone) is approaching a school until a driver is already in front of it," Farkhondeh said.

In October 2025, the state passed Assembly Bill 382, permitting local jurisdictions to establish 20 mph speed limits in school zones and 15 mph speed limits for residential areas on a highway located within a school zone.

"We are aware that 15 mph

is quite a bit slower than 25 so we tried to reach the right balance of slowing down traffic where it matters most for safety while not overly impacting traffic flow on a well-used thoroughfare," Farkhondeh added.

Motorcycle deputies from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office have also increased enforcement in the area to ensure students are able to get to school safely.

With a lower speed limit in effect, Farkhondeh hopes this will bring down the average speed of drivers directly in front of the school. Woodside Elementary's first day of the new school year is Aug. 19. ■

HIGHWAYS

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accountability for making changes. Caltrans, a state agency, controls the highways, which bisect San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and run through numerous towns, including Woodside, Portola Valley and La Honda.

In October 2025, Caltrans hosted a public meeting at Woodside's Town Hall to present its \$500,000 project to install a four-way stop at Four Corners. During public comments, the Caltrans team heard from dozens of residents who shared suggestions. Construction is set to begin this fall, but none of the community's feedback was implemented, said Wells.

In response to petitioners emails, Caltrans wrote that it would "coordinate with elected officials, local jurisdictions and partner agencies to hold a community meeting to provide an update on ongoing

safety efforts, answer questions, and gather feedback on safety strategies for these corridors."

San Mateo County Supervisor Ray Mueller has been an active voice in addressing safety issues on the highways. Three years ago, his office formed the South Coast Traffic Advisory Panel which released a report in May with safety recommendations for Caltrans to adopt.

The report suggests short-term plans such as safe turn-outs, signage and stronger enforcement. Long term recommendations include speed limit reductions, blinking warning lights near pedestrian crossings, warning signs, textured pavement and painted crosswalks.

Mueller said his office is looking into increased fines, impounding cars and boosting enforcement with traps. He also plans to ask his colleagues on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to officially adopt the recommendations

and submit them to the state.

"We're going to get very aggressive with those who are violating the law out there and putting people's lives at risk," Mueller said.

According to Mueller, the South Coast Traffic Advisory Panel report has been shared with Becker and Berman, who have sent a letter to Caltrans asking for the task force's suggestions to be implemented. He added that Berman has shared

his support for the panel's recommendation to install speed cameras on Highway 35.

"While most users travel these routes responsibly, a small number of reckless drivers continue to treat this area as a race track, creating unacceptable risks for everyone else. We must do more to ensure that every bicyclist, pedestrian, and driver can share the road safely," Berman said in a written statement.

"Becker and Berman need to push on this to get the funding and attention it deserves," Wells added. "I'm trying to build a tool that allows people to direct their frustration to the people who need to know about it, and these people are angry, and they're frustrated about all the talk and nothing happening." ■

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TOWNHOME PROJECT

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the city council would need to backfill the funding and identify where to pull the extra money — a challenge voiced by multiple councilmembers, given how they had to pinch pennies during June's budget discussions.

Senior city planner Calvin Chan said construction is scheduled to start by December 2026 and projected to end by summer 2028, when the certificate of occupancy would be approved.

While councilmembers discussed potential funding sources, such as the city's Below Market Rate housing fund, they ultimately rejected the waiver and asked Habitat for Humanity to resubmit the fee

waiver request closer to when the project receives its certificate of occupancy, in case more funds can be raised for the project. Councilmembers also asked city staff to investigate why the \$1.5 million grant was rescinded before the request comes back.

"We know that we've got a lot of other affordable units to be building," Nash said at the meeting. "While I think everyone loves this project, I think that it would be much wiser to wait until the end when the fee is due, to see whether they still actually need the funds rather than to make decisions prior to that." ■

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Tech layoffs in 2026 already nearing 2025 total

But Silicon Valley still in ‘boom,’ says local leader

By Hannah Bensen

Tech companies in Silicon Valley have jettisoned a noteworthy number of employees in the first half of this year.

Companies in the sector have laid off 7,295 employees in the first half of 2026 — just 9% short of the number of jobs cut by tech companies during all of 2025, according to an analysis from Joint Venture Silicon Valley.

The layoffs are on pace to be the worst in the tech industry since 2023, a particularly bad year of workforce reductions following the COVID-19 pandemic. That year, 14,501 jobs — roughly double the number in the first half of 2026 — were

cut, according to Joint Venture’s analysis. The analysis was conducted by Danny Wessler, a senior researcher at the think tank.

Russell Hancock, CEO and president of Joint Venture, described the current economy as a “paradox.” The unemployment rate in Silicon Valley in June was 3.9%, slightly lower than the national unemployment rate in July of 4.1%. At the same time, the recent Bureau of Labor Statistics job growth report indicated that the U.S. economy lost 23,000 jobs in July.

“We have a very hot innovation engine, but it’s not translating into job growth,” Hancock said. “Usually, when you have layoffs or less hiring, people are

talking about recession ... this is the exact opposite of that. We are not in a recession. We’re in a boom.”

The results of Joint Venture’s analysis of Silicon Valley were slightly less alarming than a report from the San Francisco Chronicle, which found that global tech layoffs in the first seven months of 2025 had already surpassed the number in 2026.

Several factors could be contributing to this year’s tech layoffs, Hancock said. The first is that some companies overhired during the COVID-19 pandemic, when demand for digital services surged and concerns about a labor shortage prompted some companies to expand their workforces.

Large language models like ChatGPT were released in 2022 as companies emerged into the post-pandemic economy. Both forces have led some companies to recalibrate toward smaller teams, Hancock said.

Joint Venture’s layoff analysis tracked job cuts in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties through June 30, 2026. The organization uses the California’s Worker Adjustment and Retraining (WARN) notices which are filed with the state’s employment development department within 60 days of a mass layoff. But, there are caveats to WARN filings, Wessler noted.

“WARN reports aren’t perfect — they only cover bigger layoffs (50+ employees) at bigger companies (75+ employees), and there are ways for companies to get around the filing requirement,” Wessler said over email. “The data is almost certainly an undercount, but it gives us a directional sense of scale over time.”

Joint Venture’s methodology classified a company as

a tech industry by using the NAICS industry code and with assistance from artificial intelligence. A significant portion of the layoffs through June came from Meta, which cut around 3,382 positions from offices in two counties.

Despite the latest wave of layoffs, there are reasons for optimism in the Silicon Valley labor market: impacted employees from tech companies can generally go to adjacent fields like health care or startups, Hancock said.

“Most of the folks that are getting laid off ... they land on their feet,” Hancock said. “Yes, layoffs, but no corresponding uptick in unemployment. It means that the valley is doing OK. In fact, better than OK. We are the epicenter of this new wave.” ■

Hannah Bensen is a recipient of the California Local News Fellowship who is a member of the Embarcadero Media Foundation Staff through 2027. She can be reached at hbensen@almanacnews.com.



Town of Atherton

City Council

September 16, 2026 — REGULAR MEETING 6:00 P.M.

This is meeting is held virtually and in-person at the Council Chambers, 80 Fair Oaks Lane

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Atherton City Council will hold a public hearing to consider proposed changes to the Atherton Municipal Code.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said item is set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on **September 16, 2026, at 6:00 PM** in-person and via teleconference accessible through the information provided below, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the projects listed in the public hearing section should or should not be approved. This meeting will be held via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The public may participate in the City Council Meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/506897786>

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

Email: council@athertonca.gov

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

Description: The Town Council will consider amendments to the Town Code related to construction and demolition waste management and the Town’s solid waste franchise requirements. **A copy of the City Council staff report and draft Resolution can be found online, by Friday, September 11, 2026 here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>**

The proposed amendments would:

- Amend Chapter 15.52 to align the Town Code with the most current California Green Building Standards Code (CAL-Green) requirements. The amendments would update or remove provisions that are no longer applicable or consistent with current requirements, including provisions related to the deposit system, exemptions, and enhanced waste diversion requirements. The amendments may also establish administrative citations and penalties for violations.
- Amend Chapter 18.02 to clarify that non franchised haulers and other vendors may not provide services in violation of the Town’s exclusive solid waste franchise agreement. The amendments may also establish administrative citations and penalties for violations of the franchise requirements.

The proposed amendments are intended to ensure the Town Code is consistent with current State requirements, clarify enforcement authority, and strengthen the Town’s ability to address violations of its solid waste regulations and franchise agreement.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said application is set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on **September 16, 2026 at 6:00 PM** via in-person and teleconference accessible through the above-described information, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the amendments should or should not be approved.

IF YOU CHALLENGE any actions taken to adopt the revised Master Fee Schedule in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing.

If you have any questions or would like to submit comments on the item please contact Anthony Suber, City Clerk at asuber@athertonca.gov or 650-752-0529. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL

/s/ Anthony Suber

Anthony Suber, City Clerk

Date Published: August 13, 2026

Date Posted: August 13, 2026

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Joy Swift, 93, a Palo Alto resident who was born in Oklahoma, who moved to San Francisco at 18, who found a community at the 17th Street Church of Christ, who worked in sales and personnel and who was a talented fiber and fabric artist, who helped found the Palo Alto Church of Christ, who taught at the Sierra Bible Camp, who led the Southbay Storytellers and Listeners group, and who firmly believed that everyone needed at least three hugs a day, died on July 14, 2026.

James Regel, 83, a Menlo Park resident who was born in Spokane, Washington, who graduated from Woodside High School, who received a master’s degree in business from UC Berkeley and who then attended Officer Candidate School, where he was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy, who served aboard the U.S.S. Hancock, an aircraft carrier, in the South Pacific during the Vietnam War, who then began a career in technology, bringing his expertise to Veralink, Rolm, IBM and other companies, who supported Israel and global Christian ministries, and who loved watching sports and playing

tennis and golf, died on July 14, 2026.

Gail Gavello, 84, a Menlo Park resident who was a member of the Junior League, Peninsula Volunteers and the Kiwanis Club, who was involved in her family’s real estate business, which developed and managed properties throughout California and who made trips to Torino, Italy, as part of her research into her family roots, died on July 20, 2026.

George Norbeck, 89, a Woodside resident who was born in South Dakota, who received his medical degree from University of Minnesota and master’s degree at UCLA, who proudly served in the U.S. Air Force and in the Air National Guard, who served as a psychiatrist at the Palo Alto Veterans Affairs Medical Center, who was recognized as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association for his contributions to psychiatry, who joined the San Mateo Mounted Patrol and who loved singing in choirs and performing in musical theater, died on July 24, 2026.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at AlmanacNews.com/obituaries. ■



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What happens after ICE detains a San Mateo County resident?

Residents have been sent to Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center and California City Detention Facility in Southern California

By Miranda de Moraes

With at least 140 San Mateo County residents arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the last year, leaders behind the county's rapid response to ICE offered insight into what happens if a county resident is detained.

Faith in Action Bay Area is a faith-based nonprofit that has been the county's Swiss Army knife in navigating ICE: fielding urgent calls about suspected immigration enforcement; offering financial, emotional and legal support for those affected by ICE locally; and training and deploying volunteers who verify reports of ICE activity and accompany non-citizen community members at immigration appointments.

Faith in Action (FIA) keeps track of arrest figures in the county, which it said peaked last fall, with 45 documented in September and October 2025. In November and December, arrests were 14 and

17, respectively. The count fell to zero in January and one in February, which the organization's attorney partners attributed to injunctions from lawsuits, including one requiring the Department of Justice to improve the conditions of holding cells in San Francisco, Nani Friedman, a spokesperson with Faith in Action, said.

FIA's count spans September 2025 to July 2026. In March, arrests were at 12 and rose again in April to 18, then dipped steadily in May to 11 and June to eight, the organization reported. Arrests shot back up to 17 in July, a pattern Faith in Action said it can't explain.

The county has yet to see an immigration raid, Faith in Action said, though ICE has focused its arrests on people at their homes and at immigration check-ins, including people who have overstayed their visas, missed a court appointment or have otherwise allegedly violated immigration laws. In recent months, the organization has documented arrests at airports

involving people traveling who are not U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents.

Then what?

When someone in the Bay Area is detained by immigration enforcement, they are typically taken to the ICE processing center at 630 Sansome St. in San Francisco, according to Jenny Horne, an attorney with the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, which oversees Faith in Action's immigration legal work.

If the detainee's family calls the San Mateo County rapid response hotline at (203) 666-4472 or NO-MIGRA before 2:30 p.m., Faith in Action said it can send attorneys to meet with the detainee at the processing center the same day to help them understand their rights.

It's helpful, Horne said, for people who may be at risk of detention to make sure a trusted family or friend knows their country of origin and "alien number" or "A-number," the number the Department of

Homeland Security assigns to an immigrant. This number makes it easier to locate a person in ICE's online detainee locator system, which shows whether and where someone is being held in immigration custody, plus immigration court dates.

Rapid response attorneys will look at the case and see if any immediate remedies can be filed, such as a petition for a writ of habeas corpus, which asks the court to release a person from confinement when their constitutional rights have been violated, according to Horne. Habeas corpus filings have been "most successful" in freeing detainees, she said, sometimes as quickly as the next day.

In other cases, detainees can pay a bond for quick release, Horne added, though the Trump administration has worked to limit this option, so obtaining a bond order can be difficult.

Sometimes, however, Faith in Action emergency response attorneys determine there are no quick remedies. In those cases, attorneys will call a family member to provide them with the legal assessment and offer a list of reputable private immigration attorneys — because the family would have to hire somebody to handle the next steps, Horne stated.

The ICE office on Sansome Street doesn't have the resources to hold people in a "safe, humane way," Horne said, so agents try to transfer detainees to a different facility within a few hours. Most of the detainees with whom she has spoken were sent to the Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center and the California City Detention Facility, both in Southern California.

Inside detention

The California City Detention Facility is the subject of a class action lawsuit filed in November 2025 by seven detainees. The facility, based in the Mojave Desert, was a previously shuttered state prison repurposed for ICE. The complaint describes conditions there as "dire" and "decrepit."

"Sewage bubbles up from the shower drains, and insects crawl up and down the walls of the cells," the complaint states. "People are locked in concrete cells the size of a parking space for hours on end, and officers threaten them with violence and solitary confinement."

"Food is paltry and people go hungry," the complaint

continues. "Those who cannot afford to buy sweatshirts from the exorbitantly priced commissary suffer in the cold, some wearing socks on their arms as makeshift sleeves."

The lawsuit alleges detainees at the California City facility have faced inadequate medical care, poor sanitation, cold conditions and other unsafe treatment. The federal government has disputed many of those claims, including allegations involving medical care, attorney access, clothing and recreation.

The case remains pending, but in February a judge issued a preliminary injunction requiring several changes at the facility, including independent monitoring, temperature-appropriate clothing and at least one hour of outdoor recreation per day.

A deportation begins when the Department of Homeland Security files a Notice to Appear with immigration court, which is a document signifying that the U.S. government is initiating removal proceedings against a person, the U.S. Department of Justice's website states.

From there, an immigration judge decides whether an immigrant is removable based on evidence submitted by the immigrant or DHS. If the judge decides so, the immigrant can either accept the order or apply for relief from removal.

The DHS may grant asylum if an immigrant can demonstrate fear of persecution or torture if returned to their country of origin, for example, according to the Department of Justice's website.

Horne said that for some people, "the conditions are so bad that they just give up" and forgo due process in agreeing to an expedited deportation.

Close to home

On Tuesday, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors will consider a resolution, proposed by supervisors Noelia Corzo and Ray Mueller, that would, at minimum, regulate the operation of detention facilities in unincorporated San Mateo County, including North Fair Oaks.

A new ICE facility could open about 50 miles away in Gilroy, though the federal government agreed to pause construction until Sept. 9 following a recent court injunction.

When asked about the prospect of a closer facility, Horne



Town of Atherton

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

NOTICE THAT THERE ARE NOT MORE CANDIDATES THAN OFFICES TO BE ELECTED

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/506897786>
Meeting ID: 506 897 786
Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833
Meeting ID: 506 897 786

Remote Public Comments: Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. The following email will be monitored during the meeting and public comments received will be saved for the record.
Email: council@athertonca.gov

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 10229 of the Elections Code of the State of California, relating to the General Municipal Election in the Town of Atherton to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026:

As of the close of the nomination period on August 7, 2026, and the extended candidate filing period closing on August 12, 2026, there are not more candidates than offices to be elected.

That Section 10229 of the Elections Code allows one of the following courses of action to be taken by the City Council:

1. Appoint to the office the person who has been nominated.
2. Appoint to the office any eligible voter if no one has been nominated.
3. Hold the election if either no one or only one person has been nominated.

No. 2 is not applicable because three individuals have been nominated.

The City Council will meet on Tuesday, August 18 at 12:00 PM in the City Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA to take one of the above courses of action as allowed by EC 10229. An agenda will be available through the City Clerk's Office by Monday, August 17. The persons appointed if any, shall qualify and take office and serve exactly as if elected at a municipal election for the office.

If, by the 75th day before the municipal election, no person has been appointed to the offices pursuant to (1) or (2) above, the election shall be held.

If the City Council makes an appointment pursuant to Section 10229, Elections Code, the City Clerk shall not accept for filing any statement of write-in candidacy that is submitted after the appointment is made.

Date Published: August 13, 2026
Date Posted: August 13, 2026

s/ Anthony Suber
Anthony Suber, City Clerk

CardVault by Tom Brady, a sports memorabilia shop, to open in Palo Alto

Card shop to include trading nights, guest appearances

By Gennady Sheyner

San Mateo native Tom Brady, who is best known for winning seven Super Bowls and becoming one of the most decorated quarterbacks in NFL history, is about to take on a more visible presence in Palo Alto's Town & Country Village.

CardVault by Tom Brady, a retailer that sells trading cards and sports memorabilia, is preparing to open its latest Bay Area store on Saturday at the shopping center on the corner of El Camino Real and Embarcadero Road. Located next to the chocolate store SWISS55, the business is scheduled to open on Aug. 15, according to the company's announcement. It will feature single cards, sealed boxes, card packs and collectibles, as well as on-site services to help collectors authenticate and preserve memorabilia, according to the announcement.

On Wednesday, a crew of workers was putting the finishing touches on the interior of the store, which now



Courtesy CardVault by Tom Brady

CardVault by Tom Brady is set to open on Aug. 15 in Town & Country Village in Palo Alto.

features a large picture of Brady on the exterior, in preparation for the weekend opening.

"Can I get early access to the vault?" said a woman who was walking by the shop.

The Palo Alto store will be the 17th location for CardVault, a card company that was founded in 2020. It has two other California locations, one in Sacramento and another

one near Oracle Park in San Francisco.

At the center of the experience is CardVault's signature vault, showcasing autographed and authenticated memorabilia — from helmets and jerseys to bats and balls — creating a museum-quality display for fans and collectors alike.

CardVault by Tom Brady began with the simple idea that the right space can turn

a personal passion into a shared experience," said Scott Heigelmann, co-founder of CardVault by Tom Brady. "We wanted something part clubhouse, part gallery, part theater, a place where collectibles, culture and community could find each other.

The store's grand opening will take place at 10 a.m., with the first 25 visitors receiving a limited-edition Palo Alto-themed CardVault by Tom Brady hat. Guests will also have a chance to win a mini helmet autographed by San Francisco 49ers star running back Christian McCaffrey, according to the announcement. Heigelmann said he is proud to bring CardVault to Palo Alto, which he said is "home to a community of boundless imagination, where curiosity is an art form and where ideas become innovations that shape the world."

While Brady is best known for winning Super Bowls in New England and Tampa Bay, he has roots in the Peninsula. Born in San Mateo, he attended Junípero Serra High School,

which in 2012 renamed its football stadium after Brady's family. Considered by many to be greatest quarterback of all time, he currently works as a color commentator for NFL on Fox. He also became a partial owner of the Las Vegas Raiders in late 2024.

CardVault by Tom Brady will be open seven days per week and will feature trade nights, special guest appearances and exclusive product launches, according to the announcement. ■

Email Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@almanacnews.com.

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Read the spotlight



Report: Community college district disbursed \$7 million in gift cards to students without proper oversight

Almost \$850K meant for food assistance went unredeemed, audit finds

By Hannah Bensen

An internal audit of the San Mateo County Community College District found that \$7 million in gift card rewards intended to address student food insecurity were distributed without adequate oversight between 2020 and 2024.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, students on district campuses received electronic gift cards for emergency food assistance. The audit report found that between April 2020 to December 2024, the district purchased \$6.2 million in Tango rewards cards that can be redeemed for gift cards to hundreds of retailers, including Target, Amazon, Safeway and Starbucks. The gift cards had few restrictions, meaning recipients could spend them on items other than food. The district includes Cañada College, Skyline College and College of San Mateo.

The audit also found that a staff member at Cañada

College purchased \$541,000 in physical gift cards from Albertsons — a grocery retailer that owns Safeway — between March 24, 2020, through May 9, 2024, to distribute to students.

It also stated that the process for procuring services and contracts had insufficient controls since SMCCCD entered the contract with Tango without competitive bidding, board authorization, standard contract protections, or spending and duration limits. Additionally, once funds were disbursed, controls over how those funds were used, monitored and reported were also insufficient, the report said.

At a regular July 29 meeting with the district Board of Trustees, Chancellor Melissa Moreno acknowledged the shortcomings of the gift card process, but noted in the official written response to the audit that the gift cards were issued to address student food insecurity during a public health emergency.

“Could we have been better? Absolutely. Do we want to be better moving forward? Yes, no question,” she said during the meeting.

Over 31,000 students were enrolled in SMCCCD schools during the 2023-2024 school year. A third of those students were Hispanic, according to the district. A 2022 SMCCCD survey found that around 8 in 10 students had some form of housing or food insecurity.

The college district benefits from local taxes. About \$215 million of its \$790 million annual budget comes from local property taxes in the 2025-2026 budget.

Houman Boussina, a performance auditor and policy analyst hired by the district in March 2024 to improve efficiency of services, flagged the Tango gift card expenditures to Moreno in November 2024. The program was promptly shut down, Moreno said during the board meeting.

The audit report, which is nearly 300 pages, found that

\$849,000 worth of Tango cards went unredeemed because some rewards were sent to invalid email addresses and others simply went unclaimed by students, who were not sent annual reminders of their gift card balance, the report stated. It also found \$1 million in Tango rewards and retail store gift cards went to individuals who earned less than one credit during the academic term.

A key issue of the audit and discussion was whether the spending was approved by and visible to the Board of Trustees. Boussina and Moreno disagreed on this point, with Boussina arguing that the student Tango rewards strayed from their intended purpose of reducing food insecurity because the gift cards were unrestricted.

“From a budgetary perspective, I would say you may have approved budgets for a food insecurity program,” Boussina told the board. “But this program, from an execution internal controls perspective, did not appear to me to be a food insecurity program.”

The report also stated that the Tango contract had no spending cap known as a “not-to-exceed” amount to ensure that SMCCCD did not spend above the authorized or budgeted amount.

Moreno told the board the SMCCCD spends \$1 million per year to address food insecurity, which is an annual expense approved in the budget by the Board of Trustees.

In an official response at the end of the audit report, Moreno and SMCCCD management said the activities occurred during “one of the most difficult and uncertain times in the district’s history” but said it acknowledged the need for clear policies and procedures and monitoring of student assistance and food support.

The audit laid out a range of recommendations. One

suggests that the chancellor should consult legal counsel to see if any laws were broken. Another calls for replacing the practice of using “warrant reports” to retroactively ratify contracts with a different approval process where the board sees and approves the contract before it’s executed. Others suggest underlying fixes to processes and calls for the board to adopt specific policies governing when giving gift cards or rewards serves a specific public purpose.

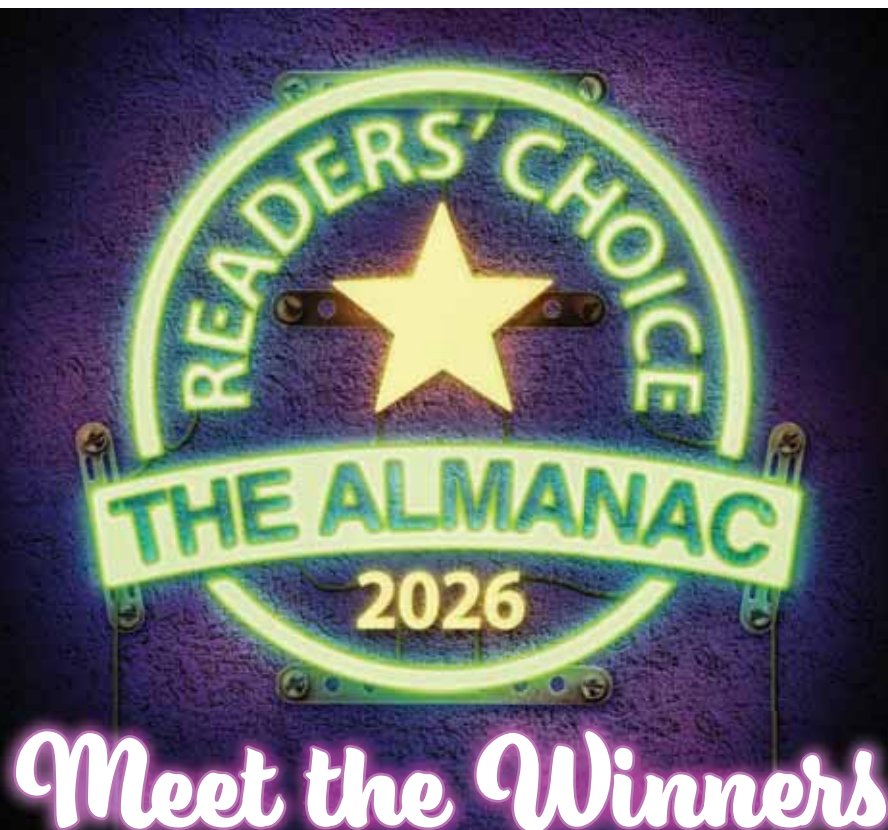
The chancellor will create an implementation plan outlining proposed solutions to the identified issues which will be presented at the meeting and approved by the board. Moreno said during the meeting that she plans to implement some but not all of the recommendations, and will favor those that are forward-looking process improvements.

This is not the first time the community college district has faced questions about its finances. On July 31, Ronald Galatolo, the former chancellor of SMCCCD, was sentenced to eight months in county jail for falsifying financial disclosures and failing to report income or gifts related to his job. He served as chancellor from 2001 to 2019.

In 2024, SMCCCD created a Performance Audit Unit to “increase transparency and accountability within the organization.” Boussina was the first auditor hired.

“For the community’s sake, we are very cognizant of the money we spend for our mission,” said Board of Trustees president Wayne Lee. “We’re going forward and making sure it doesn’t happen again.” ■

Hannah Bensen is a recipient of the California Local News Fellowship who is a member of the Embarcadero Media Foundation Staff through 2027. She can be reached at hbensen@almanacnews.com.



The votes are in, and the winners are glowing! Explore the 2026 Almanac Readers' Choice winners — restaurants, retailers, service pros and more that have earned their place in the spotlight and continue to light up the community.

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Photos by Michael Molcsan

Clockwise from top left: Neighbors talk at an annual block party on Hermosa Way on Aug. 2; residents gather and bang pots with utensils during an opening ceremony; a child plays badminton during the annual block party.

BLOCK PARTY

continued from page 1

the sweltering heat caused the decal on his daughters' bicycle seat to come off and stick to her shorts when she stood up.

Previous iterations of the block party included trivia about their neighbors, and one year there was a banjo band.

This year, following a rendition of the national anthem played by a young resident on his trombone, the partiers paraded around the block banging pots and pans.

Nora Singer, who led the parade donning a wide-brimmed straw hat adorned with flowers, said the tradition started during the pandemic, a practice that gained national popularity as a way to honor

healthcare workers on the front lines. At the height of the lockdown in 2020, residents would bang kitchen utensils every night at 7 p.m. When people felt more comfortable seeing each other, they did a parade around the block on Thursdays, Singer said. The ritual stuck.

The horseshoe block has always been an enclave of generosity, according to residents.

"Everybody shares everything," said Joan Hamilton.

She pointed to a plum tree across the street. "When it comes into bloom, we'll get an email, and they'll say, 'Okay, the plums are in. I got a big basket on my front porch, come help yourself,'" Hamilton, who has lived in the neighborhood for 30 years, said.

Homegrown produce is not

the only thing residents share. Sometimes, Norm Abt said, he would come home from work to find four or five kids in his pool, "none of them mine."

And when a Tesla charging box caught on fire six years ago at a house on Hermosa Way, neighbors came rushing to rescue belongings from the garage before firefighters arrived, said Brett Herr.

Residents attribute the neighborhood's closeness to its shape. "It's the horseshoe that we have (that) allows us to mingle really easily, and all the kids get to know each other," said Susan Wertz. She and her husband Randy have lived on the Hermosa Way side of the block since 1987.

Even as people have moved away and the original



one-story houses have gotten taller, the neighborhood remains close-knit.

"We didn't buy this house to say we're gonna be there for 50 years," Karla Taylor said. "But

you don't want to leave," she added, laughing. ■

Email Editorial Intern Sydney Feldman at sfeldman@almanacnews.com.

DAY CAMP

continued from page 5

said she was surprised by the unique focus each group gravitated toward in developing their makeshift town.

The first week, campers showed interest in entrepreneurship, economics and figuring out how to capitalize on goods and services. The next week, it was governance, code of conduct and appointing elected officials. The last week was about imagination and pretend play.

Johnson said she had to refresh herself on socialism, communism and governance — topics that came up in the campers' discussions.

"The fact that we were able to adapt and change the curriculum on a dime based on the kids' interests, I think that's really what set the camp experience apart," she said.

With her background in

special education, Johnson aimed to create a space that was comfortable for neurodivergent children to interact with neurotypical campers.

"I think it's really important

that all of these different thinkers are able to work together, communicate together, celebrate together and form friendships together," Johnson said.

In the last hour of the final



Magali Gauthier

Camper Andre, right, squeezes water out of foam balls onto his friend Lloyd, left, as he goes down a waterslide at Camp Funtier in Huddart Park in Woodside on July 24.

day of camp, a clanging bell rang through the park.

"Town Hall meeting," yelled a young camper. Everyone made their way up the picnic shelter to gather in a corner decorated with a stone-like arch, couches and hay bales. The town ratification ceremony was about to begin.

Parents of the homesteaders attended the ceremony to see the newly ratified town their children built. The mayor led the camp song to the tune of "Home on the Range," before each camper was presented with a land certificate and a small vial of dirt, a reminder of the land they worked on as town founders.

"Even though it contains only a few specks of dirt, it represents belonging, perseverance and collaboration," Johnson said.

"I wanted to teach kids that they have the power to create a better world and do that

through their values, like community, stewardship of the land and hard work," she added. "That was my utopian goal, but to see it actually play out more perfectly than I could imagine was incredibly rewarding."

The camp was able to partner with the Woodside Community Foundation to provide 18 scholarships, making the program accessible to more families. With the help of the foundation's matching grant of \$6,000, Johnson was able to raise about \$13,500 for Camp Funtier.

She said she is already brainstorming ways to increase scholarship offerings. Plans are in the works to bring the camp back for next summer and, potentially, as an after school program. ■

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



Kalani Engles

August 25, 1938 – July 14, 2026

Kalani Engles, beloved wife, mother, Nana, artist, friend, and longtime resident of Portola Valley, California, passed away peacefully on July 14, 2026, at age 87, surrounded by her husband and children.

The cause of death was a rare, debilitating autoimmune disease of the lungs that appeared in February. Kalani fought the disease courageously for five months and was on the road to recovery. But in early July it flared up aggressively, and she was unable to overcome it this time.

Kalani was an acclaimed artist whose professional career spanned 45 years. Her work was featured in over 120 exhibitions including 24 solo exhibitions and nine museum shows. Over the years she was represented by 15 galleries in the Bay Area, New York, Los Angeles, Dallas and Denver. Her current gallery in Burlingame has represented her for 22 years. Kalani studied under Nathan Oliveira and Frank Lobdell in the Stanford University Art Department in the early 1980s. She established her first studio at the old Portola Valley Town Center in 1982 and her second studio in Redwood City in 2006.

Kalani was a painter and printmaker specializing in monotypes. She worked on canvas and paper in a wide range of sizes – some canvases were 6' x 7'. She was a master of color and composition, which she expressed in bold abstracts and representational landscapes. Her primary inspiration was nature, especially the woodlands and meadows she observed on her weekly walks on the high trails of Portola Valley with her friends. She saw things that elude the casual observer like the angle of a thorn, the alignment of tree trunks in a stand, or the veins of a leaf. And she saw color – not just the obvious greens and golds and browns, but blue and red and purple hues revealed by the interplay of diffused light and shadow. She highlighted these aspects in her paintings, surprising viewers and challenging them to look more carefully, so that they could appreciate more of what nature has to offer.

Kalani Pearl Torbert was born in San Francisco on August 25, 1938, the first child of Edwin and Vivian Torbert. Her father was a piano teacher who instilled in his children an appreciation for the arts by regularly taking them to the many cultural institutions and events

in the city. He also took the family on frequent road trips to state and national parks where she loved to see wild animals and learned to appreciate nature. When Kalani was 14, the family moved to Redwood City, CA, and she enrolled in Sequoia High School where she starred in musical theater productions. After her graduation in 1956, she attended College of San Mateo and earned an AA degree.

An important part of Kalani's childhood and, indeed, her lifelong identity was her Hawaiian heritage. She was named after her maternal grandmother who was one-fourth Hawaiian. Her name means "heavenly one" or "royal one." She was a direct descendant of Hawaiian royalty. As a little girl, she spent every summer with her aunts in Hawaii, where they taught her the history and culture of the islands. She mastered all the major forms of hula and would perform when asked at social events. Her deep connection with Hawaii influenced her art throughout her career.

Kalani was especially close to her namesake Nana, an elegant lady who was married to the brother of producer and playwright David Belasco. As a girl she spent many weekends with her at her Nob Hill apartment where she was taught the gracious manners of a debutante. Later, when Kalani had children, her Nana moved in with the family to help care for them. The name Kalani continues through the generations in one of her granddaughters, as does Nana, the affectionate name by which her own grandchildren knew her.

In 1958 Kalani married an heir to an Alaskan mining fortune and had five children with him. They moved to Portola Valley in 1967 into a magnificent all-redwood home that Kalani designed and built. Kalani devoted this stage of her life to her children, whom she loved deeply. She made them believe they could do anything. She taught them to dream big, to be fearless, and to see possibilities where other people saw obstacles. She supported them and advocated for them in everything they did. As adults they still looked to her for encouragement and guidance because of her amazing gift for making people believe in themselves.

Kalani made even ordinary occasions feel magical—holidays, family dinners, birthdays, and casual gatherings—and transformed them into lasting memories. She had a gift for making people feel that they mattered and were cared for. Her home was open to all, especially her children's many friends, some of whom considered her a second mother. Her warmth, grace, and vibrant spirit touched everyone who knew her and made her a beloved and much-admired member of the community.

In 1976 Kalani met Charles Engles, who became her husband and soulmate. They were together for 50 years. Charles was a mathematician and engineer and Kalani was creative and gregarious – an unlikely pairing. But their contrasting qualities complemented each other, and over the years they became completely interdependent. Charles liked to say that between the two of them they had one brain. They grew to love each other deeply.

Charles strongly supported Kalani in her art career and handled all the administrative details. He also managed the details of their personal life. Kalani organized their social and cultural life, planned their many journeys to exotic parts of the world, and decorated their homes brilliantly. She taught Charles about art and how to be more poised and polished, and he helped her become physically fit with regular hikes and Pilates classes for 25 years. Before she became ill this year, she possessed the strength and vitality of someone many years younger.

Kalani was socially adept and charming, carrying herself with confidence and ease in any situation. She had a natural ability to win people over. The way she dressed and presented herself reflected her creativity and artistic sensibility. She was often the best-dressed person in the room, guided not by fashion trends but by her own creative and unmistakable sense of style. The affection people felt for her naturally extended to Charles and helped him feel comfortable and included.

Kalani was the oldest and last surviving member of her family of origin. She

was predeceased by her parents, Edwin and Vivian Torbert; her sister Camile Macomber; her sister Margot Torbert, a ballet teacher; and her brother David Torbert, a bassist with The New Riders of the Purple Sage. All of them died of heart disease. Tragically, Kalani also lost her two oldest children, Sean Smith and Patrick Smith, to heart attacks when they were adults. Kalani herself survived a heart attack, cancer and two episodes of sepsis, all of which were life threatening. Yet she somehow summoned the physical and emotional strength to recover from these blows and live a healthy, productive life. That was until this year, when she was struck by an autoimmune disease that proved too much for her to overcome.

Kalani leaves behind a large family: her husband, Charles, of Portola Valley; a daughter, Laura Hewett (Mack), and a son, Tom Smith (Michelle), both of Ocean Isle Beach, NC; and a son, Tim Smith (Marilynn), of San Carlos. She has nine grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and a great-grandchild on the way.

She also leaves behind many dear friends whose lives she touched with her empathy, warmth and irrepressible spirit. They lovingly describe her as "magical", "a shining star", "magnificent", "a bright light", "an inspiration", "a ray of light", "a force of nature", "generous of spirit", "strong", and "kind." She had a remarkable ability to make everyone feel seen, important, loved, and capable of more than they believed possible. She didn't just create beautiful paintings—she created beautiful memories and touched lives in a way that people never forgot. She was indeed magical.

Kalani's extraordinary body of work, held in museums, galleries, and private collections, is an enduring legacy that will live on long after us. Her art embodies her spirit, boldness, creativity, sensitivity, mastery of color and composition, and transcendent vision. Through it, future generations will be able to see the world as she did and realize what an extraordinary person she was.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 3, at 2:00 PM at The Family Farm, 1400 Portola Road, Woodside, CA. A reception will follow the service. Memorials may be sent to The Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, CA.

PAID OBITUARY

The dark history behind Woodside's Moore Road

A bitter divorce and fatal shooting made headlines on this oak-lined lane

By Linda Taaffe

Woodside's Moore Road winds beneath oaks past gated estates, horse paddocks and sprawling homes tucked behind dense landscaping. Large custom residences on multi-acre lots give the area a distinctly rural character despite its location just minutes from downtown and Interstate 280.

The surrounding land was once part of the extensive J.J. Moore Ranch, which stretched from Woodside Road to Walsh Road along I-280. It was one of several grand country estates wealthy San Franciscans established on the Peninsula as weekend retreats from the city.

But this quiet enclave of Woodside was once the setting for a dark chapter of Midpeninsula history that once captured headlines across the country.

Before the property was subdivided, San Francisco coal dealer and capitalist John J. Moore built an elaborate home with stables and landscaped grounds there in the early 1900s. The narrow lane now known as Moore Road was once the driveway that wound through the center of the ranch to the family's hilltop residence.

Not many years later, a series of tragedies overshadowed the estate's idyllic setting. In 1907, the family's home was destroyed by fire after flames reportedly began in the laundry room, prompting Moore to build a new, more modest residence lower on the property near the stables. Earlier that same year, Moore suffered a severe head injury after being kicked by a horse at a Los Angeles racetrack. Newspaper



Courtesy Google Maps

Moore Road is a narrow country lane in Woodside named after John Moore, who once owned a large ranch in the area.

accounts later reported that he experienced seizures, declining health and other complications related to his head injury in the years that followed.

Moore's personal life also began to unravel during this time. Moore's marriage deteriorated into a bitter and highly publicized divorce battle marked by accusations of infidelity and courtroom drama that filled Bay Area newspapers as the judge weighed whether to grant the couple a divorce.

The conflict reached a violent climax in January 1912.

According to multiple newspaper accounts, Moore drove from his hotel room at San Francisco's Pacific Union Club to the ranch on Jan. 27 after allegedly receiving "a mysterious message" claiming that his estranged wife had left their country home with another

man. Moore suspected the man was his former chauffeur, S.R. Timothy. After confronting the maid and other members of the household while searching for his wife, Moore encountered Timothy on the roadway near the house. The two exchanged gunfire in what newspapers at the time described as a pistol duel. Moore was mortally wounded and died later that evening, while Timothy claimed he acted in self-defense. Witnesses testified that Moore's wife was not with Timothy at the time of the shooting.

The following day, the San Francisco Chronicle wrote: "The divorce is granted by a power stronger than the courts."

The shooting sparked months of sensational headlines as prosecutors pursued murder charges against Timothy and Moore's family battled over his estate, valued at roughly \$250,000 — the equivalent of several million dollars today. Court filings revisited Moore's head injury, declining health and increasingly bitter dispute with his wife.

Timothy was ultimately found not guilty, as the jury

found he returned fire in self-defense, in part because of Moore's own deathbed testimony. According to court accounts, Moore acknowledged that he had fired several shots before Timothy shot back, the Chronicle reported.

The legal battles continued after Moore's death. Most of his wealth was tied to the ranch and business holdings in San Francisco. During the estate proceedings, it was revealed that Moore had changed his will just days

before the shooting to leave his wife just \$1 and his 22-year-old son from a previous marriage the remainder of the estate.

Court records and newspaper accounts revealed additional twists during the lengthy legal battle. Papers reported that Moore's hotel room at the Pacific Union Club had been broken into in what was suspected to be an attempt by his son to steal the will. Mrs. Moore testified that an earlier will had named her executrix and insisted Moore had never changed it. There were also allegations that Moore had hired Timothy to shadow Mrs. Moore during the divorce proceedings.

The dispute was eventually settled out of court that May, with Moore's wife receiving what amounted to nearly half the estate, according to local newspaper accounts. In the following years, the ranch was subdivided into multiple estate parcels ranging from about 6 to 20 acres and sold piece by piece, preserving much of its rural character and shaping the landscape seen today.

Moore Road still follows the path of the original ranch driveway. Homes along the road now regularly list for \$6 million to more than \$13 million. ■

Email Print & Lifestyle Editor
Linda Taaffe at ltaaffe@almanacnews.com.

Employment

MULTIPLE POSITIONS

Moloco, Inc. seeks multiple openings in Menlo Park, CA. Product Manager [Req.#SEU69]. Dsgn & dvlp SW for ML based large-scale ad sys. May telecommute from home office anywhere in U.S. Salary: \$160k - \$190k/yr. Data Scientist II [Req.#YHA72]. Conducting deep-dive anlys to influ R&D decis & strategies. Salary: \$170k - \$220k/yr. Software Engineer II [Req.#GLE94]. Turn unstructured logs, msgs, & events into structured data that can be utilized for analytics & ML. May telecommute from home office anywhere in U.S. Salary: \$140k - \$190k/yr. Product Designer [Req.#TUY37]. Dsgn UX & UI for commerce media ad platf. Salary: \$130k - \$170k/yr. To apply email resume referencing the Req. #: to careers@moloco.com

The Almanac offers employment advertising.

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



Newspapers.com

This 1912 San Francisco Chronicle article shows San Mateo Judge Joseph McCormick, left, and San Mateo Police Chief Maurice Boland.

The Almanac
AlmanacNews.com

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Walter Graeme Bretall

July 4, 1932 - July 3, 2026

On Friday, July 3rd, 2026, just shy of his 94th birthday, Walter Graeme Bretall passed away peacefully in his home in Ketchum, Idaho. Born on July 4, 1932, in Hardisty, Alberta, the second son of Frank and Irene Bretall, Graeme was raised in Vancouver, BC, and Seattle, Washington. At Franklin High School in Seattle, he played clarinet in the marching band and a jazz band. He learned to ski at Milwaukee Ski Bowl and by his senior year he was a four-way competitor: Nordic, downhill, slalom, and jump-ing. He attended the University of Washington where he was a member of the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity and the ROTC. After graduating from college in 1954, Graeme worked for a year in New York City with J.P. Morgan as an investment research analyst. He was drafted and elected to serve in the Navy as a seaman until 1957. He returned to Seattle, where he met his future wife, Norah Turnbull. They were married in 1960. While Graeme was working at the Pacific Northwest Company, he and Norah moved to Bellevue, Washington, and started their family.

Graeme and his family relocated to Menlo Park in 1969, where he was head of research for the Kidder Peabody Company in San Francisco. Graeme met his future business partner, Dave Harris, in 1970, and the beginning of Harris, Bretall, Sullivan and Smith was born. As a member of the Security Analysts of San Francisco and a Chartered Financial Analyst, Graeme and the firm managed both individual and corporate accounts and eventually pension funds. Graeme retired from the successful investment management company, which had grown to 85 employees, in 2002.

Graeme was passionate about all sports, especially tennis and skiing. For many years, Graeme could be found at Ladera Oaks Swim and Tennis Club and at Menlo Circus Club, playing tennis and cheering on his children as they swam. He and Norah bought property in Ketchum, Idaho, in 1988, where they built their family vacation home. They would drive from California with their dogs to enjoy winters and summers in Ketchum. In the summer, he was active playing tennis, and in the winter you would find him on Bald Mountain, skiing into his late 80s. He and Norah moved to Sun Valley full time in 2016.

Graeme loved music and was a longtime supporter of the San Francisco Symphony and the Sun Valley Music Festival. He continued to enjoy concerts at Sun Valley well into his retirement years. He and Norah loved to travel, especially with People-to-People Tennis, an organization founded under the Eisenhower Administration to encourage international goodwill through sports. They traveled to Europe, Asia, and India, playing tennis with members of local clubs and developing lasting friendships. While in California, they hosted international students from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. Many of those relationships lasted throughout their lives.

Graeme is survived by his children, Karen (Steve) Bloomfield, Scott (Erin Gillett) Bretall, and Kristine Bretall. Known as “Wally” to his grandchildren, he will be dearly missed by Lucy, Fritz, Heather, and Michael. Graeme was preceded in death by his beloved wife of sixty years, Norah, in 2020. He was deeply grateful for his retirement in Sun Valley, where he enjoyed his routines surrounded by a natural landscape that held a special place in his heart.

A celebration will be held at the family home on Friday, August 21st, in Ketchum. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to The Advocates at theadvocatesorg.org or to The Hunger Coalition at thehungercoalition.org.

PAID OBITUARY

Public Notices

ROBINSON & COMPANY REAL ESTATE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304442
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) ROBINSON & COMPANY REAL ESTATE , located at 3603 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
ROBINSON FINANCIAL CORPORATION
3603 Alameda de las Pulgas
Menlo Park, CA 94025
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 07/01/2026.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 14, 2026.
(ALM Jul 31, Aug 7, 14 and 21, 2026)

JML FIDUCIARY SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304521
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) JML FIDUCIARY SERVICES , located at 240 MAIN STREET SUITE B, HALF MOON BAY, CA 94019. Mailing Address: PO BOX 1797 Boulder Creek, CA 95006
Registered owner(s):
JULIE M LOCOCO
240 MAIN STREET SUITE B
HALF MOON BAY, CA 94019
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 July 22, 2026.
(ALM Jul 31, Aug 7, 14 and 21, 2026)

CREATE CHANGE CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304510
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CREATE CHANGE CONSULTING , located at 19 Athlone Ct, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
LUCY OKUMU
19 Athlone Ct
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 6/4/2024.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 22, 2026.
(ALM Aug 14, 21, 28 and Sep 4, 2026)

PROSPERA BUILDER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304509
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PROSPERA BUILDER , located at 318 REDWOOD AVE APT F, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061. Mailing Address: 3875 Bohannon Drive #4031, Menlo Park, CA 94026
Registered owner(s):
ERVIN JEOVANNY DISCUA
318 REDWOOD AVE APT F
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 22, 2026.
(ALM Jul 31, Aug 7, 14 and 21, 2026)

REALTY ALPHA SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304486
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) REALTY ALPHA SERVICES , located at 7 41st Ave #106, San Mateo, CA 94403.
Registered owner(s):
BEHZAD BOROUMAND
7 41st Ave #106
San Mateo, CA 94403
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/30/2026.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 20, 2026.
(ALM Jul 31, Aug 7, 14 and 21, 2026)

EDUARDO AUTO DETAIL & REPAIR
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304556
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) EDUARDO AUTO DETAIL & REPAIR , located at 232 WISTERIA DR, EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94303.
Registered owner(s):
EDUARDO J HENRIQUEZ RECINOS
232 WISTERIA DR
EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/01/2026.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 28, 2026.
(ALM Aug 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2026)

ANN WALTON BOOKS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304535
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) ANN WALTON BOOKS , located at 235 Medio Avenue, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019.
Registered owner(s):
VICTORIA ANN ATWELL
235 Medio Avenue
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on November 4 , 2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 24, 2026.
(ALM Aug 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2026)

THE PINES APARTMENTS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304520
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) THE PINES APARTMENTS , located at 3455-65-85 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Mailing Address: 4370 Alpine Road #201 Portola Valley, CA 94028
Registered owner(s):
H TERRENCE BLAINE
4370 Alpine Road #201
Portola Valley, CA 94028
MARGARET H BLAINE
4370 Alpine Road #201
Portola Valley, CA 94028
TIMOTHY M BLAINE
4370 ALPINE ROAD #201
Portola Valley, CA 94028
This business is conducted by: Copartners.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/01/1975.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 22, 2026.
(ALM Jul 31, Aug 7, 14 and 21, 2026)

LIDA HAIR STUDIO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304420
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) LIDA HAIR STUDIO , located at 812 Santa Cruz Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
SHAHRBANOU ZAHMATKESH
812 Santa Cruz Ave
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 13, 2026.
(ALM Jul 31, Aug 7, 14 and 21, 2026)

HOMEGLOW HOUSE CLEANING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304308
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) HOMEGLOW HOUSE CLEANING , located at 3212 Rolison Road, APT 3, Redwood City, CA 94063.
Registered owner(s):
MIRIAM MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ ESPINOZA
3212 Rolison Road, APT 3
Redwood City, CA 94063
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 30, 2026.
(ALM Jul 31, Aug 7, 14 and 21, 2026)

TONGO FITNESS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304436
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) TONGO FITNESS , located at 1312 Academy Avenue, Belmont, CA 94002.
Registered owner(s):
HANNAH TONGO
1312 Academy Avenue
Belmont, CA 94002
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/1/2026.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 14, 2026.
(ALM Jul 24, 31, Aug 7 and 14, 2026)

REYES BUILDING SOLUTIONS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304453
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) REYES BUILDING SOLUTIONS , located at 430 Valley Dr, Brisbane, CA 94005 .
Registered owner(s):
ALEXJANDRO G REYES
430 Valley Dr
Brisbane, CA 94005
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 July 15, 2026.
(ALM Jul 24, 31, Aug 7 and 14, 2026)

NOEL COURT APARTMENTS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304492
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) NOEL COURT APARTMENTS , located at 1101 Noel Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Mailing Address: 4370 Alpine Rd., #201 Portola Valley, CA 94028
Registered owner(s):
TIMOTHY M. BLAINE
4370 Alpine Rd., #201
Portola Valley, CA 94028
KATHLEEN T. FRIEDRICH
4370 Alpine Rd., #201
Portola Valley, CA 94028
This business is conducted by: a Married Couple.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/12/2010.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 21, 2026.
(ALM Jul 31, Aug 7, 14 and 21, 2026)

T-Mobile is proposing modifications and additions to telecommunications antennas and associated equipment collocated on a wood utility pole located across from and address 1705 Valparaíso Avenue, Atherton, San Mateo County, CA 94025 (Latitude 37° 26' 26.16" N, Longitude 122° 12' 01.69" W). The existing antenna installation will be replaced with a new antenna installation and concealment canister, increasing the height of the utility pole to approximately 44-feet tall. Support equipment will be installed on the southwest side of the utility pole within the public right-of-way (ROW). Eocene Environmental Group is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal Communications Commission regulations (47 CFR § 1.1307) for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Parties interested in commenting on this Federal undertaking or with questions on the facility should contact Eocene, Attn: Telecommunications Department, 5930 Grand Avenue, West Des Moines, IA 50266 or call 515-473-6256 (Ref. TMO CA #2626-AM).
(ALM Aug 14, 2026)

To place a legal notice visit
AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/
The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 p.m.



Town of Atherton

Planning Commission, August 26, 2026

REGULAR MEETING, 6:00 P.M.

*This is meeting is held virtually and in-person at the Council Chambers
80 Fair Oaks Lane*

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said application is set for hearing by the Planning Commission at its meeting on **August 26, 2026, at 6:00 PM** in-person and via teleconference accessible through the information provided below, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the projects listed in the public hearing section should or should not be approved. This meeting will be held via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The public may participate in the Planning Commission Meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.

Topic: Atherton Planning Commission Regular Meeting

Time: August 26, 2026, 06:00 PM Pacific Time
(US and Canada)

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

Zoom Meeting Option and Details:

<https://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/j/84150249099>

Meeting ID: 841 5024 9099

One tap mobile:

+13017158592 (Washington DC)

+13052241968 (US)

Find your local number:

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

Remote Public Comments:

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

Email: planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us

[@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us)

Projects under Public Hearing:

- Pursuant to Atherton Municipal Code Section 17.36.050, **Sacred Heart Schools (SHS)**, located at **150 Valparaiso (APN 070-390-010)** and in the Public Facilities and Schools (PFS) zoning district, will provide its annual Master Plan Report (MLP26-002). This report does not include any development requests for consideration by the Planning Commission. If you have any questions on the item please contact Lorin French, Assistant Planner, at lfrench@athertonca.gov or (650) 752-0542.
- Request for a **Variance (VAR26-004)** to allow a new athletic court within the front and side, street side yard setback and a **Heritage Tree Removal (HTR26-002)** permit to remove one (1) Coast Live Oak tree at **32 Encina Avenue (APN 060-191-150)**, located in the R-1A Single-Family Residential District. Pursuant to AMC Section 17.38.010, the required front setback is 60 feet and the required side, street side setback is 50 feet. The project is seeking a variance to provide a front setback of 58 feet, 3 inches, and a street-side setback of 10 feet, 9½ inches along Middlefield Road. Atherton Municipal Code (AMC) Sections 8.10.040 (Removal of and Damage to Heritage Trees, Permit Process) and 8.10.020 (Definitions) establish the requirements for heritage tree removals. Staff has determined that the tree proposed for removal is not dead or dangerous; therefore, removal requires Planning Commission approval. Pursuant to AMC Section 8.10.020(L), the tree proposed for removal has trunk diameters of 18 inches and 25 inches, meeting the definition of a heritage tree. This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to: AMC Section 15.32.100 (Threshold of significance for the removal of heritage trees), CEQA Section 15311 (Accessory Structures), and CEQA Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). If you have any questions on the item please contact Lorin French, Assistant Planner, at lfrench@athertonca.gov or (650) 752-0542.
- Consideration of a **Tree Protection Zone Exception (PTPZ26-00005)** to accommodate the continued construction of a new 1,225-square-foot detached garage and a new 1,200-square-foot detached accessory dwelling unit (ADU) on **80 Coghlan Lane (APN 070-040-600)**. The parcel is approximately 72,122 square feet in size (1.66 acres) and located within the R-1A Zoning District. Atherton Municipal Code (AMC) Sections 8.10.050 (Request for exceptions to the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)) and 8.10.020 (Definitions) outline the requirements for construction activities within the TPZ. The Town of Atherton's Heritage Tree Preservation Standards and Specifications further describes that the Planning Commission may grant a Tree Protection Zone Exception (PTPZ) in the R-1A Zoning District for projects that are within a distance of a heritage tree less than 8 times the diameter of the trunk at breast height, noted as "8x." The detached garage and ADU currently under construction at 80 Coghlan Lane were approved by the Town of Atherton in December 2025 under the building permit numbers BP25-00799 and BP25-00800, respectively. During construction activities, it became evident that the permits were approved based on inaccurate data provided by the project arborist regarding trees on an adjacent neighbor's property. The Town stopped construction and required re-evaluation of the work relative to the proximity of neighboring Coast Redwood heritage trees. As a result of this evaluation and to proceed with the scope of work, the applicant has submitted a request to the Planning Commission for two protection zone exceptions (PTPZ) that would accommodate a new detached garage at 3.8x from tree #11 and 7.3x from tree #12, and the new detached ADU at 5.5x from tree #11 and 5.5x from tree #12. This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to CEQA Section 15303 (New Construction) and 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). If you have any questions on the item, please contact Gerry Martin, Assistant Planner, at gmartin@athertonca.gov or (408) 809-9513.
- Consideration of **amendments to the Town's Heritage Tree Ordinance (HTO) (Atherton Municipal Code Chapters 8.06 and 8.10) and the adopted Heritage Tree Preservation Standards and Specifications**. The proposed amendments would (a) clarify the application submittal requirements and process, (b) add Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) standards for specific landscape and drainage features, (c) reduce the TPZ for Coast Redwoods that have diameters of 60-inches (5-feet) or larger at breast height (dbh) from a radius of 8 times the dbh (denoted as 8x) to 6x, and (d) amend the appeals hearing process for HTO violations to direct all types of violations to an administrative hearing officer. The proposed amendments are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act per Section 15061(b)(3). If you have any questions on the item please contact Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner, at bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us or (408) 688-2432.

The agenda for this meeting with links to related staff reports can be found online by **Friday, August 21, 2026**, here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

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

ATHERTON PLANNING COMMISSION

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

/s/ Brittany Bendix
Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner

NEWS

ICE

continued from page 10

said that any increase in the government's capacity to hold people "who have generally just fled horrific conditions in their country" and have not committed crimes that suggest they are dangerous to the community is "abhorrent."

However, she acknowledged that the farther a detained person is from their family and attorney, "the harder it is." She said many family members of detainees are afraid to visit detention centers because of their own immigration status, or even if they are citizens, "people are pretty scared" anyway.

Horne encourages people to "plan for the worst and hope for the best" in crafting a "family preparedness plan," especially by determining who could care for children and where important documents are kept, should

ICE arrest a caregiver.

"There are people who are out there to help," Horne said, "so call for help as rapidly as you can."

Those interested in volunteering with Faith in Action can join its hundreds of verifiers who visit sites rumored to have an ICE presence and/or accompany immigrants who want extra reinforcement and support at ICE check-ins and in court in San Francisco.

Faith in Action's other volunteer efforts include distributing posters and yellow/orange/red cards that can help immigrants assert their rights. The organization also encourages help to spread awareness of verified ICE activity by reposting its @fiabayarea Instagram and "Faith in Action Bay Area" Facebook posts. ■

Email Staff Writer

Miranda de Moraes at

mdemoraes@almanacnews.com.

Sharon Kelley

March 11, 1941 – July 29, 2026

Sharon Lynn Kelley passed away peacefully at the age of 85. She was with family the final days, including, of course, her husband and soul-mate of 66 years, Tom. Born Sharon Tranberg in Yuba City, California, she was a Central Valley girl in her early life, growing up in Fresno. After attending Fresno State where she was a member of the Delta Gamma sorority (and the White Rose Girl of Sigma Nu), she took a summer job at Yosemite's Camp Curry that forever changed her life. For it was there that she met Tom, also working in Yosemite for the summer, thus beginning her Kelley journey.

After getting married and living brief stints elsewhere in the country, Sharon and Tom settled in the San Francisco Bay Area, predominately in Portola Valley where she spent the final 53 years of her beautiful life. A proud mother of three children, Sharon was active in the community and a friend to all. Most importantly, she was a wonderful wife and loving Mom, always doing whatever was needed for her family. Hobbies and interests during her life included gardening, tennis, skiing, Lake Tahoe weekends and holidays, world travel, wildlife of all kinds (she was an SF Zoo docent for many years and visited Africa several times), theater, church, Redwood City Costco + In-N-Out Burger trips, WOW meetings, doting over her grandchildren, and most of all, connecting with family members and friends far and wide. No one attended more reunions or made more "just checking in" calls than Sharon. She also played a mean game of dominoes and made the best tacos ever!

Sharon is survived by her two sisters Jackie and Donna; husband Tom; children Mark, Matthew and Kathleen, son and daughter in-laws Isaac and Molly; five grandchildren, Cameron, Carson, Brooke, Cole and Paige, and three great grandchildren, Kira, Owen and Rhea. Sharon was a remarkable, loving person and will be dearly missed by all who were fortunate enough to experience her wonderful smile. Quite simply, she lit up every room she entered. A celebration of Sharon's life will be held at a later date. Details will be shared when available.



PAID OBITUARY

What Ravenswood High School taught me about integration

GUEST OPINION

On a warm June day in Huddart Park, Woodside, I glanced at the name tag of the handsome man sitting astride a scooter. “Darrell! I exclaimed. Unencumbered by inhibition, I blurted, “You had a crush on me in high school.” He gave me a bemused smile. I continued on, my 69 years having shrunk, perhaps, my prefrontal cortex. “I blew it,” I said. “I should have gone out with you.”

“My wife’s standing over there,” he said, nodding to his left.

Darrell and I were attending a Ravenswood High School Reunion. A Home Depot has replaced the school, which closed in 1976 after serving East Palo Alto for 18 years.

The reunion marked the 50th anniversary of the school’s closure, which sparked in me old memories, as did a visit to a new exhibit at the San Mateo County

History Museum. “Ravenswood Remembered,” which showcases the school’s unique history, runs through Oct. 18.

I was one of about 20 white kids who volunteered to be bused 10 miles from white communities to attend Ravenswood. In 1970, East Palo Alto was an enclave of de facto segregation due to redlining in the 1960s. The school’s student population was 94% Black.

“To a very quiet friend,” a student wrote in my yearbook that year. I was indeed quiet and was bullied for it, or maybe for being white. But this was also scrawled in the book: “To a nice friend of mine” My friendships and kind teachers mitigated the tough times. I had buddies in the CSF Honor Society, and Darrell chatted with me over lunch. My favorite

teacher, Theoni Pappas, made math an inexplicably comforting subject.

In 1971, my sophomore year, I was plunged into an entirely different experience. To honor desegregation mandates, the school was transformed into a shiny magnet, luring white kids and progressive teachers from all over the Sequoia Union High School District. The school’s enrollment surged from 781 to 1,125 students, and the proportion of Black students fell to 51%.

In this “Ravenswood Experiment,” the school sadly lost some of its Black identity. We no longer heard Diana Ross and the Supremes wafting through the courtyard’s intercom at lunchtime, or the tunes of the Temptations at school dances. But among these new faces, I no longer stood out.

It was a wild ride. Over the next three years, I reveled in

unique courses such as mountaineering, scuba diving and French cooking. Pete McCloskey and Coretta Scott King came to speak. I performed in interracial cast musicals and joined the integrated tennis team. I’m still friends with East Palo Alto resident Rosalyn Womack, my doubles teammate.

“The school’s closure was a racist decision,” Rosalyn said over pancakes at the IHOP in Redwood City. After the reunion, we had agreed to meet for breakfast and visit the exhibit together.

“I don’t think so,” I said, taking a bite of my omelet. “It was due to lack of enrollment and budget deficits.”

By the 1975-76 school year, Ravenswood could no longer attract enough white transfer students to sustain the desegregation plan, and enrollment fell to 690.

Rosalyn gave me a skeptical

look, and rightly so. Stripped of choice in 1977, Ravenswood’s students were bused to other, predominantly white schools in the district. Now they alone bore the brunt of achieving desegregation.

Ravenswood was never given a chance to achieve lasting integration, but I am proud to have been one of the earliest pioneers to step on a bus in 1970 to give it a try. Ravenswood taught me how to thrive in a multicultural world, a lesson that still resonates today.

Alumni can ponder their own memories at an alumni reception held at the museum on Sunday, Aug. 23, at 11 a.m. For information about an alumni picnic held the day before, contact ravenswood50years@gmail.com. Please come and share your stories. ■

Robin Dean is an alum of Ravenswood High School.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Prevent another tragedy on highways 35, 84 and 9

I am writing to you today with a heavy heart to urge immediate, decisive action to make Skyline Boulevard (State Route 35) and our Peninsula mountain corridors safe for all who use them. The tragic, preventable death of 34-year-old cyclist Jakub Solovsky on Skyline Boulevard has left a profound void in our community and exposed the urgent danger posed by unchecked reckless driving.

Jakub led my very first Western Wheelers Bicycle Club ride up Mt. Hamilton. As we climbed together, I had the privilege of getting to know him. He deeply impressed me with his passion for the environment and for cycling. Jakub was a bright, caring, and kind-hearted human being—he was truly one of “the good guys.” His life was senselessly cut short when a speeding driver lost control on Skyline Boulevard.

This is not solely a cycling issue. Local residents, equestrians, hikers, pedestrians, and law-abiding drivers across San Mateo County are constantly put in harm’s way by dangerous driving and high-speed motor tourism that treat these scenic mountain corridors as private racetracks.

Achieving real safety on these

state highways requires active leadership and collaboration across both local and state levels. I respectfully request that you champion the following substantive measures:

State-Level Legislation & Infrastructure: Partner with state leaders and Caltrans to prioritize speed-mitigation infrastructure, lower posted speed limits (such as implementing 25 mph zones in critical high-risk areas like Four Corners), and support state legislation enabling automated speed safety enforcement along high-risk corridors like SR 35.

Targeted Local Enforcement: Support enhanced, sustained law enforcement patrols coordinated between the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to target reckless driving, excessive speeding, and illegal street racing.

Inter-Agency Safety Task Force: Help form a multi-agency traffic safety task force bringing together San Mateo County, local municipal leaders, Caltrans, and law enforcement to deploy regional traffic-calming solutions across mountain passes.

We cannot afford to wait for another preventable tragedy before taking action. Thank you for your leadership and for advocating to protect everyone who lives in, visits, and travels through San Mateo County.

*Jason Wong
San Mateo*

I have lived in this area for my entire 74 years and have witnessed Highway 84 changing from a quiet rural road with mostly local traffic to the racetrack it has become. The pandemic made it worse. From our house, we can hear traffic on 84 and 35, and as I am writing this, I am hearing motorcycles screaming down 84. We rarely leave our home on weekends for fear of being involved in an accident, and I fear for the safety of my family members driving these roads. How many more people need to be killed or injured before something is done about the irresponsible users of our roads?

*Pam McReynolds
La Honda*

Almost hit by motorcyclist

I have been road biking these routes for over a decade. In that time, I have watched conditions grow increasingly unsafe, especially on weekends when traffic volume and speeds both increase. I was personally nearly hit by a motorcyclist traveling at an extremely unreasonable speed around a tight curve on 84. This is not an isolated incident — drivers and motorcyclists routinely use these roads as a personal racetrack, and I rarely see any police presence to enforce speed limits or hold reckless drivers accountable.

I am also a mother of two young boys. I want to be here to see them grow up, and I want these roads to be safe for them, for other cyclists,

and for everyone who uses them. Right now, that is not the case.

*Stephanie Boyar
Portola Valley*

Keep the roads safe

As an avid cyclist and a former member of the Portola Valley Bike and Pedestrian Safety Committee — as well as the founder of the Portola Valley Schools Bike Safety program through San Mateo County Schools funding — I believe our roads should be made safe for all who use them, to support healthy lifestyles and an active population. Our roads are not just used by automobiles, but also by thousands and thousands of cyclists, pedestrians, equestrians each year. This section of the Santa Cruz Mountains is one of the most populated by cyclists in the entire region, and should have a new design and safety measures in place to support this reality. The time is now - it is urgent before we have more fatalities.

*Katherine Rust
Portola Valley*

Gave up bike riding

I moved to the area four years ago from a bike-friendly city. I rode everywhere. I haven’t been on my road bike since moving here — driving past so many white bicycles/crosses in the first few months of living here made me hesitant to ride these roads, but the numerous additions just in the time period I’ve lived here

have completely deterred me from riding. I have two young daughters, and I’d rather sacrifice the mental/physical health benefits I get from riding than risk leaving them without a dad.

*Seth Solwell
La Honda*

Nighttime racing has gotten out of control

I have lived on Skylonda Drive for 40 years. The intersection of 84 and 35 is visible from my house, it’s literally my back yard. The racing, doughnuts and beyond loud exhaust noise are unbearable. I understand a four way stop sign in the intersection is planned. Please reconsider! This will just back up traffic both ways, cars will still run the stop signs and, let’s be honest, bicyclists hardly ever stop at stop signs. And to top it off, cars are parking on 35 in both directions to go to Alice’s. There should be no parking on 35. I’ve witnessed many times cars making illegal U-turns on the blind corner, an accident waiting to happen. Please consider a roundabout with speed bumps. It will slow down traffic, keep the flow of traffic moving, and prevent a lot of serious accidents. The current noise is so bad I can’t even be outside. The nighttime racing is beyond control. Please do something to keep our neighborhood safe.

*Donna Allen
Skylonda*

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

ART, NATURE AND COMMUNITY IN THE OPEN AIR

Peninsula Outdoor Painters bring together outdoor enthusiasts and artists at local parks, beaches and preserves

By Ellis Yang

A landscape can sometimes be so picturesque that it looks lifted straight out of a painting. But plein-air painters — like the members of Peninsula Outdoor Painters (POPs) — may quite literally be doing the work of “lifting” those scenes into their canvas: They’re actively searching for those picturesque scenes outdoors and capturing their essence artistically.

Their art could include a meadow, a white sailboat, a crooked fence or the bluish-gray morning sky. But in any case, plein-air painting, the act of painting directly “in the open air,” allows artists to immerse themselves in the details of their immediate environment, rather than working while cooped up in a closed studio.

It’s what the Peninsula Outdoor Painters do. The group convenes on Tuesday mornings at varying outdoor locations across the San Francisco Peninsula, organizing its gatherings using Meetup. This year, the POPs have begun repeating some of their events on the weekends for those who can’t make it on weekdays.

The group was founded in 1977 by a group of local artists, and is open to painters of all backgrounds and experience levels, with no membership fees or requirements. Sessions are completely free and provide a relatively unstructured setting for painting, but painters are asked to stay on designated trails and leave no trace behind.

Painting locations have included the Westpoint Harbor clubhouse in Redwood City, Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton and Baylands Nature Preserve in Palo Alto, plus other scenic spots at beaches and open-space preserves.

“The primary reason people join



Seeger Gray

Peninsula Outdoor Painters organizer Carolyn Chambers paints a salt pond from the parking lot at Westpoint Harbor in Redwood City on July 28.

is for social reasons, to meet other painters,” said Carolyn Chambers, the group’s current organizer. “And it’s also for a love of painting — they just love creating art. To get to do it in the company of other people who also love it is very enjoyable.”

Their goal isn’t to be hardcore or rigorous in pursuit of technical mastery. Instead, members gain experience painting while also enjoying the restorative effects of artmaking and time spent in nature.

“I’m not there to do a masterpiece in plein-air; I’m just there for the experience,” Chambers said. “If I get a good painting plein-air, (I think) ‘I am so happy. Thank you so much.’ I feel like the universe delivers a good

painting through my hand. But if I don’t, or if only pieces of it were good, that’s okay. I had a nice time.”

Plein-air requires artists to concentrate and immerse themselves further into the natural landscape because they must paint within an environment that’s continuously changing, Chambers said. Artists have to continuously adapt their composition and accept that their finished piece may depart completely from their original vision. Attending to these minute and constant changes can engross artists so completely that their awareness of themselves begins to recede into the landscape.

“If I’m outside, I’m just totally immersed in the landscape: the

sound of the wind and the sea, the smell of the plants, the call of the birds,” Chambers said. “It’s like my own persona has disappeared and my spirit is integrated with the landscape, like a tree is. When my painting nears completion, it’s like I come back into my body.”

Beyond the psychological benefits of steeping oneself in nature, the low-pressure environment and flexible style of the gatherings gives members ample freedom to paint without stress. For example, Kate Macgrew, who recently joined the group, did so looking for a beginner-friendly creative outlet.

“I’m very much a neophyte to art,” Macgrew said. “I was looking for



Seeger Gray

Peninsula Outdoor Painters member and Redwood City resident Tarja Varis works on a painting at Westpoint Harbor in Redwood City.

something regional and artistic. I saw some ads that were talking about painting groups in my Instagram feed, and I was like, 'Ooh.'" She then looked on Meetup and joined two groups, one of which was Peninsula Outdoor Painters.

The gatherings are also a place for people to rediscover artistic interests that receded during adulthood. POPs member Ching Tai drew frequently in high school, but put art aside for the next 37 years as the obligations of adult life took over. He didn't return to it until two and half years ago.

"I think painting is a natural progression after you draw for a while," he said. "My first few paintings were pretty bad. Now they're a little better. People share their techniques and give some pointers, so it's really nice."

A longtime member, Carter, who declined to give her first name, has been with the group for 25 years. "I was ready to retire from being a registered nurse, but I wanted to do something after I retired," she said.

She discovered Peninsula Outdoor Painters when she saw people at Half Moon Bay's Pillar Point Harbor painting beside the road, who redirected her to the POPs website.

Chambers believes that while competing responsibilities can keep many adults from making time for art, it may also be because they're self-conscious and see painting as a specialized skill reserved for people with formal training.

"We all can draw," Chambers said. "We grew up as children drawing, and then as adults we think we can't do this, we can't do that. Everybody's their own worst critic. But everybody's also the greatest supporter of everybody else who's there."

But painting for its own sake can be enriching, too. Concentrating on a painting can provide a temporary form of relief and reprieve from personal worries, like an emotional sanctuary.

"People should try art because art is cheaper than therapy," Chambers said. "It uses a different part of the brain. It stops us from overthinking about the negative things happening in the world and in our life, or some things we're worried about concerning ourselves or our families."

Yet the experience of plein-air is not exclusively inward-looking. As members paint in publicly accessible locations, where their easels frequently attract passers-bys, they invite conversations and introduce a social dimension to the craft.

"Sometimes, community is more permanent — that's like our friends and our neighbors," Chambers said. "But sometimes community is temporary, like it was this morning when I was painting at Picchetti Winery and people were coming by and they wanted to look at my stuff and talk. I think maybe I added something to their day, and they added something to my day. What's important is our personal happiness, and the happiness of our community and those around us."

Chambers believes that art can be the conduit to both kinds of happiness.

"If we can just spread a little love in the world, then everything's going to be better," she said. "And I think we can use art to do that, both for ourselves and how we feel and then also, especially if we're outdoors, for other people in our orbit." ■

Email Editorial Intern Ellis Yang at eyang@almanacnews.com.

Peninsula Outdoor Painters meets at outdoor locations around Silicon Valley on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and select weekend dates year-round (excluding holidays). Painting sessions are free. For more information, visit meetup.com/peninsulaoutdoorpainters-home.

Worth a Look

Cowboy Mouth

New Orleans alternative rock band Cowboy Mouth formed in 1990, with diverse influences including blues, punk, funk, country, pop and soul. The group may be best known for the song "Jenny Says," and currently features frontperson and drummer Fred LeBlanc, guitarist John Thomas Griffith, bassist Brian Broussard and guitarist Frank Grocholski. Opening for Cowboy Mouth at their upcoming show at the Guild is surf-rock band The Deadlies.

Aug. 14, 8 p.m.,
The Guild Theatre,
949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park;
\$42-\$181; guildtheatre.com.



Courtesy Cowboy Mouth

Alt rockers Cowboy Mouth play The Guild Theatre on Aug. 14.

Talk and dance demo with Dr. Farima Berenji

Farima Berenji is a performing artist, choreographer, educator and scholar specializing in Iranian mysticism and ethnochoreology. The founder of Dance of the Soul, she comes to Feldman's Books to present her book, "Companions of the Sun: History and Mystery of Iranian Sacred Dance, Music and Rituals." In addition to her lecture, she will demonstrate sacred movements, including Sufi turning.

Aug. 14, 6:30 p.m., Feldman's Books, 1075 Curtis St., Menlo Park; free; feldmansbooks.net/events.

Goose

Genre-blending American rock band Goose (Rick Mitarotonda on vocals and guitar, Peter Anspach on vocals, keys and guitar, Trevor Weekz on bass and Cotter Ellis on vocals and drums) comes to Stanford for a performance at Frost Amphitheater. Released this year, Goose's album "Big Modern!" follows 2025's "Chain Yer Dragon" and "Everything Must Go" (the band's debut record, "Moon Cabin," came out in 2016).

Aug. 15, 6 p.m., Frost Amphitheater, 351 Lasuen St., Stanford; general admission \$74.43; live.stanford.edu.

Toto, Christopher Cross and The Romantics

Long-running rock band Toto ("Africa," "Rosanna") has joined forces with soft-rock singer-songwriter and guitarist Christopher Cross ("Sailing") and power-pop and new-wave group The Romantics ("What I Like About You") for a summer tour that makes a stop in Mountain View this month.

Aug. 15, 6:45 p.m., Shoreline Amphitheatre, One Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View; prices vary depending on area; ticketmaster.com.

Shakespeare in the Park

The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival brings its free outdoor production of "Antony and Cleopatra" to Redwood City this month. Directed by Katja Rivera,

the production follows the turbulent relationship between Roman general Mark Antony and Egyptian queen Cleopatra, set amid the political conflict between Rome and Egypt. The production runs approximately 90 minutes without an intermission, and no tickets or previous familiarity with Shakespeare are required.

Saturdays and Sundays, 6 p.m., Aug. 15-30 at Red Morton Park, 1120 Roosevelt Ave, Redwood City; free admission; sfshakes.org.

Andrew Sean Greer

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Andrew Sean Greer — known best for his comic novel "Less" — discusses his latest book "Villa Coco" at Kepler's Books. The novel is set in the Italian countryside and follows an aspiring archivist who takes a job cataloging the art and antiques of a flamboyant 92-year-old baroness. Surrounded by eccentric aristocrats and mysteriously disappearing antiques, he becomes swept into an unexpected romance and a final search for lost love. The novel blends humor, warmth and Mediterranean adventure while exploring the questions of identity and how seriously people should take themselves.

Aug. 19, 7-8 p.m. at Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real #100; \$11.49-\$45.09; Menlo Park. keplers.org.

'Pickleball'

You may know the name Jeff Daniels from his acting roles in projects such as "Dumb and Dumber," "The Newsroom" and many others, but he's also a playwright and founder of Purple Rose Theatre Company in Chelsea, Mich. His play "Pickleball" was inspired by his wife's passion for the sport. The one-act comedy, recommended for ages 13 and up, follows a group of fiercely competitive neighbors who gather at their local pickleball courts where, according to Hillbarn Theatre, which is producing the Bay Area premiere of the show, "friendly matches quickly evolve into hilarious showdowns, revealing rivalries, secrets and surprising friendships."

Aug. 20-Sept. 13 at Hillbarn Theatre, 1285 E. Hillsdale Blvd., Foster City; \$32-\$67; hillbarntheatre.org/pickleball.

Food & Drink

Eating green

Get your veggie fix at these 10 plant-based eateries on the Peninsula

By Karla Kane

When dining out on the Peninsula these days, it's usually not difficult to find some plant-based options, but for those who follow vegetarians and vegan diets, it's especially gratifying to support businesses that are specifically meatless or entirely animal-product free.

There's nothing like the feeling of browsing a menu with the knowledge that all of it is available to you (and, of course, you don't have to be vegan to enjoy a delicious, plant-based meal). Here are 10 vegetarian restaurants (many of which are fully vegan) on the Peninsula — from beloved classics to fresh establishments that have opened more recently.

Chaat Bhavan, Mountain View and Sunnyvale (vegetarian)

When Gary Singh moved to the Bay Area a couple decades ago, he found himself missing the taste of homemade Indian

food and opened the first Chaat Bhavan Vegetarian Restaurant in Fremont in 2009.

Chaat Bhavan has since expanded into a small local chain, with outposts in Mountain View and Sunnyvale. The restaurant has a huge menu with plenty of choices from across India, such as dumpling curries, snacks, thali and Indo-Chinese items, plus specialty drinks and desserts. Vegan dishes are noted on the menu.

Chaat Bhavan, 165 E. El Camino Real, Mountain View, 976 E. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale and 544 Lawrence Expressway, Sunnyvale (Chaat Bhavan Express); Instagram: @chaatbhavan.official. Check online for location hours.

Falafelle, Belmont (vegetarian)

This unassuming Mediterranean vegetarian (and mostly vegan) street-food spot in Belmont specializes in crunchy and flavorful falafel made from scratch. It's offered in various formats and combos, including wraps and pita sandwiches. You can also find salads, pickles,



Courtesy Tane Vegan Izakaya

Tane Vegan Izakaya in downtown Palo Alto is a sister restaurant to Michelin-recommended Shizen in San Francisco, specializing in vegan sushi.

labneh and fries, among other items.

Falafelle, 1035 Ralston Ave., Belmont; Instagram: @falafelle.us. Open Monday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Garden Fresh, Mountain View (vegan)

Though the downtown Palo Alto branch of Garden Fresh is no more, the longtime Mountain View location — winner of the Best Vegetarian Cuisine category in this news organization's 2024 Best of Mountain View contest — is still going strong.

For many years, Garden Fresh has been cooking up vegan

versions of Chinese classics such as crispy sesame "chicken," vegetarian "beef" with broccoli, sweet-and-sour "pork" and so much more.

Garden Fresh, 1245 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 4:30-9:30 p.m.

Happy Flower Eatery & Boba, Sunnyvale (vegan)

Happy Flower Eatery & Boba, which opened in 2023, is indeed a very happy place for Vietnamese food fans, offering fresh vegan soups, rolls, banh mi, lemongrass entrees, noodles and lunch plates, plus boba drinks and some Thai,

Malaysian and other specialties.

Happy Flower Eatery & Boba, 1274 Persian Drive, Sunnyvale; Instagram: @happyflowereatery. Open Wednesday to Monday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. (closed for vacation through Aug. 19).

Merit Vegan Restaurant, Sunnyvale (vegan)

This longtime favorite offers a big menu of plant-based dishes, many of which draw from Vietnamese and Southeast Asian cuisine, such as the Viet sweet-sour soup, Saigon noodle soup and vegan pho, plus a selection of desserts such as tiramisu, Oreo cheesecake and peanut butter pie. Merit's website also features



Courtesy Garden Fresh

Garden Fresh offers vegan Chinese food, including vegan orange "chicken" with broccoli.



Devin Roberts

Celery root creme brulee and the Shasta Daisy cocktail at Twelvemonth in Burlingame.

a free video library and a blog with articles on veganism.

Merit Vegan Restaurant, 548 Lawrence Expressway, Suite 2, Sunnyvale; Instagram: @merit-vegetarian. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 4:30-8 p.m.

Que SeRaw SeRaw, Burlingame

(mostly vegan; some honey)

Que SeRaw SeRaw is organic and mostly vegan, aside from a small amount of local honey used in some of its desserts and dressings. As the name suggests, the eatery focuses on raw foods, with a mission to offer a dining option that is easier on the planet, doesn't support factory farming and nourishes good health.

Menus vary weekly and include items such as smoothies, salads and creative raw desserts. Recently, the restaurant relocated to a new spot on Broadway in Burlingame, with plans to reopen soon, according to its Instagram account.

Que SeRaw SeRaw, reopening soon at 1305 Broadway, Burlingame; Instagram: @queserawsearaw.

Tane Vegan Izakaya, Palo Alto (vegan)

From basic favorites such as avocado rolls, California rolls made with tofu and bonito-free agadashi tofu to elaborate speciality rolls such as the Point Reyes — featuring marinated eryngii, avocado, spicy shredded tofu, pickled pineapple,



Magali Gauthier

A selection of raw cheesecakes, including blueberry, strawberry and vanilla coffee chocolate swirl, from Que SeRaw SeRaw in Burlingame. Que SeRaw SeRaw is temporarily closed, with plans to reopen in a new location.

pickled jalapeno, sweet teriyaki and habanero — to ramen and yakimono, the Palo Alto branch of Tane Vegan Izakaya is a vegan Japanese food lover's dream.

Tane Vegan Izakaya, 461 Emerson St., Palo Alto; Instagram: @taneveganpaloalto. Open Tuesday to Friday 5-9:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 4:30-10 p.m.

Twelvemonth, Burlingame (vegan)

The elegant Twelvemonth restaurant, bar and bakehouse in

Burlingame describes its cuisine as global, "through a California lens." Sourcing wine and beer exclusively from the Golden State with a focus on local producers, diners can find all kinds of dishes that celebrate the complexity, flavor and flexibility of plants, including a seasonal chef's tasting menu. Twelvemonth's environmental commitment goes beyond its plant-based food. The restaurant is certified LEED platinum, uses solar power and collects and reuses rainwater on site.

Twelvemonth, 330 Lorton

Ave., Burlingame; Instagram: @twelvemonthburlingame. Open Tuesday to Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4-8 p.m.

Veggie Garden, Mountain View (vegan)

Just up the road from Garden Fresh is Veggie Garden, another casual spot serving a selection of veggie takes on (mostly)

Chinese-food favorites, including wonton soup, vegetarian General's "chicken," and Gobi Manchurian (crispy cauliflower). You can also find Thai curry, basil tempura, sweet potato fries and vegan cakes.

Veggie Garden, 2464 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View. Open Tuesday to Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5-9:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Wildseed, Palo Alto (vegan)

Located in the bustling Town & Country Village shopping center, the Palo Alto branch of Wildseed, which also has a location in San Francisco, offers seasonally focused, plant-based cuisine with an emphasis on eating the rainbow.

The menu was developed with a registered dietician, and the cuisine is rooted in fresh takes on foods from a wide variety of traditions, from smash-burgers and pizza to curry, poke and more. Wildseed also offers housemade cocktails, gut-friendly sodas and "fancy juices."

Wildseed, 855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; Instagram: @wildseedsf. Open Monday to Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. ■

Email Assistant Lifestyle Editor Karla Kane at kkane@almanacnews.com.



Courtesy Wildseed

Outdoor dining at Wildseed, a full-service vegan restaurant in Palo Alto's Town & Country Village.

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