

Menlo Park overhauls license plate reader controls after discovering more improper searches

Flock and other ALPR systems face public scrutiny over data-sharing, privacy rights

By Arden Margulis

Amid a wave of scrutiny over automated license plate readers across the Bay Area, the Menlo Park Police Department is tightening controls on its camera data after finding that outside agencies improperly searched the system for the second time in roughly a year.

The issues have included improper searches involving federal agencies discovered in June and previous access by two out-of-state police departments, in violation of city and state regulations, according to the department.

The department revoked all existing data-sharing agreements on July 9 and is requiring outside agencies seeking

renewed access to Menlo Park's automated license plate reader (ALPR) data to sign new agreements and commit to periodic audits.

The changes follow a department audit in June that found the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC) conducted searches of Menlo Park's camera data that violated city policy. The intelligence center, a regional law enforcement collaboration, had access to Menlo Park's network of 35 cameras.

Menlo Park officials claimed in May 2026 that all 2025 searches had been reviewed and no misuse was found but conducted an additional review after the San Francisco Police

See **PLATE READER**, page 12



Riley Cooke

Menlo Park and several other Peninsula cities have scrutinized their contracts with Flock Safety over data security concerns and public complaints, including at a recent meeting of the Palo Alto City Council.

County to wage weekly battle on ground squirrel population at Flood Park

Popular county park in Menlo Park to close Wednesdays through October

By Sydney Feldman

Visitors hoping for a mid-week nature respite in Menlo Park will have to wait. Flood Park and all of its facilities — including the bike pump track, multi-use field, sports courts and walking paths — will be closed every Wednesday starting Sept. 9 through the end of October. The reason? Too many ground squirrels, county officials said.

The rapidly growing ground squirrel population has caused damage to walkways and trees, according to San Mateo County's Parks and Recreation Department. The department, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's

Wildlife Services Division, said in an Aug. 31 press release that it will be using a number of approaches to reduce the population of ground squirrels, including fumigation and setting live traps near burrows in Flood Park.

The department said that its techniques are safe for the public and will not harm wildlife other than the ground squirrels. No poison or bait boxes will be deployed, according to the press release. The fumigation, which will use sodium nitrate and charcoal, is considered to be the safest method and "doesn't get out and hurt other animals," said Jeneane Crawford, county parks' communications manager.

Ground squirrels, unlike their tree-climbing counterparts, create burrows underground to rest, store food and raise their young. In addition to fleas, mites and diseases, the dirt-colored rodents can carry hantavirus and the bubonic plague, said Crawford.

Crawford said ground squirrels have previously undermined park equipment and this is not the first time Flood Park has been closed for this kind of pest control.

Flood Park is located at 215 Bay Road in Menlo Park. For more details on the county's pest control efforts, visit smcgov.org/parks/news/pest-management-flood-park-faq. ■



Seeger Gray

A ground squirrel peeks out of a hole at the base of a fallen tree at Flood Park in Menlo Park on Sept. 1.

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Courtesy Leili Baghaei

Woodside Heights resident Eva, now 9, crafted a workbook for her little brother. With help from her mom Leili Baghaei, an expanded version might get published.

Woodside 9-year-old's handmade workbook might reach wider audience

A gift for her younger brother could 'be the start of something bigger'

By Sydney Feldman

When Eva went to stay with family friends for a week, she watched her friends' younger brother playing educational games on his iPad. After seeing how much he enjoyed learning from these games, the Woodside Heights resident said she wanted her younger brother Eli to have the same experience. But her mother was skeptical

of exposing the 4-year-old to that much screen time.

So Eva, then 8 years old, decided to make Eli some games herself. In the age of the "iPad kid," she wanted to create something tangible for her brother to play with. And that's how the Big Sister Workbook, a collection of learning and imaginative play games Eva made for her brother, was born. Soon the book could find its way into bookstores.

"I wanted it to be so it teaches him, but he can also have fun," said Eva, who's now 9 years old and a student at Sacred Heart Schools in Atherton.

Activities range from math games to art projects. To teach Eli about commutative property of addition, Eva designed what she called a flip-flop game, which gives a list of addition problems like

See **WORKBOOK**, page 14

Looking to trim deficit, Menlo Park to hike Children's Center tuition — again

City Council seeks better cost recovery at Menlo Park's childcare program

By Arden Margulis

Menlo Park parents are facing higher fees at a city-run child care program, part of the City Council's measures to address a structural deficit. Tuition is set to increase 11% over two years for preschool and day care programs at Menlo Children's Center. This comes after a 5% hike in tuition earlier this year.

"I just truly don't know what else to do at this point," Vice Mayor Jennifer Wise said during the Aug. 25 city council meeting.

Menlo Children's Center provides early childhood education at its Burgess Park child care center for children ages 18 months to 5 years. While designed to be market-rate, the center's programs are often much more affordable than those of other local providers.

However, the child care center is not cheap for the city to operate. For the most recent fiscal year, which spanned July 2025 through June 2026, the center budgeted \$2.5 million in expenses with revenue of only \$1.3 million — a cost-recovery rate of 51%. City policy aims for its revenue to cover between 70% and 100% of expenses.

With the city trying to bridge a structural deficit, Menlo Park

has been raising fees for city services across the board. In April, the City Council approved raising a myriad of fees including increasing tuition for Menlo Children's Center programs by 5% starting July 1, with the fee increases expected to generate an additional \$4 million in annual revenue.

On Aug. 25, the City Council directed city staff to prepare to raise preschool fees enough to cover 70% of the center's operating costs, an estimated 11.2% increase from current rates for toddlers and preschoolers. The increase will be spread out over two years, with one hike beginning July 2027 and another starting in July 2028. The City Council still has to hold a formal vote on the fee schedule.

If approved, the monthly cost for the toddler program would be \$2,912, up from \$2,618, and \$2,377 for the early preschool and preschool programs, up from \$2,137.

If the city sought to recover 100% of the center's operating costs, tuition would need to increase by more than 50%, to \$4,160 for the toddler program and \$3,396 for the preschool programs, according to city staff.

Menlo Children's Center

See **CHILDREN'S CENTER**, page 13

Ex-San Mateo County college chancellor appeals his felony convictions

Ronald Galatolo is serving an eight-month jail sentence

By Arden Margulis

Ronald Galatolo, the former chancellor of the San Mateo County Community College District now serving an eight-month jail sentence, is challenging his conviction on eight felony counts connected to his time leading the district. He filed a notice of appeal in August, court records show.

In February, a jury convicted

Galatolo on four counts of falsifying tax documents and four counts of perjury for failing to properly disclose income and gifts, and for filing false financial and tax documents. Jurors deadlocked on 18 additional felony charges and acquitted him of one count of perjury. Galatolo was sentenced on July 31 and immediately taken into custody.

The case centered on Galatolo's conduct from 2001 to 2019, when

he oversaw Cañada College in Redwood City, Skyline College in San Bruno and the College of San Mateo. Prosecutors alleged that Galatolo accepted and did not disclose benefits, including luxury travel, he received from district contractors, and that he failed to report income and gifts. Other allegations involved his personal tax returns, including

See **APPEAL**, page 13



Michael Molcsan

Former Chancellor Ronald Galatolo was sentenced to eight months in jail at a hearing on July 31.



RESOLUTION NO. 2493 (2026)

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

Lands of Todd C. Scheuer and Marjel M. Scheuer of The Scheuer Family 2011 Trust dated May 24, 2011

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

- A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR"), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.
- B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the "Parcel") to the District's On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the "Zone"). The Parcel is described in Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit "B" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.
- C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes "real property" for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:
- X All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or
- ☐ Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit "B" and are incorporated by reference.
- D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

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

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

Date: September 23, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices
500 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025
& via Zoom

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

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

Exhibit A

APPROVED
SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION
455 COUNTY CENTER
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

EXHIBIT "A"
ANNEXATION TO WEST BAY SANITATION DISTRICT
LANDS OF SCHEUER AND A PORTION OF SHAWNEE PASS

EXHIBIT # PAGE 2 OF 3

All that certain real property situate in the Town of Portola Valley, County of San Mateo, State of California, being all of Lot 12, Block 4 and a portion of Shawnee Pass as said Lot, Block and right-of-way are shown on that certain Map entitled "Tract No. 774 Arrowhead Meadows Unit No. 4", filed for record in the Office of the Recorder of said County on March 17, 1959, in Volume 50 of Maps at Pages 45 through 48; being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the northerly right-of-way of Shawnee Pass as shown on said Map, said point being the southerly corner of said Lot 12;

Course 1:
Thence along the southwesterly line of said Lot 12 North 39°15'00" West, 327.70 feet to the westerly corner of said Lot 12;

Course 2:
Thence along the northwesterly line of said Lot 12 North 24°30'00" East, 54.09 feet to the northerly corner of said Lot 12;

Course 3:
Thence along the northeasterly line of said Lot 12 South 65°30'00" East, 386.75 feet to the easterly corner of said Lot 12, said corner being a point on said northerly right-of-way line of Shawnee Pass;

Course 4:
Thence South 48°23'26" East, 25.00 feet to a point on the centerline of Shawnee Pass, said point also being the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the right being concave to the northwest, having a radius of 400.00 feet and to which point a radial line bears South 48°23'26" East;

Course 5:
Thence southwesterly along said centerline of Shawnee Pass and said curve through a central angle of 9°08'26" a distance of 63.81 feet;

Course 6:
Thence South 50°45'00" West, 50.00 feet to the northeasterly line of the lands annexed to Westbay Sanitary District as described in Resolution No. 1171;

Course 7:
Thence along said northeasterly line North 39°15'00" West, 25.00 feet to said northerly right-of-way of Shawnee Pass and the northerly line of said Resolution 1171;

Course 8:
Thence along said northerly right-of-way of Shawnee Pass and the northerly line of said Resolution 1171 South 50°45'00" West, 110.00 feet to the Point of Beginning

As shown on the plat attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Containing an area of: 49,660 sq. ft. or 1.140 acres, more or less.

FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY. THIS DESCRIPTION OF LAND IS NOT A LEGAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AS DEFINED IN THE SUBDIVISION MAP ACT AND MAY NOT BE USED AS THE BASIS FOR AN OFFER FOR SALE OF THE LAND DESCRIBED

Description prepared by Dains Land Surveying, Inc.

Robert J. Dains L.S. 8227
Date April 30, 2026

APPROVED
SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION
455 COUNTY CENTER
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

EXHIBIT # PAGE 2 OF 3

Exhibit B

DISCLAIMER:
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EXHIBIT # PAGE 2 OF 3

SHAWNEE PASS (50' R/W)

LEGEND
PROPOSED ANNEXATION AREA
EXISTING ANNEXATION AREA
ADJACENT PROPERTY LINES

GRAPHIC SCALE
1 inch = 60 ft.

EXHIBIT "B" - PLAT TO ACCOMPANY LEGAL DESCRIPTION
WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ANNEXATION - 245 SHAWNEE PASS
PORTOLA VALLEY
SAN MATEO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

PLAT: RJD SCALE: 1" = 60' DATE: 04/30/2026 JOB #: 26-1701

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Editor Andrea Gemmet, 223-6537,
agemmet@almanacnews.com

Staff Writers
Arden Margulis, amargulis@almanacnews.com
Jennifer Yoshikoshi, jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com

Print & Lifestyle Editor Linda Taaffe,
223-6511, ltaaffe@almanacnews.com

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

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

Food Editor Adrienne Mitchel,
amitchel@almanacnews.com

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

Lifestyle Assistant Editor Karla Kane,
kkane@almanacnews.com

Visual Journalist Seeger Gray,
sgray@almanacnews.com

**Embarcadero Media Foundation
Staff Writers**

Hannah Bensen, hbensen@almanacnews.com
B. Sakura Cannestra, scannestra@almanacnews.com
Christina Casillas, 223-6510
Riley Cooke, 223-6524
Emily Margaretten, 223-6517
Miranda de Moraes, 223-6533
Lisa Moreno, lmoreno@almanacnews.com

Editorial Interns Sydney Feldman,
Dylan Ryu, Ellis Yang

Photography Intern Michael Molcsan
Contributors Kate Daly, Ashwini Gangal,
Neil Gonzales, Maggie Mah, Sheryl
Nonnenberg

ADVERTISING

Major Accounts Sales Manager
Connie Cotton, 223-6571

Multimedia Advertising Sales
Elaine Ogden, 223-6572

Real Estate Manager Neal Fine

ADVERTISING SERVICES

Advertising Services Manager
Kevin Legarda, 223-6597

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

- **Newsroom:** (650) 223-6525
- **Email news** and photos with captions to: Editor@AlmanacNews.com
- **Email letters to:** Letters@AlmanacNews.com
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The Almanac (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media Foundation, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County. The Almanac is delivered to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to **AlmanacNews.com/become-a-member/** to start supporting The Almanac today.

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Motorcycle crashes claimed lives of two Redwood City residents

Irma Elizabeth Oxlaj-Vargas, Pedro Armando García Hernández leave mourning families, friends

By B. Sakura Cannestra

Elinda Oxlaj remembers her sister Irma as kind and hardworking.

"She was doing good. She was working so hard to try to send everything to her kids and her mom and support them as much as she can," Oxlaj said. "And then now this happened. ... It's so hard to believe."

Irma Elizabeth Oxlaj-Vargas, 38, died in a motorcycle crash Aug. 20, after authorities said another driver struck her while she was riding on Highway 101 through East Palo Alto. Almost 12 hours earlier, Pedro Armando García Hernández, 24, was struck and killed while driving his motorcycle on El Camino Real near the Stanford Shopping Center. Both were residents of Redwood City.

Oxlaj said her younger sister had come to the United States about nine years ago, hoping to build a better life for her family. She worked at a nearby Jack in the Box fast food restaurant, where



Seeger Gray.

Cars drive on U.S. Highway 101 near San Antonio Road in Palo Alto.

Oxlaj said she was close with her coworkers. She sent most of the money she earned home to her two children and their mother, who live in Guatemala.

Oxlaj-Vargas lived with Oxlaj and her family in Redwood City. Oxlaj said she was a very thoughtful sister and a loving

aunt who always bought cake and presents for her niece and nephews, and looked for opportunities to spend time with her.

"She showed a lot of love for us," Oxlaj said. "Maybe she doesn't tell us very often how much she loved us, but her acts, what she does for us, it was showing us

how much she loves us."

Oxlaj-Vargas' memorial was held Aug. 30 at Verbo Redwood City. Her friends also organized a fundraiser for the memorial, funeral and other costs associated with her sudden death.

The California Highway Patrol arrested an 18-year-old in connection with the crash. Oxlaj said she's been told the investigation is still ongoing and asked that anyone with information or video of the crash please contact the CHP.

Along with her hardworking nature and dedication to her family, Oxlaj-Vargas' friend and coworker Varinia Abad Serrato said she remembers her thoughtfulness and playfulness when working together. She said Oxlaj-Vargas would often joke around with her, as she was one of the youngest people on the team, at 23.

Abad Serrato said she and Oxlaj-Vargas had worked together at the Jack in the Box on Broadway Street since 2019, including previously working on the same shift three days a

week. Abad Serrato said she and her sister were close friends with Oxlaj-Vargas. Her sister and Oxlaj-Vargas would call each other "tía," while Abad Serrato and Oxlaj-Vargas would call each other "Marimar," in reference to the 1994 telenovela "Marimar."

"She was kind, lovely, friendly — she was everything, really. She was a great person," Abad Serrato said.

García Hernández's family have also organized a fundraiser for his memorial and other associated costs. His family hosted a memorial for him in Desert Hot Springs, where his brother Eber Uriel Hernandez lives.

Since 2020, there has been an average of 35 deaths annually related to car crashes in San Mateo County, with the peak being 43 deaths in 2020. Over that same timeframe, there has been an annual average of four motorcycle-related deaths. ■

Email Staff Writer

B. Sakura Cannestra at

scannestra@almanacnews.com.

School board candidates running for Menlo Park and Sequoia districts

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

School board races across the Midpeninsula will have both returning incumbents and newcomers in the coming year, but only two school districts will have candidates on the Nov. 3 general election ballot: Menlo Park City School District and Sequoia Union High School District.

Menlo Park City School District

Four candidates are vying for three open seats on the Menlo Park City School District: incumbents Jed Scolnick and Sherwin

Chen and newcomers Maya Herstein and Andrew Barnes.

Herstein is the parent of three students in the district. Her eldest child recently graduated from Hillview Middle School and her youngest attends Oak Knoll Elementary School. Herstein holds a law degree and an MBA.

She has served on the district's Local Control and Accountability Plan committee, co-chaired Hillview's service team and volunteered with the Parent Teacher Organization. Herstein's priorities include student safety, academic excellence, responsible budgeting and support for teachers, according to

her candidate statement.

She said that the board needs the perspective of a current parent who can share the experience of what MPCSD's families are facing today. For more information on Herstein's campaign visit mayaformenlo.com.

Scolnick first joined the board in 2022 and is seeking reelection to continue working with the district as it faces declining enrollment, delivering Measure U-funded projects transparently and protecting long-term financial health.

Barnes is the parent of a Laurel School and Hillview graduate and is the chairman of the Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee for Measure U. He works for the County of Santa Clara's Facilities and Fleet Department, managing acquisitions and building improvements. Barnes also served on the Menlo Park Planning Commission for eight years.

He said he hopes to be able to help the district push forward infrastructure projects funded by Measure U and use his expertise in facilities and real estate to help MPCSD with projects such as the redevelopment of Lower Laurel's campus.

Chen is seeking reelection for his third term on the school board, after being elected in 2018. Over his past two terms, Chen has helped the district navigate students returning to campus during the COVID-19 pandemic, ending years of

budget deficits and introducing a parcel tax that stabilized district finances, according to his candidate statement.

Chen is the parent of two MPCSD graduates, a retired finance professional and a Menlo Park resident for over 20 years. In his next term, he aims to strengthen academic excellence, student well-being, fiscal

discipline and completing campuswide construction projects on time and on budget.

Sequoia Union High School District

Incumbent Amy Koo and Belmont resident Alon Shiran will be on the ballot for Area A

See **SCHOOL BOARDS**, page 8



Miguel Francisco Carrion

Fourth grade students at Laurel School Upper Campus in Menlo Park work on an activity about artist Keith Haring on Aug. 31.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

New Condo Guidelines for Lenders



Dear Monica: I am selling my townhouse that is part of a complex of six units. What should I provide for a buyer obtaining a loan under the new rules? Marian C.

Dear Marian: The collapse of the Surfside condo in Florida caused lenders to require review of building condition and maintenance, HOA finances and reserves, and insurance. In August 2026 these new rules for complexes of 10 or more units became effective. Loans will take longer to be approved, and sellers should provide this information up front to speed the process along. Your unit is in a smaller complex and will be exempt from the new rules.

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

Sequoia district's youngest incumbent drops out of board race, endorses opponent

Sathvik Nori's name will still appear on the November ballot

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The school board race for the Sequoia Union High School District has lost a candidate. In a joint statement, incumbent Sathvik Nori announced he will not seek reelection and endorsed his opponent Michael Dekshenieks.

While Nori's name will still appear on the ballot, he asked community members to redirect their votes to support Dekshenieks in the Nov. 3 general election.

"After careful consideration, I have decided not to seek reelection to the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees representing Area D," said Nori in a written statement.

"It has been an incredible honor to serve our students, families, educators and communities, and I am proud of the work we have done together."

Nori was elected to the school board's Area D seat in 2022 as a new graduate from Menlo-Atherton High School — making him the youngest person to be elected to the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees. Area D encompasses neighborhoods in central Menlo Park, North Fair Oaks and Atherton.

"I have known Deks for the past seven years and have seen firsthand his deep commitment to students and families in our district," said Nori in a press release, referring to

Dekshenieks. "He is a thoughtful and dedicated advocate who understands the importance of ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed."

Dekshenieks, a management executive and former Naval officer, is a parent of two Menlo-Atherton graduates and volunteer lacrosse coach at M-A. He has previously advocated to maintain ninth grade honors courses in district schools.

"As a client-facing management executive and a former U.S. Navy Officer, I have built my career around leading teams and solving complex problems, and I am excited to bring that experience to serving our schools and community," Dekshenieks said.



Seeger Gray

Nori, shown at a meeting Aug. 4, ended his reelection bid and endorsed his challenger.

His campaign is focused on academic excellence, student opportunity and data-driven policies, according to his candidate statement. Dekshenieks's priorities also include classroom curriculum, student safety, teacher retention and skillful budgeting of taxpayer dollars.

Dekshenieks expressed gratitude toward Nori for his endorsement, stating that he looks forward to "following in his footsteps." ■

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

Why San Mateo County Sheriff's Office is hiring an ombudsperson

Sheriff Ken Binder hopes for more transparency, accountability in jails

By B. Sakura Cannestra

Creating more robust checks and balances for the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office has been a top priority for many local residents for years, and Sheriff Ken Binder is trying a new approach: an ombudsperson.

An ombudsperson is generally a government official who works to resolve complaints about a system. The Sheriff's Office is looking for an ombudsperson to improve communication between incarcerated people, their families, the office itself and the broader community. The person hired will be tasked with processing complaints related to the county's jail system and working with others in the office to improve conditions, officials say.

Spokesperson Gretchen Spiker said Binder suggested the role during his appointment last November, saying it would support the office's efforts to improve transparency and rebuild trust.

"The ombudsperson will help improve the responsiveness and effectiveness of the complaint process related to our correctional facilities, work collaboratively with the Sheriff's Office to identify opportunities for improvement and serve as a neutral resource for community members," Spiker said in an email.

The application opened on July 28 and closed on Aug. 11. During that window, Spiker said the office received 50 applications, which the county is in the process of reviewing as it hopes to fill the position in the coming months.

The position is funded through the office's annual budget, which was approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. According to the job listing, the role has a budgeted pay range of \$121,264 to \$151,611.

The addition of an ombudsperson comes at a time when the county Sheriff's Office seeks stability after a period marked by scandals and calls for reform. Binder was appointed by the

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors after former Sheriff Christina Corpus was ousted amid allegations of misconduct and corruption. The board gained the temporary power to remove her after voters passed a charter amendment in March 2025 with about 84% of the vote.

Residents have been pushing for reform at the Sheriff's Office across a range of topics unrelated to Corpus' removal, many involving the jail system. Advocates have been protesting county policies that limit incarcerated people's access to mail through a digital-only platform and demanding reform of how the jail delivers prescription medication after 25-year-old Kyle Harrison died at the Maple Street Correctional Facility. Deteriorating infrastructure is another concern, as in-person visits at Maguire Correctional Facility were completely stopped for six months in 2025 due to a broken elevator.

Nancy Goodban, executive

director of the public safety advocacy group Fixin' San Mateo County, said it will be good to have stronger oversight of the jail system but worries the ombudsperson won't have enough power to enact broader policy changes.

"I don't have any objections, and none of us do to having an ombudsperson in the county," Goodban said. "There's nothing wrong with it, but it's certainly not as strong."

She also said the Sheriff's Office needs more accountability mechanisms on other topics, such as use of force. Fixin' San Mateo County has been advocating for an inspector general office to be established. Goodban said an inspector general would be more independent of the Sheriff's Office and have more freedom to hold the office accountable by reporting directly to the Board of Supervisors and to the public.

The county's Independent Civilian Advisory Commission to the Sheriff's Office recommended the county create a permanent

independent inspector general in April 2025. Commissioner Rob Silano was part of that vote, though he said he's changed his mind because of his trust in Binder's leadership and the office's managerial team.

Silano said the jail is one of the office's biggest "problem areas," so he understands hiring someone to specifically provide oversight, handle complaints and propose improvements. However, "when the dust settles," Silano said he thinks the position could be expanded to other areas of the office.

"Do we have to spend \$4 million of taxpayer money to set up a different division?" Silano said. "It's not out of control anymore. The reason I voted for an inspector general is because of what was in place then, but now I have ultimate confidence in the Sheriff's Office." ■

Email Staff Writer
B. Sakura Cannestra at
scannestra@almanacnews.com.

SCHOOL BOARDS

continued from page 7

residents, an area that includes Redwood Shores, Belmont, San Carlos and parts of Redwood City.

Koo, who has served on the board since 2022, said she wants to prioritize improving communication, engagement and collaboration of stakeholders, and support the recruitment and retention of teachers. Her campaign also focuses on

ensuring fiscal responsibility, efficient operations and creating a safe and inclusive learning environment.

Koo also served on the Belmont-Redwood Shores School Board from 2013 through 2022. She is currently working as a finance professional and was previously a director at Gilead Sciences, a pharmaceutical company. Read more about Koo's campaign on amykoo.org.

Shiran is the vice president of product and design at Next

Insurance, an insurance technology company. His three young children are currently attending Sequoia Union-feeder schools Redwood Shores Elementary, Central Elementary and Ralston Middle School.

Shiran's campaign focuses on restoring academic excellence, fiscal discipline and transparency and preparing students with "future-ready curriculum" that provides students with exposure to various career paths.

If elected, he aims to restore

rigorous pathways and allocate district finances to support teachers and students rather than expanding district administration. Shiran also wants to restore the partnership between schools and families by pushing for a board that listens to the community and holds the district accountable. For more information on Shiran's campaign visit alonfordschools.com.

Voters in Area D will see two names on their ballot, but only one candidate remains in

the race. Incumbent Sathvik Nori announced he will not seek reelection to the Sequoia Board and endorsed his opponent Michael Dekshenieks. Nori withdrew from the race after the deadline to have his name taken off the ballot.

Area D encompasses neighborhoods in central Menlo Park, North Fair Oaks and Atherton. ■

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



Classic Spanish Colonial Revival

1800 Waverley Street, Palo Alto

4 BD | 2.5 BA | 2,965 SF | 9,600 SF LOT | \$7,295,000

Open House SAT / SUN 1:30-4:30

This Spanish Colonial Revival home in Old Palo Alto is rich in architectural character and available for the first time in 40 years. Dating to 1928, the home presents an impressive facade with a red clay tile roof and second-story balconies, an expanded floor plan and fresh updates for modern living. Two commissioned sculptures by renowned San Francisco artist Michael Szabo introduce the home, which begins with a private gated courtyard. Original character is showcased throughout the 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with carved ceiling beams, terra cotta tile floors, divided-light metal windows and arched entryways. Formal living and dining rooms are complemented by a family room with extensive built-in cabinetry and access to the rear gardens. The updated kitchen features sleek cabinetry topped with beautiful quartz counters and full-height backsplashes. The expansive sunny corner lot is landscaped with private wraparound gardens, terra cotta tile patios and mature foliage. With its enduring architecture and generous grounds in Palo Alto's premier neighborhood highly regarded for its distinctive homes, this exceptional property is also just minutes from the city's vibrant downtown, excellent public schools, Stanford University and commute routes to Silicon Valley's top tech companies!

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DRE# 01349099
Realtor®
650.380.0085
colleen.foraker@compass.com



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DRE 01490400
Realtor®
650.946.8122
carolyn.keddington@compass.com

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Local businesses raise funds for Nepal flood relief

Fundraisers hope to encourage others to donate, publicize donation fund

By B. Sakura Cannestra

Following last week's devastating flood in Nepal, Palo Alto-based Pakistani restaurant Zareen's will be among the businesses raising money to support Nepali relief efforts. And it is hoping more businesses follow suit.

From Sept. 3 to Sept. 7, the restaurant will be setting aside a cut of all earnings for the nonprofit Doctors Without Borders, with a goal of raising \$2,500. They join the dozens of businesses and individuals across the Bay Area who are mobilizing to support Nepal following the Aug. 26 flash floods, which leveled whole towns, leaving more than 1,000 people dead and about 4,000 people missing.

Upon hearing about the tragedy, the restaurant's head chef and owner Zareen Khan said she felt compelled to "jump in and help."

"I want our community to know that we'll always be there in these kinds of situations," Khan said. "It's one of our missions to lead with our hearts."

Doctors Without Borders posted a press release Aug. 27 saying the organization is assessing the situation and is ready to provide support however possible. Khan, who is from Pakistan, said medical support is critical in floods and



Natalia Nazarova

Zareen Khan, chef-owner of Zareen's Restaurant, cooks chicken in the restaurant's kitchen in 2014.

monsoons, as water-borne diseases can spread rapidly.

She said she doesn't have a specific percentage of proceeds in mind for this weekend's fundraiser, as it's unclear how much revenue the restaurant will generate, but that she's set a goal for more than \$2,000.

"We have to do whatever little we can do," Khan said.

Fundraisers are being organized across the Bay Area to support relief efforts. The Nepali Association of Northern California hosted a candlelight vigil on Aug. 28 at the nonprofit's community center in Richmond, where it first began collecting donations for relief efforts. The

association is collecting money for the Government of Nepal Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund, which goes directly into the government's response and recovery efforts.

Association President Preetesh Karki said they've been able to collect more than \$30,000 since then, mostly from Nepali residents throughout the Bay Area, though he's seen more and more people from outside the community look for ways to help.

Along with publicizing the government's direct link, the association has been fundraising themselves and donating to the same relief fund. Because the association is a 501c3 nonprofit,

Karki said people have the benefit of counting the donation toward their taxes.

"People are looking for ways to help, and everyone feels the pain," Karki said.

Karki is a co-owner of the San Carlos restaurant Nepali Momo & Tandoori Kitchen, which opened this summer. He said they've been discussing the best way to fundraise through the restaurant.

Rara, a Nepali restaurant on California Avenue in Palo Alto, has been advertising the government's disaster fund for the past few days by posting QR codes on its social media and posters at the restaurant. Head chef and co-owner Binod Poubel said his sister, her husband, and their daughter and her husband are among those missing.

Poubel's son, Adi, said people seem eager to support. The restaurant posted signs inside and outside the restaurant, and within one day, he noticed multiple people passing by on the street stop to scan the fund's QR code. Adi Poudel said the restaurant is also thinking of ways to donate portions of their proceeds.

"The response is good," Adi Poudel said. "A lot of people are saying (they want) to help and are encouraging us."

Although Karki said he's glad Nepal has been receiving

support, he added that the amounts that have been raised so far are nowhere near the damage cost estimates, which Nepali officials say hover around \$5 billion. Karki said he's hoping to see more support come in from governments and larger companies.

On top of monetary donations, Karki said he hopes wealthier nations' governments help relief efforts by providing more direct or tangible aid, such as by granting temporary protected statuses for people of Nepali origin who were in the United States on temporary visas during the flood.

The floods were caused by a glacier collapse, a natural disaster that Karki said is expected to become more common with climate change. These disasters have a disproportionate effect on nations like Nepal, which don't generate nearly as much carbon emission or waste as the United States.

"This is not the time to just pray for Nepal. This is the time to apologize to Nepal and Nepali people," Karki said. "These donations are not just like charity. The way I see it is like a bill you pay. You're using something, and then you have to pay for it." ■

Email Staff Writer

B. Sakura Cannestra at

scannestra@almanacnews.com.

Judge sides with The Stanford Daily in First Amendment case

In targeting foreign students over Israel criticism, federal government violated constitution

By Gennady Sheyner

In a sweeping ruling with national implications, a federal judge sided with The Stanford Daily and ruled on Aug. 28 that the federal government violated the U.S. Constitution when it targeted student journalists who wrote stories that criticized Israel and participated in pro-Palestinian demonstration.

In a 90-page ruling that liberally cited Benjamin Franklin and James Madison, United States District Judge Noël Wise found that the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security violated the First Amendment and the Fifth Amendment of the constitution when government officials detained and tried to deport noncitizen students who spoke out against Israel.

The Stanford Daily, which is the university's student publication, alleged in its complaint that the aggressive enforcement

actions have already had chilling effect on the newspaper's coverage. Many of its noncitizen writers have declined to cover pro-Palestinian protests or to cover topics relating to the war in Gaza despite being "lawfully present," according to the court documents. An editor at Stanford Daily had reportedly quit because of his visa status, while a writer had declined to publish an article about a vigil relating to Gaza, according to the suit.

Stanford was joined in the lawsuit by Jane Doe, an unnamed pro-Palestine activist who is not affiliated with the university or the newspaper, but who was reportedly driven to "self-censor" because of the federal actions. It named as defendants U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Markwayne Mullin, Secretary of Homeland Security.

Stanford contended in its complaint that the government has been violating the constitution by invoking the

Immigration and Nationality Act to cancel student visas and launch deportation proceedings. Wise agreed and concluded that the government used these provisions in a way that violated the constitutional rights of the activists it was targeting.

The ruling cites numerous examples of immigration officials detaining students in who wrote stories that were critical of Israel. These include the detentions of Mahmoud Khalil, an activist who led pro-Palestinian demonstrations at Columbia University; Rümeysa Öztürk, a doctorate student at Tufts University who was detained for writing an op-ed in the student paper that criticized the university for, among other things, refusing to recognize "genocide" in Gaza; and Mohsen Mahdawi, a Columbia student who was targeted for deportation because of his participation in campus protests.

"Through these examples of government enforcement,



Gennady Sheyner

Mahmoud Khalil, shown at "The People's Commencement" ceremony in Stanford University on June 14, was one of the foreign students detained by immigration officials.

coupled with the government's many statements about how it will revoke visas and deport noncitizens who express opinions unacceptable to the government regarding Israel and Palestine, Stanford Daily has

established that there is a substantial risk that its members too face visa revocation and deportation," Wise wrote in her order. "Stanford Daily, on behalf

See **THE STANFORD DAILY**, page 14

Local pup takes second in World's Ugliest Dog Contest

Pinky is often mistaken for a pig

By Karla Kane

Redwood City resident Pinky has a beauty that you might call ... unconventional. In fact, the senior mutt — an albino Pomeranian/Chihuahua mix with patchy fur, sensitive pink skin and a piglet-esque vibe — recently won second place in the World's Ugliest Dog Contest, held on Aug. 14.

Pinky was entered into the long-running annual contest by his humans, Laura Brown and Ronald Cheng. Cheng read an article about last year's competition and thought, "You know, Pinky looks more interesting than some of those dogs," he said. "We just thought it would be funny to enter. And we really didn't think he would place at all. We just kind of did it for fun, so it was a nice surprise," Cheng said.

Pinky, who is estimated to be around 11 years old, was adopted about five years ago from local organization Pets in Need. Brown's friend, who worked at the shelter, sent her a video of the pup. In addition to his

albinism (a congenital condition that prevents the production of melanin), Pinky previously had mange, which led to some damaged follicles and permanent bald patches. When Brown saw him and heard his story, it was love at first sight.

"I was like, 'Oh my God, he looks like a pig.' And then his listing also said that he's sensitive to the sun, and I've been sensitive to the sun my whole life," Brown recalled. "He's like me! He needs to wear sunscreen outside." And I just thought that was really nice."

Pinky is indeed often mistaken for a pig, Brown and Cheng said (and, as if on cue, toward the end of this interview a passerby did confuse him for one). In personality, Cheng fondly described Pinky as "a grumpy old guy." He can be playful, but he's fairly independent and almost cat-like, "if a cat could bark at you," Brown said with a laugh.

Brown volunteers with the animal fostering organization Companion Animal Community Center and has noticed

that while more conventionally "cute" pups tend to get adopted quickly, she gravitates toward the others.

"I always really like the kind of weird-looking dogs. I have the most fun with them," she said.

Of course, the use of the term "ugly" is meant lightheartedly. "Unique" is a better term to describe the looks of Pinky and his fellow contestants, Cheng and Brown said. The competition's website puts it this way: "The World's Ugliest Dog Contest isn't about making fun of 'ugly' dogs — it's about celebrating wonderful characters and showing the world that these dogs are truly beautiful!"

The contest aims to advocate for shelter dogs and pet



Karla Kane

Redwood City rescue pup Pinky won second place in the 2026 World's Ugliest Dog Contest.

adoption and has been running for 50 years, held at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa. It's free to enter and, once Pinky's application was accepted, he and his humans headed up north to walk the red carpet

and answer a few questions from the judging panel.

"It's not very much work on the dog's part. It's more work on the humans' part," Brown said.

See **DOG**, page 13

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kings Mountain Art Fair returns

The annual Kings Mountain Art Fair is returning this Labor Day weekend, Saturday through Monday, Sept. 5-7, at the Kings Mountain Community Center and Firehouse at 13889 Skyline Blvd. Proceeds from the fair go to the Kings Mountain Elementary School and Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Artist booths selling art, jewelry, clothing and pottery will be open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and lunch will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Parking is located along Skyline Boulevard and visitors must walk to the fair. There will also be shuttle stops located 0.8 miles north and 0.6 miles south of the fair on Skyline Boulevard. Free shuttles will run from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bicycle racks are also available at the south entrance.

For more information visit kingsmountainartfair.org.

Registrations open for Zott's to Tots run

Portola Valley's Zott's to Tots Family Run and Bike is taking place on Saturday, Sept. 19. Participants have until Sept. 17 to register for the event.

The event starts at Rossotti's Alpine Inn and will finish at Westridge Drive on Portola Road. Afterward, the town will host its annual picnic at Town Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To register for the event visit tinyurl.com/ZottstoTots.

Woodside Town Center Area Plan survey deadline extended

The deadline for submitting a survey on Woodside's second Town Center Area Plan Update has been extended to Monday, Sept. 7. The town is currently gathering feedback from the community to help determine and develop preliminary concepts for transportation, parking, land use and public gathering spaces at Town Center.

The survey is estimated to take about 10 to 15 minutes to complete. All questions are optional. To take the survey, visit surveymonkey.com/r/WTCAP_Survey2.

—Jennifer Yoshikoshi



26TH ANNUAL

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Benefiting the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation
Pancakes, Silent Auction, Fire Truck Tours, Kids Activities, and more!

Saturday, September 12
7:30-11 AM

Donations Gratefully Accepted at the Door

MENLO PARK FIRE DISTRICT HQ
300 MIDDLEFIELD RD, MENLO PARK



SCAN ME



PLATE READER

continued from page 1

Department's announced that NCRIC had conducted improper searches of its ALPR data.

Automated license plate readers are cameras that photograph passing vehicles and use software to identify and record their license plates, along with information such as the time and location of the detection. Menlo Park and many neighboring cities contract with Flock Safety, a private technology company that operates ALPR cameras and a database that allows information captured by the cameras to be shared with other departments.

For the June NCRIC audit, Menlo Park police examined 214,147 searches that the center conducted of the city's data since it got access in February 2025. About 0.33%, or roughly 700 searches, did not comply with department policy based on the

stated reason for the search.

The noncompliant searches involved federal agencies investigating violent crimes, criminal fugitives, human trafficking and crimes against children, Menlo Park police spokesperson Nicole Acker said. California law prohibits local police departments from sharing ALPR data with federal or out-of-state law enforcement agencies. Acker said the audit found no searches related to immigration enforcement or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

This is not the first time Menlo Park has allowed outside agencies to access its ALPR data in violation of city and state law. In August 2025, The Almanac reported that the department had mistakenly granted access to police departments in Houston, Texas, and a small town in Illinois.

Menlo Park police later said in a September report to the City Council that the mistake

occurred because the department had approved the agencies' requests to share ALPR data before Menlo Park had cameras of its own and then failed to revoke that access after its system went online.

Growing opposition to Flock

The latest revelation comes amid growing scrutiny of Flock and law enforcement agencies' use of ALPR technology. Across the country, at least 56 law enforcement agencies have canceled their contracts with Flock amid privacy concerns and instances of misuse. Locally, following inquiries by The Almanac's sister publication, the Mountain View Voice, the Mountain View City Council canceled its contract with Flock after discovering that access had been granted to out-of-state agencies.

At the Aug. 25 Menlo Park City Council meeting, several speakers implored elected



Michael Molcsan

Flock Safety's automated license plate reader system has come under growing scrutiny over privacy concerns. Peninsula cities including Atherton, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Redwood City and Mountain View have discovered searches or data-sharing practices that violated local policies or state law.

officials to consider ending the city's contract with Flock.

"I've heard over and over again that the license plate readers are making residents in all of our cities feel unsafe, and there's a particularly acute concern about federal agencies using this data in violation of California law to go after our immigrant community members," Clara Jaekel, a Redwood City resident and member of its police advisory committee, told the Menlo Park City Council.

At a police advisory committee meeting earlier this month, Redwood City Police Chief Kristina Bell announced for the first time that improper settings had allowed at least 99 searches by other agencies and Flock employees of the city's network.

Palo Alto's Flock network was also searched by thousands of out-of-state agencies after the city unknowingly opted in to a nationwide sharing database. Its City Council is hiring an external firm to conduct an audit of the city's system as activists call for the contract to be canceled.

The San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury recently released a report examining the technology and recommending changes to ALPR policies in Menlo Park and other cities. Menlo Park police officials said the department is reviewing the report.

Prior to this latest audit, Menlo Park Police Chief Dave Norris told the council that ALPRs have been a vital tool for the department. He said that in 2025, the technology helped police recover eight stolen vehicles, find six wanted individuals and resolve three weapons-related incidents, among other benefits.

New requirements

Since Menlo Park rolled out its additional requirements in July, outside agencies have been slow to agree to them. So far, only five law enforcement agencies — the

police departments of East Palo Alto, San Mateo and South San Francisco, as well as the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and San Diego County District Attorney's Office — have been granted access. The department previously shared its ALPR data with 242 California agencies.

Agencies seeking access to Menlo Park's ALPR data must sign a city-specific agreement affirming that they will comply with California law and local regulations, as well as conduct periodic internal audits of their ALPR use. While city policy already required the department to retain all approved requests, Acker said the department's previous practice did not include maintaining a formal agreement for each agency in its records.

"This is not a question of 'old vs. new,'" Acker said. "The manner of sharing within the existing Flock database environment also requires that agencies comply with law and policy."

Menlo Park's rules do not dictate how frequently partner agencies must conduct audits or what those reviews must entail.

The department said it will revoke an agency's access if it learns that the agency is not complying with the requirements. It did not say whether NCRIC would be granted access again.

In addition to reviewing searches by its own officers, Menlo Park has started conducting quarterly audits of external searches. Its first quarterly audit, covering April through June, reviewed 122,450 searches by external agencies and found they were all compliant.

Menlo Park also reviewed 377 searches conducted by its own officers and found no indicators of noncompliance, according to the department's Aug. 11 report. ■

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



Town of Atherton

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

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

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: council@athertonca.gov

Description: The Town Council will consider amendments to the Atherton Municipal Code Chapter 15 revising guidelines and adding regulations to section 15.40.152 with the intent to improve managing the impact of multiple construction projects within Atherton. **A copy of the City Council staff report and draft Ordinance can be found online, by Friday, September 11, 2026 here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>**

The proposed amendments would revise the requirements and add regulatory authority to Chapter 15.40.152 of the Code regarding the construction operations and parking plan guidelines required for full-site and other large-scale construction projects.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said public hearing item is set to be heard 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.

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

IF YOU CHALLENGE any actions taken to adopt the proposed Ordinance revisions 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 council@athertonca.gov or 650-752-0500. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the City Clerk at Town@athertonca.gov or 650-752-0500 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL
/s/ Anthony Suber
Anthony Suber, City Clerk

Date Published: September 1, 2026
Date Posted: September 1, 2026

CHILDREN'S CENTER

continued from page 5

after-school programs are not slated for further fee increases beyond the 5% approved in April that took effect July 1.

Programs at Belle Haven Child Development Center receive a state grant to cover expenses, excluding administrative overhead, and have not raised tuition.

'It's really easy to say yes'

While councilmembers largely agreed on increasing fees to cover 70% of Menlo Children's Center's costs, there was debate over whether to spread the increase over two years or three.

Councilmember Jeff Schmidt encouraged his colleagues to consider spreading the increase over three years in light of the recent 5% hike, but Mayor Betsy Nash said she was too concerned about the city's budget to wait that long.

As a compromise, Councilmember Drew Combs suggested that the new increases start next July so families that budgeted for the school year would not face a surprise increase. Schmidt and Nash both supported that idea.

"It's really easy to say yes and it's really hard when it comes to then looking at the budget," Nash said.

Combs deferred to the plurality of councilmembers — Wise and Nash — that supported spreading the increase over two years starting in July 2027. Councilmember Cecilia Taylor, who had left the council meeting hours earlier, did not weigh in.

Future of the Children's Center

But the future of the Menlo Children's Center is murky. Following a state mandate for school districts to offer universal transitional kindergarten, the center saw a drop in enrollment

among transitional kindergarten-eligible children. After a restructuring, the child care center is nearly fully enrolled, with 52 of 60 slots filled and the remaining spots expected to be filled by the end of October.

City staff said the council also could consider longer-term restructuring, such as focusing only on younger children and phasing out care for preschoolers altogether or decreasing the number of programs for all age groups. The council asked city staff to review the price of city-run programs and compare them to competing programs. ■



Eleanor Raab

Fees at Menlo Park's city-run childcare program at 801 Laurel St. will increase more than 11% over two years.

APPEAL

continued from page 5

claims that he improperly took a personal tax deduction for a charitable contribution made by the college district.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Shin-Mee Chang said prosecutors had expected Galatolo to appeal. His defense attorney, Charles Smith III, did not respond to a request for comment.

San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe decided not to retry Galatolo on the 18 remaining counts in March.

Before he was sentenced, Galatolo sought a new trial on two counts and asked the court to reduce four felony convictions to misdemeanors. Superior Court Judge Leland Davis III denied those requests.

Davis sentenced Galatolo to eight months in county jail, two years of probation and 100 hours of community service. The San Mateo County Probation Department had recommended a prison sentence, while Galatolo's attorney, Charles Smith III, argued for probation. Galatolo faced a maximum possible sentence of seven years and four months in prison.

At the sentencing hearing, Davis said he had "extreme difficulties" believing that Galatolo was remorseful and faulted the former chancellor for not fully accepting responsibility.

Deputies took Galatolo into custody immediately after the sentencing hearing. According to the San Mateo County inmate locator, he remains housed at the Maple Street Correctional Center and is scheduled to be released Nov. 27. Inmates in California often only serve half of their sentence with credit for good behavior.

The appeal notice filed with the court on Aug. 20 does not identify the arguments Galatolo plans to raise. Filing the notice preserves Galatolo's right to seek review of the conviction and sentence by a higher court; it does not overturn the verdict or automatically delay his incarceration.

As of Sept. 1, this news organization could not find records of the appeal with the California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, which covers San Mateo County. ■

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

DOG

continued from page 11

"They seemed especially interested just in the dog sunscreen aspect, and then, him looking like a pig. So we think those are the two elements that helped him place," Cheng said.

For his second-place finish, Pinky and family won a trophy, a \$3,000 check and eternal bragging rights. Brown said Pinky was a bit tired out afterward but "was a really good boy," and attracted plenty of attention at

the fairgrounds (while wearing his sunscreen, of course).

Satisfied by the experience, Pinky plans to retire from the pageant circuit and not return next year to try again for the top prize, which comes with \$5,000 and a trip to New York.

"It's a lot to ask of a little dog," Brown said. Cheng agreed. "It was a fun experience but, yeah, I think we're good." ■

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



Town of Atherton

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

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, Chapter 5.20 amending the code related to soliciting and canvassing within Atherton.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said item is set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on **September 16, 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
One tap mobile:
+16699006833, 506897786# US (San Jose)
Dial by your location
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
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 read into the record.
Email: council@athertonca.gov

Description: The City Council is considering adopting an **Ordinance amending the Atherton Municipal Code, Chapter 5.20, Section 5.20.010** related to soliciting and canvassing within the Town of Atherton. The reaccommodation is to authorize the Chief of Police with the authority to create a Do Not Solicit List that would be consistent with the Town's regulatory authority. Enforcement violations will be administered under AMC 5.20.050 and 5.20.060. **A copy of the meeting agenda, staff report and draft ordinance can be found online by Friday, September 11, 2026 here:** <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/Archive.aspx?AMID=41&Type=Recent>

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

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said Ordinances are set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on September 16, 2026, at 6:00 PM via teleconference accessible through the above-described information and in person at 80 Fair Oaks Lane City Council Chambers, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the Ordinance should or should not be recommended for approval.

IF YOU CHALLENGE any actions taken to adopt the proposed changes to the Town's Municipal Code concerning construction related activities, 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 September 16, 2026, meeting by contacting the City Clerk, The Town of Atherton, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA. 94027.

If you have any questions on the item, please contact Anthony Suber, City Clerk at asuber@athertonca.gov or 650.752.0500. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the City Clerk at (650) 752-0500 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL
/s/ Anthony Suber
Anthony Suber, City Clerk

WORKBOOK

continued from page 5

$2 + 3 = 5$ and asks the user to reverse the numbers on the left of the equals sign and redo the problem to show that the answer remains the same. On the page is an illustration of a pair of pink flip-flops drawn by Eva.

Another page simply asks the user to draw a picture of someone special to them, with a blank rectangle below to be filled in. In the original workbook, the space is filled with a colorful portrait of Eli and Eva's nanny.

All the text in the book is in Eva's handwriting, which has signature flourishes, like circles instead of the dots on i's typical of adult handwriting. For Eva, the homemade look conveys a sense of authenticity.

"If it's printed, it feels like reading a long chapter book, but if it's handwriting it feels more like a story... like someone understands, not like a robot talking to you," Eva said.

In creating the workbook, Eva also incorporated feedback from her brother. When Eli struggled to count on his fingers to solve math problems, Eva drew a number line to help him visualize the process of addition.

After seeing how engaged Eli was when he did Eva's activities with her, their mother Leili Baghaei said she was inspired to turn Eva's creation into something more.

"She's extremely creative in terms of making board games, drawings, paintings... and I felt like this could be the start of



Photos courtesy Leili Baghaei

Above: Eva, who made a workbook for her 4-year-old brother, is "extremely creative," her mother Leili Baghaei said. Right: A page from Eva's original workbook.

something bigger," Baghaei said.

When Eva was asked about who else she has been testing her lessons on, she named several other young children.

"We are getting to a point where we have to say no to people in terms of wanting playdates," Baghaei said. "There is only one Eva, and she has 20 playdate requests."

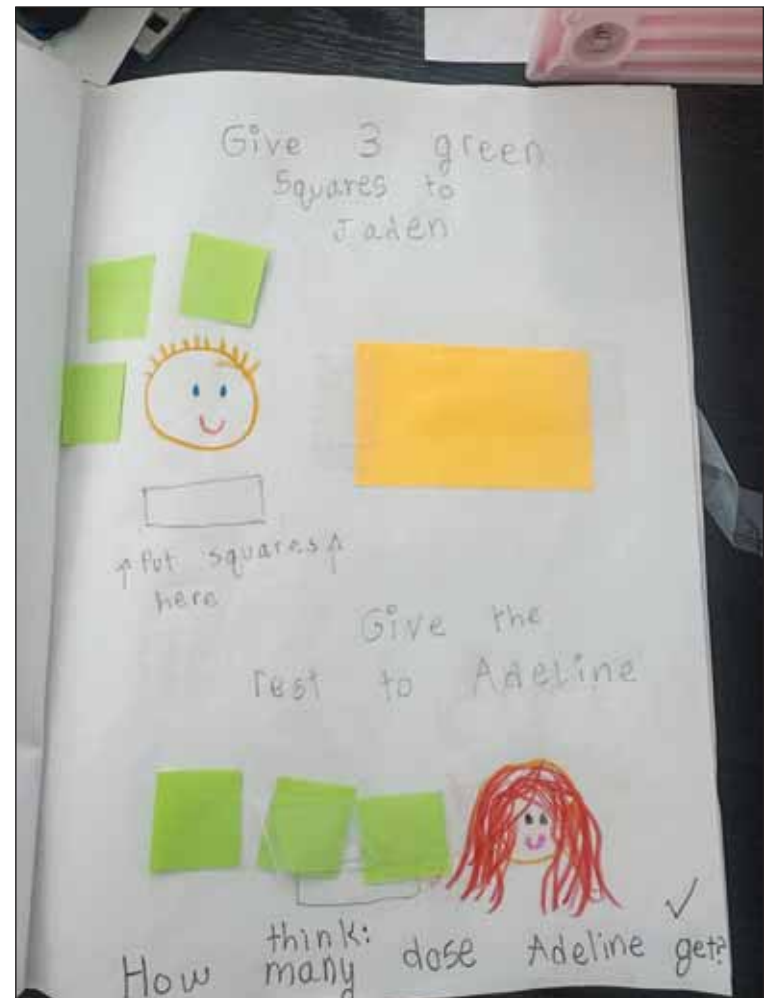
To help get the ball rolling, Baghaei started a campaign on Kickstarter with the goal of raising \$10,000 to fund the production of the book. The campaign reached just over half of its target as of Sept. 1 and will close in two weeks.

Baghaei also runs an Instagram account to showcase Eva's ideas and progress. Eva is not involved with the Kickstarter or posting on the Instagram account, which has more than 900 followers.

The version of Eva's book that will be published remains a work in progress. In an interview, Eva laid out a litany of potential ideas, including incorporating different textures like felt — "Eli really likes feeling things," she said — and having pop-outs for some of the math pages, depending on the ability of the child using the book.

While Eva's favorite part of the process is developing the characters, she also enjoys teaching her brother the math problems. She said she often looks back on educational activities she preferred when she was younger to inform her creations.

"I used to have an activity book back when I was a little girl, and there were some activities I really liked, and some I didn't... I like to think of activities I liked more than others



and make more of those, and then think of how I could teach them," Eva said.

Eva is currently designing a 50-page iteration of the book, but she said she hopes to produce a version that can last for five months. She said that when she worked with her brother, they usually did around three pages per day.

Baghaei said that they are

aiming to begin shipping books six months after the Kickstarter campaign closes. "It's probably going to be closer to two months, cause six months is way too long," Eva said.

"She is very optimistic," Baghaei said. ■

Email Staff Writer
Jennifer Yoshikoshi at

jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.

THE STANFORD DAILY

continued from page 10

of its members, has adequately demonstrated facts to support that its members have 'an actual and well-founded fear that' the Deportation and Revocation Provisions will be enforced against them, and that members refrained from expressive

activity based on their reasonable fear that the government may disapprove of their speech as to Israel and Palestine, much like the government's disapproval of the speech of Khalil, Öztürk, and Mahdawi."

George Porteous, editor-in-chief at The Stanford Daily, celebrated the ruling and said in a statement that it was "a good

day for the Constitution."

"The reporters in our newsroom shouldn't have to fear that writing a story will result in their deportation," he wrote on LinkedIn. "Today's victory means they won't have to. The Court's decision will enable our reporters to focus on what they do best: asking tough questions and reporting the truth."

The case was spearheaded by the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, an organization that focuses on civil rights on college campuses and which filed its legal challenge against the Trump administration in August 2025. The group asserted that members of the Trump administration are "trying to turn the inalienable human right of free speech into a privilege contingent upon the whims of a federal bureaucrat, triggering deportation proceedings against noncitizens residing lawfully in this country for their protected political speech regarding American and Israeli foreign policy."

In the suit, the plaintiffs challenged the government's

reliance on two specific provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act. One allows the government to begin deportation proceedings against noncitizens whose speech "compromises a compelling foreign policy interest," as determined by the secretary of state. The second gives the secretary of state broad powers to revoke the visa of any noncitizen. The suit alleged that the government invoked these provisions in a way that violated the First Amendment rights of noncitizens.

Wise concurred with the plaintiffs and also concluded that the government's reliance on the two provisions violates the Fifth Amendment, which grants residents protections against being "deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." She wrote in her ruling that First Amendment makes it clear that "it is not the government that gives freedom of speech to the people." She called freedoms of speech and freedom embodied in the First Amendment

"foundational to America's enduring democracy." "In the United States, free speech, including the freedom to criticize the government and its leaders, is not a sign of our democracy's fragility," Wise wrote. "It is evidence of its strength. That strength is diminished when members of our society — citizens and noncitizens alike — must self-censor and 'behave' or suffer the government's retaliation. FIRE declared in a statement on its site that the Friday ruling "affirms a bedrock constitutional principle: The government cannot punish people for protected speech simply because officials dislike their views." "In America, free speech doesn't just belong to the people who say things the government agrees with," FIRE attorney Conor Fitzpatrick said in a statement. "Today's ruling proves that free speech isn't a privilege, but the inalienable right of every man, woman, and child." ■

Email Gennady Sheyner at
gsheyner@almanacnews.com.

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Katherine Stoplosek-Pirslin, 97, of Portola Valley, who was born in Croatia and escaped German educational camps during World War II, who eventually made it to America and who in the 1970s co-founded with her two brothers the semiconductor company Quartz International, Inc., which was later sold to Toshiba, and who leaves behind a legacy of perseverance and entrepreneurship, died on Aug. 13.

Michael Rabinovitch, 53, of San Francisco, who was born in London, who moved to Los Altos Hills with his family in 1983, who graduated from Gunn High School before moving to Europe for a career in finance that took him to Geneva, London and Stuttgart, who had a large community of friends in San Francisco and Napa, who had an encyclopedic knowledge of song lyrics, and who was an avid art lover and collector, died of an acute heart attack on Aug. 26.

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

Public Notices

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. **CA-26-1051459-CL** Order No.: **FIN-26010046 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/24/2001. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.** A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, or cash equivalent if deemed acceptable to the trustee, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. **BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.** Trustor(s): **Jay B. Bartels, an unmarried man** Recorded: **8/30/2001** as **Instrument No. 2001-135302** of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of **SAN MATEO** County, California; Date of Sale: **10/7/2026 at 01:00 PM** Place of Sale: **At the Marshall St. Entrance of the San Mateo County Courthouse, Southern Branch Hall of Justice & Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063** Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$727,012.85** The purported property address is: **3333 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062** Assessor's Parcel No. : **072-370-220** All bidders, at the date, time, and place of the scheduled sale, will be required to show satisfactory support to the auctioneer of their ability to pay the amount they intend to bid, unless arrangements have been made with the trustee prior to the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call **800-280-2832** for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website **http://www.qualityloan.com**, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-26-1051459-CL**. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call **866-645-7711**, or visit this internet website **http://www.qualityloan.com**, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-26-1051459-CL** to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must

submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT:** Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE POST-SALE OVER BIDDERS:** For post-sale information in accordance with Section 2924m(e) of the California Civil Code, use file number CA-26-1051459-CL and call (866) 645-7711 or login to : **http://www.qualityloan.com**. The above statutorily mandated notices to Tenant, Prospective Owner-Occupant, and Prospective Post-Sale Over Bidders are brief summaries of what may be required under Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. Compliance with all relevant provisions will be required. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: **QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 866-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 800-280-2832 Or Login to: http://www.qualityloan.com Post-Sale Information (CCC 2924m(e)): (866) 645-7711 Reinstatement or Payoff Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318** QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION TS No.: **CA-26-1051459-CL** IDSPub #0316698 8/28/2026 9/4/2026 9/11/2026 (ALM Aug 28, Sep 4 and 11, 2026)

BEAR GULCH NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE DUE TO PASS-THROUGH OF WHOLE-SALE SUPPLIER COST INCREASES
Beginning October 1, 2026, the water bills of California Water Service (Cal Water) customers in the Bear Gulch District will reflect a pass-through of changes in wholesale water charges by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) incurred by the company. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the state agency that regulates Cal Water, has determined that expenses for wholesale water, pump taxes, and purchased power are not under the company's control, and that a pass-through of those costs to customers is just and reasonable if properly calculated. On or around September 1, 2026, Cal Water will file Advice Letter 2598 to request authority to increase its annual revenue in the Bear Gulch District by \$1,855,891 or 2.26%. Pending the CPUC's review of Cal Water's calculations, the rate will be effective on October 1, 2026. With the increase, a typical monthly bill for a Bear Gulch residential customer with a 5/8" x 3/4" meter who uses 9 CCF of water (which is approximately 6,732 gallons) per month will increase by \$2.41 or 2.27%. A copy of Advice Letter 2598 will be available on the internet at https://www.calwater.com/rates-advice-letters/ (please select the Bear Gulch District from the drop-down menu) and may also be obtained from the company's local office by calling (650) 561-9709. You may also contact the company's headquarters by mailing the Rates Department at 1720 North First Street, San Jose, California 95112-4598, or by calling (408) 367-8200 and asking for the Rates Department. Cal Water offers many programs to help customers manage their water bill, including a low-income Customer Assistance Program (CAP), water-saving appliance/device rebates, and other conservation programs. Please visit our web site at www.calwater.com to take advantage of these opportunities. **Responses and Protests**
Anyone may respond to or protest this filing. A response supports the filing and may contain information that proves useful to the CPUC in its evaluation. A protest objects to the filing in whole or in part and must set forth the specific grounds on which it is based and shall provide citations or proof where available to allow staff to properly consider the protest. The grounds for protests are:
1. The utility did not properly serve or give notice of the filing.
2. The relief requested in the filing would violate

statute or CPUC order or is not authorized by statute or CPUC order on which the utility relies.
3. The analysis, calculations, or data in the filing contains material errors or omissions.
4. The relief requested in the filing is pending before the CPUC in a formal proceeding.
5. The relief requested in the filing requires consideration in a formal hearing or is otherwise inappropriate for the filing process.
6. The relief requested in the filing is unjust, unreasonable, or discriminatory (provided that such a protest may not be made where it would require relitigating a prior order of the CPUC).
A response or protest must be made in writing and received by the CPUC's Water Division by **September 24, 2026**, the end of the comment period. The response or protest should be either emailed to water.division@cpuc.ca.gov or mailed to Tariff Unit, Water Division, 3 rd Floor, CPUC, 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102. On the same date the response or protest is sent to the Water Division, it must also be either emailed to cwsrates@calwater.com or mailed to Rates Department, California Water Service, 1720 North First St., San Jose, CA 95112. Cities and counties that need Board of Supervisors or Board of Commissioners' approval to protest should inform the Water Division within the protest period so that a late-filed protest can be considered. The informing document should include an estimated date on which the proposed protest may be voted. If you have not received a reply to your protest within 10 business days, contact Cal Water at (408) 367-8200 and ask for the Rates Department.
CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE
9/4/26
CNS-4073506#
THE ALMANAC
(ALM Sep 4, 2026)

CORE CONSTRUCTION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304501
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CORE CONSTRUCTION , located at 2000 Powell Street #1600, Emeryville, CA 94608.
Registered owner(s):
CORE WEST, INC.
1410 Rocky Ridge Drive #180
Roseville, CA 95661
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 22, 2026. (ALM Sep 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2026)

HYUNDAI OF SAN BRUNO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304769
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) HYUNDAI OF SAN BRUNO , located at 1010 ADMIRAL COURT, SAN BRUNO CA 94066. Mailing Address: 3239 IMJIN RD MARINA, CA 93933
Registered owner(s):
BAY AREA AG INC
3239 IMJIN RD
MARINA, CA 93933
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 26, 2026. (ALM Sep 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2026)

GENESIS OF SAN BRUNO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304770
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) GENESIS OF SAN BRUNO , located at 1010 ADMIRAL COURT, SAN BRUNO CA 94066. Mailing Address: 3239 IMJIN RD MARINA, CA 93933
Registered owner(s):
BAY AREA AG INC
3239 IMJIN RD
MARINA, CA 93933
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 26, 2026. (ALM Sep 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2026)

PENINSULA PROBUILD CONSTRUCTION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304727
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PENINSULA PROBUILD CONSTRUCTION , located at 3585 Hoover st , Redwood City CA 94063 .
Registered owner(s):
SEBASTIAN CHITIC
3585 hoover st

Redwood City CA 94063
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/21/2026.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 21, 2026. (ALM Aug 28, Sep 4, 11 and 18, 2026)

BG DIGITAL SOLUTIONS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304749
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) BG DIGITAL SOLUTIONS , located at 3788 Fabian Way, Palo Alto, Ca 94303. Mailing Address: 2826 MCGARVEY AVE REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061
Registered owner(s):
FRANK BARKLEY GOODSELL
2826 MCGARVEY AVE
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on MAY 17, 2021.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 24, 2026. (ALM Sep 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2026)

BRITISH SWIM SCHOOL OF SAN JOSE-FREMONT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304689
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) BRITISH SWIM SCHOOL OF SAN JOSE-FREMONT , located at 2329 Ensenada Way, San Mateo, CA, 94403.
Registered owner(s):
ANDERSEN SWIM, LLC
2329 Ensenada Way
San Mateo, CA, 94403
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 14, 2026. (ALM Sep 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2026)

PROPERTY SHERLOCK
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304713
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PROPERTY SHERLOCK , located at 504 Elm St, San Carlos, CA, 94070.
Registered owner(s):
ROOSTHAVEN INC.
504 Elm St
San Carlos, CA, 94070
State of Incorporation/Organization: DE
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 19, 2026. (ALM Aug 28, Sep 4, 11 and 18, 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)

SALTY DOG GROOMING COMPANY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304697
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SALTY DOG GROOMING COMPANY , located at 1485 El Camino Real Suite 202, Belmont, CA 94002. Mailing Address: 4190 Sierra Road San Jose, CA 95132
Registered owner(s):
SD GROOMING COMPANY LLC
4190 Sierra Rd
San Jose CA 95132
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 17, 2026. (ALM Aug 28, Sep 4, 11 and 18, 2026)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 26CIV06287
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Yung Ja Sandra Yu filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
YUNG JA SANDRA YU to SANDRA YUNG JA YU
SANDRA Y YU to SANDRA YUNG JA YU
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 10/19/2026, 9:00 am, M/C of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
ALMANAC
Date: August 19, 2026
Anthony Berini
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Sep 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2026)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO COUNTY
Case No.: 26-CIV-05972
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Ramiro Macias filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: RAMIRO BARRAGAN MACIAS to RAMIRO MACIAS
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 10/7/26, 9:00 am, Southern Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
ALMANAC
Date: August 6, 2026
Stephanie Garratt
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Aug 28, Sep 4, 11 and 18, 2026)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 26CIV05596
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Diane Marie Webster filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
DIANE MARIE WEBSTER to DIANE MARIA FERREIRA
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: October 7, 2026, 9am, Southern Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 455 County Center, Redwood City, Ca 94063.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
ALMANAC
Date: August 14, 2026
Stephanie G. Garratt
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Aug 28, Sep 4, 11 and 18, 2026)

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

Let's educate!

Our autumn guide to schools, camps and classes

Autumn's in the air — bring on the pumpkin spice everything, start planning your Halloween costume and let's get learning! For many, autumn means back to school, be it the kids heading back to class for another academic year or folks of all ages ready to take on their next challenge, polish up their skills or try something new. Our fall guide is here to help get you started on your next fruitful educational path.

CAREERS

CareerGenerations

2100 Geng Road, Suite 210,
Palo Alto | careergenerations.com

CareerGenerations offers career counseling and group workshops to meet the career needs of a variety of individuals, including college students looking for internships and graduates and professionals exploring career options or looking for employment.

JobTrain

1200 O'Brien Drive, Menlo Park
jobtrainworks.org

JobTrain has a variety of training programs for adults — providing instruction in the culinary arts, business administration, health care and more — as well as programs specifically for young adults, to help with GED diploma preparation, job placement and vocational training. The center also offers on-site preschool with income-based fees. Open-entry GED/high school equivalency classes run on weekdays.

ReBoot Accel

1865 Camino a los Cerros, Menlo Park
rebootaccel.com

ReBoot Accel keeps members of the community current, connected and confident about reentering the workforce through workshops taught by experts.

COOKING

La Toque De Cindy

904 Cowper St., Palo Alto
cindytoquecooking.com

La Toque De Cindy offers cooking camps and classes for kids (with a specialty in chocolate), plus cooking experiences for people of all ages.

Sur La Table

Town & Country Village, 855 El Camino Real, Suite 57, Palo Alto
surlatable.com

Sur La Table offers hands-on cooking classes, guiding students in making regional cuisines, themed meals and baked goods.

Taste Buds Kitchen

2775 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
tastebudskitchen.com/palo-alto

The Palo Alto franchise of Taste Buds Kitchen offers cooking classes, camps, parties and events for all ages.

CULTURE

Joy Culture Foundation

934 Santa Cruz Ave., Suite A,
Menlo Park
thejoyculturefoundation.org

The nonprofit Joy Culture Foundation operates the Little Bookworm Library to provide families a place to immerse themselves in Chinese culture and language. The center has children's books in Mandarin and English available for check-out, as well as bilingual language and culture classes.

Mustard Seed Learning Center

Palo Alto (various locations)
mustardseedlearningcenter.org

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

DANCE & THEATER

Bayer Ballet

1710 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View (pre-ballet division) / 2028 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View (upper division) | bayerballet.com

Bayer Ballet offers rigorous classical ballet training for children and adults using the Vaganova technique and in 2021 became a partner school to the Vaganova Ballet Academy in St. Petersburg.

Dance Connection

Cubberley Community Center,
4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
danceconnectionpaloalto.com

Dance Connection offers combination and graded classes for youth (age 3 and up) and adults. Ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, lyrical and other instruction are available for students at various levels of ability.

Mannakin Theater and Dance

en Avant School of Dance, 1841 Bay Road, East Palo Alto
mannakindance.org

Mannakin Theater and Dance offers youth dance classes at en Avant School of Dance studio in East Palo Alto.

Peninsula Youth Theatre

2510-A Old Middlefield Way,
Mountain View | pytnet.org

PYT offers theatrical learning experiences for local youth, including stage productions, classes and camps.

Stanford Quads

First Congregational Church, 1985 Louis Road, Palo Alto
stanfordquads.org/class

The Stanford Quads square dance club meets Sunday evenings. The club's ongoing class starts each fall, with two free intro nights held on Sept. 20 and 27, 2026, and is open to singles, couples and families with teenage kids.

Victoria Ballet

370 California Ave., Palo Alto;
151 Main St., Los Altos
victoriaballet.dance

The classes offered at this ballet school (which teaches children and adults) include all experience levels — from beginners to pre-professional dancers.

Zohar School of Dance & Company

Cubberley Community Center,
4000 Middlefield Road, Room L-4,
Palo Alto | zohardancecompany.org

With roots going back to 1979, Zohar School of Dance holds a range of adult dance classes including jazz, modern, ballet and tap.

MUSIC & VISUAL ARTS

Community School of Music and Arts

Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle,
Mountain View | arts4all.org

The Community School of Music and Arts offers year-round classes (and private lessons) in music, visual and digital arts, with

courses for adults and children.

New Mozart School of Music

2100 El Camino Real, Suite C,
Palo Alto | newmozartschool.com

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

Pacific Art League

668 Ramona St., Palo Alto
pacificartleague.org

Pacific Art League offers a range of classes for students with varying experience. Instructors teach many media, including drawing, painting, watercolor, digital art and more.

Palo Alto Art Center

1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto
cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Community-Services/Arts-Sciences/Palo-Alto-Art-Center

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

Palo Alto School of Chamber Music

600 Homer St., Palo Alto
schoolofchambermusic.com

Palo Alto School of Chamber Music offers chamber music programs for children, teens and adults. Participants are matched in groups according to age and experience level.

OLDER ADULTS

Avenidas

450 Bryant St., Palo Alto /
Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Room H-5,
Palo Alto | avenidas.org

Avenidas offers classes, as well as lectures and workshops, for seniors focusing on topics such as health, fitness, languages, computing, music and writing.

Little House Activity Center

800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park
1pvi.org/littlehouse

Little House Activity Center offers classes and activities on various topics, including fitness, arts and technology.

SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Athena Academy

525 San Antonio Ave., Palo Alto
athenacademy.org

Athena Academy educates

dyslexic and twice-exceptional students in first through eighth grades, with an emphasis on building confidence and helping students embrace their talents and unlock their potential.

The Girls' Middle School

3400 West Bayshore Road,
Palo Alto | girlsms.org

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

Imagination Lab School

4050 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
imagination-school.org

Imagination Lab School serves students in grades TK-8 with a mission of igniting curiosity and building confidence and creativity.

Keys School

2890 Middlefield Road and 3981 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
keysschool.org

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

Lydian Academy

410 Sherman Ave., Palo Alto
lydianacademy.com

Lydian Academy offers year-round, one-on-one education for middle and high schoolers, with full-time, on-demand and tutoring options and opportunities for collaboration.

Menlo School

50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton
menloschool.org

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

Mid-Peninsula High School

1340 Willow Road, Menlo Park
mid-pen.org

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

Peninsula School

920 Peninsula Way, Menlo Park
peninsulaschool.org

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

Philips Brooks School

2245 Avy Ave., Menlo Park
phillipsbrooks.finalsite.com

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

Sand Hill School

650 Clark Way, Palo Alto
sandhillschool.org

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

Savvy Young Writers

667 Lytton Ave., Palo Alto,
and online | savvyyoungwriters.com

Savvy Young Writers offers writing tutoring and mentoring for elementary, middle and high schoolers. It also features a program for writing college admissions essays.

Silicon Valley International School

151 Laura Lane, Palo Alto /
475 Pope St., Menlo Park | svintl.org

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

Stratford School

870 N. California Ave., Palo Alto
stratfordschools.com

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

Synapse School

3375 Edison Way, Menlo Park
synapseschool.org

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

Woodland School

360 La Cuesta Drive, Portola Valley
woodland-school.org

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

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

EPACENTER

1950 Bay Road, East Palo Alto
epacenter.org

EPACENTER is a creative development organization that offers a range of programs in disciplines such as the arts and technology. Founded as a hub

for youth, it now offers opportunities for all ages.

Hidden Villa

26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills
hiddenvilla.org

In addition to its long-running summer camp programs, Hidden Villa offers a variety of classes and workshops, including on nature and farm-based topics.

Palo Alto Adult School

Palo Alto High School, 50
Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto
paadultschool.org

Classes on computer skills, language, cooking, art, and many others are available through the Palo Alto Adult School.

The Riekes Center

3455 Edison Way, Menlo Park
riekes.org

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

Sequoia District Adult School

3247 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park
seqsas.org

Sequoia District Adult School holds classes in English as a second language and computer and business skills. Students can

also earn a high school diploma or GED certificate.

Stanford Continuing Studies

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

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

SPORTS

Baylands Golf Links

1875 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto
baylandsgolfinks.com

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

Kim Grant Tennis Academy

3005 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
kimgranttennis.com

The Kim Grant Tennis Academy organizes an array of tennis classes and programs for adults and children at multiple locations, including in Palo Alto and Woodside.

Spring Down Equestrian Center

725 Portola Road, Portola Valley
springdown.com

Spring Down Equestrian Center

educates children and adults on horses and horseback riding. Classes and camps held year-round.

Webb Ranch Riding School

2720 Alpine Road, Portola Valley
webbranchinc.com

Webb Ranch offers instruction for beginning and intermediate horseback riders in both group and private settings, including camps for kids and teens.

Woodside Vaulters

The Horse Park at Woodside, 3674
Sand Hill Road, Redwood City
woodsidevaulters.org

Students learn equestrian vaulting, which combines horseback riding skills with gymnastics and dance elements. ■

Let's Educate is published quarterly in the Palo Alto Weekly and the Almanac. Descriptions of classes and schools in Palo Alto, Stanford, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Atherton, East Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Portola Valley and Woodside are provided. Listings are free and subject to editing. Due to space constraints, classes and schools in the above cities are given priority.

To inquire about submitting a listing for the next Let's Educate, email editor@pawebweekly.com. To place a paid advertisement in Let's Educate, call the display advertising department at 650-326-8210.



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Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

State of the 'union'

Two years after opening, membership-based music studio Sound Union is building a creative community

By Heather Zimmerman

On a summer weeknight, musicians arrive at a sleek industrial space in downtown Redwood City. A few head straight into sound-proofed music studios, but most stop first in the common area to grab a snack or drink from the kitchen and chat.

There are couches to sit and talk or relax in this central space, which also has a big-screen TV and a chandelier made from a drum kit. Concert and event posters cover one wall in the common area, sharing the space's history and adding color and nostalgia for the musicians who gather here — and perhaps for some, a little inspiration, too.

Sound Union opened in 2024, offering studios and instruments, a performance area and a co-working space on a membership basis.

"The idea of having a really nice place to go play music and meet other musicians is the main vision, and to provide a space where people feel like they can do the best music of their lives," said Sound Union CEO John Avilla, who co-founded the space with business partner Tom Zazueta.

The equipment is professional-level. J-Hope of BTS spent time in Sound Union's studios when the K-pop superstars performed at Stanford University earlier this year. But many members work in careers unrelated to music. Some have joined to reconnect with a past love of music, to improve musical skills or to have a space to rehearse for shows, either solo or with a band. Sometimes it's all of the above.

Avilla likens the business model to a gym membership, in which members pay a monthly fee to use the facilities. Like a gym, the fee isn't cheap, coming in between \$375 and \$430 per month. But unlike most gyms, there's a community environment that Sound Union management has tried to nurture.

Offering the chance to meet up with other musicians, to perform with them and to make connections is the goal of the space, Avilla said.

"It's a place where people get to come together to have context that's their own individual identity, I guess is a good way to put it. You go to work and you're representing that company. You in your family are mom, dad, kid, whatever. There's always kind of an identity that's imposed by



Seeger Gray

Sound Union members play instruments in a studio at Sound Union in Redwood City on Aug. 20.

a position," said Sound Union member Rebecca Lipon Weekly.

"At Sound Union, I remember the first time I came by, and it was just people getting to know each other and hanging out and doing something that is fun."

Weekly, a tech executive, is the lead singer for funk and soul band Sinister Dexter. She sometimes also performs with Sound Union's house band, (called 2625, after the building's street number).

"A lot of us are in bands, and in the Bay Area being in a band pays for the parking costs of where you perform, so most people who do it, do it as a labor of love because they enjoy the people, not because they're making a lot of money at it, so I think it's just really lovely to be a part of a community of people," she said.

Rooms of one's own

In addition to amps, microphones and mixers, Sound Union makes available to members a range of instruments, including guitars, drums and pianos. Rather than having to bring instruments to rehearsals, and spend time setting up and taking down equipment, members can drop by and play.

Sound Union offers spaces to rehearse and play music, to record music and podcasts, as well as a place for co-working that aims to draw both the musically inclined and people who just might want a less traditional place to work.

Concrete floors, exposed brick walls and duct work give an industrial vibe, but without the battered couches, wobbly music stands or other time-worn fixtures one might also expect.

"Normally, a rehearsal space looks post-apocalyptic," said musician David Hobbes, an early Sound Union member. "There's graffiti on the walls. There's heavy metal drumming coming through the walls. Literally the people that work there sit behind a gate. It's crazy. It's almost comical how ridiculous that experience is versus Sound Union."

A large loft overlooking the common area offers long conference tables for co-working. The loft also doubles as a performance space, with a stage in the corner. This is where Sound Union hosts performances and special events, such as its live band karaoke and occasional appearances from musical artists or author signings.

"A lot of our folks have been pretty successful in business, and when you have very limited time

to pursue a passion — I don't care what it is: racing cars, playing golf, working on cars, pickleball, whatever — when you have very little time, the time you do spend is pretty valuable," Avilla said.

"If you have X amount of hours to spend each month, you want to do it in a place that's nice. And when that happens, you meet others who have that same alignment. We have members of all skill types, and we try to create a very welcoming environment for all skill types."

Members get access to an app that allows for scheduling, checking upcoming events and posting notices, such as those looking for bandmates.

"When I've needed a sub for a show, you can post on our virtual bulletin board and ask 'does anyone have the ability to cover?' Different shows have come up, different nonprofit activities," Weekly said.

Getting into jams

Though musicians can be outgoing folks, Avilla who is a musician himself, noted that it can still feel challenging to get out there and play or to meet peers, especially for those starting out, or looking to get back into music. Easing awkwardness or vulnerability was the motivation for starting Sound Union's slate of themed weeknight jams, offering a low-pressure environment to play and get to know other members. Current jam nights include Soft Rock/Country/Americana, Advanced Jazz and a night of instrumental improvisation called Free Your Mind.

Sound Union founding member Andy Swanson leads a



Seeger Gray

A common area in the center of Sound Union includes a lounge and a kitchen, and a large loft pulls double duty as a performance space and co-working area.



Seeger Gray

Sound Union members perform “Don’t Look Back in Anger” by Oasis during a jam in a studio at Sound Union in Redwood City on Aug. 20.



Seeger Gray

Musicians who don’t want to bring their gear with them, or are just dropping by, can use instruments on hand at Sound Union.

weekly jam called Three Chord Thursdays, which is open to all levels, and offers an introduction to those who are new to performing with others. It’s not tied to any particular genre and focuses on simple chords, hence the name.

“It’s meant to be an entry-level slot for new members. It’s like a pickup game of basketball just to see who you’re playing with,” Swanson said.

“The way we view those sessions is you’re kind of acting like a Peloton instructor. You’re an organizer, a cheerleader, making sure that people are getting focused — what songs we’re picking, making the session move along. In that case, there’s not a particular schedule of songs. It’s a little bit like jukebox (style), like, ‘Hey, what do we want to play today?’ Bring some songs, and let’s work on them. Let’s have some fun.”

Swanson, who lives in Redwood City, has played music most of his life. He refers to his training as a “campfire guitarist,” and in addition to guitar, he’s also a vocalist and plays harmonica.

He joined before Sound Union had its building and ended up becoming an early investor. He refers to himself as the “test-kitchen guy,” having helped develop the jam nights format and other programs in the space.

How each Three Chord Thursday jam plays out depends on who’s in attendance, Swanson said. An older crowd might skew song selections toward 1970s and ‘80s tunes, while slightly younger musicians might go for music from the ‘90s and 2000s. He has noticed how connections can form during jams as people strike up conversations during breaks.

“You walk by those open practice rooms and you hear a song, and it just feels so welcome, and you go in and you can sit on the couch and listen,” said vocalist Liz Handley. “And then you walk out and there’s this flow to this space that you really can’t put your finger on, but you feel it. There’s no ego in the room,

there’s no gloss, there’s nothing, but just this beautiful space where all these organic experiences for me have taken place.”

Handley, the lead vocalist for Peninsula-based ‘90s rock tribute band Heady Vedders, discovered Sound Union through the band. Handley sometimes also sings with house band 2625.

As the child of two classical pianists, Handley grew up with music and played violin. But for years, she was shy about singing in public until the COVID-19 pandemic gave her the push she needed. She said Sound Union has given her access to more musical opportunities.

“I go in and I’m practicing with the Heady Vedders, and let’s say I get a drink from the fridge, and then someone comes up, we introduce each other in the kitchen,” Handley said, describing how a fellow musician might approach her as a singer to fill in with their band.

“There are these just really natural, organic conversations that happen, and then I was welcome to say yes or no to that and there wasn’t pressure or anything.”

Forging connections

Whether it’s a casual conversation or meeting up during a jam, sometimes musicians just hit it off and end up planning other times to play together.

“Last time I counted, and I think there’s probably a couple more since then, but there’s about 13 bands or groups that have formed. Not everybody needs to or wants to perform, but I think that’s a really amazing indicator of a healthy and growing and active community. That it wasn’t in the business plan. I didn’t chart out,” Avilla said.

David Hobbes found several bandmates through connections-made at Sound Union. “I was just about to release an album ... I knew I had to do some album release shows, and I was like, ‘Where am I going to find a band?’ I’m a transplant to this

area. I don’t have a great network of people here, and so I went to check it out,” Hobbes said.

Avilla introduced the singer-songwriter to his future bass player, who although not a Sound Union member, was helping to prototype the space’s events. Hobbes said he also met his guitarist and drummer through various events at the space.

Hobbes is releasing a new EP, “Tomorrow Man,” this month.

A place to play

Hobbes said he visits Sound Union a lot, mostly to rehearse with his band, but does try to socialize with other members, too.

“I still go down to try and sit in and play with other people now and then. Sometimes I use the co-working space upstairs. So if I’m downtown for something, I’ll stop by and use that,” he said.

Rehearsal spaces are a big draw for Handley, who goes to Sound Union mostly to practice with the Heady Vedders.

“A couple times, I picked the violin back up for a couple of songs with the Heady Vedders, and so I’ll sometimes jump in in the middle of the day, like during the school year, if my kids were at school, jump in one of the practice rooms during the day and just work out some violin parts,” she said, noting that she also uses the co-working space sometimes.

“Honestly, I’ve just gone to Sound Union to relax and hang, go through and delete the 1000 emails that from Bed Bath and Beyond, or whatever, that accumulated in my inbox and just get a little reset moment. So it’s been that type of space for me, too.”

For Weekly, visits to Sound Union depend on whether she’s working on something, which might find her there a couple times a week. Otherwise, she drops in when she can, once or twice a month.

“It’s very active at night when the studios are full of various bands practicing, performing,

maybe up on the stage. But during the day, it’s very quiet, very chill, and so you know that there is this space, that there is this community,” Weekly said.

“Most people have day jobs and use the space in the evenings for music, and it’s a lovely community of people, and worth checking out. You might find your next band. You might find a co-working space that’s a little bit different, that has a social element that’s quirky and fun.” ■

The Heady Vedders are performing Sept. 7, 2-5 p.m., at the American Legion, Half Moon Bay and Sept. 19, 8-11 p.m., at

Alhambra Irish House, Redwood City. headyvedders.com

David Hobbes Band is performing Sept. 10, 8-11 p.m., at the Pioneer Saloon, Woodside. davidhobbes.com.

Sound Union is located at 2625 Broadway, Redwood City. Memberships are \$430/month paid monthly or \$375/month for an annual membership. The venue is currently offering \$199 discounted first month memberships. Tours are available. For more information, visit soundunion.com.

**TOWN OF WOODSIDE
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD
WOODSIDE, CA 94062**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF WOODSIDE will hold a hybrid public hearing allowing for the option to attend by teleconference/video conference or in person in Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA on **Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 6:00 PM**, to consider:

183 Prospect Street

XSET2026-0001

**Applicant: Tage Howerton and Courtney Chandler
Planner: Melanie Olson, Associate Planner**

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a proposal, requiring Planning Commission approval of a Setback Exception (XSET2026-0001). The proposed second-story addition of the existing single-family residence would be within the minimum required 15-foot side setback for structures 17 feet tall or less, and 22.5-foot side setback for structures between 17-28 feet tall.

The project is Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15301(e), additions to existing structures.

156 Bardet Road

APPL2026-0003

**Applicant: Sean Rhinde / Appellant: Thareerat Kochachawan
Planner: Sarah Filipe, Associate Planner**

Review of an Appeal (APPL2026-0003) of the Planning Director’s decision to approve a Formal Design Review application (ASRB2026-0005) to demolish an existing single-family main residence; and, to construct a new single-family main residence with an attached garage, detached Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU), and associated site improvements. The appellant requests that the appeal be upheld by the Planning Commission and that the Formal Design Review be denied.

The project is Categorically Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15303(a), which includes a single-family residence, and §15303(e), which includes accessory structures.

The application materials are available for public review by contacting Melanie Olson at molson@woodsideca.gov and Sarah Filipe at sfilipe@woodsideca.gov.

All interested parties are invited to submit written comments to jpaping@woodsideca.gov and/or attend in person or virtually at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736> and give testimony.

Employment

Genesys Cloud Services, Inc. seeks Lead Software Engineer – Media Services Group in Menlo Park, CA to develop & deploy highly available, fault-tolerant software that will help drive improvements towards the features, reliability, performance, & efficiency of the Genesys Cloud platform. Telecommuting allowed for this position. Salary range: \$213,512 - \$223,512. Send resume to: Miriam.Graeff@genesys.com. Include job code JR112130 in reply. EOE.

Staff Software Engineer needed at Synthpop, Inc. in Menlo Park, CA. Must have a Bachelor's degree in CompSci, SW Eng or related field & 2 yrs exp including: SW dev w focus on backend eng; design & implmnt scalable solutns in Python; using K8s, Conts, CI/CD, AI Model APIs, Agile mthdlgies, AWS, Azure, Goggle Cld svcs, GitHub; maint & enhance. Inherited code w/bst cding pract. Salary: 165K-205K. Remote is option. Email resumes: careers@synthpop.ai. EOE.

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Worth a Look



Courtesy Jakki Pransky

Alternative rock super group Drink the Sea will play The Guild Theatre Sept. 4.

Drink the Sea

Alternative rock band Drink the Sea features Peter Buck (R.E.M.), Barrett Martin (Screaming Trees, Mad Season), Alain Johannes (Eleven, Queens of the Stone Age), Duke Garwood (Mark Lanegan Band) and percussionist Lissette Garcia. The group comes to the Guild to perform songs from its three albums as well as some tunes from members' former projects, accompanied by films by Tad Fettig.

Sept. 4, 8 p.m., *The Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park*; prices vary based on seat selection; guildtheatre.com/shows/drink-the-sea-04-sep#tickets.

Michael Echaniz Trio

Community School of Music and Arts faculty member, pianist and keyboardist Michael Echaniz, along with bassist Jeff Denson and drummer Dillon Vado, play tribute to the music of the late jazz composer and improviser Wayne Shorter in an acoustic-electric performance as part of CSMA's free community concert series. The concert will include Shorter compositions from his early Blue Note records, time in the Miles Davis Quintet, Weather Report and more, according to CSMA.

Sept. 4, 7:30 p.m., *Tateuchi Hall, Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View*; free; arts4all.org/concerts/michael-echaniz-trio-the-music-of-wayne-shorter/.

Pedro José Pastrana

Puerto Rican composer and cuatro player Pedro José Pastrana — along with Ayla Dávila on bass, Colin Douglas on drums and Miguel Martínez on flute and percussion — performs Latin jazz music with roots in Puerto Rico's jíbaro musical tradition at Meyhouse in Palo Alto. "Together, the quartet brings a strong sense of interaction and spontaneity to the stage, moving between intricate melodies, deep Caribbean grooves, folkloric influences, and open-ended improvisation," according to Meyhouse's website.

Sept. 5, performances at 5 and 8 p.m., *Meyhouse, 640 Emerson St., Palo Alto*; \$38-\$48; meyhousejazz.com.

'The Gilded Age' floral show

The Woodside estate Filoli hosts "Fleurs de Villes: The Gilded Age," a floral exhibition inspired by HBO's

hit period drama. Visitors can view a series of life-size mannequins displayed throughout the historic house, each dressed in an elaborate costume made from fresh flowers and leaves. Created by Californian floral designers, the installations reinterpret characters of "The Gilded Age" like the ambitious socialite Bertha Russel, traditional aristocrat Agnes van Rhijn, independent Marian Brook and writer Peggy Scott. The mannequins wear garments modeled after the series' costumes and embody the wealth, ambition and social change of late 19th century New York.

Sept 9-18 at the *Filoli Mansion, 86 Cañada Road, Woodside*. Tickets are \$75 per adult; \$70 for seniors 65+, students, teachers and service members; \$60 for youth 15-17; \$50 for children 4-14; free for children 0-3. filoli.org

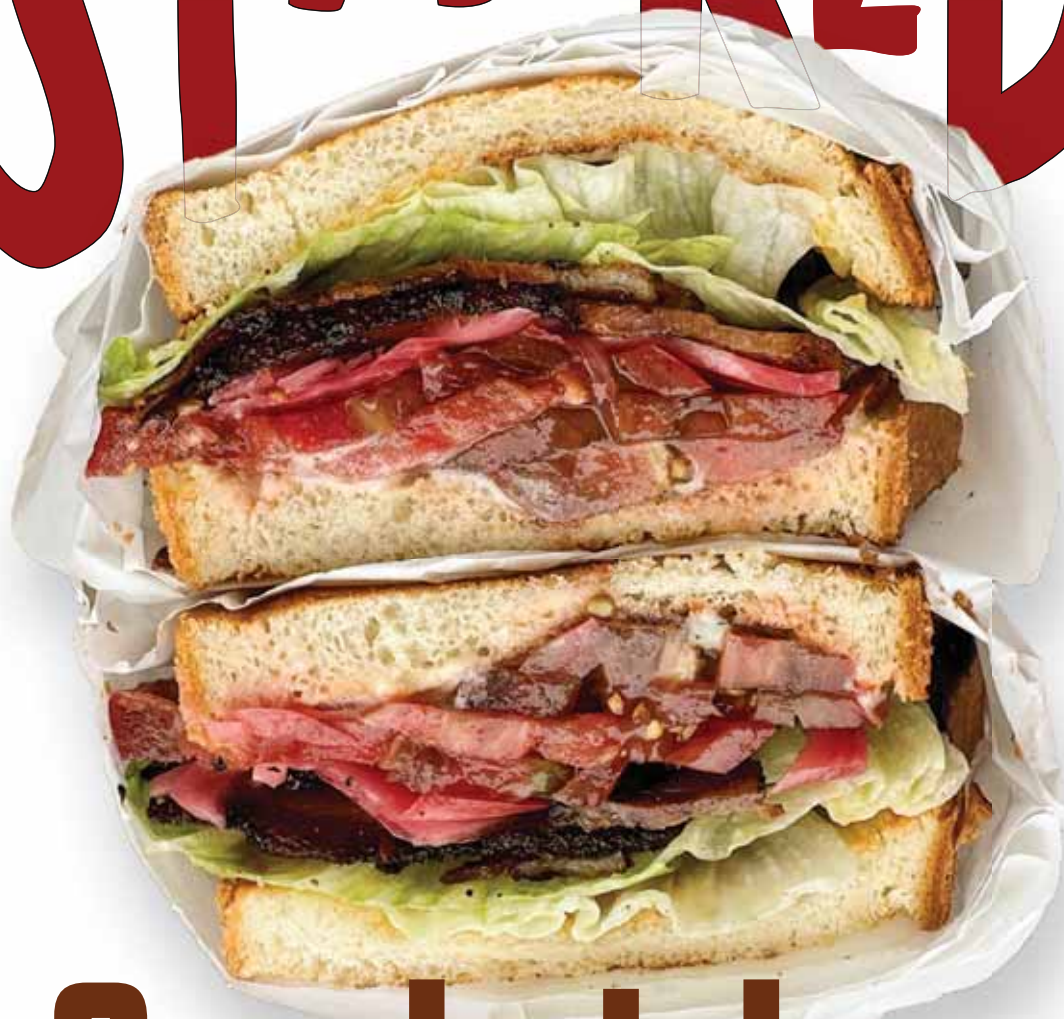
Kings Mountain Art Fair

The Kings Mountain Art Fair returns over Labor Day weekend for three days of fine art, crafts and family activities beneath the redwoods of Woodside. Founded in 1963, the juried fair gives visitors the chance to meet artists, explore work from professional fine art to locally made crafts and purchase pieces directly from artists. The fair also features breakfast and lunch, its popular oversized cookies and Kiddie Hollow, where children can make spin art, crowns, wands and other crafts. Proceeds support the Kings Mountain Volunteer Fire Brigade, community facilities, local students and youth programs.

Sept. 5-7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at *Kings Mountain Community Center, 13889 Skyline Boulevard, Woodside*. kingsmountainartfair.org.

Food & Drink

STACKED



Sandwiches

Bite down on these new Peninsula delis

By Adrienne Mitchel

Whether you like your sandwich piled with cold cuts, melty with cheese or as a glorified salad between two buns, sandwiches are a portable, convenient and tasty lunch offering. While many Peninsula delis are longtime favorites — Woodside Delicatessen in Redwood City has been around since 1958, and The American Italian Delicatessen has been a Los Altos institution since 1956, just to name a couple — a number of Peninsula sandwich spots have debuted in recent months, with more coming soon.

Pigly plants Redwood City roots

For Redwood City resident Victor Lu, flavors are better bold and punchy.

“I like strong flavors,” he said. “So if somebody says, ‘My food has lemongrass,’ I’m expecting a lot of lemongrass. If you say your food has garlic, I’m also expecting a lot of garlic.”

In the case of Lu’s lemongrass pork recipe, it has both, he said. Lu has been recreating his mother’s lemongrass pork for years, and he thinks he’s developed a recipe that’s even better than the original.

Lemongrass pork is the star of his menu at Pigly, a sandwich pop-up he started in 2018 that established a home in the Redwood City Eats ghost kitchen on July 20.

Now operating out of a CloudKitchens location alongside other small businesses such as Sicily “Sicillia’s Specialties” and Niku&, Pigly offers a concise menu of just four sandwiches (\$11-\$14): Pigly OG (signature grilled lemongrass pork, pickled carrot and daikon with spicy aioli on brioche), char siu (house-made Chinese barbecue pork, pickled red onion and sweet

A BLT sandwich from Rosie’s, an East Bay sandwich pop-up now planting permanent roots at Sigona’s in Redwood City. Courtesy Rosie’s

chili mayo on brioche), banh mi (Vietnamese ham, head cheese, pate, pickled carrot, daikon and spicy aioli on a baguette) and Viet hamwich (Vietnamese ham, Maggi sauce and spicy aioli on a baguette). Mini versions of the banh mi and Viet hamwich are also available (\$9-\$11).

Before immigrating to France, Lu’s parents lived in Cambodia, where his mom’s family owned a noodle shop that was taken away by the Khmer Rouge during the Pol Pot regime. Lu was born and raised in France, attending business school but dropping out to go to baking school.

After working as a baker in France for a bit, he realized that the pay wasn’t sustainable, so he took a job selling frozen pastries in New York. His job took him to California, where he worked at a restaurant before going back to school to finish his degree. He worked in sales operations for a few years before getting laid off. That’s when he decided to start Pigly.

The concept started as a pop-up in Oakland, but after a few months, he returned to work in sales operations, fueled by the desire to save up enough money to go full time on Pigly.

“I need to feel like I’m doing something for me and doing something for my kid, because I just got a 2-year-old, and it sounds a little cliché, but I do want my kid to also be proud of his daddy,” Lu said.

Lu is now testing out his concept from Redwood City Eats, and if it’s viable, he hopes to eventually open his own brick-and-mortar store.

Pigly, 426 MacArthur Ave., Redwood City; Instagram: @pigly_eats. Open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Gigi’s expands with another Burlingame location

Teresa Gee grew up in Burlingame frequenting Sam’s Italian Sandwich, located for nearly 50 years at the Burlingame Train Depot. So when she learned that the space was available to rent, she jumped on the opportunity to expand her sandwich shop, Gigi’s Cafe, to the depot.

“(Sam’s) was the sandwich shop to go to growing up,” Gee

said. “I even got the opportunity to go visit (owner Rino Betti) and tell him the legacy was gonna live on, and he was really emotional and really excited.”

Gee opened Gigi’s Cafe in 2018 in Burlingame, offering stacked sandwiches, salads, smoothies and coffee drinks. In 2023, Gigi’s Cafe ranked #14 on Yelp’s Top 100 Places to Eat in the U.S.

Now, Gee is in the process of opening her second location, focusing more on grab-and-go items to accommodate for the small space, which is less than 600 square feet. Expected to open in December, Gigi’s at the Depot will be takeout only, with outdoor seating available.

The new location will still offer all of Gigi’s signature sandwiches (\$16.50-\$26.99), including the Sam Sandwich, named after Sam’s Italian Sandwich and made with salami, ham and Swiss cheese. Gigi’s Thanksgiving Dinner Sandwich, which previously was only available every three months, will be a permanent addition to Gigi’s at the Depot. Other changes include grab-and-go salads only, no smoothies and prebatched lemonades, tea and coffee (instead of made-to-order drinks).

Gee hopes that Gigi’s new location will be convenient for people who live and work nearby. Despite both locations being in Burlingame, it’s a 10-minute drive between the two shops.

When asked what makes Gigi’s sandwiches special, Gee said, “One hundred percent is they’re made with love.”

“We also use a lot of sauce. We don’t skimp,” she continued. “That’s why they’re so special.”

Gigi’s at the Depot, 1080 Howard Ave., Burlingame; @gigiscafeburlingame.

Nosh Corner serves sandwiches with specialty coffee and tea in Redwood City

What if a sandwich run and a coffee run could easily be completed in one stop? That was the thought Redwood City residents and married couple Kenny Hout and Ashley Chhor had when coming up with their concept for

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

Nosh Corner.

Located in the former Ike's Sandwiches space in Redwood City since April, Nosh Corner offers a variety of sandwiches (many of which include house-made shredded chicken breast), as well as a large selection of coffee, matcha, milk tea, fruit smoothies and slushies. Hout and Chhor are veterans to the Redwood City coffee scene and have owned Brew Coffee and Bakery since its founding in 2021.

Signature sandwiches include the Ohh My Nosh, made with shredded chicken breast, avocado, provolone and basil pesto, as well as the Redwood City BBQ, featuring shredded chicken breast, bacon, smoked gouda, barbecue sauce and honey mustard (\$13.50). Vegetarian and vegan sandwiches are also available, made with vegan chicken, meatballs or turkey along with a variety of vegetables and sauces.



Clockwise from top left: April and Richard Sigona at sandwich pop-up Rosie's (courtesy Rosie's); Pigly's char siu sandwich (courtesy Pigly); Nosh Corner's sandwiches; and specialty drinks (courtesy Nosh Corner); two sandwiches from Gigi's (courtesy Gigi's).

The beverage menu is extensive, with cold brew topped with sweet cream, Vietnamese coffee and various flavored lattes. Matcha lattes can be topped with strawberry or mango cream, and milk tea options include taro and Thai tea.

Nosh Corner seats about 30 inside and also offers outdoor seating. Chhor said she plans to expand Nosh Corner's sandwich menu and introduce more seasonal drinks in the future.

Nosh Corner, 2655 Broadway, Redwood City; 650-587-8538, Instagram: @noshcorner.rwc. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Rosie's brings seasonal sandwiches, smoked meats to Sigona's

High-quality sourcing is central to the ethos of Rosie's, a sandwich pop-up created by husband-and-wife team Richard and April Sigona in 2025.

The Sigonas smoke their own meat, use local produce whenever possible and focus on seasonal ingredients. The couple is transitioning their sandwich business from a pop-up to a permanent residency at Sigona's Farmers Market in Redwood City three days a week and in the East Bay twice a week. A custom-made pink-and-white food trailer is still being built, with regular service expected to begin in November.

Richard Sigona, whose family owns Sigona's Farmers Market in Palo Alto and Redwood City, worked in fine-dining restaurants pre-pandemic, including Saison, The Perennial and Protégé. After working corporate jobs for a few years, he and April Sigona wanted to start a creative passion project. After a year, the couple decided to go full time on Rosie's.

Rosie's is named after Richard Sigona's great-grandmother, Rose Sigona, as well as April's childhood dog, Rosie.

"I think (Richard) has so many ideas in his brain in terms of flavor profiling, and I think that that really stems from being raised in a family that cares a lot about produce and food, but then also bringing his fine-dining experience and background into it as well," April Sigona said.

One staple of the menu is the pastrami sandwich, made with

house-smoked pastrami, shaved white onion, dill pickles, pickled hot peppers, Swiss cheese, horseradish aioli, dijon mustard and toasted Acme sour rye bread. Sandwiches will rotate with the season, with heartier and hot sandwiches being introduced for the fall and winter months.

In addition to sandwiches, Rosie's offers two signature sweet treats: tiramisu and brown butter chocolate chip cookies, which feature ripply, crispy edges and a chewy interior. April Sigona said she'll introduce more pastries and desserts in the future and looks forward to incorporating seasonal produce and jams.

"I think the main goal for us is just to bring quality products that we can share with our community, as well as hopefully create a brand and a business that I can model from what my family has done, where they've created a business that can be multigenerational," Richard Sigona said.

Rosie's, @rosiesbayarea. Beginning in November, operating from 2345 Middlefield Road, Redwood City.

Other new and soon-to-come sandwich spots

In June, The Sandwich Guy debuted in the former space of The Broadway Sandwich Market in Redwood City. Created by the team behind Falafel Tazah, The Sandwich Guy offers hot and cold sandwiches (\$15.95-\$17.95), salad and soup.

Stacked on 25th Deli & Cafe is coming to San Mateo on 25th Avenue near Miss Shang and Li's Knife Cut Noodle.

Woodside Delicatessen is expanding to Foster City, taking over the former Plaza Gourmet Delicatessen space. ■

Email Food Editor Adrienne Mitchel at amitchel@almanacnews.com

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