

The Almanac

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Seeger Gray

The last days of Lutticken's

It's the end of an era in West Menlo, as Lutticken's deli winds down operations. Manager Judy Congdon said the restaurant — a beloved Menlo Park institution — will close at the end of September after 45 years in business. See story, Page 22.

Tesla reaches 80 mph before Highway 84 head-on crash

Organizer of La Honda car meet says he doesn't condone reckless driving

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Video obtained by The Almanac shows a Tesla reaching over 80 mph in a 35 mph zone shortly before it lost control and collided head-on with a Honda on Highway 84 near Memory Lane in La Honda. The crash on Aug. 30 left several people injured and occurred after a meet-up organized by 9burgring, a social media account for car enthusiasts with nearly 20,000 followers.

The organizer said the car meet was hosted by Ambassador Wine Garden, which had secured liability insurance for the event.

According to 9burgring creator Ethan Garabedian, the driver represented Tesla at the event and was taking photographers on a test drive as the meet ended. Tesla did not respond to The Almanac's request to confirm the driver's status with the company.

The video, taken by a passenger in the back seat, begins a minute before the crash, and shows passengers jostling around as the vehicle speeds up. It ends with screeching tires as the driver loses control and the screen goes blank.

The Honda driver suffered major injuries, while the Tesla driver complained of pain, according to California Highway Patrol Officer Sophie Lu. Passengers in the Tesla suffered minor injuries, she added.

The incident is still under investigation, according to the CHP.

9burgring aims to build community among local car enthusiasts by partnering with local businesses in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Garabedian said. 9burgring started as a social media page five years ago and has

See **TESLA CRASH**, page 17

Menlo Park councilmember urges citywide traffic review as developer increases SRI project's housing

Linfield Oaks residents worry about impacts from three huge developments

By Arden Margulis

As Menlo Park considers an expanded redevelopment plan for SRI International's former campus that would add nearly 300 more housing units, Councilmember Jeff Schmidt is urging the city to conduct a broader review before approving it or other major projects in the area.

The redevelopment of SRI International's 64-acre Menlo Park campus on Burgess Drive has changed significantly since Menlo Park-based developer Lane Partners began work on

the project, called Parkline, in 2018.

The revised Parkline plan would reduce office and research space by 25,000 square feet to 900,000 square feet and add 282 homes, bringing the total to 1,082 units. The housing would include 754 rental apartments, 108 townhouses and 220 single-family homes for sale, including 98 small-lot homes.

Fifteen percent of the homes would be designated below market rate. Lane Partners would also reserve 1.6 acres for an affordable housing developer, which could build an estimated

154 additional affordable homes.

The revised proposal would replace an office-oriented amenity building with a retail village of more than 40,000 square feet for neighborhood-serving businesses, including restaurants, fitness providers and other services. The project would provide nearly 27 acres of open space, including more than 13 acres open to the public, and dedicate a 2.7-acre city-owned recreation parcel that could accommodate a regulation-size soccer or lacrosse field.

To accommodate the denser development, office buildings

could rise as high as 10 stories, or 150 feet, which is 40 feet more than the previous 110-foot maximum.

While the city had approved the previous Parkline proposal, the revision went before the Menlo Park City Council for the first time at a study session on Sept. 22. Councilmembers expressed concern about how the project would impact the Lindfield Oaks neighborhood (the area between Middlefield Road, Ravenswood Avenue, the Palo Alto border and the train tracks) and the city as a whole, especially with the pending

redevelopment of the former U.S. Geological Survey campus on Middlefield Road and the controversial skyscraper proposal at the former Sunset Magazine headquarters on Willow Road at Middlefield.

Councilmember Jeff Schmidt, who represents Lindfield Oaks, said the city needs to take a broader look at how proposed developments would affect the city collectively rather than individually. He said he would not vote to approve any project until the city completes a more

See **SRI PROJECT**, page 16

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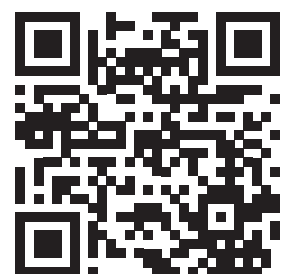
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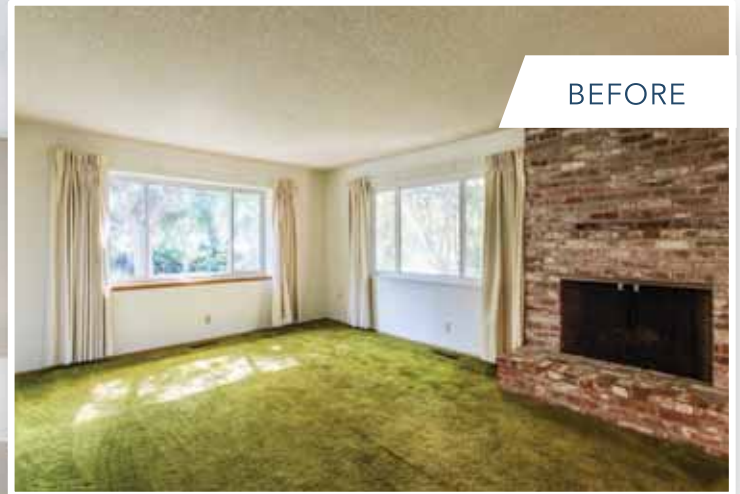




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Local News

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Michelle Le

Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev crosses California Avenue in Palo Alto on a 2010 visit to Silicon Valley.

Ownership of Menlo Park's 80 Willow Road raises questions

Residents express concerns about ties to Russia's elite

By Hannah Bensen

Why did a Russian businessman with reported ties to the former Russian president buy the 80 Willow Road property that once housed Sunset Magazine headquarters? It's a question that has puzzled some Menlo Park residents after the property's developer proposed constructing a 39-story tower

on the property.

"Just say *nyet* to the towers," said a protester's sign at a Sept. 10 demonstration that opposed the development, using the Russian word for "no."

"Too much traffic, Willow Park, we don't need an oligarch!" another protester chanted.

Some Menlo Park residents have expressed concern about the development's ties to

Russian businessman Vitaly Yusufov, the son of Russia's former energy minister Igor Yusufov. Forbes valued the elder Yusufov's net worth at \$1.1 billion in 2022, and the Yusufov family's connections reportedly reach the peak of Russian politics: The Yusufovs are reportedly deeply financially intertwined with Dmitry

See **80 WILLOW ROAD**, page 14

Stanford graduates fewer computer science majors

Department chair notes previous dips

By Hannah Bensen

The number of undergraduate computer science bachelor's degrees conferred by Stanford University in 2026 decreased by 70 people — almost 14% — compared to the year before.

A one-year drop at a single university is not a trend. There has always been "natural variation" in the number of degrees conferred in the program, said Stanford computer science chair Mehran Sahami.

"We've seen these kinds of cycles before," Sahami said. "In the long term, though, I do think that people with computing skills will still be in high demand."

Still, computer science degrees and learning to code have been viewed as a sure path to job stability for decades. One recent academic paper from researchers at the Census Bureau found that college graduates in highly "AI-exposed" fields like computer science saw labor market outcomes deteriorate more after the introduction of ChatGPT than people in fields less exposed to AI. AI-exposed graduates entering the job market after ChatGPT are less likely to find employment and more likely to begin careers in lower-paying jobs, the paper found.

"These are quite large changes," said Lee Tucker, co-author of the paper and a Census Bureau economist. "We think of these as being on the order of what previous literature has suggested would occur in a large recession."

Nationwide, enrollment in computer science has taken a hit in recent years. The number of students enrolled in a computer science major dropped by 8%, according to an analysis from The Washington Post.

Two primary factors have driven the decrease in computer science enrollment nationwide, Sahami said. Widespread layoffs from large tech companies like Meta, Amazon and Oracle have meant that recent computer science graduates are competing with mid-career employees for jobs while hiring has slowed. Additionally, AI is being used to write more code.

Computer science graduates are stuck with the boom-and-bust cycles of technology companies. During the dot com bubble in the early 2000s, for example, enrollments in computer science dropped notably a few years later, Sahami said. That was due to a perceived decline in the financial prospects of the discipline and to

See **COMPUTER SCIENCE**, page 12

2 motorcyclists injured in weekend crashes on Highway 84

Separate accidents in La Honda occurred just hours apart

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Two solo motorcycle crashes occurred just hours apart on Highway 84 in La Honda on Saturday, Sept. 19, with one rider airlifted to the hospital and the other rescued after falling 75 feet down an embankment.

Both motorcyclists were transported to the hospital and were in stable condition, according to Cal Fire officials.

The first crash was reported around 1:57 p.m. and required the rider to be airlifted to the hospital. The rider

suffered moderate injuries, said California Highway Patrol Officer Sophie Lu.

The second incident occurred at 4:40 p.m. and was caused by the rider failing to navigate around a curve in the roadway, according to Lu.

Cal Fire officials said the motorcyclist went off the road and landed 75 feet down an embankment. Paramedics had to go down the hill and use a rope system to pull the rider up before transporting them to the hospital.

Both crashes occurred westbound on Highway 84, east of

Hildebrand Road. The circumstances of both crashes are still under investigation, said Lu.

La Honda Fire Brigade and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office also responded to the scene.

"While the CHP-Redwood City is investigating the cause of these crashes, we would like to remind people to slow down and drive with caution on our mountain roads," Cal Fire posted on its X account. ■

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Courtesy Cal Fire CZU

First responders from La Honda Fire Brigade, Cal Fire CZU, California Highway Patrol and San Mateo County Sheriff's Office rescue a motorcyclist who crashed and fell down an embankment at 4:40 p.m. on Sept. 19.

Former M-A basketball coach receives termination notice

Mike Molieri plans to fight for his job in court

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Mike Molieri, Menlo-Atherton High School's former varsity basketball coach, received a termination notice following a two-year investigation into allegations that he disclosed confidential student files. He said he plans to keep fighting for his teaching position in court.

Molieri was placed on paid administrative leave in August 2024 and received the notice of termination on Sept. 10 after the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees voted to recommend his dismissal. The notice states that he has 30 days to demand a hearing or he will be fired.

"My goal is to clear my name of these outrageous charges that



Courtesy Bob Dahlberg

M-A boys basketball coach Mike Molieri.

the district has done to smear my reputation," Molieri told this news organization. "Next, is to fight the termination and go back to M-A and say hello to my friends and new students."

The Almanac reached out to the school district for comment but did not receive a reply by its Wednesday press deadline.

Molieri said when he received the termination notice from the

district, he felt angry and frustrated by how long the district's investigation took but is now at peace knowing that the process is complete.

The district alleged he was involved in the release of confidential student files to non-district employees, allowed students to be in his classroom instead of their assigned classes and made false statements about students to other staff. The district also alleged Molieri solicited the Menlo-Atherton community to engage in the services of his brother Dan Molieri, a private investigator working with the legal team that represented a Black Menlo-Atherton student who was arrested by Atherton police at a bus stop in April 2023.

The student, who was identified as K.C. in court documents, received a settlement of over half a million dollars from Sequoia Union and the town of Atherton this spring.

Molieri filed a lawsuit in October 2025 against the district alleging race and age discrimination and retaliation. The suit named Superintendent Crystal Leach, former Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Todd Beal and current Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Bonnie Hansen.

"It is extremely disappointing that the district is moving for termination. I had really hoped that at some point they would pull back from this incredibly unfair and punitive action," said Harry Stern, Molieri's attorney. "Mike has excellent union counsel and as far as our lawsuit, the district seems to be inexplicably committed to damaging him further by ruining his reputation and cutting off his livelihood."

Molieri, who was also a special education teacher, told this news organization that he believes he is also being discriminated against for his actions to protect students of color. Some M-A parents said that their children would not have graduated high school without Molieri's support.

While he feels that the remaining educators at M-A will continue to provide safe spaces for all students on campus, Molieri said he is concerned about the "action, or more importantly, the inaction of administrators."

"This journey I had to endure shows the true colors of the district leadership," Molieri said.

The district did not provide a comment in time for The Almanac's Sept. 23 print deadline. ■

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Stanford uses AI to transform man into woman in campus ad

Banner violated university's policy on generative AI

By Gennady Sheyner

Stanford University takes pride in being on the cutting edge of artificial intelligence, but the university has been facing unwanted scrutiny this week after a Stanford advertisement relied on AI to transform a man into a woman, in violation of its own policies.

The use of AI was first detected by the Stanford Review, a campus publication that discovered the change and reported on it on Sept. 21. In the two days since, the story has attracted nationwide scrutiny, going viral on social media and attracting coverage from the New York Times and San Francisco Chronicle, among other publications.

The Stanford Review found that the university had replaced the image of a Hispanic student, Billy Ramirez, with an image of a Black woman in a banner for the university's

dining service, Residential and Dining Enterprise. The other students who were with Ramirez in the photo also had their images altered by AI, which made them look thinner.

"At first, I found it hilarious that they had used AI to completely change our appearances, including my race and gender," Ramirez told the Stanford Review. "But after looking at the comparison, I was also upset because I don't agree with Stanford making those choices about how we were represented. Seeing my identity changed and being left out of the picture made me feel, in a way, silenced and erased from a representation that was supposed to include me."

Stanford confirmed that the advertisement violated its policy on AI use, which requires clear identification of "AI-generated or AI-manipulated content (e.g., images, audio, or video) when omission could mislead audiences

about what is real."

"Do not create or publish AI-generated content that falsely depicts Stanford people, events, research, facilities or achievements," the policy states. "Make sure you comply with applicable law and platform policies regarding synthetic media."

Charlene Gage, university spokesperson, said that the banners with the image in question have been removed.

"Stanford's AI policy is clear: The use of AI in producing or altering images of Stanford people, events, research, facilities, or achievements is strictly prohibited," she wrote in a response to this publication. "Both the alteration and lack of disclosure in this case violate that policy. We are working to provide additional training for all staff and ensure proper review of all materials." ■

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Screenshot courtesy Facebook

The images show the original photo, left, and the one that Stanford University admitted was modified with AI.

Byron Sher, former Peninsula state legislator and environmental champion, dies at 98

Veteran lawyer authored landmark laws on clean air, water

By Gennady Sheyner

Byron Sher, an attorney and Stanford law professor who had spent nearly two decades in Palo Alto politics before he moved on to Sacramento and established himself as one of California's leading environmental champions, died on Sept. 19, according to his family. He was 98.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Sher attended Washington University and received a law degree from Harvard Law School before moving to Palo Alto in 1957. He joined the Stanford Law School faculty, where he taught contracts, commercial law, consumer protection and legislation, according to his son, Benjamin Sher.

He became civically active in the late 1950s, as the city was debating the construction of Oregon Expressway, a divisive battle that inspired his council run several years later. Proponents of the county proposal to replace the two-lane Oregon Avenue with a four-lane expressway ultimately won by a razor-thin margin in a 1962 election, paving the way for the modern county road.

Aided by his wife and chief campaign assistant, Linda Sher, he joined the City Council in 1965 and was one of the city's original "residentialists," residents who

supported environmental protection and slow-growth policies. Along with fellow residentialists, a list that included Enid Pearson and Kirke Comstock, Sher faced a bitter recall election in 1967, when the entire council was up for election. Despite losing the recall, Sher made a political comeback six years later.

He rejoined the council and served from 1973 to 1980, including terms as mayor in 1975 and 1978. Despite the comeback, the council remained split between its pro-development and residentialist factions, and it took 37 ballots for him to get selected as mayor the first time he was nominated for the position, according to this publication's previous coverage.

As a council member, he focused on sustainability and protection of open spaces, helping to negotiate a 1975 settlement that resulted in the city buying more than 500 acres in the foothills for \$7.5 million, according to this publication's past reporting. The area now includes the Enid Pearson Arastradero Preserve.

"It was the best purchase the city ever made," Sher told The Almanac, the Weekly's sister publication, in 2004, as he concluded

his career in the state Senate.

He also worked on the city's first Comprehensive Plan, which was completed in 1976, and which set the foundation for local zoning laws. By that time, many of the ideals that Sher had been fighting for had become more mainstream. The first Earth Day was held in 1970 and later that year California Gov. Ronald Reagan signed the California Environmental Quality Act, which required cities and developers to mitigate the environmental impacts of new developments.

"Because of the particularities of Stanford, the Peninsula and the Bay Area, it was easy to be an environmentalist from a political standpoint because there was broad bipartisan support," Benjamin Sher said. "Whether you're Republican or Democrat, you supported environmental regulations. It was very natural for him to fall into that role because it just blended in."

Byron Sher continued to focus on environmental protection in Sacramento, where he had spent more than two decades. He joined the state Assembly in 1980 and then won a special election to the state Senate in 1996. Before getting termed out after 24 years in the state Capital, Sher chaired the Natural Resources



Courtesy Ben Sher
Byron Sher

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See **BYRON SHER**, page 18

Attorney general drops felony charges against Stanford Five

Students who broke into president's office must serve 100 hours community service under agreement

By Lisa Moreno

The California Office of the Attorney General has decided not to retry five Stanford University students for felony vandalism and conspiracy to trespass after they allegedly broke into the university president's office during a pro-Palestine protest in June 2024.

Instead, the protesters were ordered to serve 100 hours of community service and pay \$51,973 of restitution in total, as part of an agreement that was finalized Monday.

'The District Attorney's Office of Santa Clara County allowed this farce to go on for as long as they did because they refused to do their job.'

DEFENSE ATTORNEY LEAH GILLIS

The students, German Gonzalez, Maya Burke, Taylor McCann, Amy Jing Zhai and Hunter Taylor-Black, will have their charges dismissed upon completion of their community service. The group paid their restitution in full at the Monday proceeding. Other students Cameron Michael Pennington, Kaiden Wang and Gretchen Rose Giumarin, who previously had their charges reduced to misdemeanors, will also serve the community service hours in exchange for dropping their charges.

District Attorney Jeff Rosen spearheaded the case against the students, who reportedly broke into and vandalized the school president's office in June 2024 to protest the ongoing killings in Gaza and to urge Stanford University to divest from companies supplying military aid to Israel.

The trial ended in a hung jury in February, and Rosen

immediately attempted to retry the case. But his office was later forced to recuse after he listed the prosecution of Stanford Five on a donation webpage where he detailed his efforts at "fighting antisemitism."

The Stanford lawsuit is "not a hate-crime case," and should not be characterized as a fight against antisemitism, Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Kelley Paul said in May.

The California Attorney General's Office took over the case and eventually struck a deal with defense attorneys to drop the charges and reduce the restitution amount.

Defense attorney Leah Gillis said the students were overcharged and that the legal proceedings went "terribly wrong" for a long period of time. For years, the legal team had requested that the District Attorney's Office formally review the "outrageous" restitution requests that at one point totaled around \$700,000.

"The District Attorney's Office of Santa Clara County allowed this farce to go on for as long as they did because they refused to do their job, which was to vet the restitution that was being demanded," Gillis said. "Had this come in at \$51,000, this never would've been filed as a felony."

She thanked the Attorney General for a "reasonable" and "respectful" conclusion to the case.

When the announcement was made at the Santa Clara County Hall of Justice, some supporters, who filled the courtroom, wiped tears from their faces. After more than two years of legal proceedings and anticipation over charges, the students exited the courtroom and shared an embrace.

Upon stepping out of the courthouse, the crowd immediately began chanting "Free Palestine."

The students said the case was an attempt to discourage people



Lisa Moreno

German Gonzalez, who is one of the Stanford students who faced charges, crosses the street near the Santa Clara County Hall of Justice.

from supporting Palestine and engaging in broader unrest across the country, whether it be regarding ICE, the federal administration or workers' rights.

"It goes far beyond the people that drop the bombs," defendant Taylor-Black said. "It is the companies that build those bombs. It is the universities that spend millions on crisis consultants and surveillance software to repress their own students rather than to divest the resources they know are paying for the bombs."

Stanford students said they had engaged in over 20 peaceful protests but school officials had refused to consider or discuss divestment. That's when a group of 12 broke into the office.

In filing felony charges, Rosen had maintained that the prosecution had nothing to do with free speech and argued that the students should face consequences for

damaging the building.

According to the prosecution, one or more protesters broke a window to enter the president's office, then let the remaining people through a door. Once inside, the protesters barricaded doors with wires, stacked furniture to block entrances and hung up banners in support of Palestine and Dr. Adnan Al-Bursh, who was killed by Israeli forces. Some students then chanted or sat quietly, while some spilled fake blood made from corn syrup, according to court documents.

Police estimated that the carpet stains, a bent door handle and an assessment of an antique grandfather clock with drops of blood on it, among other damages, contributed to \$300,000 in restitution. Evidence, such as messaging records and used cleaning supplies, also showed that students attempted to minimize damage

to the building.

Students said they could no longer "sit by" and watch people continue to die in Gaza, which they witnessed in the media and through grieving classmates.

Dozens of people, including Bay Area movie director Boots Riley, showed out to support the students on Monday. In response, students expressed their gratitude to the attendees and a commitment to continue advocating for people they said had been disparaged.

Gonzalez said he will continue to help grow Students for Justice in Palestine at Stanford University.

"Until every person on this land is housed ... until liberation returns for Palestinian people, until we get all of that, we will not give up," he said. ■

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

Carbon monoxide leak impacts six people in Menlo Park

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Menlo Park firefighters discovered a carbon monoxide leak at 1540 El Camino Real in Menlo Park at 3:40 p.m. on Sept. 19, impacting six individuals in the building. The exposure was linked to a gas-powered power washer being used in the building's parking garage, according to a Menlo Park Fire Protection

District press release.

Crews were initially dispatched to the scene in response to a call involving a 41-year-old male who fell while experiencing breathing difficulties. The carbon monoxide exposure was identified as the underlying cause.

Firefighters declared the leak as a mass casualty incident leaving one individual in critical condition, three with minor

injuries and two other individuals who declined to be transported for care.

The carbon monoxide leak, not far from Menlo College, extended into a neighboring building at 1545 San Antonio St., where two individuals suffered from carbon monoxide exposure and chemical inhalation.

Crews evacuated the second building as a precaution and

requested additional assistance. Both buildings were ventilated and steps were taken to ensure no cross contamination occurred between patients being transported to hospitals.

Firefighters cleared the scene after buildings were ventilated and patients were treated.

"This incident underscores the danger of operating gas-powered equipment, including power washers and generators,

in enclosed or semi-enclosed spaces such as parking garages," said Menlo Park fire officials. "Carbon monoxide is colorless and odorless, and working CO detectors connected to a monitored alarm system are critical to early detection." ■

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



160 CREST ROAD WOODSIDE



SPECTACULAR MIDCENTURY HOME ON A PRIVATE ACRE

Some houses belong to their era; others seem to define it, and this remarkable midcentury residence is one of the latter. Boldly conceived and beautifully connected to its one-acre setting, the home pairs more than 4,600 square feet of living space with walls of glass, rich hardwood floors, and a dramatic interplay between architecture, landscape, and sweeping Bay views. Its timeless, almost cinematic character is complemented by interiors that bring a sophisticated warmth to the experience, with expansive living areas, two fireplaces, and a stylish kitchen finished with black granite and appliances from top brands. A spacious family room with a wet bar offers another inviting gathering space, while five bedrooms and an office provide plenty of room for family, guests, and work. Outside, the multi-level grounds unfold beautifully across the acre, framing the vistas from a large deck, inviting pool, and broad lawn that together create an exceptional setting for entertaining or simply enjoying the rare sense of space and privacy. Near shops, restaurants, parks, nature preserves, and Interstate 280, the home is also just five minutes from acclaimed Woodside High School.

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Bay Area's first 'living levee' opens at Palo Alto Baylands

More than 2,000 native plants now protect shore from rising sea level and provide wastewater filtration

By B. Sakura Cannestra

A cool breeze swept through Palo Alto's Baylands Nature Preserve as local and federal representatives opened the Bay Area's first nature-based horizontal levee — a project that officials hope protects against rising sea level and helps filter wastewater going into the Bay, while boosting the native marshland ecosystem.

Dozens of representatives from various agencies, from the city of Palo Alto to the federal Environmental Protection Agency, gathered on Sept. 10 at the nature preserve for the levee's grand opening. Construction on the \$4.6 million nature-based levee finished last month, and local officials hope it serves as a model for other bayfront communities.

"We are thrilled to lead by being the first and really hope that our project here informs other levees in the Bay Area to support climate adaptation and solutions to sea level rise," said Brad Eggleston, the city's Public Works director, at the grand opening.

The horizontal levee stretches



B. Sakura Cannestra

Palo Alto officials and regional partners observe the newly opened horizontal levee, or "living levee," at Palo Alto's Baylands Nature Preserve.

about 500 feet near the Byxbee Park vehicle entrance, between the bay's tidal channels and the city's Regional Water Quality Control Plant at 2501 Embarcadero Way. It features a gradual slope of vegetated earth going into the bay's tidal channels, with more than 2,000 native plants and hundreds of native seeds, which will be irrigated by the water plant's treated effluent.

In contrast, traditional levees have a much steeper slope and are often made of rocks and concrete, which researchers have said can interrupt estuary ecosystems.

Representatives praised the project for its variety of potential benefits and for the broad coalition that helped get the levee installed. Community organizations Association of Ramaytush Ohlone, Save the Bay, Nuestra Casa and Environmental Volunteers grew and planted the native flora, and collaborated to write informative signs detailing the marshland's ecological and sociological history.

Researchers from the United States Geological Survey, California State University Channel Islands and University of California Davis will study

the levee over the coming years to better understand its ecological benefits, such as providing more habitat to the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse. Small white poles poke out from the ground between the marsh plants, which will help measure how the levee interacts with sea level changes over time and in the turning of tides.

"The horizontal levee is an excellent example of the work we do with hundreds of partners throughout the Bay Area. The problems before us are going to ask more of all of us — more connection, more communication, and more working across agency lines," Association of Bay Area Governments Board President and Rohnert Park City Councilmember Susan Adams said at the press conference.

On top of the benefits of habitat restoration, the levee serves as another filtering system for the water control plant, part of the city's \$369-million renovation of the four-basin treatment facility. The plant treats sewage from Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Stanford University by removing

ammonia, nitrogen and other contaminants from the wastewater before it's released into the Bay. The renovations began in 2022 and are scheduled to be completed in 2028.

A third touted benefit is the levee's ability to protect the shoreline from flooding and rising sea levels — a growing concern across the region as governments inspect their waterfront borders. Mountain View finished restoring 435-acres of salt pond into a revived bayfront marsh habitat earlier this year with some similar effects.

Palo Alto Mayor Vicki Veenker said she hopes other cities will begin installing their own living levees soon, as concerns around climate change and rising sea levels continue.

"It has both good habitat restoration and climate adaptation in one. We have a lot of projects that do one or the other, this does both," Veenker told this news organization. "Imagine if this was all around the Bay, it would have a tremendous impact." ■

Email Staff Writer

B. Sakura Cannestra at scannestra@almanacnews.com.

STANFORD
& you



David Relman, MD

What to know about cyclosporiasis

A little-known foodborne illness is making headlines this summer. Cyclosporiasis, a parasitic infection linked primarily to contaminated fresh produce, has sickened thousands of people. Learn about the symptoms, how it spreads, and what you can do to reduce your risk.

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San Mateo County sheriff's deputy seeks mental health diversion after he's arrested in Livermore child abuse case

Man accused of choking and dragging 5-year-old son by ear

By Jeremy Walsh

A San Mateo County sheriff's deputy charged earlier this year with abusing his young son in Livermore is asking the court to grant a mental health diversion program to resolve the criminal case against him, according to court records.

Steven Romero, 34, faces one count of felony corporal injury to a child — plus special allegations of inflicting bodily harm, hurting a vulnerable victim, violating a position of trust and engaging in violent conduct — for the incident reported at his house in western Livermore in late winter, while he was already on leave from the sheriff's office for an unrelated matter.

Livermore police allege Romero choked his 5-year-old son and dragged the boy by the

ear to the bedroom during a confrontation that began when the boy took too long to eat breakfast for his father's liking.

Romero, who has pleaded not guilty and is out of custody, was admitted to an addiction and mental distress recovery center for first-responders in Malibu about a month and a half after the Alameda County District Attorney's Office filed the charges against him, according to court records from the defense — which later submitted the motion for diversion in July.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Elisa Della-Piana was scheduled to hear the matter last week, with prosecutors opposing the defense bid for mental health diversion in the child abuse case. Romero's attorney, Rabin Nabizadeh, did not respond to a request for comment on Sept. 10.

The arrest of the sheriff's deputy appears to have gone unreported in the media for months, until KTVU Fox 2 broke news of the case last week. The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training temporarily suspended Romero on Sept. 2.

Romero remains on the same leave from the sheriff's office that he has been on since April 2025 for an unrelated matter, while the department also now continues to investigate his arrest in the Livermore case, according to Gretchen Spiker, the sheriff's director of communications.

"During Mr. Romero's leave, criminal allegations were brought to the attention of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office," Spiker said. "The alleged conduct occurred off duty in Alameda County while Mr. Romero was on leave, which remains ongoing. In addition to Alameda County's criminal investigation, the Sheriff's Office is conducting a thorough internal

administrative investigation."

The charges stem from an incident at the family's house on the morning of March 8, as outlined in a probable cause declaration written by Livermore police Officer Hayley Hawkins.

The boy took longer than the 15 minutes he was allowed to eat breakfast and was punished by being forced to jump rope, according to Hawkins.

"When John Doe wasn't jumping rope quickly enough, his father choked him multiple times by his mouth and neck and then dragged John Doe into his room by his ear. The ear dragging led to bruising, approximately 3 by 1 cm in size," Hawkins wrote.

The officer noted the boy was treated at a hospital, where the attending doctor determined the injuries were consistent with physical abuse.

The Livermore Police Department did not report publicly at the time that its officers had arrested a sheriff's deputy, nor does the probable cause declaration mention Romero's

law enforcement status.

The DA's office charged Romero with felony child abuse on April 28, and the deputy pleaded not guilty on May 7.

As the case proceeded in the early stages, Romero was admitted to First Responder Recovery Malibu on June 8 for treatment of issues including alcohol and cannabis addiction, post-traumatic stress disorder and major depression, according to a letter submitted to the court three days later by Dr. Stephen Mohaupt.

The defense filed a motion to request mental health diversion to resolve the case on July 24, which the DA's office objected to. The two sides were originally set to argue the matter last month, but the hearing was continued while they worked out issues of records. ■

Jeremy Walsh is the associate publisher and editorial director of Embarcadero Media Foundation's East Bay Division. He can be reached at jwalsh@almanacnews.com.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Courtesy St. Raymond School

St. Raymond School in Menlo Park is hosting a pumpkin festival Sept. 25 and 26.

St. Raymond School to host annual Pumpkin Festival

St. Raymond School in Menlo Park will host its 2026 Pumpkin Festival from 3:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26.

The festival will include carnival games, a pumpkin patch, a petting zoo, pony and train rides, bungee jumping, face painting and a bake sale. New attractions include a carnival slide and swings.

Admission is free. Individual tickets for games, activities, food and beverages will be available at the festival.

Food and drinks will be available from local eateries Camper, Mazra, Woodside Bakery and Dehoff's Market. Proceeds will benefit St. Raymond School, 1100 Santa Cruz Ave.

—Arden Margulis

COMPUTER SCIENCE

continued from page 5

other factors like labor offshoring. (The 1990s dip in degrees is more difficult to understand, but Stanford computer science emeritus Eric Roberts suggested that departments reached teaching capacity due to high demand for computing skills, and departments had to restrict admission to the field).

Despite the bumpier job market for new grads, it's not all doom and gloom for computer scientists. Computer science and other STEM degrees remain among the most lucrative fields. Additionally, Sahami said that downturns in tech have historically been a good time to enter the field.

"If you imagine someone who was going into college in the year 2001, 2002 — when computer science enrollments were dropping — that actually would have been a great time to major in computer science because you would have come out around 2006, 2007," Sahami said. "That's the time when companies like Facebook, now Meta, were being founded. It was still the early days at companies like Google that had huge growth trajectories in front of them."

By 2006, a software engineer was the top-rated job in America

by Money magazine.

Lawrence Warren, another economist who co-authored the Census Bureau paper, said it's too early to tell what the long-run impacts of AI will be. Large Language Models and other AI technology are constantly changing, for example, and economists don't yet know how long the AI disruption will occur.

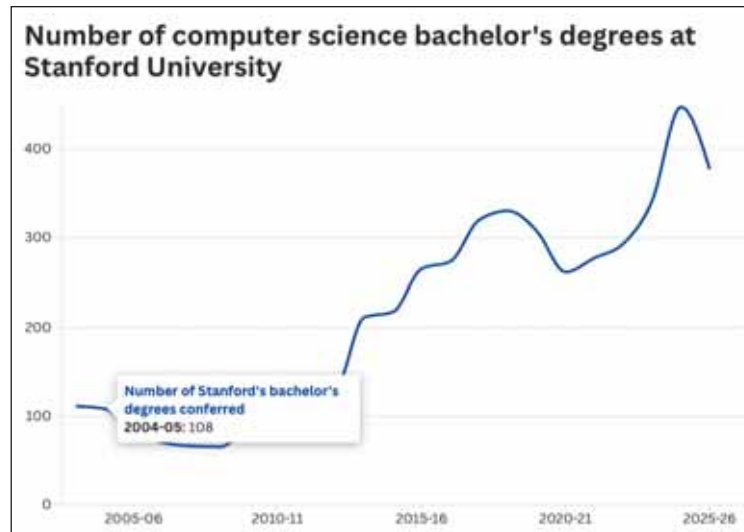
"There are a lot of ways that AI might shape the labor market in the long run," Warren said. "We may see productivity gains and income effects ... but it's still too early to really know."

Sahami believes that it will take time for companies to absorb the "AI dividend" — the

increase in productivity that AI adds for software engineers and computer scientists — but that this productivity increase will eventually be baked into companies. Sahami's son is even studying computer science in college.

"There is always going to be a need for good software engineers who are going to know how to use the AI tools better and be more productive," he said. ■

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



Source: Stanford University / Graphic by Hannah Bensen



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LOS ALTOS | \$7,688,000 | 6 Bd | 7 Bth
1127Hillslope.com



545 PINE LANE
LOS ALTOS | \$4,475,000 | 4 Bd | 2.5 Bth
545Pine.com



226 W. EDITH AVE. #2
LOS ALTOS | \$1,688,000 | 3 Bd | 2 Bth
226WEdith2.com



537 SEVENTH AVENUE
MENLO PARK | \$2,198,000 | 3 Bd | 2.5 Bth
537Seventh.com



61 OAK HAVEN WAY
WOODSIDE | \$4,788,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
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80 WILLOW ROAD

continued from page 5

Medvedev, Russia's former president and prime minister, according to investigative news outlet Proekt and analysts who study Russia and Ukraine.

"A family repeatedly identified by Russian investigative journalists as holding or managing assets in Medvedev's interests can own a \$72 million property in Silicon Valley and pursue a massive development there, while Medvedev sits on Russia's Security Council threatening the U.S. with nuclear destruction," wrote Olga Lautman, a senior fellow at the D.C.-based think tank the Center for European Policy Analysis.

The controversial 80 Willow Road development, known on its website as Willow Park, is currently in the process of obtaining city approval. Community members have expressed a range of concerns



Seeger Gray

A high-rise project up to 39 stories tall is proposed at 80 Willow Road, the former office of Sunset Magazine, in Menlo Park.

about the development, including its environmental impact on nearby San Francisquito Creek, the size of the buildings and the possibility that the development will produce more jobs than it provides in housing units.

The project's 39-story building would be the tallest tower in California outside of San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego. (Read The Almanac's previous coverage of the project online at AlmanacNews.com.)

Some local residents are also concerned about the project's ties to Russia's elite.

"There's a lot that raises red flags," said Councilmember Drew Combs at the Sept. 10 protest. The protest was attended by Vamsi Velagapudi, who is running against Combs in November, Menlo Park Mayor Betsy Nash and Councilmember Jeff Schmidt.

Tensions over the project escalated earlier this summer in a spat between city and state. On July 29, California Attorney General Rob Bonta sent a warning letter to Menlo Park saying the city violated state law by requiring the developer to pay certain fees and accused the city of using new reasons to find the project inconsistent with design standards. Mayor Nash has responded by inviting Bonta to visit the site of 80 Willow Road, The Almanac reported.

A spokesperson for the Attorney General's Office said that the letter focuses on the city's handling of 80 Willow Road application, and that it speaks for itself. The spokesperson did not reply to questions about the development's reported ties to Russian business interests, and said the office is responsible for enforcing state housing laws.

The development was proposed in 2023 under "builder's remedy," a state housing policy that allows developers to bypass local zoning laws when they are out of compliance with the state's housing element process. Builder's remedy is sometimes used as a tool by developers to propose larger developments than local laws would otherwise allow, and some of those proposals have been controversial. In Palo Alto, a development at Mollie Stone's was approved by City Council in May. The three-building project was scaled back from 17 to 14 stories after years of community criticism and successful negotiations between the developer and a City Council subcommittee. And some

Menlo Park community members believe Willow Park to be a misuse of builder's remedy.

Developments like Mollie Stone's were "pushing the envelope," Combs said. "This one blows up the envelope."

Others are not convinced that the concerns are in good-faith, but are simply NIMBYism in another flavor. Matthew Lewis, director of communications of the pro-housing advocacy group California YIMBY, said that some entities start from an anti-housing perspective and "reverse engineer" all the arguments that could be used to oppose a development.

"Is Menlo Park really worried about foreigners with lots of money?" said Lewis. "I'd look at Sand Hill Road on one end, I'd go down the street towards Meta ... There's some overseas money in Menlo Park. So gosh, maybe they just need to look into all of it."

Here's what we know so far about the project's owner, financing and developer, and what comes next.

Who owns 80 Willow Road, the site of the proposed Willow Park development?

The development at 80 Willow Road, the former campus of Sunset Magazine, is owned by Willow Project LLC, according to city documents. Willow Project LLC was registered in Delaware on Feb. 8, 2018, and the LLC purchased the development in May 2018 from Deutsche Bank and Embarcadero Capital Partners.

The Wall Street Journal has reported that Russian businessman Vitaly Yusufov was the sole owner of Willow Project LLC. (The Almanac could not independently verify this.) The property was bought for \$72 million, public records confirm, and the transaction was reportedly all-cash.

Prior to the 2018 sale, Deutsche Bank's U.S. reputational risk

See **80 WILLOW ROAD**, page 15



Courtesy N17

A rendering of the proposed 80 Willow Road development in Menlo Park.



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 October 21, 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 Town Code related to construction and demolition waste management and the Town's solid waste franchise requirements. **A copy of the City Council staff report and draft Resolution can be found online, by Friday, October 16, 2026 here:** <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

The proposed amendments would:

- Amend Chapter 15.52 to align the Town Code with the most current California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen) requirements. The amendments would update or remove provisions that are no longer applicable or consistent with current requirements, including provisions related to the deposit system, exemptions, and enhanced waste diversion requirements. The amendments may also establish administrative citations and penalties for violations.
- Amend Chapter 18.02 to clarify that non franchised haulers and other vendors may not provide services in violation of the Town's exclusive solid waste Town of Atherton Town Administrative Offices 80 Fair Oaks Lane Atherton, California 94027 650-752-0500 franchise agreement. The amendments may also establish administrative citations and penalties for violations of the franchise requirements.

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

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said application is set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on October 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM via in-person and teleconference accessible through the above-described information, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the amendments should or should not be approved.

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

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

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL

/s/ Anthony Suber

Anthony Suber, City Clerk

Date Published: September 25, 2026

Date Posted: September 25, 2026

80 WILLOW ROAD

continued from page 14

committee initially declined to approve the sale of the property to Yusuf, citing the political climate, the possibility for additional sanctions on Russia and other risks, the Wall Street Journal reported. That decision was later overruled by Deutsche Bank executives, including its chief risk officer, who said the risks of the deals were not enough to decline its approval. The deal was finalized in May 2018.

What are Vitaly Yusuf's connections to the Russian regime?

Vitaly Yusuf is a Russian businessman and the son of Igor Yusuf. The Yusuf family has extensive financial and business ties with Dmitry Medvedev and the Medvedev family, the Russian investigative outlet Proekt reported in 2022. Proekt is a Russian-language publication whose reporters operate in exile; the publication's editor-in-chief and founder, Roman Badanin, was selected for the John S. Knight Journalism Fellowship at Stanford University in 2022.

Igor Yusuf is a "long-time Kremlin insider," according to Lautman, the senior fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis. Lautman, who is Ukrainian and Russian, has studied both countries and its powerbrokers for years. She wrote in a Substack post that the Yusufs have been described as financial proxies, or "wallets" for the Medvedev family, and the Yusuf name has appeared on businesses, investments and other assets that are held or managed in the Medvedevs' interests.

"This is not just a powerful Russian family, which is bad enough on its own," said Lautman in an interview. "This is a family that moves money for Medvedev, and Medvedev is probably (the) number three in Russia."

Proekt's reporting also suggests that Dmitry Medvedev is involved with the 80 Willow Road property.

"A source well familiar with the Yusuf family's business says this investment was also made in the interests of the Medvedev family," Proekt reported. The reporting, originally in Russian, was translated to English.

The Palo Alto Weekly reported in 2010 that Medvedev spoke at Stanford, visited businesses on California Avenue and expressed a desire to build a Silicon Valley in Russia. Medvedev, who served as president of Russia from 2008 to 2012 and as prime minister from 2012 to 2020, currently

serves as deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council. According to Proekt, Medvedev transitioned from a perceived liberal during his presidency to an anti-West war hawk following Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. In recent years, he has repeatedly referenced Russia's nuclear capabilities in various threatening comments made to the U.S. and Europe.

"The guy is threatening to nuke us every other Tuesday," said Lautman, referring to public posts made on Medvedev's X and other social media. "He's going to nuke America or nuke London or nuke France. He's always threatening to nuke somebody."

Medvedev was sanctioned in April 2022 by the United States and numerous other European countries. Neither of the Yusufs are sanctioned by the United States, though Igor Yusuf is sanctioned by Ukraine and Canada. But Lautman said that sanctions of individuals like Medvedev are ineffective if their wealth can continue to operate via financial proxies.

"(Dmitry) Medvedev, for instance, is sanctioned, but then you have someone like Yusuf, who is not sanctioned," she said. "So Medvedev doesn't buy the property or build skyscrapers, but his frontman does. And the fact that you have people turning a blind eye to that is the reason that sanctions have not worked as they should."

According to Lautman, Russian investment in the U.S. and Europe is not a new phenomenon. It dates back decades, gaining momentum during the economic reforms of perestroika in the late 1980s and accelerating after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Lautman said that elite Russians have "creative ways" to move money outside of the country — art, Hollywood films, charities or the stock market. But real estate is an investment that is unlikely to depreciate in value — especially in Silicon Valley.

"They need to get money out, and real estate is a very safe place to put it in," Lautman said. "This legalizes it. You can't exactly walk in with \$100 million or \$10 million in a suitcase, but you can put it in real estate, and that helps normalize the money."

Who is the developer of the project?

Oisín Heneghan is the founder of N17, the real estate and construction firm that is spearheading the project. Heneghan, who is originally from Ireland, obtained a master's degree in engineering from Stanford University in 2004. He spent several years at commercial



Seeger Gray

A protester holds a Menlo Forward sign opposing a planned development at 80 Willow Road, called Willow Park by the developer, in Menlo Park on Sept. 10.

real estate company Trammell Crow before founding N17 in 2023. N17 has submitted applications for several projects in San Francisco in addition to the Willow Park development in Menlo Park.

Heneghan declined an interview, but replied to some questions over email on the vision for the Willow Park development.

"We are facing a generational housing crisis that has put homeownership—and renting in good neighborhoods, with good schools—out of reach," Heneghan said in the email. "If we want to make a meaningful difference, we have to build projects large enough to actually move the needle. N17 is creating a new neighborhood center for Menlo Park—one that serves the people who live at Willow Park, and that serves as a hub of amenities welcoming to the wider community."

Heneghan also replied to the criticism about the size of the project.

"The people who complain most loudly about new housing and traffic are remarkably quiet when hospital workers are sleeping in their cars or when the workers who serve them are commuting three or four hours a day," he said. "A community cannot remain vibrant if the next generation cannot afford to live there."

Menlo Park councilmember Combs, who attended the Sept. 10 protest, said N17 "doesn't have a track record" to construct the development as it is proposed, and the project has "no real logic."

"I question the developer's grip on reality," Combs said. "But that does not mean that we don't take it seriously."

Heneghan pushed back, noting that N17 has been ranked

among the top commercial real estate developers by the SF Business Times, by square footage of developments in their pipeline. He added that N17 has recently received approval for a 40-story development at 180 Hawthorne and a 33-story building at 598 Bryant St, both in San Francisco. Heneghan said the two projects were the first in California to use AB 1287, a new state law that allows developers to stack density bonuses in exchange for additional affordable housing.

Heneghan declined to answer repeated inquiries about N17's relationship with Vitaly Yusuf.

Who else was involved in the 2018 sale of the property?

Robert C. Barnes is listed on the 2018 grant deed as the person to whom the recorded deed should be mailed to. Barnes is an attorney at Norton Rose Fulbright, a large global law firm. It is not clear what role Barnes played in the transaction, and he did not respond to a request for comment. The mailing address lists a Los Angeles office of Norton Rose Fulbright. Eric Yopes, a co-founder and principal of Embarcadero Capital Partners, was an authorized signatory for the grantor — the seller — in the 2018 sale, according to public records.

What's next for 80 Willow Road?

According to the city's project page for the development, Menlo Park staff continue to process the Willow Park development application at 80 Willow Road. Nash told The Almanac she is hoping to discuss this issue in an open city council session later this month. Nothing has been scheduled at this time, though

the council has met in closed session to discuss the issue.

N17 has said the project must be approved by Oct. 27, or it will file a lawsuit against the city. In his newsletter, Combs wrote that he thinks the city has two options: stay its course and decline to change its approach to the project, likely drawing a lawsuit from N17. Or the city could approve the project, which could possibly draw litigation from residents.

If the city approves the project, Combs stated that the development would still need a building permit to move forward — a process that Combs thinks will require "millions" of dollars in analysis in order to get a buildable project, he told The Almanac.

In either case, he views litigation as likely inevitable.

"The choice may not be between approval and litigation, but what role we want the City to play in that litigation," he wrote in his newsletter. ■

Editor's note: Arden Margulis contributed to this report.

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



LEHUA GREENMAN

"Don't be afraid when life gets easier. You survived enough. Peace belongs to you too."

650.245.1845 COMPASS



Woodside Elementary School District

Notice is hereby given that Woodside Elementary School District ("District") will receive, by electronic submission, bids for the following project,

Contract Name: WOODSIDE MCCOVEY FIELD PROJECT
Contract No.: WESD-26MF

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK: Renovation of the existing natural grass baseball field and clay infield, new dugouts, bullpens/batting tunnel, backstop system, spectator seating, and partial perimeter warning track. Additional work includes a new facility scoreboard and adjustments to the existing irrigation system and concrete pad for O.F.O.I storage shed at Woodside Elementary School in Woodside, CA. See Contract Documents for full project description of scope.

A **non-MANDATORY PRE-BID** conference will be held on **Tuesday, Sept 29th, 2026, at 2 PM**, at 3195 Woodside Rd., Woodside, CA 94062. Contractors should meet in front of the Administration building.

Bid submission: Proposals must be emailed to Bids@woodsideschool.us by 2:00 PM on Tuesday, October 27th, 2026. Each bidder is solely responsible for timely submission of its bid.

To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California contractor license(s): **A, B or C-12.**

The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a 100% Performance Bond and a 100% Payment Bond if it is awarded the Contract for the Work.

The Bidder's license(s) must remain active and in good standing throughout the term of the Contract.

To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to be registered as a public works contractor with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to the Labor Code.

The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall pay all workers on all Work performed pursuant to this Contract not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to §1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are also available from the District or on the Internet at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov>. This Project is subject to labor compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code §1771.4 and subject to the requirements of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall furnish electronic certified payroll records directly to the Labor Commissioner weekly and within ten (10) days of any request by the District or the Labor Commissioner. The successful Bidder shall comply with all requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1, Articles 1-5 of the Labor Code, and is required to be registered as a public works contractor with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to the Labor Code.

This project is subject to the "prime" or the "general contractor" being prequalified with the school district at the time the bid is received. Any bid submitted by a prime contractor who is not prequalified shall be non-responsive and returned unopened to the bidder.

If you would like to be prequalified for this project, the prime contractor may do so by filling out the provided letter found in the link below and submitting to Yvonne Rodriguez at: yrodriguez@telacu.com

The last day to submit a prequalification packet will be Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

For a list of WESD pre-qualified Contractors, visit: <https://www.woodsideschool.us/District/Facilities-and-Maintenance/FORCONTRACTORS--PROJECT-MANAGEMENT-COMPANIES/index.html>

Bidders may examine Bidding Documents online at: <https://app.box.com/s/grxnvnrxq6rf9gx2u0t62bn3uget5r5k>

The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder based on the sum of the base bid only.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. If the District awards the Contract, the security of unsuccessful bidder(s) shall be returned within sixty (60) days from the time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.

All questions can be addressed to:
Woodside Elementary School District
3195 Woodside Rd.,
Woodside, CA 94062
650.851.1571

Attn:
Jesse Hildebrandt
Cell Phone: 714-293-7456
Email: Jhildebrandt@telacu.com



Rendering courtesy Lane Partners

Lane Partners is amending its plans for Parkline to include more housing and retail at 333 Ravenswood Ave. in Menlo Park, the longtime home of SRI International.

SRI PROJECT

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comprehensive study.

"I'm not inclined to vote to approve any project, including SRI and USGS, until we figure out a comprehensive transportation and circulation plan," Schmidt said at the Sept. 22 council study session. "We're looking at these things in isolation, project by project, and it is the wrong way to do it."

Schmidt said the city should prioritize a broader transportation study, even if doing so slows work on other projects. Schmidt added that his concerns are not a reflection on Lane Partners or the Parkline project, but about how Menlo Park handles development projects.

"I see the SRI project as part of a whole group because we are surrounded by three projects in our small neighborhood," said Lindfield Oaks resident Nancy Hosay. "It's SRI, the former USGS site, and the big one

on the Sunset Magazine site. Parkline has a huge amount of housing."

While she supports more housing, Hosay said nearby streets could not absorb the combined growth.

"Great to have more housing, but we in this small neighborhood do not have the infrastructure to be able to handle that," she said. "I really fear that it's going to be gridlocked for most of the time."

"These streets are already major thoroughfares," Hosay added. "Do we want an Oregon Expressway going through our neighborhood? That's not appealing."

Peter Lezak, who represents the owners of a Middlefield Road office building near the SRI campus, said they generally support the updated Parkline proposal, particularly the townhouses, but worry that the new housing and office space would make their property harder to access.

"Traffic is already bad and now with all of the additional housing and office space, it's going to be a big problem to access our offices," Lezak told The Almanac.

Lezak said the city should consider alternatives, such as extending Willow Road through the area.

"We feel like the individual single-family neighborhoods have done a very good job of expressing their concerns, and as a result, have stopped those kinds of things," Lezak said. "But therefore we're going to end up with very significant traffic on Middlefield."

Council members also questioned how the evolving project could affect nearby homes, particularly those in the Burgess Classics subdivision across from Burgess Park.

Councilmember Drew Combs said changes to the proposal and unresolved setback questions had left residents uncertain about how close the planned buildings could be to their properties.

"It has been a bit of a moving target: What exactly are the setbacks?" Combs said. "I appreciate that the project has changed ... but they've gotten different figures for setbacks and also some statements that, 'Well, that's going to be finalized at a later stage.'"

Lane Partners is preparing to submit a revised Parkline proposal that incorporates feedback from residents and the council. City staff said that once the revision is complete, it will undergo review under the California Environmental Quality Act. ■

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

Employment

The Almanac offers
employment advertising.

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Visit AlmanacNews.com/employment_ads/.

For assistance email LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com.

TESLA CRASH

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grown to host in-person community events.

The organization has held car meets at the Skywood Trading Post, The Mountain House and Apple Jack's, according to 9burgring.

Garabedian told The Almanac that he had partnered with Tesla in the past but has never experienced an incident like this. He said the company has yet to take responsibility for the driver's actions.

Reckless driving and speeding have been a growing concern among local residents in areas including Woodside, La Honda and Kings Mountain — many of whom are involved in local efforts and have signed petitions to warn out-of-towners that unsafe driving is not tolerated.

The effort gained momentum after East Palo Alto cyclist Jakub Solovskiy died in a head-on collision with a speeding Porsche on Highway 35 in July.

At the nearby intersection of highways 35 and 84, also known as Four Corners, signs have been placed by residents that say "Not Your Racetrack." Cars in the parking lot of Alice's Restaurant can be spotted with bumper stickers with the same phrase.

"Car organizations in the area have had a particularly bad reputation among the locals that live there because they assume that one bad batch of people that are there to race and cause havoc means that every single person that's a car enthusiast inherently shares that value," Garabedian said.

San Mateo County Supervisor Ray Mueller said his liaison learned about the 9burgring event from Ambassador Wine Garden.

Representatives from CHP, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and Mueller's office met with Garabedian and community

members before the car meet. Garabedian said the meeting was intended to create solutions on how they can work collaboratively on solutions to ensure the event went smoothly.

Mueller said, however, that the meeting was organized so his office and community members could confront Garabedian about reckless driving in the area. It was intended to hold the organization accountable and facilitate an opportunity for the community to meet with the organizer and share accident and injury information, said Mueller.

"That is not the county condoning the event, that is the county meaning to warn them," Mueller told The Almanac. "I am grossly disgusted there was an accident that day with people who were attending the event."

Mueller attended the last few minutes of the event to directly speak with event attendees and hand out flyers about the county's zero tolerance for risky behavior on the road. He was in the area to thank officers who were impounding a vehicle in the vicinity of the car meet, he explained.

Sheriff's Office spokesperson Gretchen Spiker said during the meeting that personnel raised concerns about "the anticipated increase in traffic and potential traffic-safety issues that could result" from the event.

"Sheriff's Office personnel advised the organizers against holding the event as part of our ongoing efforts to deter activities that may create traffic and public safety concerns in our community," Spiker said.

Garabedian said 9burgring is being blamed for the collision and his business partners have cut ties with him because they fear community backlash. He said the events also aimed to support local businesses during the off-season.



Michael Molcsan

A "Not your racetrack" bumper sticker was placed on the back of a vehicle parked across the street from Alice's Restaurant on La Honda Road in Woodside on Aug. 16.

"Our event pipeline for the next year is completely annihilated as a result of this," Garabedian said. "Locals have been saying that we're culpable, that we were complicit. They're thinking that we instructed the Tesla driver to drive like a maniac, which is completely incorrect."

He said 9burgring does not condone reckless driving and it doesn't promote it. When videos are posted to the social media account, it is to provide footage of behavior that the organization does not support, Garabedian said.

The Woodside Town Council held a study session to discuss safety and enforcement on state highways in the area on Sept. 22. ■

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

David Alois Fencel

August 17, 1950 - September 18, 2026

David Alois Fencel passed away in Palo Alto, California, on September 18, 2026, at the age of 76.

Born in Fort Worth, Texas, on August 17, 1950, to Alois and Lucy Irene Fencel, David grew up in Aurora, Colorado, where he graduated from Aurora Central High School. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado. David served as an officer in the United States Navy for 4 years. Continuing his education, he earned a Master of Business Administration and Finance from Golden Gate University.

David made Palo Alto his home in 1983, dedicating 40 years of service to the federal government, including years with NASA and the TSA.

A man of deep faith and quiet service, David was an integral contributor to the Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park, where he helped create the beautiful Grotto for Our Lady of Lourdes as well as prayer gardens. In 2007, he was invested into the Order of Malta, dedicating himself to serving the sick and the poor. David found great daily spiritual nourishment attending daily Mass at the Corpus Christi Monastery in Menlo Park, where he held deep affection for the Dominican Sisters.

David is survived by his niece, Britta Conway, and his grand-nephews, Brendan and Brice Conway. He was preceded in death by his parents, Alois and Lucy Irene Fencel, and his sister, Deborah Bushnell.

A Rosary will be recited at the Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park on Friday, September 25, at 7:30 PM. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at the Vallombrosa Center on Monday, September 28, at 10:00 AM, with a reception immediately following. A Memorial and Burial will be planned in Denver, Colorado. At a later date David will be interred at Ft. Logan National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in David's honor may be made to The Order of Malta Western Association for the Lourdes Pilgrimage (<https://orderofmaltawestern.us/donate/>) or to St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park for seminarian tuition (<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/stpatrickssseminary/>).

PAID OBITUARY

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Alfred Aguilar Santana, 81, a Mountain View resident who was a Vietnam veteran and whose name is engraved on the Mountain View Veterans Memorial, was remembered for his devotion to family and the legacy he leaves through his children and grandchildren. He died on July 26, 2026.

Elodia "Lupe" Soto Del Real, 88, a longtime Mountain View resident who moved to the city in 1957, worked in Santa Clara Valley agriculture in her youth and lived in the same Mountain View home for more than six decades, was known for her easygoing nature, love of California and fondness for her 1966 Plymouth VIP and

1986 Pontiac Fiero. She died on Sept. 1, 2026.

James David "Jim" Owen, 66, a former Palo Alto resident who grew up in the city and later maintained equipment at Varian and CPI in Palo Alto, also worked on major Bay Area projects and ran stage lighting for performers including Tina Turner, Willie Nelson, B.B. King and Ray Charles. Known for his generosity and willingness to teach and help others, he died on Aug. 21, 2026, in Eureka.

David Alois Fencel, 76, a longtime Palo Alto resident who served as a U.S. Navy officer and spent 40 years in federal service, including with NASA and the TSA, was also known for helping create the grotto and prayer gardens

at Menlo Park's Vallombrosa Center and for his service through the Order of Malta. He died on Sept. 18, 2026.

Matthew Carl Ragno, 75, a Woodside resident who was born in Palo Alto and spent many years co-owning John's Liquors in Portola Valley with his brother, was a two-time bocce ball tournament champion at the Italian-American Social Club in Menlo Park and an avid outdoorsman active with the California Waterfowl Association and Ducks Unlimited. He died on Sept. 5, 2026.

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

BYRON SHER

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Committee in the Assembly and later the Environmental Quality Committee in the Senate.

His list of legislative accomplishments include landmark statutes such as the California Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. He also spearheaded the Integrated Waste Management Act, which governed garage and recycling, and passed a law that required double containers for fuel tanks and pipes.

“He had the vision, he did the work and he worked well with his leadership to make sure that when he needed their help, he would be there,” said Joe Simitian, who served in the state Assembly when Sher was in the Senate and who partnered with him on renewable energy bills. “I thought that was a model worth emulating.”

Simitian was a college student when he met Sher in 1973. He was writing a term paper about the 1967 recall and Sher had agreed to talk to him about that painful experience. Simitian, who similarly served as Palo Alto mayor before moving on to the state Assembly and state Senate, called Sher’s post-recall election an apt redemption story for a local leader who was ahead of his time.

Sher often played a “key but quiet” role in major legislative efforts and in political debates, Simitian said. He also played the long game. Because term limits didn’t exist when he began his Sacramento stint, he was able to work on certain environmental issues for more than two decades, which is not something legislators can do today, Simitian said.

In a 2004 proclamation, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors recognized Sher’s decades of public service by designating Jan. 30 as “Byron Sher Day.” The proclamation called him “arguably the most effective environmental legislator in the state.”

After leaving Palo Alto, Sher and his family moved to the Sierra Nevada foothills, where he managed a pear orchard in Placerville.

Even then, he remained involved in environmental policy, serving on the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

Sher is survived by his children, Adrienne, Benjamim and Katherine Sher, grandchildren Sarah Burke, Edek Sher, Nathaniel Sher, Dinah Sher Gongora, and Noe Gongora; and great-granddaughter Echo Marie Moncrieff. In lieu of flowers, his family requests that memorial contributions be sent to the International Rescue Committee (www.rescue.org). ■

Email Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@almanacnews.com.

Public Notices

JOYA SUPERMARKET 2
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304845
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) JOYA SUPERMARKET 2 , located at 388-390 GRAND AVE., SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080.
Registered owner(s):
JOYA SUPERMARKET 2 INC
388-390 GRAND AVE.
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080
State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/01/2026.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 02, 2026.
(ALM Sep 25, Oct 2, 9 and 16, 2026)

CUSTOMIZED ELECTRICAL SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304712
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CUSTOMIZED ELECTRICAL SERVICES , located at 941 TAFT ST, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061.
Registered owner(s):
JOSUE VIDANA
941 TAFT ST
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 03/26/2009.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 19, 2026.
(ALM Sep 18, 25, Oct 2 and 9, 2026)

TRAILS & STEAM
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304834
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) TRAILS & STEAM , located at 1307 Portola Road, Woodside, CA 94062.
Registered owner(s):
CORINNE COOLEY
1307 Portola Road
Woodside CA 94062
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 01, 2026.
(ALM Sep 11, 18, 25 and Oct 2, 2026)

FEDORA FIDUCIARY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304875
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) FEDORA FIDUCIARY , located at 3341 Melendy Drive, San Carlos, CA 94070.
Registered owner(s):
SHANNON L. KAMPA
3341 Melendy Drive
San Carlos, CA 94070
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 08, 2026.
(ALM Sep 25, Oct 2, 9 and 16, 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)

DAISY’S FLORALS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304721
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) DAISY’S FLORALS , located at 2853 Holland St., San Mateo, CA 94403.
Registered owner(s):
GISELLE ESPINOZA HERNANDEZ
2853 Holland St.
San Mateo, CA 94403
CASSANDRA SANCHEZ
2853 Holland St.
San Mateo, CA 94403
MICAH EUNICE DAYAG
2853 HOLLAND ST.
San Mateo, CA 94403
This business is conducted by: a General Partnership.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/03/26.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 20, 2026.
(ALM Sep 25, Oct 2, 9 and 16, 2026)

HEXMONGER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304939
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) HEXMONGER , located at 17 Almendral Ave, Atherton, CA 94027.
Registered owner(s):
NATHANIEL VOORHIES
17 Almendral Ave
Atherton, CA 94027
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 15, 2026.
(ALM Sep 25, Oct 2, 9 and 16, 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)

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)

BEAM LEADERSHIP STUDIO + APOTHECARY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304855
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) BEAM LEADERSHIP STUDIO + APOTHECARY , located at 2995 Woodside Road #110, Woodside, CA 94062.
Registered owner(s):
BEAM LEADERSHIP, LLC
2995 Woodside Road #110
Woodside, CA 94062
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
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 September 03, 2026.
(ALM Sep 18, 25, Oct 2 and 9, 2026)

REVEAL GLOSS AUTO DETAILING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304826
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) REVEAL GLOSS AUTO DETAILING , located at 423 Larkspur Dr, East Palo Alto, CA, 94303.
Registered owner(s):
JORGE TAFOLLA HERNANDEZ
423 Larkspur Dr
East Palo Alto, CA, 94303
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 01, 2026.
(ALM Sep 11, 18, 25 and Oct 2, 2026)

DC AUTO COLLISION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304889
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) DC AUTO COLLISION , located at 140 SOUTH LINDEN AVE UNIT D, SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080.
Registered owner(s):
SSF AUTO CENTER INC
140 SOUTH LINDEN AVE UNIT D
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/15/2014.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 09, 2026.
(ALM Sep 18, 25, Oct 2 and 9, 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)

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 GOODELL
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)

BAY AREA SERVICES: PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304910
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) BAY AREA SERVICES: PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL , located at 533 Airport Blvd, Ste. 400, Burlingame, CA 94010.
Registered owner(s):
CHRIS PLUMBING BAY AREA SERVICES CORP.
533 Airport Blvd, Ste. 400
Burlingame, CA 94010
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 11, 2026.
(ALM Sep 18, 25, Oct 2 and 9, 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
Case No.: 26-CIV-06409
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Paul Daniel Parell filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
PAUL DANIEL PARELL to PAUL PARELL REDDY
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: 10/20/2026, 9:00 AM, Southern Branch: Hall of Justice and Records 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: 08/20/2026
Stephanie Garratt
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Sep 11, 18, 25 and Oct 2, 2026)

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

Diaper duty: What Gov. Gavin Newsom owes every newborn

By Ashton Dolce

In the fall of 2025, I interned for Midpeninsula Assemblymember Marc Berman. For my final project, I was asked to brainstorm bill ideas for the upcoming legislative session. Looking at what other states had passed, I stumbled across a little-known bill from New York. Senate Bill S2279C, signed into law by Gov. Kathy Hochul in December 2024, made New York the first state to require diaper companies to disclose ingredients on product packaging. I suggested California follow suit. That idea became California Assembly Bill 1901, authored by Berman. It's now on Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk, awaiting his signature.

As I researched New York's law, I read about the unsettling, even toxic, compounds found in many diapers: PFAS, or "forever

chemicals," and phthalates found in waterproof layers, fragrances and adhesives; volatile organic compounds like toluene, styrene, and xylene; plastics like polyethylene, polypropylene and polyurethane. Unbeknownst to many parents, the same chemicals found in garden hoses, shower curtains and car bumpers are in diapers, a product an infant will wear thousands of times over the course of babyhood.

Pampers' website touts "60-plus years of quality, safety and trust" while Huggies leans on the slogan "safety is our #1 priority," but the absence of ingredient disclosure undercuts the very trust they're selling. Researchers in Guangzhou, China, published an article in the toxicology journal *Toxics* in 2025, finding that diapers are a "significant exposure pathway" for infants "whose developing systems are vulnerable to environmental

GUEST OPINION

toxics." Other scientists who have studied phthalates — the same group of chemicals tested in the previous study — have linked long-term exposure to genital development problems and neurodevelopmental issues later in life.

Despite scientific evidence that newborns absorb environmental toxins, diapers are exempt from the ingredient-labeling rules that apply to products like baby lotion, oil and powder. Those rules come from the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act of 1973 (FPLA), the same law that mandates ingredient disclosures on cosmetics and cleaning products.

In March of this year, Berman, the father of a toddler, introduced AB 1901, working with the Environmental Working Group to push it through the

state legislature over the following months.

AB 1901 would not ban ingredients or create unnecessary red tape. Instead, the bill would provide consumers with transparency and choice. It's the same logic that undergirds the FPLA's regulations on many products: In a free market, individuals should have the opportunity to make informed decisions about the items they purchase. This gap between what a company knows about its product and what a consumer does even has a name in economics: "information asymmetry." By encouraging consumers to avoid harmful toxins, mandatory ingredient disclosures incentivize companies to use safer ingredients, correcting the information imbalance.

If signed into law, AB 1901 could affect an estimated 1.3 million California babies currently in diapers, as well as

roughly 400,000 babies born in the state each year. Even consumers outside California could see the benefit, since manufacturers often standardize packaging nationally to avoid the logistics of different packaging across state lines. Other states may follow suit as well; California is often the first to pass innovative policy on environmental issues that other states later adopt, from tailpipe emissions in the 1960s to the state's 2014 plastic bag ban.

What started as a few lines on a Word document is now, after months in the legislature, one signature away from becoming law. Gov. Newsom has until Sept. 30 to decide whether to sign AB 1901. The choice is simple: Sign it. ■

Ashton Dolce is a Stanford University undergraduate studying public policy and political science.



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Photography with a unique dimension

Cantor Arts Center presents rare examples of photosculpture, a 19th-century mashup of science and art

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

In Greek and Roman mythology, Narcissus was a handsome young man who, while stopping to drink from a pond, fell in love with his own reflection. He was so overcome with adoration that he refused to leave and died of hunger. Like this mythical figure, we humans have always been fascinated by our own image, as can be seen today in the culture of influencers and the never-ending quest for the perfect selfie.

A new exhibition at the Cantor Arts Center entitled “Solid Pictures: Photosculpture and the Making of Modern Likeness” explores that innate need for representation, as well as the little-known tale of a French inventor named François Willème, who sought to bring one of the most elite forms of artistic media, sculpture, to the masses.

On display until Jan. 18, this sleek and sophisticated exhibition

of archival materials, prints, slides and actual photosculptures has numerous objectives: to recount the rise and fall of Willème and his invention, which fused photography and sculpture; to provide a context for the reasons why photography exploded in popularity; and to offer a cautionary tale about visionary creatives who find their dreams extend beyond the realities of their times.

To fully appreciate the forward-thinking Willème, for whom there is little biographical information, we have to go back to the mid-1850s, before photography became widely available. Among the upper classes, there was a custom to leave a “carte de visite” at the home of friends and business acquaintances. These were small cards, usually 4 x 2 inches in size, with a portrait of oneself on one side. It became a Victorian rage to trade, collect in albums and even display these cards, perhaps to show how well-connected one was in society.

“Willème naturally figured that he could find success in the corresponding medium of sculpture. He even created tiny busts which he called “buste-cartes,” advertising them as three-dimensional calling cards,” said Cantor Arts Center Associate Curator of European Art Patrick R. Crowley.

But why sculpture? A visit to most museums includes gazing upon painted portraits of the rich and famous in their best finery and, perhaps, displaying their wealth via backgrounds of ornate rooms or even in outdoor settings to show off their estates. But to have a three-dimensional representation of oneself was the ultimate tribute, usually

reserved for political and military heroes.

An artist and inventor, Willème devised a method that used synchronized photography and mechanical instruments like the pantograph (a tool that aids in duplication) to create solid figures from silhouette profiles. This is a very condensed description of the process, which the exhibition explains in more detail using maquettes and wall text.

Like a true entrepreneur, Willème advertised his process and product as being a fast — within 48 hours — and economical means of capturing one’s image for posterity. He found investors, formed a company and got notable people to endorse his new invention. Now a patented product, photosculpture found its way into the court of Queen Isabella II of Spain. Her 1865 photosculpture is remarkably realistic, due to the intricately rendered details of her face, jewelry and garments.

Unfortunately for Willème, the last step in the complicated process involved sculptural modeling of those fine details, which could only be done by hand. This added costs to the photosculpture, due to the need to hire skilled craftsmen.

This aspect of the story is nicely illustrated by the inclusion of a mannequin in a crinoline (a stiff, structured petticoat) dress. It was the style at the time, with yards of cascading ruffles and mounds of lace — and no self-respecting



François Willème aimed to use his invention to democratize sculpture. Seen here is an unfinished wooden photosculpture bust that he created.

Courtesy George Eastman Museum

examples for the museum, which now owns 12. “We have the second largest collection behind the Patrimonio Nacional of Spain, which boasts 39.”

Walking into the exhibition, the first indication that one will encounter something different and new is the three-dimensional title wall. The first room gives a chronology of how Willème began with a fairly rough-looking wooden prototype and started to sell his idea around town. Crowley said that this is his favorite work in the show because “it’s more about the processes than the products of art.” Willème showed this early model for the first time at a lecture in 1861 and Crowley made an interesting correlation between then and now.

“It’s like when Steve Jobs took the stage to show the iPhone for the first time,” said Crowley.

Wall-sized reproductions of photographs of Willème’s studio and of a woman posing for a photosculpture take the viewer back in time and give a sense of how revolutionary the process must have seemed. There was the subject, standing in the middle of a circular space, under a plumb bob (a vertical level tool), while cameras set in the walls captured a 360-degree likeness on glass plates. These negatives were projected on a screen, a profile was traced, a pantograph copied the likeness in scale and a stylus with a blade cut into clay to create a mold of the figure. These were most often cast in plaster bisque with the detailed work, as noted previously, having to be done by hand.

woman of the age would want those fashion details to be omitted in her portrait. The extra work of replicating all these details by hand meant that photosculptures of women cost more than those of men. The photosculptures in this section of the show area are exquisite in their workmanship, capturing the voluminous folds of skirts and delicate embellishment of laces. They were finished in bronze, painted plaster and silver plated plaster and must have been quite the treasure in a late-19th-century parlor.

Crowley said that he first learned about Willème and his work when he was in graduate school. Upon coming to work at the Cantor, he set out to acquire



Courtesy Cantor Arts Center

Photosculptures of women, such as this porcelain portrait of Matilde de Aguilera y Gamboa by François Willème, proved more costly to produce due to the era’s highly decorated fashion.

See **PHOTOSCULPTURE**, page 21

Grammy-winning group beats the drum for new music

Third Coast Percussion will perform Sept. 26 at Coast Live Music in Portola Valley

By Heather Zimmerman

Percussion is everywhere, keeping the beat in just about any type of music. But only recently have composers written specifically for it — and that's still rarer than music for other instruments.

For 20 years, Third Coast Percussion has made strides in raising the profile of composed percussion music, particularly in commissioning and performing new works.

In 2017, the quartet became the first percussion group to win a Grammy Award in the classical genre, and the group has gone on to receive further nominations, as well as for individual members. Additionally, Third Coast Percussion has commissioned over 100 new works from composers such as Zakir Hussain, Philip Glass, Danny Elfman, Jessie Montgomery and Clarice Assad, as well as pieces by new and emerging composers.

Local audiences will get a chance to hear some of those pieces when the Chicago-based all-percussion ensemble performs Sept. 26 at a concert hosted by Portola Valley nonprofit presenter Coast Live Music.

While audiences know what to expect at rock or classical performances, the same usually can't be said for percussion concerts, and that's part of the fun, said Sean Connors, Third Coast Percussion co-artistic director, technical director, and education director.

"I would say pretty much every single concert, someone comes up and says, 'Wow, I had no idea what a percussion concert would

be like, but that was great.' I think because we're not defined by an instrument — it's like a collection of different instruments — every piece can be completely different. So I feel like that's somewhat unique about performing with just percussionists."

Connors got his start in music with piano lessons at a very young age, then switched to percussion in elementary school and kept up with it throughout high school. The ubiquity of the instruments and their versatility impressed him very early on.

"I loved and still love the fact that there's percussion in basically every single genre of music — it's one of the most basic instruments, right? Besides the human voice, anything that you hit or you shake can be considered a percussion instrument," Connors said.

He quickly saw that in some form, it could be found everywhere, from orchestras to rock bands.

"I just loved all sorts of music and there was percussion in all of (it.)"

Third Coast Percussion was formed in 2005 by musicians who were then at Northwestern University. Connors joined the group in 2013. Over the years, he said that ensemble members have developed a shorthand in working together, but also a sound that keeps evolving, thanks to new instruments and a variety of collaborations.

"The collection of instruments that we have, it's ever growing. It feels like every year (we say), 'Okay, this is the year that we don't need to add any more instruments, and then immediately we're like, 'Oh, but did you hear

this cool new thing? I saw this person play this.' We're ordering more instruments, so we're constantly adding to our sound palette," Connors said.

"But in some ways, even more importantly, we keep expanding our collaborators and the composers that we work with, so we get to kind of step into someone else's artistic shoes and play in their voice, which is really, really fun."

Commissioning new works is a core part of the group's mission, but also practically speaking, the ensemble aims to help to build out a genre where repertoire has been comparatively scarce.

"The type of percussion music that we mostly perform — notated percussion music, composed in the classical tradition — hasn't been a thing as long as other classical chamber groups, like a string quartet, for example," Connors said, noting that there are centuries' worth of compositions for string instruments.

"We're getting close to a century of percussion music, which is awesome. The education around classical percussion has really blossomed and bloomed within the last few decades ... so a lot of the repertoire is very recent. That's the practical answer, but then the mission statement answer is that we love commissioning and we love creating new work. Bringing new work into life is just part of what we do, and that's why a lot of music at our concerts is new," he said.

Education has also been a strong theme throughout the group's work, and Third Coast's Currents Creative Partnership program combines education and



Courtesy Saverio Truglia

At their concert for Coast Live Music, Third Coast Percussion will play some of the new works the ensemble has commissioned over the past 20 years.

their emphasis on new music. For more than a decade, the program has brought emerging music creators together with the ensemble to compose a work, developed over a series of workshops and then performed at a concert.

For Third Coast's performance at Coast Live Music, the ensemble will perform works from their "Time Pieces: The New Classical" program, which includes the piece for which the ensemble won a Grammy: Steve Reich's "Music for Pieces of Wood," as well as a number of Third Coast commissions.

"We'll be playing pieces almost exclusively that were commissioned for our 20th anniversary that highlight collaborators that we were really especially excited to work with. So there's a piece by one of our most frequent collaborators, Jlin," Connors said.

The ensemble will be touring Europe with her later this year and on Oct. 23, will be releasing "Vernacular," a new album they recorded with her.

"There's a piece by Jessie Montgomery, a very dear friend of ours

who is a fellow Chicagoan, amazing, very popular classical composer. She's a wonderful orchestrator. She uses really fun colors in her piece 'Lady Justice.' We'll demonstrate that to the crowd. It includes sticking tubes in drums and rolling them, changing their pitch inside.

"There's a piece by an incredible Armenian pianist and composer, Tigran Hamasyan. He wrote us a three-movement sonata that is just completely wild. It uses time and rhythm in a way that even for us, a bunch of drummers, was new and exciting and challenged us," Connors said. ■

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Third Coast Percussion performs Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m., at Portola Valley Town Hall, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Tickets are \$55-\$75 adults/\$35 teachers/\$25 for under 18; coastlivemusic.com/event/third-coast-percussion.

PHOTOSCULPTURE

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Willème's efforts to democratize the medium was undone by this unforeseen necessity, despite his advertisements for "10 seconds of posing," and a quick turn-around. The exorbitant price was the final blow, resulting in financial ruin and Willème leaving the company in 1867.

"The whole point was that photosculpture was supposed to be a labor-saving device; while it was capable of producing astonishing maquettes, it certainly underestimated the costs of those finishing touches, especially in the case of women's dress," explained Crowley.

The last room of the exhibition contains information about an American named Steele

MacKaye, who attempted to bring the photosculpture process to the United States in 1866. He founded the American Photosculpture Company, which MacKaye predicted would create public monuments and ornamental sculpture. Civil War general Ulysses S. Grant was a notable customer, and his 1867 photosculpture, made a couple years before he became president, is included here. Like Willème, MacKaye also underestimated the skilled labor force needed and he went bankrupt after just one year.

A wall label states that photosculpture was "an early example of a gimmick ... an aesthetic phenomenon rooted in the misappraisal of value." We know, however, that one person's gimmick — or even failure — can be the pathway for another person's innovation and success. Crowley

has included four contemporary artists whose work would not be possible without the historical groundwork laid by Willème.

"I decided to include contemporary works because it was important to me to make the links between this older, largely forgotten technology and our modern world explicit. I selected works that foreground aspects of process that are indebted to photosculpture: CT scanning, 3D scanning, CNC machining, and so on," said Crowley. (CNC machining and CNC milling refers to processes in which machines guided by a computer fabricate or carve objects.)

One of these artists, Oliver Laric, used a combination of processes (3D printing, CNC milling) to create an homage to Willème, in the form of three sculptures, in diminishing scale. "Self-Portrait,"

from 2026, shows the inventor in full figure, arms crossed and deep in thought.

A one-minute, black-and-white video created in 1972 by Ed Catmull and Fred Parke shows a disembodied hand in motion. It seems simple, but read the label: this pioneering use of three-dimensional animation began with a plaster cast of a hand, painstakingly digitized, and would change the history of animation forever, with Catmull later becoming a founder of Pixar.

What began as a simple idea — to satisfy the human need to be represented and seen — has obviously evolved beyond anything François Willème could ever imagine. Presenting these seldom-seen art works here, in the heart of Silicon Valley, seems timely and well-placed. Crowley, however, pointed out that the

exhibition has been long in the making (five years) and "long before AI played a dominant role in our discourse."

What would he like the visitor to take away from the story of Willème and his visionary, but ill-fated photosculpture experiment?

"I want people to come away with much deeper, and perhaps more troubling questions, about the creative labor that lies at the heart of what makes us human." ■

Email Contributing Writer Sheryl Nonnenberg at nonnenberg@aol.com.

"Photosculpture and the Making of Modern Likeness" is on view through Jan. 18 at the Cantor Arts Center, Stanford. Admission is free. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions.

Food & Drink



Seeger Gray

Lutticken's Deli, which has been in Menlo Park for 45 years, will permanently close Sept. 30. Lutticken's After 5, which has operated since 2011, shuttered in August.

Lutticken's legacy

How a Menlo Park deli cultivated community over its 45-year history

By Adrienne Mitchel

After 45 years of deli sandwiches and community building, Menlo Park institution Lutticken's will permanently close Sept. 30. But with the future of its storefront undecided and a longtime employee expressing interest in taking over the business, the Lutticken family needs to "sit back and figure out where we stand," said Bobby Lutticken, the son of founder Bob Lutticken.

"There's just a lot to do. When you're wrapping up 45 years, imagine being in five houses and trying to figure out where everything goes," he said. "But there will be something there, and so hopefully it'll make another

big splash and can go another 45 years."

Lutticken's is much more than a deli — it has also served as a live music venue, a supporter of youth sports and a frequent donor for causes supporting local veterans, the homeless and hungry. Notable politicians such as former Vice President Al Gore have frequented the spot, and it was recognized as Senate District 13's Small Business of the Year in 2024 for its generosity and commitment to supporting the community.

"Lutticken's has been an institution in our community and a place I've personally visited hundreds of times over the last 30 years," state Sen. Josh Becker said in an email interview. "It wasn't just a place to get a great

sandwich. It was a neighborhood gathering place where people knew one another and everyone felt welcome. ... It simply won't be the same without them."

After service ends Sept. 30, Lutticken's will shutter all four of its locations — its flagship in Menlo Park, two at Stanford Medical Center and one in an office building on Sand Hill Road.

"Forty-five years is a long run. It ran its course," Bobby Lutticken said. "Business model switched, and everyone involved just got older, and it was just time."

According to manager Judy Congdon, who's been with Lutticken's since its inception and will retire after the business



Seeger Gray

A customer eats outside Lutticken's Deli in Menlo Park on Sept. 14.



Seeger Gray

Manager Judy Congdon, left, and employees Minor Turuy, center, and Maria Hernandez stand for a portrait at Lutticken's Deli.

shutters, the daytime business never fully recovered from the pandemic.

"The neighborhood is losing a great spot that everybody loves, but it just is not sustainable," she said. "Business hasn't come back since everything shut down with COVID."

Bob Lutticken operated two grocery stores in South San Francisco in the 1970s before opening Lutticken's as a grocery store in Menlo Park in the building adjacent to where it stands today. The grocery store offered sandwiches called Poor Boys and Rich Boys, priced at 79 cents (99 cents with cheese).

"There was a ton of construction going on in the early '80s over in Atherton, and there would be lines out the door for sandwiches at 9 a.m. all the way through the day," Bobby Lutticken recalled.

After a decade in that building,

Lutticken's moved next door and reinvented itself as a deli and catering business. In 2011, Lutticken's introduced its After 5 program, expanding beyond a daytime deli to offer dinner, a full bar and live music.

While the deli won't close until Sept. 30, the After 5 program had its final day of service Aug. 29, and community members held a farewell celebration with live music outside Lutticken's Sept. 12.

"(Lutticken's After 5) was just such a warm and welcoming place, and it always felt like a second living room to us," regular Mary Zarruchi said.

She and her husband Bob Zarruchi frequented the After 5 program weekly since its inception in 2011, often enjoying a cheeseburger or the naked burrito bowl with panko chicken. She and her band The Salty Licks performed there once

a month for years, and she enjoyed meeting other musicians, partaking in Thursday night karaoke and listening in on the open mic nights.

"Everyone is treated like family there," she said. "It almost makes me want to cry that we're losing this institution."

Todd Johnson, who spearheaded After 5's live music programming and open mic nights, said the nighttime business had been packed up until its closure.

"I've been there two nights a month for the last 14 years, and so it was sort of sadness mixed with some great memories of events that we had there and people I've met," he said. "I hope it's like a phoenix, and someone comes in there with deep pockets and takes over, and we can rebuild it into something."

After 5 manager Carlos Magana wants to continue the legacy of Lutticken's and said he



Seeger Gray

A sign announces the upcoming closure of Lutticken's Deli.

and an investor are ready and waiting to take over the business. Magana said that Bob Lutticken is like the father he never had and that it would be an honor to continue and revive Lutticken's.

"I learned how to be more kind and more caring for people because that's what Bob is. He cares for people, and without judging who you are, he really does show love for people," Magana said.

Alpine Little League and Menlo-Atherton Little League are hosting a lunch for Bob Lutticken at the deli on Friday, Sept. 25, from noon to 2 p.m. to thank him for sponsoring the teams for decades.

"The Lutticken's name is synonymous with Little League," said Ricky Flores, president of Menlo-Atherton Little League.

In fact, Lutticken's has been a sponsor for as far back as the league's records go, he noted. ■

Email Food Editor Adrienne Mitchel at amitchel@almanacnews.com.

Lutticken's, 3535 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park; 650-854-0291. Until Sept. 30, open Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Courtesy Bobby Lutticken

Lutticken's founder Bob Lutticken stands behind the bar at his restaurant in Menlo Park.



Courtesy Carlos Magana

Lutticken's After 5 manager Carlos Magana, left, stands next to Bob Lutticken, the founder of Lutticken's.

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