

The Almanac

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

DECEMBER 18, 2019 | VOL. 55 NO. 15



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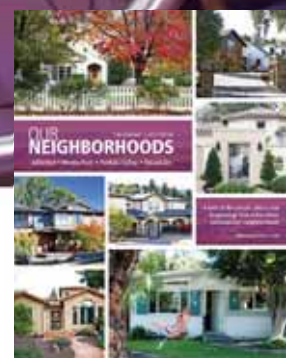
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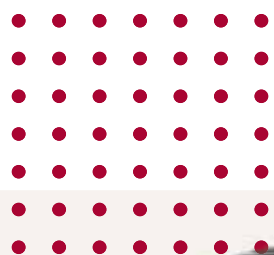
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Former Park & Recreation Committee members Christine David and John Davey play with their leashed dogs, Benji and Wilson, in Holbrook-Palmer Park last week. They recently resigned from the committee after a council vote rejected the committee's proposal to consider creating an off-leash dog park in Holbrook-Palmer.

Committee members resign over City Council's dog park decision

John Davey and Christine David say council not considering what residents want

By **Angela Swartz**
Almanac Staff Writer

When John Davey and Christine David attended a Nov. 20 Atherton City Council meeting they expected council members to simply weigh the pros and cons of their proposed off-leash dog area in the town's only park, but say they were shocked by the council's split vote to remove the option from the town's master plan.

Davey and David felt so strongly about what they say was the council's disregard for what they assert is a priority for Atherton residents that they submitted letters of resignation from their posts on the town's Park & Recreation Committee late last month. The committee had recommended that the council consider a proposal to build an off-leash dog park — funded by donations — southeast of Holbrook-Palmer Park's North Lawn. The concept to create an off-leash area was part of the town's 2015 master plan for the future development of the park.

"Why even have a Park & Recreation Committee if the town council is not going to take seriously our recommendations?" asked Davey, who has served

on the committee on and off for three decades, including a stint as chair, before resigning on Nov. 26. His term was set to end in June 2022. "Our (the committee's) objective is to represent the needs of Atherton residents as it relates to the park, and that's what we thought we were doing in good faith."

'While council listens to recommendations, we don't always take recommendations of resident-led committee members. There's no disrespect at all for the committee members.'

COUNCILWOMAN ELIZABETH LEWIS

The two said they were particularly surprised that the council declined not only to consider the proposal, but also to remove it from the park's master plan, a move they say was "unnecessary." David said the master plan was based on decades of experience in the park, plus resident feedback, gathered at taxpayer expense, and that the town should honor it.

Mayor Bill Widmer said at the meeting that the town has "more important fish to fry." He and other council members cited the need to focus on the town's \$31.6 million civic center construction project, which is scheduled for completion in 2021.

Council member Elizabeth Lewis noted that the town would need to survey residents to determine whether a dog park is a priority for residents. A 2015 survey for the master plan determined that residents didn't particularly want to add amenities to the park, but an off-leash dog area was the only major request, with 24% supporting off-leash dog use anywhere in the park and another 44% supporting it in a designated area, for a total of 68% of respondents.

"I'm really surprised this (dog park proposal) is coming to us at this particular time," Lewis said at the meeting. "I thought we indicated it was not a priority. Just because it's part of the master plan doesn't mean we're going to build something that would be nice to have."

Three council members — Lewis, Widmer and Cary Wiest — voted to remove the dog park from the master plan; Mike Lempres opposed the action. Vice Mayor Rick DeGolia, the council's Park & Recreation

See **DOG PARK**, page 7

Tough traffic impacts to test public's support of new Guild Theatre

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

When Menlo Park resident Drew Dunlevie brought forward the idea of a nonprofit live music venue to breathe new life into the old Guild Theatre in early 2018, the widespread excitement about the idea offered a rare example of how near-unanimous public support can expedite an often contentious and slow-moving process.

However, it's likely that the abundant public goodwill the project generated will be put to the test over the next two years as demolition and construction work move forward.

According to a Dec. 10 staff report, construction on the new Guild Theatre will start with six weeks of demolition work set to last through mid-January, followed by 18 months of construction, through mid-2021.

The bad news: Construction of the building at 949 El Camino Real is going to require about 180 days of "intermittent" closures of the southbound through lane on El Camino Real, according to staff. (El Camino has only two lanes in that section, with curbside parking.)

And while the closures are set to last from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. — avoiding the worst peak commute times — staff say they expect "a significant traffic impact" as a result of the planned lane closures.

They say they tried to explore other options, but there really aren't any, since the only access to the theater is off of El Camino Real, and the theater takes up the entire property site, according to the report.

One potential silver lining of the misery folks will experience traversing a further-bottlenecked El Camino Real is that city staff are working with the Peninsula Arts Guild, the nonprofit that's building the new theater, to use the planned closures to improve a couple of crosswalks along El Camino Real near the theater.

In 2016, the City Council approved and budgeted for expanding crosswalk options along El Camino Real at key intersections, including those at Roble Avenue and Menlo/Ravenswood avenues.

Those crossings only have crosswalks on one side of El Camino Real. The city proposes to add a crosswalk, curb ramp and pedestrian signals at those intersections. (The city also supports expanded crosswalks across El Camino Real at Middle and Cambridge avenues, but has tied those crosswalks to Stanford's Middle Plaza project, under construction.)

According to the report, city staff are working out a funding agreement with the Peninsula Arts Guild. The next steps for the crosswalks are to design,

See **GUILD THEATRE**, page 9



Photo by Magali Gauthier

The demolished interior of the Guild Theatre is visible from El Camino Real in Menlo Park. Work to build the new theater is expected to last about two years, with about six months of lane closures planned on El Camino Real.

Carbon neutrality by 2030? Council open to bold new climate goal

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

Faced with the increasingly real and local threat of climate change, the Menlo Park City Council hosted a discussion on Tuesday, Dec. 10, to talk about developing a new climate action plan that better reflects what scientists say is an urgent need to decrease carbon emissions.

The council expressed openness to exploring a far bolder goal than its current climate goals, which has been recommended by the city's Environmental Quality Commission: to make Menlo Park carbon neutral by 2030.

It also voted unanimously that night to pass a resolution endorsing a declaration of a climate emergency, which demands faster action to address the climate crisis and asks for regional collaboration.

The resolution also lays out the council's support for educating the city's residents about the climate emergency and notes that "health, socio-economic and racial equity considerations should be included in policymaking and climate solutions."

Currently, the city's goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 27% below 2005 levels by 2020. The most current data, from 2017, indicates the city has reduced emissions by about 18.6%.

Much of the reduction achieved so far has to do with the city switching to Peninsula Clean Energy, which offers 90% clean and renewable electricity; reducing emissions due to building energy usage policy changes with PG&E; and the installation of efficient gas-capture devices at Ox Mountain Landfill, according to Rebecca Lucky, Menlo Park sustainability manager.

Lucky said that in the next climate action plan, the city can focus on three main areas: shifting transportation to low carbon fuel alternatives, which could prevent 200,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions; achieving the city's zero-waste goal by 2035, which could prevent 100,000 tons of emissions; and reducing natural gas use in existing buildings, which could prevent 80,000 tons of emissions.

Further recommendations for local governments, put forward by the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance, are to: adopt a zero-emissions standard for new buildings; build electric vehicle charging infrastructure; mandate composting of organic material; electrify heating and cooling systems in buildings; designate

car-free and low-emission vehicle zones; support local producers and buyers of renewable electricity; and set a city climate budget to support eliminating carbon emissions.

In addition, the Environmental Quality Commission has developed its own set of recommendations for the new climate action plan, which includes a proposal to obtain 100% carbon-free electricity citywide through Peninsula Clean Energy. Currently, households have to "opt up" to get this type of energy mix, which is slightly more expensive than PG&E offers, instead of the 90% clean mix that is slightly cheaper.

The commission also recommends electrifying as many existing buildings as possible; reducing the miles vehicles travel; supporting electric vehicle purchasing and increasing infrastructure for electric vehicles; reducing carbon emissions from construction; electrifying municipal buildings and fleet vehicles; implementing a zero-waste plan; deterring the installation of appliances that emit carbon, like gas water heaters, in new buildings; planting more trees and landscaping; and developing adaptation measures to prepare the city for climate change.

A number of residents spoke in favor of the more stringent carbon emission restrictions.

"The future begins in Menlo Park," said Mitch Slomiak, former Environmental Quality Commission member and a founder of Menlo Spark, urging the council to get the community to carbon neutrality as fast as possible. "That's the role we can play as a small community, by going far beyond our numbers," he added.

Speaking as an individual, Environmental Quality Commission member Tom Kabat commented that over the past 12 years, "things have gotten more serious" when it comes to climate action. Our leadership can inspire others."

Other cities have also been updating their climate action plans, putting additional resources toward implementing strategies to reduce carbon emissions. For instance, Mountain View has committed to spending \$4.6 million over the next three years on 10 new staff positions, plus \$3 million to support and implement climate action programs.

The City Council is expected to consider adding a project to update the city's climate action plan to its work plan at its annual goal-setting meeting in January. ▣

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DOG PARK

continued from page 5

Committee liaison, abstained. After the meeting, DeGolia told The Almanac that he didn't feel strongly enough about the motion to oppose it, but he would have been happy with keeping the dog park option in the plan.

"While council listens to recommendations, we don't always take recommendations of resident-led committee members," Lewis told The Almanac. "There's no disrespect at all for the committee members. The council has to look at the bigger picture and not just special interests at this point. That's why we decided 'let's just take it off the table.'"

Lewis noted that even if residents raised private funds to construct a dog park, it would take up staff time to survey residents on their desire for the space, and there would be ongoing maintenance costs for such a park. Lewis and Wiest both expressed concerns that a dog park could be a liability for the town if dogs attack others.

Lempres, the sole council supporter of keeping the option in the master plan, said a dog park would be a "very good use of public space" and would help build community in the town. He said he would support a dog park if it was privately funded.

Council members including DeGolia and Widmer have asked Davey and David to reconsider

their resignations. Davey said he will withdraw his resignation if council members reverse their decision.

David said she feels that it would be unethical to stay on the committee if she spoke out against the council, since the council appoints committee members. She said she's also aware that the council could have

A survey of residents indicated that 24% of respondents support off-leash dog use anywhere in the park, and another 44% support it in a designated area, for a total of 68% of respondents.

chosen to remove them from the committee.

David joined the committee in 2017, and her term was set to end in June 2021.

The Park & Recreation Committee began studying the feasibility of an off-leash dog area in the park in March. The park currently has indoor and outdoor facilities that include a baseball field, tennis courts, a playground, gardens and walking paths. Under the current rules, dogs must remain on leash in the park.

David drafted a proposal for a 21,000-square-foot dog park near the tennis courts, and estimated that it would cost between \$65,000 and \$100,000. But the recommended location is smaller than David's proposed location.

Next steps

Davey and David are now hatching plans to keep their proposal alive. Through email, NextDoor and other channels, the two will reach out to residents and people who live in neighboring areas who use the park to encourage them to contact council members to ask them to add the dog park back to the master plan.

The two say they would consider creating a November 2020 ballot initiative or advisory vote that would measure support for an off-leash dog area in the park.

"People with dogs want to see this happen," Davey said.

DeGolia said that the idea of a dog park in town has been brought up to the council a number of times, but each time the council determined that the costs were too great, the location was not appropriate, or the level of residents' support was insufficient.

"Three members of the council felt strongly that they didn't want to go through another serious review of this issue and that they could best accomplish that by removing it from the master plan," he said. "My understanding is that they weren't stating



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Benji and Wilson play in Holbrook-Palmer Park with their owners, former Park & Recreation Committee members Christine David and John Davey.

opposition to the concept. They were stating that it is a low priority. ... Setting policy for and managing a municipality takes lots of compromise and respect for other people's opinions and perspectives. I believe that if there is a well-developed and fully funded proposal put together for an off-leash dog area, and if there [is] broad community support for it, then the council would support it."

Alex Keh, Julianna Robertson and Bob Roeser remain on the

Park & Recreation Committee, according to the town's website. Last week, the town put out a call for applications to fill vacancies on town committees, including Park & Recreation, according to its website. Applications are due Jan. 17 at 5 p.m.

Applicants must be Atherton residents and appointments will be for four-year terms. For an application go to tinyurl.com/athertoncommitteevacancies or visit the town's offices at 150 Watkins Ave. in Atherton. ▣

Atherton resident Ellis Joseph Alden, founder of Woodside Hotel Group, dies

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

Ellis Joseph Alden, a resident of Atherton who also lived for 30 years in Woodside, died on Dec. 2 following a brief illness. He was 80 years old.

A native of New York, Alden moved to California in 1965, where he founded a law firm. He lived in Atherton for 17 years, and before that in Woodside for three decades, said his wife, Karen Alden.

After he left the law practice, he started businesses: the Woodside Hotel Group, a collection of independent hotels located in Northern California, and Alden Vineyards, one of the first mountain wine estates in the Alexander Valley, according to his family.

The Woodside Hotel Group, which Alden founded in 1972, is now led by his son Greg, according to the hotel group's website. Hotels include the Stanford Park Hotel in Menlo Park and the



Photo courtesy of Karen Alden

Ellis Alden, a former Woodside resident, also founded an Alexander Valley winery.

Napa Valley Lodge in Yountville, according to the website.

"Ellis inspired the people in his life with his vibrant energy, optimism, ideas, and talent for creating beautiful spaces," according to his family. "He was a lively storyteller and creative writer who won the Robert Frost Award at Dartmouth College. His mirthful spirit made him apt to rhyme and sing, amusing

those around him."

Born in Brooklyn in 1939, Alden grew up in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and Westchester County, New York. He graduated from Dartmouth College and Columbia University Law School.

Between undergraduate studies and law school, Alden served in the U.S. Army, his family said.

In his later years, Alden enjoyed classical music, travel, art, international news and family time, according to his family.

Alden is survived by his wife Karen; his children, Christopher, Greg and Jennifer; his former spouse, Katherine; six grandchildren; one brother and two sisters; and many nieces and nephews.

His family prefers that memorial donations be made to the Peninsula Symphony and Good2Know Partners.

A gathering to celebrate Alden's life will take place in early spring, according to his family. ▣


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Council takes property near Frog Pond off housing option list

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

After hearing from four town committees and a united group of speakers on Dec. 11, the Portola Valley Town Council voted unanimously to remove the so-called Alpine Road Remnant from a list of possible sites for affordable housing.

The property was second in line on a list of town-owned sites that was prepared by the town's Ad Hoc Committee on Town-Owned Property, but it sits next to the Frog Pond, an environmentally sensitive vernal pool that many residents consider a local treasure.

According to the committee, 11 units of housing could be built on the site, but it rated the possibility of development there as "unlikely given community opposition," according to an evaluation matrix it prepared.

That opposition was evident on Dec. 11, with about a dozen speakers unanimously insisting that the remnant be taken off the table for possible development.

"The Frog Pond is a regional treasure," said resident Danna Breen. "We're a low-density residential area and we're near build-out."

"We need a bigger footprint for frogs and a smaller footprint for people," added former mayor Jon Silver. "Preserve this town as a wonderful place."

Based on recommendations from its Conservation, Open Space and Trails & Paths committees, which all delivered reports at the meeting, the council went on to double down on its open space commitment by

asking town staff to find an appropriate way to designate the Hawthorns Historical Complex, the Frog Pond Open Space, and a scenic corridor that connects the properties along Alpine Road west to the Windy Hill Open Space Preserve as open space in perpetuity.

The conflict between preserving precious open space and meeting state affordable housing measures set to take effect on Jan. 1 has been challenging the community for some time.

The council meeting led off with a summary from Town Manager Jeremy Dennis of a host of bills that in total could require the town to plan for 100 to 200 units of housing over the next 10 years, with some percentage being below-market-rate units.

"We won't know the exact number of affordable units until next year," he said.

The council passed an accessory dwelling unit ordinance this year that sets rules for homeowners who want to add extra units to their properties, which it hopes will make a significant contribution to meeting the state mandates, but much more housing may be needed, Dennis said.

The ad hoc committee's role was to identify sites the town already owns where housing could be developed, but the elimination of the Alpine Road Remnant site and a rejection by the committee of Ford Field, along Alpine Road, leaves two remaining options for using town-owned sites.

The council on Dec. 11 validated one of the sites, a plot near Town Center that could accommodate up to six units, but the



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Windy Hill is visible behind the Frog Pond vernal pool in Portola Valley. The space behind the pond to the right of the image was being considered for development.

second one — in the Blue Oaks subdivision — is permanent open space based on the subdivision's conditional use permit, and presents the potential for wildfire danger, according to the committee report.

Although the town might be able to purchase some property to build housing, an obvious path from here to accelerate the process seems to be missing, according to Maryann Derwin, who was chosen at the meeting as vice mayor for 2020.

"We're still obligated to find

housing in town," Derwin said. "(People are) in favor of building housing, but not here."

Wildfire resiliency

On another front, the council accepted a set of recommendations from the Wildfire Preparedness Committee to address wildfire resiliency issues, but deleted a recommendation for homeowner incentive programs for vegetation management and home hardening.

"The council wants to focus finances on tree removal, tree

trimming and shaded fuel breaks in the public right-of-way," Dennis said. "The focus will be on the main streets we'll be evacuating in case of a wildfire."

The committee came up with short-, medium- and long-term recommendations.

It should carry out the short-term recommendations in 2020 and get to the medium-term ones in 2021, Dennis said.

A full report of the wildfire committee's recommendations is available at tinyurl.com/wildfire-committee. ■

Stanford moving forward with Portola Valley housing project

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

Stanford University has re-submitted a development application and Portola Valley has hired a consultant to develop an environmental impact report for the so-called Stanford Wedge project on land owned by the university along Alpine Road, according to Town Manager Jeremy Dennis.

The project would include 27 homes for Stanford faculty and 12 affordable rental units on a 6-acre plot that is part of a larger 75.4 acre site, the remainder of which would be preserved as open space.

The 12 rental units will help Portola Valley meet state requirements for affordable housing, while the 27 single-family homes will be sold below market rate to Stanford faculty,

according to Councilwoman Maryann Derwin.

"While (the single-family homes) are not exactly 'affordable,' they are subsidized housing for Stanford faculty families," Derwin wrote in an email. "The good news is that the Stanford homeowners will pay property taxes assessed on the market value of the property, not the sales price."

The portion of the Stanford site that is being proposed for development is currently occupied by the Alpine Rock Ranch, a horse boarding facility with stables on the north side of Alpine Road near the intersection with Westridge Drive, about three miles from the Stanford campus, according to a Stanford report on the project.

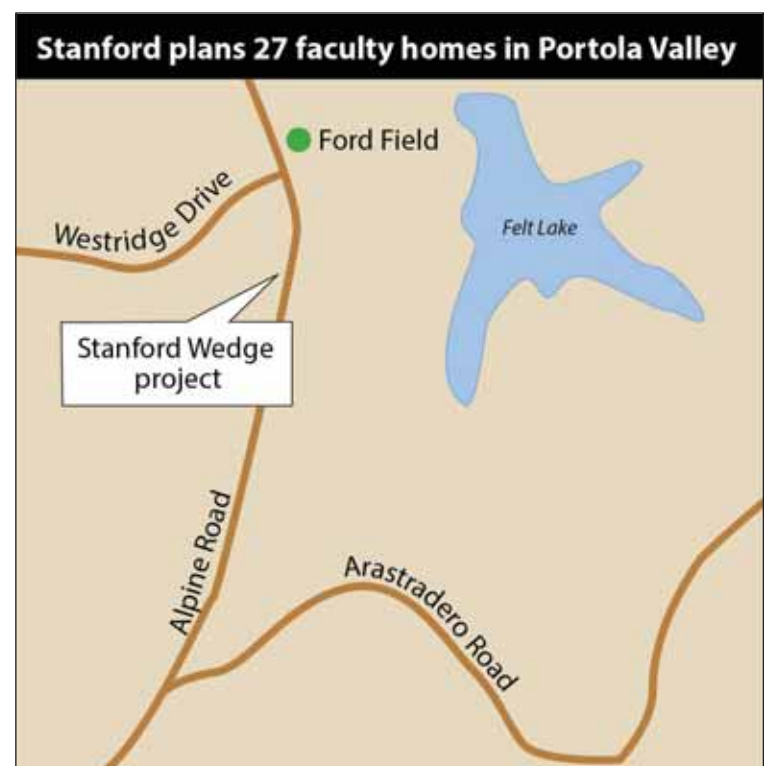
Each single-family home would be on its own lot and

each home would be two stories with three or four bedrooms and a study.

The single-family homes will range from about 1,800 square feet to 2,100 square feet, and will be built on both sides of a private loop road that connects at both ends to Alpine Road, according to the Stanford report.

"The high cost of housing in the region makes it more difficult for the university to recruit faculty," wrote Joel Berman, Stanford community relations and land use communications officer, in an email. "Stanford continues to look at its lands to see where housing to serve the university community is an appropriate use."

The development will be a change from the norm in Portola



See **HOUSING**, page 10

Menlo Park: Drone program proposal raises civil liberty questions

City staff says drones would make inspections, other work safer and more efficient

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

In a pitch by leaders in three Menlo Park city departments — police, public works and community development — to explore a possible drone program in the city, each laid out potentially transformative ways that drones could help improve safety and solve problems in day-to-day working situations.

The staff members were presenting their case to the Menlo Park City Council during a study session on the topic held Dec. 10. The council expressed openness to the possibility while voicing significant concerns about unanswered civil rights questions that a citywide drone program could raise.

Brian Henry, assistant public works director, said that his department could benefit from drones by using them for facilities inspections, especially on roofs. For instance, he explained, when employees inspect and maintain solar panels, roof tiles can crack under their weight.

Drones could also be used to inspect confined spaces where people don't fit; to check in on parks to ensure that

contractors complete assigned work; to inspect tree canopies to monitor their health; or to inspect under bridges.

In general, getting city workers and contractors off of ladders and lifts, he noted, would improve safety.

Drones could benefit the community development department in performing similar tasks, said Chuck Andrews, assistant community development director in the building division. He added that his department could use drones to speed up inspections and improve safety during inspections of potentially unsafe structures — for example, at a home damaged by a fallen tree when it's not clear how structurally sound the dwelling is.

It could also enable staff to do some inspections without relying on contractors' equipment as it currently does when doing inspections at construction sites.

As for the police department, Sgt. Aaron Dixon emphasized that the drones are, essentially, a "camera on a stick" and can offer significant enhancements to officers seeking critical information about their surroundings during crime and emergency situations.

Aerial cameras on a drone can capture the scene of a traffic accident far faster than officers standing on the ground with cameras, who often measure distances by hand with tape measures, he explained. The details at the scene of a collision that would typically shut down a roadway for three hours while officers collect data could be captured in about a half-

hour with a drone, he said.

Drones can also be equipped with heat-seeking equipment, which has been used for finding missing people. Dixon cited a February incident in which Fremont police used drone technology to find a deaf teenager who had run away from school and was found hiding in the bushes in the dark.

'With great power comes great responsibility.'

SMITHA GUNDAVAJHALA,
PROGRAM COORDINATOR,
YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

hour with a drone, he said.

Drone technology can also help police figure out how to better position themselves for safety if an armed person is in hiding, he added.

The video files recorded by drones would be subject to public record requests, though Dixon confirmed that the department would have the tools to redact records in order not to reveal footage about minors or other people

Privacy and other concerns

But with airborne cameras and video recording equipment, personal privacy can easily be violated, especially because the higher a drone goes, the more information it can capture. What's to prevent footage of people in their backyard or other private spaces from winding up in a police video record somewhere? That's an uneasy question some members of the public and council members said they want answered.

Several attendees of the discussion raised further concerns with the proposal. Pam Jones noted that cities with drone programs are typically far larger than Menlo Park and pushed for more public outreach, as well as public notification when drones are used.

Adina Levin, a member of the city's Complete Streets Commission, said she had "significant civil liberty concerns," such as what might happen if a resident calls the police about a "suspicious person" who is in fact just an African American walking down the street and a drone becomes a surveillance tool. She suggested that experts

be brought in to make sure that fair policies are in place to protect privacy.

Smitha Gundavajhala, program coordinator at the Youth Leadership Institute in San Mateo, urged the council to support strong penalties in cases of abuse to deter improper invasions of privacy or civil liberty violations with the use of drones.

"With great power comes great responsibility," she said.

Generally, council members were open to the idea of some level of drone use in the city, though these positions varied. Councilwoman Betsy Nash and Vice Mayor Cecilia Taylor said they were not supportive of using drones for policing, but did support drones' use for public works and community development purposes.

"For me, the use cases are great. I just want to have discussion about what the guard rails are," said Mayor Ray Mueller, who asked that city staff come back with a drone program expert and clearer policies on acceptable uses of the drones and relevant software applications, as well as more information about how many human-hours of work that drone use could save.

Councilman Drew Combs added that he was "supportive of moving to the next step." And Councilwoman Catherine Carlton said she'd like to see more details about privacy and best practices, but noted, "I think we should be able to work out the details." ■



Photo by Sammy Dallal

The marquee of the Guild Theatre was taken down on Nov. 27 before demolition began.

GUILD THEATRE

continued from page 5

do the environmental clearance work, and then install them, a process expected to unfold over the next two years alongside the new theater's construction.

The Peninsula Arts Guild was launched by Menlo Park resident Drew Dunlevie and backed by two other locals, investor Pete Briger and entrepreneur Thomas Layton.

The scope of the project became more complex last year when it became evident that the

theater's current configuration slightly oversteps the property line, requiring a wall to be demolished and moved 6 inches in.

Plans are for the new theater to have a main viewing area on the ground floor, a second-story mezzanine, and a basement with a "green room" and a comfortable area where performers can shower and relax prior to shows. The new Guild will be about 11,000 square feet, with a maximum height of 34 feet, and with a capacity for about 150 to 200 seats, or about 500 people at a standing-room-only show. ■

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Concept to develop safe parking facility at USGS dropped

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

After preliminary conversations about creating a safe parking facility at the U.S. Geological Survey parking lot for people living in vehicles, Menlo Park Mayor Ray Mueller announced on Dec. 11 that he and San Mateo County Supervisor Warren Slocum have decided to drop the idea, determining that it is not feasible.

The idea, as Mueller previously

explained to The Almanac, was to bring in a nonprofit homeless services provider — like Menlo Park-based LifeMoves — to operate a temporary safe parking site on the vacant parking lots at the USGS headquarters at 345 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park before the property is sold to private developers.

The site of the USGS headquarters is in the process of being vacated; the new headquarters will be at the NASA Ames Research Park in Mountain View.

The USGS has reportedly paid \$7.5 million a year to lease its Menlo Park offices, and that rent was expected to spike in the coming years. The new NASA offices were reportedly a bargain by comparison.

The USGS' Menlo Park campus is owned by the General Services Administration, the government agency that serves as a property manager for federal office buildings. The GSA is obligated under federal law to charge market-rate rent for its properties, even in

pricey locales such as the Bay Area.

In an interview with The Almanac, Mueller said that he and Slocum met with representatives from the federal government and from Rep. Anna Eshoo's office. They learned that the site is not intended to be fully vacated until about 2022, and that the legislation that authorizes the sale of the property at a future date won't permit a "framework" for it to be temporarily used as a safe parking site, he explained.

While he said he's open to considering other sites within city limits, the USGS site is unique in that it is cordoned off from residential streets and is going to be vacant, and he's interested in a site that has those characteristics.

"So now Supervisor Slocum and I are going back to the drawing board," Mueller added.

The city probably won't be in the running to buy the property — law dictates that it be sold at market rate, and at about 17 acres, it is likely to be out of the city's budget, he said. But the city can control how the site is used in the future through its zoning.

Specifically, he said, the council is interested in seeing the site developed for housing, with a mix of affordability levels.

The number of people living in RVs across San Mateo County rose dramatically — by 127% — between 2017 and 2019, according to a count conducted last January. There were about 494 people counted in 2019 as living in RVs.

Two of Menlo Park's neighboring communities, Redwood

City and East Palo Alto, have an especially significant number of RV dwellers: There were 102 RVs counted in Redwood City and 53 in East Palo Alto during the January count.

Additional county research

'Unfortunately this outcome does nothing to help those families who are homeless living in cars in the shadows of our community.'

MAYOR RAY MUELLER

found that a majority of RV dwellers who responded to the survey countywide are employed, had lived in the county before they moved into their RV, were living in an RV because of the high cost of rent, saw the RV as a temporary housing situation and had been living in an RV for a year or more.

"Unfortunately this outcome does nothing to help those families who are homeless living in cars in the shadows of our community," Mueller said in the email announcement of the decision that a safe parking facility at the USGS site is not feasible.

"I look forward to continuing to work with the County to try to find solutions to address this issue and am especially grateful this evening for our nonprofit homeless services providers, who do so much every day to bring compassion and shelter to those in need," he added. ■

HOUSING

continued from page 8

Valley, where most of the housing is made up of single-family homes on large lots.

"Per the current schedule, which is subject to change, the EIR will be completed and the final project reviewed by the town council in 2020, with development not occurring until 2021 at the earliest," Berman wrote.

The university originally submitted a development application for the project in September, according to Berman.

Portola Valley provided questions and comments on Oct. 11 about an array of issues including parking, traffic, geologic conditions, possible impact to the Alpine Road scenic corridor, grading, tree inventory, height limits, water-efficient landscaping, lighting and other matters.

Stanford responded to the questions in late November, and Portola Valley has 30 days to ask for further clarifications or deem the application complete,

Dennis wrote in an email.

Stanford has held two study sessions with the Town Council and two rounds of community open houses on the project, Berman said.

Portola Valley will find out about its latest state Regional Housing Needs Allocation requirement to provide affordable housing in the community by early next summer, Derwin wrote.

"... The next RHNA cycle promises to be brutal, and we are very likely to get a much higher number of affordable housing units to plan for," she said.

Stanford is one of four participants in Portola Valley's Affiliated Housing Program aimed at developing affordable housing in collaboration with local institutions. The others are Woodside Priory school, The Sequoias retirement community, and Ladera Community Church, which owns about an acre of land in Portola Valley adjacent to the church in unincorporated Ladera. ■



MIDDLE PLAZA

CONSTRUCTION ALERT

Night Work on El Camino Real –
Starting December 2019

WHAT:

Middle Plaza construction crews will be doing night work and partially closing travel lanes on El Camino Real between Middle Ave and Ravenswood Ave in both directions for the demolition and installation of West Bay sanitary sewer lines. For a given direction of travel, a maximum of two lanes of travel will be shut down each night, leaving at least one lane of travel open at all times. Work will take place at night when traffic volumes along El Camino Real are lower.

WHEN:

Mid-December, 2019 – mid-January 2020

Construction schedules are approximate and subject to change due to weather and unforeseen conditions.

WORK HOURS:

10:00 P.M. to 5:00 A.M., Sunday through Thursday. No night work will occur on Friday and Saturday

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Middle Plaza project and to sign up for construction alerts, please visit our website at middleplaza.stanford.edu

If you have any comments or questions, contact
(650) 497-4052 or middleplaza@stanford.edu

Office of Government & Community Relations
450 Jane Stanford Way
Building 170, 1st Floor, Main Quad
Stanford, CA 94305

Alleged Skyline killer ordered to Napa State Hospital for treatment

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

Pacifica resident Malik Dosouqi, 26, who has been charged with two counts of murder and five felony counts after he was arrested for a pair of killings on Skyline Boulevard in Woodside in June, on Dec. 6 was ordered by a San Mateo County Superior Court judge committed to Napa State Hospital for psychiatric treatment.

Dosouqi allegedly lured taxi driver Abdulmalek Nasher and tow truck driver John Pekiaki to a remote location in the area of Reids Roost Road near Wunderlich County Park on successive evenings, June 17 and



Malik Dosouqi

18, and stabbed them to death. “The sheriff (deputies) will transport him up there as soon as they have open bed space,” said San Mateo

County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

Dosouqi will be enrolled in a “competency restoration program” in which he will receive medication. When and if doctors at Napa believe he is competent to stand trial, he will be returned to San Mateo County, Wagstaffe said.

“The case will proceed as if

had never been interrupted,” he said.

According to the DA’s office, Dosouqi was “laughing inexplicably” during court proceedings and said he would be getting out of custody soon.

San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Robert Foiles said in a July 17 hearing that he was concerned that Dosouqi would be unable to understand the criminal proceedings or contribute to his defense, and ordered a psychiatric evaluation.

After the evaluation was ordered, Dosouqi dropped a request to fire a private attorney and represent himself.

He has pleaded not guilty to the charges. ■



Photo by Sammy Dallal/The Almanac

Original Round Table turns 60

Bob Larson, left, son of the franchise’s founder, Bill Larson, stands with Menlo Park Mayor Ray Mueller at a celebration held Dec. 11 to celebrate the pizzeria’s 60th year in Menlo Park. Round Table Pizza was founded by Bill Larson, Bob’s father, in 1959 in Menlo Park. Today, there are more than 440 Round Table Pizza locations across the country. To celebrate, the restaurant offered a throwback pricing promotion: Buy one large pizza at a regular price and get a second large one-topping pizza at the 1959 price of \$2.80.

Fluet chosen new Woodside mayor

The Woodside Town Council chose council members Ned Fluet and Brian Dombkowski to serve as the new mayor and mayor pro tem, respectively, at its meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Fluet served as mayor pro

tem in 2019, his first year on the council, after winning the election for the District 7 seat in November 2018.

Dombkowski, who represents District 2, was also new to the council this year after he was elected in November 2018.



Ned Fluet

The mayor and mayor pro tem manage council meetings and also set agendas for the meetings in

coordination with Town Manager Kevin Bryant.

Besides Fluet and Dombkowski, Dick Brown and Sean Scott were also elected to the seven-member council for the first time in 2018. Former mayors Daniel Yost, Chris Shaw and Tom Livermore are also on the council.



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Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$150,000 from more than 150 donors for the 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed on this page.

Boys & Girls Clubs

Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, and mentoring for 1,800 low-income K-12 youth at nine locations across Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.

Fair Oaks Community Center

This multi-service facility, serving the broader Redwood City community, provides assistance with child care, senior programs, citizenship and immigration, housing and employment, and crisis intervention. Programs are available in Spanish and English.

LifeMoves

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

Project Read

Provides free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. Trained volunteers work one-on-one to help adults improve reading, writing and English language skills so they can function more effectively at home, at work and in the community. Basic English classes, weekly conversation clubs and volunteer-led computer enrichment are also offered.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinic in East Palo Alto. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded by voluntary contributions and community grants, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers take-home bags of food, as well as emergency food and clothing assistance.

Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 52 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to more than 250,000 people each month through more than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

StarVista

Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people and families, with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education, and residential programs. StarVista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

Upward Scholars

Upward Scholars empowers low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education, get higher-paying jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.

The organizations below provide
major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.



www.siliconvalleycf.org



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The Almanac will make every effort to publish donor names for donations unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

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Almanac Holiday Fund Donor List

As of December 9, 78 donors have contributed \$97,034 to the Almanac Holiday Fund.

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HOLIDAY FUND 2019



Photo courtesy of Ravenswood Family Health Center

Sandra and her baby are clients of the nonprofit health center, which is one of 10 beneficiaries of The Almanac Holiday Fund.

Nonprofit health center offers pregnancy, parenting support

By Jessica Yee, director of development, planning & evaluation, and Valeria Sandoval, development associate at Ravenswood Family Health Center.

This holiday season, Ravenswood Family Health Center is among the 10 local nonprofits that will benefit from donations to The Almanac's Holiday Fund. With a clinic in East Palo Alto, the center provides primary medical services and preventive health care to thousands.

Clients include mothers like Sandra and Johanna, who have had the opportunity to participate in both the CenteringPregnancy and the CenteringParenting programs offered by the center, and who say they have had wonderful experiences.

CenteringPregnancy is a group-care model that provides prenatal care to mothers, and

CenteringParenting is a group-care model that provides pediatric care and parenting education throughout a child's first two years of life.

Although Johanna and Sandra were not first-time mothers, they still had many questions surrounding their pregnancies — from pregnancy myths and sleep safety, to eating habits. CenteringPregnancy's safe and comfortable community environment encouraged Sandra, Johanna, and other pregnant mothers to ask questions and learn from each other.

"[Although] I am a shy person, I love to hear others' opinions because I felt like there was so much to learn," Johanna says.

Sandra and Johanna have been able to continue sharing the journey of their babies' development with the same cohort of mothers through CenteringParenting, where they felt support from the other mothers and the Ravenswood clinic staff.

Both Johanna and Sandra recommend CenteringPregnancy and CenteringParenting because it has led them to positive results. "I benefited from being in both programs because it allowed me to receive continued care," Sandra says.

HOLIDAY FUND

Donations to The Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit the Ravenswood Family Health Center and nine other nonprofits serving the local community. To donate, use the coupon on Page 12 or go to siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund.

Center provides safety net for families needing food and other support services

By Teri Chin, human services manager, Parks, Recreation & Community Services of the Fair Oaks Community Center

Miriam and Marcos have been coming to the Fair Oaks Community Center for services since 2005. As a landscape gardener, Marcos earns about \$3,600 per month, leaving the family with a tight budget to cover rent, utilities, groceries, and other basic-needs costs for their family of five.

Over these past 14 years, Fair Oaks has been part of their safety net, providing groceries each month through our Family Harvest Food Distribution in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank.

When the family was forced to move from their home due to increased rent, Fair Oaks was also able to provide financial assistance to help pay the security deposit for them to move to another unit that they could afford. And with

HOLIDAY FUND

Donations to The Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit the Fair Oaks Community Center and nine other nonprofits serving the local community. To donate, use the coupon on Page 12 or go to siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund.

the recent birth of their fourth child, they will be able to join the monthly diaper distribution

See **FAIR OAKS**, page 14



DONATE ONLINE:
[siliconvalleycf.org/
almanac-holiday-fund](http://siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund)

City's community fund bolsters support of 29 local nonprofits

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

Each year, the Menlo Park City Council sets aside funds to dedicate to nonprofits that serve city residents. This year, the council voted unanimously to give \$276,550 to 29 nonprofits in the community.

City Council members Catherine Carlton and Cecilia Taylor worked together as a subcommittee to come up with the funding recommendations,

using weighted criteria: program results, community impact, the portion of the nonprofit's budget that goes to administrative overhead, whether the organization had been funded in the past, how much the community needs the nonprofit's services, whether the organization's efforts are duplicated elsewhere in the community and if there are collaborative efforts with similar nonprofits, and whether the nonprofit's goals align with the council's.

The largest grant was \$30,000 to StarVista, which provides youth counseling services at Menlo-Atherton High School. The council also provided \$20,000 to the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center, toward a Belle Haven School and library program for youth restorative justice and leadership.

Here is the full list of recipients:

Acknowledge Alliance (\$18,000); All Students Matter (\$2,000); Avenidas (\$3,000); Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula (\$15,000); Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities (\$10,000); Community Equity Collaborative (\$3,000); Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (\$7,500); Family Connections (\$10,000); Human Investment Project (\$15,000); JobTrain (\$10,000); Human Investment Project (\$15,000);

Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (\$7,000); LifeMoves (\$20,000); My New Red Shoes (\$500); Nuestra Casa de East Palo Alto (\$6,000); Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County (\$2,000); Pacific Art League (\$550); Pathways Home Health & Hospice (\$7,500); Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center (\$20,000); Peninsula Volunteers (\$20,000); Ravenswood Education Foundation (\$10,000); Rebuilding Together Peninsula (\$8,000); Riekes Center for Human Enhancement (\$8,000); Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation (\$1,500); Samaritan House (\$17,500); San Mateo County Jobs for Youth (\$1,500); Service League of San Mateo County (\$3,000); StarVista (\$30,000); Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (\$10,000); and Youth Community Service (\$10,000). ■



Photo by Teri Chin

A longtime volunteer assists at the community center's monthly Family Harvest Food Distribution on Dec. 13.

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Ellis Joseph Alden

August 8, 1939 – December 2, 2019

On Monday, December 2nd, 2019, Ellis Joseph Alden, loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and uncle, passed away at the age of 80 following a brief illness.

Ellis was born on August 8, 1939, in Brooklyn, New York. He grew up in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and Westchester County, New York, and graduated from Dartmouth College and Columbia University Law School. Between college and law school Ellis served in the army. Ellis had a deep love for his country and a particular interest in constitutional law.

Ellis had a profound passion for life, work, and family. His pioneering spirit brought him to California in 1965, where he was a founding partner of a law firm. After he left the law practice, his entrepreneurial drive fueled two successful businesses, both labors of love for him: the Woodside Hotel Group, a collection of gracious, independent hotels located in beautiful northern California settings, and Alden Vineyards, one of the first mountain wine estates in the Alexander Valley.

Ellis inspired the people in his life with his vibrant energy, optimism, ideas, and talent for creating beautiful spaces. He was a lively storyteller and creative writer who won the Robert Frost Award at Dartmouth College. His mirthful spirit made him apt to rhyme and sing, amusing those around him. Ellis had an appreciative sense of humor and was generous with his compliments, praise, and support of others.

In later years, Ellis's enthusiasms included classical music, travel, art, international news, and time enjoyed with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Ellis is survived by his wife Karen, his children, Christopher (Daphne), Gregory (Lindsey), and Jennifer (Kirk), his former spouse, Katherine, six beloved grandchildren, one brother, two sisters, and many nieces and nephews. Ellis was preceded in death by his father, Jerry, his mother, Evelyn, and his brother, John.

A gathering to celebrate Ellis's life will take place in early spring.

For anyone wishing to make a donation in Ellis's memory, his favorite nonprofit organizations were the Peninsula Symphony and Good2Know Partners.



PAID OBITUARY

Deborah Kent Levick

Deborah Levick, daughter of Ginger and Doug Levick, was born in Greenwich, Connecticut and died peacefully at 50 years of age on November 11 at Pete's Place, one of the Kainos residential homes in Redwood City, California where she lived for the last 29 years. During these years she came home frequently and was an integral and important part of the family. Prior to Kainos she lived at St. Vincents, a residential home and school in Santa Barbara, California. In her early years she lived at home in Greenwich, Paris, France, Boston and Atherton. Deborah, who was handicapped from Down Syndrome, lived a very full and active life despite her handicap, but died at an early age from advanced stages of Alzheimer's. She worked her whole adult life until recently in various jobs, including the Redwood City Police Department, an auto parts wholesaler, Home Depot and the YMCA. She was very active in Special Olympics, winning dozens of gold medals in swimming, skiing, track and basketball. She also bowled frequently and was a regular participant in a local square dancing group.

Deborah, who was educated in Montessori in her early years and later in Special Education in public schools, exceeded everyone's expectations with her capabilities. She came within a few points of getting her high school GED degree. She was a very personable, fun loving and strong-minded person, to whom everyone was attracted. She gave us all great joy, mixed with moments of frustration with her need to "do it my way". She had great impact on her family and friends and will never be forgotten by all who knew her.

Deborah is survived by her parents, Virginia and Douglas Levick, her sister Carolee Hazard and her two daughters Jessie and Makenzie, and her brother Reed Levick and his three children, Elisabeth, Andrew and Reed. A memorial service will be held at the First Congregational Church at 1985 Louis Street in Palo Alto on January 4, 2020 at 2:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to LuMind Downs Syndrome Foundation at 20 Mall Road, Suite 200, Burlington, MA 01803, or Kainos at 3631 Jefferson Avenue, Redwood City, CA 940062.



PAID OBITUARY

FAIR OAKS

continued from page 13

at Fair Oaks, made possible by a partnership with a local nonprofit, Help a Mother Out.

Last year, Fair Oaks Community Center, which is among the 10 beneficiaries of The Almanac's Holiday Fund, served over 4,000 individuals in over 1,700 unduplicated households. Like Miriam and Marcos' family, some come primarily for food and/or diapers once a month. Others come one time for financial assistance due to a short-term loss of job or eviction, and then do not return for other services. Some come only during the holidays, and others come seeking assistance to end their homelessness.

Whatever the situation, the Fair Oaks Community Center is there to help. For many, like Miriam and Marcos, help from Fair Oaks makes it possible for their families to continue to survive and live in our community in spite of the extremely high cost of living here.

A program of the city of Redwood City, Fair Oaks Community Center serves Redwood City, North Fair Oaks, Woodside, Atherton, and Portola Valley — providing homeless services, homelessness prevention services, food, transportation, food assistance, rental assistance, utility assistance, homeless shelter referrals, and other emergency assistance and referrals.

In addition, through public and private nonprofit partnerships, the center also provides subsidized childcare, low- and no-cost programs for older adults, legal services related to housing and immigration, ESL/citizenship classes, home sharing services, support groups, and more.

For more information, go to tinyurl.com/FOCC-19, call (650)780-7500, or stop by at 2600 Middlefield Road in Redwood City.

Demand UP, SUPPLY down

Due to stagnant funding, Peninsula Volunteers' meal program forced to place some seniors on a waiting list

Meals on Wheels volunteer Anna Marie Janky checks that the insulated food delivery bags contain all the meals she needs for delivery at the Peninsula Volunteers kitchen in Menlo Park.

by Chris Kenrick | Photos by Magali Gauthier

Every Monday, Anna Marie Janky loads the back of her Ford Escape with 16 hot meals and a cooler full of milk, and begins her door-to-door deliveries through Menlo Park and Redwood City.

Janky, a volunteer who lives in Los Altos, is part of a vast network of drivers — some paid and some volunteer — who last year delivered 220 million meals to homebound seniors across the United States through the nonprofit Meals on Wheels. More than 750,000 of those meals went to residents of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

Funded by the federal Older Americans Act and other sources, the Meals on Wheels program is meant to bolster nutrition and also to combat isolation among mobility-impaired seniors who have trouble leaving their homes.

Nationally, the number of Meals on Wheels deliveries has declined by 21 million since 2005 due to rising costs, according to Meals on Wheels America, an umbrella group that tracks 5,000 independently run local programs.

“Food, transportation and other costs have increased while funding remains stagnant,” said Jenny Young,

‘Food, transportation and other costs have increased while funding remains stagnant’

JENNY YOUNG,
VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS,
MEALS ON WHEELS

vice president of communications for the national group. “Also, nationally, eight out of 10 low-income, food insecure seniors are not receiving the home-delivered or congregate meals they likely need,” Young said.

Locally, the situation is mixed.

Santa Clara County says it has the means to provide Meals on Wheels to all eligible applicants.

But Janky’s program in San Mateo County has a growing waitlist.

“We now have almost 280 on the waitlist,” said Rebecca Matteson Nelson, director of development for the nonprofit Peninsula Volunteers, Inc., which operates Meals on Wheels for all of San Mateo County except for Pacifica and the Coastside. The group last year delivered 150,000 meals to 1,100 clients.

“The primary issue is the funding gap to meet the ever-growing need,” Nelson said. “When you are hungry, nothing else matters.”

In Santa Clara County, Meals on Wheels Director Henri Villalovoz said recent demand for the service has held steady and even slightly dropped.

“We do not have a wait list because we enroll each eligible applicant that applies,” Villalovoz said. That program last year delivered 600,531 meals to about 920 clients.

Janky is one of 100 volunteer drivers for

the Peninsula Volunteers’ San Mateo County program (the program also employs 12 paid drivers).

Janky said in addition to food delivery, the group’s service model provides daily, face-to-face check-ins with recipients.

“It’s easy to tell quickly whether (a recipient) is doing okay, especially if they come to the door,” Janky said.

Because programs are independently run, the Meals on Wheels service looks substantially different in Santa Clara County.

Rather than daily visits, Santa Clara County recipients (including 68 in Palo Alto) get once-a-week deliveries of seven

frozen dinners and seven breakfasts, plus bread, milk, juices and vegetables, Villalovoz said.

All food is prepared and delivered by paid employees of the national food vendor Bateman Community Living, with whom Santa Clara County contracts to provide the service for more than 900 people countywide.

On a recent Monday morning after loading her car with meals — cooked daily at Menlo Park senior services agency Little House — Janky studied a printout with driving directions and instructions

See **MEALS**, page 16



Robert Celestine, a Meals on Wheels staff member, places meat in a portable food container. Mashed potatoes, cooked vegetables, and sauce will be added to the dish before it is packed and delivered.

On the cover: Volunteer Mark Keohane packs prepared and sealed meals into an insulated bag to be delivered to homebound seniors. Photo by Magali Gauthier.

MEALS

continued from page 15

for each stop on her route where she'd deliver that day's hot meal — chicken, squash and beets, along with whole wheat bread, butter and an orange.

At one home in a trailer park, the instructions warned her, "Don't let the dog out!" At another, the printout advised Janky to "see if door is unlocked. If so, open slightly and announce yourself loudly. Place meal in refrigerator and leave."

In Menlo Park, she knocked on the door of 90-year-old Pearlean Brazil and could tell at a glance Brazil was doing fine.

The fresh meals "mean a lot for a person living alone like me," said Brazil, seated in her tidy living room. "When my husband was alive, I used to do a lot of cooking." But Brazil's husband, a career employee of the Menlo Park VA, died in 2016. And since she no longer drives, Brazil must rely on others to help her get groceries or get to the Palo Alto church where she's been a member since 1954.

Barbara Tingley, 72, lives with her small dog, Nala, in a Redwood City trailer and has difficulty with mobility.

"The meals are good — I like all of them except the ones with tomato sauce because it hurts my stomach," she said.

Tingley said she relies on help from neighbors to get groceries or get to her monthly medical appointments. She uses her cane to venture out of her trailer a few times a day to take Nala for walks.

"I've lived with pain in my knee since



Pearlean Brazil, a Meals on Wheels client and resident of Belle Haven, has just been delivered a hot meal.

2011, even after surgery," Tingley said. "It locks up sometimes so I have to be careful."

Though many pay nothing for the meal service, Meals on Wheels recipients in both Santa Clara and San Mateo counties are asked to contribute, if possible.

"People don't have to pay, but

everybody's given a statement every month," Janky said. "Some people can't afford to pay anything but some people can pay part of the cost."

For more information about Meals on Wheels in San Mateo County, go to penvol.org. To volunteer as a driver, contact volunteer coordinator Ann

Eisenberg at a Eisenberg@penvol.org or (650) 272-5108.

For more information about Meals on Wheels in Santa Clara County go to mysourcewise.com and click on "services" or call (408) 350-3246.

Chris Kenrick is a freelance writer.

Join Us For Christmas
Christmas Eve
(All services will be about an hour)
 3:00 pm Christmas Pageant Service
 6:00 & 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
 with Choir
330 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park (650) 326-2083
www.trinitymenlopark.org

Christmas Eve at Bethany

5:00 p.m. Family Christmas
 All children are invited to tell the story of Jesus, as shepherds, angels, wisemen, and the holy family.
Join us between services for wonderful food and Christmas cheer!

7:00 p.m. Classical Music Christmas
 Join us for a night of excellent music, singing, and proclamation. We will honor and remember the birth of Jesus in a celebratory and contemplative worship setting.

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas
 A quiet and contemplative time to listen, sing, and reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

 1095 CLOUD AVENUE
 MENLO PARK
 at the corner of Avy & Cloud
www.bethany-mp.org

Peninsula Christmas Services



**Christmas Eve
 Candlelight
 Service
 7:30**

3154 Woodside Rd.
 Woodside Ca. 94062

For Further Information
 650-851-1587
thevillagehub.org
wvchurch.org

**CHRISTMAS
 BRINGS
 JOY**

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH US!



Woodside Village Church
wvchurch.org

**Village Hub
 Holiday Party &
 Gift Faire**

Dec 20th, 2019
 11:00am - 6:00pm

**Children's
 Christmas
 Pageant**

Dec 15th, 2019
 9:30am



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Students control robotic balls around a makeshift track from individual iPads at an Hour of Code event at the La Entrada Middle School in Menlo Park on Dec. 3.

Las Lomitas district students gather for superhero-themed 'Hour of Code'

By **Angela Swartz**
Almanac Staff Writer

About 250 students, teachers and parents gathered at La Entrada School in Menlo Park for an evening of writing, or coding, computer programs on Dec. 3.

The event, which coincided with Computer Science Education Week, was part of "Hour of Code," a nationwide coding movement for students. This year's theme for the Las Lomitas Elementary School District event was "superheroes."

"Everyone seemed to be having fun, and it was nice that everyone felt accepting of coding as cool," said La Entrada student Lucas.

During the event, K-5 students learned programming tools such as the fundamentals of logic, sequencing instructions, loops, conditionals, basic debugging and events, said Angela Ping, the event's organizer and the district's grades 4-8 technology instructional integration coach.

Ping also heads the district's

'We seek to help our students build human relationships through technology instead of promoting isolation and narcissism.'

ANGELA PING, EVENT ORGANIZER
AND TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTIONAL
INTEGRATION COACH

Design Tech Lab. In the upper grades, students practiced web programming languages such as HTML, JavaScript and Python to create projects, she said.

Students also learned how to collaborate in teams to solve problems and reach goals, all while using technology, Ping said.

"We seek to help our students build human relationships

through technology instead of promoting isolation and narcissism," Ping said. "Hour of Code develops a superpower: coding. Coding is one tool that can nurture the 'solutionaries' (someone who makes a difference in the world) of tomorrow. At the core of every school event is the goal for every student to be a solutionary no matter what educational superpower they wield."

The district began hosting Hour of Code events in 2013 and has been a leader in "evangelizing coding" among schools in San Mateo County, Ping said.

District officials are particularly proud of this year's event, as it shifted from an adult-driven event to a more student-led event, Ping said. "The Tech Ease" club led the event's hands-on lab and worked as leaders alongside adults during the night, she noted. ■

TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

765 Portola Road
Portola Valley, CA 94028



In recognition of the Holiday Season
Portola Valley Town Hall
will be closed from
Wednesday, December 25, 2019
through **Wednesday, January 1, 2020**

LEHUA GREENMAN

*"May the Joys
of the Season
remain with
you through
the Happiest
of New Years!
Merry
Christmas!"*



650.245.1845 COMPASS

NOTICE TO BEAR GULCH CUSTOMERS REGARDING RATE INCREASE FOR PRE-AUTHORIZED INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT

On December 20, 2019, California Water Service (Cal Water) will be filing Advice Letter 2358 with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) requesting approval to implement a company-wide surcharge on February 1, 2020 to recover costs for a completed upgrade to Cal Water's Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition (SCADA), a computer system for monitoring and controlling water facilities located throughout the company (Project #99272). This infrastructure project was previously authorized by the CPUC in Decision 16-12-042 as part of the utility's triennial rate review process, however costs for the project can only be recovered after it is completed. If AL 2358 is approved, the Bear Gulch District's portion of the costs would be an annual revenue increase of \$26,324 (or 0.05%) collected through a monthly surcharge of \$0.12 per connection (until the surcharge is rolled into basic water rates). The water bill of a Bear Gulch residential customer with 19 Ccf of monthly water usage would increase by approximately \$0.12 (or 0.1%).

Copies of these advice letters are available on the internet at <https://www.calwater.com/rates/advice-letters/> (please select the Bear Gulch District from the drop-down menu), and may also be obtained from the company's local offices by calling (650) 561-9709. You may also contact the company's headquarters at 1720 North First Street, San Jose, California 95112-4598, or by calling (408) 367-8200.

Protest and Responses

Anyone may respond to or protest this filing. A response supports the filing and may contain information that proves useful to the CPUC in its evaluation. A protest objects to the filing in whole or in part and must set forth the specific grounds on which it is based, and shall provide citations or proof where available to allow staff to properly consider the protest. The grounds for protests are:

1. The utility did not properly serve or give notice of the filing.
2. The relief requested in the filing would violate statute or CPUC order, or is not authorized by statute or CPUC order on which the utility relies.
3. The analysis, calculations, or data in the filing contains material error or omissions.
4. The relief requested in the filing is pending before the CPUC in a formal proceeding, or
5. The relief requested in the filing requires consideration in a formal hearing, or is otherwise inappropriate for the filing process, or
6. The relief requested in the filing is unjust, unreasonable, or discriminatory (provided that such a protest may not be made where it would require relitigating a prior order of the CPUC).

A response or protest must be made in writing and received by the Water Division via mail or email within 20 days of the date the advice letter was filed. The response or protest should be sent to water_division@cpuc.ca.gov or to "Tariff Unit, Water Division, 3rd Floor, CPUC, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102." On the same date, it must be sent to rateshelp@calwater.com or to "Rates Department, California Water Service, 1720 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95112."

Cities and counties that need Board of Supervisors or Board of Commissioners approval to protest should inform the Water Division within the 20-day protest period, so that a late-filed protest can be considered. The informing document should include an estimated date on which the proposed protest may be voted.

If you have not received a reply to your protest within 10 business days, contact Cal Water at (408) 367-8200. 12/18/19

CNS-3323994#
THE ALMANAC

Atherton police host ‘Shop With a Cop’ event for kids in need

By **Angela Swartz**
Almanac Staff Writer

Nine local students spent the morning of Dec. 11 on a holiday shopping spree at Target in Redwood City to pick out gifts for a family member or a friend, a toy for themselves, and a necessity like a scarf or socks, thanks to the Atherton Police Department and its nonprofit supporting groups.

It was the department’s second annual “Shop With a Cop” holiday event, intended to provide local students with a positive mentoring experience with police.

The students live in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and Redwood City, but attend school in Atherton. Teachers at Las Lomitas, Encinal and Laurel elementary schools each picked three students to participate based on need as well as on good academic performance and attendance, according to organizers.

A police officer helped each student pick out \$150 worth of gifts before wrapping them.

Students nabbed Hot Wheels toy trucks and “Spiderman”-themed toys, while one girl even picked out a gift for her cat. The Police Activities League and the Atherton Police Officers Association provided the funding for the outing.

To kick off the event, police officers handed out beanies and light-up ornament necklaces to the children, along with Starbucks hot chocolate, which Target provided.

Eight students participated in the department’s inaugural “Shop With a Cop” event last year. Police expect they will be able to offer the shopping spree to 12 kids next year, said Atherton Police Chief Steve McCulley.

“There’s always more need than we can provide,” he said.

Atherton police also host a holiday toy drive every year for Adelante Selby Lane Spanish Immersion School in Atherton. Officers will deliver toys to those students on Dec. 16, according to organizers. ■



Top: Police officer David Metzger, top, takes Xavier, 8, on a shopping spree at Target in Redwood City on Dec. 11. Above: Officer Gina Dutta helps Ashley, 7, make her choices.

Photos by Sammy Dallal/The Almanac

Happy Holidays 2019



From all of us at *The* **Almanac**

MountainView
VOICE

Palo Alto
Weekly

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

A 'Pride' premiere to be proud of

Charming Jane Austen musical debuts with TheatreWorks Silicon Valley

by Karla Kane

Writer/composer Paul Gordon has a penchant for creating musical adaptations of classic works of literature ("Emma," Jane Eyre," "Sense and Sensibility" and "Daddy Long Legs," to name a few). He also has a productive history with TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, so it only makes sense that his new musical version of Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" is making its world premiere with the Tony-winning local company, having been a part of its New Works Festival back in 2018. It's the 70th world premiere in the venerable company's history.

Let me admit here (avert your eyes, any of my former English teachers) that I have never yet read Austen's "Pride and Prejudice." However, so beloved is the 1813 British novel of manners that I felt going into the play that I'd absorbed enough through pop-culture osmosis to feel at least a little familiar with the basics of the plot. Now having seen it, I'd

REVIEW

say TheatreWorks' new musical, deftly directed by Robert Kelley, should prove pleasing to both fervent fans of the novel and newcomers alike.

The story concerns "headstrong" Lizzie Bennet (Mary Mattison), the second daughter of an upper-class country family. Her siblings include saintly, shy eldest sister Jane (Sharon Rietkerk), droll Mary (Melissa WolfKlain), and vapid little sisters Kitty (Chanel Tilghman) and Lydia (Tara Kostmayer). Their parents are the overbearing Mrs. Bennet (Heather Orth) and Mr. Bennet (Christopher Vettel), who, as a member of the landed gentry, does not have to work but rather earns an income from his estate. However, because the estate is entailed, it may not be inherited by his daughters but rather pass to the closest male relative, leaving the ladies rather in the lurch. Furthermore, Mrs. Bennet comes from meager(ish) middle-class



Photo by Kevin Berne

A letter provokes curiosity and excitement among (from left) Mary (Melissa WolfKlain), Lizzie (Mary Mattison), Mrs. Bennet (Heather Orth), Kitty (Chanel Tilghman), and Lydia (Tara Kostmayer) in "Pride and Prejudice," presented by TheatreWorks Silicon Valley.

ties, meaning the family is somewhat lacking in high-level social connections (still, to modern American eyes, they seem quite fancy).

Because of their awkward situation, Mrs. Bennet is desperate to make successful marriage matches for her daughters as soon as possible. Though she's portrayed as a comic, kooky character, her obsession does make sense when one realizes how little financial

power women have in this world.

Mrs. Bennet sees wealthy, mild-mannered new neighbor Mr. Bingley (Travis Leland) as the perfect match for Jane. Accompanying him is his catty sister Caroline (Monique Hafen Adams) and his somewhat grumpy best friend, Mr. Darcy (Justin Mortelliti), who's even more rich and eligible than Bingley, if only his manners were more pleasant.

When outspoken Lizzie meets

high-and-mighty Darcy, sparks fly, and it's their tumultuous courtship that's at the heart of the show.

Gordon's book and songs do a good job of honoring Austen's humor, fizzy way with words and keen social insights. In a 2018 interview, Gordon told me that he enjoys writing from source material about "strong women"

See **PRIDE**, page 20

Are you Madame Bovary?

Pear production tempers classic tragedy with postmodern wit

by Janet Silver Ghent

Imagine you're Madame Bovary, Gustave Flaubert's tragic heroine. You're trapped in a boring marriage in a small town. Your only escape is through romantic novels, love affairs, shopping, redecorating and the occasional ball. When your fantasies crumble like a dried wedding bouquet, "It's like the day after the ball every day." Then, what are your options?

"You/Emma," an imaginative adaptation of "Madame Bovary" written by Palo Alto native Paz Pardo in collaboration with actress Valerie Redd, riffs on 19th-century French romanticism, bringing it into the present with contemporary parallels. By masterfully delivering the message in the second person, Pardo and Redd invite audiences to see themselves in a classic tragedy tempered with comic relief.

The bovine Dr. Bovary is captured by a chorus of moos. Letters and unpaid bills cascade from overhead boxes. And Emma

Bovary, believing she's about to elope with a no-good lover, is instead battered by a barrage of apricots that accompanies his farewell note. Meanwhile, video montages of Hollywood sex goddesses like Marilyn Monroe, each with their own disillusionments, show that love is not forever, despite Doris Day's wistful rendition of "When I Fall in Love." In case you're missing the point, the video of Judy Garland's carefree "I Don't Care" is particularly poignant.

Described by the authors as "a postmodern fever dream of Madame Bovary," in which a 19th-century woman collides with her future counterparts, "You/Emma" held its world premiere last year at New York's IRT Theatre. Pardo, who graduated from Castilleja High School and Stanford University, brings the play home for its Bay Area premiere at the Pear Theatre, where she has also performed. "You/Emma" is co-presented by BootStrap Theatre Foundation,

REVIEW

where Pardo's mother, Sharmon Hilfinger, is founder and executive director. This well-crafted drama, which unfortunately has a short run, continues Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 15, at the Pear in Mountain View.

Redd, who won Best Solo Performance for "You/Emma" at New York's Innovative Theater Awards last year, carries the one-woman show from the moment she enters, wearing a T-shirt with the words "Don't Try to Make Me Smile." She could have brought the message home by sporting a khaki-colored jacket emblazoned with "I Really Don't Care. Do U?" but that would have been too obvious. Besides, it would have been tough to top a hooded jacket with a corset and hoopskirt when Redd transforms into Emma. Yet Redd as You/Emma manages to make the transitions seem almost effortless. Sometimes we shake our heads in disbelief at the character's naivete, but we empathize.

"If this were now, you would be diagnosed with bipolar disorder and put on medication," she says, accompanied by chuckles of recognition from the audience.

"You/Emma" is a natural fit for the intimate Pear Theatre, where Redd, director Devin Brain and other creators of the New York show reprise their roles. The setting, designed by Bruno-Pierre Houle, appears simple at first glance, with two large overhead boxes, two video screens, a headless mannequin and a floor covered with golden leaves. But video projections by Kate Eminger and lighting and stellar sound effects by Jessica Greenberg transform this one-woman show into a multimedia production, with clips from "Gone With the Wind" and other films as well as TV's "Project Runway." While we may laugh at the clips, we can't help but notice that romantic delusions are hardly dated. "If it were now," a phrase the character frequently utters, you might be "getting sexy in the back seat" instead of in a carriage or getting educated in a college instead of a convent, but some things don't change all that much.

Flaubert himself, played onscreen by Redd with a moustache, offers his two cents, delivering key passages from the novel as well as his letters. Unfortunately, perhaps because of uneven sound quality at the initial performance, Flaubert's words are sometimes muffled and the floppy moustache makes lipreading problematic.

Unlike Flaubert, the other supporting characters in this one-woman drama are largely voiceless. With costume designer Christina Renee Polhemus' simple accessories, the headless mannequin transforms into the men who pass through Emma's life. With a nondescript brown sweater, he becomes the dull Dr. Bovary. With a flamboyant vest, he's the roué Rodolphe, Emma's first lover who breaks her heart. Then a long brown scarf turns him into the studious Leon, who, like Rodolphe, also loses interest.

With her lovers gone and all possibilities of escape dissipating amid her mounting debts, Emma, like myriad tragic heroines — Anna Karenina, Hedda Gabler, Cleopatra — sees no way out. The

See **BOVARY**, page 20

What's for dinner?

Every month, over 300 hungry PA families are forced to depend on So. Palo Alto Food Closet to answer this question. And we've been providing no cost food to these families in need in our community for nearly forty years. Please help us continue this proud tradition by donating whatever you can. As often as you can. No-one in our community should go to bed hungry. Please use QR Code: to make a donation.



**South Palo Alto
FOOD CLOSET**
www.southpaloaltofoodcloset.com



TOWN OF ATHERTON

TOWN OF ATHERTON IS SEEKING THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

• Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee – 1 Vacancy

The City Council shall appoint one (1) applicant to the committee:

- Applicant must be a Town of Atherton resident;
- Meetings are held as needed on the fourth Tuesday of every other month at 4:00 pm. Special meetings may be called as needed throughout the year;
- Member appointments will be a four year term.

• Environmental Programs Committee – 2 Vacancies

The City Council shall appoint two (2) applicants to the committee:

- Applicant must be a Town of Atherton resident;
- Meetings are held as needed on the third Thursday of every other month at 1:30 pm. Special meetings may be called as needed throughout the year;
- Member appointments will be a four year term.

• Parks and Recreation Committee – 2 Vacancies

The City Council shall appoint two (2) applicants to the committee:

- Applicant must be a Town of Atherton resident;
- Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Special meetings may be called as needed throughout the year;
- Member appointments will be a four year term.

• Rail Committee – 1 Vacancy

The City Council shall appoint one (1) applicant to the committee:

- Applicant must be a Town of Atherton resident;
- Meetings are held as needed on the first Tuesday of every other month at 6:00 pm. Special meetings may be called as needed throughout the year;
- Member appointments will be a four year term.

Applications will be accepted December 13, 2019, – January 17, 2020. Applications can be accessed online or at Town Hall and submitted in the Office of the City Clerk at: 150 Watkins Avenue Atherton, CA 94027.

The deadline to submit all applications is **January 17, 2020, by 5:00 p.m.**

Contact:
Anthony Suber
Deputy City Manager / City Clerk
asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us
Phone: 650.752.0529

BOVARY

continued from page 20

actress's tears become our tears, and we leave the theater seeing ourselves as Emma.

Ambitious and more complicated than it looks, "You/Emma" is entertaining as well as thought-provoking. ▣

Janet Silver Ghent is a freelance writer.

IF YOU GO

What: "You/Emma."

Where: Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View.

When: Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. through Dec. 15.

Cost: \$35, with senior and student discounts.

Info: Go to thepear.org or phone 650-254-1148.



Photo courtesy of Bruno-Pierre House

Valerie Redd stars in "You/Emma" at the Pear Theatre.

PRIDE

continued from page 19

and that shines through with his Lizzie. As embodied by Mattison, she's a refreshingly modern heroine who stands up for herself and her imperfect, maddening but loving family, and is unwilling to settle for less than she deserves in life. Gordon also said he finds Darcy's character arc to be the most compelling, as he must allow himself to be vulnerable for perhaps the first

time. That, too, shines through, as Darcy's songs were my favorite of the bunch, with driving pop-rock flavors and rhythms and a fantastic performance by Mortelliti, whose voice is reminiscent of a 1960s British pop star. The two leads boast good chemistry and comic timing.

Other cast standouts include Rietkerk as Jane, with a voice that's all sweetness; Brian Herndon as the hilariously odious Mr. Collins, the clergyman who'll inherit the Bennets' estate; Lucinda Hitchcock Cone as his snobby patron Lady Catherine De Bourgh; Leland, whose tongue-tied, gentle Bingley is able to express his passionate inner thoughts thanks to Gordon's fine songwriting; and Wolf Klain, whose underappreciated Mary introduces settings and scenes in a deadpan, eye-rolling style that on opening night drew audience laughter each and every time (as did Adams' very funny, Valley girl-ish delivery of Caroline's letters).

Joe Ragey's scenic design, full of greenery, candlelight and oil paintings, is beautiful, as are costumes by Fumiko Bielefeldt, who puts a slightly modern

twist on classic Regency period designs.

"Pride and Prejudice," Gordon said, "is sort of a silly story in many ways, about some foolish people," but also "this incredible reflection of society and how we see ourselves." Lizzie and Darcy prove to be a love story worth swooning for and their genteel, articulate world one in which audiences are more than happy to spend some time. Bigger Austen devotees than I will no doubt have their own informed thoughts, favorite moments and/or quibbles with this musical adaptation. I say, as a warm-hearted, witty production it stands on its own merits. A premiere to be proud of, surely. ▣

Karla Kane is arts and entertainment editor of the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac's sister publication.



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IF YOU GO

What: "Pride and Prejudice."

Where: Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

When: Through Jan. 4.

Tickets: \$30-\$100.

Info: theatreworks.org.

Marketplace

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Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Submitting items for the Calendar

Go to **AlmanacNews.com** and see the Community Calendar module at the top right side of the page. Click on "Add your event." If the event is of interest to a large number of people, also e-mail a press release to **Editor@AlmanacNews.com**.

Visit AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more calendar listings

Theater

'Miracle on 34th Street' The heartwarming holiday classic, "Miracle on 34th Street," is retold in the tradition of a live 1940s era radio broadcast. Dec. 18-22; times vary. \$20-\$38; discount for students. Bus Barn Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. losaltosstage.org

'Pride and Prejudice' TheatreWorks Silicon Valley brings literature's most infamous battle of the sexes to life. Through Jan. 4, 2020; times vary. \$34-\$108. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatre-works.org

'The Princess and the Frog' Based on the popular Grimm Brothers fairy tale, the Palo Alto Children's Theatre brings "The Princess and the Frog" to the stage. Dec. 21-22; times vary. \$12-\$14. Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. cityofpaloalto.org

'Star Wars' Trilogy Live A tribute and parody, "The One Hour Star Wars Trilogy: Live!" tells the stories of "New Hope," "The Empire Strikes Back," and "Return of the Jedi" in roughly one hour. Jokes, toys, a live "trailer" for "The Lord of the Rings," ridiculous props and costumes and general geekiness abound. Dec. 19-22; times vary. \$15-\$100. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. dragonproductions.net

Concerts

Christmas with Anne Sofie von Otter New Century Chamber Orchestra celebrates the holidays with the debut appearance of mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter, performing a selection of arias and traditional holiday songs. Dec. 18, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$30-\$67.50. First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. ncco.org

Free Organ Recital Weekly noon-time organ recitals on the two Flentrop organs at All Saints Episcopal Church. Each recital will include at least one work by J.S. Bach. Tuesdays through May 26, 2020, 12:15-12:45 p.m. Free. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. asaints.org

'Winter Wonderland' The Ragazzi Continuo choir presents "Winter Wonderland," a holiday concert series featuring diverse pieces from texts by Shakespeare to Austrian drinking songs, as well as works by Vivaldi, Mendelssohn, Debussy and more. Dec. 21, 7:30-9 p.m. \$15-\$25; discount for seniors and students. Saint Ann Chapel Anglican Church, 541 Melville Ave., Palo Alto. ragazzicontinuo.org

Festivals & Fairs

Christmas Tree Lane Fulton Street lights up this Christmas season, marking the 79th annual Christmas Tree Lane event. Through Dec. 31, 5-11 p.m. Free. Christmas Tree Lane, 1705 Fulton St., Palo Alto. christmastreelane.org

The Village Hub Holiday Party and Gift Faire Woodside Village Church hosts the Village Hub holiday party with complimentary champagne for shoppers, cookie decorating and bouncy houses for the children, live music and more. Dec. 20, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. \$1-\$16; gift fair free to attend. Woodside Village Church, 3154 Woodside Road, Woodside. wvchurch.org

Winter Solstice Celebration Hidden Villa celebrates the shortest day of the year with festive crafts, hot drinks, solstice stories and music. Dec. 21, 1-3:30 p.m. \$15. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hidden-villa.org

Talks & Lectures

A Peace Corps Odyssey Former Menlo Park resident Michael Reza Farzi discusses his work as a Peace Corps volunteer in Botswana and the history, languages and cultures of the Southern African country. Dec. 18, 7-8 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Family

A Day at the Farm Visitors can reserve a day at the Hidden Villa farm and tailor the reservation to include private farm tours for up to 30 people and one of three picnic areas. Dec. 21-22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. \$180-\$275; prices vary between packages. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hiddenvilla.org

Museums & Exhibits

Baylug Lego Holiday Show Bay Area Lego User Group and the Bay Area Lego Train Club co-host the annual holiday show featuring train layouts, Bay Area landmarks, castles, miniature cities, sculptures, portraits, and more made out of Legos. Dec. 20-Jan. 5, 2020, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$3. The Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. moah.org

Edward Weston and Ansel Adams This exhibit features landscapes, still lifes, nudes and portraits created by Edward Weston in Mexico and Ansel Adams in the American southwest. Through Jan. 6, 2020; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

'Jordan Casteel: Returning the Gaze' Featuring paintings made in the last five years, Jordan Casteel's large-scale portraits of Harlem community members are intimate portrayals of often overlooked members of society. Through Feb. 2, 2020; 11 a.m.-5 p.m., closed Tuesdays. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

'Left of Center' "Left of Center" exhibition seeks to show how modes of art-making that originated on the West Coast decisively changed the topography of American modernism. Through Sept. 20, 2020; times vary; closed Tuesdays. Free. Anderson Collection, 314 Lomita Drive, Stanford. events.stanford.edu

'Our Sacred Coast' Artist Ian Wing's "Our Sacred Coast" is an exhibition of landscapes, including plein air and studio pieces depicting select locations across the California coastline. Through Jan. 20, 2020; times vary. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. arts4all.org

'Process and Pattern' Memory, history and making collide in the work of contemporary artists McArthur Binion, Charles Gaines, Julie Mehretu and Analia Saban. Through Feb. 17, 2020; 11 a.m.-5 p.m., closed Tuesdays. Anderson Collection, 314 Lomita Drive, Stanford. events.stanford.edu

Richard Diebenkorn See an intimate and interactive installation of famed Bay Area artist Richard Diebenkorn's paintings and sketchbooks that shed light on the artist's process, including his shift from figurative to more abstract work. Ongoing; times vary; closed Tuesdays. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

'West x Southwest' The Capital Group Foundation's gift of 1,000 photographs includes works by American photographers Ansel Adams, Edward Curtis, John Gutmann, Helen Levitt, Wright Morris, Gordon Parks and Edward Weston. Through Jan. 5, 2020, 12:30 p.m. Free. Stanford University, 450 Jane Stanford Way, Stanford. events.stanford.edu

Galleries

'Collusion' "Collusion" is a joint exhibition by Inna Chermeykina and Marina Goldberg, featuring oil and watercolor paintings of colorful landscape, cityscape and still life scenes. Through Dec. 31, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; closed Sundays. Free. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. portolaartgallery.com

Dance

'The Nutcracker' Palo Alto Children's Theatre presents June Walker Rogers' adaptation of "The Nutcracker," perfect for parents and children. Dec. 18-22; times vary. \$14-\$16; discounts for children. Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. cityofpaloalto.org

'It's a Wonderful Nutcracker' "It's a Wonderful Nutcracker" blends the traditional "Nutcracker" ballet with Frank Capra's iconic 1940s film, "It's a Wonderful Life." Dec. 21-22; times vary. \$29-\$62. Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. menloweballet.org

Lessons & Classes

One on One Resume Review Volunteers look over resumes and make recommendations on how to improve applications and how to stand out from other job seekers. Dec. 18, 9 a.m.-noon. Free. Jobtrain, 1200 O'Brien Drive, Menlo Park. eventbrite.com

Outdoor Recreation

'A Road Less Traveled' Docents Stephen Buckhout, Padma Satisha and Paul Billig lead

a 4-mile hike on Old Page Mill Trail to explore a section of the former road to Page's Mill. Dec. 25, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Skyline Ridge Preserve, Highway 35, La Honda. openspace.org

Explorer Hike: Late Autumn in the Redwoods Docents Mary Brunkhorst, Kate Gudmundson, Laura Levin and Dennis Smith guide an exploration of the wooded El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve. Dec. 18, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Free. El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve, Highway 35, Redwood City. openspace.org

Garden Lights "Holidays at Filoli: Garden Lights" features an outdoor lights program with festive lights throughout the estate and

the Terrace Bar, serving apple cider and mulled wine. Dec. 19-29, 4-8 p.m. \$18-\$35; children 5 and under free. Filoli Gardens, 86 Canada Road, Woodside. facebook.com

Winter Solstice Time Docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel and Farhana Kazi lead a hike through the Ancient Oaks, Bo Gimbel and Ridge Trails, observing that trees are casting extra-long shadows due to the angle of the Earth. Dec. 20, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Russian Ridge Preserve, Skyline Blvd. and Alpine Road, Redwood City. openspace.org

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

GO EZ MAINTENANCE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283058
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Go EZ Maintenance, located at 618 Bay Road, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
FELIPE DAVID GOMEZ
618 Bay Road
Redwood City, CA 94063
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 12, 2019.
(ALM Nov. 27; Dec. 4, 11, 18, 2019)

THE UPS STORE #5639
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283171
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
The UPS Store #5639, located at 3130 Alpine Rd. Ste. 288, Portola Valley, CA 94028, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
HAN GROUP, LLC
3130 Alpine Rd. Ste. 288
Portola Valley, CA 94028
CA
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/30/2018.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 20, 2019.
(ALM Nov. 27; Dec. 4, 11, 18, 2019)

M&J TOWING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283166
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
M&J Towing, located at 427 Macarthur Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MIGUEL ANGEL SANDOVAL LARA
2329 Menaltoa Ave.
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 20, 2019.
(ALM Nov. 27; Dec. 4, 11, 18, 2019)

LINDSEY HUTCHINSON WELLNESS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283186
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Lindsey Hutchinson Wellness, located at 1388 Elder Avenue, Menlo park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
LINDSEY WALKER HUTCHINSON
1388 Elder Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 21, 2019.
(ALM Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2019; Jan. 1, 2020)

LA STANZA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283287
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
La Stanza, located at 651 Oak Grove Ave., Suite H, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ANGELO CUCCO
1364 Laurel St. #1
San Carlos, CA 94070
MIGUEL ANGEL PRADO LUNA
1235 Jefferson Ave. #217
Redwood City, CA 94062
This business is conducted by: A General Partnership.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 6, 2019.
(ALM Dec. 18, 25, 2019; Jan. 1, 8, 2020)

MALLET SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283222
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Mallett Sports and Entertainment, located at 50 Woodside Plaza #106, Redwood City, CA 94061, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MALLET SPORTS LLC
50 Woodside Plaza #106
Redwood City, CA 94061
CA
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/20/2014.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 26, 2019.
(ALM Dec. 18, 25, 2019; Jan. 1, 8, 2020)

997 All Other Legals

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER: 19CIV00085
(Numero del Caso):

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
MAYSA HAMZA
and DOES 1 — 10, Inclusive

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTA DEMANDADO EL DEMANDANTE):
VLADIMIR ROZNYATOVSKI and TATIANA BAYEVA

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the Information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be

Community Groups

'Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom' The Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club discusses Cory Doctorow's "future fiction" book, "Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom." Dec. 23, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Mystery Readers Group: Holiday Party Mystery Readers Group hosts a holiday party filled with interesting games and snacks. Dec. 18, 7-9 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and cost on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

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400 COUNTY CENTER,
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063
The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
David S. Henshaw
1871 The Alameda, Ste. 333
San Jose, CA 95126
Phone: (408) 533-1075

DATE: January 8, 2019
(Fecha):
Neal Taniguchi
Clerk, by /s/ _____, Deputy
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(ALM Dec. 18, 25, 2019; Jan. 1, 8, 2020)

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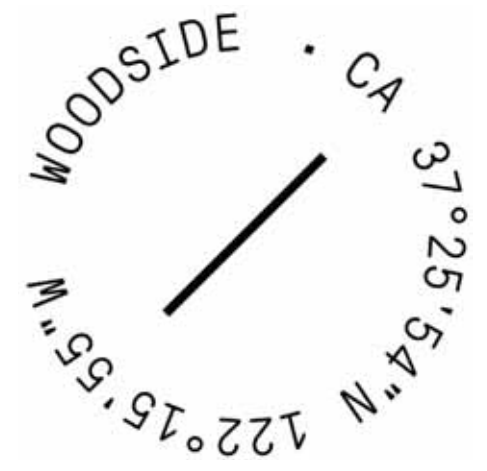
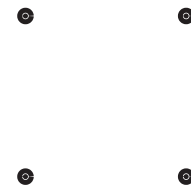
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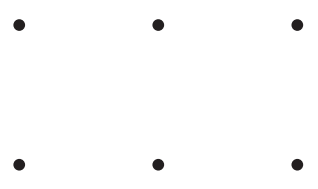
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