A fond farewell

The clock is winding down for Atherton’s historic rail stop
Page 16

Local author makes case for shorter workweek | Page 5
A sweet taste of the Levant | Page 20
With the owner of The Oriental Carpet preparing to retire this year, everything in stock at the downtown Menlo Park store is on sale – with the steep discounts ranging from 50% to 80% off.

Owner Bruce Good amassed an incredible collection of high-quality hand-knotted rugs in his nearly four decades in the business, and he has more than 2,500 pieces left to sell in his Santa Cruz Avenue store. The store’s entire inventory is priced to sell.

“As I get closer to retirement, there will be more reductions – but less choice,” said Good. “The best pieces will go quickly.”

He’s seen some customers come in and buy a rug for every room in the house, he said. All the rugs the store sells are hand-woven and knotted from traditional producers and cooperatives in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal. The store has pieces in every standard size and offers an array of designs including traditional, contemporary and “transitional” – rugs that can be formal or casual, depending on the furnishings they’re paired with. The store offers rugs made from wool, silk and viscose, a material that looks and feels like silk but is more affordable.

Good says the majority of the rugs he sells are made of wool, which is the strongest and hardest material. Viscose offers the soft feeling of silk but is easier to clean.

“I personally really like it,” he said. “You can put it into a family room without worrying about it.”

The store’s selection also includes a large number of antique rugs. Collectors appreciate how a rug’s colors soften over the years, giving the piece a fine and distinctive patina.

The traditional handcrafted method makes the rugs both beautiful and durable, said Good. The Oriental Carpet has been serving Peninsula residents for 46 years, helping homeowners and designers achieve the look and feel that a beautiful, high-quality carpet can bring to a room. Good said the handcrafted rugs last forever – but his sale won’t. If you’re looking for an attractive rug at an even more attractive price, now is the time to go shopping.

Come check out their selection at their showroom at 707 Santa Cruz Ave. or call (650) 327-6608 for more information.
Located in a premier central Portola Valley area on a non-through street, this desirable home boasts sweeping views, including iconic Windy Hill. Preceded by a vast open meadow and elevated on the one-acre lot to take full advantage of the views, the Mediterranean-style home enjoys the tranquil setting for which Portola Valley is renowned along with breathtaking vistas and level outdoor spaces for entertaining and play.

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A shorter workweek? Local author makes the case

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

The concept that working fewer hours per week yet producing more work may seem counterintuitive to many Americans, but it’s the theme of Menlo Park resident Alex Soojung-Kim Pang’s latest book, which is scheduled for release on March 10.

In “Shorter: Redesign your Workday and Reinvent Your Life,” Pang examines companies around the world that are enacting five-hour, four-day workweeks, and other reduced-hour schedules outside of the traditional 40-hour workweek. He found that many of these businesses see about the same, or in some cases increased, productivity and happier employees, even with fewer overall hours worked.

Among Pang’s examples: A surf company in San Diego increased its annual revenues from $5 million to $7.5 million when it switched to a five-hour workday. A restaurant owner in Edinburgh cut the number of days a week his establishment was opened, increased vacation time and made renovations to the kitchen so the chefs could cook more efficiently. After a year, he saw happier workers, who were working harder in four days than in five. He also could spend more time developing the menu and even found more time to open a second restaurant.

Employees are more focused, there are better divisions between work time and social time, there’s a lot chatter in the office, and employees can squeeze in creativity-boosting activities outside of work that they normally wouldn’t have time for during a traditional workweek, Pang asserts. The companies also see declines in sick days since their workers have more time to take care of themselves and visit doctors for preventative care visits, he notes.

Pang is a futurist by profession, with a doctorate in the history of science from the University of Pennsylvania, whose background includes work as a research director at the Institute for the Future, a think tank in Palo Alto focused on forecasting practical future scenarios for governments and companies, and as a visiting scholar at Stanford University.

In an interview with The Almanac, he said he was surprised to find that there are a number of businesses all over the world, across a variety of industries — software companies, restaurants, nursing homes, and even a rice mill company in Japan — that are already experimenting with shorter workweeks for their employees.

In researching material for his book, he interviewed leaders of companies that cut hours, but kept salaries consistent with what they were when the businesses operated under a 40-hour workweek.

“There’s a kind of culture change (at these companies) around the way people think about time,” he says. “As one (company) founder put it: ‘Anyone can sit in a chair for 12 hours a day, what impresses me is a person who can do work in six hours and get out of there.’ We use time as a proxy for productivity, and moving away from that is an important thing and a challenge.”

Pang spent about a year working on “Shorter,” interviewing founders and their employees from more than 100 companies across the globe. He found them through Google searches, sifting through a safety of the town. “Neither the town nor the fire district have the ability to modify the basic tax amount Atherton pays.”

The town would have to seek legislative relief with county and/or state legislators to change the tax allocation if it were to separate from the district. A change in the law would allow the reallocation of tax revenues, since the allocation to fire services is based on a state formula.

The property tax allocation formula was set soon after Proposition 13 was passed in 1978, and as the tax revenue generated increased in the areas the fire district serves — Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Atherton and nearby unincorporated areas — so did the fire district’s revenue. Based on the results of the 2016 study and subsequent conversations town officials had with the district and the San Mateo County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo), it is unlikely that special legislation to reallocated tax revenue would be supported, according to a Dec. 18 town staff report.

John Wurdinger, an Atherton firefighter and president of San Mateo County Firefighters IAFF Local 2400, a union that represents firefighters and paramedics countywide, said at the meeting that the 2016 study is not complete and that the council should conduct a comprehensive review that speaks to the “actual cost” of fire and emergency medical services to the town.

“As a public safety professional, as someone who has devoted his career to serving this very community, I strongly urge you as town council members to stand down from your proposal to leave behind the high-quality service you receive from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District,” Wurdinger said.

Council member Cary Wiest said the consulting firm the town hired to conduct the fire services review did its job and the council needs to “continue to move forward instead of backtracking.”

The town-commissioned review, released in 2018, found that Atherton property owners pay the district more than twice as much as fire services cost; the study puts the overpayment at about $7 million annually. The
Two coronavirus cases as of March 2 in San Mateo County

Disease was on agenda for monthly local school districts meeting

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

S an Mateo County on March 2 reported the first case of a resident registering a “presumptive positive” for the coronavirus that’s infected more than 80,000 people around the world. The diagnosis is pending a confirmation test from the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This came days after the county health department announced that the CDC had transferred someone who tested positive for the respiratory disease to a county hospital.

The most recent patient, who is defined simply as an adult, has been hospitalized and is in isolation, according to a March 2 press release from San Mateo County Health, the county’s health department. The patient has no known exposure to the virus through travel or through contact with a person confirmed to have the illness, named COVID-19, according to the department.

Symptoms of COVID-19 are like the flu, which include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear in as few as two days or up to 14 days after exposure, according to the county.

The other patient, also in isolation, was transferred to the county after returning from traveling abroad, and is in good condition, officials said in the March 2 press release. The health department has not released where in the county either patient is being treated or any other information on the patients.

Dr. Scott Morrow, the chief health department officer, said in the press release that the department shares “the concerns of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that we all need to be prepared for COVID-19 to spread within the United States.”

He added: “To prevent any illnesses, follow CDC guidelines including washing your hands frequently, covering your sneeze, and staying home when sick. Also, please dust off your personal emergency plans to make sure you have proper provisions at your home including water, medications, and food.”

As of March 1, there were a total of 40 people found to have the virus in California, 24 of whom had returned home from another country, according to the California Department of Public Health’s website. The other 16 confirmed cases include nine that are travel-related, two due to person-to-person exposure from a close contact and three from unknown sources.

The outbreak prompted officials from San Mateo County’s 23 school districts to meet with county health department officials on Feb. 28 to discuss the illness, which emerged in China late last year.

KRON 4 News reported on Feb. 27 that the districts were meeting with San Mateo County Health to “make a unified plan for how they will deal with coronavirus if it continues to spread and advance.”

The county Office of Education issued an alert on its website on Feb. 26 that the “risk of exposure to this new coronavirus is increasing over time. Travelers from mainland China arriving in the United States since February 3, 2020, should be excluded from school for 14 days, beginning the day after they left China. SMCOE and San Mateo County Health are partnering to support school districts in mitigating health risks.”

After the Feb. 28 meeting, County Superintendent of Schools Nancy Magee said in a phone interview that the Office of Education is still advising local districts to follow its typical guidelines on cold and flu prevention practices since the risk of transmitting the virus remains low in the area.

Magee noted that the Office of Education, which plays a supporting role for local school districts, is reviewing its pandemic plans for school districts. The plan outlines different ways to deliver instructions if schools need to close because of the spread of an illness, she said. When the plan is revised it will be posted on the organization’s website, an Office of Education spokesperson said.

“Unfortunately, (local) superintendents have lots of practice with school closure decisions based on (recent) smoke alerts and power outages,” Magee said. “We usually work really hard to keep school open — it’s a safe and supportive place for a child in the case of an increasing health risk, or chance of further spread of the virus by keeping schools open, that wouldn’t make any sense.”

She noted, though, that districts
City allocates $1M to continue services during Belle Haven center construction

By Tyler Callister
Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park City Council recently addressed a challenge coming early next year. Many of the city’s senior, youth, and other recreation services will be temporarily disrupted during construction of a new three-story community center and library in the city’s Belle Haven neighborhood.

The project, funded by a philanthropic donation from Menlo Park-based tech giant Facebook, could take up to two years to complete.

To cover the gap, the council has approved the use of $1 million — to be appropriated from the Library Systems Improvement Fund — for the cost of interim services during the construction period. This would cover the continuation of key services now offered by the senior center, Onetta Harris Community Center, and the Belle Haven Youth Center.

The council approved the funding in a 4-0 vote at its Feb. 25 meeting. Council member Ray Mueller was absent.

The council accepted Facebook’s offer for the community center project on Jan. 28. The center will be located on the site of the current facilities at 100 Terminal Ave., and ground-breaking is expected in early 2021.

During construction, some services will be either suspended or offered at a reduced level.

According to a city staff report, the following temporary changes will take effect during construction:

- Operations at the Belle Haven Pool, drop-in fitness classes at the Onetta Harris Community Center, and the senior community reading rooms will be suspended.
- The senior center’s recreation classes, special events, and game room will be offered at a reduced level.

Meanwhile, the Belle Haven Youth Center’s after-school care and summer camp; the Kelly Field sports field group rentals; the Onetta Harris Community Center’s Second Harvest Program; and the senior center’s meals, transportation, health and counseling programs will all be offered at the same level.

Most services will be offered at alternative venues during construction, to be decided by the city at a later date.

The proposed new center has been billed by Facebook as a “Multi-generational Community Center and Library.” It would house a new senior center, youth center and library, as well as a gym and multipurpose room, according to a letter addressed to the City Council in December 2019 from John Tenanes, Facebook’s vice president of global facilities and real estate.

The facility, being designed by architectural firm Hart Howerton, would also include renovations to some amenities near the pools and improved pedestrian access and vehicle circulation at the site.

Seniors express concerns

At the City Council meeting, at least two dozen community members associated with the senior center were present, and many spoke of how much they value the current senior center, emphasizing that they would like to see it either maintained or improved.

In a letter sent to the council and signed by 45 community members, representatives from the senior center wrote: “The Community and seniors think Facebook and the City would do us a favor if they leave the buildings the way they stand now.

The community and seniors know that this is a dream that will not come true for us. Facebook and the City will never stop the new construction plans. The most important thing for the seniors is to be one hundred percent sure that we will be coming back to the new building as low-income seniors. In the new building, seniors need to have all the benefits and services we have at the present.”

During the council’s discussion, council member Catherine Carlston addressed the letter directly, saying that the council intends to create an improved senior center for the community.

“We’re trying to provide better facilities for people in the long-term,” she said. “We’re also very worried about making sure that we provide as many services as possible in the same way ... to not impact people’s lives unnecessarily in the process of providing something that hopefully will be really beautiful and provide fantastic services for decades to come.”

In America’s richest town, a $500K income is below average

For the fourth year in a row, Atherton has topped Bloomberg’s list of wealthiest U.S. towns.

Atherton households earn an average of $525,000 annually, according to the list, published on Feb. 20.

The town became the first, and only, community to top the half-million-dollar mark since Bloomberg started compiling the index in 2017, according to the publication.

Nearby Hillsborough ranked No. 3 on the list, with an average yearly household income of $430,681. Other Peninsula towns on the list include Los Altos Hills, ranked No. 5, with an average annual household income of $405,073; and Los Altos, ranked 24th, with an average annual household income of $302,068.

Bloomberg evaluated household data for all U.S. towns with at least 2,000 households and ranked them based on average household income.

— By Angela Swartz

CORONAVIRUS

continued from page 6

aren’t considering closing schools at this point.

Schools in The Almanac’s coverage area have put out advisories, through email and on their websites, that they are increasing cleanings of common areas such as bathrooms, water faucets, classrooms, doorknobs, playgrounds and cafeterias to minimize the spread of germs. They’re also encouraging students and teachers to stay home when sick and frequently wash their hands with soap and water and avoid touching their nose, mouth and eyes with unwashed hands.

“The (Sequoia Union High School) District is working with county school and health officials to review protocols for schools in the event that coronavirus spreads in San Mateo County,” according to a Thursday email to Menlo-Atherton High School families from the school. “We will share more information as our preparations advance.”

As of the afternoon of March 2, there were a total of nine cases of the illness in neighboring Santa Clara County.

For updates on cases of the virus in San Mateo County, go to smchealth.org/coronavirus.

Real Estate Q&A

by Monica Corman

Sellers Should Listen to Buyers

Dear Monica: We are selling our home and have had some offers but none were high enough for us to accept. Our agent is telling us that the market has changed in the past months and that we would do well to listen to what these buyers are telling us. Do you agree with this? Maureen D.

Dear Maureen:

Without knowing the details about your property and the offers you have received, I would say that in general, your agent is correct. If your house is older or was remodeled more than 10 years ago, buyers won’t pay as much for it as they would for new construction in the same location. Even if it still looks good to you, to buyers it is dated. The lower offers you have received may represent the true market value for your home.

It is too soon to tell how the current stock market volatility will affect real estate prices but it is unlikely to mean values will increase anytime soon. If you want to sell your home, you should reconsider the offers you rejected.

Contact me at monica@monicacorman.com; Office: 650-465-5971, COMPASS. Ranked in the Wall St Journal’s 2016, 2017, and 2018 Nationwide list of top 250 Realtors.

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Pastor placed on leave for ‘poor judgment’ to return to the pulpit

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

A

Menlo Park megachurch pastor who recently returned from leave after he allowed a volunteer who admitted an “unwanted thought pattern of attraction to minors” to continue working with children for about a year and a half will resume preaching at the church early next month.

Menlo Church’s Elder Board decided to allow its senior pastor, John Ortberg, to return to the pulpit the weekend of March 7, according to a Feb. 27 email church officials sent to members. He was suspended in November after someone alerted church leaders that Ortberg had offered “prayers and referrals for counseling” to the volunteer, but didn’t prevent the person from working with minors at the 950 Santa Cruz Ave. campus, church officials said in an earlier email to members.

“We recognize these past few months have been challenging,” said Beth Seabolt, the church’s Elder Board chair, in the Feb. 27 email. “Since our last update, John Ortberg has remained focused on his Restoration Plan and shown great progress. After thoroughly reviewing the input from all constituencies and considering the progressive nature of building trust, and after prayerfully seeking God’s guidance, the Board believes John is ready to move beyond his Restoration Plan and prepare for his return to the pulpit.”

The board met this week to discuss letting Ortberg return to preaching, Seabolt said. Board members said in a Feb. 5 statement that they had adopted a “restoration plan” with Ortberg so he could “rebuild trust across Menlo Church, including with the congregation, staff, leadership and elders.”

Although Ortberg was reinstated on Jan. 24 after his Nov. 22 suspension, he has not given a sermon since mid-November, according to church emails.

Ortberg did not consult anyone else at Menlo Church — at which 6,000 people attend weekly services across the evangelical Presbyterian church’s six locations from South San Francisco down to Saratoga — about the situation, a January email states.

The board retained an independent investigator, who did not find any misconduct in the Menlo Church community, according to the email.

On Feb. 2, Ortberg’s son, Daniel Lavery, a Slate.com columnist, posted a widely read tweet stating he was the person who alerted church officials to his father’s interactions with the volunteer on Nov. 21, which occurred in July 2018.

Lavery did not name the volunteer, but said that he or she shared with him on Nov. 15 that the volunteer had “experienced obsessive sexual feelings about young children” and was seeking out unsupervised volunteer positions with children to treat that obsession. In his tweet, Lavery said he confirmed with his father that he had encouraged the unsupervised work. Ortberg, Lavery wrote, asserted that the “most important thing was maintaining secrecy over the affair.”

The individual in question was a part-time volunteer at the church and has not volunteered at any church events since this issue was raised with the board, said Heather Holliday, the senior director of marketing and communications at Menlo Church.

The board will also consider church staff members’ responsibilities to involve a greater focus on “teaching, discipleship and mentorship” than it “discerns alternative means to provide excellent day-to-day operational leadership for Menlo Church,” the board said in the Feb. 27 email.

Ortberg did not respond to a request for comment.

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DISTRICT SEPARATION
continued from page 5

transparency and fiscal efficiencies, according to staff. It would take about five to seven days to print and then mail the newsletter after approval, said Rodericks in an email.

The council also tentatively scheduled community information meetings on the 2016 fire services review for the evenings of March 24 and April 1 in Holbrook-Palmer Park’s Main House. In January, the council voted to initiate a two- to three-month process of gathering community input on the review after deciding in December to consider the following options:

- Complete an application to LAFCo for detachment from the fire district. Should the town proceed with a detachment process through LAFCo, that process would include various public meetings and could ultimately include a public vote.

- Discuss possible legislative relief with county and/or state legislators.
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Equestrian and town icon Al Schreck dies at age 89

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

A lbert Schreck, a Portola Valley resident who helped incorporate the town in 1964, died on Feb. 6. A real estate executive, an equestrian enthusiast and a world traveler and adventurer, he was 89 at the time of his passing.

Born in Los Angeles, he grew up in Larchmont, New York, and attended Williams College in Massachusetts. He met his future wife, Jo Wells, while he was in college, and the two were married in 1952, according to his family.

After Schreck served a stint in the Air Force in Germany, the Schrecks moved to Stanford University and Jo enrolled there as an undergrad, according to the family.

They settled down in Ladera, where Schreck said they were well-known for their presence on horseback, on the local trails, Tom Schreck said.

The family was active in the horseback riding community, riding in point-to-point races and participating in horse shows, Tom said.

“I remember as a young boy following my father on my pony, heading out on Portola Valley trails and, when I was 16, driving him to various ranches,” he said.

Al and Jo Schreck were both enthusiastic world travelers, and loved going to Ireland for horseback riding and hunting, Tom said.

The couple made a memorable equestrian trip to the African country of Botswana, and Tom Schreck recalled warning them about the danger of such a trip when they met up later in London.

“What if a lion or a bull elephant confronts you when you’re on horseback? I asked them,” Tom said. “It took a huge amount of courage to do that in their mid-60s.”

Al Schreck was a co-founder of the real estate investment firm of Kingsley, Schreck, Wells & Reichling, along with his brother-in-law Albert Wells, according to a biography written by his family.

The company was active in business for more than 50 years, and accumulated a substantial commercial real estate portfolio including the vintage Monadnock Building on Market Street in San Francisco that survived the 1906 earthquake, Tom Schreck said.

Al Schreck was also active in politics, serving as the finance manager for the campaign of former congressman Pete McCloskey, who ran against former first child actress Shirley Temple Black in 1967, according to the family.

He also served on the Portola Valley School District board while his sons attended elementary and middle school in the district, Tom Schreck said.

“McCloskey once said that if Al Schreck could win the Portola Valley school board election, he could beat Shirley Temple Black,” Tom Schreck said.

Al Schreck was also a trustee for several organizations, including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, UCSF’s “That Man May See,” and the Abelard Foundation.

He was a coach and umpire for the Alpine Little League, and helped finance and build the first backstop at Ford Field in Portola Valley, according to the family.

Al’s three sons survive him.

A memorial service in Portola Valley is planned for August, Tom Schreck said.

The family prefers that memorial donations in Al’s name be made to UCSF’s “That Man May See.” Go to thatmanmaysee.com for information.

Bob Dehn, former library commissioner, dies at 78

By Tyler Callister
Almanac Staff Writer

R obert “Bob” Dehn, a passionate Menlo Park community member known for his work with SRI International and as a volunteer on the Menlo Park Library Commission and St. Anthony’s Padua Dining Room, died on Jan. 23 at age 78.

Born in November 1941 in Albany, California, he spent his childhood in Albany and Berkeley. He attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he graduated with a degree in chemistry.

His scientific interests brought him to the Stanford Research Institute in Menlo Park, which later became SRI International, where he worked as a pharmaceutical organic chemist.

It was there that he met his wife of 52 years, Fran Dehn (McGroary), now president of Menlo Park’s Chamber of Commerce.

He eventually moved into marketing and business development for SRI’s Life Sciences Division, where he worked until his retirement in 2007.

Dehn served on the Menlo Park Library Commission for 11 years. He played a key role in advocating for and seeing through the completion of a $5 million expansion and remodel of the Menlo Park Main Library in 1992.

According to his wife, Dehn was a scientist at heart who brought his analytical mind to everything he did.

The couple helped incorporate the town of Portola Valley in 1964, according to Tom Schreck.

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He was a coach and umpire for the Alpine Little League, and helped finance and build the first backstop at Ford Field in Portola Valley, according to the family.

Al’s three sons survive him.

A memorial service in Portola Valley is planned for August, Tom Schreck said.

The family prefers that memorial donations in Al’s name be made to UCSF’s “That Man May See.” Go to thatmanmaysee.com for information.
GUIDE TO 2020 SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS • VISIT PALOALTOONLINE.COM/CAMP_CONNECTION

For more information about these camps visit paloaltoonline.com/camp_connection. To advertise in this weekly directory, call (650) 326-8210.

ACADEMICS

Early Learning Institute
Palo Alto

Pleasanton

Improve your student’s writing skills this summer at Emerson School of Palo Alto and Hacienda School of Pleasanton. Courses this year are Expository Writing, Creative Writing and Presentation Skills.

headsup.org

Emerson: (650) 424-1267
Hacienda: (925) 485-5700

Harker Summer Programs
San Jose

The Harker School’s summer programs for children K- grade 12 offer the perfect balance of learning and fun! Programs are led by dedicated faculty and staff who are experts at combining summer fun and learning. Strong academics and inspiring enrichment programs are offered in full day, partial and morning only sessions.

harker.org/summer
(408) 553-5737

i2 Camp at Castilleja School
Palo Alto

i2 Camp offers week-long immersion programs that engage middle school girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The fun and intimate hands-on activities of the courses strive to excite and inspire participants about STEM, creating enthusiasm that will hopefully spill over to their schoolwork and school choices in future years.

castilleja.org/i2camp
(650) 470-7833

STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research
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STANFORD EXPLORE biomedical science at Stanford. Stanford EXPLORE offers high school students the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science, including bioengineering, neurobiology, immunology and many others.

explore.stanford.edu/explore-series@stanford.edu

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Palo Alto/Bay Area

Stratford infuses its STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) curriculum into an innovative and enriching summer camp experience. Younger campers learn, explore, and engage in hands-on learning projects, while Elementary-age students collaborate to tackle real-world problems by utilizing academic principles and concepts in a fun and engaging way. At the Middle School level, individual subject-based enrichment classes are offered and tailored for each grade level.

stratfordschools.com/summer
pa@stratfordschools.com
(650) 493-1141

ARTS, CULTURE, OTHER CAMPS

Art and Soul Camp
Palo Alto

Art, cooking, tinkering, yoga and mindfulness. We celebrate multiple perspectives and recognize the many ways for our children to interpret their world. Summer Unplugged® is appropriate for ages 6-11 years. Located at Walter Hays School.

artandsoulpa.com
(650) 269-0423

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls Palo Alto
Palo Alto

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls Palo Alto Casti Camp offers girls entering grades 2-6 a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, computers, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music classes each day along with weekly field trips. Leadership program available for girls entering grades 7-9.

castilleja.org/summercamp
(650) 470-7833

Community School of Music Mountain View

Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) Mountain View 50+ creative camps for grades K-12! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, Summer Music Workshops and more! One and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care from 8:30am-5:30pm. Financial aid offered.

arts4all.org
(650) 917-6800 ext. 0

Let’s Go Crafting Palo Alto

Let’s Go Crafting’s Studio is where your child will have fun while learning many different fiber related arts. We teach sewing, knitting, crochet, weaving and jewelry making to children ages 8 to 15 years. AM or PM camps weeks 5275/week. Full day camps $550/week 5 student minimum for all sessions; 10 student maximum.

letsgocrafting.org
(650) 814-4183

Oshman Family JCC Camps Palo Alto

Camps at the OFJCC introduce your child to new experiences while creating friendships in a fun and safe environment. We work to build confidence, stretch imaginations and teach new skills.

castilleja.org/2camp
(650) 470-7833

Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACC) Palo Alto

PACC summer camps offer campers, grades 1st to 6th, a wide variety of engaging opportunities. We are excited to announce all of your returning favorites: Leaders in Training (L.I.T.), Camp YOUunique, F.A.M.E. (Fine Arts, Music and Entertainment), I.V. Sports, Operation: Chef and Chef JI. Periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the variety of offerings at PACC Summer Camps. Open to campers from all communities. Register online.

pacc.org
(650) 493-2361

Stanford Jazz Workshop Stanford

Stanford World-renowned jazz camps at Stanford. Week-long jazz immersion programs for middle school musicians (July 6-10), high school (July 12-17 and July 19-24), and adults (July 26-31). All instruments and vocals. No jazz experience necessary!

stanfordjazz.org
(650) 736-0324

TheatreWorks Palo Alto

Silicon Valley

Atherton

Campers bring their plays to life, make new friends, and practice collaboration skills at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley’s PlayMakers Camp (grades K-5). TheatreWorks offers four sessions in Palo Alto and Atherton from June 8 – July 31. Camps learn acting, playwriting, movement, and stagecraft from professional teaching artists from the Tony Award-winning local company.

theatreworks.org/education
(650) 463-7146

ATHLETICS

Dance Connection Palo Alto

Palo Alto

Share the joy of dance with us! Our studio is an extended family and a “home away from home” for our community of children and teens. At Dance Connection, we value the positive energy and atmosphere that we continuously strive to provide. Summer Dance Camps include all styles of dance for ages 4 and up and features our new “This is Me” Empowerment Camp along with Teen Jazz and Hip Hop Camps. A Summer Session for ages 3 to adults will be offered from June 8 – July 31.

danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps
(650) 852-0418 or (650) 322-7032

Kim Grant Tennis Palo Alto

Summer Camps

Palo Alto

Monterey Bay

Fun and specialized Junior Camps for Mini (3-5), Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, High Performance and Elite tennis levels. Weekly programs designed by Kim Grant to improve player technique, fitness, agility, mental toughness and all around game. Weekly camps in Palo Alto and Sleep-Away Camps in Monterey Bay, SO MUCH FUN!

KimGrantTennis.com
Text: (650) 690-0678
Call: (650) 752-8061

Nike Tennis Camps Palo Alto

Stanford University

Junior Overnight and Day Camps for boys & girls, ages 9-18 offered throughout June, July and August. Adult Weekend Clinics (June & Aug). Camps directed by Head Men’s Coach, Paul Goldstein, Head Women’s Coach, Lefé Forood, and Associate Men’s and Women’s Coaches, Brandon Coupe and Frankie Brennan. Come join the fun and get better this summer!

ussports camps.com
(800) NIKE-CAMP
(800) 645-3226

Run for Fun Palo Alto

Run for Fun’s mission is to provide creative and engaging play for all youth by getting kids active in an inclusive community centered around outdoor fun! We pride ourselves on hiring an enthusiastic, highly trained staff who love what they do. Summer 2020 features four weeks of Adventure Day Camp and two weeks of Overnight Camp High Five. Adventure Day Camp is a new discovery every day filled with sports, crafts and nature, including explorations to Camp Jones Gulch, Capitola Beach, Foothills Park, Shoreline Lake and Great America. Camp High Five is six days and five nights of traditional overnight camp mixed with challenge-by-choice activities, campfires, friendships and lots of laughter.

runforfuncamps.com/summer-camps-and-school-holiday-camps/camp-overview
(650) 823-3167

Stanford Athletics Youth & Teen Stanford

We can’t wait to have you join us this summer at Stanford! We hope you’re ready for engaged and safety-focused staff, phenomenal facilities, and innovative programs. We’ll have camps that challenge your camper’s physical, mental, and social skills in age-appropriate activities. When your camper registers for Camp Cardinal, they are a Cardinal Kid for life. Our main camper program is for grades K-6 and then campers graduate to our Counselor-in-Training Program where they become camp leaders!

campcardinal.org
campcardinal@stanford.edu

Stanford Baseball Camps Palo Alto

Stanford

At Sunken Diamond on the campus of Stanford University. A variety of camps are offered to benefit a wide range of age groups and skill sets. Campers will gain instruction in several baseball skills, fundamentals, team concepts, and game play.

stanfordbaseballcamp.com
(650) 725-2054

Stanford Water Polo Camps Palo Alto

New to water polo or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or full day options for boys and girls ages 7 and up. All camps provide fundamental skills, scrimmages and games.

stanfordwaterpolocamps.com

YMCA of Silicon Valley Palo Alto

Summer Camps

Silicon Valley

YMCA of Silicon Valley Summer Camps offer a variety of programs for kids and adults of all ages. Camps take place at YMCA locations throughout the valley and offer a wide range of activities and experiences. From traditional overnight camp mixed with challenge-by-choice activities, campfires, friendships and lots of laughter.

ymcasv.org/summercamp
(408) 351-6473

YMCA of Silicon Valley Palo Alto

YMCA of Silicon Valley Summer Camps Silicon Valley

YMCA of Silicon Valley Summer Camps offer a variety of programs for kids and adults of all ages. Camps take place at YMCA locations throughout the valley and offer a wide range of activities and experiences. From traditional overnight camp mixed with challenge-by-choice activities, campfires, friendships and lots of laughter.

ymcasv.org/summercamp
(408) 351-6473

March 4, 2020 ▪ AlmanacNews.com ▪ The Almanac ▪ 11
Here comes the sun and a plethora of classes to take in Menlo Park. With more than 20 classes offered in the area, we’ve prepared a new guide to let you know what’s out there, where to go and how to sign up. Take a language course, try to cook, or learn to ride a horse—whatever it is, there’s so many ways to make sure this season doesn’t go to waste.

DANCE

Captive Dance by Nona
1932 Menalto Ave., Menlo Park 650-580-8555 captivecancedynona.com

Captive Dance by Nona instructs youth of various ages and abilities in ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, hip-hop and other styles and skills. Classes take place at various times during the week. The studio also has competitive teams. Register online.

Dance Expressions
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park 650-450-7799

Dance instruction for students ages 3 and up, focusing on jazz technique at various experience and skill levels.

SPORTS & FITNESS

Fleet Feet Sports
859 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park 650-325-9432 fleetfeetmenlopark.com/training

Training programs throughout the year to bring camaraderie and skill building to runners and walkers of all levels. Registration for marathon training is now open.

Menlo Swim & Sport
Burgess Pool, 501 Laurel St., Menlo Park / Bella Haven Pool, 100 Terminal Ave., Menlo Park 650-781-5525 / menloswim.com

Youth, adult and community programs at Burgess and Bella Haven pools, including year-round swim lessons, youth swim teams, masters swimming, water polo and water exercise, as well as cycling, running, fitness and tennis programs.

Spring Down Equestrian Center
725 Portola Road, Portola Valley 650-851-1144 / springdown.com

Spring Down Equestrian Center educates children (beginning at age 3) and adults on horses and horseback riding. Instruction in basic riding, jumping, dressage, Western and English, re-emphases is offered. Classes and camps held year-round. Registration for spring camp is open.

Webb Ranch Riding School
7270 Alpine Road, Portola Valley 650-854-7755 webbranchinc.com/home.htm

Instruction for beginning and intermediate riders in both group and private settings. Specialties include Western riding, dressage and hunt seat riding. In addition, there are a number of weeklong camp sessions for children ages 7 to 18. Registration for spring and summer camps is now open.

ARRILLAGA FAMILY GYMNASTICS CENTER

The City of Menlo Park offers a number of gymnastics classes for youth, with a focus on children under the age of 6. Parent-participation classes are also available for children with special needs.

Glen Oaks Stable Riding School
3639 Alpine Road, Portola Valley 650-867-8218 / isolastables.com

Hands-on programs teaching riders to groom their horses, tack and provide riding instruction depending on individual riding level. Both private and small group lessons are offered.

Menlo Tennis
3297 Portola Avenue, Menlo Park 650-325-6440

Hands-on programs teaching riders to groom their horses, tack and provide riding instruction depending on individual riding level. Both private and small group lessons are offered.

German-American School of Palo Alto
1831 Delaware Ave., Menlo Park 650-328-2800 / gasa-ca.org

The German-American School of Palo Alto (GASA) teaches immersive German language classes, which also cover culture and traditions, to students ages 2.5 to 18. No prior knowledge of German is required. Classes are offered Saturdays year-round and during summer camp from June through July. Register for classes and summer camp online.

Language Pacifica
1528 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo 650-573-1840 / languagepacifica.com

Language Pacifica teaches English to non-native speakers in both full-time and part-time intensive courses. Classes are well-suited for TOEFL exam preparation and learning English for business or personal enrichment.

Lydia Academy
815 El Camino Real, Menlo Park 650-505-0550 / lydiaacademyc.com

Lydia Academy is a middle and high school offering individualized instruction that prepares students for the workforce and college. Lessons include a mix of one-on-one teaching and group sessions. It also provides tutoring, after-school and summer school programs. Registration for the summer program, which begins June 1, is now open online.

Philips Brooks School
1005 Alamos Ave., Menlo Park 650-323-0454 / philipsbrooks.org

Philips Brooks School is a coeducational day school teaching children in preschool through fifth grade and integrates social learning and individual instruction. In addition to core subjects, children can also study science, technology, music, art, library, physical education and Spanish. Learn more about the application process online.

Woodland School
360 La Cuesta Drive, Portola Valley / 650-854-9065 / woodland-sd.org

Woodland School is an innovative, project-based school for students in early childhood through eighth grade that gives individualized attention, develops leadership skills and emphasizes the values of caring, respect and community. Apply online.

CAREER PREP

JobTrain
1245 Brier Drive, Menlo Park 650-330-6439 / info@jobtrainworks.org / jobtrainworks.org

JobTrain has a variety of training programs for adults—providing instruction in the culinary arts, business administration, health care, web technology, construction and other fields—as well as programs specifically for youth, to help with GED preparation, job placement and vocational training. View currently available workshops online.

SCHOOLS

Woodland School
is a non-profit organization, the Woodland School provides a number of programs focused on self-enhancement for youth and adults: strength and speed fitness courses, adaptive sports, a class for musical bands, photography workshops and nature exploration, among other opportunities. The Class Guide is published quarterly in the Almanac. Descriptions of classes offered in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside are free, subject to editing and given priority. To submit a listing for the next Class Guide, email Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee at llee@paweekly.com.

Almanac News
12 The Almanac AlmanacNews.com / March 4, 2020

Woodside Career Prep
Woodside Career Prep offers classes for adults of all ages on various topics and activities, including health and wellness for seniors, fitness classes, art and drawing classes, Pilates, ceramics, drawing and other arts; languages; history and culture; and computer skills. Register for classes online.

ENRICHMENT

The Riekes Center for Human Enhancement
3455 Edison Way, Menlo Park 650-364-2500 / riekes.org

A nonprofit organization, the Riekes Center promotes learning and given priority. To submit a listing for the next Class Guide, email Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee at llee@paweekly.com.
290 Gabarda Way
Portola Valley, CA 94028
4 Bed | 3 Bath | 2,450 Sq Ft | 21,801 Sq Ft

Lush and Peaceful Oasis in Ladera

Enjoy, Quintessential country living with indoor-outdoor lifestyle in the heart of Silicon Valley. The home offers 4 bedrooms- 4th bedroom set up as an office, 3 bathrooms. This home boasts expansive views of the creek, a tree studded lot, with numerous spaces for entertaining, and privacy galore --- all in a close-in location. Stellar Los Lomitas Schools.( buyer to verify availability). Conveniently located to the Ladera shopping center, schools, bus stop, walking trails, Stanford, commute routes of 280 freeway and the Ladera Recreation Center. The recreation center has optional membership and attractive to families as it offers year-round tennis, acuatics program, Fitness program along with a variety of community events and activities.

Offered at $2,750,000
www.290Gabarda.com
BRIGHT, MODERN, AND CLOSE TO IT ALL

171 Linfield Drive, Menlo Park

Outstanding curb appeal and light, bright interiors are hallmarks of this delightful 3-bedroom, 2-bath home, offering 1,506 sq. ft. of living space (per county), on a 3,208 sq. ft. lot (per county). Ready to meet the needs of a modern lifestyle, this two-level home boasts an open-concept main level with a fireplace-centered living area that flows seamlessly into the sunny dining area, and on to the well-designed kitchen with stainless-steel appliances. Comfortable bedrooms comprise the upstairs level, including the spacious master suite crowned by a tray ceiling. Outside, a patio provides great space for alfresco enjoyment, and a peaceful garden offers relaxation. Adding to the appeal, this home’s location is close to the excitement of both downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, near numerous parks, a short trip to Facebook, and offers access to acclaimed schools Encinal Elementary, Hillview Middle, and Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Menlo Park.*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Menlo Park, All Residential Properties.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.171Linfield.com

Michael Repka | DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun 電話: 650.785.5822 | DRE #01933274
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Palo Alto High School
50 Embarcadero Rd,
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Saturday, March 21, 2020
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Enjoy complimentary refreshments starting at 9:30 AM. Program begins at 10:00 AM.

Michael Repka, Esq.
CEO, Managing Broker, & General Counsel of DeLeon Realty
LL.M (Taxation)
NYU School of Law
DRE #01854880

Larry Stone
Santa Clara County Assessor
MBA, Washington Graduate School of Business
Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government

Seminars are for prospective clients only. No outside real estate professionals permitted.

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650.900.7000 | www.DeLeonRealty.com | info@deleonrealty.com
By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

It wasn’t uncommon to hear the blast of a train horn in Atherton’s council chambers during meetings, until the town temporarily moved operations to Holbrook-Palmer Park last year. The move was made last year to accommodate the construction of a multimillion dollar new civic center — not the only change coming to this part of town.

In January, the Atherton City Council signed off on a Caltrain plan to permanently close the historic station as the rail agency prepares for electrification of its train service from San Francisco to San Jose. The decision was made after years of low rider-ship. In years gone by, beginning roughly a century ago, rail travel played a key role in the town.

In fact, the train depot at Dinkelspiel Station Lane was central to life in Atherton since before the town was incorporated, during the days when it was just a sleepy community of summer homes.

Part-time residents rode in on horse-drawn carriages to catch the train back to their homes and everyday lives farther up the Peninsula — San Francisco in particular.

Later, as more people took up permanent residence in the town, Athertonians hopped on the train to commute to San Francisco for work. At a recent City Council meeting, Vice Mayor Elizabeth Lewis fondly recounted riding the train north with her father to accompany him to work.

Her memories of those rides in the early 1980s include children selling coffee and doughnuts to passengers for 25 cents apiece as they waited for their trains or arrived at the station. She also recalled community members gathering for musical performances outside the train depot.

But times have changed. The train no longer stops in Atherton on weekdays, so the blaring horn during council meetings was the sound of the train passing quickly through town.

“Now, the town is working with Caltrain to create a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with specifics for closing the station in the next few months,” said City Manager George Rodericks in a Feb. 25 email.

“Caltrain has not announced a date for when the station will close, but Caltrain spokesperson Dan Lieberman said in a Feb. 28 email that train service is likely to cease “around the same time as the MOU is finalized.”

In the meantime, The Almanac took a look back at the history of the station.

**Train station is established**

Atherton, and its train station, were known as Fair Oaks until the town was incorporated in 1923, according to the Atherton Heritage Association. The name Fair Oaks had already been assigned to a town near Sacramento. Atherton’s namesake was the prominent San Mateo County early settler Faxon Dean Atherton, according to The Almanac’s archives.

In the 1860s, the Pacific and Atlantic Railroad opened the Fair Oaks flag stop, a designation meaning that the train stopped in town only when passengers waved a cloth at the station to indicate they wanted to be picked up, Heritage Association documents explain.

The name Fair Oaks derived from the “varied and beautiful oak trees of the area,” according to the Heritage Association. The town’s resident handbook notes that the station served the families of the large estates that were established in the latter half of the 19th century.

**Changes to the station**

Over time, the Atherton station was updated and refurbished.
In 1913, the railroad company erected a shelter depot to replace the existing structure, the Redwood City Democrat reported at the time. The former structure was simpler and smaller, without columns. Photos of the original depot show:

“The new building is not any more pretentious than the old one but more artistic,” the publication noted.

Because of major changes to the station in the 1950s — the addition of new building features and changes in window placement — the station could not qualify for the National Register of Historic Places, according to a Heritage Association document from the 1990s that quotes John Snyder, a California State Department of Transportation historian.

During the 1950s, the depot was painted yellow. It was painted yellow and beige after a fire at the station during the 1990s, according to The Almanac’s archives.

In the late 1980s, officials installed metal bike lockers. Several years later, in the early 1990s, the station underwent a roughly $200,000 refurbishment, according to a 1991 Almanac article.

Work crews repaved the station’s parking lot, relocated bike racks to the center of the parking lot, repaved the depot area and completed landscaping work around the station.

More repairs to the station were needed after an April 2007 fire in an adjacent recycling bin spread to the station and a nearby mailbox, according to an Almanac news story.

In 2015, workers began “extensive remodeling work” to remove rotting wood from the depot, the Daily News reported.

Service cuts and future of the station

Caltrain’s announcement early this year that it wanted to permanently close the station was a reversal of its previous position that it would restore weekday service in town once electrification was complete.

The agency suspended weekday stops in the town in 2005 after finding that ridership was lower than 150 passengers daily. The train now stops at the Atherton station on the weekends.

Council members have expressed sadness about the historic train station’s closure, but said sadness often accompanies progress.

“At the end of the day, we will benefit from the closure,” Mayor Rick DeGolia said during a January City Council meeting in which council members voted to give Caltrain the go-ahead to close the station. “The station was heavily used in the past, but not today... There’s a significant capital cost to keep the station.”

The station is designated a “hold out station” because it has a center boarding platform only, meaning passengers can cross the tracks in multiple places to reach the platform, and the station can accommodate only one train at a time. To change this, Caltrain would have to build separate platforms for northbound and southbound passengers and a fence separating the tracks.

Town staff recently noted it would cost about $30 million to upgrade the station to bring back full weekday service. Some Atherton residents explained during a January City Council meeting that they would be happy to travel to the train stations in Menlo Park or Redwood City so that a stop in Atherton doesn’t add to overall train travel times once electrification is finalized.

DeGolia said the town plans to preserve the train station depot building, much to the pleasure of Marion Oster, president of the Heritage Association.

“The Atherton Heritage Association is pleased with the plan to save the Train Station building,” Oster said in an email. “We had a train station before there was a Town and even though the building has been modified, it is historic. How wonderful that people could enjoy the new Civic Center sitting in the historic train station.”

To close the station, Caltrain said in its letter to the town, the agency will seek funding, between $7 million and $9 million, to construct a right-of-way fence separating the current station from the town’s civic center, remove the existing station platform and track crossings, remove ticket vending machines and bike lockers, and put in place grade crossing safety improvements at Watkins Avenue.

Part of those funds would pay for a wrought iron fence along the tracks, landscaping, and moving the wall of the train station from the side of the building facing the civic center to the side of the building facing the railroad tracks, so the train station depot would remain intact, DeGolia explained.

“It would be able to become a part of the Atherton Town Center,” he said in a Feb. 26 email, referring to the town’s civic center, which is undergoing a $31.6 million revamp slated to be completed in 2021. “My guess is that the ‘Atherton’ sign on top of the building would also be turned so that you would see it from the Town Center side. The station crossing (concrete, etc.) would be fully removed and people would not be able to access the tracks.”

But not everyone thinks the closure is the right move, including Malcolm Dudley, a former mayor and town Rail Committee member. He would like to see the town conduct a community survey to determine if the closure is what residents want.

“IT’s one of the oldest (rail) stations throughout all of California; it has great history to it,” he said. “Something this important really deserves to be passed onto the community.”

With increasing traffic congestion on the Peninsula, more people will be forced to drive without a station in town, Dudley said. It doesn’t make sense to cut back on public transit that would help alleviate this problem, he noted.


Former Atherton City Manager Dick Moore before restoration of the train station in February 1990.

A boy sells doughnuts and coffee at a makeshift stand at the Atherton train station in 1980.

Mayme and Rena Roach in a wagon at the Atherton train station, known as the Fair Oaks train station at the time, in 1906. The train stop’s name was changed to Atherton when the town was incorporated in 1923.
Menlo Park district school board race begins

Francesca Segre is first to announce her intent to run in the race for two open seats

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

Francesca Segre, a Menlo Park City School District parent, who previously worked as a journalist and as a staffer for former state assemblyman Rich Gordon, has put her hat in the ring for the district’s November School board race.

She is seeking to fill one of the two openings on the school board this fall. Board member David Ackerman is not running for re-election when his term finishes at the end of November, he told The Almanac in a Feb. 26 email. Trustee Mark Box noted when he was appointed to his position last September that he would not run for election in November.

Segre, who works in communications at LinkedIn and serves on the site councils at Encinal Elementary School and Hillview Middle School, announced her candidacy in a Wednesday email to The Almanac. She is the only person who has declared she is running so far.

Segre said her 20 years of experience as a journalist — for news organizations such as The New York Times, Thomsom Reuters and KQED — made her an “expert listener” and a “very good communicator, who brings a sensitive ear to what people are concerned about.”

As an education policy specialist for Gordon, she also got a sense of how different school districts operate statewide and understands education policy on the state level, she said.

“I currently live in the house my grandparents bought when they fled WWII Europe; they didn’t have a lick of English,” said Segre, whose two children attend district schools.

“They did have this incredibly strong education background and fierce grit. I want to serve on this board so every child (in the district) has the education and life skills to create the life of their dreams for now and in the future.”

On Segre’s campaign website she lists what her main priorities as school board member would be. The first is sustainable long-term public and/or private partnerships and mechanisms to help fund the district.

She lists academic excellence through maintaining low class sizes, the district’s parent education series, and prioritizing early childhood education programs as her second goal. Her third priority is school safety, which includes maintaining the district’s emphasis on teaching students social and emotional skills to support themselves and each other, and ensuring students have safe routes to school campuses.

In a phone call with The Almanac, she noted that in the near term the Measure X parcel tax, which passed in 2017 with an initial annual rate of $360 per parcel, will need to be renewed or replaced to keep the district financially solvent and maintain the district’s educational quality and standards.

The board last year had preliminary discussions about putting a measure before voters to renew or replace Measure X at a higher taxation rate, in part, to help address deficit spending that could result from last year’s teacher salary hike and rising pension costs.

Segre said that in the future, she’d like to see more innovative and long-term public and/or private partnerships and mechanisms to help fund the district.

The best way to predict the future is to create it.

LEHUA GREENMAN

“The best way to predict the future is to create it.”

650.245.1845 COMPASS

See SCHOOL BOARD, page 19

Eva Olvera Casey
November 8, 1929 – February 21, 2020

Eva Casey passed away February 21, 2020, after battling with Alzheimer’s for the past several years. Her husband, William George Casey, predeceased her in June 2006. She is survived by her two sons (William T. Casey, II, and Mark T. Casey), her daughter-in-law (Kimberly Casey), four grandchildren (Joshua Thomas, William Michael, Sara Elizabeth, and David Michael), her brother (David Acevedo) and many cousins scattered in Texas, which was Eva’s birthplace.

Eva was raised in Mission, Texas with one sister (Emma), and four brothers (David, Larry, Ricky and Ralph). She moved to the Bay Area when she was a teenager and began working as a Teller at Crocker Citizen Bank. She and her husband Casey dated and eventually married in February of 1966. Eva had many roles in her life: a wife, mother, sister, friend, neighbor, Yard Duty, and babysitter.

She was a devout Catholic and was a tough and stubborn lady with high expectations of herself and those around her, and yet the love, laughter, and joy she shared was immeasurable. There are no words to express the tremendous hole Eva’s passing will leave on all the lives she touched. The family finds comfort in knowing she is at peace and happy to be home with her lifetime love, Casey.

Eva will be cremated and a private Celebration of Life will take place in the coming weeks. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in her name to an Alzheimer’s Research organization of your choice.

Photo by Mark Tschurman

Francesca Segre was in the running for appointment to an open seat last year.
**Wanna be rocked? Priory students can accommodate**

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

Woodside Priory School will bring “We Will Rock You: School Edition,” featuring music from rock band Queen, to the school’s stage this week.

The spring musical, adapted from the original Broadway production, includes all of Queen’s greatest hits and is set 300 years in the future, according to the school’s website.

Priory Upper School students will perform songs such as “Somebody To Love,” “We Are The Champions” and “Don’t Stop Me Now.”

The play follows the story of a boy called Galileo, a girl named Scaramouche, and a misfit ragtag band of rebels known as The Bohemians. The group aims to defeat Killer Queen, a self-aware video game that leapt into her programmer’s body and now dictates the lives of everyone on the IPlanet. In this world, individuality is forbidden and rock music has been banned.

The show is directed by John Sugden, head of the Performing Arts Department, who says of the musical: “It’s not bubble gum, it’s a hammered nail of emotion and poetry that hits deeper and makes your body move. There’s a joy, truth, passion, drive, wisdom and heart wrenching vulnerability that underlies lyrics, beats and riffs that stick in your soul long after the lights come down.”

In an email, Sugden notes that one of the school’s core Benedictine values is Individuality and much of this musical follows individuals breaking free from oppression, monotony and group-think to find their Individual voice.

Along the way Community, Integrity, Hospitality and, through the transformational magic of Rock, even Spirituality, come into play.

Performances are at 7 p.m. on March 5 through 7; and 2 p.m. on March 8, at Rothrock Performing Hall, 302 Portola Road in Portola Valley. wrought lead roles are performed by Aaron Lipp as Galileo and Carmen Alvarez as Scaramouche.

**Author to discuss raising children in the ‘Age of Fear’ in Hillview program**

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

Author Kim Brooks will discuss her book “Small Animals: Parenthood in the Age of Fear” at Hillview Middle School on Wednesday, March 4.

Brooks’ talk will focus on how parenting has changed in the era of smartphones, social media and parent shaming; and the concern many parents feel about ensuring their children’s success, according to a Menlo Park City School District press release.

“Small Animals” was named an NPR Best Book of 2018. In 2018, Brooks wrote a widely read essay about intentionally leaving her 4-year-old son in her car for what she described as a few minutes while she was shopping at Target. A bystander recorded a video of him alone in the back seat and passed it to the police, which led to a “two-year legal nightmare,” according to the essay, published in Good Housekeeping.

“I’ve come to believe that the problems with children’s mental and emotional health are caused not by any single change in kids’ environment but by a fundamental shift in the way we view children and child-rearing, and the way this shift has transformed our schools, our neighborhoods and our relationships to one another and our communities,” Brooks wrote in a recent New York Times opinion piece.

During the March 4 event, she will discuss reexamining the act of parenting to restore healthy relationships with children, families and communities, the press release states.


The talk is part of the district’s Parent Education Speaker Series. The event is free and runs from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Hillview’s Performing Arts Center, 1100 Elder Ave. in Menlo Park. There will be free child care, including dinner, for potty-trained children.

**SCHOOL BOARD**

*continued from page 18*

private partnerships and mechanisms to help fund the district. She’d like to see “more steady” funding so the district doesn’t have to seek parcel tax funding as regularly.

In September, Segre interviewed for a seat left vacant by Caroline Lucas, who resigned in August. Board members chose former trustee Box to fill the role, but Segre said she would run for school board the next year.

Ackerman, San Mateo County Supervisor Dave Pine, Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian, San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools Nancy Magee, Gordon, and former Menlo Park Planning Commissioner Katie Ferrick have endorsed Segre for the seat, according to her website.

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More than the taste of knafeh, Maya Fezzani remembers the movement of her grandmother's hands making the traditional Middle Eastern dessert.

Growing up in Lebanon and Syria, she'd watch her grandmother fold kataifi, shredded phyllo dough, in butter. "It definitely was not hands-on because she didn't allow anyone in the kitchen, but it was all about seeing, tasting and smelling when she was baking," Fezzani recalled. "I was all eyes on her."

Decades later and thousands of miles away, Fezzani channels her grandmother in a commercial kitchen in Menlo Park, where she preps and bakes all of the desserts for her Middle Eastern sweets company, Levant Dessert. Her hands fold unsalted butter into a tangle of frozen kataifi in a pan. She lines muffin tins with the mixture and layers each with cream or cheese and butter, then bakes them until they're golden and fills the kitchen with a toasty, sweet aroma.

Levant Dessert is Fezzani's first-ever food venture. She was born in Lebanon and lived in Syria as a young girl before her family left for England. She eventually met her husband there, whose work moved them to Hong Kong, Chicago, back to England and then Silicon Valley in 2008. She worked for her husband’s solar startup and also in logistics at Nordstrom, but neither were fulfilling for her.

Fezzani, bubbly and earnest, said she would always bring her Middle Eastern desserts to dinner parties — homemade knafeh, baklava, pudding tinged with orange blossom, bars — and friends often urged her to take her hobby to the next level. She started seriously considering it a few years ago, and was particularly inspired by the opening of Mademoiselle Colette in Menlo Park. Seeing the French bakery come to fruition helped her envision what it would be like to start her own venture.

Fezzani started with special orders and events, then pop-ups at Nordstrom and Facebook. In 2019, she opened a storefront inside Sultana restaurant in Menlo Park after meeting the owner at a bridal shower she catered. Sultana diners can order from her menu, but customers can also come in to purchase her desserts directly.

Knafeh is Fezzani's calling card. She makes several versions, including one filled with cream and another with mozzarella and mascarpone cheeses. Knafeh is traditionally filled with akawi, a salty Middle Eastern cheese, but Fezzani said she hasn't found a good-enough version in the Bay Area. After the knafeh are baked, she drizzles each one with homemade orange blossom syrup.

Her custom knafeh cakes — shaped into numbers and letters for birthday parties, pacifiers for baby showers and even female body parts for a bachelorette party (she declined a request for a male body part) — have become popular. At a recent birthday party, one satisfied customer declared, "knafeh is the new cake."

Fezzani also makes a series of seasonal milk and rice puddings with toppings such as nuts, orange blossom syrup, apricot paste or raspberry coulis. For winter, she has a caraway cinnamon pudding that's traditionally served when a woman gives birth, she said, either as a hot, creamy drink or in the fridge to set for a chilled pudding. Fezzani also makes balooza, a Syrian rice pudding topped with orange curd. She thickens the puddings with salep, a flour made from orchid roots that's common in the Middle East, along with a gluten-free version using cornstarch instead.

Because of frequent dietary restrictions and requests from customers, Fezzani has added gluten-free and vegan desserts to her lineup, including using vegan butter to make pistachio baklava and coconut oil in sfoof, a Lebanese turmeric cake (which she serves with English custard, a vestige of her years in England). She's also cognizant about how much sugar goes into her desserts, so they're all subtly, rather than sickly, sweet. She makes her own sugar-free stevia syrup and wants to experiment with monk fruit as a sweetener — not only for health reasons but also for flavor, she said.

"I believe in tasting all the flavors in a dessert," Fezzani said. Soon, she plans to add savory items and a line of Middle Eastern-inspired chocolate desserts, such as ganache with dates and pistachio.

Fezzani isn't sure whether she wants to graduate to her own brick-and-mortar bakery. Like her grandmother, she likes being hands-on and in full control of the business she built from scratch. The hours she spends tweaking recipes and baking into the evening are a gift, she said, a way of doing something for herself after years of raising her children and working unsatisfying jobs.

"It's a story I'm writing myself," she said of the bakery. "I don't want anyone else to write it for me."

For more information, visit levantdessert.com.

A taste of the Levant

From knafeh to baklava, Menlo Park baker brings Middle Eastern sweets to the Peninsula

by Elena Kadvany
Photos by Sammy Dallal

Elena Kadvany is a staff writer for the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac's sister publication.
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The Almanac
The estranged brothers in the 1980s indelibly mark the story of two men, “Confession” is the story of two directed by Robyn Braver.

Food reporting you won’t find anywhere else.

Concerts
The Indigo Rhythm Section: The Indigo Rhythm Section is a San Francisco based, five-piece jazz band that plays a variety of jazz styles, including swing, blues, Latin and funk, using both traditional and original interpretations. March 5, 7:30 p.m. $24-$35. Angelicas, 1865 Main St., Redwood City. angelicaswam.tunestub.com

Stefan Tiszai’s “Little Maude” La Entrada presents Starting Arts’ production of “The Little Maude,” a tale of a young mermaid who longs to experience the world beyond her ocean home. March 7, 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. $10-$12. Hillview Performing Arts Center, 1000 Elster Ave., Menlo Park, eventbrite.com

They Promised Her The Moon: Directed by Giovanna Sadelli, “They Promised Her The Moon” tells the true story of the world record holding female aviator, Jerri Cobb, and her pursuit to be an astronaut during the space race of the ’60s. March 4-29, times vary. $25-$50, discount available. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Midfield Road, Palo Alto, thestereos.org

“We Will Rock You” Music of the British rock band, Queen, backs this Woodside Priory School musical set 300 years into the future, where humanity is controlled by the Killer Queen and individuality is forbidden. March 6-8, times vary. $8-$16, discount for children and students. Rockefeller Performance Hall, Woodside Priory School, 302 Portola Road, Portola Valley. priory.ticketsnap.com

Seminars & Exhibits
Terry McMahon, Portola Art Gallery presents “Brilliant Color: Bold Design,” an exhibition of acrylic paintings by Terry McMahon. Through March 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed Sundays. Free. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park, portolaartgallery.com


Comedy
Silly Goose and Val Ventaquisto, musician, composer and author Valerie Leonhart Smith visits Menlo Park with her favorite goose for a comedic afternoon show. March 8, 2-3 p.m. Free. Bella Haven Branch Library, 413 Ivy Drive, Menlo Park, menlopark.org

Home & Garden
Meet the Seed Library Menlo Park Library introduces its new seed library and answers questions about how to “check out” seeds, tips for growing and more. March 4, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park, menlopark.org

Food reporting you won’t find anywhere else.

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Community Groups
My Community in the Park Chapter 2 hosts an award ceremony for young, local authors who contributed to the “My Community” youth poster exhibition. March 10, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park, menlopark.org

A.D.A.P.T. Disaster Preparedness Meeting In this month’s meeting, the Atherton Disaster and Preparedness Team focuses on the contents, locations and process of deployment of its Atherton emergency preparedness trailers. March 7, 7-9:30 a.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park, menlopark.org

Belle Haven Mini-Grant Application Assistance The Belle Haven Community Development Fund provides assistance for applying to the 2020 Belle Haven Mini-Grant Program. March 6, 11 and 31; times vary. Free. Menlo Park, communitycenter.org

Police strategic plan community meeting With recent restructuring and more resources, the Menlo Park Police Department invites community members to be a part of the new strategic planning initiative and get feedback. March 7, 10-11 a.m. Free. Upper Laurel School, 275 Ett톡 Drive, Menlo Park, menlopark.org
Add spark to Menlo Park with Burning Man sculpture

Editor:

Is a Burning Man sculpture coming to Fremont Park? I certainly hope so!

I understand that the City Council meeting (at which the sculpture was to be discussed) adjourned before the council was able to consider options for locating the “Talking Heads” sculpture. So I am writing now to offer my $.02 ... 

I have read The Almanac articles outlining some of the possible locations under consideration. To my view, there are really only two (maybe three) viable options, in order: 1) Fremont Park; 2) Somewhere near the corner of El Camino Real and Santa Cruz Avenue (city property, not Menlo Center property); and 3) Burgess Park (civic center).

Here’s why: Burning Man Playa art is by design and per BM’s overarching principles, intended to be interacted with and experienced directly (i.e., there are no “spectators”). Placing Oleg Lobynin’s magnificent and thought-provoking piece on the fringes of the city (i.e., Sand Hill Road or Marsh Road) dilutes its purpose and intent.

When I was growing up here (and I am a lifelong resident of 65-plus years), we used to describe Menlo Park as “Mellow” Park. Regrettably, to my view, not much has changed. Downtown is stagnant, continuing to experience business flight, and lacks any semblance of vitality.

Locating “Talking Heads” in the heart of the city may be just what we need to spark more community energy, interaction, collaborative discussion and participation.

Tim Johnston, Burner Creek Drive, Menlo Park

Atherton’s own Robin Hood story — in reverse

Editor:

I’ve been watching the ongoing battle between the town of Atherton and the fire district for years. The issue seems to be not with the quality of service, which is considered excellent, but with the perceived amount of money residents pay in property taxes to the fire district vs. what is a wild guess by Atherton staff on what it costs to provide the service. What Atherton wants is some of those taxes being used in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and the Fair Oaks area of San Mateo County to instead be redirected to them. You might call it “Reverse Robin Hood,” where the poor pay more to the rich.

To determine whether the Atherton City Council is the only one that wants this, they are proposing to send out to every home in the town of Atherton a newsletter explaining their case. The problem is, the newsletter is biased; in fact, you might say it is one-sided. That is why the result to a conclusion the City Council is pushing for. It is like “leading the witness” or “talking to the choir.” The newsletter, called the Athertonian newsletter, is one-sided, misleading, and void of a single word from the fire district or others knowledgeable about the bigger picture.

It appears the town staff and City Council are trying to create an issue that realistically doesn’t exist. Call it another example of “fake news.” Brow beating the residents on a non-issue is inappropriate. Even if the town won, residents would continue to pay exactly what they are currently paying in property taxes. However, out of that, the county could redistribute the funds to other public agencies, but not one penny would be returned to the residents. This is an important thing to know.

Bottom line, the newsletter should share both sides of the story, allowing the fire district to share their thoughts. Better yet, the whole issue should go away, as it appears there is no practical way to accomplish this, even if Atherton miraculously got a groundswell of support to move forward. There is no moving forward, as the options before them appear to be unfeasible at the local, county, regional and state level. From what I’m hearing, limited city resources should be used to address more practical and urgent issues.

Jim Lewis
Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park

Church should apologize for lack of transparency

Editor:

Pastor John Ortberg failed to report a congregant (with tendencies toward pedophilia) who was volunteering and taking overnight trips with children — shocking, but Menlo Church’s response is almost worse. When a third party blew the whistle, the elder board kept the affair hidden. Eight weeks later, they told the congregation they had an independent investigation done and no misconduct was found.

What do you call John’s actions, if not “misconduct”? How could the investigator have ruled out harm to children in such a short time frame and without speaking to parents? How long was the volunteer working with kids prior to the 2018 conviction? Why would the church refuse to answer who did their investigation or what its scope was? Perhaps hiring a high-powered employment attorney to conduct a hush-hush inquiry is not considered “independent” or reassuring by most people.

What the church should have done — and still should do — is admit that this situation requires a professional who understands pedophilia and child abuse. They should apologize for trying to handle things quietly with a lawyer. Menlo Church can afford the best, so they should ask GRACE, the gold standard organization in the church abuse field, to help them find a qualified, independent team to investigate all aspects thoroughly.

I hope the church chooses transparency.

Ruth Hutchins, church member
Sunnyvale

Openness needed in community college district

Editor:

It is unconscionable that the San Mateo County Community College District’s Board of Trustees, who are responsible for spending over $200 million annually, don’t consider it fundamental to their mission to provide complete and timely disclosure of all public meetings.

We should urge the board to immediately record, live stream, store and readily make available to the public video coverage of all board meetings.

There is no rational constraint that increase openness at SMCCCD. This form of transparency is common practice in even small, budget-constrained towns and is facilitated by relatively inexpensive technology and ubiquitous bandwidth and storage capacity. It even presents a great opportunity for student learning and job training in media arts.

The board discussed this item at a recent meeting, but took no action. Actually, I am not exactly sure what happened, because I could not be present at the meeting. No video documentation exists, so only those folks who could take a couple hours out of their evening to physically be “in the room where it happened” actually know.

Any administration that avoids disclosure and transparency is likely to be hiding something.

As we saw in the painfully slow disclosures that came to light in 2019 regarding former chancellor Ron Galatolo (which ultimately led to his dismissal), the board has demonstrated lethargic governance in the past. I am hopeful video coverage of board meetings will help SMCCCD recover to become the responsible, open organization that taxpayers, faculty, staff and students deserve.

John Pimentel
East Creek Drive, Menlo Park

The Department of Communication Presents:

The 2020 Rebele Symposium

Meet the Press: COVERING BATTLEGROUND STATES

The day after Super Tuesday, reporters from Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan and Florida will discuss how covering the 2020 election compares to past campaigns given the level of political polarization in the country and discuss the impact of misinformation and disinformation online on the vote and explore ways to restore respect and credible fact-based news in a digital era.

Emily Lawler
Political reporter and editor for MLive.

Moderated by Janine Zacharia, Carlos Kelly McClatchy Lecturer

7pm Wednesday, March 4
Bechtel Conference Center, Encina Hall

What’s on your mind?

From City Hall politics and the schools to transportation and other pressing issues, the Almanac aims to keep readers informed about their community. But we also want to hear from you. Tell us what’s on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

Questions? Email Renee Batti at rbatti@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6528.
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540 IRVEN COURT, PALO ALTO
Open House  Fri 3/6 9:30am-1:00pm -- Sat 3/7 & Sun 3/8 from 1:00-5:00pm
3 Beds  |  2 Bath  |  2,241 sq ft living, 5,780 sq ft lot  |  Listed at $2,850,000

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2 Bed  |  1 Bath  |  1,020 Sq Ft  |  $1,325,000

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• 2bd, 1ba
• Freshly painted interior
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Real Estate Professional
650.575.3632
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DRE 01196243

COMPASS

March 4, 2020  ■  AlmanacNews.com  ■  The Almanac  ■  25
Top Menlo Park Real Estate Agents & Teams by Sales Volume

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>Agent/Team</th>
<th>Brokerage with which they are Affiliated</th>
<th>Total Listing Volume in Menlo Park</th>
<th>Total Volume in Menlo Park*</th>
<th>SP/OP on All MLS Listings**</th>
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<td>88.5%</td>
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</table>

Our Menlo Park sellers work directly with Michael Repka, who is committed to you and the sale of your home. As the head of our listing team, Michael works with a talented group of in-house professionals, including an interior designer, licensed contractor, attorney, graphic artist, photographer, international marketing specialist, and many more. These full-time employees assist our clients at no additional charge.

No individual agent or team in Silicon Valley matches the DeLeon Team’s complimentary services, marketing budget, experience, or sales volume. Additionally, Michael has a reach far outside of Menlo Park, giving your home additional exposure. Make an appointment with Michael today and see for yourself why so many in Menlo Park have trusted us to sell their home!


* Total volume includes both the buyer and seller sides in Menlo Park (listing and selling).
** Sale price to Original Price (aka List Price) Ratio on all MLS Transactions from February 1, 2019 - January 31, 2020
†Tom LeMieux operates similarly to a team, but splits the team’s sales amongst the members when reporting sales to the MLS. For accuracy, we combine the sales of the individual members of the LeMieux team.
MODERN, LUXURIOUS, AND AN UNBEATABLE LOCATION

164 Sand Hill Circle, Menlo Park

Luxurious living awaits in this chic and sophisticated townhome, where a bright, airy ambiance carries throughout a floorplan infused with modern style. Offering 2 bedrooms and 2.5 baths across 2,120 sq. ft. of living space (per county), this remodeled home features porcelain tile floors that extend through contemporary spaces, including an expansive living room, a dining room warmed by a linear fireplace, and a sparkling chef’s kitchen with high-end appliances. Two bedroom suites provide comfort and convenience, while a flexible-use loft presents an ideal place for an office or fitness room. Enjoy indoor/outdoor living on the spacious deck, perfect for alfresco dining while enjoying views of the nearby Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club. Adding the finishing touch is a location that puts you close to the exciting amenities of Sharon Heights, near Venture Capital firms along Sand Hill Road, and just moments to Interstate 280 for Bay Area commuting.

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Menlo Park.*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Menlo Park, All Residential Properties.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.164SandHill.com
Menlo Park | $2,498,000
This vibrant 3br/2ba ranch home has a charming studio cottage. The backyard invites casual entertaining with a patio, lawn and raised gardening beds.

Douglas Andrew Gonzalez
650-465-8930
DGonzalez@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #00895924

Carmel | $2,395,000
Carmel Point close to Mission Ranch & River School. Sunny patios, private backyard, Point Lobos views. Within city limits & underground utilities.

Ben Heinrich
831.915.7415
ben@theheinrichteam.com
CalRE #00584641

Mountain View | $1,449,000
Well-designed 3br/2.5ba end-unit townhome in the Elan Community. Features include a remodeled kitchen, private back patio, close to hi-tech companies.

Dana Willson
650.917.4256
dwillson@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #01392592

Palo Alto | $1,600,000
Two bedroom, one bathroom home with so many possibilities! Easy access to multiple commute routes!

Terrie Masuda
650.400.2918
Tmasuda@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #00997097

Daly City | $958,000
Stunning ‘Village in the Park’ 2br +den/3ba, park-like complex, remodeled kitchen, deck w/views

Doris Abouav
650.740.2854
doris_abouav@yahoo.com
CalRE #00979965

Don’t miss this chance to showcase your home on the hottest real estate show around. At Home in Northern California is a weekly Coldwell Banker TV program featuring fabulous local properties for sale.

Check it out on Sundays at 4 pm on ABC7.

Find out how to shine a spotlight on your home. Contact your local Coldwell Banker office today for details.