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**Dining Out 2012**

# The Almanac

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

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## Behind the scenes of Facebook's IPO

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# Was it a conflict of interest?

■ School districts awarded contract to architect who was doing work on home of top official.

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Was it a conflict of interest for two school districts to award major contracts to an architectural firm that was also doing work on the home of a top official with those districts?

Prosecutors with the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office are investigating two major construction projects for the Woodside and Portola Valley school districts in which the boards chose CJW Architecture as project architect at the same time that CJW was remodeling the house of district official Tim Hanretty.

Carter Warr, the principal architect at CJW Architecture in Portola Valley, told the Almanac that prosecutors in February requested documents concerning: a \$12 million rebuild of Woodside Elementary School during 2006-07, when Mr. Hanretty was the school district's chief financial officer; a \$2 million installation of solar-panel arrays at Corte Madera and Ormondale schools in the Portola Valley School District in 2011, when Mr. Hanretty was that school district's superintendent and financial officer; and remodeling projects for the Hanretty home taking place concurrently with both school projects.

District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe confirmed the investigation in an email. "At this point, since the case is under investigation, all we are saying is that our investigation (is) into the conduct of Mr. Hanretty," he wrote. "Our rule is that we will confirm whether we are investigating a matter, but we do not go into details."

Mr. Hanretty resigned his Portola Valley post in January when allegations were made public of financial improprieties during his tenure in Woodside. Prosecutors have since charged him with three felonies, including misappropriation of government funds in connection with



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

**Tim Hanretty** had top posts at the two school districts, as chief financial officer and superintendent.

**Prosecutors with the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office are investigating the issue.**

loans made to the Woodside district for more money than the school board authorized. A preliminary hearing is set for Thursday, May 24.

As for the concurrent work, it was "well known" to the boards of both districts that CJW was already engaged in residential work for Mr. Hanretty, Mr. Warr said. "It was fully disclosed," he said in an interview.

Mr. Warr and Mr. Hanretty are personal friends, said Michael Markowitz, Mr. Hanretty's defense attorney. The boards learned of the concurrent work when Mr. Hanretty disclosed the facts, but he "took no part in the decision making" in the boards' choosing an architect, Mr. Markowitz said.

Asked to comment, Portola Valley district board president Scott Parker, who came to the board in late 2009, disagreed. "I do not recall Mr. Hanretty sharing with the board that Mr. Warr was involved in his home's remodel," he said in an email. "Mr. Warr did not share this

with the board."

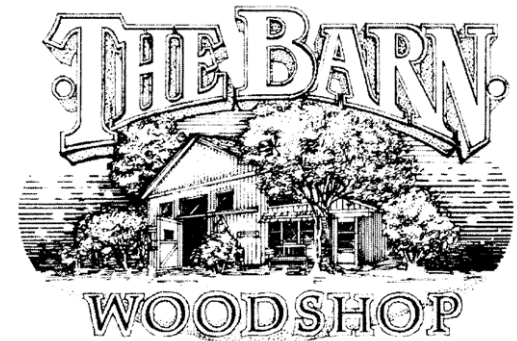
The Almanac requested comment from Woodside Elementary board member Bettina Pike, who was on the board at the time of the decision to choose Mr. Warr as the architect of record for the school rebuilding project, but Ms. Pike had not responded by press time.

"There is no inherent legal problem" with concurrent work, said John Beiers, head of the county counsel's office, which represents public school districts in court. "Employees sometimes recommend vendors or consultants that they have personal, or professional experience with. ... It might raise questions for the board of the extent and basis of the relationship which could have some influence on whether a vendor is ultimately selected."

An employee runs afoul of conflict-of-interest regulations established by the Political Reform Act of 1974 only if the employee, through the making or influencing of a contract, realizes a personal financial benefit, Mr. Beiers said.

The basic guidelines on conflicts of interest, per government code section 18700, read as follows: "No public official at any level of state or local government may make, participate in making or in any way use or attempt to use his/her official position to influence a governmental decision in which he/she knows or has reason to know he/she has a disqualifying conflict of interest. A public official has a conflict of interest if the decision will have a reasonably foreseeable material financial effect on one or more of his/her economic interests, unless the public official can establish either: (1) that the effect is indistinguishable from the effect on the public generally, or (2) a public official's participation is legally required."

Tara Stock of the Fair Political Practices Committee declined to comment on a specific situation. But on its face, a generic situation like the one between Mr. Hanretty and Mr. Warr, including the full disclosures, did not seem problematic from the FPPC's point of view, she said. ■



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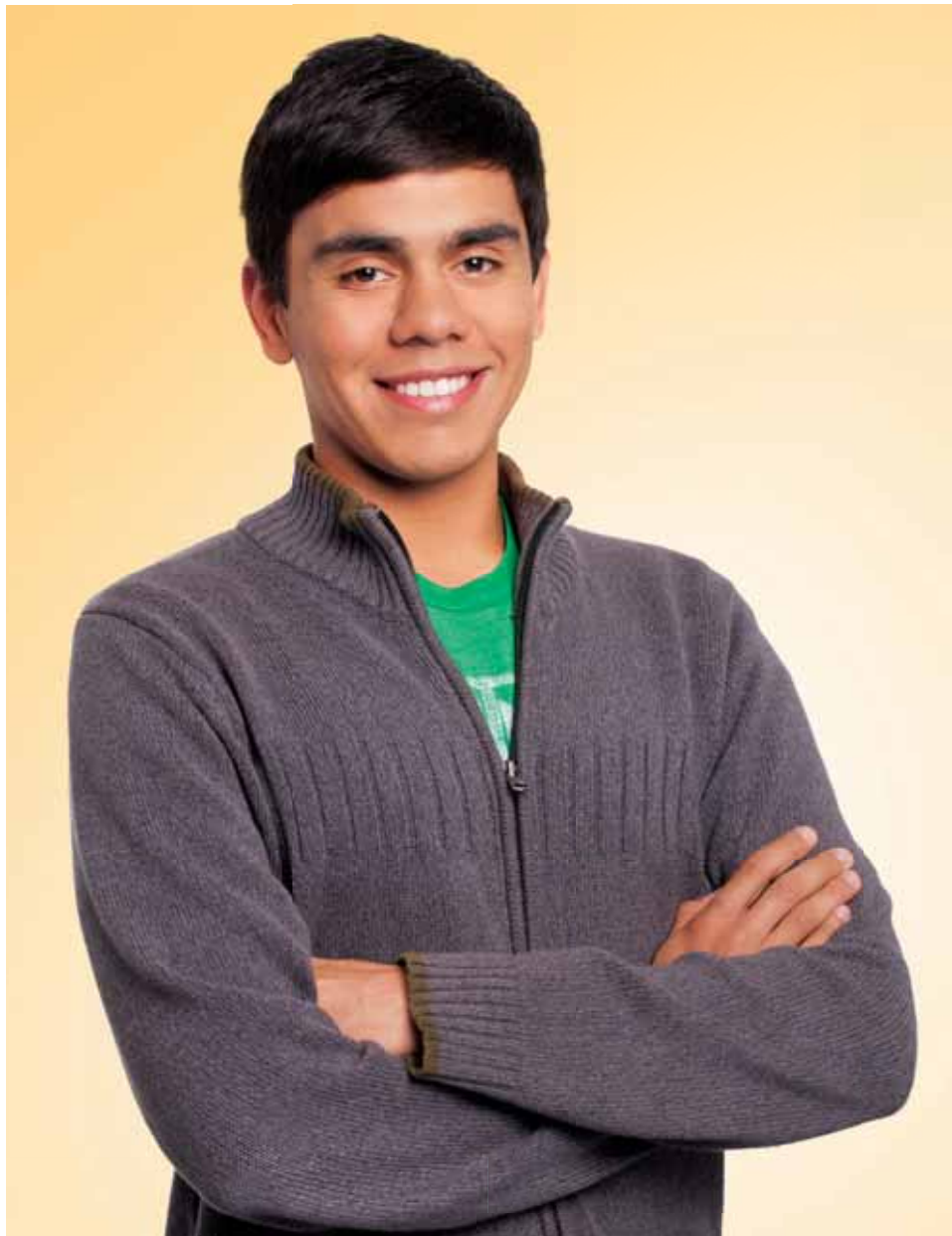
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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Photo courtesy of Facebook

Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg and employees at the Menlo Park campus applaud the company's public debut on NASDAQ on May 18.

## M-A grad behind the scenes of Facebook's IPO

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

When Tom Wirth graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School in 1975, not many people outside California had heard of Menlo Park. That all changed Friday, in part thanks to Mr. Wirth, who organized the Facebook event that put Menlo Park on the map around the world.

More than 2,000 employees crowded into the central courtyard at Facebook's new headquarters at 1 Hacker Way to watch founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg announce his company's first public stock offering. "It was scary smooth," Mr. Wirth said. "We didn't have any last-minute issues that we could control. The (news) helicopters, that we couldn't control. It was so smooth that it was kind of hard to relax this morning

because we were always waiting for something, but it was an amazing event."

The launch of Facebook's IPO went almost exactly as planned, with one small twist — some employees managed to hack

**'It was scary smooth.'**

TOM WIRTH

the "opening day" bell. When Mr. Zuckerberg pressed the button to officially mark the stock's debut on NASDAQ, it triggered an automatic posting to his Facebook page: "Mark Zuckerberg listed a company on NASDAQ. — with Chris Cox and 4 others."

Mr. Wirth started transforming the courtyard three days earlier, coordinating with a production company, secu-

rity teams, public relations staff, the design team, and, of course, the culinary team, which handed out breakfast sandwiches during the event. Mr. Wirth walked to the courtyard around 4 a.m. on Friday and found employees already there, waiting. The Philz Coffee stand opened at 5 a.m.

It was actually not the largest — or hardest — event Mr. Wirth has tackled since starting at Facebook. Even hosting President Barack Obama at the company's Palo Alto office last year doesn't claim that spot.

What does? "The move to Menlo Park was far more stressful," he said. "Moving the entire company over two weekends."

He went to work for Facebook in 2010, first as a contractor, later as the fulltime facilities and operations manager, after dropping out of college to work at Apple, Cisco, and then Google.



Menlo Park native Tom Wirth organizes Facebook's IPO launch day event.

"I decided college wasn't for me. Dad tried to get me to stay in college but I was smarter than he was," Mr. Wirth said, laughing. He thrives on the variety and challenge of the service industry, never knowing what's going to happen to make

the day's plans change. Today was an anomaly, he noted, and chuckled. "I wish I could say I was involved with the listing day event at Apple and Cisco and Google. If I was, I'm pretty sure I

See **FACEBOOK**, page 8

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# Atherton threatens to sue Menlo, Facebook

By Barbara Wood  
 Special to the Almanac

Atherton has threatened to sue Menlo Park and Facebook to get Facebook to pay at least part of the cost of widening Marsh Road at Middlefield Road, but some Atherton residents say that if the town does that, they'll join the opposing side to fight their town to keep their street as it is.

The matter came to light at the May 16 Atherton City Council meeting, when former long-time council member Malcolm Dudley urged the council to leave Marsh Road as two lanes. Mr. Dudley said that widening Marsh Road would not only destroy its scenic qualities, but that "widening streets leads to increased volume and traffic speed. Atherton residents successfully fought the battle to preserve two-lane streets 35 years ago, and must remain vigilant," he said, reading from a several-page document he presented to the council.

"I agree with Malcolm that if you build it they will come," said Larry Sweeney, a member of the Atherton transportation committee. He said the widening of Marsh Road has never come before the committee, and that "I strongly support the idea of keeping as much of a rural atmosphere in Atherton as we can."

Instead of fighting with Facebook, Mr. Dudley suggested a partnership that could bring benefits to Atherton. "There is an opportunity to work with Facebook," he said, suggesting that Facebook could help the town reopen its train station by offering to shuttle employees from the station to its new Menlo Park headquarters.

The matter was on the agenda as "Status of Facebook project and city of Menlo Park response to issues and concerns raised by the town of Atherton." But Mayor Bill Widmer announced the update would take place in a closed session "because this may involve potential litigation."

A letter included in the background information on the item, from acting city manager Theresa DellaSanta, addressed to Menlo Park mayor Kirsten Keith and city manager Alex McIntyre and dated April 26, contains the lawsuit threat.

"The Town of Atherton ... must explore all options, includ-

ing legal challenges ... to effect a more reasonable and responsible position by Facebook and the City of Menlo Park," the letter says. The letter identifies improvements sought by Atherton. "The Town of Atherton prepared schematic designs of transportation improvements we believe necessary to properly mitigate traffic impacts from Facebook and other significant developments. ... Identified improvements include the construction of an additional traffic lane approximately 600 feet in length on Marsh Road beginning at the intersection with Middlefield. Marsh Road will be widened to the south which will require the covering of the Atherton Channel," the letter says. It also says the project could involve "potentially significant tree removal."

**'I agree with Malcolm that if you build it they will come.'**

LARRY SWEENEY, MEMBER, ATHERTON TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

In the environmental report on the Facebook project, the intersection at Middlefield and Marsh Road is pointed out as an intersection that could feel a significant impact if Facebook fully builds out both its current campus and the land it owns on Constitution Drive, both in Menlo Park. It suggests that Facebook pay about 30 percent of the cost for improvements at the Middlefield and Marsh roads intersection, adding another turning lane westbound on Middlefield and a merging lane northbound on Marsh.

But Atherton argues, in the April 26 letter from Ms. DellaSanta, that the suggested improvements can't be made because they are not in the existing road right-of-way, and suggests more extensive improvements on Marsh Road instead.

After the council members returned to open session, Mayor Widmer said that there was "no reportable action associated with this item" from the closed session, which would indicate that no decision to sue had been made. He said that council members Jim Dobbie and Elizabeth Lewis will meet with Menlo Park officials on Tuesday, May 22, to discuss the issue.

Mr. Dudley warned the council members that if Atherton sues Menlo Park and Facebook to get Marsh Road widened, residents will fight the town on the opposing side of the lawsuit. "Everyone I've talked to is very

Continued on next page



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

## Face time

Menlo Park resident Rajul Shah, left, and her niece Mansi Chokshi, who is visiting from New Jersey, have their photo taken in front of the Facebook sign along Bayfront Expressway in Menlo Park on Friday, May 18, the day Facebook launched its IPO.

# Burnetts won't face charges for underage drinking at their home

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Two parents won't be prosecuted for alleged underage drinking at a party held in their Menlo Park home on Nov. 25, the San Mateo County district attorney's office said.

Asked about the decision on May 16, San Mateo County Assistant District Attorney Al Serrato explained that six months of investigation failed to provide sufficient evidence that the parents committed a crime in connection with the underage drinking.

"The question was, could we establish that they were furnishing alcohol to minors? And we were unable to establish that. Next the question becomes whether it amounts to contributing to the delinquency of minors in terms of whether they knew alcohol was there or were criminally negligent," Mr. Serrato said. "(The drinking) didn't devolve into anything further, no vandalism or drunk driving. At the end of the day we gave it a real good look and it just didn't amount to proof beyond a reasonable doubt."

The case drew national attention. The parents, William and

Cynthia Burnett, told reporters that they did not provide alcohol during the party and had made it clear drinking wasn't allowed. No alcohol was spotted during their patrols of the party, according to the couple. Their teenage son was celebrating a Menlo-Atherton High School football game victory with a crowd of friends that grew to about 44 people, according to

### District attorney declines to prosecute Menlo Park couple.

the district attorney.

After receiving an anonymous phone call complaining that underage drinking might be going on, Menlo Park police broke up the party and arrested Mr. Burnett, a Stanford University assistant professor in mechanical engineering and the executive director of the university's Institute of Design. His wife also faced charges, but wasn't arrested due to a medical condition.

The couple's 21-year-old daughter

raised allegations of inappropriate police conduct following the arrest. Mr. Serrato said the family was free to dislike the way the officers approached it, but that nothing he saw caused any particular concern. "Our role isn't to second-guess the manner in which officers are doing things. My view is that they were doing the best they could in a difficult situation with a lot of kids who had been drinking."

Neither Mr. Burnett nor his defense attorney, Jeffrey Hayden, responded to requests for comment.

As of January 2011, "social host" laws in California allow parents or other adults to be prosecuted for knowingly letting minors drink on their property. "Parents think they're providing a safe environment for young people, but those young people have to go home, they can be drunk driving, they get sick," Mr. Serrato commented. "Many times the parents of the other kids don't know what's happening. It's just an extremely dangerous thing." ■

Almanac reporter Dave Boyce contributed to this report.

Continued from previous page

concerned," he said. "We don't want to have this happening to our community."

Mr. Dudley's statement to the council included copies

of a mailing from 1977 when Atherton residents previously fought the widening of Marsh Road. The flier included the signatures of 1,000 Atherton residents against a four-lane Marsh Road, which was part

of a proposal that would have brought Highway 84 traffic through Atherton from the Dumbarton Bridge.

At least one of Facebook's attorneys was seen in the audience at the May 16 meeting. ■

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### Sellers' Duty to Maintain Their Property

Dear Monica: My home went into contract this week and it is an "as-is" sale. What are my obligations during the escrow period if something breaks or stops working? Elaine B.

Dear Elaine: Regardless of whether your home is being sold "as-is" or not, you have an obligation to maintain it in substantially the same condition as it was on the date the buyer removed contingencies. If anything breaks, leaks, or stops working after that date, you need to fix it. The buyer did not know of these additional deficiencies and did not accept them when they agreed to

buy your property "as-is".

An exception to this may be if you know the buyer is going to do a major remodel of your property, or tear it down, you can let them know of a new issue. If they agree that you do not need to repair the broken item, you are relieved of this obligation. Otherwise you need to fix it. To protect their exposure many sellers obtain a home protection plan to cover plumbing, heating, electrical and other issues that may arise during the escrow period. This insurance plan costs very little and can cover major unforeseen repairs.

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# Ed Flint stays on as Atherton police chief

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

Ed Flint has agreed to stay in Atherton as police chief, forgoing nearly \$3,800 a month in retirement pay, because, he says, "it's the right thing to do."

"It might sound a little corny, but I just didn't feel good about walking away from the organization when they've had such turmoil," Chief Flint said in an interview. "The last thing they needed right now was to be looking for a chief."

A contract for Chief Flint, who began serving as interim police chief in July 2011, was approved by the Atherton City Council at its May 16 meeting as part of its consent calendar, with no discussion.



Ed Flint

Later in the meeting, however, each council member took the opportunity to praise Chief Flint. "Welcome, we're glad to have you," said council member Jerry Carlson.

"We're so pleased that you're bringing a whole measure of professionalism to Atherton," said council member Jim Dobbie.

Chief Flint, who had been receiving approximately \$3,800 a month in retirement pay while working for Atherton under a temporary contract, will have to give up that money while working as a town employee.

"I needed to step up to the plate and continue my work here, and help the town," Chief Flint said.

He will be paid \$14,500 per month, his current salary, with a housing allowance of an additional \$1,200 per month and insurance and paid leave benefits. He will be eligible for annual cost-of-living increases.

Chief Flint said that while his pay in Atherton will be less than the \$186,000 a year he was receiving when he left Santa Rosa as police chief, his ultimate retirement benefits will not suffer because they are determined by the highest year of salary he received as a public employee. He will, however, give up several years of cost of living increases, he said.

Chief Flint has 35 years of multi-agency law enforcement

experience including serving as police chief in Santa Rosa and Elk Grove. He also worked during his career with the California Highway Patrol in Redwood City and the Sacramento County sheriff's department, and was assistant police chief in Citrus Heights.

He is a retired Army colonel, and served in the Army Reserves and California National Guard.

Police Lt. Joe Wade said department employees are happy to have Chief Flint on board. "We're very, very happy," said Lt. Wade, who has been with the department through four police chiefs. He praised the chief's wide range of law enforcement experience. "He brings a level of experience that you can't get from the inside," Lt.

Wade said. "He's seen each different sector of law enforcement and he's bringing all that experience here."

Lt. Wade said that among the improvements Chief Flint has made in the department are "very solid lines of communication." Lt. Wade quoted the chief as telling department members early on: "Here are some things we need to do better, and one of them is that we all need to be on the same page." Now, Lt. Wade said, "we're doing that."

Other benefits Chief Flint will receive under the contract include four weeks of vacation per year (with credit for 160 hours to start), sick leave at the level given other management employees, starting with 160 hours, and one week a year of administrative leave, with 40 hours credited.

While the contract says the town will give Chief Flint health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, long-term disability insurance, and retirement benefits, it also says he will provide his own health insurance.

While the contract is for three years, it can be terminated with six months' notice from the town or 60 days' notice from Chief Flint. It will also continue year-to-year after the three-year term unless either the town or Chief Flint gives 90 days' notice of intent not to renew. ■



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

Media crews gather outside of the Facebook campus Friday morning.

## Behind scenes of Facebook IPO

FACEBOOK

continued from page 5

wouldn't be sitting here today."

Now grown with a family of his own, Mr. Wirth eventually settled in San Jose. He talked about how cool it was to be working a few miles from where he grew up in Menlo Park. "It's changed, but it really hasn't changed. The first time I came up here, I knew my way around," he noted. "I played

baseball at Kelly Park back in the day. It feels like home even though I don't live here."

Mr. Wirth's work occasionally follows him home. He attended his 35th year high school reunion last year, an event he learned about after getting a friend request on Facebook from a former classmate. "It was kind of surreal," he said. "Kind of neat, reconnecting with my high school days using the platform built by the company I

work for."

By 2 p.m. on Friday, the facilities manager said you couldn't even tell an event had overtaken the courtyard that morning. Many employees, tired from the all-night Hackathon that preceded launch day, had crawled home to bed, while others returned to work.

Asked what personal impact the \$16 billion IPO had on him, Mr. Wirth chuckled and said, "Sleep deprivation." ■

## Big week for Facebook and Menlo Park

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Instead of chatting on Facebook, a lot of people were talking about Facebook last week. The social networking giant debuted its public stock offering on May 18, with initial shares trading at \$42.05 on NASDAQ, up from its IPO price of \$38. But it closed close to the IPO price, and on Monday traded below that price.

Menlo Park, as the home of Facebook's new headquarters on I Hacker Way, saw its name

in newspapers around the world as one of the biggest global events ever to happen in a town that prides itself on "village character" unfolded. According to CNNMoney, going public stands to raise at least \$16 billion for Facebook, making it the largest tech IPO and third largest IPO in the United States.

Some of that wealth will flow back into Menlo Park. The city recently approved an agreement related to Facebook's planned campus expansion that will generate \$8.5 million total in graduated payments during the

next 10 years, and followed by \$5 million during the subsequent four years, as well as funding for community and infrastructure improvements.

Facebook employees celebrated in their traditional manner by holding an all-night Hackathon that started on Thursday. Founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg followed up taking the company public with a more personal milestone, marrying longtime girlfriend Priscilla Chan in a small ceremony at the couple's Palo Alto home on Saturday, May 19. ■

## Higher parcel tax on Wayside Road?

Voters residing on Wayside Road, a steep and winding private road toward the northern end of Portola Valley, have a decision before them in the

June 5 election: whether to vote themselves a tax increase of \$325 a year to maintain their road.

If two-thirds of the voters in the Wayside II Road Maintenance

District favor it, Measure V would raise the annual parcel tax to \$950 from the current \$625.

Measure V has no pro or con arguments posted on the website of the San Mateo County Registrar of Voters.

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Almanac photo by Michelle Le

## Gas leak contained

PG&E crew members seal off a 3-inch gas line that was ruptured by a construction crew digging in the area of Selby Lane and Polhemus Avenue in Atherton on Thursday, May 17. For several hours nearby roads were closed and residents were asked to remain in their homes.

# Menlo Park may need to zone for 1,975 more housing units

■ In settling lawsuit, city commits to finding sites for affordable housing.

By **Sandy Brundage**

Almanac Staff Writer

Identifying sites for affordable housing just jumped to the top of Menlo Park's priority list, according to a lawsuit settlement agreement released Thursday, May 17. Three housing advocacy groups filed the suit the day before in San Mateo County Superior Court, alleging that the city has failed to comply with state-mandated housing laws.

According to the staff, the city may need to provide the zoning necessary to add sites for 1,975 housing units, both market-rate and affordable housing, to its current stock of 12,500. One of the first steps will be an inventory of local housing, existing capacity for additional homes within current zoning, and any new housing built since 1998, which could be deducted from the preliminary number.

"Unless compelled by this Court to perform those acts and duties and to refrain from acts as required by law, the City will continue to refuse to carry out those duties and will continue to violate the law, and Petitioners and lower-income persons and affordable housing developers and/or housing service providers will continue to be injured as a result," the lawsuit stated.

Every seven years, according to state law, cities must assess and

plan to meet their fair share of regional housing needs, which includes affordable housing. Communities also must plan zoning so that it's possible to provide the right number of housing units, although the law doesn't require cities to actually build them.

The lawsuit — filed by Peninsula Interfaith Action, Urban Habitat, and Youth United for Community Action — points out that Menlo Park hasn't met

the state requirements since 1992. Menlo Park must commit to finishing an update by March 2013 as part of the settlement.

"We're about 10 years behind," said Menlo Park City Manager Alex McIntyre. "We should have taken care of the Housing Element Update before now but fell behind due to other priority planning projects. These planning projects could achieve a substantial portion of what is required to meet Housing Element law."

Mr. McIntyre explained that, in the absence of the negotiated settlement, the court could force the city to complete the update within 120 days. "The benefit of

the settlement agreement is to allow the City additional time to incorporate a public outreach and participation process that would otherwise not be possible under a shorter court-ordered timeline."

Possible sanctions for not complying with the state housing laws include a moratorium on all non-residential building permits and the withholding of grant funding to maintain the local roadway network.

"The last thing the City of Menlo Park wants right now is to interfere with the progress of our local economy," Mr. McIntyre said.

As for why the housing advocacy groups filed the lawsuit despite knowing a settlement had been reached, City Attorney Bill McClure explained that it was a necessary step to ensure court supervision of the agreement and to prevent other third parties from filing their own suits.

The settlement states that Menlo Park will identify potential housing sites for affordable housing, create zoning that provides incentives for affordable housing production at those locations, and set aside a portion of local below-market-rate funds for nonprofit development of affordable housing on those sites.

The city will also form a housing element steering committee made up of two council members, two planning commissioners and two housing commissioners. The

See **HOUSING**, page 13

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Interested residents may request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1-5:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office, 2955 Woodside Road, by telephone at (650) 851-6790, or through the Town's web site at [www.woodsidetown.org](http://www.woodsidetown.org). Deadline for applications is Tuesday, June 19, 2012, 5:00 p.m.

The Town has completed a draft update to the Residential Design Guidelines. The principal goal of these Guidelines is to advise homeowners and designers about ways to locate and design development that preserves the rural residential character of the community and its natural setting.

The Town will also be discussing proposed changes to the Woodside Municipal Code, including Sections 152.220 – 153.231, which set forth the procedures for Design Review.

The following public hearing schedule has been set to be held at Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road:

Architectural and Site Review Board: Monday, May 21, 2012, 4:30 p.m.

Planning Commission: Wednesday, June 20, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Town Council: Tuesdays, July 10, 2012 and July 24, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Applicants for the ASRB are urged to attend one of the informational meetings.

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# Kepler's launches fundraising campaign

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Taking Kepler's Books into its new phase of life will cost money, and the transition team behind the revisioning of the iconic bookstore hopes the community will help make it happen.

Team leader Praveen Madan, a partner of Booksmith in San Francisco and Berkeley Arts and Letters, said that the first step in breathing new life into the bookstore was getting rid of a lot

of old debt — about \$1 million dragging the store's accounts into the negative. The team also figured out how to streamline operations, and now has a store already running "slightly better than break even."

The clean slate lets the team concentrate on creating a for-profit, community-owned-and-operated bookstore alongside a nonprofit organization offering author appearances, lectures, educational workshops and other events.

And that's where the fundraising comes in. According to Mr. Madan, the campaign has

**Kepler's seeks to raise \$1 million by summer's end.**

already received commitments of about \$400,000 from prominent Silicon Valley donors, who prefer to remain anonymous

for now. To keep Kepler's open and proceed with revitalization, the team needs to raise an additional \$250,000 from the community by June 15, with a goal of raising more than \$1 million by the end of summer.

Mr. Madan said improving the store's inventory is high on the list. "The single biggest complaint I've heard is 'people want to see more books,'" he said. "The inventory has become very lean, but that basically happened because the company

didn't have any money. What little money it had went towards paying off debt."

Kepler's also wants to focus on increasing and expanding events. "We're emphasizing the social experiences a bookstore creates, the ability to bring people together, not to sell books but as a way to meet other people," Mr. Madan said. "When you're looking for a place to go to have intelligent conversations with other people, a bookstore is the place to go. No one goes to a bar for intelligent conversation."

Go to [keplers2020.com](http://keplers2020.com) for additional information. ■

## Rosier outlook for Atherton's budget

■ Town expects to add to reserve after spending from fund for two years.

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

Less than a year after making drastic budget cuts, including eliminating the equivalent of more than 12 full-time workers and replacing them with contractors, Atherton's City Council has been presented with a balanced budget that even adds about half a million dollars to the town's reserves.

Council members discussed the proposed fiscal year 2012-13 budget at their May 16 meeting and will consider it again on June 20. No one from the public spoke about the budget at last week's meeting, which followed budget study sessions in March and April.

Last year, Interim Finance Director Debra Auken reminded the council in her budget report,

money problems were so severe that the council had to revise the budget mid-year, in September. This year things are looking better. Contracting out many of the town's services "has made a positive impact on our bottom line," she said.

This year's proposed general fund budget is \$10.77 million — 5.8 percent less than the budget for the current year, adopted in September, of \$11.43 million. The proposed budget shows the town increasing its reserves by more than half a million dollars;

it's the first time since the 2009-10 fiscal year that the town has not had to draw down its reserve fund.

Ms. Auken's report to the council noted that the town, which had already been using contractors for planning services, legal services, business license administration and human resources, added contractors for building department services, public works management, and for street, park and building maintenance.

The town also contracts with Redwood City for information technology and vehicle maintenance, Ms. Auken reported.

A year ago the town had the equivalent of 47.6 employees; today it has 35, she reported.

The budget forecasts a modest increase in revenues, 2.5 percent, mostly driven by increased property taxes (predicted to go up by 2.3 percent) and franchise taxes (predicted to go up by 7.9 percent). Property taxes provide 62 percent of Atherton's general fund revenues.

As in previous years, the police department is the most expensive part of town government, using 51 percent of general fund monies. Spending on police services remains essentially the same as last year, up only around \$11,000 over last year at \$5.46 million.

The department with the highest percentage increase in spending over last year is administration, up 7.5 percent. The budget recommends promoting Deputy City Clerk Theresa DellaSanta, who has been acting as city manager since late January, to city clerk with a raise of about \$19,000 a year. It budgets \$160,000 for a city manager.

Ms. Auken said she will tell the council more next month about a proposal to pay down a state loan to the town's retirement fund in order to reduce future spending on retirement costs. Council members expressed some concern about making the payment when the town still needs to build up its reserve funds.

Among the other issues council members brought up at the meeting are the costs of maintaining the town's tennis courts. The courts are expected to cost the town \$22,000 in the coming fiscal year while bringing in only \$8,400 in revenue by selling court keys and allowing classes to be taught on them.

In addition, the courts need to be resurfaced, which could cost as much as \$350,000. Only 29 Atherton residents have tennis court keys.

Go to [tinyurl.com/dxv6gnt](http://tinyurl.com/dxv6gnt) to read the budget report. ■

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## June 9: Used tack sale in Woodside

An upcoming used tack sale in Woodside is offering everything a rider could want, from saddles and stirrups to boots and breeches.

The National Center of Equine Facilitated Therapy provides hippotherapy and therapeutic riding to children

and adults. On Saturday, June 9, volunteers will host "Bits & Pieces" from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to raise money for the nonprofit located at 880 Runnymede Road.

For more information call (650) 851-2271.

— Kate Daly

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### ■ BIRTHS

#### Menlo Park

■ Alexia and Nick Costouros, a son, April 20, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Krista and Erik Szyndlar, a daughter, April 29, Sequoia Hospital.

## Law-enforcement budget up, but not as much

In a departure from the typical 10-percent jumps per year for the cost of law enforcement services in Portola Valley over the previous nine years, the increases for the next three years will hover around 3 percent, according to a staff report for the Wednesday, May 23, Town Council meeting.

The council will discuss a new three-year contract with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office to run through 2014-15. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road.

### ■ PORTOLA VALLEY

Also on the agenda: possible adjustments to fees the town charges for administrative, building and planning, and public works services. The last such adjustment decision came before the council in 2001.

"As a consequence, many of the fees are out of date, resulting in a greater reliance on general tax dollars to support a number of services that benefit individual property owners," a staff report said.

## Mid-Peninsula High graduates 34

Thirty-four students are graduating June 2 from Mid-Peninsula High School, a private high school for grades 9 to 12, located at 1340 Willow Road in Menlo Park.

Members of the Class of 2012 are: Kendall Ruth Anderson, Alison Gabrielle Andrews, Emma Charlotte Beesley, Sofia Beltran, David F. Braun, Brianna Virginia Bruno, Lea Buonocore, Jennifer Lynn Cala, Michael Francis Dern, David Drew, Sarah C. Foad, Travis Thayne Furia, Ryan

Galligan, Allegra Hazinski, Kenji Hirai, Darin Duo Huang, Hannah X. Jenny, Catalina Elena Johnson, Taylor Raeann Knabe, Michael Robert Kubota, Lansana Z. Lapia, Phillip Lee, Marina Soleil Lopez, Anissa L. Mancebo, William A. Matthews, Alyssa Marie McKay, Gustavo Mendoza, Connor Matthew Nora, Tyler Joseph Nunn, James Nicky Ritter, Ian K. Robb, Jasmine Diamond Chaniece Thomas, Sam Trinkaus, Monet D. Ward.

### HOUSING

continued from page 9

steering committee will first meet in June and will oversee public involvement in the process.

The settlement agreement goes before the City Council on Tuesday, May 22. The council will also be asked to approve plans to launch a housing element update process within the next few weeks, review a set of draft criteria for choosing specific sites for zoning changes, and appoint two members to the steering committee.

The city plans to hold a series

of community workshops in July and August to get public input on the proposed changes in order to finish the update by next spring.

"We want and need the community's help in deciding how and where we can plan for additional and high density housing in Menlo Park. If we work together, we can come up with a plan tailored to our community that will meet our needs and comply with state law," Mayor Kirsten Keith said.

Go to [tinyurl.com/7gt23c5to](http://tinyurl.com/7gt23c5to) review associated documents and the proposed process. ■

### Correction

In last week's story about the Rotary scholarship awards, the students who received community college scholarships

were from Menlo-Atherton, not Eastside Prep, as stated in the article. And Kailin Rasmussen also attends M-A. The Almanac regrets the error.

## Woodside may act on panel to safely share roads, paths

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

### ■ WOODSIDE

Woodside, in the words of its revised general plan, has a problem in its circulation system, its roads and paths. Parking is inadequate, sidewalks are nonexistent, the two-lane roads are often packed with vehicle and bicycle traffic, and dirt paths are the only safe option for school kids, pedestrians in general and, not infrequently, equestrians.

And now the Town Council and others are doing something about it. A charter is being drawn up for a Circulation Committee, an advisory body to the council. Its focus: to encourage a community conversation on safely sharing

the roads and when they don't, have Sheriff's Office deputies discourage their behavior.

The council may act on a charter at its meeting on Tuesday, May 22. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. in Independence Hall at the corner of Woodside and Whiskey Hill roads. Also on the agenda: discussion of fire safety as it applies to building regulations, and continued discussion of paved area coverage regulations.

Under the plan for the Circulation Committee outlined at the council's May 8 meeting, members would be appointed to staggered two-year terms. Given the town's equestrian

culture and the importance of collaboration among the users of roads and paths, the Circulation Committee would include two members of the Trails Committee, which is equestrian-oriented.

The Circulation Committee would absorb the Bicycle Committee and establish a standing subcommittee to attend to bicycle-specific issues, including bringing to the whole committee permit requests for special events and road maintenance matters that are of importance to cyclists.

Of overall importance to the committee is protecting the town's "rural and scenic environment" while at the same time seeking to make traveling through the town safer for all. ■

## What you can do to cut greenhouse gases

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

From planting trees near buildings to financing installation of solar panels, San Mateo County officials have released a list of things that can be done in the unincorporated areas of the county to meet a state deadline to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

A \$350,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy has helped the county to come up with the plan, which requires a 17 percent reduction from the current levels of greenhouse gas emissions over the next eight years.

A list of proposals that would allow the county to meet the reduction goal was released on April 9 at a public workshop, the third in a series designed to get the public involved in developing what the county is calling

an Energy Efficiency Climate Action Plan.

The information gathered in the process will be used to update parts of the county's general plan and zoning code.

The climate action plan concerns only unincorporated areas of the county. Individual cities and towns must come up with their own plans to meet the state's requirements.

The consultant on the plan, PMC, has done two studies to determine the amount of greenhouse gases that existed in the county's unincorporated areas in 2005, the base year for the project, and currently. The consultants measured carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases (such as hydrofluorocarbons) and determined where those gases come from.

The biggest sources are transportation (53 percent), commercial and industrial sources (18

percent), landfills (14 percent) and residential energy (10 percent).

According to Nora De Cuir of PMC, the climate action plan will be reviewed and adopted this summer and fall.

Go to [tinyurl.com/Climate-664](http://tinyurl.com/Climate-664) for more information.

### Strategies

Among the strategies the county has proposed for reducing greenhouse gases in unincorporated areas are:

■ Low-income household weatherization. The goal is participation by 25 percent of eligible households (or 1,632 households) at a cost of less than \$25,000 and savings to the community of more than \$500,000.

■ Strengthen existing green building ordinance. The goal

See GREEN, page 15



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# Belle Haven parents protest after-school program merger

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

The city wants to merge the after-school program it runs in Belle Haven with the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, a move that could save Menlo Park about \$192,000 next year. But parents of children attending the program say those savings come at too high a cost.

Community Services Director Cherise Brandell said the idea came up in response to the council asking staff to investigate sharing services as a way to help balance the city's budget.

The Boys and Girls Club seemed like a good fit, since it already provided after-school services at a much lower price than the city charges, according to Ms. Brandell. The city charges parents \$60 to \$450 a week, based on income, while the club

charges \$25 a year. Citing the difference in cost as one factor, staff said enrollment in the city's programs is declining; 41 elementary school children are signed up this year, down from 50 last year.

The Belle Haven program wasn't funded by the city's now-dissolved redevelopment agency (RDA), but does tie up general funds that Menlo Park now needs to pay four police officers that were previously paid for by the RDA, Ms. Brandell said.

The club would charge the city \$60,000 for services for up to 40 kids starting this fall at its Pierce Road location, staff said, and would also take over the Belle Haven summer camp program in 2013. The proposal goes

before the council on Tuesday, May 22.

The club serves 265 children in grades 1 through 8, according to Executive Director Peter Fortenbaugh. While both programs serve elementary school kids, parents of students in the Belle Haven program say that's where the similarities end.

La Treece Butler-Morton's son has attended the Belle Haven program for more than two years. She echoed concerns voiced by several parents when she said that switching to the club isn't an option for her family. "The Boys and Girls Club, while I applaud their efforts — there is no guidance nor structure there," she said, referring to the com-

## City proposes combining after-school program with Boys and Girls Club.

mingling of different age groups at the club and perceived lack of guided homework and skill development activities.

"It's only \$25 to attend, and that is exactly the level of service and care the children receive," Ms. Butler-Morton said.

While her son never attended the club, her 12-year-old nephew signed up for an after-school camp a few years ago. "I picked him up once at the Boys & Girls Club and saw myself the concerns my sister had. He was out of there that same week. It was the excessive vulgar language and the lack of structure that was problematic," she said.

Parents of children attending

the Belle Haven program say they're willing to fundraise to help reduce the city's deficit.

"There has been no interaction from the city representative in speaking to the parents of the center, despite the proposal which the city has on file," Ms. Butler-Morton said. "I feel that we are being bombarded due to the side of the tracks we are on, also known as the side of color, also known as the east side."

The regular council meeting starts at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Civic Center at 701 Laurel St. The after-school program will be discussed as part of the overall city budget presentation. ■

## Atherton appoints panel to look at charter city status

By Barbara Wood  
Special to the Almanac

Atherton has begun the process of taking more control over its own fate by changing from a general law city, operating under pre-set state conditions, to a charter city, operating under conditions set by the town and approved by voters.

City Council members voted unanimously to appoint an ad hoc committee to explore the charter issue at their May 16 meeting. Any charter would have to be approved by town voters before going into effect, Interim City Manager Theresa Della-Santa reported to the council.

Council member Jim Dobbie said he has been pushing the idea of a charter for Atherton since before he became a council member. A charter, he said, could allow the town to run more like a business "without all the restrictions that come from Sacramento." One advantage mentioned by Mr. Dobbie and several other council members is that with a charter, a real estate transfer tax could raise a substantial amount of money for the town and could replace the town's current parcel tax.

Mayor Bill Widmer cautioned that the process will take time. "We're not talking about something that potentially would be on the ballot in November," he said. "It's more

like a year process."

Council member Elizabeth Lewis expressed some reservations. "I haven't made up my mind one way or another," she said. "It's not something we should undertake lightly."

"I think this needs to be looked at from all different angles," she said. "I'm not opposed to us looking at it and investigating it."

No one in the audience commented on the issue.

According to a League of Women Voters website, the basic difference between general law and charter cities is how much control the state government has over them. "Charter cities have more freedom to innovate and to pass ordinances according to local need," the website says. However, it says, in California "the legislature has tended to give general law cities the same control over internal matters that the constitution grants to charter cities," leaving little difference between the two government forms.

California has 83 charter cities. Nearby charter cities include Redwood City, Palo Alto, Mountain View and San Mateo. San Carlos is currently considering becoming a charter city.

Other Bay Area charter cities include Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Gilroy, Hayward, Oakland, Piedmont, San Francisco, San Jose and Santa Clara. ■

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# Simitian pushes bill to keep parks open

■ Local parks in La Honda and Saratoga are on the shutdown list.

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

With a July 1 deadline looming over a budget-cutting plan that would close some 70 of the 270 state parks, two state senators are proposing an alternative that could keep about 50 of the parks open.

A Senate budget subcommittee chaired by Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, will consider a bill coauthored by Sen. Simitian and Sen. Noreen Evans, D-Santa Rosa, to reallocate up to \$41 million to cover a \$22 million shortfall in the state Parks & Recreation Department's budget for the current and next fiscal years, and provide reliable fund-

ing for several years to come.

The proposal would tap \$10 million annually for five years from a clean-water revolving loan fund and from a \$500 million reserve for motor vehicle license fee revenues, and up to \$21 million every year in perpetuity from a fund earmarked for trail and off-highway-vehicle purposes.

State parks are in financial trouble in part because they receive about 20 percent of what they need annually for road maintenance, the senators said. Twenty of the parks also have deferred maintenance needs of \$1.3 billion for water, wastewater and septic systems.

But conserving operating

funds is not the answer, Sen. Simitian said in a May 8 teleconference with Sen. Evans. The proposal to close 70 parks was "fundamentally ill-conceived, penny-wise and pound-foolish," he said.

A closed park has higher risks for criminal activity, wildfire and possible lawsuits over injuries. "It's a false economy," he said.

Parks also generate important revenue for local businesses. Of the 70 parks, 20 are located in Sen. Evans' North Coast district, which includes Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, and Napa counties. Two nearby parks made the shutdown list: Portola Redwoods State Park in La Honda and Castle Rock State Park just west of Saratoga in Santa Clara County.

Which of the parks would stay

open under the Simitian plan has not been determined.

"The state has never closed a state park, not even in the Great Depression," Sen. Evans said. In fact, she said, during the Depression the state opened Anza Borrego Desert State Park in eastern San Diego County.

Exactly which parks would close is a matter for the Parks Department, which considers factors such as historical significance, visitor count, the net savings that would result from closing a park, and the level of difficulty in keeping visitors out, according to an online summary.

The number of visitors statewide has been consistent in recent years, but during hard economic times, parks are important as a low-cost way to get away and

relax, Sen. Evans said.

Eighteen of the listed parks have collaborative arrangements in place with federal agencies or nonprofits that would keep them open, eight more are in negotiations for such arrangements, Sen. Evans said.

To reach the governor's desk for signature, the bill will need simple majorities in the Senate and the Assembly, Sen. Simitian said. Asked if he anticipated opposition, he said it was too early to tell but that "we've tried very hard" to design a bill that avoids political confrontations.

California is known for its parks and the idea of closing 70 of them, he said, "I think a lot of people find incomprehensible."

"We are using existing revenues in a relatively modest way to avoid the cuts," he added. "Our goal is to get past the year-to-year crisis in management of state parks. ... I am cautiously optimistic." ■

## Festival of flight returns

The soccer and baseball fields at the Portola Valley Town Center will serve as take-off and landing areas for varieties of model aircraft on Friday, June 1, from 6 to 10 p.m. The town's Nature & Science Committee is sponsoring <0x2014> and the radio-controlled aircraft community will be celebrating <0x2014> the second annual Flight Night.

With fixed wing and helicopter aircraft populating the air outdoors and indoors (in the Community Hall), the evening will include flight demonstrations, flying instruction, foam and paper airplane construction and practice with a flight simulator, according to the Flight

Night website.

Go to [www.flightnightpv.org](http://www.flightnightpv.org) for details on times and locations, and for photos and videos from the 2011 event. The Town Center is located at 765 Portola Road.

The event is intended as "an educational eye-opener with respect to careers in high technology mixed in with the seeming magic of flight," the website says.

Early engagement with model aircraft, veterans say, was "a very significant factor in the unfolding of their subsequent lives through the interest it cultivated in science, technology, engineering and math."

For more information, call George Comstock at 854-1947 or Stephen Dunne at 851-5250.

## GREEN

continued from page 13

is participation of 100 percent of new construction at a cost of less than \$25,000 and a savings of more than \$500,000.

■ Add incentives and possibly a loan fund for green building. The goal is participation by 550 households and 75 businesses at a cost of less than \$100,000 and a savings of at least \$200,000.

■ A rebate program for residents similar to the current Energy Upgrade California program. The goal is participation of 36 percent of households (8,235) in the unincorporated area of the county, with a cost of more than \$500,000 but a savings of more than \$500,000.

■ Financing for residential energy efficiency. The goal is participation of 3 percent of households (690) at a cost of more than \$500,000 and a savings of between \$200,000 and \$500,000.

■ Tree planting near buildings. The goal is participation by 2,300 homes at a cost of more than \$500,000 and a savings of between \$200,000 and \$500,000.

■ Regional energy saving partnerships with nearby communities on bulk purchases and neighborhood energy efficiency competitions. Goal is participation of 1,150 households and 31 businesses at a cost of less than \$25,000 and savings of less than \$25,000.

■ Solar incentives. The goal is installation of solar systems in 55 residences and 18 commercial buildings at a cost of more than \$500,000 and savings of less than \$25,000.

■ Incentives for solar water

heaters. Install 27 residential and 9 commercial at a cost of more than \$500,000 and a savings of less than \$200,000.

■ Pilot solar program. The goal is participation by 50 households in a pilot program at a cost of more than \$500,000 each and savings of less than \$100,000.

■ Financing for renewable energy installations. The goal is participation by 3,450 households and 93 businesses at a cost of more than \$500,000 with a savings of more than \$500,000.

■ Wind energy. The goal is participation by 145 households and 62 businesses at a cost of at least \$200,000 and with a savings of less than \$200,000.

■ Energy offset program, purchasing electricity from renewable sources to offset what new developments use. The goal is participation of 13 households with a cost and savings of less than \$25,000.

■ Waste to energy, encouraging the use of green and food waste to produce energy. The goal is diverting 4,250 tons of food and green waste into a waste to energy plant with a cost of more than \$500,000 and a savings of less than \$200,000.

■ Diverting recyclables. The goal is to divert 60 percent of recyclables from the landfill by trying to get trash collection services to pick up more types of recyclables, outreach through RecycleWorks, recognizing businesses that have a high recycling rate and more regulations for trash collection enclosures.

■ Zero waste. The goal is a 50 percent diversion of waste (not including food, green or paper waste) by 2020 and a 75 percent by 2035.

■ Composting. The goal is a 25 percent diversion of food waste for commercial and residential customers.

Smart water meters. The goal is installation for every residential and commercial customer.

■ Increase reuse of gray, rain and recycled water for landscaping and agricultural purposes. The goal is 25 percent of households.

■ Transportation measures include updating zoning and the general plan to encourage transit-oriented or mixed use developments; requiring new projects to have designs that encourage walkability and connectivity; adding neighborhood retail where possible; requiring traffic calming measures and bike parking with new projects and renovations; optimizing transit routes and improving access to public transportation; and allowing parking requirements to be reduced by 10 percent.

■ In the Middlefield, West Menlo Park and Emerald Lake Hills county commercial areas, move parking off-site and have those who need parking purchase it separately.

■ Have employers increase transit assistance and charge for parking. Expand worker shuttle programs with a goal of participation by up to 20 percent of employers with 50 percent of employees participating.

■ School transit. Restore or expand bus service, encourage ride-sharing and Safe Routes to Schools programs. Goal is to have at least 25 percent of schools participate with at least 25 percent of students in each school taking part.

Other strategies address commercial and industrial uses. ■

## Dumbarton Bridge closed over holiday

Plan for alternate routes and longer trips during the Memorial Day weekend if your trip involved the Dumbarton Bridge. Caltrans will close the bridge from 10 p.m. Friday, May 25, to 5 a.m. Tuesday, May 29.

Caltrans will use the time to finish a portion of the 1.6-mile bridge's seismic retrofit, installing an expansion joint designed to absorb and dissipate energy during an earthquake.

Detour options include taking Route 237 and Highway 92 via the San Mateo Bridge.

## Jones honored by venture magazine

Jennifer Jones & Partners of Woodside, a marketing communications firm for venture capital and private equity firms, has been named by DealMakers Monthly as the best communications firm in venture capital and private equity in North America.

This is the second straight year that Jennifer Jones & Partners has won the award, based on a readership survey. DealMakers Monthly, a magazine based in Britain, issues annual awards to firms in venture capital, private equity, banking and finance.



Jennifer Jones

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# Thousands expected at Sunset celebration

More than 20,000 visitors are expected for Sunset's 15th annual Celebration Weekend scheduled for June 2-3 at the magazine's seven-acre headquarters at 80 Willow Road in Menlo Park.

Highlights of the weekend include "the ultimate outdoor living room," wine seminars, travel and garden stages, and many food events, including the appearance of celebrity chef Guy Fieri.

For the "ultimate outdoor living room," Sunset will transform an asphalt patch of its parking lot into a backyard, complete with the House Arc, a modular dwelling designed by Bellomo Architects of Palo Alto.

Along with visits from well-known food personalities, there will be a backyard farm demonstration area, where guests can learn about the latest trends in canning, beekeeping and backyard chickens.

Also appearing on the outdoor living stage will be Chip Wade, host of HGTV's "Curb Appeal" and "Elbow Room," Ahmed Hassan, host of "Yard Crashers," and Karl Champley, master builder and host of "Wasted Spaces."

Always a sellout, guests are urged to register for first-come, first-served wine seminars early. Sunset's wine editor, Sara Schneider, will conduct the seminars.

Summer camping will be the

## AROUND TOWN

focus of the travel stage, with advice on the best campsites, natural wonders, and road trips.

Celebration Weekend takes place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3. General admission is \$16, \$14 seniors, kids free under 12. Tickets will be sold at the door.

Visit [sunset.com/cw](http://sunset.com/cw) for more information.

## West Bay Opera presents 'Aida'

West Bay Opera will present its first-ever production of "Aida" by Giuseppe Verdi on four dates: May 25 and 27, and June 2 and 3, at Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto.

The opera, sung in Italian with English titles, will be conducted by Michel Singher with Yefim Maizel directing.

Showtimes are 8 p.m. Friday, May 25, and Saturday, June 2; and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 27, and Sunday, June 3. The May 27 performance at 2 p.m. will be followed by a post-performance discussion with the cast and directors seated onstage.

Tickets are \$40 to \$70 with group discounts.

Visit [WBOpera.org](http://WBOpera.org) or call 424-9999 for tickets and more information.



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

## Surprise!

Meredith Cohen, 12, of Menlo Park takes a look at 14 inches of her hair just cut off by hair designer Meli McNeil at Textures Hair Salon in downtown Menlo Park on May 12. Meredith had her bat mitzvah service earlier that morning and plans to surprise her friends with the new haircut at a party later that day. She is selling her hair for \$500 and donating the money to My New Red Shoes, an organization that helps provides shoes and clothes for homeless and low-income kids. **Below;** Her parents watch while their daughter gets her hair cut. And 14 inches of Meredith's hair rests on a hair salon table.



## CALENDAR

Visit [AlmanacNews.com/calendar](http://AlmanacNews.com/calendar) to see more calendar listings

### Special Events

**Polo for Lyme** Participants support Bay Area Lyme Fund by attending Polo for Lyme at the Menlo Circus Club. Luncheon, silent auction, kids games, face painting, wooden horses and more. Proceeds go toward finding a cure. Tickets at [bayarealyrme.org](http://bayarealyrme.org). May 27, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$75 adults; \$40 kids; \$200 for family of 4. Menlo Circus Club, 190 Park Lane, Atherton. Call 650 530 2439. [bayarealyrme.org](http://bayarealyrme.org)

**Three-day eventing** Visitors can watch horses and riders compete in dressage and cross country and stadium jumping — the sport of three-day eventing. May 25-27, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. \$10. Horse Park at Woodside, 3674 Sand Hill Road, Woodside. [www.horsepark.org](http://www.horsepark.org)

**Allegro Framing and Art** presents the 1st Anniversary Show to celebrate Jeff Hernandez's first year as owner of the frame shop. The show features local artists Katherine McGuire, Christina Holmes, Judith Hamilton, Terry Guyer, Deborah Macias, Gilbert Draper, Dick Knoble and Jill Coolidge. May 31, Allegro Framing and Art, 3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-701-0882.

**Genealogy** Attendees can learn the skills, computer sites, and programs to help discover the history of ancestors. March 27-May 29, 10-11:30 a.m. \$90/\$99. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025, ext. 222. [www.penvol.org](http://www.penvol.org)

### Talks/Authors

**'Before Boxing Lost Its Punch'** Dave Newhouse, long-time sportswriter for the Oakland Tribune, has written his eighth book

about his life-long fascination with the sport of boxing, based on fights he heard on the radio with his father in the late-1940s. May 22, 1:30-2:30 p.m. \$2 Members/ \$3 Non-Members. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025, ext. 229. [www.penvol.org/littlehouse/culture](http://www.penvol.org/littlehouse/culture)

**'Exit Laughing: How Humor Takes the Sting Out of Death'** These 24 stories constitute a book whose purpose is to remind readers that when dealing with illness, dying, and death, there is an important place for laugh-out-loud humor. May 31, 7 p.m. Members free; others buy book or \$10 gift card. Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321.

**Enrico Moretti: 'The New Geography of Jobs'** A young economist at Berkeley argues that where one lives will soon determine how successful they are, and tells us what that means for the country. May 22, 7 p.m. Members free; others buy book or \$10 gift card. Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.

**Jackie Kudler: 'Easing into Dark and Judy Halebsky: Space, Gap, Interval, Distance'** Kudler is a teacher of memoir writing and literature at College of Marin. Halebsky's book, "Sky = Empty," won the New Issues Poetry Prize and was a finalist for the California Book Award. May 23, 7 p.m. Members free; others buy book or \$10 gift card. Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.

### Et Alia

**Ensemble S.P.A.M.: La Danse du Cleves** 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Bringing top-hit songs and dances of the 13th and 14th centuries. Shira Kammen, Peter Maund, Alison Zelles Lloyd, and Marsha Genensky. May 26, 7:30-9:30 p.m. In advance: \$27 reg/\$25 seniors/\$15 students/\$5 under 12s. St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-854-6555. [www.stbedesmenlopark.org](http://www.stbedesmenlopark.org)



## Artist's reception

"Night Watch" is one of the paintings by Jacek Sroka in his solo exhibition of paintings and etchings, titled "Which World Will Survive." The exhibit is at Ericsson Himmelberger Gallery, 855 Santa Cruz Ave. in Menlo Park. An opening reception for the artist will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 24. The event is free and open to the public.



## Two poets at Kepler's

Poets Jacqueline Kudler, left, and Judy Halebsky will read from and sign their new books at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 23, at Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park. Ms. Kudler is the author of "Easing into Dark." A memoir writing and literature teacher at the College of Marin, she published her first collection of her poetry, "Sacred Precinct," in 2003. Ms. Halebsky is the author of "Space/Time/Interval/Distance." With a collective of Tokyo poets, she edits and translates the bilingual poetry journal "Eki Mae." She lives in San Francisco and teaches at Dominican University of California.

**Glenoaks Stables Summer Riding Camp** In its 12th year, Glenoaks Stables Riding Camp is a week-long, small-group horse program. Campers learn riding, pony games, vaulting, arts & crafts and general horsemanship. After-hours care is available for an extra fee. Camps are planned for the following dates: June 18-June 22, July 9-13; July 16-20; July 30-Aug. 3; and Aug. 6-10, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. \$500. Glenoaks Stables, 2629 Alpine Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-854-4955. [glenoaksequestrian.com/summercamps.htm](http://glenoaksequestrian.com/summercamps.htm)

**Alateen Support Meetings** Alateen is a community of young people (12-20 years) whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking. Participants focus on learning how to help themselves, whether the alcoholic continues to drink or not. Confidential, anonymous, non-religious and based on the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. Sponsored by Al-Anon. Wednesdays, 7-8:15 p.m. Free. Trinity Parish Church, 330 Ravenswood Ave., Tierney Room, Menlo Park. Call 650-464-1925. [midpeninsula.org](http://midpeninsula.org)

## Obituary: Wayne D. Trehwitt III

Wayne Douglas Trehwitt III, a leader in the waste management industry, died May 5 at his Woodside home. He was 76.

Mr. Trehwitt was born in San Francisco and grew up in Berkeley. In 1963 he married Joan Sterling. They were partners in every aspect of their lives, say family members.

As president and CEO of Nortech Waste, Mr. Trehwitt designed, constructed and operated a 2,200-ton-per-day Material Recovery Facility in Roseville.

Under his management over the last 17 years, the facility has proven to be the most successful of its kind in the United States, say family members.

Some of Mr. Trehwitt's favorite times were his morning meetings with friends at the Woodside Bakery, boating on the San



Wayne D. Trehwitt III

Francisco Bay and at Lake Tahoe, traveling to Europe with friends, and spending time with his grandsons at Lake Tahoe.

He is survived by his wife, Joan Trehwitt, daughters Stacy Conner and Stephanie Trehwitt; sister Janet Trehwitt; and two grandsons.

Donations may be made to UNR (University of Nevada, Reno) Foundation, Wayne D. Trehwitt Scholarship, College of Engineering, in care of Melanie Perish, Mail Stop 162, Reno, NV, 89557.

## Menlo Park: Budget, housing on City Council agenda

As the council heads into the final weeks before taking a holiday in July, city officials are reviewing "big picture" items such as the budget and the housing element.

The agenda for the May 22 meeting includes a public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2012-13. Staff recommend increasing the tax on hotel guests from 10 percent to 12 percent, which could add more than \$560,000 annually to Menlo Park's general fund, but not changing the utility users

tax. The budget also proposes cost-cutting measures such as eliminating paper council agenda packets to save \$10,000 a year, sharing services with other city entities, and delaying the replacement of \$100,000 worth of police cars for one year.

The regular meeting starts at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the council chambers at the Civic Center at 701 Laurel St., following a closed session at 5:30 p.m. to discuss settlement of a lawsuit filed over the city's failure to comply with state housing law.

### Frank Helfrich to be commended

Frank Helfrich, long-time Menlo Park resident and keeper of town history, was tapped for a commendation from the City Council on May 22 for "his dedication in preserving the history of Menlo Park." Mr. Helfrich has lived in Menlo Park for more than 80 years and volunteers with the Menlo Park Historical Association, a nonprofit organization that has archived the town's memories for nearly four decades.



### 'Tunes and Blooms'

Darleen Shaheen is shown with her floral arrangement, "Tea for Two," which was featured in the recent Atherton Garden Guild flower show, "Tunes and Blooms," held at the Atherton home of Rita and Wyn Wachhorst. Lynn Heppberger and Kathy Schubin were co-chairs of the show, attended by 200 guests, who chose "Just Joey," Ms. Heppberger's peach-colored rose, as their favorite rose in the horticultural displays.

The Menlo Park Tradition Continues! June 8, 9, 10

# Nativity's 32nd Annual Spring Carnival



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In the New Gym — Friday 5-11pm

Saturday, Noon-8pm

Sunday Noon-5pm (Pick-up day only)

*Carnival Hours*

Friday, 5 – 11pm

Saturday, Noon – 11pm

Sunday, Noon – 6pm

Security on-site

For more information, go to [Facebook.com/nativitycarnival](http://Facebook.com/nativitycarnival) • [www.nativityschool.com/carnival](http://www.nativityschool.com/carnival)

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Subscriptions are \$60 for one year and \$100 for two years.



**WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?**

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, [www.TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com), and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

**TOWN SQUARE FORUM**

Post your views on the Town Square forum at [www.TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com)

**EMAIL** your views to:

[letters@almanacnews.com](mailto:letters@almanacnews.com) and note this it is a letter to the editor in the subject line.

**MAIL** or deliver to:

Editor at the Almanac,  
3525 Alameda de las Pulgas,  
Menlo Park, CA 94025.

**CALL** the Viewpoint desk at 223-6507.

## A wake-up call on affordable housing

City Manager Alex McIntyre said it all in his comments about settling a lawsuit with three nonprofit groups that want Menlo Park to get moving on making more sites available for affordable housing.

"We're 10 years behind," Mr. McIntyre said. "We should have taken care of the Housing Element Update before now but fell behind due to other priority planning projects. These planning projects could achieve a substantial portion of what is required to meet the housing element law."

In the lawsuit, Peninsula Interfaith Action, Urban Habitat and Youth United for Community Action said that unless ordered to do so by the court, "... the city will continue to refuse to carry out those duties and will continue to violate the law ..." meaning that "... lower income persons and affordable housing developers and/or housing service providers will continue to be injured as a result," according to the lawsuit.

At this point, it appears that the city had little choice but to negotiate for more time, which was granted. Mr. McIntyre said, "The benefit of the settlement agreement is to allow the city additional time to incorporate a public outreach and participation process that would otherwise not be possible under a shorter, court-ordered timeline." Without the agreement, the city would have had only 120 days to complete a new housing element to its general plan.

City staff members told the Almanac that Menlo Park currently has 12,500 units of housing. The settlement will require the city to come up with zoning for an additional 1,975 units, including market rate, moderate to low and very-low income units. Early in the process the city must conduct an inventory of all housing units, including capacity for new units under current zoning. And in a break for the city, any new housing built since 1998 can be deducted from the preliminary number.

There are pockets of affordable housing in Menlo Park, but by and large, school teachers, police officers and firefighters and other workers who serve in schools, local government or local businesses cannot afford to buy a home in the city.

If approved, the new downtown plan will authorize nearly 700 housing units along El Camino Real, including some priced in the affordable range. Given their proximity to downtown shopping and transit, we suspect these units will appeal to city workers and to older Menlo Park residents who hope to stay in the community but no longer want to live in a single-family home. These "empty-nesters" may have spent 30 or 40 years in the city and want to stay connected to their friends. More affordable housing will appeal to this demographic and add more vibrancy downtown at the same time.

Over the years a few plans have been promoted for relatively dense housing projects in Menlo Park, but for various reasons were discarded. Former City Council member Chuck Kinney was unable to win approval for affordable housing built over a parking garage on Oak Grove Avenue, mostly due to fear that the impact of construction would disrupt the downtown for a year or more.

With the arrival of Facebook, and its mostly young and single workforce, Menlo Park needs to get moving on zoning that will enable development of housing that can meet the needs of these workers, who would prefer to bike or take a shuttle from downtown to the company's home on Willow Road. Menlo Park definitely has some catching up to do as it begins to write a new housing element at Tuesday's City Council meeting. But with the downtown plan already teed up and ready to go, the city will be able to make a good start at reaching the agreed-on goal of building a new housing plan by March of next year.

**EDITORIAL**

The opinion of The Almanac

**LETTERS**

Our readers write

**Morantes is best choice for supervisor**

Editor:

Thank you for your story last week covering the San Mateo County supervisor race. I believe Memo Morantes appears to be the most qualified to represent us.

I have known Memo for 15 years in his role as a leader of a local Chamber of Commerce Education and Government Affairs committees. He was one of the co-founders of the Latino Leadership Council and has a broad network of fellow leaders throughout the Peninsula. He also understands the county budget trends and our local economy.

Memo Morantes has the deepest county-wide political background. He has been a trustee of the county Board of Education for over a decade. And he has the

*Continued on next page*

**TOWN SQUARE**

Post your news and views on TownSquare at:  
[www.TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com)



Woodside Historical Association

**Our Regional Heritage**

A drill under way at the Pioneer building in 1934 to test the Woodside Fire Department's ability to put out a roof fire. Aldo Comonoli purchased the building in 1941 and rebuilt it as a hotel, retaining the original facade. He later turned it into a large restaurant and bar. Today the building houses the Pioneer Saloon and Wells Fargo Bank at the corner of Woodside and Whiskey Hill roads.

**LETTERS**

Our readers write

Continued from previous page

best mix of cross-community and county-wide representation to become immediately productive on the Board of Supervisors.

To my way of thinking, he has the strongest background, and the gravitas to do a great job as our next supervisor. Memo has over 20 years of formal and informal leadership experience, all garnered while at the same time running his own business. Most critical, though, is that Memo Morantes' strongest attribute is his skill at uniting people and building successful

community partnerships. He will do a very good job.

**Clem Molony**  
Menlo Park resident

**Correction**

Two errors crept into last week's editorial. First, Kirsten Keith is a former member of the Menlo Park Planning Commission and the Housing Commission, not the Transportation Commission. And due to a production error, an earlier version of the editorial ran in the paper. The correct version is at AlmanacNews.com and endorsed Keith, Masur, Romero and Slocum in the race for supervisor. We apologize for the error.

**Wayne Douglas Trewhitt III**

(1935 – 2012)



Wayne D. Trewhitt passed away at his home in Woodside, Calif., on Saturday, May 5, 2012. He was born on June 5, 1935 in San Francisco, and was raised in Berkeley, CA.

On November 17, 1963, he married Joan Sterling. They were partners in every aspect of their lives. Wayne and Joan were rarely apart in the 50 years they were together.

Wayne was a visionary and a leader in the waste management industry. As president and CEO of Nortech Waste, he designed, constructed and operated a 2,200 ton per day Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Roseville, CA. Under his management over the last 17 years, this facility has proven to be the most successful of its kind in the United States. Nortech Waste is owned by Wastech Inc. of Woodside, CA., Sexton Resources LLC of Hillside, Ill., and Recology of San Francisco, CA.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Joan Trewhitt; his two daughters, Stacy Conner

and Stephanie Trewhitt; his two grandsons, Ryan and Blake Conner; his sister Janet Trewhitt; and his sister-in-law, Audrey Sterling.

He lived life to the fullest, and some of his favorite times were his morning meetings with friends at the Woodside Bakery, boating on the San Francisco Bay and on Lake Tahoe, traveling to Europe with great friends, and spending time with his grandsons in Tahoe. He was admired by many, both personally and professionally.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made payable to UNR Foundation, Wayne D. Trewhitt Scholarship – College of Engineering and sent to Melanie Perish, Mail Stop 162, Reno, NV 89557. Thank you.

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**LWV** THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS  
YES on Proposition 28  
"Term Limit Reform"  
and  
YES on Measure W: Support for Redwood City Schools

For more information on the statewide propositions, new districts and "Top Two" primary voting go to [www.LWVC.org](http://www.LWVC.org) (California), and, on local Redwood City and San Mateo County matters, to [www.LWVSSMC.org](http://www.LWVSSMC.org) (South San Mateo County). For complete ballot and voting information: [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)

League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County, 713 Santa Cruz Ave., Suite 9, Menlo Park CA 94025 or [info@LWVSSMC.org](mailto:info@LWVSSMC.org).

**Abel Sandoval**

Abel Sandoval of Menlo Park passed away at his home on May 12, 2012 at the age of 84 years. A native of Aguililla Michoacan, Mexico, he had resided in San Mateo County for the past 58 years. A professional chef his career included associations with the Pioneer Hotel Restaurant, Menlo Country Club, Scotty Campbells and the Iron Gate Restaurant. An avid gardener, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife Emilia in 1982. He is survived by his children, Jose (Connie); daughters, Gloria (Kevin), Emilia (Todd) and Delia; granddaughters, Sandy, Heather, Nicole and great granddaughter, Isabel. Services have been held. Memorials in Abel's memory may be directed to Pathways Hospice Foundation or the American Cancer Society.



PAID OBITUARY



**FREE SKIN CANCER SCREENING**



Dermatologists from Stanford Hospital & Clinics will be on hand to check for unusual moles or irregular blemishes that could signify the onset of skin cancer. If you have had the following, this free screening is for you:

- Fair skin and excessive exposure to the sun
- Many moles or atypical moles
- A parent or sibling who has had skin cancer

Saturday, June 2, 2012  
8:00am – Noon

**Stanford Medicine Outpatient Center**  
450 Broadway, Pavilion B, 4th Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94063



Outpatient Center • Redwood City

[stanfordhospital.org/skinscreening](http://stanfordhospital.org/skinscreening)

For questions, directions, or additional information, call **650.723.6316**. There is no registration for this event; it is a first-come, first-served screening.



Go to **open.apr.com** for the Bay Area's only complete online open home guide.



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