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Home & Garden Design
Winter 2013

The Almanac

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

JANUARY 9, 2013 | VOL. 48 NO. 19



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Horses in the headlights

How and why were three
horses struck and killed
on Interstate 280

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How did horses get on I-280?

■ Three horses were struck and killed by a car north of Alpine Road.

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Why and how four horses from Webb Ranch got onto Interstate 280 on Saturday, Dec. 29, is unclear. Three of the horses were struck and killed by a car on I-280 north of Alpine Road at around 4:50 a.m., according to the California Highway Patrol.

The mature horses, trained for riding lessons, wandered from their paddock west of the freeway. There are at least two routes to the northbound lane of Interstate 280 north of Alpine Road.

Three of the horses were struck and killed by a 2006 Toyota Prius, according to an account by Tom Hubbard, Webb Ranch's corporate president. A second vehicle, a 2004 Mercedes Benz, overturned after hitting one of the horses that was down in the slow lane, according to California Highway Patrol Officer James Evans. The two drivers were taken to Stanford Hospital with minor injuries, the CHP said.

Driving the Prius was Richard Stein, 65, of Sacramento. The Mercedes was driven by Jean Gillon, 61, of Menlo Park, according to the CHP report.

The scene of the accident was about 520 feet north of the Alpine Road interchange, the CHP said. The fourth horse was found uninjured in the grass on the side of the road, he said.

Of the horses that died, two were thoroughbreds — Maverick and Euro — and the third was a quarter horse named Rowan, all geldings, Mr. Hubbard said. One horse was in his mid 20s and the other two in their late teens. The uninjured horse was Milo, a wild mustang repatriated from open range land, Mr. Hubbard said.

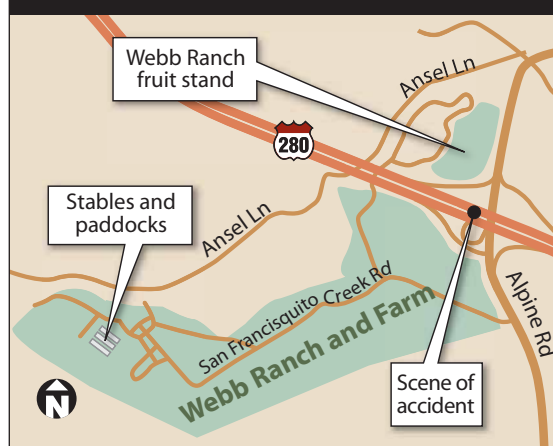
A Sig-alert, issued at 5:46 a.m., shut down northbound traffic until the alert was canceled just before 7 a.m., the CHP said.

San Mateo County animal control officials responded to the scene and the horses were towed off the road, the CHP said.

Escaping the paddock

The paddock for these four horses has two gates, and one was found with an unfastened spring-clip on the chain that locks the gate, Mr. Hubbard said. The chain may have been left unsecured by someone tending the horses, he said, but an open gate would not commonly result in the horses wandering out to the freeway. Most escaped horses are found where there's fresh grass, he said. "When they get out in the night, they go to the closest spot that they can

Location of horses struck on I-280



The map shows the location of Webb Ranch stables and paddocks in relation to where the horses were struck on Interstate 280.

eat grass," Mr. Hubbard said.

Horses in a group like this one can develop a herd mentality, he noted. These horses had been at the ranch for at least a year and possibly as long as five years, Mr. Hubbard said. This is the first such accident since the ranch opened in 1922, he said.

It's not unheard of for a horse to open a secured paddock, Mr. Hubbard added. "Over time, they're standing just there (watching) and they can figure out how to unlock a gate."

Horses sleep at night but don't sleep the whole night through, Mr. Hubbard said.

As to the route they took to get from the paddock to the

northbound lane, that is unclear and with no tracks to go by, will probably remain so, Mr. Hubbard said. Alpine Road is the obvious route, particularly with the automatic gate not functioning. A repair service had been called but repair was not expected until after the weekend, Mr. Hubbard said.

But the ranch also has a private road that runs alongside San Francisquito Creek and under I-280. If the horses took that route, they would have come out near the fruit stand on the east side of the freeway and could have easily found the on-ramp to the northbound lane.

"We don't know how it happened," Mr. Hubbard said. "Obviously, it could have been very, very tragic," he added, alluding to the CHP's description of "minor" injuries to the drivers. "So that's our concern now, is for everybody's well-being."

Bay City News Service contributed to this report.

'We don't know how it happened.'

TOM HUBBARD OF WEBB RANCH

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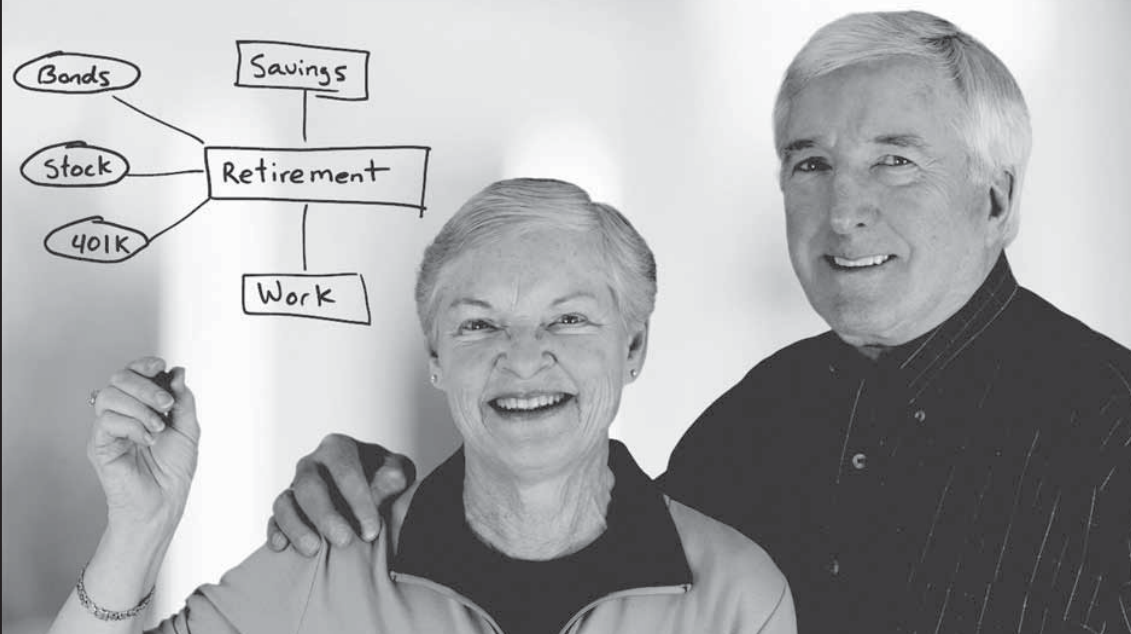
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PUBLIC HEARING

2. AT&T CUSE2012-0004
 Canada Road at Monticello Court Planner: Jackie C. Young, Planning Director

Continued Review for approval/denial of a Conditional Use Permit to permit previously installed wireless equipment on an existing wireless facility. The scope of work includes removal and replacement of a utility cabinet, and addition of two new cabinets; addition of a new H-frame with six new remote radio units, two PBC-02 units, three antennas, and two new 4-inch conduits; and upgrade from 100 amp panel to 200 amp panel.

3. AT&T CUSE2012-0010
 Canada Road at Monticello Court Planner: Jackie C. Young, Planning Director

Review for approval/denial of a Conditional Use Permit amendment to install additional utility cabinets at an existing wireless communication facility.

4. AT&T CUSE2012-0011
 Canada Lane at La Questa Way Planner: Jackie C. Young, Planning Director

Review for approval/denial of a Conditional Use Permit to modify the ground-mounted equipment at an existing wireless facility. The project proposes to: 1) add one equipment cabinet; 2) add one new GPS antenna; 3) add several remote radio units; and 4) add new coaxial cable to an equipment pad in the public right-of-way near the intersection of Cañada Lane and La Questa Way, which services a power pole housing AT&T wireless antennae.

5. Doug and Carrie Kehring APPL2012-0006
 3 Vintage Court Planner: Sage S. Schaan, Senior Planner

Review and approval/denial of an appeal of the Planning Director's decision to deny a proposal to construct two new barns and equestrian riding arena based on a recommendation from the Town's Architectural and Site Review Board.

All application materials are available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 – 10:00 AM and 1:00 – 3:00 PM, or by appointment. For more information, contact the Woodside Planning and Building Department at (650) 851-6790.

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

CalPERS nixes interim police chief's extension

■ State agency also investigating retired city employee's contract.

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

Contract issues are troubling Menlo Park lately, with the state's retirement agency refusing to allow an extension of interim Police Chief Lee Violett's employment on the one hand, and investigating former personnel director Glen Kramer's continued employment as a contractor on the other.

A California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) spokesperson confirmed that the agency is looking into Mr. Kramer's employment. She declined to release further details at this time.

He retired in December 2010

before returning as a contractor the next month as interim personnel director at an hourly pay rate of \$68.40 per hour on top of his \$10,877 monthly pension. CalPERS limits retired employees from working more than 960 hours per fiscal year as contractors.

When the city hired Gina Donnelly to head human resources, many expected that would be the end of Mr. Kramer's contract. But not so fast.

According to City Manager Alex McIntyre, Mr. Kramer, whose duties included running



Interim Police Chief Lee Violett cannot extend his employment with the city of Menlo Park, the state's retirement agency ruled.

payroll, is assisting with the transition from a manual to an automated payroll system, as well as making other contributions.

"We can't mess up payroll," Mr. McIntyre said, and noted that the former director reports to work once a week. "I've asked to have (the work) done sooner rather than later."

The Almanac was not able to determine by press time how many hours Mr. Kramer has worked as a contractor to date.

Both Mr. McIntyre and Ms. Donnelly said they were unaware of the CalPERS investigation.

"CalPERS law has changed a couple of times. He's not working very much for us, but I wouldn't be surprised if they had an issue. They rejected Lee (Violett's) request," Mr. McIntyre said.

In December the Menlo Park City Council asked the agency to extend the interim police chief's

contract beyond January to allow for a smooth transition when a new chief is appointed sometime in February. Chief Violett stepped in after Bryan Roberts left Menlo Park in July after serving as chief for 23 months.

The city is searching nationwide for a permanent chief, using a process of multiple review panels that included community representatives such as Facebook's head of security, Joe Sullivan.

"(Mr. Sullivan) got invited after a presentation to the city manager and staff. He has a background in law enforcement, and the city is looking for innovative ways to improve their services, so they asked (him to attend interviews)," a Facebook spokesperson said. ■

British Bankers Club deal in Menlo Park falls through

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Kill the social media buzz: A former Facebook executive has pulled out of a plan to reopen the landmark British Bankers Club in Menlo Park.

The deal fell apart about a month ago, according to landlord Dennis Grimsman.

As the Almanac first reported, Owen Van Natta, a social media entrepreneur, applied for a new liquor license for the restaurant through the California Department of Alcoholic Bever-

age Control earlier this year, and filed for federal registration of the BBC trademark in March.

Mr. Van Natta pulled out after due diligence indicated that "certain contingencies in the deal" wouldn't pan out, Mr. Grimsman said.

In a case of unfortunate timing, the new owners of Kepler's Books and Magazines — Praveen Madan and Christin Evans — approached the

landlord about leasing the space for the bookstore early last year.

Former Facebook executive Owen Van Natta drops out.

See **BANKERS CLUB**, page 8

Cafe Borrone to expand

Cedro Ristorante Italiano in downtown Menlo Park closed over the holidays. Owners of the adjacent Cafe Borrone have posted a request for an alcoholic beverage permit in the window of the space the Italian restaurant occupied at Menlo Center, 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park.

Cedro Ristorante, operated by the Navigato family of Menlo Park, opened in 2009, replacing Palermo restaurant. The space has been the site of several restaurants.

Unconfirmed reports say Borrone's will remodel the Cedro site and incorporate it into the

cafe. Remodeling will take several months, with an estimated spring opening.

Cafe Borrone, next to Kepler's bookstore, is Menlo Park's most popular gathering place. Roy Borrone opened the coffee house/restaurant in Redwood City in 1979, and later moved it to Menlo Park. Its sunny patio in the Menlo Center plaza is crowded with patrons in all seasons, and the line to order meals is often out the door.

The cafe is now co-owned by Marina Borrone and Chef Josh Pebbles, who has been working at the restaurant since he was 18.



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Historic Folger Stable will be open to the public on community day Jan. 19.

Public invited to community day

The public is invited to a community day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, at Folger Stable in Wunderlich County Park, 4040 Woodside Road in Woodside.

There will be trail rides for \$20, pony rides for children for \$5, tours of the property, and light refreshments. Folger Stable, operated by Bay Area Equestrian Connection (BAEC), provides public horse riding and horse boarding programs for the community. In addition to public boarding for up to 30 horses, BAEC offers guided trail rides, spring and summer camps for children,

■ **AROUND TOWN**

and western riding lessons.

Visit Folgerstable.com or call 529-1028 for more information.

Valpo Bowl raises funds for Bridge

The Valparaiso Bowl (Valpo Bowl) football game, played between Sacred Heart Prep and Menlo School on Nov. 9, once again raised funds for the Peninsula Bridge program.

Proceeds from the game's gate and concessions amount-

ed to nearly \$25,000, plus an additional \$20,000 in matching gifts from Circle of Champions donors, according to Bridge spokesman Maureen Garrett.

Sacred Heart Prep defeated Menlo School 31-28 in the 10th annual bowl game benefiting Peninsula Bridge, a tuition-free, four-consecutive-summers program for middle-school students from under-resourced communities on the Peninsula. For the past 20 years, both schools have been sites for the program, which has served more than 6,000 students.

See **AROUND TOWN**, page 8

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Clorox Disinfecting Wipes	\$2.49	35 Count

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Horsley says rising economy led him to end his \$1 salary

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

In explaining his decision to end his two-year stint of working for \$1 a year as a San Mateo County supervisor and begin accepting his \$120,000 annual salary, Supervisor Don Horsley cited the county's improved economic circumstances, including sales tax revenues and home prices. "The overall economy of San Mateo County is not what it was three years ago," Mr. Horsley told the Almanac. "People are bidding on houses again."

Mr. Horsley retired in 2007 after 35 years in law enforcement, including 14 years as county sheriff, for which he receives an annual county pension benefit of \$215,000.

"I don't know if I said it. I don't remember," Mr. Horsley said when asked about the \$1 a year pledge. The decision was based on the county's structural deficit, which "put us in an austerity position," he said.

In a Jan. 19, 2009, press release, 18 months before the June 2010 primary election, San Bruno-based political consultant Ed McGovern leads with this statement attributed to Mr. Horsley: "As a former San Mateo County Sheriff and county employee, I am fortunate that I receive an excellent package of benefits, and believe the compensation I would be awarded as a County Supervisor would be better spent elsewhere. Therefore, if elected, I will forgo my salary and benefits so that the money may be used for other County needs."

Asked if he wanted to comment, Mr. Horsley said "No, not really. It definitely was a press release."

In other news stories, Mr. Horsley cited medical bills for his mother-in-law as a reason to start collecting his salary. Asked to confirm that, Mr. Horsley said he considered the topic personal. "I do have a mother-in-law. I do pay for her medications," he added. "It's just different circumstances now than in 2009."

Asked if his no-salary pledge might have influenced voters in the run-off election with small business owner April Vargas, Mr. Horsley said, "No." The key to his victory was his track record, he said, adding, "I think I ran a superior campaign."

"I think most people didn't know about not taking the salary," he added. "I just think that it doesn't really strike home. I didn't find that the average voter knew that I wasn't taking a salary."

In November, voters approved



"I don't know if I said it. I don't remember," Don Horsley said when asked about the \$1 a year pledge.

Measure A, boosting sales taxes by a half cent and county revenues by a projected \$60 million annually for the next 10 years. Measure A's passage was not a major factor in his decision, Mr. Horsley said.

Does he have a message to voters about deciding to take his salary? "Anyone who works six days a week, 10 hours a day, should be paid just like anyone else who works six days a week, 10 hours a day," he said. And his concurrent pension income? "I was in public service," he said. "I don't think that should be held against me."

Call for recall

In an open letter to Mr. Horsley, Michael Stogner, a regular critic of county government, said that if Mr. Horsley does not rescind his decision, he (Mr. Stogner) would initiate a recall. "I would invite you to reconsider and withdraw your decision on reneging on this promise within the next 30 days," Mr. Stogner wrote. "Barring this reconsideration and reversal, I will start a recall petition so voters can take action based on your broken promise to them."

On the board, Mr. Horsley represents District 3, which includes Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside and the unincorporated communities of Ladera, Los Trancos Woods, Vista Verde, Menlo Oaks and West Menlo Park.

County figures for the budget year that ended in July show lower unemployment compared with 2010-11, higher median home prices, rising personal income, more arrivals at San Francisco International Airport, and stable property tax revenues. The budget for 2012-13 projects county revenues rising by \$95.7 million by June 30. "All of the key indicators are trending in the right direction," Budget Director Jim Saco said in an email. ■

Police union dumps Teamsters, hires law firm for labor talks

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

■ ATHERTON

Just months before contract talks with the town of Atherton open, the Atherton police officers' union has parted ways with the Teamsters union that has represented it for years, and now is affiliated with the San Mateo County Deputy Sheriffs' Association.

At the same time, the Atherton Police Officers' Association is enlisting the services of the Mastagni, Holstedt, Amick, Miller and Johnsen, a Sacramento-based law firm, to assist it with its labor negotiations.

"The membership took a vote and we felt we would be better represented by the Mastagni law firm," APOA president John Mattes said in an email, in response to the question of whether the officers were dissatisfied with the Teamsters' representation

In a press release dated Jan. 1 — Mr. Mattes' first day as APOA president — Mr. Mattes said the local union is joining the county Deputy Sheriffs' Association as "associate members." He explained in an email that the APOA will be a

non-voting member of the DSA, but will share services, such as "use of their office manager to answer phones, a conference room and meeting room that we do not have at Atherton."

The town's contract with APOA expires in August, and negotiations are likely to begin around April, according to City Manager George Rodericks. The town hasn't decided who will assist it in its negotiations, he said.

A preview of how congenially — or not — the contract talks are likely to play out was on view last year when the APOA waged an active campaign in support of City Council candidates Elizabeth Lewis, an incumbent, and Cary Wiest. Both candidates won election to the two vacant seats.

The APOA's election-time effort included sending out a mailer that the council characterized as misleading and some council members blasted for use of "scare-mongering" tactics. The union also conducted a phone campaign, in which it endorsed the two candidates. Both strategies referred to the

council's alleged consideration of contracting police services with another agency, or seriously slashing police compensation — allegations hotly contested by council members.

The council has stated on numerous occasions that the town needs to reduce its employee costs, and has already taken steps expected to lower compensation for non-represented employees. In 2011, the town laid off most of its non-police employees and contracted for services in the building and public works departments.

The current contract with police officers guarantees that officers will be compensated at a rate that is in the 70th percentile of police officer pay in specified jurisdictions in the area.

Mr. Mattes, a police dispatcher whose position as communications supervisor was eliminated last year at a cost to him of nearly \$30,000 a year in salary, said the move away from Teamsters representation and the use of a firm specializing in labor law would not be more costly for the APOA. "We, as an association, will be paying less per month/member for better services," he wrote in his email. ■

■ POLICE CALLS

This information is from the Menlo Park and Atherton police departments and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary reports:

- Losses estimated at \$2,400 in theft of two women's handbags containing credit cards and checkbook, Trinity Drive, Dec. 31.
- Losses estimated at \$1,400 in entry through unlocked rear window and theft of athletic hats, two pairs of tennis shoes, video game player and games, Willow Road, Jan. 4.
- Loss estimated at \$400 in theft of locked bicycle from apartment carport, Florence Lane, Dec. 27.
- No apparent losses in attempted burglary through window in rear door, with suspects possibly fleeing after being startled by arrival of resident, O'Keefe

St., Dec. 31.

■ Entry via rear window and theft of stamps and headphones, Laurel Ave., Jan. 2.

Auto burglary reports:

■ Losses estimated at \$3,650 in theft from locked vehicle of vehicle instrument panel, CP radio, AM/FM radio and twin-size mattress, Independence Drive and Constitution Ave., Dec. 29.

■ Losses estimated at \$792 in break-in through smashed rear passenger side window and theft of purse with contents that included gift cards, iPod Nano and \$300 in cash, Marsh Road, Jan. 3.

Theft reports:

■ Losses estimated at \$485 in theft of cell phone and wallet containing gift cards and \$35 cash, Laurel Ave., Dec. 30.

■ Loss estimated at \$400 in theft of bicycle from carport, Noel Drive, Jan. 2.

■ Loss estimated at \$430 in theft of locked bicycle from open apartment

garage, Noel Drive, Jan. 3.

WOODSIDE

Accident report: Bicyclist refused medical assistance after collision with vehicle left him with cuts on finger and above left eye, sore knee and aches and pains over entire body, Canada and Romero roads, Dec. 27.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Gun surrender report: BB gun turned over to Sheriff's Office deputy for destruction, Cervantes Road, Dec. 27.

Auto burglary report: Smashed window and theft of Christmas gift and purse containing 35 mm camera and wallet, parking lot for Windy Hill Open Space Preserve on Portola Road, Dec. 27.

ATHERTON

Auto burglary report: Car stereo/iPod Nano stolen, Watkins Ave., Dec. 30.

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Menlo Park council resumes business Tuesday

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

BRIEFS

Fresh off the holiday break, the Menlo Park City Council meets Tuesday, Jan. 8, to consider community funding, the housing plan update, flood planning and the “Belle Haven visioning process consultant selection,” among other items.

The council voted in September to hire a consultant to plan a process of community engagement for the Belle Haven neighborhood. Six companies applied; a committee of city staff and two Belle Haven residents — Jim Cebrian and Michelle Tate — are recommending that the city hire Moore Iacofano Goltsman Inc. The meeting starts at 7 p.m.

in the council chambers at the Menlo Park Civic Center at 701 Laurel St.

SamTrans launches rideshare program

SamTrans is testing an 18-month fleet-sharing pilot project for member organizations, such as Caltrain and Read-It-Wheels, thanks to a combination of grants and matching funds.

The program that allows members to sign up for service, then search types and sizes of available vehicles to rent at rates lower than commercial rental services, according to a press release.

Go to peninsulafleetshare.com to learn more.

New employment rules take effect

New laws went into effect on Jan. 1 for California employers, according to the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce. Changes include revisions to pregnancy disability and disability discrimination and accommodation regulations.

The chamber said other significant changes for 2013 include anti-discrimination protections, employee access to personnel records and employer access to personal social media accounts. Some changes relate specifically to certain industries such as temporary services employers.

Unless specified, the list of new legislation went into effect Jan. 1, 2013.

Go to tinyurl.com/a7srwvc for a list of changes.

Downtown projects

Menlo Park wants your opinion on two proposed downtown projects.

First, city staff requests feedback from business and property owners about replacing the irrigation system along Santa Cruz Avenue. In October the City Council rejected an initial bid as too expensive because of the night work required; the new proposal would let the contractor work during the day as long as traffic is not blocked and no more than one block

of parking gets closed off at a time, according to the city. The project goes out to bid in January with construction likely to begin in the spring.

Next, the city is planning the next phase of tree planting along El Camino Real, this time in the medians and along sidewalks from Santa Cruz to Middle avenues. The existing crepe myrtle trees would be replaced with London planetrees. The project will likely go out for bid in February. Business owners will be contacted individually about trees on the sidewalk outside their properties.

To comment, contact Assistant Public Works Director Ruben NiOo at rnino@menlopark.org or 330-6780 by Jan. 18. ■

AROUND TOWN

continued from page 5

Several years ago, former Atherton resident Bill Shaw, father of two Sacred Heart Prep graduates, organized the Circle of Champions.

This year, in honor of Mr. Shaw's longtime efforts, Peninsula Bridge is inaugurating Bill's Books. The fund will donate up to \$500 to randomly selected Bridge alumni to use toward the cost of books in their freshman college year.

Museum upgrades exhibit on county history

The San Mateo County History Museum has reopened its exhibit space, “Joseph W. Welch Jr. Gallery: Journey to Work.”

The 1,500-square-foot gallery, which explores how different forms of transportation changed San Mateo County, has been substantially upgraded, thanks to a gift from the Christensen Family Foundation. New objects that the public will see include a high-wheel bicycle, historic and miniature saddles, a 19th century

slot machine, a 1948 jukebox, and 1950s iconic fixtures such as a coke machine, a telephone booth and a gas pump.

A variety of historic photographs will be on display for the first time. New platforms stanchions and mounts are being fabricated for the opening. Museum staff has restored a damaged old bar from the San Gregorio Hotel.

The exhibit have a video component allowing one to “drive” an old streetcar and an audio unit for the phone booth that will invite visitors to hear about the Peninsula's automobile culture of the 1950s.

The gallery is named for the recently deceased Joseph W. Welch Jr. because of a contribution made in his name by his family that will allow the museum to install a new climate-control system. The Welch family is also lending the museum objects from its historical slot machine collection.

The museum is located in the historical courthouse building at 2200 Broadway in Redwood City.

Visit historysmc.org or call 299-0104 for more information.

rant's rowdy reputation took a turn toward infamous after a busboy and a cook were arrested for sexually assaulting two women at the club in 2010. According to police, the men followed the women to an upstairs room in the club. Both pleaded guilty to related charges.

Former owners Lance White and Richard Eldridge initially said the BBC had closed for remodeling in January 2012, but eventually announced online that it would not reopen.

Mr. Van Natta did not respond to requests for comment. ■

Saying it with flowers

By Jane Knoerle

When Anne Patrick presents her popular floral-design lecture and demonstration at Filoli in Woodside, don't expect spare arrangements featuring a single bloom or branch.

“I like arrangements to look as if they were just picked in a garden. I try to make a real mixture and hope to be able to use flowers from Filoli's gardens,” she said.

For 16 years Patrick has taught advanced floral design at Filoli, with certificates awarded to 265 graduates after an intense three-week session. She teaches classes at Filoli each spring and fall, commuting from her home in Carmel. She will also teach a fall wreath-making class.

When first approached about teaching at Filoli, she asked her husband, the late Robert Reinkens, if it was a good idea.

“Of course,” he said. “It will probably only last a year.”

She replied: “When I'm up at 4 a.m. getting ready to go (to Woodside) I think you've got a lot to answer for.”

When asked if it wouldn't be simpler to stay overnight on the Peninsula (the class is held on Monday and Tuesday mornings), she answered, “Oh, no, I have to collect more flowers.” She relies on a good source in Carmel.

Ms. Patrick was truly born into the world of flowers. A

native of Yorkshire, she was the daughter of a famous horticulturist, Tom Patrick.

“He was an incredible man. There wasn't a plant in the world he didn't know,” she said.

Her early training was in the workshops and greenhouses of her father and at the great English flower shows. She remembers capping in a sweet-pea box

Noted English-trained floral designer Anne Patrick lectures at Filoli.

between chores at the Chelsea Flower Show. She realized early on that she was more interested in picking flowers than in growing them.

As a young woman, she studied at the Constance Spry Flower School in London.

“She was the most incredible lady, the Martha Stewart of her day,” she said of the well-known author and florist, who was also a talented cook and founder of the Cordon Bleu Cooking School in London.

After graduation, Ms. Patrick stayed on to teach at the Constance Spry School and take part in floral decorating for gala events at Covent Garden Opera House, as well as royal weddings. She recalls the wedding of Princess Anne to Capt. Mark Phil-

lip in 1973s, using all white flowers for the winter ceremony in Westminster Abbey. A great admirer of Princess Anne, she said: “She does so much good work around the world.”

Ms. Patrick's career included working on set designs for three films at the Shepperton Studios in London, including “Suddenly Last Summer,” starring Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Clift. “We worked long hours, from 4 to 5 in the morning until 9 at night,” she recalled.

While teaching at the Constance Spry School in the late 1970s, she met her future husband, Robert Reinkens, an American retired from the FBI. After the couple married, they moved to Carmel and opened a flower shop at the Lodge at Pebble Beach. She also traveled around the United States, giving demonstrations and lectures on flower arranging.

Today, she lives in Carmel in the same house she shared with her late husband., but has given up the flower shop. “Too much work,” she said. She still enjoys teaching at Filoli and is proud that 20 of her advanced floral design students have gone on to become teachers themselves.

“It's been very exciting. I'm 74 now, but I hope to do it another year,” she said. ■

Visit filoli.org or call (650) 364-8300 for more information.

BANKERS CLUB

continued from page 5

“I was taken aback — Kepler's, in here?” Mr. Grimsman said. “(They) really wanted it, but I had just signed the deal with Owen.”

He said he's looking for a quality tenant. “The building deserves it. I'm going to hold out until I get someone good. Someone with common sense.”

Before becoming the BCC, the building at 1090 El Camino Real housed Menlo Park's administrative and police departments. In more recent years the restaur-

What Hurricane Sandy taught me

Why did I, and nearly 200 other Bay Area volunteers, recently put my life on hold and travel to the East Coast to help out those affected by Hurricane Sandy?

■ BARBARA WOOD

We were going to do the work we had been trained to do: helping those affected by a disaster. But not until I returned home did I work out another reason, thinking about three of the people I met during my weeks in New Jersey.

I was doing a job called client casework outreach, traveling to neighborhoods damaged in the storm and attempting to contact those who needed any type of help from the Red Cross or the local agencies we partner with.

One of those people in need we found was a widow, living alone, who woke up in the middle of the night to the sound of water rushing down her street. A levee had broken and her neighborhood, which had never before flooded, was quickly inundated with 6 to 8 feet of water. She was evacuated in a boat and spent some days with relatives before returning to her home to clean up the mess.

And that's when she received a call from someone claiming to be from FEMA, and needing her Social Security number. She gave it, and soon someone else was using her credit card. I spent less than an hour helping her contact a credit reporting agency to put a hold on her credit so no more damage could be done, and in the process, restoring some of her peace of mind.

The next day, in a coin-op laundry, we met a woman who asked if we could help her mother, a widow in her 80s who had medical problems and sounded depressed, and whose apartment still had no heat and no

hot water. We decided to check on her and ask Red Cross volunteers who are mental health professionals to stop by.

She had been sitting in a darkened apartment in her night clothes, using her oven for heat even though her gas and electricity were working again. Before long, though, she was laughing and feisty. In fact, after I told her she was a good person, she told me "Sometimes I can be a %#!*%!"

I was thrilled the next day when the mental health volunteer who stopped by told me the woman was still doing well, and had her television working again.

A third woman, again a widow living alone, told me that she was determined not to cry any more because her daughter had told her not to, but that she was very upset about all the personal items that had been lost in the flood, including family photos and many of the items her late husband had treasured. She especially missed the collection of Christmas decorations that had been lost.

I told her she had my permission to cry, and that mourning one's stuff is a reasonable thing to do, and so she did.

All of these women rewarded me with hugs (and the %#!*%! threw in a kiss, too). I think part of the reason I was so happy to be able to help them, though, is that my mother, who fortunately lives in Oregon where there are not a lot of natural disasters, is also a widow in her 80s living alone. Some day she might need some help.

And some day, I hope, I'll be 80 myself and maybe in need of a helping hand after a fire, an



Photo by Barbara Wood

Residents of the Red Hook neighborhood of Brooklyn decorated their fence with the rubber gloves they used cleaning up after Hurricane Sandy.

earthquake or a flood and some other Red Cross volunteer will be there to help me.

Barbara Wood is a freelance writer, photographer, gardener and Red Cross volunteer who lives and works in an 1889

farmhouse in Woodside with her husband, Labrador retriever and flock of chickens.

Andrea Nelson, Shawn Allen wed

Peter and Debbie Nelson of Menlo Park announce the marriage of their daughter, Andrea E. Nelson, to Shawn P. Allen. The couple, who met on an AIDS Life-Cycle bike ride in 2010, were married May 12 in Carmel Valley.

The bride is a 1997 graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School. She is a senior planner and facilitator at PMC, an urban planning consultancy in Oakland. The bridegroom, son of Ceci Allen and stepson of Cyrus Mallory of Panama, is a partner and design director at Stamen, a data visualization design firm in San Francisco.



Shawn Allen and Andrea Nelson

The couple is living in San Francisco.

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Home-improvement conversations are old hat to new commissioner

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

Home improvement ideas can run from the plain to the magnificent, from rehabbing a bathroom to a building a mansion that pushes the envelopes set by the general plan and residential design guidelines, pushing that elicits push-back from officials charged with enforcing that plan and those guidelines.

In Portola Valley, resident Dave Ross sought such an official position, one where he might have to do some pushing back, and he got the job. The Town Council in November appointed Mr. Ross to a four-year term on the town's five-member Architectural & Site Control Commission.

The ASCC advises the Planning Commission and the Town Council — all volunteer panels — on significant remodeling and building projects in town. The ASCC's mission is to preserve the town's "visual character," its land values and investments, public safety, and the general welfare by prevent-

ing the erection of "unsightly or obnoxious" structures, indiscriminate clearing of land and destruction of vegetation, according to town code.

Mr. Ross, 57, has 35 years of experience in the construction business, is a certified mediator and expert witness on construction issues, and spent four years on the Architecture Review Board in Palo Alto, he said in his interview with the council. He is married to Nancy Powell, a former prosecutor in Santa Clara County, and the couple live on Canyon Drive and have been Portola Valley residents for 10 years. Mr. Ross's education includes four years at Stanford University concentrating on mathematics and economics, and later on computer science and statistics.

A decision to volunteer for something civic minded may have been inevitable. "I feel much more a part of a community if I'm participating in it instead of just (being) a visitor,"

Mr. Ross said in an interview. "It's kind of a natural path to feeling more at home in a place. I've got kind of a mental barrier against commenting on something that I'm not willing to participate in."

"Community volunteerism is kind of the highest and best form of government," he added. People who set aside time and their expertise to participate in civic affairs are "the fundamental building blocks of democracy."

Being a referee

For the ASCC, it's about design, including site design, architectural design, and landscaping design. The priorities, according to the general plan, are to conserve the town's "rural" quality and to see that human activity — building a home, for example — is "subordinate" to natural land forms and vegetation.

When the interests of the community vary from the hopes and dreams of an individual planning a home in Portola Valley, it's the job of the ASCC to find a way forward. Mr. Ross said he



Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

Dave Ross: "I feel much more a part of a community if I'm participating in it instead of just (being) a visitor."

will take pains to appreciate the view from the applicant's position.

"It's fairly natural for applicants to pay more attention to their personal interests," he said. The mindset, "What I'm doing here is great and will be a great addition to the community," may seem right to the applicant, he added, but what if a neighbor wanted to do the same thing? The ASCC is there to provide a reality check when interests clash, he said.

Applicants, Mr. Ross noted, may develop a sense that the ASCC's design goals are more

important to the process than those of architects and applicants. Does that happen? "I don't have enough direct experience with the ASCC myself to judge that. It's one of the things I'm going to be paying attention to as I get my feet wet," he said. "I think it's very difficult for public bodies to know when they've crossed that line."

The ASCC wants to protect Portola Valley from badly constructed projects, he said. We're here to promote good and thoughtful interaction between

See **ROSS**, page 12



January 2013

**FURTHER
REDUCTIONS!**

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Retirement Sale**

**New merchandise
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**Wednesday - Saturday
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10 am - 5:30 pm**

TRADITIONS

**850 Santa Cruz Avenue
Menlo Park
650.325.4849**

Locals give \$21 million to candidates, PACs

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

■ ELECTION 2012

The wallets of donors claiming ZIP codes in the Almanac's circulation area are lighter by \$21 million due to donations to 2012 federal candidates and political action committees that supported them, according to Federal Election Commission records.

Menlo Park led with almost \$6.5 million, followed by Atherton with around \$6 million, Portola Valley with around \$5 million and Woodside at just under \$4 million.

In notable donations from Menlo Park to PACs, Mercury Trust gave \$1.4 million to American Crossroads, which spent \$96 million to defeat Democrats, according to the FEC. Donors who each gave \$100,000 or more to Republican causes include Meg Whitman and Griff Harsh of Atherton; Richard Boyce, Richard W. Boyce, Dick W. Boyce and Sandy Boyce, all listed with a Portola Valley ZIP code (and no relation to the author of this story); and John Mumford of Portola Valley.

According to FEC records and OpenSecrets.org, the website of the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit Center for Responsive Politics, Vinod Khosla, a Portola Valley venture capitalist, gave \$1 million to Priorities USA Action, which spent \$66 million to defeat Republicans. Among other local donors giving \$100,000 or more to Democratic causes were Marcia L. Goldman, Elizabeth Simons, Chris Kelly and Eric Schmidt of Atherton; Cindy Goldberg and Evan Goldberg of Woodside; and Warren Spieker Jr. of Menlo Park.

The larger sums overall went

to candidates for president and U.S. Senate and House seats in California, but FEC records show out-of-state races also attracted significant local support. Those include races by Ohio Republican and Speaker of the House John Boehner and Utah Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch, as well as the Massachusetts Senate race, in which Sen. Scott Brown fell to Democratic challenger, consumer champion and banking industry critic Elizabeth Warren.

Two Super PACs, "Obama for America" and "Obama Victory Fund," led with \$6.08 million in total individual contributions from local ZIP codes. For Mr. Romney, the Super PACs "Romney for President" and "Romney Victory" received a total of \$3.8 million, records show.

The other Republican presidential candidates shared \$154,387, in order of amounts received: Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, former Rep. Newt Gingrich, Rep. Ron Paul, pizza magnate Herman Cain, and former Sen. Rick Santorum. Former candidate Rep. Michele Bachmann received local funding, but for her congressional campaign.

Local donors were generous to committees fundraising for House and Senate races, with Democrats receiving \$560,297 and Republicans \$352,910. Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, received \$196,200, while Sen. Diane Feinstein gathered \$75,085, FEC records show.

Congressional races

Mr. Boehner received \$51,900 from local donors, Mr. Hatch \$84,500, and Massachusetts, Sen.

Brown received \$82,500 to Ms. Warren's \$21,065, records show. Others receiving local donations without obvious local ties included Virginia Democrat Sen. Tim Kaine; Minnesota Republican Rep. Erik Paulsen, New York Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand; and two Florida Republicans: Sen. Marco Rubio and Rep. Allen West, who was widely reported to have referred to Mr. Obama as a "low-level socialist agitator" and to members of the House Democratic Progressive Caucus as "members of the Communist Party."

Missouri Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill received \$39,400 locally in her successful campaign against Republican Rep. Todd Akin, who was widely criticized for his comments about "legitimate rape" and asserting that in the case of rape, women's bodies have ways of avoiding pregnancy.

Wisconsin Democratic Senate candidate Tammy Baldwin, the first openly gay senator to be elected in U.S. history, received \$10,058 from local donors, records show.

Other heavy recipients: \$409,414 for the Republican National Committee; \$357,800 for Romney-backing PAC Restore Our Future; \$137,086 for Emily's List, which supports Democratic women; and \$254,443 for the Democratic National Committee.

If the National Rifle Association were looking for funds in the Almanac's circulation area, they should probably look elsewhere. The NRA's Political Victory Fund received \$1,022 from local sources in this election cycle. ■

Searching the record

■ Go to opensecrets.org or fec.gov for information on federal elections.

■ The California Secretary of State's website lists Santa Clara County and some of its cities, and San Francisco city and county, as having finance records online for candidates and ballot measures. San Mateo County is not listed, nor are any of its cities or towns. Records are available at Town/City Halls and at the county Elections Office at 40 Tower Road in San Mateo.

Tri-E-Z consults police after another robbery

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Customers shopping at the Tri-E-Z in Menlo Park got more than they bargained for on a recent Friday night after two men, one armed with a handgun, robbed both store and shoppers.

Police responded to a 911 call about an armed robbery around 7:35 p.m. on Dec. 28. According to the report, the men demanded that a store employee empty the cash register, and accosted the two customers. No one was physically injured.

Witnesses described one suspect as a thin black man approximately 18 to 25 years old, about

5 feet 7 inches tall, wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt, black mask, black gloves, gray watch cap, and blue pants, and carrying a handgun.

They described the other suspect also as a thin black man about the same height, 22 to 25 years old, wearing a black jacket, black watch cap, black gloves and blue pants.

Escaping with an undisclosed amount of stolen money and property, the duo fled on foot, running south on El Camino Real. An extensive search by Menlo Park and Atherton police found only a cold trail.

The store, located at 1820 El Camino Real, was also robbed

in 2007, 2011 and July 2012.

"At this time we are working with the owner to make it less appealing to potential robbers," said Sgt. Ed Soares of the Menlo Park Police Department. Officers in the "crime prevention through environmental design" program will evaluate the store in an attempt to deter future robberies. The program focuses on influencing the offender's decision-making process by altering an area's physical environment to make it less appealing as a target.

Anyone with information about the Dec. 28 robbery can call Det. Ron Venzon at 330-6363 or the police department's anonymous tip line at 330-6395. ■

TOWN OF WOODSIDE
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD
WOODSIDE, CA 94062

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR COMMITTEES

LIVESTOCK AND EQUESTRIAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Wednesday of each month; 5:30 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee reviews applications for professional stable permits and forwards recommendations to the Planning Commission. It also reviews applications for exceptions to the private stable regulations and forwards recommendations to the Planning Director. It conducts inspections of stables in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Code. The Committee develops and supports education and information programs which aid the community in sustaining, protecting, enhancing, and enjoying equestrian activities and facilities. The Committee is also a resource for Town Council, staff, and residents on equestrian matters.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Thursday of each month, 5:30 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises and assists on implementing the goals and policies of the Open Space and Conservation Elements of the General Plan, with an emphasis on enhancing the open space system and the preservation and restoration of wildlife habitat. The Committee develops and recommends educational programs and materials which foster public awareness of the benefits of open space conservation and wildlife habitat. It makes recommendations on the acquisition and maintenance of open space and conservation easements, collaborates on goals and projects of mutual interest, and with neighboring towns and regional entities to preserve scenic vistas, tracts of open space and wildlife habitat.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meets on call of Chair; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises the Town Council and staff on issues of community public safety, including police and fire services provided within the Town.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Meets first Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.; appointed for three-year term.

The Committee guides the activities of the community recreation programs.

SUSTAINABILITY AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises and assists on implementing the goals and policies of the Sustainability and Conservation Elements of the General Plan, with emphasis on resource conservation and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The Committee develops and recommends educational programs which will create public awareness of environmental issues and conditions, and recommends action programs and regulations which foster sustainability and conservation principles.

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Meets second Thursday of each month, 3:00 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee reviews land divisions, subdivisions and conditional use permits for locations for equestrian, pedestrian and bicycle trails and makes recommendations to the staff and to the Planning Commission.

WOODSIDE HISTORY COMMITTEE

Meets second Thursday of each month, 10:00 a.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises the Town Council and staff regarding actions, policies, and plans relating to historic preservation; and plans and recommends means for ensuring the security and public accessibility of the Town's historic archives. The Committee also gathers and catalogues historic material.

Committees are volunteer positions and serve in an advisory capacity to the Town Council.

Interested residents may request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1-5:00 p.m., from the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, or telephone (650) 851-6790, or through the Town's web site at www.woodsidetown.org, Residents, Volunteer Opportunities. The deadline for applications is Tuesday, February 5, 2013, 5:00 p.m.

Community Health Education Programs

For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures and health education resources, visit pamf.org/healtheducation.

Jan. 2013

Advancements in Cataract Surgery

Tuesday, Jan. 15, 1 to 2 p.m.
Sunnyvale City Senior Center
550 E. Remington Drive, Sunnyvale

Presented by **Yichieh Shiuey, M.D.**
PAMF Ophthalmology

Please call the Sunnyvale City Senior Center at **408-730-7360** to register.



Join us for this educational presentation where you'll learn what a cataract is and find out about new advancements in cataract surgery and how surgery can improve your sight.

Bay Area Association of Kidney Patients Presentation

Sunday, Jan. 27, 1 to 4 p.m.
Palo Alto Center
795 El Camino Real, Palo Alto

Call **650-323-2225** or email at info@baakp.org to reserve your space.

Home Peritoneal Dialysis: Exploding the Myths

Anjali Saxena, M.D., a nephrologist at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, will discuss how to take control of your life by using peritoneal dialysis overnight at home or at work.

Diets for all Stages of Kidney Disease

Faith Tootell, M.S., R.D., CSR, FADA, a renal dietitian and nutrition services manager at Satellite Dialysis, will talk about the best diet for all stages of kidney disease.

Autism: The Path To Understanding

Monday, Jan. 28, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
San Carlos Library
610 Elm Street, San Carlos

Presented by **Sarah Cheyette, M.D.**
PAMF Neurology, Pediatric Specialist

Please contact **Rhea Bradley** at **650-591-0341, extension 237**.



Join us for a look at how our understanding of autism has progressed over time. Dr. Cheyette will discuss the changes that have occurred over time in the care and treatment of those with autism spectrum disorders.



Project Read-Menlo Park offers tutor training

Project Read-Menlo Park has opened registration for its next tutor-training sessions for adults interested in volunteering to help other local adults learn to read.

The free training will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 5, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Wednesday, March 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

No prior teaching experience is needed to train as a tutor for the literacy program, which has taught English language skills to thousands of local residents over the last 27 years. The program supplies tutors with all materials, and tutors and their students are able to set their own schedule for their weekly sessions.

Project Read makes DVD training available to people who are interested in tutoring but who are unable to attend the training sessions.

Roberta Roth, literacy outreach specialist at the Menlo Park Library, said that the program now has 60 tutors matched with students, "but there are many (potential students) on our waiting list."

Ms. Roth said that there are more than 86,000 adults in San Mateo County with "extremely limited" literacy skills, which limits their ability to help their children with homework, complete job applications, and even read instructions on a medicine bottle. "Project Read-Menlo Park is working to change that," she said.

Tutor training will take place in the downstairs meeting room of the Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St. in the Civic Center. People interested in becoming tutors should call the Project Read office at 330-2525, or email Alice Bradshaw at aabradshaw@menlopark.org.

ROSS

continued from page 10

the built environment and the natural environment, he added.

Architects have issues, too, Mr. Ross said, summing it up in a sentence: "I lose money on projects in Portola Valley because I can never quite explain to the client why it takes so many meetings or why we have had to revise stuff." An applicant's budget can be strained by revisions, some of which the ASCC makes necessary. "I think professional designers appreciate that phenomenon better than the project owners do, and that can make life difficult for the applicants," he said. "It's a tricky position for the architect."

The ASCC can choose to insert itself when interests clash by bringing up options for the applicant, Mr. Ross said. "It's hard for a panel to (acknowledge) budget constraints." It's not the ASCC's mission to help people save money, but one worthy goal is predictability, he added.

Rurality and farming

In a Web search for images

triggered by the word "rural," virtually all 420 images shown on the first page were of agricultural scenes.

"Compared to San Francisco, Portola Valley is rural," Mr. Ross said, but what Portola Valley actually preserves are elements of "rural character," by which he said he meant open spaces, horses, chickens and a natural landscape.

Nicholas Targ, a new member of the Planning Commission, has made a distinction between aesthetic rural and working rural. Asked to comment, Mr. Ross noted that a "strong tension" between those two ideas can develop in a town like Portola Valley.

Some vegetable farming and a vineyard are proposed for part of the field at 555 Portola Road, a space treasured by some residents for its aesthetically rural scenic qualities. A "boutique vegetable farm ... for some people, might violate the rural character of Portola Valley," Mr. Ross said, but he does not count himself among them. "It's a perfect fit," he said. "That's what happens in a rural community, is farming." ■



Good for Business. Good for You.
Good for the Community.



The 2011 women's varsity rowing team for Norcal Crew.

Photo by Hal Schectman

Norcal Crew seeks new applicants

Norcal Crew, a nonprofit dedicated to the sport of rowing, is accepting applicants for both its competitive and recreational programs. Located at the Port of Redwood City, Norcal works with students in grades 9 through 12 in its competitive program and grades 6 through 12 in its recreational program.

The rowing season runs from September to May, with the primary racing season in the spring. About 100 high school students are currently enrolled, many from the Menlo Park and Atherton area, said Norcal Executive Director Allison Frykman.

Practices vary by team but are generally from 4 to 6:30 p.m. five times a week and Saturdays

morning. The fees are \$3,100 per school year. For those in the recreational program, cost is pro-rated based on attendance. For example, a student who rows only one day a week pays \$600 for the season.

No rowing experience is necessary to join Norcal, says Ms. Frykman. There are no height or weight restrictions. The best way to register, she says, is to come to the boatyard at 4 p.m. and talk to one of the Norcal coaches. Norcal houses its equipment at the Bair Island Aquatic Center's boathouse in the Port of Redwood City.

Norcal Crew was founded 13 years ago by Mike Still, who rowed for UCLA and was a member of the 1992 Olympic

team. Ms. Frykman started her rowing career in Norcal's first year and completed her collegiate years as a member of Stanford University's women's rowing team. The coaching staff includes veteran rowers and coaches with experience from William and Mary, UC Berkeley, Purdue, Fordham and Yale.

Norcal has graduates who are rowing, or have rowed, for Stanford, Georgetown, UCLA, UC Berkeley, USC, the University of Washington, and Harvard, says Norcal parent Eric Warner of Woodside. His daughter, Makayla Warner, a senior at Woodside High School, has rowed for Norcal for five years.

Visit norcalcrew.org for more information.



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Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES FROM PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY. EDITED BY TOM GIBBONEY

Unmasking those behind anonymous political ads

Midpeninsula residents have not seen a flood of anonymous campaign ads other than those aimed at statewide issues, but nevertheless, we believe it is a positive step to require backers of such advertising to be identified for all to see.

That is the purpose of a bill already introduced in the Legislature by incoming state Sen. Jerry Hill, a former Assembly Democrat whose Senate district includes most of San Mateo County, and his colleague, state Sen. Mark Leno of San Francisco, also a Democrat. Aptly titled the DISCLOSE Act, the bill would require all political advertising, whether on television, radio, in print or on the Web, to disclose the top funders of the ads.

Such a bill would shine light on campaigns like the one in the last election by anonymous out-of-state donors attacking Gov. Jerry Brown's sales tax proposal, Proposition 30. By simply requiring disclosure, the proposed bill would not run afoul of the Supreme Court's infamous Citizens United decision, which declared that corporations have the same First Amendment rights as ordinary citizens and cannot be restricted from spending unlimited amounts of money to influence elections.

Sen. Hill said in a statement that "this legislation is vital to protecting the integrity of our democratic process and

ensuring fair elections in our state." He added, "After seeing billions of dollars flow into elections across our country after the Citizens United decision, we need the DISCLOSE Act. Now more than ever."

Trent Lange, president of the California Clean Money Campaign, which backs the bill, said the legislation would replace the currently required fine-print disclosures with full-screen listings of the top three funders and links to committee websites for more information. And the bill would require that those listed as funders are actual individual, corporate or union contributors, not "sham non-profits" or misleading committee names.

Sen. Leno said the bill is needed due to the large sums of money spent by unnamed organizations in the most recent election.

"The only way to stop this covert financing of campaigns is to require the simple and clear disclosure of the top three funders of political ads so voters can make well-informed decisions at the ballot box," he said.

This legislation would protect local voters and others around the state from the flood of money from undisclosed sources that has become so much a part of our state and national elections. It is time to put a stop to it and this legislation will help do the job.

EDITORIAL

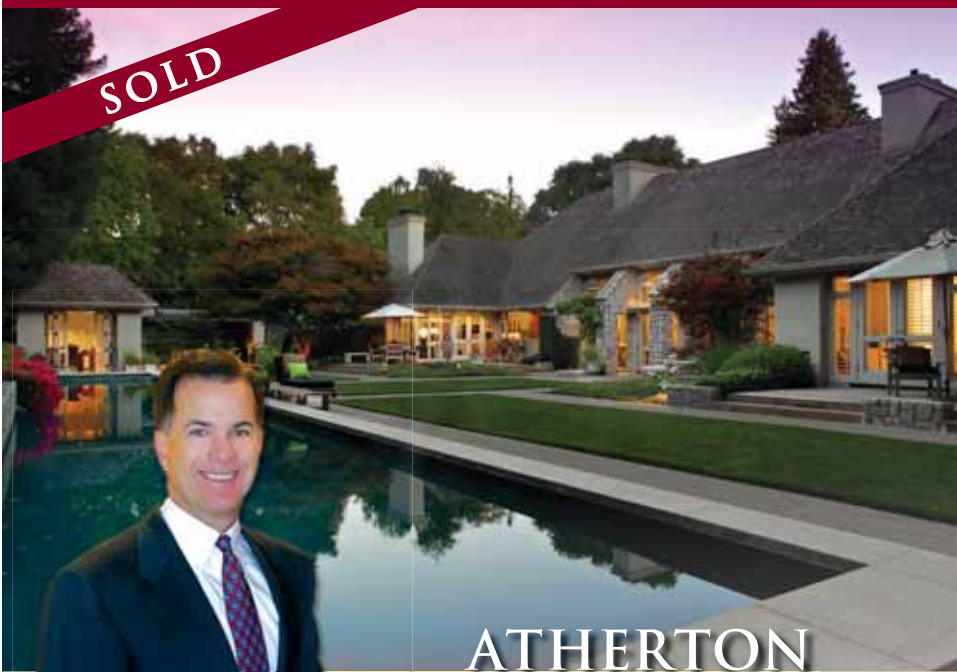
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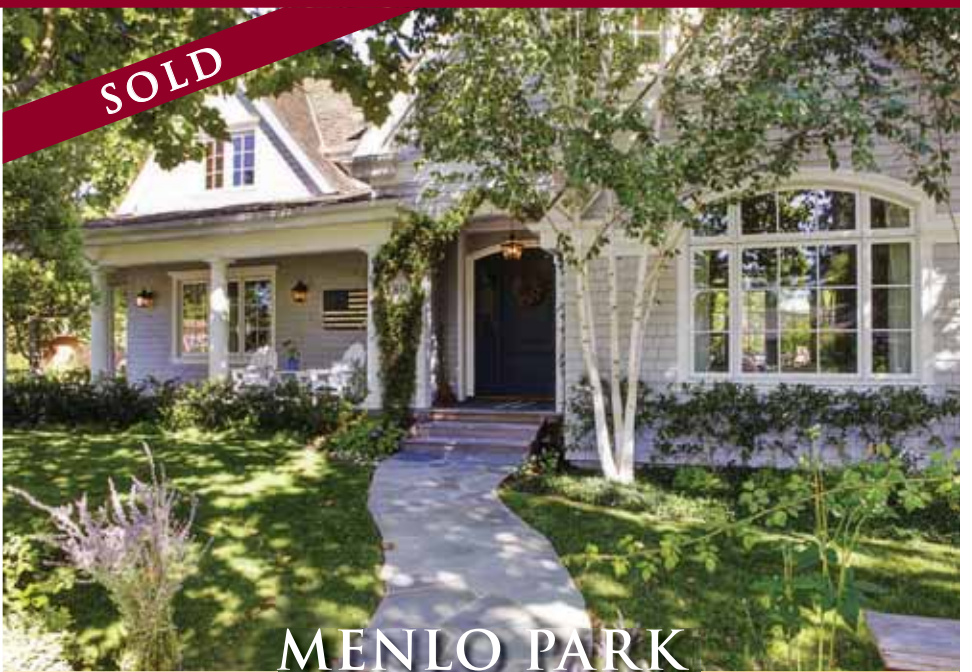
Atherton Heritage Association

Our Regional Heritage

Cedric Lussier was 20 years old in 1944, but had already earned a reputation for bravery as an Army Air Corps pilot in World War II. A Menlo Park resident, when he returned home he had completed 92 missions in his P-47 and won numerous medals, including the Silver Star and Purple Heart. Mr. Laussier, right, later became a longtime member of the Circus Club and helped compile a book published by the club in 2004 about its members' experiences in World War II.



ATHERTON



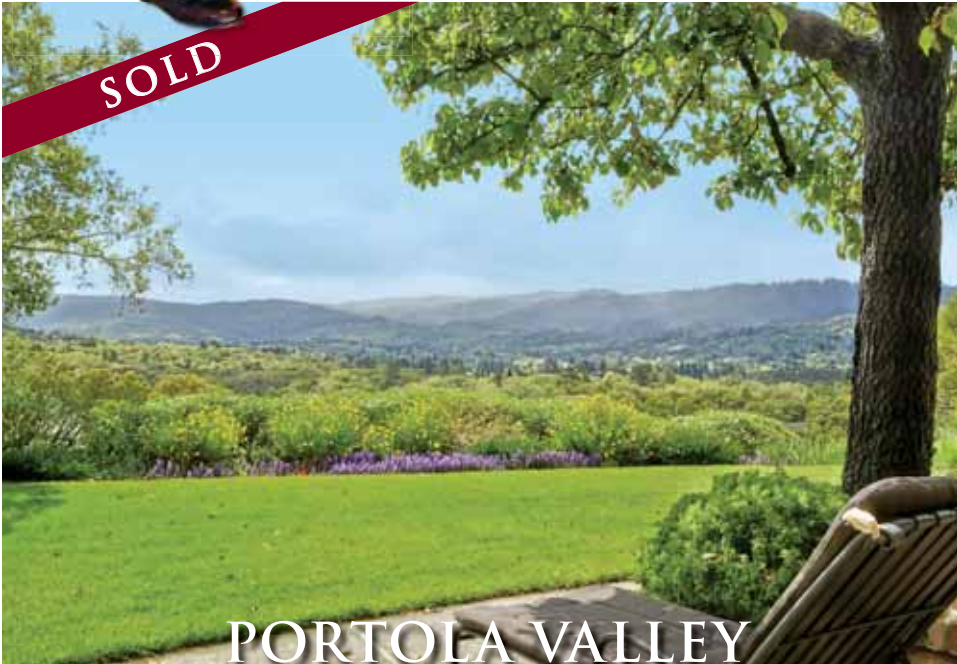
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