

DA says his office should not have  
dismissed case against Menlo cop | Page 3

# The Almanac

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

JANUARY 30, 2013 | VOL. 48 NO. 22



WWW.THEALMANACONLINE.COM



## On the edge

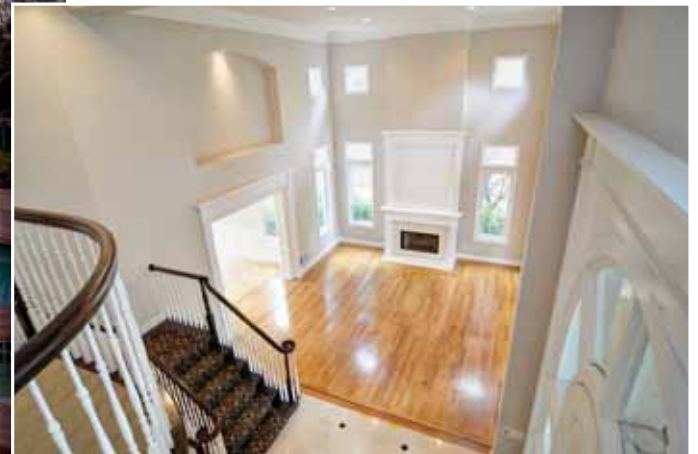
In places where being female  
is dangerous, a Menlo Park  
photographer finds courage  
and dignity | Section 2



Classic Atherton Estate

ATHERTON

**OFFERED AT \$4,795,000**



Premier Location  
with Approved Plans

WOODSIDE

**OFFERED AT \$7,500,000**



Artist's Rendering

[www.scottdancer.com](http://www.scottdancer.com)



**Scott Dancer**

650.888.8199

[scott@scottdancer.com](mailto:scott@scottdancer.com)

DRE# 00868362

2969 Woodside Road  
Woodside, CA 94062



# DA says his office should not have dismissed case against Menlo cop

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

“We made a mistake in this case,” said Santa Clara County District Attorney Jeff Rosen. “We should not have dismissed the soliciting prostitution charge against the police officer.

“While this case was not dismissed to protect the officer, I have spoken with the prosecutor who made that decision. He now realizes he made an error. While no one likes unfavorable media coverage, I appreciate the media coverage in this case because it brought the mistake to light and allowed me to educate and correct our staff moving forward.”

The Almanac broke the story that veteran Menlo Park police officer Jeffrey Vasquez faced a misdemeanor criminal charge in 2011 after Sunnyvale police caught him naked in a motel room with a woman reportedly hired through “My Redbook,” a website listing local escorts and their phone numbers. Both Officer Vasquez and Natalia Ramirez admitted they were engaging in prostitution, according to court records, then pleaded not guilty.

The outcome of the case raised as many eyebrows as the circumstances of the offense. Prosecutors discovered the day of Ms. Ramirez’s trial — July 11, 2011 — that the officer who interviewed her wasn’t available to testify due to a family crisis. Ms. Ramirez had not waived time, leaving prosecutors only 10 days to decide whether enough evidence remained without that key testimony, according to Deputy District Attorney Rob Baker, who supervised the case. His team concluded they couldn’t prove the case against her — a decision that then led to dismissing the case against Officer Vasquez as well.

District Attorney Rosen agreed that the investigating officer’s testimony was essential, but challenged the decision to immediately drop the case.

“The case should not have been dismissed. Because police officers enforce the law, they should be held to a high standard,” Mr. Rosen said, without going into specifics as to what options the prosecution had.

He implemented a policy change as a result: From now on, all cases involving law enforcement officers as defendants will go to Assistant District Attorney Marc Buller for review.

Public criticism that the investigating officer was conveniently absent only for the Ramirez-Vasquez cases appears unfounded. While helping his wife through a life-threatening illness, the Sunnyvale officer received four subpoenas during July and August 2011, and testified in none of those cases, according to police department data: He was unavailable for two cases, the defendant pleaded guilty in the third, and the fourth case — the prosecution of Ms. Ramirez — was dismissed.

The officer did return to the stand four months later, in November 2011.

## Hard numbers

It’s surprisingly difficult to learn how many police officers in Menlo Park, as well as throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, have faced prosecution. The district attorney offices don’t track that data, although Santa Clara County, at least, intends to start.

“We do not have the technical capability to answer this question comprehensively,” said spokesman Sean Webby. “You’ve raised an important issue. The District Attorney has directed staff to study improving our data system so that we will be able to identify such cases more easily in the future.”

San Mateo County, on the other hand, is not so inclined.

“We definitely do not keep statistics on the number of officers prosecuted,” said District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe. “We have prosecuted numerous officers over the last few years for

both felonies and misdemeanors ranging from drunk driving to theft to felony assault. But we do not keep a list of those prosecutions.”

The Brady list kept by each county provides scant data to the public. In 1963 the U.S. Supreme Court, in Brady v. Maryland, ruled that prosecutors must disclose exculpatory evidence to the defense, including misconduct by a police officer who might be called as a witness in a case if that misconduct could discredit or impeach the officer’s testimony.

As in other jurisdictions, San Mateo County maintains a confidential “Brady list” of police officers charged or convicted of an offense, and discloses that information to the defense in cases where an officer facing charges or serving probation will be called as a witness.

Mr. Wagstaffe said “there are under 10 officers presently employed and working in this county on the Brady list.” He noted that during his 36 years at the district attorney’s office, “we have had dozens of officers who engaged in conduct we deemed Brady and disclosable.”

## No city records?

Officer Vasquez returned to his job with the Menlo Park police department after an arbitrator overturned the city’s decision to fire him.

The Almanac asked the city how many current police officers have criminal records, and how many officers were fired during the past 10 years.

The city refused to answer, saying that no such record exists.

“This request for statistics would require the City to physically review individual records/personnel files and create documents that do not exist. The records themselves are confidential personnel information which we are required to maintain as such,” said Gina Donnelly, human resources

See **MENLO COP**, page 6



## An accurate financial snapshot includes your home’s value.

Whether you are a potential seller or updating your financial profile... a current assessment of your home’s value is an important component.

Please give me a call for more information.

**STEVE GRAY** REALTOR

650-743-7702

DRE# 01498634

sgray@cbnocal.com

PeninsulaSpecialist.com



**EYE CARE NEWS**



Presented by  
**Mark Schmidt**  
Licensed Optician



### MAKING ACCOMMODATION

The focusing mechanism of the eye is a constant source of fascination. The ciliary muscles (which change the shape of the eye lens) remain fairly relaxed when the eye is focusing at objects in the distance. Focusing on nearby objects, however, requires more focusing power, which is facilitated by ciliary-muscle contraction. Unfortunately, like all muscles in the body, ciliary muscle strength ebbs as we age. In addition, the eye lens becomes increasingly inflexible. As a result, mature adults begin to

experience “presbyopia” or age-related loss of near focusing power, as early as age 45. Reading glasses help bring print back into focus.

Do you have trouble reading the print in newspapers or on computer screens? If yes, you’re not alone. Although our eyes change as we get older, today’s thin, lightweight lenses help us see near, far, and in-between without compromising our appearance. Bring your eyewear prescription to MENLO OPTICAL at 1166 University Drive, on the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and University Drive, where you’ll find a variety of fashion frames from top designers. We can help you select frames that flatter your appearance and enhance your personal style. Please call us 322-3900.

P.S. Because close work requires constant accommodation through muscular effort, “eye-strain” often results as fatigue sets into the ciliary muscle.

Mark Schmidt is an American Board of Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners Certified Optician licensed by the Medical Board of California. He can be easily reached at Menlo Optical, 1166 University Drive, Menlo Park. 650-322-3900.



## Menlo Park Dental Excellence

ChauLong Nguyen Dental Corporation

*Our caring and compassionate doctor and staff are devoted to improve and maintain the highest quality of oral health by continuing education and state-of-the-art procedures*



Dr. ChauLong Nguyen,  
DDS, MAGD

### We provide:

- Comprehensive dental treatment
- Implant & prosthetics
- Cosmetic dentistry
- Incredibly beautiful and comfortable dentures

Our beautiful and new facility features the latest and most comfortable technologies: Digital x-rays, Computerized anesthetic, Laser gum therapy & cavity removal, CAD-CAM CEREC 3D porcelain crowns & fillings in one visit.

(650) 838-0260

724 Oak Grove Avenue, Suite 120, Menlo Park

Visit our website:  
[www.mpdentalexcellence.com](http://www.mpdentalexcellence.com)

We take care of one patient at a time, no double or triple booking. Call and schedule your appointment today!

## CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

Newsroom: **223-6525**  
Newsroom fax: **223-7525**  
Advertising: **854-2626**  
Advertising fax: **854-3650**  
Classified ads: **854-0858**

- E-mail news, information, obituaries and photos (with captions) to:  
[editor@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:editor@AlmanacNews.com)
- E-mail letters to the editor to:  
[letters@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:letters@AlmanacNews.com)

To request free delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call **854-2626**.

**THE ALMANAC** (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, The Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. Subscriptions for \$60 per year or \$100 per 2 years are welcome. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Copyright ©2012 by Embarcadero Media, All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.



# ANTIQUE CARPET SALE



Antique Sultanabad | Central Persia | 76" x 14'5" | ~~\$55,000~~ Sale: \$16,000

*Featuring the World Class Collection of a Famous Collector and Palo Alto Resident*



Antique Khorasan  
Northeast Persia | 10'4" x 13'  
~~\$40,000~~ Sale: \$18,500



Antique Sultanabad  
Central Persia | 8'3" x 10'9"  
~~\$24,500~~ Sale: \$13,800



Antique Serapi  
Northwest Persia | 9'8" x 10'8"  
~~\$30,000~~ Sale: \$16,500



Antique Farahan  
Central Persia | 8'11" x 11'3"  
~~\$22,500~~ Sale: \$10,800



Antique Agra  
India | 7'10" x 9'8"  
~~\$17,500~~ Sale: \$9,450



WORLD'S FINEST CARPETS AND TAPESTRIES

532 Ramona Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301 | Phone: 650.326.7900 | Open 7 days a week, 10AM-6PM | [www.pejmancarpet.com](http://www.pejmancarpet.com)

# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## POST protects 1,000 more acres of open space

The Peninsula Open Space Trust is richer in open space by nearly 1,000 acres after spending about \$13.6 million for three tracts of land in San Mateo County on the western side of the Santa Cruz mountains.

The new acquisitions, made in December, put the Palo Alto-based POST about halfway toward its goal of protecting 20,000 acres of remaining redwood forest in the Santa Cruz mountains. A five-year fundraising initiative called the Heart of the Redwoods Campaign has secured 9,700 acres since 2011, according to POST.

“Development and subdivision pose a serious threat not only to the health and longevity of our coastal redwood forests, but to our entire region’s ecosystem,” said POST President Walter T. Moore. “If we can connect isolated islands of protected open space into a resilient network of open lands, we will be able to secure and create a vibrant ecosystem for Silicon Valley.”

Now protected from development and subdivision are La Honda properties Alpine Ranch and Driscoll Orchards, 353 acres and 318 acres respectively, and

Butano Crest East and West, 320 acres near Pescadero.

Alpine Ranch shares borders with Pescadero Creek and Sam McDonald county parks and includes habitats for the California red-legged frog, the San Francisco garter snake, the San Mateo woolly sunflower, and steelhead trout — a sojourning species that spends its adult life in the ocean and returns to its native creek to spawn.

“When I bought Alpine Ranch (in 1975), it was the beauty of the land and its great expanse that inspired love at first sight,” said Deborah Ettinger in the POST announcement about the acquisition. “I never felt like I was its owner — I was its caretaker. The most important thing to me was to keep the ranch intact. The transfer into POST’s care is the right thing at the right time.”

In Butano Crest, the habitats include chaparral, grassland, old growth redwoods and areas of Santa Cruz cypress and Anderson’s manzanita. An endangered sea bird, the marbled murrelet, may nest in Butano’s coastsides redwoods, POST said.

Driscoll Orchards includes a small apple orchard as well as low-lying oaks, grasslands,



Photo by Larry William © 2012

On a frosty morning, the pond at Alpine Ranch in La Honda reflects nearby redwoods and mixed forest. The 353-acre ranch, which connects with Sam McDonald County Park, was recently protected as open space by the Peninsula Open Space Trust.

coastal scrub and a “spectacular” redwood grove, according to POST. This purchase involved a \$1 million grant from a collaboration of five land trusts that includes POST, and sup-

port from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, which also lent POST \$6.2 million for the acquisition, POST said.

“My dad’s goal,” said Rudy Driscoll Jr., “was always to keep this property as open space. That’s why we decided to sell to POST. It’s wonderful now to see my dad’s dream completed.”

## Woodside joins ban on plastic bags at checkout counters

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

To encourage the use of reusable shopping bags, Woodside will join other local towns and follow the lead of San Mateo County government in banning single-use plastic bags at retail checkout counters starting on Earth Day (April 22, 2013). Retailers may continue to use plastic bags for certain items, such as food to go, prescription drugs and produce. Customers without bags of their own will pay 10 cents for a paper bag.

After a vigorous discussion on whether to include that fee in Woodside’s law, the Town Council voted 4-2 on Jan. 22 to introduce the ordinance, with councilmen Tom Shanahan

and Peter Mason dissenting, and Councilman Dave Burow absent. Barring major changes, the council may formally adopt the law at its next meeting.

The council had been considering adopting the county’s ordinance in its entirety, but balked at the idea of requiring merchants to keep a record of paper bags sold.

The merchants in town have been cooperative, Town Manager Kevin Bryant has said, and the proposed law has long had the support of the California Grocers Association.

During the public hearing, Judy Sieber, who owns the downtown gift store Emily Joubert Home & Garden, held an elegant gray paper bag with logos and white handles as she argued against

**Menlo Park and Portola Valley also join the ban.**  
Page 8.

See BAGS, page 8

## Town creates affordable housing panel

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

**New committee**

Affordable housing was a key topic again at the Portola Valley Town Council meeting Jan. 23 as the council tentatively discussed whether the town should look at transferring its housing obligation to another town. The council is forming a new committee of community volunteers to review affordable housing issues.

State mandates, updated every seven years, require all communities to provide housing that has the effect of establishing an economically diverse population.

The council voted 4-0, with Councilman Jeff Aalfs absent, to accept the allotted numbers of new affordable homes the town must plan for between 2014 and 2022. A staff report shows an allot-

ment of 21 and 15 homes, respectively, for very-low- and low-income individuals and families — usually addressed by secondary units

**Council tentatively discusses an option to transfer its housing obligation to another town.**

— and 15 homes for moderate income, which the county defines as \$86,000 for an individual and \$123,000 for a family of four.

Town Planner Tom Vlastic and his assistant Karen Kristiansson described these housing numbers as rational and reasonable.

Portola Valley’s Affordable Housing Ad-Hoc Committee will meet on seven Tuesday evenings, starting in mid-February. A progress report is due in March and a final report due in mid-May. Interested applicants are asked to send letters to: Mayor John Richards at Town Hall, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028.

After Mayor Richards, with the council’s approval, chooses the members of the committee — at least five and no more than nine — its job will be to think about and discuss: a) whether there is a need in town for homes for people of low and moderate incomes, b) a mission statement that would address the relevant legal requirements, c) ways to reconcile the town’s

See HOUSING, page 12

SINCE 1889  
**ROBERTS**  
MARKET

Meat & Produce • Fine Foods  
Wine & Liquor • Delicatessen  
Hardware & Grain

Open 6:30 am - 8:00 pm daily  
Sales Dates: January 30 - February 1,2, 2013





## PORTOLA VALLEY

4420 Alpine Rd., Portola Valley  
phone 650.851.1711

## WOODSIDE

3015 Woodside Rd., Woodside  
phone 650.851.1511

### Fresh Produce

	Large Hass Avocados .....	\$1.49 <sup>ER</sup> Ea.	
	Large Fuji Apples .....	\$1.49 <sup>ER</sup> Lb.	
	Russet Potatoes Best for baking or mashing...	49¢ <sup>ER</sup> Lb.	

### Meat and Seafood

	Chicken Drumettes .....	\$4.49 <sup>ER</sup> Lb.	
	Schwarz Brand Skinless Franks .....	\$5.49 <sup>ER</sup> Lb.	
	Schwarz Brand Fresh Bockwurst .....	\$6.49 <sup>ER</sup> Lb.	

### On Sale Grocery

Corona Extra Cerveza Plus Calif. Redeem Value .....	\$12.49 <sup>ER</sup> 12 Oz. 12-Pack	
White Castle Cheeseburgers .....	\$3.49 <sup>ER</sup> 11 Oz.	
Alouette Garlic & Herb Cheese .....	\$3.49 <sup>ER</sup> 6 Oz.	
La Panzanella Croccantini .....	\$3.49 <sup>ER</sup> 8 Oz.	
Planters Dry Roasted Peanuts .....	\$3.49 <sup>ER</sup> 16 Oz.	

### Deli Department

#### BEAT THE SUPER BOWL FEVER - WITH ONE OF OUR NEW SANDWICHES

The 49er – Crab Melt Crab Salad with Cheddar Cheese on Sliced Sourdough Bread .....	\$8.00 Ea.
— OR —	
The Raven Black Jack Tri Tip with Muenster Cheese on a French Roll .....	\$8.00 Ea.
Both Sandwiches are Panini Pressed – Both Comes with Condiments of Choice Look for Other Game Day Fare in Our Deli Case	

### Wine and Spirits

#### Winter Red Bargains

Its cold at night! What better than a nice glass of red wine to warm your belly. Here are a few great wines that offer serious quality at "bargain" prices.

2010 Altos de la Hoya, Monastrell, Jumilla .....	Reg. \$10.99 .....	Sale \$9.49
2010 Col del Mondo "Sunnae", Montepulciano D'Abruzzo .....	Reg. \$10.99 .....	Sale \$9.49
2009 Lange Twins Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, Lodi .....	Reg. \$12.99 .....	Sale \$10.99
2010 Petit Bourgeois, Cabernet Franc, Loire .....	Reg. \$12.99 .....	Sale \$10.99
2010 Aruma Malbec, Mendoza .....	Reg. \$16.49 .....	Sale \$12.99

Sale prices are not and do not qualify for volume discounts.  
Call Bob or John at (650) 851-2640 to reserve some of these wines for you.

{ [www.robertsmarket.com](http://www.robertsmarket.com) }

## Ed Davis, former Portola Valley councilman, dies

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Ed Davis, a man of reliable bonhomie and sharp intellect, departed the Portola Valley Town Council in 2007 after eight years behind the dais, and now he has departed the town. Mr. Davis died of lymphoma on Friday evening, Jan. 25, at home in Portola Valley Ranch, Lynne Davis, his wife, told the Almanac. He was 79.

"We knew that this was coming. He died sooner than I thought he would and sooner that he thought he would," Ms. Davis said. "He was always upbeat, always positive." Mr. Davis had morphine available but resisted using it, Ms. Davis added. "He never complained. Never. ... Even though it was sooner than I thought, it was probably for the best."

A memorial service at Town Center is in the planning stages but a date has not yet been set, Ms. Davis said. Emailed notes from friends and associates have been arriving in her inbox. "I'm saving all those, of course, to read them again, and again," she said.

The couple met at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, where they both obtained undergraduate degrees, and have been married 58 years, Ms. Davis said.

Mr. Davis' career as an engineer included a doctorate in electrical engineering from Stanford University and many years at IBM Corp. in Poughkeepsie, New York, where he led a division of 90,000 people in developing and producing mainframe computers, according to a 1999 Almanac story by Marion Softky on Mr. Davis' election to the council.

He left IBM in 1987 to lead a state-run center for innovation in Virginia and stayed for two years before retiring again and coming back to the West Coast. The Center for Innovative Technology formed 60 companies in a year, and "half were successful," Mr. Davis told the Almanac in 1999.

The couple moved to Portola Valley from Woodside in 1991, and Mr. Davis joined the Planning Commission shortly thereafter. Councilman Ted Driscoll said he recalled recruiting Mr. Davis for the job.

"Ed was very, very cool and rational," Mr. Driscoll said. "He was the kind of person who looked at the data. He committed a significant percent of his life the last 20 years and never got a penny for it. ... It was wonderful, what he did."

"Portola Valley has lost a unique and beloved civic leader with the passing of Ed Davis," Councilwoman Ann Wengert said in an email. "Ed was a man of great wisdom, intelligence and strongly held values that he brought to his work in the public sector. Ed's energy was prodigious and his generosity abundant. His wicked sense of humor and irony were infectious.

"With a wry smile on his face, Ed required that one be informed, thoughtful, and convincing in debating an issue," Ms. Wengert continued. "One never came away from a debate with Ed feeling as if you'd not been heard or your arguments not considered. He had an ease and facility with people, situations and issues that made him a natural-born leader who treated those he dealt with fairly and as equals.

"Portola Valley was the fortunate beneficiary of Ed Davis' years of inspired and dedicated service to our community. His contributions to his beloved town were invaluable and he will be greatly missed."

Ms. Davis was a longtime member of the Trails and Paths Committee. "There are a lot of people who live in Portola Valley their entire lives and never get involved," Mr. Driscoll said. Mr. and Ms. Davis "are the kind of citizens who are exemplary." ■



Ed Davis

#### MENLO COP

continued from page 3

director for Menlo Park, in an email on Jan 24.

Legal counsel for the California Newspaper Publishers Association said it's hard to believe no document, such as an annual report to city man-

agement on employee disciplinary actions, exists.

CNPA attorney Jim Ewert said: "If they claim that they don't track this, then the issue becomes why not? The city has tremendous exposure to liability for the acts of their employees who carry guns, and they don't keep track?" ■

## Home sells for \$117.5 million

A Woodside estate on Mountain Home Road sold for \$117.5 million in November, according to SFLuxe.com.

This makes it the most expensive private residence in the state, and the price may be the second highest price paid for a home in the U.S., the website said.

The 8,930-square-foot neo-

### WOODSIDE

classical home, built in 2005 and designed by architect Allan Greenberg, has four bedrooms, four and a half bathrooms, and is situated on an 8.99-acre property, according to redfin.com.

SFLuxe.com said it was

unable to disclose information about the new owner, but the estate was previously owned by Tully Friedman of the investment firm, Friedman, Fleischer and Lowe LLC, based in San Francisco.

Visit [tinyurl.com/Home-117](http://tinyurl.com/Home-117) for more information and photos from SFLuxe.com.

## Colleagues question mayor's call for collaborative spirit

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Two City Council colleagues have called into question the sincerity of Atherton Mayor Elizabeth Lewis' statement last month sounding the call for a more collaborative council after Ms. Lewis bypassed them for all committee appointments they had requested.

Appointed in December by her colleagues to a one-year term as mayor, Ms. Lewis had urged council members to "put aside personal agendas," and emphasized the need for more civility on the council, which for years had been marked by public bickering and the exchange of accusations of bad faith.

"I am greatly saddened by the mayor's committee assignments," Councilman Jim Dobbie said in a written statement read, in his absence, by Councilman Bill Widmer at the Jan. 16 council meeting. "She has deliberately excluded from all the important Atherton and relevant committees the two council members who have the most successful business experience."

Mr. Widmer followed his colleague's statement with his own, saying he was disappointed that he wasn't assigned to any committee or regional agency he had requested, and was placed on regional committees he found meaningless or couldn't serve on because of his schedule.

The mayor traditionally appoints two council members to each major town committee at the beginning of each year. One alternative is also appointed. Council members are also appointed to represent the town on regional agencies, such as

the City/County Association of Governments and the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

Council members Dobbie and Widmer were particularly peeved at having been left off the Audit/Finance Committee despite their current membership on it and their requests for reappointment. Mayor Lewis appointed herself and Vice Mayor Jerry Carlson, with new council member Cary Wiest named the alternative.

In his written statement, Mr. Dobbie said: "In the last two years Bill Widmer and myself have been key players in changing this town from a financially irresponsibly run administration gradually descending into bank-

### ATHERTON

ruptcy into an administration which is now running on normal business principles and is close to breakeven financially." Mr. Widmer, too, argued that he and Mr. Dobbie have the strongest financial backgrounds, and should have been allowed to continue their work on the committee.

But Mayor Lewis said in an email that there had been a tradition of the mayor and vice mayor sitting on the finance committee, and that Mr. Widmer broke that tradition last year when, as mayor, he appointed Mr. Dobbie rather than her. "In my judgment, the mayor and vice mayor should be on Finance," she said.

Mayor Lewis said she used her best judgment in making the appointments, and noted that the number of committees that council members serve on dropped from eight last year to only four this year — meaning

there were only eight seats to fill rather than 16.

Mr. Widmer noted, however, that with eight spots to fill "you'd think that each (of the five) council members could have been given one seat" that he specifically requested.

Council members Widmer and Dobbie were assigned seats on one committee only: the Environmental Programs Committee. Mr. Wiest, the only council member who requested that committee, was appointed the alternate.

Mayor Lewis, Mr. Carlson and Mr. Wiest, who is serving his first term, were each assigned seats on two committees.

Former council member Kathy McKeithen also took aim at Mayor Lewis at the meeting. Citing the mayor's call for greater transparency and a more collaborative council, Ms. McKeithen said the committee assignments didn't support the mayor's words, and instead represented a "personal vendetta" against two council members who often were on different sides of an issue from Ms. Lewis and Mr. Carlson.

In her email, Mayor Lewis said that not everyone gets the appointment he or she requests. "... (T)ruthfully, my personal experience over the past four years was that I did not get the assignments I wanted; however, I accepted the assignments (and) proceeded to serve as requested."

One example, she said, was when she was denied her request in 2010 to be reappointed to the Transportation Committee. Then-mayor McKeithen, she said, "denied my request" and replaced her with Mr. Dobbie.

Mayor Lewis said she wished Mr. Widmer had talked to her before the meeting if he was unhappy with the appointments. ▀

## Gun buyback nets 680 firearms

A gun buyback event in San Mateo on Saturday collected more than 680 firearms, including 24 assault weapons, 338 hand guns and 371 long guns, according to Congresswoman

Jackie Speier.

A total of \$63,500 was handed out at the event, which took place at the San Mateo Event Center. Gun owners were offered up to \$100 cash for handguns, shotguns

or rifles and up to \$200 for assault weapons, no questions asked.

Officials also collected a 100-round capacity magazine, 30-round capacity magazines, a sawed-off shotgun and a street sweeper.

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### Move Up, Move Down, Move Over

**Dear Monica: I am ready to move from my long-time home where I raised my family. I would like to find a smaller property in the same community, if possible. Since I haven't moved in a very long time, do you have any advice on how I should proceed?** Linda V.

Dear Linda: You are typical of one of the growing trends in home-buying. The generation that is near retirement age, who has lived in larger homes in nice communities, want to downsize, and still live in the same general area to be near friends, family and familiar activities. There are several things you should do. First, consult a realtor who can tell you the value of your home and advise you on the current market. You may need to make repairs and generally spruce up your property to be ready

when it is time to sell. Along with this you should also have your realtor show you the areas where there are the kind of properties you are looking for. Think carefully about where you want to be and what kind of home you want to live in. There are other issues too that you should be aware of such as Prop. 60, which allows you to move your property tax base to a place of equal or lesser value than the home you are selling and Prop. 90 which allows you to do the same thing if you move to a select number of other counties.

Once you have decided where you want to be and have even found a property you like, you will be ready to put your home on the market. Fortunately, there is a large pool of buyers looking to move up to a larger home like yours in a good location, so you should be able to sell your home within a reasonably short time.

For answers to any questions you may have on real estate, you may e-mail me at [mcorman@apr.com](mailto:mcorman@apr.com) or call 462-1111, Alain Pinel Realtors. I also offer a free market analysis of your property. [www.MonicaCorman.com](http://www.MonicaCorman.com)

## Robert Jeremiah McSweeney

Oct. 27, 1920 – Jan. 16, 2013

Born in San Francisco. Graduate of St. Paul's school and Sacred Heart High School. Served in Merchant Marine in WWII and 38 years with the SF Newspaper Print Co. as District Manager. Married Margaret in 1947 and settled in Menlo Park. Married 65 years and survived by his loving wife Margaret, his sons Robert, Dennis and Kevin, two grandchildren, five great grandchildren and one greatgreatgrandson. Also survived by his brothers Neil and Bernard. Also special thanks to the Kaiser Palliative Care Team especially Allyson Fisch NP and Patricia Kenny NP.

PAID OBITUARY

January 28, 2013

WEEKLY REAL ESTATE REPORT

Reports available via the convenient QR code or at [PeninsulaSpecialist.com](http://PeninsulaSpecialist.com)

Real Estate Statistics Updated Weekly for

Atherton

Woodside

Portola Valley

Menlo Park

Offering 30+ years of local knowledge. Born in Menlo Park. Raised in Atherton. A Woodside resident.

STEVE GRAY

DRE# 01498634

650-743-7702

sgray@cbnorcal.com

# Menlo Park, too, bans plastic bags at checkout counter

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Earth Day (April 22) will see the end of single-use plastic bags at the checkout counter in Menlo Park. The City Council voted 5-0 to join the county in enacting a new ordinance banning the use of plastic bags by retailers, but made a few modifications to the law.

The changes include a new clause that allows the council to vote on whether to locally implement any changes San Mateo County makes in the future.

The county Board of Supervisors passed the ordinance in October 2012. The ban, prohibits the use of plastic bags by retailers, except those used by restaurants and for produce, and also implements a 10-cent fee for paper bags. On Jan. 1, 2015, the fee increases to 25 cents per paper bag and reusable bag provided to customers.

Retailers that fail to comply with the ban will be fined \$100 for a first violation and \$200 for a second. Starting with a third violation, a retailer will be fined \$500 each day the store remains non-compliant. The ordinance authorizes the county's environmental health department to enforce the ban.

Menlo Park, along with 24 other Peninsula cities, decided

last year to support the county's ordinance, in part to save the city the expense of conducting its own environmental review.

Although Councilwoman Cat Carlton had urged the city to consider allowing biodegradable bags, staff said their research indicated that those types of bags were likely to end up as litter, given the conditions required to break them down. Staff also cited a lack of regulated standards defining what counts as a biodegradable bag as a factor in not including that option.

Before casting her vote during the Jan. 22 council meeting, Ms. Carlton reiterated that compostable bags should be consid-

ered, saying that she was "not terribly happy" with the ordinance as is, but not "\$50,000 to \$75,000 (worth of) unhappy with it," referring to the cost to Menlo Park

for an environmental impact report should the city choose to write its own ordinance that conceivably could include biodegradable bags.

Council members Kirsten Keith and Peter Ohtaki agreed that the option was worth evaluating; Mayor Ohtaki said he would write a letter saying so to the county supervisors.

City staff will give free reusable bags to residents and retailers through July 1 to help with the transition. ■

**The council passes a modified version of the county ordinance.**

## Portola Valley also bans bags

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The Portola Valley Town Council unanimously agreed Jan. 23 to prohibit retailers in town from dispensing single-use plastic bags at checkout counters.

The law takes effect on Earth Day (April 22, 2013), and is identical to an ordinance set to go into effect on the same day in Ladera and Emerald Hills and other unincorporated communities of San Mateo County. Retailers may continue to use plastic bags for certain items, such as food to go, prescription drugs, fresh produce, and small parts from hardware stores.

Customers without bags of their own will have to buy a paper one — for 10 cents until Dec. 31, 2014, and 25 cents after that. People receiving food stamps are exempt, and retailers must keep records of the sale of paper bags. (The Woodside Town Council passed a similar ordinance on

Jan. 22, but without the record-keeping requirement.)

The county will be enforcing the ordinance. Fines start at \$100 and reach \$500 for the third and subsequent violations.

Portola Valley adopted its ordinance "by reference" to the county ordinance to take advantage of the extensive background work done by the county, including an environmental impact report (EIR) intended to discourage lawsuits by plastic bag manufacturers. The draft EIR projected a reduction of 34 percent county-wide in ground-level emissions that contribute to acid rain and ozone.

The decision was included in the council's consent calendar — a collection of actions meant to be approved with one vote because they are considered more or less settled. Individual items can be "pulled" from the calendar for further discussion, but the bag ban passed without comment from the council or the public. ■



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

**A** customer carries groceries in plastic bags in the Safeway parking lot in Sharon Heights.

## Woodside joins plastic-bag ban

**BAGS**

*continued from page 5*

charging for them. "I kind of use this as a gift, in a way," she said. "It feels a little IRS-ish to me. I think we have a very smart community and people are ecologically minded."

**Q&A**

The council had questions, and on hand to answer them was Mary Bell Austin of the county's Office of Environmental Health.

■ Do reusable bags carry bacteria? The county knows of one case involving a norovirus that may or may not have been on the outside of a paper bag, Ms. Bell Austin said. "There are a lot of vectors for disease. People are going to take care, the way they do with other things."

■ Will people pay the fees? They have in San Jose and San Francisco, Ms. Bell Austin said.

■ What happens if Woodside forgoes an ordinance? State and federal regulations about emissions targets would still apply. "This kind of thing would help us in meeting that target," Mr. Bryant said.

The council split on the fee. Fees work, Councilman Ron Romines said. Smokers respond to higher prices and bottle deposits don't seem problematic. "I think if you charge a fee on paper bags, you're going to see a lot more use of reusable bags," Mr. Romines said.

Mr. Mason called the incen-

**The council balked at requiring merchants to keep a record of paper bags sold.**

ative argument "ridiculous," adding that he doesn't consider deposit fees when buying beverages. "I'm not in favor of record keeping, the fees, anything," he said at one point.

Mayor Anne Kasten voted against the record keeping and for the fee, but reluctantly. "I take umbrage at the charge for the bag," she said. "I take great umbrage at the record keeping. I am personally pleased to see that we're moving. It puts a little stake in the ground."

Mr. Shanahan got philosophical. "I don't think I was

elected to the Town Council of Woodside to issue mandates and instructions to the people who live on my block and in my town," he said, then cited excess regulation as the reason Santa Clara-based Intel Corp. is building a plant in Arizona rather than California.

Councilwoman Deborah Gordon countered that regulations are important, that object lessons may be seen in the pollution and trash in Beijing and parts of Mongolia, and that Woodside's creeks used to be much dirtier. "I don't think we made all these changes by ourselves," she said. "It took some prodding by state government, by local government."

What if Woodside is the only community in the county without an ordinance, Mr. Mason asked at one point.

"Everybody will be coming here to shop!" remarked Councilman Ron Romines as the room erupted in laughter.

"It'll be a freedom zone," Mr. Shanahan said.

"When I go to Roberts Market," Mr. Shanahan remarked after the vote, "I'm going to wear a little tag that says 'I voted no.'" ■

## Menlo Park police investigate four cases of check fraud

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

After an unidentified man cashed a \$900 check at Bank of the West, the bank later discovered the check was fraudulent, according to Menlo Park police.

"It appears that the suspect had a check made up with the victim's account information and wrote

the check out to himself to cash it," police spokeswoman Nicole Acker said. "The suspect forged the signature of the victim. The suspect did not have an account with the bank."

The bank, located at 701 Santa Cruz Ave., reported the fraud to police around 4:45 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23. Three similar incidents — occurring

on Sept. 12, 2012; and Jan. 7 and Jan. 16, 2013 — came to light as police started investigating, according to the report. No further information was available at press time.

Police ask that anyone with information about these cases call Officer Victoria Trask at 330-6300 or the anonymous tip line at 330-3695. ■

## Contractor, CFO face felony charges for allegedly defrauding homeowner

The owner and the chief financial officer of a Palo Alto construction company have been charged with several felonies in a scheme that allegedly defrauded an Atherton homeowner, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

Richard James Smith, 54, who owned R.J. Smith & Associates, a California Avenue firm, and Tariel Gusseinov, former chief financial officer, allegedly fraudulently over-billed the homeowner by thousands of dollars and diverted money owed to a subcontractor of the project, the district attorney's office said.

Mr. Smith's company was contracted to perform a massive construction job on a Stock-

### ATHERTON

bridge Avenue home owned by Larry Lowry, according to court documents. But in 2009 and 2010, the company allegedly engaged in practices that included diversion of \$28,000 owed to subcontractor Plumbing & Things, inflated a subcontract by \$39,000 to Dimmers Electric and billed the victim for it, and had a fraudulent change-order that billed the victim for windows at \$5,000 more than the windows originally ordered and installed, according to the DA.

The total amount of alleged fraud has been estimated at \$400,000, according to Lt. Joe Wade of the Atherton Police

Department.

The alleged fraud came to light when fixtures from the subcontractor arrived late and the victim started communicating with the subcontractors. The victim then called the police, the DA's report said.

Mr. Smith, whose case came up for a court review conference on Jan. 23, faces three counts of larceny with grand theft and a count of fraud/forgery.

The case against Mr. Smith is set for a preliminary hearing on Feb. 28 in San Mateo County Superior Court. He is out of custody on \$75,000 bail.

Mr. Gusseinov's case is set for jury trial on March 11. He is out of custody on his own recognizance.

## Judge inclined to let Woodell's defamation lawsuit proceed

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

The defamation lawsuit against a Menlo Park fire board director will proceed if a San Mateo Superior Court judge stands by his tentative ruling.

"Plaintiff has demonstrated a probability of prevailing on his defamation claim," Judge Raymond Swope wrote in his tentative ruling, issued on Jan. 22.

John Woodell, husband of Menlo Park Councilwoman Kirsten Keith, sued fire board director Virginia Chang Kiraly and city resident Chuck Bernstein in October, alleging that the pair told the media, police and others that he'd vandalized campaign signs during the 2011 fire board election.

All parties agree that Ms. Chang Kiraly's campaign sign was mysteriously uprooted from Mr. Bernstein's yard. He later found the sign tossed into the bushes, lying near Mr. Woodell's cellphone.

Mr. Woodell denied vandalizing the sign. A court filing states that the plaintiff "can only speculate that he lost his phone while walking his dog" in the neighborhood where both the Woodells and Bernsteins live.

Seth Rosenberg of Minami Tamaki LLP, representing Mr. Woodell, said that to demonstrate the probability of prevailing on a defamation claim, "the plaintiff must present evidence

on every element of his claim that would allow a jury to find in his favor."

His objection to the order to dismiss included a declaration from firefighter John Wurdinger saying that the fire board director told him that "everyone knows that John Woodell is going around town vandalizing my signs."

Ms. Kiraly denied making such comments, according to court documents.

At this point in the pro-

### Tentative ruling denies motion to dismiss.

ceedings, "the court does not weigh credibility or comparative strength of the evidence," according to Mr. Rosenberg's filing. Instead, the court accepts "as true all evidence favorable to the plaintiff."

Mr. Woodell asked for attorney fees related to this portion of the proceedings, but the judge denied the request. According to Mr. Rosenberg, to recover the fees, the plaintiff would have had to demonstrate that the motion to dismiss the lawsuit was frivolous or intended to delay the case.

Attorneys Harmeet Dhillon and Krista Shoquist, representing Virginia Chang Kiraly, filed the motion to dismiss on Nov. 26, describing the suit as "a friv-

olous lawsuit that, on its face, both violates the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and is fatally defective as a pleading."

They argue that Mr. Woodell's public participation in the fire board campaign and standing as an elected member of the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee makes him a public figure, meaning that the plaintiff must prove actual malice to win a defamation claim.

Mr. Woodell's attorney, on the other hand, argues that the Menlo Park resident is a private figure, as he was not an elected official at the time of the fire board election.

The parties will present their arguments before Judge Swope sometime this spring.

"If the tentative ruling stands, the San Mateo court would essentially be making new law," said Dhillon, who is representing Ms. Kiraly. "We are unaware of a single reported opinion in the California courts holding that speech this closely tied to a hotly contested election — particularly where the plaintiff is a leading elected figure in one party and a defendant is a leading elected figure in the other party — can be the subject of the defamation lawsuit. The California Courts of Appeal have repeatedly ruled that such speech between or concerning political campaigns and figures is protected under the First Amendment."

She said that they will immediately appeal the judge's decision should he deny the motion to dismiss the lawsuit. ■

## Great time to sell

The Median Sale price of a home in Portola Valley in the previous year was \$2,214,000

**Explosive Marketing and Advertising to get YOU the highest sales price.**

-Third Generation Realtor and Portola Valley Native

-The Skrabo's are a founding family of Portola Valley



**Matt Skrabo**  
Realtor

650-804-6673

matt@mattskrabo.com

www.mattskrabo.com

Dre# 01910597

Call or Email Matt to find out how to attract the savvy Palo Alto buyers



## BELTRAMO'S

WINES AND SPIRITS

# SUPER BEER SALE

Stock up for the Big Game!

# 15% OFF ALL BEER

Shop our Large Selection of Microbrews & Imported Beer



Sale valid through February 3, 2013

1540 El Camino Real Menlo Park • 650-325-2806

Mon - Fri 10 to 7:30 Sat 9:30 to 7:30 Sun 10 to 6:30

sales@beltramos.com

Shop online www.beltramos.com



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

## Church shows exhibit on human trafficking

A multi-sensory exhibit on global human trafficking will be open to the public at the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church for three days, Tuesday through Thursday, Jan. 29-31.

"We want people to see, hear and experience stories of tragedy and triumph, and find hope," Bennie Ingraham, mission director at the church said in a press release. "The goal of this exhibit is not only to educate, but to provide action steps of how to make a difference."

Admission to the exhibit is free, but reservations are recommended. Times are Tuesday, Jan. 29, from noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 30, from noon to 9 p.m.; and Thursday, Jan. 31, from noon to 6 p.m. The church is at 950 Santa Cruz Ave. in Menlo Park.

Visit [mppc.org/sold](http://mppc.org/sold) to make reservations.

The exhibit, called the "SOLD Experience," was conceived by Amber Bruce, Jessica MacFarlan and Krista Hanson

and was financed by a grant from Bethel Church in Richland, Washington, said Monica Brandt, a spokesperson for the Menlo Park church.

It takes about an hour to go through the exhibit and it is appropriate for ages 13 and up, she said.

A total of 27 million people around the world are victims of modern-day slavery, according to a 2012 report by the U.S. Department of State. "Human trafficking is an issue that is largely unknown and misunderstood," says Amber Bruce, co-creator of the SOLD Experience. "Shedding light is the first step in combating it."

In the exhibit, visitors are encouraged to use smart phones to "tweet, text, post photos, receive additional information, and live blog about their experience," Ms. Brandt said. "At the end, participants learn how they can help eradicate modern-day slavery."

Visit [soldexp.org](http://soldexp.org) for more information about the exhibit.

## Survey shows support for tax hike

■ But the survey suggests the \$198 increase the board wants might not pass.

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

A survey of likely voters suggests that if the Portola Valley School District asks residents to renew and increase two parcel tax measures this spring, it would probably succeed, but only if the proposed increase is more modest than school officials had originally hoped for.

Through the existing Measure C and Measure D, which both expire next year, the two-school district raises nearly \$1 million annually. District property owners now pay a total of \$458 per parcel per year.

In an effort to make funding for the schools — Ormondale and Corte Madera — more stable, the school board wants to boost that amount, and recently notified the public that it's considering a ballot measure that would increase the total annual tax by up to \$198 per parcel — to a maximum of \$656, which would be a 43

### ■ SCHOOLS

percent increase.

But the district-commissioned telephone survey recently performed by Godbe Research shows that the number of likely voters who would or might support a \$198 increase fell far below the required two-thirds majority needed to approve a parcel tax.

The firm's Brian Godbe told the school board at a Jan. 23 special meeting that the survey results showed a sufficient number of voters are likely to support an increase of \$123 to \$129. An annual increase of \$129 per parcel would raise an additional \$278,000 for the schools, the district's interim chief business official, Sandra Lepley, told the board.

Last year's parcel tax revenue supplemented the district's budget by \$987,296, according to Ms. Lepley. The revenue is earmarked for educational programs with emphasis on science, math, reading and writing instruction; attracting and retaining qualified, experienced teachers; supporting arts and music programs; and maintain-

ing small class size.

School board President Jocelyn Swisher told the Almanac that renewal of the parcel tax is important to the long-term stability of the district. "We have two options: we can renew and enhance stable local funding that we control; or we can let these funds expire and hope for the best."

School districts across the state have had to severely cut or eliminate educational programs and increase class size through the years because of steady reductions in state funding.

In addition to the amount of increase the district will ask for, the board also must decide how many years the tax will be in place, and whether to add or eliminate areas to be supported by the tax revenue. A public hearing on the matter is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, in the district's board room, 4575 Alpine Road in Portola Valley.

The board must approve the ballot measure that week if it is to appear on the May 7 mail-in ballot, and is likely to vote on a resolution outlining the terms of a ballot measure at the meeting, following the public hearing. ■

## Providing the Best in Care to Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside for Eleven Years Straight



### Known for the Industry's Best Caregivers!

- We are the only senior care company with a **Home Care University** to train and develop our caregiver employees. We also offer culinary training through **Sur La Table** to improve our caregivers' skills along with our clients' nutrition.
- We have been endorsed by Harvard geriatrician, Dr. Dennis McCullough, and University of Washington Geriatrics Clinical Director, Dr. David Carr, among others.
- We have produced an award-winning senior wellness book series, including *Happy to 102* and *Mind Over Gray Matter*, and a renowned healthy longevity webinar series in partnership with the **American Society on Aging**.



**Don't settle for anything less, get the best in care!**



Talk to a Home Care Expert Today:

**855-202-7674**

[www.HomeCareAssistance.com](http://www.HomeCareAssistance.com)

148 Hawthorne Ave, Palo Alto

Danville • Oakland • Los Gatos • San Mateo • San Francisco • Marin

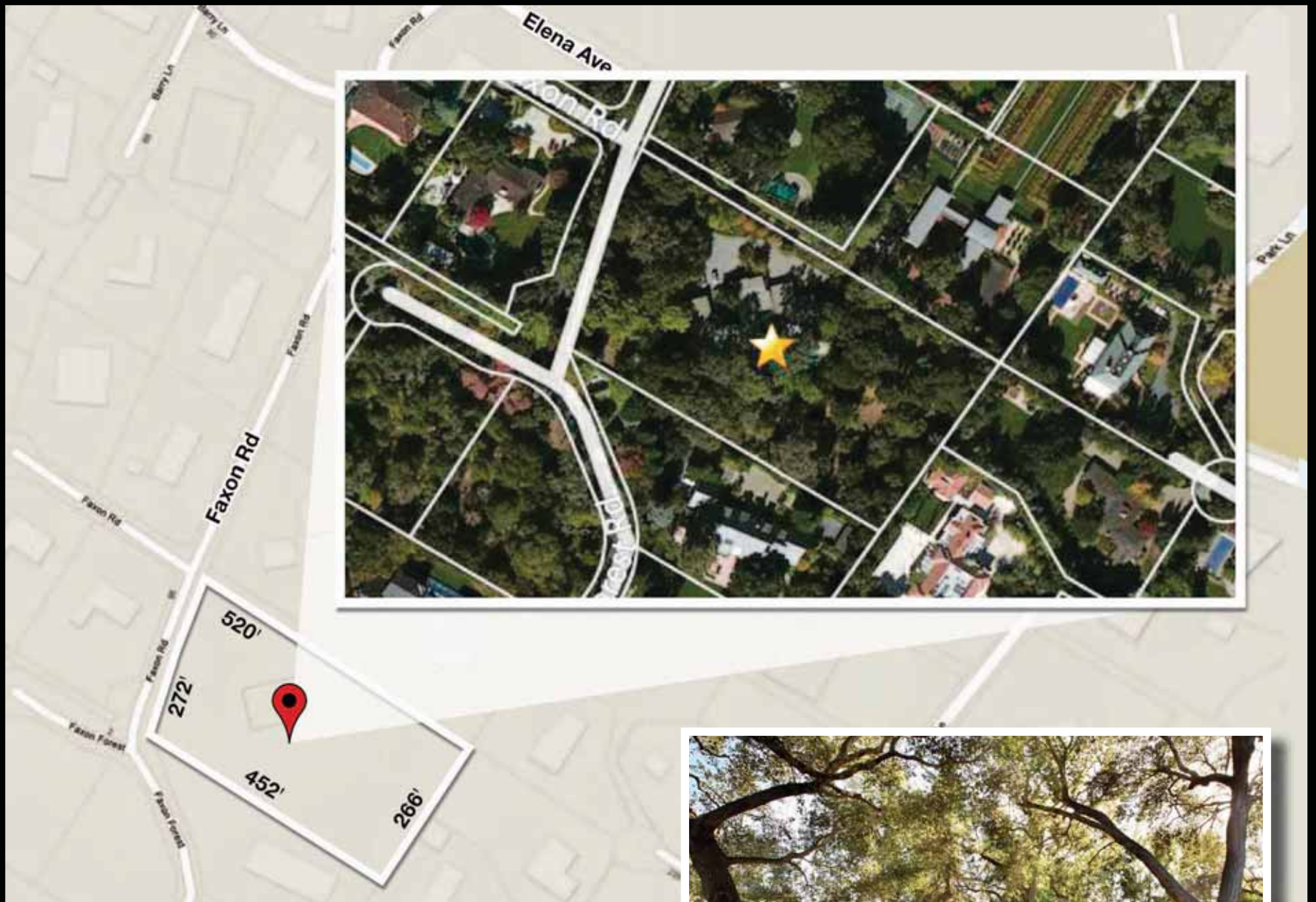
GULLIXSON

# 95 FAXON ROAD ATHERTON

Mary: 650.888.0860

Brent: 650.888.4898

[gullixson.com](http://gullixson.com)



## REMODEL THE EXHISTING HOME OR BUILD A NEW ESTATE HOME ON ONE OF THE 10 LARGEST PROPERTIES IN THE MENLO CIRCUS CLUB AREA

- APPROXIMATELY 3 LEVEL ACRES
- 6 BEDROOM HOUSE
- SWIMMING POOL
- CAR PORT
- WELL FOR IRRIGATION
- MENLO PARK SCHOOLS
- OFFERED AT \$19,800,000



IN 2012 THE  
GULLIXSONS SOLD  
25 PROPERTIES  
IN **ATHERTON**  
FOR A TOTAL OF  
**OVER \$185 MILLION.**  
MARY AND BRENT'S  
TOTAL SALES VOLUME  
IN **ATHERTON** NOW  
EXCEEDS \$1.7 BILLION



**MARY & BRENT  
GULLIXSON**

Mary: 650.888.0860

DRE 00373961  
[mgullixson@apr.com](mailto:mgullixson@apr.com)

Brent: 650.888.4898

BRENT: DRE 01329216  
[bgullixson@apr.com](mailto:bgullixson@apr.com)



Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Sq. ft. and/or acreage information contained herein has been received from seller, existing reports, appraisals, public records and/or other sources deemed reliable. However, neither seller nor listing agent has verified this information. If this information is important to buyer in determining whether to buy or the purchase price, buyer should conduct buyer's own investigation. Photography by Bernard André

## Portola Valley forms panel on affordable housing

### HOUSING

continued from page 5

low-density zoning with “the economics of affordable housing construction,” and d) priorities in finding and evaluating sites for such housing.

“It’s a lot of meetings in a fairly short period of time,” said Councilwoman Ann Wengert, who has been the point person on this highly controversial issue for the last year or so. “It’s going to be a lot of heavy lifting.”

The council decided not to participate in the meetings, not even to the extent of having a liaison present, but will rely on the town manager and the committee chair to keep them informed as the discussion unfolds.

### ‘Offloading’ obligation?

The staff report by Ms. Kristiansson hinted at the possibility that Portola Valley could negotiate to transfer some of its obligations to a neighboring community, where moderate-income housing is more common.

Councilman Ted Driscoll asked if Portola Valley could help fund a large housing development, for example in Redwood City. Ms. Kristiansson did not say such a deal was impossible, but that it would involve findings — robust reasons that make such an action necessary. “I think it’s something we can certainly look into,” she added.

There are critics, Councilwoman Maryann Derwin said, “who feel very strongly that rich communities should not be able to buy their way out of these obligations. Speaking

personally, I don’t think that (buying our way out) is in the spirit of the law.” Ms. Wengert said she agreed.

The 2014-22 housing allocations for Portola Valley are “very low for us and we are very fortunate,” Ms. Kristiansson said. “I hesitate to put forward that there are other alternatives. ...

We need to move forward with these numbers that we have, and they are reasonable numbers.”

Any swaps would have to be approved by the consortium of communities in

San Mateo County, by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), and by the state, Ms. Kristiansson added.

Louis Ebner, a resident and critic of the town’s efforts so far, described the housing situation for people of low incomes as “unfortunate” but contested the notion that the trading of obligations is a bad idea. “I disagree with the characterization that this is off-loading necessarily,” Mr. Ebner said. The objective, he said, is effectively using money for affordable housing. “I think you have to reach a little more broadly in thinking. It seems to be unfortunate to be slamming the door on possibilities before you’ve even had a chance to look at them and weigh them one against the other.”

He questioned, for example, the notion that the nearly \$3 million the town received for the sale of land designated for affordable housing in the Blue Oaks neighborhood is restricted to the current seven-year housing window. “Where could we do the most good for the people we’re trying to help?” Mr. Ebner asked. ▀

### COMMUNITY TALK:

## ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

Atrial fibrillation is the most common heart rhythm problem, affecting over 2 million Americans. Without detection and treatment, atrial fibrillation can affect quality of life and cause stroke and heart failure.

Expert Stanford physician specialists will discuss the signs and symptoms of atrial fibrillation and the options for evaluation and treatment, which may improve quality of life and decrease complications.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

9:30AM – 11:00AM

Sheraton Palo Alto (Reception Room)

625 El Camino Real • Palo Alto, CA

RSVP at: [stanfordhospital.org/heartmonth](http://stanfordhospital.org/heartmonth)

This event is free and open to the public.

Please register, seating is limited.

#### MODERATED BY:

Paul J. Wang, MD, FACC, FHRS, FAHA

Professor of Medicine

Director, Stanford Cardiac Arrhythmia Service



**STANFORD**  
HOSPITAL & CLINICS

Losing **Weight**  
has never been so easy!

Lose 15 to 20 lbs in 8 weeks.

Sign up for 8 weeks or more  
and get 2 more **FREE** weeks.

**Join Now**

expire January 31st 2013



Menlo Park

713 Oak Grove • (650) 323-5483

Call for a free consultation

[www.liteforlife.com](http://www.liteforlife.com)

## Mother, toddler injured in Menlo Park shooting

A mother and toddler were shot and injured in Menlo Park on Saturday evening, Jan. 26, in a possible gang-related drive-by shooting, according to police.

Menlo Park police received numerous reports of shots being fired on Willow Road and Bayfront Expressway around 7:45 p.m., according to Commander Dave Bertini.

As they reached the scene, however, the police learned that shooting victims were located at the East Palo Alto McDonald's parking lot at Bay Road and University Avenue. Officers arriving there found a car with five adults and one child.

The child, a 2-year-old boy, had been shot in the legs and had a grazing wound to his head. His mother, who had been holding him on her lap, also had been shot in the legs.

The mother and boy were taken to Stanford Medical Center with non-life threatening injuries. They remained hospitalized as of Monday morning,

according to police. The other four adults in the car were uninjured.

Police determined that the victim's vehicle had been driving on Willow Road when its occupants got into a dispute with occupants of another car. The passenger in that car, described only as a green or dark green 2000s model Honda sedan, allegedly stuck a handgun out the window as the cars reached Bayfront and fired at the victim's vehicle, Cmdr. Bertini said.

The suspect vehicle was last seen heading toward the Dumbarton Bridge. Police spokeswoman Nicole Acker said at this time there was no indication the shooting was gang-related.

A fatal shooting was reported in East Palo Alto on Capitol Avenue around 9 p.m. the same night, a short distance from the Menlo Park shooting, but Cmdr. Bertini said it appears unrelated.

— Bay City News Service

### ■ 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.*

#### LADERA

**Theft report:** Losses estimated at \$23,900 in cashing of checks stolen from residence, La Mesa Drive, Jan. 17.

#### WOODSIDE

**Residential burglary report:** Losses estimated at \$22,500 in theft of jewelry from drawer that also held, untouched, "a larger amount of cash," 3000 block of Sand Hill Road, Jan. 20.

**Auto burglary report:** Losses estimated at \$3,000 in break-in through smashed window and theft of contents of locked cabinet and various tools from cargo area, Interstate 280 and Woodside Road, Jan. 16.

**Theft report:** Losses estimated at \$8,000 in theft of GPS device from unlocked vehicle, Woodside and Moore roads, Jan. 16.

**Vandalism report:** Losses estimated at \$1,000 in garden sculpture knocked over and broken, Runnymede Road, Jan. 20.

#### PORTOLA VALLEY

**Auto burglary report:** Losses estimated at \$300 in break-in through smashed driver's side window and theft of purse, Windy Hill Open Space parking lot on Portola Road, Jan. 14.

#### MENLO PARK

**Residential burglary report:** Loss estimated at \$50 in entry through unlocked rear door and theft of five bracelets and \$25 gift certificate, Wallea Drive, Jan. 21.

#### Auto burglary reports:

■ Losses estimated at \$3,080 in break-in through smashed window and theft of two laptop computers and portable hard drive, 2700 block of Sand Hill Road, Jan. 17.

■ Losses estimated \$2,560 in break-in

through smashed passenger side window and theft of six clocks and GPS device, Constitution Drive, Jan. 13.

■ Losses estimated at \$590 in break-in through smashed front window and theft of purse containing \$150 in cash, passport and cell phone, Pierce Road, Jan. 14.

■ Losses estimated at \$1,000 in two break-ins through smashed windows and theft of two \$500 stereo systems, Constitution Drive, Jan. 13.

■ Losses estimated at \$200 in theft of Apple iPhone from baby stroller, Alma At., Jan. 11.

■ Nothing missing in break-in through use of door lock punch, Henderson Ave., Jan. 11.

#### Theft reports:

■ Losses estimated at \$4,000 in theft from unlocked car of two bags of clothing and purse containing checkbook, credit card and unknown amount of cash, Altschul Ave. and Sharon Road, Jan. 15.

■ Losses estimated at \$500 in theft of two cell phones from open desk drawer, 100 block of Middlefield Road, Jan. 22.

■ Losses estimated at \$400 in theft of two bikes locked to gate in apartment complex garage, Oak Grove Ave., Jan. 15.

**Domestic abuse report:** Sevier Ave., Jan. 21.

**Fraud reports:** Loss valued at \$900 in cashing of forged check, Bank of America at 633 Santa Cruz Ave., Jan. 14.

■ Unknown losses in loss of wallet and debit card subsequently used to purchase gasoline, Hedge Road and Bay Road, Jan. 12.

#### Stolen vehicle reports:

■ Silver/aluminum 2003 Lexus GX470, Sharon Park Drive, Jan. 16.

■ Black 1998 Toyota Tercel, Ivy Drive, Jan. 16.

## Couple celebrates 70th anniversary

By Jane Knoerle

Special to the Almanac

Bill and Pat Robertson have this advice for today's young couples: "Get to know each other pretty well. Find out if you enjoy the same things."

This recipe for a happy marriage has worked well for the Atherton couple. On Jan. 29, they celebrate 70 years of marriage.

The Robertsons met at a Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity party held at the old Hearst Ranch in Pleasanton. She was from Berkeley; he was from Oakland. Both attended UC Berkeley. Several months later, they announced their engagement on Big Game night at Pat's parents home. "Everybody was just floored. They just thought it was to be



Bill and Pat Robertson at the time of their 50th wedding anniversary.

a Big Game party," says Ms. Robertson.

On the day they were married in 1943, Bill Robertson

completed three final exams at UC Berkeley, then married his bride that evening. He was 23. She was 21.

A few weeks later he was sent to officer training and became a second lieutenant in the Army. After the service, they lived in Redwood City, then Menlo Park, before settling in their home in Atherton, where they have lived for 60 years. Mr. Robertson was an insurance broker for many years before retirement.

The couple are the parents of three children, Linda, Scott and Brad. Linda died in 1999. Scott is a former Menlo Park firefighter living in Shingletown, California, and Brad resides in Atherton. They have two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren. ■

## Timothy "Ted" F. Wellings Jr., financial adviser, 87

Obituaries are based on family information.

Timothy "Ted" F. Wellings Jr., a longtime resident of Woodside, died at home on Jan. 5 of heart failure. He was 87.

Mr. Wellings was born in Boston and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1946. After 20 years in the U.S. Navy and living in several places, he settled in California and started his own certified public accountant business.

He was in partnership with his son, Bruce, in two compa-

nies: Wellings & Company, certified public accountants, and Wellings Wealth Care, financial advisors. He continued to work until March, 2012. He and his wife enjoyed traveling and playing golf I their leisure time.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Peggy Gills Wellings; sons Bruce Wellings of Redwood



Ted Wellings

City and Tim Wellings of Spring Branch, Texas, daughter Cindy Wellings Hayes of Sacramento; nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Memorials may be made to Menlo Park Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 876, Menlo Park, CA 94026; USNA Foundation, 25 Maryland Ave., Annapolis, MD 21401, or the American Heart Association.

Visit [tinyurl.com/Wellings](http://tinyurl.com/Wellings) to see the memorial on the Almanac's Lasting Memories website and to leave remembrances.

## We Buy Gold, Jewelry, Diamonds & Silver



### NOW PAYING TOP DOLLAR FOR:

- ROLEX, PATEK PHILIPPE, CARTIER AND ANY FINE WATCHES
- GOLD, SILVER, PLATINUM & DIAMONDS
- JEWELRY NEW OR OLD, WORN EVEN DAMAGED
- SILVER AND GOLD COINS
- STERLING SILVER AND FLATWARE
- NOT SURE? BRING IT IN!
- WE ALSO ACCEPT TRADE-INS AND CONSIGNMENT

### SAFE-EASY-LOCAL

- KNOWN AND TRUSTED FOR OVER 20 YEARS SINCE 1989
- ANY ESTATE LARGE OR SMALL IS WELCOME. NOT SURE? BRING IT IN!
- FULL SERVICE JEWELER & WATCH REPAIR
- VIEW THE PROCESS IN A COMFORTABLE SETTING
- LOOKING FOR ESTATE ITEMS FOR OUR STORE... THAT IS WHY WE PAY MORE!

In Redwood City for over 25 years

2808 EL CAMINO REAL  
(3 LIGHTS SOUTH OF WOODSIDE RD.)  
REDWOOD CITY  
650-365-3000

WWW.JACKSONSQUARE.COM

TUES. - SAT. 10AM TO 5PM  
CLOSED SUNDAY & MONDAY



SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE



**EDITOR & PUBLISHER**

Tom Gibboney (223-6507)

**NEWSROOM**

**Managing Editor**  
Richard Hine (223-6525)

**News Editor**  
Renee Batti (223-6582)

**Lifestyles Editor**  
Jane Knoerle (223-6531)

**Staff Writers**  
Dave Boyce (223-6527),  
Sandy Brundage (223-6529)

**Contributors**  
Marjorie Mader, Barbara Wood, Kate Daly

**Special Sections Editors**  
Carol Blitzer, Sue Dremann

**Photographer**  
Michelle Le (223-6530)

**DESIGN & PRODUCTION**

**Design Director**  
Shannon Corey (223-6560)

**Designers**  
Linda Atilano, Lili Cao,  
Diane Haas, Rosanna Leung,  
Paul Llewellyn, Scott Peterson

**ADVERTISING**

**Vice President Sales and Marketing**  
Tom Zahiralis (223-6570)

**Display Advertising Sales**  
Wendy Suzuki (223-6569)

**Real Estate Manager**  
Neal Fine (223-6583)

**Real Estate & Advertising Coordinator**  
Diane Martin (223-6584)

**Legal Advertising**  
Alicia Santillan (223-6578)

Published every Wednesday at  
**3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,  
Menlo Park, CA 94025**

**Newsroom:** (650) 223-6525  
**Newsroom Fax:** (650) 223-7525

**Advertising:** (650) 854-2626  
**Advertising Fax:** (650) 854-3650

**Email news** and photos with captions to:  
Editor@AlmanacNews.com

**Email letters** to:  
letters@AlmanacNews.com

The Almanac, established in October 1965, is delivered each week to residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside and adjacent unincorporated areas of southern San Mateo County. The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued December 21, 1969. ©2013 by Embarcadero Media Company. All rights reserved.

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, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

**Town Square forum**

Post your views on the Town Square forum at www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

**Email** your views to: 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.

## Why all the secrecy in Menlo Park?

Recent requests by the Almanac for information about police department matters have produced some troubling responses from the city of Menlo Park. In the latest incident, the city denied a reporter's request for what should be publicly available statistics: How many currently serving police officers have been charged or convicted of criminal offenses? And how many have been fired during the past 10 years?

Reporter Sandy Brundage made it clear in her request to the city that she wasn't seeking any identifying information, which the city would be unable to provide legally because of laws protecting the privacy of public employees, particularly police officers. She also noted in her request that the city of San Jose maintains a public database that reports on a quarterly basis disciplinary actions and outcomes involving all city employees, including police officers.

Menlo Park's response? No. The request "would require the city to physically review individual records/personnel files and create documents that do not exist. The records themselves are confidential personnel information which we are required to maintain as such."

The request for statistics stemmed from the Almanac's investigation of a 2011 incident in which Menlo Park police officer Jeffrey Vasquez was caught in a motel room with a known prostitute. Although he was charged by the Santa Clara County DA's office with solicitation, the case was later dismissed. After an internal affairs investigation, the city fired Officer Vasquez, but that action was overturned in binding arbitration.

The story, reported by Ms. Brundage, raised serious questions about why it's so difficult to fire cops who break the law they swear to uphold. And it shed light on a system of confidentiality

that protects rogue officers and those who perform below an acceptable standard of public service.

The city's latest refusal to release non-confidential information follows another recent struggle by the reporter to obtain police logs for a three-year period. The logs are released to the public on a daily basis. The city responded that its policy was to provide the public, upon request, only the most recent 30 days of the log, even though the police department keeps the documents for two years. Menlo Park released the logs only after a fight.

The Almanac isn't the only witness to the city's stonewalling. When Vickie Smothers reported a terrifying encounter to Menlo Park police in 2011, the department refused to give her a copy of the 911 call she placed. Ms. Smothers was legally entitled to that copy, as the state requires disclosure of witness statements and case reports to all parties in a case unless doing so harms another victim, a witness, or the investigation. The city attorney cited none of those exceptions in denying her request.

Whose interests are served when a public agency withholds information that legally should be available to anyone who asks for it? In an era when the public's trust in government is sinking ever lower, only tone-deaf public officials, or those with something to hide, will fight disclosure of non-confidential information.

As Menlo Park nears a decision on hiring a new police chief, we hope that a commitment to transparency and an understanding of the public's right to access information will be an important criteria in that decision. The city should be serving as a model of transparency instead of a model of obfuscation.

**EDITORIAL**

The opinion of The Almanac

**LETTERS**

Our readers write

### Is the cost of hybrid buses justifiable?

Editor:

The San Mateo County Transit District is adding 25 new hybrid buses to its fleet by the end of the year. Manufactured by Gillig, a Hayward company, they are expected to save around \$3 million in fuel costs over the next 12 years, according to district spokeswoman Christine Dunn.

What is the cost of the hybrid buses? An Intercity Transit Hybrid Bus Fact Sheet (tinyurl.com/ah3d-kpj) shows a cost of \$579,000. That's roughly \$250,000 more than a standard bus. The "Fact Sheet" states, "The fuel cost savings per bus is approximately \$138,000 over the life of the vehicle."

And forget about the phony cost reduction from the \$4.9 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant. Folks, that's taxpayer's dollars! And, Gillig already received a government subsidy from the Federal Transit Administration's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement

Program.

There are those who will argue that the hybrids provide emission reductions ranging from up to 50 percent for CO2 and NOx to 90 percent for carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and particulate matter, and that clean air is priceless.

If the cost to produce that which you value reduces the opportunity to procure something of greater value, that's an opportunity cost. Decisions must be made but not by you or me. We only get to decide how to spend what's left over after taxes.

SamTrans owes the public an explanation with actual cost figures.

Jack Hickey  
Ferndale Way, Emerald Hills

### President's gun control efforts no solution

Editor:

President Obama signed his 23 gun-grabbing executive actions, surrounded dramatically by a human shield of children.

He played to raw emotion instead of offering a real solution to the kind of mass shootings that happened at Sandy Hook elementary

### Our Regional Heritage

Inventor Leon Douglass stands with a projector that would display one of his contributions to the film world: the first color effect for motion pictures. Among his other inventions was the "Victrola" record player. He and his wife, Victoria, built Victoria Manor in what is now Atherton in the early 1920s, where they lived until the mid 1930s. The mansion was sold by their descendants in 1945 to Menlo School, and after years of use by the school in its near-original state, was renovated in the 1990s and renamed Stent Hall.



Courtesy: Earl Douglass Jr./From 'Under the Oaks'

school on Dec. 14.

He will no more stop gun violence with these anti-Second Amendment edicts and scare tactics than someone armed with a pea shooter. He has a bull's eye on law-abiding individuals (the ones

he calls "bitter clingers"), who can protect themselves and their families with their own guns, thank you.

Every country, i.e., Cuba, China, Venezuela, that has prevented their

Continued on next page

## LETTERS

Our readers write

Continued from previous page

citizens from owning guns has enslaved them and made them victims of their own governments.

*Susan Hart  
O'Keefe Street, Menlo Park*

### Thanks for report on 'double dipping' workers

Editor:

Thank you and your paper for the investigation into the "double dipping" by Menlo Park employees and for the Almanac's editorial to make sure the problem is clear.

While I'm sure Mr. Kramer is a lovely person and a good employee, I am astounded that no one in city government sees a problem with this arrangement — and the incredible cost to the taxpayers — or feels there is an ethical issue.

The Almanac was also right on point about succession planning. It happens every day in companies around the world. It is nothing new.

Thank you for bringing these issues to light. The taxpayers deserve to have their tax dollars respected.

*Erin Glanville  
Menlo Oaks Drive, Menlo Park*

## Scale back Stanford's 'bloated' development plan

By Elizabeth Houck

I knew this day would come. I attended three "community workshops" on the specific plan where residents' voices were drowned out by developers, Stanford, downtown business owners, and over-zealous consultants. I spoke before the Planning Commission and the City Council prior to the specific plan being passed, begging (them) to keep it to three stories at the old car dealerships. The bottom line is that I would not be writing this letter if this were a reasonable project or if this were a hotel and senior housing as promised by Stanford, or decent retail and housing to drive tax revenue, or three stories. This project is too big, too ugly, too out of line with the current retail, restaurants, and neighborhood buildings adjacent to it, not to mention its complete opposition to the general plan.

Plain and simple, it's a square-footage grab of Menlo Park by Stanford, who had the power to build on these properties for years and chose not to until masterfully dictating the terms of the specific plan to their benefit. As they are doing with their 1.5 million square-foot development in Redwood City next to their offices on Broadway.

As designed, it sends the majority of exit traffic onto Middle Avenue. My neighbors from College, Partridge, Cambridge, Harvard to Creek are also concerned with increased and cut-through traffic. Calming efforts on those streets will make life worse for me. We've already seen the difficult Safeway exits onto Middle. What will happen when you add this project to that mess? We've seen on El Camino Real in both Palo Alto and Redwood City that three lanes get gridlocked as easily as two.



GUEST  
OPINION

There has been a marked increase in traffic in the last six months. There are impacts of more traffic, worse air quality in my house and yard, and the noise from blasting horns and radios. I shudder to think what it will be like when this and the other Stanford projects are fully populated. There will be at least a year of construction noise, dust, and increased gridlock on residential streets.

I have lived in my home for 18 years — I grew up in unincorporated Menlo Park decades before that. I've seen bubbles and bursts, I have seen Stanford grow for better or worse, and if this project goes forward as is I would simply have to move. The financial impacts would be severe to me, but not as severe as this

project would be to my quiet enjoyment of my home.

The specific plan environmental impact report is woefully inadequate to address these current impacts and needs to be redone. Not the least of these impacts are combining six parcels into one massive development, allowing more square-footage and removing side setbacks than individual parcels. The "whole is greater than the sum." A 30-year plan is eaten up with one project in one area. In addition, a majority of Allied Arts mitigation efforts would result in a worsening of the situation for me and my neighbors on Middle, which has not been studied.

I urge (the council) to scale back this bloated, car-trip generating, five-story, five-building office complex that does not exist anywhere else on El Camino on the Peninsula. Please use your authority to stop specific plan development until a new EIR and traffic studies can be done. This is not the low-traffic-generating senior housing we were promised. Disallow medical offices in favor of revenue-generating, smart-growth housing and mixed use more in keeping with the general plan, our idea of community, sustainability and long-term growth.

*Elizabeth Houck, who lives on Middle Avenue, wrote this piece as a letter to the City Council.*



## LAST FEW WEEKS of our Retirement Sale

New merchandise  
brought in daily

Wednesday - Saturday  
each week 10 am - 5:30 pm

TRADITIONS

850 Santa Cruz Avenue  
Menlo Park  
650.325.4848



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



**ALAIN PINEL**  
REALTORS



**Judy Bogard-Tanigami**  
650.209.1603  
jbogard@apr.com



**LOS ALTOS HILLS \$17,800,000**  
Exceptional 5bd/5.5ba gated estate with bay, city and hillside views. 10-car garage, vineyard, pool and spa. 2.16+/- acres.

**Sheri Hughes**  
650.209.1608  
shughes@apr.com



**Marybeth Dorst**  
650.245.8890  
mdorst@apr.com



**ATHERTON \$7,950,000**  
Privately located, 5bd/4+ba remodeled home on 1.4+/-acres. Two 3-car garages, pool, spa, GH, tennis court. Las Lomas School District.



**Ellen Ashley**  
650.434.4336  
eashley@apr.com



**WOODSIDE \$2,595,000**  
Beautifully updated 4bd/3ba custom contemporary. Home was designed by Cliff May with an emphasis on light & open spaces on 1+/-acre.



**Janise Taylor**  
650.302.2083  
jtaylor@apr.com



**MENLO PARK \$2,590,000**  
Stunning California modern home remodeled in 2002 on 20,000+/-sf lot. 4bd/2.5ba + sep office. Pool, Jacuzzi & cabana, in-ground gas fire-pit. Menlo Park Schools.



**Alan Dunckel**  
650.543.1074  
adunckel@apr.com



**PALO ALTO \$2,495,000**  
3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home with a 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom guest cottage in a rare Old Palo Alto location.



**Jeff Stricker**  
650.823.8057  
jstricker@apr.com

**Steve TenBroeck**  
650.543.1050  
JeffandSteve.com



**LOS ALTOS \$2,098,000**  
Enchanting 5bd/4.5ba home, 3317+/-sf., with office, home theatre, and separate guest quarters. Top Los Altos schools.



**Joe & Mary Merkert**  
650.387.5464  
jmerkert@apr.com  
mmerkert@apr.com



**SALE PENDING**

**MENLO PARK \$1,995,000**  
Three bedroom, three bathroom, "almost one level" town-home in Sharon Heights.



**Monica Corman**  
650.543.1164  
mcorman@apr.com



**SALE PENDING**

**ATHERTON \$1,850,000**  
Handsome, shingled Cape Cod-style 4bd/3.ba home in move-in condition. Completed in 1995, this 3000+/-sf home has a wonderful floor plan.



**Shari Omstein**  
650.814.6682  
sornstein@apr.com



**STANFORD \$1,200,000**  
Stanford Qualified Faculty and Staff Only. Timeless, lasting quality in this Aaron Green two bedroom, one bath home with a study & detached guest house.



**Monica Corman**  
650.543.1164  
mcorman@apr.com



**PORTOLA VALLEY \$795,000**  
Beautiful views and a great neighborhood surround this Portola Valley lot of one+/-acre. One of the best values on the market, a perfect place to design and build your home. Award-winning PV Schools.

PALO ALTO 650.323.1111 | MENLO PARK 650.462.1111 | LOS ALTOS 650.941.1111 | WOODSIDE 650.529.1111

APR COUNTIES | Santa Clara | San Mateo | San Francisco | Marin | Sonoma | Alameda | Contra Costa | Monterey | Santa Cruz