



**Alzheimer's fundraiser draws
300 in Menlo Park | Page 3**

The Almanac

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

FEBRUARY 13, 2013 | VOL. 48 NO. 24

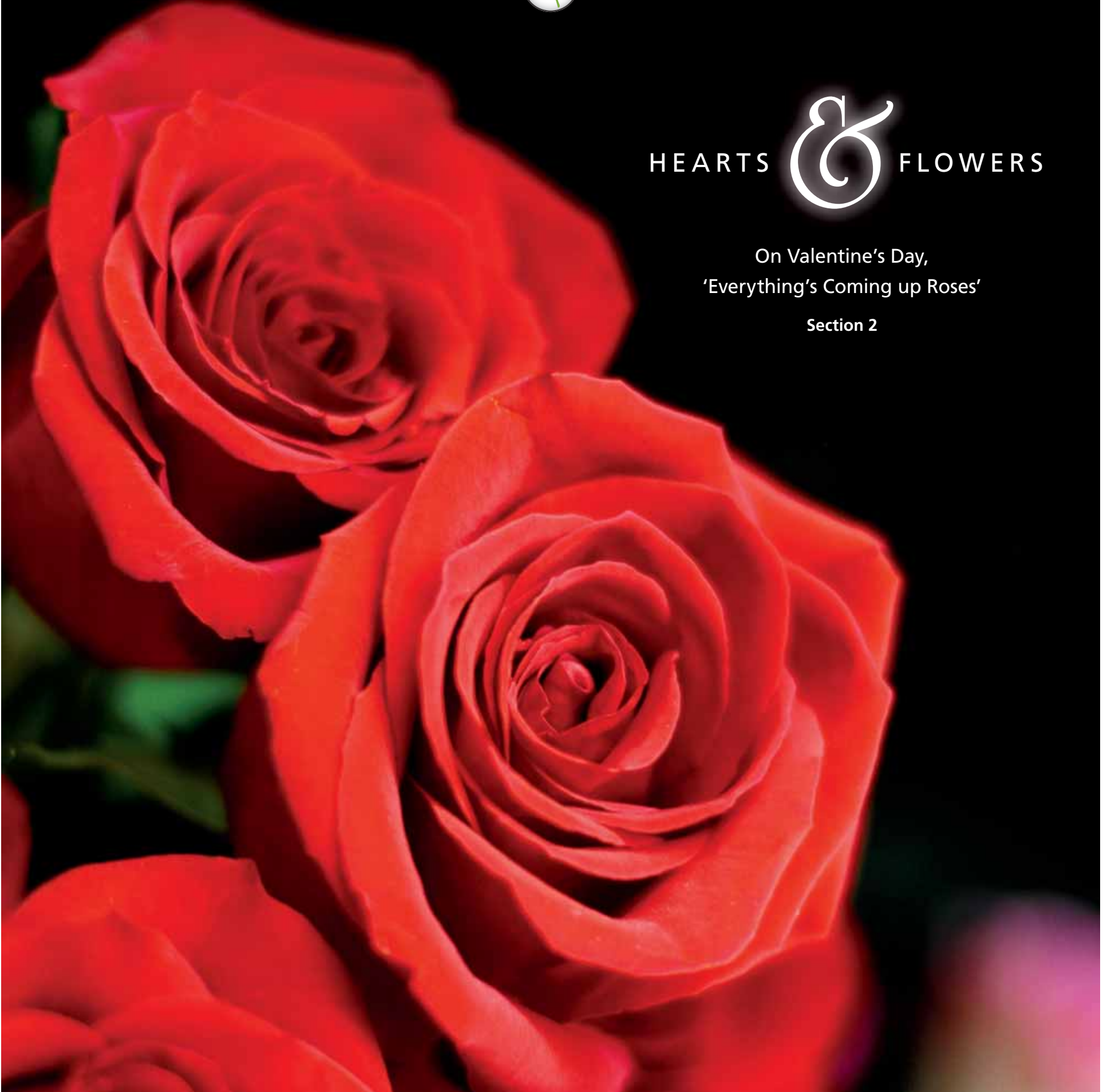


WWW.THEALMANACONLINE.COM

HEARTS  FLOWERS

On Valentine's Day,
'Everything's Coming up Roses'

Section 2



OLIVER

LUXURY REAL ESTATE
PENINSULA

WE'RE ON THE MOVE

in downtown Menlo Park.

Grand Opening of our
new office expected
March 2013.



Artist's rendering



NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"



Are you moving in 2013?

Let us find *your* new home
from *our* new home.

EXCLUSIVE AFFILIATE OF
CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE



151 Almedral Avenue, Atherton

Luxurious 6-bedroom home; 1-bedroom
guest house; pool, spa, garage for 8 cars
\$11,995,000
Kristin Cashin DRE01438764 650 399 0500



Martis Camp, Truckee, California

7,761 square feet with 7 bedrooms;
1.5 acres backing to the 5th tee; 3-car garage
\$8,200,000
Michael Oliver DRE01233767 530 308 4728



Rubicon Bay, Lake Tahoe, California

6-bedroom estate and 2 guest cabins;
1.42 acres with sandy beach and private pier
\$7,900,000
Michael Oliver DRE01233767 530 308 4728

OLIVERLUX.COM

MENLO PARK
650.321.8900

PALO ALTO
650.323.2123

LAKE TAHOE CA
530.525.5100

LAKE TAHOE NV
775.831.8400

Alzheimer's event draws 300

By Kate Daly

Special to the Almanac

This could be ground zero for a cure," declared local Alzheimer's advocate Michaela "Mikey" Hoag to a sellout crowd of 300 at a fundraising event she chaired Jan. 29 in Menlo Park.

The Atherton woman lost her father to the disease 15 years ago, which motivated her to organize the first Part the Cloud Gala last spring. The stated mission is: "To fund Alzheimer's research in Northern California with the highest probability of slowing, stopping or ultimately curing Alzheimer's disease."

That gala made close to \$2 million, and there are plans to repeat the star-studded party in May of 2014. In the meantime, Ms. Hoag decided to throw a Part the Cloud luncheon on Jan. 29 at Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club "to widen our base and educate the community." "The icing on the cake," she said, is that the luncheon raised more than \$300,000.

Ms. Hoag used the luncheon as a public platform to announce the first three winners of Part the Cloud research grants. The Alzheimer's Association put together a panel of 20 scientists from eight countries to select the winners. Only Northern California recipients "doing late stage research" could apply ... "typically, the Alzheimer's Association has never given money towards that," Ms. Hoag explained.

The nonprofit association is involved in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Its latest published figures show 5.4 million Americans have the disease and that Alzheimer's accounts for anywhere from 50 to 80 percent of all dementia cases.

The first luncheon speaker was grant recipient Dr. Michael Weiner of the San Francisco VA Medical Center/UCSF. As principal investigator of the NIH-funded Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative, he is involved with the Whole Genome Sequencing project, which received several hun-



Photo by Drew Altizer

Jay and Michaela Hoag with guest speaker Mark Kennedy Shriver (right) at a local Alzheimer's fundraiser she chaired.

dred thousand dollars from Part the Cloud.

The other two grant recipients received \$600,000 each. Dr. Adam Boxer of UCSF is conducting a clinical trial on Alzheimer's patients to check the efficacy of a drug that was originally targeted for brain

A local gala in 2012 raised close to \$2 million for research grants.

cancer treatment. Dr. Frank Longo is at Stanford and the lead scientist at Pharmatrophix in Menlo Park, where he has been working with Alzheimer's mice and is now ready to do the first human trial testing of a drug.


Two speakers at the luncheon put a human face on the disease by sharing their personal stories. Susan Harvell, 53, talked about being diagnosed over a year ago with early onset Alzheimer's, saying how hard it has been to give up her high-tech human resources job, stop driving, and

rely on family and friends as she loses her memory.

Mark Kennedy Shriver spoke about his father's last 10 years living with Alzheimer's, "a brutal disease, devastating emotionally and financially." Mr. Shriver wrote a book, "A Good Man: Rediscovering my Father, Sargent Shriver." "Sarge" was married to Eunice Kennedy and served as chairman of the organization she founded, Special Olympics. He headed the Peace Corps under his brother-in-law President Kennedy, and helped fight the war on poverty under President Johnson.



Son Mark Shriver said he asked his father, five years before his death in 2011: "You're losing your mind; how does it make you feel?" His father's response was, "I'm doing the best with what God has given me."

Mr. Shriver described his father's life as based on faith, hope and love. His message to those dealing with Alzheimer's was: "Caregivers, you're really love-givers. You have to give love, accept love, and rely on folks to support you through it." ■



EYE CARE NEWS

Presented by
Mark Schmidt
Licensed Optician

GEEK OR CHIC?

In case you haven't noticed, retro vintage eyeglasses have crossed the fashion line that separates professorial types from chic fashion models. Horn-rimmed glasses (so named because they were originally made from horn or tortoise shell) are no longer strictly seen solely on the faces of Woody Allen and similarly geeky types. For some time now, these bold frames constructed out of thick plastic have also shown up on the faces of celebrities and movie stars. They can be worn either to complement a vintage wardrobe or to add a cutting edge to non-vintage

clothes. Aside from making a fashion statement, thick vintage eyeglass frames are also perfect for work environments, where both men and women want to project a more serious appearance.

You've probably seen photos or movies with famous actors wearing thick vintage eyeglass frames. At MENLO OPTICAL, we understand that eyeglasses are an individual product. Do you have a full or round face? Shallow, angular styles can help your face look longer. Do you have a long face? Pick a frame that is wide across the face with lower temples. Bring your eyewear prescription to us at 1166 University Drive, on the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and University Drive. Because we are locally owned, we emphasize individualized attention and quality lenses and frames. Call us at 322-3900 if you have any questions about lenses or frames.

P.S. Bold, thick-rimmed eyeglasses have the power to make the females who wear them look simultaneously powerful and sexy.

Mark Schmidt is an American Board of Optician 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

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

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



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
- E-mail letters to the editor to:
letters@AlmanacNews.com

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.

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**.

FINAL
WEEK



ANTIQUE CARPET SALE



Antique Sultanabad | Central Persia | 7'6" 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

Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Menlo Park nonprofit sponsors gun buyback

By Sue Dremann
Palo Alto Weekly

A group of Silicon Valley residents is sponsoring a gun-buyback event for Menlo Park, Palo Alto and East Palo Alto on Saturday, Feb. 23.

The Menlo Park-based nonprofit organization Protect Our Children Bay Area Inc. has so far raised \$30,000 for the February event, which will trade cash for firearms, no questions asked, said James Cook, the group's outreach coordinator.

The nonprofit's objective is to get guns off the streets and out of homes. It was started by Silicon Valley investor Roger Lee and aims to raise a total of \$50,000 for the event. With that amount of money, it could bring in 700 to 800 firearms, based on other similarly funded buyback programs, they said.

Mr. Cook and Mr. Lee said in phone interviews that they were

deeply affected by the shootings of primary-school children in Newtown, Connecticut. The men decided a gun-buyback program that is robustly funded could entice more people to give up firearms, they said.

The guns will be turned into scrap metal and sold, they said.

Mr. Lee said he initially sought to help Newtown itself after the massacre but struggled with how to make that happen. "I decided the best way to honor their memory is to try to make sure something like this doesn't happen again," he said.

He decided to act locally, since the likelihood of legislators enacting meaningful legislation quickly is not high, he said.

But gun buybacks have proven popular when there has been enough cash as an incentive, and in the aftermath of Newtown, they have been even more effective, Mr. Lee said. A recent program in San Mateo netted about 700 firearms,

including 24 assault rifles. An earlier buyback in Marin County brought in 800 guns within four to five hours, he said.

He said he and Cook will be measuring the efficacy of the program. Three Stanford University graduate students from the law and economics schools

The organization will fund the event for Menlo Park, Palo Alto and East Palo Alto.

will gather data on gun-related crimes of all kinds before and after the buyback to see if it made an impact, Mr. Lee said.

He also hopes to have other buyback programs for the three cities if the February event is successful. The program they put together could ultimately be shared with organizations

around the country, he said.

Already, the idea is catching on. He has received inquiries from places as far away as New York, Connecticut and Texas, he said.

"The long-term vision is to have the programs run on a systematic basis in communities all around the country," he said.

Mr. Cook, a former U.S. Marine who is trained in safe handling of firearms, said he has been struck by how many people don't have the training to handle firearms safely.

"I liked the idea, beyond the obvious reasons," said Mr. Cook, who is also the chairman of the Palo Alto Utilities Advisory Commission. "The three communities are so interrelated. The buyback program provides an opportunity to work collaboratively."

The group is also promoting gun safety through the cities' police departments, city councils, Parent Teacher Associations and Palo Alto Unified School District,

Mr. Cook said. He also plans to work with the newly founded residents group Silicon Valley Community Against Gun Violence.

"All of these groups working together are bound to have some success," he said.

The buyback will be held at East Palo Alto's City Hall, 2415 University Ave., but the time has not yet been set, Mr. Cook said. People will be able to turn in the guns anonymously, regardless of the firearm's history.

Unlike other buybacks, the program will give cash instead of gift cards in exchange for the weapons. To get more powerful weapons off the street, the compensation will be based on the firepower and danger of the gun. Hypothetically, a small-caliber handgun with a small magazine might fetch \$100, for example, while a high-powered assault weapon with a large magazine would garner more, perhaps \$200 or \$250, Mr. Cook said. ■

Accused murderer of activist set free

By Sue Dremann
Palo Alto Weekly

The man who confessed to gunning down well-known East Palo Alto community leader David Lewis was set free by a San Mateo County Superior Court judge on Feb. 5.

Gregory Leon Elarms Sr., 60, was released from jail three months after a San Mateo County Superior Court judge threw out first-degree murder charges against him after finding that San Mateo police violated his Miranda rights. The California attorney general is

appealing the decision.

Mr. Elarms confessed that he gunned down Mr. Lewis on June 9, 2010, after following him to the Hillsdale



Gregory Leon Elarms Sr.

Shopping Center in San Mateo, where Mr. Lewis was fatally shot in the parking garage. His motive remains unknown, but the two were childhood friends, police said.

While Mr. Elarms awaited trial on the murder charges, he was found to be mentally

incompetent and was placed in a state mental hospital to receive treatment. A judge found he was restored to competency in May 2012.

The Feb. 5 court ruling by Judge Craig Parsons was a double blow to prosecutors, who had sought to keep him behind bars on weapons charges while the appeals court reviews the murder case. He had been in custody on \$500,000 bail.

He pleaded no contest on Jan. 3 to possessing handmade "shanks" while in jail, including a sharpened toothbrush, a

See **ELARMS**, page 8

School tax hike measure goes on ballot

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

Voters in the Portola Valley School District will be asked in May to renew the district's parcel tax for eight years at a new rate that hikes the annual tax by \$123 per parcel.

The school board on Feb. 6 unanimously approved placing the measure on the May 7 mail-in ballot. Passage will require approval by two-thirds of the voters.

If approved, property owners

will see their annual parcel tax rise from \$458 per parcel to \$581.

The current tax was authorized by two ballot measures, C and D. Although both measures are effective through June 2014, the new higher-rate tax measure, if approved, will replace the current tax beginning July 2013. That means the tax would expire at the end of June 2021, according to Sandra Lepley, the district's interim chief business official.

The district, which oversees Ormondale and Corte Madera schools, raises almost \$1 million

annually with the current tax—nearly 10 percent of its budget. If passed, the new tax will raise an estimated \$265,065 on top of that, according to the district.

Ballots will be mailed beginning April 8, according to a district consultant who spoke at a Jan. 23 board meeting.

Property owners 65 and older and people with disabilities who are receiving supplemental security income (SSI) are eligible for an exemption to the tax

See **SCHOOL TAX**, page 8



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Lunar New Year

La Entrada middle school in Menlo Park celebrated the Lunar New Year on Feb. 6 with a fan dance performance by Orchard School Asian Cultural Dance Troupe from Orchard Elementary School in San Jose, including Daniella Sanchez, right. Performances were coupled with a historical narration by La Entrada students. The event was designed to promote La Entrada's pilot Mandarin language classes, said Assistant Principal Sonya Dineen.

SINCE 1889
ROBERTS
MARKET

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

Open 6:30 am - 8:00 pm daily
Sales Dates: February 13-16, 2013

PORTOLA VALLEY

4420 Alpine Rd., Portola Valley
phone 650.851.1711

WOODSIDE

3015 Woodside Rd., Woodside
phone 650.851.1511

Fresh Produce



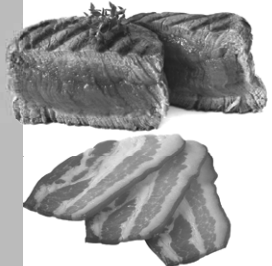
Long Asparagus **\$2.99** lb.

Broccoli Crowns **99¢** lb.

Driscoll Blackberries 6 oz. **\$2.99** ea



Meat and Seafood



Filet Mignon **\$24.14** lb.

Cooked Prawns 21/25 count **\$14.14** lb.

Country Style Bacon **\$5.14** lb.



On Sale Grocery



Glacéau Vitamin Water 20 oz. - Plus Calif Redeem Value **\$1.19**

Jarlsberg Sliced Cheese 8 oz. - Sliced **\$4.29**

Cascadian Farms Spud Puppies 16 oz. **\$1.99**

Bumble Bee Solid Albacore Tuna 5 oz. **\$1.69**

Milkbone Dog Biscuits 24 oz. **\$3.29**

Deli Department

TRY ONE OF OUR FRESH HANDMADE BURRITO'S

We Have Chicken or Beef **\$6.99** lb.

Try Portola Valley's Fresh Burrito Bar on Mondays



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. \$12.99Sale **\$10.99**

2010 Aruma Malbec, MendozaReg. \$16.49Sale **\$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 }

Police warn residents of burglary threats

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

In response to an increase in residential burglaries in Menlo Park over the last two weeks, the police department is warning residents to lock doors and windows before leaving home, get to know neighbors and neighborhood comings and goings, and immediately report suspicious activity to police.

One suspicious activity might be someone ringing the doorbell and asking about a lost dog or posing as a utility company employee, a known ruse, police said. If someone answers the door, the doorbell ringer has an excuse for being there. If the bell goes unanswered, it's an opportunity to look for ways to get inside.

So what falls into the category of suspicious activity, and which number should you call? "Suspicious activity can mean many things to different people," Menlo Park Police Department spokeswoman Nicole Acker said. "This is why we encourage residents to talk with their neighbors and be familiar with their surroundings. This communication within the community will help residents identify what is considered 'suspicious' in their eyes."

Police asks residents to call 330-6317 to report an activity that does not represent an emergency, or 330-6300 during business hours. Call 911 for an emergency.

\$175,000 in jewels stolen in Menlo Park

Burglars struck the Sharon Heights neighborhood of Menlo Park four times in early February, with one resident on Continental Drive reporting the theft of jewelry with an estimated value of \$175,000, according to reports from the Menlo Park Police Department.

Thieves apparently entered the Continental Drive home through an unlocked sliding glass door, in an incident reported to police on Feb. 5. The jewelry was taken from a dresser drawer, with the interior of the home otherwise undisturbed, police said.

In a home on Siskiyou Drive, a rear door had been pried open leaving significant damage to the deadbolt and door frame, police said. In this case, thieves rifled several drawers and got away with \$10 in coins and miscellaneous jewelry, with total losses estimated at \$1,710, police said in a Feb. 4 report.

The other two incidents were auto burglaries, both on Sharon Road and reported on the morning of Feb. 2 about 30 minutes apart. In the first case, someone opened a zipper on the convertible top of a Jeep Wrangler and stole a laptop computer, sunglasses, clothing, CDs and \$15 in cash, with total losses estimated at \$2,525, police said. The thieves may have also damaged a rear fender by standing on it and trying to get in. The fender was "a little loose," the owner reportedly told police.

In the second case, thieves smashed the rear passenger window of a Honda SUV and stole a cell phone, a sleeping bag, food, clothing and a pair of shoes, for a total loss estimated at \$980, police said.

Sheriff reports: Checks stolen from church

Someone walked away with about \$20,000 in un-cashed checks, some of them for preschool tuition, at Bethany Lutheran Church at 1095 Cloud Ave. in unincorporated West Menlo Park, according to a Jan. 29 report from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

However, "the checks were all stamped for deposit and we were assured by the bank that they could not be cashed or deposited (in another account)," said Pastor Jon Coyne. "There was no cash loss."

There were no signs of forced entry into the church's main office, deputies said. The investigation is ongoing.

A few blocks away in the 1500 block of Altschul Avenue, someone opened an unlocked vehicle and "removed several items" for a total estimated loss of \$1,958, according to a Feb. 2 report. Among the missing items: a golf bag and a complete set of Calloway golf clubs.

In another incident, a stranger was seen opening an unlocked garage door in the 200 block of Leland Avenue, also in West Menlo Park, then getting into a "black compact vehicle" and fleeing northbound after being spotted by the housekeeper, deputies said in a Jan. 31 report.

Elsewhere, someone stole \$600 in cash from the Skywood Trading Post cash register at the corner of La Honda Road and Skyline Boulevard, according to a Feb. 1 Sheriff's Office report. The burglar or burglars apparently threw concrete at a middle panel on a plexiglass

See **CRIME**, page 12

New blood-donor center opens in Menlo Park

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO BRIEFS

Serving on the Menlo Park City Council demands a lot in terms of time, energy, and in Mayor Peter Ohtaki's case, blood. After cutting the ribbon, he celebrated the grand opening of Stanford's new blood-donation center by giving blood on Jan. 31.

The center, located at 445 Burgess Drive in Menlo Park, replaces the one Stanford used to operate on Welch Road in Palo Alto.

Representatives said the blood center currently has a need for all blood types, but there is a particular need for Rh-negative blood. Donors should be in good health with no cold or flu symptoms. They must eat well prior to donation, drink fluids and present photo identification at the center. The process takes about an hour.

Go to bloodcenter.stanford.edu for more information.

Council to examine housing plan

As Menlo Park races toward its deadline to update its housing plan to comply with state law, city staff plans to dedicate the March

12 council meeting to the topic.

The meeting will review the environmental assessment, financial impact analysis, and community feedback regarding the 14 potential sites that may be re-zoned to allow for high-density and affordable housing. The city has until May to adopt the update as part of a lawsuit settlement.

Originally the city planned to hold a housing element update study session on March 5, but opted to consolidate that with the March 12 council meeting instead to allow more time for public comment.

Go to tinyurl.com/MP-heu to review the proposed update.

Bike, transportation panels hold joint meeting

Changes are coming to Menlo Park's neighborhood traffic management program. Adopted in 2004, the program aims to provide safe routes throughout the city for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians.

The bicycle and transportation commissions will hold a joint meeting to review the revisions at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, in the council chambers at the Civic Center, 701 Laurel St.



Menlo Park Mayor Peter Ohtaki takes his oath to serve the city seriously. He celebrated the grand opening of Stanford's new blood donation center by giving blood on Jan. 31.

Public workshops will be Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Oak Room at Arrillaga Recreation Center (700 Alma St.) and sometime in March. Staff plans to present

the revisions to the Transportation Commission in April, and then to the City Council in May. ■

BevMo gets thumbs up in city's review

■ BevMo gets favorable review two years after controversial store opens in Menlo Park.

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

It seems like only yesterday that a faction of Menlo Park residents and alcohol merchants rose up against allowing a Beverages & More to open at 700 El Camino Real. A divided Planning Commission, followed by a split City Council, finally approved the use permit in 2010, and the new BevMo opened in February 2011.

The permit approval called for planning commissioners to review operations two years after the El Camino Real loca-

tion opened, but not reconsider the use permit. According to the staff report for the Feb. 4 meeting, fears of rampant crime have failed to materialize.

The police department reported three incidents at the BevMo — one armed robbery in May 2011; one public intoxication and trespassing in April 2012; and one bicycle theft from an outdoor rack near the store in September 2012. Spot checks of the store found that employees kept the parking lot clear of shopping carts, and the miniature bottles of alcohol locked in display cases, as requested by

■ MENLO PARK

city officials as a condition of approving the permit, according to the staff report.

Planning Commission Chair Katie Ferrick said that while there were quite a few concerns prior to the store's opening, she'd heard no anecdotal stories during the past two years that would lead her to reconsider the use permit.

The staff report did not discuss whether the BevMo has taken business away from local proprietors, such as the Beltramos, who had contributed their share of opposition against allowing a new competitor to open in town.

Commissioner Vince Bressler asked how much sales tax the

store contributes to Menlo Park. BevMo representatives, noting that the exact amount is confidential, said they were "very pleased" with the store's performance.

In contrast to the hearings held in 2010, no one spoke against the

store during the commission's review. Residents and merchants who protested the opening did not respond to requests for comment as to whether they'd changed their outlook on BevMo, or still had concerns. ■

Woodside gears up for kindergarten registration

Parents whose children are eligible to attend kindergarten or transitional kindergarten next fall at Woodside Elementary School are invited to attend an informational meeting on Thursday, Feb. 28, at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting, for adults only, will include presentations by school administrators and kindergarten teachers, followed by

classroom visits.

Children who will be 5 years old on or before Oct. 1 are eligible to attend the kindergarten program in the 2013-14 school year. Children who will turn 5 between Oct. 2 and Dec. 1 are eligible for transitional kindergarten. They will enroll in traditional kindergarten in the 2014-15 school year.

Registration begins in March. The school is using a new online registration this year, according to the Woodside School District. Once residency requirements are met, parents will be given access to the system to enroll their child.

Go to woodside.k12.ca.us for more information, or call 851-1571.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

Selling Off-Market



Dear Monica: I am about to list my property on the market and someone who knows I want to sell has made me an offer. I don't know if it is the best offer and am hesitant to accept it. What would you advise?

Anne C.

Dear Anne: This is a difficult situation to be in because you have not had an opportunity to know what the real market value of your home is. In the past months the market has shifted to being a Seller's market and the true test of value is exposure. If you are sure you know the value range of your property and the offer you received is at the high end of

this range, you can decide if it is good enough for you to forego the process of fully marketing your home.

Interest rates continue to be very low although they have gone up in the past month. There is very high demand and many buyers are in the market. If you sell privately these buyers will never have an opportunity to bid on your home. If your property is a good one, in a top location, any pre-emptive bid should be very strong or you shouldn't take it. The person who made you this pre-emptive offer can still do so once the property is on the open market. At least then you will know if it is the best offer for your home.

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

Ormondale principal departs for San Francisco post

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

■ SCHOOLS

Jennifer Warren, the principal of Ormondale School in Portola Valley since 2007, will be leaving her post at the end of the school year to become head of the lower school at San Francisco's Town School for Boys.

"During her tenure at Ormondale, she initiated many important ongoing programs and initiatives," Portola Valley School District Superintendent Carol Piraino said in a written



Jennifer Warren and her staff developed a program at Ormondale that included boys-only classes.

when initially proposed, but also because it has withstood the test of time and become endemic to the instructional program," Ms. Piraino said.

In 2011, Ms. Warren faced an unusual challenge: Boys enrolled in third-grade classes far outnumbered girls. With 70 boys and 36 girls, Ms. Warren and her staff developed a program that included boys-only classes — a first for the

district. Before the beginning of the school year, affected teachers and other staff members spent time with staff at the Town School for Boys, picking up ideas and information that might help smooth the way for Ormondale teachers and administrators involved in the new program.

Ms. Piraino said she will present to the school board Feb. 13 a process for choosing Ormondale's new principal. "I welcome community input and participation in this process and invite you to attend next week's meeting as well as future community meetings," she wrote in her message to the school community. ■

Scott Parker resigns from Portola Valley school board

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

Scott Parker has announced his resignation from the Portola Valley School District board, which he has served on since 2009.

Mr. Parker and his family will be moving this summer, and he decided to step down from the board in April, Superintendent Carol Piraino said in a written announcement Feb. 8.

Mr. Parker said in an email that he is moving to Sonoma, where he will be head of school at Presentation School.

Ms. Piraino said she will suggest a process and timeline for replacing Mr. Parker on the board at the board's Feb. 13 meeting.

Mr. Parker was president of the board in 2012 — perhaps the district's most tumultuous time. He and fellow board members faced a stunned and angry community at a series of meetings after the resignation of then-superintendent Tim Han-

retty, who later pleaded guilty to embezzling more than \$100,000 from the district and, according to audits performed after his departure, left the district's financial books and situation in disarray.

"I would like to thank Scott for his remarkable service to the Board of Trustees in Portola Valley," Ms. Piraino wrote. "It was just a year ago today that Scott and I (mostly Scott) responded to a pretty angry crowd" gathered to learn more about the Hanretty matter, she wrote.

"I learned a great deal from him that day (and other days) about how to handle a really tough situation with grace and dignity."

In his email to the Almanac, Mr. Parker wrote: "Nothing more to say than what I have always said: that this is an



Scott Parker

exceptional school district and every family is Portola Valley is uniquely privileged to attend such distinguished schools.

"I have been especially struck by the incredible dedication and countless hours of work being offered by the board. The generosity of the Portola Valley community is also something to behold.

"Carol Piraino is also a very rare opportunity: smart as a whip and capable of taking the district much further."

Mr. Parker was appointed to the board in October 2009 to fill a vacancy left when only two candidates filed to run for the three available seats in the fall election that year. The board canceled the election due to the lack of a contest, and opted to seek applicants to fill the third seat for a four-year term. Mr. Parker, who is the dean of students at the private Woodside Priory in Portola Valley, was one of three applicants. ■



Interior of Fey, the new Chinese restaurant on El Camino Real in Menlo Park.

New Chinese restaurant opens in Menlo

By Jane Knoerle
Almanac Lifestyles Editor

After seeing two favorites close last year, Menlo Park has a new Chinese restaurant. The Fey restaurant opened in January at 1368 El Camino Real, the former site of Ten Fu.

Colorful flower-filled window boxes only hint at the transformation inside the new eatery. The interior is clean, contemporary and elegant. A crystal chandelier in the entry and sparkling lights over the dining booths brighten the black, white and gray color palette. A school of silver metal fish accent one wall.

Tableware is white with pink napkins, adding a spot of color.

Diners will find their favorites on the extensive menu, along with many spicy Sichuan selections. Lunch, featuring soup, rice and entree (cashew chicken, prawns with vegetables), is \$7.95 every day. Dishes from the "Traditional Private Kitchen" are more exotic and include "spicy tripe with rice Jello" and "hot and spicy frog."

The restaurant also features individual Chinese hot pots to cook tableside. Diners may choose a la carte ingredients or go with selected meats and vegetables for \$15.95.

Fey Enterprise LLC of San Mateo, which includes "many partners," owns Fey, which is an acronym for its Chinese name, Fu En Yuan. The owners have been in the restaurant business for 20 years, having previous Sichuan restaurants in San Francisco, San Mateo and Millbrae.

With its elegant dining area and VIP room for banquets, Fey should be a popular destination for locals missing Su Hong and Ten Fu.

Fey Restaurant, located at 1368 El Camino Real in Menlo Park, is open daily. Call 324-8888. ■

ELARMS

continued from page 5

sharpened spork (a plastic eating utensil), and two sharpened pencils tied together to work as a stabbing instrument.

Mr. Elarms was in court Feb. 5 for a hearing to withdraw his plea and to set a date for sentencing if the withdrawal was denied. His request for a new attorney and move to represent himself were denied. But a defense motion

to continue the hearing was granted, and the court agreed to release Mr. Elarms on his own recognizance.

He was released from jail on the condition that if he fails to appear at a court hearing or commits a new offense, the maximum four-year state prison sentence he could receive on the weapons charges would be removed.

Prosecutors vehemently objected to the release. ■

SCHOOL TAX

continued from page 5

if they live on the property and they submit an application for the exemption each year.

Revenue from the tax is earmarked for educational programs with emphasis on science, math, reading and writing instruction; attracting and retaining experienced

teachers; supporting arts and music programs; and maintaining small class size.

In a recent written statement, Superintendent Carol Piraino said that no revenue from the parcel tax will be used for administrator salaries, and an independent citizens' oversight committee and annual audits will be required "to ensure funds are used properly." ■



Photo by Scott R. Kline

Going in style

Menlo-Atherton High School seniors Regina Mullen and Wallbank Mahoni modeled evening wear at the 2011 M-A Fashion Show. This year's show, featuring fashions and dance, will be held Saturday, Feb. 23, in the school's Performing Arts Center. See Page 21 for more information.

'Meadow preserve,' affordable housing on council agenda

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

Two key issues come before the Portola Valley Town Council on Wednesday evening, Feb. 13, in the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road:

■ The council and the Planning Commission will meet at 6 p.m. for a study session to reconsider the specific language in the general plan that describes a "meadow preserve" at 555 Portola Road, a road officially designated as a scenic corridor. The owners of the field have applied for a permit to use part of it for

a barn, rows of vegetables, and rows of grapes to be used for making wine. The proposal is meeting with opposition from residents concerned that the scenic value of the field will be compromised. Also at issue is whether grape growing is consistent with the historic uses of the field.

■ Later that same evening in a meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m., Mayor John Richards will name nine members to the new ad hoc committee looking into the complex and controversial

issue of affordable housing in town. Thirteen residents applied for membership. In terms of geographic diversity, they've got it; their map locations could almost be suitable to indicate the town's neighborhoods. Looked at in terms of experience as civic volunteers, the list is familiar. Nine applicants, or 70 percent of them, either already are or have been members of other town committees.

The council will also hear a report from the Bicycle, Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Committee. A report shows strong support for widening the road shoulders on Alpine and Portola roads, but seems to show little support for formally designing and designating the shoulders as bike lanes. ■

■ 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.

WOODSIDE

Theft report: Two watches, with an estimated value of \$35,600, were stolen during a Super Bowl party for 80 guests on Manzanita Way on Feb. 5. One was a pink and gold Brequet watch valued around \$19,900 and the other a platinum Franck Muller watch valued around \$15,700. The owners of the watches say they do not suspect any of the guests.

MENLO PARK

Strong-arm robbery report: Four Hispanic adult males in their mid-20s robbed a youth of a Mongoose BMX-type bike with chrome foot-pegs. The incident happened at the pedestrian bridge at Ringwood Avenue and U.S. 101 on Feb. 4. The loss was estimated at \$200.

Theft reports:

■ Losses estimated at \$1,000 in theft of laptop computer from backpack on front floor of unlocked vehicle, Modoc Ave., Feb. 4.

■ Loss estimated at \$550 in theft of bike from underground carport at apartment, Coleman Ave., Feb. 2.

■ Loss estimated at \$500 in theft of

bike chained to apartment stairwell, Coleman Ave., Feb. 4.

■ Loss estimated at \$200 in theft of sunglasses from unlocked vehicle, Sharon Road, Feb. 3.

■ Loss estimated at \$60 in use of siphon to steal gasoline from truck, Adams Court, Feb. 5.

ATHERTON

Auto burglary report: Smashed front window and theft of jackets, work shirt and weight belt, Selby Lane School at 170 Selby Lane, Feb. 5.

Theft report: Apple iPad stolen and tracked to location in Hayward, Faxon Forest Lane, Feb. 3.



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@cbnorcal.com

PeninsulaSpecialist.com



Serving the community for over 22 years



Are you getting the service you deserve?

We answer our phones!

We help you manage your portfolio of insurance needs.

Licensed and experienced staff

Charlie Porter
Farmers Agency®
License # 0773991

671-A Oak Grove Ave
Menlo Park
650-327-1313

cporter2@farmersagent.com

We are here for you.



FARMERS®

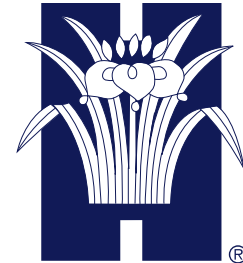
ShopMenloPark.com

The online guide to Menlo Park businesses

- Make purchases
- Write and read reviews
- Find deals and coupons
- Buy gift certificates
- Discover local businesses

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

Visit ShopMenloPark.com today



Harrell Remodeling, Inc.
Design+Build

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Due to popular demand we have added another workshop!

9:30-11:30am and 1:00-3:00pm

Registration and light snacks:
15 minutes prior to start of each class.

Call us or go online to register today!
650.230.2900

We never forget it's your home®

SILICON VALLEY'S ULTIMATE REMODELING DESIGN WORKSHOPS

Planning Your Perfect Kitchen & Bath Remodel

1954 Old Middlefield Road, Mountain View, CA 94043
harrell-remodeling.com
License B479799

Most classes are held at the award-winning Harrell Remodeling Design Center and are all taught by industry experts. Our class topics are designed to share our experience and knowledge of the remodeling process. We will provide you with the educational tools you need to get started on your successful remodel or custom home project.

- Learn about the budget, permit and planning process, before you get started.
- Gain some "color courage" and learn how your home's paint palette can transform even the smallest spaces, inspire and energize, soothe and calm or simply transform the ordinary into extraordinary.
- Get answers you need about design, space planning and learn a few secrets to create a home that fits your lifestyle, today and everyday.
- Get excited about your home remodel as our designers take you through a journey of ideas, photos, materials and product options available to transform your home today!

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

148 Hawthorne Ave, Palo Alto

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

Jackling House artifacts may find new home

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

WOODSIDE

A couple building a new home in Woodside have expressed interest in obtaining from the town several artifacts retrieved from the Jackling House, a 1926 Spanish Colonial house once located on Mountain Home Road. The town came into custody of many of the house's furnishings after finding itself in the middle of a dispute over its fate, and the Town Council will look into this latest proposal at its meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, at Independence Hall.

The Jackling House's first owner, copper baron Daniel Jackling, used it as a summer home. Its last owner was former Apple CEO Steve Jobs, who disliked it and had plans to replace it with a modern home. Mr. Jobs had the home demolished in 2010 after winning a decade-long battle with preservation-oriented friends of the architect's works, including some Woodside residents.

The couple planning a new house on Whiskey Hill Road, Ben Gilad and Qian Su, will build it in the architectural style of Mr. Smith, according to a staff report. They listed several Jackling House items that interest them, including doors and door knockers, chandeliers and light fixtures, decorative grill work, wooden railings and panels, curtain rods and a fireplace screen, the report said.

Several significant items in the town's possession are not on the list, including a 50-foot flagpole, a copper mailbox, roof tiles, an organ, and fireplace mantles.

While the artifacts on the couple's list have not been appraised, none are considered by town staff to be worth more than \$1,000 each, which is significant. If the value of town-owned property that "cannot be used by any department" is \$1,000 or less, the town manager has the discretion to dispose of it, including renting, destroying or selling it "upon such terms as he/she deems best." With items valued at more than \$1,000, the manager needs the consent of the Town Council.

In an agreement ahead of the destruction of the house, the town acquired the right of first refusal on the artifacts, with the San Mateo County Historical Association being next in line and then the University Art Museum, the University of California, Santa Barbara,

where there is a concentration of Smith-designed homes. Staff are proposing that the Woodside couple be next in line, followed at some point by a four-hour silent auction on a weekday during business hours for the artifacts remaining. Proceeds would go to the community education programs at the Woodside Community Museum.

The issue is before the council "because the value of the salvage items is not known for certain and given the history of the Jackling Estate, transparency and community agreement on this matter is appropriate," the staff report said. ■

Lindi Press

Jan. 29, 1946 – Dec. 31, 2012

Lindi Press, who acted and directed in Bay Area community theaters for over 40 years, died at her Menlo Park home on December 31. Her daughters Patience and Katie were with her. The cause of death was aggressive pancreatic cancer, diagnosed only three weeks prior. She was 66.

A longtime member of the Stanford University community, she worked for 20 years in the Chemical Engineering Department before shifting to the Registrar's Office in 2001. She worked closely with the Academic Senate and also acted as a Freshman Academic Advisor. She had retired in June of 2012.

She is survived by her two daughters: Patience Reynolds, who teaches elementary school in Elk Grove, and Katie Bauman, who teaches high school in San Jose; two grandsons; her father, Harry Press; her sister, Tina Press; and her brother, Tony Press.

Lindi grew up in San Anselmo and graduated from Sir Francis Drake High School in 1963. At Drake she was the baseball scorekeeper/statistician, an activity that startled some old-timers but earned her a varsity letter. As a child she attended most Broadway musicals as they played San Fran-

cisco, as well as many Giants' games, beginning with Seals Stadium.

She earned her bachelor's degree in English at Stanford in 1967 and later her master's of liberal arts in 2003. Also in 2003 she received Stanford's Amy J. Blue Award, which honors staff members who are "exceptionally dedicated, supportive of colleagues and passionate about their work."

Her local theater roots are deep, including, Altarena Playhouse, Chanticleers, Contra Costa Civic Theatre, Foothill College, Lamplighters, Masquers Playhouse, Piedmont Light Opera Theatre, Pear Avenue Theatre, Ram's Head, Santa Clara Players, 16th Street Players, Stanford Savoyards. Her last role was as Helga Ten Dorp in *Deathtrap*, at Chanticleers in Castro Valley, in November 2012.

Donations in her name could go to your local community theater, or to the Stanford MLA Program.



PAID OBITUARY



Our life here

Palo Alto Is The BEST PLACE To Retire.

Webster House is now a member of Episcopal Senior Communities, the not-for-profit organization that owns and operates Canterbury Woods, Los Gatos Meadows, Lytton Gardens, San Francisco Towers, Spring Lake Village, and St. Paul's Towers. Ideally located near the wonderful mix of shops, restaurants, and art galleries, our newly renovated apartments, gracious amenities, enriched services, and new programs make living here a style of life that offers you real peace-of-mind in a welcoming community with the advantages of continuing care. To learn more, or for your personal visit, please call 650.838.4004.



Webster House

Your style. Your neighborhood.

Service is our
2nd language



Quality
First

401 Webster Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301

websterhousepaloalto.org

A non-denominational, not-for-profit community. License No. 435294364 COA #246 EPWH645-01BC 081512

Jon Buckheit ordered to pay county for attorney fees

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

ATHERTON

Atherton resident Jon Buckheit must pay San Mateo County \$145,434 in attorney fees, a judge has ruled after agreeing with the county that Mr. Buckheit's claims against it in a 2009 federal lawsuit were frivolous.

Mr. Buckheit, who also named the town of Atherton and three of its police officers in the suit, said he has already filed an

appeal of the decision.

The lawsuit stemmed from Mr. Buckheit's October 2008 arrest after a domestic violence incident in his home. He was never charged, and later was granted a declaration of factual innocence in San Mateo County Superior Court.

Federal Court Judge Joseph Spero last April dismissed Mr. Buckheit's \$10 million lawsuit

before it reached trial, and the county petitioned the court for about \$152,042 in attorney fees. In January, Judge Spero ruled in the county's favor, but Mr. Buckheit challenged the amount. After a review, the judge lowered the amount by about \$6,600.

In including the county in his lawsuit, Mr. Buckheit alleged that the town and county had entered into an agreement under which the county would create what he believed to be

a discriminatory policy on dealing with domestic violence accusations. That policy was a major factor in the police officers' arrest of Mr. Buckheit instead of his then-girlfriend, even though it was Mr. Buckheit who called the police and reported that he had been assaulted, he said.

He also alleged that the county conspired with the town to retaliate against him after he petitioned the court for a determination of factual innocence. The retaliation involved refusing to provide a copy of the police report on the incident, he said.

Mr. Buckheit was able to obtain the report only after filing a legal action against Atherton, but continues to challenge District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe's assertion that his office didn't have a copy of the report to provide when the request was made.

Mr. Wagstaffe told the Almanac in 2010 that his office didn't keep the report after reviewing it and determining that Mr. Buckheit shouldn't be prosecuted. "That's how we do it: If the department decides not to investigate, we don't keep the documents," he said.

Judge Spero agreed with the county that the charges were frivolous. "The county should never have been a part of this lawsuit," he wrote in his rul-

ing. "Plaintiff's grievances were with the town of Atherton, not the county.

"It was the Atherton police officers who arrested plaintiff, the Atherton police officers who wrote a factually incorrect police report, and the Atherton Police Department who temporarily withheld the police report from plaintiff. Plaintiff's claims against the county did not only fail for lack of evidence; there

was no reasonable basis in law or fact to assert any claims against the county in the first place."

"The case is anything but frivolous," Mr. Buck-

heit told the Almanac, adding that he filed his appeal with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal within 10 minutes of the decision's release. The judge, he said, made at least one "critical factual error" in his findings, "but he refused to hold a hearing, so we couldn't point that out."

Atherton City Attorney Bill Connors said the town didn't ask the court to require Mr. Buckheit to pay attorney fees after the case was dismissed because "our case was totally different." Because Mr. Buckheit was given a declaration of factual innocence and "there were some allegations that at least on their face had some merit, according to the court," he said, the town would have had a difficult time convincing the judge that the lawsuit was frivolous. ■

The case stemmed from a domestic-violence arrest in Atherton.

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!

Serving the Peninsula 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

CRIME

continued from page 6

door. The merchant discovered four pieces of concrete on the floor inside upon arriving in the morning, deputies said. The merchant had activated

the alarm the previous evening, they said. Deputies have no leads in the case.

Meanwhile in Ladera, someone stole several power tools with a total value of \$2,800 from a residence on La Cuesta Drive, according to a Jan. 30 report. ■

Menlo School lists Merit finalists

Out of 16,000 semifinalists, seven members of Menlo School's class of 2013 have been named finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program, the school announced.

Those selected to continue in the competition for Merit

Scholarship awards are: Helena Abbot of Portola Valley, Caroline Glazer of Woodside, Max Parker of Menlo Park, Perry Ha and Cameron Walker of Los Altos, Priya Medberry of San Carlos, and Tinyen Shih of Mountain View.

THIS WEEKEND!

Fully Staged with Live Orchestra!
Gilbert & Sullivan's
Princess Ida
Best Production! Best Director!
International G&S Festival, Buxton, England
Mountain View Center for Performing Arts
February 16 - 17 • 650-903-6000

Princess Ida and Prince Hilarion are sworn to marry when they come of age but Ida refuses and has gone off to start a women's university where she teaches that man - not woman, just man - is descended from apes. Romantic Hilarion and two friends disguise themselves as women in order to enroll and

LAMPLIGHTERS
MUSIC THEATRE
lamplighters.org info: 415-227-4797

ShopMenloPark.com

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

Owner challenges dog-bite suit

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

A dog rescue organization and a German shepherd owner named in a lawsuit filed over an alleged Menlo Park dog park biting incident have filed their initial responses in San Mateo County Superior Court.

According to court documents, Angela Otero said she lost part of her middle finger when she attempted to stop another dog from attacking hers at Nealon Park in Menlo Park on Nov. 6. She has sued Laurie Furman, the owner of the dog that she says bit her, and Golden Shepherd Rescue of Northern California, the organization that adopted out the dog.

Ms. Furman, represented by attorneys working for State Farm insurance, asked the court to dismiss claims for punitive damages. "... the plaintiff must plead and prove that the defendant had actual knowledge of a vicious or dangerous propensity previously demonstrated by the animal," attorney James Picker wrote,

and that the defendant willfully let the dog off leash in the park anyway. Yet the lawsuit fails to allege any prior attacks by the dog that would have indicated a propensity to bite, he said.

"Plaintiff is essentially asserting that because of the nature of the breed, that defendant Furman knew or should have known the dog was vicious or dangerous," Mr. Picker stated in the court filing. "However, case law in this area is very clear. The fact that a dog is a certain breed (in this case a German Shepherd) does not automatically translate into prior knowledge of a vicious or dangerous propensity."

The response does not address any other aspects of the complaint. Mr. Picker was unavailable for comment; a State Farm spokesperson said the company doesn't comment on active litigation.

Lawyers representing the German shepherd rescue organization asked the court to dismiss the entire complaint against the organization. Their response also alleged that Ms. Otero "was herself negligent

and careless in and about the matters and events set forth in the complaint, and said negligence proximately contributed to plaintiff's alleged injuries and/or damages, if any there were," without going into specifics.

Documents posted on the rescue organization's website state that prospective owners must complete a questionnaire, interview and home visit before adopting a dog. The website notes that many of the dogs come from unknown backgrounds and the organization "cannot warrant or guarantee any dog's future behavior" as a result.

The court plans to hear argument regarding the motion to dismiss the claim for punitive damages on March 6. A case conference is scheduled for May 10. ■

Taylor Eigsti Trio returns to Woodside Priory

Pianist Taylor Eigsti and his trio return to the Woodside Priory to present a concert at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, honoring the memory of jazz patron Chuck Huggins and master jazz pianist Dave Brubeck, both of whom died last year. Mr. Eigsti, 28, played for Mr. Brubeck when he was 12 years old and considered him one of his mentors.

The concert at Rothrock Performance Hall is sponsored by the Palo Alto Jazz Alliance.

A graduate of the Priory, Mr. Eigsti attended the University of Southern California for a year before launching his career in New York City. A budding composer, his first Concord CD received two Grammy nominations. He has been featured as soloist with several orchestras, led his own groups, and played with the Brubeck Brothers Band and many others. He has taught and performed at the Stanford Jazz Workshop during the past

■ MUSIC

few summers.

His trio includes Eric Harland on drums and Harish Raghavan on bass, with special guest Dayna Stephens on tenor sax.

Tickets are \$35 for general admission and \$15 for students. To order by mail, send a self-addressed stamped envelope and check made out to Palo Alto Jazz Alliance to: Ed Fox, 294 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Tickets are also available at Peninsula Music & Repair, 4335 El Camino Real in Palo Alto (cash or check only).

Visit pajazzalliance.org or contact Harvey Mittler at 302-7797 or harvey.mittler@gmail.com for more information.



Taylor Eigsti

**SUPPORT
LOCAL
JOURNALISM**

Support
The Almanac's
print and online
coverage of
our community.

Join today: SupportLocalJournalism.org/Almanac



February 11

WEEKLY REAL ESTATE REPORT



Reports available via the convenient QR code or at PeninsulaSpecialist.com

Real Estate Statistics Updated Weekly for

Atherton
Woodside
Portola Valley
Menlo Park

STEVE GRAY

DRE# 01498634
650-743-7702
sgray@cbnocal.com

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



PENINSULA



Discover the best places to eat this week!

AMERICAN

Armadillo Willy's

941-2922

1031 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos
www.armadillowillys.com

The Old Pro

326-1446

541 Ramona Street, Palo Alto
www.oldpropa.com

STEAKHOUSE

Sundance the Steakhouse

321-6798

1921 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
www.sundancethesteakhouse.com

Read and post reviews, explore restaurant menus, get hours and directions and more at ShopPaloAlto.com, ShopMenloPark.com and ShopMountainView.com

CHINESE

Chef Chu's

948-2696

1067 N. San Antonio Road
www.chefchu.com

Ming's

856-7700

1700 Embarcadero East, Palo Alto
www.mings.com

New Tung Kee Noodle House

947-8888

520 Showers Drive, Mountain View
www.shopmountainview.com/luunoodlemv

INDIAN

Janta Indian Restaurant

462-5903

369 Lytton Ave.
www.jantaindianrestaurant.com

Thaiphoon

323-7700

543 Emerson Ave, Palo Alto
www.ThaiphoonRestaurant.com

powered by



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.

Viewpoint

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

Holiday Fund shines on 20th year

As they have for the last 20 years, residents of the Almanac's circulation area opened their hearts and their bank accounts and contributed over \$100,000 to the Holiday Fund.

More than 100 donors, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation contributed a total of \$162,537, which means each nonprofit agency will receive \$16,253.

Started in 1993 with the idea of helping to support the numerous nonprofit agencies in the community, the Holiday Fund has raised more than \$3 million over the last 20 years to fund programs that help local residents who are down on their luck.

The Holiday Fund is grateful for the longstanding support of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which processes all donations and writes the checks that will be presented to the nonprofit agencies at a small ceremony later this month. No fees or other charges are taken out by the Almanac or the foundation, so that every dollar contributed goes directly to the recipient agencies that work for our community. Here are the nonprofits that each will receive a check for \$16,253:

assists 2,400 people each month with such services as low-income housing, food and clothing, shower and laundry, counseling, community garden, and education.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinics in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto. It also operates a mobile clinic at school sites. Of the 16,500 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured, and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

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

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 30 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to some 162,000 people each month through more than 700 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

InnVision Shelter Network

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

JobTrain

Provides training and job placement for people with the biggest problems, including returning parolees, long-term unemployed, homeless, welfare clients, marginalized youth, and those recovering from drug and alcohol abuse.

StarVista (formerly Youth and Family Enrichment Services)

Provides 22 programs to help people who struggle with substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health, and relationship and communications issues. Helps strengthen youth, families, and individuals to overcome challenges through counseling, education, and residential services.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Incentives can work for public employees, too

Editor:

In a Feb. 4 column, Daily Post editor Dave Price explains why his paper prints salaries of local government employees. The response that peaked my interest was his point: "If you own a business, you're entitled to know how much your workers are paid. Our local governments are owned by residents, and residents should take an interest in how they're run."

It is ironic that on the same day I read the article in the Post I read an article in Fortune magazine entitled "100 best companies to work for." The article listed a number of perks and incentives that these top companies provide to their employees in order to retain them and motivate them to

be innovative. Incentives such as providing wellness centers, free yoga classes, encouraging employees to spend 10 percent of their time pursuing projects they're passionate about, and other creative ideas.

The number nine company on the list, NetApp of Sunnyvale, focuses on recognizing employees who are caught doing something right. So if residents are really the "owners" of local governments, should they not be taking the lead from these top companies by providing positive feedback about what they find right? Examples would be the ability to sleep at night due to excellent public safety, parks and recreation opportunities, libraries that provide positive alternatives for our youth and adults, and other public services we sometimes take for granted.

I don't disagree that pensions need to be controlled

Continued on next page



Atherton Heritage Association

Our Regional Heritage

From 1888 to 1940, Gertrude Atherton was one of the most famous women writers of her time. She was married to George Atherton, the son of patriarch Faxon Dean Atherton. Her book, "Black Oxen," was the bestselling book in the U.S. in 1923.

Meadow preserve in Valley threatened

By Jon Silver

The iconic meadow adjacent to Windy Hill Open Space Preserve has long been a hallmark of Portola Valley. The gentle slopes of Windy Hill and the meadow at its feet were the inspiration for the town's foundation.

Portola Valley's founders incorporated the town to preserve this scenic viewshed. Through much collaborative effort, Windy Hill itself was preserved.

The meadow that frames its lower slopes was prioritized for protection by town founders in Portola Valley's general plan. It is one of four "community open space preserves" identified in the General Plan as "visually important to the entire quality of the valley."

Unfortunately the Meadow Preserve's future is in question because of an ill-considered change to the General Plan adopted by the Town Council on May 25, 2011. This change was made during a routine review of

General Plan amendments recommended by the Planning Commission. Along with amendments to a number of elements, the commission had recommended changes intended to update and strengthen wording related to the Meadow Preserve. Rather than refine the commission wording, the council instead largely followed suggestions contained in a letter received the day of the hearing from attorney John Paul

Hanna, who was representing a large landowner whose parcel (229 acres) includes much of the meadow. Ultimately the wording adopted by the Town Council based on attorney Hanna's last-minute letter seriously weakened protection for the Meadow Preserve. The council altered the Planning Commission's recommended language without specifically placing the item on an agenda to seek community comment for the change, and without informing the Planning Commission. Considering

its importance, the Council should have placed the item on an agenda for a future meeting to allow public comment.

The Planning Commission was not informed that the council had adopted the weakened protection for the Meadow Preserve until months later. When the commission finally reviewed the language enacted by the Council, it became clear that the new wording was not only weaker but also ambiguous and difficult to interpret. Confronted with this, the Council agreed on October 26, 2011, that the new language needed to be referred back to the Planning Commission. But, the Town Council decided to delay making the referral until the Council discussed the issue one more time.

No action was taken and the matter languished for more than a year. The flawed General Plan wording, with its enfeebled protection for the Meadow Preserve, has remained in place as the law of our town. Finally, the Council has scheduled a joint session

with the Planning Commission to address this problem.

It is vital that the residents of Portola Valley participate in this critical decision and let the Town Council and Planning Commission know that we want strong protection for the Meadow Preserve. Such protection should assure that the Meadow Preserve remains in a natural condition as a largely open scenic vista, not blighted by buildings and fences (that could be sited elsewhere on 229 acres) and not obscured by dense, hedge-like plantings that cut it off from public view. New language to safeguard the Meadow Preserve must be adopted as an urgency measure without further delay. Please attend the meeting at the Portola Valley Town Center on Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 6 p.m.

Jon Silver is a former mayor of Portola Valley and was assisted in writing this article by former planning commissioner Linda Elkind and Bev Lipman, an openspace advocate.



GUEST OPINION

the negative because that will impact how their companies perform. They certainly will not sacrifice high production by skimping on appropriate compensation.

If you want better local government, then take ownership and provide positive feedback and support appropriate incentives to attract and retain the best public employees possible. Just look at the 100 top companies and see how they are performing and what they are doing to ensure they stay on top.

*Glen Rojas
retired city manager
of Menlo Park*

LETTERS

Our readers write

Continued from previous page

and budgets carefully monitored by all, but lets make sure we are looking at the big picture. Why is it so egregious for an engineer-manager who makes sure that our roads and bridges are properly built to earn \$100,000 a year? I bet you could find situations in any of Fortune's top 100 companies that need improvement or even a group of employees who may be paid too much. But you will not find the owners of those companies focusing only on

TOWN OF WOODSIDE

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING COMMISSION

Districts 1 Unexpired term to February 2016

The Planning Commission participates in the administration of the planning laws and policies of the Town. It is responsible for recommending to the Town Council ordinances and resolutions necessary to implement the General Plan and adopted development policy. The Commission also conducts necessary public hearings to administer the planning laws and policies of the Town and acts upon applications for zoning amendments, conditional use permits, variances, subdivisions and other related functions as may be assigned by the Council.

The Planning Commission meets on the first and third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.; Commissioners are appointed for a four-year term; one member is appointed from each Council district. A listing of district addresses is provided on the Town's web site at www.woodsidesidtown.org, Town Hall, Boards and Committees, Planning Commission, Districts.

Interested residents may request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-12 noon and 1-5:00 PM at Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, at the Town's web site, www.woodsidesidtown.org, Residents, Volunteer Opportunities, or telephone the Town Clerk at (650) 851-6790. Deadline for applications is Tuesday, March 5, 2013, 5:00 PM.



The online guide to Menlo Park businesses

- Make purchases
- Write and read reviews
- Find deals and coupons
- Buy gift certificates
- Discover local businesses

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



Matched CareGivers



"There's no place like home."

When you, or someone you care about, needs assistance... you can count on us to be there.

We provide Peninsula families with top, professional caregivers.

Call now (650) 839-2273

www.matchedcaregivers.com

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

Support The Almanac's print and online coverage of our community.

Join today: SupportLocalJournalism.org/Almanac



- 10.4 acres – mostly level land
- views of the Western Hills
- privacy, serenity, heritage oaks
- older 5,500 sf house
- sun-drenched meadows
- oak woodlands
- Woodside Elem. School

Build your dream estate on this 10-acre property in central Woodside.

This lovely, verdant property was the country home of a prominent family for over half a century, providing gracious living in a bygone era. Now it is available for a future generation with all its natural beauty intact. The property is in Woodside's minimum 3 acre zoning (see Town about subdivision rules). It provides an excellent opportunity to build a legacy where one can retreat from the stress of modern life and watch the fog spill over the Western Hills at sunset.



160 Greer Road \$11,450,000.



Ed Kahl - Over \$1 Billion Sold

- MA in Economics from UC
- Real Estate Broker since 1972
- Top 1% of Coldwell Banker agents
- Real Estate experience you can trust

Ed Kahl

www.EdKahl.com

400-2796

