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# The Almanac

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

APRIL 3, 2013 | VOL. 48 NO. 31



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**EATING  
LOCAL**

**New farmers' markets  
spring up in Woodside  
and Portola Valley**

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# Cookie company with a mission

By Kate Daly

Special to the Almanac

Talk about sweet rewards. “Making a difference one cookie at a time” is the slogan and stated goal of a new Menlo Park-based company run by two young moms.

Dani Muto of Menlo Park and Heather Pietsch of San Carlos were causal acquaintances through the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church’s Mothers Together group until they ran into each other at a St. Patrick’s Day party last year. Pretty soon they realized they shared more in common. Both desired to get back to work in a meaningful way, and both had close family members with Alzheimer’s disease.

The partners say they intend to give 10 percent of the profits to the Alzheimer’s Association.

That conversation led to a partnership built upon the company Ms. Muto had just started. The former elementary school teacher named the business Grandma Vonnie’s Cookies in honor of her grandmother who died from Alzheimer’s disease eight years ago. “I was just so close to her, and to see that deterioration was really hard,” Ms. Muto says.

The partners say they intend to give 10 percent of the profits to the Alzheimer’s Association.

Both Ms. Pietsch’s grandmother and great-grandmother had Alzheimer’s disease, and her father-in-law has it now.

Ms. Pietsch says she welcomed bringing her business experience to Grandma Vonnie’s Cookies, now that her children are ages 6 and 8. She previously worked in marketing at Salesforce.com, where she was one of the first hires. She left to become a mother. At Grandma Vonnie’s, Ms. Pietsch “runs the business side of things,” says Ms. Muto, who describes herself as the one



Photo by Laura Hamilton

**Partners** Heather Pietsch, left, and Dani Muto are donating cookie “dough” to benefit the Alzheimer’s Association and other local causes.

and only baker.

Ms. Muto says she wanted to recreate the good feelings and fond childhood memories she has of her grandmother baking cookies. The Vonnie, made from Lay’s potato chips, white chocolate chips and pecans, is “our signature cookie that she made almost every time I went to her house,” Ms. Muto adds.

She now makes eight cookie flavors, ranging from classic chocolate chip cookies and snicker-doodles to the Southern Peach with dried white peaches, walnuts and white chocolate, and the PB no J, a gluten-free peanut butter cookie.

During the predawn hours, she bakes an average of 15 dozen cookies a week in a commercial kitchen they rent from Studio Cake in Menlo Park.

They currently sell their freshly baked self-described “whole-

some and hardy” cookies at two locations, Woodside Deli and Beltramo’s, but their real target market is corporate clients and special events. So far the women haven’t done any formal advertising, and have relied on networking and social media to help spread the word.

Over the Christmas holiday, Ms. Muto says she filled orders for 10,000 cookies. Between that and juggling her family life with two kids, ages 3 and 6, she admits, “I didn’t sleep for two weeks.”

Oracle was the main client that kept them busy baking, packaging, and shipping boxes across the country in December, but there are also standing orders such as Bear Data Solutions in San Francisco. The partners make personal cookie deliveries there each week. The idea is to

See **COOKIE COMPANY**, page 6

THE HENDERSON COLLECTION *by Cecil*

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Momentum builds for locally grown food

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

The idea of local people eating locally grown food continues to make headlines in Woodside. A new farmers' market is coming on Sunday afternoons to the Woodside Elementary School, and the Town Council expressed interest last week in asking voters whether to allow that new market to move to town-owned property.

That market would be in addition to the Wednesday afternoon farmers' market that launched last year in Skylonda, and will soon reopen for its first full year of operation.

And now there's news from Portola Valley.

The Town Council agreed on March 27 to a proposal by Brandi de Garneau, the town's sustainable practices coordinator, to allot one Saturday morning a month in a redwood grove at Town Center for an hour-long "garden share," a free exchange of local produce and gardening tips among residents.

A few minutes later, the council sounded cautiously agreeable to Ms. de Garneau's

idea for a once-a-week farmers' market a few feet away from the redwood grove in the parking lot of the Historic Schoolhouse. The town would limit the number of vendors and the space allocated, and focus on locally grown organic produce "in line with our sustainability goals here," Ms. de Garneau said.

The council's caution concerned the views of tax-paying merchants in town on the prospect of drop-in competition free of that tax burden. Outreach to these merchants is clearly needed, said Councilwoman Ann Wengert, who also recommended having a trial market to see how it goes.

Ms. de Garneau was seeking direction from the council, and she got it. "I think everyone here thinks it's a great idea," Mayor John Richards said.

One idea excluded from Woodside's farmers' markets — the presence of a food truck or two — sounded as if it would be part of the conversation in Portola Valley, though, again, not without considering the views of local merchants.

### Woodside's restrictions

While the new Sunday farm-



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

This farmers' market on Wednesday afternoons launched last year in Skylonda and will soon reopen.

ers' market in Woodside has a temporary home on the elementary school campus, the council is seeking a permanent home on public property. The obvious place would be the parking lot near Independence Hall, but Measure J, passed in 1988 by Woodside residents, restricts the commercial use of public property in Town Center.

Councilman Ron Romines, an attorney, read Measure J closely and proposed that while it excludes commercial development, it is arguable that the legal

language does not exclude commercial uses such as farmers' markets. "I think that's important because I don't think anything like a farmers' market was even contemplated at the time it was passed," he said during the council's March 26 meeting.

The council did not disagree, but was interested in erring on the side of caution by adding a ballot measure to the November election asking voters whether a commercial use like a farmer's market is acceptable. A staff report is set for the

second meeting in May, with ballot language to be ready by August to meet the schedule of the San Mateo County Elections Office.

"I would hate to see us fudge to pass something. I would prefer (that it) be really clean," said councilwoman Deborah Gordon, using "fudge" to refer to an artful interpretation of Measure J's restrictions.

Councilman Dave Burow agreed. "The risk (of artful interpretation) is much greater than the benefit." ■

## St. Patrick's finance director accused of stealing \$202,000

■ Secretary also charged.

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

Jennifer Margret Morris, the 57-year-old finance director for St. Patrick's Seminary and University in Menlo Park, has been charged in the theft of \$202,000 and a 1982 Mercedes from the institution.

For the past six years, police allege, Ms. Morris reportedly dipped into the seminary's funds to reimburse \$166,000 in personal expenses, collect airline miles and overpay herself \$36,000, and transferred the title of a car donated to the seminary to her own name while having her employer pay maintenance and registration expenses, according to the San Mateo County District



San Mateo County Sheriff's Office  
Jennifer Morris, left, and Evelyn Vallacqua.

Attorney's Office.

The missing funds came to light after St. Patrick's conducted an audit upon learning that Ms. Morris allegedly charged seminary purchases to her personal credit card, reportedly to rack up airline miles, then reimbursed herself.

Her secretary, Evelyn Val-

See **EMBEZZLEMENT**, page 8

## Council may hear Stanford plan concerns

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

Debate has raged since Stanford and developer John Arrillaga first proposed building eight acres of mixed-use office space, retail and apartments on El Camino Real in Menlo Park late last year. Now the City Council is getting involved a bit ahead of schedule.

The most recent incarnation of the project depicts the car lots along 300 to 500 El Camino Real being replaced with 96,000 square feet of medical offices, 133,500 square feet of offices, 10,000 square feet of retail, and up to 150 apartments.

"It appears that there is significant concern about the Stanford project," said Coun-

cilwoman Kirsten Keith, who along with Councilman Rich Cline, has asked the council to consider reviewing the project at the April 16 council meeting. "We are simply asking if the council would like to hear from the public about this project. The (Planning Commission) will have a future meeting to analyze the latest plans and traffic data."

However, the Stanford development currently falls under the purview of the Planning Commission, which has asked several times within the past month about the next steps

for the project. Staff said that it was better to wait until the plans were resubmitted "as opposed to getting comments on something that was already changing," according to Menlo Park Senior Planner Thomas Rogers.

Stanford wasn't ready to talk about those changes, but city officials told the Almanac they expect to see a reduction of medical office space.

Residents and city officials have expressed disappointment with the proposal. They said Stanford appeared to support building senior housing on the lots during the creation of the downtown/El Camino Real specific plan — not medical office space expected to add heavy traffic.

See **STANFORD PROJECT**, page 8

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**Woodside environmentalist  
Ollie Mayer dies at 94**



Photo courtesy Loma Prieta Chapter of Sierra Club  
**Ollie Mayer**

The Devil's Slide tunnel groundbreaking in 2005 was a triumph for Olive Mayer of Woodside. She wasn't there to cheer the tunnels completion at the party held March 25, 2013, however. Ms. Mayer died March 20 of heart failure. She was 94.

Back in 1971, Ms. Mayer and the Sierra Club were proposing a tunnel to bypass the notorious section of Highway 1 around Devil's Slide, between Pacifica and Half Moon Bay, according to an article in the May 18, 2005 issue of the Almanac. Instead, Caltrans planned to build a four-lane freeway bypass at Devil's Slide. Ms. Mayer and the Sierra Club brought a lawsuit, the first of several, that stopped the highway bypass.

"Without Ollie, we wouldn't be getting a tunnel. The bypass would have happened," said April Vargas, a Coastside leader in the campaign to build a tunnel, at the time. "She continues to inspire people. That is her great gift."

Ollie Hendricks grew up in New Jersey and New York before attending Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, where she was one of the first women to graduate with an engineering degree.

While on a hiking vacation in Colorado, she met her future husband, Henry Mayer. They married in December 1941, three weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor. After the war, the Mayers settled in Woodside and Dr. Mayer started his medical practice in Redwood City.

Ms. Mayer learned to love San Mateo County's rural Coastside,

hiking its trails and absorbing its beauty. In the 1960s and 1970s, she led hikes of schoolchildren, scouts, and parents.

"I saw erosion, logging, the terrible condition of streams," she said. "Then I began to get interested in politics."

Ollie Mayer's legacies stretch far beyond the Devil's Slide tunnels. She founded the San Mateo County branch of the Sierra Club and fought for conservation on many fronts, including serving a term on the Woodside Town Council in the 1970s.

In a 2003 statement, the Loma Prieta chapter of the Sierra Club said Ms. Mayer's greatest missions included: preserving the San Mateo coastal resources; opposing illegal and highly destructive logging practices; and extending the trails in San Mateo County.

In 1983 the national Sierra Club recognized her with its special achievement award.

Ms. Mayer is survived by her children, Judy O'Brien and Robert Mayer, and four grandchildren. Her husband, Dr. Henry Mayer, died in 2009. A private memorial is planned for May.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Committee for Green Foothills, Loma Prieta chapter of the Sierra Club, or the Peninsula Open Space Trust.

**COOKIE COMPANY**

continued from page 3

boost employees' morale and productivity the old-fashioned way: through treats.

The cookies cost \$9 for half a dozen, or \$18 for a dozen, not including shipping and handling, with a 10 percent discount for orders over 10 dozen. Corporate orders with a signed three-month contract are discounted by 10 percent, as well.

Business is growing to the point where the women are looking into courier services to help with deliveries and alternative baking arrangements to handle large volume orders. Their public relations rep sees their competition as Mrs. Fields and Otis Spunkmeyer. Ms. Muto smiles when she hears this, saying, "Why not dream big?"

For now the women are focused on growing their customer base to generate a profit. After being in business for such

a short time and incurring some start-up expenses, they did not make any extra money in 2012, but were pleased to donate \$500 to the Alzheimer's Association and provide free cookies to team leaders and VIPs at their San Francisco and San Jose fundraising walks. Guests received cookies as favors at the Part the Cloud Alzheimer's event in Menlo Park in January.

Ms. Pietsch figures the company donated more than \$3,000 in cookies to events put on by My New Red Shoes, Sacred Heart Schools, Baywood Elementary School, the Junior League and Mothers Together.

"Our focus on education, homelessness, and community outreach is very important to us," she says. "All of this makes it worth it. We can sell a wonderful product and give back in the ways that make a difference. What could be better?"

Visit [grandmavonnies.com](http://grandmavonnies.com) for more information. ■



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

The city of Menlo Park is permitting a developer to use public parking spaces, including those in the foreground, for a hotel that will be located at right, in a converted senior center.

## Attorney scrutinizes hotel parking approval

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park council voted 4-0 last week in favor of a proposed hotel on Glenwood Avenue, but that won't be the last time the public hears about the issue.

The project will replace Casa de Peninsula, a market-rate senior housing facility, with a 138-room Marriott Residence Inn. Of the eight residents remaining in the senior housing, six will be moved out this week and the other two are deciding between options, according to project representatives.

Attorney James Kashian, whose legal career includes representing the county of Los Angeles on a variety of projects, thinks the city took a misstep. He became aware of the hotel proposal when relatives who live in Menlo Park started receiving calls from relocation companies wanting to know if his mother, who resided at Casa de Peninsula, needed help finding a new home. (She has since relocated to Redwood City.)

The "elephant in the room," as he put it, is the parking. The hotel project violates the new downtown/El Camino Real specific plan, he said, and also sets a bad precedent by allowing a developer to obtain benefits for paying taxes the city would collect anyway.

On its face, Menlo Park's specific plan requires 173 off-street parking spaces for the hotel. The applicant, however, proposed 113 spaces — 74 on site and 39 public parking spaces on Garwood Way that have historically been used only by the senior home.

"This is a new development.

Shouldn't it comply with the specific plan?" Mr. Kashian asked. "If the city and developer don't want to follow the specific plan, then the specific plan mandates they follow the variance process." On top of that, he said, another clause in the specific plan requires developments outside the downtown area to provide on-site parking.

Menlo Park Senior Planner Thomas Rogers said a variance wasn't necessary because "once an appropriate mechanism for project review has been identified, it's not necessary to review other hypothetical mechanisms." In this case, that meant distinguishing between hotel types to adjust the parking requirements. Since the Marriott would not have amenities for non-guests, such as restaurants or a conference center, the city agreed it shouldn't have to provide the same amount of parking as a full-service facility.

But that's only the first issue Mr. Kashian, along with some current and former commissioners, have raised. Another concerns the idea of swapping the public parking spaces for meeting transient occupancy tax (TOT) revenue goals.

The city and the applicant estimate the hotel will add about \$669,000 to Menlo Park's annual revenue, mainly through the 12 percent TOT. If the hotel fails to provide the city with at least 50 percent of total room occupancy TOT revenue for two consecutive years, the hotel can be required to pay the difference, provide a public benefit, reduce its size, or revert to a senior living facility.

If in a given year, 85 percent of

guests stay longer than 30 days, thereby generating no TOT, the hotel owes the city up to \$50,000.

The agreement approved by the council includes a provision that after five years, the city will charge fair market rent for the parking spaces — but only if Menlo Park's tax revenue from the hotel in a given year drops below \$700,000.

Local government watchdog Peter Carpenter as well as Mr. Kashian cried foul.

"The TOT is supposed to be tax revenue, not an in-lieu fee to pay for parking spaces or other special benefits from the city. Basically, they're using TOT to pay off the city to buy those 39 public parking spaces," Mr. Kashian said. "This could open a Pandora's box for any other development."

Both Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Kashian have asked what's to stop a new project, such as a restaurant, for example, from asking for the same accommodations?

City Attorney Bill McClure told the council that given the unique nature of the site, the risk of setting a damaging precedent in this case was very low. City officials have pointed out that Menlo Park's ban on overnight street parking presents a key obstacle for a hotel, which needs enough spaces at night to accommodate guests. Also an eatery may have a hard time arguing that it should fall into a unique category of restaurant, and thus deserve a modification to a specific plan requirement, as opposed to a limited-service vs. full-service hotel.

"We have always looked at this project as including Garwood Way (parking spaces), for better or worse," applicant Reed Moulds told the council. When the team realized the parking

See **HOTEL PARKING**, page 8



## REAL ESTATE TRENDS

by Samia Cullen

### Advice for Home Buyers in Today's Market

Buying or selling a home is ranked as one of the most stressful events in life. The local real estate market is hot; inventory is at an historic low and multiple offers on almost every property is the norm. Market conditions are putting buyers under pressure to buy a home before home prices and interest rates go higher.

The stress that buyers experience can be alleviated with careful planning. There is more to home buying than finding the right house. The process is complex with a myriad of issues that surface and need to be addressed promptly.

Therefore once the decision to buy a house is made, you should soon after get the help of an experienced local real estate agent who can offer an insider's advice. Experienced local agents have a strong sense of the precise actions that should be taken in different situations. When faced with decisions ask your agent for advice (including the

rationale behind their advice), and ask for data before making your final decision. If you are unsatisfied by the answers and truly feel that you cannot trust your agent, you have not found the right agent.

A qualified agent will help you understand the process, explain the timeline, answer your questions and navigate through the complex process to avoid costly pitfalls or mistakes. A reputable local agent can also assist by suggesting different neighborhoods or properties that you may not have considered and by helping you prepare and negotiate the terms of offers and counteroffers.

Finally, be proactive and do your own research. Go to the city building department to learn more about how the house has been modified over time. Talk to the neighbors about their experiences in the neighborhood. The more you know, the better off you are and the less likely you are to encounter bad surprises.

If you have a real estate question or would like a free market analysis for your home, please call me at 650-384-5392, Alain Pinel Realtors, or email me at [scullen@apr.com](mailto:scullen@apr.com). For the latest real estate news, follow my blog at [www.samiacullen.com](http://www.samiacullen.com)



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# Property owner cited for clear-cutting 18 trees

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

## ■ PORTOLA VALLEY

Eighteen trees fell recently in a clear-cutting on a lightly forested hilltop at 18 Redberry Ridge in Portola Valley. While woodcutters were on the scene to hear the sounds the trees made as they fell, the aftereffects are reverberating in Town Hall. The trees, including 15 oaks with diameters of at least 11.5 inches, were growing in a protected open-space easement on the property. The woodsmen also lopped the tops off of several bay laurel trees downhill on the adjoining property.

The town notified property owner David L. Douglass of a municipal code violation for cutting without a permit “significant trees and other vegetation,” in this case by a tree services company in late December or early January. The fact that the trees were in an open-space easement allows the town to seek additional damages, Town Attorney Sandy Sloan said in an email.

The town learned of the cutting in January, according to a staff report by Town Manager Nick Pegueros. The Architectural & Site Control Commission visited the site on March 25 to hear from the landscape architects engaged by Mr. Douglass to replant the hillside. Two days later, the Town Council met for the second of two closed-door sessions to consider “facts and circumstances” associated with “initiation of litigation” over the incident.

Assistant Town Attorney Leigh Prince told the Almanac after the March 27 closed session that the council had authorized her to enter into settlement negotiations with Mr. Douglass. Settlement results will be made public, Ms. Prince and other public officials have said.

While the council discussed

this matter in private, a public moment not on the agenda came just before the adjournment to closed session. Mr. Douglass walked up to the dais, introduced himself and apologized for his actions. He said he had acted on the advice of an arborist and has since been working on the tree restoration plan. The arborist, he said, considered “many” of the felled trees to be diseased and unhealthy. “I very much appreciate all the thought and consideration and help that has gone into this,” he told the council.

About a dozen oaks will be planted soon, with underbrush and grass coming in December, according to an ASCC staff report and remarks during the on-site tour by Paul Kephart, president of Monterey-based landscape architect Rana Creek.

“We’ll get a great outcome and hopefully exceed the expectations,” Mr. Douglass said.

### Private talks

While in closed session, the Town Council has apparently been discussing a substantial penalty for Mr. Douglass. In his remarks ahead of the closed session, he referred to a fine “certainly considerably more than I have ever anticipated.”

Unlawful tree cutting is considered a misdemeanor in the town’s municipal code, with a fine of not more than \$500 and/or up to 180 days in jail plus the cost of replacement trees that have 15-gallon root balls at minimum. Under state law governing open-space easements, however, the town can assess damages for “loss of scenic, aes-



Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

**This stump** and the one in the background are what remains of two of 15 significant trees felled without a permit within an open-space easement at 18 Redberry Ridge in Portola Valley.

thetic, or environmental value.”

Incidents like this one unfold much differently in Woodside, where the code specifies an initial fine of \$5,000 that quickly rises to \$10,000 per tree. For each of three incidents over recent years, the Woodside council

put the matter on the open-session agenda and negotiated with the property owner in public. When invited to speak, the accused usually began with an apology, and in each case, the Woodside council reduced the fine.

The discussions/negotiations in the Woodside chambers were lengthy and arduous. In one case involving 35 trees, the talks opened with a total fine of around \$100,000. After two

public sessions that included testimony as to the good character of the accused, extensive testimony by the accused, and vigorous give and take among council members on the merits of this or that penalty, the council settled on \$10,000.

Asked to comment on Portola Valley’s use of closed sessions, Ms. Sloan, the Portola Valley town attorney, said in an email that Portola Valley does not have “specific enumerated fines” on illegal tree cutting. The council discussed the matter in closed sessions to consider whether to pursue litigation and discuss its costs and chances of success “given the severity of the violation of the terms of the open space easement,” Ms. Sloan said.

As to the question of whether a penalty should have been discussed in open session, given Mr. Douglass’ specific concern

about a large fine, Ms. Sloan did not respond.

On the matter of public comment, “there was opportunity for those interested to speak,” Ms. Sloan said, referring to Mr. Douglass’ unagendized remarks, and remarks offered two weeks earlier before closed session by a representative from the Blue Oaks Homeowner’s Association.

Asked about Woodside’s use of specific fines, Portola Valley Mayor John Richards said: “As I recall, they haven’t had a lot of success with it. They’ve had to back down.” Specific fines, he added, could allow wealthy residents to simply consider the penalties as part of the cost of completing their projects.

Compared to the town’s oversight of the replanting of the hillside, the financial penalties are the least important part of the issue, Mr. Richards said. ■

## The Portola Valley town attorney is in settlement negotiations with the property owner.

### STANFORD PROJECT

continued from page 5

While Menlo Park waits to see Stanford’s revised designs, the city has started an independent traffic study to clarify whether the proposed uses and size of the project comply with the those studied during the specific plan process in terms of trip volume and flow, Mr. Rogers said.

The next time the Planning Commission takes up the topic, they’ll likely hold a study session to review the initial traffic study and design revisions, according to staff.

Councilman Cline said he respects the role the Planning Commission plays in taking

the lead on projects, but didn’t think the council was stepping on toes by holding a review.

“I don’t think the number one priority of a council member should be territories. I understand that some people think the commission and the process is more important than the actual project and the integrity of the specific plan,” Mr. Cline commented. “Having a discussion at multiple levels is OK. If we were to take zoning laws into our own hands, then we’d be wholeheartedly stepping all over the Planning Commission’s responsibilities. We’re looking at the integrity of the specific plan by considering the impact the Stanford project will have.” ■

### HOTEL PARKING

continued from page 7

was actually in the public right-of-way, he said, they worked hard to figure out how to make the project viable anyway.

Mr. Moulds said he has been talking to other businesses in the vicinity, such as Ducky’s car

### EMBEZZLEMENT

continued from page 5

lacqua, 44, allegedly collected illicit severance pay with the director’s approval and helped issue improper reimbursement checks.

Ms. Morris pleaded not guilty on March 29 to four counts of fel-

wash and Caltrain, which could possibly have parking spaces available at night after closing.

Mr. Kashian submitted a request for public records on March 29 related to the city’s process in deciding to support the proposal, and said he’ll consider his options once Menlo Park responds. ■

ony embezzlement and one count of taking more than \$65,000 worth of property while committing a felony. She is out on \$200,000 bail, with a preliminary hearing scheduled for April 12.

Her co-defendant is also out of custody on \$10,000 bail. Ms. Vallacqua’s arraignment is set for April 30. ■

## Correction

Portola Valley resident Susan Dworak said she was misquoted in a story on affordable housing in the March 27 issue of the Almanac. Ms. Dworak, a member of Portola Valley’s Ad Hoc Affordable Housing Committee, said she did not say that the committee should be exempt from open-meeting restrictions and have a budget for legal counsel. “I inquired about these and other subjects pursuant to multiple prior discussions, but I did not make definitive suggestions as quoted,” Ms. Dworak said in an email.



## Portola Valley meets on affordable housing

Affordable housing in Portola Valley is the topic for a community meeting at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 3, at Valley Presbyterian Church at 945 Portola Road.

By state law, every community in California must plan for socio-economic diversity

among its residents. Town officials, through a group of volunteers on an ad hoc committee, are seeking public feedback on town values and aspirations related to affordable housing.

Another meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 8, at the Alpine Hills Swim &

Tennis Club.

Residents can submit comments in person at Town Hall on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m.

Visit [tinyurl.com/PV-afford](http://tinyurl.com/PV-afford) to download a blank comment form.

For more information, try PV Forum, the town's website, or Interim Planning Department Manager Steve Padovan at 851-1700, ext. 212, or write to [spadovan@portolavalley.net](mailto:spadovan@portolavalley.net).

## Menlo Park adds part-time budget director

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Larry Lisenbee, San Jose's former budget director, has joined Menlo Park part-time, according to a memo sent to city staff.

Mr. Lisenbee will be "working for us part-time on all things budget, both current and future," said Assistant Starla Jerome-Robinson in the memo, dated March 27. In addition to serving in San Jose for 21 years, his experience includes 10 months last year working as interim budget director for Stockton.

Mr. Lisenbee will work 20 to 30 hours per week on the 2013-14 budget and recommend ways to revamp the budget process, including policies and procedures, the city said.

He was contracted through Management Partners, which will be billing Menlo Park \$150 per hour, the city said.

Another new face around city hall may seem familiar — the city has also brought back former finance director Uma Chokkalingam to fill in after

### BRIEFS

the recent departure of Carol Augustine. According to the memo, the city hopes to hire a permanent replacement by summer. She'll earn \$87 an hour for a contract that expires June 30, according to the human resources department.

### Marsh Road resurfacing

Menlo Park started resurfacing the portion of Marsh Road approximately between the Union Pacific Railroad Tracks and its intersection with Scott Drive on Tuesday, April 2. According to the public works department, the project could cause traffic delays until it's complete at the end of April.

### Menlo Park Kiwanis win Facebook grant

Facebook's local community fund has awarded \$5,000 to the Menlo Park Kiwanis Club, according to an announcement on March 28.

The club plans to use the funds for its college scholarship program for students graduating from Menlo-Atherton High School. Now in its 28th year, the program has given more than \$131,000 in scholarships during the past three years alone, club representatives said.

Scholarships are awarded based on the student's record of community service, academic performance and financial need.

### Free compost

Time to fertilize? Menlo Park is giving away compost on Saturday, April 6.

Bring a shovel, proof of residency, and containers. Then help yourself to the large pile of compost at the entrance to Bedwell Bayfront Park, near the intersection of Bayfront Expressway and Marsh Road. Each resident can claim about six full garbage cans' worth of fertilizer. The event lasts from sunrise to sunset or until supplies run out.

Call 330-6720 or email [recycle@menlopark.org](mailto:recycle@menlopark.org) for more information. ■

## Atherton to choose Town Center committee members

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Seven of 13 Atherton residents who applied to sit on the town's Community Center Advisory Committee will be appointed by the City Council to the newly formed committee at a special 3 p.m. meeting on Wednesday, April 3.

The committee, which will serve various functions in helping the town plan for a new Town Center, will also include Mayor Elizabeth Lewis and Councilman Jim Dobbie, with Councilman Bill Widmer serving as an alternate member.

The body will replace an earlier committee, the Town Center Task Force, headed by Mayor Lewis. The task force had been formed to study options for replacing the old buildings, some of which are considered unsafe and poorly functioning, that house the town's

police department, administration, and public services staff. The building and planning departments have operated for many years out of portable buildings across the street from the Council Chambers, squeezed out of permanent buildings as a "temporary" measure.

The Town Center project's scope when the earlier committee examined options wasn't quite as broad as is currently the case. That's because the City Council had approved a plan — drawn up by another advisory committee after two years of work — to build a new library in Holbrook-Palmer Park. But voters overwhelmingly rejected that plan last November, making it likely that the library will remain on the existing Town Center site when the center is rebuilt.

Denise Kupperman, who headed the library advisory committee, has applied for a seat

on the new committee, which will be known as the CCAC.

Other applicants are: Former councilwoman Didi Fisher, Planning Commissioner Phil Lively, Rose Hau, and Steve Dostart, who were members of the earlier Town Center Task Force; Planning Commissioner Mary Widmer; and Tom O'Dowd, Don Way, Rick Degolia, Christine Lagod, Clive Merredew, Naomi Ramsden, and Paul Tonelli.

Committee members will be asked to commit to 12 to 18 months of eight- to 10-hour work weeks. They will be helping staff to develop a master planning process, devise strategies for soliciting community opinion and help carry them out, and create tools to keep the community informed and involved in the process.

The afternoon meeting will be in the Council Chambers at 94 Ashfield Road, in the Town Center. ■

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# Sewer rates to jump for Woodside customers

By **Dave Boyce**  
Almanac Staff Writer

**W**oodside is semi-rural and most of the town's 2,200 properties use septic tanks in lieu of sewers, but for some 157 properties that do not, the annual cost for sewer service will rise about 100 percent for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

It's the first rate increase in 18 years for most of these properties and the new rates are consistent with a steady 5.5 percent annual increase, according to an engineering study commissioned by the town.

When the mayor opened the floor to public comment on the proposed rates at the March 26 Town Council meeting, Judith Carlsen of Canada Road said she understood that 18 years at unchanging rates is "ridiculous. Of course it should be going up accordingly." But, she added: "It hurts me. It's difficult for me and probably I'm one of the minority in this town. This big jump is hurtful."

For properties along Canada Road that use sewers and are in the Town Center Sewer Assessment District, the annual

**'We tried to figure out ways to ease the burden on people (but we couldn't.'**

TOWN ENGINEER PAUL NAGENGAST

rate will rise to \$747 from the current \$359, an increase of 108 percent. In five years, the town's projections show those customers paying \$1,353. Residential and non-residential properties in the district along downtown Woodside Road are similarly affected.

"We tried to figure out ways to ease the burden on people (but) we couldn't," Town Engineer Paul Nagengast said in an interview.

The current rates, according to a staff report, "do not pay for the existing cost of service to maintain the existing sewer system and for the conveyance costs" to transport and treat the sewage. Nor are rates at a level sufficient for a proposed upgrade to the 30-year-old treatment plant in Redwood City, the report says. The town's sewer district needs about \$650,000 in

capital improvements.

"I think it's healthy to look at these (rates) again in five years," Mr. Nagengast said. "When (the capital improvements) are paid off, can we lower the rate?"

Alex Handlers of Berkeley-based Bartle Wells Associates, which did the engineering study, said the system includes one very old eight-mile section of sewer main in Redwood City that, unlike modern sewers, has "thousands of joints." The upgrade will run into hundreds of millions of dollars, Mr. Handlers said.

### A reserve needed

The town has a sewer fund reserve for emergencies, but it's been tapped over the years for about \$500,000 and is projected to dip below \$100,000 soon and stay there for several years. Councilman Dave Burow said he was ashamed of allowing what was, in effect, a subsidy to ratepayers. "The town manager wasn't dealing with this issue," he said, referring to the administration of Susan George. "Shame on us. We screwed it up."

Redwood City had been "very

slow" in providing information to Woodside about sewer system plans, Mr. Nagengast said. "It's really coming into play now that they need the money."

"I think your comment was a little bit harsh on the previous administration," Councilwoman Deborah Gordon said in response to Mr. Burow. "It's not completely out of the blue."

In an interview, Ms. Gordon said the subject of sewers came up occasionally. "It wasn't that it was forgotten or pushed under the rug. It probably was not at the top of anyone's list," she said. "We all deserve some criticism."

As to Mr. Burow's comment: "I just think it was way too personal, too attacking and too harsh."

Asked to respond, Mr. Burow acknowledged that he is a blunt speaker. "I wasn't trying to make a broad statement about Susan George," he said. "I think she was a terrific town manager and did a great job. ... I'd be the first to sing Susan's praises in many other areas." But no one's perfect, he added. "I'm also blaming myself and my fellow council members for not looking more closely at the numbers." ■

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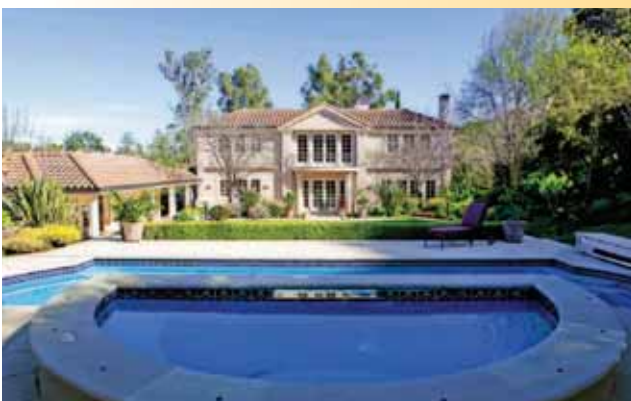
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# Menlo Park council approves Facebook expansion

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park City Council has unanimously approved the various permits and agreements that will let Facebook build a second, "west" campus on Constitution Drive.

Voting 4-0 on March 26, with colleague Cat Carlton absent, the council proceeded with little deliberation to

approve the social media company's plans to construct an "office in a forest" designed by world-renowned architect Frank

Gehry at 312 and 313 Constitution Drive, across from its headquarters off Willow Road.

The 433,555-square-foot structure would include a sprawling open-design office space sandwiched between a rooftop garden and bottom-floor parking garage.

The approvals included the below-market-rate housing

agreement for the project. Facebook will either pay about \$4.5 million in in-lieu fees, provide 15 off-site housing units, or some combination of the two.

The development agreement, approved earlier this year, includes paying \$1.7 million, to be distributed to Menlo Park over 10 years, among other community benefits.

Construction companies with subcontracts worth at least \$5 million will get permits allowing Menlo Park to collect sales and use taxes on materials for building the new facility. The city estimates that would divert \$100,000 to \$300,000 to Menlo Park.

The agreement guarantees 10 years of property tax payments to the city based on the projected \$300 million assessment value of the redeveloped property.

The contract also implements a vehicle trip cap of 1,100 trips during commute hours to the

## Gehry building on 'west' campus may break ground in May.



Photo courtesy of Facebook

A scale model overview of the Frank Gehry design for Facebook's west campus on Constitution Drive.

Constitution Drive campus and 6,350 daily trips, with the same financial penalties as for the main campus — \$50 per trip

over the cap per day, with escalating fees tied to the number of excess trips.

According to a Facebook

spokesperson, no date has been set for starting construction, but the company hopes to do so in May. ■

## Grand jury applications sought

The application period for service on the 2013-14 civil grand jury has been extended to April 19. The next grand jury term begins July 1 and ends June 30, 2014.

Any resident of San Mateo County for more than one year, who is 18 or older, a citizen of

the United States, of ordinary intelligence, sound judgment and good character, is eligible for selection by Judge Lisa A. Novak of the San Mateo County Superior Court.

Application forms may be obtained by calling (650) 599-1210.

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## Obama to brunch, lunch in Atherton

Atherton will have a few extra visitors in town on Thursday, April 4, as President Barack Obama is the guest of honor at two fundraisers: a brunch for 30 at the home of Liz Simons and Mark Heising and a luncheon for 200 at the home of Marcia and John Goldman.

The events, organized by the Democratic National Commit-

tee, are not for those with empty pockets. Brunch tickets are \$32,400 per person (including a photo with the president) while luncheon tickets are a bit less steep starting at \$1,000 per person for the lunch, \$5,000 for lunch and a place in the photo line for one person or \$7,500 for two people, \$20,000 for a chance to be a co-chair of the reception

and \$32,400 to be event co-host.

The entrepreneurial sort can even get a free ticket to the brunch by convincing three others to buy one, or can get a free ticket to the lunch by raising \$10,000.

Visit [tinyurl.com/brunch-324](http://tinyurl.com/brunch-324) to make reservations for the brunch.

Visit [tinyurl.com/lunch-404](http://tinyurl.com/lunch-404) to make reservations for the lunch.

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# Will German-American school get reprieve for one year?

By Renee Batti  
Almanac News Editor

As the decision nears for the Menlo Park City School District board to let the German-American International School know whether it's being evicted from a former district school site, GAIS officials are stepping up the effort to get the district to take a closer look at options that would grant a reprieve for the private school.

In a March 27 letter to Superintendent Maurice Ghysels, copied to school board members, GAIS managing director Dominic Liechti urged the district to examine options, particularly that of accommodating additional students enrolled in the district in the 2014-15 school year on the new Hillview Middle School campus, and allow the private school to remain on the former O'Connor School site for one more year.

The GAIS, which took over the O'Connor site at 275 Elliot Drive in Menlo Park in 1991, has a lease agreement with the district that expires June 2016. But a clause in the lease allows the district to terminate the agreement early — an option it may exercise when the board meets on Tuesday, April 9. The district has until April 10 to notify GAIS if it wants to end the lease in June 2014.

District officials have said the district might open a fifth campus at the O'Connor site to accommodate burgeoning enrollment; earlier, they said

the district could open the new school by the 2014-15 school year, but later said the 2015-16 school year may be a more feasible option.

In a letter sent this week to the board, GAIS board President Tom Siegel formally offered "to amend (GAIS's) existing lease with MPCSD to reflect that it will vacate the O'Connor site in June of 2015 rather than June 2016 — one year rather than two years early. This compromise clearly is the most equitable solution, and one that allows the district as well as GAIS to meet our respective needs."

**School board will decide April 3 whether to terminate GAIS lease of O'Connor campus early.**

GAIS officials say they have been urgently looking for a new site, but 15 months is not enough time to find a suitable property in the highly competitive Peninsula real estate market, jump through all the permitting hoops, and prepare the site to house a student body of more than 300 students. Evicting the private school in June 2014 could force it to shut its doors, they say.

Allowing the school to stay until June 2015 shouldn't impede the district's renovation of the O'Connor campus for its own use for the 2015-16

school year, they say, noting that district staff has said construction wouldn't begin until summer 2015.

In his March 27 letter, Mr. Liechti cited figures in the district's latest demographic study indicating that enrollment at Hillview Middle School is "under capacity and has room for accommodating the projected elementary school growth. Why not move some 5th grade classes to Hillview at least temporarily?"

Under that scenario, Mr. Liechti wrote, the district would save money housing the students in existing classrooms, and collect an additional year of GAIS lease — \$360,000.

Meanwhile, the private school has hired an attorney who has filed a Public Records Act request asking the district for a range of documents relating to the O'Connor site and the district's examination of options to open a new district school.

Andrew Gregg, a GAIS consultant, said the school is asking for the documents "to have timely information about the district's plan for O'Connor." Asked whether an attorney's involvement in the matter is a sign that GAIS may be preparing to take legal action to remain at the O'Connor site, Mr. Gregg said: "We don't envision any legal action. We're just trying to find a fair solution."

The school board meets at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, in the district board room, 181 Encinal Ave. in Atherton. ■

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## ■ POLICE CALLS

*This information is from the Menlo Park and Atherton police departments. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.*

### MENLO PARK

#### Residential burglary reports:

- Jewelry with an estimated value of \$16,000 is missing from a residence on Monte Rosa Drive and believed stolen by someone who entered the property through an unlocked side gate and an unlocked door in the garage, March 27.
- Two stereo systems and two radios with a total estimated value of \$3,000 are missing from a residence on Sevier Avenue, March 22. It's not clear how a thief might have entered the house.
- Serving dishes and two pieces of luggage with a total estimated value of \$2,500 are missing from a locked storage locker on Eastridge Avenue from which someone cut open the lock, March 22.
- A toolbox and tools valued at \$1,000 and a \$200 motorcycle air filter were stolen from an open carport on Camp Bello Lane, March 23.
- Jewelry of an undisclosed value was

taken during a party in a residence on Laurel Avenue, March 24.

**Auto Burglary report:** A laptop computer valued at around \$300 is missing after someone smashed a driver's side window of a vehicle parked in the 1800 block of El Camino Real, March 27.

#### Theft reports:

- Losses estimated at \$2,000 in the theft of various pipe fittings from a construction site in the 3000 block of Sand Hill Road, March 27.
- Losses estimated at \$720 in the case of a former employee alleged to have not returned uniforms and a bullet-resistant vest to a company on Willow Road, March 28.
- Losses of \$500 in theft of laptop computer from business on Menlo Avenue, March 25.
- Loss estimated at \$400 in theft of unlocked and unattended bike from front porch of home on Paulson Circle, March 22.
- Customer tried on some new \$65 boots and, while the sales person was helping someone else, walked out with them on his feet and his old boots in the shoe box at Big Five Sporting Goods at 700 El Camino Real, March 26.

■ A purse and its contents, valued at \$40, was stolen from an unlocked vehicle on Marsh Road, March 25.

#### Vehicle tampering reports:

- Tire removed from 2004 silver Honda Accord parked on Constitution Drive for a loss estimated at \$200, March 26.
- Someone believed to have stolen gasoline by drilling a hole in the gas tank of a vehicle parked on Durham Street, March 27.

### ATHERTON

**Residential burglary report:** Miscellaneous items of an unknown value stolen from a residence on Bay Road, March 26.

#### Theft reports:

- Apple iPod stolen from student at Menlo-Atherton High School at 555 Middlefield Road, March 22.
- Items stolen from five students at Menlo School at 50 Valparaiso Avenue, March 23.
- Cell phone stolen in 100 block of El Camino Real, March 27.

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- Four bedrooms, two and one-half baths
- Living room, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen
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# George Mader honored for seismic expertise

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

The honors keep coming for George Mader, Portola Valley's town planner until he "semi-retired" in 2010 after 45 years on the job.

At the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Seattle, the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute honored Mr. Mader with the Alfred E. Alquist Special Recognition Medal for having made "substantial contri-

butions to the field of seismic safety and earthquake risk reduction," according to a letter from the institute.

"As a planner, you worked tirelessly with public officials and many disciplinary experts such as geologists and engineers to further innovative approaches to com-



George Mader

munity development in areas of high seismic and other geological risks," the letter says.

Mr. Mader is the president and principal planner at Spangle Associates, which has long had and continues to have a planning services contract with Portola Valley from its offices in Menlo Park.

His pioneering work in finding ways to develop a community in areas of hazardous geology has spread to six continents. Mr. Mader also helped

develop a degree program in environmental earth science at Stanford University, where he taught for 30 years. In 2003, he was named a fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

In 2010, the American Planners Association recognized Mr. Mader for distinguished leadership. He also chairs Geo-Hazards International, a Palo Alto-based nonprofit with a worldwide mission of educating vulnerable communities

on how to survive large earthquakes.

Mr. Mader has held prominent positions with the California Seismic Safety Commission, the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy, the National Research Council, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

He lives in Ladera with his wife Marjorie Mader, a longtime Almanac reporter. The couple have three children. ■

## Tennis pro Bradley wins Lifetime Achievement honors

Longtime local tennis coach and pro Chris Bradley recently won a Lifetime Achievement Award from the U.S. Professional Tennis Association.

He received the award at Stanford during the NorCal USPTA convention.

† Bradley, who still coaches mostly in the Woodside and Portola Valley areas, was head coach at Alpine Hills Tennis & Swimming Club from 1975 to 2008.

Among his honors over the years, he was named USPTA NorCal Pro of the Year in 1982 and 1986, and USPTA NorCal Coach of the Year in 1994.

He coached teams to 17 Northern California USTA Junior League team championships and 11 state USTA Junior League team championships.

For 28 consecutive years, from

1981 to 2008, his teams were Midpeninsula Junior Interclub champions.

Bradley gives private and group lessons and his clients range in age from 4 to well over 80.

He started coaching 47 years ago, at age 16, at Stanford, then taught in Colorado for a time before hooking up with Alpine Hills in 1975.

Two years ago, he coached the Woodside Elementary School boys and girls teams.

The U.S. Professional Tennis Association is made up of 15,000 teaching pros.

Visit [ChrisBradley.USPTApro.org](http://ChrisBradley.USPTApro.org) for more information.



Chris Bradley

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## Your Child's Health University

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital offers classes and seminars designed to foster good health and enhance the lives of parents and children.

### ▶ PRENATAL PILATES

Our prenatal exercise class is appropriate for women at any stage of pregnancy. The 50 minute class will focus on exercises to improve postural support, strengthen the arms to prepare for carrying an infant and discuss proper body mechanics and other topics related to remaining active during pregnancy. Some classes will include resistive bands and large birthing balls as well.

- Wednesdays: 5:45 pm - 6:35 pm

### ▶ PREPARING FOR MULTIPLES

Are you expecting twins, or triplets or more? With the potential for early delivery, expectant parents of multiples are encouraged to learn everything there is to know about carrying and delivering multiple infants.

- Saturday, May 4: 12:00 pm - 4:30 pm

### ▶ GRANDPARENTS SEMINAR

Designed for new and expectant grandparents, this class presents the latest trends in obstetrics and pediatrics, including new ideas for infant care, as well as the important role for grandparents in the life of a grandchild.

- Monday, May 6: 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

### ▶ PEDIATRIC WEIGHT CONTROL PROGRAM

Join us for a family-based, behavioral and educational weight management program that promotes healthy eating and exercise habits for overweight children and their families. More than 80% of children achieve long-term weight loss through this program – and parents lose weight too!

- Classes forming now; call (650) 725-4424 for details. Spaces are limited.

Call (650) 724-4601 or visit [calendar.lpch.org](http://calendar.lpch.org) to register or obtain more information on the times, locations and fees for these and other courses.



VISIT [LPCH.ORG](http://LPCH.ORG) TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARING  
CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY  
GENERAL RATE INCREASE APPLICATION NO. 12-07-007  
BEAR GULCH SERVICE AREA**

**The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) wants to hear from you!** On July 5, 2012, California Water Service Company (Cal Water) filed General Rate Increase Application No. 12-07-007 (A.12-07-007) requesting a revenue increase in the **Bear Gulch District** of \$5,556,320, or 15.9%, in January 2014; followed by an increase in revenue by \$1,865,920, or 4.6%, in January 2015; and \$1,859,130, or 4.4%, in January 2016.

A Public Participation Hearing (PPH) has been scheduled for customers in the Bear Gulch District at the date, time and location noted below. Either the CPUC Administrative Law Judge assigned to this proceeding or another Administrative Law Judge will be presiding at this PPH to listen to concerns, comments and opinions on the proposed application.

**May 3, 2013 • 6:00 pm  
City of San Mateo Council Chambers  
330 West 20th Ave. • San Mateo, CA 94403**

**If you are unable to attend the hearing, you may submit written comments directly to the Public Advisor's Office (PAO) at the address noted at the bottom of this notice. If you need special assistance such as sign language interpreters or foreign language interpreters, please contact the PAO five (5) days prior to the hearing.**

**CAL WATER'S APPLICATION PROPOSAL**

Effective Date of Revenue Increase	Revenue
January 2014	\$5,556,320
January 2015	\$1,865,920
January 2016	\$1,859,130
Total	\$9,281,370

Based on water usage patterns in your area that have decreased significantly since Cal Water's last filing, if the CPUC approves Cal Water's proposed application, rates would increase the typical residential customer's monthly bill by \$18.45, or 15.1%, in 2014; followed by additional increases of \$4.92, or 3.5%, in 2015; and \$5.09, or 3.5%, in 2016. Most costs of operating the water system are fixed, regardless of the level of usage. With lower water usage in your area, rates then have to be increased to cover the fixed costs.

Cal Water is proposing this change in rates due to the following factors:

- Cal Water is requesting \$1.9 million for water infrastructure improvements between 2013 and 2016
- Cal Water is requesting \$637,000 to retain the same level of employee health care, pensions, and retiree health care benefits for General Office personnel, the costs of which have increased faster than inflation
- Cal Water is requesting \$498,000 for district operations and maintenance costs needed to maintain and operate the water system
- Cal Water is requesting \$476,000 for the allocation of General Office operation expenses
- Cal Water is requesting \$113,000 to retain for district personnel the same level of employee benefits described above

Approval of the proposed rates would allow Cal Water to continue to maintain the system of water supply sources, pipes, tanks, fire hydrants, and equipment needed to provide safe and reliable water service.

**IMPACT OF INCREASE TO CUSTOMERS**

Under Cal Water's proposal, rates for each year would become effective on January 1st. Rate increases for 2015 and 2016 are derived using inflation factors provided by the CPUC. The factors used to calculate rates in these years will be the most recent inflation at that time. In accordance with the CPUC's Rate Case Plan, Cal Water has requested authority from the CPUC to increase its rates for 2015 and 2016 by actual inflation without further notice to customers. This means that if inflation is greater than assumed here, rates for 2015 and 2016 may be higher than shown in this notice.

The following table shows the bill increase that a residential customer with typical water usage would see if Cal Water's proposed rates for 2014 were adopted. Also shown are the increases that a typical customer could expect in 2015 and 2016.

A Typical Residential Metered Customer	Usage (Ccf)	Monthly Bill
At Current Rates	22	\$122.51
At Requested January 2014 Rates	22	\$140.96
At Requested January 2015 Rates	22	\$145.88
At Requested January 2016 Rates	22	\$150.97

Almost all residential customers in the Bear Gulch District have 5/8" x 3/4" meters. The effect on your water bill will vary depending on whether you use more or less water than these averages, or if you have a meter larger than 5/8" x 3/4". Additionally, the rates shown on your monthly water bill may vary slightly from the existing rates shown above due to temporary surcredits or surcharges currently in effect in your area.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

A copy of Cal Water's application and further information may be obtained from the company's local offices by calling (650) 561-9709, or by going to <http://www.calwater.com/rates/grc>. You may also contact the headquarters at 1720 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95112-4598 or by calling (408) 367-8200.

Copies are also available to review at the CPUC's Central Files Office at 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA, between 8 a.m. to noon daily.

**CPUC PROCESS**

The CPUC's Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA) will review the application and submit its independent analysis and recommendations in reports for the CPUC's consideration. DRA consists of engineers, auditors, and other multidisciplinary staff who represent the interest of all utility ratepayers.

**EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS**

Evidentiary Hearings (EHs) may be held whereby parties of record will present their testimony and will be subject to cross-examination before the assigned ALJ. These EHs are open to the public, but only those who are formal parties of record are allowed to participate. Parties at the EHs may offer proposals to the CPUC that differ from those proposed by Cal Water. After considering all proposals and evidence presented during these formal hearings, the ALJ will issue a draft proposed decision. In the final decision on this application, the CPUC may adopt all or part of the ALJ's proposed decision.

**CONTACT THE PUBLIC ADVISOR'S OFFICE AND PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS**

If you would like to provide comments or protest this filing, you can send an email, written correspondence, or phone the Public Advisor's Office at the address below. Please reference the formal application A.12-07-007 when writing to the CPUC. All comments will be circulated to the Commissioners, assigned ALJ, and other CPUC staff working on this proceeding.

Public Advisor's Office  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Email: [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov)  
Phone: (415) 703-2074  
Toll Free: (866) 849-8390

TTY: (415) 703-5282  
TTY Toll Free: (866) 836-7825

CNS#2463409

**OBITUARIES**

**Catherine Boicelli**

*Preschool teacher*

**Laurie Nienkerk**

*Active in Woodside community*

A "Remembrance of Life" service will be held at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 6, for Lorraine "Laurie" Nienkerk, of Woodside, who died March 20 of complications from Lupus syndrome. She was 63.



**Laurie Nienkerk**

Born in Madison, South Dakota, Ms. Nienkerk was raised in Pipestone, Minnesota, where she met her future husband, Larry Nienkerk. The couple met in the sixth grade, dated in college, and were married in 1971.

After moving to the Bay Area in 1972, Ms. Nienkerk worked as an X-ray technician, both at Mills Hospital and Menlo Medical Clinic. She was a past president and active member of the Woodside Hills Garden Club and served for several years on the Mid-Peninsula High School board of trustees.

She was a avid gardener, hiker, and nature lover, say family members.

Ms. Nienkerk is survived by her husband of 42 years, Larry Nienkerk; children Emmy and Michael; mother Anna, brothers John and Todd Johnson, sisters Barbara Schaeffer, Susan Carstens and JoAnn Sabas; and two grandsons.

Donations in her name may be made to Mid-Peninsula High School in Menlo Park.

Catherine (Cathy) Linda Boicelli, a preschool teacher at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church for 35 years, died March 15 of cancer at Stanford Medical Center. She was 65.

She was born in San Francisco and graduated from San Francisco State University. Her teaching career ended in retirement from Kennedy Middle School in Redwood City, where she taught science and language arts.

Ms. Boicelli lived with her husband, Dan, in Menlo Park for 37 years before retiring to the Sea Ranch. She enjoyed quilting, learning more about science and wildlife, and living on the coast, surrounded by the beauty of the ocean, say family members.

She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Dan S. Boicelli; sons Tim and Dan, daughter Rebecca; and two grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Donations in her honor may be made to the American Cancer Society.

**Marjorie Russell Walker**

*Community volunteer*

Marjorie Russell Walker of Atherton died Feb. 23 at the age of 91.

Ms. Walker was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was married to Everett B. Walker in 1946. After living in the Chicago area for 20 years, the Walkers moved to California, settling in

*Continued on next page*

**Marjorie Walker**

*1921-Feb. 23, 2013*

Marjorie Russell Walker passed away on Saturday, February 23 at the age of 91 with her loving husband of 66 years by her side. She is survived by her husband Everett B. Walker, son Robert Russell Walker, daughters Mary Beth Walker and Catherine Ann Walker along with three grandchildren Christopher, Aron and Trent.

Marjorie was born in Pittsburgh, PA. Everett and Marjorie were married in 1946 and had a long and loving marriage for 66 years. Marjorie's passions were family, gardening, interior design and clothing fashion.

After living in the Chicago area for 20 years they moved to the San Francisco Bay Area and resided here since 1968. Marjorie did volunteer work for the Cradle Society in the Chicago area, was a docent at Stanford Art Museum, a volunteer at Allied Arts, and a Pink Lady at Stanford Hospital. She was an avid member of the Atherton Garden Guild for many years.

She will be missed by her husband, children, grandchildren and friends.

Donations in her name may be made to the Atherton Garden Guild.

PAID OBITUARY

# Local skiers take part in U.S. Alpine championships

Brian Francis, 18, of Menlo Park and Erik Arvidsson, 16, of Woodside were selected to compete at the U.S. Alpine championships held March 20 through 24 at Squaw Valley.

The boys were chosen as a result of their standings in the Under 18 U.S. Nationals held in Mammoth March 5 through 12. Brian came in third at Mammoth in the Super G, which combines downhill skiing with a slalom course. Erik came in second in giant slalom.

At the U.S. Nationals, top racers from the U.S. Ski team, top college racers, and a small group of under 18 racers were selected to compete.

"It was quite an honor and a great learning and development experience for Erik and Brian to have been selected to compete in this race," says Brian's mom, Bonnie Matlock.

Brian began racing for the Kirkwood Race Team when he was 8. He attended Phillips Brooks, La Entrada, and Menlo

School before he committed to ski racing and switched to Sugar Bowl Academy for his junior and senior year of high school. Son of Bonnie Matlock and Tod Francis, Brian was recruited by the Dartmouth ski team and will attend Dartmouth College this fall.

Erik Arvidsson started racing for the Bear Valley Ski Team when he was 6. At age 13 he switched to the Squaw Valley Race Team. After attending Woodside Elementary and Men-

lo School, Erik is now a junior at Lydian Academy in Menlo Park, where he does independent study classwork during the racing season.

A member of a sports-loving family, Erik is the son of Carol and Par Arvidsson of Woodside. His younger brother, Karl, also ski races. Their father, Par, swam for UC Berkeley in college and won a gold medal for Sweden in butterfly in the 1980 Olympics. Both Erik and Karl also compete in swimming.



Erik Arvidsson and Brian Francis

Continued from previous page

Atherton in 1968. Ms. Walker was a docent at the Stanford Art Museum, a volunteer at Allied Arts, and a Pink Lady at Stanford Hospital. She was an avid member of the Atherton Garden Guild for many years.

She is survived by Everett B. Walker, her husband of 66 years; son Robert Russell Walker; daughters Mary Beth Walker and Catherine Ann Walker; and three grandchildren.

Donations in her name may be made to the Atherton Garden Guild.

  
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## THE A. JESS SHENSON RECITAL SERIES AT STANFORD



Sunday, April 7th at 2:30 p.m.

EDWARD PARKS, BARITONE

JOHN CHURCHWELL, PIANIST

Program: Finzi, Grieg, Griffes, Quilter,  
Strauss, and Vaughan Williams

Tickets: \$10 general / \$9 seniors  
\$5 students (Stanford students free with SUID)

MASTERCLASS WITH EDWARD PARKS:  
Monday, April 8th at 4:15 p.m.

Free and open to the public.

Both events are at Campbell Recital Hall,  
Stanford University.

Stanford Ticket Office: (650) 725-2787



MUSIC  
AT STANFORD

## Laurie Nienkerk

Jan. 27, 1950 – March 20, 2013

Lorraine (Johnson) Nienkerk, a Woodside resident and active member of the community, died on March 20, 2013, of complications from Lupus syndrome.

Laurie was the second of six children born to Roger and Anna (Dixon) Johnson. Born in Madison, South Dakota, Laurie was raised in Pipestone, Minnesota, where she met her husband of 42 years, Larry Nienkerk. The couple met in the sixth grade, dated in college, and were married in a double ceremony with her elder sister, Barbara, in 1971.

Laurie and Larry moved to the Bay Area in 1972. Laurie worked for many years as an X-ray technician, both at Mills Hospital and Menlo Medical Clinic.

While helping her husband build his fruit import business, she lovingly raised two children. Laurie was an incredible mother who developed strong relationships with many of her children's friends and their families. Her two grandsons, Joey and Sam Johnson, brought her endless joy.

Laurie was a past president and active member of the Woodside Hills Garden Club and served for several years on the Mid-Peninsula High School Board of Trustees. She was an avid gardener, hik-

er, and nature lover who will be remembered by her many friends for her incredibly generous spirit.

Laurie is survived by her devoted husband Larry, her children Emmy (Johnson) and Michael, grandsons Joey and Sam Johnson, her mother Anna, son-in-law Aaron Johnson, and daughter-in-law Kellie Nienkerk. She is also survived by brothers John and Todd Johnson, and sisters Barbara Schaeffer, Susan Carstens, and JoAnn Sabas. She leaves behind many adored nieces and nephews, brothers and sisters-in-law, and countless friends.

A "Remembrance of Life" service will be held at 3:30 on April 6 at Skylawn Memorial Chapel in San Mateo, with a visitation beginning at 2:30. There will be a reception following the service.

In her memory, the family appreciates donations to be made to Mid-Peninsula High School in Menlo Park.



## Community Health Education Programs



For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures and health education resources, visit [pamf.org/healtheducation](http://pamf.org/healtheducation).

April 2013

### Medicare Updates and Changes

Tuesday, April 9, 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Mountain View Center  
701 E. El Camino Real, Mountain View

Presented by **Connie Corales**  
Health Insurance Counseling and  
Advocacy Program (HICAP)  
**650-934-7373**

Learn about the basics of Medicare for beneficiaries, as well as the aspects of Medicare that have changed as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

### Mindful Eating

Tuesday, April 16, 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Sunnyvale Public Library  
665 W. Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale

Presented by **Toni Toledo, MPH, R.D.**  
PAMF Nutrition Services  
**No registration required.**



Most 'chronic dieters' have found that their years of being on and off diets have actually been counter-productive. Dieting can often result in being even more detached from the guidance our bodies can provide on the path of healthy eating and weight loss. A Mindful approach to healthy eating is oriented toward being in touch with the wisdom of our bodies, rather than alienated from them. This session will offer the basic tenets of Mindful Eating and Intuitive Eating and provide strategies to incorporate them into our lives.

### Food Is Your Medicine!

Monday, April 22, 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
San Carlos Library  
610 Elm Street, San Carlos

Presented by **Patricia Santana, M.D.,**  
and **Linda Shiue, M.D.**  
PAMF Internal Medicine

To register, contact **Rhea Bradley** at  
**650-591-0347, extension 237.**

#### A discussion on nutrition with a cooking demonstration and tasting.

Do you want to eat healthier but don't know where to start? Do you feel like you don't have the time or skills to cook? Drs. Santana and Shiue will describe and demonstrate how to use your most powerful tool, your fork, to make healthy choices. What you choose to eat has a direct impact on your health. Our hope is that you feel empowered in making healthy choices, and can taste for yourself that there is no need to compromise on taste!

### Advance Health Care Directive

Tuesday, April 30, 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Mountain View Center  
701 E. El Camino Real, Mountain View

Presented by **Betsy Carpenter**  
Certified Advance Care Planning Facilitator  
**650-934-7373**

For information only. AHCDs will not be completed at this lecture.



Whether you're 18 or 80+, an Advance Health Care Directive provides a way for you to communicate your wishes to your family, friends and health care professionals and to avoid confusion later on. This lecture will discuss end-of-life decisions such as who will speak for you, what kinds of medical interventions you might want under different circumstances, as well as the different types of end-of-life documents.



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# Wrong-way drunken driver sentenced

By **Sandy Brundage**  
Almanac Staff Writer

A 26-year-old Menlo Park man was sentenced for a misdemeanor drunken driving and felony child endangerment in San Mateo County Court on March 27.

Police, responding to a 911 call about a wrong-way driver on Marsh Road on Dec. 12, arrived to find the defendant, Efrain Avalos Moreno-Avalos sitting in a car "parked crookedly on the street" with his 10-year-old brother beside him, according to the district attorney's office.

Although Mr. Moreno-Avalos initially denied being behind the wheel, both the person making

the 911 call and his brother contradicted him, the police report said. A breathalyzer allegedly measured a blood alcohol level of .21 percent. In California a level of 0.08 percent is considered above the legal limit for driving.

He pleaded no contest to the charges. The judge sentenced him to one year in county jail or completion of a long-term residential treatment program, in addition to three years of probation. Mr. Moreno-Avalos, who has a prior conviction for drunken driving, was also assessed \$340 in fines and \$100 per month for supervised probation, and will need to complete a program for repeat offenders. ■

### CALENDAR

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

#### On Stage

'**Being Earnest**' TheatreWorks presents the world premiere of "Being Earnest" a new musical from Paul Gordon. Tues-Sun, April 3-28. \$23-\$73. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-463-1960. [www.theatreworks.org](http://www.theatreworks.org)

'**Cats**' Presented By Broadway By the Bay, created by Andrew Lloyd Webber. April 6-28, \$35-60. Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway, Redwood City. [www.foxrwc.com](http://www.foxrwc.com)

#### Talks/Authors

**Caroline Paul and Wendy MacNaughton** discuss their new illustrated book about their cat, "Lost Cat: A True Story of Love, Desperation and GPS Technology." April 11, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. [www.keplers.com](http://www.keplers.com)

**Journalist Jose Antonio Vargas**, who went public as an undocumented immigrant in the New York Times, will talk about his personal experience and his perspective on immigration reform. April 7, 3:30-5:30 p.m. \$25 advance/\$30 day of event. (Students \$5.) Sequoia High School, Carrington Hall, 1201 Brewster Ave., Redwood City. Call 650-494-3941. [sassscholars.brownpapertickets.com](http://sassscholars.brownpapertickets.com)

#### Classes/Workshops

'**Tools for the Urban Mystic**' A class on urban mystics who seek communion with God within the context of city living. April 6, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$50 (includes lunch). Vallombrosa Center, 250 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-325-5614. [www.vallombrosa.org](http://www.vallombrosa.org)

**Downtown Abbey Class: 'Victorian Dreams and Edwardian Realities'** Michael Svanevik discusses the time period, Queen Victoria and King Edward VII. Wednesdays, April 10 - May 29, 1:30-3:30 p.m. \$50. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. [www.peninsulavalunteers.org](http://www.peninsulavalunteers.org)

**eBooks/Audiobooks Drop-In Session** Attendees can drop in with mobile device and ask questions about downloading library material. April 6, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-0147. [www.smcl.org](http://www.smcl.org)

**Gluten free: Risotto making Workshop II** April 7, 3-6 p.m. \$49. IEI (Italian Educational Institute), Menlo College, 1000 El Camino Real, Atherton. Call 650-868-5995. [thefinestitalian.com/food/cook-italian/](http://thefinestitalian.com/food/cook-italian/)

#### Concerts

'**Lute Songs and Solos of the Renaissance**' Doris Williams, soprano and lute, and Claudia Gantivar, Renaissance recorders, perform. Program presented by the Friends of the Menlo Park Library. April 6, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Menlo Park Council Chambers, 701 Laurel St.,

Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2512. [www.menloparklibrary.org](http://www.menloparklibrary.org)

**Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra** performs Handel's opera Teseo, the tale of mythology's feared sorceress Medea's descent into madness. April 10, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$25-\$97. The Center for Performing Arts, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Call 415-392-4400. [www.philharmonia.org/apr2013/](http://www.philharmonia.org/apr2013/)

**Redwood Symphony's 'Notes From Persia'** World premiere of six songs by soprano Raeeeka Shehabi-Yaghmai featured at a concert by the Redwood Symphony. April 13, 8-10 p.m. \$20-\$25. Canada College Main Theatre, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Woodside. [www.redwoodsymphony.org](http://www.redwoodsymphony.org)

#### Kids & Families

'**Design Your Own Race Car**' Christie Inocencio of Christie's Creative Cupboard leads workshop for children ages 5 and up. Advance sign-ups required. May 13, 4-5 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. [www.smcl.org](http://www.smcl.org)

'**Dog Safety For Kids**' With Christi Dunlap, an educator with the Peninsula Humane Society, and her dog Ace. April 15, 4-5 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. [www.smcl.org](http://www.smcl.org)

#### Teen Activities

**Natural Dyes Workshop** Linda Janklow of peopleOlogie leads a program on dying white cotton with plants. For ages 9 and up. Preregistration required. April 10, 4-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. [smcl.org](http://smcl.org)

#### Et Alia

**Lighting Technology and Green Design** Lighting designer Linda Sanford will give information on lighting choices. Please RSVP. April 9, 7-9 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Town Center - Community Hall, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-1700. [www.portolavalley.net/index.aspx?page=251](http://www.portolavalley.net/index.aspx?page=251)

**Portola Art Gallery Presents Linda Salter's 'Friends and Family' Collection**, a collection of oil and pastel portraits of people and animals. A reception for the artist will be held Saturday, April 13, from 1-4 p.m. Running April 1-30, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Portola Art Gallery, Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-321-0220. [www.porto-laartgallery.com](http://www.porto-laartgallery.com)

**The Mountain House Restaurant** and Kings Mountain Associated Parents host Kings Mountain School Night on Thursday, April 11, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. The Mountain House, 13808 Skyline Blvd., Woodside. Call 650-851-8541.

**St. Raymond School Rummage Sale** features "gently used" adult and children's clothing, jewelry, books, linens, kitchenware, small appliances, tools, artwork, and sporting goods. April 13, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. April 14, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. St. Raymond School, 1211 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. [straymond.org](http://straymond.org)

# Camp Connection

For more information about these camps, see our online directory of camps at <http://paloaltoonline.com/biz/summercamps/>  
To advertise in a weekly directory, contact 650-326-8210

## Academics

### Early Learning Camp Connection listing Palo Alto

Write Now! Summer Writing Camps  
Emerson School of Palo Alto and Hacienda School of Pleasanton open their doors and offer their innovative programs: Expository Writing, Creative Writing, Presentation Techniques, and (new!) Test-Taking Skills. Call or visit our website for details.  
[www.headsup.org](http://www.headsup.org) Emerson 650-424-1267  
Hacienda 925-485-5750

### Foothill College Los Altos Hills

Two Six-Week Summer Sessions Beginning June 10. These sessions are perfect for university students returning from summer break who need to pick up a class; and high school juniors, seniors and recent graduates who want to get an early start. 12345 El Monte Rd.  
[www.foothill.edu](http://www.foothill.edu) 650-949-7362

### Harker Summer Programs San Jose

K-12 offerings taught by exceptional, experienced faculty and staff. K-6 morning academics - focusing on math, language arts and science - and full spectrum of afternoon recreation. Grades 6-12 for-credit courses and non-credit enrichment opportunities. Sports programs also offered.  
[www.summer.harker.org](http://www.summer.harker.org) 408-553-0537

### iD Tech Camps - Summer Tech Fun Held at Stanford

Take interests further! Ages 7-17 create iPhone apps, video games, C++/Java programs, movies, and more at weeklong, day and overnight programs held at Stanford and 60+ universities in 26 states. Also 2-week, teen-only programs: iD Gaming Academy, iD Programming Academy, and iD Visual Arts Academy (filmmaking & photography).  
[www.internaldrive.com](http://www.internaldrive.com) 1-888-709-TECH (8324)

### iD Teen Academies Gaming, Programming & Visual Arts Stanford

Gain a competitive edge! Learn different aspects of video game creation, app development, filmmaking, photography, and more. 2-week programs where ages 13-18 interact with industry professionals to gain competitive edge. iD Gaming Academy, iD Programming Academy, and iD Visual Arts Academy are held at Stanford, and other universities.  
[www.iDTeenAcademies.com](http://www.iDTeenAcademies.com) 1-888-709-TECH (8324)

### ISTP's Language Immersion Summer Camp Palo Alto

ISTP Summer Camp is designed to give participants a unique opportunity to spend their summer break having fun learning or improving in a second language. Students are grouped according to both grade level and language of proficiency. Our camp offers many immersion opportunities and consists of a combination of language classes and activities taught in the target language. Sessions are available in French, Mandarin, Chinese and English ESL and run Monday through Friday, 8am-3:30pm, with additional extending care from 3:30-5:30pm.  
[www.istp.org](http://www.istp.org) 650-251-8519

### Mathnasium of Palo Alto-Menlo Park Menlo Park

Prevent Summer Brain Drain with Mathnasium Power Math Workouts. During the summer months, many students lose 2 to 2.5 months of math skills learned during the school year. Mathnasium of Palo Alto-Menlo Park is offering 8 and 16-Session Flexible Summer Passes which will keep your child's math skills sharp and provide a boost for the school year ahead. Open to grades 1st - 10th grade. Summer Passes on sale now and expire Sept. 7, 2013. Center located at 605 A Cambridge Avenue, Menlo Park (next to the Oasis, one block north of Stanford Shopping Mall).  
[www.mathnasium.com/paloalto-menlopark](http://www.mathnasium.com/paloalto-menlopark) 650-321-6284

### Professional Tutoring Services of Silicon Valley Los Altos

Academic camps offering Algebra I & II, Geometry, and Spanish I, II, & III in small groups. Three sessions starting June 24 through August 2. Sign up for all three or just one. Perfect for junior high students taking high school level courses. Register online.  
[www.ptstutor.com/Summer2013.htm](http://www.ptstutor.com/Summer2013.htm) 650-948-5137

### Stratford School - Camp Socrates 17 Bay Area Campuses

Academic enrichment infused with traditional summer camp fun—that's what your child will experience at Camp Socrates. Sessions begin June 24 and end August 9, with the option for campers to attend all seven weeks, or the first four (June 24-July 19). Full or half-day morning or afternoon programs are available.  
[www.StratfordSchools.com/Summer](http://www.StratfordSchools.com/Summer) 650-493-1151

### Summer at Saint Francis Mountain View

Summer at Saint Francis provides a broad range of academic and athletic programs for elementary through high school students. It is the goal of every program to make summer vacation enriching and enjoyable!  
[www.sfhs.com/summer](http://www.sfhs.com/summer) 650-968-1213 x446

### TechKnowHow Computer & Lego Camps Palo Alto Menlo Park/Sunnyvale

Fun and enriching technology classes for students, ages 5-14 Courses include LEGO and K'NEX Projects with Motors, Electronics, NXT Robotics, 3D Modeling, and Game Design. Many locations, including Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Sunnyvale. Half and all day options. Early-bird and multi-session discounts available.  
[www.techknowhowkids.com](http://www.techknowhowkids.com) 650-638-0500

### YMCA of Silicon Valley Peninsula

What makes Y camps different? We believe every child deserves the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve. Y campers experience the outdoors, make new friends and have healthy fun in a safe, nurturing environment. They become more confident and grow as individuals, and they learn value in helping others. We offer day, overnight, teen leadership and family camps. Financial assistance is available. Get your summer camp guide at [ymcasv.org/summercamp](http://ymcasv.org/summercamp). Youth camps (ages 5 - 17) run June 17 - Aug. 16. Half-day and full-day options. Fees vary. 1922 The Alameda 3rd Floor, San Jose  
[www.ymcasv.org](http://www.ymcasv.org) 408-351-6400

## Arts, Culture, Other Camps

### Busy Bees & Astro Kids Summer Adventure Camps Mountain View

Join us for these half-day camps designed for 3-8 year olds as we have fun, participate in games and crafts, and go on fun field trips! Mountain View Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Avenue  
<http://mountainview.gov>

### Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) Mountain View

50+ creative camps for Gr. K-8! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, School of Rock, Digital Arts, more! One- and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care available. Financial aid offered.  
[www.arts4all.org](http://www.arts4all.org) 650-917-6800 ext. 0

### DHF Wilderness Camps Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

Children ages 6-14 can meet the livestock, help with farm chores, explore a wilderness preserve and have fun with crafts, songs and games. Older campers conclude the week with a sleepover at the Farm. Near the intersection of Hwy 85 and Hwy 280  
[mountainview.gov](http://mountainview.gov)

### Pacific Art League of Palo Alto Palo Alto

PAL offers morning and afternoon art camps in cartooning and comics, printmaking, glass fusing, mixed media and acrylic and watercolor painting for children 5-18 years. It is a great place to explore imagination and creativity in a supportive, encouraging and fun environment with a lot of personal attention. Scholarships are available. 227 Forest Avenue  
[www.pacificartleague.org](http://www.pacificartleague.org) 650-321-3891

### Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC) Palo Alto

PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades kindergarten to 6th, a wide variety of fun opportunities! K-1 Fun for the youngest campers, Neighborhood Adventure Fun and Ultimate Adventure Fun for the more active and on-the-go campers! New this year: Sports Adventure Camp for those young athletes and Operation Chef for out of this world cooking fun! Swimming twice per week, periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the fun offerings of PACCC Summer Camps! Registration is online. Open to campers from all communities! Come join the fun in Palo Alto!  
[www.paccc.org](http://www.paccc.org) 650-493-2361

### Theatreworks Summer Camps Palo Alto

In these skill-building workshops for grades K-5, students engage in language-based activities, movement, music, and improvisation theatre games. Students present their own original pieces at the end of each two-week camp.  
[www.theatreworks.org/educationcommunity](http://www.theatreworks.org/educationcommunity) 650-493-7146

### Western Ballet Mountain View

Students attend ballet class and rehearsal in preparation for the recital of either Peter Pan or The Little Mermaid at the end of the two week session. Separate Saturday classes are also offered. Ages 4-9. 914 N. Rengstorff Ave, Mountain View  
<http://westernballet.org/documents/summerchildrens.html>

### Western Ballet Mountain View

Students obtain high quality training in ballet, pointe, character, jazz, and modern dance, while learning choreography from the classical ballet Paquita. The students dance in featured roles in a final performance. Ages 9-12. Audition required 914 N. Rengstorff Ave, Mountain View  
<http://westernballet.org/documents/summerpre-intermediate.html>

### Western Ballet Mountain View

Students obtain high quality training in ballet, pointe, character, jazz, and modern dance, while learning choreography from the classical ballet Paquita. The students dance in featured roles in a final performance. Ages 13-23. Audition required. 914 N. Rengstorff Ave, Mountain View  
[http://westernballet.org/documents/summer\\_int\\_adv.html](http://westernballet.org/documents/summer_int_adv.html)

### Summer at Peninsula School Menlo Park

This is a child's delight with trees to climb, rope swings, and unpaved open spaces. Our engaging and creative program includes time to play and make friends. Peninsula School, 920 Peninsula Way. Visit website for class listings.  
[www.peninsulaschool.org/pensummerschool.htm](http://www.peninsulaschool.org/pensummerschool.htm) 650-325-1584, ext. 39

## Athletics

### Alan Margot's Tennis Camps Atherton

Alan Margot's Tennis Camps provide an enjoyable way for your child to begin learning the game of tennis or to continue developing existing skills. Our approach is to create lots of fun with positive feedback and reinforcement in a nurturing tennis environment. Building self-esteem and confidence through enjoyment on the tennis court is a wonderful gift a child can keep forever! Super Juniors Camps, ages 3-6; Juniors Camps, ages 6-14.  
[www.alanmargot-tennis.net](http://www.alanmargot-tennis.net) 650-400-0464

### City of Mountain View Recreation Division Mountain View

Discover fun with us this summer through the many programs available with the City of Mountain View Recreation Division. From sports to traditional day camps, to cooking camps, dance camps and art camps... we have it all! Mountain View Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Avenue  
<http://mountainview.gov>

### City of Mountain View Swim Lessons Rengstorff and Eagle Parks Mountain View

We offer swim lessons for ages 6 months to 14 years. Following the American Red Cross swim lesson program, students are divided into one of the 11 different levels taught by a certified instructor. Rengstorff Park Pool, 201 S Rengstorff Ave and Eagle Park Pool, 650 Franklin St.  
<http://mountainview.gov/>

### Club Rec Juniors & Seniors Mountain View

Club Rec Juniors and Seniors is open for youth 6-11 years old. These traditional day camps are filled with fun theme weeks, weekly trips, swimming, games, crafts and more! Monta Loma Elementary School, 490 Thompson Ave.  
<http://mountainview.gov>

### Foothills Day Camp Palo Alto

What will you discover? Foothills Day and Fun Camps, for youth ages 8-10 and 5-7 respectively, includes canoeing, hiking, animal identification games, crafts, and more- all for less than \$5 an hour. Registration begins February 15th for residents. (February 22nd for non-residents.) Hurry, spaces are limited!  
[cityofpaloalto.org/enjoy](http://cityofpaloalto.org/enjoy) 650-463-4900

### J-Camp Palo Alto

Exciting programs for kindergartners through teens include swimming, field trips, sports and more. Enroll your child in traditional or special focus camps like Surfing, Archery, Animal Adventure, Circus Camp and over 50 others! Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way  
[www.paloaltojcc.org/jcamp](http://www.paloaltojcc.org/jcamp) 650-223-8622

### Kim Grant Tennis Academy Palo Alto & Summer Camps Menlo Park/Redwood City

Fun and Specialized junior camps for Mini (3-5), Beginner, Intermediate 1&2, Advanced and Elite Players. Weekly programs designed by Kim Grant to improve players technique, fitness, agility, mental toughness and all around tennis game. Camps in Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Redwood City. Come make new friends and have tons of FUN!!  
[www.KimGrantTennis.com](http://www.KimGrantTennis.com) 650-752-8061

### Nike Tennis Camps Stanford University

Dick Gould's 43rd Annual Stanford Tennis School offers day camps for both juniors & adults. Weekly junior overnight & extended day camps run by John Whitlinger & Lele Forood. Junior Day Camp run by Brandon Coupe & Frankie Brennan.  
[www.USsportsCamps.com/tennis](http://www.USsportsCamps.com/tennis) 1-800-NIKE-CAMP (645-3226)

### Spartans Sports Camp

Spartans Sports Camp offers multi-sport, week-long sessions for boys and girls in grades 3-6 as well as sport-specific sessions for grades 6-9. There are also strength and conditioning camps for grades 6-12. Camps begin June 10th and run weekly through August 2nd at Mountain View High School. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available for your convenience. Register today!  
[www.SpartansSportsCamp.com](http://www.SpartansSportsCamp.com) 650-479-5906

### Spring Down Camp Equestrian Center Portola Valley

Spring Down Camp teaches basic to advanced horsemanship skills. Ages 6-99 welcome! Daily informative lecture, riding lesson, supervised hands-on ski-II practice, safety around horses, tacking/untacking of own camp horse, and arts/crafts.  
[www.springdown.com](http://www.springdown.com) 650-851-1114

### Stanford Water Polo Camps Stanford

Ages 7 and up. New to sport or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or Full day option for boys and girls. All the camps offer fundamental skill work, position work, scrimmages and games.  
[StanfordWaterPoloCamps.com](http://StanfordWaterPoloCamps.com) 650-725-9016

### Summer at Saint Francis Mountain View

Sports & Activity Camp (ages 6-12): This all-sports camp provides group instruction in a variety of field, water and court games. Saint Francis faculty and students staff the camp, and the focus is always on fun. The program is dedicated to teaching teamwork, sportsmanship and positive self-esteem. After camp care and swim lessons available.  
[www.sfhs.com/summer](http://www.sfhs.com/summer) 650-968-1213 x650

### Summer at Saint Francis Mountain View

Advanced Sports Camps (5th-9th grades): We offer a wide selection of advanced sports camps designed to provide players with the opportunity to improve both their skills and knowledge of a specific sport. Each camp is run by a Head Varsity Coach at Saint Francis, and is staffed by members of the coaching staff.  
[www.sfhs.com/summer](http://www.sfhs.com/summer) 650-968-1213 x650

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**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.

## Back-to-the-land effort in our communities

Spring is here and with it comes a renewed appreciation of the bounty of the land. The harvests of early summer are ahead, followed by more in late summer and fall. Keeping pace will be the two weekly farmers' markets in Woodside, and possibly a new market in Portola Valley. With local grocery stores also featuring produce from nearby, eating locally grown farm products has never been easier, at least not in this or the last half of the previous century.

The Portola Valley Town Council last week discussed a staff report proposing a weekly farmers' market in the parking lot of the Historic Schoolhouse. A few weeks ago, with the collaboration of the Woodside Elementary School District, the Woodside council gave a green light to a Sunday afternoon market in the school's parking lot. And any day now, the Wednesday afternoon market in Skylonda should be starting up for its first full year of operation.

Artichokes, carrots, mushrooms and peas hit their seasonal peaks in late spring around here, followed by blackberries, olallieberries and corn in mid-summer, according to the San Mateo County Farm Bureau. Later come tomatoes and brussels sprouts, leeks and potatoes.

Why is this happening now? Maybe the threat of climate change adds an edge. Environmental concerns are high priorities in both towns, and farmers' markets are one more meaningful way to take steps toward a more sustainable future, to literally think globally and act locally. With farmers' markets being certified by the county agriculture department, local residents can be sure that they're

buying produce grown by the people selling it.

With national governments and global corporations hemmed in either by choice or circumstance by the economics and influence of the power of fossil fuels, buying local is one small way for an individual to lessen feelings of frustration and despair. It's hard to know if eating what's in season has big benefits, but that, too, could be a comforting connection to humanity's distant, distant past.

Did long-ago humans share tips on successful gardening? Probably. In a distant echo, the Portola Valley council last week approved a "garden share" program, an hour or so on one Saturday morning a month for a free exchange of fruits, vegetables and the community spirit that accompanies such gatherings.

Home gardening, particularly with fruits and vegetables, can feel like a big leap into the unknown if you haven't done it before. A support system like the garden-share project could prove useful as a way for existing gardeners to share their enthusiasm and new gardeners to ease into this rewarding activity.

Living close to the land in Silicon Valley and actually feeling that closeness in a tangible way is hard to do in many of its suburban communities. For many, container

planting is the only option. The garden-share program opens a door into a world that Portola Valley residents, over decades, have worked diligently to preserve. Gardening and sharing the fruits of the garden can help one step into that world, and farmers' markets can open a window onto it.

**EDITORIAL**

The opinion of The Almanac



**LETTERS**

Our readers write

**'Reasonable solution' could save German-American school**

Editor:

On April 9, the Menlo Park City School District Board of Directors will decide whether or not to terminate its 20-plus-year lease of the O'Connor site to the German-American International School (GAIS) effective as of June 2014, leaving GAIS only 14 months to locate, secure, entitle, improve and move into a new campus — a near impossible mission in this challenging real estate market.

Before voting on this matter, GAIS asks that the district explore and consider an alternative solution that has not yet been presented: accommo-



Portola Valley archives

**Our Regional Heritage**

What is now the Alpine Inn on Alpine Road in Portola Valley has had a number of names and owners. This 1906 photo shows the roadhouse when it was called The Wunder, owned by German immigrants Julius and Gustav Schenkel. That's Walter Jelich Sr. standing in the doorway. Seated on the left with his spaniel is Charles Schenkel. An earlier owner, known as "Black Chapete," is seated at the right, and the boy with the bottle was known as "Rock."

Continued on next page

**LETTERS**

Our readers write

*Continued from previous page*

dating the district's projected elementary school enrollment at Hillview Middle School, at least temporarily.

The district's own enrollment projections show that Hillview Middle School has the capacity to accommodate the projected temporary increase in elementary school enrollment by absorbing some fifth grade classes. This has been done successfully and on a permanent basis in recent years by the nearby school districts of Portola Valley (at Corte Madera), Las Lomas (at La Entrada) and San Carlos (at Tierra Linda).

Based on our assessment, this option represents a very reasonable solution and win-win for both the district and GAIS. Aside from allowing GAIS an additional year to make an orderly transition to a new campus that ensures the continuing operation of the school, this option would provide tangible benefits to the district as well. It would attain and maintain district target class sizes, avoid taking up field space for portables, require virtually no capital expenditure, permit

continued rent revenue from GAIS, and avoid the financial and educational costs and risks of opening a new school before the district is certain that it needs to.

The board's decision on April 9 may ultimately determine the fate of our school and our students. Therefore, we respectfully request that the board's decision be a fully informed one which considers all possible options, including the option of accommodating the projected temporary enrollment increase at Hillview Middle School, at least in the short term.

*Dominic Liechti  
GAIS managing director*

**Thanks for helping hand**

*Editor:*

Two weeks ago, my husband, Henry, and I were coming out of the Menlo Park Library, when he really could not walk any farther. It was hot and the walk was long. Two wonderful women came to our aid, as I got the car, and helped him to get to the car.

It was such a beautiful example of two Good Samaritans reaching out to help in a time to need. To these Menlo Park women, I say thank you many times over!

*Mary Burt Blume  
Palo Alto*



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

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1921 El Camino Real, Palo Alto  
[www.sundancethesteakhouse.com](http://www.sundancethesteakhouse.com)

Read and post reviews, explore restaurant menus, get hours and directions and more at [ShopPaloAlto](http://ShopPaloAlto.com), [ShopMenloPark](http://ShopMenloPark.com) and [ShopMountainView](http://ShopMountainView.com)

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947-8888

520 Showers Drive, Mountain View  
[www.shopmountainview.com/luunoodlemv](http://www.shopmountainview.com/luunoodlemv)

**INDIAN**

**Janta Indian Restaurant**  
462-5903

369 Lytton Ave.  
[www.jantaindianrestaurant.com](http://www.jantaindianrestaurant.com)

**Thaiphoon**  
323-7700

543 Emerson Ave, Palo Alto  
[www.ThaiphoonRestaurant.com](http://www.ThaiphoonRestaurant.com)

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# EXCEPTIONAL PROPERTIES

FOR SALE



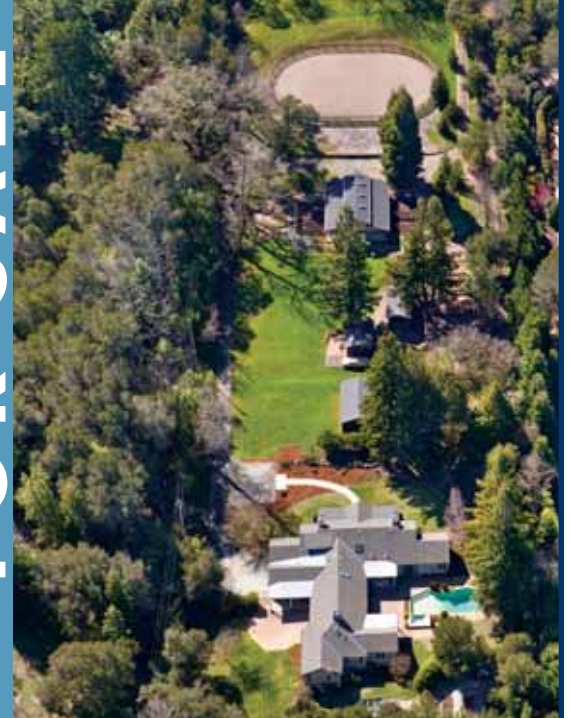
Amazing Views on 8.9 Acres  
 Numerous opportunities – Enjoy this  
 Woodside home today, remodel, or build new  
**275JosselynLane.com**  
 Offered at \$8,900,000

FOR SALE



Stunning Lindenwood home in Atherton  
 6 bedrooms, 5.5 baths; 6,110 +/- sq.ft;  
 Pool, spa and more  
**125JamesAvenue.com**  
 Offered at \$6,295,000

FOR SALE



Central Woodside Country Estate  
 3 bedrooms, 4.5 baths; 4,100± sq. ft.;  
 Pool and barn; Over 3 Acres  
**WoodsideCountryHome.com**  
 Offered at \$5,595,000

FOR SALE



Over 7 Acres in Woodside  
 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths; 4,850± sq. ft.;  
 Views of the western hills  
**305LindenbrookCt.com**  
 Offered at \$3,595,000

FOR SALE



Stunning Emerald Hills Gated Estate  
 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths with 6,300± sq. ft.;  
 Pool, spa & cabana  
**17ColtonCourt.com**  
 Offered at \$3,390,000

SOLD

## LIST OF ERIKA'S RECENT SALES

- Tripp Road, Woodside
- Toyon Court, Woodside
- Prospect Street, Woodside
- West California, Woodside
- Glenwood Drive, Woodside
- Shoshone, Portola Valley
- Tynan, Portola Valley
- Gordon Avenue, Menlo Park

Specializing in:  
 WOODSIDE, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY,  
 MENLO PARK, EMERALD HILLS...and surrounding areas



ERIKA DEMMA

650.740.2970  
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 erikademma.com



#1 Agent, Woodside Office, 2008, 2009, & 2011 • Top U.S. Realtor, The Wall Street Journal, 2012 • Relocation Specialist • DRE# 01230766

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