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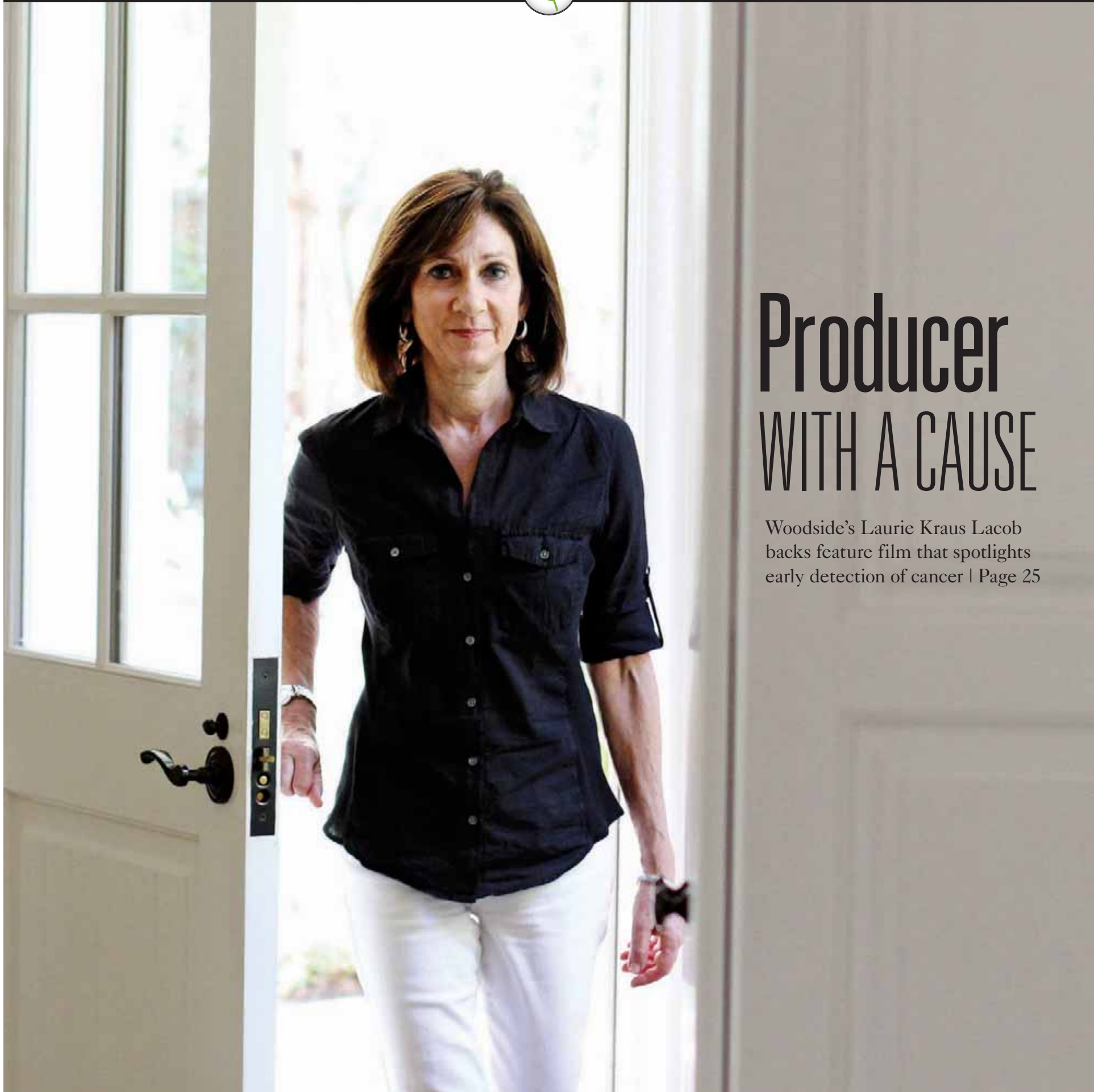
The Almanac

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

JULY 10, 2013 | VOL. 48 NO. 45



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Computer pioneer dies at 88

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The fellowship of high-technology pioneers lost another giant with the death of Atherton resident Douglas C. Engelbart.

Credited with inventing the computer mouse and for coming up with concepts such as point-and-click and hypertext links, Mr. Engelbart interceded on behalf of ordinary people to extend the power of computing far and wide.

Mr. Engelbart died July 2 at his Atherton home at the age of 88, according to a statement from his former employer, SRI International in Menlo Park.

"Doug was a giant who made the world a much better place and who deeply touched those of us who knew him," said Curtis Carlson, SRI's president and CEO. "SRI was very privileged and honored to have him as one of our 'family.' He brought tremendous value to society. We will miss his genius, warmth and charm. Doug's legacy is immense — anyone in the world who uses a mouse or enjoys the productive benefits of a personal computer is indebted to him."

In the 1950s and 1960s, when SRI was known as the Stanford Research Institute, Mr. Engelbart led a team of "computer pioneers" in the Augmentation Research Center. This team developed tools to "enable people and organizations to harness the growing power of computers to meet the exploding challenges of the coming times," Almanac staff writer Marion Softky wrote in a February 2001 cover story.

Compared to the desktop and hand-held computing powerhouses of today, using a computer in the 1960s was something like driving a car from the back seat. To develop a computer program, for example, you typed code at a card-punch terminal to yield a stack of cards with holes in them, the holes representing computer instructions. You handed your cards to an operator who ran

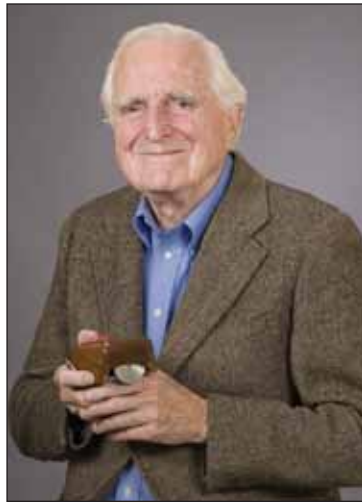


Photo by Louis Fabian Bachrach, Courtesy of the Computer History Museum

Douglas Engelbart, shown here holding an early computer mouse, his groundbreaking invention, died July 2 at his Atherton home at the age of 88.

them through a card-reader to check for errors. With no errors, you could use the cards to run the program and come back later for results, usually in the form of a print out.

Improving or correcting your program required new punch cards. And depending on the demand for the computer, you may have had to stand in line and listen to and/or watch

'Doug was a giant who made the world a much better place and who deeply touched those of us who knew him.'

CURTIS CARLSON, SRI'S CEO

the card reader monotonously checking the cards of the people ahead of you.

Enough of all that, said Mr. Engelbart and his team. Along with the mouse and hypertext, the group developed real-time text editing, integration of text and graphics in the same document, online journals, teleconferencing with a split screen, and technology that allowed people to collaborate on problems from different remote locations.

In the field of programming, the group developed online

processing, linking and in-file object addressing, use of multiple windows, hypermedia, and context-sensitive help, according to an SRI statement.

A major turning point in the collective vision of what computers might become came on Dec. 9, 1968, when Mr. Engelbart sat on stage during a computer conference at the San Francisco Civic Auditorium, a keyboard and mouse in front of him and a big-screen projection behind him. For 90 minutes he manipulated text and pictures. Using a grocery list as a prop, he created headings and reorganized the items under them in ways that are common practice today. He also engaged in live video-enabled exchanges with co-workers at SRI in Menlo Park, including revising a document in tandem.

"Two thousand people gave him a standing ovation," Marion Softky wrote in 2001. "And all at once people began to realize what computers could do."

Go to tinyurl.com/DCE-demo for a video of this demonstration.

"It was stunning. It really (woke) a lot of people up to a whole new way of thinking about computers — not just as number crunchers," Bob Taylor of Woodside said for the Almanac story. Mr. Taylor won the Medal of Technology award the year before Mr. Engelbart and was recently named a fellow at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, a recognition that he shares with Mr. Engelbart.

The demo did not awaken the industry as a whole. It was not until the 1980s that the first commercially available mouse appeared, by which time Mr. Engelbart's patent had expired, according to a 2004 interview with BusinessWeek cited in an obituary of Mr. Engelbart from Bloomberg News.

A soft-spoken man

Karen O'Leary Engelbart, who married Mr. Engelbart in 1999,

See **COMPUTER PIONEER**, page 6

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Fate of Merry Prankster redwood tree in limbo

■ County approves removal permit, but also asks architect to preserve heritage tree.

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

The days of “Chloe’s Tree,” home to hawks and witness to the Dymaxion dance troupe and Merry Pranksters, may be numbered.

The redwood tree, measuring 4 feet in diameter, has stood near the yard’s border at 180 Stanford Ave. longer than anyone living can remember. But the real estate developers who bought the unincorporated West Menlo Park property last year plan to build a new house, one whose footprint leaves no room for the redwood.

“What bothers me, and bothered me from the beginning, is that this isn’t someone with a sudden need to expand a house,” said Roberta Morris, who lives nearby. She wondered if the tree’s presence factored into the purchase as an easily removed obstacle.

“If everybody who asks (for a removal permit) gets a yes, that bothers me,” she said.

The house, owned in previous years by Chloe Scott, also known as “Chloe Scott the dancer” in Tom Wolfe’s book, “The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test,” has stories of its own within the wood of

its walls. The main portion of the 1,667-square-foot building served as an officers’ club at Camp Fremont during World War I for thousands of Army troops, according to neighborhood lore, before being relocated to Stanford Avenue. Ms. Scott later added a dance studio in back, where her Dymaxion troupe rehearsed.

Nearly 30 neighbors have banded together to ‘Help Save Chloe’s Tree.’

A short distance away sits Perry Lane, also known as Perry Avenue, also known as the place Ken Kesey, author of “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,” lived. His street had “Kesey’s Tree,” an ancient oak of which Mr. Wolfe noted, perhaps apocryphally, “Everybody was attracted by the strange high times they had heard about the Lane’s fabled Venison Chili, a Kesey dish made of venison stew laced with LSD, which you could consume and then go sprawl on the mattress in the fork of the great oak in the middle of the Lane at

night and play pinball with the light show in the sky.”

Then a developer bought most of Perry Lane, according to Mr. Wolfe. Reporters descended upon the street expecting to record “sonorous bitter statements about this machine civilization devouring its own past. Instead, there were some kind of nuts out here. They were up in a tree lying on a mattress, all high as coons, and they kept offering everybody, all the reporters and photographers, some kind of venison chili, but there was something about the whole setup ...”

The oak survived. It escaped San Mateo County’s ax three times, thanks to neighborhood protests, only to finally die of root rot in 2005.

Now nearly 30 neighbors have banded together to “Help Save Chloe’s Tree.”

Ron Snow, dubbed the “Mayor of Menlo Park Plants and Gardens” by at least one friend, has lived nearby on Stanford Avenue for about 33 years.

“I sit in my backyard and can see the hawks land in the tree. You don’t often get to see hawks, but I see (them) here and I don’t see them land in other trees,” he said.



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

This redwood tree on Stanford Avenue in unincorporated West Menlo Park may come down to make way for a new house.

See REDWOOD TREE, page 7

Town considers disposition of Jackling House artifacts

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Since 2010, Woodside has owned a collection of antiques that have had historical value but not an appraised dollar value. Now they have one: \$30,825.

The collection from the Jackling House on Mountain Home Road includes a 50-foot copper-and-iron flagpole (\$800), eight plated-metal Mediterranean Revival wall sconces (\$2,000), a three-light pool-table light of Arts and Crafts movement provenance (\$1,000) and a 1929 cast-copper mailbox (\$2,000).

These artifacts recall the Spanish Colonial Revival mansion built in the 1920s and demolished in February 2011 by Apple

■ WOODSIDE

Corp. CEO Steve Jobs after a long legal battle and fight in the court of public opinion with Jackling House fans in Woodside and elsewhere.

The Town Council had requested an appraisal of the artifacts’ value and planned to meet July 9 to consider what to do next.

(Visit AlmanacNews.com for updates. This story went to press prior to the meeting.)

Council members have said they would like to keep the artifacts, but space is a problem. Some are on display in the Woodside Community Museum, but many are locked away in a weather-

See JACKLING HOUSE, page 7



Photo by Michelle Le

These pierced-wheel design sconces in the Moorish style are part of the Jackling House collection at the Woodside Community Museum. The collection’s three Moorish sconces have a value of \$600, according to an appraisal commissioned by the Woodside Town Council.

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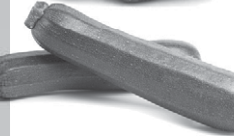
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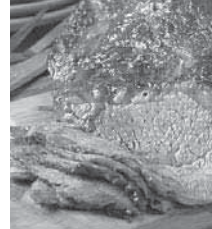
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Sign of the times?

Kathy Switky of Menlo Park sent us this photo of a sign on the Menlo-Atherton High School campus that reads: "Vistor's must register in office." She posted the picture in the Almanac's online Photo Gallery with this message: "Apparently the English teachers at MA have given up correcting apostrophe abuse." This sign went up in 2009 when the Performing Arts Center opened, she said. "I can't believe it's still there. I have been tempted many times to go over there with an appropriately-colored Sharpie, but was afraid I'd be cited for vandalism on school property." The Almanac attempted to get a comment from the school without success. But it is summer, after all.

Computer pioneer dies

continued from page 3

said she met her future husband while on assignment to write a story about him for Gentry Magazine. She tape-recorded her interview but when she got around to writing the story, she discovered she needed to follow up. "He was so soft-spoken ... I could hardly discern what he said," she recalled.

The follow-up interview took place in his house during a birthday celebration, where she also bought some Girl Scout cookies. He called to let her know her cookies had arrived, she picked them up and "that was the beginning of our life together," she said.

"I think his vision of collective IQ and collectively getting

together to solve the problems of humankind ... was part of his soul, part of who he was," she said. "I think that simplicity, openness and optimism about humankind is who he was. ... He loved people and he loved humanity, which made him a wonderful human being and a wonderful husband."

Mr. Englebart's first wife, the former Ballard Fish, died in 1997. Along with his wife, Mr. Engelbart is survived by his son Norman of Woodside and daughters Gerda of Healdsburg, Christina of Sebastopol, and Diana Mangan of Pleasant Hill, Oregon. If there is a public memorial service, it will likely be in September, Ms. O'Leary Englebart said. ■

Bald eagle spotted in Woodside

Jeff Degnan, who lives on Canada Road in Woodside, saw this bald eagle over his house on July 5. His daughter Emily Degnan took the photo. The family is a little worried about all their chickens.



BBC acquires new proprietor

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

It may take a year to reopen the landmark British Bankers Club in Menlo Park, but those longing for its return can feel optimistic, despite yet another change in ownership, given the new proprietor's track record.

Rob Fischer, who owns the Palo Alto Creamery along with Reposado and, in Mountain View, Gravity and Scratch, has added the BBC to his roster.

He said it will take at least a year, however, to bring the building up to code, including seismic upgrades. Renovation is a process he's familiar with; after taking

over the Creamery in 1988, he gutted that restaurant to rebuild from the ground up.

Mr. Fischer declined to comment further on his plans for the BBC.

Local restaurateur to reopen historic Menlo Park club.

The building at 1090 El Camino Real housed Menlo Park's administrative and police departments before becoming the BBC. In more recent years the rowdy restaurant gained a checkered history after a busboy and a cook were

arrested for sexually assaulting two women in an upstairs room at the club in 2010. Both pleaded guilty to related charges.

Former owners Lance White and Richard Eldridge initially said the BBC had shut down for remodeling in January 2012, but eventually announced online that it would stay closed.

A few months later social media executive Owen Van Natta took a stab at reopening the club, only to walk away after deciding his plan wasn't financially viable.

Landlord Dennis Grimsman, who owns the building, told the Almanac he's glad to have a tenant again. ■

JACKLING HOUSE

continued from page 5

proof container outside.

"Personally, I'm not interested in disposing of any of that stuff," Councilman Peter Mason said in February when the council last considered the artifacts' disposition. "It seems odd to me that we would give it away just because it's sitting around. ... I think we should figure out a way to store it."

Mr. Mason was referring to interest expressed for some of the artifacts by Woodside residents Ben Gilad and Qian Su. The couple are planning a new house on Whiskey Hill Road in the style of Jackling House architect George Washington Smith. Among the artifacts the couple said they'd like to acquire: doors and door knockers, chandeliers and light fixtures, decorative grill work,

wooden railings and panels, curtain rods and a fireplace screen.

Commenting on the estimated value of the artifacts, Kathryn Wilen Hobart and Douglas S. Baxter of the San Francisco firm of Hobart Associates write: "The provenance, of primarily regional interest, has some bearing on the value and was considered in the valuation conclusions. Unfortunately, most of the material is in fair or poor condition and considerable expense will need to be undertaken to properly reclaim this collection for modern use.

"The objects of the highest potential value include those most closely associated with the Jackling legacy and his company, Kennecott Copper Company and mine," they write. "The overall market is clearly narrow and limited for much of this inventory which, under normal demolition circumstances,

might have been discarded or sold as scrap salvage."

The artifacts of interest to Ms. Su and Mr. Gilad have an appraised value of \$16,150, Town Manager Kevin Bryant said in a staff report.

The couple will be fourth in line. Rights of first refusal, in priority order, are held by the town, the San Mateo County Historical Association and the University Art Museum at the University of California in Santa Barbara. (Santa Barbara County is home to 54 houses designed by Mr. Smith, according to an entry at architect.com.) From what artifacts are left, the staff report recommends offering them for sale to Ms. Su and Mr. Gilad, with the remainder to be auctioned off at a later time.

Go to tinyurl.com/Jackling for the staff report and the appraisal, which begins on Page 8. ■

REDWOOD TREE

continued from page 5

A software designer by trade, he devotes some of his free time to planting redwoods around the Santa Cruz region. He noted the big tree offers benefits beyond those of ambience and wildlife habitat. Property values

are higher in tree-lined neighborhoods; cooling and heating costs can also be reduced.

"If neighbors would understand, I think they would rally together and builders might be more inclined to keep the big trees — well, I don't know if that would happen," Mr. Snow said. "It's a crime, in a way, that builders come in and rip

down a historic house, a historic tree, and put in a cookie-cutter house."

The county did grant the removal permit in May, but after noticing the opposition, asked the architect to redesign the new house to protect the redwood tree. Carter Warr of CJW Architecture was not immediately available for comment. ■



REAL ESTATE TRENDS

by Samia Cullen

Rising Interest Rates May Force Hesitant Buyers into the Market

Interest rates are at a two-year high and heading higher. The recent spike in rates has left buyers and sellers alike wondering how higher mortgage rates will affect the real estate market.

Rising mortgage rates may finally be forcing many hesitant buyers into the market. NAR's Pending Home Sales Index (PHSI), which is based on home purchase contracts, in May reached its highest level since late 2006. NAR also announced it was upgrading its price forecast for 2013.

It appears some of the rise in contract signings could be from buyers wanting to take advantage of current mortgage interest rates before they move higher. This implies a continuation of double-digit price increases from a year earlier, with a strong push from pent-up demand.

Home prices are not going down any time soon unless the economy or other

fundamentals change the direction of the market. Although interest rates are at a two-year high they still low in comparison to previous years.

As inventory levels have dwindled over the past year, the growing ranks of buyers have helped propel dramatic price increases. As long as our inventory remains low and demand is high, interest rates should not have a meaningful effect on the market especially given that a significant number of offers in our area are cash offers. Multiple offers will continue to be the norm although the total number of offers received on a listing could decrease.

For the first half of 2013, the median sale price increased 25% for Palo Alto (from \$1,726,000 in 2012 to a record high of \$2,150,000), 15% for Menlo Park (from \$1,325,000 to \$1,525,000), and 12.5% in Atherton (from \$3,200,000 to \$3,600,000).

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. For the latest real estate news, follow my blog at www.samiacullen.com

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Man struck by train is identified

The man who was struck and killed Friday morning, July 5, by a train at the Atherton station has been identified by the San Mateo County coroner's office as Clifford Planchon, 88, of Redwood City.

Northbound Caltrain #313 struck Mr. Planchon as the

train passed through the Atherton station at approximately 7:15 a.m., Caltrain spokesperson Jayme Ackemann said. Caltrain does not stop on weekdays at the Atherton station, located at Fair Oaks Lane and Dinkelspiel Station Lane.

Passengers were transferred

to another train. At 9:27 a.m., Caltrain reported resuming normal operations with both tracks back in service.

"Delays were extensive throughout the system," she said in an email. "Ridership was reported to be lighter than normal for a Friday due to the holiday."

Menlo Presbyterian walks for clean water overseas

The Menlo Park Presbyterian Church hosts a one-mile walk through Menlo Park on Saturday, July 13, to raise funds for clean water projects in rural overseas areas.

Participants will start at the church, located at 950 Santa Cruz Ave., walk to a water source to fill buckets, and then return, "to simulate the experience of villagers in rural Africa," according to the MPPC.

The event starts at 1 p.m. For every person who registers and participates in Walk4Water, MPPC will donate \$25 toward clean water projects.

Go to mppc.org/walk4water to register. The event will also be held in Mountain View on July 14 and San Mateo on July 16.

Facebook effect?

Since Facebook's relocation to Menlo Park, it's become business as usual to see the city mentioned in the Wall Street Journal, Forbes and other national publications.

Last week, it happened again — this time as the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics unveiled data for 2012 that showed San Mateo County had the largest jump in weekly wages of any county in the country, with a gain during the past year of 107.3 percent to yield a weekly average wage of \$3,240. The professional and business services sector, with a

BRIEFS

wage gain of \$6.9 billion, made the largest contribution.

Media analysts attributed the wage increase to Facebook's public stock offering, noting that the Bureau's definition of "wage" includes bonuses and stock options in addition to paychecks.

July 15: SamTrans focus group

SamTrans will hold a focus group in Menlo Park on Monday, July 15, as part of a series of meetings in San Mateo County. The outreach meetings will collect input about how SamTrans should conduct outreach, according to the transportation agency.

The Menlo Park meeting focus group will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. at the main library at 800 Alma St.

July 26: Police BBQ

Grab a hot dog and gab with members of the Menlo Park Police Department on July 26. The community barbecue, hosted by the department as a prelude to National Night Out in August, starts at 6 p.m. and ends at 8 p.m. in Burgess Park, located in the Civic Center at 701 Laurel St.

Portola Valley: Some free EV recharges to end soon

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Over the last 15 months, the town of Portola Valley has given away 4.758 megawatt-hours of electricity to those owners of electric vehicles who've taken advantage of the battery charges available at Town Center.

But with increasing use of the two charging stations, increasing popularity of electric vehicles, and the December 2013 expirations of the warranties and \$22,000 in grant-funded subsidies, the town will be resetting the usage fee sometime over the next couple of months. Free battery charges will be available for the first hour only; a fee of \$4 an hour will take effect after 60 minutes.

The Town Council agreed to the change after a June 12 presentation by Brandi de Garmeaux, the town's coordinator of initiatives to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions. Fee revenues would go toward recovering estimated annual operating costs of about \$2,420, replacing equipment when necessary, discouraging use of public facilities as primary charging stations, and encouraging prompt disconnection once a vehicle has been recharged, Ms. de Garmeaux said.

Recharging requires a credit card and can take several hours. The website of the ChargePoint network, based in Campbell, shows station locations, whether they're busy and the fee, if any. A ChargePoint website map shows 144 stations in the Bay Area and 75 within 10 miles of Portola Valley, including 13 in Redwood City and 20 in and around Palo Alto.

Portola Valley's two stations are located in the parking lots of the public library and the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola

See EV RECHARGES, page 17

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Menlo Park: Letter sheds light on firing of gymnastics teacher

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

While the city said the public was not entitled to learn the outcome of an investigation into allegations of harassment and a toxic workplace environment in its gymnastics program, a letter from Menlo Park City Manager Alex McIntyre to the former employee who made the accusations sheds some light.

The Almanac was able to read a copy of the letter, which reminds Michelle Sutton, the popular gymnastics instructor whose abrupt firing lies at the heart of the uproar, that she had been an at-will, temporary and part-time employee who could, therefore, be terminated at any point.

The letter says the investigator, after interviewing 18 people, concluded the instructor had not been illegally harassed or fired in retaliation for trying to file a complaint about her supervisor.

Without naming anyone, Mr. McIntyre's letter acknowledges that at times, certain supervisors and employees interacted inappropriately with Ms. Sutton. He wrote that the city would address those incidents confidentially.

Nevertheless, her termination, while handled in a manner that "may have been unpleasant," was appropriate, the letter says.

When the Almanac asked Ms. Sutton about the letter, she seemed to be taking its contents in stride. "I'm confident that a resolution is forthcoming," she said on July 5.

The exact nature of that resolution remains to be seen. It does not appear to include returning to Menlo Park to teach; the instructor said she's greatly enjoying her new position and expanded hours at Gold Star Gymnastics in Mountain View.

A complaint Ms. Sutton filed in May with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) continues working its way through the system. A DFEH spokesperson said that its investigation could take nine to 12 months.

The week before she was fired, the instructor had asked the city's human resources department and union representatives about filing a harassment complaint against supervisor Karen Mihalek. Ms. Sutton was then terminated on Feb. 12.

She said she was told that a parent's complaint led to her termination. The complaint,

emailed publicly to program management and to the City Council on Jan. 30, described the instructor as unprofessional in how she had asked the parent to step away during a child-only class.

The Almanac found no documentation of reprimands or other performance issues in her personnel file. Since Ms. Sutton was an at-will employee, however, Menlo Park isn't required by law to document disciplinary actions, although employers often do as a safeguard.

Fellow instructor Chris Ortez quit in protest over her firing and later told the city manager and the council that Ms. Mihalek held "none-too-discreet contempt" for Ms. Sutton and reportedly had a history of complaints filed by at least two female staff members.

Mr. McIntyre could not be reached for comment before the Almanac's press deadline. Previously the city has declined to comment on the investigation, citing employee confidentiality. ■



Michelle Sutton



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Nak's Oriental Market owners Ikie and her husband Sam Kurose in 2009.

Nak's Oriental Market fights for its life

By Tara Golshan
Special to the Almanac

After nearly five decades of selling groceries, Nak's Oriental Market in Menlo Park is struggling to stay in business.

Financial troubles and family illness have created obstacles for this Menlo Park fixture, especially after store owner Sam Kurose collapsed three months ago, his son, Ken Kurose, said.

"My dad collapsed and he bust-

ed open underneath his eye and the back of his head and he didn't remember falling," said Ken, who has taken over many of the store's management responsibilities. "A week later, he fell again."

On top of worries about Mr. Kurose's health are concerns about the financial challenges facing the store.

The market, which has been open for 45 years, carries a combination of Asian and Dutch products, in addition to produce

and sushi-grade meat. But recent rent hikes and competition from big grocery stores have made operations difficult for the small business at 1151 Chestnut St.

Rent is now about \$3,500 a month, and business, even from the loyal customers, hasn't been enough, Ken Kurose said. Every week, he said, he would find himself throwing away a couple hundred dollars' worth of fish.

See NAK'S MARKET, page 16



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) Concession Operation for Westwind Community Barn

The Town of Los Altos Hills is soliciting proposals for the concession operation of Westwind Community Barn. Please see the below link for the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Concession Operation.

The deadline is Thursday, August 8, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

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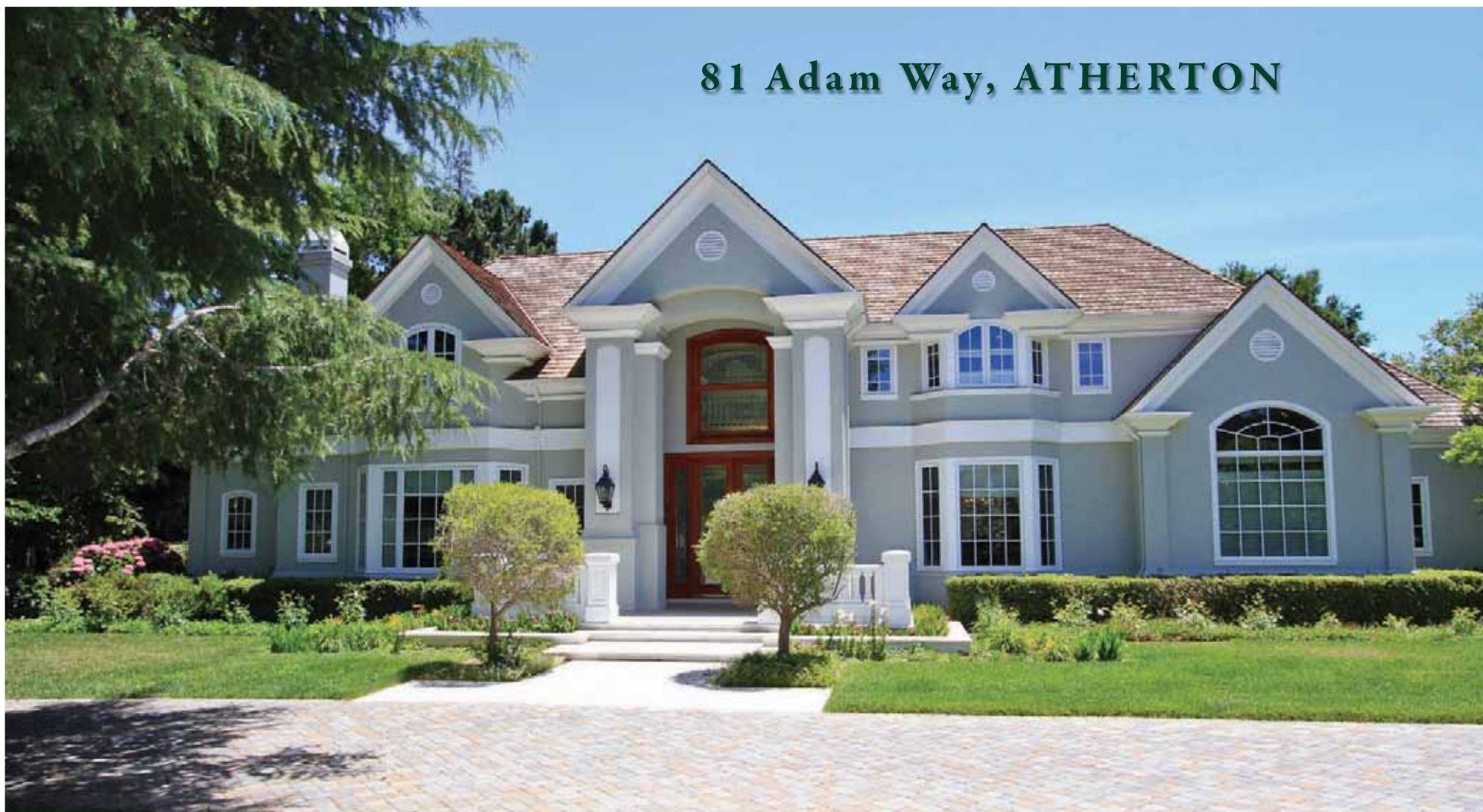
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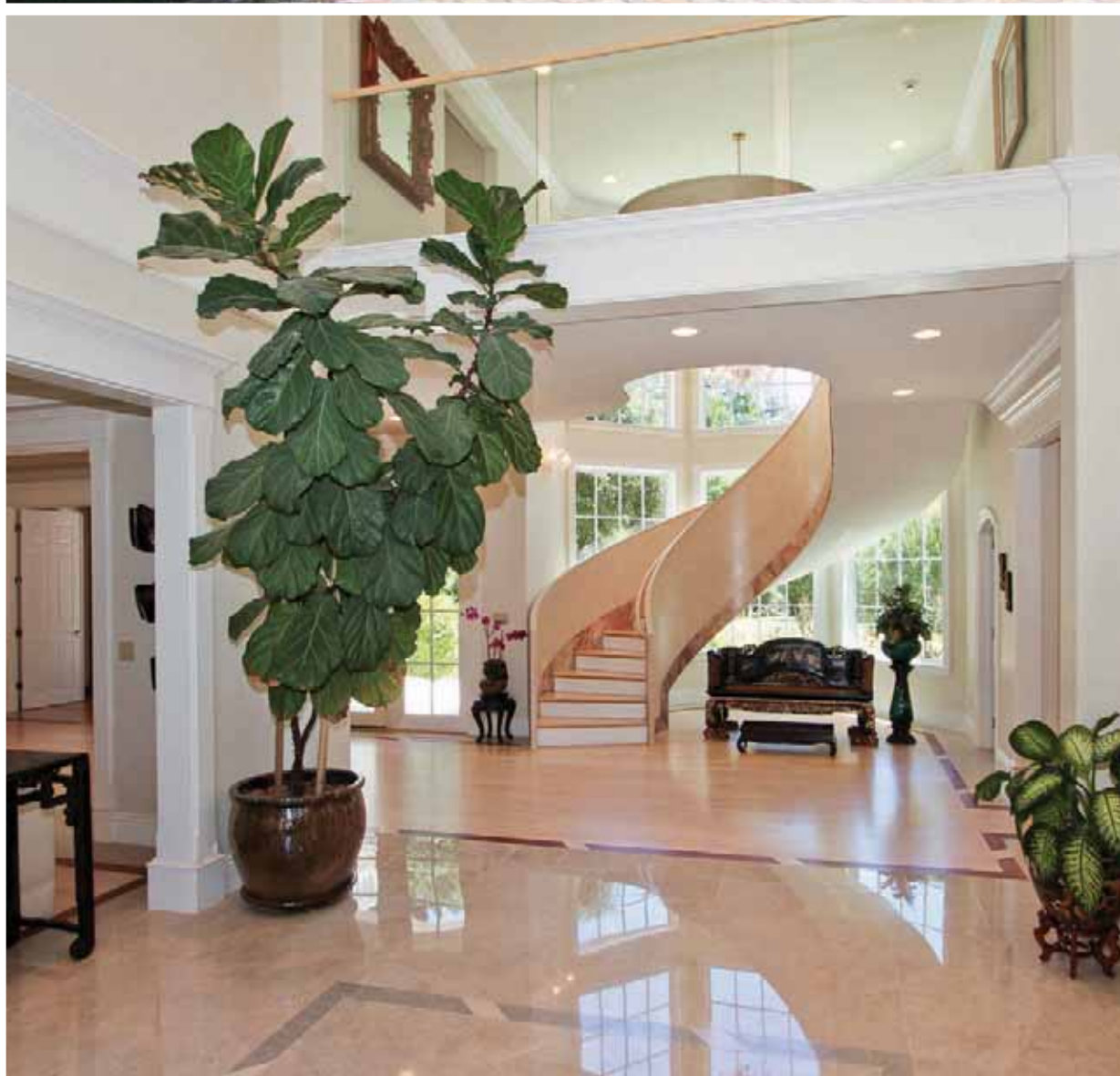
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RICH BASSIN

Mary Durkin Kearns Piersol

September 20, 1921 – June 20, 2013

Mary Stewart Durkin Kearns Piersol was born in Brooklyn, New York, September 20, 1921 to Mary Stewart Bushfield of Goshen, NY and Joseph Stephen Durkin of Newburgh, NY. Her father was a CPA for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She grew up in Chevy Chase, MD and Washington, DC with her brother, Joseph Stephen Durkin, Jr., and was a graduate of Woodrow Wilson high school and Trinity College in Washington, D.C. Fluent in French and Spanish she served in a division of cultural cooperation of the State Department during World War II. During this time she also worked as a liaison with Chinese students.

She was married January 26, 1946 to 1st Lieutenant Thomas F. Kearns USMC, a graduate of Georgetown University of Foreign Service, at The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Washington, D.C. They made their home in Salt Lake City, Utah where Mr. Kearns was Vice President of Kearns Corporation, owner of the Salt Lake Tribune. They had 6 children together but were divorced in 1955. Mr. Kearns died in 1967. In 1963 Mary Durkin Kearns married a widower, Frank W. Piersol, of Atherton, in Carmel, CA. Mr. Piersol was an executive with Stanford Oil Corporation in San Francisco for over 50 years. He died in 1982. Mary worked as a realtor for Finn & Hunt and Cornish & Carey.

Mary was an Atherton resident for 50 years, a member of the Junior League, Atherton Dames and Church of the Nativity Catholic

Church. She was a member of the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton for 41 years.

Mary enjoyed travelling all over the world, but especially being at the ocean. She loved music, dancing, playing the piano and her garden.

She is survived by her six children, Mary Kearns Coffron of Menlo Park, Kathryn Kearns Gould (Chris) of Atherton, Patricia Kearns Kehrer of Dillon, MT, Thomas F. Kearns IV of Reno, NV, Carol Durkin Kearns of Spokane, WA, Michael J. Kearns of Salt Lake City, UT; five grandchildren, Tamara Coffron Nurisso (Fred) of Redwood City, CA, Brock Coffron (Lynn) of Stevensville, MT, Whitney Gould Topping (Henry) of New York, Christopher K. Gould (Aly) of Hong Kong, Judge Thomas Kearns of Salt Lake City, UT; nine great-grandchildren, and one niece, Victoria Durkin Moser (Karl) of Zurich, Switzerland.

Vigil will be held Wednesday, July 17, 7pm at Crippen & Flynn, 400 Woodside Road, Redwood City, CA. A memorial service is scheduled for Thursday, July 18, 11:00 a.m. at Church of the Nativity, 210 Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park, CA.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to Sequoia Hospital Foundation, Dr. Bruce McAuley - Cardiac/Pulmonary Dept., 170 Alameda de las Pulgas, Redwood City, CA 94062 or Ocean Medicine Foundation c/o Dr. Andrew Newman, 750 Welch Rd, Suite 104, Palo Alto, CA 94304.

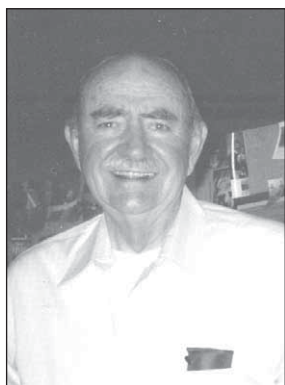
PAID OBITUARY

Gerald Joseph Demma

November 30, 1935- June 2, 2013

A celebration of life was held June 21, 2013 in his private cathedral of redwoods located at his home in Woodside honoring the life of Gerald Joseph Demma...Jerry!

Jerry was born November 30, 1935 in Palo Alto to Joseph and Dorothy Demma. He graduated from Menlo Atherton High School in 1954, joined the Army and was stationed in Germany from 1954-1957 where he met his bride to be Elke Brandt, and wed on February 8, 1959. Jerry then attended and graduated from Northrup Aeronautical Institute in November 1959. Jerry and Elke moved to Woodside in 1961 where they raised their family. Jerry worked for QANTAS AIRWAYS as an Aero-



nautical Engineer for 35 years. His work took Jerry and family around the world for extensive training and education. Jerry was recognized as a top engineer in this field and was respected by many. In 1994 Jerry retired from the airlines and began to pursue his love of nature. As an avid outdoorsman Jerry began hiking and observing wildlife in their natural habitat. Jerry spent most of his summers camping with his family at Scotts Flat Lake

in Nevada City. He later purchased a second home to enjoy fishing, hiking, boating and camping with his wife, children, grandchildren and dogs. It is life's simple things Jerry cherished most, nurturing relationships and spending time with those he loved.

Having been released from the lengthy bondage of Alzheimer's disease, his hesitation to leave us was dismissed when he learned that there was one space left on that day's Angels-flight on June 2, 2013. Jerry, surrounded by his family and love at home, peacefully ascended beyond our sight.

His adoring and patient wife Elke, son John and wife Erika, daughter Jeanette and husband Callum, grandchildren Kaitlin, Melissa, Grant Joseph and Faith, sister Sallie and many nieces and nephews continue to live and honor him until we meet again.

It gives our family great peace knowing that Jerry is now reunited with his oldest son Joseph Angelo.

Jerry was a dedicated loving husband, father, grandfather and friend to all. It is with respect of his legacy that everyone continues to recognize that "Life is Choices!"

PAID OBITUARY

Council has wide choice of applicants for vacant seat

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

ATHERTON

With only hours left to file, six Atherton residents had applied before the Almanac's press time for appointment to a vacant seat on the City Council. The filing period ended at 5 p.m. Monday, July 8, and the council will meet Thursday, July 11, to interview the applicants and try to agree on one to serve out Jerry Carlson's term.

The six are: Audit/Finance Committee chair and Rail Committee member Greg Conlon; longtime council watcher and Transportation Commissioner John Rugeiro; Community Center Advisory Committee vice-chair Rick DeGolia; Audit/Finance Committee member Diane Sandhu; Transportation Committee and Rail Committee member Michael Lempres; and Atherton newcomer and former San Mateo County supervisor candidate Michael Stogner.

The six are hoping to serve out Mr. Carlson's council term, which expires in December 2014. Mr. Carlson resigned July 1 and is moving out of town.

Ms. Sandhu, Mr. Lempres and Mr. Stogner filed their applications on Monday, July 8. They could not be reached for comment before the Almanac's press time.

Among the issues council members are focused on as they seek to fill the vacant seat are renewal of the town's parcel tax — a question likely to be put before voters in November; and negotiating a new contract with the town's police officers.

In interviews with the Almanac, Mr. Rugeiro, Mr. Conlon and Mr. DeGolia all said they support renewing the parcel tax, which raises about \$1.85 million for the town annually. The tax expires in June 2014.

The parcel tax issue is inseparable with the question of whether the town can maintain its own police force: 60 percent of the tax's revenue supports the police department, which some residents have advocated outsourcing.

The three candidates interviewed by the Almanac say they don't support outsourcing police services, noting that Atherton residents appear to be willing to spend an estimated 55 to 60 percent of the town's

budget on maintaining the city-governed police force.

Mr. Rugeiro and Mr. DeGolia noted, however, that the town needs to look at ways to adjust pension and health benefit packages to reduce the town's contributions to them and address a massive unfunded liability — estimated at between \$12 million and \$30 million. Mr. Conlon said he needs more data to determine whether benefit adjustments should be made in the next police contract.

Mr. Conlon was one of four residents who ran for two open council seats in November. He came in third place behind incumbent Elizabeth Lewis and Cary Wiest.

Mr. Rugeiro has been a regular attendee of council meetings since 1982. He has served on the Transportation Committee for 10 years, and is its current vice-chair.

Mr. DeGolia's appointment to the Community Center Advisory Committee in January, and his subsequent appointment as chair of that group's library subcommittee, represent his first forays into Atherton civic affairs. He said he has focused on family, work, and service on nonprofit boards before becoming involved in town matters.

Ms. Sandhu was appointed to the Audit/Finance Committee last September, and was reappointed to a two-year term last month.

Mr. Lempres has served on the transportation and rail committees since 2012.

Mr. Stogner, who lived in San Carlos until recently and is locally known as a civic activist, noted in his application: "I promise if appointed I will not seek this position in 2014. This will allow the residents to fill this position."

Council members will interview applicants on July 11, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 91 Ashfield Ave. in the Town Center. If they fail to appoint anyone to the seat that night, they will vote on whether to call for an election in November.

If the council appoints an applicant, that person would be sworn into office at the July 17 council meeting. ■

Legends hold fundraiser for underserved youth

By Sam Borsos
Special to the Almanac

With summer in full swing, the Menlo Park Legends semi-pro baseball team is bringing the community together for a charitable cause. The baseball program is hosting its second annual Legends Village fundraiser on Saturday, July 20, at 5 p.m. at Nealon Park in Menlo Park.

The event raises funds for the Legends Village, which provides baseball programs to underserved youth who can benefit from clinics, a mentorship program and free camps. At last year's event, between 100 to 150 people attended, and the program raised about \$3,000 for a variety of programs for kids.

"Last year, we had a lot of team members' families come, as well as other followers who have been with the Legends for many years," said David Klein, the Legends general manager and camp director. "It was an



David Klein

absolutely fantastic event and I'm looking forward to learning from it and making this year even better."

The fundraiser will have baseball-inspired carnival games, live music by Leviathan, a home run derby with Legends players, autograph signing, a raffle, a live/silent auction, and a Hawaiian barbecue-style dinner. Everyone who attends is invited to participate in the pick-up style softball game at the end of the night with Legends players.

The money from the event will provide programs for underserved youth from Menlo Park, Redwood City, East Palo Alto, Portola Valley, Woodside, San Carlos, Los Altos, Atherton, and Mountain View. Klein, inspired by positive experiences with baseball as a child, said that the Legends Village has given about 20 free camps and private lessons in the community.

"I think baseball, more than any other sport or activity, does an amazing job in teach-



Photo by Sofia Biros/Special to the Almanac

Keeping pace

Emma Babb is pushed by her daughter, Brighth, as they participate with friends in the Menlo Park Senior Center's third annual walkathon on June 25. The event, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club and held at Kelly Park, raised funds for the center.

ing life lessons," said Klein. "If you were to strike out or have a tough game, there are a lot of life lessons in baseball. We try to offer baseball opportunities to kids who were not initially able to have those opportunities.

Bringing kids into the game of baseball makes sure they have all those opportunities."

This fundraiser is not the only event in which the Legends program interacts with the youth community; for the past five

years, the program has hosted Legends baseball camps in June and July at both the Burgess Little League Field and Nealon Park.

See LEGENDS, page 14

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Young poets honored in Portola Valley

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

Lenora Ferro likes to evoke the wisdom of William Carlos Williams when encouraging children to write and read poetry. From one of his poems, "Asphodel, That Greeny Flower," she recites:

*It is difficult to get the news from poems,
Yet men die miserably every day
For lack of what is found there.*

Those words were among Ms. Ferro's opening remarks at a recent poetry reading and reception for winners of a poetry contest sponsored by Friends of the Portola Valley Library in collaboration with the Portola Valley Library and local schools.

The event celebrated the work of 364 participating Portola Valley children from eight schools, who offered, in poetic style, news and impressions of their worlds.

Ms. Ferro, a member of the Friends of Portola Valley Library, reported after the celebration that during the readings, "even with young children in the crowd, one could hear a pin drop. And 'the news' from our poets was indeed what we need to hear — from word about the Patriot Act to the marketing of body image to greed and sorrow and real beauty to 'who-I-am' musings ..."

Contest winners were awarded gift certificates from Kepler's bookstore — \$50 for first place, \$30 for second, \$20 for third, and \$10 for those receiving honorable mention honors.

The winners

Kindergarten: Eleonora Axelrad, first place.

First grade: Marie Goodson, first place; Tanner Benz, second place; Logan Wilson, third place; Loli Prella, honorable mention.

Second grade: Raphael Bajet, first place; Jackie Nassiri, second place; Evan Gerdes, third place; Bennett Lacerte, honorable mention.

Third grade: Brynn Brady, first place; Ben Lamm, second place; Mishal Junaid, third place; Nicholas McKee, honorable mention.

Fourth grade: Sophia Gottfried, first place; Alec C. Lacerte, second place; Calvin Katz, third place; Ayisah Anderson, honorable mention.

Fifth grade: Eliza Sandell, first place; Piper Holland, second place; Jake Gainey, third place; Annabelle Ross, honorable mention.

Sixth grade: Tara Kariat, Olivia Treynor, tie for first place; Anne Boyle, Kenneth Akers, tie for second place; Joshua Eichbaum, Livie Carusi, tie for third place; Cameron Cronwall, Francesca Geoly, Emma Jaeger, Amanda Smith, Henry Saul, honorable mentions.

Seventh grade: Isaac Roybal, Jamie Wojtowicz, tie for first place; Thomas Winham, Claire Ryland, tie for second place; Sergio Calderon, third place; Eva Elfishawy, Jasmine Tang, honorable mentions.

Eighth grade: Natasha Badger, Emily Chargin, tie for first place; Alix Friedman, Lucie Morgan, tie for second place; Samantha Ramsey, Jacyn Schmidt, tie for third place; Max Utrecht, Brynn Williams, honorable mentions.

Ninth grade: Sophie Concordel, first place; Kelsey Gosling, second place; Robert Wilson, third place; Lilly Johnson, honorable mention.

Tenth grade: Vick Xu, first place.

Eleventh grade: Sarah Reid, first place.

Twelfth grade: Emma Wiszowaty, first place. ■



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LEGENDS

continued from page 13

The summer camps include coaching from players on the Legends, as well as a chance to get first-hand experience with the team during the coaches' semi-pro games at night. Players ages 6 to 12 are invited to hang out in the dugout during games, throw the first pitch, announce the starting lineup, be a batboy and run after foul balls during games.

As of July 3, Legends are 7-7 in the Far West League Standings. Three former Legends players

were selected into the 2013 MLB draft: Grant Nelson, selected 270th overall in the 9th round by the Arizona Diamondbacks, Brett McMinn, selected 536th overall in the 18th round by the New York Mets, and Tyger Pederson, selected 994th overall in the 33rd round by the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Legends Village fundraiser is \$10 for children 12 and under and \$15 for general admission. Admission includes food and activities. All the proceeds go to Legends Village. Nealon Park is at 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park. ■



'A Walk in the Woods'

"Reflecting Pool, Corte Madera Creek," a black and white digital print, is one of the photographs featured in Alan McGee's July show at the Portola Art Gallery at the Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park. The exhibit, "A Walk in the Woods: Landscape as Metaphor," features photographs of San Mateo County woodlands. Mr. McGee is a resident of Portola Valley.

News of local college graduates

■ **Shayla Bunch and Robert Cooper** of Menlo Park graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 13. Ms. Bunch received a bachelor of science degree and Mr. Cooper, a bachelor of arts degree, from the Emory College of Arts and Sciences.

Menlo Park received a bachelor's degree during the 2013 commencement ceremonies of Hobart and William Smith Colleges held May 19 in Geneva, New York. Mr. Durand majored in international relations/economics and participated in the study-abroad program.

The **Almanac**
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Briefs: Student wins scholarship

Zachariah Omar Adham of Menlo Park is one of seven students who have been accepted into the Take Five scholarship program at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York.

The program enables select undergraduates to enroll for a fifth year of study tuition-free, and to explore subjects outside their major area of study.

Mr. Adham, a junior majoring in neuroscience, will do coursework on the theme of public health through the lens of the media. Son of Omar and Mary Adham, he is a graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School.

New director of Service League

Interim director and longtime employee **Karen Francone** has been named executive director of the Service League of San Mateo County. The league administers programs that help county jail inmates re-enter the community.

Ms. Francone replaces former San Mateo County Supervisor **Mike Nevin**, who died Dec. 1, 2012. She began working for the Service League in 1990, when she helped launch the first Hope House for recently released female inmates. There are now six Hope Houses, four for women and two for men.

In 2010, the Service League dedicated the **Karen Marie Francone Wellness Center**, which provides Hope House participants with a health and fitness facility.

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Atherton event raises funds for hospital foundation

The Sequoia Hospital Foundation hosted Cirque du Sequoia, an evening of food and wine for 250 guests at an Atherton estate on June 21. The event raised nearly \$225,000 for the redesign, renovation and expansion of the Sequoia Hospital's Birth Center.

The Birth Center averages 133 deliveries per month. Plans include doubling the capacity of the level 2 nurs-

ery, adding additional private home-like birthing suites, and expanding nursing and family waiting areas.

The evening honored the late doctors William Kennett and John Hoff, two of Sequoia Hospital's pioneering obstetricians.

Djerassi open studios

The Djerassi Resident Artists Program will held its annual "Open House/Open Studios"

■ AROUND TOWN

from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 28. This is the one day of the year the program's Artists' Barn and private grounds are open to the general public.

The afternoon will include open studios, dance and music performances, literary readings and self-guided tours of the sculpture collection.

Small plates prepared by the program's gourmet chef will be served throughout the day.

The open house marks the first public viewing of "After the Celestial Axe," the site-inspired sculpture by visual artist and 2013 artist-in-residence Drue Kataoka.

Admission is \$35 per person and reservations are required. To reserve, go to www.djerassi.org or call 747-1250.

Top real estate agents named by RealTrends

Mary and Brent Gullixson of Alain Pinel Realtors in Menlo Park were the #4 team, with sales of \$266 million, according to the Wall Street Journal and RealTrends' list of the Top 250 Team Real Estate Professionals by sales volume for 2012.

Others mentioned as top teams in the country were Carol Carnevale and Nicole Aron, Alain Pinel Realtors, Menlo Park (#106 with \$90 million sales volume), Elaine Berlin White of Coldwell Banker, Menlo Park (#179 with \$70 million) and Ginny and Joe Kavanaugh of Coldwell Banker, Portola Valley (#250 with \$61 million).

Local real estate agents among the top 50 on the Top 250 list, for individuals, included Keri Nicholas, of Coldwell Banker, Menlo Park, at #30 with \$156 million; Scott Dancer, of Coldwell Banker, Woodside, at #35 with \$141 million; and Tom LeMieux, of Coldwell Banker, Menlo Park, at #41 with \$132 million.

Other top sellers included Hugh Cornish, Coldwell Banker, Menlo Park; Rich Bassin, Alain Pinel, Menlo Park; Hanna Shacham, Coldwell Banker, Menlo Park; Erika Demma, Coldwell Banker, Woodside; and Billy McNair, Coldwell Banker, Menlo Park.

Got to tinyurl.com/real-705 for more information.

NAK'S MARKET

continued from page 9

"It has been slow," Ken said. "We need more business. All the big guys shut all the small stores down and I think we should have gone down then, too."

The financial trouble, however, was unknown to the family, he said, until he began to see the bills come in. Mr. Kurose had taken out a mortgage on his house, and attempted to keep the store open for his loyal customers, Ken said, noting his father's pride.

Community's support has energized and motivated store owner Sam Kurose.

But now, Ken said, Mr. Kurose is just hoping that his son can do his best to keep the store running in the recession. The lease for the store ends in December 2014. Until then, Ken said, he will continue to work at the store and try to make a profit.

Despite all this drama, as Ken puts it, the local community's support has made his father more energetic and motivated than ever before, judging by an email thread circulating around town. Diane Jordan Wexler started the email exchange to ask the community to support Nak's Oriental Market.

"Let's visit Nak's and tell our friends in the area to support this special place," Ms. Wexler wrote in the email. "If we each visit the store and send e-mails to relevant list-serves, it will help this important part of our community's fabric stay intact."

The community's reaction even brought Mr. Kurose to tears, Ken said, adding that it was the first time he had ever seen his father cry. Since his father's collapse, local storeowners have been visiting the market and the hospital.

"I am so thankful for the community," Ken said. "They appreciate all that (my father) has done. It has motivated him and gave him energy — gave him a boost." ■

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Giampa to attend Grammy Camp

Wyatt Giampa of Portola Valley, a senior at Woodside High School, is one of 103 students selected to attend Grammy Camp, a 10-day summer program.

Wyatt, 17, will attend the camp's Los Angeles location July 13-22 at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, taking part in the camp's audio engineering career track. Last year he participated in the camp's electronic music production track.

Wyatt has DJ'd at Corte Madera Middle School, Castilleja, and local private parties. At Woodside High, he assists in the audio production class and creates weekly entertainment videos via his HD video production class.

He recently composed the score for the short film "Storyline," which premiered in May. He also studies acting and took part in Woodside's production of "Legally Blonde." He plans to attend a college in Southern California to study music and aspires to a career in the music and film industry.

■ POLICE CALLS

This information is from the Menlo Park Police Department. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent unless convicted.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary reports:

- Someone broke into the back end of a storage unit attached to a carport on Oak Grove Avenue and stole a bicycle, bike helmet and bike pump with a total estimated value of \$5,290, July 5.
- Several maintenance tools used for grounds upkeep are missing from an Oak Grove Avenue apartment complex storage unit found pried open, July 5. The estimated loss is \$3,675.
- Power tools valued at \$1,100 at a construction site on Corine Lane were reported stolen from a locked tool trailer found with a broken hinge, July 1.
- Someone broke a lock and made off with a \$425 bike from an open carport on Coleman Place, July 5.
- A resident of Roble Avenue is missing a \$300 bike from an open carport where the bike was kept locked up, July 3.
- Someone stole a \$100 bike locked in a secure underground garage at an apartment complex on Coleman Avenue, July 5.
- An audible burglar alarm and a locked back door that had been forced open led to a walk-through with police of a home in the 100 block of Willow Road. The homeowner determined that nothing was missing, July 5.
- Someone broke the locks on coin-operated laundry machines in an

apartment complex on Waverley Court, but was unable to break into the compartments where the coins were kept, July 4.

■ Nothing is missing after a break-in of an Oak Avenue home under construction, June 29.

■ The proprietor of a storage locker in an open carport on Coleman Avenue found the locker's lock broken, but was uncertain as to whether anything was missing, June 28.

Commercial burglary report: Police arrested William Graham, 25, of Oakland on burglary, fraud and conspiracy charges after his alleged attempt to cash a fraudulent check at Bank of America at 633 Santa Cruz Ave., June 28.

Theft reports:

■ Someone walked into Greylock Partners at 2550 Sand Hill Road during business hours and stole \$4,000 in cash from a backpack in an unlocked office, June 28. Surveillance videos showed someone going from office to office.

■ A laptop computer, the computer's case, a tennis racket and a backpack are missing from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 200 block of El Camino Real, June 28. The estimated loss is \$2,170.

■ Police arrested Kevin EstradaRuiz, 30, of San Francisco on theft charges after he allegedly took a laptop computer instead of "processing it for delivery" to a business on Hamilton Court, June 28.

EV RECHARGES

continued from page 8

Road. Each station can charge two vehicles at once. (The station at the library is currently out of order.)

Over the previous 365 days,

according to a staff report, vehicles were connected for an average of 4.5 hours per day. Thirty-nine percent of the sessions lasted less than an hour, 40 percent lasted between 1 and 2.5 hours, and 21 percent went beyond 2.5 hours. ■

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13 cases of car vandalism, theft

Menlo Park police are investigating 13 cases of auto vandalism or theft that occurred between 8 p.m. Saturday, July 6, and 7 a.m. Sunday, July 7.

Each case involved the theft of or tampering with items in unlocked vehicles, said Officer Jason Poirier. The incidents occurred on Gilbert Avenue, Seminary Drive, Gloria Circle, Pine Street and Yale Road in Menlo Park.

Police remind residents to remove valuables from vehicles and keep vehicles locked. Anyone with information about these incidents can call Officer Jason Poirier at 330-6300.

LET'S DISCUSS:

Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at AlmanacNews.com



July 8

WEEKLY REAL ESTATE REPORT



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

Real Estate Statistics Updated Weekly for

- Atherton
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PENINSULA



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www.armadillowillys.com

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326-1446
541 Ramona Street, Palo Alto
www.oldpropa.com

ITALIAN

Cucina Venti

254-1120
1390 Pear Ave, Mountain View
www.cucinaventi.com

CHINESE

Chef Chu's

948-2696
1067 N. San Antonio Road
www.chefchu.com

Ming's

856-7700
1700 Embarcadero East, Palo Alto
www.mings.com

New Tung Kee Noodle House

947-8888
520 Showers Drive, Mountain View
www.shopmountainview.com/luunoodlemv

INDIAN

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369 Lytton Ave.
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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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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.

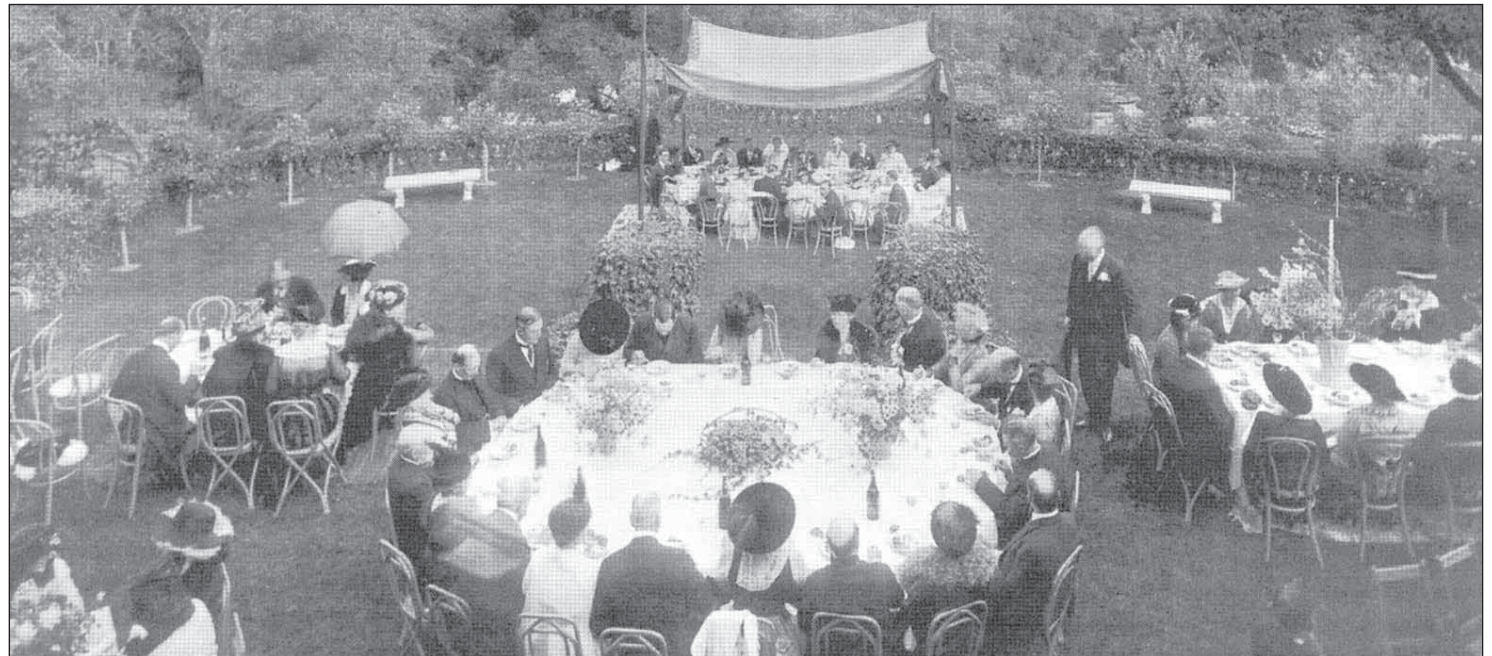
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Email your views to: letters@almanacnews.com and note this it is a letter to the editor in the subject line.

Mail or deliver to: Editor at the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Call the Viewpoint desk at 223-6507.



Woodside History Committee

Our Regional Heritage

The Folger Estate in Woodside was the site of many social affairs, including the wedding festivities in this undated photo. James A. Folger II, whose father founded San Francisco-based Folgers Coffee company, moved to Woodside in 1902, according to a history of Woodside by Woodside History Committee member Thalia Lubin and local historian Bob Dougherty. In 1905, he commissioned architect Arthur Brown Jr. to design an Edwardian-style mansion on what was called Hazelwood Estate, and the 13-acre property, complete with sulfur springs and a stable designed in the French Baroque style, was renamed the Folger Estate.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Safety more important than couch sculpture

Editor:

As a working artist I could weigh in on the aesthetic merits of the Willow Road "Couch Sculpture," but I recall the Eiffel Tower in Paris had critics and fans as well.

More important to me is the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists of our town. For example Coleman Avenue, a major street to Laurel School, is an obstacle course of danger. The road not only lacks sidewalks and bike paths, its rutted edge is often blocked by ivy, trash cans, asphalt diverters, and so on. I actually saw a woman with a baby strapped to her chest fall forward into the gravel. (I did stop to help.)

Apparently the "rural aesthetic" of a few vocal residents is enough to squash any changes toward safety. Yes, I know there are different municipal jurisdictions involved, but they somehow managed to get El Camino Real and Middlefield Road to line up.

Safety First.

Jill Andre
Pope Street, Menlo Park

Secret money poisoning our democracy

By Congresswoman Anna Eshoo

A "Star Trek" parody video, line dance lessons, and presidential hotel suites. These are just some of the outrageous things the Internal Revenue Service spent \$49 million of taxpayer money on at more than 200 employee conferences from 2010 through 2012. The findings, presented at a recent Congressional oversight hearing, come amid revelations that the IRS inappropriately held up applications for tax-exempt status by groups with "Tea Party," "patriot," and "progressive" in their names.

Does this sound unacceptable? I'd certainly say so. But the IRS is complicit in a broader breach of trust with the American people — one that is threatening the fabric of our democracy.

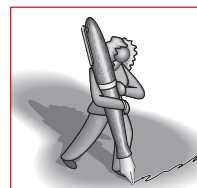
Beyond gross misuse of taxpayer money and mishandling the applications of mom-and-pop nonprofits, the IRS is wrongfully allowing secret, big-money interests to conceal millions of dollars in political campaign spending and run roughshod over our elections.

All of the estimated \$300 million in secret money spent in the 2012 election cycle can be traced back to a single provision in our tax laws, called Section 501(c)(4). Originating in the Revenue Act of 1913, Section 501(c)(4) provides tax-exempt status to nonprofit groups "operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare." Like many nonprofits, 501(c)(4) groups are not required to publicly disclose their donors.

The operative word in the law is that these organizations are required to function "exclusively" for the general public's benefit, meaning they are prohibited from engaging in political campaigns. But in a 1959 rulemaking, the IRS turned this simple standard on its head, changing the word "exclusively" to "primarily." This seemingly small change opened up a loophole in our tax law that, until the Supreme Court's infamous "Citizens United" decision, had gone relatively unnoticed. Once "Citizens United" opened the spigot of corporate money in elections, special interests rushed

to funnel hundreds of millions of dollars into political campaigns under the secrecy provided by 501(c)(4) status.

This secret money from unknown donors is poisoning our electoral system and our democracy. So long as their primary purpose is to promote social welfare — arguably a mere 51 percent — 501(c)(4) organizations with innocuous-sounding names like Americans for Prosperity can pour the remainder of their funds into political campaigns, all without disclosing their big-money backers. For all we know, foreign nationals could be influencing our elections with undisclosed contributions. Furthermore, taxpayers end up subsidizing the political agendas of special interests.



GUEST OPINION

The IRS attempted to rectify how it considers 501(c)(4) applications this week. Applicants who have been waiting more than 120 days for a decision will be approved if they "self-certify" that no more than 40 percent of spending goes toward elections. Rather than pull an arbitrary standard from thin air, the IRS should update its rule to ensure that 501(c)(4) organizations function "exclusively" to promote social welfare, as Congress intended.

The burden of ridding our elections of secret money doesn't fall entirely on the IRS. A constitutional amendment overruling the "Citizens United" decision is necessary to grant Congress full regulatory authority over campaign contributions and expenditures. Congress should also pass legislation that requires corporations, labor unions and nonprofit groups to disclose all campaign-related spending or donations within 24 hours.

Our government is being bought and sold on the auction block by unlimited money from anonymous buyers. That is not a democracy, and the American people should not stand for it.

Anna G. Eshoo, a Democrat, represents California's 18th Congressional district.

What should city do in Louise Street dispute?

Don't destroy our neighborhood;
protect our green-space buffer

By Michael Schwarz

On July 16 the City Council will vote on an issue that raises fundamental questions about the nature of our community, and the broader rights of homeowners in any community. The matter involves the "vacation and abandonment of a portion of the Louise Street right of way." For Louise Street residents, what is at stake is the unique historical character of the cul-de-sac we call home — and our ability to protect this sanctuary from a determined and deep-pocketed developer who wants to change it forever.

For more than 75 years, that character has been defined by a lushly vegetated, wooded buffer zone that separates the end of our cul-de-sac from homes on Santa Cruz Avenue. We call it the green space — a 53-by-60-foot area that is undeveloped public right of way. It gives the street a rural feel, and it is the first thing you see when you turn onto Louise. Or at least it has been, until now.

The threat comes from a developer who bought a home at 1825 Santa Cruz Avenue for \$1.5 million, which he plans to rebuild and sell as a Louise Street property for \$5.5 million. (No other house on Santa Cruz has commanded more than \$4.5 million). To do so, he intends to build a new driveway through the green space, a structure that violates the long-established tranquility of our cul-de-sac. He claims he is restoring his "historical access," but more than 60 Louise Street residents dating back to 1948 have sworn that no driveway ever existed.

In March, the City Council voted against the driveway. The developer responded by advertising the property with a Louise Street address, hiring an attorney and threatening a lawsuit. In May the Planning Commission voted that abandonment was

consistent with the general plan. The developer's crews, supervised by his attorney, drove a truck into the green space and cut three large branches of a heritage redwood tree — despite instructions from the city attorney not to do any work in the public right of way. It was the third time he has cut trees and removed vegetation from the green space without authorization. As a result we now see an exposed view of Santa Cruz for the first time in 75 years.

Although we won both prior votes and the Planning Department has twice denied the developer's request to change the house's frontage from Santa Cruz to Louise, recently he filed another permit to build a neighborhood-changing driveway on Louise. He has no right to appropriate public land for private gain at the neighborhood's expense. He can make a sizable profit by developing his home at its historic Santa Cruz address.

The families on Louise Street have collectively lived here for more than 300 years. The developer bought his house a year ago. A vote for abandonment will protect the green space in perpetuity. A vote against it will give the developer his driveway. This will increase his profits but destroy what we most cherish about our street. If a single developer can do that despite his neighbors' unanimous opposition, the basic fiber that binds our community together is becoming perilously fragile.

Today it's our neighborhood. Tomorrow it could be yours.

Michael Schwarz and his wife Kiki Kapany have lived on Louise Street since 1994 and have raised two daughters there. He is writing on behalf of the Louise Street families.



By Sam Sinnott

Over a year ago, I bought a home on Santa Cruz Avenue. The existing lot was overgrown, including almost a dozen dead heritage trees, but it was also large, flat and suitable for a new family home, with an enormous white oak tree and an old driveway and parking area with double gates connecting directly to Louise Street in back.

The elderly former owners used the gates and dirt driveway connecting to Louise Street for many years. However, this rear access had been blocked by neighbors placing gravel and wheel stops in the public right of way, blocking those gates, to create their own exclusive parking area. Mr. Tate, the elderly former owner, had complained to the neighbors about blocking his driveway but they ignored him.

After reviewing my original plan to relocate the rear driveway and allow the parking to remain, my neighbors decided not to move their parking and vowed to organize the neighborhood against me. That was April 2012.

Following many fruitless meetings with neighbors, the Public Works Department granted my application for an encroachment permit to pave my existing rear access and improve the safest vehicular route to and from my property. Because Santa Cruz is at its narrowest in front of my property, staff approved the permit, similar to one that was approved for the driveway in 1984, to make the property safer.

City staff also recommended denying the neighbors' appeal of the driveway encroachment permit because staff recognized the exist-

ing rear-access rights and that my proposal would help get cars off Santa Cruz — a stated goal of the city.

Neighbors claim, among many inaccuracies, that a green space would be destroyed. A large, overgrown oleander bush dominates this so-called green space. I recently designed yet another driveway that saves all foliage and provides 83 square feet of more green space than the former gravel parking area.

The city agrees that we have vehicular access rights to Louise. We have recently been using the existing dirt driveway and gates to clear the rear yard of overgrowth that was choking the heritage oak tree. All work was previously discussed with and approved by the city arborist. Prior notice of this work was given to the city attorney and to the police chief.

In my view, the council ignored my legal property rights and voted to appease a packed house of neighbors by revoking my encroachment permit. The city began a process to gift city-owned land to the neighbors. The neighbors replaced the gravel parking area with ivy following the March 5 council hearing.

The city's attempt to take the safest route of access away from a single-family home by abandoning part of the street is a violation of my property, due process, and equal protection rights.

No negative impacts will stem from a new family driving to their home via a safe street. The council should drop the proposed abandonment and approve my revised, green driveway plan.

Sam Sinnott is a longtime Menlo Park resident and founder of Sinnott & Co. Architecture & Construction.

GUIDE TO 2013 SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS

Camp Connection

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

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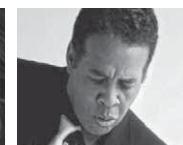
ALLISON MILLER'S BOOM TIC BOOM

Friday, July 12



MADELINE EASTMAN

Sunday, July 14



STANLEY CLARKE TRIO

Saturday, July 20

NEW LISTING – OPEN SUNDAY



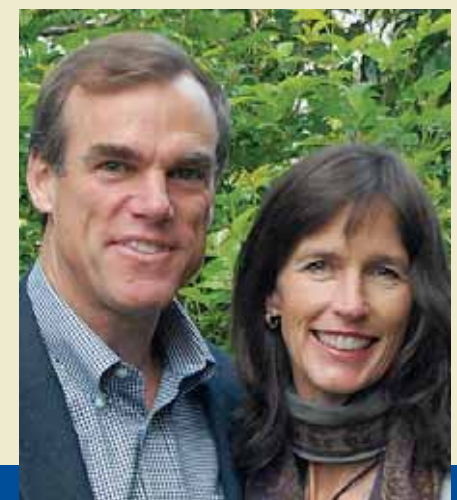
3100 Woodside Road, Woodside

Walk to Town and the acclaimed Woodside School (pre-K to 8th) from this 3.0-acre estate featuring an approximate 3,100 square foot 4BR/3BA home (including solarium), barn and two landscaping sheds, nestled in a setting of flowing native grasses, framed by a series of heritage oaks, redwoods and Rosalind Creasy “Edible Landscaping”-designed rose gardens.

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