

# The Almanac

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

SEPTEMBER 4, 2013 | VOL. 48 NO. 53



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## A BOY'S LIFE IN PORTOLA VALLEY

Ed Jelich visits  
his old home  
and recalls  
the times  
of his youth

Section 2



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# Hot food coming to farmers' market

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

## ■ PORTOLA VALLEY

As Portola Valley's Thursday afternoon farmers' market heads into its first fall season, an expansion is coming: the market manager now has the discretion to include a limited selection of hot, ready-to-eat food, including rotisserie chicken.

The Town Council, with Councilman Ted Driscoll absent, voted 4-0 on Wednesday, Aug. 28, to approve a staff recommendation that opens the door for market manager Maggie Foard to offer hot food, provided it is not from food trucks.

Of the four hot-food options not involving food trucks that San Mateo County allows at farmers' markets — hot dogs, sweet-and-salty popcorn, tamales and RoliRoti Gourmet Rotisserie chicken — Ms. Foard said she is most likely to offer tamales from a food cart and chicken. RoliRoti travels by truck, but sets up a counter outside the truck from which to serve its chickens.

Food trucks per se are not out of the picture. The council prohibits food trucks from farmers' markets in deference to concerns from in-town food vendors about the competition, but in deference to the growing popularity in the community for the diversity of choices that these trucks represent, the council gave staff the discretion to invite the trucks to town-sponsored special events.

Food trucks have been present at Portola Valley's three outdoor summer concerts this year and are expected at the Sept. 19 concert.

A staff report from Brandi de Garmeaux, who manages the town's sustainability initiatives, lists 39 special events over the next 12 months, including concerts, speaker presentations, model-airplane

Flight Night, teen movies and even Sudden Oak Death workshops. Not all events will generate a critical mass of attendees that would justify food trucks, Ms. de Garmeaux said, adding: "We will be selective."

Staff also proposed a concept called Sharing Supper, a monthly event at Town Center for whoever wants to attend and pay for a catered meal. The council put that off on the grounds that staff has enough to do already in the area of community building initiatives.

## Portola Valley council's green light will allow rotisserie chicken and tamales.

### Winter market

Staff reports show the Portola Valley farmers' market to be quite popular, but is it popular enough? To maintain the market's momentum for both vendors and customers, one step Ms. Foard is exploring is not taking a winter break, which would implicitly ask customers to drive to an outdoor venue to shop for vegetables when it is cold and/or wet.

"Lots of people arrive expecting something to eat," Ms. Foard said. "The addition of ready-to-eat foods brings more people to the market. ... If the farmers' market is to survive the winter, there needs to be enough foot traffic."

Having hot prepared food on hand would be a potential big plus. "It's tempting if there is something to eat," Ms. Foard said. "It's tempting if this something is hot."

RoliRoti operates under the

same county food-truck permit used by all food trucks, but there is a difference, said Dean Peterson, the director of the San Mateo County Environmental Health Department. The truck is "very special," he said. RoloRoti "spent years getting that (truck) permitted."

Asked to elaborate, Mr. Peterson replied in an email: "From what I remember, (there were food safety) issues that we and many other counties raised when (RoloRoti) first came onto the scene. It was with the involvement of the state that a compromise was reached that required food safety plans and processes in lieu of having a vehicle that strictly followed the code."

"Rotisystems," says the company's 2010 food safety handbook provided to the Almanac by Mr. Peterson, "believes that we have a commitment with the public to produce not only high quality chicken but also product that is safe and wholesome when it is finally eaten. For this reason, we have been working closely with the State of California and other food professionals to upgrade our operations to protect the public health."

With the council's latest decision, rotisserie chicken meals — meals that include roasted potatoes and roasted vegetables — are coming, starting with the Sept. 19 market, Ms. Foard said in an email.

As for the tamales, she said she has yet to line up a vendor for Portola Valley. If there is demand for hot dogs, she said she would look for artisan hot dogs made from grass-fed beef.

Ms. Foard also manages two weekly farmers' markets in Woodside: at Skylonda on Wednesday afternoons and in the parking lot of the Woodside Elementary School on Sundays. ■

## CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

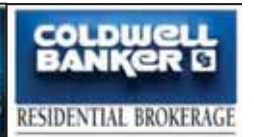
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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Menlo Park set to review specific plan

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park's new specific plan, approved last year, has come under fire for allowing a proposed eight-acre mixed-use complex to be built along El Camino Real, the city's main corridor without requiring any public benefits.

The city is now preparing to take a second look at the specific plan to see whether modifications are necessary. The Planning Commission will review the plan on Sept. 9, then pass any recommendations along to

the City Council.

Any modifications made to the specific plan will affect the Stanford Arrillaga project, the proposed eight-acre mixed use complex, which is not expected to be formally submitted to the city for six months to a year, according to Steve Elliott, the university's managing director for real estate.

Meanwhile, the Menlo Park City Council subcommittee on the Stanford Arrillaga project has finished its work, but it's still only a good starting point, the council noted on Aug. 27.

"This is a long process. It's

### Planning Commission kicks off review on Sept. 9.

not quick," said Councilwoman Kirsten Keith.

The two council representatives on the subcommittee, Ms. Keith and Catherine Carlton, said they held 18 meetings during the past five months with various groups affected by the proposed project, including neighborhood representatives, city staff and Stanford.

In response to feedback presented by the subcommittee, the university agreed to make several changes to the project, such as eliminating all medical office space. The latest design for the Stanford Arrillaga complex would replace mostly vacant car lots along 300 to 500 El Camino Real with 199,500 square feet of office space, 10,000 square feet of retail, and up to 170 apartments.

Mr. Elliott said on Tuesday night that the square footage of the apartments was larger than any other portion of the project.

A public plaza at Middle Avenue

would incorporate two car lanes, along with a pedestrian and bicycle path at Middle Avenue and El Camino Real to a future railroad track undercrossing.

"I think there are more ways we can improve (the plaza)," Mr. Elliott said. "... We heard loud and clear there were significant expectations on this plaza that a lot of people in the community didn't feel were met."

About 23 speakers at the Aug. 27 council meeting made it clear that the revised design still raises

See **SPECIFIC PLAN**, page 6

## Menlo renews contract for red-light cameras

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Breaking away from a trend of cities canceling red-light camera programs, the Menlo Park City Council has decided to renew the town's contract and add a fifth red-light camera.

The vote on Aug. 27 was 4-1, with Catherine Carlton dissenting. The five-year contract will allow Menlo Park to keep its current four cameras — mounted at Bayfront Expressway and Willow Road, and the intersections of El Camino Real with Glenwood Avenue and Ravenswood Avenue — and add a fifth at the intersection of Bayfront Expressway and Chilco Street.

During the Aug. 20 meeting, councilwoman Kirsten Keith said that for her, it was about safety. Red-light cameras correlate to a 13 to 29 percent reduction in all

### City will add a fifth camera at Chilco and Bayfront Expressway.

types of injuries, she said.

Council members had questioned why Menlo Park should pay more than other California cities that contract with Redflex. Staff said that jurisdictions that had been clients of Redflex for a longer period of time or had less stringent installation requirements were charged less.

However, the vendor did reduce the monthly fee for existing cameras from \$5,397 to \$4,950. The new camera will cost \$6,200 a month.

The council also voted to retain a clause that requires

See **MENLO RENEWS**, page 6



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

### Pool celebration

Stephanie prepares to jump in the Belle Haven Pool during water polo practice. The pool will host the Menlo Masters and the Belle Haven aquatic community for a Menlo United celebration from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8, at 100 Terminal Ave. in Menlo Park. There will be water games, relays, music and food, with an admission charge of just \$1. For more information, call Brenda Villa at 330-2237.

## Menlo Park to hold study session on binding arbitration

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

The fight to end binding arbitration in Menlo Park is not over. While the City Council voted 4-1 to approve a new contract with the Police Sergeants Association that makes only slight changes to the binding arbitration process for misconduct, the council also agreed to hold a study session to look at alternative ways of handling disciplinary appeals.

Casting the lone dissenting vote on Aug. 27, Councilwoman

Kirsten Keith said the changes don't go far enough.

"I really think that binding arbitration is broken, and I think it needs to be removed," Ms. Keith said.

Other council members defended the new process, which allows the city and union to select an arbitrator from a pool of retired San Mateo County judges, if the parties can't agree on an arbitrator chosen from a list provided by an outside agency such as the state mediation service.

But the arbitrator's decision, even if factually or legally wrong,

### Council will look at other ways of handling police disciplinary appeals.

would still be final.

Councilman Rich Cline described the changes as taking "the first step towards resolving some of the arbitration issues" while preserving a productive relationship with the police union. "At least we won't have some guy (from) Reno making

the decision," he said, referring to the previous process which allowed out-of-town arbitrators.

Mayor Peter Ohtaki pointed out that the PSA contract was for one year, giving the city and union time to discuss binding arbitration in a collaborative manner.

The city has had two appeals to binding arbitration in police misconduct cases during the past five years, according to Human Resources Director Gina Donnelly.

One case made the news despite state confidentiality laws keeping the public in the dark when the

Almanac broke the story of veteran officer Jeffrey Vasquez, who was reinstated by an arbitrator despite being caught naked with a prostitute in a motel room and reportedly admitting it wasn't the first time he had hired a hooker for sex. The arbitrator also awarded him \$188,000 in back pay.

The Almanac was also able to obtain 17 redacted decisions from multiple California jurisdictions. The reversal rate? About 59 percent. Arbitrators reinstated the officers nine times, and shortened one suspension. They upheld terminations in the remaining seven cases.

See **BINDING ARBITRATION**, page 9

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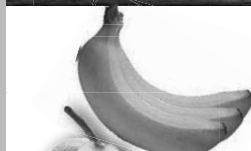

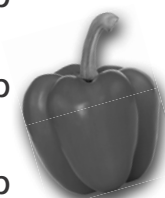
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**Menlo renews contract for red-light cameras**

*continued from page 5*

four out of five votes to cancel the contract without cause, until February 2015, at which point the cost of the installation should be fully amortized. It will then revert to a simple majority vote for cancellation.

Councilwoman Carlton said that she wasn't convinced the cameras were worth it. Her research showed that the cameras increased rear-end collisions, and that lengthening yellow lights by fractions of a second seemed more effective.

"These cameras are not providing safety in Menlo Park," she said.

Statistics per intersection compiled by the police department showed zero accidents at El Camino Real and Glenwood Avenue that were attributable to running a red light, one at El Camino Real and Ravenswood Avenue, and six at Bayfront Expressway and Willow Road during the two years prior to installing the cameras in 2008.

After the cameras were installed, the data show two to three accidents resulting from red-light violations at the Bayfront Expressway and Willow Road intersection, and none at the other locations.

The intersection of Chilco Street and Bayfront Expressway had one fatal collision, in 2011, and a total of 20 collisions during the past five years, although it wasn't clear how many accidents were due to red-light violations.

Mayor Peter Ohtaki had asked staff to compile statistics before the Aug. 27 meeting on how many citations were due to

drivers turning right against a red light at each monitored intersection.

Police Sgt. Sharon Kaufman said her analysis showed that 9 to 21 percent of the violations resulted from right turns.

Drivers pay \$480 for a red-light ticket if the court does not reduce the penalty. Menlo Park gets about \$155; the rest goes to the county and state. The staff report calculates that the program nets the city's general fund about \$84,000 per year if all the cameras are operational.

Menlo Park's contract with Redflex contains a "cost neutrality" clause that saves the city from paying the \$5,000 to \$6,000 monthly fee per camera if revenue from citations doesn't cover the cost.

Fifty-five cities in California, including Belmont, Redwood City, Hayward, Emeryville, Union City and San Carlos, have shut down their red-light camera programs for a variety of factors, such as cost and effectiveness.

Councilwoman Carlton noted that some of those cities paid \$50,000 to \$100,000 to cancel their red-light camera contracts. She urged the Menlo Park council to delay its vote for six months to research the program's effectiveness.

Vice Mayor Ray Mueller asked to include a privacy policy in the contract that states video footage of non-violations will be erased after 30 days, and recordings for cases that do result in a citation be deleted as soon as the legal proceedings finish. The policy also states that only Menlo Park police can access the data. ■

**SPECIFIC PLAN**

*continued from page 5*

serious concerns, particularly in regards to traffic. Save Menlo, a grassroots coalition organized to oppose the original design of the complex, emailed the council shortly before the meeting began to say that it would take action to put the project on the ballot for voter approval should the council allow the development to move forward.

"We're not anti-development. We're reasonable development," said Save Menlo spokesperson Perla Ni.

Other concerns brought up at the meeting included the possibility that the complex would create more jobs than housing, leaving Menlo Park

further behind in its attempts to meet state housing quotas.

Several speakers also said that they felt left out of the subcommittee discussions and had expected to be able to sit down with Stanford themselves.

"I believe the subcommittee has not finished its job," said George Fisher, who served as a neighborhood and Save Menlo representative on the panel. He had wanted to present a list of concerns directly to Stanford, he said.

Council members and staff emphasized that no project was on the table for approval yet.

The council voted 4-0 to begin a study to evaluate cut-through traffic in neighborhoods near the project as well as along El Camino Real. ■

## At Portola Art Gallery

"Greyed" is one of the paintings featured in "Orphaned Elephants of Tsavo and Recent Works," a collection by Marsha Heimbecker on display through September at the Portola Art Gallery. A reception for the artist will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7. The gallery is located at the Allied Arts Guild at 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park.



## Residents may be off the hook for presidential visit costs

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

The town of Atherton is likely to drop its efforts to require two Atherton couples who hosted fundraising events for President Obama to pay the town's costs of providing extra police and public works services for the April events.

The City Council on Sept. 4 will review a report by City Manager George Rodericks recommending that the town resign itself to paying the bill — just over \$8,000 — because town staff who had known about the event in advance didn't request a special event permit or advise the hosts that they

### ■ ATHERTON

could be liable for costs.

"However, it is also staff's recommendation that the town step up public education regarding private events on private property that trigger the need for extraordinary public resources and the fact that such events will require reimbursement of any extraordinary costs incurred," Mr. Rodericks said in the report.

The two events in question were hosted by Marcia and John Goldman, and Liz Simons and Mark Heising.

According to the report, town ordinances required the hosts

to obtain permits in advance of the events, including a permit that's required for landing a helicopter in town except in an emergency.

Mr. Rodericks said that staff plans to tighten up applicable language of the town's ordinances and policies, and boost efforts to inform residents of the rules.

At the same meeting, the council will also hold a public hearing on the proposed changes in the town's master fee schedule, which sets fees charged for town services, and review the Menlo-Atherton Little League plan to construct facilities and upgrade the playing field in Holbrook-Palmer Park.

The meeting begins at 5 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers at 94 Ashfield Road, in the Town Center. ■

## Facebook starts building second campus

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Facebook has broken ground on its second campus in Menlo Park, according to the city.

Located on Constitution Drive, the "west" campus was designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry to resemble an "office in a forest." A 433,555-square-foot structure will include sprawling, open-design office space sandwiched between a rooftop garden and bottom-floor parking garage.

Existing buildings at 312 and 313 Constitution Drive were demolished Aug. 23, with the first set of permits issued five days later, the city's community development department said.

The development agreement, approved in March, includes a payment of \$1.7 million to Menlo Park, distributed over 10 years, along with other commu-

### ■ MENLO BRIEFS

nity benefits, as well as a below-market-rate housing agreement that specifies Facebook will either pay about \$4.5 million in in-lieu fees, provide 15 offsite housing units, or some combination of the two.

### Slocum, Ohtaki hold cafe office hours

If you would like to bring a few things to the county's (or city's) attention, San Mateo County Supervisor Warren Slocum and Menlo Park Mayor Peter Ohtaki will hold "office hours" at Cafe Zoe on Sept. 4.

No appointments required, but if you want to set one up, contact Marci Dragun at 363-4570 or mdragun@smcgov.org.

The office hours run from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the cafe, located at 1929 Menalto Ave.

### Ex-below-market-rate house goes on market

A house at 25 Riordan Place that was formerly part of Menlo Park's below-market-rate inventory goes up for sale on Sept. 7 at market rate.

The city had to buy the property back from two owners who had illegally taken out more than \$1 million in loans against the property and then defaulted on payments. Reclaiming the house cost Menlo Park an estimated \$527,500 after a four-year legal battle.

The City Council then voted in June to spend up to \$40,000 to get the property in shape and sell the three-bedroom, two-and-a-half bathroom house, with an expected return of \$650,000. A broker will provide a tour to interested buyers on Sept. 10. ■



## REAL ESTATE TRENDS

by Samia Cullen

### Disputes Over Fixtures Can Derail a Closing

Real estate transactions are emotionally charged. Sellers cherish their homes and worry about selling them too cheaply. Buyers can be traumatized by high purchase prices and the financial implications of buying a home. This sets the stage for a transaction to suddenly unravel when the parties squabble over who gets custody of something as inconsequential as a chandelier light or some custom built-in cabinetry.

From a distance these disputes may seem silly but in the heat of the moment the parties often view it differently.

After representing buyers and sellers in our local market for nearly 20 years, I know that the issues are not that significant and often can be easily resolved through good will. But squabbles over fixtures after ratifying a contract are far from uncommon.

Big issues arise when things are not clear up front. You can avoid these issues before they arise with due diligence. It is the real estate agent's job to explain to

the seller the difference between fixtures and personal property and what will be included and excluded in the sale of the home. If a seller does not want a fixture to be included in the sale simply remove it. Alternatively the agent can specifically exclude certain fixtures from the contract in an addendum that will be part of the disclosure package.

The purchase contract states clearly that buyer's purchase of the property includes all existing fixtures and fittings attached to the property and devotes two sections to fixtures and personal properties that are included and excluded in the contract. Make sure that the contract states clearly what is included and excluded from the property to avoid any misunderstanding.

Despite best efforts, arguments may still break out. Remember to keep the issues in perspective and make sure your agent is a skilled negotiator.

For more details, please consult a local real estate attorney.

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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### MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Mr. Jack Stevens

# Should Menlo change council elections?

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park, like most cities of similar size, elects at-large council members — in this case, five — that represent the entire city. But Vice Mayor Ray Mueller, serving his first term on the council, is wondering whether that leaves some areas of the community under-represented.

During a discussion about Belle Haven on Aug. 20, he suggested taking a look at the merits of electing three council members by district and two members at-large.

“If we did a hybrid system, it would give us the opportunity to have the best of both systems,” he later told the Almanac. “People would run based on the strength of their relationship with their neighbors and community. There would never be an area that would somehow be able to say, our voice isn’t included. From time to time you hear that complaint in Menlo Park — that no one is looking out for (a specific neighborhood), even though the council is, I assure you.”

Mr. Mueller also thought it would make it easier for elected officials to stay in touch. “As a newly elected official, I’m learning there’s only so much time to get around the city and learn about the issues. It’s much easier to reach an individual in your district and talk to them about what’s going on.”

He emphasized that he wasn’t proposing a change, only that the city consider the idea.

It’s not a new thought for some of his colleagues on the dais. Councilman Rich Cline said he had campaigned on the idea six years ago, thinking that Belle

Haven would never get a representative until the city broke the elections down into districts.

“I also thought seven council members would make the districting easier. But that requires more lifting,” Mr. Cline said. “The idea to have a district is interesting, but I am not sure it is completely fair after further review. You either district the city or you don’t. You don’t district one area and then leave the rest at large. It just creates pockets where representation will be starved elsewhere.”

He said he was all for breaking Menlo Park into districts, with perhaps some larger than others and needing two elected representatives.

The latest discussion about districting Menlo Park arose during the Aug. 20 council meeting as city officials discussed the results of the Belle Haven visioning process; the consultants’ report indicated that community members would like to see a seat on the council reserved for a Belle Haven representative.

When Carolyn Clarke ran in 2012, she was the first council candidate from Belle Haven since Billy Ray White about 25 years ago.

While Mr. Mueller thought that the neighborhood may not be large enough to constitute a district by itself, Belle Haven could be incorporated into one of three districts, he said.

Campaigning within a district rather than city-wide “empowers people to run. That makes it attainable. It’s a lot less expensive,” Mr. Mueller noted.

According to City Attorney Bill McClure, changing Menlo Park’s election landscape would require an ordinance approved by voters. ■

## Portola Valley OKs program to welcome native species

In a conscious echo of Woodside’s 2011 launch of a Backyard Habitat program to encourage residents to create wildlife corridors by welcoming native plants and animals to their yards, the town of Portola Valley has begun its own program.

The Town Council, with Councilman Ted Driscoll absent, gave the go-ahead to members of the town’s Conservation Committee to start taking applications from residents seeking recognition for their efforts.

Go to [tinyurl.com/PVbackyard](http://tinyurl.com/PVbackyard) and turn to Page 73 for more information, including a

color brochure, an application and a detailed list of resources available at the town library and on the web.

A team from the Conservation Committee will evaluate the application and, if asked, will visit the property to make suggestions on how to “create an optimal habitat,” the brochure says.

The visible component of the award will be a rusted sheet-metal frontispiece about 3 feet long by 6-to-8 inches wide and topped with a silhouette of an oak tree. The metal piece attaches to a redwood post to be placed on the property.

## Philanthropists help bring ancient artifact to Asian Art Museum in San Francisco

By Renee Batti  
Almanac News Editor

A small ancient artifact that some historians call “the first bill of human rights” is now on exhibit at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, with critical support by the Iranian American community and a prominent Atherton couple.

The Cyrus Cylinder, part of the British Museum’s collection, will be on display along with 16 rare artworks from ancient Persia, now Iran, until Sept. 22.

The exhibit is sponsored by Atherton philanthropists Bita Daryabari and Dr. Reza Malek, who are married, and Tina and Hamid Moghadam, in collaboration with the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans.

Only 9 inches in length, the clay cylinder is inscribed in Babylonian cuneiform script on orders of Persian King Cyrus the Great, according to the museum. It dates to 539 BCE, and was unearthed in 1879 during a British Museum excavation in Babylon, which is now Iraq.

The inscription chronicles how Cyrus conquered



Photo Courtesy of Pars Equality Center

Bita Daryabari, shown with the Cyrus Cylinder at the Asian Art Museum, is one of the sponsors of the exhibition.

Babylon, restored shrines dedicated to various gods, allowed freedom of religious practice, and allowed deported people to return to their homelands, according to a museum press release.

“The importance of this cylinder lies in the text inscribed on its surface,” says Ms. Daryabari, a native of Iran and

founder of the nonprofit Pars Equality Center in Menlo Park, which supports the Persian immigrant community.

“It’s a message of peace, freedom of religion, and freeing slaves,” she says. “Therefore, it is the earliest and oldest declaration of human rights, (originating) in an empire that at the time was the largest the world had ever seen.”

Ms. Daryabari says she hopes that “every child and adult, all politicians” and all members of Congress view the cylinder as it tours the country. “The more people learn about Iran and its history and culture, the less there will be talk about sanctions, war and bombs,” she says.

The exhibition, “The Cyrus Cylinder and Ancient Persia: A New Beginning,” includes other Persian art from the Achaemenid period (550-330 BCE), “providing a context for understanding the cylinder’s cultural and historical significance,” according to the museum.

From San Francisco, the exhibition will travel to the J. Paul Getty Museum in Southern California.

Go to [asianart.org](http://asianart.org) to learn more about the exhibition. ■

### ■ POLICE CALLS

#### WOODSIDE

##### Theft reports:

■ A woman shopping at Roberts Market had left her car in the parking lot with the trunk open and the windows partially open for cross-ventilation for her dog. When she returned, she discovered that \$575 in items were missing, Aug. 17.

■ Someone bought an Apple iPad for \$641 via an unauthorized use of credit card information belonging to a resident of Woodside Drive, Aug. 22.

■ A vending machine was found pried open and missing an unknown amount of cash on the campus of Canada Community College on Farm Hill Boulevard, Aug. 24.

**Assault and battery report:** A fist-fight involving two students from Woodside High School left one student with minor scratches on his right elbow from a fall, and bumps on the back of his head from where he had been hit approximately six times. The student refused medical treatment and school officials interviewed both students the next day, Aug. 23.

#### PORTOLA VALLEY

**Residential burglary report:** A \$500 antique musket-style pistol that had been rendered inoperative is missing from its display stand in a house on Los Francos Road. The pistol was last seen in April during an appraisal of the resident’s firearms, Aug. 21.

**Auto burglary report:** Someone broke into a locked vehicle parked near Willowbrook and Alpine roads and left the vehicle with about \$1,100 in damages and losses, Aug. 24.

#### WEST MENLO PARK

**Residential burglary report:** Someone

entered a home on Alameda de las Pulgas via an unlocked garage door and stole electronic equipment, jewelry, foreign coins, non-lethal plastic replica guns (air-soft guns) and clothing for a total loss of about \$9,900. The thief or thieves left via the front door or a sliding glass door in the bedroom. A suspicious vehicle was spotted in the area, but not the occupants, Aug. 21.

**Embezzlement report:** There are no leads yet in a complaint from a business in the 3000 block of Alameda de las Pulgas about \$1,500 missing from cash accounts over the span of three months. All employees have access to the cash register, Aug. 21.

#### ATHERTON

##### Residential burglary reports:

■ Using an unlocked side door for entry into a house on Gresham Lane, someone got away with \$300 in cash and the keys to a Mercedes vehicle, which was then burglarized and is missing a set of \$50 rhinestone earrings and a Bluetooth device, Aug. 15.

■ Someone shattered a window of an Atherton Avenue home, Aug. 13.

#### MENLO PARK

##### Residential burglary reports:

■ Someone entered a house on Woodland Avenue through an unlocked back window and got away with electronic gear valued at \$9,000, Aug. 23.

■ A bag of jewelry valued at \$500 is missing from a guest cottage at the rear of a property on Laurel Avenue, Aug. 21.

■ A mountain bike with a value of \$400 was stolen from a carport on Waverley Street, Aug. 27.

**Commercial burglary report:** Menlo

Supply, a plumbing supply wholesaler on Constitution Drive, was left with a broken window but nothing missing after a break-in, Aug. 24.

##### Auto burglary reports:

■ A digital camera, coins and a CD, with a total estimated value of about \$120, were reported missing from a locked vehicle that was parked on Waverley Street, Aug. 24.

■ Someone broke into a vehicle parked on Linfield Drive and stole a \$120 GPS device, Aug. 24.

##### Theft reports:

■ A Facebook employee at Hacker Way is missing a bicycle with a value of \$5,000, Aug. 26.

■ Someone stole \$1,400 in equipment, including a chain saw, a climbing saddle and maintenance equipment, from Davey Tree Expert Co. on Independence Drive, Aug. 27.

■ At Job Train on O’Brien Drive, someone stole a \$615 cell phone and a driver’s license, Aug. 26.

■ A thief absconded with \$53 in beer from the Safeway supermarket on Sharon Park Drive in Sharon Heights, Aug. 25.

■ While at the Safeway supermarket on El Camino Real, a shopper discovered a wallet taken from the shopping cart, and later, \$4,000 in unauthorized purchases, Aug. 28.

■ A package containing \$25 in goods, including a home-theater cable and items from the resident’s dog, was stolen from the front porch of a Madera Avenue home, Aug. 19.

**Stolen vehicle report:** Someone stole a 1992 blue Honda Accord from the 1200 block of Willow road, Aug. 21.

## Nak's Oriental Market to stay open

By Jane Knoerle

Almanac Lifestyles Editor

Good news. Nak's Oriental Market — Menlo Park's last downtown mom-and-pop grocery store — will stay in business.

In the July 12 issue, the Almanac noted the market at 1151 Chestnut St. was struggling to stay open, due to financial troubles and owner Sam Kurose's illness. Their son, Ken, now reports that his parents, Sam and Ikie, are moving to Nevada this month and he will take over the business.

In a posting on the Almanac's Town Square, Ken Kurose wrote: "Wo! We appreciate you all for your support. My folks will be moving between the 12th and 14th of this month. They bought a house in Sparks, Nev. I will be running the store from then on. Thanks again for all

your comments."

According to the July 12 article, after learning of Nak's plight, loyal customers, such as Diane Jordan Wexler, started an email exchange to ask the community to support the market. "Let's visit Nak's and tell our friends to support this special place," Ms. Wexler wrote. "If we each visit the store and send emails to relevant list-serves, it will help this important part of our community's fabric to stay intact."

Nak's current lease ends in December 2014. Until then Ken Kurose said he will work in the store and try to make a profit.

In business for 45 years, Nak's carries a unique selection of Asian and Dutch food products, in addition to choice produce and sushi-grade fish. Ken Kurose is introducing such new

items as jackfruit and purple mangosteen not found in local stores, and will continue to provide the Dutch treats, Thai basil, fresh bamboo shoots, kafir lime leaves, galangal or tofu customers would otherwise have to drive to Mountain View or San Mateo to find.

He vows to keep Nak's the kind of market that harks back to the days when grocers knew you by name and were happy to hurry down the aisles to search for that special item. ■

## Alice L Brandt

Alice L Brandt, 86, passed away on August 15, 2013. She is survived by her two sisters, Agnes Newdoll of Woodside, and Evelyn Loscutt of Naples, Florida, two daughters, Mary Ann Brandt of Redwood City, and Nancy Chambers, three grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her brother, Edward Leon.

Alice was born in San Francisco and graduated from Sequoia High School. She then moved to Woodside where she lived for more than 50 years. She enjoyed a long and successful career as a Real Estate Agent. Alice loved her garden, her many pets including cats, horses, birds, and poodles. She especially had wonderful times traveling with her family.

PAID OBITUARY

## Correction: AXIS Personal Trainers

In our 2013 Readers' Choice section last week, an item about AXIS Personal Trainers winning for best gym had a number of errors. The correct information is below.

### BEST GYM

Every guest enjoys a customized experience at **AXIS Personal Trainers**, which won the 2013 Readers' Choice Award for Best Gym. "Our clients get results," owner Scott Norton says. "They feel like they are part of a great community at AXIS." The AXIS team of more than 40 trainers

is focused on a common goal: to give clients more than they ever thought possible, and to do so through continuous professional development, and by creating an exceptional experience for everyone who walks through our doors, Mr. Norton says. In the past two years, AXIS has remodeled the entire facility, from the locker rooms and reception area to the workout equipment. "It's essentially a brand new gym," he says.

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### BINDING ARBITRATION

continued from page 5

Academic studies of similar binding arbitration cases in Chicago and Houston show approximately the same reversal rate.

Retaining binding arbitration this time around may have allowed Menlo Park to negotiate better financial terms with the union, including no salary increases for the next year. The PSA contract sets retirement benefits for new police employees at 2.7 percent of their highest salary at age 57. Current officers may retire at 50 with 3 percent. As a result of the reduced benefits, police employees hired after Jan. 1 will pay 11.5 percent into CalPERS; current employees pay 12 percent, according to city staff.

The city also established a labor management advisory committee that will meet quarterly to talk about issues such as pensions and arbitration. ■

## Support Our Wounded Warriors

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# Award-winning advertising man, Maxwell Arnold, dies

Maxwell "Bud" Arnold, who produced groundbreaking ads for John F. Kennedy's 1960 presidential campaign, died May 24 at Stanford Medical Center at the age of 94. He was a 50-year resident of Ladera in Portola Valley.

One of the original "Mad Men," "Bud" Arnold began his career in the 1950s joining Guild, Bascom and Bonfigli advertising agency as a copy writer, eventually becoming

a vice president and creative director.

The agency help lead the move away from traditional ads solemnly praising the product, and Mr. Arnold's work was noted for its wit, clever story lines and striking visuals, say family members. He became known as an expert in the field of political advertising and heading the creative team that produced John F. Kennedy's ads for president.

In 1970, Mr. Arnold opened

the Maxwell Arnold Agency, with a mission statement dedicating 20 percent of the agency's time and talent to fighting war, racism, waste and poverty. He also ran campaigns for progressive candidates, notably U.S. Representative Pete McCloskey in his original bid for Congress in 1967, when he defeated Shirley Temple, and Mr. McCloskey's presidential primary challenge of Richard Nixon in 1972.

His commercial clients included Domaine Chandon, the Cliff Hotel, the Embarcadero Center, Golden Gate Transit, and his beloved Giants.

Born in San Francisco, Mr. Arnold grew up in Minneapolis. When he was 15, the family moved to Boston. He enlisted in the Navy and served in North Africa and the Atlantic during World War II.

He graduated from Stanford University, where he was the student and friend of Wallace Stegner, who invited him and

his brother, Richard, to join the university's new Creative Writing Center. He published stories in the *Sewanee Review* and *Harper's* that were later reprinted in the annual *Stanford Short Stories*.

Mr. Arnold is survived by his three children, Jane A. Halsey and Carol Lela Arnold of New York City, and Oliver Maxwell Arnold of Berkeley; two grandchildren; and nephew William Arnold of Portola Valley. His wife of nearly 60 years died in 2007.



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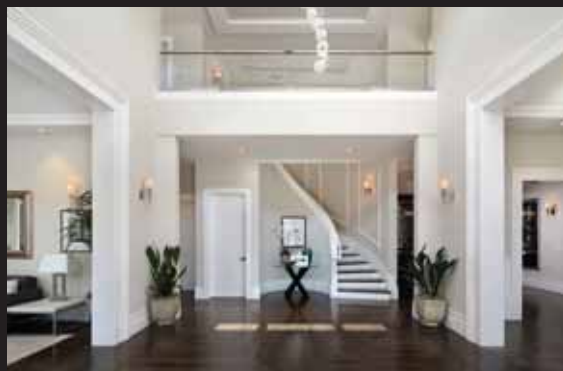


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SEPT. 2013



## 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).

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RAJESH SHINGHAL, M.D.  
PAMF UROLOGY

Join us for a presentation to review the latest information on screening and detection of prostate cancer. Dr. Shinghal will discuss the latest treatment options for prostate cancer.

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ELIZABETH COPELAND, M.D.  
PAMF PEDIATRICS

Discussion about infant sleeping, safety and training.

#### THE BASICS OF PLASTIC SURGERY FOR OLDER ADULTS

**Sunnyvale Senior Center**  
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CINDY RUSSELL, M.D.  
PAMF PLASTIC SURGERY

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#### TAKING THE FEAR OUT OF COLONOSCOPY

**Sunnyvale Public Library**  
665 W. Olive Avenue  
Sunnyvale  
No registration required.



**SEPT. 25, 7 – 8:30 P.M.**  
SANJEEV TUMMALA, M.D.  
PAMF GASTROENTEROLOGY

This talk will discuss what a colonoscopy is, why it is performed, as well as what you can expect before, during, and after the procedure.

#### WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE?

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Filmed over the course of one year, the film follows two eleven-year-olds as they talk to food activists, farmers, and storekeepers, as they address questions regarding the origin of the food they eat, how it's cultivated, and how many miles it travels from farm to fork. What's on Your Plate also looks into innovative sustainable food system practices by going to farms, green markets, and community supported agriculture (CSA) programs.

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## Woodside superintendent's pay to top \$200,000

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

Beth Polito's contract as superintendent/principal of the Woodside Elementary School District has been renewed for three more years at a salary that will make her the highest paid superintendent of any similar local district, despite the fact that Woodside is a one-school district with 451 students.

Dr. Polito's salary will be \$197,342 for the 2013-2014 school year with a 3 percent increase for the following two years, bringing her up to a little over \$209,000 by the third year.

Wendy Warren, president of the district's board of trustees, said the board voted unanimously to approve the new contract.

"Beth has done a remarkable job during her two years at WES," Ms. Warren said. "She has built a very positive climate all around campus working well with all of our constituent groups, brought a tremendous positive focus on teaching and learning (and) dealt effectively with difficult matters created before her tenure began," she said. "Good superintendents are difficult to find and terrific ones even harder."

The Woodside district hired Ms. Polito in July 2011, replacing Diana Abbati, who had held the position for three years. Ms. Polito received her doctorate in education from the University of San Francisco, and had served as assistant superintendent, teacher, dean of students, vice principal, and principal

in the Saratoga Union School District.

Woodside paid Ms. Polito \$183,000 her first year.

Her new contract also has health, vision, dental and retirement benefits, including \$12,096 for health plan expenses that exceed what the district usually pays for full-time certificated employees; \$350 a month to use her own car for district business; and \$100 a month to use her own cell phone for district business.

If the district wants to end the contract early without proving wrongdoing by Ms. Polito, it must give at least 120 days notice and pay her the lesser of a year's salary or the salary for the time remaining on the contract.

In the Portola Valley School District, which has two schools and 656 students, Lisa Gonzales was recently hired as superintendent. Her first year's salary, which actually only includes 11 months, is \$170,207 with her pay for the 2014-15 school year going up to \$183,000.

Ms. Gonzales' contract allows her 20 days of vacation time a year while Ms. Polito receives 24 days. Portola Valley has also offered to pay the cost of a professional coach for Ms. Gonzales.

In the Las Lomas School District, with two schools and 688 students, Superintendent Lisa Cesario makes \$185,000 a year. ▀



Beth Polito

## Police find truck driver at fault in cyclist's death

San Francisco's police chief said on Aug. 29 that a big-rig driver has been found at fault in a collision that killed bicyclist Amélie Le Moullac, 24, in the city's South of Market neighborhood on Aug. 14.

Le Moullac, a Menlo School graduate, was killed when a truck made a right turn at Sixth and Folsom streets and struck her while she was riding a bike.

The truck driver was not initially cited, but police Chief Greg Suhr said that after an investigation by the police department, the driver was found to be at fault.

Chief Suhr said the case would be presented to the district attorney's office, which will make a decision about whether to charge the driver. The chief said a critical part of the investigation was surveillance video footage of the accident uncovered by members of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition.



Amélie Le Moullac

— Bay City News Service

## Celebration of life

A celebration of the life of Steven Scheer Wegener, who settled in Menlo Park in 1978 and worked for many years

at the U.S. Geological Survey, will be held at the NASA Ames Conference Center in Mountain View at 11 a.m. on Sept. 7.

Visit [tinyurl.com/Steve-814](http://tinyurl.com/Steve-814) for details.



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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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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.

## Another look at downtown plan

After hearing months of strong criticism that despite conforming to the city's new El Camino/downtown specific plan, Stanford's mixed-use project of up to 459,000 square feet at 500 El Camino Real would ruin Menlo Park's quality of life and generate unacceptable traffic in the nearby Allied Arts neighborhoods, the City Council appeared to get the message last week.

And that message is the plan needs to be revised, which the council will consider after the Planning Commission completes its review, which begins Sept. 9. A parade of speakers before the council Aug. 27 were nearly unanimous that the new specific plan approved just last year is already in need of changes. City Attorney Bill McClure told the council members that they can revise the plan and that the revisions would apply to the Stanford development proposal. The university would have to pull building permits and begin construction in order to qualify the project under the current specific plan, and that is unlikely to happen before the specific plan review, Steve Elliott, Stanford's managing director of real estate, acknowledged.

Council members, including Mayor Peter Ohtaki, appear to be moving toward revising the plan and trying to complete the review work in the next several months. Kirsten Keith and Catherine Carlton made up the council subcommittee charged with attempting to make the Stanford project more acceptable to Menlo Park residents, including an ad hoc group calling itself Save Menlo.

Ms. Keith said the two were involved in 18 meetings among the interested parties, and did manage to bring back significant concessions from Stanford, including the elimination of medical office space. The council approved a cut-through traffic study of the Allied Arts neighborhood, which Stanford has agreed to fund. The university also has agreed to do more work on the Middle Avenue plaza and contribute funding for a tunnel under the railroad tracks

from Middle Avenue to Burgess Park.

These are encouraging developments, as is the fact that all four council members who can vote on the issue — Ms. Keith, Ms. Carlton, Rich Cline and Mayor Peter Ohtaki (member Ray Mueller is recused) — appeared to hear residents' concerns and said they are ready to revise the specific plan. According to the city attorney, the council's revisions will affect the Stanford project, if the council does so before the city issues building permits under the current plan. And if it can muster four votes, the council could invoke a moratorium, which could stop any development from going forward.

**EDITORIAL**

The opinion of The Almanac

In light of the size and density of Stanford's proposal for 500 El Camino, we hope the council will revise the specific plan to make sure the Stanford project is much more compatible with the surrounding neighborhoods. The cut-

through traffic study and willingness of Stanford to work on a bike/pedestrian tunnel are good first steps. Size and mass of the permitted project and possible public benefits in return for approval should be high on the list of revisions considered by the council.

Ms. Keith noted that the El Camino/downtown plan is the city's first specific plan, and that it is a learning process. Many residents, including the City Council, were shocked by the size of Stanford's initial proposal. And to its credit, the university has made significant concessions from where the project began.

More important is the height and density of what will be permitted on this eight-acre parcel. Certainly Stanford owns the land and deserves to develop the property. But whatever is built must not overwhelm El Camino Real and nearby residential streets with traffic. That will be the major consideration for the Planning Commission and the City Council as they move ahead with revising the specific plan.

**LETTERS**

Our readers write

**Give downtown plan a chance to work**

Editor:

I appreciate that Steve Schmidt and several others retain their long-held view that downtown Menlo Park development should be restrained. The disagreement between these and the many people who worked on the downtown Visioning and the Specific Plan remain, their letters make that plain. But Menlo Park tried putting the freeze on downtown for a decade, and indeed El Camino is frozen, and half vacant.

I don't know anyone who wants unrestrained growth, and only a few who want vacant lots — the whole idea of the five-year public process that resulted in the Downtown Plan was to let everyone have their input, and let the majority set a direction. Not everyone can get their way, but most of us really wanted to move forward out of the freeze.

Amid all the letter writing, creative fliers and lobbying of council, readers might not even know that the specific plan lim-



Menlo Park Historical Association

**Our Regional Heritage**

When the San Francisco Archdiocese purchased 14 acres of land in Sharon Heights in 1959, the former 32-room home of Frederick Sharon was included and until 1963 doubled as the temporary Church of St. Denis. Parishioners moved into their new church at Avy Avenue and Monte Rosa Drive in 1963.

its the front of El Camino SE buildings to two stories, and sets them back further than previous zoning; there are many other controls as well but they don't make good rally cheers.

Let's tame the emotions and remember, cooler heads have worked on this for five years, and Stanford does not yet have approval at any level for what they've presented. We might let

the process work before jumping to condemn it.

Henry Riggs, member  
Menlo Park  
Planning Commissioner

Continued on next page

**LETTERS**

Our readers write

Continued from previous page

**Back to school safety tips for kids, parents**

Schools in Menlo Park and surrounding communities started up a few weeks ago. This is an exciting and busy time for kids and parents as we shop for school supplies, find out class assignments and reconnect with friends after the summer break.

With all of the cars on the road (many in a rush), it's also a particularly dangerous time for pedestrians and cyclists. I personally know of several Menlo Park students who have been bumped by cars while walking or biking to school. Fortunately, none were seriously injured, but with an increasing school population, a large number of children walking/biking to school, and schools located on narrow, neighborhood streets, the potential for a tragedy is ever present (as sadly several of our neighboring cities have experienced). A few reminders will help keep things safe:

Slow down. If you are late, you are late. Don't endanger others for not leaving early enough. Don't stop and drop your children off in the middle of the street. Either park in a legal place or get in the drop-off line. Obey the posted traffic, parking and crossing signs. Don't park in crosswalks. Don't make U-turns in the middle of narrow, neighborhood streets. Don't block neighborhood driveways, even for a "moment."

Keeping these things in mind will help ensure this school year is safe for everyone.

Heyward Robinson  
White Oak Drive, Menlo Park

**Population growth a factor in global warming**

Kaz Shin-Sherman's recent suggestions on ways to "help stop global warming" are good ones. Walking and biking are

good ways to keep in shape. An additional suggestion is to strive for a "balanced" world population, like a "balanced budget." As population decreases through voluntary prevention and education, less money will need to be spent to build and maintain prisons, power and water treatment plants, roads and waterways. Housing and food and other necessary items would cost less.

Often people are in a hurry, resulting in accidents on the road. The presence of anger, stress, pressure, frustration, doubt and fear don't add to a good environment. People need space to live in, just like animals. There is the option of adoption for those who want to add to their families.

Jackie Leonard-Dimmick,  
Walnut Avenue, Atherton

**Reflections of an American Hero**

*Hero — a man of distinguished courage or ability, admired for his brave deeds and noble qualities.*

I can't think of a better description for Andy Garcia — either in his personal life or aboard United Flight 93 on September 11, 2001.

Andy's life experiences growing up in rural Sunnyvale helped shape him into the hero he was. Working in the orchards, or alongside his father in his grocery store, his success in sprinting and wrestling, delivering mail to pay for his college tuition to San Jose State, learning family values, and his time in the Air National Guard are but a few things that spurred Andy on to success in whatever he tried.

On the 12th anniversary of the horrific events of September 11, 2001, my family and I again thank our community for its continued support. Our lives have changed forever, but we were fortunate to be inspired by the man we knew as husband, father and grandfather. May God bless you all.

The family of Andrew (Sonny) Garcia, Portola Valley



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Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford

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

**Comfort Techniques for Labor** Sunday, October 13: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm  
 For couples who have already completed Childbirth Prep, this class provides additional tools and practice for relaxation, breathing and comfort measures for labor.

Visit us at [startstrongbaby.com](http://startstrongbaby.com)

**YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH UNIVERSITY**

**Infant Massage Workshop** Friday, October 11: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm  
 Learn the techniques of infant massage along with tips to relieve gas, aid digestion and soothe the soreness of vaccination sites on your baby. Recommended for infants from one month of age to crawling.

**Beyond Adolescent Angst: Helping Teens Manage Anxieties and Intense Emotions** Monday, October 14: 7 to 8:30 pm  
 Join us for an evening discussion with Dr.'s Sanno Zack and Rebecca Rialon on the topic of stress specific to teenagers and how best to differentiate between what's considered typical and what is not. This seminar is free of charge however your RSVP is requested as space is 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.



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- Newly refinished hardwood floors, plantation shutters, and updated fixtures throughout
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