

The Almanac

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

DECEMBER 4, 2013 | VOL. 49 NO. 13

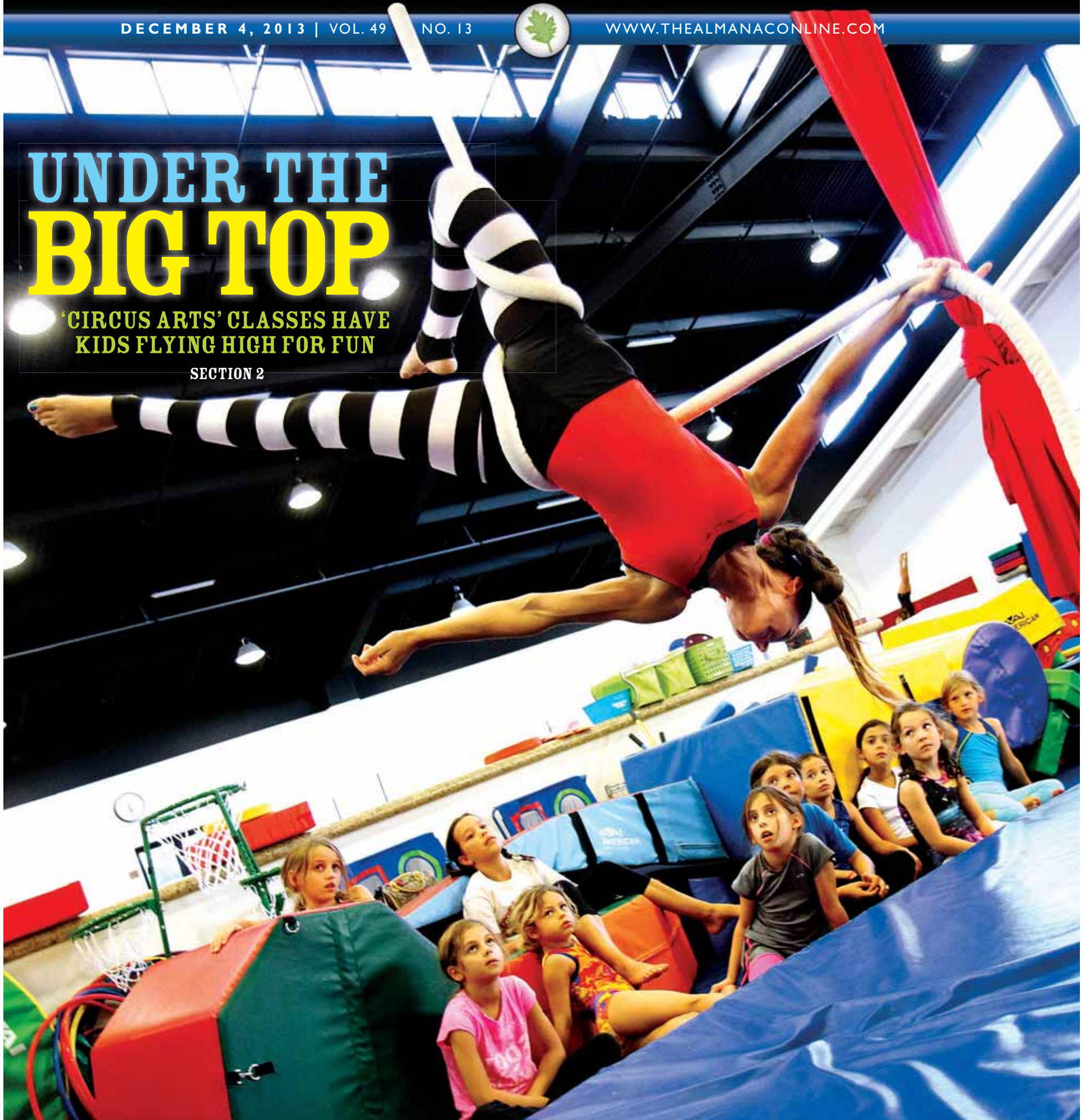


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Frances Bohannon Nelson, 91

■ OBITUARIES

Frances Bohannon Nelson, a resident of Woodside for 55 years and a Peninsula real estate icon and philanthropist, died in her sleep on Saturday, Nov. 23. She was 91.

Born in Oakland in 1922, she was the eldest daughter of the late Ophelia Bohannon and the legendary real estate developer David D. Bohannon.

After graduating from UC Berkeley, she began working with the Bohannon companies in 1943. She was named president of the Bohannon Development Company in 1975, and her leadership guided the growth of the company, the family said, including the expansion and enclosure of the Hillsdale Shopping Center in 1981, amid an economic recession.

She and her husband Howard Nelson parented three children, Patricia Atassi, Linda Davis and Steven Nelson. Balancing work and family, she was active in public service. She served as regent and trustee of Santa Clara University, was on the Board of Governors of the Urban Land Institute, and on the



Frances Bohannon Nelson

advisory board of Peninsula Volunteers.

Honorary chairman of the capital campaign for the Second Harvest Food Bank in San Mateo County, she also generously supported Planned Parenthood and women's reproductive rights, notwithstanding her staunch support of the Republican Party, the family says.

In 1990, she was voted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

In her leisure time, she liked to try new recipes in the kitchen and go fishing and hunting with her family on expeditions to Alaska, Canada, Cabo San Lucas, India and Africa.

She is survived by daughters Patricia Atassi and Linda Davis, and four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Howard Nelson, sister Barbara Carleton, brother David E. Bohannon, son Steven Nelson, and grandson Ramzi Atassi.

Her nephew David D. Bohannon II is president and CEO of the David D. Bohannon Organization, which owns more than 300 acres of land in east Menlo Park. The company also built and owns the Hillsdale Shopping Center and development projects in the East Bay.

A celebration of her life will be held on Jan. 27, 2014, at the Peninsula Golf and Country Club in San Mateo. The family prefers donations in her name to Planned Parenthood, 1691 The Alameda, San Jose, CA 95126; Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, 750 Curtner Ave., San Jose, CA 95125; or a charity of the donor's choice.

Robert Carey, Superior Court judge

Judge Robert E. Carey died peacefully at his home in Atherton on Nov. 16, surrounded by his family. He was 93.

In 1969, Judge Carey was appointed to be a judge of the Municipal Court in San Mateo County by Governor Ronald Reagan, and in 1971, he was elected judge of the Superior Court in San Mateo County. After his retirement from the bench in 1989, he continued to participate in the practice of law in a counsel capacity with the firm of Carey & Carey in Palo Alto until 2008.

Born in Chico, he grew up

in Oakland. He graduated from UC Berkeley and the University of San Francisco School of Law. During World War II, he served overseas as a B-29 pilot with the 20th Army Air Corps.

As a civic volunteer, Judge Carey held leadership positions in the Boy Scouts of America, Catholic Social Services in San Mateo County, Sequoia Kiwanis Club, and the Native Sons of the



Robert Carey

Golden West. He enjoyed traveling, photography, aviation, and golf at Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club, where he was a charter member.

Judge Carey is survived by his wife of 69 years, Helen J. Carey; children, Anne Carey of Menlo Park, Thomas Carey of San Carlos, and Robert Carey of Palo Alto; sister Frances Stephens; and two granddaughters.

Funeral services were held at St. Denis Catholic Church. Donations may be made to Corpus Christi Monastery, 215 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025; or a favorite charity.

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AMANDA MCFADDEN

AMANDA GRADUATED WITH A BACHELOR OF MUSIC IN MUSIC EDUCATION AND SINGLE SUBJECT TEACHING CREDENTIAL IN

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When asked what she loved about teaching, she said, “I love feeding students’ passions. Whether it’s strumming a guitar with the students or conducting the music ensembles, making music is a wonderful way to foster community, creativity, and collaboration.”

When she’s not teaching music at Priory, she enjoys playing volleyball, reading, cooking/eating, and spending time with her family and cat Mochi!

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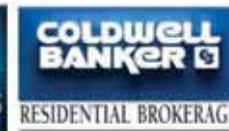


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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Hillview playing field woes continue with suit

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

The problem-plagued project to construct, then reconstruct, Hillview Middle School's playing field may finally be finished, but the headache continues for the Menlo Park City School District, which is named as a defendant in a lawsuit filed Nov. 20 by a subcontracting firm that hasn't been fully paid for work performed.

Joseph J. Albanese Inc. filed the complaint in San Mateo County Superior Court against the project's contractor, C. Overaa & Co. of Richmond; the school district; and the district's bond-

ing company, Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America. The company is asking for \$376,780 for labor, equipment and materials it was hired to provide but not compensated for, plus interest and legal fees.

Ahmad Sheikholeslami, the school district's facilities director, said the district hadn't received its copy of the complaint and was unable to comment. Overaa's CEO, Jerry Overaa, could not be reached for comment.

The Hillview playing field was the last project in the reconstruction of the middle school campus in Menlo Park. Originally scheduled to be completed and ready for use in December

2012, the field finally opened in March 2013 after problems detected during construction were thought to be repaired. But the field closed again after the school year ended last spring because the district discovered that it wasn't level and had drainage problems.

A new project that involved removing the synthetic turf, replacing the base soil, and reworking the drainage system was completed in late September. Mr. Sheikholeslami said in a guest opinion for the Almanac last August that the problems were the result of a subcontractor that "did not follow the architect's specifica-

tions in several details."

Mr. Sheikholeslami said in September that the contractor has paid for all the repair work, and the district will also ask the firm to pay the district's costs for inspection and oversight of the repair work as well.

The Albanese company's attorney, A. Robert Rosin of Leonidou & Rosin in Mountain View, said his client was the subcontractor that worked on the earth under the synthetic field, but didn't install the turf. Although he declined to go into detail, he said there are a number of disputes involved that led to the legal complaint, and added: "My client is owed

money legitimately. (The company) would like to be paid for work done."

In all, the subcontractor performed just over \$1.44 million worth of work on the project, according to a document submitted with the legal complaint. To date, it has been paid \$1,064,240, the document indicates.

The complaint asserts that the Albanese firm is entitled to funds from the statutory public works bond filed by the Overaa company with the school district, stating that the bond was to ensure that subcontractors would be compensated for their work if Overaa failed to pay them, the lawsuit said. ■

Menlo Park examines options for housing

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park is deep into a housing plan update for the second time in as many years, this time to develop a framework for housing for 2014 through 2022 in compliance with state law.

As part of this update cycle, Menlo Park must identify areas that could be zoned to allow homeless shelters with a total of 16 beds within the city.

The housing element steering committee has selected five sites for consideration — at the intersection of Marsh Road and Haven Avenue; the Veterans Affairs campus on Willow Road; St. Patrick's Seminary campus on Middlefield Road; an area bounded by El Camino Real, Glenwood Avenue, Mills Street and Oak Grove Avenue; and an area bounded by El Camino Real, Menlo Avenue, University Drive and Roble Avenue.

The committee ranked the first three sites as higher priority for consideration than the last two, according to the staff report for the Nov. 18 Planning Commission meeting.

Menlo Park resident David Fogel spoke during public comment about the need for a homeless shelter as well as a clear plan

to ensure safety.

"In fact it can happen to any one of us," Mr. Fogel said, referring to life events that can leave one in need of a temporary place to live. But on the other hand, he continued, "They're not all angels. We're not either." He asked who will be responsible for monitoring those staying at a shelter, given the possibility that criminals may be part of the population.

The committee members indicated they favored the Veterans Affairs campus as the top choice for a number of reasons, including existing services on site, sufficient space and proximity to public transportation.

"I cannot get enthusiastic about (the Marsh Road and Haven Avenue site) because of its remoteness," Planning Commission Chair John Kad-vany said, noting that the city is already concerned about a planned housing development on Haven Avenue not having a good transit connection to the rest of Menlo Park.

However, the city will need to identify more than one feasible site for the housing element update to pass muster with the state, in case the Veterans Affairs campus proves unworkable. Commissioner Katherine Strehl

The state requires zoning for 16 homeless shelter beds within the city.

See **OPTIONS FOR HOUSING**, page 8



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Steve Marra is an ultra-marathoner and accustomed to grueling physical trials, but his 24 hours last spring in special-forces training opened up new vistas for personal achievement.

Steve Marra is SEAL for a day

'Ordeal' barely captures Steve Marra's 24 hours in April

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

"I am Gunnery Sergeant Hartman, your senior drill instructor. From now on you will speak only when spoken to, and the first and last words out of your filthy sewers will be 'Sir.' Do you maggots understand that?"

The rest of Sgt. Hartman's speech to Marine recruits in the 1987 film "Full Metal

Jacket" includes utterances not suited for a family newspaper, but such language is often considered the background music to boot-camp-like situations.

Portola Valley resident Steve Marra, a Navy veteran, would be the first to acknowledge the harsh and unrelenting character of his recent 24 hours of special-forces-like training. But his instructors, including special-forces veterans, did not resort to vulgar metaphors, he says. "Not

once did these guys raise their voices," he says. "They were just incredibly professional."

In April, Mr. Marra, 63, traveled to Virginia to spend a day with Seal Training Adventures for a workout similar to that of the U.S. Navy SEALs (Sea, Air, Land) teams. He arrived in a rental car at a National Guard base in Virginia Beach on a Saturday morning in time for

See **SEAL FOR A DAY**, page 8

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Sale prices are net and do not qualify for further discount.



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Managers to get raises under proposed contract

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

Approximately 34 city of Menlo Park supervisors and managers would see raises of 4.5 percent and a bump in health benefits under the terms of a proposed contract.

The agreement, approved by the American Federation of State, City and Municipal Employees last month, goes to the City Council for a vote on Dec. 10. The changes are estimated to cost the Menlo Park an additional \$260,000 for the term of the contract, which runs from Dec. 11, 2013 to June 30, 2015.

Current salaries for managers and supervisors range from \$53,461 to \$112,511. In addition to the 4.5 percent pay hike, health benefits would increase about \$60 to \$250 per month. Family coverage, for example, would cost the city \$1,931.07 a month per employee in 2014, and then \$2,085.56 a month in 2015.

The salary and benefit increases will start to establish the city as a "competitive employer" within Silicon Valley, according to the staff report.

The past three years have seen a lot of staff turnover at City Hall — two planners announced their departures this fall and long-time Executive Secretary Pat Carson will retire in December. Earlier this year, City Clerk Margaret Roberts and Finance Director Carol Augustine accepted positions with other cities, while Police Cmdr. Lacey Burt retired.

Chief of Police Bryan Roberts and Engineering Services Manager Matt Oscamou left in 2012; Public Works Director Kent Steffens departed in 2011; and Business Development Manager Dave Johnson, City Manager Glen Rojas and Personnel Director Glen Kramer all retired in 2010 or 2011.

However, some of the relocations were to jurisdictions with lower pay and benefits than Menlo Park currently offers.

Concessions by the AFSCME, which appear minimal, include: four hours less for floating paid holidays; a prohibition against using accrued vacation time to cover an unpaid leave and against cashing out vacation hours on leave; and no awards for using eight hours or less of sick leave per year.

Employees hired after Jan. 1, 2013, may retire at age 62 with 2 percent of their highest salary. Employee contributions into the state retirement system, CALPERS, will be taken out of their paychecks as pre-tax deductions.

A new labor management committee will meet quarterly to educate employees on benefits and related topics, according to the proposed contract.

The agreement also proposes changes to the grievance and disciplinary appeal process, similar to those instituted earlier this year for public safety employees. In grievances, if the city and AFSCME can't agree on an arbitrator, one will be chosen from a list of five names provided by the state and who are members of the National Academy of Arbitrators. For disciplinary appeals, the list of five arbitrators will consist of judges retired from the San Mateo County Superior Court.

However, the arbitrator's decision will still be binding. Data published earlier this year by the Almanac showed that an arbitrator will order the reinstatement of a fired employee, as happened with a veteran Menlo Park police officer busted with a prostitute, or otherwise reduce discipline, approximately 50 percent of the time. ■

Clef Hangers seek new members

By Jane Knoerle

Almanac Lifestyles Editor

Love to sing? Looking for a new interest? Consider joining the Peninsula Clef Hangers, a women's chorus of 25 to 30 volunteers who perform winter and spring concerts for senior citizens in day care centers, retirement homes and health care facilities.

The Clef Hangers have been giving choral performances since 1970, when a number of Peninsula residents and members of the Junior League of

Palo Alto got together through a love of music. They adopted the name Clef Hangers in 1978.

This is the busiest time of the year for the Clef Hangers. There will be a family-friendly concert at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, at Crane Place, 1331 Crane St. in Menlo Park, to which the public is invited. Cookies and drinks will follow the performance. They will also sing locally at the Menlo Circus Club for the Palo Alto Garden Club, the Menlo Park Veterans Affairs Hospital,

See **CLEF HANGERS**, page 17

To retreat or not to retreat?

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

Trips by Menlo Park city staff to Half Moon Bay and Napa during the past two months came as a surprise to at least one council member, and have raised questions about where the money — and how much — should be spent.

The first, an overnight trip to the Beach House in Half Moon Bay on Oct. 10-11, was the second held by Menlo Park City Manager Alex McIntyre since being hired in 2012. The beach retreat cost \$11,412, and came complete with homework for the 20 managers attending.

Managers were assigned reading from “Made to Stick” by Dan and Chip Heath, “who describe how stories get told in a way that they are best understood. I used this book in a presentation I did earlier at the International City/County Management Association,” Mr. McIntyre told the Almanac in an email a few weeks after the retreat.

The retreat focused on integrating new managers into the operation as well as focusing on the question of how staff can “better tell our stories” to the audience, whether that be the council, residents or other departments.

“So often, that which we do is not well understood,” Mr. McIntyre said.

Although waiting one more month would have let Menlo Park pay off-season rates for the hotel, Mr. McIntyre said that they picked the date first, then looked for a place; early fall coordinates best with family commitments and the onset of the budget-planning season.

Getting out of town means getting away from distractions, he said. “In fact, we had a policy during the retreat that no one was allowed to use their telephones/computers

until a break. The only exception was the police chief.”

The tab included hotel rooms, two group breakfasts and two group lunches, a group dinner and the meeting room rental. The city provided facilitation, according to Mr. McIntyre.

Napa

A few weeks later, on Nov. 1, a total of 13 members of the Community Services Department took a jaunt to Napa, spending about \$2,200 for transportation and use of the Yountville Community Center, which was provided at a discount since a staff member lives nearby, according to Community Services Manager Cherise Brandell. She said the team stopped at Artesa Winery on the way home, at no cost to the city, and “participated in team building activities” as well as a tour.

Off-site retreats by city staff invite questions.

The retreat was meant “to push the principles the Exec Team has discussed and adopted deeper into the organization for implementation” as well as “celebrate the progress the team has made over the past four years,” such as increasing cost recovery from 64 percent to more than 80 percent due to fees for services, Ms. Brandell wrote in a memo to the City Council on Nov. 21.

While Mayor Peter Ohtaki said he thinks annual retreats are very useful for managers (but he hopes, in the future, they will be held in Menlo Park) and Councilwoman Catherine Carlton said she had seen the Half Moon Bay trip mentioned in a weekly council update (cost not included), at least one colleague wasn’t thrilled.

Vice Mayor Ray Mueller

said that while he wasn’t crazy about the cost of the Half Moon Bay retreat, “it does appear that quite a bit was accomplished. I have a much stronger view regarding the trip to Napa Valley: there was a lack of judgment in the organizing of the event.”

Mr. Mueller weighed in with a few guidelines: Stay in Menlo Park if possible, to both keep tax dollars in the city, and to have professional staff nearby in case of an emergency. Keep the cost modest. And while staff doesn’t have to notify the council of every off-site event, he said, they should be told about activities that could appear extravagant or in need of explanation.

“The test is an objectively reasonable test from the eye of the tax-payer. Would a reasonable tax-payer, looking at the event objectively, have questions about how tax dollars were spent,” Mr. Mueller said in an email.

And when notification is needed — “full and detailed disclosure is necessary. Simply telling the Council, we are going on a retreat, with limited detail, is not notification. I have no need nor desire to cross examine staff like a parent. If circumstances require you to tell me about the event, that means I need to hear the whole story.”

Inexplicably, Mr. McIntyre told the vice mayor recently that he didn’t know about the Napa retreat — even though the Almanac specifically asked the city manager about it in an email on Nov. 1, the same day as the retreat.

When asked how he remained unaware of the trip until the vice mayor inquired about it several weeks later, Mr. McIntyre said, “I don’t know what happened on Nov. 1. You asked a question that I had no idea about. I didn’t know it was based upon some information that you had that I did not have at the time.” ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Finding the Best Location

Dear Monica: I am in my 30s and married. I have a good job in San Francisco and my wife works in Mtn. View. We are trying to find the best place to buy a home that will allow us to commute to our present jobs and will be a good choice if our job locations change. I know it is hard to plan around future employment but do you have any advice for us that we can use when we look for our first home? Roman C.

Dear Roman: The picture you describe is like many other Bay Area couples. The Peninsula is becoming one long residential corridor from San Francisco to San Jose. There are still variations in school districts from one town to another but the communities are blending and differences among the towns are blurring at a faster rate than ever. Many younger workers live in the City and commute to jobs in Silicon Valley. But

if they have school aged children, they often move to communities with strong public schools. It is easiest and more economical to make this decision about where to live once rather than two or three times.

First look at the entire range of options in San Francisco and on the Peninsula that are available to you depending on your price range. Spend time with your realtor and on your own driving and walking through these areas. Decide which one or ones would suit your needs and tastes best. Then focus on these areas and educate yourself on property values and inventory. Choose a lender and submit an application so that you will be ready when you see a property you want to make an offer on. Think about what the location of a particular property would mean if you changed jobs, or if you and your spouse have children. You can’t plan for every contingency but can try to choose a location that will offer you the most value in the long term.

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



EYE CARE NEWS



Presented by
Mark Schmidt
Licensed Optician



AN OUTSIDE CHANCE

Because myopia (nearsightedness) is much more common now than it was four decades ago, researchers have tried to find possible reasons. Among the most plausible findings came from an analysis of eight carefully selected studies on the association between time spent outdoors and myopia among children and adolescents. After analyzing the behavior and degree of nearsightedness among more than 10,400 youngsters, researchers concluded that the chance of being nearsighted fell by approximately

two percent for each additional hour spent outdoors per week. Playing outdoors allows children to focus on distant objects rather than playing with iPads, watching TV, playing video games, and doing near work, which may also play a role in nearsightedness development.

If you are nearsighted, you typically will have difficulty reading road signs and seeing distant objects clearly, but will be able to see well for close tasks such as reading and computer use. Other signs and symptoms of myopia include squinting, eye strain, and headaches. MENLO OPTICAL is dedicated to enhancing the precious gift of sight for you and your family. Please call 322-3900 or visit us at 1116 University Drive, on the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and University Drive.

P.S. It is important for their academic and physical development to have children’s eyes tested regularly. Refractive errors are easily correctable.

Mark Schmidt is an American Board of Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners Certified Optician licensed by the Medical Board of California. He can be easily reached at Menlo Optical, 1116 University Drive, Menlo Park. 650-322-3900.

Seely named Player of the Year

Diane Seely, a former Menlo Park City School District and Menlo-Atherton High School student, won top honors at Colgate University as a distinguished volleyball player and academic athlete.

She won Player of the Year for the Patriot League and Aca-

demic Athlete of the Year.

Her mom is Priscilla Seely, a third-grade teacher at Laurel School in Atherton.



Diane Seely

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SEAL for a day

continued from page 5

the 7 a.m. start.

"The harsh conditions started about 0.0005 nanoseconds after 7 a.m.," Mr. Marra says. No introductions, no explanations, just a muster and a review of how to stand at attention and parade rest. "And then three hours of pretty much non-stop PT (physical training) with never ending corrections on how we were doing our PT," Mr. Marra says. "Within seconds we were dirty, sweaty and feeling pretty grim."

Completing the SEALs fitness test was a goal, not a requirement. It starts with a timed swim of 500 yards, followed by sit ups, push ups and pull ups, then a mile-and-a-half run, also timed. Then into the pool for life-saving drills, team races and extended time underwater without a snorkel, Mr. Marra says.

With a brief break to put their clothes and boots back on, he and his comrades then ran to the beach, linked their arms and walked a short distance into the Atlantic Ocean. There they lay down on their backs facing the surf and high-kicked at the waves as they rolled over them. "You're covered in sand, you're getting absolutely pounded by the water," he says.

The six-hour mark had passed. The instructors, not for the first time, offered relief: Coffee, doughnuts, pizza were available, but with a catch: someone had to quit. Excruciating might not be too strong a word here. No one quit, so they lay there and got pounded.

Ahead were team exercises, including carrying around a length of telephone pole, crawling in dark mosquito-infested open space for four hours to capture hidden flags while instructors with spotlights hunted them from their trucks, a promise of pizza and a campfire only to find the tiniest of fires and empty pizza boxes. They could have pizza if someone would just quit.

"There was never a moment (during which) I thought, 'Well, this is not too bad,'" Mr. Marra says. "After every evolution, I thought, 'Thank god that is over,' only to find the next evolution ... worse than what we had just finished doing. It constantly ratcheted up in intensity. We were constantly told to maintain 'combat focus' and pay incredible attention to detail, especially as we started to get tired and beat up."

Harshness aside, this event "was more mental than physical," Mr. Marra says. "Everyone was in pretty good shape to even contemplate participating, but it really was the commitment not to quit that got one through this experience. It really was not brute strength; much more mental toughness."

A marathoner first

Mr. Marra came late to the idea of severe physical challenges. His first long-distance trial came in 2008, after happening upon a time-trial bicycle — an aerodynamic version of a regular bike. Intrigued, he signed up for a triathlon at Donner Lake. His daughter trained with him.

There were surprises. For the

swim, he wore a wetsuit that was too small and found himself in very cold water amid a "scrum" of swimmers where he says he was kicked and shoved. Away from the shore, "it was overwhelming," he says. "The feeling of open water, distance, cold water, tight wet suit and knowing I still had to cycle and run. I was not having fun, but just kept going and going and going and somehow managed to come in fourth in my division."

He ran the Badwater 135 in 2012 and 2013, a 135-mile ultramarathon that takes place in July in Death Valley. It starts below sea level and ends 8,360 feet up on the side of Mt. Whitney.

On Thanksgiving Day, Mr. Marra planned to run 15 miles to his sister-in-law's house for dinner ahead of a New Year's Eve 24-hour run at Crissy Field in San Francisco. "Those 24 hours with SEALs, especially Instructor Hess, are the foundation for me doing all this," he says.

"They pushed us beyond what we thought we could do — for anyone in their right mind," he says. "The ability to go, mentally and physically, orders of magnitude (beyond) where you thought you could go."

"My every day expectations of people have changed certainly," he adds. "I expect when someone says they are going to do something, they do it, that one will never give up on a task, that one will always be a loyal team mate. In everyday life, standards like this are not realistic perhaps, but, boy oh boy, when you are with people with the same values and focus and commitment, be it SEALs or anyone else, it is a sunny day." ■



Photo by Steve Bartolomeo

West Bay Opera's "Turandot" from the 2011 season.

Opera classics in Atherton

A benefit concert with orchestra and chorus, featuring mezzo-soprano Catherine Cook and a cast from recent West Bay Opera productions, will be presented at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at the Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, in Atherton.

The program will present overtures, arias and ensembles from top-30 operas,

including "Madama Butterfly," "Don Giovanni," and "Otello."

There will also be a holiday audience sing-a-long.

The concert will benefit West Bay Opera and the Opera in the Schools program.

Tickets are \$45 and \$50, with open seating.

Go to WBOpera.org to print tickets online or call the box office at 424-9999.

Options for housing

continued from page 5

commented that a homeless shelter formerly on the campus had to close after the building was deemed seismically unsafe and slated for demolition. As a result the commission opted to not remove any of the five sites from contention.

Granny units

Discussion of an amnesty program for existing secondary, or "granny" units, also arose during the meeting. While initially city officials wanted to create a way for those with illegal units to get permits, the devil was in the details.

Commissioner Katie Ferrick explained that incentives were few, while the risks were high, for property owners. If the city created a no-fee program encouraging owners to come forward to get permits, the landlords could discover during the process that getting the unit up to code would cost thousands of dollars.

"And now (the city) knows it's there," she said, which the city attorney compared to a type of entrapment. "You can't not fix the things that need to be fixed if you apply."

At this point the city is focusing on modifying the new granny unit ordinance to specify how owners can legally

convert accessory buildings into secondary units, including prohibiting living areas without an increased setback and to limit plumbing fixtures within accessory buildings. The goal, according to the staff report, is to make the conversion of an accessory structure into a living unit more difficult, which could in turn encourage the construction of legal granny units from the outset.

The city may also reduce the minimum lot size that would be eligible for secondary unit construction to 5,750 square feet, from the current 6,000 square feet, to allow a number of single-family lots in Belle Haven to qualify.

Finally, Menlo Park must identify sites where 655 new dwelling units, with 233 allotted for very low-income residents, could be built. The requirements are dictated by state housing law. According to the staff report, the city already has enough housing developments either in the pipeline or allowed for by existing zoning to meet the requirement without having to find additional locations.

Go to tinyurl.com/MP-heu to review all associated documentation. The City Council is expected to review the proposed housing element updates on Dec. 10. ■

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Arrests tied to drive-by shootings

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Police made three arrests on Nov. 27 in the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park in connection with four drive-by shooting incidents in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto: one earlier in the day, two within the previous week, and one in August.

Menlo Park police stopped a car that matched images of a vehicle captured by a residential surveillance camera on Hamilton Avenue at around 11:15 a.m., the same approximate time of a shooting in the 400 block of Hamilton, police said. The occupants, an adult driver and two juveniles, were arrested.

The youths were booked into the juvenile hall at the Youth Services Center in San Mateo on charges of being in possession of a concealed firearm, carrying a loaded firearm in public, and possession of ammunition by a minor, police said.

One of the youths was also charged with shooting into an occupied dwelling and assault with a deadly weapon. Those

charges were in connection with a Nov. 23 incident around 9:30 p.m. in the 1300 block of Willow Road in which someone fired shots into an apartment building. No one was injured, police said.

The driver, 21-year-old East Palo Alto resident Erick Barragan, was arrested on a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and he was turned over to the East Palo Alto Police Department in connection with a shooting in that city. Mr. Barragan was later booked into San Mateo County jail on several charges by Menlo Park police, including cruelty to a child, police said.

The Hamilton Avenue shooting on the morning of Nov. 27 involved gunfire striking an unoccupied parked vehicle and two homes, one of which was occupied by several adults and children. No one was injured, police said.

That evening shortly before 7 p.m., a black Toyota Avalon drew the attention of a Menlo Park police officer on patrol in the area of Market Place and Del Norte Avenue. After calling in reinforcements, the

officers stopped the vehicle, detained and searched the occupants and the vehicle, and found ammunition and three loaded firearms: a .38 caliber Ruger revolver, a .357-caliber Magnum and a .38 caliber handgun, police said.

The suspects are also being investigated in connection with two other shooting incidents:

■ Shots were fired at around 2 p.m. on Nov. 24 into a vehicle occupied by two children, ages 4 and 5, and their mother, and parked in the 1300 block of Madera Avenue. No one was hurt, police said.

■ One person was taken to Stanford Hospital with a non-life-threatening gunshot injury after a shooting in the 400 block of Hamilton Avenue at about 1 p.m. on Aug. 28, 2013. At the time, police said they were considering the incident to be gang-related.

Police have shell casings for each of the incidents, Officer Phu said.

Anyone with information on these incidents is asked to call Menlo Park police at 650-330-6300 or the department's Anonymous Tip Hotline at 650-330-6395. ■

Donald Tasto

Donald L. Tasto, a resident of Atherton, CA, passed on November 21 at the age of 70.

Dr. Tasto was born in Evanston, IL, and grew up in Denver, CO. He moved to the Bay Area in 1978. He received his PhD in Psychology at St. Louis University in 1967. He worked as a college professor, researcher at the Stanford Research Institute, and then as a clinical psychologist in Menlo Park. He received his law degree from the New College of California School of Law in 1998. He worked as a private-practice attorney in Redwood City for the past 15 years. His personality and zest for life far exceeded his professional accomplishments.

He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Flores Tasto of Atherton, CA; his son Joseph Tasto of Rockville, MD; his daughter Jennifer Thenhaus of Denver, CO; his two sisters Mary West and Patricia Schmitz; eight grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces.

A Memorial Mass was held on Friday, November 29 at 11:00 AM at The Church of the Nativity, 210 Oak Grove Ave, Menlo Park, CA.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to Live2GiveYou c/o 98 McCormick Ln, Atherton, CA 94027.



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Frances Bohannon Nelson

Frances Bohannon Nelson, family matriarch and Peninsula real estate icon passed away peacefully in her sleep on Saturday, November 23, 2013 after a brief illness. Born in Oakland, California in 1922, Frances was the eldest daughter of the late Ophelia Bohannon and legendary real estate developer David D. Bohannon. Frances graduated from UC Berkeley and began working with the Bohannon companies in 1943, where her leadership guided the successful growth of Bohannon Development Company since being named president in 1975. Among many significant accomplishments, a major triumph in her business life included the expansion and enclosure of Hillsdale Shopping Center in 1981, amid a daunting economic recession.

Not defined by her business acumen alone, as a devoted wife to husband Howard Nelson, Frances parented three wonderful children, Patricia Atassi, Linda Davis and Steven Nelson. Smarter than your average bear (no Cal pun intended), she remained a true lady, while succeeding in a man's world. Balancing work and family, Frances also established an extraordinary record of philanthropic service. She served as Regent and Trustee of Santa Clara University, she was on the Board of Governors of the Urban Land Institute and the Advisory Board of Peninsula



Volunteers, she was Honorary Chairman of the Capital Campaign for the Second Harvest Food Bank in San Mateo County, and generously supported Planned Parenthood and woman's reproductive rights, notwithstanding her staunch support of the Republican Party. Frances was voted into the San Mateo County Woman's Hall of Fame in 1990. In her leisure time one might have found Frances trying new recipes in the kitchen or fishing and hunting with her family on expeditions to Alaska, Canada, Cabo San Lucas, India and Africa.

Frances is survived by daughters Patricia Atassi and Linda Davis, and grandchildren Tarek Atassi, Jennifer Davis, Blair Nelson and Eric Nelson. A resident of Woodside for 55 years, Frances is predeceased by her husband Howard Nelson, sister Barbara Carleton, brother David E. Bohannon, son Steven Nelson, and grandson Ramzi Atassi.

A celebration of her life will be held on January 27, 2014 at the Peninsula Golf and Country Club. For those who wish, in lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations should be made in her name to Planned Parenthood, 1691 The Alameda, San Jose, CA 95126; Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, 750 Curtner Avenue, San Jose CA 95125; or a charity of your choice.

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TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSIONER NEEDED

The Town Council is seeking an individual to serve on the Town's Planning Commission through January 2016. The Planning Commission consists of five members appointed by the Town Council, and meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

The Planning Commission's role is to oversee the Town's General Plan and to supervise land use in the Town. The commission provides recommendations to the Town Council on legislative actions such as amendments to the Zoning Code and the General Plan. In addition, the commission reviews and acts on certain types of applications, such as conditional use permits, subdivisions and variances as well as reviewing appeals of ASCC and administrative staff decisions.

To apply, please submit a letter of interest to the Town Council by 5pm on Wednesday, December 11, 2013. The Town Council will conduct interviews at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 8, 2014. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Karen Kristiansson, Deputy Town Planner, by email at kkristiansson@portolavalley.net or by phone at 650-851-1700 x212.

Novel: Peninsula reporter enters a strange new world

By Richard Hine
Almanac Managing Editor

ARTSCENE

Everything changes suddenly for a newspaper reporter on the Peninsula who lives to chase down police stories. She loses her cherished job in the dot-com bust of 2001 and learns her live-in boyfriend is cheating on her.

Finding herself with no job and no home, she's open to a radical idea. A friend's cousin has an apartment available in Hungary. With no knowledge of the language or culture, and, as she says, knowing no one in Europe, she takes the plunge. She moves to Budapest.

How will this turn out? You can find out in "Smiling at Strangers," a novel by Rebecca Wallace, a former Almanac reporter and the current arts and entertainment editor at the Palo Alto Weekly.

While Ms. Wallace, who grew up in Menlo Park, has been prowling Peninsula newsrooms since the 1990s and did live in Budapest for two years, the fictional account otherwise bears

no resemblance to her life.

That hasn't stopped Ms. Wallace from playing the role of the protagonist, Catherine Giotto, on a Twitter account, @reporter1999, and tweeting from Catherine's world 12 years ago.

You can follow Catherine on Twitter as her life changes and a new world opens up in Hungary. Many of Catherine's tweets contain photos that Ms. Wallace took while living in Hungary from 2001 to 2003.

Followers have played along, reliving earlier days of journalism, from the 1990s boom to the early-2000s bust.

A couple of the admiring tweets:

■ "#FollowWednesday: @reporter1999. A crime reporter in Silicon Valley tweeting as if it were the year 1999. Con-



Author Rebecca Wallace

textual history at its best!" @winguero (New York Times online editor).

■ "There may be no more brilliant commentary on the state of newspapers today than @reporter1999." @jbonne (wine editor, San Francisco Chronicle).

"Smiling at Strangers" is out in paperback (234 pages) and e-book (Amazon and Nook); details at ballyhoopress.com. The paperback is also on sale at the Mountain View General Store, 705a W. Dana St.

Ms. Wallace, a longtime journalist and sometime actor, is author of another e-book, "The Assassin's Brother: The tragedies of Edwin Booth," a fascinating story of 19th century America's most respected actor, and the brother of John Wilkes Booth. ▀

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Petitioners protest Planned Parenthood clinic's opening

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

It's become as predictable as dawn and dusk: Where a Planned Parenthood clinic opens, there will be protests. And as the health provider that focuses on reproductive care services opens this week on the former Chevy's restaurant site on El Camino Real between Atherton and Redwood City, a group of residents has managed to collect about 1,600 signatures in 11 days on a petition to oppose the clinic's opening, according to an organizer.

Linda Potter is leading an effort to persuade the property owner, Brad Ehikian, to reconsider leasing the site at 2907 El Camino Real to Planned Parenthood-Mar Monte, headquartered in San Jose. The petition, addressed to Mr.

Ehikian, argues that Planned Parenthood "is known to decrease property values," and that nearby businesses are likely to be negatively affected "by association." It also calls into question Planned Parenthood's safety record and quality of care.

A written statement sent to the Almanac by Ms. Potter also underscores the group's concern about abortion services that will be provided by the clinic, including to minors.

The nonprofit health provider received its permit to operate at the unincorporated site from San Mateo County; because the operation conforms with zoning for the site, the permit was issued administratively, which meant there were no public hearings beforehand.

Lupe Rodriguez of Planned

Parenthood said last week the clinic was set to open on Dec. 3, and will operate 19 hours weekly at first before expanding to full-time service.

The clinic will offer reproductive and general health services, including birth control, pregnancy testing and options counseling, medication abortions, STD testing and treatment, HIV testing, and breast and cervical cancer screening. When it expands to full-time service, it will also offer prenatal care, pediatric care, and adult primary health care, Ms. Rodriguez said.

Opponents of the clinic have contacted public officials, including Atherton City Councilman Bill Widmer, who set up a meeting with Ms. Potter, Planned Parenthood representatives, and county Supervisor Warren Slocum, Mr. Widmer

said last week.

Mr. Widmer said he shares some concerns over the location of the clinic, which he said is in the path of some children walking to and from school. He referred to past incidents involving Planned Parenthood opponents demonstrating outside clinic sites with signs depicting images of aborted fetuses. "This organization attracts a fair amount of protestors, and some of the signs can be quite

graphic," he said.

Asked whether Supervisor Slocum plans to follow up on the protestors' requests to stop the clinic's opening, the supervisor's chief of staff, Carol Marks, noted that Planned Parenthood's operation at the site is an allowed use; she added, however, that "if there are issues resulting from the opening of the business that need some follow-up, he'll be receptive to that." ■

Spelling bee nearly dropped

By Emma Marsano
Special to the Almanac

Stress and anxiety can accompany any spelling bee, but this year, students at La Entrada Middle School

weren't just worried about getting their words right. They were concerned that there wouldn't be a spelling bee at all.

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is run by the E.W. Scripps Co., and offers students up to age 15 the chance to compete against their peers in an annual nonprofit event.

Individual schools hold spelling bees of their own, and school winners go on to compete at the county and regional levels. Regional champions qualify for the national finals.

For the past 15 years, the San Francisco Chronicle has sponsored eight Bay Area counties, including San Mateo County, in the Scripps spelling bee, where the region's top spellers compete in a national contest.

But this year, a co-chair of the La Entrada Spelling Bee learned in late August that the Chronicle had withdrawn its support — without notifying the affected schools — when she tried to register La Entrada for the national event. A bit of digging revealed that the Chronicle had backed out quietly due to budget cuts.

That presented a serious problem: Sponsors are responsible for organizing and hosting county and regional competitions, and for providing schools with word lists and other materials that make a spelling bee possible. Without a sponsor, schools can't give their students the opportunity to go to the national contest at all.

Although La Entrada students and parents had reluctantly resigned themselves to missing the contest this season, the school learned on Oct. 11 that stations KPIX-TV and KBCW-TV have picked up sponsorship for the area. So, on the afternoon of Jan. 21, the La Entrada spelling bee will take place as originally planned. Now, participants can focus on preparing themselves for competition, without having to worry that their school won't have one. ■

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4479	India Rajasthan	Gold/Ivory	7.8 x 9.8	\$2745	\$1350

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4116	Persian Baktiari	Multi	7.4 x 10	\$4805	\$2650
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535	India Tabriz	Navy	7.8 x 9.10	\$3810	\$990

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1126	Pakistan Peshawar	Beige	6 x 9.4	\$4200	\$1950
6335	India Ziegler	Ivory/Yellow	6.2 x 9	\$4695	\$2525
4538	Iran Soumak	Brown	6 x 9.3	\$2285	\$1425

Stock #	Country/Design	Color	Size	Regular Price	Sale Price
4148	Persian Kelim	Red	6.9 x 9.8	\$2445	\$1450
6337	India Saroul	Navy	6 x 9	\$4865	\$2725
6328	India Sultanabad	Ivory/Yellow	6.3 x 9	\$5205	\$2750
880	India Agra	Black/Gold	5.11 x 8.9	\$3365	\$1350
4477	India Rajasthan	Red/Ivory	6.1 x 9	\$2025	\$990

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822	Peshawar Zeigler	Multi	6 x 8.3	\$3715	\$1375
5909	Iran Tabriz	Blue	5.8 x 8.3	\$3935	\$2125

Stock #	Country/Design	Color	Size	Regular Price	Sale Price
6136	Turkish Sultanabad	Beige/Gold	6 x 9	\$1385	\$650
3969	India Jaipur	Ivory	6.3 x 9	\$2815	\$1425
5373	Pakistan Sultanabad	Rose/Blue	6.7 x 8.9	\$5005	\$1550
800	Pakistan Ghazani	Rust/Gold	6 x 8.8	\$3380	\$1295
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2534	Peshawar Sultanabad	Beige	4 x 6.3	\$1875	\$750
4343	Peshawar Sultanabad	Beige	4 x 6.2	\$1685	\$750

Stock #	Country/Design	Color	Size	Regular Price	Sale Price
7527	Turkish Kelim	Multi	3.5 x 5.9	\$485	\$250
7694	Afghan Baloch	Rust	3.10 x 5.10	\$705	\$350
7695	Afghan Baloch	Red/Navy	3.7 x 6.8	\$705	\$350
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1618	India Oushak	Green/Gold	14.11 x 19.10	\$22,125	\$8500
1195	India Agra	Red/Navy	14.9 x 16.5	\$15,005	\$8500

Stock #	Country/Design	Color	Size	Regular Price	Sale Price
774	India Oushak	Red/Beige	11.8 x 19.5	\$12,430	\$4500
884	India Agra	Red/Ivory	12 x 17.11	\$12,900	\$4950
546	Pakistan Zeigler	Burgandy	11.9 x 17.9	\$15,645	\$7500

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Watchdogs happy with judge's high-speed rail ruling

By Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto Weekly

High-speed rail watchdogs in Menlo Park were thrilled when a California judge ruled that the funding plan for the \$68 billion high-speed rail system must be rescinded and refused to endorse the selling of bonds for the project.

Two rulings by Sacramento Superior Court Judge Michael Kenny on Nov. 25 dealt with what opponents of the project

described as “dual body-blows” to the California High Speed Rail Authority, which is charged with building the rail line between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The project received a major boost in 2008, when state voters approved a \$9.95 billion high-speed-rail bond measure. In July 2012, the state Legislature authorized spending the first \$2.7 billion from this bond measure, as well as \$3.2 billion in federal grants, on the line's first segment.

In response to the rulings, Menlo Park resident Russ Peterson, who belongs to a community coalition on high-speed rail, said: “I have a one-word impression — finally! As an individual, and as part of CC-HSR.org, we've tried to show that high-speed rail in California is an idea with no real plan to get us there.”

Mr. Peterson and other rail watchdogs wondered how the decisions will affect funding for Caltrain electrification, which has been tied to the development of

a blended rail system with high-speed trains sharing tracks with Caltrain along the Peninsula.

Morris Brown said the rulings, if upheld, would leave Caltrain's electrification plan in search of new funding. “In any case barring a complete change on the federal level regarding additional funding, high-speed rail won't be in our area for at least 25 years, and most likely never,” Mr. Brown said.

He said that while it may be possible to secure new funding, the plan likely won't include any further grade crossings or expansion from two tracks to three or four on the Peninsula.

The rulings came in response to a lawsuit from a group of Central Valley plaintiffs — John Tos, Aaron Fukuda and Kings County — represented by attorney Stuart Flashman; and to a request from the rail authority to “validate” the issuance of more than \$8 billion in bonds.

In both cases, Judge Kenny

sided with opponents of the rail project, though in some cases he didn't go as far as the plaintiffs had hoped. He declined, for instance, to order the rail authority to rescind its existing two contracts for the construction of the first segment, which total about \$1.1 billion.

He also did not challenge the rail authority's ability to spend the federal funds, despite arguments from Mr. Flashman that doing so would commit future expenditure of “matching funds” from the state.

Rail authority Chair Dan Richard said in a statement that the agency is “reviewing both decisions to chart our next steps.” He stressed that the judge did not invalidate the bonds, and that the court “again declined the opposition's request to stop the high-speed-rail project from moving forward.”

Almanac staff writer Sandy Brundage contributed to this report.



Classes to help you and your baby

START STRONG



Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford

Infant Massage Workshop

Friday, December 6: 10:30 am – 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.

Infant & Child CPR

Saturday, December 7: 9 – 11:15 am & 11:30 am – 1:45 pm

This 2-1/4 hour course provides an opportunity for new parents, grandparents and other childcare providers to learn the techniques of infant and child CPR and choking prevention. Infant and child manikins provide hands-on training.

Comfort Techniques for Labor

Monday, December 16: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

For couples who have already completed Childbirth Prep, this class provides additional tools and practice for relaxation, breathing and comfort measures for labor.

Grandparents Seminar

Monday, December 9: 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Designed for new and expectant grandparents, this class examines changes in labor and delivery practices, the latest recommendations for infant care and the unique role of grandparents in the life of their child.

Visit us at startstrongbaby.com

YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH UNIVERSITY

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



Menlo mayor visits Ireland

■ BRIEFS

The ink had barely dried on the friendship agreement between Menlo Park and Galway, Ireland, when Mayor Peter Ohtaki set off to visit the city's new friend at the end of November.

A history recap for those wondering what Menlo Park has to do with Galway: In Galway sits a neighborhood called Menlo Park, the former home of Dennis Oliver, who later came to the United States during the 1800s and with his brother-in-law, D.C. McGlynn, erected an arched gate in what became known as Menlo Park, California.

Galway Mayor Pdraig Conneely came here to sign the agreement in October. For Mr. Ohtaki's trip across the sea, the Galway mayor offered the use of his official car and arranged a free hotel room.



Peter Ohtaki

Menlo Park's mayor paid for the airfare out of his own pocket, leaving the city to cover meals and other incidentals with an estimated \$660 for the five-day trip.

Sea level challenges in San Mateo County

As the climate changes, the coastline of San Mateo County may change as well. Assemblyman Rich Gordon and county Supervisor Dave Pine, in cooperation with Congresswoman

Jackie Speier, are inviting the public to a Monday, Dec. 9, morning seminar on “Meeting the Challenges of Sea Level Rise in San Mateo County.”

The meeting begins at 8 a.m. in the Building 3 theater on the campus of College of San Mateo at 1700 W. Hillsdale Blvd. in San Mateo. The keynote speaker will be John Englander, the author of “High Tide on Main Street.”

Go to tinyurl.com/Sea911 for questions or to RSVP, or call Rich Gordon's office at 916-319-2024.

Portola Valley Holiday fair

The fifth annual Portola Valley Holiday Fair begins at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at Woodside Priory School at 302 Portola Road. The vending spaces are all spoken for, but there is a waiting list, according to the Cultural Arts Committee.

A percentage of the sales go to local nonprofits. Among the items for sale: fine art, jewelry, ornaments, textiles, soaps, greeting cards, handbags and mosaics.

A local Girl Scout troop and Corte Madera Middle School students will provide refreshments as they raise money for an eighth-grade trip. A local resident will be selling chutneys, jams and honey from local bees.

Contact pvholidayfair@gmail.com with questions or requests for more detail.



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Holiday book sale in Menlo

The Friends of the Menlo Park Library will hold a holiday mini-sale from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, in the meeting room downstairs at the library, 800 Alma St. in the Civic Center.

Thirty-plus categories of books will be for sale at bargain prices, mostly \$2 or less, says Friends spokesman Tim Goode. Proceeds will be used for child and adult programs at the library.

SHP boutique

The annual Sacred Heart Preparatory holiday boutique will be held Dec. 4, 5 and 6 in the historic 115-year-old school building on the Atherton campus.

Eighteen vendors will offer wares, ranging from jewelry and clothing to holiday greenery and decorations. The new artisan food market will feature food gifts made by local vendors.

Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, and 8 a.m. to noon Friday. Sacred Heart Prep is at 150 Valparaiso Ave. in Atherton.

Gingerbread House

The Youth Group of Bethany Lutheran Church will hold its fifth annual Gingerbread House decorating event from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 7, at the church, 1095 Cloud Ave. in Menlo Park.

CLEF HANGERS

continued from page 6

and Rosener House.

The choral group typically gives about a dozen concerts in December and again in late spring. They rehearse for two hours each Tuesday night at Crane Place, 1331 Crane St. in Menlo Park, for 10 weeks before the holiday performances and another 10 weeks before the spring concerts. Locally they have performed at Little House, Crane Place, Rosener House and the Veterans Affairs Hospital nursing facility in Menlo Park.

"I love to sing," says Mary Riviello, one of the 13 Menlo Park and Portola Valley residents who belong to Clef Hangers. "Singing with the Clef Hangers has been very rewarding. You're creating something that people enjoy." Ms. Riviello was a member of the choir at St. Raymond Church for many years.

"It's the epitome of team sport," says Mimi Kugushev of Menlo Park, a soprano and longtime Clef Hangers member.

No auditions are required and members are not obligated

AROUND TOWN

The pre-assembled house includes candy, sweets, and tools needed to decorate. Each house is \$50.

Go to bethany-mp.org or call 854-5897 to book reservations.

Toys for Tots

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is holding its annual Toys for Tots drive through Dec. 13.

Coldwell Banker offices will serve as collection centers for new, unwrapped toys. Members of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve will deliver the toys to charitable organizations and social welfare agencies.

Local Coldwell Banker offices are at 1377 El Camino and 930 Santa Cruz Ave., both in Menlo Park; and at 2969 Woodside Road in Woodside.

Kitka concert

Kitka, the women's vocal ensemble, will return to Arts at St. Bede's at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, for its annual Wintersongs concert. The program showcases music from Eastern Europe. Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$35.

Go to kitka.org for reservations or call 510-444-0323. St. Bede's Episcopal Church is at 2650 Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park.

to attend every performance. There is a broad range of musical ability, says co-president Carol Park, noting five or six of the women have had professional training.

Each year the chorus prepares about 26 songs and medleys, ranging from spirituals and folk songs to "oldies-but-goodies" and Broadway tunes. "We liven up many of the songs through costumes and props, for example, wearing reindeer antlers when singing about Rudolph," says Ms. Park.

A special relationship has evolved over the years between the Clef Hangers and their audiences. They look forward to the choral groups visits twice a year, says Ms. Park. At one holiday performance, a patient who had not spoken a word in months began singing along with the Christmas carols, she says. "It was truly an emotional moment ... for his wife and for us."

Director Joan Sprague says its rewarding to see residents cheered by the music and even join in the singing.

Those interested in joining the Clef Hangers, may contact Carol Park, 369-3291. ■



DEC. 2013

COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures and health education resources, visit pamf.org/healtheducation.

MEET YOUR FEET: BASICS OF FOOT CARE

DEC. 10, 7 – 8:30 P.M.

ALAN SUE, DPM
PAMF PODIATRY

Join us for a discussion on common foot problems such as ingrown nails, tendonitis, and sprains including causes and treatments. Basics of proper shoe fitting will be covered as well.

Mountain View Center

701 E. El Camino Real
Mountain View
(650) 934-7380



TEST YOUR EYE-Q

DEC. 20, 1 – 2 P.M.

BARBARA ERNY, M.D.
PAMF OPHTHALMOLOGY

An interactive session to learn about eye conditions including macular degeneration, dry eye and cataracts.

Northwest YMCA

20803 Alves Drive
Cupertino
(408) 351-2412

UPCOMING LECTURES IN 2014

FOOT AND ANKLE PAIN

JAN. 14, 2014, 7 – 8:30 P.M.

WILLIAM CABELL ADAMS, DPM
PAMF PODIATRY

Please join us for this lecture which will cover a variety of common causes of pain in the lower extremities and treatment options for these problems.

Palo Alto Center

795 El Camino Real
Hearst Center for Education
3rd Floor, Jamplis Building
Palo Alto
(650) 853-4873

MANAGING ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION

JAN. 14, 2014, 7 – 8:30 P.M.

SIMRAN SINGH, M.D.
PAMF PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Join us for this free, informative lecture to gain an understanding of the common symptoms of anxiety and depression. PAMF psychiatrist, Dr. Simran Singh, will discuss the basics of the conditions, as well as provide practical techniques for managing them.

Mountain View Center

701 E. El Camino Real
Mountain View
(650) 934-7380

 Palo Alto Medical Foundation
Sutter Health
We Plus You

pamf.org

CALENDAR

Go to AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more local calendar items

Special Events

Breakfast with Santa Menlo Park hosts pancake breakfast, letter writing, holiday crafts, picture taking. Reservations required. \$1 off with unwrapped toy. Dec. 7, from 7:30-11:30 p.m. \$5-7. Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2220. www.menlopark.org/departments/com/BWS2013.pdf

West Bay Opera Holiday Concert and audience sing-along features mezzo-soprano Catherine Cook and others, with orchestra and chorus. Silent auction; proceeds benefit West Bay Opera and Opera in the Schools. Dec. 8, 4-6 p.m. \$45-50 Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Call 650-424-9999. www.wboopera.org



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TEDx club at Woodside Priory hosts first event. Speakers: Ray Rothroth, Portola Valley resident, venture capitalist; Michealene Cristini Risley, Woodside resident, author, filmmaker; Jaimal Yogis, journalist; Bob Zheng, Priory freshman, developer of digital-device applications; Cy Khormae, former "technology evangelist" for Microsoft. 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at 302 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Open to public. Tickets for adults: \$15 at door. RSVP to cparmentier@prioryca.org

Menlo Park Community Services showcase of program, classes. Dec. 12, 6:45-8:45 p.m. \$5 for those 13 years and older; free for children under 13. M-A Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Call 650-330-2220. www.menlopark.eventbrite.com

Toy Story Toy Drive City of Menlo Park host toy drive. Watch film, come in costume, and donate toys to support Belle Haven Child Development Center. Dec. 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$5 per person or free with unwrapped toy. M-A Performing Arts Center (PAC), 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Call 650-330-2223. www.menlopark.eventbrite.com

Until There's A Cure, a nonprofit that raises funds to fight HIV/AIDS, hosts Holiday Open House, featuring new products, raffle, food, refreshments. Dec. 8, noon-5 p.m. Free. 560 Mountain Home Road, Woodside. Call 650-332-3200. www.until.org

Holiday Home Tour & Boutique Junior League of Palo Alto/Mid Peninsula hosts fundraiser, "Finishing Touches" home tour in Atherton and Menlo Park. Funds support League projects. Dec. 6-7, Check website for schedule, fees. Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley, 2050 University Ave., East Palo Alto. www.juniorleaguehometour.com

Classes/Workshops

Lecture: 'The Soil Foodweb' Alane Weber of Botanical Arts talks on sustainable landscape management. Dec. 5, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Town Center - Community Hall, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 851-1700. www.portolavalley.net/index.aspx?page=20&recordid=19886

M.I.Y. (Make It Yourself) Gifts Class Participants refashion T-shirts, old inner tubes, other materials into wearable accessories. Contact library to register. For everyone age 9 and older. Dec. 4, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Concerts

'A Festival of Lessons and Carols' Memorial Church Choir presents annual seasonal program. Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. Free. Stanford Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. www.music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html

'Wintersongs' Kitka, a local women's ensemble group, performs winter holiday program of seasonal music from Eastern European ethnic and spiritual traditions. Dec. 15, 4-6 p.m. \$10-35 St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. www.kitka.org

Music: 'Illuminate This Night' Peninsula Women's Chorus sings holiday music from around the world. Dec. 7 and 14 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto, and Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick's Seminary, 320 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park. \$10-\$35. Ticket info at pwchorus.org

Schola Seraphica Christmas Concert features liturgical music dedicated to St Francis of Assisi. Dec. 8, 2:30-4:30 p.m. \$20 general; \$15 seniors/students. St. Patrick's Seminary, 320 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park. Call 323-8328.

Kids & Families

'One Wacky Winter' Holiday puppet performance is a mystery: Who is kidnapping toys at Master Toymaker's workshop. Dec. 9, 4-5 p.m. Free Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 328-2422. www.smcl.org

Annual LEGO Holiday Extravaganza See LEGO creations by members of Bay Area LEGO User Group and Bay Area LEGO Train Club, including train layouts, Bay Area landmarks, castles, miniature cities. Children must be accompanied by adult. Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays from Dec. 13 to Jan. 19, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$2

per person. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. www.moah.org

Holiday Party at Allied Arts features entertainment for children ages 4-9 accompanied by an adult: Max the Accordion Man, Magical Moonshine Theater puppet show, magic show, visit from Santa, cookies and juice. Dec. 8, 12:30-3 p.m. \$25 per person. Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park.

Mister G's ABC Fiesta Hear songs from Mister G's new bilingual album, which combines music and books. Dec. 5, 4-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Portola Valley Library Lego Club Ages 0-9 welcome to play and build with Legos provided by library. Register by contacting library. Dec. 7, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Story Time with Rosemary Wells Dec. 8, 10:30 a.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/max-ruby-story-time-rosemary-wells

On Stage

'November': A play by David Mamet Nov. 21-Dec. 15. Thursdays-Saturdays: 8 p.m.; Sunday: 2 p.m. \$10-35. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. Call 650-493-2006 ext. 2.

Ballet America presents "The Nutcracker," a full-length production that is kid-friendly. Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. \$18-39. Fox Theater, 2215 Broadway St., Redwood City. Call 366-1222. www.americanballet.com/nutcracker/

Lectures & Talks

'Contextualizing the Holodomor' Talk Observations on 80th anniversary of Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, with Frank Sysyn and Norman Naimark. Dec. 5, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. Fisher Conference Center, Arrillaga Conference Center, 326 Galvez St., Stanford. Call 725-2563. www.crees.stanford.edu/event/contextualizing-holodomor-observations-80th-anniversary-ukrainian-famine-1932-1933

Talk: 'Art of French Pastry' Jacquy

Pfeiffer, co-founder of French Pastry School in Chicago, discusses new book, "The Art of French Pastry." Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/jacquy-pfeiffer

Talk: John P. Holdren, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, talks with moderator John Markoff of New York Times. Dec. 11, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Register at computerhistory.org/events. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View.

Et Alia

Artist Open Studio Five artists host a holiday open studio. Dec. 7-8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Jan Schachter's studio, 190 Golden Hills Drive, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-3754. www.janschachter.com

Portola Art Gallery Group Show Artists showcase original works of art that are small in size but "large on value and creativity." Dec. 2-31, every day except Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-321-0220. www.portolaartgallery.com

Portola Valley Library Winter Reading Club Students in grades K-12 can join the Winter Reading Club. The rules are: finish a book, come into the Portola Valley Library and fill out a raffle card. All completed cards will be entered into a drawing to win raffle prizes. Dec. 16-Jan. 11, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 851-0560. www.smcl.org

Rosener House in Menlo Park hosts a music, movement, and rhythm workshop designed to bring families and caregivers closer to loved ones who have dementia. Call to reserve a spot. All ages welcome and instruments provided. Dec. 17, 4:15-5:15 p.m. \$10/person; \$25 for three or more people. Rosener House, 500 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. Call 408-459-9215. www.vibrantlifemusic.com

Lifetree Cafe Menlo Park hosts hour-long conversation exploring storytelling, listening. Dec. 4, 7-8 p.m. Free. Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. Call 854-5897. www.facebook.com/LifetreeCafeMP

PENINSULA



Discover the best places to eat this week!

AMERICAN

Armadillo Willy's
941-2922

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

The Old Pro

326-1446

541 Ramona Street, Palo Alto
www.oldpro.com

ITALIAN

Cucina Venti

254-1120

1390 Pear Ave, Mountain View
www.cucinaventi.com

CHINESE

Ming's

856-7700

1700 Embarcadero East, Palo Alto
www.mings.com

CHINESE

New Tung Kee Noodle House

947-8888

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

INDIAN

Janta Indian Restaurant

462-5903

369 Lytton Ave.

www.jantaindianrestaurant.com

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■ POLICE CALLS

This information is from San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and the Menlo Park Police Department. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent unless convicted. The dates shown are the dates the agencies received the report of a crime.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Residential burglary report: A gardener returning to a residence on La Sandra Way after running some errands encountered two men in the driveway leaving in a dark green vehicle. Thinking it odd because the owner has a dog and wanted all gates kept closed, the gardener looked and found a shattered sliding glass door in the back. Estimated losses are \$26,710, Nov. 20.

WEST MENLO PARK

Residential burglary report: Someone entered a home on Palo Alto Way through an unlocked back door and stole jewelry and two laptop computers for a \$10,900 total loss, Nov. 14.

WOODSIDE

Residential burglary reports: ■ "Numerous items" with a value of \$6,825 are missing from a residence on Greer Road that had been left with the front door unlocked, Nov. 15.

■ Someone entered a residence on Hillside Drive through an unlocked sliding glass door and stole \$4,700 worth of electronics and jewelry, Nov. 14.

Theft report: A resident of the 100 block of Woodside Road drove by her home at 9:30 a.m. and saw a package sitting on top of her gate; when she returned at 11 a.m., the package, with an estimated value of \$125, was gone, Nov. 14.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary reports: ■ A thief smashed the window of a garage on North Lemon Avenue, used the lever to manually open the garage door and stole a \$10,000 bicycle, Nov. 23.

■ An envelope containing \$4,000 in cash is missing from a residential bedroom on Ivy Drive. There are no signs of forced entry, Dec. 1.

■ An unlocked rear door allowed a thief or thieves to enter a house on Terminal Avenue and get away with two laptop computers, two digital cameras, two watches, a camcorder, jewelry and clothing for a total loss of about \$2,347, Nov. 22.

■ Police cited and released a Florida man after seeing him littering and finding him in possession of a switchblade knife in the vicinity of Middle Avenue and El Camino Real. The man's wife, who approached police during the questioning of her husband, was arrested on outstanding warrants and found to be in possession of a foil-lined "booster bag" used for shoplifting, Nov. 29.

Strong arm robbery report: A 31-year-old woman and 57-year-old man were sitting in front of Donut Delight on Willow Road when three females and a male, all of Hispanic heritage, approached the couple, robbed the woman of her purse, and fled in a white SUV. The purse was empty except for an ID, a \$45 loss. The victims were not cooperative in the investigation, Nov. 23.



**RESOLUTION NO. 1858 (2013)
RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT
ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE**

Lands of Rosenthal

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

- A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR"), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.
- B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the "Parcel") to the District's On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the "Zone"). The Parcel is described in Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit "B" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.
- C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes "real property" for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:
- X All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or
- Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit "B" and are incorporated by reference.
- D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.
2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are::

Date: December 11, 2013
Time: 7:00 PM 5:00 PM (time change)
Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices
500 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i).
4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.
5. The District Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

Exhibit A

**APPROVED
SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
455 COUNTY CENTER
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063**

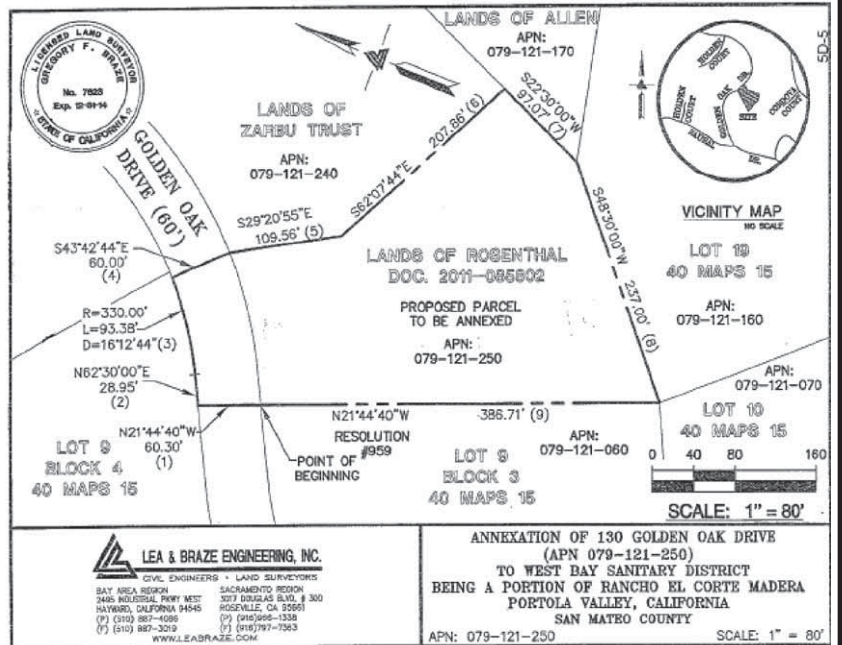
**GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION ANNEXATION OF 130 GOLDEN OAK DRIVE (APN 079-121-250)
TO WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT**

All that certain real property, situate in the Town of Portola Valley, County of San Mateo, State of California, being a portion of Rancho El Corte Madera, being all of the Lands of Rosenthal as described in that certain Grant Deed recorded July 29, 2011 as Document No. 2011-085802, San Mateo County Records and a portion of Golden Oak Drive as shown on that certain map entitled "Tract No. 695 Alpine Hills", filed September 28, 1954 in Volume 40 of Maps at Pages 15-17, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the most Northern corner of the West Bay Sanitary District Boundary adopted March 17, 2004 by Resolution No. 959, said point also being the most Western corner of said Lands of Rosenthal;

- Thence (1) North 21°44'40" West, 60.30 feet to the Northwesternly line of said Golden Oak Drive;
- Thence (2) along last said line, North 62°30'00" East, 28.95 feet to a curve to the left with a radius of 330.00 feet;
- Thence (3) continuing along last said line and along said curve, through a central angle of 161°2'44", a distance of 93.38 feet;
- Thence (4) leaving last said line, South 43°42'44" East, 60.00 feet to the most Northern corner of said lands;
- Thence (5) along the Northeastly line of said land, South 29°20'55" East, 109.56 feet;
- Thence (6) continuing along last said line, South 62°07'44" East, 207.86 feet to the most Eastern corner of said lands;
- Thence (5) along the Southeastly line of said lands, South 22°30'00" West, 97.07 feet;
- Thence (6) continuing along last said line, South 48°30'00" West, 237.00 feet to the most Eastern corner of said District Boundary, said point also being the most Southern corner of said lands;
- Thence (7) along the Northwesternly line of said District Boundary and along the Southeastly line of said lands, North 21°44'40" West, 386.71 feet to the **Point of Beginning**

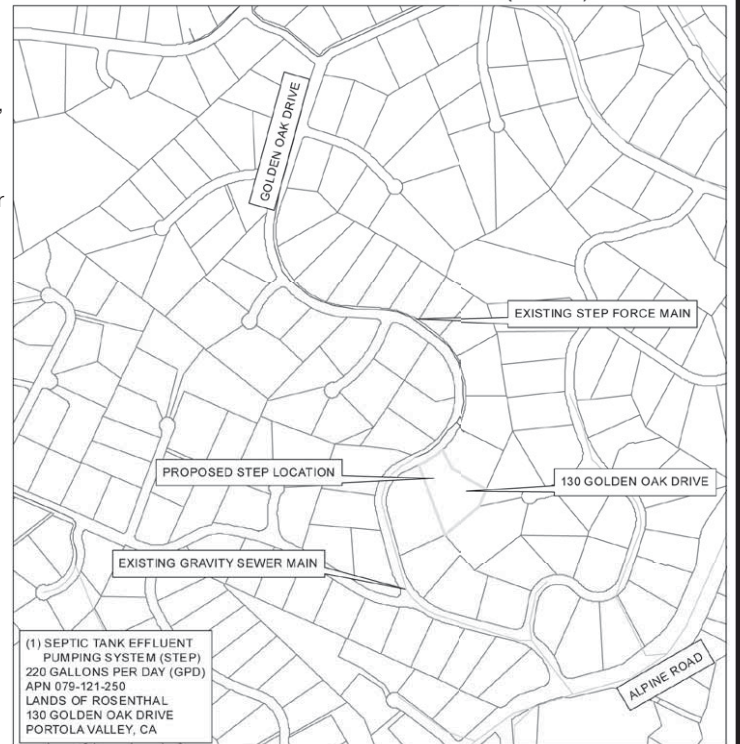
Total computed acreage containing 1.92 acres, more or less. APN: 079-121-250



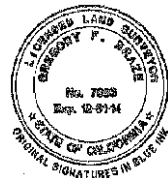
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Winter

ClassGuide



Winter is coming, but that doesn't have to mean staying huddled indoors. A range of local classes, from dance and yoga to cooking and language courses, are designed to keep both the body and mind active.

The Class Guide is published quarterly by The Almanac, the Palo Alto Weekly and the Mountain View Voice.



Academic Achievers

Sylvan Learning Center

900 Main St. #900, Redwood City
650-716-2570

Sylvan custom-tailors classes to meet children's academic goals and needs. Focuses on allowing teenagers to take challenging courses, get good grades and score well on the SAT or ACT to get into college.

Mid-Peninsula High School

1340 Willow Road, Menlo Park
650-321-1991 ext. 110

www.mid-pen.com

Mid-Peninsula High School is an independent, nonprofit co-ed day school for grades 9-12. Classes are Monday-Friday and typically capped at 15 students. The school admits students each fall as well as transfer students from other schools throughout the year.

Health & Fitness

Gymnastics Classes

Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center, 501 Laurel St., Menlo Park

650-330-2224

kamihalek@menlopark.org

www.menlopark.org/departments/com/gymclass2.html

The City of Menlo Park offers numerous gymnastics classes for youth from pre-school to high school age.

Jacki's Aerobic Dancing

150 Andeta Way, Portola Valley

408-732-3778

betjdance@earthlink.net

www.jackis.com

Jacki's Aerobic Dancing offers hour-long dance classes with abdominal work, weight training and safe, easy-to-follow aerobic routines. Complimentary child care is available. Classes meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8 a.m., at the Ladera Recreation Department.

Jazzercise

800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park

650-703-1263

www.jazzercise.com

meredithozbil@hotmail.com

Jazzercise blends aerobics, yoga, Pilates and kickboxing movements into dance routines set to new music. All fitness levels welcome. Classes are ongoing. Go directly to class to register.

Jim Gorman Swim School

3249 Alpine Road, Portola Valley

650-854-6699, ext. 1000

jim@laderaokas.com

www.jgswimschool.com

Jim Gorman and a group of instructors give a range of swim lessons for all ages, held at Ladera Oaks Tennis and Swimming Club in Portola Valley. Open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

Karate Classes

Onetta Harris Community Center multipurpose room, 100 Terminal Ave., Menlo Park

650-330-2250

www.menlopark.org/departments/com/ohcc.html

A class to develop body awareness, learn safety skills, as well as gain discipline and confidence. The class teaches basic kicking, blocking and punching techniques.

Kidz Love Soccer

Burgess Soccer Field, Menlo Park

408-774-4629

www.kidzlovesoccer.com/classes.php

Kidz Love Soccer offers youth soccer classes for boys and girls of all ages and abilities.



Little House Activity Center

800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park

650-326-2025

www.penvol.org/littlehouse/classes.cfm

Little House Activity Center offers children and adults a variety of classes including health and wellness classes for seniors, athletics for kids, arts and crafts, language and computers.

Menlo Pilates & Yoga

1011 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

408-480-8977

fran@philipusa.com

www.menlophilatesandyoga.com/pages/home

Menlo Pilates & Yoga offers a range of yoga, pilates and fitness classes for all levels.

Menlo Swim & Sports

Burgess Pool, 501 Laurel St., Menlo Park

650-328-7946

www.menloswim.com

Menlo Swim & Sports offers a range of youth, adult and community programs at Burgess Pool including swim lessons, swim school, lap swimming, water polo workouts, masters swimming and water polo for adults, basic exercise and more.

The Happy Body

3154 Woodside Road, Woodside

310-488-1862

creators@thehappybody.com

www.thehappybody.com

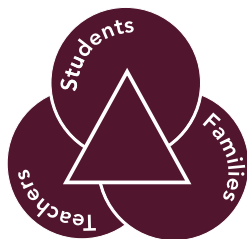
The Happy Body Program is a different approach to weight loss. Using a system involving nutrition, exercise and relaxation, teachers Aniela and Jerzy Gregorek help achieve the desired results of a balanced lifestyle featuring improved health and greater youthfulness.

Youth Boxing Fitness (non-contact)

2860 Spring St. Unit 1, Redwood City

650-290-1920

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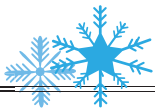


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www.peninsulaboxing.org

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ABC Languages**

1370 Willow Road, Menlo Park
650-204-7908
menlo@abclanguagesf.com
www.abclanguagesf.com/

ABC Languages offers up to 20 different language classes to adults and children. ABC's teaching staff is composed of experienced instructors who are native speakers of the language they teach.

**German-American School
of Palo Alto**

275 Elliott Drive, Menlo Park
650-520-3646
Germanedu@aol.com
www.gaspa-ca.org

The German-American School of Palo Alto offers Saturday classes for children and adults between 9 a.m. and noon, September through May. The focus is on both learning the German language and becoming acquainted with German culture and traditions. The school also offers an AP German prep class for the 2014 AP exams.

Istituto Educazione Italiana

1000 El Camino Real, Atherton
650-868-5995
iei@italybythebay.org

www.italybythebay.org

The Italian Educational Institute offers evening language classes for adults, with native Italian speakers as the teachers. Skype-based lessons are also available.

**Music, Arts and Crafts
Build It Again With Bricks**

611 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park
831-247-4438

www.facebook.com/builditagainwithbricks

At this locally owned LEGO store, children and adults can build and play with LEGOs. Among its offerings: after-school LEGO classes, summer and winter LEGO camps/workshops as well as adult classes and workshops.



Draeger's Cooking School

1010 University Drive, Menlo Park
650-685-3704

cookingschool@draegers.com

www.draegerscookingschool.com/

Draeger's cooking classes are taught by chefs and cover a wide array of regional cuisines.

**Iberia Restaurant
Cooking Classes**

1026 Alma St., Menlo Park
650-325-8981

myiberia@yahoo.com

www.iberiarestaurant.com/cooking-classes/

Iberia offers cooking classes on paella, tapas and other Spanish cuisine.

Old World Designs

727 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park
650-321-3494
info@oldworlddesigns.com

www.oldworlddesigns.com

Old World Designs offers stitching classes for all levels.

**School Days
Circle of Friends
Preschool**

3214 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park
650-854-2468

cofpreschool@gmail.com

www.sites.google.com/site/cofpreschool/home

Circle of Friends Preschool offers a play-based early childhood curriculum with activities in art, music, reading, writing, math, science, social studies, physical education and dramatic play.

**German-American
International School**

275 Elliott Drive, Menlo Park
650-324-8617

info@gais.org

www.gais.org

German-American International School (GAIS) is an international school serving approximately 300 students from preschool through eighth grade. GAIS offers a German bilingual program through fifth grade and welcomes English-speaking students in a new English language middle school program that offers German, Spanish and French as additional language options. GAIS follows the academically rigorous, inquiry-based programs developed by the International Baccalaureate Organization.



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Children's Health Council www.chconline.org

Kirk House Preschool

1148 Johnson St., Menlo Park

650-323-8667

khp@mppcc.org

www.kirkhousepreschool.org

Kirk House Preschool is a half-day preschool with both morning and afternoon classes for children aged 3-5 (Young Fives class). Kirk House Preschool is a Christian, play-based school that offers a development-oriented curriculum in a park-like setting.

Ladera Community Church Preschool

3300 Alpine Road, Portola Valley

650-854-0295

laderapreschool@sbcglobal.net

www.laderapreschool.org

Ladera Community Church Preschool follows a play-based, developmentally appropriate approach to teaching and learning. LCC Preschool is a nonprofit, National Association for the Education of Young Children-accredited preschool that welcomes children of any culture or religious background, has low student-teacher ratios and provides need-based tuition assistance. The school offers half-day programs for children aged 2 to 5 years as well as a pre-K program.

Littlest Angels Preschool

1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park

650-854-4973

preschool@bethany-mp.org

www.LittlestAngelsPreschool.com

Littlest Angels Preschool offers two-, three- or five-day programs for ages 2 to 5, including pre-kindergarten. The preschool offers a Christian, theme-based curriculum with developmentally appropriate programs.

Lydian Academy

815 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

650-321-0550

www.lydianacademy.com

Lydian Academy is a personalized middle and high school with rolling admissions. It welcomes new students every week, year round.

Woodland School

360 La Cuesta Drive, Portola Valley

650-854-9065

www.woodland-school.org

Woodland School is an independent junior-K through 8th grade school. Average class size is 15, and student-to-teacher ratio is 6 to 1. Class offerings include language arts, math, social studies, technology, science, electives and SEL as well as technology, art, music, French, physical education and etiquette.

The Class Guide is published quarterly in the Palo Alto Weekly, Mountain View Voice and Menlo Park Almanac. Descriptions of classes offered in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Stanford, Atherton, Los Altos Hills, Portola Valley, East Palo Alto and beyond are provided. Listings are free and subject to editing. Due to space constraints, classes held in the above cities are given priority.

To inquire about placing a listing in the next class guide, email Editorial Assistant Elena Kadvanly at ekadvany@pawebly.com or call 650-223-6519. To place a paid advertisement in the Class Guide, call the display advertising department at 650-326-8210.

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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:
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Mail or deliver to:
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Call the Viewpoint desk at 223-6507.

Viewpoint

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

Neighbors see fire hazard in new facility

Representatives of a proposed drug and alcohol rehabilitation center on Skyline Boulevard in unincorporated Woodside found out recently how strongly neighbors feel about fire danger and other issues they fear could come with the conversion of what is now a 6-plus-acre center for meditation and yoga.

During a lively public hearing before the San Mateo County Planning Commission two weeks ago, it became clear that the county planning staff, which had signed off on the conversion of the Stillheart Institute to the Stillpath Recovery Center, had overlooked neighborhood concerns. The big concern: risk of wildfire caused by persons in recovery who smoke and might take it upon themselves to stroll off the center's grounds and into the woody premises at 16350 Skyline Blvd.

The Sausalito-based rehabilitation company behind Stillpath's application is hoping to receive an amended use permit to take over the site for use as a holistic rehabilitation center for up to 50 clients now and 76 when other buildings are completed. (Stillpath is not related to Stillheart.)

Stillpath officials on Nov. 20 faced a barrage of questions from neighbors gathered in the Kings Mountain Community Center about what precautions would be taken to guard against an accidental fire set by cigarettes tossed carelessly away by residents in their recovery programs.

The neighbors "live and breathe" fire prevention, one community member said, and were adamant about how important it is to guard against wildfire along Skyline Boulevard.

Stillpath consulting psychologist Dr. Brigitte Lank said there will be designated areas and times for smoking, but such promises were not enough.

"You're not understanding our concern about forest fires," said Joe Rockmore, who dismissed such rule-making.

"Addicts are not going to listen to you," he said.

"If you cannot physically constrain them from trespassing and smoking (outside the designated area) then you haven't addressed the fundamental question," another neighbor said.

Until the word got out, Stillpath's application to replace Stillheart may have flown under the radar of Skyline residents. The facility now has 26 guestrooms (14 in the main lodge and 12 in adjoining tree houses) and 57 beds. Stillpath plans to complete work on several other tree houses, which would bring the total to 81 beds.

Most of the county's staff report focuses on environmental stipulations that must be followed for any construction or trail work that is done. After intense questioning by neighbors, Stillpath officials admitted that the minimal staffing impacts claimed in the original proposal were incorrect and would be revised soon. The original document said six full-time and six part-time staff would serve up to 76 clients who would be bused to the facility.

Other issues raised concerned heavy demands on the area's limited resources, including fresh water, and the distance from medical help should a Stillpath resident need immediate assistance.

A final decision on the application could be made Dec. 11 at the Planning Commission's next meeting, although Stillpath still needs to adequately explain procedures to rein in the clients who smoke. Water conservation plans and emergency evacuation procedures should also accompany an updated application.

It is time for the county to make sure any new user of this property can do so safely and in conjunction with practices used by neighbors who have kept this Skyline neighborhood fire-free for many years.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Palo Alto residents turn down project

Editor:

Kudos to Palo Alto residents. The cover of a recent Palo Alto Weekly edition says it all: voters defeated Measure D, which would have approved building a four-story senior housing complex in a residential area.

This was a revolt. Palo Alto residents stood up to their city council's decision to inflict a high-density senior housing project on one of their neighborhoods. They launched a referendum and won it handily, despite being greatly outspent by the subsidized housing advocates.

Similar aggressive zoning policies are plaguing many Peninsula cities. San Carlos residents are up in arms over a planned, high-density "transit village." Another case in point: the

looming megaliths sprouting up in Redwood City. Menlo Park adopted this sort of "anything goes" zoning in its hotly contested, badly flawed Downtown Specific Plan. The best thing the council could do for Menlo Park would be to repeal it.

Local government officials and city staff members, who by and large seem to favor maximum density urbanized, stack-and-pack housing projects and out-of-scale office parks, take note: the residents in our towns do not want this unseemly overcrowding and despoiling of our suburban tranquility. Any city council member who wants to be re-elected or seeks higher office, be advised: Protect our towns from over-development or be ousted in disgrace.

This is no legacy to leave for our children, nor is it tolerable for us. And residents, take heart! Follow Palo Alto's lead. Together, we can take back our cities.

Cherie Zaslawsky
Menlo Park downtown



Woodside History Committee

Our Regional Heritage

This 1914 photo shows the Menlo Country Club at Woodside Road and the Alameda de las Pulgas with a bridge, before the ravine north of Woodside Road was filled. The Woodside club was incorporated in 1909 and includes an 18-hole golf course, which is being renovated today. Early club officers included James Flood and James Folger.

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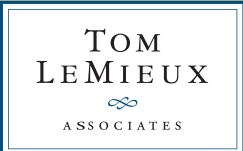


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