



Inside this issue  
**Winter Home & Garden Design**

# The Almanac

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

JANUARY 22, 2014 | VOL. 49 NO. 20

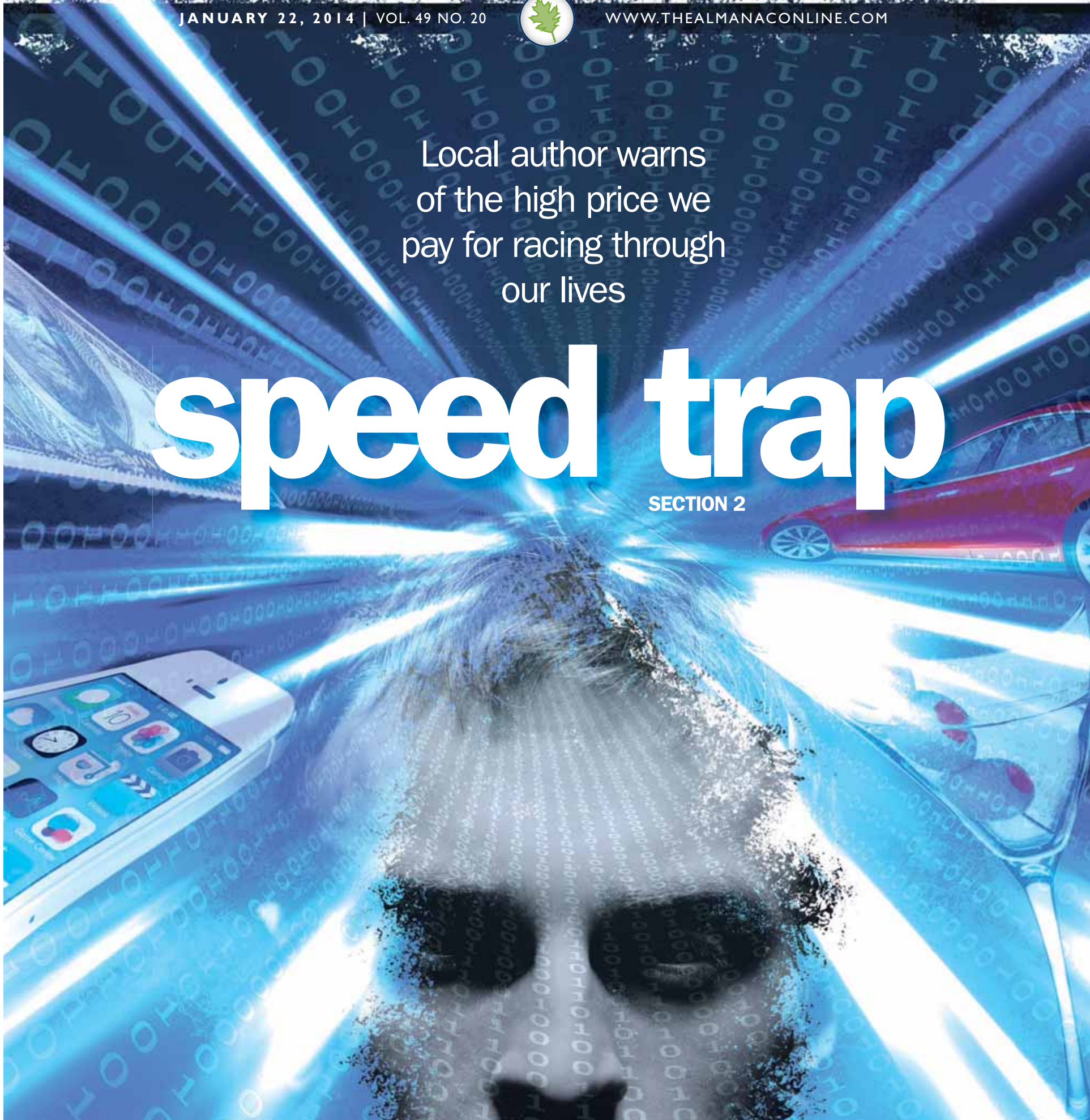


[WWW.THEALMANACONLINE.COM](http://WWW.THEALMANACONLINE.COM)

Local author warns  
of the high price we  
pay for racing through  
our lives

## speed trap

SECTION 2



EXPLORE THE NEW

*apr.com*

Where people, homes and a bit of imagination intersect



**ALAIN PINEL**  
REALTORS



#### LA HONDA

Just reduced over \$500K! This custom estate lives like a retreat. With all-encompassing views to the Pacific ocean, this 7200 square foot main home features a 5 car garage, and a -1470 guest home, all on over -18 acres. The living area, outdoor kitchen and cabana surround the sparkling pool and lush tropical gardens. The effect truly leads you to believe that you are at a five star resort system.

**\$5,348,000**



#### PALO ALTO

Downtown location. 2 blocks to University Ave. Close to CalTrain and Johnson Park. Open floor plan with 10'ceilings on 1st floor. Great room with Chef's kitchen. Master bedroom suite opens to covered terrace. Private patio area and secluded garden area. Two-car detached garage.

**\$2,800,000**



#### LOS ALTOS

Spacious ranch home is stylishly remodeled. Expansive windows, beautiful hardwood floors, formal dining room, remodeled kitchen, inviting family room. Separate wing with 3bd/2ba including master suite. 4th bedroom & bath customized as a private office/guest suite. Cul-de-sac location. Top-rated Los Altos schools.

**\$2,298,000**

**MENLO PARK | 1550 El Camino Real, Suite 100 650.462.1111**

**WOODSIDE | 2930 Woodside Road 650.529.1111**

**APR COUNTIES | Santa Clara | San Mateo | San Francisco | Marin | Sonoma | Alameda | Contra Costa | Monterey | Santa Cruz**



Photo by Willows resident Chris DeCardy

Kathleen Daly in her green superhero cape is surrounded by well-wishers outside the council chambers.

## Daly honored as 'superhero'

By Barbara Wood  
Special to the Almanac

Just how much Willows residents love Cafe Zoe restaurant owner Kathleen Daly was apparent Tuesday night, Jan. 14, when dozens trekked to the City Council chambers to honor her with a city proclamation — and a superhero cape.

Diane Mavica presented the cape, which was pale green with flowery lining and said “Captain Kat — Willows Superhero” on the back. She said Ms. Daly exemplifies her own tagline: “Peace, Hope and Community.”

Mayor Ray Mueller said Ms. Daly’s cafe, named after her daughter, “feels like family.” People gather in the cafe for socializ-

ing, community events, business meetings, art exhibits and performances. Children use the cafe as a safe after-school hangout.

“She gives so much of herself that sometimes you forget she is a small business owner,” he said.

Ms. Daly also arranged to have home-cooked holiday meals prepared for more than 40 veterans at the nearby Veterans Administration facility.

Ms. Daly downplayed her role, calling herself “head cheerleader” for the Willows. “It takes a village,” she said. “I believe that the cafe is located in this amazing village.”

Planning Commissioner Katherine Strehl said Ms. Daly is “an incredible spirit in our community.”

Brooke Frewing presented a list of her neighbors’ top 10 favorite things about Cafe Zoe, both from adults and children. The top three items on the adult list were great comfort food and drink, amazing employees and, at the top of the list, Kathleen Daly.

Children, Ms. Frewing said, loved yummy drinks and treats, Kathleen and the people who work there, and, at the top of their list, ice cream.

Stephanie Zoller summed up her feelings, echoed by many others, in a few words. “Thank you so much for always being there,” she said.

Mayor Mueller said the council was honoring Ms. Daly as part of an effort to draw attention to people “who have made a difference in the community.”

## Jazz singer celebrates Billie Holiday in Menlo Park

Jazz vocalist and actress Cheryl Bennett-Scales will present “Mirror, Mirror of My Soul” at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, in the Menlo Park City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel St. in Menlo Park.

In her one-woman show, Ms. Scales will celebrate music leg-

end Billie Holiday (Lady Day) and her contributions to the world of jazz and the songs she made famous. She will also “channel the energy of songstresses” Miriam Mekeba, Eartha Kitt, and Nina Simone.

She will be accompanied by pianist Bennett Roth-Newell,

a jazz and hip-hop artist who performs with local musical combos.

Ms. Scales’ performance is sponsored by the Friends of the Menlo Park Library. Free van service for area seniors and those with disabilities is available. Call 330-2512.

### CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

Newsroom: **223-6525**  
Newsroom fax: **223-7525**  
Advertising: **854-2626**  
Advertising fax: **223-7570**  
Classified ads: **854-0858**

■ E-mail news, information, obituaries and photos (with captions) to: [editor@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:editor@AlmanacNews.com)  
■ E-mail letters to the editor to: [letters@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:letters@AlmanacNews.com)

To request free delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call **854-2626**.

**THE ALMANAC** (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, The Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. Subscriptions for \$60 per year or \$100 per 2 years are welcome. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Copyright ©2012 by Embarcadero Media, All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

**FOX THEATRE PRESENTS**  
**BRYAN STOW**  
**Benefit Concert**

**FEATURING**  
**SF GIANTS 3RD BASE COACH**  
**Tim Flannery**  
**AND LUNATIC FRINGE**  
Chuck Brodsky & Hot Buttered Rum  
**JANUARY 23 8 PM**

**Get Your Tickets Today**  
**650-369-7770 or www.FoxRwc.com**

**THE GREAT**  
**Vacation**  
**SALE**

**January 6 -31, 2014**

Call today to take advantage of the year's best deals, plus receive up to \$200 with our exclusive **Vacation Loyalty Award.**

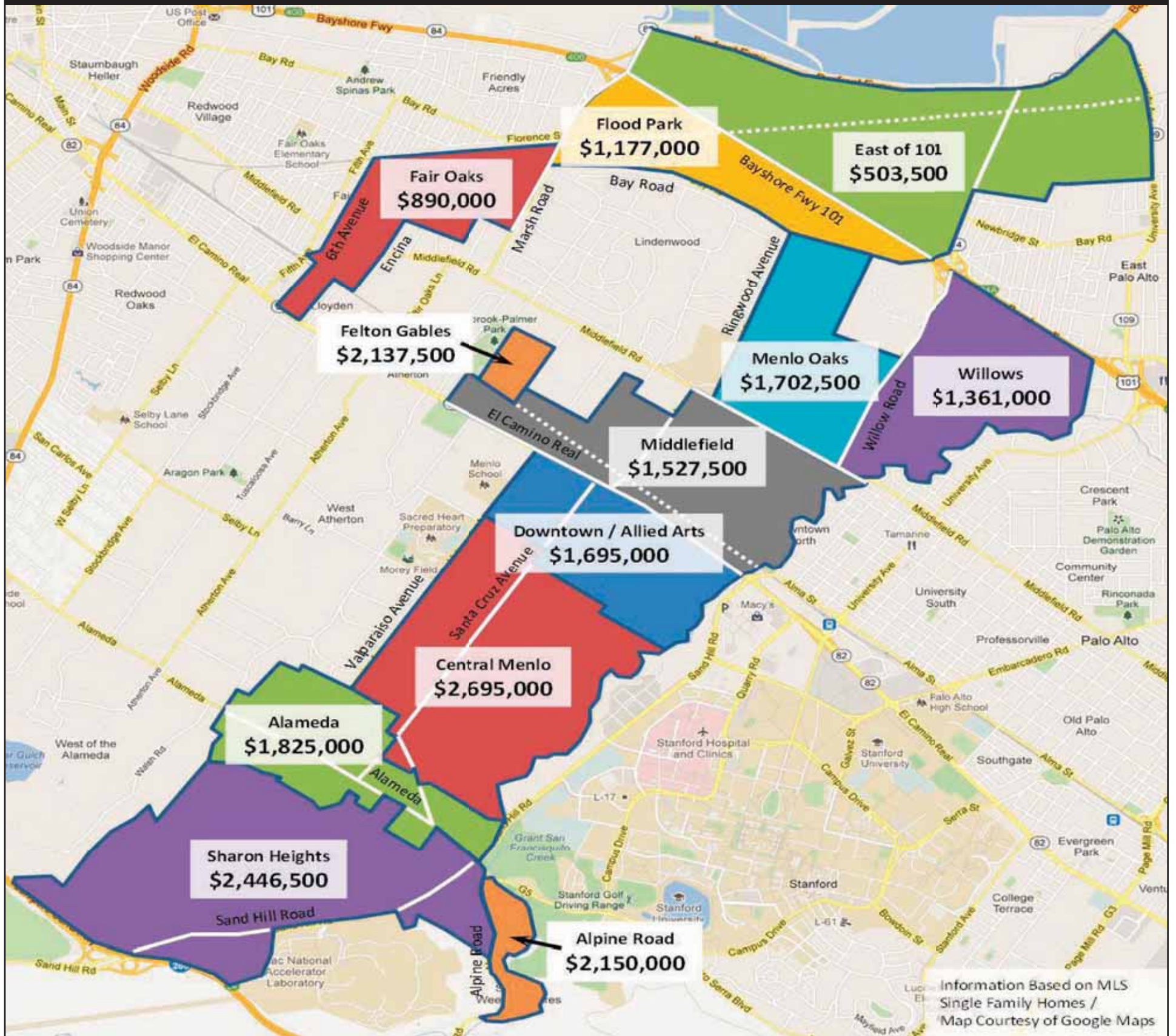
**FROSCH**  
**TRAVEL**  
**Menlo Park**  
825 Santa Cruz Ave.  
(650) 328-2030  
[www.froschvacations.com/gvs](http://www.froschvacations.com/gvs)

**BOOK NOW AND SAVE on featured vacations with:**

Azamara Club Cruises | Brendan Vacations  
Celebrity Cruises | Classic Vacations | Club Med  
Crystal Cruises | Cunard Line | Disney | Holland America Line  
Journese | Insight Vacations | Oceania Cruises  
Paul Gauguin Cruises | Pleasant Holidays | Princess  
Regent Seven Seas Cruises | Royal Caribbean  
Seabourn | Tauck | Uniworld | Viking River Cruises

\*Valid for new cruise and land package bookings with featured suppliers deposited from 1/6/14 to 1/31/14 only. Air-only and hotel-only bookings are not eligible. CST#2079194-50

# Menlo Park Median Price – 2013 Year End



**Call Jackie & Richard to Sell Your Home**

**Sold over \$212,000,000 of Homes**

**Jackie**  
 650-855-9700  
 jackie@schoelerman.com  
 BRE # 01092400



**Richard**  
 650-566-8033  
 richard@schoelerman.com  
 BRE # 01413607

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

# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Menlo to loan \$2.8 million for VA housing

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

An apartment complex designed for low-income veterans and Menlo Park residents and workers moved a step closer to reality Jan. 14 when the Menlo Park City Council agreed to loan the developers up to \$2.86 million to help finance the project.

The 60-unit, two-story apartment structure will be built on the grounds of the Department of Veterans Affairs on Willow Road in Menlo Park. The VA is providing the land, valued at over \$13 million, at no cost to the developers, CORE Affordable Housing.

There are 54 studio and six one-bedroom units in the planned building, as well as a two-bedroom manager's unit that will not be part of the low-income program. The complex will help Menlo Park meet its state-mandated obligation to plan for more affordable housing in the city.

Rent maximums will range from \$574 to \$792 per month, depending on income, with a

\$35,520 annual income for a family of two as the current maximum to qualify. The city financing is coming from its below market rate (BMR) fund so low-income Menlo Park residents or workers will be given first priority for 11 units. Qualifying veterans who live or work in Menlo Park will be given even higher priority. In the remaining units qualifying veterans get top priority.

CORE officials had asked for a \$3.5 million loan, but they since have received other funding, including \$2.2 million from San Mateo County. The city also will loan CORE up to \$360,000 to offset any fees the city charges the developer.

Darci Palmer, project manager for CORE, said the development is the only one currently planned for VA property in Northern California. The company hopes to start construction this fall, she said.

"I think this is a great project," said council member Kirsten Keith.

The vote approving the loan was unanimous. ■



Illustration by Jeffrey George for CORE Affordable Housing

While plans are not final, this rendering shows what CORE Affordable Housing officials hope a new low-income apartment structure will look like on the VA campus in Menlo Park.

## Town OKs Little League ballpark plan on 3-2 vote

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

It took four years, but the Menlo-Atherton Little League has finally won permission to build new facilities on the baseball field in the town-owned Holbrook-Palmer Park.

At its Jan. 15 meeting, a divided Atherton City Council voted on the guidelines for the new field, which include covered seating for 200 people, covered dugouts, a permanent scoreboard and improvements to the field.

"We do make it hard to actually donate something to the city," said Bob Hellman, an Atherton resident representing the Menlo-Atherton Little League at the meeting.

The approval was over the objection of the town's Planning Commission. Philip Lively, vice chair of the commission, said that after three public meetings the commission had decided that the Little League plans needed downsizing. "Improvement is needed

### ■ AHERTON

but the Little League plans are too monumental," he said.

Council members Jim Dobbie and Bill Widmer agreed with Mr. Lively, and voted against the Little League proposal. Council members Elizabeth Lewis, Cary Wiest and Rick DeGolia voted to approve the plan, asking that the building be "consistent with the old-fashioned character of the park."

The town will now draw up an agreement with Little League, which will then go through the usual town approval process before beginning construction. The agreement will be for 10 years, with two five-year extensions possible.

Among the features that were approved are: a covered seating structure; backstop and dugouts; permanent perimeter fencing extending along both base lines from the backstop to

See **LITTLE LEAGUE**, page 6

## Couple fined for illegally downing trees

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

In an echo of its last encounter with a Woodside property owner who had felled major trees without a permit, the Town Council last week chose to once again reduce the statutory fine by half and offer a refund if the property owner spends an equal amount on managing the health and safety of the property's remaining trees.

By a 6-1 vote on Jan. 14, the council rejected Stadler Drive residents Elton and Sara Satusky's appeal of a \$12,500 fine for the felling two mature Douglas firs without a permit. The council halved the fine of \$5,000 for the first tree and \$7,500 for the second. A full \$6,250 refund is available if the couple spends the same amount in managing forest health and fire safety among the approximately 200 trees said to be on their property and adjacent to the deeply forested Wunderlich Park.

Councilman Ron Romines,

### ■ WOODSIDE

voting no, disagreed with the refund offer. "My concern was that (decision) allows folks who cut the trees to end up with no fine whatsoever," he said in an interview.

The council also reaffirmed the view that contractors share responsibilities around acquiring permits. In a departure from previous rulings, however, the town will assess a \$6,250 fine against the contractor in this case, the Juan Huerta B. Tree Service in Redwood City. The council also required the couple's cooperation in working with the town to register complaints about the contractor to the Contractors State License Board.

### Five stars

In appealing the staff's \$12,500 fine, Ms. Satusky noted that the contractor had a stump-grinding machine and five stars in its Yelp listing.

"I had a really good feeling," she said. "I didn't realize that I had to go and get a permit. ...

You know what I mean? I just didn't know."

Mr. Satusky added: "My wife thought the tree contractor pulled the permit. He thought we did. We're law-abiding citizens. I've never broken the law."

The felled firs were overcrowded, said Roy C. Leggitt III, an arborist with Tree Management Experts in San Francisco and a consultant for the Satuskys. There were "lots of trees in a really small space," he said. "That kind of congestion is not fire safe and it's not sustainable. We stop (natural forest) fires and we end up with too many trees. ... A fire (on such a slope) would be absolutely catastrophic in a setting like that."



Nevertheless, the couple should pay the full fine and seek redress from the contractor, said Councilman Dave Tanner in the discussion before agreeing to a reduced fine. "The action was done without permits. We have an ordinance that says we need permits," he said.

See **DOWNING TREES**, page 6




**PORTOLA VALLEY**  
4420 Alpine Rd., Portola Valley  
phone 650.851.1711

**WOODSIDE**  
3015 Woodside Rd., Woodside  
phone 650.851.1511

## Fresh Produce

	Large Honeycrisp Apples .....	<b>\$1.99</b> lb.	
	3 lb. Bag Halo Tangerines.....	<b>\$4.99</b> ea.	
	Local Brussels Sprouts .....	<b>99¢</b> lb.	

## Meat and Seafood

	Chicken Fajita.....	<b>\$4.98</b> lb.	
	Marinated Pork Tenderloin .....	<b>\$6.98</b> lb.	
	Small Loin Lamb Chops .....	<b>\$14.98</b> lb.	

## On Sale Grocery

	Muscle Milk 4-11 oz. ....	<b>\$6.19</b>
	Daily's Hardwood Smoked Bacon 24 oz. ....	<b>\$5.99</b>
	Whole Earth Organic Popcorn 8 oz. ....	<b>\$1.99</b>
	Alexia All Natural Fries 15 oz. ....	<b>\$1.99</b>
	Planet Ultra Dishwashing Liquid 25 oz. ....	<b>\$2.79</b>

## Deli Department

Try some of our Hot and Ready Soups  
**\$5.99** lb.

Assorted Varieties Daily.  
We also have many Pre-Packed Soups



## Wine and Spirits

### Pinot-palooza

Few wines have the adaptability of Pinot Noir. As we hurtle towards the holidays, this is an excellent time to stock up on wines. Here are a few fine examples offered at special prices.

2012 Bench Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast .....	Reg. \$19.99	Sale <b>\$16.99</b>
2011 Evening Land Pinot Noir, Willametto Valley .....	Reg. \$25.99	Sale <b>\$21.99</b>
2011 Melville Pinot Noir, Estate - Sta Rita Hills .....	Reg. \$31.99	Sale <b>\$26.99</b>
2011 Hartford Court Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley .....	Reg. \$34.99	Sale <b>\$29.99</b>
2012 Failla Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast.....	Reg. \$35.99	Sale <b>\$30.99</b>

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



{ [www.robertsmarket.com](http://www.robertsmarket.com) }



The city's current logo is on the left, and the revised one, with a different font and type arrangement, is on the right.

## Menlo Park council settles on slight revision in logo

By Barbara Wood  
Special to the Almanac

In December, Menlo Park City Council members rejected all the new designs for a city logo that had been prepared at a cost of \$24,000, and asked to keep the current 1960s-era oak tree the city has been using all along.

At its Jan. 14 meeting, the council nonetheless decided to spend another \$24,000 to have the same contractor, 2Sisters Design of Redwood Shores, come up with a "style guide" for standardizing the city's use of graphics, including that venerable tree logo.

It turns out, Community Services Director Cherise Brandell told the council, the city already has a signed contract with the design firm to do the additional work.

So council members, who had initially appeared ready to

put an end to the logo redesign effort, agreed instead to revising the existing logo, which will get a slight upgrade courtesy of a new typeface and reorganization of the lettering.

Ms. Brandell did promise the council that a huge amount of money won't be spent changing all the city's signs, stationery and brochures. Instead, the new style guide will be used to update materials as they need to be replaced.

City Manager Alex McIntyre gave his strong support for the redesign effort, especially the style guide. "We put out crap," he said. "We look like an unprofessional organization."

City departments, he said, do not have unified design guidelines for materials they develop and therefore spend staff time that could be put to better use if Menlo Park had standards. "I would rather have us look more professional," he said. ■

### LITTLE LEAGUE

continued from page 5

just beyond the bullpen areas; removable perimeter fencing from the bullpen areas to foul poles; a permanent flag pole/foul pole in right field and removable foul pole in left field; a permanent electronic scoreboard; grading, drainage and irrigation improvements to the existing field area; and modification to existing path and walkways.

The Little League will pay for these facilities and agrees to donate \$27,500 to a fund for repairing the park tennis courts, plus 5 percent of the final construction costs up to a maximum of \$50,000 that will go toward "park beautifica-

tion improvements."

In 2012, voters overwhelmingly approved the Little League project. But after the vote, debate arose over just what the voters had said yes to. Atherton City Attorney Bill Conners said judges have found that details in the voter's guide arguments for and against a measure, as well as the so-called impartial analysis of the measure, are included in what voters approve when voting, not just the wording on the ballot. It was in the arguments against the project that the number of 200 seats had been raised.

"This is what the court cases say — you have to look at all the information," Mr. Conners told the council. ■

### DOWNING TREES

continued from page 5

"As homeowners," Councilwoman Anne Kasten said, speaking to the appellants, "you

have responsibilities, and one of them is to oversee the people who work for you." Forest management is also a responsibility and should be revisited every year, she added. ■

# Basketball coaches dismissed after alleged hazing incident

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

As the 2014 high school basketball season gets underway, the varsity and junior varsity teams at Woodside High School will be training under new head coaches.

The varsity team is also engaged in rebuilding its morale after a hazing incident that allegedly occurred in December, James Lianides, the superintendent of the Sequoia Union High School District, told the Almanac.

As classes resumed after the winter break, Principal Diane Burbank dismissed varsity head coach Doug Fountain and the junior varsity head coach following an investigation into an alleged hazing incident of two varsity players during a pre-season tournament in the city of Patterson, located southwest of Modesto in the Central Valley, according to Mr. Lianides.

District officials allege that members of the varsity team taped the mouths of two varsity team members, including one

freshman, applied makeup to their faces, and forced them to watch Spanish-language TV "for a period of time," Mr. Lianides said.

Mr. Fountain was allegedly aware of the incident and may have witnessed some of it, Mr. Lianides said. The junior varsity coach allegedly had been aware of it but did not intervene and did not report it, Mr. Lianides said.

Attorney Christopher Dolan, who is representing the family of one of the team members, provided a statement to the Almanac: "We have reached out to the district and hope we can work collaboratively to resolve these issues. The best interests of the children are to try and work with the school cooperatively and in a discrete manner. ... The family is hoping no legal action will be needed."

Mr. Fountain was in his second year as head coach and came to Woodside with a long track record and good references, Mr. Lianides said.

Mr. Fountain was in his sec-

ond year as head coach and came to Woodside with a long track record and good references, Mr. Lianides said.

An email from a parent triggered the investigation, Mr. Lianides said. A couple of days of investigation led to enough evidence to justify the dismissals, Mr. Lianides said. Ms. Burbank was not available for an interview.

Mr. Fountain was "certainly forthcoming (as to) what occurred," Mr. Lianides said.

The members of the varsity team, and parents of team members, have participated in three hours of a six-hour program on empathy and sensitivity in understanding others, Mr. Lianides said. Another three-hour session is ahead.

Woodside resident and former professional basketball player Rich Kelly has gotten involved to help rebuild morale on the team as the season gets underway, Mr. Lianides said.

The Almanac was unable to reach Mr. Fountain for comment. ■

## Couple arraigned in stolen Porsche case

A San Jose couple suspected of involvement in several Peninsula burglaries and the theft in September of a Porsche from a Portola Valley home pleaded not guilty to eight counts of residential burglary and related charges, according to San Mateo County prosecutors.

Juan Carlos Ortega-Ramos and Ashley Lynn Kirk, both 24 years old, entered their not-guilty pleas at a Jan. 15 arraignment before Judge John Grandsaert in San Mateo County Superior Court in Redwood City. Both remain in custody on \$500,000 bail. A preliminary hearing is set for Jan. 28 at 9 a.m.

A license-plate check on a Porsche 911S parked on a Bel-



Juan Ortega-Ramos and Ashley Lynn Kirk entered not-guilty pleas.

mont street on Sept. 11, 2013, led to a report that the car had been stolen earlier that day from a home on Hillbrook Drive in Portola Valley, prosecutors said. Detectives from the Sheriff's Office got involved and located and arrested Mr. Ramos and Ms. Kirk.

The couple worked as a team,

prosecutors said. Ms. Kirk worked for PetSmart and allegedly gathered information from customers boarding their pets at the San Carlos location while they were out of town. She would then pass that information on to Mr. Ramos, who then allegedly burgled the homes, stealing electronic equipment, jewelry and other property, including the Porsche, prosecutors said.

All the missing goods from the Hillbrook Drive burglary have been recovered, as have some goods connected to other burglaries, deputies said. Detectives are looking at the couple in connection with several other Peninsula burglaries, prosecutors said.

## Woman using fake license gets \$8,300 check from teller

A woman carrying a fake Florida driver's license walked into the Chase bank in Ladera on Dec. 30 and convinced a teller to give her a cashier's check for \$8,300 drawn from the account of a woman living in New York, according to a report from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

According to the report, the suspect presented to the teller a

false Florida driver's license and identified herself as the New York resident, but said that she could not remember her account number. The license did not include a photo, deputies said.

The teller looked up the account number for her, withdrew the \$8,300, made out the check and handed it to the woman with no further

inquiries into her identity, the report says.

The manager of the Ladera branch declined to comment except to say that Chase officials were working on the case with sheriff's investigators.

The bank reimbursed the New York resident for the full amount of the check, the report says.

The New York resident apparently lived in Florida in 2004, and claims that the suspect used her Florida identity information to reproduce a driver's license, the report says.



## REAL ESTATE TRENDS

by Samia Cullen

### Annual Local Real Estate Market Activity and Trends

The local housing market experienced another year of exceptional strength in 2013. The Bay Area saw stellar growth with IPOs and buyouts creating a new wave of millionaires. Private sales were mostly in the upper-end market and are not factored into my statistics.

Low mortgage rates and job stability continue to motivate buyers. The increase of foreign cash investors and scarce inventories created a bidding frenzy. As a result, most homes saw multiple offers with cash buyers dominating the winning bids.

In 2013 single-family home sales totaled 396 in Palo Alto, 336 in Menlo Park, 97 in Atherton, 78 in Portola Valley and 110 in Woodside.

The median single family home price increased 22% in Palo Alto to \$2,100,000, 12% in Menlo Park to \$1,658,000, 16% in Atherton to \$3,575,000, 3% in Portola Valley to \$2,268,000 and 28% in Woodside to \$2,052,000.

The townhouse/condominium market was also strong in Palo Alto with the median sale price increasing 7%.

Statistic sources are provided by MLS deemed reliable but not guaranteed and exclude private sales.

Menlo Park saw a median price decrease of 5%.

#### Looking forward:

The local housing market is poised for continued growth and there are positive elements in play that provide some reasons for optimism and dispel the worry about a bubble market. Interest rates are still extremely low, unemployment is inching down, and buyers are investing more into purchases of new properties. Higher down payments suggest that buyers don't intend to make the same mistakes the second time around.

Real estate has always been a great way to build wealth and financial stability. I project a 10% increase in home prices this coming year. But make sure to complete the necessary detailed analysis before you decide how much to bid on that house or whether to bid at all.

For sellers, there is no better time to sell your home. For buyers, if you have a stable income, it is good time to buy before further increases in interest rates and house prices occur.

I offer complimentary staging when I list your home. Contact me at Alain Pinel Realtors (650) 384-5392 or send me an email at scullen@apr.com. Follow my blog at samiacullen.com

### WOODSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT Woodside Preschool Registration 2014

Please join us for a Woodside Preschool Open House and Visitation **Friday January 31st from 8:30-10:00 a.m.** (adults only)

Woodside Elementary School District will be accepting applications for the **Fall 2014 Preschool Classes beginning February 1, 2014**

Woodside Preschool is a half-day, fee-based program running from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (optional Extended Day available). Children must be at least 2 years, 7 months old as of September 1st, 2014 in order to apply. Preschool students are placed in either the Preschool or Pre-K class based on age and availability. Priority is given to children living within the Woodside School District boundaries.

Interested families are encouraged to attend our Open House and fill out an application. Applications will be available for pick up at the elementary school office or download online beginning February 1st. For more information regarding Woodside Preschool please contact **Tom Limbert** at **tlimbert@woodsideschool.us, (650) 851-1571 ext 250** or visit our website at **www.woodside.k12.ca.us**



The **online guide to Menlo Park businesses**

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

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

Visit [ShopMenloPark.com](http://ShopMenloPark.com) today

## Atherton returns weddings, corporate and social events to Holbrook-Palmer Park

By Barbara Wood  
Special to the Almanac

For the first time since they were banned in December 2011, weddings and other large social and corporate events will be allowed to return to Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton.

At its Jan. 15 meeting, a divided Atherton City Council voted to award a contract to Catering By Dana to coordinate events in the park. The company will have an office in the park and do the booking and event set-up and clean-up, but will not have exclusive catering rights.

In return, the company will get between 40 and 50 percent of the revenues from the event bookings, which Community Services Director Michael Kashiwagi reported had averaged \$276,000 a year between 2007 and 2011.

With a similar income from bookings, the town would earn at least \$120,000 a year from the use of the park, he wrote in a report to the council.

Catering by Dana, said Public Works Superintendent Steve Tyler, has a lot of experience catering events of all types in the park. The company was the only bidder for the contract.

The vote on awarding the contract was 3-2, with council members Rick DeGolia, Cary Wiest and Elizabeth Lewis voting yes and council members Jim Dobbie and Bill Widmer voting no.

Councilman Dobbie, who

has been a major proponent of the ban on large events in the park, said the town could bring in just as much money by renting out the town-owned home in the park, traditionally occupied by the city manager. Current City Manager George Rodericks has chosen not to live in the house.

"We're basically going ahead to destroy the use of the park," Mr. Dobbie said.

Councilman Bill Widmer went even farther. "The first and foremost users of the park should be those who pay for it," the taxpayers of Atherton, he said. The park, he said, is not meant to raise revenue. "If it's going to be that way, we should just sell it," he said.

Councilwoman Lewis said the rules the event coordinators will be asked to follow should protect residents' use of the park while allowing the larger events.

"We cannot close the park to non-residents," she said. "It's foolish for us to turn revenue away."

The council authorized the city manager and city attorney to make refinements in the contract with Catering by Dana to make sure safeguards, such as requirements for valet parking for events on certain days or over certain sizes, are in place. The town will have priority for annual events, such as Art in the Park, the Easter egg hunt, the jazz festival and the holiday tea. ■

**'We're basically going ahead to destroy the use of the park.'**

COUNCILMAN JIM DOBBIE



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

### Deep appreciation

Emily Coffee, 3, kisses her mom Brook's hand while holding her sister Grace's hand during a flag-raising ceremony starting the year-long Portola Valley 50th anniversary celebration. Brook Coffee says she moved to Portola Valley to "be in a rural area, be closer to nature, and have my children raised outdoors to form a deep appreciation and connection to it." The event took place at the Historic Schoolhouse at Portola Valley Town Center.

## Atherton cuts tennis fee for residents

By Barbara Wood  
Special to the Almanac

Tennis is on sale in Atherton.

Atherton residents who want to buy keys to use the Holbrook-Palmer tennis courts will now pay only \$50 per year instead of the \$150 that had been charged. Non-residents, however, will continue to pay \$200 per year to use the courts.

"We're wanting to have more people to come to the park," said council member Elizabeth Lewis, calling the courts "underutilized." Council member Bill

Widmer agreed. "I'd like to see the fee as low as possible," he said during the council's Jan. 15 meeting, when it voted on the new fee.

The \$50 was a compromise between what the Parks and Recreation Commission had suggested, an \$100 annual fee, and what Public Works Superintendent Steve Tyler had suggested at the council's urging, a \$25 annual fee.

A \$27,500 contribution that will be made by the Menlo-Atherton Little League toward the tennis court maintenance should help the town pay for the care of the courts even if revenues fall with the lower fees. Mr. Tyler reported

that the cost of maintaining the courts averages about \$10,000 a year when long-term maintenance is factored in.

The council also voted to end the exclusive contract with Alan Margot to teach classes on the Holbrook-Palmer courts. Instead the council gave Mr. Margot a six-month contract to teach tennis clinics in the park and will see if other local tennis teachers want to bid for the contract when the six months are up.

The vote by the council was unanimous, one of the few items of the evening that all the council members could agree on. ■

## Town hikes green-waste rates

By Barbara Wood  
Special to the Almanac

Garbage rates may be going up again in Atherton, but this time the increases are reserved for those residents who use more than five green waste containers each week, with a smaller increase for those who use three or four of the containers.

The town wants to recover most of its costs for having garbage and recycling picked up, and despite recent increases, it still hasn't reached that goal for the green waste

containers, Finance Director Robert Barron told the council at its Jan. 15 meeting.

It costs the town about \$19 to have each green waste container picked up and processed; but the current rate, after the two free green waste containers each user is allowed, is \$10 each for the third and fourth containers and \$15 each for containers five and above.

The proposed rates would increase to \$11 for the third and fourth containers and \$18 for containers five and above.

A public hearing on the rate increase will be held at the council's March 19 meeting. ■

## Red Cross seeks nominees for hero awards

Each year the American Red Cross honors local heroes nominated by the community. The deadline to make nominations for this year's May 29 event for San Mateo County is Jan. 31.

The Bay Area Chapter is looking for people who have shown courage, dedication and character through acts of heroism and kindness in several categories including: lifesaving hero (adult and youth who used skills such as CPR or first aid to save a life); act of courage hero; act of kindness and philanthropy hero; community service hero (individual and organization); and animal rescue hero.

### ■ BRIEFS

Nominees must work or reside in San Mateo County and have performed their heroic action in 2013.

Go to [redcross.org/SMCHeroes](http://redcross.org/SMCHeroes) to make a nomination or learn more. To become a sponsor of the breakfast, send an email to [Rachelle.Ungaretti@RedCross.org](mailto:Rachelle.Ungaretti@RedCross.org).

### Woodside preschool registration opens

Woodside Elementary School District will accept applications

for fall preschool classes beginning Feb. 1. Parents are invited to visit the preschool for an open house from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 31 (adults only).

The preschool is a half-day, fee-based program that runs from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Children must be at least 2 years, 7 months old as of Sept. 1 to attend.

Priority is given to children living within the Woodside School District boundaries. Applications will be available for pickup at the school office or to download online Feb. 1.

For more information, call Tom Limbert at 851-1571, ext. 250, or visit [www.woodside.k12.ca.us](http://www.woodside.k12.ca.us).



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

## Off the wall

Keith Silvers, 21, of San Francisco, does a "Fakie Smith" grind at Burgess Skate Park in the Menlo Park Civic Center on Friday.

## Meetings ahead for charter school

Backers of a proposal for a new charter high school in the Sequoia Union High School District are holding two community and fundraising meetings, both at 7 p.m. — on Thursday, Jan. 23, at the Bethany Lutheran Church at 1095 Cloud Ave. in West Menlo Park, and on Monday, Feb. 3, in the Fair Oaks Library at 2510 Middlefield Road in Redwood City.

Guest speakers include Mario DeAnda, director of post-secondary programs for Big Picture Learning. The nonprofit oversees a network of some 100 charter high schools, with headquarters in Rhode Island and San Diego and offices in the Netherlands and Australia. Representatives from MetWest,

a Big Picture high school, will be at the meeting.

The school will be seeking a charter from the Sequoia district, spokeswoman Charlene Margot told the Almanac.

Academic classes are a part of the program at a Big Picture school, but a principal focus is discovering what really interests students and crafting paths toward futures based on those interests, whether academic or career-oriented. Project-based learning, a focus on the individual student, and internships driven by student initiative are central to the program.

A Big Picture school seeks seventh- and eighth-graders who are disengaged in the traditional school environment

and face the prospect of not graduating from high school, Ms. Margot told the Almanac in 2011.

Among the local advisers: San Mateo County schools Superintendent Anne E. Campbell; Linda Darling-Hammond, a professor of education at Stanford University; Thomas Mohr, newly elected to the board of the community college district; Pat Gemma, a former Sequoia district superintendent; and Philippe Rey, the executive director of Adolescent Counseling Services.

■ Go to [tinyurl.com/oby9p6x](http://tinyurl.com/oby9p6x) for more information about the meetings.

■ Go to [sequoiabigpicture.org](http://sequoiabigpicture.org) for more on the proposed school.

## No change in city's 2-track rail policy

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

The Menlo Park City Council did not change its rail policy at its Jan. 14 meeting, but not because council members voted to retain it.

Instead, the council was told that San Mateo County Transportation Authority officials are no longer requiring the policy change before the agency will fund studying ways to have Ravenswood Avenue cross over or under the railroad

tracks.

The city had been told by the transportation agency that a grant of \$750,000 sought by the city to study building a "grade separation" at Ravenswood Avenue and the tracks depended on the city's leaving the option open to someday considering a third set of tracks in the city. The set of passing tracks could support future development of high-speed rail.

A position statement adopted by the council in October 2012

specifically rules out a set of "passing rails" through Menlo Park, and it was that policy the council had been asked to consider modifying.

Several speakers had come to the meeting to urge the council to retain the existing policy.

Once the study has been done, the city can decide if it wants to apply for construction funding to make the grade change.

Councilwoman Catherine Carlton said the study is "to make the intersection safer. It's not about high-speed rail." ■

# Plans unveiled for new Pope-Chaucer bridge

By Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto Weekly

Even during a prolonged drought, the threat of flooding rarely strays far from the minds of residents around the fickle San Francisco Creek, which 16 years ago washed over several Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto neighborhoods and inflicted about \$28 million in damage.

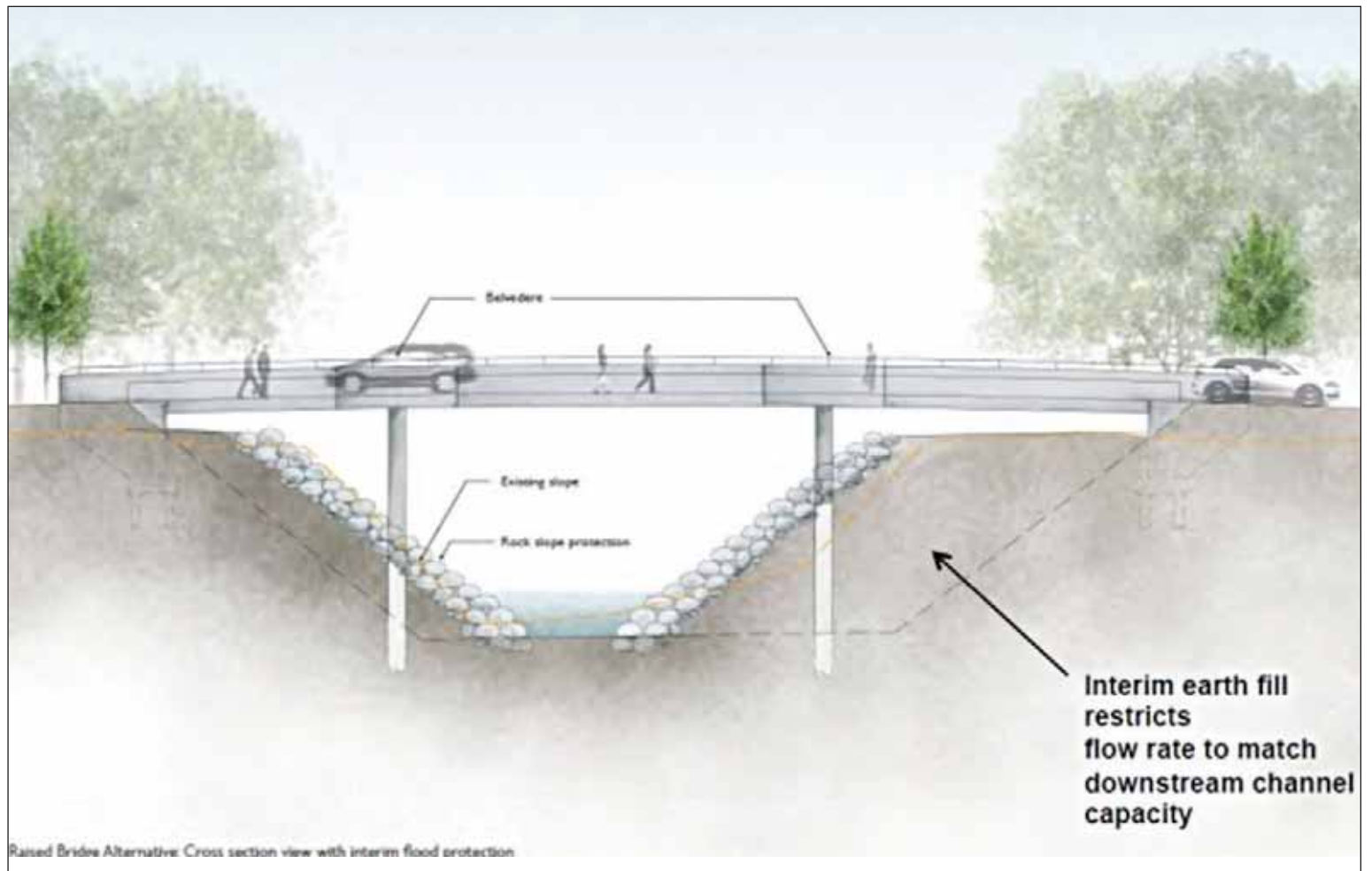
On Jan. 15, more than 100 residents who live near the most flood-prone bridge learned that help is finally on the way.

Officials from the San Francisco Creek Joint Powers Authority and the Santa Clara Valley Water District unveiled two possible alternatives for rebuilding the Pope-Chaucer Street Bridge, which allows the least amount of water to flow underneath out of all the bridges connecting Palo Alto and Menlo Park. If things go as planned, upgrades could begin as early as the summer of 2015.

For residents in the most vulnerable neighborhoods, including Crescent Park and Duveneck/St. Francis in Palo Alto and the Willows in Menlo Park, the help can't come soon enough. Numerous residents at last week's meeting at the East Palo Alto Academy in Menlo Park cited the damage their homes suffered in February 1998, when they were pummeled by the largest flood on record and water overflowed.

Either of the alternatives unveiled last week would protect the area from floods of this sort, called a "100-year flood," which by definition has a 1 percent chance of occurring during any given year.

One option would raise the bridge and portions of streets leading up to the bridge by 4 feet, a design that would increase water capacity but would also require the construction of retaining walls in front of four corner properties near the bridge to accommodate the grading. The other option would leave the bridge at its current grade and avoid the retaining walls, but would



A rendering of Alternative 1 for the Pope-Chaucer bridge shows the raised configuration of the bridge.

Rendering courtesy of San Francisco Creek Joint Powers Authority

require higher flood walls.

Kevin Sibley, civil engineer with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, called the "raised bridge" alternative the "standard engineer design." The water district is the main funding source for the Pope-Chaucer project, with most of the money coming from Measure B, a bond measure voters passed in 2012. Mr. Sibley said this design would raise both the bridge and portions of Palo Alto Avenue and Woodland Avenue.

Another improvement would be construction of flood walls, ranging from 2 to 6 feet high (the height varies because of the shifting road alignment). Once all these improvements are in place, the residents around the bridge would no longer be required to purchase federal flood insurance.

The big drawback for this design, he said, would be the

## Officials weigh two alternatives for new bridge between Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

retaining walls built in front of the four corner properties.

Because of this, Mr. Sibley said, the water district is also considering the alternative, which would rebuild the bridge at a slightly higher elevation than exists now. Because this would not provide the same level of flood protection as a raised bridge, it would ultimately require officials to build higher flood walls — about 7 feet high.

The creek authority, which includes elected officials from Palo Alto, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and the water dis-

tricts from Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, is also looking at rebuilding the Newell Road bridge between Palo Alto and East Palo Alto and, ultimately, the bridges at Middlefield Road and University Avenue.

Unlike last year's meeting on the Newell Road bridge, which attracted widespread criticism and a wide range of opinions about the design of the new bridge, the public hearing on the Pope-Chaucer bridge was a relatively subdued affair despite a standing-room-only crowd. Most people welcomed the fact that something is finally getting done, though a few asked questions about the project's impact on trees and area aesthetics.

Len Materman, executive director of the creek authority, said the authority has the funding to perform flood-control work between the Bay and U.S. 101 and to widen channels and rebuild

numerous bridges, including the Pope-Chaucer Bridge.

Other measures that would be necessary to provide 100-year-flood protection — including flood walls near the Pope-Chaucer Bridge — would need to rely on future funding sources. The creek authority, he said, is now evaluating possible tax measures that it can send to the voters in 2016 or 2017 to pay for these improvements.

Officials from the water district and the creek authority plan to hold another meeting on Jan. 29 to solicit more input about the design of the new Pope-Chaucer Bridge. If all goes as planned, Mr. Materman said, all the environmental analyses will be completed by May 2015, paving the way for construction to begin. Barring unforeseen complications, it would take about a year to reconstruct the bridge, he said. ■

## Coming soon to Menlo Park: Borrone Marketbar

By Elena Kadvany

The Borrone family's local restaurant empire is about to get a little bigger — but not much farther flung — with its latest expansion, The Borrone Marketbar, slated to open next door to Cafe Borrone in Menlo Park early this year.

A website for the sibling res-

taurant to Menlo Park's favorite cafe is up and running in anticipation of an "early 2014" opening. The owners could not be immediately reached for comment, but a message was posted on [borronemarketbar.com](http://borronemarketbar.com).

Below a iPhone panorama photo of the space-in-progress is a description from co-owners Marina Borrone and

chef Josh Pebbles about what MarketBar is all about:

"The 'Market' will feature a rotisserie, house-made focaccia, full family meals, fresh pasta and pastries for our guests to take to their favorite table. The 'Bar Eatery' side is a casual space where you can enjoy a classic Italian cocktail, an oyster, a bowl of ravioli, or savory meats

while soaking in the atmosphere: a little of the old world mixed with a dash of the new.

"Our menus are designed to be small, and by nature they change consistently. When working with organic, sustainable food, quality wins over quantity and convenience. The menu will always be reflective of the current condition of the dirt, the weather, the animals, the season of harvest and even the

chance of an occasional coyote attack that might enjoy Josh's turkeys before he has the chance to prepare them."

The Almanac reported about this time last year that Ms. Borrone and Mr. Pebbles would take over the space vacated by Italian restaurant Cedro Ristorante.

See Elena Kadvany's Peninsula Foodist blog on [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com).

# ADVANCED TRUSTEE STRATEGIES®

invites you to Free Educational Workshops

## The 7 BIGGEST MISTAKES® TRUSTEES OFTEN MAKE

Congratulations! You've established your own Trust, the first step to securing your financial future. Today, many people have created trusts as a means of ensuring the orderly transition of their estate. A trust can serve as a sophisticated management & investment planning vehicle in a complex world. Most persons named as trustees do not have the required skills and knowledge demanded by today's courts. Only a few fully understand the obligations and liabilities associated with serving as a trustee. The role of a trustee requires more than simply signing documents. This workshop will provide essential training for trustees & trustors of living trusts.

### Who Should Attend?

Persons who have created trusts or are named as trustees of a trust.

### What Will You Learn?

- ✓ Avoid Common Trustee Mistakes
- ✓ Federal Regulations for Trustees
- ✓ Trustee Planning Techniques
- ✓ Why Living Trusts May Fail
- ✓ 2014 Tax Changes
- ✓ New 'Portability' Tax Break for Living Trusts
- ✓ IRA's Double Taxation



**CLASSES ARE FILLING UP**

Please contact us at [www.atsfinancial.com](http://www.atsfinancial.com)

### MENLO PARK (PM)

Stanford Park Hotel  
100 El Camino Real  
Wednesday, January 22nd  
6:00pm - 8:45pm

### PALO ALTO (AM)

Sheraton  
625 El Camino Real  
Thursday, January 23rd  
10:00am - 12:45pm

## Capital Gains Tax Preventing You From Selling Your Property?

The capital gains tax problem may get worse as the nation pays for: 2 wars, Multiple Stimulus Packages, Troubled Asset Relief Programs, Bailouts... A slowing economy with record layoffs may mean a very slow recovery for real estate prices and greater pressure on rents. Through the use of special trusts that have existed for over 40 years, you may be able to sell appreciated homes, rental property, land, commercial property and stock while potentially avoiding capital gains taxes and recapture taxes.



### THROUGH THE USE OF VARIOUS TRUSTS, WE CAN SHOW YOU HOW TO POTENTIALLY:

- Sell appreciated rentals, homes, & commercial properties without paying capital gains tax
- Increase cash flow
- Reduce or eliminate death tax
- Avoid estate taxes
- Local real estate market outlook

### PALO ALTO (AM)

SHERATON  
625 El Camino Real  
Wednesday, January 22nd  
10:00am - 12:00pm

### PALO ALTO (PM)

SHERATON  
625 El Camino Real  
Thursday, January 23rd  
6:00pm - 8:00pm

ATS Advanced Trustee Strategies has been educating the public with the "The Seven Biggest Mistakes Trustees Often Make" seminar and "The Advanced Trustee Workshop" for over 18 years. We are committed to educating our clients on strategies to help them not only build their wealth but help to protect it from taxes and preserve it for their heirs. There is no guarantee that the strategies discussed during this presentation will yield positive results.

### Ask About The Upcoming 2 Day Advanced Trustee Training Workshop!

- Topics Include:*
- How to Sell Appreciated Property Without Paying Capital Gains Tax
  - Avoiding the Pitfalls of B Trust Funding
  - IRA Regulations and Avoiding Double Taxation
  - Understanding the 2014 Tax Laws
  - Dispelling the Myths of Annuities
  - Fiduciary Responsibilities of Trustees

**ADVANCED WORKSHOP** Stanford Park • 100 El Camino Real • Tuesday, Feb. 18th and Wednesday, Feb. 19th • 9am-4pm

There will be a discussion of insurance products during the 2 day workshop.

Reservations are required and seating is limited.

Call Mindi at (888) 446-8275 or  
(650) 243-2224 or [rsvp@atsfinancial.com](mailto:rsvp@atsfinancial.com)



Sandeep Varma is a registered representative with and securities & advisory services are offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor, Member FINRA/SIPC. Sandeep Varma - CA Insurance License #0790710. (12-2013).



Sandeep Varma  
ATS Wealth Strategist

ATS Advanced Trustee Strategies Proudly Presents:  
*Market Outlook 2014*



# How We are Managing Money Differently in 2014

Managing investment portfolios today takes thinking outside the box. We're still recovering from a deep recession and a financial crisis that caused stocks, bonds and real estate to all move down together. In this seminar we'll be exploring what we think are the themes that will have the most effect, positive and negative, on the economic recovery and market performance and how we plan to manage money to mitigate today's risks and capitalize on today's opportunities.

## **PALO ALTO (PM)**

**Sheraton Hotel**  
625 El Camino Real  
January 28th, 2014  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

## **MENLO PARK (AM)**

**Stanford Park Hotel**  
100 El Camino Real  
January 29th, 2014  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm



**Dryden Pence**  
*Chief Investment Officer*  
Pence Wealth Management

**Reservations are required & seating is limited.**

**Call Mindi at (888) 446-8275  
or [rsvp@atsfinancial.com](mailto:rsvp@atsfinancial.com)**



**Sandeep Varma**  
*President*  
ATS Advanced Trustee Strategies

The economic forecasts set forth in this presentation may not develop as predicted and there can be no guarantee that strategies promoted will be successful. Dryden Pence and Sandeep Varma are registered representatives with and securities & advisory services are offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor, Member FINRA/SIPC. Dryden Pence - CA Insurance License #0F82198. Sandeep Varma - CA Insurance License #0790710. (1-2014).

# School board to appoint Laura Rich replacement

By Renee Batti  
Almanac News Editor

Residents of the Menlo Park City School District interested in serving an eight-month term on the school board have until Feb. 7 to apply for appointment to the seat left vacant by the resignation last week of longtime member Laura Linkletter Rich.

The school board voted on Jan. 14 to appoint a member to serve out the term, which ends in December, rather than call for a special election. Ms. Rich recused herself from the discussion and the vote.

Before making their decision, board members considered the cost of an election — about \$32,000 if held in June — and the fact that a person elected at that time wouldn't take office until August.

Elected to the board in 1998, Ms. Rich is the longest-serving trustee in the district's history, according to district records. She announced her resignation last week, citing increasing family commitments that required her to be out of town frequently.

The Jan. 14 meeting was her last — her resignation was effective at midnight that day. But before she stepped down, a stream of current and former board colleagues praised her for both her 15 years of service and the energy and spirit she brought to the work of district leadership.

Former state senator and current Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian also stepped to the podium to recognize her

work in the district and as the district's representative on the California School Boards Association, which addresses statewide issues involving education.

## To apply

The district will accept applications, in the form of a candidate statement of no more than 400 words and a statement providing information concerning residency and age, until 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7. Applications must be submitted to the district office at 181 Encinal Ave. in Atherton in hard copy and with an original signature.

The candidate statement should include a statement of purpose and description of qualifications, and any other relevant information, according to the district.

To be eligible for the position, a candidate must be 18 or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of the district, and a registered voter.

A candidate information night is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, in the district office TERC building.

The board will interview candidates at a special meeting set for Monday, Feb. 10, and is expected to make the appointment after the interviews and a discussion; the public may comment prior to the vote.

If a candidate is unable to attend the meeting to be interviewed, he or she may participate through a conference phone call.

The appointee will be sworn into office at the board's regular meeting on March 11.

For more information, call the district office at 321-7140. ▀



Michelle Le/The Almanac  
Laura Rich



## 'The Park Ranger's House'

Artist Jim Caldwell of Woodside, who calls his latest oil painting "The Park Ranger's House," says he loves "the contrast between the crisp white structure, the deep green cypresses behind it and the multicolored cliffs in front." He says the painting was inspired by a recent hike in the Marin Headlands, starting at Fort Cronkite. Mr. Caldwell's paintings are shown at the Woodside Gallery, located at 3056 Woodside Road in Woodside.



Harsh weather shouldn't mean harsh skin

## Woman charged with DUI in Menlo Park injury crash

The 26-year-old driver in a crash that left her and a passenger seriously injured has been charged with multiple counts related to driving under the influence of alcohol, according to Menlo Park police.

The pair were seriously injured in a two-vehicle accident at Bayfront Expressway and Chrysler Drive at around 8:30 p.m. Friday (Jan. 17). A 16-month-old child in their vehicle was treated and released from the hospital, according to the police.

The man and woman were trapped inside their car and extricated by Menlo Park Fire Protection District firefighters. They were taken to a local hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries, police said. The driver, a Redwood City resident, will be booked into San Mateo County jail.

The occupants of the second vehicle were not injured.

Police have not yet released names. Witnesses can call Sgt. Ed Soares of the Menlo Park Police Department at 330-6360.

Just because weather conditions turn harsh this time of year doesn't mean that your skin has to as well. Stanford Dermatology offers the most advanced technologies for diagnosing and providing the highest quality care and treatment for all skin conditions and diseases, from the common to the more complex, including:



- Acne
- Eczema
- Psoriasis
- Hair loss
- Nail problems
- Skin cancer
- Sun damage skin
- Moles or other skin growths

Make your skin a priority this winter and schedule a consultation today at one of Stanford Dermatology's three convenient locations in Redwood City, Palo Alto or Portola Valley.

Make an appointment directly online at  
[stanfordhospital.org/dermappointment](http://stanfordhospital.org/dermappointment)  
or call **650.723.6316**.



**Stanford** Hospital  
MEDICINE & Clinics

# Most are pleased with proposed high school district map

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

About 20 members of the public showed up on Jan. 15 for the school board meeting for the Sequoia Union High School District. The discussion topic: a revised map that, in addressing a gradual surge in enrollment, considers exactly which households should be assigned to a particular high school, starting with the 2015-16 school year.

The low turnout was significant, given the high turnouts and high energy demonstrated at previous meetings on this subject. Not that there was a lack of energy, just less unhappiness. The remapping of a district of 200 square miles and four high schools, of around 2,000 students each, elicited expressions of concern only from residents

of two streets in North Fair Oaks. "That you have gotten this issue down to two streets is heroic," board member Chris Thomsen said in commending Superintendent Jim Lianides and his staff.

The new maps would put the entirety of the Las Lomitas and Ravenswood City school districts in the Menlo-Atherton High School community, and would reassign part of North Fair Oaks to Sequoia High. Woodside High would divest the small portion of the Las Lomitas district whose households had guaranteed admission to M-A (to keep the Las Lomitas cohort intact). Woodside High would acquire parts of the Sequoia High district in Redwood City.

The Sequoia district is facing enrollment-growth projections of at least 25 percent by the 2020-21 school year. Significant growth

is coming from neighborhoods assigned to Menlo-Atherton, adding pressure to a school that is built out and sought after for its consistently high academic performance. M-A, now at 2,000 students, will bear the brunt with expectations of over 2,600. Woodside High would grow to 2,000 from about 1,800.

The concentration at M-A reflects the priority coming out of impassioned community discussions held in 2013: do not break up middle-school cohorts. The new map follows through on that priority. M-A would become home for three intact K-8 districts: Menlo Park City; Las Lomitas, which draws from Atherton, Menlo Park, West Menlo Park and Ladera; and Ravenswood City, which draws from East Palo Alto and Menlo Park east of U.S. 101.

The board consented to Mr.

Lianides' using the map to start another round of community discussions. A task force is outlining the physical changes needed on each campus to accommodate the enrollment surge. With that complete, the board will have a frame to consider a bond measure to put before voters, either in a June or November 2014 election.

As for the revised map, speakers from the Ravenswood district lauded the board for assigning it to M-A. The revised map would definitively end involuntary busing of East Palo Alto students to Woodside and Carlmont high schools.

The busing, a result of a court-ordered desegregation plan that expired in the 1980s, continued in practice for three decades but is now out of favor in the Ravenswood community. The Sequoia board enacted a policy in the fall of 2013 that ended the busing for the 2014-15 school year; the revised map will essentially set that policy in stone.

## Not won over

The one pocket of dissatisfaction, the North Fair Oaks residents, centered on retaining

M-A as the home school for households between Atherton and 8th Avenue, but reassigning to Sequoia High residents north of that line, including 6th and 7th avenues. The proper dividing line, those residents said, is 5th Avenue, an arterial thoroughfare.

These residents, though located in the K-8 school district in Redwood City, said they bought homes with the expectation of being assigned to M-A. They have Menlo Park ZIP codes, and M-A is within walking distance, whereas Sequoia is a bus ride away, they said. The trajectory for their children has been K-8 in private school and high school at M-A. "They send their kids to public schools if they believe in the public schools," said resident Hugo Vliegen, who lives on 9th Avenue.

"You speak of keeping communities intact and that is what (concerns us)," said a resident who went by the name of Eli. "Fifth Avenue is the obvious dividing line, not 8th Avenue."

Mr. Lianides suggested that for a time, students from these households use open-enrollment to request M-A and be given head-of-the-line admission privileges.

As for drawing the line at 8th Avenue, he justified his decision with numbers. A majority of the high-school-age students on 6th and 7th avenues attend Woodside and Sequoia, whereas the reverse is true on 8th Avenue, Mr. Lianides said. A majority of K-8 students on 6th and 7th avenues go to public schools.

The district has had a working definition of community: the middle-school cohort. The Avenues, with its public and private choices for K-8, is one neighborhood where that definition gets complicated, board member Alan Sarver noted. "Any way we end up drawing that border is going to be a division of a very diverse community."

Overcrowding at M-A is also a key concern, and every decision has an impact, Mr. Lianides said. "I think we have to be very, very careful about what we do." ■



WOMEN & CANCER QUARTERLY TALK SERIES

## Robotic Surgery for Gynecologic Cancer

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

6:30pm – 8:00pm

Arrillaga Alumni Center

326 Galvez Street

Stanford, CA 94305

Speaker:



**Amer Karam, MD**

Associate Clinical Professor, Associate Director Division of

Gynecologic Oncology, Stanford Hospital & Clinics

The Stanford Women's Cancer Center and the Stanford Health Library announce a new quarterly series featuring talks on women's cancers.

This talk will focus on the very current robotic surgical techniques used for treating ovarian, endometrial and cervical cancers and its advantages and outcomes.

This event is free and open to the public.

To register call **650.498.7826** or register online at [healthlibrary.stanford.edu/lectures](http://healthlibrary.stanford.edu/lectures)



**STANFORD**  
CANCER CENTER

A NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE-DESIGNATED CANCER CENTER



## Matched CareGivers



*"There's no place like home."*

When you, or someone you care about, needs assistance... you can count on us to be there. We provide Peninsula families with top, professional caregivers. Call now (650) 839-2273 [www.matchedcaregivers.com](http://www.matchedcaregivers.com)

**express**

**Fresh news delivered daily**

Sign up today at [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com)

# Commission: Home doesn't fit in with neighborhood

By Barbara Wood  
Special to the Almanac

■ MENLO PARK

The architect of a two-story 3,000-square-foot Mediterranean-style home on Middle Avenue was sent back to the drawing board by Menlo Park's Planning Commission on Jan. 13, despite the fact that the proposed stucco and tile-roofed home did not violate any city rules and no one had complained about it.

Commissioners said the house would just not fit in with its neighbors, one-story bungalows.

The home planned for 865 Middle Ave. would be the first two-story home in the immediate area. The owner, Shahrokh Satvatmanesh, said he does not plan to live there. The house had to undergo the commissioners' scrutiny because the lot is only 50 feet wide in a zone that requires 65 feet. The existing one-story home would be demolished.

"It's a real change in the neighborhood," said Commissioner Henry Riggs.

"It just looks odd next to the houses around it," said Commission Chair John Kadvanj. "There's no complaints, but that's a pretty low bar."

After failing to get more than two votes approving the design, those of commissioners Katherine Strehl and Katie Ferrick, the seven commissioners voted unanimously to continue consideration of the home to a future meeting to give the architect, Farhad Ashrafi, time

to modify the plans.

Commissioners expressed frustration at the city's lack of design guidelines that might help avoid similar situations.

"Regardless of the neighborhood, regardless of the context, we seem to get the same architecture" submitted for approval, said Commissioner John Onken. "Context is very important to this," he said. "Context is important enough to deny this."

But Commissioner Ferrick said that because the city has no architectural control guidelines, "I just don't think there's a basis to deny this." Commissioner Ferrick said she also felt the fact that the home was going to be sold seemed to have swayed the commissioners. "I do feel like the conversation shifted dramatically when the question was asked whether or not he was going to live in it," she said.

But Commissioner Ben Eiref, who had said the proposed home "is going to stick out like a sore thumb," insisted the commission was just doing its job.

"I'm really siding with the people of Menlo Park and the neighborhood," he said.

Immediately after sending the proposal back, the commissioners unanimously approved a different, but similar, home designed by the same architect at 1015 Atkinson Lane, citing the presence of other similar two-story homes nearby. ■

Arthur Sullivan and W. S. Gilbert. Jan. 31-Feb. 15, Fridays and Saturdays. All shows are at 8 p.m. except for Saturday, Feb. 15, when it's at 2 p.m. \$10-20. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. www.savoyards.stanford.edu

**Stanford TAPS: 'Goliath'** Stanford University Theater and Performance Studies and Division of Dance is putting

## On Stage

**'Rx' at the Dragon Theatre** "Rx" is a play by Kate Fodor, directed by Jeanie Smith, about a pill that relieves all the stress and strains of life. Jan. 16-Feb. 9, Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. \$30. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.dragon-productions.net

**Stanford Savoyards** presents "The Mikado," a comic opera originally done by

See CALENDAR, page 16

## Showing the flag

Danna Breen unfurls Portola Valley's 50th anniversary flag during a ceremony Jan. 16 signaling the start of a nine-month celebration. Ms. Breen is co-chair of the anniversary activities. Looking on are Mayor Ann Wengert, center, and celebration committee co-chair Cindie White. The flag-raising took place at the Historic Schoolhouse at Town Center.



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

## CALENDAR

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

### Special Events

#### Transportation at Encinal & Laurel Schools

Menlo Park City School District Transportation Dept. hosts a town hall meeting about traffic, student commutes, safety and parking at Encinal and Laurel schools. Topics relating to how students and community members get to and from school safely will be discussed. Jan. 23, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Encinal Elementary School Large Multipurpose Room, 195 Encinal Ave., Atherton. www.district.mpcsd.org

#### Ravenswood Family Health Center

will break ground on Jan. 22, launching construction of a permanent health center to be completed in April 2015. 2-4 p.m. Free. Ravenswood Family Health Center, 1885 Bay Road, East Palo Alto. Call 650-330-7418. www.ravenswoodfhc.org

#### Sequoia 'Big Picture' High School Community Meeting

The proposed Sequoia Big Picture High School is an alternative education model projected to open this fall. Learn about the school at this community meeting. Jan. 23, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. www.eventbrite.com/e/community-meeting-sequoia-big-picture-high-school-tickets-10030795379

#### Tribute to Billie Holiday

Jazz vocalist Cheryl Bennett-Scales and jazz pianist Bennett Roth-Newell will celebrate Billie Holiday with a performance sponsored by the Friends of the Menlo Park Library. Feb. 1, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Menlo Park City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2530. www.menloparklibrary.org

### Community Events

#### Care for Caregivers

Lifetree Cafe Menlo Park hosts an hour-long conversation on the demands of caregiving and how to cope with being a caregiver. Jan. 22, 7-8 p.m. Free. Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-854-5897. www.facebook.com/LifetreeCafeMP

#### 'Where Is God When Life Turns Tough?'

Lifetree Cafe Menlo Park hosts an hour-long conversation exploring religious faith. Jan. 29, 7-8 p.m. Free. Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-854-5897. www.facebook.com/LifetreeCafeMP

#### Portola Valley Farmers' Market

runs Thursdays, year-round. 2-5 p.m., 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. www.portolavalleyfarmersmarket.com

### Classes/Workshops

#### 'She's Geeky' - Bay Area 2014

is a networking conference for women in science, technology, engineering and math. Jan. 24, 8:15 a.m.-6 p.m. \$240 for all three days; or \$90/day. Microsoft Silicon Valley, 1065 La Avenida St, Mountain View. www.eventbrite.com/e/shes-geeky-bay-area-2014-tickets-9193673525

#### Winter Garden Tips

Ella Ancheta will speak about essential maintenance for a garden's health in winter. Feb. 1, 9:30-11:30 a.m. \$25 members; \$35 nonmembers. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call 650-329-1356 ext. 201.

### Concerts

#### Benefit Concert at Eastside Prep

"Let Freedom Ring: The Resounding Music of African American Composers" will feature jazz and classical music performed by the Bay Area musicians of the African American Composer Initiative and guest artists. For program and advance ticket info: <http://aacinitiative.org/upcoming.php>. Jan. 26, 3-5 p.m. \$20 adults; \$5 seniors and students. Eastside College Preparatory School Performing Arts Center, 1041 Myrtle St., East Palo Alto. www.aacinitiative.org/

#### Master Sinfonia Concert - Portola Valley

Maestro David Ramadanoff conducts Chabrier's "Fetes Polonaise," Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major with cellist Amos Yang and Schubert's Symphony No. 9 in C Major, "The Great." A free reception with artists will follow the concert. Jan. 25, 8-10 p.m. \$15-\$25. Free for youth under 18. Portola Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-348-1270. www.mastersinfonia.org/season.aspx?c=Concert2

#### Thomas Schultz Piano Performance

Thomas Schultz will perform "Piano Piece in E-flat" by Schubert, "Ballade in g & Fantasia in f" by Chopin, "North American Ballads" by Frederic Rzewski, and works by Hyo-shin Na. Jan. 26, 4-6 p.m. \$22 general; \$20 seniors; \$10 students in advance; \$27/\$25/\$15 at the door. St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-854-6555. www.bedesblog.wordpress.com/performing-arts/

### Exhibits

#### Sequoia Yacht Club Exhibit Opening

The San Mateo County History Museum will debut a new photographic exhibit titled "Salute to the Sequoia Yacht Club." Started in 1939, the Sequoia Yacht Club is celebrating its 75th year in 2014. The display will be mounted within the Museum's rotunda. Jan. 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$5 for adults; \$3 for students and seniors. San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.historysmc.org

### Family & Kids

#### Chinese New Year Story Time

Author Oliver Chin will read from "The Year of the Horse" to mark the Chinese New Year. Jan. 30, 10:30 a.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-856-0978.

#### Cowgirl Tricks Performance

Karen Quest will perform a comedy show with trick roping, music, magic and audience participation. Program funded by Friends of the Portola Valley Library. Jan. 22, 4-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

#### Palo Alto Children's Theatre: 'The Cat in the Hat'

opens at Palo Alto Children's Theatre Jan. 23 and will run for 15 performances through Feb. 9. Performance times vary by day. \$12 child; \$14 adult. Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. www.cityofpaloalto.org/news/displaynews.asp?NewsID=2012&TargetID=279

#### Toddler Creative Movement Class

with dance movement specialist Patricia Bulitt. Primarily for ages 18 months to 3 years. Jan. 28, 10:30-11 a.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

**Position:** General Manager

**Name:** Jeff S.

**Last book read:** Start with Why

**Last movie:** Saving Mr. Banks

**Last ride:** To work

**Favorite Ride:** Los Gatos Loop

**Bike:** Trek Madone 7 series



Los Gatos Loop  
Miles: 50.48

Enjoy the ride.



**MID-PENINSULA ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
WELCOMES DR. GREGORY BOGATSKY  
TO OUR GROWING TEAM!**



MID-PENINSULA  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

**New Hours:**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 11:00 pm  
Saturday  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Sunday  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Regular Appointments  
Emergency & Urgent Care**

1125 MERRILL STREET  
MENLO PARK, CA 94025  
PHONE (650) 325-5671  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
WWW.MIDPEN.COM



**Talk: 150 years of Peninsula railroad history**

Peter A. Hansen, editor of Railroad History, the magazine of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, will talk about 150 years of railroad history on the Peninsula at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at the San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway in Redwood City. The presentation is free with the price of admission to the museum: \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and students.

On Thursday, Jan. 30, the museum will debut a new

**BRIEFS**

photographic exhibit entitled "Salute to the Sequoia Yacht Club" in the historic rotunda. Started in 1939, the club, located within the Port of Redwood City, will celebrate its 75th year in 2014.

Go to [historysmc.org](http://historysmc.org) for more information.

**USGS talk**

"The Yellowstone Volcano:

Past, Present and Future" is the topic of a talk by Jake Lowenstern at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23, in conference room A, Building 3, on the USGS campus at 345 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park.

Mr. Lowenstern, scientist-in-charge of Yellowstone Volcano Observatory, will talk about "the sleeping giant" beneath Yellowstone National Park.

The talk, part of the USGS public lecture series, is free and open to the public.

**CALENDAR**

continued from page 15

on a production of "Goliath." Returning home from a war without purpose, David searches for his remaining humanity while his family and friends try to reconcile this war-torn veteran with their son, brother, husband and friend. Jan. 27, 8-9:30 p.m. \$5. Stanford University - Pigott Theater, 551 Serra Mall, Stanford. [www.taps.stanford.edu/AY14/goliath.html](http://www.taps.stanford.edu/AY14/goliath.html)

**Outdoors**

**King Tides Walk** As part of the California King Tides Initiative, the Environmental Volunteers, Acterra and Save the Bay are teaming up to have members of the public observe and document the highest seasonal tides, or "king tides," while learning about shoreline and marshland ecology. Bring a camera, binoculars and lunch. Jan. 30, noon-1 p.m. Free. EcoCenter, 2560 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. [www.eventbrite.com/e/king-tides-walk-tickets-10005698313](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/king-tides-walk-tickets-10005698313)

**Palo Alto Baylands Bioblitz** This is the first grassroots "bioblitz" in Palo Alto, co-sponsored by the City of Palo Alto Open Space Preserves, Nerds for Nature and iNaturalist. A bio-blitz is an intensive one-day study of biodiversity in a specific location. People of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Bring a smart phone. Jan. 25, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Free. Palo Alto Baylands, 2775 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. [www.inaturalist.org/projects/palo-alto-baylands-bioblitz](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/palo-alto-baylands-bioblitz)

**Talks & Authors**

**Vinton Cerf**, who helped develop the Internet while at Stanford in the 1970s, will deliver the 2014 Drell Lecture at Stanford on Jan. 22. Now vice president and chief Internet evangelist at Google, Cerf will talk about safety and security in a transnational environment. Jan. 22, 4:30-6 p.m. Free. Stanford University - Oak Lounge at Tresidder Memorial Union, 2nd Floor, 459 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. Call 650-736-0414.

**Author Alex 'Sandy' Pentland** discusses his new book, "Social Physics: How Good Ideas Spread: The Lessons from a New Science." He is a professor at MIT. Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321.

**Author Deany Brady** discusses her memoir, "An Appalachian Childhood," about growing up on a small farm in the mountains of Georgia. Dean Brady volunteers at Laurel Elementary School in Menlo Park and serves hot lunch to the students there. Jan. 25, 2 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321.

**Fran Smith and Sheila Himmel**, authors of "Changing the Way We Die: Compassionate End-Of-Life Care and the Hospice Movement," discuss their new book. Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321.

**Author Gretchen Rubin** discusses her new book, "Happier at Home: Kiss More, Jump More, Abandon Self-Control, and My Other Experiments in Everyday Life." Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. [www.keplers.com/event/gretchen-rubin](http://www.keplers.com/event/gretchen-rubin)

**Howard Steven Pines** discusses his new science fiction novel, "The Whale Song Translation," about an acoustics professor's scientific expedition to decode the language of whale songs sparked by Navy sonar experiments that begin killing humpback whales in the Auau Channel near Maui. Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321.

**Japanese Art from the Larry Ellison Collection** First in a series presented by the Asian Art Museum, this exhibit will focus on 80 works of Japanese art spanning 1,300 years from Larry Ellison's private collection. The program will be presented by docent Michelle Wilcox. Jan. 22, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library Program Room, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 650-948-7683. [www.scccl.org](http://www.scccl.org)

**Jerome Karabel: Lecture on societal structure** Jerome Karabel, author

and sociology professor at the University of California at Berkeley, will give a lecture called "The United States as Outlier Nation? Social Well-Being and Social Structure in Wealthy Democracies." Jan. 23, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. Stanford University - Cubberley Auditorium, 485 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-736-2629. [www.ethicsinsociety.stanford.edu/events/lectures/ethics-of-wealth-series/jerome-karabel-the-united-states-as-outlier-nation-social](http://www.ethicsinsociety.stanford.edu/events/lectures/ethics-of-wealth-series/jerome-karabel-the-united-states-as-outlier-nation-social)

**Peninsula Railroad History Talk** The San Mateo County History Museum will host Peter Hansen, editor of Railroad History, the magazine of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society. He will talk about 150 years of San Francisco Peninsula railroad history. Jan. 25, 1-4 p.m. \$5 for adults; \$3 for students and seniors. San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. [www.historysmc.org](http://www.historysmc.org)

**Real Estate and Law Symposium** The Third Annual Real Estate and Law REAL Symposium will feature two keynote speakers: Robert E. Hall, professor of economics at Stanford University, and Eli Khouri, executive vice president and chief investment officer at Kilroy Realty Corp. Jan. 29, 12:30-6:30 p.m. \$95-225. Paul Brest Hall, Building 4, 555 Salvatierra Walk, Stanford. [www.realsymposium.com](http://www.realsymposium.com)

**Stephanie Brown at Kepler's** Stephanie Brown, a licensed psychologist and author of "Speed: Facing our Addiction to Fast and Faster - and Overcoming our Fear of Slowing Down," will discuss her book. Brown is also a teacher, researcher and consultant in the field of addiction. Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. [www.keplers.com/event/stephanie-brown](http://www.keplers.com/event/stephanie-brown)

**Talk: Safety and Security in a Transnational Environment** Vinton G. Cerf, vice president and chief internet evangelist for Google, will speak at this talk, hosted by the Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) at Stanford University. Jan. 22, 4:30-6 p.m. Free. Tresidder Memorial Union, 2nd Floor, 459 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. Call 650-736-0414.

**USGS Public Lecture** U.S. Geological Survey Scientist Jake Lowenstern will discuss the Yellowstone volcano's geologic history and how scientists are monitoring the area for future eruptions. Jan. 23, 7-8 p.m. Free. USGS Menlo Park Campus, 345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-329-5136. [www.online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar](http://www.online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar)

**Young Authors: Sophia Nesamoney and Megan White** Two young authors, Sophia Nesamoney and Megan White, will share their novels, "The Other Side of Carroll," and "Together," respectively. Jan. 26, 2 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. [www.keplers.com/event/society-young-inklings-sophia-nesamoney-and-megan-white](http://www.keplers.com/event/society-young-inklings-sophia-nesamoney-and-megan-white)

**Et Alia**

**Tai Chi at Woodside Library** Woodside Library hosts a tai chi class in the library's native plant garden, weather permitting. Open to all ability levels. Jan. 3-31, Fridays, 10-11 a.m. Free. Woodside Library Native Plant Garden, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. [www.smcl.org](http://www.smcl.org)

**National Puzzle Day Celebration & Competition** A \$500 cash prize will be awarded to the fastest team of four people to complete a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle. The event will also feature other activities and puzzles for sale. Jan. 25, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$15 to register for the competition, otherwise free. Kainos, 2761 Fair Oaks Ave., Redwood City. Call 650-364-3634. [www.jigsawjava.com](http://www.jigsawjava.com)

**DR. CINDY HUE, D.D.S. • DR. JULIE TRAN, D.D.S.**

**FAMILY COSMETIC DENTISTRY**



**ONLY \$49\***  
Includes Whitening Treatment Exam, X-Rays and Cleaning

(\$395 Value)  
Uninsured, New Patients Only  
Call for details. With coupon only.  
Limited time offer

**FREE**  
Teeth Whitening Kit with Complete X-rays, Exam and Cleaning

New PPO Patients Only  
Cannot be combined with other coupons.  
Call for details.  
Limited time offer

**50% OFF**  
Uninsured, New Patients Only  
Call for details.

With coupon only.  
Cannot be combined with other coupons.  
Limited time offer

**BIRCH DENTAL GROUP PENINSULA DENTAL GROUP**  
650.366.0552 650.344.7626

155 Birch Street #5 • Redwood City 401A N. San Mateo Drive • San Mateo

Call Today to Schedule an Appointment  
We Accept All Major PPO Plans and HMO Plans

**24/7 On Call HOME**

**CARE Experts**

Let us help your loved ones retain their pride, dignity & independence with our full-service home care.



**Best Home Care For Le\$\$**

- Bathing, dressing, grooming & toileting
- Light housekeeping & meal preparation
- Transportation, shopping & errands
- Medication reminders & physical activities
- Companionship & more

**\$1000 OFF** first month of live-in service\*  
\*6 months minimum, offer expires 1/31/14



YOUR 24/7 HOME CARE SPECIALIST

Call (650) 328-1001

now to book your  
**FREE initial assessment**

(650) 328-1001 • [www.CareIndeed.com](http://www.CareIndeed.com) • 1150 Chestnut St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

# Two appointed to architecture board

By **Dave Boyce**  
Almanac Staff Writer

## WOODSIDE

**T**om Livermore, a Woodside resident and former planning commissioner, and Woodside native and resident Andrea Massey Shaw were named to the town's Architectural & Site Review Board (ASRB) to fill two vacant seats on the seven-member board.

The Town Council at its Jan. 14 meeting appointed Mr. Livermore to a seat that expires in December 2017, and Ms. Massey Shaw to a seat that expires in December 2015.

The vacant seats had five applicants, four of whom attended the council meeting for public interviews by the council.

### Tom Livermore

Mr. Livermore, a resident since 1985, is retired and has a bachelor's degree in art history from Lake Forest College in Illinois and a master's degree in business from Stanford University, according to his ASRB application.

He was on the town's Planning Commission for eight years (2000-08) and chairs the architecture board of the Woodside Hills Homeowners Association.

In the interview, Mr. Livermore commented on the high quality of the residential design guidelines. Councilman Peter Mason asked Mr. Livermore how he would respond when encountering a project he saw as not compatible with a site.

"Good architecture comes in many forms," he said. The keys are massing, proportionality and siting, he said. "They're very important to what the eventual product looks like at the end."

### Andrea Massey Shaw

Ms. Massey Shaw grew up in town and hasn't left. "Woodside has been my home for 40 years. I grew up here and now our children will grow up here," she said in her application. She has

a bachelor's degree from Yale University and a degree from Inhbald School of Design in London.

"It's gone from being a backwater to a place where people want to be," she said in response to a question from Councilwoman Anne Kasten on how Woodside has evolved. Ms. Massey Shaw said she was particularly pleased with the ASRB's addition of a preliminary conceptual design review to help applicants avoid inadvertently straying from the design guidelines.

Councilman Dave Tanner asked her what she might do if she encountered a project that followed all the guidelines but still "doesn't fit." Ms. Massey Shaw passed on the question, saying that she would not feel comfortable answering without something specific before her. ■

# New Ravenswood clinic breaks ground Jan. 22

The opening of the new Ravenswood Family Health Clinic may be at least a year away, but the groundbreaking is expected to take place this week on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

The upcoming 38,000-square-foot, two-floor primary care facility at 1885 Bay Road in East Palo Alto is expected to double the number of patients the clinic can see annually, to 22,000, and add services, including mammography, integrated mental health care and an on-site pharmacy.

The \$29 million project received an initial \$5 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration in May 2012; funding became available through a provision of the Affordable Care Act that provided for increasing the capacity of community health centers, according to a press release.

### Terrance McLarnan receives award

Terrance McLarnan of Portola Valley was recently awarded the North American Writer's Award at the International Psychoanalytic Association's World Congress in Prague.

Mr. McLarnan completed a seven-year training program at the Northern California

## BRIEFS

Psychoanalytic Institute and received his certificate Dec. 7 in San Francisco, where he delivered his paper, "Images Seen and Forgotten: The Optical Unconscious and Visual Time Capsules."

Mr. McLarnan was also recently named president of the Northern California Society of Psychoanalytic Psychology.

### Kelly Born joins Hewlett Foundation

Kelly Born has joined the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in Menlo Park as a program officer for special projects.

Ms. Born joined the foundation in April 2012 as a two-year fellow in the management of grants that comprise the special projects portfolio. She also helped launch the foundation's newest program, the effective philanthropy group.

Ms. Born holds a master's degree in international policy studies from Stanford University and a bachelor's degree in business from Pepperdine University. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has been making grants to help solve social and environmental problems since 1967.

You can quote me...



Steve was great to work with... he had a full team to help us get the house on the market quickly, he priced it well, he kept us informed, he went above and beyond to answer some specific questions for buyers, and he was quite responsive and good-humored through out the process. He is a real professional

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



**STEVE GRAY**

BRE# 01498634

**650-743-7702**

sgray@cbnorcal.com

## Edwin Alexander Seipp, Jr.

February 23, 1918-January 3, 2014

A consummate gentleman to the end, Ed Seipp died quietly on January 3 at the Vi in Palo Alto. He was 95.

Ed was born to Edwin and Ella (Uihlein) Seipp in Chicago, Illinois. He and his sister Pauline were raised in Chicago and spent their summers at the family's country home in Barrington, Illinois. He attended the Latin School of Chicago and graduated from Princeton University in 1940 with a degree in chemistry.

Ed began his business career at Diversey Corp. in Chicago. During that time, he also flew as a captain with the Civil Air Patrol, his eyesight having disqualified him from service in the Air Force. In 1947 a transfer within the Golden State Company brought him to San Francisco, which became his new hometown. In 1956, Ed became president of Speedmaster Engineering Co., a San Leandro firm specializing in state-of-the-art, high-strength die castings, from which he retired in 1980.

In 1952, Ed married Pearl Anne Wieboldt in Highland Park, Illinois. Thus began a vibrant married life of over 61 years. Ed and Annie lived in San Francisco until settling in Atherton, where they raised their family.

Ed's dream of building a mountain home was realized upon completion of the family's house at Alpine Meadows, where they spent many magical holidays. Ed was an avid skier and noted with delight that all his children became skiers. Ed and Annie embraced the "aloha" spirit of Hawaii, where they spent their honeymoon and celebrated many birthdays.

A voracious reader with boundless curiosity, Ed was an elegant man of keen intellect, steadfast integrity, and broad interests, which he pursued with great energy and generosity.

Ed served on the boards of the Rucker Company and Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co. His

many civic and philanthropic engagements included service on the boards of Castilleja School (four years as chair), MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois (honorary doctor of laws degree in 1979), Planned Parenthood, the Mental Research Institute, Lucille Salter Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford, Filoli, the National Tropical Botanical Garden, and the San Francisco Symphony.



Ed is survived by his beloved wife Annie; daughter Anita; sons Edwin III (Win), Frederick, and Paul, and their wives, Barbara, Carol, and Julie; six grandchildren, Emily and Thomas Marmaduke, Edwin IV (Alex) and Melissa Seipp, and Bradford and Stephanie Seipp, who love their Papa. Pre-deceased by his parents and sister, Ed is also survived by Pauline's two sons, Peter and Ren Goltra, and their families. Ed's devotion to family lives on in his children.

Annie and the children would like to express their deepest gratitude to Ed's extraordinary care-givers whose exceptional compassion, loyalty, and skill sustained us all: William Halapua, Rolando Linaac, Monte Fau, and Beth Saludez.

A memorial service in celebration of Ed's life will be held on Friday, January 24, at 2:00 PM at Christ Church, 815 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California.

Ed took pleasure in giving to many worthy causes, too numerous to mention. For those so inclined, the family would welcome memorial gifts to the California Academy of Sciences, Peninsula Family Service, San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, Yosemite Conservancy, or to a charitable organization of your choice.

*"His life was gentle, and the elements  
So mix'd in him that Nature might stand up  
And say to all the world,  
'This was a man!'"*  
- William Shakespeare

**EDITOR & PUBLISHER**

Tom Gibboney (223-6507)

**NEWSROOM**

**Managing Editor**

Richard Hine (223-6525)

**News Editor**

Renee Batti (223-6582)

**Lifestyles Editor**

Jane Knoerle (223-6531)

**Staff Writers**

Dave Boyce (223-6527),  
Sandy Brundage (223-6529)

**Contributors**

Marjorie Mader, Barbara Wood, Kate Daly

**Special Sections Editor**

Carol Blitzer

**Photographer** Michelle Le (223-6530)

**DESIGN & PRODUCTION**

**Design Director**

Shannon Corey (223-6560)

**Assistant Design Director** Lili Cao

**Designers** Linda Atilano, Rosanna Leung,  
Paul Llewellyn, Kameron Sawyer

**ADVERTISING**

**Vice President Sales and Marketing**

Tom Zahiralis (223-6570)

**Display Advertising Sales**

Wendy Suzuki (223-6569)

**Real Estate Manager**

Neal Fine (223-6583)

**Real Estate & Advertising Coordinator**

Diane Martin (223-6584)

**Legal Advertising**

Alicia Santillan (223-6578)

Published every Wednesday at  
**3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,  
Menlo Park, CA 94025**

**Newsroom:** (650) 223-6525  
**Newsroom Fax:** (650) 223-7525

**Advertising:** (650) 854-2626  
**Advertising Fax:** (650) 223-7570

**Email news** and photos with captions to:  
Editor@AlmanacNews.com

**Email letters** to:  
letters@AlmanacNews.com

The Almanac, established in October 1965, is delivered each week to residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside and adjacent unincorporated areas of southern San Mateo County. The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued December 21, 1969. ©2014 by Embarcadero Media Company. All rights reserved.

Subscriptions are \$60 for one year and \$100 for two years.



**WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?**

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, www.TheAlmanacOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

**Town Square forum**

Post your views on the Town Square forum at www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

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

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

**Call** the Viewpoint desk at 223-6507.

## Plan emerges for M-A boundaries

Much work is ahead as the Sequoia Union High School District ramps up to address a coming enrollment surge. In an early step along that path, the board last week gave a green light to a draft of a redrawn district map that now includes all students from the Ravenswood, Menlo Park and Las Lomas school districts in the Menlo-Atherton High School community.

If the board stays with the map unveiled by Superintendent James Lianides, the only students who will lose seats at M-A are those who live north of Eighth Avenue in North Fair Oaks, part of a large swath of unincorporated county land that uses Menlo Park's 94025 ZIP code. In prior years, students living on Sixth and Seventh Avenues in North Fair Oaks have attended M-A.

The board made the correct decision to shift all Ravenswood students to M-A, instead of busing them to Carlmont (11 miles away) or Sequoia, in downtown Redwood City. It is unfortunate that some North Fair Oaks students will not have the assignment to M-A, but Ravenswood students live nearly as close to M-A and have long deserved to attend school there. The map should also be popular with Las Lomas parents in West Menlo Park, Ladera and west Atherton who were fearful that their children would be shifted to Woodside High, in many cases a school that is closer to their homes.

All Sequoia district high schools face the prospect of a huge enrollment bulge that is making its way through elementary and middle schools and will result in M-A, Sequoia, Woodside and Carlmont enrolling more students — 200 at Woodside and 600 at M-A, projections show. The problem is that none of these high schools have space to accommodate the students now, so more classrooms will need to be built.

During discussions last year, Mr. Lianides ruled out building a new comprehensive high school, which would cost an estimated \$200 mil-

lion if a site could be found. But even adding two-story classrooms at existing high schools will cost money, so it is likely that a bond measure will come before voters this November or sometime next year.

On the plus side, a decision that could add capacity to the district is the board's plan to build two small magnet schools, including one in "the Menlo Park area," that could accommodate up to 400 students apiece. So far, no specific sites have been identified for either school, but presumably that decision also could come this year.

And the timely arrival of a charter school called Big Picture Learning could make a small dent in the overall enrollment bulge this year, if its plans pan out. The school offers classes, but a principal focus is on students discovering what really interests them and crafting paths toward their future, whether academic or career-oriented.

The school is looking for seventh- and eighth-graders who are not doing well in a traditional school environment and face prospects of not graduating from high school. The charter, whose steering committee includes former longtime Sequoia district board member Sally Stewart of Portola Valley and former Menlo Park City School District board member Karen Canty of Atherton, is patterned after Big Picture Learning, a network of some 100 charter high schools with headquarters in Rhode Island and San Diego and offices in the Netherlands and Australia.

Initially, Big Picture hopes to find a site in Redwood City and in its first year would serve about 100 students in two classrooms, with an outlook of up to 300 students.

The board has not made a final decision on the changes at M-A, or any of the other Sequoia district high schools. Parents will get a chance to voice their support or objections during more community meetings in the coming months. It should be a busy year.

**EDITORIAL**

The opinion of The Almanac

**LETTERS**

Our readers write

**New logo, squirrel mascot are not needed**

*Editor:*

Is anyone in city government keeping a watchful eye on unnecessary spending directed by Menlo Park's City Manager Alex McIntyre?

Who requested a new tree logo for Menlo Park at the cost of \$30,000? Why do we have "Nutt" the squirrel as a mascot for our city at the cost of nearly \$2,000? Off site meetings for a staff retreat in Half Moon Bay set the city back almost \$12,000. Another day trip to Napa cost the city \$2,200 for community services staff members.

As a resident of Menlo Park since 1972, I am disappointed to read of this wasteful spending. Residents of Menlo Park want to maintain its unique small town atmosphere, according to most recent surveys. I for one love the original tree logo and do not want it changed.

Nutt the mascot seems to be a squirrely idea for our city and needs to be rescinded by our City Council. Obviously, the mayor and council members need to exercise much closer supervision of the city manager and staff.

Margaret H. Carney  
Claremont, Menlo Park



Portola Valley Archives

**Our Regional Heritage**

Felix Buelna, proprietor of Casaz De Tableta, House of Cards, poses with three of his daughters, Guadalupe, Mauricia and Luisa. Mr. Buelna built the structure now known as the Alpine Inn in the 1850s.



## High Quality, Affordable Live-In Care

Having trouble finding compassionate around-the-clock home care that fits your family's needs and budget? Call Home Care Assistance! We have been live-in specialists for Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside for 12 years! That's because we offer:

**Consistent Dependable Care.** We typically assign a primary caregiver 4 days a week and a secondary caregiver who covers the remaining days. (Some agencies alternate up to 4 different caregivers in one day!)

**Total Peace of Mind.** Rest easy knowing your loved one's needs are attended to at all times. Live-in care ensures optimal safety and is personalized to each client's individual needs.

**Professional Oversight.** Live-in caregivers are managed by a team of client care managers to make sure our clients' experiences are always positive. You don't just hire a caregiver, you hire our full team of seasoned care professionals.

**Reasonable Rates.** Home Care Assistance hires and trains only the most qualified caregivers, but our live-in rates are the most competitive in the industry. Call to learn more!

**New!** Ask about Kosher Kare caregiver training for those that maintain a Kosher Lifestyle!

**Call us today to schedule your free assessment!**

We still do  
24/7 live-in  
care!

Our expert founders wrote the book, *Handbook for Live-In Care*, available on Amazon.com!



**650-462-6900**

148 Hawthorne Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301  
HomeCareAssistance.com

# THINK AGAIN.

January 25 & 26

## Are all religions foundationally the same?

This is a critical question for anyone on a faith journey. Join us for a panel conversation moderated by Senior Pastor John Ortberg at all weekend services on January 25 & 26 as we learn from thought leaders and scholars of different faiths and views. **For times and locations in Menlo Park, Mountain View and San Mateo, visit [www.mppc.org/thinkagain](http://www.mppc.org/thinkagain).**



**HINDUISM**  
Rita Sherma

University of Southern California School of Religion's Swami Vivekananda Visiting Faculty in Hindu Studies.



**ISLAM**  
Najeeba Syeed-Miller

Peacemaker, healer and scholar, Syeed-Miller is a professor at Claremont School of Theology and director of the Center for Global Peacebuilding.



**JUDAISM**  
Shawn Landres

Researcher, essayist, social entrepreneur and co-founder and CEO of Jumpstart, a philanthropic research & design lab focused on Jewish and other faith-based social innovation.



**SECULAR HUMANISM**  
Armand Rundquist

President of the Atheists, Humanists, and Agnostics (AHA!) @ Stanford, and Ph. D. candidate in Electrical Engineering at Stanford University, studying photonics and quantum optics.



**CHRISTIANITY**  
Richard Mouw

Mouw is a leading voice of thoughtful Christian faith and a professor of Faith and Public Life at Fuller Theological Seminary, where he served as president for 20 years.

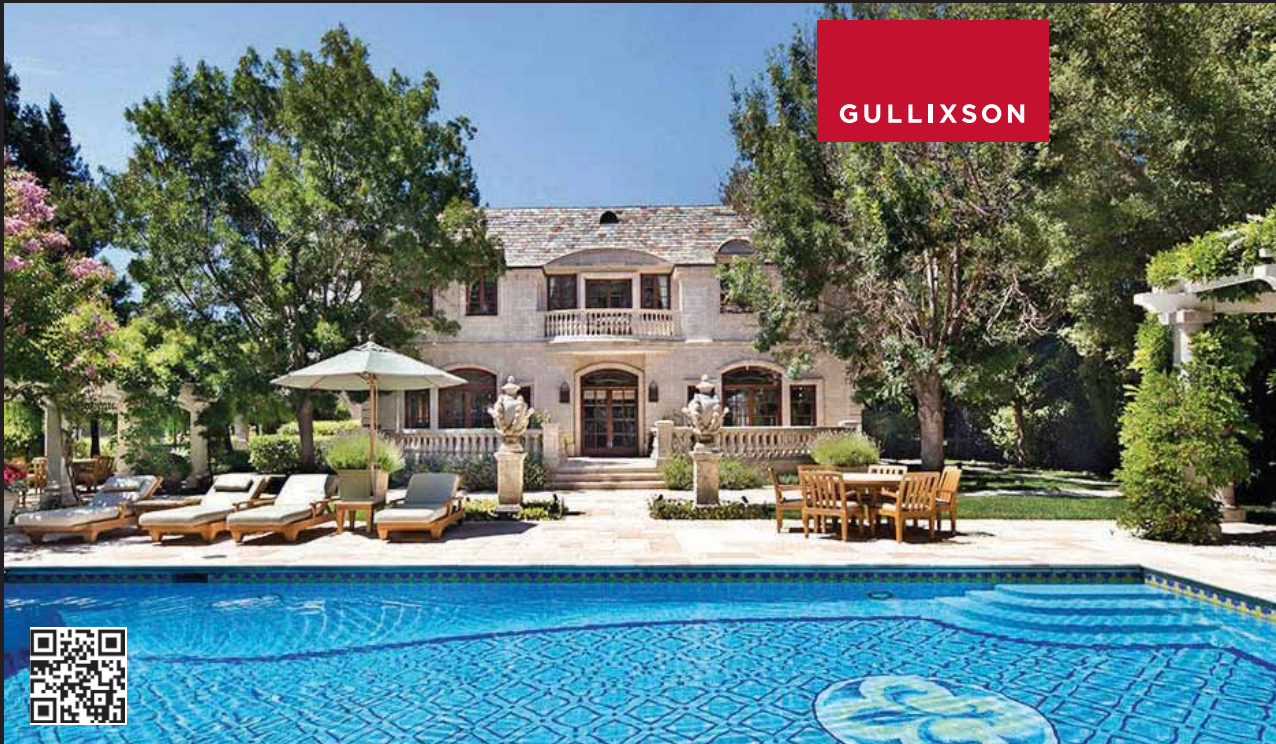


**MODERATOR**  
John Ortberg

Senior Pastor at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church



[www.mppc.org](http://www.mppc.org)



**PRIME MENLO CIRCUS CLUB**  
**LOCATION ATHERTON**  
 OFFERED AT \$21,800,000

Extensively renovated in 2001 | Located on one of West Atherton's most sought-after streets | 3 levels with elevator  
 Custom marble floors | Mahogany paneled walls | 6 fireplaces with antique French mantelpieces | Mahogany paneled  
 library | Wine cellar | Garage museum for 14 cars | 1.3 acres of landscaped gardens with koi pond | Grecian inspired  
 pool with separate spa | Fully equipped pool house | Tennis court | Menlo Park schools | [www.91Isabella.com](http://www.91Isabella.com)



**ATHERTON** [www.60MonteVista.com](http://www.60MonteVista.com)  
 3-level home | 5 bedroom suites | 1 ac  
 Theatre | Wine cellar | Fitness center  
 Rec/Media room | Cabana | Pool/spa  
 Outdoor kitchen | Menlo Park Schools  
 OFFERED AT \$16,950,000



**ATHERTON** [www.7FaxonForest.com](http://www.7FaxonForest.com)  
 Custom built by Pacific Peninsula Group  
 Menlo Park Circus Club location | 1+ ac  
 3-level, 11,873+/- sf floorplan | Wine cellar  
 Theatre | Cabana | Pool | Menlo Park Schools  
 OFFERED AT \$14,900,000



**ATHERTON** [www.gullixson.com](http://www.gullixson.com)  
 Exceptional new 2-level home | 1+ ac corner lot  
 6 ensuite bedrooms | Pool | Elevated spa  
 1 bd, 1 ba fully equipped guest house  
 Las Lomas Schools  
 OFFERED AT \$10,480,000



**ATHERTON** [www.91FleurPlace.com](http://www.91FleurPlace.com)  
 3-level home | Cape Dutch style architecture  
 5 bd, 6.5 ba | 1+/- ac | Flexible lower level with  
 exercise area, media room, wet bar, full bath  
 Fully equipped 1 bd guest house | Storage room with  
 wine cellar potential | Las Lomas Schools  
 OFFERED AT \$9,980,000

**THE GULLIXSONS HAVE ACHIEVED  
 A TOTAL SALES VOLUME OF OVER  
 \$3.1 BILLION IN REAL ESTATE  
 SALES AND HAVE THE  
 #1 MARKET SHARE IN ATHERTON;  
 IN 2012 THEY WERE RANKED  
 THE #4 TEAM IN THE NATION BY  
 THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**

**2013 SALES volume was over \$330 million.**

<b>ATHERTON</b> Isabella Avenue Park Lane Faxon Road Somerset Lane Stern Lane Faxon Road Linda Vista Avenue Park Lane Polhemus Avenue Catalpa Drive Camino Por Los Arboles James Avenue	<b>WOODSIDE</b> Harcross Road Moore Road <b>PALO ALTO</b> Tennyson Ave Bryant Street Kipling Street <b>MENLO PARK</b> Arden Road Valparaiso Ave Encinal Avenue	<b>LOS ALTOS HILLS</b> Old Trace Lane Lupine Road <b>PORTOLA VALLEY</b> Westridge Golden Hills Westridge
---	--	--



**ATHERTON** [www.gullixson.com](http://www.gullixson.com)  
 1.6+/- ac flag lot | 3-levels beautifully transformed  
 Library | Media room/Office | 5 bedroom suites  
 Third level offers flexible living space | Resort like  
 grounds | Pool | Spa | Tennis Court | Cabana  
 4 car + 6 car garage | Las Lomas Schools  
 OFFERED AT \$7,925,000



**MARY & BRENT  
 GULLIXSON**

Mary: 650.888.0860 • [mgullixson@apr.com](mailto:mgullixson@apr.com)  
 Brent: 650.888.4898 • [bgullixson@apr.com](mailto:bgullixson@apr.com)

[gullixson.com](http://gullixson.com)



MARY: License No. 00373961 | BRENT: License No. 01329216 | Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Square footage and/or acreage information contained herein has been received from seller, existing reports, appraisals, public records and/or other sources deemed reliable. However, neither seller nor listing agent has verified this information. If this information is important to buyer in determining whether to buy or to purchase price, buyer should conduct buyer's own investigation.