

The Almanac

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

FEBRUARY 19, 2014 | VOL. 49 NO. 24



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Shirley Temple Black was a
neighbor, community participant,
and longtime diplomat

Section 2



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In this issue

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Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Rotarian and art teacher Mary Helen Armstrong listens to veteran Mike Martin speak about how art and robotics has aided him in his stroke recovery.

Road to recovery

Rotarians work with veterans in VA's rehab program

By Jane Knoerle
Almanac Lifestyles Editor

Helping veterans return to active duty, work, school or independent living in the community is the goal of the Polytrauma Transitional Rehabilitation Program at the Veterans Affairs Health Care facility in Palo Alto.

It's also the goal of Menlo Park Rotarians who volunteer at the program, which specializes in traumatic brain injury and comprehensive rehabilitation. The patients include veterans of recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Rotary's involvement with the VA program starts with former club president Mike McNitt, who calls himself the "free safety" or middle man. He finds out "whatever the program's needs are and gets up and talks about it (at Rotary meetings), whenever the time is right," he says.

He began volunteering his services six years ago after hearing a speaker from the VA at a Rotary meeting. "He really

impressed me," he says.

Mr. McNitt first volunteered in the polytrauma unit's reading program. A highlight was working with a vet who couldn't read or write. "We were able to get a program that fit his needs," he recalls.

Since then, Mr. McNitt has organized financial planning, artwork and robotics programs for the veterans on a regular schedule.

"I'm available on an 'on call' basis," he says. "I come down and confer with Dr. Susan Ropacki and speech pathologist Marlene Specht (of the VA staff) about different ideas and needs."

Fellow Rotarian Mary Helen Armstrong began teaching art on Wednesday mornings at the VA four years ago. A graduate of the Parson's School of Design, she and her daughter formerly operated Hurlimann and Armstrong Studio in Menlo Park. She also volunteered as an art teacher at the Bronx Veterans' Hospital when she lived in New York City.

Ms. Armstrong's painting class at the VA typically has from one

to seven students. Classes begin with basic drawing in pencil, then progress to color theory and art history. The students work in watercolor, charcoal and clay. There are field trips to the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford and the de Young Museum in San Francisco.

Veteran Mike Martin was enthusiastic about his first class with Ms. Armstrong when the Almanac visited recently. "We have a good time in here," he says. "I always wanted to do this."

He's also enthusiastic about his Friday robotics class with volunteer Chuck Untulis. "I love it," he says. "Chuck is awesome."

Mr. Untulis, who was recruited by Ms. Armstrong, has been teaching a simulated robotics class at the VA for a year and a half. Retired from Hewlett-Packard, he worked with high school and middle-school students before becoming involved with the VA.

Both the art and robotics classes are important to recovery, says Ms. Armstrong. "They (the

See **RECOVERY**, page 6

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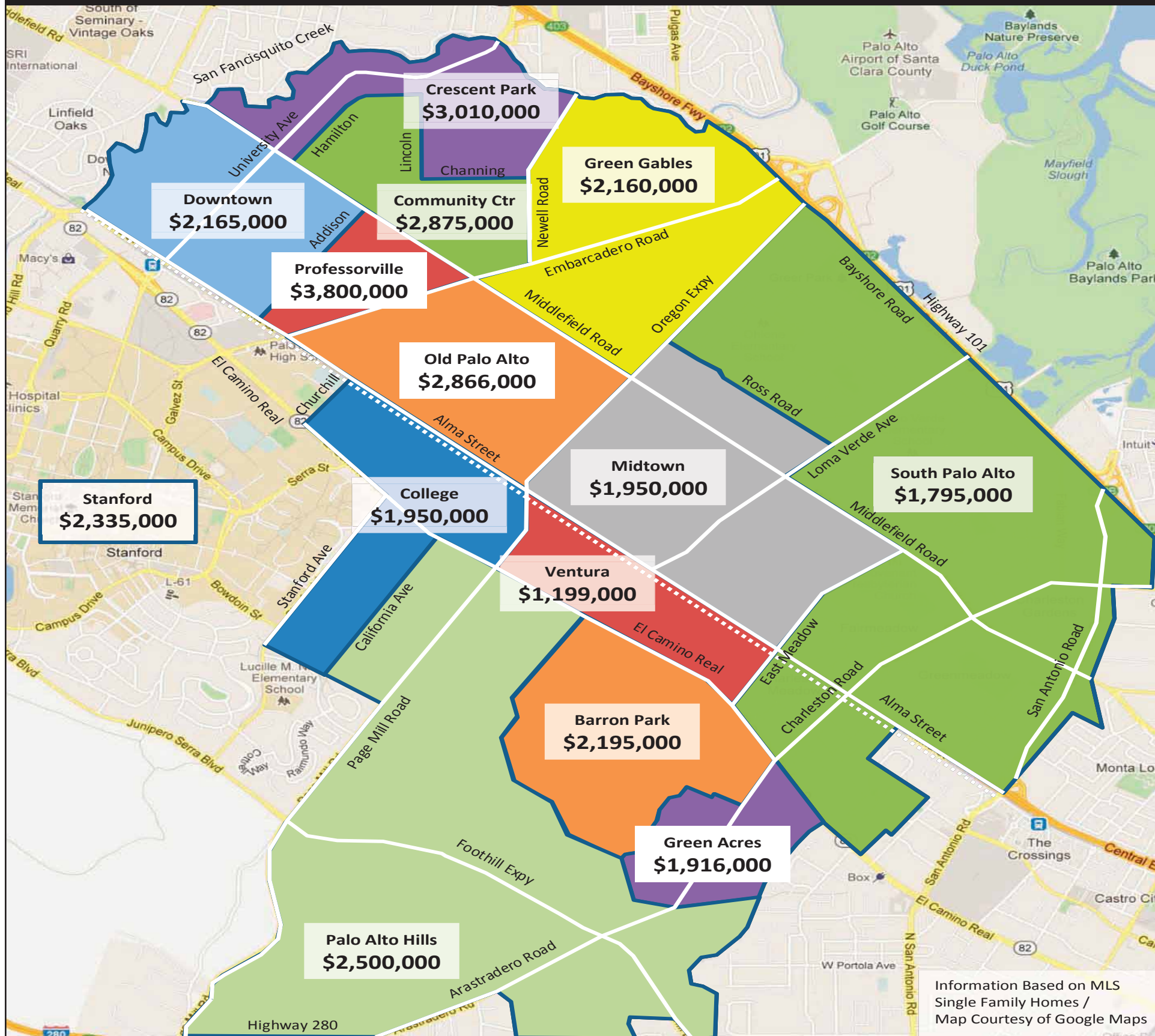
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THE ALMANAC (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper 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.

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Local News

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Schools: Survey shows support for big bond measure

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The survey results are in for the Sequoia Union High School District and what might be done to make room for a projected 20 percent or more additional students by the 2020-21 school year. Voters would likely approve a bond measure to significantly rebuild campuses, including Menlo-Atherton and Woodside, and raise taxes by as much as \$16 per \$100,000 of a property's assessed value.

A \$16 tax rate would give the district about \$294 million to work with, board President Allen Weiner told the Almanac.

The board met Feb. 12 and

heard from San Mateo-based pollster Brian Godbe. To pass, a school bond measure needs the approval of 55 percent of the voters. A survey of 800 likely voters showed a June or November election easily exceeding that threshold in seven of the eight elementary school districts in the Sequoia district, and seven of the district's nine communities.

"You're in a pretty good spot, considering we're just starting with this," Mr. Godbe said.

Voters were queried on their support at five different tax rates between \$16 and \$8 per \$100,000 of a property's assessed value. The curve showed about 65 percent support at \$16 and a sharper upward trend at around

Voters would likely approve a bond measure to rebuild high school campuses.

\$9.95, with an \$8 rate gathering 75 percent.

"That (\$9.95 break point) is just the psychology of human beings and purchasing behavior," Mr. Godbe said.

The research found no important differences between a June election, when turnout is typically lower, and November. (A June election would give the district a start on having new construction complete

as enrollment begins to grow, board President Allen Weiner said.)

The survey percentages reflected voters who would "definitely" or "probably" vote in favor of or against the question being asked; each question had five options for response.

Board member Chris Thomsen asked about the chances of 55 percent support for a \$16 tax rate. "I think you'd have a very good chance at being successful," Mr. Godbe said.

Polls are one thing, and electoral success another, said Sarah Stern-Benoit, a partner at San Francisco-based TBWB Strategies. The keys are informing key members of the public with the district's story and a

compelling plan, and finding volunteers to run an effective campaign, she said.

Board comment

In opening up the discussion to the board members, Mr. Weiner asked his colleagues to explain what would be necessary to have their support for a June election — their "big ifs." His were a "confident and thorough" analysis of the district's needs to meet the enrollment projections, and an effective leadership team for the campaign.

Mr. Thomsen noted that, with a smaller turnout in June, "we'll be mobilizing a smaller

See **BOND MEASURE**, page 8

Woodside sets meetings on town center plan

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

Critics of the process for updating Woodside's Town Center Area Plan appear to be appeased, at least for now, if the lack of dissent, and the lack of attendees, at the Feb. 11 Town Council meeting to discuss next steps for the plan is any indication.

The council unanimously approved a plan to hold two community meetings on the town center plan, on two Saturdays, April 26 and May 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The town will make an effort to let everyone know about the meetings, using email, postings on the NextDoor Woodside website, and even hand-delivering notices to local businesses, in addition to the usual mailings and newspaper notices.

Both community meetings will feature walking tours of the town center area led by Woodside residents or town employees as well as lunch for participants.

The April meeting will focus on design of the town center, including buildings, structures, signs, lighting, public art, amenities and gathering spaces. A discussion of possible restric-

tions on the type of businesses allowed in the town center will also be on the agenda as well as discussion of the Safe Routes to School improvements the town is working on.

The May meeting will focus on ways to improve parking and traffic problems in the town center area. Participants will have a chance to prioritize possible changes to give the town an idea of which are most important.

The council is scheduled discuss the next steps for revising the town center plan in June.

Council member Peter Mason reminded the council that they are planning for the long term as well as the short term. "We need to be thinking 15 years out, not just today" he said. "Some things are easy to change. Other things are harder to change."

Sally Hartman, one of the local residents who had spoken out about some of the ideas in the original task force report, said she supports the town's direction. "I'm really excited," she said. "I think some really good changes will come out of the process."

The Town Center Area Plan

See **TOWN CENTER PLAN**, page 8

Community meetings will feature walking tours of the town center.



Image courtesy city of Menlo Park

A rendering of Rob Fischer's exterior design for the new BBC, viewed from the intersection of Santa Cruz Avenue and El Camino Real.

BBC renovation breezes through gauntlet

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Some may have understandably thought this day would never come: the Menlo Park Planning Commission voiced unanimous approval for a major project in about 30 minutes.

The project, restaurateur Rob Fischer's remake of the historic BBC at 1090 El Camino Real, has raised the bar "really high" in terms of what the commission's looking for, according to chair John Kadavany.

"It shows you how quickly projects can get through Men-

lo Park when the applicant does such a great job of designing the project," Mr. Kadavany noted during the Feb. 10 meeting.

Mr. Fischer plans to open a three-floor restaurant, including a rooftop deck and outdoor dining on the ground floor, that will preserve the historic exterior brick architecture of the city landmark apart from moving the entrance to Santa Cruz Avenue and adding an exterior staircase. Parking will be provided via the 275-space underground garage shared with other Menlo Center businesses.

But Mr. Fischer will not preserve one aspect of the BBC's history — its reputation as a rowdy, late-night hotspot for trouble.

"We're a very solid company," he told the commission. "... a kind of a no-nonsense company. I won't put up with what they did before at the BBC. That's totally unacceptable to me. ... I can't even fathom doing what someone did in that restaurant, it's appalling."

Mr. Fischer's reputation preceded him and appeared to

See **BBC RENOVATION**, page 8

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Woodside hikes grant for fire-safe landscaping

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

Woodside's Town Council voted unanimously at its Feb. 11 meeting to double to \$2,000 the amount of a grant the town will give residents to make their properties more fire safe by removing or modifying flammable vegetation.

The Defensible Space Matching Fund Program was started by the town in 2010. Participants work with the Woodside Fire Protection District to prioritize actions that will make their property safer and easier

for firefighters to protect in a wildfire.

The town will now pay up to \$2,000 to match the resident's payment for the work. Council members asked to have the grants specifically include the removal of trees, such as eucalyptus, that are fire safety hazards.

The town currently has set aside \$25,000 for the program and Town Manager Kevin Bryant said he would ask the council for more funding if that amount is reached.

Go to tinyurl.com/Fire-213 to learn more and download an application. ■

Woodside steps up planning for major emergencies

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

Woodside has decided to add a new committee to its roster — an Emergency Preparedness Committee to help the town get ready for an earthquake, flood, wildfire or other catastrophe.

The new committee will work with the local Citizens' Emergency Response and Preparedness Program (CERPP), which trains volunteers to respond to emergencies at the neighborhood level.

The committee will also work to develop a team of volunteers to help out if the town has to open an emergency operations center, to provide emergency

response information and training to residents, and to improve emergency communications such as amateur radio.

Members of the Woodside Town Council voted unanimously to form the committee at their Feb. 11 meeting.

Citizens interested in serving on the committee may want to act quickly, however, as the deadline for positions on all town committees is Feb. 18. Town Manager Kevin Bryant said that if there are not enough applicants for the seven positions on the new committee by that date, the deadline will be extended.

Go to tinyurl.com/WS-233 to learn more and download an application. ■

Presidential Scholar finalist

Robert Gordon of Menlo Park is among the 3,000 students named as candidates for becoming U.S. Presidential Scholars.

Robert, a senior at Menlo-Atherton High School, is the son of Patricia Nakache and Patrick Gordon.

The candidates were selected on several factors: their exceptional performance on either the College Board SAT or the ACT

assessment, plus their essays, activities, school recommendations, and school transcripts.

Final selection of Scholars will be announced in May. Those chosen will be invited to Washington, D.C., for several days in June, where they will attend a recognition ceremony and take part in events with their elected representatives and other leading people in public life.

RECOVERY

continued from page 3

patients) are making new connections, using parts of the brain they haven't used before," she says.

"It makes me feel good that they're enjoying and learning," says Mr. Untulis, as he demonstrates moving a Lego-built miniature "tank" back and forth. "You tell it (the tank) what to do on the computer and it does exactly as it's told."

Art supplies and the robots (\$300 each), as well as a new pingpong table for the unit, have been donated by the Menlo Park Rotary Club.

Commenting on the Rotarians involvement with the polytrauma unit, Mr. McNitt says: "These people are facing life-changing situations. We realize we are not professional counselors; we don't pretend to be. We have no motive, except to help them and they know it." ■

Gaylynnne Mann, a force for emergency preparedness

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

For someone seeking a role model for a take-charge personality, it would be hard to do better than Gaylynnne Mann of Woodside. Ms. Mann, who died Feb. 10 after a long illness, was instrumental in helping to found and fully equip a disaster-response organization for the Woodside Fire Protection District — a collection of semi-rural communities located within 32 square miles of dry, steep and thick forests along the infamous San Andreas fault.

A memorial service is set for 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24, at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church at 950 Santa Cruz Ave. in Menlo Park. Ms. Mann was 65.

From 1997 until recently when she chose to step down, Ms. Mann was the emergency coordinator for the Citizens Emergency and Response Preparedness Program, fire district officials said. CERPP consists of 25 divisions representing neighborhoods in Woodside, Portola Valley and nearby unincorporated areas, including Ladera, Vista Verde, Los Trancos Woods and Emerald Hills. Most divisions have volunteer leaders; Ms. Mann represented Emerald Hills in Woodside.

She led, but she also served. One of her signal achievements was developing and maintaining a key feature of CERPP: six or seven 8-foot-square-by-40-foot-long weatherproof containers of supplies, each intended to aid 350 people for 72 hours, former district fire chief Mike Fuge said. The containers are located



Courtesy of Woodside Fire Protection District

Gaylynnne Mann organized a key component of citizen response to catastrophe in the Woodside Fire Protection District: weatherproof containers of emergency supplies for 350 people for 72 hours. Ms. Mann died on Feb. 10.

near structures that can function as group shelters, and each shelter has a leader. “She put together a first-class program,” Mr. Fuge said.

“She put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into that program,” said Fire Marshal Denise Enea. “She was a great asset to the entire community. She probably had more friends in the community than anybody I know (and) she had a lot of insight on what it meant to live in Woodside and what it meant to live in the fire protection district.”

“I’m very saddened,” Ms. Enea said. “She was my peer and my friend.”

Ms. Mann brought her diplomatic skills to bear, Mr. Fuge said. “She was a wonderful person, but probably her strongest trait is that she could really connect with people, no matter who they were,” he said.

It was Mr. Fuge who hired her. During district training exercises, Ms. Mann drew his attention because “she was always there,” he said. She started by answering the phone, but “her program just kept growing,” Mr. Fuge said. “Eventually, we had to hire someone else to run the front office.” She was a district employee for more than eight years.

During her career, Ms. Mann received a fire-service award and an excellence award, and became an emergency medical technician and CPR instructor, former district fire chief Armando Muela said in an email.

“One of her greatest gifts was that she was a caregiver to anyone who needed help,” said Glenda Fuge, who is married to Mike Fuge. “She always came second to anyone else. Words that I keep hearing from folks who knew her through her long journey with cancer are: grace, courage, warrior. She had a sense of humor right up until the day she died.”

Survivors include Ms. Mann’s husband Bill of Woodside; her brother Rick Servino of Oregon; two step-daughters; and a grandson.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Ms. Mann’s name may be made to the Woodside PV Fire foundation, Nor-Ca Aussie Rescue, or Pathways Hospice. ■

Menalto Corners retail center sold

■ Tenants, including Cafe Zoe, in dark about future

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Although community members urged the landlord to wait for an offer from his tenants, the sale of Menalto Corners, the Willows retail center that houses Cafe Zoe, proceeded without pause.

The 4,400-square-foot retail center at 1923-1929 Menalto Ave., which was listed at \$1.45 million, sold in an all-cash deal on Tuesday, Feb. 11, to an as-yet unknown buyer, according to several sources.

The sale could mean that Cafe Zoe will have to find a

new home. Owner Kathleen Daly told the Almanac that she, like two other tenants — Twig and Petals and Captivating Dance by Nona — had no lease under the previous owner. The fourth tenant, Habibi’s Salon, was under contract.

The tenants learned about the possible sale in early January after negotiations over rent and utility increases fell apart.

Despite leaving a voice-mail inquiring about the sale, they’ve heard nothing from their former landlord, Anatole Zelkin. His replacement has been equally silent.

Ms. Daly had been pursu-

ing options to purchase the building herself with help from either investors or a small business loan. During its five and a half years at the retail center, her restaurant has become a fixture in the Willows community.

“We know nothing at this point,” she told the Almanac. “We just really don’t know. It’s really kind of a mystery.”

Residents expressed hope that the new landlord may see the value of the community’s investment in the Menalto Center businesses; Ms. Daly said the tenants remain optimistic. ■



REAL ESTATE TRENDS

by Samia Cullen

Avoid Costly Mistakes When Selling Your Home

Selling your home is one of the biggest financial decisions you will probably ever make. Following are the most common costly mistakes home sellers tend to make:

- **Not hiring a professional to sell your house:** Home sellers who try to sell their houses themselves without the expertise of a real estate professional end up selling for far less than the fair market value.
- **Not staging your home:** Showcasing your home is crucial to get the best price. Buyers need to be able to visualize how the home looks with furniture and how functional it would be for their own family.
- **Overpricing your home:** Pricing your home based on what you want to net ends in failure. Sellers can control the “asking” price, but they don’t control the “sales” price.
- **Getting emotionally involved in the sale of the home:** Once you decide to sell your house it’s no longer

your home — it becomes a commodity. Sellers cannot get emotional if buyers do not appreciate their home and cannot let their egos get in the way when negotiating. Try to create a win-win deal.

- **Failing to disclose issues in the house:** Make sure to complete the disclosures forms accurately. This mistake can be the most costly mistake a seller can make.
- **Over-improving your home:** This happens with additions and upgrades that make the home stick out from other houses in the neighborhood. Sellers rarely recover the money spent for such remodels.
- **Not getting your home inspected before listing it:** Have home and pest control inspections done ahead of time, and get estimates for the repairs. It’s always best to prepare for any potential problems.

Make sure you identify and eliminate these mistakes, and you can save yourself tens of thousands of dollars.

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BBC renovation breezes through

BBC RENOVATION
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ease the path toward project approval, as the commissioners as well as public supporters pointed out his success with the Palo Alto Creamery, Reposado and, in Mountain View, Gravity and Scratch.

What he hopes to bring to Menlo Park, he said, is a one-of-a-kind restaurant people will be proud to go to.

Although the restaurant would be open seven days a week from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m., with on-site alcohol sales and background music, Mr. Fischer said he “can’t stress enough that noise in our operations isn’t a factor.”

He has turned down requests to bring live music to his other restaurants, he said, and has no plans to change that policy.

Members of the public, including councilmen Peter Ohtaki and Ray Mueller and Chamber of Commerce CEO Fran Dehn told the commission they couldn’t wait to see the new restaurant open.

The commissioners followed suit before voting 6-0, with Henry Riggs absent, to approve the plans.

“Our nickname of ‘Menlo Dark’ is sometimes well deserved,” Commissioner Katie Ferrick quipped. “I appreciate you being willing to take a chance on turning the lights on.” ■

BOND MEASURE
continued from page 5

community.” He suggested that the board consider a measure of \$250 million to \$260 million.

Whatever the number, it is actually about half the total tax burden when interest on the bonds is included, and neither number is likely to appear in voter materials. The period of the tax, often 30 years, is also unlikely to appear.

Common practice is not to include the total, Mr. Godbe said. “It’s such an abstract number that people don’t get it. There’s no sticker shock,” he said. He compared a voter’s perceptions to buying a car. “Until you get to telling him the monthly payments, it’s not real. That’s the same thing we’re talking about here.”

As for the campaign, board member Olivia Martinez asked Ms. Stern-Benoit to talk about the benefits of hiring professionals. They can map a strategy, work on fundraising and endorsements, manage phone banks, and publicize the district’s message, Ms. Stern-Benoit said. A June election would mean a brief campaign. “It helps to really hone that

time into what has to be done locally,” she said.

Ms. Martinez, noting that California taxes are already high, said the board should go for as low a number as possible, and that a June election is preferable. “It’s far easier to put a lot of effort into a short period of time rather than string it out,” she said. “I think telling (the Sequoia district’s) story is really overdue.”

Commenting on the notion that a successful June election could allow new classrooms to be ready for the growing enrollment as it reaches the high schools, council member Carrie DuBois and campaign-volunteer organizer Jennifer Webb said they preferred November, even if it meant a later start on construction. The schools could deploy portable classrooms to bridge the gap, they said.

“I would rather not rush (the campaign) just to get the money to start,” Ms. Webb said. With maybe 500 phone-bank shifts and 200 walk-block shifts, a campaign “is a big, big thing to have people step up to.”

The board is expected to decide later this month on the ballot measure. ■

TOWN CENTER PLAN
continued from page 5

is a document guiding the use of the commercial area along Woodside Road between Whiskey Hill Road and Canada Road. The document was created in 1970 and last updated in 1988.

In February 2013, the town formed a special task force to work on an update of the plan. The Town Center Area Task Force is made up of 30 Woodside residents, including representatives of all the town’s committees and commissions.

After four meetings, the task

force presented a report that included all of the ideas committee members had come up with. Some Woodside residents took exception to a few of the ideas in the report and demanded the Town Council exclude them from any future consideration.

In November, at a meeting attended by more than 75 residents, the council voted to take several topics off the table, including: constructing a multi-story parking garage; making major changes to the road configuration; including residential properties in the town

center plan; allowing housing in the town center area; and changing Measure J, which forbids commercial developments on public property in the town center (and had been interpreted as ruling out a farmers’ market in the town center parking lot.) ■



Pelham Johnston

Participants in the leadership class are, from left, Mayor Ray Mueller; students Stacie Foreman, Dudley Ryderand and Amelia Mahoni; high school director Ruby Fong; and development director Sean Mendy. The students are holding their certificates of course completion.

Delving into real-world problems

By Emma Marsano
Special to the Almanac

Debates on education often revolve around the idea that preparing the next generation to take on the challenges of tomorrow (to indulge a common cliché) is our most important task today. But how often do those in power actually offer children and teens the chance to affect positive change in their hometowns?

A few months ago, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula (BGCP) and some local city council members did their part by holding a leadership course charging Menlo Park and East Palo Alto teens to propose solutions to serious problems in their communities.

A total of 14 students participated in the eight-week course: six students at the BGCP’s Menlo Park clubhouse and eight at the East Palo Alto clubhouse.

Menlo Park Councilman Ray Mueller designed the course in conjunction with Jeff Feinman and Sean Mendy of the BGCP. “This is the first time here (at the BGCP) that we’ve become

involved in city government,” Mr. Mendy said. “We have had city officials come and give talks, but haven’t had consistent, weekly interaction.”

During the first part of the course, students organized themselves into small groups and brainstormed problems they wanted to research in their communities. Over subsequent weeks, the students contacted community organizations, sent out surveys, gathered information, prepared visual aids, and presented their chosen problems and solutions to fellow students and participating council members.

At the end of February, the students plan to present their proposals to the Menlo Park City Council. The final projects touch on “the issues of gangs, gun violence, drug use and bullying,” said Mr. Mueller.

Among the proposals: Create a mentoring program to help young people feel that someone positive cares about them, while promoting higher education.

In addition to Mr. Mueller, council members participating in the course were Ruben Abrica, Larry Moody and Lisa Yarbrough-Gauthier from East

Palo Alto, and Catherine Carlton from Menlo Park.

Ruby Fong, high school director at the Menlo Park Clubhouse, said Mr. Mueller’s encouraging attitude helped the youth gain confidence. “This kind of collaboration could mean the difference between complacency and higher achievement for the youth of this community,” she said.

Mid-Peninsula High School junior Stacie Foreman said the program enabled her to speak up and be heard, and it served to acknowledge that “the youth of the Belle Haven community matter.”

Josese Naivaluvou, a junior at Menlo-Atherton High School, said that at first, he was unsure of whether he could complete the course. “But with the help of the council members and Boys & Girls Club staff, I am now more confident with public speaking,” he said. “I know that making a difference really does begin with me.”

Mr. Mueller said that he and the BGCP staff agree that the leadership course should continue so students can put “their research into action in the community.” ■

Menlo Park takes first step to rename bridge after Mike Harding

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

The family of a man known for tireless bicycle advocacy and engineering skill may see his name live on.

About a dozen community members spoke at the Feb. 11 Menlo Park City Council meeting to ask that the city consider renaming the San Mateo Drive Bike Bridge in memory of Mike Harding, adding their voices to a stream of emails sent to the council during past weeks that voiced support for the idea.

Mr. Harding, 74, died in December. He served on the city's bicycle commission, the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, and the San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. He typically traveled on two wheels — and even helped friends move offices via a bike.

"He rode his bike to work every day, rain or shine," son Andrew Harding told the council, and described his father as kind, thoughtful and stubborn, a brilliant engineer, and a proud long-term Menlo Park resident.

His father also played a role in getting the bridge built in 1976.

He said the bridge, while

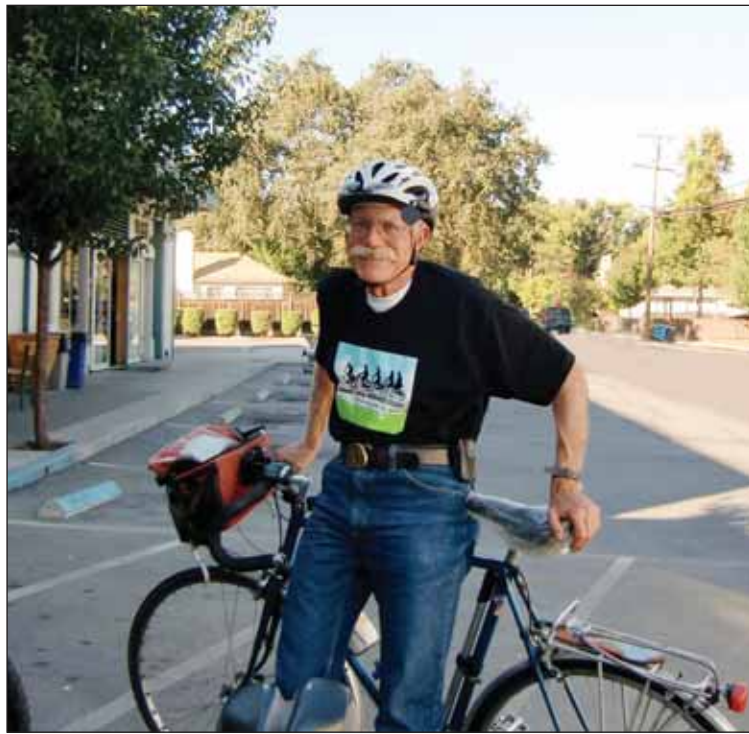


Photo by Steve Schmidt

Mike Harding pauses during a bike ride from Cafe Zoe to Facebook.

physically unassuming, makes a significant contribution to the neighborhood. "If you know the bike bridge, then you know a little something about my father."

The motion to rename the bridge passed 4-0, with councilman Rich Cline absent.

The bridge, which crosses the

San Francisco Creek, is jointly owned by Menlo Park and Palo Alto, which will also have to agree to the name change. If Palo Alto proves unwilling, Menlo Park may choose to mount a plaque in Mr. Harding's honor on its side of the bridge, council members said. ■

City works on 'granny unit' regs

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park Planning Commission continued its quest to figure out how to encourage construction of secondary units, also known as "granny units," while simultaneously preventing the proliferation of miniature real estate empires built in one's backyard.

During a study session held on Feb. 10, Commissioner Katie Ferrick took issue with a clause in the granny unit ordinance that requires the owner to live on the property. She pointed out that residents may move at some point in the future after building a secondary unit, but not want to sell the property. So why not let them rent out both the main and the granny unit?

Ms. Ferrick said the rule treats renters as second-class citizens and something to be afraid of. "And I don't like it; it's elitist," she said.

Commission chair John

■ MENLO PARK

Kadvany passed along the concerns of a neighbor that was worried that having no owner present would lead to "half-baked" granny unit construction and not benefit the neighborhood.

The rule does present a disincentive to building granny units, according to Commissioner Ben Eiref, who said the spirit of the process was supposed to be encouraging construction.

With Mr. Kadvany dissenting, the commission voted 5-1, with Henry Riggs absent, to let city staff know they consider the clause too restrictive.

Also a disincentive: The cost of building a granny unit, Mr. Bressler said, which he estimated could easily reach \$20,000 just for permits and similar fees.

Staff replied that fees will be reviewed by the City Council in March, which may choose to use money from the gen-

eral fund to subsidize the cost. However, other associated costs, such as school impact, fire district and sanitary district fees, aren't up to the city.

Other considerations included whether to reduce the required minimum lot size for a secondary unit to 5,750 square feet; allowing accessory buildings, such as garages, of up to 640 square feet to be converted to granny units; and limiting the number and type of plumbing fixtures to two within an accessory building to differentiate those buildings from secondary units. If a structure has three types — such as a toilet, sink and shower — it would then count as a habitable, i.e. granny, unit. The classification matters in terms of determining the size of the required setbacks.

The process of fine-tuning the granny unit ordinance will continue; such units must have a kitchen, for example, but as staff noted, the city then needs to define what counts as a kitchen. ■

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New home for German-American school?

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

The German-American International School has found a potential new home in the North Fair Oaks neighborhood, just a few miles from its current Menlo Park campus. Now school officials are working to build a good relationship with their likely new neighbors as they work with the county to obtain needed permits.

Now located on the former O'Connor School site in the Willows neighborhood, GAIS is being forced to leave that campus in May 2015 to make way for a new school to be constructed by the Menlo Park City School District, which owns the site. The district has leased the campus to GAIS since 1991, but is building a new school, to open in 2016, to accommodate burgeoning enrollment in its own schools.

GAIS, a bilingual international baccalaureate school with about 315 students, wants to relocate to five contiguous parcels totaling nearly 3 acres at 3515 Edison Way in unincorporated North Fair Oaks.

The campus would be built in two phases, with the first phase completed by August 2015, in time for the launch of a new school year.

When it opens at that time, the school, which now enrolls children from preschool through eighth grade, will include a ninth-grade level, according to Dominic Liechti, the school's managing director. GAIS plans to add a new high school grade level each subsequent year until 2018, when a 12th-grade class is in place.

Project planner Olivia Boo of the San Mateo County Planning Department said a school is not a permitted use in the area's light-industrial zone, and that the school will be required to obtain a conditional use permit or apply to the county for a permitted-use designation. After a formal application is submitted, there will be community meetings in North Fair Oaks, and the plan will be reviewed by the county's Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

Although no formal application has been submitted, Mr. Liechti submitted a letter to the county outlining GAIS's plans for the site. They include the renovation of the three existing buildings, which now are leased as office, manufacturing, research and commercial space.

Private school will lose Willows campus next year, but hopes to move to North Fair Oaks.

There will be 36 classrooms, a library, a multipurpose room and a teachers' lounge.

Plans also call for playing areas between the buildings. The two vacant parcels will be upgraded with a small track and soccer field, sports courts, landscaping, parking, and circulation areas.

The project's cost is estimated at \$5 million.

Community relations

GAIS officials have been meeting with North Fair Oaks Council members and county Supervisor Warren Slocum, whose district the property lies

in, since last spring "to discuss our plans and hear their feedback," Mr. Liechti said in the letter.

Earlier this month, the school met with residents in a county-mandated "pre-application workshop," and on Feb. 10, with members of the Fair Oaks Beautification Association (FOBA) as part of the school's effort to hear from residents.

"GAIS did an excellent job in reaching out to the community," resident Kyle Barriger told the Almanac. Mr. Barriger, who attended both recent meetings and is a member of FOBA, said residents' chief concerns centered on increased traffic and noise, and on who will have access to the play fields when school is not in session. Residents want to make sure there's not unlimited access to the fields, he said, and have been assured by school officials that they don't intend to open the fields to organized sports — a statement echoed by Mr. Liechti in an interview with the Almanac.

Mr. Barriger said he can't speak for other FOBA members, but observed that GAIS appears willing to be a good neighbor. "I think that what I and most (residents) are looking for is a genuine partnership between the German-American School and the community," he said.

Mr. Liechti told the Almanac that the school will use a traffic management plan similar to the one now in place at its current campus in the Willows. It includes staggered schedules, a carpooling system used by 50 percent of parents, parent monitoring of motorists dropping off and picking up their kids, and other strategies. "We have a really good track record" in the Willows neighborhood, he said.

The school is conducting a traffic study in the Edison Way area to better address the issue. At this point, he said, it's unknown whether the school will generate more traffic than current tenants of the three buildings, which he numbered at 40. Mr. Liechti said he wants to form a traffic committee that includes neighbors of the new school. ■

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Portola Valley resident given alternative sentence

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Stephen Wolf, the former Portola Valley resident who pleaded no contest in March 2013 to one count of possession of child pornography, had been facing eight months in jail starting Feb. 1, but he is serving an alternative sentence instead.

Mr. Wolf is a participant in the Sheriff's Office work-furlough program run by the San Mateo County Alternative Sentencing Bureau (ASB), Deputy Rebecca Rosenblatt told the Almanac.

Work-furlough participants must either have a full-time job or be enrolled in school as a full-time student. When he is working, Mr. Wolf is out of custody, but returns to the county's medium security facility when he is not, Ms. Rosenblatt said.

For an inmate to qualify for the program, ASB staff examine letters of recommendation and the inmate's situation, including criminal record and risk to public safety. Candidates must be serving a sentence of more than 90 days.

Asked if jail overcrowding is a factor, Ms. Rosenblatt said it is not. The purpose is to "allow the individual to give back to the community and ... assist the individual in becoming a contributing member of society upon their release," she said in an email.

The county has some 400 people serving alternative sentences and 900 in custody, District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said.

Mr. Wolf was arrested in March, 2012 and sentenced in December 2013 to three years of supervised probation on the condition that he serve the jail time. He was a resident of Portola Valley at the time of his arrest.

Alternative sentencing does not alter the requirement in Mr. Wolf's sentence that he register for life as a sex offender and participate in a one-year sex-offender treatment program.

Mr. Wolf wears an ankle bracelet that alerts ASB staff immediately if he strays out of the designated route between home and his place of work. ■

Sharon Green renovations pass round two

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park Planning Commission suggested that the owners of an apartment complex in Sharon Heights find a way to save some of the 62 heritage trees slated for removal as part of the property's renovation, and the owners listened, returning on Feb. 10 with a new plan that earmarks 42 for destruction instead.

The complex, Sharon Green at 350 Sharon Park Drive, has 459 trees on the nearly 16-acre site. Representatives of the owner, BRE FMCA, said the property would end up with 206 more trees than it has, as the owner would plant mature replacements in addition to building a new two-story recreation center and 2,000-square-foot leasing office, and making improvements throughout the complex that include a new dog park, bocce ball court and barbecue courtyard.

The changes would increase building coverage on the site to 40 percent, which is 10 percent over the amount allowed under city code.

BRE told the commission the improvements were neces-

sary, citing as an example the cramped quarters of the current leasing office, which shares space with the clubhouse, fitness center and maintenance department. The new leasing office would be more visible to prospective tenants.

Some commissioners, however, were unconvinced that such a huge leasing office was truly necessary, particularly given that the complex — with monthly rents ranging from \$2,700 to \$5,200 — has an occupancy rate of about 96 percent.

BRE countered that while the occupancy rate is high, so is the turnover of tenants.

Commissioner Vince Bressler said he thought the renovations would drive rents even higher, thus forcing people to move out. He noted there appeared to be a disconnect between what current residents really wanted and what management had planned.

"I'll be the one person up here who wants to do something up here to force reconnection," he said.

Commissioner Katie Ferrick questioned why it wasn't possible to follow the recommendations of the Environmental

Quality Commission, which reviewed the proposed tree removals in December. The EQC unanimously suggested that the plan be redesigned to preserve more trees and that the applicant guarantee retention of a set number of heritage trees on site at all times going forward.

According to BRE, the site's layout renders alternate designs infeasible. At most, only two additional heritage trees would be saved, at detriment to other aspects of the plan, such as complex access and building accessibility.

Residents on nearby streets had raised concerns about trash collection during construction; as a result, BRE and Recology came up with a plan to relocate curb-side pickup from Monte Rosa Drive and Sharon Road to locations within the apartment complex as well as dedicated uncovered parking spaces near the entrance for garbage collection.

The commission voted 5-1, with Mr. Bressler opposed and Henry Riggs absent, to allow the project to proceed to the City Council for final approval of the conditional use permit and heritage tree removals. ■

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Marcus A. Krupp, MD

(1913 – 2014)

Marcus A. Krupp, MD, 100, died on January 18, 2014 at his home in Portola Valley, CA.

A graduate of Stanford University in 1934 and its School of Medicine in 1939, Dr. Krupp was a founder of the Palo Alto Medical Research Institute where he served as director for 36 years. He taught at Stanford's School of Medicine and remained active there until his death. At the medical school he received the Albion Walter Hewlett Award for his career as a physician and the J. E. Wallace/"Muleshoe" Award as a distinguished alumnus. Stanford University also awarded Dr. Krupp the Gold Spike for his many years of volunteer leadership service.

Dr. Krupp was born in El Paso, Texas in 1913 and lived in Miami, Arizona from age two until he entered Stanford in 1930 with the goal of becoming a physician. He earned his MD at Stanford School of Medicine when it was still located in San Francisco.

Dr. Krupp's introduction to laboratory medicine came during World War II, when he was assigned to the laboratory at Letterman Hospital in San Francisco. He then served at several military hospitals, including a brief stint in the Philippines, and after the war was named chief of clinical pathology at the Veterans Administration Hospital in San Francisco. Four years later, Russel V. Lee, MD, founder of the Palo Alto Medical Clinic, approached him to become director of research and supervisor of laboratories.

In 1950, Dr. Krupp became a founder of the Research Institute at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation (PAMF) and served as director there until 1986. A plaque in the lobby of PAMF's Research Institute captures the essential nature of its longtime director. "Marc Krupp, an unassuming man of slight physical stature and self-deprecating humor, a man loved and respected by his colleagues, made an impact that extends far beyond the Institute. As a teacher, mentor, editor and administrator, his influence has been felt nationally and internationally."

In 1961, Dr. Krupp founded the Association of Independent Research Institutes. From the original 11 organizations, the association has grown to 80 independent institutes, which receive significant funding from the National Institutes of Health and offer an important complement to university-based research. In 1966 he also served as president of the California Academy of Medicine.

In his own community, Dr. Krupp used the nonprofit umbrella of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation to help other worthwhile local organizations get off the ground, including the Children's Health Council and the Mental Research Institute.

"We never simplify things," said Dr. Krupp. "The more we learn, the more complex it gets. The perimeter of research is growing. The center is known now, so we're working out on the perimeter, expanding the whole field of knowledge. That's what research is all about. It's pretty exciting stuff."

Dr. Krupp was preceded in death by his first wife Muriel McClure, his son David and his brother Robert. Along with his wife Donna, he is survived by sons Michael and Peter, daughter Sara Krupp Kinney, granddaughters Katy, Elizabeth and Whitney, and nieces and nephews.

Dr. Krupp and his wife Donna Goodheart Krupp were philanthropic champions of Stanford University and Stanford School of Medicine, as well as many other local non-profit institutions. Persons wishing to make a gift in Dr. Krupp's honor may send a donation, made out to Stanford University and designating "The Krupp Memorial Fund," to Stanford University Development Services, P.O. Box 20466, Stanford, CA 94309-0466.

A festive celebration of Dr. Krupp's life will be held on Sunday, March 2 at Stanford University Faculty Club from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. with the program beginning at 2:45. Valet parking will be provided. Guests should RSVP to michaelwelch95407@gmail.com.

PAID OBITUARY

COMMUNITY

CALENDAR

Go to AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more calendar listings

Special Events

Galway, Ireland Library Display about the new relationship the city of Menlo Park has with its "friendship city," Galway, Ireland. Located at the entrance to the library in a glass-enclosed case, the display covers more than 150 years of history and will be up until Feb. 28. During library hours. Free. Menlo Park Public Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 650-208-4530.

Eth-Noh-Tec Kinetic Story Theater will perform stories from across Asia through music, dance, rhythmic dialogue and spoken word. March 1, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Menlo Park City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. www.menloparklibrary.org

Community Events

Woodside Parent Education Series Kelly McGonigal speaks on "Why Willpower Matters," Feb. 27, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Woodside High School MUR, 199 Churchill Ave., Woodside. Call 650-868-0590. kellymcgonigal-2014woodside.eventbrite.com

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

Repair Cafe Bring broken household items to the Repair Cafe and work with Repair volunteers to keep favorite things working and out of the landfill. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free.

Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-1104. www.repaircafe-paloalto.org/

On Stage

'Seussical the Musical' Menlo-Atherton High School will perform "Seussical the Musical," based on Dr. Seuss books like the "Cat in the Hat." Feb. 28 and March 1, 7 and 8, 7:30 p.m. \$12 for adults; \$8 for students/children/seniors. M-A High Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Call 415-515-2892. www.thecenteratma.org

Talks & Authors

'Treasure in Heaven: The Implications of an Image' Historian Peter Brown explores wider implications for churches of well-known sayings of Christ that his followers should place "treasure in heaven" by giving to the poor. Host: Stanford Center for Ethics In Society. March 3, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Stanford University - Cemex Auditorium, 641 Knight Way, Stanford. Call 650-736-2629.

Alan Weisman in conversation with

Paul Ehrlich Alan Weisman, journalist and author of "The World Without Us" and "Countdown: Our Last, Best Hope for a Future on Earth," will be in conversation with Paul Ehrlich, population studies and biology professor at Stanford and a fellow of the Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics. Feb. 26, 6:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/alan-weisman-conversation-paul-r-ehrich

Book club: Philip Roth's 'The Ghost Writer' Michael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman will join Tobias Wolff to discuss Roth's

1979 classic, "The Ghost Writer." The event is part of the "Another Look" book club, which focuses on short pieces that have been forgotten, neglected or overlooked. Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. Free. Stanford Humanities Center - Levinthal Hall, 424 Santa Teresa St., Stanford. www.anotherlook.stanford.edu/

Funding, Exits and IPOs: BABC Venture Capital Forecast for 2014 Leading VCs — Bill Reichert, Mitchell Kertzman, Gaurav Tewari and Richard Waters — from Silicon Valley will forecast the year ahead. Feb. 25, 5:30-8 p.m. \$45 BABC members / \$55 general public / \$65 at-the-door Quadrus Conference Center, 2400 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. Call 415-296-8645. babc.chambermaster.com/Events/details/funding-exits-and-ipos-silicon-valley-s-best-make-their-predictions-and-bets-361

Georgia O'Keeffe Docent lecture examines body of work created by Georgia O'Keeffe in her prolific years at Lake George, in conjunction with the de Young Museum's exhibition on display until May 11. Feb. 20, 10-11 a.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Rd, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Megan McArdle discusses her new book, "The Up Side of Down: Why Failing Well Is the Key to Success." Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.

Natalie Baszile in conversation with author Lalita Tademy about Baszile's new book, "Queen Sugar," about an African-American woman who unexpectedly inherits a sugar cane farm in Louisiana. Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.

Concerts

Music and Dance from Tibet The 30-member Tibetan Opera, Dance, and Music Troupe of Qinghai performs for the first time in the U.S. Part of the 10th annual Stanford Pan-Asian Music Festival. Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. \$20. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. www.panasianmusicfestival.stanford.edu

Verdi's 'Requiem' Jindong Cai conducts the Stanford Symphony in collaboration with the Symphonic Chorus for a performance of Verdi's "Requiem." Joining the orchestra and chorus are four soloists from the Mongolian National Opera, in residence as part of the 10th annual Stanford Pan-Asian Music Festival. March 2, 2:30 p.m. \$20. Stanford Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html

Kids & Families

'Kids Love Science' Kepler's Youth Event At this science-focused youth book event, hear from Eric Elfman and Neal Shusterman, authors of "Tesla's Attic" and Steve Hockensmith of "Nick and Tesla's High Voltage Danger Lab." March 1, 3 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/youth-event-eric-elfman-neal-shusterman-and-steve-hockensmith-kids-love-science

Babies and Books Storytime Rhymes, songs, lap play and short stories for the infants ages birth to 18 months. There will be no storytimes on Jan. 20 and Feb. 17 because of holiday closures. Jan. 6-Feb. 24, Mondays, 11-11:30 a.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Paws for Tales Kids Program Atherton Library hosts a program in partnership with the Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA where children ages 5 and up can sign up to read to a trained service dog, with the goal of improving reading skills and building confidence. Time slots are available the fourth Saturday of each month through June. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org

Et alia

Sheryl Sandberg is keynote speaker at Girls' Middle School Annual Scholarship Breakfast. March 7, 7:45-9:30 a.m. \$125 (\$85 of each ticket is tax-deductible). Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel, 4290 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 650-681-3307. www.girlsms.org/breakfast

Redwood Symphony: 'Brahms's First' Redwood Symphony will open 2014 with Brahms's "First Symphony." Also on the program will be Ligeti's "Concert Romanesc" and Mendelssohn's "Violin Concerto" with Jassen Todorov as soloist. Feb. 22, 8-10 p.m. \$10-30. Canada College Main Theatre, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City. www.redwoodsymphony.org

PAID OBITUARY

Haven Avenue developer wants fewer affordable units

Last fall, developer St. Anton announced a partnership with Facebook to build a 394-unit apartment complex on 10 acres of land off Marsh Road at 3639 Haven Ave.

The original plan included 38 affordable housing units. Now St. Anton has asked the city to lower that by 16, although of the 22 remaining units, rents would decrease to be affordable to those earning 50 percent of the county's mean income of \$97,100. Previously, the units targeted those making 80 percent.

Facebook would continue to subsidize 15 affordable housing units that will be income-restricted for 55 years.

Menlo Park's community development department will need to approve the change, according to a staff memo.

Business Watch

Following in the footsteps of Neighborhood Watch, the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce and police department want to implement "Business Watch" to help prevent crime. An information session will be held on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m. at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center at 701 Laurel St.

Call 330-6300 or email gesepulveda@menlopark.org to sign up for the meeting.

Woodside

Two incumbents, Adolph Rosekrans and Grant Huberty, have each been appointed by the Woodside Town Council to serve new four-year terms on the Woodside Planning Commission.

Mr. Huberty was appointed in December 2013 to serve out the remainder of Sandra Thompson's term. He is a retired real estate professional who grew up in Woodside, moved away for more than 30 years and returned in 2007.

He lives in Woodside Hills, but will represent District 3, which is in the southwest area

BRIEFS

of town, generally between Woodside and Manzanita roads, because there were no applicants from that neighborhood.

Mr. Rosekrans is an architect who has lived in Woodside since the 1930s. He represents District 4, where he lives.

The only other candidate was Frank Rosenblum, who also applied for a seat on the Planning Commission in December.

Go to tinyurl.com/WS-231 to see a map of the districts.

County parks

Ramona Arechiga, a Peace Corps volunteer who served in Ethiopia and has a masters degree in forest resources from Oregon State University, is the new — and the first — natural resources manager for the San Mateo County Parks Department.

"When I was a teenager growing up in Redondo Beach, I dreamed of working in the coast range of Northern California as a forest ecologist and resource manager," Ms. Arechiga said in a written statement. "The position of Natural Resource Manager ... provides an opportunity to realize that dream."

The Parks Department oversees the operation of 19 parks, including Edgewood, Huddart and Wunderlich parks in Woodside, the Woodside Store, the Coyote Point Recreation Area, and the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. All told, 16,183 acres.

Her Peace Corps work was in the Bale Mountains National Park in Ethiopia, where she organized public-planting programs in communities adjacent to the park. In Oregon, she focused on restoration of native vegetation using volunteers to do the planting.

She hikes and backpacks with her husband Tracy and their dog, Tsuga. She has two indoor-only cats, Go and Brain, who she rescued from the wild when they were three weeks old.

Hinshaw selected for school board

By Barbara Wood
Special to the Almanac

Scott Hinshaw, co-president of the Menlo Park Atherton Education Foundation and an investment banker, was unanimously selected by the board of the Menlo Park City School District on Feb. 10 to serve the remainder of retiring board member Laura Rich's term.

"How lucky our district is to have five so highly qualified people applying for this position," said school board president Joan Lambert. "I feel like any one of you could do this job and do it well."

Ms. Rich resigned in January after serving on the board for 15 years. That term and those of Terry Thygesen and Joan Lambert end in December.

Mr. Hinshaw has three daughters in the district in kindergarten, fourth and fifth grades. Fellow board candidates Stacey Jones, co-chair of the MPCSD District Council and co-chair of the recent bond campaign, has three children in district schools, and Caroline Lucas, an educator at La Entrada School, has two children in the district's middle school.

The other two candidates to replace Ms. Rich do not have children currently in the school district — Carol Cunningham, whose two children are still in preschool, and Jim Eakin, who served on the board from 1996 to 2000.

All five candidates were interviewed at a public meeting on

"Our family's going to be here a long time," Mr. Hinshaw told the board. He lives close to the school, and said he cares about "what this district will look like 10 to 15 years from now."

He said the Menlo Park district can serve as a role model for other districts and "I look forward to helping our district become a leader in the state."

When asked how he sees the role of the board and board members, Mr. Hinshaw said, "Most importantly, board members should be advocates for the students."

Board member Terry Thygesen nominated Mr. Hinshaw. "I could work very happily with any of these candidates," she said. However, she said, for the specific tasks the board is facing, including the construction of a new school, "as hard as it is to select one person, I think that the person who would bring the most immediate 'hit the ground' and the ability to help with the things we need to get done, is Scott."

After the vote Superintendent Maurice Ghysels congratulated the board on its process. "This was an astounding feat of team building," he said. ■

**'Our family's going to be here a long time,'
Scott Hinshaw
told the board.**

Feb. 10, and the board conducted all its deliberations in public as well.

Board members appeared to be impressed by Mr. Hinshaw's time on the foundation's board, where he worked with parents as well as the community, school board and district administration.

"That on-the-job training is the best vetting that an individual can get," board member Maria Hilton said. "I appreciate that he is interested in wanting to take that next step."

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Menlo Park, CA 94025

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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.



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Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS

ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES FROM PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY. EDITED BY TOM GIBBONEY

Vote not clear on Atherton grandstand

Atherton voters who read the “impartial analysis” of Measure M when they voted in the 2012 election should be forgiven if they thought the following words on the ballot meant approval was not final: “...Voter approval of the measure will not automatically grant the Little League improvement proposal which will still have to go through the normal Town land use review process.”

When reviewing the proposal to build a covered 200-seat grandstand and improve the Little League field in Holbrook-Palmer Park, the Planning Commission after three public meetings decided that the size of the proposed project “was too monumental and too large in scale,” and recommended that it be downsized.

But rather than continue the hearing process, the City Council last month decided, on a 3-2 vote, to move ahead, sanctioning a 200-seat grandstand if the structure conforms with codes and other legal requirements of the permitting process. Menlo-Atherton Little League, which is donating the grandstand, including public restrooms, an electronic scoreboard and perimeter fencing along both baselines, as well as other improvements to the field, will now submit its final plans in order to acquire permits from the town.

Neither the ballot language for Measure M nor the impartial analysis, written by City Attorney Bill Conners, specified the size of the “covered seating for spectators.” A number of residents have stated publicly and to the Almanac that they voted for the measure, but trusted that the town would engage in a rigorous review process to ensure that the scale of the project was appropriate for the town’s only park. What the City Council has signed off on, they say, is inappropriately large.

Councilman Rick DeGolia said he would have preferred a scaled-down grandstand plan, saying, “Personally, I believe that it’s a third (larger) than what’s needed.” He said he voted for it because he did not want the Little League to walk away from the project. “I believe



Courtesy Menlo-Atherton Little League

Architect’s sketch of Little League grandstand

it was proposed (by town officials) to the Little League to reduce the seating numbers, but they rejected that.” He went on to say he didn’t think removing 50 seats was worth sacrificing the donation to the town and the park.

So now, unless Mayor Cary Wiest, Councilwoman Elizabeth Lewis and Mr. DeGolia change their minds, a good chunk of prized open space in Holbrook-Palmer Park will be taken up by a very permanent, covered Little League grandstand. It is unfortunate that a compromise could not be struck to reduce the grandstand to a size more in keeping with Little League needs. As some readers have pointed out, in the unlikely event that there are 40 players (a generous estimate of 20 players per team) at the field for a championship game, even if each family had four people in attendance, it would mean only 160 spectators would use the grandstand. In our view, a capacity of 150 seats is plenty big enough for a Little League grandstand in Atherton.

Little League officials have been very generous to donate the facility and other improvements — not only to the ball field but the park in general — but the town has an obligation to protect the legacy of the park and maintain much of it as open space. This over-sized grandstand is not in keeping with that tradition.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Hazards of cigarettes,
meat are similar

Editor:

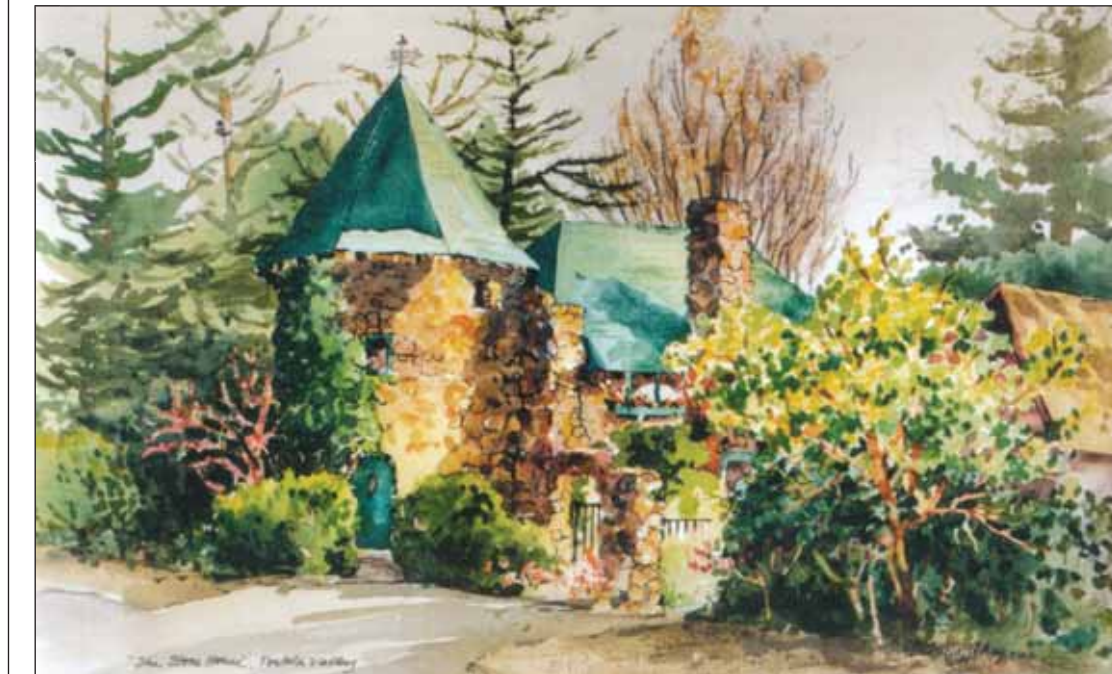
A few weeks ago, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Surgeon General’s first report on the health hazards of cigarette smoking, the office released a report linking smoking to several new chronic diseases. These include diabetes, erectile dysfunction, cancer of the colon and liver, and stroke, in addition to the well-known links to lung and oral cancer, high blood pressure, and heart disease.

The parallels between cigarette smoking and meat consumption are uncanny:

■ The chronic diseases linked to both activities and costs of associated medical care and lost productivity are very similar.

■ The first government reports warning consumers about health hazards of cigarette smoking and meat consumption were issued in 1964 by the Surgeon General and in 1977 by the Senate Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.

■ The first warning labels on cigarette and meat packaging



Portola Valley Archives

Our Regional Heritage

Artist Patricia Akey captured the wistful charm of the stone house at 451 Portola Road in this painting. The building has been compared to Rapunzel’s fairy tale redoubt or to a structure in an Alfred Hitchcock movie.

were required in 1966 and 1994, respectively.

■ Both activities are discouraged by health advocates and both are declining.

But there is one important difference: the meat industry impacts more state economies

with a stronger congressional clout than the tobacco industry. A Surgeon General’s report on the hazards of meat consumption is most unlikely. Our health remains our personal responsibility.

Miles Barney
Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park

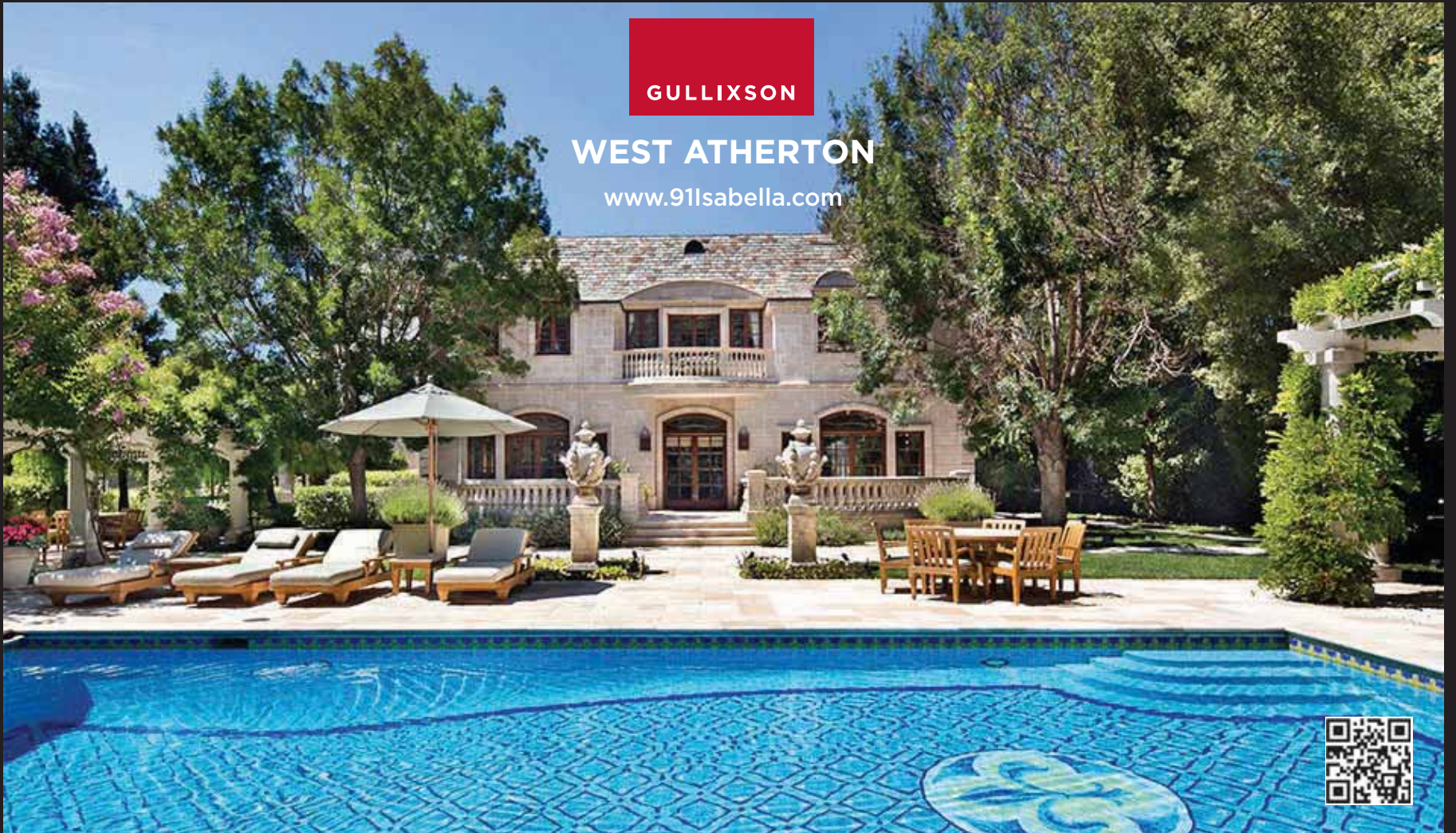
Correction

Last week’s editorial called for Atherton to install a stop light at Encinal Avenue and Middlefield Road. A traffic light is already in place at this intersection. The Almanac regrets the error.

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