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# The Almanac

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

MARCH 5, 2014 | VOL. 49 NO. 26



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# Local author joins principal for talk on innovation

By Renee Batti  
Almanac News Editor

She teaches innovation in an MBA program in San Francisco. He oversees a Menlo Park middle school at which innovation is a star.

Lisa Kay Solomon of Menlo Park, who has co-authored a new book on innovative strategies for problem-solving and idea generation, will be in conversation with Hillview Middle School Principal Erik Burmeister on Wednesday, March 12, at Kepler's bookstore to introduce a book she recently co-authored.

A conversation seems an appropriate means to unveil the book, "Moments of Impact: How to Design Strategic Conversations That Accelerate Change," which Ms. Solomon co-wrote with Chris Ertel, a social scientist and longtime adviser to Fortune 500 company executives.

Although the book's focus is the world of business, "it's a personal passion of mine to feed (the strategies) into education," Ms. Solomon said.

She enlisted Mr. Burmeister for the Kepler's event because of his application of "design thinking" principles to the Hillview curriculum and culture — principles that come into play in "Moments of Impact," which teaches alternative approaches to the top-down, unproductive strategic meetings that some say are the rule in the corporate world.

Mr. Burmeister has led Hillview through a multi-faceted "redesign process" since arriving at the school in summer 2012. To do so, he employed the design thinking protocol developed by the Stanford University Design School, and created a "design team" of staff and parents.

Changes developed and tested at the middle school include a new master schedule that accommodates more collaborative learning and hands-on projects that apply design-thinking



Lisa Kay Solomon will be in conversation with Hillview Middle School Principal Erik Burmeister at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, at Kepler's bookstore, 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park.

concepts — a process that begins with empathy to understand the perspectives and experiences of others, then moves through brainstorming of possibilities, design and testing, and finalization of a solution.

"The Hillview story is a perfect example of the type of strategic conversations (Lisa) Solomon promotes," Mr. Burmeister said in an email. "We were so enthusiastic about Lisa's work and expertise that we asked her to join our Design Team this year," he said, adding that she will join other team members in "shadowing" a student this month — a process the team uses to evaluate what students are experiencing and how changes being put in place might be working.

Mr. Burmeister said that connections between what Hillview is doing and the principles presented in "Moments of Impact" include how the school reassessed and defined its purpose. "The 'problems' we set out to solve weren't necessarily seen by others or by us as 'problems.' Our work wasn't about solving some big issue that was causing

anxiety for parents or decreased achievement for students," he said.

"Our problem was really about asking the question, 'Does the education we are providing and the structure in which we are providing it really meet the needs of our current students and the world into which they will be graduating?'"

"By any measure, Hillview was doing really well. However, with a focus on 'strategic exploration and discovery,' as (Lisa) Solomon refers to it, we were able to identify that there was so much more we could be doing if we were willing to engage creatively in the human experience of design."

The mother of two children, Ms. Solomon has been involved in the Oak Knoll School parent community for some time. Several months ago, after finishing the book, she was introduced to Mr. Burmeister by her neighbor, who is an Oak Knoll teacher and a member of the Hillview Design Team, Ms. Solomon said.

After joining the Design Team herself and working with Mr. Burmeister, Ms. Solomon observed that the principal seems to have a natural ability to think expansively and strategically, which is leading to positive change at the school.

"Erik is doing it by instinct—he's doing it by feel," she said, adding that "Moments of Impact" is a book "for people who may not have those instincts" but want to learn to be more effective thinkers, leaders and decision makers. ■

Ms. Solomon is a faculty member of the MBA in design strategy program at California College of the Arts, where she established the Innovation Studio. She has lectured at university business schools including Stanford, UC Berkeley, and Cornell, and has been published in a number of magazines, journals and blogs.

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Caltrain plan would fell trees, add substations

By Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto Weekly

For years, Caltrain officials have been advocating a switch from diesel trains to electrified ones as the best way to both help the environment and keep the popular but cash-strapped commuter service financially viable.

But a new report analyzing the environmental impacts of electrification indicates that these benefits will come at a cost beyond the project's \$1.5 billion price tag.

Specifically, it could result in removal of more than 2,000 trees — including 188 in Menlo Park — and the addition of poles up to 50 feet high, safety walls built on existing bridges that cross the train corridor, and substations to support the electrification.

The draft environmental impact report, which the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board released Feb. 28, argues that Caltrain's long-planned electrification is a critical project for increasing ridership and for giving the Peninsula an

“environmentally friendly and reliable service.”

More than a decade in the works, the previously stalled project sparked back to life in 2012, when the California High-Speed Rail Authority agreed to adopt a “blended” two-track system along the Peninsula in which the new high-speed trains would share electrified tracks with Caltrain.

As part of a 2013 agreement between the agencies, the rail authority would pay for about half of the project's \$1.5 billion costs, with the balance coming

from Caltrain and other Bay Area transportation agencies.

According to the new report, Caltrain plans to have its new electrified system in place by 2019, at which time about 75 percent of its train fleet would be electric and 25 percent would be diesel. Once the remaining diesel trains reach the end of their service life, they would be replaced.

Caltrain carried about 47,000 riders on a typical weekday in 2013, according to the report, a number that is projected to go up to 57,000 in 2020 and

to 84,000 even if electrification doesn't happen. With the project, the estimated ridership would be 69,000 in 2020 and 111,000 in 2040. The overall number of daily weekday trains would jump from the present level of 92 to 114.

The environmental review notes that the project would significantly reduce traffic on regional roads by 235,000 “vehicle miles traveled” in 2020 and by 619,000 in 2040.

See **CALTRAIN PLAN**, page 8

## Softer defense rhetoric in lawsuit over car crash

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

A new tone appeared in the latest defense filings in a lawsuit over the car crash that pinned 6-year-old twin brothers against a downtown wall in Menlo Park. The defense now asserts the family wasn't at fault and deserves compensation.

The Cadigan twins and their 9-year-old brother were walking along Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park on Oct. 17 when a BMW SUV with the license plate “EN ESQ” jumped onto the sidewalk.

The crash broke one twin's arm and left the other twin in critical condition in the hospital facing a five-week stay and multiple surgeries.

The family seeks punitive as well as general damages on behalf of all three boys; the lawsuit describes their injuries as ranging from multiple, extensive skin grafts and damage to the lower body; orthopedic and soft-tissue damage to the upper body; and emotional trauma.

Mr. Nelson, the 90-year-old driver of the car, at first denied all responsibility for the resulting injuries. He initially claimed in documents filed in opposition to the Cadigan family's lawsuit that the children were engaged in behavior that was reckless, careless and negligent, and voluntarily placed themselves in danger by walking along the sidewalk.

But his legal team appears to

have abandoned that rhetoric. Their Feb. 13 filing states: “The defense understands full well the damage that was done to this innocent family. The Cadigans are entitled to reasonable compensatory damages for their injuries. But we do not agree that Edward Nelson should be punished for this sad and tragic accident.”

His attorneys did not respond to a request for comment before the Almanac's deadline.

The filing was submitted in response to the Cadigan family's renewed pursuit of punitive damages after a San Mateo County Superior Court judge dismissed their first request.

In an amended complaint, the plaintiffs alleged that an accident Mr. Nelson was involved in on Nov. 8, 2012, should have indicated that it wasn't safe for him to drive. The filing claimed the DMV suspended his license as a result until he petitioned for a new one in August 2013.

However, police records indicate that the 2012 accident involved another driver hitting his car while backing out of a parking space. Investigators determined Mr. Nelson was not the party at fault, police told the Almanac, which calls into question whether the DMV would have had reason to suspend his license.

Mr. Nelson's defense team did not delve into the 2012 accident in their response to

**‘The defense understands full well the damage that was done to this innocent family.’**

COURT FILING

See **LAWSUIT**, page 8



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

**Pushpanjali Dance Academy** dancers Mira Kannappan, right, and Nithila Poongovan perform for Encinal students during Cultural Arts Day.

## Encinal School celebrates India

By Diane McGrath

Co-chair of event

Encinal Elementary School in Atherton held its annual Cultural Arts Day celebration on Feb. 27. Conceived six years ago, the annual festival has explored the history and culture of Spain, Mexico, the Polynesian Islands, Uganda and China.

This year, the student body of 780 students studied India. The day kicked off with an introductory video, followed by a cricket demonstration and a visit to an on-site museum filled with art and

artifacts from India.

During lunch, the students sampled Indian food, practiced yoga or created their own Rangoli art on the playground. Sitar and tabla players Aharon Wheels Bolsta and Joanna Mack performed for the children.

Sharon Burns, principal of Encinal Elementary, said the event is a “wonderful opportunity to explore, and relate to, the culture of another country.”

A highlight of the day was a classical dance performance by the Pushpanjali Dance Academy of Sunnyvale, followed by a Bollywood dance headlined

by Lee Pazmino, who has toured with Justin Timberlake and Christina Aguilera, and is a teacher at the Menlo Park Academy of Dance.

The leadership team of Bitu Arabian, Ami Bhow, Samira Jones and Diane McGrath worked since last spring to organize the event. Over 100 volunteers participated.

In the classroom, parent volunteers presented a history and culture lesson, read a story about India, and helped students complete an elephant art project that was personalized with the students' names written in Hindi. ■

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## City, developers comment on proposed initiative

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Response from city officials and developers to a potential ballot initiative on the Menlo Park downtown/El Camino Real specific plan ranged from lukewarm to "let's talk about it."

Jim Cogan, the city's economic development manager, said he's worried the initiative is a step backward. "My professional opinion is that it's a bad thing for Menlo Park. It will stifle investment in the downtown improvements and likely mean that the property owners will miss out on the financing necessary to redevelop the vacant car lots."

Save Menlo, a grassroots coalition organized to protest the specific plan once a large mixed-use development was proposed along El Camino Real, has until mid-July to collect the estimated 2,500 to 3,000 signatures needed to put its initiative on the ballot for the November election.

The initiative proposes changing the specific plan's definition of open space to mean only space at ground level, and not areas such as balconies; capping office space development at 100,000 square feet per project, or 240,820 square feet total; and requiring voter approval for any project that would exceed the cap or result in total non-residential development within the specific plan area exceeding 474,000 square feet.

The changes would cut by 50 percent the amount of office space allowed in two mixed-use development proposals already in the pipeline.

Stanford University and developer John Arrillaga want to build a complex on the mostly vacant car lots along 300 to 500 El Camino Real. The 8.4-acre project would involve 199,500 square feet of office space, 10,000 square feet of retail, and up to 170 apartments.

Jean McCown, assistant vice president of government and community relations at Stanford, said the specific plan resulted from six years of thorough public outreach, and provides significant benefits for Menlo Park, including a way to revitalize El Camino Real.

"The initiative would not only change the plan's provisions, it would make it burdensome to adapt to desired changes to the area in the future by requiring

a public vote to alter any of the initiative's requirements. I question whether this sort of restrictive initiative is the best way to plan for and respond to the future needs of the community," she said.

While the university is still evaluating the proposed changes, she said the revised open space definition is inconsistent with the definition used in the rest of Menlo Park as well as almost every other city in the Bay Area.

"If the initiative qualifies and goes on the ballot, the voters will decide whether these are wise policies," Ms. McCown said.

A second project, designed by Greenheart LLC, would put 210,000 square feet of office space, 210,000 square feet of apartments and 13,000 square feet of retail on the 7-acre site located at 1300 El Camino Real and Oak Grove Avenue.

Menlo Park Mayor Ray Mueller has an idea: Why not hold a public hearing to compare the initiative with the current specific plan?

#### Mayor Ray Mueller: Why not hold a hearing to compare the initiative to the specific plan?

"What I don't want to see happen is for this to devolve into a mailer and insult war. It could. Frankly, (disagreements over development projects have) in the past."

The city could hire an independent consultant, sooner rather than later, Mr. Mueller said, to analyze the initiative and then hold a hearing to allow the public as well as staff to comment. Since the specific plan was evaluated through a public process for years, the initiative should also be studied and debated in public prior to a city-wide vote.

"I feel like my job as mayor is to make the conversation as substantive and as cerebral as possible," he said. "I do think right now there's a genuine disagreement. I'm not critical of Save Menlo at all. Their concern is understandable."

"And on the other side, I think staff and council who have supported the plan have worked very hard in years of open public process and their position is understandable as well. I also understand the frustration (of developers) who have property rights. And we will try to resolve the issues the best that we can in the interests of the city's residents, in a manner that is both dignified and intelligent."

See INITIATIVE, page 10

# Menlo Park church votes to switch denominations

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

Spirits were uplifted and hearts were broken after the tally for Menlo Park Presbyterian Church's vote on whether to change parent organizations came in: 2,024 members in favor, 158 against.

If the regional governing body now approves the March 2 vote, the church will switch from Presbyterian Church USA to ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, a much smaller, more conservative denomination launched in 2012.

With about 3,400 members and a couple thousand more people attending weekly services, the Menlo Park church represents a powerhouse in the local community. Changing denominations will facilitate its plans to add five more campuses in addition to those it has in Menlo Park, Mountain View and San Mateo.

While PCUSA holds the titles to real estate property used by its churches, in ECO, the churches own the property. Transferring the titles won't come cheap. Menlo Park Presbyterian will pay \$8.89 million to leave.

Another difference between the two denominations is the ease of operating multi-site churches, according to Menlo Park Presbyterian representatives, something ECO more readily accommodates.

Theological differences also factor in to the move, including a conflict over PCUSA's approval of gay clergy in 2011 and

current debate over whether to recognize same-sex marriages, according to some members of the congregation.

According to PCUSA's statistics, it experienced its largest loss of membership in five decades during the year immediately after its constituents voted to overturn a ban on gay clergy.

ECO's stance on gay clergy is difficult to detect, as the organization didn't respond to requests for comment, and the same goes for same-sex marriage. Its website states that members not

**Menlo Park Presbyterian will pay \$8.89 million to acquire title to property the church uses.**

in a heterosexual marriage are expected to remain celibate.

One long-time MPPC member who asked to remain anonymous described the vote's outcome as devastating.

"(I) can't quite comprehend how I could feel so differently than so many people I called my friends. It's the end of a lot of friendships, but I'm done with Menlo Presbyterian and the people who go there," she said.

Debra Holvick, another member with a long connection to the church, had spoken out against the change. She said one of the Bible's greatest commandments is to love your neighbor as you love yourself.

"My hope is that someday MPPC will move from righ-

teousness to love, following above all what Jesus himself said and commanded of those who follow him," Ms. Holvick said. "My prayer is that all God's children, including gays, will someday be treated equally."

Fifty percent of the total membership needed to participate in the vote and 75 percent of those voting had to be in favor, according to MPPC Communications Director Nicole Laubscher.

Senior Pastor John Ortberg thanked the congregation in an letter posted to the church's website after the votes were counted.

"This is a major milestone, and not an ending but a beginning," he wrote. "There's a lot yet to come of what Dallas Willard called the unique life of spiritual adventure in living with God daily—entering fully into the good news that Jesus has brought, for ourselves, and for us as a church."

The chair of the PCUSA team selected to deal with the proposed change, Tom Conrad, said they hadn't expected "such an overwhelming pro-dismissal vote."

Mr. Conrad, noting the church's public relations campaign had been in overdrive for at least two weeks, said his team "is just happy that it is over and that the congregation has spoken its collective will."

He didn't expect the outcome to be reversed once the regional governing body, the Presbytery of San Francisco, meets next week, but suggested the issue might prove more contentious than one might think. ■

## Facebook sous chef dies at 31

Ezekiel Duru, a Menlo Park resident and the executive sous chef at Facebook, died Thursday, Feb. 20, at the age of 31.

Mr. Duru graduated from Aragon High School in San Mateo in 2000 and took up cooking as a line chef at what was then the Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco, the family said. His next stops were the California Culinary Academy and Google in Mountain View, where he managed the kitchen.

His association with Facebook began in 2008. At the time of his death, he was the executive sous chef, according to the Facebook page for the

### OBITUARIES

company's culinary team.

Mr. Duru is survived by his mother Adrienne; his father Emmanuel; brother Steven; and sisters Roberta Silva, Chelsea Eichner and Page Smith. A memorial service has been held.

### Randall Mark Feldman

Randy Feldman of Menlo Park died on Feb. 27, surrounded by his family. He was 59 years old.

He was a devoted husband, loving father, son, brother and uncle. He was a man of many talents who could fix

anything, would help anyone and talk to everyone.

He was married to Linda Feldman for 28 years; father to Jessica Lynn and Alison Michelle; son to Bernard and Ellen Feldman and Marian Hammer; brother to Michael, Daniel, Adam and Marshall; and uncle to many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in his name to: The Firefighters of Southern Nevada Burn Foundation, 3111 S. Valley View Blvd., Suite B -111, Las Vegas, NV 89102; The Lion's Burn Care Center at University Medical Center, 1800 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89102; or to a charity of the donor's choice.



## REAL ESTATE TRENDS

by Samia Cullen

### Early Spring Selling Season

Traditionally early spring has been the best time to sell a home. However over the last few years we have seen new listings coming on the market as early as January and scoring high prices.

Last year ended with a historically low inventory and many buyers were unable to find a home. Therefore many buyers are ready to buy now. If you're considering selling your home in 2014, now is the time to get ready.

95% of our local buyers start their home search on the Internet. Experian Marketing Services released its monthly most visited real estate website rankings for web traffic in January. The results are eye popping. Web traffic to real estate websites was up 25% from December.

If you're considering selling and your home is not yet on the market, then every day you're missing out on thousands of potential buyers view-

ing your home.

Over the past month mortgage rates have declined and rates are currently trending back toward 4%. This is a significant development for buyers and could save buyers hundreds of dollars on their monthly payment. For many buyers, there is a sense of urgency to buy now before prices go higher or interest rates return to more historically normal levels.

What does that mean to the seller? It means that the earlier you list your home the more interested buyers you have on your property, the more offers you have and the more your home is going to sell at.

Buyers are ready. Are you?

The spring selling season is already in full swing. If you're planning to sell your home in 2014, you need to be ready now. Don't miss out on the perfect well qualified buyer because you waited too long.

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## Caltrain plan would fell trees, add substations

continued from page 5

Yet the benefits will come with costs. The overhead power lines would be supported by poles with heights ranging from 30 to 50 feet, according to the report. The poles would stand on either side of the tracks, about 10 to 12 feet from the centerline, and would be spaced about 200 feet from each other (with shorter spans between poles on curved track sections). Wires would stretch across the tracks in a cantilever configuration.

The electric infrastructure would also require installation of one switching station, which controls how power is fed within the system; 10 traction power substations, which convert electricity to the voltage trains use; and six paralleling stations, which boost power along the system.

One paralleling station would be in Palo Alto, either near Greenmeadow Way and just south of Page Mill Road, according to the report. But, the report notes, such a station would have some visual impact. Located in a compound that has typical dimensions of 40 feet wide and 80 feet long, the station could be partially screened by trees.

The Page Mill option would also benefit from screening provided by trees on the Alma Street side and from the new four-story Park Plaza building on the other side, according to the report.

The environmental analysis noted that the Greenmeadow Way option would require trees to be removed, causing "significant" aesthetic impact. Caltrain is proposing to compensate by installing new "screening vegetation" along Alma between the roadway and the new station.

In addition to the electric infrastructure, Caltrain plans to build safety barriers on dozens of existing bridges to prohibit access to the Caltrain corridor and to prevent objects from being thrown off the bridges, according to the document. These barriers would typically be about 6.5 feet above the pavement level and would generally

be about 40 feet long. Each barrier would feature a black, red and white signage that reads: "Danger. Live Wire."

The 47 bridges identified in the report include one bridge in Palo Alto (two new walls would be built on the San Antonio Road overpass) and six in Mountain View (Shoreline Boulevard overpass; Stevens Creek pedestrian crossing; Whisman Road; Route 85; and Route 237, both eastbound and westbound).

While the new infrastructure will be going up, hundreds and possibly thousands of trees would be going down. The report estimates that about 2,220 trees would be removed for the project and another 3,616 pruned. This includes 188 trees in Menlo Park, 177 trees in Palo Alto and 284 in Mountain View, which is second only to Sunnyvale's 497.

The report notes that Caltrain is exempt from local regulations governing tree removal because it is a federally regulated rail carrier and thus benefits from an exemption in the public utilities code. Still, the report lays out a strategy to mitigate the loss of trees, including locating poles and alignments to "minimize tree removal and pruning" and removing trees "only as necessary to provide safety clearance."

The project would include a creation of a "Tree Avoidance, Minimization and Replacement Plan," which would be developed in consultation with cities and a certified arborist and which would consider best practices for replacing and protecting trees.

The report is subject to modification based on comments from stakeholder communities along the corridor. But Caltrain officials stressed the importance of releasing the document, which Caltrain Executive Director Michael Scanlon called "the next step in a critical partnership between Caltrain and the communities we serve."

Caltrain will be accepting comments on the draft EIR until April 29.

Go to [tinyurl.com/EIR-228](http://tinyurl.com/EIR-228) to read the draft EIR. ■

## LAWSUIT

continued from page 5

the amended complaint beyond asking whether the alleged facts are true. And if his license was suspended but then re-issued, his attorneys asked, does that not suggest the state determined he was fit to drive only months before the 2013 crash?

Mr. Nelson's license has since been surrendered, the District

Attorney's Office said, although it's unclear whether that was voluntary or not.

He graduated from Stanford Law School and was licensed to practice law from 1957 to 2001, according to the California State Bar. A team of two attorneys from Pedersen Eichenbaum & Lauderdale of San Jose and one from Dyer & White in Menlo Park is representing him in the lawsuit. ■



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

## Encinal celebrates India

Encinal Elementary students, from left, Elizabeth Leonard, Sofia Toyos, Irene Vail, Stephen Cheung and Addison Parent react as music is added to their Bollywood dance lesson during Cultural Arts Day on Feb. 27.

## Open space district puts bond measure on ballot

By Elena Kadvany  
Palo Alto Weekly

Voters in the June 3 election face a decision on whether to approve a \$300 million bond measure for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

Culminating a year of public outreach aimed at developing a vision plan for the district and its 62,000 acres of open space, the district's Board of Directors voted unanimously Feb. 26 to put the measure on the ballot.

To pass, the bond measure must be approved by two-thirds of the voters in the district, which includes south-

ern San Mateo County and its coast, western Santa Clara County, and a small portion of unincorporated Santa Cruz County.

According to the district, the bond measure money would pay for projects to protect local redwood forests; add hiking, biking and equestrian trails; and restore and conserve watersheds and farm land.

The measure would increase local property taxes by \$3.18 a year per \$100,000 of assessed value.

The district's public affairs manager, Shelly Lewis, said the \$300 million amount was chosen after hearing from public

and partner agencies, environmental groups, bicyclists, walkers, runners and hikers about their visions and desires for local open spaces.

She said there were a total of 24 opportunities in the past year for the public to voice opinions on the topic.

"We've heard from the public," she said. "They want more access. They want us to be able to have the funds to preserve land when it becomes available."

She said that 54 percent of the land the district oversees is open, while 46 percent is not.

"We want to open that land," she said. "We need the funds to do it."

Go to [tinyurl.com/Open-228](http://tinyurl.com/Open-228) for more information about the bond measure proposal, the visioning plan and the 25 proposed projects. ■

## PV resident sentenced for tax-evasion

Portola Valley resident Christopher B. Berg was sentenced Feb. 27 to a year and a day in state prison after pleading guilty in January 2013 to "willfully failing to file the required report of foreign bank account," according to federal attorneys.

He also must serve three years of "supervised release," said U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag for the Northern District of California in a press release.

Before he was sentenced, he paid restitution to the Internal Revenue Service of more than \$250,000 plus a penalty of

\$287,896, she said.

Mr. Berg, working as a consultant in 2000, set up a secret account at the San Francisco offices of the Swiss bank UBS "to shelter a portion of his consulting income from taxation," prosecutors said.

Between 2001 and 2005, he used wire transfers to make deposits of \$642,070 in earned income at UBS and used that money in Europe, including for traveling expenses and the purchase of a vehicle, prosecutors said.

Mr. Berg did not inform his accountant about the UBS

account nor did he disclose the deposits and income earned on those deposits, the federal attorneys said. The law requires U.S. citizens to disclose the existence of foreign accounts with assets valued at more than \$10,000, and any interest in or authority over such accounts.

"The tax harm associated with (Mr.) Berg's conduct exceeded \$250,000," prosecutors said.

Investigators from the IRS uncovered the details of the case, and the prosecutors were trial attorneys from the Justice Department Tax Division.

# School district to put \$265M bond measure on ballot

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

A consensus of the Sequoia Union High School District board has agreed to put a \$265 million bond measure on the ballot for the June 3 election.

The measure, if approved by 55 percent of the voters, would provide money to build new classrooms in time for an enrollment surge expected to begin with the 2015-16 school year.

New classrooms are among many priorities that include additional offices and bathrooms, more parking, gyms at two schools, and a second set of lights for athletic practice on each campus.

Enrollment in the district is expected to grow by at least 20 percent by the 2020-21 school year, and the campuses, including Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high schools, are all but built out. M-A is expected to bear the brunt of the surge as burgeoning enrollments now in the Las Lomas and Menlo Park elementary school districts move on to high school.

Another top priority: construction of two small magnet schools of 300 to 400 students each, with one located in "the Menlo Park area" to relieve pressure on M-A. Each small school would need a curriculum focus, such as art or science, to attract students away from the comprehensive schools; that matter is now under study.

The board will consider a formal resolution on the June election at a special meeting on Wednesday, March 5, two days shy of the county elections office deadline of March 7.

## About the tax

A \$265 million measure in the Sequoia district would mean a property tax hike of \$16 per \$100,000 of assessed value, the district says.

The bonds would be paid off in 30 years, and the total would about double — to \$530 million — with interest payments included, a district official said.

The Sequoia district extends from Belmont south to the county border and includes Atherton, Woodside, Portola

Valley, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and nearby unincorporated communities such as Ladera and Los Trancos Woods.

Since 1996, the district has gone to the voters to approve bond measures four times for a total of \$368 million. That total includes the 2008 passage of Measure J for \$165 million. With the passage of that measure, property owners were paying about \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed value, a Sequoia official said at the time.

School construction bond measures avoid the two-thirds majority needed for passage of other tax increases in exchange for meeting the requirements of state Proposition 39, which include a list of projects the money would pay for. It is common practice to use broad wording in the list to allow flexibility as work proceeds.

Proposition 39 also mandates oversight of the spending by a citizens committee, including representatives from the business, senior-citizen, and taxpayer communities.

## Some asymmetry

Public comment at the board's Feb. 26 meeting split about evenly on when to hold the election. A June election makes

the money available sooner, but waiting for November gives campaigners more time to engage the community, potential volunteers said, adding that some voters in the northern part of the district are just hearing about the enrollment surge.

Would a June campaign be too demanding on volunteers? The teams are not yet fully staffed

## Enrollment in the district is expected to grow by at least 20 percent by the 2020-21 school year.

for phone banks and walking neighborhood blocks, organizer Jennifer Webb told the board. "You want to make sure those jobs are filled," she said.

Former board member Don Gibson disagreed. Phone banks weren't used in two previous bond campaigns, he said. He recommended relying on community leaders to spread the word, and added that campaign energy is higher in a June election and lower among volunteers over the summer.

Other timing factors: the

advantages of lower turnouts in June, and the question of other bond measures on the ballot. The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District will have a \$300 million bond measure on the June ballot, but the November ballot may include school construction measures from the San Mateo County Community College District and the state, board members said.

Voters may wonder about the proposed list of projects, which has an asymmetry about it. M-A would get 22 new classrooms versus six at Carlmont High, 11 at Sequoia High, and 15 at Woodside. Distribution of money among the schools is similarly uneven.

"The monies are following students," and the same standards were used to allocate them, Superintendent James Lianides told the board. "There is sort of a proportionality to it."

Voters may still be uninformed on those points, critics of a June election said. Communication and transparency are more important than getting funds early, said board member Carrie DuBois. "If we go in November rather than in June, there's just more time to communicate," she said.

"No matter what we do," said

parent Lucia Tedesco, "we need the whole district to support this. I don't think a short delay of a few months ... is worth sacrificing a thoughtful plan."

The district has been transparent on the issues and the staff have the experience to "zero in on what needs to be done" during construction, said board member Olivia Martinez. "If we don't go in June, we will not be prepared when students appear on our doorstep." ■



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## BIRTHS

### Menlo Park

- Erika and Eric Bailey, a daughter, Jan. 29, Sequoia Hospital.
- Terra and Jeffrey Anderson, a daughter, Feb. 13, Sequoia Hospital.
- Emily and Chancey Martin, a daughter, Feb. 14, Sequoia Hospital.
- Jennifer and Douglas Hirzel, a daughter, Feb. 18, Sequoia Hospital.
- Laura and Victor Patterson, a daughter, Feb. 24, Sequoia Hospital.

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# Facebook wants to help police Menlo Park

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

## ■ BRIEFS

When the new Belle Haven substation opens this spring, it may come with a larger police staff than expected for at least three years.

Facebook, with headquarters located not far from the where the substation will open within a strip mall at Hamilton Avenue and Willow Road, is offering to pay the city up to \$200,000 a year for three years to fund a sworn officer position. It will also consider renewing the agreement for two years after that.

The officer's work would focus on schools and kids, with priorities that include responding to any school incidents; creating programs for first-time juvenile offenders as well as truancy enforcement; and collaborating with gang and traffic units, according to a city staff report.

The City Council was scheduled to vote on the agreement during its March 4 meeting, after the Almanac's press deadline.

Check Almanacnews.com for an update.

## Sharon Green hearing postponed

A March 4 council hearing on whether to allow the large-scale renovation of an apartment complex, Sharon Green at 350 Sharon Park Drive, has been postponed at the property owner's request.

City staff said the site's owner, BRE Properties, asked for more time to consider possible design changes based on public comments received.

The Planning Commission

voted 5-1, with Vince Bressler opposed and Henry Riggs absent, to allow the project to proceed to council for final approval of the conditional use permit and heritage tree removals, although a revised site design didn't adhere to recommendations made by the Environmental Quality Commission.

The plan earmarks 42 heritage trees for destruction instead. Thanks to a plan to plant new trees, the property would end up with 206 more trees than it has, according to the staff report.

The renovations would add a new two-story recreation center and a 2,000-square-foot leasing office to the 16-acre site, in addition to making improvements throughout the complex, such as 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 has said the improvements are necessary, 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.

Challenged by commissioners as well as neighbors as to whether the complex needs such a large makeover in light of an occupancy rate of about 96 percent, with monthly rents ranging from \$2,700 to \$5,200, BRE countered that tenant turnover is also high. ▀

## INITIATIVE

continued from page 6

He said that personally, he thinks there are many benefits for the upcoming projects, particularly Greenheart's proposal, that he was excited about.

Projects already in the pipeline won't be put on hold until the initiative is decided, according to City Attorney Bill McClure, since there's no certainty that the measure will qualify for the ballot, let alone pass. If Save Menlo gathers enough signatures, he explained, the council can then either adopt the measure as an ordinance or put it on the ballot.

Still, the move introduces uncertainty on the part of developers worried about securing funding. Both the Stanford and

Greenheart projects wouldn't break ground before November, leaving their proposals vulnerable to changes in the specific plan regulations.

Greenheart representatives weren't available by the Almanac's deadline to comment on the ballot initiative, but had previously said that small tweaks to the specific plan would add delays of six months to a year and a half.

The last two projects approved for the parcels Greenheart now owns ran out of time as the economy nosedived; the company doesn't want to see history repeat itself.

"That's our greatest fear," Greenheart principal Steve Pierce had told the Almanac. "We have a great market right now." ▀

MARCH 2014

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## Portola Valley gives green light to skateboard ramp

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

Skateboarders will have a new place to do their thing, possibly as soon as April, when a new ramp gets installed on the all-sports courts at the Portola Valley Town Center.

The project, which will be a year-long trial to see if the town wants to put in a bigger ramp, garnered unanimous approval by the Portola Valley Town Council at its Feb. 26 meeting.

Community members promised to donate the \$2,500 cost of constructing the ramp, with the town kicking in another \$2,200 for modifying the all-sports court.

The ramp will be open the same dawn-to-dusk hours as the court. Users will be required to wear a helmet along with knee and elbow pads. Violators will be fined \$30 for a first offense, \$50 for a second offense and \$75 for a third offense within a year.

The temporary ramp is a quarter-pipe ramp, designed by the skate park firm Wormhoudt Inc. The wood structure will be 8 feet long by 10 feet deep and 3 feet high, not including the rail. The sides and back will be painted green to match the sports court, while the skating surface will be a natural wood color.

The project has been in works since it was requested in 2011 by local skateboarders and their parents.

Town Council members unanimously approved the ramp and the regulations that go along with it. "It's a good proposal," said Councilman Craig Hughes, with Mayor Ann Wengert adding, "I appreciate all the work."

The ramp will take up about a quarter of one of the three sports courts. If the temporary ramp proves popular, the town could replace it with a larger, permanent half-pipe that would occupy an entire court. ■

## Portola Valley forms panel on water conservation

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

As one of the few rainstorms of the season splattered down outside, Portola Valley's Town Council at its Feb. 26 meeting voted to form a special committee to help the town conserve water.

"It's a huge issue and I think it's going to be an ongoing issue," said Mayor Ann Wengert.

She urged that once the ad hoc Water Conservation Task Force comes up with a plan for how the town can save water that they also come up with a list of other water-related issues the town should address such as gray water use, capture of rain water, and pumping of

water from wells and creeks.

"I can certainly see that if the fight worsens, meaning that there are fewer resources available, we may be pulled into those issues," Mayor Wengert said.

The task force will be made up of members of the town's sustainability and conservation committees and other interested residents as well as outside experts in water conservation.

Brandi de Garneau, the town's sustainability and special projects manager, said the Sustainability Committee had been concentrated on working to make the town more energy efficient while also working on some water conservation projects.

"The drought increased the urgency and brought water conservation to the forefront," she said. "This is a perfect time to make a meaningful impact on the issue."

The town will advertise for committee members and plans to appoint them in March.

Included in the tasks the committee will be asked to undertake are a community forum on water conservation, a list of ways residents and businesses can save water, updates to the town website and recommendations on how the town can encourage water conservation.

The committee's work is expected to last about six months, but could end up being reconstituted at that time or made an ongoing town committee.

The formation of the task force and its charter were unanimously approved by the council. ■

## Sequoia Hospital grants aimed at senior services

Sequoia Hospital has awarded \$110,000 in grants to a collaborative of eight organizations that provide services to help older adults recuperate at home after a hospital stay.

Among the grants were those

to Peninsula Volunteers and Catholic Charities CYO. The Peninsula Volunteers Meals on Wheels program provides home-delivered meals every weekday for at least four weeks.

Catholic Charities, together with Peninsula Volunteers, provides those living with dementia a 10-day introduction to an adult day program at Rosener House in Menlo Park or San Carlos Adult Day Center.

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## College district won't renew parcel tax

The Board of Trustees of the San Mateo County Community College District voted unanimously Feb. 26 not to renew the district's \$34 annual parcel tax, which expires in June.

Voters approved the tax four years ago when the community colleges, including Canada College in Woodside, were facing a fiscal crisis

brought on by years of state budget reductions, district officials said.

In addition, there was unprecedented demand for classes due to the recession and widespread unemployment, said board President Karen Schwarz. At one point, she noted, there were more than 13,000 students on wait lists for classes.

"The parcel tax — the first ever for a community college district in California — allowed our colleges to offer hundreds of classes to tens of thousands of students who otherwise wouldn't have been served," Ms. Schwarz said.

Since then, she said, the district's fiscal situation has "stabilized and improved," owing to a stronger economy.

## Renovating city hall may cost \$1.2 million

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

Sticker shock struck the Menlo Park City Council after staff acknowledged that the projected cost of a city hall renovation could reach quadruple the amount budgeted.

Initially the council approved \$300,000 for the project, which would update features such as the 15-year-old carpet as well as reconfiguring workspace for more efficient service.

After getting the budget approved, the city then hired a consultant, Group 4 Architecture, Research + Planning, to evaluate how to better arrange the various departments contained within the city's administration building. According to the staff report produced for a Feb. 25 study session, the preferred floor plan would regroup departments by similarity, such as putting the economic development office within the finance department. Kiosks would be added on the first floor for customer self-service.

But that renovation plan exceeds the budget by about \$500,000. And if one looked only at the staff report, one could be forgiven for thinking that the resulting total would then be \$800,000.

Actually, it's \$1.2 million. Although the report discussed the need to replace the carpet, it neglected to mention that the cost wasn't included in the \$800,000 budget. New carpet, staff told the council, would add another \$400,000, for a grand total of \$1.2 million.

This took some time for the council to absorb.

"How much is carpet going to be?" Vice Mayor Cat Carlton asked. When staff responded with \$400,000, she said, "For carpet alone?"

That would be a yes. The price tag on the rest of the renovations also sparked questions.

Councilman Rich Cline commented, "Far be it from me to micro-manage" but when he oversaw similar projects of about 23,000 square feet, the cost "was so much less." For comparison, the size of the administration building is about 30,000 square feet, according to staff.

Staff said that the city expects to pay "a premium" for the work since crews will have to knock down walls and complete other carpentry tasks during weekend

or evening hours, given that city hall can't shut down for extended periods.

Mayor Ray Mueller noted that city hall is already closed every other Friday, while Councilwoman Kirsten Keith asked if business functions could be housed within a temporary building to allow the renovations to proceed during normal hours. She also asked whether directing people to use computers at the library located a short walk away from the administration building was a more cost-effective solution than installing new kiosks at city hall.

Initially the council approved \$300,000 for the project.

One plus: The money to cover the cost of renovation unexpectedly became available when the state reallocated a higher proportion of prop-

erty taxes to Menlo Park than expected, a \$1.6 million windfall, Mr. McIntyre said.

In the end, the preferred option got a lukewarm reception from the council.

"Good idea, wrong plan," Ms. Carlton said. The council asked staff to return with either more options or a greater justification of the expense.

When the Almanac asked City Manager Alex McIntyre after the meeting why the cost of the carpet wasn't spelled out in the staff report, he said, "The carpet project is already embedded in the Capital Improvement Plan approved by the City Council. It will happen regardless of any remodel."

The Feb. 25 discussion, on the other hand, he said, was about whether to go ahead with a simple city hall remodel within the original budget, or proceed with the staff-preferred design. "How the carpet plays into the conversation is recognizing that the carpet project will be highly disruptive to the City Hall operations and since that disruption is to occur, the once-a-decade opportunity to address long term needs seemed a reasonable conversation to have with the Council." ■



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### Life After an Eating Disorder

Thursday, February 20: 7 to 8:30pm

Dr. Alison Darcy, Instructor in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Stanford University School of Medicine will discuss experiences of treatment and recovery for an eating disorder. This is a free seminar however spaces are limited. RSVP's are recommended and can be made at [www.calendar.lpch.org](http://www.calendar.lpch.org).

### The Misbehaving Hip: An Approach to Adolescent & Young Adult Hip Pain

Wednesday, March 5: 7 to 8:30 pm

Please join us as Dr. Stephanie Pun, Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Stanford University School of Medicine will discuss the impact of muscle and tendon pulls on hips and walking and the warning signs of a hip at mechanical risk for failure. This is a free seminar however spaces are limited. RSVP's are recommended and can be made [www.atcalendar.lpch.org](http://www.atcalendar.lpch.org).

### Pediatric Weight Control Program

Start the new year with a family-based, behavioral and educational weight management program that promotes healthy eating and exercise habits for overweight children and their families. More than 80% of children achieve long-term weight loss through this program — and parents lose weight too! Call (650) 725-4424 for classes in English and Spanish. Visit [www.pediatricweightcontrol.lpch.org](http://www.pediatricweightcontrol.lpch.org) to read what past families say about the program. Spaces are limited.

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



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Thanks to an increased number of colorectal cancer screenings, improved diagnostics and advanced treatments, there are more survivors of colorectal cancer than ever before.

To make an appointment, call **650.736.5555**  
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**Mary Catherine Cunha, 87**

**OBITUARIES**

A memorial service was held recently at St. Denis Parish in Menlo Park for Mary Catherine Cunha, a longtime resident of Menlo Park, who died Feb. 14 after a short illness. She was 87.

Born in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, in 1926 and raised in New Bedford, she moved to California in 1950 with her husband Bill Cunha, a Menlo Park firefighter to whom she was married for 60 years.



**Mary Catherine Cunha**

She worked at Stanford's Student Health Services as an administrative assistant for nearly 17 years.

A parishioner at St. Denis Parish in Menlo Park, she was known as a fun-loving woman with a quick wit and as a maker of a mean kale soup, family said.

She is survived by her daughters, Susan, Cathy and Cindy; a brother, Joe Santos; and six grandchildren.

**Margaret B. Johnston**

Margaret Babineau Johnston, a resident of Atherton for more than 40 years, died Jan 15 at the age of 80.

Ms. Johnston was born in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. The family moved to New Brunswick, Canada, where she went to school and graduated from high school. Returning to Niagara Falls, she lived there for several years before moving to Deep River in Quebec, where she worked at the Canadian Atomic Energy Commission.

In 1960, Margaret immigrated to Sacramento, where she met and married Ted Yates Johnston. The family lived in Sacramento until 1969 when they moved to Menlo Park. Two years later, they moved to Atherton.

Ms. Johnston worked for many years at the California State Employment Development Department in Palo Alto

and San Mateo.

After retiring, she became very involved with the Athertons social club and served as its president for two years. The consummate hostess, Ms. Johnston enjoyed time with friends and family and hosted many dinners, lunches, wine tastings, Oscar parties, and other celebrations in her home, say family members.

She is survived by her daughter Pamela Louise Johnston of Pasadena. Her husband, Ted Yates Johnston, died in 2010.

**Frank J. Carney**

A celebration of the life of Francis (Frank) J. Carney, a longtime resident of Menlo Park who died Feb. 17 after a brief illness, will be held Sunday, March 30, in Palo Alto. He was 73.

The celebration will begin at 2:30 p.m. at the Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road.

Born in Queens, New York, he graduated from Iona College in 1962 and served six years in the Navy. He worked as a probation officer and family court mediator for San Mateo County.

He was actively involved in many community projects, the family said.

Survivors include his wife Margaret; sons, Patrick and Kevin; and four grandchildren.

Donations may be made to JW Hospitality House, 3850 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, CA 95051.

**Gary Entwistle**

Gary Entwistle, who was general manager of Roger Reynolds Nursery & Carriage Stop in Menlo Park for more than 10 years, died on Jan. 18.

Mr. Entwistle was a founding member of the board of directors for Hometown Peninsula,

*Continued on next page*

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**Name:** Rudi Weber

**Position:** Sales

**Last Book Read:** The Art of Racing in the Rain

**Last Movie:** The Icemen

**Last Ride:** Highway 9, across Skyline Blvd., down Page Mill Rd, and into work.

**Favorite Epic Ride:** Mt. Revard via Chambéry to Aix-les-Bains... amazing!

**Bike:** LeMond Tete de Course



**Enjoy the ride.**



*Continued from previous page*

which supports local independent businesses.

In an email to the Almanac, his friends Steven Eichler, Clark Kepler and Steve Rasmussen said:

"Though his residence was in Sequim, Washington, and Fanny Bay, British Columbia, Gary was constantly traveling throughout the United States, and always liked the San Francisco Bay Area as his home base.

"Gary could always be counted on to be the wise man at the table. His wealth of experience, history, and knowledge on many subjects was deeply respected in many circles.

"We have lost a good friend who will be dearly missed."

### Salwa Jurdak Nawas

Salwa Jurdak Nawas died Feb. 5 at the age of 86. A native of Beirut, Lebanon, she had been a resident of Atherton since 1992.

Ms. Nawas graduated from the American University of Beirut and served as a professor in history, political science and economics at the Beirut College for Women in 1949. She was a strong advocate for the education of women in the Arab world, say family members.

In 1953 she met Yousef Nawas, founder of Nawas Tourist Company. The next year they married and she joined her husband in building the Nawas Tourist Company into one of the most prominent travel agencies in the Middle East, with 21 offices around the world.

Ms. Nawas moved to the Unit-

## Sculpture tours at Djerassi Artists Program

The Djerassi Resident Artists Program's annual sculpture tours will again be available to the public from April through November.

The walking tours of the 583-acre facility in Woodside include a selection of the 117 sculptures created on the property by resident artists.

There will be six director's tours (\$50 per person) led by executive director Margot H. Knight and 12 two-mile tours (free of charge). The tours begin at 10 a.m. Advance reservations are required.

A sunset hike director's tour will be held Thursday, June 19. Tickets will be \$60. The hike will end with a viewing of the sunset from the Artists' Barn with wine and cheese.

Go to [djerassi.org](http://djerassi.org) for more information. Reservations must be made online.

ed States in 1976. After moving to Atherton, she continued to work at Nawas International Travel in Menlo Park.

She is survived by her children Sulayman, Samira and Sami

Nawas, all of Atherton; sister Salma Mansur Jurdak of Washington, D.C.; and six grandchildren. The family prefers memorial donations to Stanford Hospital ([stanfordhospital.org](http://stanfordhospital.org).)

## Frank J. Carney

October 26, 1940-February 17, 2014

Francis (Frank) J. Carney died on February 17, 2014, following a brief illness. Frank was born October 26, 1940, in Queens, New York.

A graduate of Iona College in 1962, he served six years in the Navy. Frank received a Masters in Sociology from the New School for Social Research in NYC. He worked as a probation officer and Family Court mediator for San Mateo County.

A long-term resident of Menlo Park, Frank was actively involved in many community projects.

He is survived by his spouse, Margaret; sons, Patrick (Juliette) and Kevin (Anne); and four grandchildren.

Friends and Family are invited to a Celebration of his Life on Sunday, March 30, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. at the Lucie Stern Community Center in Palo Alto.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to JW Hospitality House, 3850 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, CA 95051.

PAID OBITUARY

## (Constance) Connie Barthold

May 18, 1935-February 11, 2014

Connie Barthold, age 78, passed away on February 11, 2014. Connie was born May 18, 1935 in Los Angeles, California, a second generation Californian with roots reaching back to first European arrivers in the United States.

She grew up in Davis, California, attended the University of Oregon in Eugene, where she was a member of the Tri Delta sorority. She married and left college to start her family, whom she raised as a single mother in Woodside, CA.

Connie graduated from the San Jose State University, and went on to have a career in recipe development with the California Cling Peach, Avocado, and Olive advisory boards.

After the passing of her second husband, Howard J Ringold, Connie slipped on a rug at a dinner party and was caught in the arms of Edward Barthold, who married, adored, and cherished her for over 25 years of very happy marriage.

Connie never met a person who was not her friend. She drank 2 Pepsis a day, was an avid reader, loved a good party, and spent her time divided between her homes in Atherton and Lake Tahoe, as well as traveling the Earth.

Connie is survived by her husband, Edward Barthold, her children Christine Ryland (David), Leslie Stepp (Mark), James Stutsman, and Holly Sichel (Rodney), as well as her step-children Gordon Ringold (Tanya), and Jeffery David Ringold; her sisters Martha Shelp and Ann Boulware; eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In lieu of donations, it was Connie's wish that you surprise a friend with an unexpected gift.



PAID OBITUARY

## Jane Cobb Langhorne

Jane Cobb Langhorne, 95, a resident of The Manor in Carmel Valley, died on February 4, 2014, having suffered a stroke two days earlier.



Born in Philadelphia on April 14, 1918, she was the only child of Emily Ruth Terry and Henry Quigg Cobb. Her parents divorced, after which she moved with her mother to Greenhill Farm in Overbrook, on the Pennsylvania Main

Line. There she attended Friends Central School, and graduated from the Harcum School in 1937. She went on to study chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania, but left the university after two years to marry jazz musician Andrew P. Skillern. That marriage ended tragically a year later with his death from an accidental fall.

Moving to Clewiston, Florida, she worked at the Blood Bank as a Medical Technician and an assistant to Dr. Strumia in developing the freeze drying of plasma. She also acquired her pilot's license. Through aviation, she met William Keene Langhorne of Charlottesville, Virginia, who was serving as a flight instructor for Royal Air Force cadets. They were married in 1943 and lived first in Miami, where Jane Langhorne gave birth to her two eldest daughters, then to Brazil where her youngest daughter was born.

Keene Langhorne's work as a pilot and later Captain for Pan American World Airways gave the couple the opportunity to travel widely and live abroad for extended periods. Establishing a home base in Atherton, California, they also lived in Germany and Hong Kong. While in Atherton she was a founding member of the Menlo-Atherton League of Women Voters and the Committee for Foreign Students at Stanford University. She also studied psychology at Stanford and San Jose State University. While in Hong Kong she studied Acupuncture and became adept at painting in the traditional Chinese manner.

Avid skiers, she and Keene began visiting Sun Valley in 1960 and established a second residence there in 1969. She last competed in the Bradford Slalom Cup in 1998, where she took first place in her age group. Combining culture with her love of skiing, she was instrumental in bringing opera to the Sun Valley Opera House.

When their children had all left home, the Langhornes moved to Portola Valley, where Jane continued to tend a large garden and pursued her various cultural, social, and political interests. Following Keene's death in 2000, she moved to Carmel, where she volunteered at the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. She met her partner of 11 years, Alonzo Parsons. Together they shared family gatherings with not only her birth daughters but also his daughters: Jody Parsons, Susan Parsons, and Julie Meinike who graciously took her into their family.

Jane Langhorne will long be remembered for her timeless beauty, unending curiosity and immense vitality.

She is survived by her daughters Terry Morawitz of Half Moon Bay, CA; Dana Howell (Gregory) of Ketchum, Idaho; and Julie Langhorne (Peter Schlenzka) of Tahoe City, CA, as well as grandchildren Werner Morawitz (Laura) of Ketchum, ID; Dana Morawitz of Marin, CA; Emily Howell Thomsen (Ian) of Missoula, Montana; Alexander Schlenzka of San Francisco, CA; Priya Schlenzka of Charleston, South Carolina; and great-grandchildren Keene Morawitz, Peter Morawitz, Audrey Morawitz, and Elsie Thomsen.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to [www.populationconnection.org](http://www.populationconnection.org) (formerly Zero Population Growth).

Condolences may be sent to Langhorne, 191 Del Mesa Carmel, Carmel, CA 93923.

A memorial service will be celebrated on April 12, 2014, at 3pm at The Manor, 8545 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel.

PAID OBITUARY

# Artisan Shop has new home at Allied Arts Guild grounds

By Jane Knoerle  
Almanac Lifestyles Editor

The Artisan Shop, which first opened at Allied Arts Guild in 2006, has a sunny new location.

It is now housed in the Milono Building, better known as the former Wick Candle Shop in Allied Art Guild in Menlo Park. Large windows open onto the guild's famed Blue Garden and Rose Allee. "We love the view," says shop director Laurel Trask.

The shop, operated by volunteers with the Allied Arts Auxiliary, features many handmade, one-of-a-kind items. Jewelry by California artists is on display, as well as the work of artists in ceramics, glass, designer clothing, needlework and more.

Elegant donated vintage items, in china, crystal, and silver are displayed in handsome hutch cabinets from the former Traditional Shop.

"We really have something for everyone," said auxiliary member Tita Koloszu when the shop opened in 2006. Spring-time shoppers will find colorful cards, trays and paper products. Easter goodies include charming faux "Limoge" Peter Rabbits selling for \$10 each.

The baby boutique features pink or blue baby blankets, accompanied by a soft-cover book "B is My Blanket" by Tammy Gerber and illustrated by Louise DeDera (\$24). A plush clown holding a cupcake with a birthday candle sings "Happy Birthday" (\$23.75). New mothers would also cherish a hand-made quilt or unique baby jacket.

The Artisan Shop is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The shop's proceeds benefit Lucile Salter Packard Hospital, as do proceeds from the entire Guild operation. Allied Arts Guild is located at 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park. ■



The Artisan Shop is operated by volunteers with the Allied Arts Auxiliary.

Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

## 295 Gloria Circle, Menlo Park

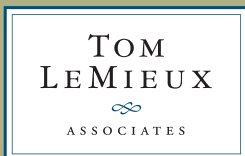
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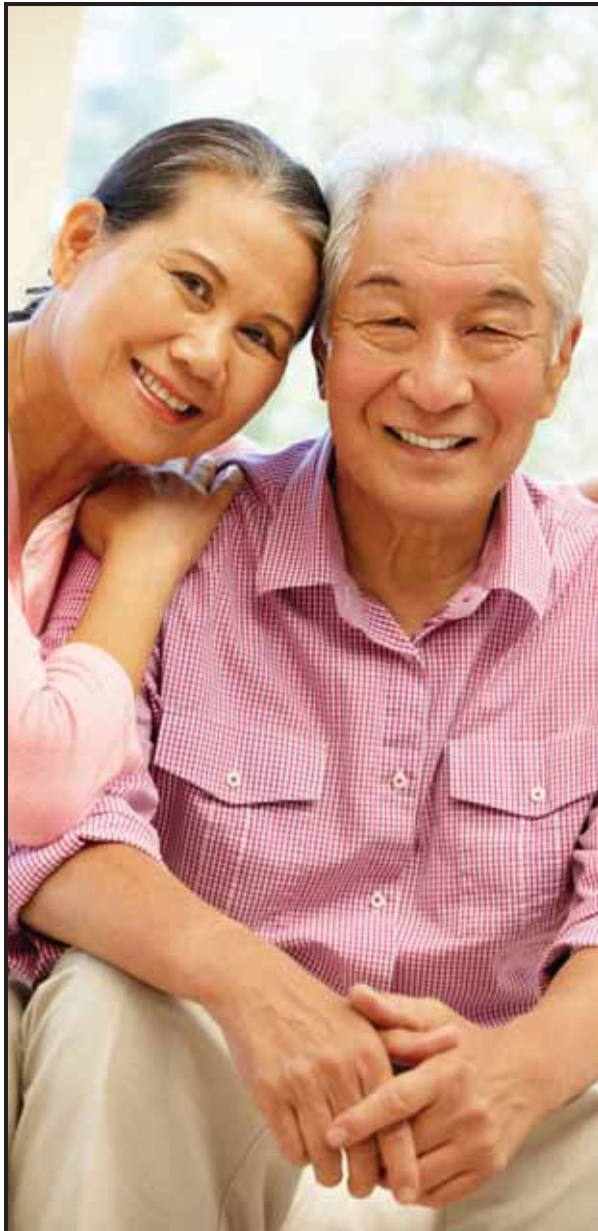
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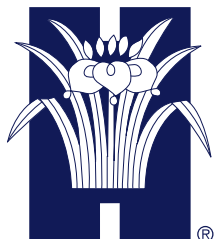
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2014 SPRING PATCHING PROJECT  
PROJECT NO. 56057

Notice is hereby given that SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027, until 3:00 p.m. **MARCH 26, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read, for performing the following work:

Grind and replace approximately 16,500 square feet of asphalt to a six-inch depth. This work to include all necessary traffic control and will involve grinding, sweeping, tack coating, replacing asphalt to appropriate depth in an appropriate number of lifts and finish rolling per Town of Atherton Standard specifications (see below) and special provisions included in this document. Some hand work around utility access hole covers will be necessary (special provision #107).

The Engineer's Estimate for the project is: \$100,000

Per Section 6.01 of the Town of Atherton's Standard Specifications, the General Contractor shall perform, with his own organization, work of a value amounting to not less than 50% of the total contract, excluding specialty items as indicated on the bid schedule.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for 2014 SPRING PATCHING PROJECT, Project No. 56057", along with date and time of bid opening.

Plans and specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton's website at <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=331> under Bid Posting at no cost. Additional important information is contained in Town of Atherton Standard Specifications, which are available on line at <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/285> Contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the Town's website. No Planholders list shall be available.

Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash, a cashier's or certified check or bid bond for not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid, as a guarantee that the bidder, if awarded the Contract, will fulfill the terms of the bid.

The Town of Atherton, The City, reserves the right to reject any or all bids; to make any awards or any rejections in what it alone considers to be in the best interest of the City, and waive any informalities or irregularities in the bids. The contract will be awarded, if at all, to the responsible bidder that submits the lowest responsive bid. **[NOTE: If there are alternates in the bid, the City will need to state how the low bid will be determined, as required by PCC 20103.8.]**

Bidders are hereby notified that, pursuant to California Civil Code Sections 3247 and 3248 and Standard Specifications Section 3.02, the successful bidder will be required to provide payment and performance bonds in the amounts of 100% of the contract price.

Bidders are hereby notified that provisions of California Labor Code regarding prevailing wages and apprentices are applicable to the work to be performed under this contract. Pursuant to Section 1773 et seq. the general prevailing wage rates have been determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations and appear in the California Prevailing Wage Rates. Copies are on file at the office of the City Engineer and are available to interested parties upon request. The successful bidder shall post a copy of the wage rates at the job site.

The Contractor may elect to receive 100 percent of payments due under the contract, without retention of any portion of the payment by the Town of Atherton, by depositing securities of equivalent value to the retention amount in accordance with the provisions of Section 22300 of the California Public Contract Code.

All bidders shall be licensed under the provisions of the Business and Professions Code to do the type of work contemplated in the project. The City has determined that the Contractor shall possess a valid Class A license at the time the bid is submitted. Failure to possess the specified license shall render the bid non-responsive.

Each bidder shall submit with this bid a statement setting forth his/her/its experience and qualifications. The statement shall be made on the forms provided by the Town and must accompany each bid. The three lowest bidders will be required to submit subcontractor's experience and qualifications statements within 48 hours of the bid opening, on forms provided by the Town.

By submitting a bid in response to this advertisement for bids, the bidder shall be conclusively deemed to have read, understood and agreed with all of the information and materials contained in the bid documents, including but not limited to the construction contract, the standard specifications, the special provisions, the required nature and amount of insurance and the documentation evidencing said insurance.

Any questions regarding the project should be directed to David Huynh, Project Engineer, telephone: (650) 752-0555 or by written Requests for Information (RFI) to: Public Works Department, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA 94027, no later than ten (10) business days before bid opening. RFIs may be emailed to [dhuynh@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:dhuynh@ci.atherton.ca.us) or faxed to (650) 688-6539. Responses shall be posted on the Town's website no later than five (5) days prior to bid opening.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gordon Siebert, P.E., City Engineer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Encinal hosts elementary school debate tournament

Encinal Elementary School in Atherton hosted the Menlo Park City School District's inaugural elementary school debate tournament Saturday and Sunday, March 1-2.

Approximately 130 students from Encinal, Laurel and Oak Knoll schools participated in the parliamentary-style event.

The tournament involved teams of two children who debated on behalf of the "government" or the "opposition" for several rounds, according to parent-volunteer Samira Parekh Jones. Each round was assigned a debate topic and children received 15 minutes to prepare their presentations to a panel of three to five judges.

The event caps a year-long

program in the Menlo Park City School District to teach all third-grade students debate skills and techniques, said Brier Buchalter, the program's lead instructor. The program is intended to help students develop skills required by the introduction of Common Core standards, he said.

"Students now have to persuade others with strong arguments and also defend their opinions," said Laurel Principal Linda Creighton in a press release for the tournament.

"Debate helps students at this young age harness these skills in many ways," says Encinal Principal Sharon Burns. "They learn to communicate clearly and effectively, as well as to think creatively to solve problems."

## ■ POLICE CALLS

*This information is from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and the Menlo Park Police Department.*

### LADERA

**Theft report:** A four-carat diamond-and-platinum ring and a billfold containing \$1,000 in \$100 bills were stolen from a La Mesa Drive home. Feb. 24.

### WEST MENLO PARK

**Theft report:** A pink Prada purse, total value of \$700, was stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked in the vicinity of Sand Hill Road. The suspect, last seen on foot heading east on Sand Hill, is a white male in his late teens or early 20s and about 5 feet tall. Feb. 19.

### PORTOLA VALLEY

**Auto burglary report:** Someone broke into a vehicle parked in the 3000 block of Alpine Road and stole a small tool case. Feb. 20.

### MENLO PARK

#### Commercial burglary reports:

■ Someone stole tools from two locked boxes at a residential construction site on McKendry Drive. The report did not put a value on the loss. Feb. 24.

■ Police arrested and booked into county jail an East Palo Alto man suspected of stealing \$15 worth of food from the Safeway supermarket at 525 El Camino Real. Feb. 27.

#### Auto burglary reports:

■ Two vehicles parked on Constitution Drive were found with passenger-side windows smashed. From one of the vehicles, someone stole a gym bag and the workout clothes inside it, a value of \$235. From the other, the stolen items were a makeup bag and cosmetics, a \$55 value. Feb. 25.

■ Someone stole a wallet from the center console of an unlocked vehicle parked in the 1600 block of Marsh Road. The total loss of \$39 included \$15 in cash. Feb. 25.

#### Theft reports:

■ Three drills, drill bits, a reciprocating saw and an extension cord, with a total value about \$1,650, were stolen from a locked chest inside a locked fence at a residential construction site on Sunset

Lane. Feb. 27.

■ Two bicycles were stolen from apartments on Florence Lane. A \$1,300 bike had been unlocked and in parked near the front door of an apartment.

The other had a value of \$700 and had been locked up at the back of an apartment. Feb. 24 and 26.

■ A \$500 bike locked and parked in the side yard of a home on Oak Grove Avenue was stolen after someone cut the lock. Feb. 25.

■ Someone made \$373 in unauthorized purchases using the credit card of a resident of Santa Margarita Avenue. Feb. 22.

■ A \$300 unlocked bike was stolen from the backyard of a home on East Creek Drive. Feb. 24.

■ Two packages of clothing, with a total value of \$150, were stolen from the front doorstep of a home on White Oak Drive. Feb. 24.

■ A package of LED lights worth \$120 were stolen from the front porch of a residence on Woodland Drive. Feb. 26.

■ An envelope containing three swatches of fabric worth \$21 were stolen from the mailbox of a resident of Bay Laurel Drive. Feb. 25.

#### Fraud reports:

■ A man cashed a forged check for \$747 from a business in the 2800 block of Sand Hill Road. Feb. 24.

■ Police arrested a Redwood City man on identity-theft charges in the 1000 block of Marsh Road. He was found in possession of a fraudulently obtained debit card, a cell phone, personal information about someone other than himself, and copies of tax returns and loan applications from "many other people." Feb. 25.

**Hit and run with injury report:** A driver stopped at the intersection of Bayfront Expressway and Marsh Road complained of pain after having been rear-ended by another driver traveling at about 15 mph. The driver of the colliding vehicle pulled over initially, but then fled the scene. Feb. 27.

**GULLIXSON**



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OFFERED AT \$9,980,000



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**SOLD 2014 PALO ALTO**



**SOLD 2014 PALO ALTO**



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gullixson.com

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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.

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WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

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.

# Viewpoint

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

## Major bond issues face voters in June

Local voters will have two important decisions before them in the June 3 election when they will be asked to approve bond issues worth more than a half-billion dollars for the Sequoia Union High School District (\$265 million) and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (\$300 million).

Many residents are familiar with the high school district bond issue, which has been the subject of numerous meetings in Atherton, Woodside, East Palo Alto and Redwood City about how the district can cope with the huge enrollment bubble that is proceeding through elementary and middle schools.

Just last week a consensus of Sequoia district trustees agreed to go ahead and place a \$265 million bond measure on the June ballot to pay for additional classroom space at all four of its high schools — Menlo-Atherton, Woodside, Sequoia in Redwood City and Carlmont, which serves students from San Carlos and Belmont, and Redwood High continuation school. The trustees plan to make the decision formal with a vote this week.

To pass, the bond measure would need the approval of 55 percent of the voters and would cost property owners \$16 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. This means a home assessed at \$1 million would pay \$160 a year in annual property taxes.

In addition to the classrooms, the Sequoia district bonds would pay for two small “magnet” schools that officials say will accommodate about 400 students each. One may be located in the Menlo Park area. We urge the district to provide more detail on its plans before the June 3 election.

Voters may not be as familiar with the needs of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, which is seeking \$300 million to “expand, enhance and connect regional trails and open space areas, preserve open space and complete restoration areas.” This massive bond issue would require two-thirds approval and cost property owners \$3.18 per \$100,000

of assessed valuation, or \$31.18 for a home assessed at \$1 million.

Since the high school and open space districts cover such a wide area, and the tax burden is spread among thousands of households, the cost per taxpayer is relatively low.

The Almanac will take a deeper look at each bond measure, including a \$13.5 million bond measure for Woodside Elementary School that’s also on the ballot, in an editorial about a month before the election. In our opinion, the Sequoia district has a persuasive argument. Like all public schools, it must open its doors to every high school-age student who lives within its boundaries. The need for additional high school classrooms is made evident by simply counting the number of middle school students who will be eligible for ninth grade in a few years.

Much of this huge enrollment growth is caused by retiring “Baby Boomers” selling their homes to younger residents who are raising young families and sending a lot more children to school.

It will take an entirely different story to sell constituents of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space

District in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties on the need for \$300 million to finance improvements in hiking, biking and equestrian trails, and to restore and conserve watersheds and farm land. We believe everyone can agree that the district has done an incredible job to protect and enhance the magnificent open space we see when we travel on Interstate 280 and Highways 84 and 92 that snake through the Coastal Range to Skyline Drive.

There are 62,000 acres of open space and redwood forests in 26 preserves that offer breathtaking views of the coast as well as access to hundreds of trails administered by the district that are open to the public. It will be a challenge to convince two-thirds of voters to approve the \$300 million bond issue, but residents who want to see these areas cared for and preserved should have no hesitation about voting yes on this bond issue.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

### Disappointed in Presbyterian vote

Editor:

Menlo Park Presbyterian Church’s congressional vote Sunday left me with the sad decision to resign my membership with the church after more than 30 years.

I joined the church in the early 1980s and my husband and I raised our three children at MPPC. I have always been inspired by the teaching and proud of being a part of a church where women played key leadership and teaching roles.

The decision of the congregation to join ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO) is a decision to embrace all of ECO’s tenets. Among these tenets is: “Chastity in thought and deed, being faithful within the covenant of marriage **between a man and a woman as established by God at the creation or embracing a celibate life as established by Jesus in the new covenant,**” emphasis added.

While I debated the value of remaining a member and working to influence from within the organization, I decided that to do



Atherton Heritage Association

### Our Regional Heritage

Artist Jean Groberg drew her view of the tank house in Holbrook-Palmer Park. Atherton formally accepted the bequest of the 22-acre park from Olive Holbrook Palmer in 1964.

so would implicitly condone the practice of a church that will not treat all people with equal dignity by neither allowing gay Christian couples to be married nor a married gay Christian man or woman to be ordained within the church.

I know there were many reasons MPPC’s leadership and its congregation believed that this

was the right course for a truly dynamic and unique church, and I am focusing on just a few words of ECO’s numerous tenets which in total comprise several pages of its constitution.

However, if we have learned anything from our country’s history and the present day persecution taking place in other coun-

tries based on one’s gender, sexual orientation or religious belief, we must speak out for racial equality, gender equality and sexual orientation equality. To remain silent would not, I believe, be what my Lord, Jesus Christ, would have done when he walked among us.

Kate Rundle  
Woodland Avenue, Menlo Park

## Creekside resident supports at-grade bridge

By John Sebes

*This opinion was sent to the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority staff following the recent hearing.*

I am a San Francisquito Creek resident, writing to express my opinion about the several options being considered now for mitigating flood risks in my neighborhood.

I've lived right on the creek for more than 20 years, seen the flooding, and seen the benefit of the basic mitigations (large-scale debris removal) put in place 17 or so years ago after several of our neighbors had the creek run right through their homes. So I believe that I am aware of risk, feel it personally, and have stake in flood threats, risks, costs and benefits.

Also, as a recovering designer and engineer, I have a strong motivation to support incremental solutions that can be readily assessed for impact, to focus on the most immediate and apparent issues, and to first seek the greatest benefit at the most reasonable cost and most manageable execution risk.

That's why I support "Alternative 3 — True At-grade Bridge" because it removes the greatest risk factor: the current culvert bridge acting as a major impediment in a 40-year-magnitude flood. This is the alternative that is the easiest to assess for benefit and cost, and carries far less risk than the more ambitious plans.

The other plans' greater risks include both significant cost overruns, and unanticipated side effects from the impact on trees, erosion, and creek bed destabilization. I simply don't believe that it is feasible for those risks to be reasonably assessed and managed. As a result, I view the more ambitious alternatives to be too risky.

Let me also say that I do not share the objective of some JPA members to protect against a 100-year-scale flood, particularly by applying brute-force channel control over significant stretches of the creek. In the longer term, I would support the various approaches to upstream retention, emer-

gency runoff, and so forth. Those are major efforts, however, with significant requirements for environmental impact study, and significant costs for major construction efforts.

From where I sit today, I find it difficult to believe that the cost of such efforts would

be in line with a benefit that would apply to a few hundred downstream residents, if the 100-year-scale flood happened today. If it turns out that such future projects are warranted, I would, of course, be pleased to have the extra protection of my home; at the same time, if costs were prohibitive, I would be satisfied if the 40-year goal was met with the least impact on the creek itself.

I already feel that my family would have enough options for flood safety, if the single greatest risk factor were removed. As a creekside resident, I have long been dissatisfied with the man-made risk of flooding created by a poorly designed bridge. As a result I support the elimination of this man-made risk. But by the same token, I feel that the remaining natural risk is acceptable for those of us who choose to live on the creek.

We all have the most basic option for risk reduction: move to a home on higher ground. Having accepted the natural flood risk when we moved into our beloved creekside neighborhood, I do not feel that the local government is required to spend large sums to alter the creek itself. I would say yes to more routine maintenance (as was not done before 17 years ago); yes to abatement of significant man-made erosion; and no to flood-wall and major storm drain construction projects.

One last point. Given the location of my home, I am not one of the people whose view would be most significantly impacted by floodwalls. I am opposed to those and other invasive measures, not because of aesthetic concerns, but because I believe that they are the wrong thing to do, based on the views that I have expressed here.

*John Sebes lives on Woodland Avenue in Menlo Park*



GUEST  
OPINION



### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

TOWN OF ATHERTON  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

2014 SLURRY SEAL PROJECT  
PROJECT NO. 56058

Notice is hereby given that SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027, until 3:00 p.m. MARCH 27, 2014, at which time they will be publicly opened and read, for performing the following work:

Performing of Type II micro-surfacing per Town specifications on the listed streets, which includes notifications, traffic control, prep work, oil, compaction, sweeping, and re-striping/pavement markings (as needed) with a 1-year guarantee.

The Engineer's Estimate for the project is: \$333,000

Per Section 6.01 of the Town of Atherton's Standard Specifications, the General Contractor shall perform, with his own organization, work of a value amounting to not less than 50% of the total contract, excluding specialty items as indicated on the bid schedule.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for 2014 SLURRY SEAL PROJECT, Project No. 56058", along with date and time of bid opening..

Plans and specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton's website at <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=331> under Bid Posting at no cost. Additional important information is contained in Town of Atherton Standard Specifications, which are available on line at <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/285>. Contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the Town's website. No Planholders list shall be available.

Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash, a cashier's or certified check or bid bond for not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid, as a guarantee that the bidder, if awarded the Contract, will fulfill the terms of the bid.

The Town of Atherton, The City, reserves the right to reject any or all bids; to make any awards or any rejections in what it alone considers to be in the best interest of the City, and waive any informalities or irregularities in the bids. The contract will be awarded, if at all, to the responsible bidder that submits the lowest responsive bid. **[NOTE: If there are alternates in the bid, the City will need to state how the low bid will be determined, as required by PCC 20103.8.]**

Bidders are hereby notified that, pursuant to California Civil Code Sections 3247 and 3248 and Standard Specifications Section 3.02, the successful bidder will be required to provide payment and performance bonds in the amounts of 100% of the contract price.

Bidders are hereby notified that provisions of California Labor Code regarding prevailing wages and apprentices are applicable to the work to be performed under this contract. Pursuant to Section 1773 et seq. the general prevailing wage rates have been determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations and appear in the California Prevailing Wage Rates. Copies are on file at the office of the City Engineer and are available to interested parties upon request. The successful bidder shall post a copy of the wage rates at the job site.

The Contractor may elect to receive 100 percent of payments due under the contract, without retention of any portion of the payment by the Town of Atherton, by depositing securities of equivalent value to the retention amount in accordance with the provisions of Section 22300 of the California Public Contract Code.

All bidders shall be licensed under the provisions of the Business and Professions Code to do the type of work contemplated in the project. The City has determined that the Contractor shall possess a valid Class A license at the time the bid is submitted. Failure to possess the specified license shall render the bid non-responsive.

Each bidder shall submit with this bid a statement setting forth his/her/its experience and qualifications. The statement shall be made on the forms provided by the Town and must accompany each bid. The three lowest bidders will be required to submit subcontractor's experience and qualifications statements within 48 hours of the bid opening, on forms provided by the Town.

By submitting a bid in response to this advertisement for bids, the bidder shall be conclusively deemed to have read, understood and agreed with all of the information and materials contained in the bid documents, including but not limited to the construction contract, the standard specifications, the special provisions, the required nature and amount of insurance and the documentation evidencing said insurance.

Any questions regarding the project should be directed to David Huynh, Project Engineer, telephone: (650) 752-0555 or by written Requests for Information (RFI) to: Public Works Department, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA 94027, no later than ten (10) business days before bid opening. RFIs may be emailed to [dhuyh@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:dhuyh@ci.atherton.ca.us) or faxed to (650) 688-6539. Responses shall be posted on the Town's website no later than five (5) days prior to bid opening.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gordon Siebert, P.E., City Engineer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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