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The Almanac

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

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Music@Menlo spotlights Dvorak

By Tiffany Lam

Special to the Almanac

It's difficult to imagine the Bay Area chamber music scene without the Music@Menlo summer festival. Each year, a theme is selected as the festival's centerpiece. And, each year, it's a little different.

The twelfth season, from July 18 to Aug. 9, is titled "Around Dvorak" and focuses not only on the music, but also the life, of Czech composer Antonin Dvorak. According to festival co-founder Wu Han, "There are few composers in history that deserve the treatment given to Dvorak by this year's festival."

Antonin Dvorak was born in Bohemia, near Prague, in 1841. He traveled to the United States, where for three years in the 1890s he wrote inspired music, Wu Han (who goes by both names) noted. When he returned to Prague, he became one of the most prominent composers of his time. He died in 1904 at the age of 62.

"He has made tremendous contributions to chamber music," Wu Han said. "He was and is one of the most beloved composers."

Music@Menlo events are held on the Atherton campus of Menlo School — the festival's headquarters — and in the Performing Arts Center at Menlo-Atherton High School.

A shift 'From Bach'

The chamber music festival's theme last year was titled "From Bach." As the title implies, programs began with compositions from the German composer, then branched off to a wide variety of works influenced by Bach.

"We always try to do something completely opposite of the year before," Wu Han said. "This year, it's much more focused. We're not going from a composer to something bigger. Like the title says, the programs revolve around Dvorak. It's examining his surroundings and his influences."

The eight concert programs include works by Brahms, Haydn

'There are few composers in history that deserve the treatment given to Dvorak by this year's festival.'

FESTIVAL CO-FOUNDER WU HAN

and Beethoven, all of whom represent aspects of Dvorak's life and work. "We have to touch his influences and mentors," she said. "We are examining how Vienna influenced Prague. Brahms and Dvorak are centerpieces of the two cities."

An American influence

Unlike the traditional Viennese Classicism of many other composers of the era, Dvorak's music had a wide range of influences. "He has contributed an incredible amount of literature and repertoire to multiple music genres," said Wu Han.

Among these influences are Bohemian folk music and, perhaps more surprisingly, American folk. One of the concert programs, titled "American Visions," focuses entirely on Dvorak's influence in America, where he led a rising generation



Photo by Tristan Cook

Clarinetist Anthony McGill will perform at the Music@Menlo festival.

of American composers and rose to prominence himself.

"It will start off with 'The Union' from Louis Moreau Gottschalk, and you'll feel like you're going to a Fourth of July party. It ends with 'American Songbook II' from George Crumb, who is still alive today. He puts four percussionists in the accompaniment part, and then sets folk songs on top of his own accompaniment," noted Wu Han.

Music@Menlo information

The festival offers a range of programs, some free, but most charging admission. Cafe Conversations allow audiences to participate in music- and arts-related discussions, and are held each weekday throughout the festival at 11:45 a.m. at Menlo School. There is no admission charge.

David Beveridge and William Lobkowitz will join the festival as leaders of "Encounter" sessions — a series of evening-length events led by music authorities.

Mr. Beveridge, an esteemed musicologist, is working on the most comprehensive treatment ever of the life and work of Dvorak. Mr. Lobkowitz is a descendant of the Lobkowitz family, patrons of Haydn and Beethoven.

Go to musicatmenlo.org for more information regarding the Music@Menlo festival, including this year's program, event schedule, and ticket information.

Prague tour

To complement this year's festival, Music@Menlo artistic directors David Finckel and Wu Han will lead a tour through Prague in September to explore Eastern European art, culture, and music.

During the tour, travelers will visit Dvorak's birthplace and areas where he spent his youth. The trip will offer a concert in his birth house, an exclusive banquet in a castle, and a meeting with the descendants of the Lobkowitz family. Space is limited.

Go to musicatmenlo.org/travel/ to make reservations. ■

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Local News

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City releases specific plan initiative analysis

Voter approval requirement has many ramifications.

By **Sandy Brundage**

Almanac Staff Writer

There is plenty for Menlo Park residents to evaluate in the analysis of Save Menlo's downtown/El Camino Real specific plan initiative. The 150-page analysis was released July 10.

The initiative would restrict the amount of office space in any individual development to 100,000 square feet; limit total new office space to 240,820 square feet; and cap overall new, nonresidential development to 474,000 square feet within the specific plan's boundaries.

It would also redefine open space to mean only areas no higher than 4 feet off the ground, thereby preventing balconies from counting as open space.

Voters would have to approve any changes to the ordinance as well as any projects that would exceed the nonresidential development caps.

Lisa Wise Consulting completed the report on a \$148,420 contract with the city to independently analyze what impact the initiative's changes would have on the city and future development. The company was selected on the basis that while it had experience with this type of work, it had never worked

with the city of Menlo Park or two major downtown property owners, Stanford University and Greenheart LLC.

One major theme of the report is that the initiative introduces uncertainty into the development process, but does not derail the prospects of new projects arriving in downtown Menlo Park.

A second major point is that the voter approval requirement presents some challenges.

Among key conclusions are:

- The changes could nudge future development away from office space toward other uses such as retail, but that could lead to more traffic. The consultant did not have time to complete a market analysis to forecast what uses would be most likely under the initiative's regulations.

- Restricting office space could give the city more leverage to negotiate public benefits, but also possibly increases the city's risk of litigation and reduces job growth.

- Property owners would still be able to maximize building density on their sites, but the new definition of open space would make that more difficult, even for residential projects.

- Future development could stop once the caps are reached because of the voter approval

More information

- Go to AlmanacNews.com for updates. This story was published prior to the Menlo Park City Council meeting on July 15, when the council was expected to vote on the initiative.
- Go to tinyurl.com/init715 to read the city-funded analysis.
- Submit a letter to the editor at letters@almanacnews.com. Please limit your letter to 300 words, include your phone number and home address, and write "letter for publication" in the subject line.

al requirement, which makes investment riskier for developers and the specific plan area less attractive as a project site.

- Since the initiative would not directly reduce the residential buildout possible, the impact to schools and infrastructure remains the same as the specific plan's projections.

Jim Cogan, the city's economic development manager, said he was pleased with the work done by Lisa Wise Consulting and hopes it gives the council and voters "the information they need to feel like they are making an informed decision."

Development

The major change, according to the analysis, is the initiative's requirement for voter approval to either revise the ordinance or for projects that would exceed nonresidential development caps. The report states this would "create an open-ended political process" that makes investment riskier while making the specific plan area less attractive to devel-

opers. Also, the costs of paying for an election presents a greater obstacle for smaller landowners and developers.

Given that other nearby areas — including Mountain View, Redwood City and San Mateo — don't require voter approval, Menlo Park could see "a dampening or complete stoppage of future nonresidential development in the ECR/D Specific Plan area as developers invest elsewhere."

The initiative would impact two projects already in the development pipeline. Based on the office space limit per project, mixed-use proposals by Stanford University and Greenheart LLC "would likely be rendered infeasible" should the changes be implemented, according to the report.

Stanford, in partnership with developer John Arrillaga, wants 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.

The mixed-use complex initially contained medical offices and fewer apartments, but Stanford eliminated the medical offices after a series of discussions with city officials and Save Menlo representatives.

Greenheart's project 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.

By capping office space per project to 100,000 square feet, the initiative essentially cuts the amount allowed within those two mixed-use proposals by 50 percent.

One finer point emerged from the analysis: The initiative redefines office space. Whereas the specific plan expressly excludes banks and similar financial institutions from the category of business and professional office, the initiative includes them.

Why does this matter? According to the consultant's analysis, those types of development would count toward overall office space cap of 240,820 square feet.

The restrictions could have some benefit to Menlo Park: The analysis suggests that capping office space could boost the city's power to negotiate for greater public benefit, thanks to

See **INITIATIVE**, page 17

Atherton resident donates 65 percent of Save Menlo funding

By **Sandy Brundage**

Almanac Staff Writer

One Atherton resident donated 65 percent of the funding during the first half of this year for grassroots coalition Save Menlo, the group backing an initiative to change Menlo Park's downtown/El Camino Real specific plan, according to its most recent finance report.

The report, filed July 9 with the county elections office, covers the period from January through June. Venture capitalist Gary Lauder, who lives in Atherton, donated \$20,000 of the total \$30,736 in cash contributions received during the first six months of the year.

Mr. Lauder said the specific plan had already passed by the

time he got involved. "I always thought that the government would look out for our interests and only allow incremental development that the system can handle," Mr. Lauder said.

"Having driven through downtown Sunnyvale a few years ago, I was shocked to see that the town had allowed tall office buildings to be built right to the property line, thereby creating urban canyons in the middle of this suburb ... in some cases right across the street from single-family dwellings," he said. "This is proof that perhaps government does not always get it right and prevent inappropriate development ... at least from this outsider's perspective."

He serves on the Atherton

Venture capitalist, traffic mitigation proponent is major donor to group backing specific plan initiative

transportation committee and takes a regional view of the congestion he expects developments on vacant lots along El Camino Real — such as the Stanford-Arrillaga mixed-use project — to deliver. The initiative would cut the amount of office space allowed in that proposal by 50 percent, as well as impose other restrictions on overall nonresidential development within the specific plan's boundaries.

Mr. Lauder said that "development isn't the problem," but "congestion, urban canyons and related unintended consequences of it are."

He suggests upgrading the road capacity first, then build. Until the government increases road capacity and uses existing techniques to improve traffic flow, then all major development should be opposed, he said. "This is partly to prevent further erosion of quality of life due to traffic congestion, and partly to get real estate developers to advocate for the proper road upgrades to enable further development," he said.

Other donors, expenses

A "Committee for Referendum," based out of a Moun-

tain View apartment, came in second with a \$2,000 donation. Menlo Park downtown property owner Nancy Couperus chipped in \$1,000, as did attorney Chip Lutton.

Twenty-nine people are listed as donating money; another contributed an estimated \$107 in non-cash services related to display supplies.

The largest expenditure went to environmental and initiative specialist attorney Keith Wagner, based in Davis, for \$14,232 in legal fees related to the petition drive. An additional \$1,840 was spent on hired signature gatherers. The remainder of Save Menlo's \$24,397 in expenses went for miscellaneous supplies such as signs and printing costs.

According to the city's sum-

See **SAVE MENLO**, page 16

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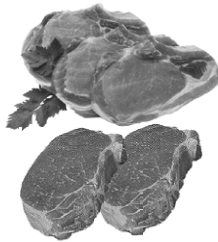
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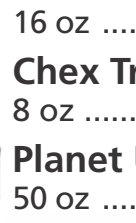
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Atherton may name project manager for Town Center

By Barbara Wood

Almanac Staff Writer

Finalizing a contract with mack5, the company chosen to manage the building of a new Atherton Town Center, will be on the agenda when the Atherton City Council meets on Wednesday, July 16. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the Atherton Council Chambers, 94 Ashfield Road.

The proposed agreement allows mack5 to bill up to nearly \$900,000 for managing and advising the town on the design, construction and occupancy of the new civic center complex, a process that is expected to take close to three years, according to the staff report.

According to mack5's website, the company has provided project, cost and construction management services to a long list of clients, including the cities of Menlo Park, Palo Alto and East Palo Alto, as well as Canada College and Stanford University.

Also on the agenda is a proposal to increase the limits on the amount of money town staff can spend without a formal bidding process.

The proposed limits are

\$25,000 for professional services and \$30,000 for everything else, an increase from the current \$15,000 limits. Purchases will still be limited to items that are in the town's budget.

The council will also hear a report on a survey of Parker Avenue homeowners. The town has been wrestling with the issue of how to deal with homeowners who have used part of the street's 70-foot-wide right-of-way, a legacy of ancient plans to make the street a major thoroughfare, as if it were part of their property.

The town had proposed giving the owners of each 7,800-square-foot lot a part of that right-of-way. But a staff report on the results of the survey shows only four property owners in favor of the gift, with 11 opposed and six not responding. Comments on the survey indicate an increase in property taxes to be a major reason for not wanting the additional property.

The staff report, prepared by Deputy Town Planner Lisa Costa Sanders, recommends the town give up on the transfer of the right-of-way and instead use revisions to the town's Encroachment Ordinance to deal with the problems on Parker Avenue. ▀

Judge upholds settlement in defamation lawsuit

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

A judge has denied a request to nullify a settlement agreement reached in a defamation countersuit by Menlo Park Fire Protection District board director Virginia Chang Kiraly against John Woodell.

In March, Mr. Woodell, husband of Menlo Park Councilwoman Kirsten Keith, agreed to pay \$5,000.01 to Ms. Kiraly if she dismissed her lawsuit against him, according to court documents.

But after Ms. Kiraly filed her acceptance of the offer with the court, Mr. Woodell's attorney asked that the agreement be voided on grounds that she'd breached confidentiality because the filing was open to the public.

San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Lisa Novak ruled on Monday, July 7, that "there was no term in the offer of compromise requiring either that the parties fail to comply with the mandatory provision (to file the agreement with the court), or requiring that any such filing be done under seal."

Moreover, while the parties had agreed on confidentiality for certain information obtained during discovery, such as employment records, that "by its very language ... was never intended to pertain to motions of offers of compromise," the judge wrote.

Attorney Seth Rosenberg, who represents Mr. Woodell, did not respond to requests for comment.

Mr. Woodell filed his defamation lawsuit in 2012, alleging Ms. Kiraly and Chuck Bernstein, now also on the fire board, told people that he'd vandalized campaign signs during the 2011 fire board election. Mr. Bernstein said he'd found an uprooted Kiraly campaign sign in his yard lying next to a cellphone that turned out to be Mr. Woodell's. Mr. Woodell denied vandalizing the sign.

Ms. Kiraly then filed the countersuit based on an email sent by Mr. Woodell to a former Menlo Park council member that suggested the fire board director had somehow gotten

See **SETTLEMENT**, page 9

Woodside water use exceeds Portola Valley's

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Woodside's per-capita water use grew significantly in 2013, substantially exceeding water consumption even in Portola Valley, according to data from the California Water Service Company, Woodside's primary supplier of fresh water.

Woodside's residential water consumption in 2013 was 421 gallons per person per day, compared with 305 gallons in Portola Valley. In 2012, the numbers were 377 gallons for Woodside and 283 for Portola Valley.

Figures were not available for Atherton or Menlo Park. Cal Water releases data only to city or town officials, and only upon request, said spokeswoman Dawn Smithson. Woodside and Portola Valley requested the data.

The Bay Area average for 2013 was 79 gallons per person per day, according to the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency.

This drought officially began in January 2014, but exceptionally dry weather has been a concern to state officials since 2012, according to the Department of Water Resources.

Water use is higher outside a house than inside, and residential irrigation tends to rise during a drought, Ms. Smithson told the Portola Valley Town Council recently. The typical outside-to-inside ratio is 60-40 percent, but the ratio was 70-30 in the Bear Gulch district for 2013, Ms. Smithson said.

The Bear Gulch district consists of Atherton, Portola Valley, most of Woodside and parts of Menlo Park. Overall usage for 2013 was double that of the Cal Water district serving San Mateo and triple of that serving South San Francisco, Ms. Smithson said.

Portola Valley officials learned of the town's 2013 number amid a multi-faceted effort, begun in March, to galvanize the community to conserve water. The Woodside council, by contrast, approved a resolution in January in recognition of statewide water conservation efforts.

A big leak?

"I think we, as residents, should be embarrassed and ashamed as water users,"

Woodside Councilman Ron Romines said at the July 8 Town Council meeting.

Mr. Romines was responding to a presentation by Woodside resident Debbie Mendelson, a member of the Sustainability and Conservation Committee. Ms. Mendelson outlined months of assiduous work behind the committee's recommendation to initiate a water conservation program.

She added, with some heat, that she expected a commitment from the council. "How do we have a town of 5,000 people using 421 gallons a day?" she asked. "I hope there's a big leak."

Mayor Dave Burow responded: "Do we want to have a water conservation program? I think the answer is yes," he said. "The devil is in the details. ... The program would have to be embraced by the community and not just the council."

'I think we, as residents, should be embarrassed and ashamed as water users.'

WOODSIDE COUNCILMAN
RON ROMINES

Perhaps a study session, Mr. Romines suggested. Perhaps more than one study session, said Councilman Peter Mason. "There's a lot of concern by a lot of people who want to save water," said Councilman Dave Tanner, after noting that Woodside is populated with large parcels.

The Portola Valley council, by contrast, has acted, Ms. Mendelson said. "It's up to the (Woodside) Town Council," she said. "You've been elected to lead the community. You shouldn't have to take a poll."

"I think we definitely need to take some leadership on this and not just frame the question," Mr. Romines said.

Portola Valley

Ms. Mendelson visited the Portola Valley council chambers the following night, July 9, when that Town Council heard two presentations on water conservation: from the California Water Service Com-

pany, and from a town task force that has been devising strategies to engage the community on the issue.

"We're very troubled," Portola Valley Mayor Ann Wengert said, noting the new statistic and a continuing trend. "Unfortunately we're going in the wrong direction, but that increases the urgency," she added after the council approved a \$3,400 budget for the task force.

The Cal Water presentation included statistics and conservation goals. On the higher use of water outdoors, Bear Gulch district manager Smithson added: "There's a lot of play in this area. A lot of this use isn't necessary to sustain human life."

Conservation will remain a priority in that Cal Water plans for future residential developments, she said. "We're really needing to find reliable sources of water. We're not ever going to have a need for less water," she said. "It's kind of nice to get people thinking about this."

Bear Gulch purchases 85 percent to 95 percent of its water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, with the rest supplied by surface runoff, according to BAWSCA. Reservoirs serving Bear Gulch are in "good shape," Ms. Smithson said, but "conservation is really important in making that last."

What can be done? Cities can enact ordinances and penalties, including watering restrictions and fines, Ms. Smithson told the Almanac. For now, the focus is on education, but, she added, "if a city or town we serve enacts an ordinance to promote water conservation we would, in turn, support their efforts."

Ms. Wengert told the Almanac that she would not speculate on council action at this point, and deferred to the task force. Among its recommendations: raising the consciousness of gardeners on conserving water. If the town engages the landscape contractors who hire them, there's a better chance of getting the gardeners' attention, Councilman Craig Hughes said.

Redwood City partnered with Acterra of Palo Alto in a bilingual water conservation workshop for gardeners that included a certificate for attending, said Councilwoman Maryann Moise Derwin. "It was very, very meaningful for the gardeners," she said. ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Bridge Loans

Dear Monica: We have owned our home for several years and are ready to downsize to a smaller and less expensive home. We need to sell our home in order to buy the next one and the market is so tight it will be much harder to find a replacement home than it will be to sell our present one. Do you have any advice? Robert B.

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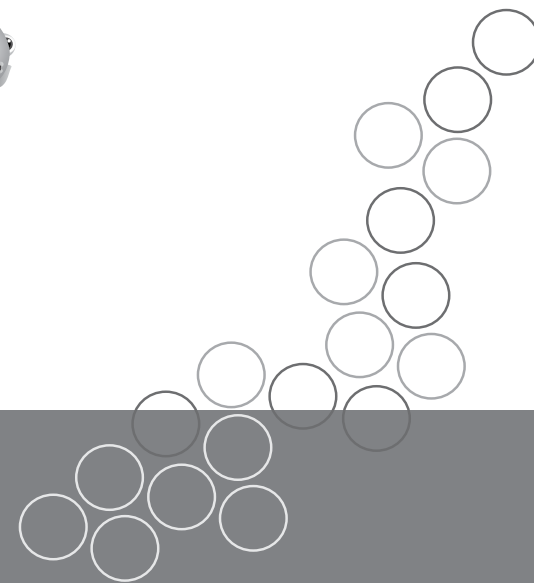
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Initiative proponents note flaws in consultant's report

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

As several people have noted, there's something for everyone in a consultant's analysis of the specific plan initiative proposed by grassroots coalition Save Menlo.

Former planning commissioner Patti Fry, who co-sponsored the initiative, said that while it was gratifying to read that the consultant agrees the initiative's changes would have no impact on schools, it was disappointing that the study failed to analyze the specific plan in its current form.

"What we face on El Camino with large office complexes is not anything resembling the 'small town character' envisioned by residents," Ms. Fry said.

She said the specific plan's "laissez faire approach to development" doesn't work when market forces for a particular use — office — overwhelms alternatives. "Unlike clothing fads, our town can't swap out office complexes for a hotel or new stores

and restaurants when the inevitable market shifts occur. The initiative addresses this issue."

Without the proposed changes, Ms. Fry said, the projected development for the next 30 years within the specific plan's boundaries will be used up in a much shorter time frame, "squandering the emotional and financial investment our community made to create the (specific plan) over a six-year period."

Ms. Fry said the time to analyze the specific plan was "the minute Stanford made their first proposal in the fall of 2012," and another opportunity arose in 2013 when Greenheart proposed a similarly large mixed-use project. "Those were times the sirens should have gone off that the forecasts created by previous teams of expensive consultants were invalid."

The consultant's analysis is flawed in some aspects, according to Ms. Fry, particularly with how it looks at the initiative's provision to redefine open space as applying only to areas within

4 feet of the ground.

Perla Ni, speaking on behalf of Save Menlo, pointed out what her group saw as the highlights in the report.

The analysis shows that under the current specific plan regulations, the majority of development will be office space, according to Save Menlo, which will worsen traffic during commute hours. Office development also leaves less space for retail and restaurants while diminishing the city's village character, Ms. Ni said.

The analysis "confirmed what residents have been suspecting — that all this office is a tax loss situation for the city," Ms. Ni said, because city revenues come mostly from sales and hotel taxes.

"The report also confirms that developers with reasonable proposals will not be affected," Ms. Ni said in an email. "We have some of the highest real estate valuations in the country and developers will be able to make, even with the Initiative, hundreds of millions of dollars. Unchecked development — particularly high traffic mega-offices — would make this area a much less desirable community." ■

Initiative opponents cite 'unintended consequences'

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

For those affiliated with Menlo Park Deserves Better, the grassroots coalition formed to fight the specific plan initiative proposed by another grassroots

coalition, Save Menlo, the consultant's analysis of the initiative highlighted the ballot measure's unintended consequences.

"Two things really jumped out at me," said John Boyle, former councilman and an MPDB member. "One, I think the consultant did a good job of pointing out (that) there's a lot of vagueness, a lot of uncertainty. Even the definition of office space is inconsistent from one part to the other."

For example, he noted, an architect's office would be in a different category from a designer's office under the initiative's language.

"That kind of confusion, combined with the very broad language of 'anything that interferes with or frustrates' the initiative will be subject to voter approval ... is going to have such a chilling effect on development," he said, as developers will likely choose to build elsewhere.

Mr. Boyle said he thought the report "did a good job of trying to be fair" in its analysis of what might happen under the specific plan's regulations versus the initiative's, but what it didn't do is compare the initiative's possibilities with those of projects already in the pipeline under the current specific plan, such as the mixed-use complexes in the

works by Stanford University and Greenheart.

"Under the initiative we could end up with a lot more medical office, and a lot less housing. There are a lot of scenarios where the initiative could backfire. The very things (initiative proponents purport) to care about — could go the other way," he commented. "I think the uncertainty and potential for unintended consequences is enormous."

In an email newsletter, former council member Lee Duboc referred to the initiative's requirement that voters must approve changes to the proposed ordinance or to exceed nonresidential development caps as a "poison pill."

She questioned whether the initiative would solve the traffic problems its backers say they are trying to fix, given that the ballot measure allows the same amount of medical office — the type of development that generates the most traffic — as the current specific plan allows.

Given the restrictions the initiative places on office space construction, Ms. Duboc contends that two mixed-use projects of office, housing and retail — one proposed by Stanford University and the other by Greenheart — could instead become medical office complexes.

Ms. Duboc also said that the new definitions of office space as put forth by the initiative could create ambiguity concerning regulations, and potentially lead to expensive lawsuits. ■



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Woodside: Fencing setbacks debated

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ WOODSIDE

A passionate three-hour conversation about fence regulations? It happened in Independence Hall in Woodside before the Town Council on July 8, and not a seat was left unfilled.

Current fence regulations do not advance Woodside's rural character, some residents say. Fences that were set back farther from the road, they point out, would enhance rural sensibility and provide passage and privacy for wildlife. Other residents say that fence regulations are fine as they are.

The two sides met for the July 8 study session on a proposal by the town's Open Space Committee to revise the fence regulations. Most of the speakers opposed changing the regulations.

Woodside's general plan favors fences that are "wildlife-friendly and avoid creating visual walls and tunnel effects along roadways." In an effort to align the town's regulations with the general plan, the Open Space Committee's proposal would increase setbacks along roads and between properties, but only for new fences and only on properties larger than three acres. Existing fences would be grandfathered in.

The proposal would:

- Double the setbacks for 4-foot "open" perimeter fences — to 20 feet along a public road and 10 feet along a private road. A three-rail fence is an open fence, as are posts with wire mesh between them.

- Increase by one-third the setbacks for "open" perimeter fences higher than 4 feet along a public road — to 30 feet from the current 20 feet.

- Establish 20-foot setbacks for "open" fences higher than 4 feet and located between properties, with 50-foot setbacks for walls and fences not considered open and higher than 4 feet.

In preparing its proposal, the committee reviewed regulations in Portola Valley, Saratoga,

Monte Sereno, Los Altos Hills and Los Gatos, according to a staff report.

Rural or suburban?

If the proposal had been a clay pigeon, comments by speakers at the meeting would have shattered it on the first shot and then atomized it with succeeding shots into its dusty corpse.

"I think we're fooling ourselves if we think that Woodside is totally rural," said Geri Wohl of Miramontes Road. "We're in the suburbs." Deer-proof fences, she said, can minimize the presence of deer ticks, a menace to children and pets.

"My property," said Karin Friedrichs, "although I love wildlife, is not for the use of wildlife."

Are new fencing rules needed to preserve Woodside's rural character?

A resident of Kings Mountain Road said that "not everybody moved here because we like wildlife." Some came for the schools, the friends and proximity to the Bay Area, he said.

The Peninsula Open Space Trust exists to create open space, said Richard Draeger. Humans with nefarious intentions can also use wildlife corridors, he added.

Former mayor Paul Goeld said the argument is really about aesthetics. "There's a lot of things in town that offend me," he said. "There's a neighbor that has a topiary garden in his front yard that just sucks. ... You shouldn't be changing the rules unless there's a hardship or a clearly compelling reason. ... It's just not something that the citizens want."

Contact between domestic and wild animals should be limited, said Joel Butler. He's had three pets "devoured" in

the last year, he said. "It makes people feel less safe in our own homes," he said. "Please let us keep the security we currently have and allow others to do the same. ... I'm tired of cleaning up blood and guts and fur."

Fentress Hall of the Livestock and Equestrian Heritage Committee advocated for lower fences and higher technology. Electric wires, she said, present a reduced visual impact and can be effectively targeted at a particular species.

Council responds

Study sessions should be for gathering information, not considering proposals, said Councilwoman Deborah Gordon. And, she added, setting categorical rules doesn't make sense in Woodside — a community in which properties differ widely in topology, stream corridors, fault lines and land stability. "We aren't a planned community," she said. "We don't have one-acre parcels laid out neatly on a flat place."

The discussion should also include other concerns in the general plan, such as pets, security and safety, she said.

Councilman Peter Mason said that acreage is just one factor of several factors to use in setting fencing regulations. "What is the problem we're trying to solve?" he asked. The answer could lead to discovering other factors, he said.

Mayor Dave Burow wondered how to achieve wildlife corridors without strict setback requirements. "It would be nice to have more attractive fencing, but I don't think we can legislate that," he said.

If the fence proposal seems progressive in tone, it may be because volunteers tend to be more progressive than people who don't volunteer, Mr. Burow added.

The discussion did result in a few ideas, including engaging a wildlife biologist, collecting data on wildlife, limiting effects on small-property fences and focusing on large-property fences. And having more study sessions. ■

SETTLEMENT

continued from page 6

hold of his phone. She stated in court filings that she never had the cellphone in her possession.

In May, Judge Novak dismissed Mr. Woodell's lawsuit on grounds that he deliberately destroyed key cellphone evidence in the case before the defendants could examine his phone. He has appealed the dismissal. ■

Seminars on running for office

Prospective candidates can learn about the election process at free seminars sponsored by the San Mateo County.

A session for candidates will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 17, at 40 Tower Road in San Mateo. Topics include everything from campaign finance reports to campaign sign requirements.

A seminar explaining how to get and use voter data will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 24, at the Tower Road location.

All sessions are open to the public. Reservations are not required but are encouraged.

Go to shapethefuture.org, call 312-5202, or e-mail jku-ryllo@smcare.org to make reservations.

We're Hiring Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Palo Alto Weekly is looking for a talented, experienced journalist with a passion for the worlds of art and entertainment.

The ideal candidate for the full-time job of Arts & Entertainment Editor will be knowledgeable about the local scene, from Mountain View to Redwood City. You are as adept at covering the traditional arts as you are great nightlife. You can tweet from events, brainstorm multimedia features and dive into arts education. As A&E Editor, you will be responsible for seeking out and keeping our readership informed of all the significant and interesting arts happenings via our website (www.paloaltoonline.com/arts), weekly print edition and social media.

This is a great opportunity for an organized and creative self-starter who also enjoys working as part of a team. Because this is an editor position, we are looking for someone with a strong journalism background and plenty of ideas. Solid editing, writing and social media skills a must. Please email your resume, cover letter and three A&E-related clips to Editor Jocelyn Dong at jdong@paweekly.com, with "Arts Editor" in the subject line. NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE.

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1302 Channing Ave., Palo Alto	26.02%	8
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This Mountain View home listed for \$998,000 and sold for \$1,315,000 in 8 days.

Man, 33, killed by train

Jordan Brinkman, 33, of Walnut Creek was struck and killed by a train at Watkins Avenue in Atherton around 9:30 p.m. Thursday, July 10.

Mr. Brinkman was on foot when he was struck, according to Caltrain spokeswoman Christine Dunn.

None of the 518 people on board southbound Cal-

train 192 was injured, she said.

The train was moved to the Menlo Park station so the passengers could board another train, she said. Trains do not stop in Atherton on weekdays.

This is the fifth fatality on the Caltrain right-of-way this year, Ms. Dunn said. Last year there were 13 fatalities.

Report: County needs to step up fight against elder financial abuse

By Tiffany Lam

Special to the Almanac

San Mateo County programs and staff dealing with financial abuse of the elderly have declined in the past seven years, according to a recent civil grand jury report. Meanwhile, the elderly population is growing and referrals to county agencies regarding such abuse are steadily rising.

In the July 1 report, the grand jury calls on the county to step up its efforts to prevent and prosecute abuse.

Problems range from abuses by family members and caregivers, to scams such as telemarketing offers and fake lottery winnings. As of 2009, the national financial loss by victims of financial abuse was an estimated \$2.6 billion a

year, the report says.

Such abuse is expected to grow as the population ages. By 2030, the number of people over 65 in the county will increase by 72 percent, and the number over 85 will rise two and a half times, according to a San Mateo County Health System website.

Older residents in the county often own homes with significant equity, making them especially attractive to financial predators, the report points out.

The grand jury recommends:

- The county's Adult Protective Services agency should implement by the end of the year programs to educate the public and train "mandated reporters," who recognize and report signs of elder financial abuse.

- The District Attorney's Office should by the end of the

year improve computer systems and other processes for investigating and resolving abuse cases.

- The District Attorney's Office should by March 2015 evaluate the need for a full-time deputy district attorney and inspector responsible for prosecuting such cases.

The report requests responses from the district attorney and the county Board of Supervisors.

The civil grand jury is made up of San Mateo County residents, appointed by a judge, who investigate problems and prepare reports recommending action by government agencies in the county. The agencies are required to issue a public response to the report.

Go to sanmateocourt.org/grandjury for more information about grand jury reports. ▀

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Peruvian food focus of cooking program

Nothing embodies the taste of a Peruvian summer quite like *causa* — a unique Peruvian potato dish. On Saturday, July 19, local foodies will not only have the opportunity to taste the dish, but also to create it themselves.

Nora Landa Frazier, a native of Lima, Peru, will conduct a free, interactive cooking program at 11 a.m. at the Menlo Park Library. The event will consist of a hands-on demonstration, Q&A, and tasting party.

Reportedly originating in pre-Columbian times, *causa* exists today in countless creative variations — it is often layered with avocado, chicken, tuna, or even shellfish.

Ms. Frazier began her culinary

teaching career at the American International School of Lima. She now resides in the Bay Area, where she shares Peruvian history through her presentation of traditional, national dishes.

The event is hosted by the Friends of the Menlo Park Library. It is part of the library's adult summer reading program, which offers special programs and prizes to adult readers.

Participation in the cooking program is limited to adults age 18 and over. The program will take place in the downstairs room of the library at 800 Alma St.

For event details, visit menlopark.org/library, or email John Weaver, Menlo Park Library outreach coordinator, at weaver@plsinfo.org.

Night-time visit to open space preserve

Nocturnal visitors to the Monte Bello Open Space Preserve can observe moths and other flying insects during a docent event on Saturday, July 19, from 8:30 p.m. to 11:45 p.m.

Participants will meet at the preserve parking lot located on Page Mill Road, across from Los Trancos Preserve.

There will be an optional trek to the sag pond for a night hike. Bring a chair or something to sit on, snacks, a flashlight with a red filter or cellophane, a camera, and close-focus binoculars.

Go to tinyurl.com/moth719 to make reservations, which are required.

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Charity Horse Show

This photo, titled "Ready When You Are," was taken by the Menlo Charity Horse Show's "Artist of the Year" Peter Samuels. He says it captures the unspoken connection between horse and rider before competition. The horse show will take place Aug. 5-10 at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton. Visit MenloHorseShow.com for more information.

CALENDAR

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

Classes/Workshops

3D Printing Demonstration The Portola Valley Library will host an event to explain the concept of 3D printing — in which a real object is made from a digital model — and its new MakerBot Replicator 2 printer. Visitors can touch samples and ask questions. Teens and adults can sign up to be trained to use the printer. July 24, 5-6 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, Community Hall, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org

Cowboy Dressage clinic Cowboy Dressage World will offer a two-day Horsemanship Clinic, with founding partner Susan Tomasini teaching foundation and intermediate levels. July 19-20, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Prices vary. Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County, 521 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-1128. www.TomasiniTrainingCenter.com

Line dancing class Little House Activity Center will hold line dancing classes, introducing a new dance each week. A variety of music will be played; no partner is needed. Wednesdays, July 9-August 27, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. \$64 eight classes; \$12 drop-in. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025 ext. 222. www.penvol.org/littlehouse

Musical Theater Workshops for Kids and Teens Singer's Circuit Training workshops are one-afternoon sessions for children

ages 10 to 19. Students will work on training their voices and learn about song acting and performance. July 27, 1-6 p.m. \$240. Bridgepoint Music, 657 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-454-9125. www.performancesinging.com

Printmaking with Peopleologie In this class, students will learn how to make prints using linoleum blocks with animal designs, paper, ink and brayers. Students must be age 5 or older. Please register by contacting the library. July 23, 4-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org

Concerts

Bennett Paster & Taylor Eigsti In this Stanford Jazz Festival show, versatile keyboardist Bennett Paster will be joined by pianist Taylor Eigsti and others. July 30, 7:30-9 p.m. \$15-\$35. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. Call 650-736-0324. www.stanfordjazzfestival.org/mainevents/2014/7/30/bennett-paster-taylor-eigsti

Cafe Conversations and Master Classes Music@Menlo will hold a number of conversations with performing artists, as well as master classes where educators from the Chamber Music Institute will impart their knowledge to young players. Monday-Friday, July 21-August 8, 11:45 a.m. Free. Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton. Call 650-330-2030. www.musicatmenlo.org

Carte Blanche Concert I: Escher String Quartet At this Music@Menlo concert, the Escher String Quartet will perform four string quartets by Alexander von

Zemlinsky, pieces written over the course of 40 years. July 23, 8 p.m. \$70 general; \$30 under age 30. Stent Family Hall, Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton. For more information on Music@Menlo events, call 330-2030 or go to www.musicatmenlo.org

Concert Program I: Dvorak in Context The 2014 Music@Menlo season will begin with a festive concert in which Mozart's "Serenata notturna" leads into Dvorak's pastoral "Opus 51 Quartet." July 19, 6 p.m. \$68/\$58 general; \$30/\$20 under age 30. The Center for Performing Arts, Menlo-Atherton High School, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Call 650-330-2030. www.musicatmenlo.org

Fete the Festival The artistic directors, festival musicians and community members will kick off Music@Menlo's 2014 festival with an outdoor catered dinner reception. July 19, 8:30 p.m. \$65. Menlo School campus, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton. Call 650-330-2300. www.musicatmenlo.org

Music on the Square: Rod Piazza & the Mighty Flyers Blues veterans Rod Piazza & the Mighty Flyers will perform as part of the Music on the Square series in Redwood City. July 25, 6-8 p.m. Free. Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.redwoodcity.org/events/musiconthesquare.html

Kids & Families

Family Storytime The Portola Valley Library will hold an event with stories, songs and activities for the whole family. July 19, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org

Imagination Playground Party Portola Valley Library hosts an event with Imagination Playground blocks. All ages can play and build with these safe, oversized blocks. July 24, 5-6 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org

Kamishibai storytelling The century-old craft of kamishibai, or papercard theater storytelling, will be shared through three Japanese folktales told in English. The program is recommended for ages 5 and up. July 25, 2-3 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-0147. www.smcl.org

Lego Club Portola Valley Library holds meeting of its Lego Club, where builders of all ages can use Lego and Duplo blocks to flex their imaginative muscles. July 19, 11 a.m.-noon. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org

The Lizard Lady brings a variety of creatures to the library as part of the Summer Learning Program. July 28, 3-3:45 p.m. Free.

Continued on next page

Betty R. Newcome

December 15, 1926 – June 9, 2014

Betty Newcome passed away on June 9 at age 87 due to complications from a stroke. A resident of Woodside for 55 years, Betty was born on December 15, 1926 the daughter of Charles and Therma Buchanan. She grew up in Oakland with her sister Lou, and married Jack H. Newcome on July 27, 1947. Betty and Jack moved to Woodside in 1960 to be closer to her parents who owned a Quarter horse ranch there. She worked as a preschool teacher for several years in the San Mateo Highlands and she and Jack raised their son, Wayne.



Betty sang in church choirs her entire life and was involved in the Woodside Village Church choir for over 35 years. She was in a number of the Woodside Follies & Woodside Community Musicals – "South Pacific", "Oklahoma", "Music Man", "Hello Dolly", "Mame", "Charlie's Aunt", "Damn Yankees", "Brigadoon", "Call me Madam" and others. She also loved to play doubles tennis in "SWAT" tournaments (Somewhat Awful Tennis) with Jack. She loved to have fun, was athletic and very social.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband Jack. She is survived by her son Wayne Newcome and daughter-in-law Suzie Newcome of Bend, Oregon, her sister Lou Petch of Grass Valley, CA and her sister-in-law Ada Frye of Boise, Idaho.

A memorial service will be held at the Woodside Village Church, 3154 Woodside Rd, Woodside on Saturday, July 26, at 1pm.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Betty's name to the Nine Lives Foundation, 3016 Rolison Rd, Redwood City, CA 94063 or the Woodside Village Church in Betty's name.



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PUBLIC NOTICE WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the preliminary budget of Woodside Fire Protection District, for the FY 2014-2015 has been adopted by the Directors of said District, and is available at the Fire Department, 3111 Woodside Road in Woodside for inspection during the week commencing Monday, June 30, 2014. That on Monday, September 8, 2014 at 7 o'clock p.m. of said day at the Woodside Fire Station in Woodside, the Board of Directors will meet for the purpose of finalizing the final budget, and any person may appear and be heard regarding the increase, decrease, or omission of any item of the budget, or for the inclusion of any addition items.

Woodside Fire Protection District
by Fire Chief Daniel J. Ghiorso

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Continued from previous page

Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org

Film

Family Movie Night Atherton Library hosts screening of "Frozen." Popcorn provided by Friends of the Library. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org

Movies on the Square screens the film, "Saving Mr. Banks," in which Walt Disney (Tom Hanks) attempts to persuade P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson) to let him bring Mary Poppins to the big screen. July 24, 8:45 p.m. Free. Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.redwoodcity.org/events/movies.html

Food & Drink

Filipino Heritage Dinner Left Bank Brasserie in Menlo Park will host a Filipino Franco dinner with open seating. The prix fixe, three-course meal will be served family style. July 24, 5:30-10 p.m. \$45. Left Bank Brasserie Menlo Park, 635 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-473-6543. www.LeftBank.com

LB Steak Schramsberg Wine Dinner LB Steak in Menlo Park will host a dinner with Schramsberg Vineyard. Chef de Cuisine Kelsey Casavan will offer a four-course seasonal tasting menu to pair with Schramsberg wines, and winemaker Keith Hock will be on hand to answer questions. July 26, 6-9 p.m. \$175. LB Steak Menlo Park, 898 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-321-8980. www.lbsteak.com

Portola Valley Farmers' Market Thursdays, year-round, 3-7 p.m. (summer hours). 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. www.portolavalleyfarmersmarket.com

Live Music

Con Brio Bay Area soul band Con Brio will display their live performance talents in a show for Menlo Park's 2014 Summer Concert Series. July 16, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Fremont Park, University and Santa Cruz avenues, Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2220. www.menlopark.org/DocumentCenter/View/4187

John Garcia Blues Band John Garcia Blues Band will perform for the Menlo Park 2014 Summer Concert Series at Fremont Park. July 23, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Fremont Park, University and Santa Cruz avenues, Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2220. www.menlopark.org/DocumentCenter/View/4187

PAL Blues, Arts and BBQ Festival This free festival will feature Bay Area blues musicians and others, including, Rick Estrin & the Nightcats, Aki Kumar Blues Band, Tebo, Ms. Taylor P. Collins and more. There will also be an inflatable play land for kids, art, and food and drink. July 26, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.palbluesfestival.com

Redwood Symphony's Mid-Summer Magic Alexander Eisenberg will perform Tchaikovsky's "Violin Concerto" in a Redwood Symphony concert of easy listening favorites, which will also include music from Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess," the John Williams score from "Catch Me If You Can" and Ravel's "Bolero." July 26, 8-10 p.m. \$25 adult; \$30 at the door; \$10 student. Canada College Main Theater, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Woodside. Call 650-366-6872. www.redwoodsymphony.org

Vocalist Jessica Johnson Jessica Johnson, soul and jazz singer, will perform at Fremont Park for the Menlo Park 2014 Summer Concert Series. July 30, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Fremont Park, University & Santa Cruz avenues, Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2220. www.menlopark.org/DocumentCenter/View/4187

On Stage

'Take Me Out' Dragon Productions Theatre Company will perform the play "Take Me Out" by Richard Greenberg, which follows baseball star Darren as he comes out of the closet. July 11-20, Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. \$15. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. Call 650-493-2006 ext. 2. www.dragonproductions.net

Special Events

Djerassi Program Open House The Open House event marks the one day of the year that the Djerassi Program's Artists' Barn and private grounds is open to the public, when they can view open

studios, dance and music performances, and literary readings. This year's event will feature the Scientific Delirium Madness group, an arts and science residency program, and the "Plein Air Paint Out" with members of the Woodside Plein Air Painting Group doing work on the trails. July 27, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$50; free for children under 12. Djerassi Resident Artists Program, 2325 Bear Gulch Road, Woodside. Call 650-747-1250. www.djerassi.org/openhouse.html

Talks & Authors

Author Jacqueline Winspear on 'The Care and Management of Lies' Author of the Maisie Dobbs series, Jacqueline Winspear will share her standalone novel, "The Care and Management of Lies: A Novel of the Great War," a drama which explores love's ability to survive in a fractured world. July 30, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/jacqueline-

winspear

Docent lecture on 'Fantastic Worlds' Little House Activity Center will host a docent lecture by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art on the exhibit "Fantastic Worlds: Surrealism and Beyond." The exhibit examines how artists in the early 20th century bucked convention and integrated play, equipment and fantasy into their work. July 22, 1:30-2:30 p.m. \$5. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. www.penvol.org/littlehouse/docent-lectures.cfm

Substance Abuse Prevention Workshop Adolescent Counseling Services invites parents of pre-teens and teens to attend a breakfast workshop offering information on substance abuse and discussion with trained Substance Abuse Counselors. July 23, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Free. Adolescent Counseling Services, 1717 Embarcadero Road, Suite 4000, Palo Alto. Call 650-424-0852 ext. 200. www.acs-teens.org/press_room/pdf/Substance%20Abuse%20Workshop-reduced.pdf

Teen Activities

Author Maggie Stiefvater on 'Sinner' In a partnership with Forever Young Adult, Kepler's Books will welcome Maggie Stiefvater back to share the new book in her Shiver Series, "Sinner." July 24, 7 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. www.keplers.com/event/ya-maggie-stiefvater

Scooby Doo Night The Menlo Park Library will hold an evening of cartoons, Scooby snacks and fun for teenage fans of Scooby Doo. There will also be a Scooby Doo-themed photo booth. Registration is required. July 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2530. menlopark.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=462&month=7&year=2014&day=18&calType=0

Tinkering Teens: Designing a journal The Portola Valley Library will hold a

Tinkering Teens event where children ages 13 to 18 can decorate and design their own journal. Registration is required. July 24, 4-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org

Et Alia

Lifetree Cafe Conversation Lifetree Cafe Menlo Park will host two hour-long conversations called "If Only ... Living with Regret," discussing how to overcome regret and make peace with the past. July 16, 7-8 p.m.; July 17, 9:15-10:15 a.m. Free. Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-854-5897. www.facebook.com/LifetreeCafeMP

Non-fiction Book Club The Portola Valley Library will hold a meeting of its non-fiction book club for adults to discuss "Just Kids," a memoir by Patti Smith. Drop-ins are welcome. July 17, 1-2:30 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org



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Stanford Hospital & Clinics offers quick service and access to Stanford quality medical care for patients with urgent minor illnesses or injuries. Fast Track coordinates care with direct access to Stanford's world-renowned physicians and specialists.

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Stanford Hospital & Clinics
MEDICINE

Jeanne M. Bettini Tona

Jeanne M. Bettini Tona, 91, passed away July 3, 2014, with her family by her side at her Peninsula home. She was born in San Rafael, spent her early years in Menlo Park, and she spent her entire career as a keypunch operator at Lenkurt Electric. Her retirement years were spent traveling with her husband of 50 years and members of her family. She enjoyed golf, going for walks with her husband and meals with friends and family. Her favorite times were spent poolside in Hawaii with a Mai Tai in hand. A very loving, giving person,



she was known to most as "Auntie." She is survived by her sister, Mary Crenshaw, and two nieces and their families; Lynn Blazy, husband Jeff, and sons Jack and Nick; Susan Maddex, and sons Devon and Riley. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ida and Rino Bettini, and husband Sebastiano (Sam). In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Pathways Hospice, 585 North Mary Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94085 or a charity of your choice. Services have been held. Arrangements handled by Alta Mesa funeral Home in Palo Alto.

PAID OBITUARY

Ann Skidmore, 64, founder of Arte Italica



Ann Skidmore

Ann Dean Skidmore, the creator of the dinnerware company Arte Italica, died at her home in Menlo Park on June 18. She was 64.

Born in Salt Lake City, she moved at age 6 with her family to Denver, where she graduated from Cherry Creek High School. She moved back to Utah to study fashion merchandising at the University of Utah, where she met her husband, Earl Skidmore.

After she graduated, the couple was married and moved to Palo Alto. She became an assistant clothing buyer at Macy's until 1974, when she changed her career direction and went to work running the orthopedic nursing department of Kaiser Hospital in Redwood City.

In 1998, she began her own company in her garage, called Arte Italica, designing handmade Italian dinnerware, products now sold by major retailers.

She is survived by her husband, daughter Jennifer Neely, son Clark, parents Val and Helen Dean, siblings Val, Kristin and Patricia Dean, and two granddaughters.

The family said she was a natural at connecting with people, and her absence will be particularly missed at any party or holiday event "where she infused the room with her infectious joy of life."

SAVE MENLO

continued from page 5

mary, Save Menlo's initiative would restrict the amount of office space in any individual development to 100,000 square feet; limit total new office space to 240,820 square feet; and cap overall new, nonresidential development to 474,000 square feet within the specific plan's boundaries.

It would also redefine open space to mean only areas no higher than 4 feet off the ground, thereby preventing balconies from counting as open space.

Voters would have to approve any revisions to the ordinance as well as any projects that would exceed the nonresidential development caps. ▀



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■ POLICE CALLS

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

WOODSIDE

Residential burglary reports:

■ Someone pried open a side door to a home under construction and stole tools and a briefcase with an Apple iPad inside. Estimated loss: \$18,900. July 3.

■ Leaving no signs of forced entry, someone entered a home on West California Way and stole one jewelry box from a room containing several jewelry boxes. No estimate of losses. July 7.

Theft report: A wireless camera used to photograph wild animals was stolen from the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve on Sand Hill Road. Estimated loss: \$1,200. July 7.

MENLO PARK

Commercial burglary report: Someone entered an office on Alma Street and tried, unsuccessfully, to pry open a desk drawer. No losses: July 7.

Auto burglary report: A FasTrak electronic toll collection device, a wallet, a key chain and a vehicle manual were stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked

on Dunsmuir Way. Estimated loss: \$200. July 5.

Theft report: Two bottles of champagne were stolen from the Safeway supermarket on Sharon Park Drive. Estimated loss: \$114. July 6.

Fraud reports:

■ A man entered Bank of America on Santa Cruz Avenue, attempted to cash a fraudulent check, was unsuccessful and left in a vehicle, leaving his ID in the bank. Police stopped the vehicle and discovered three other occupants. All four were arrested and booked into jail on charges that included conspiracy, burglary, forgery and possession of fraudulent ID. July 8.

Accident reports:

■ A cyclist heading east on Ravenswood Avenue collided with a vehicle heading in the same direction that was turning right onto Alma Street but that had stopped for pedestrians in the crosswalk. The cyclist suffered "non-life-threatening injuries" and refused medical treatment. July 7.

■ A cyclist waiting in the northbound lane of Gilbert Avenue for the traffic light at Willow Road to change was struck by a vehicle that entered the northbound lane while turning south on to Gilbert. The cyclist suffered "non-life-threatening injuries" and refused medical treatment. July 9.

INITIATIVE

continued from page 5

increased competition between developers. One caveat, though — Menlo Park currently has no mechanism to take advantage of that competition.

On the other hand, the restrictions "will likely carry with them a number of unintended consequences," the report concludes, including an increased risk of litigation for the city and a lack of clarity for developers, who may try to argue that their projects should not count as office space under the initiative's definition.

Traffic

Another potential outcome of restricting office space is that some development scenarios that generate more traffic could be favored over some that generate less.

Based on the report, retail could become a preferred type of use over office space, but retail generates more traffic. A hotel would lead to less.

Housing and open space

The analysis concludes that the new definition of open space could potentially lead to less open space, and falls short "of ensuring open space within four feet of ground level is situated in such a way that it would contribute to the pedestrian realm."

This is partly due to other competing requirements, such as the need to provide on-site parking within the same footprint as the required open space. In a domino effect, that could lead to less housing being built

in zoning districts that require residential open space, as well as less private open space within the housing developments.

The next domino in the chain of analysis is housing costs: If all of the required on-site parking doesn't fit at ground level, that leaves underground or garages to pick up the remainder — and that drives up construction costs. The analysis suggests that then could lead to higher rents and less likelihood that developers will choose to include below-market-rate units.

Infrastructure and fiscal

The analysis concluded that the initiative would not affect infrastructure demands or fiscal impacts to the city, as compared with the specific plan, apart from a potential loss of revenue from reduced development.

Like the specific plan, the initiative would allow the maximum buildout of 680 residential units by 2030, meaning that the projected impact to schools would not change.

What next

The Menlo Park City Council was expected to vote July 15 on whether to place the initiative on the ballot for the November election or to adopt it, after reviewing the consultant's analysis. Check Almanacnews.com for updates.

Save Menlo has stated that the group wants the council to adopt the initiative, rather than putting it on the ballot. They face opposition from another grassroots group — Menlo Park Deserves Better — which has formed to fight the initiative. ■



RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE

Lands of Repass

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

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

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

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

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

Date: August 13, 2014
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices
 500 Laurel Street
 Menlo Park, CA 94025

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

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

Exhibit A

**PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF
 214 GROVE DRIVE (APN079-038-150) 1.62 ACRE +/-
 AND PORTION OF GROVE DRIVE 0.68 ACRE +/-
 INTO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT AND
 ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE BOUNDARIES**

That real property being a portion of Lot 22 and a Portion of Grove Drive as shown on that certain map entitled "Tract No. 608 - Stonegate, Subdivision of a Portion of Corte Madera Rancho" filed in the office of the County Recorder of San Mateo County, State of California, on September 29, 1948, in Volume 29 of Maps at Pages 31-33, being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the westerly most corner of said Lot 22; thence proceeding counterclockwise the following courses and distances: South 63°16' East a distance of 338.38 feet to the easterly property line of Lot 22; thence North 24°10' East a distance of 214.02 feet to the southerly line of Grove Drive; thence North 24°10' East a distance of 50 feet to the northerly line of Grove Drive; thence along the northerly line of Grove Drive North 65°50' West a distance of 83.65 feet; thence North 63°16' West a distance of 230.47 feet to the easterly line of Grove Drive; thence North 63°16' West a distance of 51.06 feet to the westerly line of Grove Drive; thence along the westerly line of Grove Drive South 38°22' West a distance of 13.57 feet; thence along a largest curve to the right having a radius of 625 feet, an arc length of 152.72 feet, and a central angle of 14°00'; thence North 24°22' East a distance of 96.97 feet; thence South 63°16' East a distance of 50.04 feet to the westerly most corner of Lot 22 and the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Containing 2.30 acres more or less (inclusive of said portion of Lot 22 and Grove Drive).

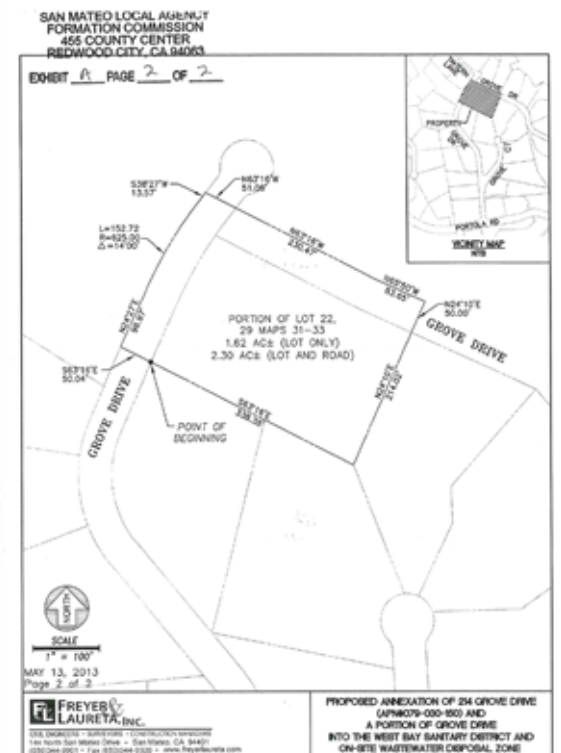
This description of land is not a legal property description as defined in the Subdivision Map Act and may not be used as the basis for an offer for sale or for the sale of the lands described herein.

APPROVED
 SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY
 FORMATION COMMISSION
 455 COUNTY CENTER
 REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063
 EXHIBIT A PAGE 1 OF 2

May 13, 2013

Page 1 of 2

Exhibit B



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WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

All letters 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 AlmanacNews.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, The Almanac
3525 Alameda de las Pulgas
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Call the Viewpoint desk at
223-6528.

Get serious about conserving water

When Gov. Jerry Brown officially declared in January that California was in a state of drought, those who had been paying attention to the alarming lack of rainfall during the prior two years couldn't help but ask: What took him so long? And when he announced that he expected the state's residents to curtail their water consumption by 20 percent, with no personal consequences to them if they failed to oblige, another question sprang to mind: Isn't it unrealistically optimistic to expect people to voluntarily cut their usage back by one-fifth?

The first question remains unanswered, but with another dry season behind us, state regulators appear to have figured out that voluntary conservation won't do the trick. The State Water Resources Control Board meets this week to consider emergency — and mandatory — regulations aimed at curtailing wasteful outdoor water use. The proposed regulations would give more authority to law enforcement agencies to impose the restrictions, although "it will be up to local governments on how and when to act," according to an Associated Press news report.

Locally, two towns are wrestling with the issue in light of the recent revelations that their water consumption grew significantly in 2013 — the driest year in recorded history for many parts of the state, according to the California Department of Water Resources. Those towns are Portola Valley and Woodside, whose town councils heard reports last week on the rise in water use. Woodside's per-capita use increased last year by 44 gallons per person per day (from 377 in 2012 to 421). That was double Portola Valley's consumption increase: In that town, per-capita daily water use was 283 gallons in 2012 and 305 in 2013.

Although council members from both towns expressed concern

about the rise in usage, Portola Valley has gotten serious about addressing the troubling development. The town appointed a task force earlier this year focused on engaging the community in a water conservation effort, and last week, the council approved a \$3,400 budget for the group. The task force's report to the council on last year's water usage left members "very troubled," in the words of Mayor Ann Wengert, and determined to bump up the town's conservation efforts.

In Woodside, Councilman Ron Romines responded to the bad news on water usage, delivered by resident and Sustainability and Conservation Committee member Debbie Mendelson, by saying, "I think we, as residents, should be embarrassed and ashamed as water users." He's right, but the council appears to be much more timid than their neighbors in Portola Valley; members indicated that a study session or two might be arranged, but there was no direction on specific action.

It's hard to understand why increased water usage during a time that California faces a devastating and worsening drought wouldn't create a state of urgency among those elected to lead the way in public policy and governance. Some cities, including Livermore, have already enacted mandatory restrictions to curtail water use on landscaping, car-washing, hosing down of paved surfaces, and automatic delivery of water to restaurant customers. Individuals must take responsibility in curtailing their water usage, but it's just not reasonable to expect voluntary measures alone to work.

Meanwhile, local water agencies are offering tips on how to conserve. You can review those strategies on the Cal Water website at calwater.com, and on the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency website at bawsca.org. ■

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

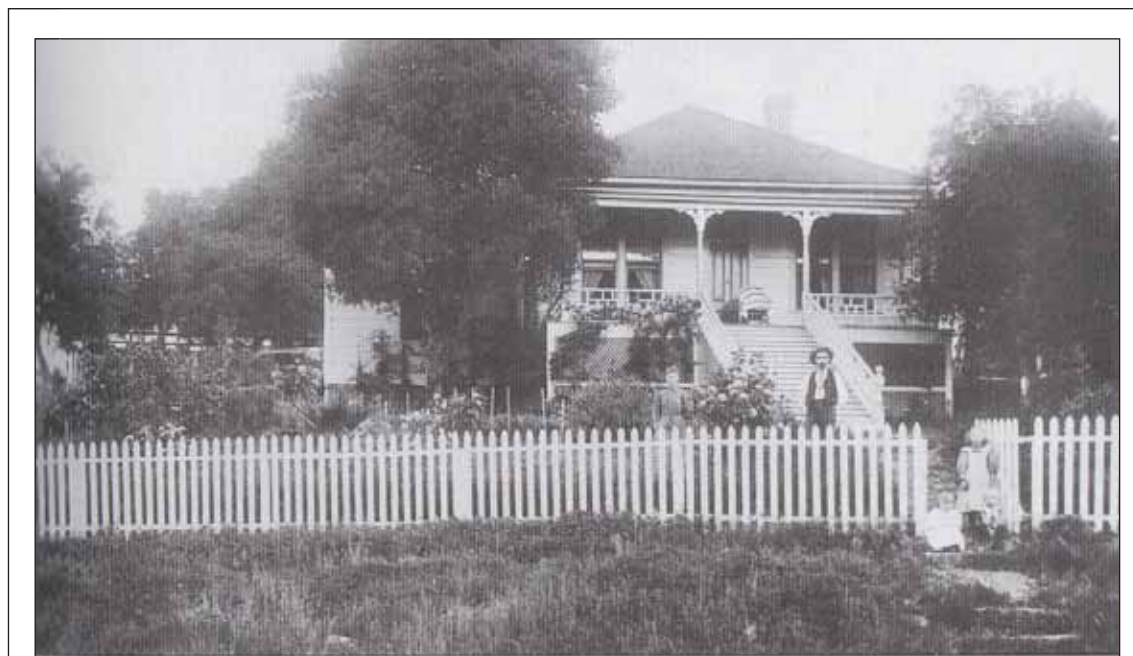
LETTERS

Our readers write

Analysis confirms need to limit office space

Editor:

Menlo Park's \$150,000 analysis of the impacts of the (Save Menlo) initiative confirms the need to limit office space. Current market forces for office will consume almost all the specific plan's maximum net new nonresidential space cap of 474,000 square feet over 30 years. According to the consultant, the Stanford project's net new nonresidential is 95.23 percent office, and Greenheart's is 92.83 percent office. Office domination of the cap will preclude reasonable retail, restaurants, personal services, hotel, commercial entertainment, and business services, all mixed uses that support a balanced residential community, and that residents envisioned under the multi-year specific plan process. The plan's "Vision and Guiding Principles" are not even considered in the consultant's report, nor did it acknowledge that the 474,000-square-foot maximum



Woodside History Committee

Looking back

Nils Andreen, a blacksmith who in 1890 purchased a shop across from what today is the Pioneer Saloon on Woodside Road, stands in front of the home he shared with his family near the shop. In 1915, when Woodside's population was just over 200, Mr. Andreen was one of two blacksmiths in town, according to Thalia Lubin and Bob Dougherty, who published a book of historic Woodside photographs that includes this undated image.

was intended to last 30 years.

Equally compelling are the consultant's findings that if office space replaces retail and hotel uses, Menlo Park's cof-

fers will have a negative, not the expected positive, financial impact. The Specific Plan Fiscal Impact Analysis depended primarily upon sales tax from

retail use and transit occupancy tax from hotel use, which are neither generated by office use, nor offset by office property

Continued on next page

Reflections on the Zuckerberg grant: The possibilities and limitations of a gift

By Martin Lamarque



I got very excited when I heard of Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan's pledge of \$120 million to help improve education in struggling communities of the Bay Area, among them, East Palo Alto, and Belle Haven — until I read the details of the plan, briefly explained by the couple in the editorial pages of the Mercury News.

The basic premise of the pledge is the belief that if we help close the digital divide between the haves and the have-nots, we will finally put impoverished children on their way to higher test scores.

I am still hoping that, given the fact that Priscilla is a pediatrician, she will convince her husband that they should invest their well-meant gift in combating what Harvard's Center on the Developing Child identifies as the main source of failure for many of the nation's children: living with toxic stress. See the report at tinyurl.com/toxic16. (My hope is partly based on the fact that Harvard is Dr. Chan's alma mater — and almost Mr. Zuckerberg's too — and that they will take an interest in the subject.)

Toxic stress is something that many kids on the east side of the highway endure in varied forms from the time they arrive in the world. Particularly in this area of the country, where the economic divide is so stark.

As with other social investments we have seen going nowhere, the solution to major problems and disparities are again being identified as the need to "close the digital

divide." We forget that even though there have never before been so many different electronic devices at the disposal of virtually everyone, poor children's academic performance continues to rank at the bottom. For all children, but especially those who grow up in poverty, there is a direct correlation between the time spent on electronic media and academic underperformance (in addition to its negative effects on social and physical development).

No matter how many studies have shown that it is less screen time — not more — that children need to develop well and learn, the push continues to be for the promotion of more screen devices, often starting with schools' push to acquire more computers.

Just look around. Do we really need to promote more detachment among human beings by encouraging more reliance on electronic devices?

What overworked teachers need to help children learn is not more computers in their classrooms, but other human beings assisting them in person, encouraging connection to other humans, not machines. Here is where funding could really make a positive difference. Funds used to develop a curriculum with more non-

competitive play and physical activities would achieve much more, and in more areas, than giving schools more money to spend on getting wired.

In this community, a fraction of the \$120 million would take us a lot farther if it were invested in promoting the social and emotional development that children need to really thrive. That could include in no small part raising parents' understanding of the importance of reducing toxic stress in their families — i.e., through the elimination of physical and emotional abuse, neglect and disconnection within the family.

Once empowered by knowledge, parents often realize that, in spite of the obscene economic inequalities around them, they hold a bigger piece of the puzzle in their children's lives than they ever knew they did. At the same time that we get more parents on this path, we need to invest in strengthening and supporting families through practical support.

We need to intervene when a difficult situation threatens to become a crisis, and later a chronic crisis that dooms the future of a child. Training school staff to better understand the factors affecting a child's performance — and a mechanism to intervene in ways that don't stigmatize parents, but instead offer them the support they need to improve their parenting — would be money well invested.

Belle Haven resident Martin Lamarque is an Almanac blogger. You can read more of his commentary by going to AlmanacNews.com and clicking on "Blogs" in the menu bar.

sustain Menlo Park's village character, enhance connectivity and promote healthy living and sustainability."

*George C Fisher
Cotton Street, Menlo Park*

express

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Joanne Wilson Dimminger

September 21, 1931 – June 24, 2014

Joanne Wilson Dimminger resident of Russian River, passed away peacefully on June 24. Born in Oakland CA on September 21, 1931, long time resident of Redwood City CA. Loving mother of Deborah (Walker), Virginia (Willard) Warden, and Eileen. Survived by her sister Marilyn (Hegarty); nieces Cheryl, Colleen, and nephew James; cousins Lee and Robert (Wilson), Darlene (Sweet), dog Sadie and cats. Preceded in death by her parents James and Anita Wilson, and husband Leonard.

Joanne was a loving person, always putting others first, especially family and friends. She loved animals, tending her garden and was often seen feeding birds and other wildlife including a fox. She lived with grace and showed incredible strength during the time she cared for her late husband Leonard. Her unwavering strength continued on into her last days which she spent with her daughters, family and closest friends. Those days are treasured and will never be forgotten.

Joanne graduated from Sequoia High School and worked at the College of Notre Dame. She was a dedicated housewife and mother and very proud of her daughters. Mom will be missed by all, and her kindness and generosity will never be forgotten. The family will honor Joanne's life privately. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Sonoma Cty Animal Svcs, or the Audubon Society.



PAID OBITUARY

Alan F. Culbertson

On June 30 2014 Alan F. Culbertson peacefully passed away at the age of 89 at his home of 45 years in Woodside, California.

Alan was born to Leo and Talitha Culbertson in Evansville Indiana on September 11, 1924. He leaves behind his wife of 63 years Patricia Culbertson a daughter Julie See of Hoonah, Alaska and son Philip and daughter in-law Carolina of Sunnyvale, California. Four granddaughters and one grandson and two great grandsons.

Alan graduated with an EE from Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana in 1945.

After that Alan served as a Navy Communication Officer on the USS Anna Arundel at the end of WWII.

Alan worked for AT&T long lines department in Chicago, Illinois then in May of 1952 he and Patricia moved to San Carlos, California to start a career in telecommunications. He worked for GTE Lenkurt Electric in San Carlos as VP of Engineering for 19 years then started his own company Culbertson Industries in the mid seventies. Later on in his career Alan served as a consultant to the minister of communications in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Egypt. He was a long time IEEE member and President in 1972 and 1973.

Alan and Patricia enjoyed travel, the most memorable were to China, Viet Nam and Malaysia and a boat trip up the Danube River in a Ukrainian boat. They also enjoyed trips to Mexico, Alaska, Canada and Hawaii. Alan loved to hike and camp, he was an Eagle Scout. At the age of 72 Alan climbed Mt. Diablo. In the sixties Alan got his private pilot license and flew up and down the west coast with his family.

Alan volunteered in his community, for over 11 years he took care of the antique clocks at Filoli estate in Woodside. He sung in the choir at Woodside Village church. He also loved to play the piano.

Services will be held at the Woodside Village Church Sunday July 20, 2014 at 1 pm.

PAID OBITUARY

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

taxes, a loss in revenues before expenditures of approximately \$2 million annually.

The report also clearly states that by limiting office space per the initiative, the city will have an opportunity to obtain financial benefits from developers competing for office space if the city adopts mechanisms to capture those benefits. Such benefits can help pay for specific plan-needed infrastructure such as improving the El Camino Real corridor, which the current

traffic study finds "does not adequately serve the Menlo Park community's need for safe and efficient multi-modal transportation and access to local destinations," as well as parking garages, under-crossings, etc.

No comprehensive market analysis is needed to evaluate the initiative, because the market has clearly spoken through the Stanford and Greenheart proposals for massive offices. The initiative is needed to limit office space and fulfill the plan's Vision and Guiding Principles, specifically: "Enhance public space, generate vibrancy,

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

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Woodside
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Woodside
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Portola Valley
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SOLD IN 2014

Woodside
OFFERED AT \$6,500,000



SOLD IN 2014

Portola Valley
OFFERED AT \$7,495,000



SOLD IN 2014

Emerald Hills
OFFERED AT \$1,495,000



SOLD IN 7 DAYS

Emerald Hills
OFFERED AT \$1,795,000



SOLD IN 2014

Portola Valley
OFFERED AT \$3,995,000



SOLD IN 2014

Portola Valley
OFFERED AT \$4,698,000



SOLD IN 2014

Woodside
OFFERED AT \$5,795,000



SOLD IN 2014

Woodside
OFFERED AT \$5,395,000



SOLD IN 2014

Portola Valley
OFFERED AT \$7,250,000



SOLD IN 2014

Woodside
OFFERED AT \$11,900,000



SOLD IN 2014

Woodside
OFFERED AT \$4,495,000



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