

'Distraction burglar' victimizes elderly Atherton couple | Page 9

The Almanac

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

SEPTEMBER 10, 2014 | VOL. 50 NO. 1

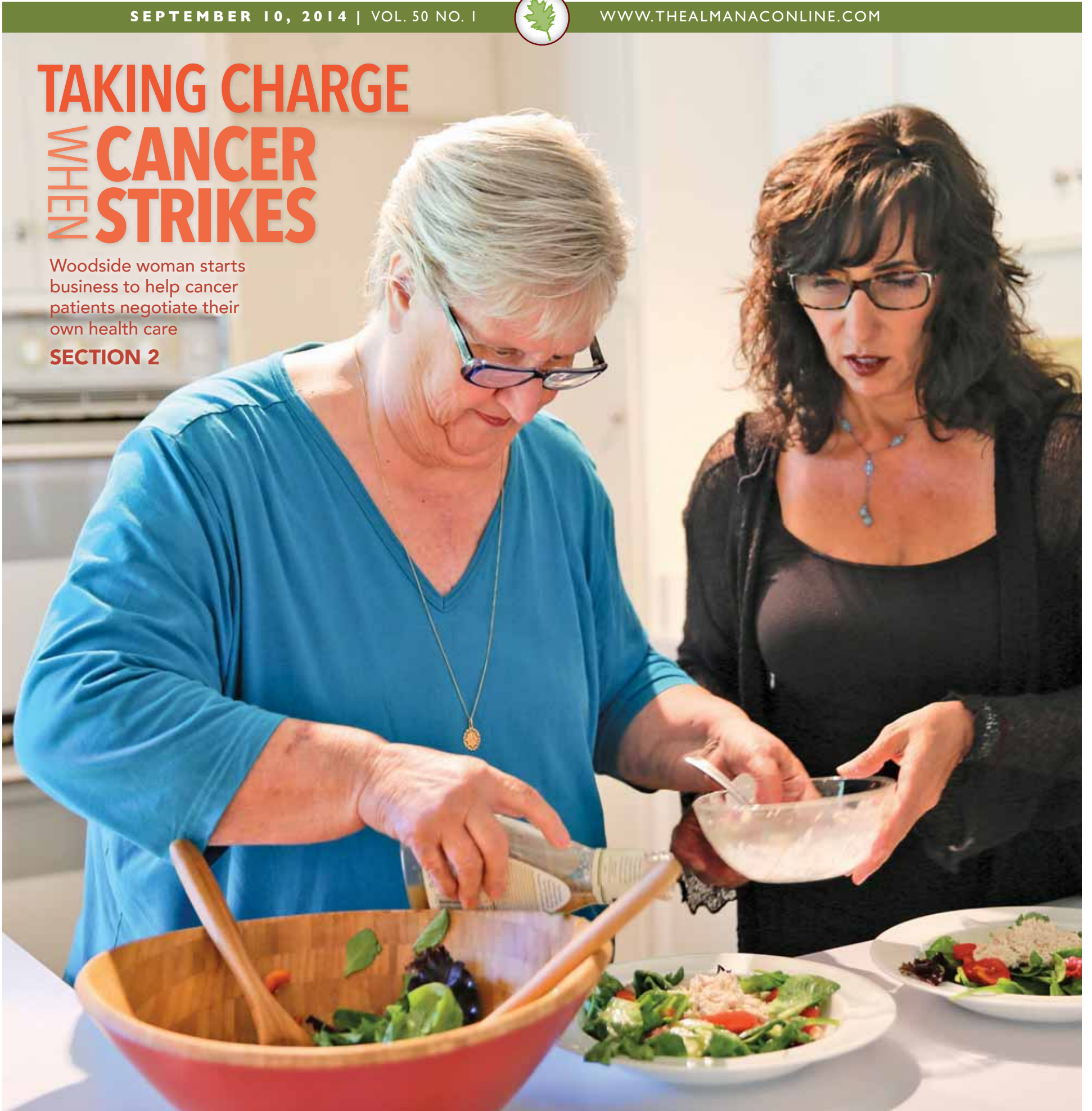


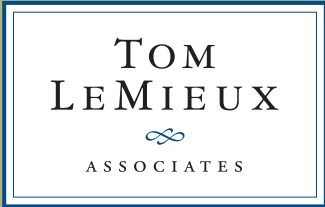
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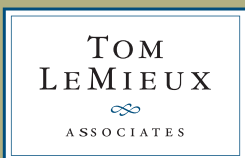
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Portola Valley theater company snags heavy-hitter as artist-in-residence

By Tiffany Lam
Special to the Almanac

When the San Jose Repertory Theatre went under earlier this year, it left the regional theater community in dismay. Members of that community included the “Rep’s” award-winning artistic director, Rick Lombardo.

After the doors banged shut on his career at the Rep, Mr. Lombardo found himself in a transitional phase. But through a connection with a Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory board member, another door opened, and he recently signed on as the conservatory’s first-ever artist-in-residence.

His arrival at the small conservatory to fill the short-term position was an occasion for celebration. “We’ve all been walking around pinching ourselves a little,” said Cheryl Goodman-Morris, Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory’s founder and artistic director. “Artistic directors in regional theaters don’t usually have time to do something like this.”

But for Mr. Lombardo, this is a chance to do what he loves. “I want to be able to give back to the community,” he said. When the artist-in-residence term ends, he plans to find permanent work as artistic director for another theater group, he said. But meanwhile, “when I’m not directing a company, what I love to do is teach.”

Mr. Lombardo will begin teaching adult acting classes for the conservatory next week, and his tenure as artist-in-residence runs through the end of December. Along with his wife, professional actress Rachel Lombardo, he will also teach youth workshops for PVTC’s children’s conservatory.

“Rick and Rachel bring a wonderful wealth of knowledge and experience. They’re electric when they’re around,” said Ms. Goodman-Morris.

“I hope that people in the community can gain a greater sense



Rick Lombardo was artistic director of San Jose Repertory Theatre.

of skill and confidence from the classes,” she said, adding that they are open to the greater Bay Area.

The adult classes include a musical theater workshop, audition technique, and a scene study class.

“What I’m excited about is the opportunity to share my love of theater and years of experience with people at the conservatory,” he said.

That experience includes his tenure at San Jose Rep, which began in 2008, and a 13-year stint as artistic director of the New Repertory Theatre in Watertown, Massachusetts. In 2009, he was awarded the Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence from The Boston Theatre Critics Association for his body of artistic work at New Repertory.

With contributions from the board member (who wishes to remain anonymous) who contacted Mr. Lombardo, the conservatory was able to hire him to start in July.

“Our visionary board member thought Mr. Lombardo had a lot in common with the conservatory’s approach, vision, and love for the arts,” Ms. Goodman-Morris said. “She was already a contributor to our nonprofit theater, and her contributions are making his artist-in-residence position possible.”

Before San Jose Rep went bankrupt in June, Mr. Lombardo

was involved in several productions, including the world premiere of Matthew Spangler’s stage adaptation of “The Kite Runner.”

In addition to teaching classes, Mr. Lombardo will direct a Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory benefit concert version of “The Snow Queen,” which he co-wrote and premiered at San Jose Rep last year and staged at the New York Music Theatre Festival earlier this year.

“One of the great things about the benefit concert is that I can help raise funds to support the conservatory’s program,” said Mr. Lombardo.

Even more, the benefit concert is a way for Mr. Lombardo and his co-writers, Kirsten Brandt and Haddon Kime, to see and hear the show to make sure certain rewrites are working, he said.

For Ms. Goodman-Morris, who is also a pastor at Valley Presbyterian Church, which provides space for the Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory, the production is a great way to finish a long career.

“I started the conservatory 20 years ago, but I’m retiring after next year,” she said. “This will be one of our last big productions.”

Go to pvtc-ca.org for more information on the Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory, including information on classes taught by Mr. Lombardo. ■

Graphic Designer

Embarcadero Media, producers of the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac, Mountain View Voice, PaloAltoOnline.com and several other community websites, is looking for a graphic designer to join its award-winning design team.

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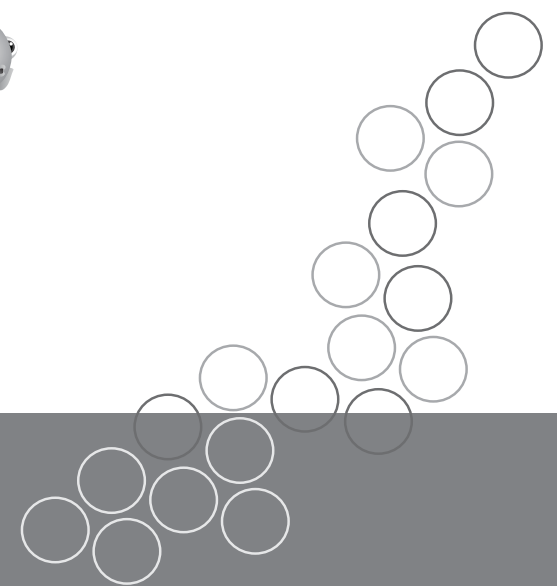
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Ryland Kelley helped develop Ladera, where he and his wife, Shirley, lived for many years.

Peninsula developer Ryland Kelley of Woodside dies

'Renaissance man' included poetry, theater and community involvement in a rich life

By Sue Dremann

Ryland Kelley, a prominent real estate developer who with his brother was responsible for such planned communities as Lindenwood in Atherton and Ladera near Portola Valley, died on Saturday, Aug. 30. He was 88.

Mr. Kelley, who was a partner in the firm started by his father, Hare, Brewer & Kelley, died of liver cancer after a short

illness, longtime friend Joe Pickering said.

Mr. Kelley's company rescued and completed the 500-home Ladera development, which included the shopping center, in the early 1950s, after he was approached by the nonprofit cooperative Peninsula Housing Association. The cooperative, which was made up of Stanford University faculty members, faced bankruptcy. The Kelleys turned the project into one of the most desired communities in the Bay Area.

He and his wife, Shirley, lived in Ladera

See RYLAND KELLEY, page 6

Woodside gets poor marks on water usage, but many questions raised

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

In this time of water scarcity, there's an overseer (literally) working on behalf of the California Water Service Company. A Colorado-based company is checking large San Mateo County landscapes for usage of irrigation water, and assessing whether the usage is justified.

Portola Valley gets high marks, but Woodside is taking hits for allegedly over-watering its native-species garden at the library and the landscaping around Town Center.

WaterFluence of Boulder, Colorado, under contract to Cal Water, uses satellite images, and sometimes on-site surveys, to determine the character of vegetation at public and commercial landscapes chosen by Cal Water. That information, combined with assumptions about land and plant evaporation, is applied in a complex formula to craft a site water "budget." Meter readings are also considered.

In monthly irrigation-efficiency reports emailed to Cal Water customers, WaterFluence graphs estimated water use twice in the last year, and compared the usage with the budget. "It's a great program and something that we hope spurs a discussion," Cal Water Conservation Manager Ken

Jenkins said.

The sites are ranked on a 100-point scale, with 100 being most efficient. WaterFluence tracks irrigation efficiency at about 85 percent of large public or commercial landscapes in the county, Program Director John Whitcomb said from his office in Boulder.

Cal Water would not identify the sites being monitored,

'I'm the first to admit that we all have room for improvement. I just want to make sure that I understand it.'

PAUL NAGENGAST,
TOWN ENGINEER

but the Almanac obtained reports about six sites — three in Portola Valley, where irrigation efficiency is generally high, and three in Woodside, where it is generally low, WaterFluence says.

Portola Valley received a ranking of 94 for Rossotti (soccer) Field, 84 for the Town Center complex, and 75 for Ford Field, a baseball diamond. All three had improved over 12 months, with efficiency at Rossotti Field advancing 23 points.

Town Center was over-watered 17 percent — about 2.2 million gallons — over 36 months, the report says. But overages have been dropping: to 14 percent for the last 12 months, and 8 percent for the last month.

"Were really trying," Sustainability and Special Projects Manager Brandi de Garneau said. "We're really trying to set an example for the community. ... The monthly email helps to keep looking at it and paying attention."

Are they not trying in Woodside? WaterFluence ranked Barkley Fields at 58, Town Center at 11 and the public library at 3. When asked to comment, Town Manager Kevin Bryant said the staff had not been aware of WaterFluence or its reports.

The report shows over-watering by about 1.57 million gallons (74 percent) at the library over 36 months. But at 73 percent over 12 months, and 69 percent for the last month, the percentages are not improving as dramatically as in Portola Valley.

"For us, it's basically a tool that tells us we're still using too much water and we need to reduce," Mr. Bryant said. "We will have our landscape contractor cut back." The

See WATERFLUENCE, page 8

Consultant responds to Measure M proponents' criticisms of analysis

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

Criticisms of a consultant's analysis of Measure M, the initiative meant to change Menlo Park's downtown/El Camino Real specific plan, are largely a matter of "interpretative disagreement," according to the consultant.

A report released on Sept. 4 by Lisa Wise Consulting, which was hired by the city to evaluate the impacts of Measure M, examines 35 points of criticism raised by the measure's proponents. The criticisms not attributed to a difference of interpretation are categorized as asking for work beyond the scope of the \$165,000 contract.

Mayor Ray Mueller, who has characterized the criticisms as politically motivated argument, said his first impression of the Sept. 4 report is that it doesn't indicate a need to revise the initial analysis of the measure. But he said he's reserving judgment as to whether the report adequately examined the criticisms until the public discussion at the Sept. 9 council meeting. "Regardless, I won't be supporting the expenditure of any more funds on this issue," he said.

Asked how he will decide between warring interpretations of the analysis, Mr. Mueller replied, "I consider the expertise associated with opinion makers,

the evidence they relied upon, and the potential biases associated with their opinions, and use my best judgment."

Mr. Mueller, along with the rest of the council, voted to oppose Measure M.

Initiative co-sponsor and former planning commissioner Patti Fry said it's exasperating that the council spent \$165,000 on an "intentionally limited" analysis. In her view, the council deliberately excluded from the study any evaluation of the two mixed-use complexes proposed by Stanford University and Greenheart, which she said exploit loopholes in the specific plan.

Those projects have not yet been formally submitted to the city.

Ms. Fry said the council also left out "any evaluation of potential development impacts on rush-hour congestion and neighborhood cut-through traffic. One can only wonder (about) the purpose of this expenditure of funds; it certainly was not to enlighten voters on Measure M's purpose: to restore the community's vision of balanced growth over the next 30 years."

Measure M supporter and former councilman Heyward Robinson also zeroed in on the traffic, saying that the consultant essentially said it wasn't asked to do a "real analysis. ...

See MEASURE M, page 10

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RYLAND KELLEY

continued from page 5

for 55 years. At the time of his death, the couple lived in Woodside, his son Rich said.

Mr. Kelley and his wife were founding shareholders in the Palo Alto Weekly. Publisher Bill Johnson recalled Mr. Kelley's vivacious personality.

"Rye was a fire hose of ideas, some brilliant, some ahead of their time, and some completely crazy. This creativity and joie de vivre touched everything he did professionally and, in retirement, came out in beautiful poetry written for friends and family," Mr. Johnson said.

"Rye was an enthusiastic and active supporter of the Weekly when we started and the source of countless ideas for how we could best serve the community. He had very high expectations and aspirations for the paper, which set a high bar for me and our staff."

As developers, Mr. Kelley and his late brother, William ("Bill") Kelley imagined and brought to life a variety of landmark projects that were ahead of their time and often controversial, his son, Bruce, said.

In addition to the planned communities of Ladera and Lindenwood, their developments include the beach resort community Pajaro Dunes on Monterey Bay; the 10-story 525 University in Palo Alto, which is the tallest building between San Francisco and San Jose; La Tour in Palo Alto, one of the first five-star restaurants on the Peninsula; and Mayfield Mall, one of the first major indoor malls. He was also involved in the creation of Stanford Research Park.

Mr. Kelley's development career both peaked and cratered in the 1980s after two beachfront proposals that were among his most ambitious — a boutique hotel on Redondo Beach and a combination artists' retreat, performing arts center, hotel and housing development in Santa Cruz — were defeated after narrow public votes.

"(He) was a fearless advocate of farsighted, if contrarian, initiatives Bruce Kelley said. "He helped stoke anti-war sentiment by serving as strategist to his friend Paul N. 'Pete' McCloskey, who opposed the Vietnam War as a moderate Republican and (who) in 1971 ran against his own president in the New Hampshire primary."

Mr. Kelley's belief in technologically based solutions to eco-

logical problems was evidenced by his support in the 1970s for geodesic domes — the energy-efficient structures promoted by Buckminster Fuller — and by his creation of World Energy, a 21st-century scientific campaign to revive heavy-ion fusion as a source of clean energy, among other interests and pursuits, Bruce Kelley said.

In the early 1960s, Mr. Kelley opposed annexing then-unincorporated Portola Valley into the town of Woodside as an unsound merger. It would not create an adequate tax base for community services, according to Portola Valley Town Historian Nancy Lund.

Born in 1925 at the old Palo Alto Hospital, which was located at Embarcadero Road and Cowper Street, Mr. Kelley attended Palo Alto High School. He graduated from Stanford University in 1949, where he met his wife of many years, Shirley (nee Sneath), Rich Kelley said.

Mr. Kelley was also an accomplished poet for nearly 50 years, and hosted a live

monthly show, "The Live Poets Society," on Cable Coop television from about 1992 to 2002, Rich Kelley said. He also wrote a 100-page book of poems for Palo Alto's 100th anniversary, titled "Rings of Growth." Proceeds from the book benefited the Palo Alto Historical Association and the Centennial Endowment Fund.

Joe Pickering, his friend of 68 years, said the two men met at early football practice in 1946 at Stanford University. The Kelleys introduced Mr. Pickering to his wife in 1947 during a blind date, and the couples have been close friends ever since, he said.

"He was a goodhearted person. He had a marvelous wit — a clever wit. He was a great reader and he was a talker. He was easy to like," Mr. Pickering said. "He was a Renaissance man who could do everything. He was extremely creative."

Mr. Kelley built the community of Hidden Valley in Woodside and Pajaro Dunes resort in Watsonville on Monterey Bay. He is also known locally for land preservation efforts that include donating the first land acquisition to the non-profit Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) in 1979. That 535-acre property became the Windy Hill Open Space Preserve, which was transferred to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. The land is now

'He was a goodhearted person. He had a marvelous wit — a clever wit. ... He was easy to like.'

JOE PICKERING

Community forums set for general plan, economic development plan updates

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

Menlo Park has plans — a lot of them: the specific plan, the housing plan, the Willow business area plan, the Belle Haven visioning plan — and now the general plan and the economic development plan have reached the top of the “to do” list.

The general plan provides the city’s overall “constitution” for development, according to staff, and this update cycle will take a close look at the M2 industrial district, which is roughly bordered by the San Francisco Bay, University Avenue, Marsh Road and U.S. 101. The area has seen development surge during the past four years with the approval of the Bohannon Menlo Gateway project and arrival of Facebook headquarters, along with numerous

nearby housing projects.

Dubbed “ConnectMenlo,” the effort to update the general plan officially kicks off with two community workshops, one on Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church Social Hall (700 B Santa Cruz Ave.) and another on Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Menlo Park Senior Center (100 Terminal Ave.).

PlaceWorks, which also worked on the visioning phase of the specific plan and the housing plan revision, was awarded the \$1.65 million contract to organize the general plan update. The City Council appointed the General Plan Advisory Committee in August, expanding the number of members from 11 to 13. Chosen were Harry Bims, David Bohannon, Heidi

Butz, Roger Royce; planning commissioners Vince Bressler and Katherine Strehl; Housing Commissioner Michele Tate; Bicycle Commissioner Matthew Zurnstein; Transportation Commissioner Adina Levin; Parks and Recreation Commissioner James Cebrian; Environmental Quality Commissioner (and council candidate) Kristin Duriseti; and council members Ray Mueller and Peter Ohtaki.

The city is also gearing up for the economic development plan update, which will be discussed at the Small Business Roundtable on Sept. 15; it starts at 6 p.m. at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center (700 Alma St.). Consultants from San Francisco-based UP have been awarded a \$40,000 contract to assist with the update; their team includes U.C. Berkeley professor Enrico Moretti, author of “The New Geography of Jobs.” ■

Commission reviews Off the Grid

Off the Grid, a weekly food truck event, launched in Menlo Park earlier this year over the protests of about 20 downtown business owners and patrons. The Planning Commission was scheduled to conduct a review of the event’s operations during its Sept. 8 meeting.

According to the staff report, no complaints have come in since the Wednesday night event started on Feb. 19. Two letters of support — one from a business owner and another from a resident who lives near the Caltrain station parking lot where the food trucks set up — plus five postcards in favor of the event have come in.

The event draws an estimated 600 to 800 people a week, the report said. It also states that the city’s staff hasn’t seen any consistent problems with noise, automobile parking, the portable restroom or railroad safety. On the other hand, people are chaining bicycles “to the railroad fencing and other stationary objects not explicitly designed for that purpose.” Adding bike racks may come up at the event’s one-year use permit review, but for now no changes are recommended.

■ MENLO BRIEFS

Some downtown business owners have noted a bump in customers on Off the Grid nights; Left Bank Brasserie had to hire another server as a result, according to the restaurant’s manager.

The Planning Commission meeting occurred after the newspaper’s print deadline; check almanacnews.com for updates.

Small business roundtable

During September, the state is launching an awareness campaign, called “Together, California Reads,” to encourage communities to support their local libraries in raising adult literacy rates statewide.

The discussion theme will be how the economic development plan update can help the city transition from a manufacturing-based economy to an innovation-based economy, according to Economic Development Manager Jim Cogan. Local start-up Yiftee will also give a presentation on how to boost sales.

The free event starts at 6 p.m. in the Elm Room of the Arril-

laga Family Recreation Center at 700 Alma St.

Project Read honored by council

Project Read-Menlo Park is set to receive a City Council proclamation on Sept. 9, recognizing the literary work being done by Project Read adult learners and volunteer tutors.

A reception will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, downstairs in the Menlo Park Library to mark the 30th anniversary of California Library Literacy Services. Those attending will then walk over for Mayor Ray Mueller’s proclamation at the council chambers at 701 Laurel St.

The second quarterly small business roundtable hosted by Menlo Park will take place Sept. 15.

Since its inception, California Library Literacy Services has helped nearly a quarter of a million Californians learn to read and write.

Roberta Roth, Menlo Park Library’s literacy program manager, hopes the Menlo Park event will raise awareness of the need for volunteer tutors to help the state’s 4.5 million low-literate adults improve their reading skills.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Choosing the Best Agent

Dear Monica: Do you think it is better to use an agent who works as a licensed independent agent or one who is paid a salary? Eric D.

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German-American school finds a temporary home

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

The German-American International School, which must move off the campus it had leased on the former O'Connor School site in the Willows neighborhood by May 2015 to make way for a new public school there, has found a temporary home, buying some time to make permanent arrangements for a new school site.

GAIS, a bilingual international baccalaureate school with preschool to 8th grades, has announced it will move to the vacant Menlo Oaks School, 475 Pope St. in Menlo Park, for the 2015-16 school year, with the option to stay for the 2016-17 school year.

The Ravenswood City School District site was last used as a home for the East Palo Alto Academy, a charter school that has moved to 1050 Myrtle St. in East Palo Alto.

The temporary site is only a half-mile from the German-American

school's current location.

GAIS Managing Director Dominic Liechti says the school still hopes to permanently move to a site at 3515 Edison Way in unincorporated North Fair Oaks near Atherton, which is nearly 3 acres in size.

"The proposed site on Edison Way remains our first choice," he said. "Now that we have the Menlo Oaks site, we remove a considerable amount of risk in trying to secure the necessary permits in such a tight time frame," Mr. Liechti said.

Some neighbors of the proposed North Fair Oaks site had protested the possible move, saying it would cause traffic and other problems.

The O'Connor site is owned by the Menlo Park City School District and will be used to build a second campus for the K-3 Laurel School; the second campus will allow the district to expand Laurel's grade levels, housing third-through fifth-graders. The district plans to open the new school for the 2015-16 school year. ▀



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Anton Menlo prepares to build

Developer St. Anton Partners has cleared 10 acres of land at 3639 Haven Ave., off Marsh Road, in preparation for the construction of a 394-unit apartment complex. The largest apartment project to arrive in Menlo Park in decades, the \$120 million complex will include a sports pub, bike repair shop and dog daycare. Facebook will subsidize 15 of the 37 affordable housing units. Construction is expected to start within a few weeks and finish in 2015, according to project representatives.

No mosquitoes test positive for West Nile virus after fogging

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

The Sept. 2 fogging of northeast Menlo Park, Redwood City and unincorporated county areas killed mosquitoes, but none tested positive for the West Nile virus, according to the San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District.

The Menlo Park area that was sprayed was roughly bordered by U.S. 101, Kentfield Avenue and Jefferson Drive. Mosquitoes carrying the virus were detected within the 94063 zip code on Aug. 28, and a bird tested positive on Aug. 27, district officials said. A crow also tested positive in Menlo Park on Sept. 3.

The district fogged other areas of the city on Aug. 11, and likewise, found no mosquitoes that were carrying the virus.

In response to criticism over lack of notice and information, the district has added a product label for Zenivex, the insecticide used in the fogging, to its website. It also plans to hold a public forum, but the date and time have not yet been scheduled, according to district representatives.

Mosquitoes transmit the virus through biting. Although the primary hosts are birds, and dead birds are considered a sign that the virus is circulating, it can also infect people, horses and other animals.

The district advises that all standing pools of water be drained to help keep mosquitoes from breeding, and that people should apply repellent when outdoors and check that door and window screens fit tightly.

Call the district at 344-8592 for more information or to request fogging in your area. ▀

WATERFLUENCE

continued from page 5

town is having an on-site survey done, at Cal Water's expense.

Library over-watered?

Since the 1970s, the gardens behind the Woodside library have been planted with native species, said Tina Dreyer of the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club, which maintains the gardens.

Until 2012, the 18 garden beds received drip irrigation, Ms. Dreyer said. But the high maintenance led her and her husband, Walter Dreyer, to replace it with computer-controlled above-ground spraying. It's used twice a week at 3 a.m. for 10 to 20 minutes each time, depending on the species being watered, she said.

And the library gets a "3" ranking? "This is interesting," Ms. Dreyer said. "I'd like to know more about it." The garden club does not pay water bills, but if cuts can be made, she said, she would like to know where and how.

Monitoring of the library began only in May of this year, said Mr. Whitcomb of WaterFluence. Had Town Hall heard? "Not a word," Town Engineer Paul Nagengast said.

Mr. Jenkins of Cal Water said the company has regular interactions with WaterFluence-program customers, typically by telephone. Initial contact is through a packet of information mailed to the customer.

The monthly report lists WaterFluence's contact as Dong Nguyen, the town's deputy engineer. "We have no idea how his name got there," Mr. Nagengast said.

"Where is all our water going?" he asked. "I'm the first to admit that we all have room for improvement. I just want to make sure that I understand it."

Asked to comment on the situation at the library, Mr. Jenkins of Cal Water said he wouldn't talk about individual customers. Asked whether his agency is communicating WaterFluence's data to the town, he said that

there are monthly reports, and added, "I can't speak to why they didn't know about it."

What about a company in Boulder using satellite images and evaporation assumptions to determine irrigation in Woodside? "We believe it's an accurate method, in combination with a field survey if necessary," Mr. Jenkins said. "I believe they're accurate for the purposes that they're used for."

"We can do a pretty good job," Mr. Whitcomb of WaterFluence said. The library, with species native to an arid climate, received a "3" ranking? "That's a tough one. That site mystifies me a little bit. I don't know how they're putting that much water on that space."

Might there be incomplete information? "Could be. We're not perfect," he said. "A lot of it looks to be a lot of fairly native landscaping. There's something fishy about this situation. It's very surprising. They might have some leaks going on." ▀

RYLAND KELLEY

continued from page 6

a popular destination for hiking and birding.

He was a co-founder and chairman of the board of trustees at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, and he served on the board for more than 30 years. He and his wife were also supporters of the arts, with many donations to visual

and theater arts at Stanford University and the Djerassi Resident Artists Program in Woodside.

In his retirement years, Mr. Kelley became a prolific poet. He wrote and staged a play, "Lyndon," about former President Lyndon Johnson in a fictitious role in the death of President John F. Kennedy. The play included Palo Alto developer and friend Charles

"Chop" Keenan, and it debuted at Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts in May 2006.

When he was diagnosed with inoperable liver cancer three months ago, he staged a "retirement party" for his life with a Live Poets Society poetry reading before more than 100 close friends, Mr. Pickering said. "He retired as a poet one month ago. It was

moving, touching and hilarious."

Mr. Kelley's last word was "Wonderful!" after listening to jazz trombonist Jack Teagarden's "Misery and the Blues," Bruce Kelley said. He did not suffer any pain. He survived colon cancer in the mid-2000s and a stroke in 2012, neither of which seemed to slow him down, Bruce said.

Mr. Kelley is survived by

his wife, Shirley; sons Rich, a retired NBA basketball center and real estate investor; Tom, who is also in real estate; and Bruce, a journalist. Survivors also include four grandchildren and daughters-in-law Gina and Susan.

No services are pending. The family requests that donations be made to Project Inform in San Francisco and to the Palo Alto Medical Foundation. ▀

Atherton police release sketch of 'distraction' burglary suspect

By Renee Batti
Almanac Associate Editor

Atherton police have released a sketch of a man who posed as a plumber, walked uninvited into a home on Mesa Court, and distracted an elderly resident while an accomplice stole items valued at more than \$200,000.

The brazen burglary and theft occurred midday on Aug. 28 and followed an aggressive encounter in the Sharon Heights Shopping Center with one of the victims.

Police said that shortly before noon, a man approached an 81-year-old woman at the shopping center, and asked if he could perform some repairs on her vehicle. When she said no, he persisted, and she ended up giving him a card with her home address on it.

While the woman shopped at Safeway, police said, the suspect went to her home, and when her 83-year-old husband answered the door, the suspect "barged

into the home, leaving the front door open," the police said in a bulletin.

The man told the homeowner that he was there to fix a sewage problem that he claimed had contaminated the drinking water, and he went from sink to sink turning on faucets, police said. The suspect then drew the homeowner outside for about 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, another person whisked through the master bedroom, stealing gold jewelry that included a 2.7-carat diamond set in a gold band, according to police.

The Atherton man who was with the suspect for about 15 minutes was able to work with a sketch artist to develop a likeness of the suspect, and the man's wife confirmed the accuracy of the sketch, police said.

The police bulletin notes that burglars using the same ruse — claiming that there was a water contamination problem and subsequently distracting the residents with the same



maneuvers — were reported in Burlingame and Hillsborough in January.

"Should you encounter someone in a commercial parking lot offering to do vehicle repairs or other home work, be very cautious," the police bulletin warns. "Do not share personal information. Do not let them follow you home to complete the work."

"If you have valuable jewelry in the home, consider storing it in a safe that is secured to the wall or the floor."

Man sentenced to more than nine years in 2012 Menlo Park elder abuse case

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

A man convicted of felony elder abuse related to withholding medication and forging loans has been sentenced to nine years and four months in state prison, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

Darryl Keith Phillips, 52, had met a 66-year-old Menlo Park woman at a local pastry shop where she would go to knit and talk to people before meeting her son, who worked nearby, for lunch. He convinced the woman, who has dementia, to let him move into her home, Deputy District Attorney Melissa McKowan said.

The victim's daughters became concerned that Mr. Phillips was withholding her

diabetes and blood pressure medication and reported him, according to investigators.

In August 2012, he refused to allow police and adult protective service representatives into the home. When police returned the following day with paramedics, the woman reportedly had "life threatening blood sugar and blood pressure levels," with severe mental impairment. She was hospitalized and survived.

Investigators said they found that Mr. Phillips had not bought insulin for many months, but had forged the woman's signature on \$87,000 in loans, opened investment accounts in her name, and was preparing to take out a \$150,000 loan on her house.

A jury found him guilty on May 13 of felony elder abuse, felony preparation of false

evidence, and misdemeanor obstruction of a police officer, according to San Mateo County Superior Court records.

A registered sex offender, Mr. Phillips is registered on the California Megan's Law website for rape and other sexual assaults, two of which involved victims younger than 14 years old.

Judge Mark Forcum sentenced Mr. Phillips in the elder abuse case on Aug. 29 after ruling that the two prior convictions in 1984 would not count towards a "three strike" sentence enhancement based on the length of time passed and the nonviolent nature of the current offenses.

In addition to nine years in prison, the court required restitution and issued a 10-year "no contact" order with the victim. ■

Atherton: Public hearing on housing element

A public hearing on Atherton's housing element, a state-mandated plan for providing housing to people of all income levels, is on the Planning Commission's agenda for Wednesday,

Sept. 17. The meeting starts at 6 p.m. in the council chambers at 94 Ashfield Road, in the Town Center.

After the commission review, the housing element, a section

of the town's general plan, will go to the City Council for final approval. An updated version of the housing element, covering 2014 to 2022, must be approved by Jan. 1, 2015.



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MEASURE M

continued from page 5

It's really disappointing because traffic is such a big, contentious issue in this debate."

According to Mr. Robinson, the public is now "left without a fair, independent arbiter of what the effects (of Measure M) are going to be. And I think that really is the city's fault and the council's fault for not asking for that, and not demanding that and not being on top of the details."

In its initial analysis of Measure M, Lisa Wise Consulting concluded that one potential outcome of the initiative's capping office space at 100,000 square feet per individual project is that projects that generate more traffic could be favored over some that generate less. Retail could become preferred over office space, according to the report, but retail gener-

ates more traffic, while a hotel would generate less.

In its response to criticisms of the traffic analysis, the consulting firm wrote that it was asked to look at the impact of land use on traffic, an analysis consistent with that used in the final environmental impact report for the specific plan.

The consultant said it used peak-hour and trip-generation figures from the same source as the EIR to estimate how many vehicle trips would result from different types of project, and the criticisms are, again, either a matter of "interpretative disagreement" or requesting work beyond the scope of the contract.

The council was scheduled to hear a presentation on the latest report during its Sept. 9 meeting, which occurred after the Almanac's press deadline. Check Almanacnews.com for updates. ▣

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510 Laurel Avenue, Menlo Park Offered at \$1,988,000

Remodeled Beauty in Menlo Park

This 2,376 sq. ft. (per plans) remodeled home sits on a 7,000 sq. ft. lot (per county), offering 4 bedrooms and 3 baths. The formal living room, dining room, and family room feature large windows and detailed crown molding. Maple hardwood flooring runs throughout. Located at the center of the home's layout is the kitchen, featuring a double oven, 4-burner Thermador stove, dishwasher, and stainless steel refrigerator. Each of the 4 bedrooms have plenty of windows, beautiful crown molding, and ample closet space. The backyard is stunning, with a tiled patio, decorative fire pit, and orange, mandarin, and lime trees, and a beautiful manicured lawn. Nearby are Highway 101, the San Francisquito Creek, and downtown Palo Alto. Laurel Elementary (K-3, API 927), Encinal Elementary (4-5, API 930), Hillview Middle (API 950), and Menlo-Atherton High (API 819) (buyer to verify enrollment).

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160 North Balsamina Way, Portola Valley Offered at \$1,798,000

Stylishly Updated Mid-Century Gem

This 3 bedroom, 3 bath home of 1,860 sq. ft. (per county) sits on a 9,120 sq. ft. lot (per county). Exemplary of mid-century modern architecture, this home features large expanses of windows, most of which have been updated to dual pane. Hardwood flooring runs throughout the home. Relax in the living room, which offers built-in bookcases, a stone surround fireplace, and a wall of windows overlooking the beautiful hills. The kitchen flows seamlessly into the sunken family room. In the master suite is a 15-foot deep walk-in closet, and French doors that open to the back yard. One other bedroom has its own en suite bath. Nearby are Ladera Shopping Center, a fitness club, equestrian centers, and Interstate 280. Las Lomas Elementary School (API 943), La Entrada Middle School (API 963), and Menlo-Atherton High School (API 819) (buyer to verify enrollment).



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Fifth-grader raises money for basketball program

By Tiffany Lam
Special to the Almanac

For fifth-grader Shay Patel, basketball is more than just a pastime. It's a passion.

So it's no surprise that last month, the Menlo Park native began a crowd-funding campaign to bring basketball equipment to 60 low-income students involved in after-school basketball at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula.

"He wanted to do something that helped kids" and involved his biggest passion, said Supna Patel, Shay's mother.

The campaign is called Alley-Oop Kids and has raised \$4,810, not far from his \$6,000 goal. Through Fundly, an online fundraising platform, donors can choose how much to donate. For \$100, a player gets a gear pack, which includes a basketball, a jersey, basketball shoes, basket-



Shay Patel is a student at Phillips Brooks School

ball socks, and a water bottle.

After reaching out to local nonprofit groups with sports programs, Shay decided that the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula was the perfect fit.

Shay learned that the organization has an after-school basketball program, but needs more gear for the kids. "That was it for Shay," said Ms. Patel. "He wanted to get those kids the gear that he gets."

Shay, who attends Phillips

Brooks School in Menlo Park, is already buying items for the gear packs. He plans to assemble the packs and personally deliver them to kids in the program.

"It's great that he's raising this money," said Dania Reed, volunteer coordinator for the Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula. "He understands that the students need those resources, and he's trying to help them follow their dreams." ■



"In less than three months, I'm back to full life."

—Stanford Patient, William Armstrong



Monthly patrol focus coming to Atherton, Menlo

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Motorcycle officers from around San Mateo County will be spending Wednesday, Sept. 17, on patrol in locations in Atherton and Menlo Park, concentrating on issuing tickets for moving violations.

The Burlingame Police Department organizes the monthly effort for a single day in two or three communities. On this occasion, officers will be congregating in areas considered trouble spots by the police departments in Atherton and Menlo Park, Corporal Brett Murphy of the Burlingame department told the Almanac. Police do not divulge the exact locations for the patrols.

For the August effort, officers focused on Woodside and Portola Valley on Aug. 20 and issued 133 citations, including 75 speeding tickets, 15 tickets for distracted driving — texting or hand-held cellphone use — and eight for seat-belt violations, police said. The patrols that day concentrated on Woodside Road between Alameda de las Pulgas and Interstate 280.

The Saturation Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) is a San Mateo County initiative that's been ongoing since January 2013. Agencies contribute officers for the day under existing operations budgets, and the goal is to do so without diluting ordinary patrol staffing, police said.

Distracted driving is a major factor in vehicle crashes. Eighty percent involve driver inattention, which is a factor in 6,000 deaths per year, according to the state Office of Traffic Safety. The primary causes of distracted driving are texting and "talking on a cell phone," the OTS says. ■



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Sacred Heart Schools faculty, staff and students came together at the Dunlevie Aquatic Center to participate in the ALS fundraiser.

Atherton school completes Ice Bucket Challenge

By **Tiffany Lam**
Special to the Almanac

Sacred Heart Schools in Atherton was next in line to complete the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, an activity involving dumping a bucket of ice water on a participant's head to promote awareness of the disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also

known as Lou Gehrig's disease, and encourage donations to research.

Director of Schools Richard A. Dioli and his senior administrative staff completed the challenge after Than Healy, Menlo School's head of school, and his administrative staff issued the challenge to the neighboring school's staff.

Sacred Heart Schools faculty,

staff and students came together at the Dunlevie Aquatic Center to participate in the challenge and also contribute with donations.

The faculty and staff dumped their buckets first, followed by the students.

The ALS Association announced the challenge has raised \$94.3 million dollars between July 29 and Aug. 27. ■

■ 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

Drugs in a public place report: Woodside High School administrators suspended a student after deputies found him to be under the influence of alcohol. Aug. 29.

Marijuana possession report: Acting on a report from someone at Woodside High School, deputies found three students under the influence of marijuana after having eaten marijuana-laced cookies. One of the students was in possession of the cookies and cited, but all three were suspended. Aug. 29

MENLO PARK

Robbery report: A 24-year-old Menlo Park woman walking on the pedestrian bridge across U.S. 101 at Ringwood Avenue was robbed of her shoes and cell phone after someone knocked her to the ground. The attacker tried to pull off her pants, but was unsuccessful because the woman fought back. The attacker fled and police have no description. Sept. 1.

Brandishing and attempted robbery report: Police arrested and booked into county jail Jorge Pena, 19, of Menlo Park on suspicion of having brandished a firearm during an attempted robbery on Terminal Avenue. Mr. Pena allegedly asked the victim "what's in his pockets," police said. Officers located Mr. Pena after the incident; there were no injuries, police said. Sept. 4.

Commercial burglary reports:

■ Someone stole about \$300 in cash from The Pet Place on Santa Cruz Avenue. The thief may have entered through an unlocked door, police said. Sept. 2.

■ In the roof above Ann's Coffee Shop on Santa Cruz Avenue is a skylight equipped with a security gate. Someone broke through the skylight and stole \$150 from a cash register. Aug. 29.

Residential burglary report: Someone kicked in the front door of a home on Oak Court, but did not take anything. The incident did trigger an alarm, which may have deterred the burglar, police said. Aug. 29.

Theft reports:

■ A man walked out of Menlo Hardware on Santa Cruz Avenue with a basket of items he had not been paid for, but dropped them upon discovering that an employee of the hardware store was following him. No losses. Aug. 30.

■ Someone stole a package containing a blazer from the porch of a home on Cambridge Avenue. Estimated loss: \$300. Sept. 2.

■ Someone stole a locked bike from the 1000 block of El Camino Real. Estimated loss: \$200. Sept. 2.

■ A handbag was stolen from a house on Madera Avenue. Estimated loss: \$100. Sept. 3.

■ A woman reported losing her wallet outside a business on University Drive, then learned that someone had used a credit card in the wallet to buy gasoline. There were attempts to make additional purchases, but they were

See **POLICE CALLS**, page 21

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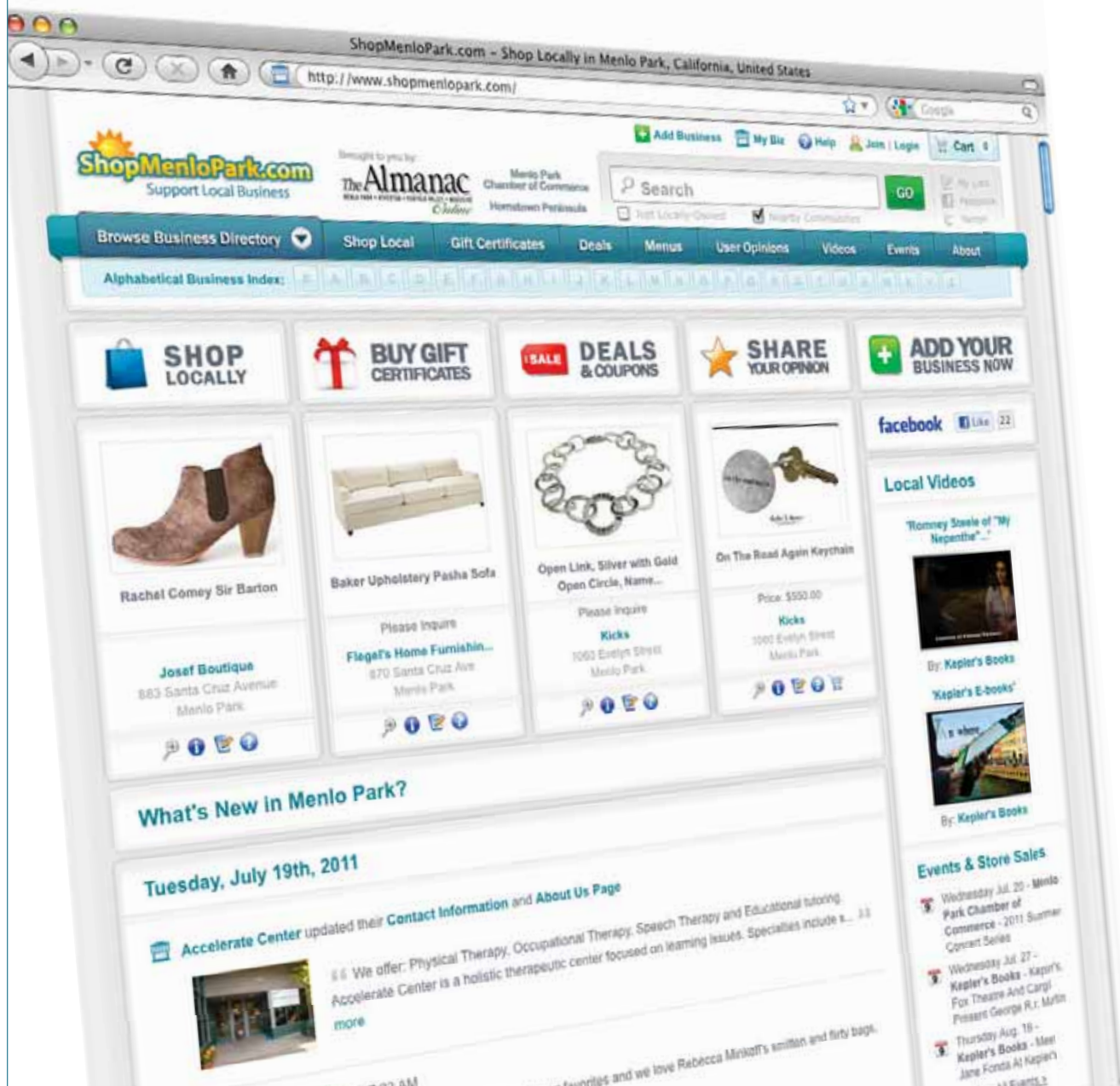
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Well-known Realtor Steve Bellumori dies

OBITUARIES

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, at St. Denis Church in Menlo Park for prominent Realtor Stephen Bellumori who died unexpectedly of a heart seizure Aug. 14. He was 65.

A reception at the church will follow the service.

Mr. Bellumori was born in January 1949 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. In 1970 he volunteered for the Peace Corps and

taught adult literacy in Ghana, West Africa.

Following his Peace Corps service, Mr. Bellumori moved to the Bay Area, and began his real estate career in 1974 with Pantano Realty in Menlo Park. He married Darlene Cowley, a Peace Corps colleague, in 1979, and the couple

had two sons, David and Thomas.

Mr. Bellumori became very involved in supporting the local public schools his sons attended, say family members. He was an early Menlo-Atherton High School Foundation board member, and remained committed to supporting economically disadvantaged students long after his own sons graduated.

During his four decades as a real estate agent, Mr. Bellumori was active in many real estate organizations, serving as president of the Menlo-Atherton Board of Realtors in 1983. He spent his entire real estate career in Menlo Park, and most recently worked for Coldwell Banker.

Family members say Mr. Bellumori enjoyed helping others, cooking, relaxing on tropical beaches, and the hands-on aspect of renovating older properties.

The family requests that memorial donations be made to the M-A Foundation for the Future, marked for the Steve Bellumori Memorial Fund, and mailed to P.O. Box 1228, Menlo Park, CA 94026. Funds raised in his memory will be used to help at-risk students.



Steve Bellumori

Cort Van Rensselaer Longtime Hewlett-Packard executive

Cortlandt Van Rensselaer of Portola Valley died peacefully on Aug. 22 after battling prostate cancer for many years. He was 90.

Born in Berkeley, Mr. Van Rensselaer grew up in Santa Barbara. After graduating from Stanford University with a degree in electrical engineering in 1944, he served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy until 1946. He returned to Stanford to earn his MBA in 1948.

He met his future wife, Jean, in 1946, and they were married the next year, moving to Los Altos Hills. During their marriage, they lived on the Peninsula and spent the past 49 years in Portola Valley. Ms. Van Rensselaer died in 2011.

Mr. Van Rensselaer began his career with Hewlett-Packard in 1942 as a part-time employee while attending Stanford. He returned to HP in 1948 for 45 more years. He had many roles, including U.S. sales manager and founding general manager of the Colorado Springs Division. His most lasting impact was in HP's central information systems, say family members.

In addition to his work at Hewlett-Packard, Mr. Van Rensselaer enjoyed managing finances, say family members. He served

on five investment club boards, and was a volunteer treasurer for several organizations, including Valley Presbyterian Church. He was also passionate about education, and set up several scholarships to support Stanford students. He served as a trustee of the University Club of Palo Alto's scholarship fund.

Mr. Van Rensselaer, who lived at The Sequoias, loved playing the piano and organ, snow skiing until he was 88, water skiing, tennis, annual trips to the Sacramento Delta, and traveling the around the world with his wife, say family members.

He is survived by his children, Steve Van Rensselaer, Amy Scrivner, and Rick Van Rensselaer; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service is being planned for early October. Contact Amy Scrivner at cortvanrememorial@gmail.com for more details. Memorial donations may be made to Pathways Hospice Foundation, 585 N. Mary Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94085.



Cort Van Rensselaer

Cortlandt Van Rensselaer

Cort Van Rensselaer, 90, passed away peacefully on August 22 after battling prostate cancer for many years. He was our beloved father and grandfather and spent his last few weeks surrounded by family and close friends.

Cort is survived by his children Steve Van Rensselaer (Judy), Amy Scrivner (Dan) and Rick Van Rensselaer (Missi), and his grandchildren, Eric and Matthew Van Rensselaer, Karen and Julie Scrivner, and Sara and Kyle Van Rensselaer.

The son of Eleanor and Maunsell Van Rensselaer and the brother of Patricia Wilson, Cort was born in Berkeley, CA and grew up in Santa Barbara where he developed a passion for radio broadcasting and photography. After graduating from Stanford University, with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1944, he served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy until 1946. He then returned to Stanford and earned his MBA in 1948.

After meeting Jean in Idlewild, CA, Cort bought a horse to woo her in the summer of 1946. They married the next year and moved to Los Altos Hills. During the majority of their marriage, they lived on the Peninsula and spent the past 49 years in Portola Valley. They had a long, happy marriage until Jean passed in 2011.

Cort started his long commitment to Hewlett-Packard in 1942 as an undergraduate at Stanford, working part-time. He returned to HP in 1948 for 45 more years, where he embodied the HP Way in a wide variety of roles, including U.S. Sales Manager and founding General Manager of the Colorado Springs Division. His most lasting impact was in HP's central Information Systems where he focused on functional processes that made the company more efficient and customers more satisfied worldwide. For more details and to read Cort's HP memoir, go to: http://www.hpmemory.org/timeline/cort_van_renselaer_02.htm.

In addition to his work at Hewlett-Packard, Cort loved managing finances. He served on five investment club boards, and was a volunteer treasurer for several organizations, such as the Valley Presbyterian Church and the Sequoias Retirement Community, where he lived. Cort was also passionate about education. He and Jean set up several scholarships to support Stanford students, and he served as a trustee of the University Club of Palo Alto's Scholarship Fund.

Cort loved his family and was overwhelmingly supportive and encouraging. He cared deeply for his friends and truly enjoyed meeting and getting to know new people. Cort stayed very active and loved playing the piano and organ, snow skiing (until he was 88!), water skiing, playing tennis, taking annual trips to the Sacramento Delta and traveling around the world with Jean.

A Memorial Service is being planned for early October. Please contact Amy Scrivner at cortvanrememorial@gmail.com for more details. In lieu of flowers, donations in Cort's memory may be made to Pathways Hospice Foundation, 585 N. Mary Ave. Sunnyvale, CA 94085.



PAID OBITUARY

Stephen D. Bellumori

January 19, 1949 – August 14, 2014

Born on January 19, 1949 in Wilkes-Barre, PA, Steve was the third of four children. He was president of his Coughlin High School class, for which he still organized class reunions, and editor of the class yearbook while attending King's College. In 1970 he volunteered for the Peace Corps and taught adult literacy in Ghana, West Africa.

Following his Peace Corps commitment, Steve moved to the San Francisco Bay Area where he began his real estate career in 1974 with Pantano Realtors in Menlo Park. He married Darlene Cowley, a Peace Corps colleague, in 1979, and they later had two sons, David and Thomas. As his sons progressed through the local public school system, Steve became very involved in supporting the schools they attended. He was an early Menlo-Atherton High School Foundation Board member and remained committed to supporting economically challenged students long after his own sons graduated.

Steve was very active in many real estate associations throughout his four decades as a real estate professional, and served as president of the Menlo-Atherton Board of Realtors in 1983. He spent his entire real estate career in Menlo Park, later working for Seville Properties and most recently for Coldwell Banker. He also enjoyed helping others, cooking, relaxing on tropical beaches, and the hands-on aspect of renovating older properties. He made lasting friends of many of his clients, a testament to his candor, integrity, and natural affability.

Steve passed away unexpectedly of a heart seizure on August 14, 2014. He is survived by his loving family, his many friends, and satisfied clients. Services will be held at St. Denis Church in Menlo Park on September 10th at 1 pm, with a reception to follow. Donations may be made to the M-A Foundation for the Future, marked for the Steve Bellumori Memorial Fund, and mailed to P.O. Box 1228, Menlo Park, CA 94026. Funds raised in his memory will be used to help at-risk students.



PAID OBITUARY

Daniel H. Goodman

Former engineer, press owner

Daniel H. Goodman died at his home in Menlo Park on Aug. 23. He was 98.

Mr. Goodman was born in El Paso, Texas, and enlisted in the U.S. Navy in May 1941. During World War II, he rose from seaman to the commissioned rank of lieutenant JG.

He married Helena Wasserman on Aug. 12, 1942, while stationed in San Diego. Several months later, he was shipped overseas to the South Pacific and did not return until 1945.

After being demobilized in September 1945, Mr. Goodman was in the first wave of veterans to enter the University of California, Berkeley, when he was 29 years old. He earned a bachelor's degree cum laude, a master's degree, and a doctorate from Berkeley, all in electrical engineering. He was elected to Tau Beta Pi, Eta Kappa Nu, and Sigma Xi honor societies.

Mr. Goodman worked in the engineering and aerospace industries on the Peninsula and in the Los Angeles area until 1971, when he and his wife started Goodco Press in Mountain View. When they retired in 1984, the business was taken over by their daughter and son-in-law, Leslie and Paul Kraus.

Mr. Goodman is survived by his children, Leslie Kraus and Kennard Goodman; sister Paula Rosen; and three grandchildren.

Church of the Nativity's 'Father Lucky' dies at 90

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

The Rev. Clement Arthur Davenport, a longtime parish priest at the Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park, died on his 90th birthday, on Aug. 19. Services have been held.

"He was a wonderful, simple person who touched everybody and was friendly with everybody," said Wendy Ames, Church of the Nativity secretary.

"Golf and (San Francisco) 49ers were his loves after the church."

Father Davenport had an interesting life, much of it chronicled in a memoir called "Father Lucky — Trust in Jesus — The Remarkable Stories of a Priest, His Passions, and the People Who Moved Him." The 2011 book is a collection of stories Father Davenport told about himself, gathered by the Rev. Dariusz Iwanski.

In the memoir, Father Davenport said he took a test to get into the seminary in the eighth grade only because it meant missing a day of school. He was ordained in 1948, and later became an Army chaplain. "Being in the military, you're a parish priest. You baptize, you anoint, you hear confessions, give them instruction, take care of them, put them to bed when they're drunk. I did that a lot of times, too," he said in his memoir.

He spent two years in Korea and five years in Vietnam, and received 12 medals for his service. But Father Davenport did not romanticize war. "It's stupidity. War is stupidity. No one ever wins war," he said in the memoir.

Father Davenport got the nickname Father Lucky after narrowly missing death several times in Korea. In Vietnam the nickname continued to be apt. Once in a helicopter, "I looked down and there was one bullet



Courtesy Church of the Nativity
Father Davenport: an image from a 2006 trip to Lourdes.

hole right between my feet, right through the chopper." He was asked if he was scared. He said no, "but I just wet my pants," he said in his memoir.

Not long before the Vietnam War ended, Father Davenport was in an area that housed Saigon's water supply when word came it was about to be hit and he should leave.

"I said, 'Well, if they're going to get hit then I'm going to stay here. The kids may need me.'" But something he ate made him violently ill. Still he refused to leave.

"Later, sure enough, there was a hit. Machine guns were firing. And I'm anointing kids and throwing up. Finally the firing stopped." He was transported in an ambulance.

"The next day was Sunday and I said nine Masses. You look back and you wonder how you did those things," he said in his memoir.

Father Davenport retired in 1999, after 23 years at Nativity. He moved from Nativity to Nazareth House in San Rafael in 2013.

"It has been a wonderful life. I am looking forward to going to heaven," he said in his memoir.

Donations in Father Davenport's memory may be made to the Archdiocese of San Francisco's Priests' Retirement Fund or to Nativity Church.

See a longer version of this story at AlmanacNews.com. ■

POLICE CALLS

continued from page 18

unsuccessful and the woman canceled the card. Estimated loss: \$50. Aug. 30.

Accident report: A pedestrian crossing Ravenswood Avenue at Laurel Street was struck in the crosswalk by a Hyundai making a left turn onto Ravenswood on a green light. The pedestrian suffered "very minor injuries," and elected not to be treated at a hospital, police said. Aug. 29.

Fraud report: A resident of Menlo Park paid someone in advance to do concrete work, landscaping and painting at the residence, but the work was never done. The contractor did not have a contracting license, police said. No estimate on losses. Aug. 31.

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Fall registration is now open and most classes begin the week of September 22.

Learn more and register: continuingstudies.stanford.edu

CALENDAR

Visit AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more calendar listings

Benefits/Fundraisers

Rally for Riekes scholarship fundraiser The Riekes Center will hold its sixth annual fundraiser, which helps to provide scholarships for individuals of all ages to participate in the center's athletic, creative and nature-awareness programs. Sept. 20, 6-9 p.m. \$175. Riekes Center, 3455 Edison Way, Menlo Park. Call 650-364-2509. www.riekes.org

Wine, Croquet & Music Charity Fundraiser The Rho Delta Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority will hold its ninth annual Wine, Croquet and Music Charity Fundraiser. This year's event will include live jazz, a gourmet buffet lunch, wine and the traditional croquet tournament. Attendees are encouraged to wear all-white attire, in the style of "The Great Gatsby." Sept. 13, 11 a.m.-4

p.m. \$65. Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave., Atherton. Call 805-705-7214. www.rdoaka.com

Classes/Workshops

Fall acting classes Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory will offer classes this fall in which adults and children can learn a variety of theater skills. Classes for adults will be taught by Rick Lombardo, former artistic director of San Jose Repertory Theatre, and will begin on Sept. 15. Classes for children (ages 4 to 18) will begin on Sept. 2. Sept. 2-Nov. 14., \$225-\$285. Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory, 945 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-8282 ext. 105. www.pvtc-ca.org

Genealogy class Little House Activity Center will offer a weekly class on genealogy to help community members in investigating the lives of their ancestors. Thursdays, Sept. 4-Oct. 23, 10 a.m.-noon. \$86; \$15 drop in. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025 ext. 222. www.penvol.org/littlehouse

Healthy cooking with Laura Stec Laura Stec — a chef, educator and author of "Cool Cuisine: Taking the Bite out of Global Warming" — will teach a class on quick and healthy cooking techniques. Registration is required. Sept. 11, 5-6 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

History class with Michael Svanevik Michael Svanevik will teach a class at Little House called "San Francisco, 1915-1945." The class will discuss the construction of new bridges, an island, the airport and other infrastructure; the Prohibition; colorful city figures; and other topics. Wednesdays, Sept. 3-Oct. 22, 1:30-3:30 p.m. \$50. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025 ext. 222. www.penvol.org/littlehouse

Kids arts and crafts class This Menlo Park course will lead children in creative art projects including painting, drawing, collage, working with clay and more. Thursdays, Sept. 11-Dec. 18, 4:30-5:30 p.m. \$228 resident; \$307 non-

resident. Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park. www.egovlink.com/menlopark/rd_classes/class_details.aspx?classid=23681&categoryid=88

OverDrive eBooks/eAudiobooks help The Portola Valley Library will offer appointments for community members to receive one-on-one assistance in accessing the library's free online books. Wednesdays, through Sept. 24, 4-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Community Events

Holy Cross cemetery tour Professor Michael Svanevik will lead a tour through Holy Cross cemetery, where he will talk about prominent figures in Menlo Park's history. Those interested are encouraged to register early, as attendance is limited. Sept. 20, 3:30-5 p.m. \$10. Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, 1100 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2522. sites.google.com/site/mphistorical

Kepler's Book Swap At this social Kepler's event, attendees will hear from Natalie Baszile about her book "Queen Sugar," receive book suggestions, enjoy food and drink, and go home with a book shared by another attendee and a free Advanced Reader's Edition of a book from Kepler's. Sept. 13, 6:30-9 p.m. \$25. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/793330

Concerts

Bass soloist Jean Baudin Jean Baudin, a bass soloist who has recorded and performed in the U.S., Europe and Japan, will perform a concert at the Woodside Library. Sept. 13, 2-3 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-0147. www.smcl.org

Organist Rani Fischer Rani Fischer will give a recital on organ with pieces by Buxtehude and Bach, others from the British tradition and more. Sept. 14, 4-6 p.m. \$10 general; \$6 senior; free for students. St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-854-6555. www.stbedesmenlopark.org

Family and Kids

Family Storytime This event at the Portola Valley Library will include stories, songs and activities for the whole family. Sept. 13, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Lego Club at Portola Valley Library The Portola Valley Library will host a meeting of its Lego Club, where it will have a variety of Lego and Duplo building blocks for community members of all ages to build with. Sept. 13, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Menlo Park Children's Chorus This course will offer children a chance to develop their music and vocal skills, as well as practice teamwork and commitment. Tuesdays, Sept. 9-Dec. 16, 4-5 p.m. \$60 resident; \$79 non-resident (plus \$40 lab fee). Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2200. www.menlopark.org/registration

Music 4 Life This weekly class will give parents and children 6 months to 6 years old an opportunity to bond while singing, dancing, playing instruments and learning about music. Wednesdays, Sept. 10-Dec. 17, 1-1:45 p.m. \$136 resident; \$182 nonresident. Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2200. www.menlopark.org/registration

Toddler Storytime The Portola Valley Library will hold weekly story time events for children ages 18 to 36 months, with songs, stories and movement activities. A craft activity will follow story time on Sept. 16. Tuesdays, Sept. 2-30, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Food and Drink

Portola Valley Farmers' Market The farmers' market at the Portola Valley Town Center features organic fruit and vegetables, free range eggs, fair trade coffee, wild and local seafood, hot free range rotisserie chickens, local honey, organic olive oil, gluten-free baked goods, nuts and nut butters, pickles, jerky, artisan breads, flowers, crafts and music. Thursdays, year-round, 3-7 p.m. Portola Valley Farmers' Market, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. www.portolavalleyfarmersmarket.com

Woodside Farmers' Market The weekly market features organic fruits and vegetables, farm eggs, nuts, dried fruits, honey, olive oil, local seafood, oysters, handmade sausages, vegetarian salads and entrees, organic pasta and sauces, nut butters, vegan cheeses, jams

and pickles, bakery and crafts. Sundays, April 6-Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Woodside Farmers' Market, 3195 Woodside Road, Woodside. www.woodsidefarmersmarket.com

Seniors

Minds in Motion classes Peninsula Volunteers will offer these classes as part of its early memory loss wellness program, designed for those experiencing changes in memory or other cognitive impairments. Activities include brain and memory games. Mondays, through December, 10 a.m.-noon. \$12/drop in; \$75/eight-week series. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-322-0126. www.penvol.org

Seniors At Home info session At Little House Activity Center's free Community Forum, attendees can learn more about Seniors At Home, a service that provides home care, care management, and palliative and end-of-life care to seniors. Sept. 18, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Free. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025 ext. 222. www.penvol.org/littlehouse

Sports

Society Skateboarding Group Lessons Instructors from the Society skate shop will teach skateboarding fundamentals, technique and safety in this course. Saturdays, Sept. 13-Oct. 11, 11 a.m.-noon. \$110 resident; \$147 nonresident. Menlo Park Skate Park, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park. www.egovlink.com/menlopark/rd_classes/class_details.aspx?classid=23975&categoryid=56

Lectures & Talks

'Poetry for the People' celebration This event celebrating "99 Poems for the 99 Percent" will welcome a number of contributors to the poetry collection: Ellen Bass, Sally Ashton, Dean Rader, J.P. Dancing Bear, C.J. Sage, Rachele Escamilla, Dan Bellm and Dennis Richardson. Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/poetry-people-featuring-ellen-bass-sally-ashton-dean-rader-and-more

Author Dan Jurafsky on 'The Language of Food' Dan Jurafsky will share his book "The Language of Food: A Linguist Reads the Menu," which delves into the origins of treasured foods and culinary customs. Sept. 16, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/dan-jurafsky

Author Neal Stephenson and friends on 'Hieroglyph' Science fiction writer Neal Stephenson will be joined by a handful of thinkers to discuss transformative art and technology, as explored in the optimistic anthology "Hieroglyph: Stories and Visions for a Better Future." Sept. 10, 7:30-9 p.m. \$20 general; \$40 premiere. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/776246

Tuesday Tea with Ted Atlas Author and Bay Area native Ted Atlas will discuss his book, "Candlestick Park: Images of Sports," which captures some of the great athletes and teams that played in the stadium. Sept. 16, 1:30-2:30 p.m. \$3. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025 ext. 222. www.penvol.org

Teen Activities

Author Alan Gratz on 'The League of Seven' Alan Gratz will share his book, "The League of Seven." The young adult book is the first in a steampunk series that follows Archie Dent, whose parents are part of a society that protects mankind from giants called the Mangleborn. Sept. 11, 7-8 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. keplers.com/event/ya-alan-gratz

Authors Sarah J. Maas and Veronica Rossi Sara J. Maas, author of "Heir of Fire," the third installment of the Throne of Glass series, will discuss her book in conversation with Veronica Rossi, who will also share the conclusion to her Under the Never Sky trilogy, "Into the Still Blue." Sept. 12, 7-8 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. keplers.com/event/sarah-j-maas-conversation-veronica-rossi

For all listings

This Calendar contains partial listings of community events. To see all listings or to submit your own, go to TheAlmanacOnline.com and click on "Calendar" under the A&E menu on the home page.

Skylonda Mutual Water System
127 Blakewood Way, California 94062
Telephone 650 851-0154. Email: ta56@coastside.net

September 4, 2014

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Dear Water User,

The Skylonda Mutual Water System has been cited by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water for distributing water containing quantities of trihalomethanes above the Maximum Contaminant Level of 80 ug/L (80part per billion.) NOTE: the contaminant level is calculated based on a running annual average of quarterly samples. See the table below:

Date of Sample	Result (ug/L)	Running Average (ug/L)
9/23/13	81.44	81.44
12/12/13	58.67	70.05
3/13/13	82.25	74.12
6/26/14	122.3	85.67 ug/L =>80ug/L

TTHMs are a byproduct of the reaction of chlorine disinfectant with natural organic and inorganic matter in the water. The chlorine disinfectant is injected into the water in our system to protect from biological contamination.

We routinely monitor for total trihalomethanes (TTHM) in our distribution system. These measurements tell us whether or not further treatment is needed to remove disinfection byproduct precursors from the water supply. We are currently developing a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to mitigate the condition.

What should I do?
You do not need to switch to bottled water.

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years could experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems and increased risk of cancer.
If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water you may wish to consult your doctor.

More information on the effects of trihalomethanes in drinking water can be found at the US EPA web site: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/basicinformation/trihalomethane.cfm>.

If you have tenants, please inform them of this.

With further questions please contact:
Jim Smith, SMWS Board President, 851-1358. Cliff Hudson, SMWS Board Vice President, 851-2192. Terry Adams, Chief Water Operator, (650) 704-4009. Karen Nishimoto, CDPH, (510) 620-3461

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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.

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Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

An 'almost-ran' explains his change of heart

By Stu Soffer

It's been a while since I've posted on my Almanac blog. One reason was that I was seriously considering running for City Council. And obviously at this point, I decided I had other priorities which trumped how much I intellectually felt I should run.

Over the years I have seen council members essentially place their professional lives on hold and immerse themselves in all aspects of the job. It isn't just the Tuesday evenings and the prep time for the same. This is minimal. It's also the numerous assignments as representative to the regional bodies. Menlo Park's five council members essentially shoulder the same committee workload that is distributed to the nine council members of Palo Alto. Then there is time responding to the one-on-one needs of residents and businesses. Did I mention the occasional council meetings lasting beyond midnight?

Let's face it — all this is what I would find so engrossing and love to do. I had numerous calls from predictable and not-predictable personae encouraging me take out candidate papers. It's easy to push someone to run for council. But after taking them out I feared being stranded. For the past two months I had two angels on my shoulder,

whispering into my ears: do it and don't it.

Considering the competing obligations to clients and family, I decided not to run.

There is more to this election than just Measure M. The day after the election,



GUEST OPINION

Menlo Park resident Stu Soffer is an Almanac blogger. You can read more of his commentary by going to AlmanacNews.com and clicking on "Blogs" in the menu bar.

regardless of Measure M, Menlo Park will still grapple with a series of past and new issues. I'd keep that in mind when considering of council candidates. One-issue candidates may fall short considering the varied demands.

I have two observations regarding Measure M and the circumstances leading to both the downtown specific plan, and Save Menlo's Measure M.

First, City Attorney Bill McClure recused himself from participation in the specific plan because his office is located within the plan area. Had this not been the case I feel

that the specific plan that emerged after five years of discussion, as well as the initial projects proposed under its umbrella, would have been more tolerable.

Bill, my good friend and sounding board, is the most powerful person in Menlo Park. He has the greatest historic knowledge of the major and the minor. He has a great personality for working with varied people. There is little that he doesn't influence. His absence in the process was required, but unfortunate for us.

At some point Bill will retire. I fear that day because Bill is the city issue and personalities rudder. I hope I'm on the council at that time for selection of his successor.

Another observation is that had the specific plan process (or charade, depending on your neighborhood) never been enacted, Stanford and Greenheart would have been able to come forth with the same projects as development agreements. For example, SRI proposals, Menlo Gateway, the revised Derry project, 1300 El Camino, Menlo Station on Merrill, and the original Sun (Facebook) campus were accomplished without benefit of the specific plan. So in a sense, the years of consultants, time and public meetings were wasted.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Measure M and balanced development

Editor:

Contrary to what Mickie Winkler claims in her September 3 letter to the Almanac's editor, Measure M does, in fact, uphold the specific plan's projected maximum amount of 240,000 square feet of office and 474,000 square feet of non-residential commercial square-footage. Measure M assures that these numbers can be increased only by a vote of Menlo Park residents.

Without the passage of Measure M, the two large developments proposed on El Camino Real will surpass the office numbers by 58 percent. Worse, the specific plan's projected

limits on office and other commercial square-footage could be increased repeatedly in the future by a developer's environmental study and a wink from a pro-development council.

For more balanced development that protects the city's suburban character and the financial health, Measure M should be passed, and for good measure Duriseti, Combs and Fergusson should replace the three current incumbents.

Ms. Winkler is either confused or intentionally confusing the facts.

Steve Schmidt
Central Avenue

What Measure M will mean for Menlo

Editor:

As a member of the Planning Commission for six years

and an active participant in the specific plan process, I am greatly concerned about the misinformation I'm hearing about Measure M. Residents may not truly understand what it will mean for Menlo Park.

1. Measure M is not about reducing development, nor will it help traffic. It doesn't reduce any building size. While the measure cuts commercial office use in half, it instead allows for big box retail or medical offices — the two types of uses that create the most traffic. The current specific plan is a studied mix of residential-serving retail, restaurants, commercial office, and public space — not "mega office parks" as the proponents of the measure would have you believe. For residents concerned about increased traffic, or cut-through traffic, M is a mistake.

2. Measure M will extend the

years of blight on El Camino Real. These empty lots are not only an eyesore, but come at the cost of lost revenue for our city services, schools, police and firefighters.

3. Measure M is inflexible and unfixable by the City Council due to the requirement in the measure for ballot box changes. The rules would be in place for 30 years and the unintended consequences that are emerging will not be able to be fixed. This will handcuff the city and put us at a major disadvantage in our efforts to revitalize Menlo Park.

I, along with many other participants in the five-year public planning process, strongly encourage Menlo Park residents to really learn the truth about Measure M and how it will negatively impact the city we all care so much about.

Katie Ferrick
Bay Road, Menlo Park

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