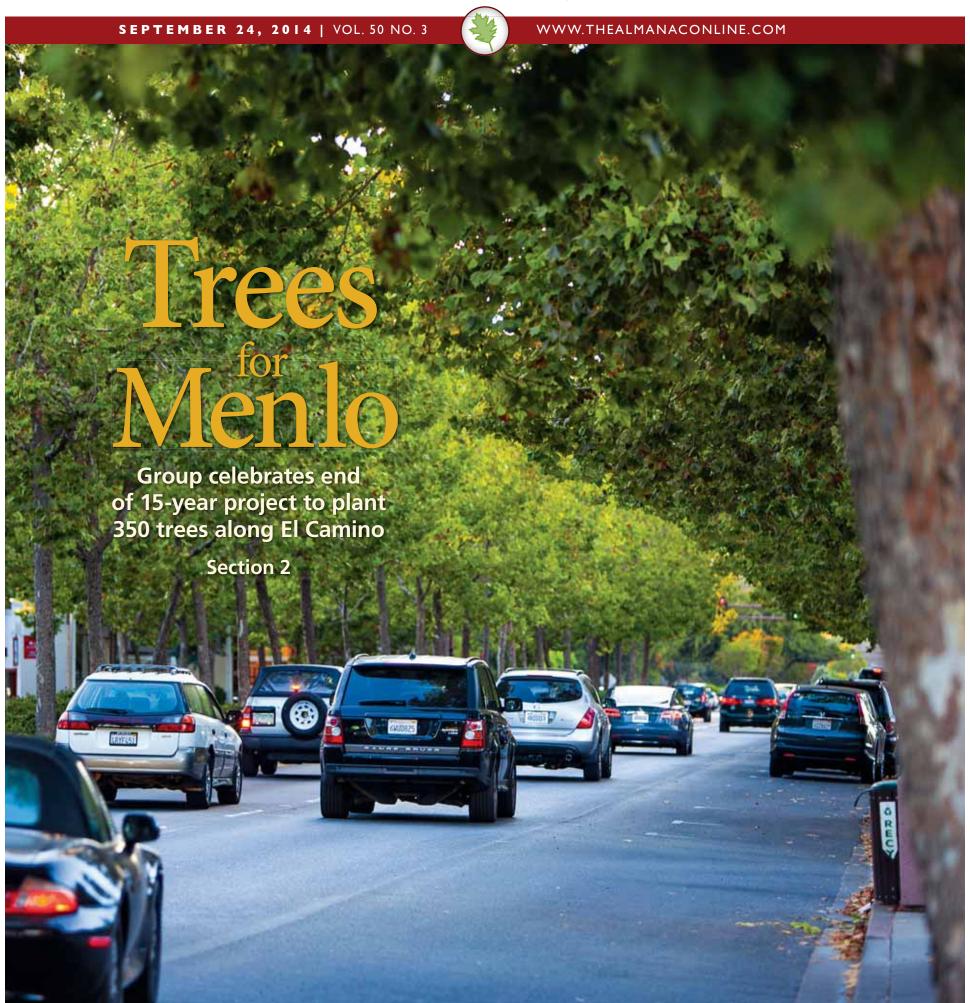


Maasai warrior hikes Wunderlich Park in Woodside | Page 3

The Almana and the hometown newspaper for menlo park, atherton, portola valley and woodside



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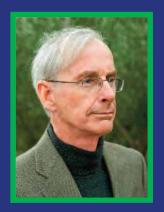
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Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

Maasai warrior, elder and chief Sabore Ole Oyie, far right, hiked Wunderlich Park in Woodside with Lisa Raskin, center, Lea Goldstein and John Novitsky on Friday, Sept. 19. Mr. Oyie, who is also a Kenyan cultural ambassador, is in the U.S. to raise money to drill water wells for his people.

Maasai warrior hikes Wunderlich

■ Sabore Ole Oyie is here to raise money for wells for his people.

By Dave Boyce Almanac Staff Writer

abore Ole Oyie, a warrior, elder and the chief of his age group in his village in Maasai territory in Kenya, is a tall man who dresses in clothing that is predominantly red. The color is a tradition that dates back to his ancestors fighting with other tribesmen over cattle rustling, Mr. Oyie explained during a hike in Wunderlich Park in Woodside on Friday. Without colored clothing, it was too hard to tell friends from enemies, he said.

Mr. Oyie, who is is also a cultural ambassador for Kenya, is in the United States on a three-month fundraising visit to solicit aid to drill 400 wells to provide safe drinking water for 9,000 residents of the undeveloped Ewaso Nyiro region of Kenva.

Woodside resident John Novitsky, who visited with Mr. Oyie in Kenya, invited him to town to promote the welldrilling project and to hike to see what insights he might have

in identifying mountain lion tracks. Wunderlich Park is a known mountain lion habitat and Mr. Oyie is an experienced tracker in big-cat country.

Others on the three-hour hike to and from the meadow at Alambique Flat included Lisa Raskin and Lea Goldstein, the co-presidents of Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks; Veronica Zermani, a San Mateo County park ranger; and this reporter.

Mr. Oyie is adept at spotting animal tracks, as is Mr. Novitsky. Good indicators are paw-sized disturbances in the earth on the side of a trail. Mr. Oyie also easily picked out wild animal tracks in the dust of heavily traveled park roads amid the chaos of tracks left by humans and horses.

His abilities probably came with the territory in which he grew up and where he still lives — near the Maasai Mara National Reserve and the famed Serengeti Plain.

Lions are indigenous to the area, as are elephants, cheetahs, leopards, hyenas, giraffe and cape buffalo, a "very, very dangerous" animal, Mr. Oyie said. His ordeals growing up included confronting lions. He killed two males with spears and has their manes, he said.

He was circumcised around age 12. The operation is instrumental in teaching boys to accept pain; they are not supposed to move, not even to blink an eye, he said.

Life is dangerous there. Encounters with animals were common during his walks to and from school, he said. "When you're walking, you find an elephant and you don't want him to smell you, so you take a different direction," he said. "In the presence of animals, you're always (adjusting)."

Maasai girls and women face similar challenges with animals on their daily 6-mile to 8-mile treks to fetch river water. The girls should be in classrooms, Mr. Oyie said. Along with wells, two classrooms for his tribe are another top priority.

His fundraising efforts have paid for two wells so far, an investment of about \$70,000, Mr. Oyie said. One 310-foot well taps into an underground river but is contaminated with nitrates and fluorides, so decontaminating equipment is needed. The other, at 721 feet, is uncontaminated.

Go to tinyurl.com/Sabore3 for more information.

REAL ESTATE Q&A by Monica Corman

What Buyers Should Do



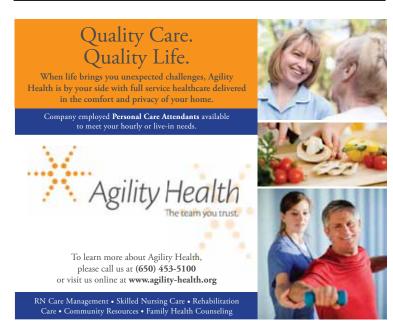
Dear Monica: We have been outbid on a few properties recently and are wondering if we will ever be able to buy a house. What can we do to improve our chances? Steven D.

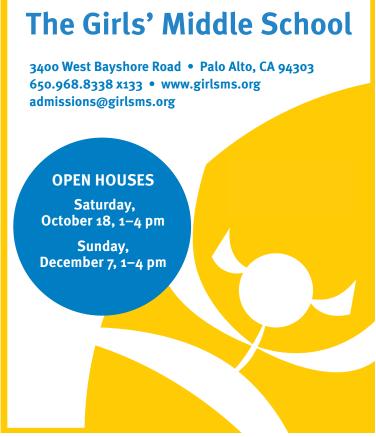
Dear Steven: It can be very frustrating for buyers in this market but there are things you can do to improve your chances of succeeding. Are your minimum requirements set too high for your budget? To test this idea, look at properties that have sold recently in your price range and see if any of them would have met your criteria. If not, you need to adjust your parameters. Maybe

you can't get the perfect house in your price range so figure out what compromises you are willing to make. You may need to enlarge your geographic scope and include areas a bit outside of your "perfect" location. If location is your top priority, then you will have to adjust other things such as house condition or size.

The other thing you can do to improve your chances of success is to be positive and decisive. The market moves quickly and if you are not moving along with it, you will continue to miss out. The important thing is to find a home and a community so that you can settle in and be a part of it.

For answers to any questions you may have on real estate, you may e-mail me at mcorman@apr.com or call 462-1111, Alain Pinel Realtors. I also offer a free market analysis of your property. www.MonicaCorman.com





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Local News

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Stanford unveils the Anderson Collection

■ New museum dedicated to renowned works of American art.

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

ow did they fit all this art in their house?" That was the question of the day at the media preview for Stanford's new Anderson Collection, which opened to the public with a grand celebration on Sunday, Sept. 21.

Being surrounded by museumquality works by artists including Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock and Richard Diebenkorn was a way of life for collectors Harry W. and Mary Margaret Anderson, but it was a tight fit. Imagine having an Alexander Calder mobile in your living room, a Hans Hoffman color-saturated landscape over your bed.

Now, a portion of the Andersons' blue-chip collection has a new and spacious home on the Stanford campus: a beautiful bespoke museum designed to showcase the Modern and contemporary American paintings and sculptures the couple has so carefully acquired over the last 50 years.

Richard Olcott of Ennead Architects designed the 30,000-square-foot building, which was completed in May (the last four months have been spent delivering and installing the art) and constitutes another glittering jewel in the crown of the burgeoning campus arts district.

From private to public

The museum houses 121 works of art by 86 artists, a gift to the university from the Andersons

(affectionately known as Hunk and Moo) and their daughter, Mary Patricia Anderson Pence.

The history of their collecting is by now the stuff of legend: After a trip to Europe in the 1960s, Hunk and Moo decided to educate themselves about art in order to build a collection. They sought out the best examples by the most noteworthy artists available, and had the good fortune — and foresight — to purchase stellar works by artists working in the Abstract Expressionist movement before prices became prohibitive.

Their collection grew, filled their ranch house in Atherton and then became part of the Saga Food headquarters (now Quadrus) on Sand Hill Road; Hunk was a co-founder. Along the way, Hunk and Moo were always intent on sharing the collection and educating the public about contemporary art — not always an easy sell, especially given their proclivity for abstract works.

After years of active collecting in schools as wide-ranging as California Funk, Color Field Painting and Bay Area Figurative Art, the Andersons decided to begin gifting their collection to museums. Though they were courted by collections across the country, the couple preferred to keep their focus local, making gifts to the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

"Our interest is to support the arts in the Bay Area," explained Hunk in a phone conversation. "We believe that art enhances the human experience, and this



Photo by Veronia Weber/Palo Alto Weekly

A wide staircase leads to the second floor, which is devoted entirely to works of art.

museum is a gift that keeps on giving."

Informal, casual, accessible

The opening of the Anderson Collection at Stanford University marks the first time the public has had access to such a wide range of these works in one place. It's an unprecedented experience.

Upon entering the lobby of the building, the viewer first encounters two colorful, playful sculptures by California-based artists Charles Arnoldi ("Untitled I," 1983) and Robert Hudson ("Plumb Bob" 1982). They are fun and lively, and perhaps lead the visitor to think that all the mystery about modern art is exaggerated.

But then the grand staircase, which takes the visitor to the second floor where the majority of the art is installed, leads directly to an encounter with Clyfford Still's "1957-J No.1."

The work is an interesting choice for such a focal point; large in scale, with only three colors of paint (red, black, white) applied thickly with a palette knife. Its jagged forms and bold composition are confrontational

and somewhat unsettling.

Look to the left, however, and the eye takes in the cheerful swirls and bright pastels of Joan Mitchell's "Before, Again IV." Gaze right, and Richard Diebenkorn's evocative seascape, "Ocean Park #60," immediately produces a sense of calm and tranquility.

This is the charm, as well as the secret, behind this museum. Rather than an encyclopedic gathering of art from every modern movement since 1945, this

See **ANDERSON** page 8

Officers issue 252 more traffic tickets in Atherton, Menlo Park

By Dave Boyce Almanac Staff Writer

otorcycle officers from around San Mateo County spent Wednesday, Sept. 17, patrolling parts of Menlo Park and Atherton and issued 252 citations, most for speeding and cellphone violations.

Patrolling in areas considered trouble spots by Atherton and Menlo Park police, the officers issued 67 tickets for speeding, 51 for cellphone violations, 30 for unsafe turns, 23 for stop-sign violations and 20 for seat-belt violations, Cpl. Brett Murphy of the Burlingame Police Depart-

nent said.

At the special request of Atherton police, officers also looked for violations near schools where vehicles use bike lanes to pass other vehicles. Fifteen tickets were issued for this violation, Cpl. Murphy said.

There were seven traffic-light violations, including two issued to bicyclists, he added.

The daylong patrols focus on different communities each month. For September, the focus is on Atherton and Menlo Park, Cpl. Murphy said. The event on Sept. 17 was the third special traffic-law enforcement day this month. The others had a specific focus:

- On Sept. 6, the focus was DUI violations, which resulted in three arrests and 16 sobriety tests.
- On Sept. 12, officers focused on distracted driving and issued 76 tickets to drivers using cellphones illegally and six tickets for texting.

On Aug. 20, when the focus for the month was Woodside, Portola Valley and Redwood City, officers issued 75 five speeding tickets, 15 for distracted driving and eight for seat belt violations at various locations in Woodside.

The Saturation Traffic Enforce-

ment Program (STEP) is a San Mateo County initiative, in effect since January 2013, that brings together for a day some 25 motorcycle officers, more or less, from law enforcement agencies in the county.

The events that focus on DUI and distracted-driving are similar to STEP in that they involve visiting motorcycle officers, but they are funded by the state Office of Traffic Safety.

The event on Sept. 17 included five officers from Daly City; three each from the California Highway Patrol, Redwood City and the Sheriff's Office; two each from Burlingame, Belmont and South San Francisco, and one each from other agencies, Cpl. Murphy said. The Burlingame Police Department organizes the events.

"The participating officers remained committed to making a high level of traffic stops in this coordinated saturation, while maintaining the highest levels of community awareness and professionalism," Cpl. Murphy said in a written statement. "The number of stops and citations during this most recent deployment reflect a sustained enthusiasm for this program and traffic safety on the Peninsula."



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Stanford 'conflicted' about continuing talks before Measure M is decided

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Till they or won't they? Stanford University's abrupt announcement on Tuesday, Sept. 16, that it would postpone negotiations over its proposed mixed-use complex on El Camino Real sparked some irritation with city of Menlo Park officials.

Mayor Ray Mueller then called for a special meeting of the City Council on Sept. 23 to discuss "appropriate next steps," and in short order, the university decided, albeit with a certain reluctance, that negotiations could, in fact, continue.

"That (Sept. 16) email stated our preference in timing. It should not be construed as a unilateral refusal to meet," Stanford representative Steve Elliott wrote to the city on Friday, Sept. 19.

The postponement was attributed to the pending outcome of Measure M, an initiative put forward by grassroots coalition Save Menlo to change the downtown/El Camino Real specific plan. Voters will decide the measure's outcome in the Nov. 4 election.

The latest design for the Stanford complex would replace mostly vacant car lots along 300 to 500 El Camino Real with 199,500 square feet of office space, 10,000 square feet of retail, and up to 170 apartments. Measure M's passage would impose several changes, including cutting by about 50 percent the amount of office space allowed — a reduction that the university said would send its project back to the drawing board.

"Considering these obstacles and the timing, just a few weeks before the election that will decide the fate of Measure M, we suggested that we thought it best to wait until the community has resolved this question before continuing work. This continues to be our perspective," Mr. Elliott wrote. However, if the city "feels strongly" about continuing negotiations, "we will of course continue to meet with the Subcommittee to advance such an effort."

Disappointed by the initial letter postponing negotiations without warning, Mayor Ray Mueller said it's obvious that calling for a special council meeting brought Stanford back to the table.

He noted that the council subcommittee, now composed of himself and Kirsten Keith, won't limit the discussion to Stanford's contribution to a bike-pedestrian undercrossing that would connect Middle Avenue with Burgess Park.

"I am committed to working towards the best potential outcome to preserve and enhance the quality of life of Menlo Park residents. Nothing is off the table to that end," he said.

What else is on the table? Mayor Mueller said the size and scope of a public plaza at the center of the complex; the mix of uses, and design features; he is personally "very focused on how traffic exits and enters the sites, and how to keep it away from our residential neighborhoods."

The previous subcommittee, composed of Ms. Keith and Catherine Carlton, worked with Save Menlo as well as university representatives to eliminate all medical offices from the proposal, increase the number of apartments, improve the public plaza, get Stanford's agreement to make "a substantial contribution" to the undercrossing, and collect more traffic data to further evaluate the project's potential impact.

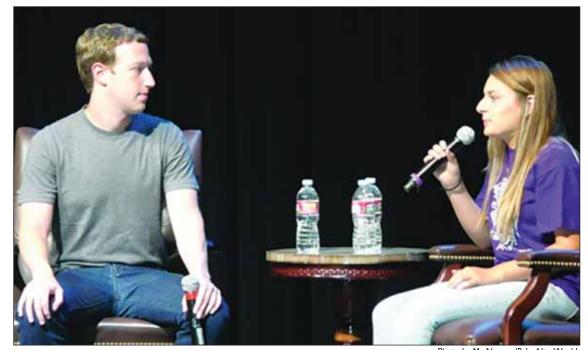
Key Market changing hands

Dehoff's Key Market, part of Marsh Manor in Redwood City for about 20 years, is in its last week at that location, owner Chris Dehoff told the Almanac on Monday, Sept. 22.

"Our family will miss this location after having been there for so many years. We thank all of our great customers for all the years of loyal patronage," Mr. Dehoff said.

The store's lease recently expired and they were operating under a short-term agreement, according to Mr. Dehoff. Key Market's last day at Marsh Manor will be Saturday, Sept. 27. A new store, Delucchi's Market, will open at the same location in the shopping center at 3640 Florence St. off Marsh Road.

As to reports that the new store will, unlike Key Market, be non-unionized, Mr. Dehoff said he was "not sure what the new owners are going to do, but our employees are staying with us." The family-owned chain has stores in San Mateo and Redwood City; most of the employees will transfer to the Redwood City store on Upton Street, he said.



Rosie Valencia, a student at Sequoia High School in Redwood City, interviews Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg on Sept. 18.

Zuckerberg makes surprise visit

By My Nguyen

Palo Alto Weekly

equoia High School students and staff were treated to a surprise visit by Facebook founder and CEÓ Mark Zuckerberg at a special assembly at the school in Redwood City on Wednesday, Sept. 18.

Before Mr. Zuckerberg made his guest appearance, Facebook CIO Tim Campos announced that the social media company would be funding a mobile-application development class at Sequoia, where students will learn the elements of programming and

design needed to build apps.

Mr. Campos presented the school with 50 new Apple laptops to help equip the new class.

Part of how I got to where I am in my career is I started playing with technology when I was your guys' age," Mr. Campos said. "My dad worked at a university and his lab used technology a lot, so occasionally he would bring it home to work on and that exposed me to technology.

"Imagine in today's world if, say, a football player like Colin Kaepernick couldn't play high school football, would he be as amazing of an athlete as he is today?" Mr. Campos said. "For the next generation of technology leaders, we need to make sure everyone has access to technology."

He went on to answer students' questions about what it is like to work at Facebook, why Facebook is so successful, what the company is working on in terms of future projects, and how much he gets paid, to which he answered, "TechnolFacebook founder and CEO participates in Q&A at Sequoia High School.

ogy is a good industry to be in." "I want to inspire you," he said. "Look at what is going

around you. ... Technology is changing everything in terms of how the world is working. It's an incredible opportunity to be a part of."

Sequoia junior and former Facebook intern Rosie Valencia interviewed Mr. Zuckerberg about the importance of science, engineering and math education, and why technology is so important for students.

The simplest answer, Mr. Zuckerberg said, is that technology is where all the jobs will be in the future.

"If you look at history, the world evolves, and the jobs that people have evolve, and even some basic things like how you watch TV ... and the nature of cars (evolve)," he said. "Technology is playing a bigger role in all of these things, so the reality is if you want to have a better chance of getting a job ... and if you want to get a job that pays more, then being profi-cient in technology and knowing some basic things about how to use computers and use basic programming ... is going to be really critical to having a lot of options and doing what you want in the future.'

Facebook is a big company and serves a lot of people, he said, but his main focus is to help people through engineering and building products.

"More than a billion people

use Facebook, so one of the hardest jobs that we have is that out of all the different things that we can be working on on a day-to-day basis, we need to make sure that we focus on the right things," he said. "There are certain things that can help the most people."

Rosie Valencia, who participated in the 2014 Facebook Academy internship program, developed a mobile app that placed in the top 20 in a worldwide Technovation competition. She said she learned that the company's purpose is to connect the world. She asked Mr. Zuckerberg why it is important to increase access to the Internet.

A majority of people in the world don't have Internet access, so there are fewer ideas and tools the rest of us don't get exposed to because people without the Internet can't share their experiences, Mr. Zuckerberg said.

"One way — over time — to create more peace and connectedness and a more functioning kind of world is to make sure everyone is exposed to all these different things (available online)," he said.

Mr. Zuckerberg encouraged students interested in engineering and computer science to work hard. He said that learning about technology is a process like anything else.

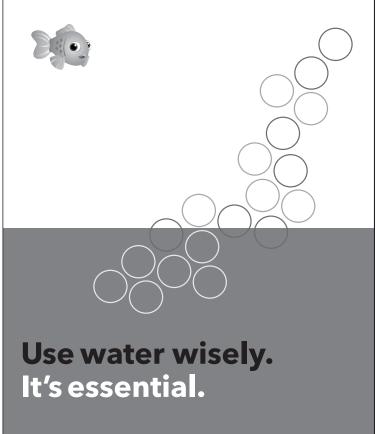
'So dive in and start and understand that you will not be amazing at everything immediately, but you just keep on pushing to get better," he said.

Go to tinyurl.com/zuck918 to see a video of the Q&A with Mark Zuckerberg.



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Tips on handling encounters with mountain lions

By Barbara Wood

Almanac Staff Writer

Residents of the Midpeninsula share many neighborhoods with mountain lions, and with the recent news of the attack by a mountain lion on a young boy in Cupertino, local officials are reminding residents of what to do when encountering a mountain lion.

On Sept. 10, a mountain lion believed to be the one that attacked a boy in Cupertino was shot and killed.

While attacks by mountain lions on humans are rare, mountain lion sightings are not uncommon in our area.

In Woodside, a hiker in Wunderlich Park reported seeing a mountain lion with three

cubs on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at about 8 a.m.

Atherton officials say that on Saturday, Sept. 6, a mountain lion was reportedly seen in a driveway near Monte Vista and Linda Vista avenues, at about 9:15 p.m.

On Aug. 25, officials received a report of a mountain lion sighting in Portola near Hayfields Road at 6:15 p.m.

Many other encounters are never reported.

Atherton officials offer the following tips for what to do when encountering a mountain lion, excepted from the Falcon Guide series of outdoor books:

"In the vast majority of mountain lion encounters, these animals exhibit avoidance, indifference, or curiosity that never

results in human injury. But it is natural to be alarmed if you have an encounter of any kind. Try to keep your cool and consider the following:

sider the following:

■. Recognize threatening mountain lion behavior. There are a few cues that may help you gauge the risk of attack. If a mountain lion is more than 50 yards away, changes positions, directs attention toward people, and exhibits following behavior, it may be only curious. This circumstance represents only a slight risk for adults, but a more serious risk to unaccompanied children. At this point, you should move away, while keeping the animal in your peripheral vision. Also, take out a deterrent device or look for rocks, sticks, or something to use as a weapon — just in case.

For distances of less than 50 yards, when the animal is staring intensely and hiding, it may be assessing the chances of a successful attack. If intense staring and hiding continue, accompanied by crouching and creeping, the risk of attack may be substantial.

■ Do not approach a mountain lion; give the animal the opportunity to move on. Slowly back away, but maintain eye contact if close. Mountain lions are not known to attack humans to defend young or a kill, but they have been reported to "charge" in rare instances and may want to stay in the area. Best choose another route or time to adventure through the area.

■ Do not run from a mountain lion. Running may stimulate a predatory response.

■ If you encounter a mountain lion, be vocal and talk or yell loudly and regularly. Try not to panic: shout to others in the area to make them aware of the situation."

Marc Kenyon, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's mountain lion expert, said that the tips are good ones, but added one more: If possible, he said, get higher than the lion by jumping up on a rock, tree stump or hillside so you're looking down on the animal. Lions will typically recognize this as a aggressive stance and it takes away their strategy of jumping down on a potential prey or victim, Mr. Kenyon said.

Stanford unveils Anderson Collection

continued from page 5

is a *personal* collection that reflects the taste and priorities of the Andersons.

Hunk, who feels that art collectors are really just "stewards," refers to the works the family has amassed as a "collection of collections," acknowledging the couple's broad rather than narrow interests, their eye for artistic innovation as much as anything.

Since the collection is idiosyncratic and personal, explained architect Olcott, he focused his design for the museum on three goals: "informality, casualness and accessibility."

The museum, he says, "reflects the way the Andersons lived with art in their ranchstyle home." To that end, the floor plan is open, eschewing small rooms. Visitors can wander freely, without directives based on chronology or strict groupings of works. And, just as the Andersons mixed Rodin sculptures and early American antiques with modern art in their home, the visitor finds unexpected juxtapositions in each viewing space.

A review of the new museum would not be complete without mentioning a key piece from the Anderson collection: "Lucifer" 1947 by Jackson Pollock. One of the last works by the famed artist that remains in a private collection, "Lucifer" would be welcome in any museum in the world. It is a superb example of Pollock's drip technique, and a vibrant

dance of color and gesture. While it once hung in the Andersons' dining room, it now enjoys a prime spot in the museum's Abstract Expressionist space, along with other important works from the movement by Mark Rothko, Franz Kline, David Smith and Robert Motherwell.

Although the current installation includes 104 pieces from the gift, museum director Jason Linetzky noted, "There will be opportunities to bring in additional works from the original gift. Visitors will see how the experience changes when works are rotated."

The Anderson collection and its archive will be an invaluable resource to Stanford students, especially now that each freshman is required to take one course in what the university calls "creative expression." According to Matthew Tiews, Stanford's executive director of arts programs, the requirement is "the University's way of recognizing that the arts are fundamental to life."

Freelance writer Sheryl Nonnenberg served as a curatorial associate at the Anderson Collection from 1994-1999. She can be emailed at nonnenberg@aol.com.

■ INFO

The Anderson Collection is at 314 Lomita Drive at Stanford. Admission is free, but timed tickets are required for admission. For more information, go to anderson.stanford.edu, call (650) 721-6055, or email andersoncollection@stanford.edu.

Residents: Surf Air noise problem getting worse; new meeting set

By Barbara Wood

Almanac Staff Writer

ast December local residents who live under the flight path of Surf Air, a new airline whose passengers pay one monthly price for unlimited flights on small passenger planes, held a community meeting to complain about the noise from the planes.

The problem, residents say, has only grown worse, despite a series of meetings involving officials from the airline, the San Carlos Airport, the Federal Aviation Administration and representatives of local government. Now, another community meeting has been scheduled.

A group calling itself CalmTheSkies is organizing the

■ ATHERTON

meeting, which will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 30, in the Pavilion at Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave. in Atherton Surf Air announced in early

Surf Air announced in early August that it has new funding and has ordered 15 more eight-passenger planes to add to the three it has been flying. The airline said it plans to expand its destinations and might order as many as 50 more planes in addition to the 15.

Representatives of Surf Air and the airlines will attend as well as local elected officials.

An online petition at Change. org has more than 500 signatures of people asking Surf Air "to modify the approach path to (the San Carlos Airport) KSQL so our communities can once again enjoy a better living environment." Most of the signers live in Atherton, Menlo Park, Palo Alto and Redwood City.

Recent signers have complained of being woken at 4 a.m. and say that "the current flight path is inappropriately routed over residential areas."

"The noise has increased dramatically since the Surf Air started using San Carlos airport for its charter flights," an Atherton resident wrote.

Another Atherton resident wrote: "The increased noise is very disruptive from the wee hours of the morning to very late at night. It has had a substantive negative impact on the quiet enjoyment of my home."

Law defines 'safe distance' for motorists passing bicyclists

A new state law sets 3 feet as a "safe distance" for vehicles passing bicyclists on the road.

The law, signed by Gov. Jerry Brown, requires drivers to give bicyclists traveling in the same direction 3 feet of clearance when passing. Under previous law, a vehicle was only required to pass to the left at a "safe distance."

If traffic conditions prevent

motorists from giving cyclists this space, drivers must "slow to a speed that is reasonable and prudent" and pass when a cyclist will not be in danger, according to the Three Feet for Safety Act.

Violations are punishable by a \$35 fine. Motorists who collide with and injure cyclists while violating the law can be subject to a \$220 fine.

— Tiffany Lam

Today's local news

& hot picks

Correction

A drawing of a new building planned for the Woodside Elementary School campus that was printed in the Sept. 17 issue of the Almanac was mislabeled. The drawing is of two new preschool classrooms that are planned for the school — and not of the new auditorium that is also planned to be under construction next June.



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Tree protest ends peacefully; tree cut down for safety

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

enlo Park's reputation as "Tree City" emerged unscathed despite a man chaining himself to an Italian stone pine tree in Fremont Park early in the morning of Sept. 16 to protest the tree's removal. He left peacefully once city officials explained why the

tree had to be cut down for safety reasons, according to Menlo Park staff.

A group of residents had decried the

removal of the tree on short Henry said. notice, but arborist Brian Henry explained that the pine was falling down at an ever-increasing rate, creating a safety hazard that obviated the need for a 15-day advance notice.

The city was alerted to the

hazard by another resident, who noticed that the tall pine tree had started to lean. The anchoring roots had torn and risen up through the soil, allowing the tree to tilt over the park's water fountain, lawn and walking area, Mr. Henry told the residents. The city decided to proceed with the removal when the tree's lean increased over a short span of

five hours. The tree may be gone, but its wood will live on. The city plans to recycle the pine for use in other projects, Mr.

A man had chained

himself to the Italian

stone pine tree in

Fremont Park.

On Wednesday, Sept. 24, the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled discuss ways to re-use the pine's wood. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Menlo Park Senior Center at 110 Terminal Ave.



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almana

City of Menlo Park workers cut down an old Italian stone pine tree in Fremont Park.

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nts: assets managed, revenue produced and quality of the advisor's practice. Investment returns are not a component of the rankings because an advisor's returns are dictated largely by each client's risk tolerance. The quality-of-practice components includes an evaluation of each advisor's regulatory record."The rankings are based on the universe of applications submitted to Barron's. The selection process begins with a nomination and application provided to Barron's. Principals of Edelman Financial Services LLC self-nominated the firm and submitted quantitative and qualitative information to Barron's as requested. Barron's reviewed and considered this information which resulted in the rankings on Aug. 27, 2012/Aug. 28, 2010/Aug. 31, 2009. Ric Edelman is Chairman and CEO of Edelman Financial Services LLC, a Registered Investment Adviser, and CEO, President and a Director of Pinnacle Summer Investments, Inc. He is an Investment Adviser Representative who offers advisory services through EFS and a Registered Principal of (and offers securities through) Sanders Morris Harris Inc., an affiliated broker/dealer, member FINRA/SIPC ²The Washington Post, Washington Bestsellers Paperback Nonfiction General. April 20, 2014.

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Teaming up for fun run

Special to the Almanac

or the second year in a row, neighboring rival schools Sacred Heart and Menlo are co-hosting the Valpo Fun Run on Sunday, Oct. 5, to build community and raise money for Peninsula Bridge's summer program.

The Atherton schools have decided to alternate where the 5k walk and run starts. Last year the inaugural race began at Menlo. This year it will begin at Sacred Heart's soccer field at 9:30 a.m. at 150 Valparaiso Ave. and follow a flat course that includes Elena, Isabella, Alejandra, and Emilie avenues.

Organizers are hoping to raise \$20,000 and expect to attract more than the 370 registered runners who participated last year.

Racers are encouraged to sign up before Sept. 26, when the entry fees go up. Right now the fee for youth 18 and under is \$15, and will be \$20. The fee for adults is \$20 and will be \$25.

■ BRIEFS

The fee for families of three is now \$50 and will be \$60. The fee for families of four and five is now \$70 and will be \$85.

Online registration will close on Oct. 2 (search for Alp0 fun run 2014) and then will be available at the event.

For more than a decade, Sacred Heart and Menlo have played football against each other in the Valpo Bowl to raise funds for Peninsula Bridge. That match is scheduled for Nov. 14 at Woodside High at 7 p.m.

Bike lanes

Willow Road is about to get greener: Menlo Park will install more green bike lanes through Sept. 25 between Middlefield Road and Alma Street. Work crews will be striping the lanes from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, leading to some road closures, according to the city of Menlo



Portola Valley dances

Square dancing closed out a day of celebration in Portola Valley on Sunday in honor of the town's 50th year of incorporation. The setting sun and a chill in the air accompanied a bass, guitar and fiddle trio as they swung into action shortly after 5 p.m. at the Town Center. The children danced first, then adults joined in as the dance caller and musicians worked their magic.

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Cafe Zoe opens second location

Cafe Zoe, which opened in 2008 in the Willows neighborhood of Menlo Park, opened its second location at 2074 Broadway in downtown Redwood City on Sept. 19.

That evening the cafe's owner Kathleen Daly and her daughter Zoe, for whom the cafe is named, hosted a fundraiser for the Young Minds Advocacy Project. The project is a nonprofit founded by Menlo Park resident Patrick Gardner to improve the lives of lowincome young people with mental illness.

"A place for peace, hope & community" is the motto for Cafe Zoe, a coffee shop featuring locally roasted coffee, homemade pastries, salads and sandwiches.



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Menlo Park buys four affordable housing units

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

ith Mayor Ray Mueller dissenting, the Menlo Park City Council voted 4-1 during a recent meeting to approve the purchase of two Willow Road duplexes for \$1.12 million.

The units, located at 1175 and 1177 Willow Road, will continue to be rented as below-market-rate housing. Each duplex has a one-bedroom, one-bathroom unit that rents for \$500 a month and a two-bedroom, one-bathroom unit that rents for \$700 a month, according to the city's staff.

The duplexes are being sold by the Church of the Pioneers Foundation, which approached the city about a potential sale rather than listing the units with a real estate agency. The purchase price will be paid from the city's below-market-rate housing fund. An outside agency, such as a housing nonprofit, will be found to manage the property, the city staff said.

Saying it was a "close call" for him, Mayor Mueller commented during the Sept. 16 council meeting that he didn't

think the number of units justified the cost. The money could potentially be used for a future public-private partnership that would deliver more affordable units to the city, he suggested.

The other council members acknowledged his point, but seemed to be of the opinion that four units of affordable housing available now trumped an uncertain future possibility of more

Councilman Peter Ohtaki noted that if the city passed on the opportunity, the property would be listed for sale. "If we let that go to market, we will definitely lose those (affordable housing) units," he said.

By buying the property now, the city will also have the option in the future to decide whether the land could be used for some type of traffic mitigation instead of housing, he said.

The sale is contingent on getting an appraisal that demonstrates the property's value is at least equal to the purchase price, according to City Attorney Bill McClure. Should that not be the case, the contract will return to the council for reconsideration.

Two employees to replace contractors

By Barbara Wood

Almanac Staff Writer

ith an upturn in building activities and civic projects in Atherton, the City Council voted at its Sept. 17 meeting to hire two full-time employees to replace the contractors who had been providing the town's code enforcement and arborist services.

City Manager George Rodericks and Police Chief Ed Flint had recommended that the town hire a full-time arborist and a full-time code enforcement officer, who would also be a police department community service officer, to replace contractors who had been working 20 hours a week or fewer.

Reports on the positions showed that hiring a full-time employee would save the town money, even with the benefits.

While both positions will be filled by employees, the town will do something new with the positions — give them an ending date. The arborist position will be for a four-year term, and the code-enforcement officer will be hired for three years. At the end of the term, the town could decide to continue employing the person in the job, replace them, or eliminate the position.

■ ATHERTON

A staff report from Public Works Superintendent Steve Tyler and Theresa DellaSanta, assistant to the city manager, said the town solicited bids from arborists willing to work on contract 40 hours a week and received only one bid, which worked out to \$197,600 annually. The town also advertised for a full-time arborist, which resulted in 21 applications. The salary, based on a survey of how much other communities pay for a similar position, plus benefits would range from \$130,000 to \$150,000 a year, depending on years of experience, the report said.

"That seems like a pretty good deal to me for the town," said council member Rick DeGolia. "I like having the flexibility of having a contract that can be terminated."

Council member Bill Widmer questioned whether a contract arborist would really work 40 hours a week 52 weeks a year, and also whether the town would continue to have enough work for a full-time arborist. "Its not clear to me that that's not a blip," he said about the current need.

In the end, Mr. Widmer joined his council colleagues in supporting the new position.

A full-time code enforcement/community service officer, would cost the town between \$98,000 and \$113,000 for salary and benefits, depending on length of service. The report from Chief Flint and Mr. Rodericks says that the town is currently spending \$112,000 annually for 20 hours a week of code enforcement services.

Council member Widmer voted against the new code enforcement/community service officer. "I'm not convinced there's enough work for a full-time person," he said.

But council member Elizabeth Lewis said the savings from the current cost of a contractor would be significant and that the town probably will soon have more than enough work, as it writes new rules regulating what residents can put in the town's street-side right-of-ways. "It seems like we're going to get double value with less money," she said.

The council also voted to sign a contract with a new company, Player Capital Tennis, to manage the town's tennis courts and facilities in Holbrook-Palmer Park. Player Capital has offered to pay the town \$40,000 a year in trade for having exclusive rights to teach and hold tennis camps on the town courts.

Education interrupted by war? Diplomas are now available

By Tiffany Lam

Special to the Almanac

The San Mateo County Office of Education recently announced that it will award diplomas to veterans in San Mateo County whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime circumstances. Japanese-American citizens whose internment by federal order in World War II prevented them from graduating from high school are also eligible.

The California education code has authorized the granting of such diplomas for over ten years, according to Nancy Magee, public information officer and community relations administrator for the San Mateo County Office of Education.

Although diplomas have

been available since the legislation was enacted, the San Mateo County Office of Education decided to make a public announcement for those who may have been unaware of this, said Ms. Magee.

County residents who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War with honorable discharge or who were interned in a Japanese-American relocation camp during World War II are eligible to apply. Family members of the deceased who qualify may also apply for post-humous recognition.

Go to tinyurl.com/mv3b8eh to fill out an application. For applicants to be recognized at a ceremony on Nov. 12, applications must be received by Sept. 26

No contest plea to burglary charges

A San Jose couple accused of several 2013 Peninsula burglaries has changed a plea of not guilty to one of no contest to 11 counts of residential burglary and one count of an attempted residential burglary, San Mateo County prosecutors said.

In a Sept. 15 pre-trial conference in a Redwood City courtroom, Juan Carlos Ortega-Ramos, 25, agreed to a maximum of 20 years in state prison, and Ashley Lynn Kirk, 24, to a maximum of 10 years, prosecutors said. Sentencing is scheduled for Nov. 6. The couple remain in jail on bail of \$500,000.

The change of pleas came as a jury trial was about to begin, Deputy District Attorney Ivan Nightengale said. Criminal Presiding Judge Susan Etezadi set the plea-bargain maximums. Prosecutors did not object, but because the defendants' conduct was "so egregious and planned out," they chose not to recommend maximum prison terms, instead leaving it up to the judge, Mr. Nightengale said.

The couple worked as a team, prosecutors said. Ms. Kirk worked for PetSmart and gathered information from customers boarding their pets at the San Carlos location while they were out of town.

Ms. Kirk would pass that information on to Mr. Ortega-Ramos, who then burgled the homes, stealing electronic equipment, jewelry and other property, including a Porsche





Juan Carlos Ortega-Ramos and Ashley Lynn Kirk

from a Portola Valley home.

A license-plate check on a Porsche 911S parked on a Belmont street on Sept. 11, 2013, led to a report that the car had been stolen earlier that day from a home on Hillbrook Drive in Portola Valley, prosecutors said. Detectives from the Sheriff's Office got involved and located and arrested Mr. Ramos and Ms. Kirk.

Vehicle-registration fee to rise \$1

The next time they register their vehicles, residents of San Mateo County will be paying an additional dollar in annual fees to fund operations of the county's vehicle-theft task force.

On Sept. 9, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Sheriff's Office request for the fee increase, the first in 20 years.

The vote doubles the fee, to \$2 from \$1, and doubles the program's revenues to \$1.4 million from the current \$704,000.

The state Legislature first authorized counties to collect the fee in 1994 and authorized doubling it in 2013.

The San Mateo County program is fully funded from

fee revenues to pay for staff, undercover vehicles and office equipment, according to the Sheriff's Office. Costs have been rising, particularly for staff and increased task force activity.

Over the 12-month period that ended June 30, the task force recovered 144 stolen vehicles and expects to recover 200 in the current fiscal year, the Sheriff's Office said.



27 local students named National Merit semifinalists

Twenty-seven juniors from three local high schools — Menlo School, Menlo-Atherton High School and Sacred Heart Preparatory School — were among 16,000 semifinalists competing for National Merit scholarships to be awarded in the spring of 2015.

For the finalists, at stake is winning one of 7,600 scholarships with a total value of \$33 million, according to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The grants include 2,500 scholarships from the scholarship corporation, 4,100 from colleges and universities, and about 1,000 from 240 corporations and business organizations.

The local semifinalists are:

- From Menlo School: Simran Arora, Nikhil Bhatia, Emily C. Glazer, Katherine T. Keller, Clarence A. Lam, Eric Luxenberg, Megha A. Malpani, David S. Nahm, Peter A. Rosston, Samuel A. Rubin, Elana W. Shen, Hanson P. Tam, Elaine S. Wong and Elizabeth W. Yao.
 - From Menlo-Atherton High

School: Matthew P. Baszucki, Ryan J. Cole, Alexander A. Iyer, Christopher W. Jarrett, Healey A. Montague-Alamin, Nathan P. Orttung, Erin Perrine and Katherine Webb.

■ From Sacred Heart Prep: Carter W. Boughton, David A. Ferranti, Caroline C. Ho, Alexander Summers and Cole O. Thomson

Students are evaluated for their skills, accomplishments and potential for success "in rigorous college studies," the scholarship corporation said. To be considered, students must complete a detailed application that notes the student's academic record, participation in school and community activities, leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received.

About 1.4 million juniors from 22,000 U.S. high schools apply, the scholarship corporation says. The results do not reflect on the "quality or effectiveness of education within a school, system, or state," the corporation says.

Atherton benefit for lyme foundation

Four bands and three local breweries will be featured at "Hops and Harmony," a benefit for the Bay Area Lyme Foundation on Sunday, Sept. 28, in Atherton.

The event will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Menlo Polo Club field, adjacent to Menlo Circus Club at 190 Park Ave. in Atherton.

Free tick kits will be distributed and there will be demonstrations of how to check for ticks. Research scientists will be on site to answer questions.

In addition to the bands, there will be a free kids' activity tent and free lawn seating. VIP table seating is available for a \$100 donation and picnic lunches will be available for a \$25 donation each. Guests may bring their own

■ AROUND TOWN

picnics.

Lyme disease is widespread in the Bay Area and is one of the fastest growing infectious diseases in the United States, the foundation says. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that about 300,000 people are diagnosed with the disease each year.

Visit bayarealyme.org for more information.

Learning from the Loma Prieta quake

Scientists have had a quarter of a century to consider the 6.9 magnitude earthquake on Oct. 17, 1989, that rocked the Bay Area

and coastal towns along the San Andreas fault. What have they learned?

At 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, USGS Research Geophysicist Brad Aagaard will give a talk, "Ground Shaking in the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake: A view from 25 years later." Ms. Aagaard will address why the ground shook as it did and whether it will shake in similar ways in the future. He will also discuss advances in assessing the impact of earthquakes.

The talk takes place in Conference Room A in Building 3 at the USGS offices at 345 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park. This lecture may be popular. Attendees are advised to arrive 10 minutes to 15 minutes early to get a seat.

Local poet laureate launches poetry campaign, contest

Caroline Goodwin, San Mateo County's first poet laureate, will accept submissions through September for a poetry contest to launch "Poetry Is," a campaign to increase awareness of San Mateo County through the spoken word, organizers say.

"A poem can show life lived in a particular environment, bringing the reader into the physical space surrounding the poet," Ms. Goodwin said. "My hope is that the 'Poetry Is' campaign will showcase our poetry of place and allow for different voices to come together and be heard."

The contest is open to poets of all ages who live in San Mateo County. Poems may be in any form or language, with a maximum of 40 lines. Poets must use the name of the city or town in which they reside in the title of the

poem.

Poems – one per person – must be submitted by email to smcpoetryis@gmail.com.

Selected poets will be invited to participate in readings at the "Poetry Is" celebration on the evening of Oct. 30 at the Belmont Library.

Go to sanmateocountypoet. org/poetry-is for more information on how to submit.

Couple celebrates 65th anniversary

Joseph Ross McLoughlin and Eleanor Julia Lussier were married July 23, 1949, at the Church of Nativity in Menlo Park. Sixty-five years later, they celebrated their anniversary on board a cruise ship headed toward Alaska.

One of their daughters, Julia, and her husband, Wayne, accompanied them on their 11-day adventure.

Joseph owned and operated McLoughlins' Shoe Repair on El Camino in Menlo Park for more than 35 years.

Eleanor, a registered nurse, dedicated her time to raising their six daughters: Eileen Haughton (id), Cecelia McLoughlin (fiance John Dickinson), Julia Usher (Wayne), Mary El Moore (Russell), Joanne Taylor (Bill) and the late Margaret Sarah McLoughlin.





Eleanor Julia Lussier McLoughlin and Joseph Ross McLoughlin.

Their extended family includes 11 grandchildren and four greatgrandchildren.

When Joe and Eleanor are not traveling, they enjoy volunteering at "Little House" in Menlo Park, the farmers' market and the Menlo Park Host Lions Club.

Their family wishes them a very happy 65th anniversary and many more to come.

Submitted by Julia McLoughlin Usher.



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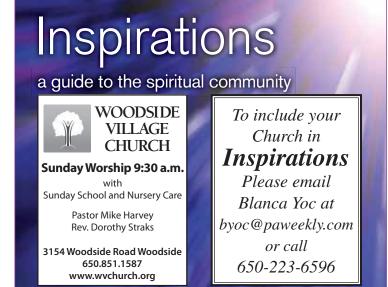






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PLANNING COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING START TIME October 1, 2014 6:30 PM

PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Change to the Hearing Start Time for Planning Commission Public Meetings Planner: Jackie C. Young, Planning Director

The Planning Commission will consider and make their recommendation to the Town Council on a Resolution to change the public hearing start time from 7:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., for Planning Commission regular meetings, which are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

> LLAJ2014-0002, ASRB2013-0015, ASRB2014-0024, NCOU2014-0001, GRAD2014-0003, XMAX2014-0002

Mountain Wood Properties, LLC 201 Mountain Wood Lane and 150 Roberta Drive

Planner: Sage S. Schaan, Senior Planner 201 Mountain Wood Lane (APN 072-201-140) - ASRB2014-0015, LLAJ2014-0002, NCOU2014-

0001, GRAD2014-0003, XMAX2014-0002: Review and approval/denial of a proposal to perform a Lot Line Adjustment (LLA) (LLAJ2014-0002) with 150 Roberta Drive (APN 072-201-360) totaling 11.036 acres to result in two revised lots: 201 Mountain Wood Lane (8.035 acres), and 150 Roberta Drive (3.001 acres); rehabilitate an existing historic barn (Champagne Paddocks) with an Accessory Living Quarters (ALQ); and construct a new main residence, detached pool house that may be used as an ALQ, swimming pool, equestrian riding arena, and new entry gate. Site improvements will include, but not be limited to, grading, new fencing, landscaping, and driveway. The project includes a Change of Use of a nonconforming structure to reconfigure stable and ALQ living areas within the barn (NCOU2014-0001), a Grading Exception to exceed 1,500 cubic yards of grading (GRAD2014-0003), and a Maximum Residence Size Exception to exceed 6,000 square feet (XMAX2014-0002).

150 Roberta Drive (APN 072-201-360) - ASRB2014-0024 and LLAJ2014-0002: Review and recommendation of approval/denial to the Planning Commission of a proposal to perform a Lot Line Adjustment (LLA) (LLAJ2014-0002) with 201 Mountain Wood Lane (APN 072-201-140) totaling 11.036 acres to result in two revised lots: 201 Mountain Wood Lane (8.035 acres), and 150 Roberta Drive (3.001 acres); construct a new main residence, one detached Accessory Living Quarters (ALQ), and new entry gate. Site improvements will include, but not be limited to, grading, new fencing, landscaping, and driveway.

All application materials are available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 - 10:00 AM and 1:00 - 3:00 PM, or by appointment. For more information, contact the Woodside Planning and Building Department at (650) 851-6790.

PG&E to update council on pipelines

Representatives from Pacific Gas & Electric Corp. are set to visit the Portola Valley Town Council on Wednesday, Sept. 24, to update the council on a project to replace underground gas pipelines in the Portola Valley Ranch subdivision.

The council meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road.

The project is scheduled to begin in October, with PG&E replacing 1,600 feet of low-pressure gas main and 11 residential service lines. The affected streets will be Acorn, Ohlone and Valley Oak, where a pipe joint failed in June.

The council will also discuss the housing chapter of the town's general plan with Planning Director Debbie Pedro. The town is preparing an updated "housing element" for the state Housing and Community Development Department to cover the next seven years.

Neilda Freedman Sussman

Neilda Freedman Sussman, cherished wife, mother, sister, and friend, died on September 10, 2014 after complications following heart surgery. She was born July 13, 1940 in Durham, NC, to Sam and Mollye Freedman, who each immigrated from Poland as children. The family was part of Durham's small but close Jewish community. After attending the University of Georgia for two years, she moved to Washington, D.C. in the early 1960s, and worked for North



Carolina Congressman Horace R. Kornegay. On a blind date in D.C., she met her husband, Dr. Howard H. Sussman. Following a lengthy courtship, Neilda joined Howard on the West Coast in 1970 when he accepted a faculty position at Stanford University School of Medicine. They were married in San Francisco in February, 1970, and soon moved to Portola Valley, where they made their home and raised their three children, Sarah, Rachel Sue, and Daniel

Neilda was a full participant in life. In Washington, she kept up with politics and closely followed the capitol scene her whole life. When she moved to California and married she took up tennis, biking, and hiking, and later walking and bridge. However, her main project was her family. She thrilled in her children's accomplishments as well as their day-to-day lives, and loved being a mother and grandmother. She also set an example of community engagement and of treating everyone with kindness and respect. She spent thousands of hours volunteering for her children's schools, Ecumenical Hunger Program, Prevent Blindness of Northern California (iCare), Allied Arts Guild, Women's Committee of the Jewish Federation, Hadassah, and local Democratic political campaigns. Neilda was very involved in the Jewish community and her temple, Congregation Beth Am, where she co-chaired the Caring Committee for 8 ½ years.

Neilda kept in touch with everyone--seeking out and welcoming long-lost relatives, remembering birthdays, and providing support during rough times. She was equally delighted to be a true member of Howard's extended family, and kept in touch with what seems like hundreds of cousins. Neilda treated everyone like family, and was a wonderful friend, confidant, walking buddy, symphony and theater partner and gracious hostess. On her passing, multiple people discovered that they all claimed the same best friend for decades: Neilda. She made time to have true relationships with many more people than most of us even know.

Neilda Sussman leaves behind the love of her life, Howard, daughters Sarah (Nicolas Saint-Arnaud), Rachel Sue (Bernie Corace), son Daniel (Patricia), sisters Ceevah Sobel and Lubah Cohen, and grandchildren Alec, Magali, Ariella, and Avigdor. Her funeral was held at Congregation Beth Am on September 12, 2014. The Sussman family appreciates donations in Neilda's memory to: Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger, 10495 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste. 100, Los Angeles, CA 90025, (800)813-0557, give.mazon.org; Prevent Blindness Northern California, Attn.: April, 1388 Sutter St., Ste. 408, San Francisco, CA, 94109, (800)338-3041; and Congregation Beth Am, 26760 Arastradero Rd., Los Altos Hills, CA 94022, www.betham.org/give.



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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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Making streets safe for kids walking to school

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

mother's anger and the tempest that ensued over a recent incident involving a Menlo Park police officer's decision to help a young child get home after school has resulted in a welcome dialogue about children's safety on our streets. The incident has also provoked misdirected criticism of the officer and the police department, sometimes crossing the line into hyperbolic silliness.

A lively discussion on the Almanac's online forum, Town Square, includes comments ranging from the benefits of allowing

kids to walk or bike to school, to whether the police officer overstepped his duty. The most extreme comments suggest that the incident was evidence that our local department represents a "police state."

The incident in question occurred earlier this month when Sgt. Jaime Romero saw a small boy walking home from Encinal School. According to Cmdr. Dave Bertini, it appeared to the sergeant that the boy was struggling to cross the roadway at Laurel Street and Glenwood Avenue, so he pulled over. When he asked the child his age, the boy said he was 6, according to Cmdr. Bertini, who reviewed the video recording of the encounter. In fact, the boy was nearly 9. And, he couldn't tell the officer what his home address was, although he was able to provide his mother's cellphone number.

Did Sgt. Romero's decision to call for a community service officer to take the boy home in an unmarked car constitute an overreach in his duties to protect the public? The boy's mother says it does. Her son had her permission to walk home from school, and the sergeant's interference could lead to the child's fear of doing

so in the future, she says. "The police would do better to keep an eye on the drivers and be supportive of the pedestrians," she told the Almanac.

Few would disagree that more police on the streets with "an eye on the drivers" who put walkers and bicyclists at high risk would be welcome. But now, let's return to the real world. How many police officers would the city have to hire to patrol the areas around all of our schools, every school day, to cite speeding, or texting, or stop-sign-running drivers? Schools in Menlo Park

and Atherton have been struggling with the question of how to get kids to and from school safely for years, but they also understand that some of the same time-constrained, stressed-out parents dropping the kids off are the same

ones who are putting walking and bicycling children in danger.

The community discussion taking place over the appropriateness of the police sergeant's intervention takes a more productive turn with the dialogue about how we — all of us who drive the streets used by our kids to get to school — make those streets safer by policing ourselves. Parent Erin Glanville writes in her blog for the Almanac (at AlmanacNews.com), " ... the root of the problem doesn't lie with the officer or the mother's decision (to let her son walk to school); the problem is the rest of us who contribute to making a walk to school unsafe."

That's a sound observation, and thinking about that fact — and our personal role in correcting the problem — is a far better way of thinking about the incident than second-guessing a well-intentioned police sergeant concerned about one child's safety on his way home from school.

LETTERS

Specific plan is 'thoughtfully balanced'

Editor

In his guest opinion last week Heyward Robinson claims that "Measure M closes the biggest of the Plan's loopholes preventing office-dominated development from crowding out other uses (cafes, shops, restaurants, services, hotels)."

First, there is no "loophole" in the Downtown Plan. It is a thoughtfully balanced plan which was built under the guidance of economic analysts (and much public involvement), and understands that without day -time workers to "frequent shops, restaurants and hotels," none of the amenities to which Heyward refers will be built.

Second, half of the space in these projects will be residential, half office with some ground-floor retail — a nice balance and a source of evening and weekend business for downtown.

The Downtown Plan is also mindful of the fact that our

Continued on next bage



Woodside History Committee

Looking back

Civic protest was a presence at the 1957 May Day parade in Woodside. These kids were protesting the proposed construction of Interstate 280 through Woodside, according to Thalia Lubin and Bob Dougherty in their Woodside history book. The town had incorporated only the year before, and one of the council's first major efforts was to oppose the freeway, the historians write. The town's resistance couldn't stop the project, although it may have mitigated its impact: An early proposal had the freeway cutting through the center of the town, according to the book.

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

local merchants objected to the 50,000-square-foot retail allotment in the original plan (which caused a lawsuit), because it would take business away from them.

Heyward likes to trash the six years of community process because his views didn't carry the day. Didn't we learn better in kindergarten?

Henry Riggs Callie Lane, Menlo Park

Measure M 'defines' ballot-box zoning

Editor:

Amazingly, in last week's guest opinion Heyward Robinson stated: "Measure M is *not* ballot-box zoning. Under no circumstances will voters be asked to approve individual projects."

The truth is, Measure M defines ballot-box zoning. On Nov. 4, Menlo Park voters are being asked to vote on a 12-page-long ballot measure containing unvetted zoning and definitions for our downtown. But, if Measure M passes, any attempt to fix the measure's mistakes or to change the perproject zoning for the next 30 years must be voted on by us. A lot can happen in 30 years and with Measure M we relinquish our ability to respond to change. Measure M is a mistake for Menlo Park.

Katherine Strehl, Laurel Avenue, Menlo Park

Measure M lacks public input, analysis

Editor:

When I was first appointed city manager of Menlo Park in 2007, one of the top priorities the council adopted was the development of a specific plan for the El Camino Real/Downtown corridor. The properties along El Camino Real where auto dealers once existed were vacant, creating a blighted condition.

Over the next several years a comprehensive process was put into action to obtain resident and business input. Over my 30-plus years in local government, I have never experienced the amount of public meetings that attracted so many interested residents and business owners (at least 100 per public meeting) providing their input. Not everyone agreed on every item but the exchange of ideas that created the final plan was impressive!

Besides the public meetings, the council appointed a Citizen Oversight Committee, which conducted additional public meetings and additional input. All this took place over a four-

A word about your letters

Recent letter writers may have wondered why their contributions haven't been granted ink in the Almanac's Viewpoint pages, even though the writer followed all the rules. We'd like you to know that it was nothing you did wrong: A technical problem prevented correspondence sent to letters@Almanac-News.com since early July from reaching us.

The problem was discovered — and fixed — last week, and we've been sorting through now-dated letters. Some may have fallen between the cracks, however, so if you sent a letter on a local topic during the last 10 to 12 weeks and it hasn't appeared, we welcome you to resubmit it, updated as needed, to our now functioning email address: letters@AlmanacNews.com.

year period. The Planning Commission and City Council were updated regularly, and most attended the many public meetings.

Their final action to approve the specific plan was based on a solid foundation of input and scrutiny by the residents of this city. Now Save Menlo develops its own plan with minimal input (compared to the specific plan process) and is asking our residents to approve a plan that has not been properly evaluated.

Should a City Council ever try to push through a plan of this significance in the manner Save Menlo is trying to do there would be an outcry like no other, and rightfully so.

As the former city manager and a current Menlo Park resident I encourage each resident to consider the lack of public input and analysis of Measure M and vote NO.

Glen Rojas Former Menlo Park city manager

Residents' 12 goals tossed from specific plan

Editor:

Menlo Park, without public notice or input, has reduced the specific plan's 12 goals to just four "major components" (menlopark.org/182/Major-Components). Missing are goals "to ensure that development is sensitive to and compatible with adjacent neighborhoods"; "expanding shopping, dining and neighborhood services"; and "providing residential opportunities."

The primary focus, as evidenced on the city's website and echoed by council members and city officials, is to remove the "blight" from El Camino Real. Although this is a worthy goal, it is not superior to the specific plan's other goals and should not trump them.

During the visioning phase, residents were very clear that they were willing to allow developments with greater massing, height, and overall impact in exchange for amenities including a more walkable/bikeable

downtown, more public spaces, and more retail and services. Current development proposals from Stanford and Greenheart do not fulfill these goals.

The current council appears willing to sacrifice the plan's other goals in order to redevelop the vacant lots on El Camino. This short-term, panicked view is based on the mistaken belief that the lots will remain empty unless the city gives the developers carte blanche.

Downtown real estate in Menlo Park remains a very valuable commodity. Our downtown can be developed without sacrificing Menlo Park's essence or any of the 12 goals that underly the city's specific plan.

Lisa Maloney San Antonio Avenue, Menlo Park

Misstated facts?

Editor:

Heyward Robinson claims (guest opinion, Sept. 17) that the proposed office complexes "exceed the Plan's entire 30-year office projection by more than 60 percent!" They do not exceed the downtown plan's allowances at all — much less by 60 percent! (In fact, they are only 61 percent of the total allowed nonresidential development in the plan.)

Heyward makes an amazing misstatement of fact here.

Mickie Winkler Menalto Avenue, Menlo Park

'Fun' for people not fun for pigs

Editor:

I read Dave Boyce's article about the July 4th rodeo in Woodside and applaud that he came forward to talk about the plight of these pigs, which get chased by a crowd of children and adults. This kind of thoughtless "fun" is certainly none for the pigs.

I hope that through your article some people come to the realization that this is actually cruelty to animals, even if none of them gets hurt.

Walli Finch Westridge Drive, Portola Valley

Is there anything exciting out there to buy?

I was not even in the market for a property or project like this until I had a chance encounter with Steve, and asked the random question "Is there anything exciting out there to buy?" Next thing I know I am in contract in 7 days to buy a 6 acre winery in WOODSIDE with an incredible history.

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DOROTHY KOWAL

DOROTHY GRADUATED
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A BACHELORS OF ENGLISH,
THEN WENT ON TO EARN
HER M.A. IN COUNSELING
AND PSYCHOLOGY
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As a college counselor, she loves to help students see their potential even before they are able to see it. She helps students see the bigger picture by acting as their guide in piecing together the puzzle pieces of who they aspire to be in the future.

When Dorothy isn't teaching, she practices yoga, enjoys settling down with a good book, and traveling to new places.

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