

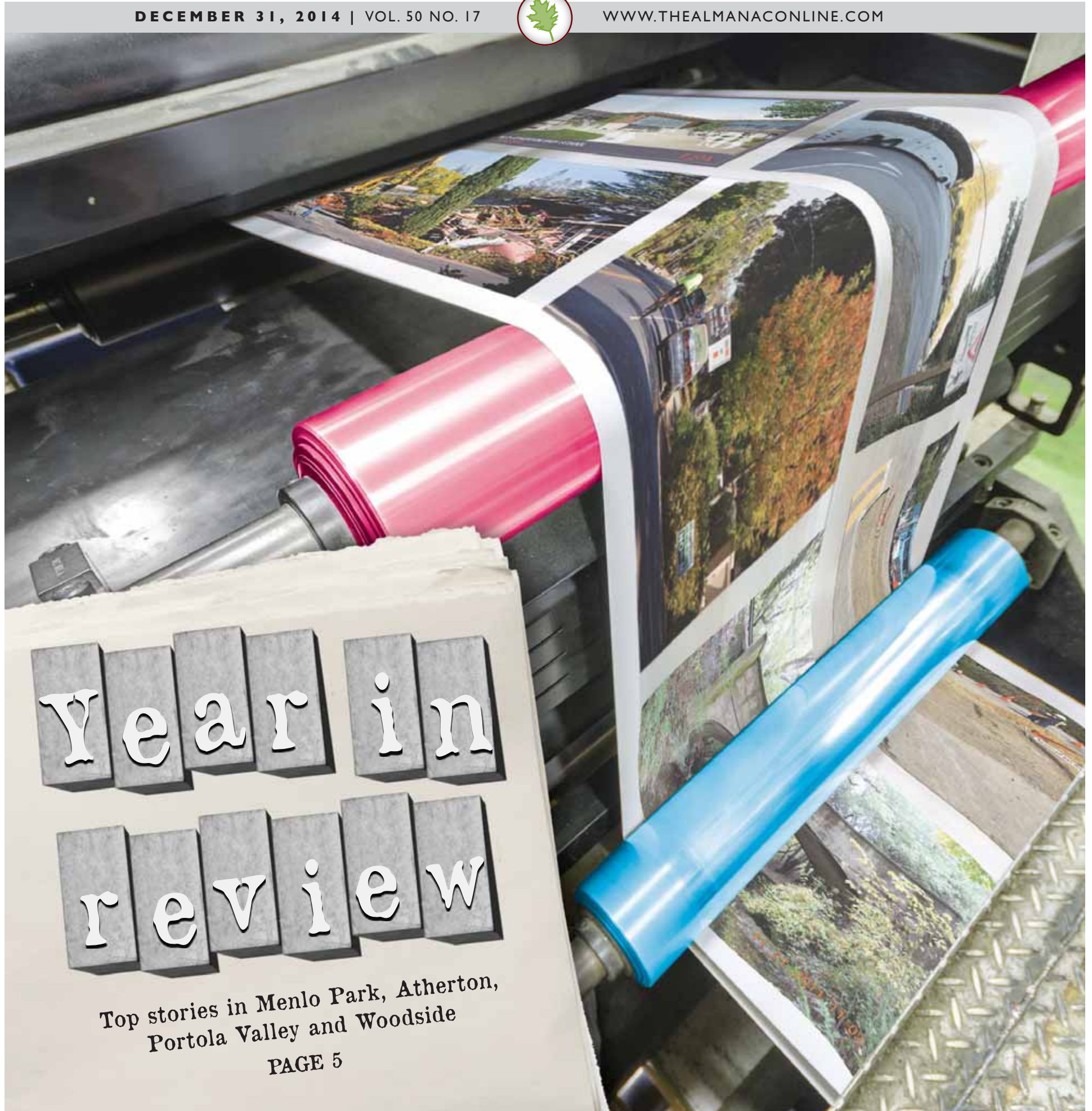
# The Almanac

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

DECEMBER 31, 2014 | VOL. 50 NO. 17



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Year in  
review

Top stories in Menlo Park, Atherton,  
Portola Valley and Woodside  
PAGE 5



2015

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Photo by Kate Daly

**Woodside-Atherton Garden Club** members work to restore the shoreline they adopted in Palo Alto.

## Garden clubbers dig in to improve wildlife habitat

By **Kate Daly**

Special to the Almanac

For over a year, a band of local women has been toiling in the dirt in Palo Alto to participate in what's being called the largest wetland project on the West Coast.

The Woodside-Atherton Garden Club is the first group to adopt a shoreline to help restore the natural habitat of the San Francisco Bay.

The group partnered with Oakland-based Save The Bay, an organization founded in 1961 to protect the Bay, after finding they shared a common interest in conservation.

Club member Peggie MacLeod of Woodside recalls she and Mimi Campbell of Redwood City "got active," attending town and city council meetings to see about blocking the proposed housing complex Cargill Inc. and developer DMB had planned for a salt ponds site in Redwood City.

At the meetings the women heard Save The Bay representatives talk about how the wetlands support over 400 native species. "The organization had

major valuable advice for protecting the health of the Bay," Ms. MacLeod says.

Around the same time, the club's parent group, the Garden Club of America, encouraged members to launch Partners for Plants projects all over the country. Save The Bay's work felt like a good fit.

Now Ms. MacLeod and Ms. Campbell oversee two-dozen women who volunteer regularly to maintain a 0.14-acre nature preserve operated by the city of Palo Alto and located north of the end of Embarcadero Road. The narrow strip runs along a path that lies next to the Duck Pond and the Palo Alto Native Nursery where Save The Bay keeps thousands of seedlings in a shade house and greenhouse.

The partners' goal is to set up a demonstration site so the public can see the connection between native plant propagation and the benefits of restoring the area to encourage wildlife and prevent erosion and flooding.

Back when the city of Palo Alto had a yacht harbor, this part of the Bay was dredged. Now decades later, when the tide comes in and out, the water level

gets so low there are mud flats.

The shoreline along there is known as a transition zone, which Save The Bay restoration project specialist Jack States describes as a "buffer area adjacent to a tidal marsh." He estimates, he says, "about 60% of the area is started, but we need to continue to fill it in with plants so it has lush dense cover" (so wildlife) "feels safer and finds food sources ... and some will be nesting in the plants, preserving the biodiversity that used to be here."

For several hours each month, except during the summer, the garden clubbers hear a presentation from Save The Bay on what needs doing, and then they grab gloves, digging tools, kneeling pads, and buckets and get to work.

The tasks include removing invasive plants (such as wild mustard, fennel and Australian saltbush), weeding, mulching and watering the site, as well as collecting seeds, fertilizing and culling seedlings in the nursery, and then planting over a thousand native plants, such as

See **SAVE**, page 6

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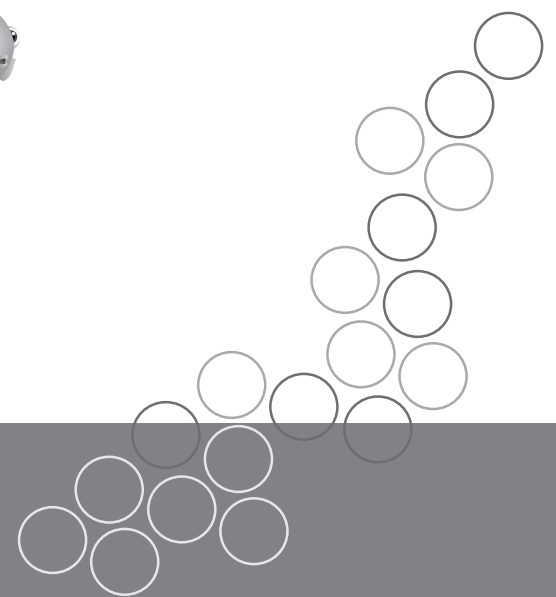
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# Community Health Education Programs



For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures and health education resources, visit [pamf.org/education](http://pamf.org/education).

## January 2015

### New Year, New You

**Jan. 7, 6 – 8 p.m.**

Kim Carlson, M.D., and Aarti Srinivasan, M.D., PAMF Internal Medicine

In this class, we'll give you the tools to achieve your goals, whether it's to lose weight, get off your diabetes pills, or have enough energy to chase your grandchildren around. The new year is a great time to reevaluate where you are health-wise and set goals for where you'd like to go. Our mission at this class is to give you the tools you need to achieve those goals, whether it's to lose weight, get off your diabetes pills, or just have enough energy to chase your grandkids around.

#### PAMF Mountain View Center

701 E. El Camino Real, Conference Room C, Floor 3, Mountain View • **Register online**



### Dementia Caregiver Education Series Financial Planning Tips

**Jan. 15, 1 – 2:30 p.m.**

Tom Bromm, Financial Consultant

#### Sunnyvale Center

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### Dr. Marvin Small Memorial Parent Workshop Series Bye-Bye Diapers: Toilet Training

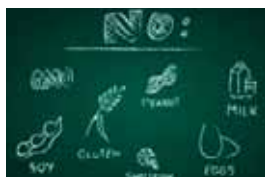
**Jan. 20, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

Heidi Emberling, Parents Place

Like many lessons in life, learning to use the toilet is not one that we can really teach children. However, there are ways that we can help them teach themselves. This workshop includes information that helps you understand how to create an environment and an attitude that will guide and promote your child's progress. You will learn how consistency with a routine can help your child feel more in control and gain independence.

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### Food Allergies and You

**Jan. 26, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

Rajashri Shuba Iyengar, M.D.

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### NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN AMENDMENT TO THE HOUSING ELEMENT OF THE TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY GENERAL PLAN AND THE RELATED INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing to adopt the proposed 2014 Update of the Housing Element of the Town of Portola Valley General Plan and the related Initial Study/Negative Declaration on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 7:30 p.m., in the Town Council Chambers (Historic Schoolhouse), 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California.

The 2014 Housing Element is a comprehensive statement by the Town describing the housing needs of Portola Valley and how the Town's plans, policies, programs and regulations facilitate and encourage the development, improvement and preservation of housing for all economic segments of the community. The 2014 Housing Element update contains eight programs: 1) Inclusionary Housing; 2) Affiliated Housing; 3) Second Units; 4) Shared Housing; 5) Fair Housing; 6) Energy Conservation and Sustainability; 7) Explore Future Housing Needs and Potential Housing Programs; 8) Transitional and Supportive Housing Ordinance Amendment. These programs set forth the Town's strategy for enhancing and preserving the housing stock, for expanding housing opportunities for various economic segments, and for meeting state requirements for the eight year period from 2014-2022. The 2014 Housing Element also provides policy guidance for decision-making related to housing. Copies of the proposed 2014 Housing Element update and the Initial Study/Negative Declaration are available on the Town Website at [www.portolavalley.net](http://www.portolavalley.net) and at Portola Valley Town Hall, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California.

Comments may be submitted in writing prior to the Town Council meeting, and all interested persons are invited to appear before the Town Council to be heard at the time and place herein above mentioned. The Town Council will consider all written and oral communications pertaining to the proposed Element and Initial Study/Negative Declaration.

Public hearings provide the general public and interested parties an opportunity to provide testimony on these items. If you challenge a proposed action(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at a Public Hearing(s) described above, or in written correspondence delivered to the Town Council at, or prior to, the public hearing(s).

Dated: December 22, 2014

Signed: Karen Kristiansson, Deputy Town Planner

# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## School districts get ready for growth

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

### ■ YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2014 local school districts continued to deal with two problems that have plagued them for the past several years: burgeoning enrollment and aging facilities.

In November, the Las Lomas School District demolished a home on a residential property it had purchased adjoining Las Lomas School to make room for more students.

Both the Las Lomas and Menlo Park City school districts passed bond measures in 2013 to allow them to accommodate the wave of new students they have seen in recent years, and 2014 was a year of planning how to spend the bond money.

A proposal to open a charter school in the Menlo Park City School District that would teach most of its classes in Mandarin sidetracked the district from many other issues, including the planning of a new Upper Laurel School that will be built on the old O'Conner School site in Menlo Park.

After the Menlo Park district in April discussed, but declined to act on, a proposal by some parents to start a Mandarin immersion program within the district, backers of the program regrouped and

in September proposed that the district charter the Menlo Mandarin Immersion Charter School.

State law closely regulates charter schools. They are public schools but they can operate independently and disregard much of the state's education code. The district had only 60 days to hold a public hearing and act on the proposed charter.

Many parents and teachers expressed fears that the charter school would take funds from existing district programs. In November, the school board unanimously rejected the proposal.

In early December, proponents of the school appealed to the San Mateo County Board of Education. That county board has scheduled a public hearing for Jan. 7 and is scheduled to make its decision on Feb. 4. If the county board turns down the appeal, the charter's backers have one more chance: they can appeal to the state board of education.

If the charter is approved by May 7, 2015, the school will be able to use a \$375,000 federal grant to pay some of its start-up costs.

### Woodside

The Woodside Elementary



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

**This home** at 272 Alameda de las Pulgas in Atherton was demolished in November so the one-acre property could be added to the adjoining Las Lomas School campus.

School District passed a \$13.5 million bond measure in June. While the district does not have the same problems with growth that the Menlo Park and Atherton schools are experiencing, the school board decided it needed money to pay for long-deferred maintenance costs.

The district also plans to rebuild two classrooms used by a private preschool on the campus, and to build a design lab, where students can use a hands-on approach to learning, and a combination gymnasium and theater building.

Woodside plans to begin construction on all three projects in

June.

The Woodside district announced this fall the addition of two administrative positions. For many years the one-school district has had a superintendent who also serves as principal of the school. This year the district added a middle school principal, Steve Frank, who had been the middle school vice-principal; and a lower grades principal, Pam Duarte, who comes to the district from the Cupertino Union School District.

### Portola Valley

The two-school Portola Val-

ley Elementary School District named a new principal this year. In July, Cyndi Majala, formerly principal at Bret Harte Middle School in the San Jose Unified School District, was named principal of Corte Madera School, a fourth-through eighth-grade school. She replaced principal Michael Corritone, who resigned in late June to take a job in the East Bay.

Portola Valley Superintendent Lisa Gonzales was honored in November when she was one of 100 superintendents in the country to be chosen to attend a White House technology conference. ■

## Atherton focuses on El Camino Real safety

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

### ■ YEAR IN REVIEW

The death of a pedestrian on El Camino Real in Atherton in late July prompted local officials already worried about conditions on the state highway bisecting the town to work even harder to make it safer.

Reducing El Camino from six lanes to four was one of the ideas in a pedestrian and bicycle master plan adopted by the town in 2014.

After working with Caltrans and state officials for months, Atherton's City Council in late October asked for a study of how traffic delays and safety would be affected if El Camino is modified. The council is expected to review a contract

for the study early in the new year.

The town is also working with Caltrans to install pedestrian-controlled stop lights at at least two El Camino crossings.

The pedestrian and bicycle master plan was one of several forward-looking master plans adopted or studied by the town in 2014. A master plan for a new civic center was also adopted and master plans for Holbrook-Palmer Park, the town's only park, and for the town's storm drain system are also underway.

The plans detail a number of projects that will cost far more than the town has in its capital improvements budget. Among



Photo by Barbara Wood/The Almanac

**Caltrans** has made safety improvements to five Atherton intersections on El Camino Real since the town began pressing for them. The improvements include warning signs and new pavement markings at the intersection of Almendral Avenue and El Camino, where a fatal accident occurred on July 23.

the challenges for the council in the coming year will be to prioritize the projects in the plans and decide how to pay for them.

Atherton's City Council made many of its decisions this year short one member, after Councilman Jim Dobbie resigned because of health problems in

March. Mr. Dobbie, who was in his sixth year on the council and had also served four years

See **ATHERTON**, page 8

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(Woodside location only)



{ [www.robertsmarket.com](http://www.robertsmarket.com) }



Photo by Maggie Mah

### Christmas ride

Kathi Dancer drives an antique reproduction carriage on Olive Hill Lane in Woodside. Passengers include Harry the dog, Steve Gray, center, and Patrick Dancer, right. The horses are Zorro, a Morgan from the Amish country in Illinois, and Watson, a 14-year-old Hanoverian from Germany. The annual holiday drive, sponsored by the Peninsula Carriage Driving Club, has taken place in Woodside for two decades.

#### SAVE

continued from page 3

marsh goldenrod, Pacific aster, mugwort and creeping wild rye.

Last February the women put mesh cages around the rye seedlings to shield them from hungry Canada geese. Turns out the geese ate a lot of the seedlings before moving on, so this past November the women planted even more creeping wild rye to cover the same area.

Mr. States says he has seen an increase in wildlife there over the past year, notably jack rabbits, foxes, white pelicans, northern harriers, Ridgway's rail (formerly called California clapper), American avocets, black-necked stilts, and western fence lizards.

The garden clubbers have committed to work on the shoreline project for at least two years. Last year the group donated \$8,000 to Save The Bay and hopes the

funds will be used to erect signage on the site to provide public education on the various plant species being used in the restoration process.

Save The Bay also coordinates workdays at the Ravenswood Ponds, old salt ponds located in the Menlo Park part of Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Student volunteers in fifth-through twelfth-grades, corporate groups such as Google and Facebook, community groups, and individuals have spent many hours there, removing invasive plants and planting new native vegetation to restore the old salt marsh and make islands so the birds have a place to nest.

Go to [savesfbay.org](http://savesfbay.org) for more information about Save The Bay.

*Editor's note: Kate Daly is a provisional member of the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club.* ■

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Photo by Quincy Engineering

**This 114-year-old** bridge on Mountain Home Road in Woodside crosses Bear Gulch Creek and is one of two century-old bridges being considered for rehabilitation with a structural steel plate fitted under the arch.

## Woodside: A year of thinking about town's infrastructure

By **Dave Boyce**  
Almanac Staff Writer

### ■ YEAR IN REVIEW

The quality of Woodside's infrastructure — its bridges and storm drains — were among the top concerns of 2014.

Residents and drivers passing through can be forgiven for not sensing anything wrong when crossing bridges on Mountain Home and Kings Mountain roads. The bridges across Bear Gulch Creek and Union Creek are working well, and are expected to continue to do so.

But they're 100 years old. The state Department of Transportation in 2012 labeled them "functionally obsolete." Later, the town commissioned a \$190,000 engineering study of these bridges plus two others: on Old La Honda Road near Dennis Martin Creek and Portola Road across Alimbuque Creek. The study, published in late 2014, showed that the Kings Mountain and Mountain Home road bridges have structural deficiencies.

Since both bridges are appreciated for their aesthetics and eligible to be designated as historically significant, the Town Council decided to rehabilitate them rather than replace them. The bridges will have curved structural steel plates installed under their arches, fixes that should add at least 50 years to their lives, Town Hall staff say.

Replacement rather than reha-

bilitation is probably ahead for the other two bridges. While neither has potential for historic significance at the state level, the Old La Honda Road bridge has local significance. Alongside it are artificial boulders covered with moss, an artificial grotto underneath and moss-covered side rails. The town is looking carefully at preserving the artificial accents and considering salvaging, restoring or recreating the mossy side rails.

With a replacement bridge, "we want to recreate how you currently enter the neighborhood," Town Engineer Paul Nagengast told the Almanac. "That's what we don't want to lose."

The estimated cost for all four bridges is around \$3.8 million. The town is seeking federal assistance with funding, but it may have to look to its own wallet. The council is planning to hold an infrastructure study session if funding assistance is not forthcoming.

### Maybe next year

Woodside's influence has limits. A request for state funding for a key part of the town's Safe Routes to School program did not make the cut earlier this year. "It's very challenging out there," Town Engineer Paul Nagengast told the Almanac.

Staff had applied for \$855,000 to put a horse-compatible surfaced path along the south side

of Woodside Road between the elementary school and the parking lot at Roberts market. There is an existing path, but it meanders unpleasantly near the road and is bumpy and inconsistent.

The plan was to create a smooth route connecting to other routes to school, to put distance between pedestrians and equestrians and vehicle traffic, and to add four new crosswalks on the school campus and one across Woodside Road in the vicinity of the wooden-fish sculpture next to Dry Creek.

The state offered communities \$129 million in grant money from the Caltrans Active Transportation Program. Among the program's goals: encourage biking and walking, reduce greenhouse gases, enhance public health, and put disadvantaged communities on an equal footing for the money. Communities from all over the state were competing for a piece of it.

### Storm drains

The town spent \$3 million over five years on road maintenance, according to the town's budget for 2013-15. In that same budget is \$50,000 to map a repair and replacement strategy for the storm drain system, and an expectation of spending at least \$100,000 a year for five years to rehabilitate the system.

Costs may increase once the analysis is complete, so the \$100,000 annual allocations are placeholders, Town Manager Kevin Bryant has said. ▀

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### What to Expect In the New Year

Dear Monica: We have been looking for a home for the past few months and have made unsuccessful bids on two properties. Should we expect the real estate market to continue this way into the new year? Sally D.

want to sell their properties, now is a good time and later may not be as good. One can never predict what the market will be like in the future. But it is very good for sellers now.

Dear Sally: There will be more properties coming on the market beginning the first weeks in January and buyers will be waiting. The end of the year has given buyers a much needed rest from a very tight market of multiple offers and never enough inventory to meet their demands. It may be about to get better, though, because sellers are seeing that if they

By March as spring arrives and flowers bloom, there will be many more properties on the market for buyers to choose from. It is typically the peak time of the year for real estate and while competition will still be strong, you will have a better chance of success. So enjoy this holiday break, get ready for 2015, and have a very Happy New Year.

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

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# Tumultuous year for Menlo Park

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

## ■ YEAR IN REVIEW

It will be a long time before anyone in Menlo Park forgets Measure M. Elections in recent years had seemed less divided between the “residentialist” vs. “pro-growth” crowds, but those factions resurfaced with a vengeance during the 2014 campaign season.

The downtown/El Camino Real specific plan, which determines what may be built during the next three decades in the heart of the city, was approved in 2012 after five years of public input. But as two large mixed-use proposals — one by Stanford in partnership with John Arrilaga, the other by Greenheart Land Co. — came forward under the new rules, some residents rallied to get Measure M on the ballot. Their stated goal was to revise the specific plan to restrict the scale of office uses in those projects, among other changes.

The initiative lost big on Nov. 4: 61.3 percent of voters said no to Measure M.

The division was also reflected in the council race. The three incumbents — Rich Cline, Kirsten Keith and Peter Ohtaki — all took a stance against Measure M, and all three won re-election. Their three opponents, Kelly Fergusson, Andrew Combs and Kristin Duriseti had the backing of the “Yes on M” crowd.

That is not likely to be the last anyone hears of Measure M, however. During the final days of the election, news surfaced that City Manager Alex McIntyre had authorized paying \$5,125 to a consultant for tasks that included drafting talking

points and letters to the editor as well as writing website content related to the initiative, without the council’s knowledge.

Mr. McIntyre said only the website content ended up being used, but Measure M supporters have asked the District Attorney’s Office as well as the county grand jury to investigate whether the expenditure was an illegal attempt to influence the election.

One week after the election, Menlo Park experienced its first officer-involved shooting in eight years when a burglary suspect was shot and killed by three veteran police officers during a mid-afternoon pursuit on Willow Road. According to the report, Jerry Lee Matheny, 52, pulled a handgun and pointed it at the police after they attempted to stop the pursuit with a Taser. All three officers fired, according to the district attorney.

At the time of the shooting, Mr. Matheny was wanted by the state for a parole violation related to drug charges, and also had two counts of felony commercial burglary and one count of identity theft pending in San Mateo County.

The officers were placed on paid leave, and the DA started an investigation into the incident, as is standard policy following a shooting. They were cleared to return to work about five weeks after the incident — and before the DA’s review was finished.

Earlier this year the police department provided body-worn cameras to its officers, but the



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

**The controversy** over Measure M divided neighbors, as seen by the “Yes” sign on top of a car near a “No” sign in front of a home on Middle Avenue at San Mateo Drive in Menlo Park.

shooting was not recorded. Only two of the three officers were wearing the cameras. One activated his camera immediately after the shooting; the other did not turn it on at all, according to the DA. The third officer’s camera had been sent off for repairs and at that time the department had no backup units.

The police department is re-examining its body camera policy in the wake of the shooting, and Councilman Ray Mueller has asked for the issue be put on the agenda of a future meeting.

Menlo Park is not the same city as it was on Jan. 1, 2014.

Belle Haven got greener, with the planting of a community garden sponsored by the Rotary Club as the city’s attempts to envision a brighter future for the neighborhood took root. A

long-awaited police substation opened at Hamilton Avenue and Willow Road, offering better security as well as a community meeting place. Belle Haven residents appeared at a council meeting in September to praise the transformation they’re seeing in their neighborhood.

El Camino Real is greener, thanks to the 15-year effort by Trees for Menlo to plant trees along the roadway. The group celebrated completion of the final phase in September.

New businesses arrived — Borrone MarketBar and Bradley’s Fine Diner finally opened; the now-popular weekly Off the Grid food truck event launched. Some community favorites left — the Sugar Shack and Tokyo Subway will close by year’s end.

The iconic Sunset campus,

located at 80 Willow Road and host to the annual “Celebration Weekend” went on the market and was sold to a real estate investment firm about a month later.

Time Inc., Sunset’s parent company, reportedly felt pressure from shareholders to improve its fourth quarter finances and sold the seven-acre campus to Embarcadero Capital Partners for \$78 million, less than the rumored asking price of \$84 million, according to local sources. What will replace it? The answer remains a mystery, although hints of high-density condominiums continue to circulate.

And the Almanac experienced its own sea change this year with the departure of Tom Gibboney, who retired in June after more than 20 years as the newspaper’s publisher. ▀

## ATHERTON

continued from page 5

on the town’s Planning Commission, died in July.

Council members decided not to appoint a replacement for Mr. Dobbie and operated with only four members until December, when newly elected council member Mike Lempres was sworn in.

The November election, with four candidates for three open seats, was relatively calm compared to the 2012 election. The candidates expressed similar views, and the election was so close that its outcome was not certain for several weeks until all the late ballots were counted.

In the end, the three open

seats went to incumbents Rick DeGolia and Bill Widmer, and newcomer Mr. Lempres. But fourth place candidate Rose Hau trailed Mr. Widmer by only 29 votes and Mr. Lempres by 34 votes.

One of the four candidates, Mr. Widmer, surprised the town not long after he was sworn in for his second term when it was revealed that the City Council in the Southern California city of Rancho Palos Verdes had approved a \$215,000-a-year contract naming Mr. Widmer as its new city manager.

Elected officials and residents in both communities expressed concern when Mr. Widmer said he would continue as an Atherton council member

while undertaking the new job. However, less than a week after unanimously approving the contract with Mr. Widmer, the Rancho Palos Verdes council voted to rescind the job offer.

Other controversies that received attention in Atherton during 2014 included an ongoing battle against the noise generated by Surf Air, a new commuter airline that began regular flights in and out of the San Carlos Airport in June 2013. Late in 2013 a group of local residents and officials, including Atherton Councilman Rick DeGolia, began meeting with representatives of Surf Air and the airport to try to alleviate the problem.

In late September, however, about a year later, enough

people were still upset about the noisy planes that nearly 150 people came to a public meeting in Atherton. Surf Air officials promised to try to find ways to make planes quieter, including new propellers and taking slightly different routes to the airport.

Another issue that has generated ongoing controversy in Atherton is the facelift and new bleacher structure for Holbrook-Palmer Park’s Little League field. The project was one of the issues on the contentious 2012 ballot that also included siting a new library in the park. While the measure to allow the library in the park was defeated, more than 75 percent of voters said yes to the new Little League facilities.

The controversy came, however, with the details. Atherton’s Planning Commission said the Little League plans needed changes, especially in the size of the covered bleachers. The City Council in January of this year approved the project with only a few modifications, overruling most of the Planning Commission’s concerns. Construction began in November with completion expected by February for the opening of a new Little League season.

Even after the construction had begun, however, Atherton residents continued to protest the plans. They presented a petition against the bleacher structure to the council in December. ▀



Town of Portola Valley

The red arrows point to the two ends of a gas line feeding a Portola Valley residence at 190 Cervantes Road. The line was accidentally severed on May 6 by the action of an asphalt-grinding machine.

# Portola Valley celebrates its 50th anniversary

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

## YEAR IN REVIEW

Portola Valley celebrated its 50th year of incorporation in 2014 with an extended party that began in January with a flag-raising, continued over several months with periodic community activities, and ended in September with a party.

News occasionally interrupted. Surveillance cameras came to town, natural gas leaks came to streets in Westridge and Portola Valley Ranch and, in view of the ongoing drought, the town added a committee on water conservation to its roster of 14 standing committees. (Go to [tinyurl.com/xpv341](http://tinyurl.com/xpv341) for more information on the water conservation committee.)

### Under surveillance

In March, vehicle traffic in town had been under two weeks of surveillance by license-plate-reading cameras hidden in vehicle speed-monitoring trailers. Deputies from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office were looking for a plate in connection with four residential burglaries over two days, but told town officials about it only on the second day of surveillance.

The Town Council discussed the incident in April, when Lt. Tim Reid of the Sheriff's Office explained that he had borrowed the cameras from the federal Northern California Regional Intelligence Center in response to the burglaries.

The issue returned to the council briefly in June, when Town Manager Nick Pegueros reported denying a Sheriff's

Office request to use the cameras again. Among his reasons: the absence of a threat to public safety, and questions around the security of the license plate data. The data is filed at the regional intelligence center for one year.

The Sheriff's Office is interested in placing a few fixed, always-on cameras in town. Town officials met with law enforcement in August and arranged a presentation for October, when Mike Sena of the regional intelligence center talked about uses of the data and procedures designed to protect it from unauthorized access.

There was skepticism. Councilman Craig Hughes expressed concern that the courts have not settled the question of whether the data is a public record and subject to disclosure. Councilman John Richards called the cameras "shiny new tools" that people want to use. "It's one of those, 'If you have a hammer, everything looks like a nail' kind of thing," he said.

Councilman Jeff Aalfs and Mayor Ann Wengert focused on crime prevention. Mr. Aalfs said he saw the existing use of the cameras in Peninsula communities as creating a "network effect" that implied an obligation that Portola Valley participate.

A negotiating point may be the length of time the data is kept. Two community forums on the cameras are scheduled for February and March, Mr. Pegueros said. Representatives from the American Civil Liberties Union and the Electronic Frontier Foundation will be invited, he said.

### Gas lines

In 2014, firefighters and repair crews were called to leaks in residential gas lines under roads in two locations in Portola Valley.

At Cervantes Road and Peak Lane in Westridge at about 1:10 p.m. on May 6, a crew using an asphalt-grinding machine struck a one-inch residential line a few inches beneath the surface. Repairs were complete by 5 p.m.

Firefighters had set a shelter-in-place order for a 100-foot radius around the leak while waiting for crews to shut off the supply and make repairs. The line may have been too close to the surface because road beds settle over time, and because repaving processes can slowly push a road below its original height, Pacific Gas & Electric Corp. said at the time.

At 5 Valley Oak in Portola Valley Ranch at about 11:20 a.m. on June 18, a bulge in the road and a hissing sound coming from a crack in the asphalt led a resident to call the authorities. Firefighters again issued a shelter-in-place order. Firefighters went door to door to all residences on Valley Oak, Acorn and Bayberry.

The leak on Valley Oak came from a 3-inch gas main, "a significant amount of gas," Battalion Chief Rob Lindner of the Woodside Fire Protection District said. "It could pose a threat to an immediate area."

The fault turned out to be a joint dating from 1984. In August, PG&E announced plans to replace 1,600 feet of gas main and 11 residential service lines in Portola Valley Ranch. The work has been completed, Mr. Pegueros said. ▣

# Pinewood School

Pinewood is an independent, coeducational, non-profit, K-12 college-prep school. Students benefit from **small class size**, **challenging academic curricula**, and a wide choice of **enrichment activities**. We offer an environment where **each student is a respected and vital member of our educational community**. We invite you to explore the opportunity for your student to become a part of the Pinewood tradition of academic excellence. For more information, please visit our website.



## Preview Day January 10th, 2015

### Open House Preview Day January 10th, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
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### January 10th, 2015 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Pinewood School  
**Middle Campus** Grades 3-6  
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Los Altos, CA 94024

Register online at:

[www.pinewood.edu](http://www.pinewood.edu)



## Margaret (Maggie) Brandon

Margaret (Maggie) Brandon, age 88, died peacefully in her sleep on December 1, 2014, of heart failure. She had been a long-term resident of Woodside before moving to The Sequoias retirement community in Portola Valley.



Maggie was born on Sept. 7, 1926, in Fremont, Ohio, and grew up in Fostoria, Ohio, where she was the third of five children born to Russell and Florence Carter.

After being valedictorian of her small town high school, she attended Duke University, where she earned her Phi Beta Kappa in her junior year and graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1948.

In both high school and college, she was involved in numerous extra-curricular activities and invited to join several honorary societies.

Maggie married Chester Brandon that same year, and they lived for two years in Charlottesville, VA, while Chet finished law school at the University of Virginia.

They moved to the Bay Area in 1950, living first in Berkeley and then moving to Menlo Park in 1951 where their two children were born. They moved to Woodside in 1956, and to the Sequoias in 1999. Chet died in 2001.

During her years in Woodside, Maggie served on the Woodside Planning Commission for 11 years, and was chairman for three. She was also involved in many local organizations, ranging from women's auxiliaries to California Republicans for Choice. While occasionally serving as president of these organizations, she was always treasurer of something.

Maggie also worked part-time as a tax preparer for 10 years, a job she found very interesting because of the contact with a wide variety of people. At The Sequoias, she edited the residents' newsletter for six years.

She was also a resolute "do-it-yourselfer." Among her many skills, she was an exceptional gardener and landscaper (which included the building of extensive rock walls) and an excellent seamstress. She was an avid hiker, tennis player, and bridge player.

A trip around the world by herself in 1968 (to visit her sister Nancy, then living in Pakistan) triggered a love of travel. Either with Chet or by herself, she visited well over 100 countries. She hiked on six continents and to elevations as high as 18,200 ft in Nepal. The stories of her adventures in such far-flung and remote places as Afghanistan, Zanskar, Mongolia, Tibet, Namibia, Patagonia, Timbuktu, Bhutan, Iceland, Easter Island, the Amazon jungle, and the Arctic Circle, fascinated family and friends alike.

She was extremely proud of her two children, Nancy Petersen, who lives in Reno, Nevada, and Carter Brandon, who now lives in Washington DC, after living out of the country for years.

In addition to her children, she is survived by her sister Nancy Lane of Rocklin, California, five grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

Her family requests that any memorial donations be made to the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), The Tomorrow Fund at Sequoias-PV, or the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula.

PAID OBITUARY



Rendering architectural firm PA

A rendering of a classroom building planned for the Menlo-Atherton High School campus.

## Voters give high school district green light to expand capacity

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

### ■ YEAR IN REVIEW

The most significant development in 2014 for the Sequoia Union High School District occurred in June with the passage of Measure A.

By a 65 percent majority, voters authorized the district to borrow up to \$265 million to add classrooms and other facilities to district high schools, and to build two small high schools. The new facilities are needed, district officials say, to prepare for a surge of students now in elementary and middle school.

The measure came before voters after more than a year of conversation in local school communities about projections of a 22 percent increase in high school enrollment district-wide by the 2020-21 school year. Local voices rose occasionally in 2013, mostly over district plans to revise a 30-year-old map that assigns home addresses to individual high schools. A particular focus was Menlo-Atherton High School, where projections show a

25 percent increase by 2020-21.

But the controversy seemed to fade in 2014 with acceptance by the M-A community of a significantly larger enrollment as the years go by. The district administration also promised to build one of the two proposed new small high schools near M-A. (The district recently entered into a \$3.4 million contract to buy a 2.1-acre industrial site on Jefferson Drive in Menlo Park near Belle Haven.) Each new high school will have a theme, such as technology or the arts.

In June, the high school board approved a new map, effectively ending three decades of forced busing for students from the Ravenswood City Elementary School District in East Palo Alto. Instead of having to catch early morning rides to Woodside, Carlmont or Sequoia high schools, all of these students are now assigned to M-A.

The new map is not official until the fall of 2015, but board policies allowed Ravenswood

students first choice of attending M-A as of August 2014. The reassignment of some North Fair Oaks households away from M-A is expected to nullify the effect of an influx of Ravenswood students, district officials have said.

### Two-story buildings

The near-term impact of Measure A at M-A came up during a recent board meeting when the architect overseeing the district's master plan presented a rendering of a two-story building to replace Building G. The building has eight classrooms on the first floor and 13 on the second, some with partitions. There's a courtyard and outdoor dining and shared small-project areas between classrooms.

Plans for Woodside High, where enrollment is expected to grow 19 percent by 2020-21, include a new two-story building with seven regular classrooms, a robotics lab and two science labs, and improvements to the student drop-off area on Alameda de las Pulgas. ■

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## Actor Duffy Hudson impersonates comedian George Burns in Menlo

Actor Duffy Hudson will perform a tribute to comedian George Burns at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at the Menlo Park council chambers.

For 75 minutes, he will act, dance and sing in the style of the renowned comedian.

A free wheelchair accessible van service is available for Menlo Park seniors and people with disabilities who wish to attend. Call 330-2512 to reserve a ride.

The council chambers are in the Civic Center at 701 Laurel St. The event is free.

# Judge: City erred in referring to prior allegations of dishonesty

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

A judge has ruled that the city of Menlo Park erred in referring to prior allegations of dishonesty on the job when it fired a police officer.

The decision does not overturn the termination, which will be appealed through binding arbitration.

Rolando Igno was fired in April after nearly seven years with the Menlo Park Police Department, according to a lawsuit filed in the summer with the San Mateo County Superior Court.

In 2012, the suit states, he negotiated a suspension of 100

## Arbitrator will decide outcome of former Menlo Park police officer's appeal of his termination.

hours for failing to appear in traffic court. In exchange, he said, the city agreed to delete allegations of lying from his personnel record.

The suspension agreement also included a "last chance" clause that Mr. Igno "agreed to be terminated if he is hereafter determined to have violated any City or Department policy

regarding truthfulness, dishonesty, or false statements to a supervisor."

The city argued that the allegations of prior dishonesty were contained in a different file — not in a personnel record. Judge George Miram found that line of logic unconvincing. "Whatever file the June 5, 2012 (notice of intended discipline) is maintained in, it is a personnel file" by the law's criteria, the judge wrote in a decision filed on Dec. 4.

The judge went on to rule that the "Last Chance Agreement requires (the city) to revise the findings in the internal affairs investigative

report to 'not sustain' the dishonesty allegations." Thus, the city "shall remove all reference in all documents maintained or now generated concerning allegations of dishonesty from the June 5, 2012 matter."

Mr. Igno's appeal of his termination will ultimately be settled through binding arbitration, but Sean D. Howell, the attorney for the former police officer, said filing the suit in court was a necessary step to determine what the arbitrator may take into consideration when hearing the appeal.

"We feel that the judge's decision was appropriate and we're happy with the outcome," Mr. Howell said. "The union and our client are happy to work together with the police department to have a neutral person review the case on its merits."

Suzanne Solomon, the attor-

ney representing the city, declined to comment on the ruling.

Documents filed with the lawsuit state that Mr. Igno had three previous incidents of misconduct on his record already — failing to appear in traffic court in 2010; a two-shift suspension without pay for speeding through a red light with two prisoners in the backseat of the car in 2009; and failing to show up for an internal affairs interview in 2009.

Police Chief Bob Jonsen, according to a memo included with the lawsuit, in 2013 alleges that Mr. Igno lied about what happened during an off-duty contact with at least one man in a Safeway parking lot in Aptos. The chief invoked the last chance agreement and also made reference to the June 5, 2012, allegations in the memo. ■



Parker is a "Californian" bunny.

## 'Cali' girl needs good home

By Scott Delucchi, Peninsula Humane Society.

Parker is a medium-sized, spayed Californian bunny available for adoption at the Peninsula Humane Soci-

ety's Center for Compassion in Burlingame.

A Californian is a type of bunny with a short, white coat

and beautiful brownish-black accents; in Parker's case, these striking accents occupy her soft ears and little nose.

Parker is a curious and sweet bunny who loves running and exploring just as much as she loves getting pets and head

scratches. She would do well with a family who has never had a rabbit, even if they have small children.

Visit [psh-spca.org](http://psh-spca.org) or the Center for Compassion at 1450 Rollins Road in Burlingame for more information.

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# Rancho Palos Verdes rescinds Widmer's city manager job offer

By Barbara Wood

Almanac Staff Writer

In the end, Bill Widmer didn't have to decide if he was going to resign from his seat on the Atherton City Council to take a job in the Southern California city of Rancho Palos Verdes.

The offer to become the new city manager there was rescinded on Monday night, Dec. 22, less than a week after the Rancho Palos Verdes' council had unanimously approved a \$215,000 a year contract with Mr. Widmer. In a press release, the city said it was "unable to come to an agreement" with Mr. Widmer over the contract and had therefore rescinded the job offer.

When reached by phone last week, Mr. Widmer said he did not want to comment about what had happened Dec. 22. Officials in Rancho Palos Verdes were also close-mouthed, citing possible litigation.

The city's press release said only that the council, which met in a closed session with its city attorney, voted 4-1 to rescind the job offer and continue with the search for a new city manager.

Mr. Widmer surprised many on Dec. 17 when it was reported he had been named the Rancho Palos Verdes city manager. Then he surprised them again when he said he didn't plan to immediately move from Atherton or resign his council seat. The new job was to start Jan. 1.

That decision raised a bit of a flap in both cities. In Atherton, the new mayor, Councilman Rick DeGolia, asked Mr. Widmer to resign. "If Bill knows that

he will have to resign at some point over the next year, then it is in Atherton's best interests for him to do that now," he said. "I have communicated that to him."

In Rancho Palos Verdes, the city was flooded with emails saying that if Mr. Widmer couldn't commit to their city he shouldn't be hired. Others questioned his lack of experience as a public employee.

"Would we have hired a person that need not devote full time to the position?" wrote Christy Kelly of Rancho Palos Verdes. "Would we allow 9 months of commuting?"

Resident Jarel Wheaton had similar concerns. "It seems like someone coming into a new job, especially without hands-on municipal experience, would have a steep learning curve that would require a special effort at the beginning to learn the new organization and people ... not to mention the various and sometimes conflicting demands from council members," Mr. Wheaton wrote. "It sounds like he will be a non-resident for 9 months while he continues to perform as a councilman in his old role. The increased drama surrounding his role as councilman combined with the new drama developing on his lack of commitment to his new city manager role are very concerning."

Former Atherton council member Kathy McKeithen, with whom Mr. Widmer often voted



Bill Widmer

when they were on the council together and one of his endorsers in the most recent council election, wrote in Mr. Widmer's support.

"Having interviewed applicants for the position of City Manager several times, I only wish we had a Bill Widmer apply," Ms. McKeithen wrote. "I know what he can do, his work ethic, his ability to find solutions to difficult problems."

## Other than his four-year term on the Atherton City Council, Bill Widmer has no public sector experience.

Even Ms. McKeithen, however, in a statement appended to her e-mail, questioned Mr. Widmer's decision to try to remain on the Atherton council. "I do not know why Bill Widmer wants to stay on the Atherton Town Council and simultaneously work in Rancho Palos Verdes approximately 400 miles away. Perhaps he has some unfinished business here in a town he loves. Perhaps the parties want to make sure the fit is right. For whatever the reason, who are we to question him?" she wrote.

Ms. McKeithen also warned in her e-mail against taking counsel from Atherton residents.

"Atherton is a town of wealthy residents who want what they want," she wrote. "This includes the homes they want, often

without regard to building codes, tree ordinances, zoning laws, construction rules, noise standards or other code enforcement. ... Any questions raised with regard to this group were and still can be met with rather unfortunate consequences."

The Rancho Palos Verdes council received an offer from public management veteran Mike Segrest to work as an interim city manager. Mr. Segrest, who has worked for public agencies since 1974, including serving as city manager in Moraga, and in Snowmass Village, Colorado, wrote that "being a new city manager requires a great deal of time and more than full-time commitment to Rancho Palos Verdes."

Other than his four-year term on the Atherton City Council, Mr. Widmer has no public sector experience. He has worked in management for high-tech companies locally and internationally, and currently has a management consulting practice. He has a bachelor's degree in computer sciences and an MBA from Texas Christian University, and completed an executive program at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Mr. Widmer's council colleagues found out about the new job only after Atherton City Manager George Rodericks was contacted on Dec. 17 by reporter Megan Barnes of the Daily Breeze, based in Torrance, California, for a comment on Mr. Widmer's new job.

Mr. Widmer did not mention the new job at the Atherton council meeting that night, but told other council members after the meeting, after Mr. Rodericks had told him he knew about it.

The contract, posted online by Rancho Palos Verdes, required Mr. Widmer to "relocate from

his current residence to another residence that is within or near the city" but also offered him a "temporary travel and housing allowance" of \$3,000 per month starting Jan. 1 for a maximum of nine months.

The contact also stated that Mr. Widmer was not allowed to "spend more than an average of four hours per week in ... non-employer related business without the prior approval of the council." Mr. Widmer said he now spends 20 to 30 hours a week on Atherton council business and that the prohibition applied only to paid employment, not volunteer work.

When the mayor and others in Atherton started asking for his resignation, Mr. Widmer said he was not ready to resign. "I'm not going to be bullied out of office. I'll make my own decision in my own good time," he said.

Mr. Widmer argued that the contact only required him to have a place to live near Rancho Palos Verdes, not to move there.

"I'll have an apartment down there and I'll come back when I can," he said. "I've got nine months to decide what I need to do."

According to a staff report to the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council, Mr. Widmer was chosen from among 49 applicants for the job.

Mr. Widmer said he had applied for the job before filing for re-election "and then nothing happened." Only near the end of October was he interviewed, he said. He was called for a second interview on Nov. 5. "Nothing was finalized. You don't know what you've got until you're there," he said.

In the Nov. 4 Atherton election, he came in third in a four-person race for three open council seats, 29 votes ahead of losing candidate Rose Hau. ▀



## Park furniture

In November, chain-saw sculptor John Mahoney put finishing touches on a chair, seen here from the back, that he carved from the stump of an old pine tree that, until recently, towered majestically over one side of Fremont Park at Santa Cruz Avenue and University Drive in Menlo Park.

Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac



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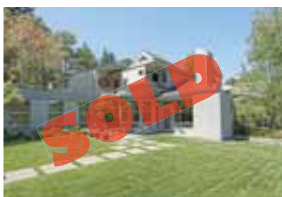
Two adjacent lots in Woodside off Country Road in Kings Mountain Area. Combined lots total approximately 10,000sf (each parcel is 5000 sq ft). The property backs up to Huckleberry Trail. Currently no road access except shown on plat map. Endless possibilities!



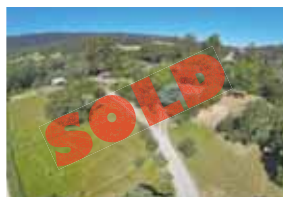
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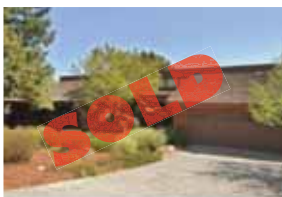
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SAN MATEO



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HALF MOON BAY



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*The David and Lucile Packard  
Foundation*

The Almanac will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2013, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

## Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula

Provides after-school and academic support and activities for 1,750 at-risk K-12 youth at nine locations in Menlo Park and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City. Members attend at least twice a week during the academic year and receive essential tutoring, mentoring, and academic support.

## Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households. †

## Project Read

Provides free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. Trained volunteers work one-on-one to help adults improve their basic reading, writing and English language skills so they can achieve their goals and function more effectively at home, at work and in the community. Volunteers also help students acquire basic keyboard and computer skills.

## Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinics in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto. It also operates a mobile clinic at school sites. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

## St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded entirely by voluntary contributions, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers emergency food and clothing assistance.

## Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 52 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to more than 250,000 people each month through more than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

## InnVision Shelter Network

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

## StarVista

Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people, families with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education, and residential programs. StarVista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

## Fair Oaks Community Center

Provides housing and food assistance, emergency shelter referral, legal services, a childcare program, older adult nutrition, and low-cost exercise programs for youth and adults.

## Teen Talk Sexuality Education

Teen Talk helps young people feel confident and supported to make informed decisions about their own sexual health through in-school programs, parent education, and training for youth program providers.

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The Almanac

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The Almanac Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. A contribution to this fund allows your donation to be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

*Thank you for  
supporting The Almanac  
Holiday Fund*

**Through December 21, \$77,368  
has been raised for the Holiday Fund**

17 Anonymous .....	28,550	Mark Weitzel .....	*
Mayling Dixon .....	*	Dorothy Kennedy .....	*
Nanci Yuan .....	100	Lauren & Julie Mercer .....	200
Joan Rubin .....	100	Sandy & Andy Hall .....	*
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2012 file photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

**A volunteer and a Skyline resident, Kathy Craig, fills lunch trays with salad at St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room.**

## St. Anthony's celebrates 40 years of service

*By Bob Dehn, volunteer, St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room.*

**R**ob comes to St. Anthony's Dining Room to talk with his buddies, as well as to eat his main meal of the day. He is one of more than 500 guests a day who can get a complete hot meal, Monday through Saturday, all year long, at the Dining Room on Middlefield Road at the Atherton-North Fair Oaks border.

The Dining Room serves a hot multicourse meal to anyone in need. No fees are charged nor questions asked. No one is turned away.

Meals are served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily (except Sunday). In addition to a hot meal, guests may take home a bag of food items including fresh produce.

### **More than a 'soup kitchen'**

St. Anthony's Dining Room is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. In addition to the hot meal program and take-home packages of food, the Dining

### **HOLIDAY FUND**

Gifts to the Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room.

Room is a place to meet, to talk, and to share information about possible new support services, job openings, and what is happening.

St. Anthony's Dining Room also serves patrons with basic health consultations through the assistance of a San Mateo County public health nurse who comes to the Dining Room one day each week. There is a Clothing Distribution Center that provides shoes, clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, and baby and infant wear to 800 patrons a month.

### **Holidays**

Thanksgiving and Christmas are the busiest days of the year, serving as many as 1,000 meals on these holidays. With the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, toys are collected during the Christmas season. As

many as 2,000 children receive new, unwrapped toys during an annual giveaway event held in the parking lot on Christmas Eve morning.

### **For and by people**

St. Anthony's is funded by donations and grants from many individuals, local businesses and foundations. The cost of serving over 135,000 meals this year is huge and additional donations are welcome and needed.

St. Anthony's operates through the work of more than 150 dedicated core volunteers, and many other helpers. New volunteers are always appreciated.

At St. Anthony's, "We do not believe in miracles. We count on them."

Go to [paduadiningroom.com](http://paduadiningroom.com) or call (650) 365-9664 to learn more about donating and volunteering with St. Anthony's. The address is: St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room, 3500 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025. The email address is: [paduadiningroom@gmail.com](mailto:paduadiningroom@gmail.com). ■

# School board gets update on world languages

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

Reports from Menlo Park City School District administrators about the Spanish immersion program and how to make study of world languages available to all district students drew a big crowd to a Dec. 9 school board meeting.

The report on the Spanish immersion program came from Alicia Bowman, the district's director of program evaluation and research. In the immersion program, most instruction is in Spanish in early grades. The percentage of English instruction increases in upper grades until it reaches a 50-50 ratio by fifth grade.

Ms. Bowman said a study of the immersion program, which in June graduated its first group of fifth-grade students who had been in the classes from kindergarten on, showed it "was a successful pilot."

"We know it's successful," she said. "How can we make it better?"

Some parents and teachers suggested the district do that by putting all its Spanish immer-

sion programs on one site, giving teachers the opportunity to work together and share resources. Speakers also asked for a reading specialist to be hired to work in Spanish with children who have difficulty reading. Board members did not discuss either point.

Ms. Bowman said the district should consider ending its "dual immersion" goal.

"A dual language program implies approximately 50 percent English heritage and 50 percent Spanish heritage speakers," Ms. Bowman explained after the meeting. "The intent is that both groups of students will serve as role models for each other's language."

But the district does not have enough Spanish heritage speakers to keep the ratio at 50/50, especially in higher grades, she said. "This would suggest that the district change to a Spanish immersion program with primarily English-speaking children."

Spanish-speaking children could still take part in the program, she said. "The intent is to exclude no one. It is simply to establish the teacher as the primary language model for

**'The intent is to exclude no one. It is simply to establish the teacher as the primary language model for students instead of relying on students for this role.'**

ALICIA BOWMAN, DISTRICT'S DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM EVALUATION

students instead of relying on students for this role."

Consultants from Stanford University, who had looked at the programs, had made the suggestion to end the dual-immersion label. They said the district's program, in reality, is not dual immersion anyway.

Changing the program would allow more English-speaking students to compete for the limited available spots. The district now has a Spanish-immersion waiting list of 46 English-speaking students and four Spanish-speaking students.

Ms. Bowman's report showed

that while children who entered the program as English speakers learned Spanish while remaining competitive with their non-immersion classmates in math and English test scores, results were not as encouraging for native Spanish speakers.

Despite district officials' hopes that the immersion program would improve test scores for Spanish-speaking students, those children did not surpass their Spanish-speaking non-immersion classmates, who tend to test behind other district students.

## World languages

Jennifer Kollmann, the district's director of curriculum and instruction, gave a report on how the district could provide world language instruction for all its students.

In 2008 the district adopted a "strategic goal" of offering a world language program for all district students "to build literacy in language other than English" and cultural appreciation, as well as prepare the students for advanced high school language study.

To meet the goal, two programs began: Spanish immersion and "Spanish for All" in

third, fourth and fifth grades, which was to expand to kindergarten, first and second grades. After two years, due to "budget and implementation problems," Ms. Kollman's report said, the program was suspended.

Among the suggestions in her report is that next school year, Oak Knoll School add its own Spanish immersion program. She also suggested that another world language be added as an elective at Hillview, which offers French, Spanish and a new Spanish for Spanish-speakers class.

More study needs to be done on how to offer world language to all students, she said, with the idea that such programs would possibly start in the fall of 2016.

The district board discussed, but did not vote on the reports, with several board members expressing the hope that schools will make their own decisions on their world language programs.

"I don't have any intention of telling Laurel or Oak Knoll or Encinal how to design its program," said board member Terry Thygesen. "We want every family who wants that opportunity for their child to be able to avail themselves of it." ■

## Locals fare well at cross country Junior Olympics

By Tina Lount, coach, Woodside Wildebeest Youth Running Club.

Local youth runners traveled to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, to compete in the Junior Olympic Youth National Club XCountry Championships on Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Whispering Pines Golf Course.

About 3,400 athletes, ages 7-18, competed in the event, which represented 16 regions of the United States and more than 300 track teams. The largest field was 11- and 12-year-old girls, with 422 competitors.

There were several stellar age-group top 40 individual finishes from among the Bay Area youth runners. Following are some of the results.

■ Justin Pretre, Woodside Wildebeests, age 9, 14th place; 3 kilometers in 10:57.

■ Kyra Pretre, Woodside Wildebeests, age 12, 20th place; 3 kilometers in 10:50.

■ Colton Colonna, Menlo iGreyhounds, age 14, 22nd place; 4 kilometers in.

■ Sophia Gallo, Palo Alto Lightning, age 10, 24th place; 3 kilometers.

■ Landon Pretre, Woodside



**Before their race:** Claire Yerby, 12 of Half Moon Bay, left and Kyra Pretre, 12, of Woodside.

Wildebeests, age 7, 28th place; 2 kilometers in 8:11.

■ Emilio Cardenas, Peninsula Flyers, age 10, 32nd place; 3 kilometers.

■ Claire Yerby, Woodside Wildebeests, age 12, 38th place; 3 kilometers in 11:05.

Runners finishing in the top 25 spots were awarded All-American medals.

The Peninsula Flyers team also fielded a 12-year-old boys team that finished 11th of 28 in the team competition. The team was led by the performances of Christopher Pearson (43rd) and Justin Chiao (48th). ■

## Housing for veterans

This is a rendering of a new living facility with 60 units of housing to be built for homeless and at-risk veterans on the Menlo Park campus of the Department of Veteran Affairs. Six one-bedroom and 54 studio units will be available, with monthly rent ranging from \$574 to \$792. Willow Housing LP says it plans to have the project completed by December 2015.



Artistic rendering courtesy VA Palo Alto Health Care System

## Bradley's Fine Diner to add lunch and brunch

By Elena Kadvany

Starting in the new year, Bradley's Fine Diner (BFD) in Menlo Park will be adding lunch and brunch service. Brunch will be served starting Saturday, Jan. 3, and continue on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Lunch will be available Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Dinner service, available since the opening, is from 5 to 9 p.m. every day and until 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.)

Acclaimed chef Bradley

Ogden opened BFD, his version of a modern California diner, across from the Caltrain station at 1165 Merrill St. in November.

In that vein, brunch will include starters like wood-grilled flatbread with shrimp and pesto; artisan grilled cheese bites; chive pancake with trout salad and meyer lemon creme fraiche; Rockefeller oysters and mains such as buttermilk souffle pancakes and short rib hash with roasted root vegetables, to name a few.

Items will, of course, rotate depending on seasonality and

availability. There's also the typical French toast, scrambles, and a burger.

BFD will be offering similar starters for lunch (flatbread, salads, crab crakes, soup). Lunch mains include fish and chips, chicken breast, ham and cheese sandwich topped with a fried egg, grilled local sturgeon, vegan Bolognese and oak-grilled pork rib chop.

They also have a full liquor license, so expect brunch-style drinks on the weekends. ■

Go to [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com) to see Elena Kadvany's food blog, *Peninsula Foodist*.

# Downtown fire station passes commission review

By **Sandy Brundage**  
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park's downtown fire station is a step closer to undergoing a top to bottom renovation.

The new station will "be something people will be pleased to see in their neighborhood," Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman told the Planning Commission during a hearing on Dec. 15.

It will include a 7,857-square-foot, two-story firehouse; a 1,003-square-foot, single-story vintage vehicle display building; and a 342-square-foot carriage house that will be relocated from the district's Middlefield Road headquarters.

The project requires merging two lots — 700 Oak Grove Ave. and 1231 Hoover St. — as well as demolition of the current station and a house.

The lot merger became a

source of contention during the recent election. Those standing against Measure M, an initiative to change the specific plan, argued that the initiative, if passed, would then require a special election to approve the fire-station project since one lot sits within the specific plan's boundaries while the other does not. Initiative proponents argued that wasn't true. However, the debate ended when Measure M did not pass.

Fire trucks from the 1930s and 1950s, along with a hose wagon dating back to 1900, will go on display at the new station.

In response to neighborhood concerns, district representatives said the display building will not revert to an active station in the future, and the station will not be used to host events such as wedding receptions.

"There won't be any raging parties going on at the firehouse ... that I'm aware of,

anyway," Chief Schapelhouman said.

"We're very excited for the community," said Planning Commission chair Ben Eiref after a 7-0 vote in favor of allowing the project to proceed to the council for final approval.

Construction is expected to take place over two years, with Station 6 at 700 Oak Grove Ave. remaining open for operations throughout, according to the fire district. ■

## Interim public works director now permanent

Jesse Quirion, who has been filling in as interim public works director for Menlo Park for about six months, has now been appointed to the permanent position, the city announced on Monday, Dec. 22.

He stepped into the new role on June 20 after Chip Taylor left to become public works director in Millbrae.

Hired as the transportation manager in 2013, Mr. Quirion has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and a master's in public administration from Nova Southeastern University.

### Historic tour map

A free map of 28 historic sites in Menlo Park is now available, courtesy of the Menlo Park Historical Association. The map folds into a packet small enough to fit into a pocket or purse. Copies are available at both local libraries, city hall and numerous businesses, including Cafe Zoe and Little House.

The map may also be ordered via an email to [mphistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:mphistorical@yahoo.com); the association requests a \$1 donation to cover postage costs.

### Cookies for inmates

Students from JobTrain, a Menlo Park-based nonprofit that specializes in vocational training and placement, have baked more than 10,000 cookies for inmates at San Mateo County jail, to be

### ■ BRIEFS

delivered on Christmas.

The annual "cookie project" was launched in 2006. Some of those participating have both given and received.

"Last year I was in jail, and it was nice to get cookies at the holidays," said Franklin Vasquez in a JobTrain press release. "I was in a situation where I didn't expect anything. I was touched that the students made cookies for us. Now I'm in the work furlough program at JobTrain, enrolled in Culinary Arts, and learning great cooking skills from Chef Adam."

He plans to graduate from the nonprofit program in February and pursue a career as a baker.

### Robert Garcia joins Cresa San Jose

Robert Garcia of Woodside recently joined the staff at Cresa San Jose as a senior vice president of project management. Cresa is a corporate real estate advisory firm that represents tenants.

Mr. Garcia has 36 years of project management experience. Over the course of his career, he has focused on managing the build-out of technical spaces for semiconductor, healthcare, pharmaceutical and medical device companies.



Robert Garcia

### ■ BIRTH

#### Atherton

■ Sabah Mansoor and Asim Husain, a daughter, Nov. 25, Sequoia Hospital.

#### Menlo Park

■ Whitney and Michael Lau, a daughter, Oct. 11, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Rebecca and Martin Frid-Nielsen, a son, Nov. 2, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Karina Valverde and Jose Lopez, a son, Nov. 6, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Mayra Espinosa and Leonardo Suarez, a son, Dec. 10, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Rosalinda and Erick Fesili, a son, Dec. 11, Sequoia Hospital.

#### Woodside

■ Rachael and Ari Nepon, a son, Nov. 5, Sequoia Hospital.



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*-Suzanne, Palo Alto*



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CALENDAR

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

Art Galleries

**'How Does Your Garden Grow'** The Portola Art Gallery will host an exhibit called "How Does Your Garden Grow," composed of watercolor paintings by Barbara von Haunalter. Many pieces are plein air work created in or nearby the San Francisco Bay Area. Monday-Saturday, Dec. 1-31, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free. Allied Arts Guild, Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-321-0220. www.portolaartgallery.com

**'Treasures Revealed'** The Portola Art Gallery will host "Treasures Revealed," a joint exhibit of work by Shaowei Liu and Yvonne Newhouse with watercolor paintings of brief, precious moments in life. Monday-Saturday, Jan. 1-31, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-321-0220. www.portolaartgallery.com

Benefits/Fundraisers

**'Harold Who?' benefit concert** Steve and Anne Gill will present their 14th annual benefit concert for The Lighthouse for the Blind called "Harold Who?" The event will focus on the life and work of Harold Arlen, composer of the music for "The Wizard of Oz" and the songs "That Old Black Magic" and "It's Only a Paper Moon." Jan. 10 and 11, 7:30-9 p.m. \$15 suggested donation. Menlo School, Spieker Ballroom, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton. Call 650-948-4648.

Classes/Workshops

**Movers and Shakers Pre-Toddler Class** This PlaySteps class for babies approximately 5 to 12 months old, and their parents and caretakers, will encourage movement and play in order to develop strength, balance and coordination. Tuesdays, Jan. 6-March 24, 10-10:45 a.m. \$154 Menlo Park resident; \$207 nonresident. Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center, 849 Menlo Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-323-0805. www.play-steps.com

**Overdrive eBooks/eAudiobooks help** The Portola Valley Library will free weekly, one-on-one appointments for community members to receive assistance in accessing the library system's collection of e-books. Contact the library to sign up. Wednesdays, Jan. 7-28, 4-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Clubs/Meetings

**Rotary Club of Menlo Park** The Rotary Club of Menlo Park, a service club dedicated to working on both community and international projects, meets weekly on Wednesdays. The group is composed of men and women who live and work in Menlo Park, Atherton and surrounding communities. Visitors are welcome. Wednesdays, Nov. 5-Dec. 31, 12:15-1:30 p.m. \$20 lunch. Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. www.menloparkrotary.org

Exhibits

**'Loose in Some Real Tropics'** The Cantor Arts Center will arrange an exhibit called "'Loose in Some Real Tropics': Robert Rauschenberg's 'Stoned Moon' Project, 1969-1970," which shares and documents Rauschenberg's lithographs, drawings, photographs and correspondence from his participation in the NASA Art Program capturing the Apollo 11 mission. Wednesday-Monday, Dec. 24-March 16, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday til 8 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

**'Movements for Change'** The Peterson Gallery at Stanford will mount an exhibit of photography by Bob Fitch called "Movements for Change," which captures moments

in American civil rights history, farm workers organizing and the peace movement of the 1960s and '70s. The exhibit is accessible daily, except for some holidays. Nov. 20-Feb. 21, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Green Library, Bing Wing, Peterson Gallery and Munger Rotunda, 557 Escondido Mall, Stanford. Call 650-725-1020. library.stanford.edu/spc/exhibits

**'Sensual Splendor'** The Lynn Krywick Gibbons Gallery will have on display an exhibit called "Sensual Splendor: Medieval Art from the Cantor Collection," which includes medieval icons, funerary portraits and textiles from Byzantium, the Latin West and Islam. Through March 30, Wednesday-Monday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday til 8 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

Family and Kids

**Babies & Books Storytime** This Portola Valley Library event for the very young will include rhymes, songs, lap play and short stories. Age-appropriate toys will be available at the end of the session. Jan. 12, 11-11:30 a.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

**January Free First Friday** The Free First Friday program at the San Mateo County History Museum will continue with free admission and activities for all ages. At 11 a.m., preschool-age children can learn about cars, make automobiles out of cardboard and listen to a reading of the story "Cool Cars." At 2 p.m., docents will lead a tour of the museum for adults. Jan. 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.historysmc.org

**Kenn Adams' Adventure Theater** Kenn Adams' Adventure Theater will present "Episode I: Adventure in Space," an interactive theatrical event for ages 5 and up. Members of the audience will create the story and play the main characters as they travel in a flying saucer and battle evil. Jan. 12, 4-5 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org

**Music Monday for Babies** This Portola Valley Library event for ages 3 and under will include singing, dancing and age-appropriate toys at the end of the session. Jan. 5, 11-11:30 a.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

**Toddler Dance Party** Bonnie Lockhart will perform at Atherton Library's Toddler Dance Party, which will lead into a regular Toddler Storytime session. This event for children 18 to 36 months old is sponsored by the Friends of the Atherton Library. Jan. 6, 10:30-11 a.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org

**Toddler Storytime** The weekly Toddler Storytime events at the Portola Valley Library will include songs, stories and movement activities to encourage toddlers 18 to 36 months old to listen and read. Age-appropriate toys will be available at the end of each session. A special activity will follow story time on Jan. 20. Tuesdays, Jan. 6-27, 11-11:30 a.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Health

**Black Light Yoga Dance Party** Menlo Pilates and Yoga will hold a yoga dance party in a black-lit room, with optional face and body painting available prior to the class. The event will include a slow warm-up, vinyasa yoga, trance and house music, and Savasana and meditation. Jan. 10, 6-8 p.m. \$18. Menlo Pilates & Yoga, 1011 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 843-822-2598. www.menlopilatesandyoga.com

**New Year's Day Yoga Class** This yoga course will help community members kick off the year with stretching, movement, seated



'Treasures Revealed'

"Four Hand Mozart" by Shaowei Liu is one of the watercolor paintings that will be included in her joint show with Yvonne Newhouse, titled "Treasures Revealed," at the Portola Art Gallery during January. Ms. Newhouse is also a watercolor artist. A reception will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at the gallery, located at the Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park.

poses and meditation. Jan. 1, 9:30-11 a.m. \$18. Menlo Pilates & Yoga, 1011 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-854-3864. nonenberg@aol.com

Food and Drink

**New Year's Eve Celebration at LB Steak** LB Steak Menlo Park will offer a limited regular a la carte dinner menu and a \$75.50 four-course prix fixe meal, as well as festive decorations, complimentary sparkling wine and party favors. The last seating will be at 11 p.m. Dec. 31, 4 p.m.-midnight. Prices vary. LB Steak Menlo Park, 898 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-321-8980. www.lbsteak.com

**New Year's Eve Celebration at Left Bank** For New Year's Eve, Left Bank Brasserie Menlo Park will serve a limited regular menu and a four-course prix fixe dinner. There will also be balloons, streamers, sparkling wine and party favors. The last seating will be at 11 p.m. Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m.-midnight. Prices vary. Left Bank Brasserie Menlo Park, 635 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-473-6543. www.leftbank.com

**Portola Valley Farmers' Market** This weekly, year-round farmers market in Portola Valley will offer farmstead meat, chicken, eggs, organic veggies, fruits and juices, wild and local seafood, fair trade coffee, gluten-free baked goods, pastas, sauces, olives, honey, jams, pickles, jerky, local breads and pastries, hot Roli Roti chicken and more. Thursdays, Nov. 6-March 12, 2-5 p.m. (winter hours). Free. Portola Valley Farmers' Market, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. www.portolavalleyfarmersmarket.com

On Stage

**'Peter and the Starcatcher'** TheatreWorks will stage a holiday production of "Peter and the Starcatcher," a Tony Award-winning, adventure-filled sequel to "Peter Pan." See website for specific dates, timing and pricing. Dec. 3-Jan. 3. \$19-\$74. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-463-1950. www.theatreworks.org

**George Burns, Alive Again!** Actor Duffy Hudson will impersonate George Burns in a performance that will include jokes, singing, dancing and the star's memorable style. Refreshments will be provided. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Menlo Park Library. Jan. 3, 2-3:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2501. menlopark.org/library

Religion/Spirituality

**Feast of Epiphany celebration** This Ladera Community Church event will celebrate the arrival of the three kings, which signifies the message of Christ. Children can leave a shoe to be filled by the kings, and "Kings Cake" will be served to everyone. Jan. 4, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Free. Ladera Community Church, 3300 Alpine Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-854-5481. www.ladera.org

Lectures & Talks

**'Viral Forecasting for Pandemic Prevention'** For this Cafe Scientifique Silicon Valley event at SRI International, Dr. Brad Schneider will discuss how other animals introduce new viruses to the human population, creating pandemics. He will also talk about his group's research in controlling viruses which have recently emerged. Jan. 13, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. SRI International, Ringwood Avenue at Middlefield Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-859-2198. cafescisv.org

**'What To Do When You Get A Traffic Ticket'** Attorney Shawn Mawry will offer a free public lecture called "What To Do When You Get A Traffic Ticket," discussing citation basics, how to act when pulled over, how to save money and how to appeal tickets. Jan. 8, noon-1 p.m. Free. San Mateo County Law Library, 710 Hamilton St., Redwood City. Call 650-363-4913. www.smclawlibrary.org

**Author Joshua Davis on 'Spare Parts'** Joshua Davis will speak in conversation with Mark Robinson of Wired magazine about his book, "Spare Parts," which tells the story of a team of undocumented Mexican-

American students who won a national robotics competition. Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m. \$20 general; \$10 student with ID. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/949177

**Author Mandy Aftel on 'Fragrant'** Mandy Aftel will share her new book "Fragrant: The Secret Life of Scent," which discusses history, culture, science, poetry and philosophy through five stars of the fragrance world. Jan. 8, 7 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/mandy-aftel

**Author Mary Street Alinder with 'Group f.64'** Mary Street Alinder will discuss her new book, "Group f.64: Edward Weston, Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham, and the Community of Artists Who Revolutionized American Photography." The work explores a modern art movement defined by both women and men working as equals to elevate photography as fine art. Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/mary-street-alinder

Teen Activities

**Teen Night: Winter Wonderland Crafts** This Menlo Park Library event will welcome teenagers ages 12 to 18 to participate in some winter craft activities. Snacks and hot drinks will be provided. Registration is required. Jan. 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2530. www.eventbrite.com/e/teen-night-winter-wonderland-tickets-14405279579

**Tinkering Teens: Marshmallow catapults** This Portola Valley Library event will lead teens in using pencils and rubber bands to make marshmallow catapults. Call or email the library to register. Jan. 13, 4-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

donated to charity. She decorated cakes for birthdays and special occasions, including her daughter Elizabeth's wedding.

She is survived by her son, Kenneth Umholtz, daughter Elizabeth Thomas; and four grandchildren.

Memorial donations in her name may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Lois Shell Umholtz, longtime Portola Valley resident

Lois Shell Umholtz died quietly at her Portola Valley home on Oct. 1 after a 12-year battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was 96.

Born in Santa Barbara, she was proud of her work as a "Rosie the Riveter" during World War II, say family members. After the

war, she worked as a switchboard operator in the aerospace industry, where she met her future husband, Phil. They were married 62 years until his death in 2010.

Ms. Umholtz was a stay-at-home mom who enjoyed reading,

OBITUARY

baking, swimming and walking. She was always working on a project, say family members, sewing intricate quilts, clothing and teddy bears, which she

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■ POLICE CALLS

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

**MENLO PARK**

**Residential burglaries:**

- Someone forced open a side door into a garage of a home on Sharon Road, entered the house and stole necklaces decorated with gold and pearls, a large flat-screen TV, and 42 gold and silver medallions. Estimated loss: \$40,600. Dec. 27.
- Someone kicked in the rear door of a home on Mills Court and stole costume jewelry. Estimated loss: \$2,000. Dec. 23.
- Two storage sheds at an apartment complex on Laurel Street were found with broken locks and one with a broken hinge, though nothing was reported missing from either shed. Dec. 19.

**Attempted commercial burglary:** A man who police are calling a transient entered Draeger's Supermarket at 1010 University Drive and attempted, unsuccessfully, to open the store's safe. The man left the store and headed east on Menlo Avenue and has not been apprehended. Dec. 22.

**Thefts:**

- A thief made off with an electric wheelchair that had been left unlocked and unattended on a sidewalk near the intersection of Newbridge Street and Willow Road. Estimated loss: \$15,000. Dec. 22.
- The unauthorized uses of a credit card are in dispute by the couple involved. The cardholder, a resident of Menalto Avenue, alleges that he gave the card to his girlfriend to buy gas and that she used it to make purchases of about \$2,000. For her part, the woman claims that the card was in her wallet when her wallet was stolen from her car and that someone else made the purchases. Dec. 20.
- Someone stole a laptop computer from an unlocked vehicle parked on Middle Avenue. Estimated loss: \$2,000. Dec. 23.

■ An Apple iPhone 6 was stolen from a warehouse on Hamilton Court in Belle Haven. Estimated loss: \$399. Dec. 23.

■ Someone took an unattended wallet that had been sitting on top of a control panel at a self-service car wash at Oak Grove Avenue and Derry Lane. Estimated loss: \$395. Dec. 23.

■ A package of 200 greeting cards was stolen from the front porch of a home on Menalto Avenue. Estimated loss: \$200. Dec. 22.

■ Someone stole gift cards from the desk of an office at SRI International on Ravenswood Avenue. Estimated loss: \$150. Dec. 22.

■ A handicapped placard and \$40 in cash were stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 1100 block of Willow Road. Dec. 19.

■ Two packages, one containing a customized clock and the other a book, were stolen from the front porch of a home on Encinal Avenue. Estimated loss: \$30. Dec. 23.

■ Someone stole a package containing a religious medallion from the front porch of a home on Kenwood Avenue. Estimated loss: \$2.50. Dec. 19.

**Possession of switchblade:** Police stopped a bicyclist on Madera Avenue for riding at night without a light, then cited him for possession of a spring-assisted knife — a switchblade — which police confiscated and booked as evidence. Dec. 22.

**WEST MENLO PARK**

**Residential burglary:** Someone broke the seal on a wooden door at a residential construction site in the 3400 block of Alameda de las Pulgas, entered the site and stole several tools. Estimated loss: \$2,640. Dec. 19.

**ATHERTON**

**Theft:** Two women attending a kindergarten function at Encinal School on Encinal Avenue found that their wallets had been taken from their purses. One wallet was later found intact and with nothing missing in a woman's restroom. The other has not been located. Estimated loss: \$500. Dec. 19.

## Rosener House uses music to reach those with dementia

Rosener House in Menlo Park is the first adult daycare program on the San Francisco Peninsula to be certified as a Music & Memory provider, according to Barbara Kalt, Rosener House director.

Rosener House provides therapeutic activities to seniors facing limitations, including Alzheimer's disease, stroke and other chronic conditions.

Music & Memory was created by Dan Cohen following research showing that even those with severe dementia are revitalized and reconnect to the world by listening to music. The participants use an iPod so they aren't distracted by outside sounds and can listen to their personal music favorites.

"Music has always played a big part in the Rosener House

activity program," Ms. Kalt said. "We look forward to further enhancing our participants' experience here."

Therapies available at Rosener House are physical therapy, occupational therapy, an art program and many other activities for different levels of memory and physical abilities.

Founded in 1978 by the Peninsula Volunteers Inc., Rosener House is one of the first adult day centers in the United States. It is a program that gives respite to caregivers and provides therapies that improve the health of participants.

Visit [www.penvol.org](http://www.penvol.org) or call (650) 322-0126 for more information about Peninsula Volunteers Inc., Rosener House or the Music & Memory program.

**TOWN OF WOODSIDE  
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD  
WOODSIDE, CA 94062**

**PLANNING COMMISSION  
January 7, 2015  
6:00 PM**

PUBLIC HEARING

2. John and Julia Hinshaw  
214 Raymundo Drive

NCOU2014-0003

Planner: Sage Schaan, Senior Planner

The Planning Commission will determine if the owner may convert part of an existing legal nonconforming accessory structure from a garage to use for a wine storage area and office. The structure is nonconforming since it is partially located within the side setback and exceeds the height limits for accessory structures.

3. John and Sarah Maroney  
358 Albion Avenue

XSET2014-0002 & NCOU2014-0004

Planner: Sean Mullin, Assistant Planner

Review and approval/denial of a proposed Setback Exception to reduce the required side yard setback from 50 feet to 34.08 feet for the construction of a new deck and stairs greater than 3 feet above grade; and to reduce the required side yard setback from 50 feet to 41.25 feet to construct a new covered arbor. The Planning Commission will also be required to determine if the owner may convert an existing nonconforming accessory structure from an "Off-road Parking" accessory use (garage) to a "Storage of farm or garden equipment for use on the same premises" accessory use (potting shed). The structure is nonconforming since it is located within the side yard setback.

The Setback Exception and Change of Use of a Nonconforming Structure entitlements are components of a larger proposal to demolish portions of the existing main residence and remodel and construct additions to the main residence, including the construction of a new lower floor; demolish an existing nonconforming stable; ruct a new barn; demolish a portion of an existing nonconforming garage and remodel the structure to be used as a potting shed; remodel an existing nonconforming water tower; demolish an existing nonconforming shed; construct a new swimming pool; and various site and landscape improvements.

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.

SUMMER 2015

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The Almanac, established in October 1965, is delivered each week to residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside and adjacent unincorporated areas of southern San Mateo County. The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued December 21, 1969. ©2014 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved.

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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](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com), and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

### Town Square forum

Post your views on the Town Square forum at [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com)

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and note this it is a letter to the editor in the subject line.

**Mail** or deliver to:  
Editor, The Almanac  
3525 Alameda de las Pulgas  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

**Call** the Viewpoint desk at  
223-6528.

# Searsville Dam debate continues

By Matt Stoecker

The Almanac recently published two guest opinion pieces about the future of Stanford University's Searsville Dam. I was heartened to read Stanford professor Dr. Walter Bortz's impassioned and courageous call on his university to "tear down the dam." Jerry Hearn, a Stanford docent at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, followed this up with a Dec. 17 opinion piece that challenged Dr. Bortz and presented a clear bias against removing the dam. Everyone has the right to express his or her opinion. However, Jerry Hearn's opinion piece was disappointing for several reasons.

To start, he identified himself as the co-chair of the Searsville Advisory Group, of which I am also a member, without a disclaimer that his views do not represent those of the group. In fact, our advisory group is still actively meeting and considering alternatives for the dam. Unfortunately, people have already contacted me thinking that Mr. Hearn was publicly representing the advisory group. It is also troubling that several inaccurate statements were made.

Mr. Hearn downplays safety concerns with the dam and states that Searsville Dam "has gone through both the 1906 and 1989 earthquakes with no apparent damage." This is not true. In 1906, the damkeeper's journal reported that the earthquake caused large cracks in the dam. Futile attempts were made to seal the leaking cracks.

Dam safety agencies acknowledge that dams present serious safety risks and liability for their owners. The 125-year-old Searsville Dam is no exception, and has unique safety concerns. Dam safety reports describe Searsville's undersized spillway, undesirable flood flow overtopping, and elevated potential for debris blockage, which could result in additional reservoir flooding upstream and uncontrolled release of water downstream. Dam safety documents also describe that one of the dam's two emergency drain pipes no longer functions due to sedimentation.

San Mateo County has produced a shocking map of the extensive

downstream "Searsville Dam Failure Inundation Area," which includes much of the Stanford campus, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, and East Palo Alto. Searsville Dam is listed as a "high hazard" dam by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state of California, and San Mateo County. A "high hazard" dam is defined as a dam whose failure would result in "probable loss of lives and significant property damage." Stanford's own report (SPEAR3), cites an analysis that determined failure of Searsville Dam could release a "catastrophic" flow of "about 6 times the 500-year peak flow."

Mr. Hearn states that there would be a "loss of open water if the dam were removed." This is not true. Lloyd's Pond is a large natural body of open water adjacent to Searsville Reservoir that would remain with dam removal. Other dam removal design features, discussed for years, would retain additional open water within the current Searsville Reservoir area while the existing, off-stream Felt Reservoir could be expanded to add more open water than presently exists at Searsville. The above measures can result in a net increase in open water habitat on Stanford lands.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Hearn did not mention that dam removal can also result in the restoration of miles of creek habitat and acres of riparian forest and wetlands currently submerged by the artificial reservoir and dam. Dam removal has also been shown to be the most effective way to improve native habitat and water quality, restore steelhead migration, and eliminate non-native reservoir species that degrade a watershed.

Communities and obsolete dam owners across the country are realizing the safety, economic, and ecosystem benefits of removing more than 1,150 dams. Let's make 2015 the year we resolve to give a dam, too.

*Matt Stoecker is a local biologist who has worked for over two decades restoring San Francisquito Creek and other California watersheds. The opinion expressed here is his own.*



## LETTERS

Our readers write

### Opinion was writer's, not that of committee

Editor:

I have been requested by a member of the Searsville Advisory Committee to provide a disclaimer to accompany my comments published in your newspaper on Dec. 17 ("Complex Searsville Dam issue being addressed"), and I am most happy to do so.

I wish to make clear that those comments are solely my opinions and observations, and reflect neither the position of the Searsville Advisory Committee as a whole, nor, necessarily, any other individual member. These comments are based upon my experiences over many years engaging with these issues in the watershed.

Describing myself as co-chair of the Searsville Advisory Committee was included purely for identification purposes. My



Menlo Park Historical Association

### Looking back

Charlie Meyer's saloon, located on the southeast corner of El Camino Real and Oak Grove Avenue, was a favorite gathering spot for Stanford students around the turn of the last century, according to "Menlo Park: Beyond the Gate" by Michael Svanevik and Shirley Burgett. The proprietor, Charlie Meyer, opened the "drinking spa" in the middle of the first decade of the 1900s, and closed it up in 1910, according to the authors.

intention in the article was to present to the broader public some of the complexities of the situation that are not normally a

part of the public discourse. They were not meant to propose or support any particular solution to the present circumstance.

I apologize for any confusion caused by this lack of clarity.

*Jerry Hearn  
Portola Valley*

# RealEstate

## Real Estate Matters

### 2014's priciest local home sales share common threads

By David Barca

Our local real estate markets have seen a significant uptick in sales activity at the highest end of the spectrum thus far in 2014. According to MLS data, there were 17 \$10 million-plus single-family home sales in the communities of Atherton, Palo Alto and Woodside between Jan. 1 and Nov. 30, a 70 percent increase from that same period in 2013.

This year's 10 most expensive home sales in the aforementioned communities that were listed on the MLS through Nov. 30 ranged from \$27.4 million to \$13.5 million — six in Atherton and two each in Palo Alto and Woodside.

The properties run the gamut in terms of size, from a 13,558-square-foot mansion in West Atherton to a relatively modest 5,240-square-foot home in the coveted Old Palo Alto neighborhood.

And although these 10 top-dollar homes are unique on their own, a few common



David Barca

threads weave through the transactions.

#### Springtime sales

Seven of these homes sold in the second quarter, underscoring that real estate activity heats up in the spring and early summer when sellers are likely to encounter many buyers hoping to land a home before schools close for the summer.

At that time of year, even the priciest properties can attract motivated, fast-acting buyers. For example, two Atherton homes that sold in late June — one for \$14 million and one for \$13.5 million — were gone in just four days.

#### The appeal of new

Newer homes are increasingly popular in the Bay Area, particularly given the influx of buyers from Asia who tend to prefer more recently built properties. Six of this year's 10 most expensive homes

were constructed since the turn of the most recent century, including No. 1 and No. 2: \$27.4 million in Atherton and \$25 million in Woodside, respectively.

That's not to say that a home with a little more history won't appeal to buyers, especially in superheated markets like Palo Alto. The aforementioned Old Palo Alto home, built in 1925, sold for about 2 percent more than original price, the only one of the 10 priciest properties to command a premium.

#### Hefty prices per square foot

Paying top dollar per square foot holds especially true at the highest end of our real estate market. The average price per square foot paid for these 10 homes was \$1,935, compared with \$1,100 for all properties sold in the three communities from January through November.

A three-bedroom home in Woodside that sold in September offers a drastic example of what some affluent, motivated buyers are willing

to pay: At just less than 6,000 square feet, the home sold for its \$25 million list price, which translates to a staggering \$4,170 per square foot.

#### Proper pricing key

Our local real estate markets have recently involved frenzied competition, in which multiple bidders drive the final sales price far beyond the original. In one July instance, a brand-new home in Downtown Palo Alto sold for more than double its original price.

Six of the 10 most expensive homes appear to have been accurately priced, with half of them selling for their exact asking prices and one fetching a modest premium. The other four homes may not have been priced correctly, allowing buyers a bit of wiggle room to write lower offers.

One such home in West Atherton, initially priced at \$16.9 million, sat on the market for almost a year before selling for \$15 million, 88.5 percent of its original price.

This highlights the fact a

property must be priced accurately in order to sell quickly, even in markets where willing buyers far outnumber the inventory of available homes.

*David Barca is vice president of Pacific Union's Silicon Valley Region.*

#### 10 MOST EXPENSIVE HOME SALES

1. 250 Atherton Ave., Atherton - \$27.4 million
2. 156 Hidden Valley Lane, Woodside - \$25 million
3. 215 Lowell Ave., Palo Alto - \$19.88 million
4. 244 Polhemus Ave., Atherton - \$18.9 million
5. 279 Park Lane, Atherton - \$15.3 million
6. 139 Albion Ave., Woodside - \$15 million
7. 435 Coleridge Drive, Palo Alto - \$15 million
8. 60 Monte Vista Ave., Atherton - \$15 million
9. 1 Ridge View Drive, Atherton - \$13.99 million
10. 333 Atherton Ave., Atherton - \$13.5 million

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

**Pregnant?**  
Considering adoption? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families Nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 866-413-6293. Void in Illinois/ New Mexico/Indiana (AAN CAN)

**Pregnant?**  
Considering adoption? Call us first. Living expenses, housing, medical, and continued support afterwards. Choose adoptive family of your choice. Call 24/7. 1-877-879-4709 (CalSCAN)

### 2015 Dance Classes

George Burns in Menlo Park!

Stanford music tutoring

USED BOOKSHOP AT MITCHELL PARK

### 130 Classes & Instruction

**Airbrush Makeup Artist**  
Course for: Ads .TV . Film . Fashion. 35% OFF TUITION - SPECIAL \$1990 - Train and Build Portfolio. One Week Course. Details at: AwardMakeupSchool.com 818-980-2119 (AAN CAN)

**Airline Careers**  
begin here - Get trained as FAA certified Aviation Technician. Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 800-725-1563 (AAN CAN)

### German Language Classes

**Instruction for Hebrew**  
Bar and Bat Mitzvah.  
For Affiliated and Unaffiliated. George Rubin, M.A. in Hebrew/Jewish Education 650/424-1940

### 133 Music Lessons

**Christina Conti Private Piano Instruction**  
(650) 493-6950

**Hope Street Music Studios**  
In downtown Mtn.View.  
Most Instruments voice.  
All ages & levels 650-961-2192  
www.HopeStreetMusicStudios.com

### 135 Group Activities

**Did You Know**  
Newspaper-generated content is so valuable it's taken and repeated, condensed, broadcast, tweeted, discussed, posted, copied, edited, and emailed countless times throughout the day by others? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

Thanks St Jude

### 140 Lost & Found

**Lost Cat - KIRBY PLACE, PALO ALTO**  
HE'S STRICTLY AN INDOOR CAT AND RAN OUTSIDE LAST NIGHT (DEC 18) BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 6AM THIS MORNING (DEC 19)  
LONG HAIRED, DARK COLORED, HAS A MAIN COON LOOK TO HIM, VERY BUSHY TAIL, VERY "LION" LOOKING NO COLLAR  
PLEASE HELP US FIND HIM - REWARD!!!  
70 KIRBY PLACE , PALO ALTO  
650.888.8357

### RING FOUND

Thin woman's ring found in downtown Palo Alto parking lot.

### 145 Non-Profits Needs

DONATE BOOKS/HELP PA LIBRARIES  
WISH LIST FRIENDS PA LIBRARY

### 150 Volunteers

Become a Nature Volunteer!

FRIENDS BOOKSTORE MITCHELL PARK

FRIENDS OF THE PALO ALTO LIBRARY

JOIN OUR ONLINE STOREFRONT TEAM

### 152 Research Study Volunteers

**Did You Know**  
that not only does newspaper media reach a HUGE Audience, they also reach an ENGAGED AUDIENCE. Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

## For Sale

### 202 Vehicles Wanted

**Cash for Cars**  
Any Car/Truck. Running or Not!  
Top Dollar Paid. We Come To You!  
Call For Instant Offer: 1-888-420-3808  
www.cash4car.com (AAN CAN)

**Donate Your Car, Truck, Boat**  
to Heritage for the Blind. FREE 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care of.  
800-731-5042 (Cal-SCAN)

### 230 Freebies

**Did You Know**  
7 IN 10 Americans or 158 million U.S. Adults read content from newspaper media each week? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

### 235 Wanted to Buy

**Cash for Diabetic Test Strips**  
Don't throw boxes away - Help others. Unopened / Unexpired boxes only. All Brands Considered. Call Anytime! 24hrs/7days (888) 491-1168 (Cal-SCAN)

### 240 Furnishings/ Household items

Christmas Dishes 48Pc. - \$75.00

### 245 Miscellaneous

**DISH TV**  
Starting at \$19.99/month (for 12 mos.) SAVE! Regular Price \$32.99 Call Today and Ask About FREE SAME DAY Installation! CALL Now! 888-992-1957 (AAN CAN)

**DISH TV Retailer**  
Starting at \$19.99/month (for 12 mos.) and High Speed Internet starting at \$14.95/month (where available.) SAVE! Ask About SAME DAY Installation! CALL Now! 1-800-357-0810. (Cal-SCAN)

**Get The Big Deal!**  
from DirecTV! Act Now- \$19.99/ mo. Free 3-Months of HBO, starz, SHOWTIME & CINEMAX. FREE GENIE HD/DVR Upgrade! 2014 NFL Sunday Ticket. Included with Select Packages. New Customers Only. IV Support Holdings LLC- An authorized DirecTV Dealer. Some exclusions apply - Call for details 1-800-385-9017 (Cal-SCAN)

**Sawmills**  
from only \$4397.00- Make and save money with your own bandmill- Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship. FREE Info/DVD:  
www.NorwoodSawmills.com  
1-800-578-1363 Ext.300N (Cal-SCAN)

**Prime Cemetery Plot at Alta Mesa**  
Double plot, Great location! Magnolia Sec. 8, Lot 2015. Priced to sell at \$6,999. 408-568-5863

To place a Classified ad in The Almanac call 326-8216 or online at fogster.com

## Kid's Stuff

### 340 Child Care Wanted

Mandarin Speaking Nanny

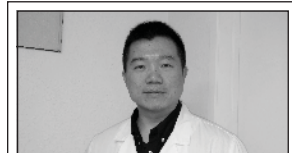
### 345 Tutoring/ Lessons

Online Writing Tutor

## Mind & Body

### 403 Acupuncture

**Did You Know**  
144 million U.S. Adults read a Newspaper print copy each week? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)



**Treatments for Alzheimers**  
Acupuncturist Jay Wang PhD, specializing in chronic illness for seniors. Call 650-485-3293 for a free consultation. 747 Altos Oaks Dr., Los Altos

### 425 Health Services

**Safe Step Walk-in Tub**  
Alert for Seniors. Bathroom falls can be fatal. Approved by Arthritis Foundation. Therapeutic Jets. Less Than 4 Inch Step-In. Wide Door. Anti-Slip Floors. American Made. Installation Included. Call 800-799-4811 for \$750 Off. (Cal-SCAN)



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## Jobs

### 500 Help Wanted

**Computer**  
Symphony Teleca Services, Inc., specializing in state-of-the-art wireless technol., has a degreed/exp. position available for a **Principal Architect** in Mountain View, CA and other unanticipated worksites. Candidate must have industry exp. in the following: 3 yrs of exp. in req. analysis, efforts est. and resource planning w/Doors and MS Project SW tools; 3 yrs of des. cross-platform arch. solutions: iOS, Android, HTML5 desktop; 3 yrs of exp. in C/C++ ANSI Coding standards validation, des. patterns and eng. practices checking for prod. clean and maintainable code w/KlocWork; Applications dev. for Android or iOS or HTML5 embedded or mobile devices confirmed by pub. apps; Protocols usage: HTTP, NFC, Bluetooth, ActiveSync & DLNA; Multithreaded programming, asynchronous and event driven apps des.; Agile and iterative dev. and team mgmt. processes. Mail resume w/job code (T-ST07) to Human Resources Manager - T.E., 5360 Legacy Drive, Suite 120, Plano, TX 75024. EEO employer: including race, gender, disability and veterans status.

**Computers Chief Architect, Mobile Gaming.**  
Menlo Park, CA. BS in CS, CIS or rtd + 7 yrs exp in job offered or rtd. Oversee mobile game dev. Apply: Punchbox USA Inc., jobs@us.chukong-inc.com

**Inventory Takers**  
Now hiring! Start: \$10.75/hr. Flex P/T work! Reg wage reviews. Advancement oppts. Must have reliable trans. EEO/Vet/Disabled. Apply at www.rginsv.com Select San Francisco Bay Area.

**MS History/GeographyTeacher**  
Palo Alto, CA. Teach Middle School History and Geography in French according to the French Ministry of Education curriculum guidelines. BA history or rel. field + 2yrs. exper. Resumes to Head of School, International School of the Peninsula, 151 Laura Lane, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

**550 Business Opportunities**  
**AVON**  
Earn extra income with a new career! Sell from home, work, online. \$15 startup. For information, call: 877-830-2916. (CalSCAN)

**560 Employment Information**  
**\$1,000 Weekly!!**  
Mailing brochures from home. Helping home workers since 2001. Genuine Opportunity. No Experience required. Start Immediately  
www.mailingmembers.com (AAN CAN)  
**Africa, Brazil Work/Study!**  
Change the lives of others and create a sustainable future. 1, 6, 9, 18 month programs available. Apply now!  
www.OneWorldCenter.org 269.591.0518 info@OneWorldCenter.org (AAN CAN)

**Drivers: \$2K Sign-On**  
Bonus - SAME DAY APPROVALS! Stay Warm w/ APU New KW Trucks! Earn \$55K p/yr! CDL-A Req - (877) 258-8782 www.ad-drivers.com (Cal-SCAN)

**Help Wanted**  
Earn Extra income, assembling CD cases. Call our Live Operators NOW!  
800-267-3944 Ext 3090.  
www.easywork-greatpay.com  
(Not Valid in MD)

## Business Services

**624 Financial**  
**Big Trouble with IRS?**  
Stop wage & bank levies, liens and audits, unfiled tax returns, payroll issues, and resolve tax debt FAST. Seen on CNN. A BBB. Call 1-800-761-5395. (Cal-SCAN)

**Big Trouble with IRS?**  
Are you in BIG trouble with the IRS? Stop wage and bank levies, liens and audits, unfiled tax returns, payroll issues, and resolve tax debt FAST. Call 844-753-1317 (AAN CAN)

**Do You Owe \$10,000**  
to the IRS or State in back taxes? Get tax relief now! Call BlueTax, the nation's full service tax solution firm. 800-393-6403.

**Reduce Your Past Tax Bill**  
by as much as 75 Percent. Stop Levies, Liens and Wage Garnishments. Call The Tax DR Now to see if you Qualify 1-800-498-1067. (Cal-SCAN)

**Social Security Disability**  
benefits. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! WIN or Pay Nothing! Contact Bill Gordon & Associates at 1-800-966-1904 to start your application today! (Cal-SCAN)

**636 Insurance**  
**Auto Insurance**  
Starting at \$25/month. Call 855-977-9537 (AAN CAN)

**Lowest Prices**  
on Health and Dental Insurance. We have the best rates from top companies! Call Now! 888-989-4807. (CalSCAN)

## Home Services

### 748 Gardening/Landscaping

**J. Garcia Garden Maintenance Service**  
Free est. 21 years exp.  
650/366-4301 or 650/346-6781

**LANDA'S GARDENING & LANDSCAPING**  
\*Yard Maint. \*New Lawns. \*Rototill \*Clean Ups \*Tree Trim \*Power Wash \*Irrigation timer programming. 18 yrs exp. Ramon, 650/576-6242 landaramon@yahoo.com

**R.G. Landscape**  
Yard Clean-ups, debris removal, maintenance, installations. Free est. 650/468-8859

**Tired of Mow, Blow and Go?**  
Owner operated, 40 years exp. All phases of gardening/landscaping. Ref. Call Eric, 408/356-1350

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINES: FOR THE ALMANAC**  
Classified Word Ads  
Friday by Noon  
Classified Display Ads  
Thursday by 5 p.m. for Space Reservation.  
Friday by Noon for Copy.

**GO TO FOGSTER.COM TO RESPOND TO ADS WITHOUT PHONE NUMBERS**



MARKETPLACE the printed version of

**fogster.com**

THE PENINSULA'S **FREE** CLASSIFIEDS WEBSITE  
TO RESPOND TO ADS WITHOUT PHONE NUMBERS  
GO TO **WWW.FOGSTER.COM**

**751 General Contracting**

**A NOTICE TO READERS:**

It is illegal for an unlicensed person to perform contracting work on any project valued at \$500.00 or more in labor and materials. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs that total less than \$500.00 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board.

**759 Hauling**

**J & G HAULING SERVICE**

Misc. junk, office, gar., furn., mattresses, green waste, more. Lic./Ins. Free est. 650/743-8852 (see my Yelp reviews)

**767 Movers**

**Sunny Express Moving Co.**

Affordable, Reliable, References. Lic. CalT #191198. 650/722-6586 or 408/904-9688

**771 Painting/Wallpaper**

**DAVID AND MARTIN PAINTING**

Quality work  
Good references  
Low price

Lic. #52643 **(650) 575-2022**

**Glen Hodges Painting**

Call me first! Senior discount. 45 yrs. #351738. 650/322-8325

**STYLE PAINTING**

Full service painting. Insured. Lic. 903303. 650/388-8577

**775 Asphalt/Concrete**

**Roe General Engineering**

Asphalt, concrete, pavers, tiles, sealing, artificial turf. 36 yrs exp. No job too small. Lic #663703. 650/814-5572

**779 Organizing Services**

**End the Clutter & Get Organized**

Residential Organizing by Debra Robinson (650)390-0125

**Real Estate**

**805 Homes for Rent**

Menlo Park Las Lomas, 3 BR/2 BA - \$4300/mo

Palo Alto Home, 4 BR/2 BA - \$4600.mont

**809 Shared Housing/Rooms**

**All Areas: Roommates.com**

Lonely? Bored? Broke? Find the perfect roommate to complement your personality and lifestyle at Roommates.com! (AAN CAN)

**811 Office Space**

THERAPIST OFFICE SUBLET

**825 Homes/Condos for Sale**

Menlo Park, 3 BR/2 BA - \$899000

Palo Alto, 3 BR/2 BA - \$1099000

Sunnyvale, 3 BR/2 BA - \$899000

**850 Acreage/Lots/Storage**

**Palo Alto**

Rare Flat Vacant 1.03 Acre Low Density Residential or SFR \$11,888,000

**woodside in 30 min**  
38 knoll top acres cleared w/utilities \$3,588,000

**FOGSTER.COM**

**Public Notices**

**995 Fictitious Name Statement**

BRUSH WITH SCIENCE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 262995

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Brush with Science, located at 36 Coronado Ave., San Carlos, CA 94070, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

JULIE NEWDOLL

36 Coronado Ave.

San Carlos, CA 94070

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/15/1999. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 17, 2014.

(ALM Dec. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2014)

SERENITY DESIGN & CABINETS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 263064

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

Serenity Design & Cabinets, located at 3015 E. Bayshore Rd., #108, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

MICHELLE L. SIMMONS

3015 E. Bayshore Rd., #108

Redwood City, CA 94063

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 21, 2014.

(ALM Dec. 17, 24, 31, 2014, Jan. 7, 2015)

RARC PERFECTION  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 263273

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

Rarc Perfection, located at 401 California Dr., Burlingame, CA 94010, San Mateo County; Mailing address: PO Box 117609, Burlingame, CA 94011-7609.

Registered owner(s):

ALLIED LOMAR INC.

401 California Dr., Ste. 500

Burlingame, CA 94010

This business is conducted by: A Corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 11, 2014.

(ALM Dec. 24, 31, 2014, Jan. 7, 14, 2015)

WATTIE BOONE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 263274

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

Wattie Boone, located at 401 California Dr., Ste. 500, Burlingame, CA 94010, San Mateo County; Mailing address: PO Box 117609, Burlingame, CA 94011-7609.

Registered owner(s):

ALLIED LOMAR INC.

401 California Dr., Ste. 500

Burlingame, CA 94010

This business is conducted by: A Corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 11, 2014.

(ALM Dec. 24, 31, 2014, Jan. 7, 14, 2015)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
File No. M-259705

The following person(s)/ entity (ies) has/ have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s).  
CARLOS RENGIFO

The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):

JOSHUA'S MOVING PACKING SERVICES

1379 Hollyburne Ave.

Menlo Park, CA 94025

FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:

02/20/14

REGISTRANT'S NAME(S)/ENTITY(IES):

EVELIA RENGIFO

1379 Hollyburne Ave.

Menlo Park, CA 94025

CARLOS RENGIFO

1379 Hollyburne Ave.

Menlo Park, CA 94025

THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY:

General Partnership.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on December 16, 2014.

(ALM Dec. 24, 31, 2014, Jan. 7, 14, 2015)

AW & ASSOCIATES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 263074

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

AW & Associates, located at 1212 H El Camino Real #516, San Bruno, CA 94066, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

GILBERT WILLIAMS

1212 H El Camino Real #516

San Bruno, CA 94066

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 24, 2014.

(ALM Dec. 24, 31, 2014, Jan. 7, 14, 2015)

M CARGO EXPRESS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 263272

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

M Cargo Express, located at 1055 Rollins Road Suite 313, Burlingame, CA 94010, San Mateo County.

Is (Are) hereby registered by the following owner(s):

FRANCISCO G. MOLINA RIVAS

1055 Rollins Rd. Apt. 313

Burlingame, CA 94010-2593

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/19/2014. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 11, 2014.

(ALM Dec. 24, 31, 2014, Jan. 7, 14, 2015)

**997 All Other Legals**

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Case No.: CIV531499

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: SAMANTHA OLIVIA SADLOWSKI filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

SAMANTHA OLIVIA SADLOWSKI to OLIVIA HERMAN WHITE.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: Tu. January 27, 2015, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ, Room: 2J, of

the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

THE ALMANAC

Date: December 8, 2014

/s/ Robert D. Foiles


JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(ALM Dec. 31, 2014, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 2015)

**PROTECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**


If it has been 5 years since you filed your Fictitious Business Name Statement (your D.B.A.), you must file again to protect your legal rights. Check your records now to see if your D.B.A. expires this year. Then call the Almanac, 223-6578, for assistance in refileing. It's inexpensive and easy.

**LEHUA GREENMAN**



Yesterday is History,  
Tomorrow is a Mystery,  
Today is a GIFT,  
that's why it's called  
the PRESENT.  
Best wishes for a Happy  
& Healthy 2015!

529-2420




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- PUBLIC HEARING NOTICES
- TRUSTEE'S SALE
- RESOLUTIONS
- BID NOTICES
- LIEN SALE



The Almanac  
**223-6578**



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WOODSIDE  
PORTOLA VALLEY  
LOS ALTOS  
LOS ALTOS HILLS



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MENLO PARK  
  
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MENLO PARK  
REPRESENTED THE BUYER



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PORTOLA VALLEY  
  
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**FOR SALE**  
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MENLO PARK  
  
\$3,200,000  
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REPRESENTED THE SELLER



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LOS ALTOS  
REPRESENTED THE SELLER



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MENLO PARK  
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PALO ALTO  
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DEEP WELL LANE  
LOS ALTOS  
REPRESENTED THE BUYER



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REPRESENTED THE BUYER



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