

Reports of serious crimes in Menlo Park
drop 11 percent in 2014 | Page 5

The Almanac

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

FEBRUARY 4, 2015 | VOL. 50 NO. 22



WWW.THEALMANACONLINE.COM

behind THE SCENES

Filoli staff, volunteers ready
gardens for opening day

SECTION 2



YOUR HOME AWAITS



LOS ALTOS HILLS \$15,000,000

12775 Viscaino Road | 6bd/6+ba
Monica Corman | 650.462.1111



PALO ALTO \$4,650,000

3318 Waverley Street | 6bd/4ba
Julie Law | 650.462.1111



MENLO PARK \$1,945,000

1330 University Drive Unit 57 | 3bd/2ba
Ellen Ashley | 650.529.1111



WOODSIDE \$1,198,000

17513 Skyline Boulevard | 3bd/3ba
K. Bird/S. Hayes | 650.529.1111

Scientist Carl Djerassi dies

Carl Djerassi, 91, known as the father of the birth control pill and the founder of the Djerassi Resident Artists Program at his Woodside ranch, died Friday, Jan. 30, at his home in San Francisco.

Mr. Djerassi established the Djerassi Resident Artists Program on his ranch in Woodside in 1979 as a memorial to his daughter Pamela, who was a poet and painter. More than 2,000 artists have passed through the program, where they are provided uninterrupted time for work, reflection and collegial interaction in a setting of great natural beauty.

Starting in the 1940s, Mr. Djerassi was a primary player in synthesizing the first commercial antihistamines, and the hormones cortisone and norethindrone, the latter being the chemical basis of oral contraceptives, earning him the nickname "The Father of the Pill."

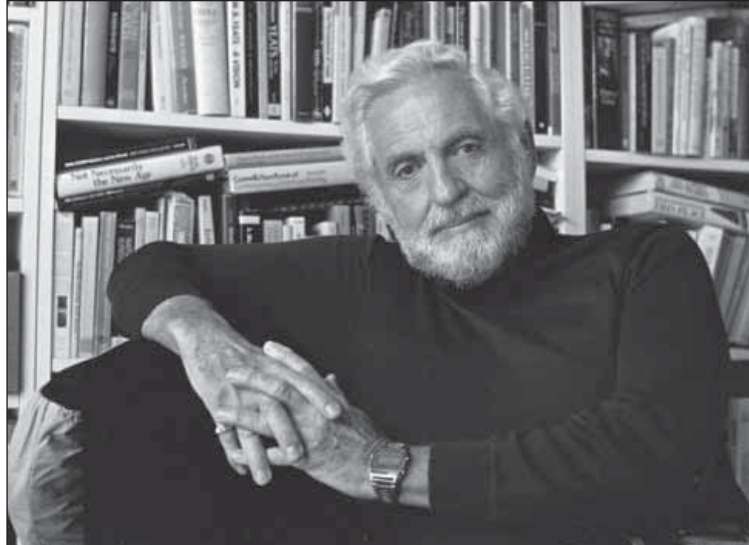
A Stanford professor emeritus, he was described in a Stanford announcement on his death as "a rare powerhouse in chemistry and art."

He spent the final decades of his life writing novels, poems and plays, which have been performed around the world and translated into several languages.

"Carl Djerassi was first and foremost a great scientist," Stanford President John Hennessy said. "Together with his colleagues, he transformed the world by making oral contraception effective. Later in life, he became a great supporter of artists and a playwright whose plays entertained while they also educated."

Friends and colleagues described him as a brilliant and elegant man, who always had a twinkle in his eye and a comment to take the listener off-guard.

"Carl Djerassi is probably the greatest chemist our department ever had," said Richard N. Zare, a professor in natural science at Stanford. "I know of no person in the world who combined the mastery of science with literary talent as Carl Djerassi. He also



Chuck Painter / Stanford News Service Archives

Carl Djerassi, 91, known as the father of the birth control pill and the founder of the Djerassi Resident Artists Program at his Woodside ranch, died Jan. 30.

is the only person, to my knowledge, to receive from President Nixon the National Medal of Science and to be named on Nixon's blacklist in the same year."

Mr. Djerassi's death resulted from complications due to cancer. He is survived by his son, Dale Djerassi, stepdaughter, Leah Middlebrook, and grandson, Alexander M. Djerassi.

Mr. Djerassi was born in Vienna, Austria, on Oct. 29, 1923, to Samuel Djerassi, a dermatologist and specialist in sexually transmitted diseases, and Alice Friedmann, a Viennese dentist and physician.

In 1938, with the rising threat of the Nazi regime, he and his mother moved to Bulgaria and eventually to the United States, arriving nearly penniless in 1939. A taxi driver in New York City cheated him and his mother out of their last few dollars.

Although he was only 16, he attended Newark Junior College and Tarkio College and subsequently graduated summa cum laude from Kenyon College before his 19th birthday. It was at Kenyon where, in his own words, he "became a chemist." He then moved to the University of Wisconsin where he earned a doctorate in chemistry in 1945.

He subsequently worked as a research chemist at CIBA Pharmaceutical in New Jersey, where

he developed one of the first commercial antihistamines (Pyribenzamine) and saw the powerful connection between chemistry and human health. In 1949, at the age of 26, Djerassi became associate director of research at Syntex in Mexico City.

His research there was directed at a synthesis of cortisone from diosgenin, a molecule derived from a Mexican wild yam and a naturally abundant precursor for synthetic steroids. Later, he and his coworkers synthesized norethisterone, a potent orally available progestin analog that figured in the production of the first birth-control pill, aka "the pill," research that has since transformed science and society.

Mr. Djerassi re-established his connection with academia in 1952, accepting a position as professor of chemistry at Wayne State University. In 1957, however, he returned to Syntex in Mexico City while on leave from Wayne State, to serve as vice president of research. In the late 1950s, William Johnson, one of Djerassi's teachers at the University of Wisconsin, moved to Stanford University and in 1959 recruited Mr. Djerassi to join the department.

"Carl was one of the first

See **DJERASSI**, page 6

John "J" Aitken II August 14, 1977 – January 18, 2015

John grew up in Atherton and attended Las Lomas and La Entrada schools.

He graduated from Menlo Atherton where he swam on the varsity swim team and played varsity football. After living in Atherton for 18 years, he decided to broaden his horizon by earning his Political Science Degree at Columbia College in New York City.

He graduated in 2000 and returned to California "where he could see the stars at night" and soon founded Bryco Funding in San Francisco.

John was an avid golfer who also enjoyed his family time.

John is survived by Carrie Aitken, their daughters Payton Lee Aitken and Madison Roni Aitken, parents John and Lynette Aitken, sister Bridget Gowan, grandmother Teresa Francisconi, aunt Jamie Bertrand, uncle Mike Aitken and nephew Donald Gowan IV.

A celebration of John's life will be held at the family home, 91 Reservoir Rd., Atherton, Sunday, February 8, 1:30 - 4:30. Families welcome.



PAID OBITUARY

OPERA
SAN JOSE

WEISER'S

Where Angels Fear to Tread

FEBRUARY 7-22, 2015
operasj.org 408.437.4450

WORLD
PREMIERE!



CITY OF
SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

ERIC WOLFFINGER

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

Newsroom: **223-6525**
Newsroom fax: **223-7525**
Advertising: **854-2626**
Advertising fax: **223-7570**
Classified ads: **854-0858**

■ E-mail news, information, obituaries and photos (with captions) to:
editor@AlmanacNews.com
■ E-mail letters to the editor to:
letters@AlmanacNews.com

To request free delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call **854-2626**.

THE ALMANAC (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, The Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. Subscriptions for \$60 per year or \$100 per 2 years are welcome. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Copyright ©2014 by Embarcadero Media, All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

Everything you need. Kindness included.

Sequoia Hospital's new Pavilion is now open.

Not only will you be treated with the kindness you've come to expect, you'll also be treated at one of the most advanced health care facilities in the Bay Area. Learn more at sequoiapavilion.org.

Hello humankindness™



Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Reports of serious crimes drop 11% in 2014

By **Sandy Brundage**
Almanac Staff Writer

For a city that strives to be on the cutting edge of tomorrow, Menlo Park turned back the clock in at least one respect — the amount of reported crime last year dropped to levels last seen in 1999.

In the category of “Part 1 crimes,” which are tracked by the FBI, Menlo Park saw an 11 percent drop: Larceny — the theft of personal property, which includes items stolen from vehicles — remained the most frequent crime, with 408 incidents reported in 2014, compared with 436 in 2013. Burglary came in second, with 125 reported in 2014 and 179 the year prior.

Twelve rapes and sexual assaults were reported, compared with three in 2013. Thirty-three

cars were reported stolen, up by five from the previous year; aggravated assault dropped from 31 to 24 and robberies decreased by two to 16 in 2014. In 2013, three arsons were reported; none was in 2014 and both years had zero homicides, according to the data provided by the police department.

Twenty-five percent of the reported Part 1 crimes occurred east of U.S. 101 between Willow Road and Haven Avenue.

The overall drop in reported Part 1 crime came about through a combination of factors, according to Chief Jonsen. “There’s not really any one thing I could say was the primary factor,” he said. “We got multiple things in place at the same time, right around the beginning of the year.”

New tools ranging from high tech to old-fashioned may have

■ MENLO PARK

helped: The department added four street surveillance cameras, three automated license plate readers, and 40 body-worn cameras to its toolbox this year. It dedicated two officers on motorcycles for traffic enforcement and, thanks to funding from Facebook, has Officer Mary Ferguson-Dixon focusing on school-related issues, working out of the Belle Haven substation that opened in April.

And, of course, crime rates can be attributed to causes other than police action, such as economic and social factors.

Code enforcement

The department recently held a community meeting to talk about code-enforcement issues in Belle Haven. Officer Eleanor Hilario fielded 750 cases last

year, out of 1,700 complaints, according to the chief, and for those originating in Belle Haven, the vast majority involved the conversion of property into illegal parking or secondary units.

“She’s done an amazing job,” Chief Jonsen said. “Where we would like to improve is being more proactive. Right now she’s completely reactive. The workload is so intense, all she has time to do is handle the calls coming in. She might drive by a house and think, hmm, but she can’t go there because she already has a list of calls to handle first.”

Chief Jonsen said the department has talked about adding another code-enforcement officer — “the work’s there” — but it will be up to the council to approve the funding.

The police department also continued strengthening trans-

parency, posting its policies on the city website, releasing data on complaints made against officers, and engaging in discussions with the community and City Council over best practices for using body-worn cameras and license-plate readers.

“I still think there’s room for improvement, obviously. I’m happy with the reductions in crime,” Chief Jonsen said. “I still want to work more on pedestrian safety — we have a decrease in collisions, but we still have a lot of them in Menlo Park. We want to bring that down.”

He said he was surprised the department had done as well as it had, given staffing issues, particularly toward the end of the year when three officers were on leave following the fatal shooting of a burglary suspect on Nov. 11.

See **CRIME**, page 8

Report gives grounds to deny charter school plan

By **Barbara Wood**
Almanac Staff Writer

The San Mateo County Office of Education has analyzed the petition to open a Mandarin immersion charter school in the Menlo Park City School District next fall, concluding there are many grounds that could be used to deny the petition.

The county’s board of education meets on Wednesday, Feb. 4, starting at 7 p.m. in the district office board room at 101 Twin Dolphins Drive in Redwood City. The item is near the start of the agenda and has a public comment period.

Proponents of the Menlo Mandarin Immersion Charter school appealed to the county board after the Menlo Park district school board voted unanimously in November to deny their petition.

A summary of the county report concludes the petition to start the charter:

- Has enough signatures. The district said many of the petition signatures shouldn’t be counted; but the county questioned only if the final petition had actually been attached to the signature sheets, as legally required.

- Describes how it will achieve a racial and ethnic balance reflecting the general population of the district. The county report pointed out that the law does not

require the school “to actually achieve a racial or ethnic balance” but just to have a recruitment plan in place to attempt to do so.

- Lacks a “reasonably comprehensive description” of a number of legally required items, including the educational program, student progress measurements, governance structure, admission requirements, staff retirement system and procedures for closing the charter.

- Does not present a sound educational program in the areas of special education, English language development (for non-English speakers), and transitional kindergarten (which is not offered in the Menlo Park City School District).

- Has problems with financial planning and resources that would make it unlikely for the school to be successful. The county staff pointed out several shortcomings in the budget, including the amounts for salaries, facilities rental and startup costs.

- Violates state law by requiring new students in second grade and up to pass a Mandarin-proficiency test.

The report says the county board has four options:

- Grant the charter for up to three years.

- Ask charter backers to with-

See **CHARTER**, page 8



May 30, 2014, file photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

A woman with a stroller walks by a waitress setting up a table for lunch at the Left Bank restaurant in downtown Menlo Park.

More outdoor dining for Menlo Park?

By **Sandy Brundage**
Almanac Staff Writer

A pilot program that tested an expanded outdoor dining area on the sidewalk in front of Left Bank restaurant in downtown Menlo Park went so well that the City Council has unanimously signed off on letting more restaurants — and potentially other types of business — put this outdoor space to greater use.

For the trial installation, approved in May 2014, the city

bought movable planters and landscaping to install around the perimeters of the sidewalk area in front of Left Bank at 635 Santa Cruz Ave. The restaurant paid for the additional seating and maintenance of the area.

The installation removed one 1-hour parking space, one 15-minute space and a rarely-used motorcycle parking spot, according to staff. The city also added reflectors to the planters and moved a stop sign on the corner to improve vis-

ibility for motorists.

During its Jan. 27 meeting, the council voted 5-0 to have staff identify new restaurants that could participate in sidewalk dining — Amici’s on Santa Cruz Avenue and Refuge on Crane Street are two of several that are interested — and to start putting together a “toolkit” as a reference for the business owners.

The toolkit would list approved designs and materi-

See **DINING**, page 8

Community Health Education Programs



For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures and health education resources, visit pamf.org/education.

February 2015



Dementia Caregiver Education Series: **Caring for the Caregiver**

Feb. 5, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Alexandra Morris, M.A., Alzheimer's Association

Join us to learn practical tips on how to take care of yourself so you can successfully care for your loved one.

PAMF Sunnyvale Center

301 Old San Francisco Road, 2nd Fl. Conference Center, Sunnyvale • (408) 730-2810

Dr. Tom McDonald Memorial Lecture Series

A Moving Target: Blood Pressure and Cholesterol Guidelines

Feb. 10, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Lynette Lissin, M.D., PAMF Cardiovascular Disease

Cholesterol and blood pressure guidelines to decrease the risk of heart disease have recently changed. Please join Dr. Lissin as she presents the most up-to-date information.

PAMF Palo Alto Center

795 El Camino Real, 3rd Fl. Conference Center, Jamplis Building • (650) 853-4873

Mindful Eating

Feb. 10, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Julie Forbes, Ph.D., Stress Management Consultant



Learn how you can transform your relationship with food using mindfulness as an approach. Whether you have issues with food or weight or just want to have a more healthy, satisfying and pleasurable experience with eating, this introduction to mindful eating will help you understand how awareness can optimize your experience.

PAMF Mountain View Center

701 E. El Camino Real, 3rd Fl. Conference Center, Mountain View • (650) 934-7380

Man, 61, sentenced for Atherton, Menlo crimes

By **Barbara Wood**
Almanac Staff Writer

A 61-year-old man who prosecutors said dropped his cellphone and ID while being chased by police, left his DNA and fingerprints at the crime scene, and was seen by a witness when he intruded into an Atherton home, has pleaded no contest to charges related to the 2014 crimes.

James Grady, 61, of East Palo Alto was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison on Jan. 27 by San Mateo County Criminal Court Judge Leland Davis for charges related to a 2014 intrusion into an Atherton home and the burglary of a Menlo Park home, according to the District Attorney's Office.

Mr. Grady had 15 prior felony convictions and had been in prison on a previous 25-years-to-life sentence when he was released in 2003 after Californians approved changes that made the "three strikes" law more lenient.

He was once again subject to the three strikes law in this prosecution and could have been sentenced to life in

prison, according to District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

The incident started in the early morning hours of Jan. 20, 2014, when an Atherton resident heard someone enter his home and called police, who chased the suspect through Atherton and into Menlo Park.

During the chase, Mr. Grady dropped his jacket, with cellphone and identification in the pockets, prosecutors said.

The man eluded police by wiggling through a dog door into a home on Harmon Drive in Menlo Park, Mr. Wagstaffe said. The residents were not home, and the man was accused of hiding out, drinking tequila and beer, and stealing \$62,000 in jewelry and other property before leaving.

Mr. Wagstaffe said the man left fingerprints and DNA on the alcohol bottles in the Menlo Park home. After Mr. Grady was arrested weeks later in Oakland, the Atherton resident also identified him, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Mr. Grady is scheduled to return to court on March 11 for the judge to decide on what restitution he should pay, the district attorney said. ▀

Scientist Carl Djerassi dies

continued from page 3

cohort of people that really took this department to the next level, to build it into one of the best departments nationally," said Matthew Kanan, an assistant professor of chemistry at Stanford who knew Mr. Djerassi in his later years.

Mr. Djerassi published more than 1,200 scientific papers and made seminal contributions to the use of highly sensitive analytical tools — including mass spectrometry, magnetic circular dichroism and optical rotatory dispersion — that are critical to establishing the structure of complex molecules.

In addition to synthesizing steroids, he made pioneering advances in understanding how nature makes molecules, known as biosynthesis, and elucidating the biosynthesis of marine natural products.

Taking inspiration from his third wife, fellow Stanford professor and poet Diane Middlebrook, Mr. Djerassi followed his

affinity for literary writing in the final 25 years of his life.

Through dozens of short stories, novels and plays, he told fictional tales that describe realistic details and struggles of the day-to-day life of a scientist. In

He founded a resident artists program on his Woodside ranch as a memorial to his daughter Pamela.

his first novel, "Cantor's Dilemma," he explored pressures that can drive a researcher to commit scientific fraud and how academia

handles such a scandal.

In "The Bourbaki Gambit," his second novel, he touched on the conflicts that can arise when a group of scientists must divide credit for a major discovery. In "NO," he pulled from his own experiences of commercializing a drug to illustrate the intersection of science and capitalism.

"You can become an intellectual smuggler, by packaging the truth in a fictional context," Mr. Djerassi said. "If it's exciting enough, they'll learn something."

Plans for a memorial are pending.

— *Stanford News Service and Barbara Wood.*

Menlo examines policy on police use of body cameras

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

Changes to the Menlo Park Police Department's policy on how officers use body-worn cameras are not quite ready for prime time, despite an extended discussion during the Jan. 27 council meeting.

The changes were proposed by the Menlo Park Police Department after the fatal shooting of a burglary suspect by three Menlo Park police officers was not captured by a police body camera. The proposed changes are:

- Officers would be expected to turn on the cameras while responding to the scene of a crime in progress or a high-priority call (unless they are unable to do so), as well as at the start of any citizen contact.

- They would also need to document the existence of a recording of the encounter, and if the camera had not been activated, state why not in the report.

- The camera would stay on continuously until the officer is no longer directly involved in an incident or contact.

- Officers would have the discretion to not record conversations with confidential informants.

The council was mostly on board with the changes, although Councilwoman Kirsten Keith suggested not leaving it up to the officer's discretion as to when to turn off the cameras.

Police Chief Bob Jonsen expressed concern that that would restrict the officers' ability to do their jobs.

Ms. Keith later told the Almanac the policy must be clear about the definition of "confidential informant" as well as what other discretionary reasons might exist to justify turning off the cameras, "or else the policy is meaningless." It's

understandable that some crime victims may not want to be recorded, she said, but the policy needs to state that.

She also expressed her appreciation for the police department as early adopters of new technology, and acknowledged "their excellent police work and dedication to serving the residents of Menlo Park. They do a great job protecting our residents and crime is down."

Chief Jonsen acknowledged that the term "confidential informant" might be confusing, and said the department would modify the language. The intent is to indicate that crime victims should be asked to consent to being recorded, and that officers should exercise discretion as to whether the value of potential information outweighs the merits of leaving the camera on when talking to someone reluctant to be recorded.

Councilman Ray Mueller, who had asked that the council review the camera policy, said he felt comfortable overall with the changes following the Jan. 27 discussion. However, he still wondered whether requiring officers to remember to turn the cameras on while on the way to a call was the best idea.

"It seems to me to be a distraction from their mission. I am not certain I want officers to have to weigh a camera policy at that moment. If the cameras are already on, it reduces the chances for error and also allows the officer to focus on their mission," he said in an email to the Almanac.

Apart from certain specific situations, for example during meal breaks or time spent doing paperwork, Mr. Mueller said he wanted the default state of the camera to be on.

Retention time

Another sticking point

remained up for debate — in this case, something that wasn't proposed to be changed: The two-and-a-half year minimum retention time for all videos.

Mr. Mueller said retention was "still an outstanding issue to be resolved."

Cmdr. Dave Bertini said the police department had based the retention time on the statute of limitations for filing a lawsuit over civil rights violations — two years in federal court and one year in state court.

Part of the difficulty is that at the time of an encounter, there may not be any indication that "it will rise to the level of a complaint," City Attorney Bill McClure noted during the discussion.

According to a Department of Justice survey of 254 law enforcement agencies, the average retention time for body camera video was 60 to 90 days. The American Civil Liberties Union recommends "weeks rather than years."

The police chief's citizens advisory group will talk about retention at an upcoming meeting and provide a report to the council, which expects to revisit the issue in February.

Mr. Mueller said that he believes it's possible to find a compromise between the department's need to safeguard against liability and preserve evidence with a resident's right to privacy.

"I want to make it clear I really appreciate the work of our police department and I just want the officers who were involved in the November 11th incident to know we care about them, are grateful for their work, and we're relieved they weren't harmed that day," he added. "This policy review is being undertaken to fix a policy, and it isn't in anyway directed against them personally." ■

Portola Valley council supports dam's removal

The Town Council of Portola Valley has put itself on the record in support of taking down the dam at Searsville Lake in the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, thereby restoring an unimpeded path into and out of the town's creeks for ocean-going fish such as the steelhead trout.

A unanimous council agreed on Jan. 28 to sign a letter at the request of residents Tom Shreck, Bill Kaspari and Danna Breen.

The views of the dam's owner, Stanford University, were not represented at the meeting. Councilwoman Ann Wengert

BRIEFS

expressed concern about that, but decided to join her colleagues in signing the letter.

New hires

The Menlo Park council decided it would rather not learn about new city hires — even contractors — long after the fact, and to that end, requested on Jan. 27 that City Manager Alex McIntyre now notify the council as hires are made.

The request comes after Mr.

McIntyre made the controversial decision, without telling the council, to hire public relations consultant Malcolm Smith to create materials related to the downtown/El Camino Real specific plan and a ballot measure that sought to change it.

Belle Haven grants

Applications are being taken until April 7 for the 2015 Belle Haven Mini-Grant program.

Administered by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the \$500 or \$1,000 grants may be

See **BRIEFS**, page 16



PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND HEARING PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

The Menlo Park City has prepared a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) Report in accordance with Education Code section 17213.1, subdivision (a)(4)(B). The School District has submitted the PEA Report to DTSC for review and has chosen to make the PEA Report available for public review and comment pursuant to Education Code section 17213.1, subdivision (a)(6)[(A) or (B)].

Project Designation:

Laurel School Upper Campus
275 Elliott Drive
Menlo Park, California

Project Location:

The property is approximately 6 acres in size and is identified with the Assessor's Parcel Number (APN): 063 430-310 by the San Mateo County Assessor.

Description of Assessment:

This PEA Report was prepared by Terraphase for submittal to the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA) Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). This PEA Report was prepared under the oversight of the DTSC in general accordance with the Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) Work Plan prepared for the Site (Terraphase 2014) and the guidelines of the DTSC, as detailed in the PEA Guidance Manual (DTSC 2013).

The school District plans to make the PEA report available for public review and comment pursuant to Option A.

PEA Summary: Low levels of termiticides (dieldrin) are present in the soil in the planters at the front of the existing school building. Low levels of naturally-occurring asbestos (NOA) is present in imported base rock below the parking lot and asphalt surfaces at the Site and potentially below the existing school building.

One truck load of dieldrin impacted soil will be removed and be disposed of under DTSC oversight. The soil is not a hazardous waste and can be disposed of in a municipal solid waste landfill.

The asbestos levels in the base rock are below concentrations that would require mitigation or specialized training/equipment to protect workers. The base rock will be handled on site with appropriate dust control and monitoring. The rock will be used to balance the grading of the site over the school field. A geotextile separator will be placed between the base rock and the overlying soil. An Operations and Maintenance plan will be in affect to insure compliance.

The PEA and Supporting Documents are Available for Review at:

Menlo Park City School District: 181 Encinal Ave -
Atherton CA - 94027

Contact: Kim Go, assistant to Chief Business and Operations Officer
Office: 650-321-7140 ext 5611

Website: district.mpcsd.org

Public Comment Period:

A public comment period for the PEA Report begins on February 4, 2013 through March 5, 2015. Written comments on the PEA Report will be accepted through March 6, 2015. Comments should be directed to Ahmad Sheikholeslami Chief Business and Operations Officer at ahmad@mpcsd.org.

Public Hearing:

A public hearing to discuss the PEA Report will be held on February 10 at 6:00PM at 181 Encinal Ave, Atherton Ca 94027. Comments on the PEA Report will be accepted during the public hearing.

Cities weigh litigation options over Caltrain electrification

By Sandy Brundage
and Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writers

Now that the final environmental impact report for Caltrain's plan to electrify its rail service between San Francisco and San Jose has been approved by the agency's board of directors, cities along the Peninsula with concerns about electrification are pondering what steps to take next.

After closed meetings of their city councils on Jan. 27, Atherton said yes to a lawsuit if certain issues aren't resolved, and Menlo Park said it may join the lawsuit if negotiations fail to produce the results the city wants.

Palo Alto's council said no

to joining the lawsuit, counting instead on Caltrain's stated willingness to work on concerns about grade separations and a predicted increase in traffic congestion at certain intersections.

The cities face a Feb. 6 deadline to file a legal challenge, unless the Caltrain board agrees to extend the deadline.

Atherton

Atherton City Manager George Rodericks said the council voted Jan. 27 to move forward "with a challenge to the Caltrain Electrification EIR."

Mr. Rodericks said town representatives would talk about the issues with Menlo Park and Palo Alto. Atherton could go ahead with the lawsuit even if the other

two cities don't participate, he said.

"Staff will be meeting diligently with Caltrain to work toward further mitigation," he said. "The town hopes to resolve the remaining issues amicably."

In a letter from Mayor Rick DeGolia, dated Jan. 21, Atherton argued that the environmental report for the electrification project should have included a report on the environmental effects of high-speed rail as well.

Other issues cited in the letter:

- Wires and trees. The town has complained that the project will take down more trees and other vegetation than is needed. The council wants Caltrain to promise to position the poles for electric wires down the center of

the track so fewer trees are cut.

- Crossing gates at Watkins Avenue. The letter asks Caltrain to help pay for "quad gates" that keep vehicles from getting on the tracks when the gates are down. With quad gates, the town could ask Caltrain not to blow the train's whistle at the crossing.

- Atherton train station. Caltrain has promised to reopen the Atherton train station for week-day service with electrification. But council members said they are afraid Caltrain will offer as little as one daily stop each way in Atherton and they want more. The letter said, "The minimal service level is not sufficient."

- Alternatives to electrification. The letter says the environmental report did not look closely enough at alternatives to the electric locomotives, such as high-tech diesel.

Menlo Park

Menlo Park Mayor Catherine Carlton reported after the City

Council's Jan. 27 closed meeting that the council had opted to proceed with the legal challenge if pending negotiations fail to resolve the issues to the city's satisfaction.

The council totally supports electrification, she said, but has some concerns.

A letter submitted to Caltrain on Jan. 28 asks the rail agency to extend the deadline for filing a legal challenge by 60 days and states that a lawsuit won't be necessary if Caltrain:

- Mitigates both construction and ongoing traffic impacts.

- Provides funding for grade separations.

- Clarifies the number of heritage trees to be removed and plans to replace them.

- Increases train service to Menlo Park, especially during non-peak hours.

- Commits to implementing all mitigations identified in the final EIR. ■

Dr. Ned Chapin Computer Science Pioneer

Dr. Ned Chapin passed away on December 27, 2014. He was born on the Olympic Peninsula and grew up living in various locations in Washington, Oregon, and California.

After graduating from Eureka Senior High School in 1945, he attended Stanford University where he played percussion in the Symphony Orchestra. He received an MBA from the University of Chicago in 1949.

He served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the Korean War. Upon graduating with a doctorate from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1959, he moved to Menlo Park, California, where he lived for the rest of his life.

Although he worked at Stanford Research Institute (now SRI International) for 10 years, for the bulk of his career he was an independent consultant operating InfoSci Inc. At age 60, he took a job as Professor, and later Professor Emeritus, of Information Systems in the California State University system.

Dr. Ned Chapin was a leader in the field of computer science, particularly the discipline of software maintenance, from its infancy.

Over his 61-year career, he published more than 250 papers and conference proceedings and wrote 8 books including "An Introduction to Automatic Computers" in 1955 (the second general purpose commercially published book on computers) and "Computers: A Systems Approach" in 1971.

He was the founding editor of the "Journal of Software Maintenance and Evolution." He remained active in the field to the end of his life.

For example, he was a panelist at the International Conference on Software Maintenance and Evolution in Victoria in October 2014.

He was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Dr. June R. Chapin, and is survived by his two daughters, Suzanne and Dr. Elaine Chapin, and one grandchild, Kiel Chapin-Riddle.

His hobbies included reading science fiction novels, listening to jazz vocals, hunting for mushrooms, and advocating a manned mission to Mars.

Dr. Ned Chapin was a founding member of the Computer History Museum. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to that museum www.computerhistory.org.



PAID OBITUARY

Reports of serious crimes drop 11% in 2014

continued from page 5

"We were concerned about crime going up, our response times going up ... but everybody just kept stepping up. I can't tell you how much I appreciate what the officers have done this past year."

Complaint rate

Out of 40,065 interactions with the public in 2014, a total of 31 people complained, according to data released by the police

department. That is one more than in 2013.

Sixteen complaints were filed over alleged rude behavior by an officer. Overall, the evidence supported the complaint in two cases.

In 16 cases, the officers were determined to have acted in accord with department policy, and in one case, the alleged action either didn't happen or didn't involve police personnel. Five are still under investigation

and seven were withdrawn by the person making the complaint.

"That was very close to last year," Chief Jonsen said. "The only noticeable difference was that the ability to have that (body) camera in place the entire year helped us, as expected." ■

DINING

continued from page 5

als for semi-permanent outdoor areas, approved contractors, and cost-sharing guidelines.

The designs would place outdoor platforms at the same level as sidewalks to allow better access for those with disabilities.

New sites will be selected based on minimal parking impacts; protection from traffic; and whether the businesses get the required outdoor seating permits.

Councilman Ray Mueller suggested looking into whether non-restaurants could join in, perhaps by hosting "pop up" vendors, such as those that show up at Santa Cruz Avenue block parties, using tables for their goods.

The council also considered an option to use capital improvement funds to go ahead with permanently expanding downtown sidewalks, but for now, set that aside in favor of other projects, such as completing a sidewalk along Chilco Street. ■

CHARTER

continued from page 5

draw the petition and correct identified problems.

- Deny the petition, based on legal grounds.

- Take no action.

If the county board denies the charter or takes no action, a final appeal can be made to the state board of education. If either board approves the charter, the school may operate in the district, and the district must provide facilities if the school has more than 80 in-district students.

The petition says the school

would open in the fall of 2015 with two classes each of kindergarten and first grade, a total of 100 students. One grade would be added each year. The backers have asked the district for 10,000 square feet of classrooms and other facilities for 2015, saying the school would serve at least 80 district students. The district denied the facilities request, but charter backers say they qualify.

The charter must be approved by May 7 to preserve a \$375,000 grant for startup costs from the federal Public Charter Schools Grant Program. ■

Lyme foundation names members of advisory board

The Bay Area Lyme Foundation in Portola Valley has made appointments to its new scientific advisory board to help in its mission of improving diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease.

The advisory board members are: John Aucott, assistant professor, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine; Charles Chiu, M.D., Ph.D., University of California, San Francisco; Monica Embers, M.D., assistant professor Tulane University; Christine Green, M.D., director of education International Lyme and Associated Disease Society; Robert Lane, professor, University of California, Berkeley; William Robinson, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor Stanford University; Irving Weissman, M.D., professor, Stanford University, director Stanford Institute of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine and director Ludwig Center for Cancer Stem Cell Research at Stanford.

Fire district begins to plan new station for Woodside

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

A new and larger fire station on Woodside Road in Woodside is in the preliminary planning stages, according to officials from the Woodside Fire Protection District.

The idea of a new station has been under discussion on the fire district's board for about five years, district Fire Chief Dan Ghiorso said. At a meeting on Jan. 26, the board considered a significant step forward: inviting architects to submit design proposals for a new station.

The district has not yet prepared a formal request for architects to act on, Chief Ghiorso said. A request for proposals, when it is ready, will include a budget, he said.

The district encompasses Portola Valley, Woodside and the nearby unincorporated communities. In addition to the main station, there are fire stations at 135 Portola Road in Portola Valley and at 4091 Jefferson Ave. in Emerald Hills.

The board is interested in possibly expanding its one-acre parcel at 3111 Woodside Road by buying and annexing the adjoining one-acre residential property at 3105 Woodside Road, Chief Ghiorso said, adding that he has been trying to contact the owner.

Whatever the outcome of that endeavor, the process is in its very early stages. A groundbreaking, should it come to pass, would be unlikely this year or in 2016, and may not happen in 2017, Chief Ghiorso said.

As for funding, he said, the district plans to share the cost with the nonprofit Woodside-Portola Valley Fire Protection Foundation.

The district has a capital reserve fund of \$2.25 million, Chief Ghiorso said. A bond measure, an option for public agencies, would be up to the board, he said. The district built Station 19 in Emerald Hills without bond money, and "I can't imagine that (attitude) has changed," he added.

District Fire Marshal Denise Enea commented on the state of the project via email.

"We don't have a preliminary design or even an architect," she said. "The big story is that we are seeking an architect! We don't know what we are going to need in regards to land or what the potential cost will be or what the station will look like."

Designed for two people

The district's main station was built in 1949 (and remodeled in the 1990s) and was originally

staffed with two people, Chief Ghiorso said. The firefighters were volunteers. Their tasks in those simpler days included fighting fires, administering first aid, and assisting the public in such situations as rescuing a cat from a tree.

Today, firefighters have many more responsibilities. Most calls are for medical assistance, but the district is also involved in fire prevention, public education, and inspection of vegetation around homes to reduce its potential to spread fire in what is essentially an urban forest.

Firefighters are also called upon to handle hazardous materials, check building plans, test hydrants, and extricate people from wrecked vehicles, Chief Ghiorso said. And there is the annual wood chipper program, in which residents leave tree and shrubbery trimmings by the roadside for crews with a chipping machine to transform into chips suitable for mulching.

The district gets about 5,000 calls a year now compared with 400 in 1960, Chief Ghiorso said. The increased load can be attributed in part to the district's adding an ambulance in the 1990s and expanding its response area to outside its boundaries, he said. The station now has as many as 10 firefighters per shift sleeping in one dorm room. They need individual rooms, he said.

The trucks themselves are also cramped. When returning from a call, firefighters stop the trucks on Woodside Road and back them into the bays. A modern station allows the trucks to re-enter the bays from the rear.

Inside, the trucks' parking clearance is just 1.5 inches per side, Chief Ghiorso said. The station has three bays but needs four, one each for an ambulance, the battalion chief's SUV, an engine and a rescue vehicle, he said.

The new station could include an emergency operations center and a classroom, Chief Ghiorso said. The training tower would be rebuilt.

The other stations are not in need of attention. The Emerald Hills station was new in 2006, and the station in Portola Valley is good for another five to 10 years, he said.

As for the new main station, the purchase of the adjoining property could be critical. "I don't think we can fit what we want on one lot," Chief Ghiorso said.

Council comments

Town Council member Dave Tanner attended the fire district's board meeting and informed the council on Jan. 28

of the plans for a new station.

Commenting on the huge increase in the number of calls per year, Mr. Tanner noted that the population of Woodside nearly doubles during the day, including "thousands" of bicyclists passing through.

Upon being informed by Mr. Tanner, Mayor Tom Shanahan was skeptical. "I'm not personally anxious to see a bigger fire station at the expense of the residents," he said. "You're going

to have more of a city effect if you have another big building there."

The town would maintain control through its permitting processes, Town Manager Kevin Bryant said. The adjacent property would also have to be rezoned.

The fire district's plans should be viewed as an opportunity, Councilman Dave Burow said. "I think we ought to be looking at these guys as partners," he said.

Councilman Peter Mason, an architect, expressed concerned

about the station's design. The town should "end up with something that is as good as the school is and not some hack job," he said. Earlier, Mr. Mason called the design of the new station proposed for the Menlo Park Fire Protection District one of the "ugliest" he had seen.

In an interview with the Almanac, Chief Ghiorso seemed keenly aware of station design as an issue. "This is your fire

See **STATION** page 16

THE A. JESS SHENSON RECITAL SERIES AT STANFORD



Sunday, February 8th at 2:30 p.m.

CHRISTINE BRANDES, SOPRANO
ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET
LAURA DAHL, PIANO

Program: Fauré, Haydn, Wolf, and Gershwin

Tickets: \$15 general | \$10 seniors | \$10 students
Stanford students free with SUID



Monday, February 9th at 4:15 p.m.

CHRISTINE BRANDES: VOCAL MASTERCLASS

Masterclass is free and open to the public.

Both events are at Campbell Recital Hall.

tickets.stanford.edu
(650) 725-2787



MUSIC
AT STANFORD

Responsive, attentive and professional care
in the environment our seniors desire most-AT HOME!

Call us anytime you need an extra hand.
Our caregivers, all bonded and insured,
lend a hand in caring for your loved ones:

- Bathing, dressing, grooming & toileting
- Light housekeeping & meal preparation
- Transportation, shopping & errands
- Medication reminders & physical activities
- Companionship & more



(650) 328-1001
www.careindeed.com
1150 Chestnut St.
Menlo Park, CA 94025



Celebrate American Heart Month with Stanford Health Care!



Happy Heart Month

FROM STANFORD HEALTH CARE

Saturday, February 28 • 8:30am – 12:30pm

Join us at the first annual Stanford Heart Fair to be screened for common heart disease risk factors and to ask all of your heart health questions.

Crowne Plaza Hotel

4290 El Camino Real

Palo Alto, CA 94306

Free parking is available

Learn from Stanford Medicine heart experts at our breakout sessions!



A Partner for Living a Heart Healthy Life in the South Asian Community
Presented by the Stanford South Asian Translational Heart Initiative (SSATHI)
11:00am – 12:30pm
Mediterranean Ballroom III



Your Heart Rhythm: Atrial Fibrillation (AFIB) Evaluation and Treatment
Presented by the Stanford Cardiac Arrhythmia Service
9:00am – 10:30am
11:00am – 12:30pm
Mediterranean Ballroom I & II



Topics Dear to Your Heart
Presented by Stanford Women's Heart Health
9:00am – 10:30am
Mediterranean Ballroom III



Heart Disease Prevention: What You Need to Know
Presented by Stanford Preventive Cardiology
11:00am – 12:30pm
Cyprus Room

REGISTER

Seating is limited for the community talks. Please register by calling **650.736.6555** or visit stanfordhealthcare.org/heartfair.

This event is free and open to the public.





Notice of Approved Ordinance TOWN OF ATHERTON

At the January 21, 2015 City Council meeting Council adopted the following ordinance:

Ordinance 612

An ordinance of the city Council of the Town of Atherton adopting a new Chapter 12.05 regarding wireless telecommunications facilities.

For a complete copy of the wireless telecommunications facilities Ordinance 612 please contact Theresa DellaSanta at tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us or 650-752-0529.



Town of Atherton

Town Administrative Offices
91 Ashfield Road
Atherton, California 94027
650-752-0500
Fax 650-688-6528

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING and NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT THE

2014 – 2022 HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Atherton Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall of the Town of Atherton to consider recommending City Council adoption of an amendment to the Atherton General Plan, Housing Element Update 2014-2022.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Atherton City Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall of the Town of Atherton to consider the Planning Commission's recommendation concerning the adoption of an amendment to the Atherton General Plan, Housing Element Update 2014-2022.

Description: The Project is an update of the Atherton General Plan Housing Element for the planning period 2014-2022. The Housing Element revisions include update of population, employment and housing data, update of inventory of land suitable for residential development, analysis of constraints to the provision of housing, analysis of groups with special housing needs and proposed programs to facilitate the development of new housing.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council adopted an Initial Study and Negative Declaration on October 15, 2014 for the above described project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. A copy of these documents is available for public review at the Atherton Town Hall, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA.

IF YOU CHALLENGE the General Plan Amendment in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission or the City Council at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

For further particulars, reference is made to the application on file. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0560 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Lisa Costa Sanders, Town Planner

Hit-and-run driver leaves 1,400 without power

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Power went out in an area near Bay Road in Menlo Park, including the Lindenwood neighborhood of Atherton, early Saturday morning, Jan. 31, Atherton police said, after a hit-and-run driver struck a power pole on Bay Road just north of Ringwood

Avenue at about 2:30 a.m.

Police said the speeding vehicle, described as a gray Lexus, had extensive damage, but the driver was able to leave the scene before police and fire personnel responded.

The Menlo Park Police Department is leading the investigation into the accident, but it appears to have begun in Palo Alto, where Police Department

spokesman Zachary Perron said a Palo Alto officer "observed the vehicle driving erratically in our city, followed it, and eventually attempted to make a stop in Menlo Park."

Lt. Perron said that when police car's lights were activated, "the car took off at a high rate of speed," but the officer did not pursue. "A few minutes later, the collision was reported," he said.

Menlo Park Police Department spokeswoman Nicole Acker said a neighbor reported the accident. "When our officers arrived at the scene, the driver had already fled the area," she said.

"Officers located one of the registered owners of the vehicle at his residence in Menlo Park and observed that he had injuries that were consistent with being involved in a traffic collision," Ms. Acker said. The man was taken to Stanford Hospital, she said.

"The cause of the collision is under investigation," she said, and may be forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for possible prosecution.

"At this time, there are no known witnesses to the collision. Menlo Park police are asking anyone with information to call (650) 330-6300," Ms. Acker said.

A Pacific Gas & Electric spokesperson said Feb. 2 that 1,400 people were affected by the power outage. About half had their power restored by 4 p.m. Saturday and the rest by 7 p.m., the spokesperson said. The wooden utility pole, a fairly new and reinforced model, was sheared in half, he said. ▀

We're Hiring Full-time Reporter

The **Mountain View Voice** is seeking a full-time reporter with a passion for local journalism. We are an award-winning community newspaper and online news service covering the vibrant city of Mountain View, the home of Google and NASA Ames Research Center, in the heart of Silicon Valley. We're looking for someone with excellent writing and reporting skills, who is self-motivated and eager to learn, and is familiar with the Mountain View area. Basic video-editing and social media skills are a plus. The reporter will cover city hall, Moffett Field and general assignment stories.

The Voice is part of Embarcadero Media, which includes the Palo Alto Weekly and The Almanac. To apply, send a resume, cover letter and three news clips to Andrea Gemmet, Editor, at editor@mv-voice.com.

MountainView
VOICE

MountainView
Voice ONLINE

450 CAMBRIDGE AVENUE | PALO ALTO | PALOALTOONLINE.COM

THE CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

presents

The Stein Visiting Writer

Joyce Carol Oates



Reading

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015 8:00 PM
CEMEX AUDITORIUM, ZAMBRANO HALL,
KNIGHT MANAGEMENT CENTER
641 KNIGHT WAY, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

INFORMATION: 650.723.0011 [HTTP://CREATIVELITERATURE.STANFORD.EDU](http://CREATIVELITERATURE.STANFORD.EDU)

Sponsored by Stanford University Creative Writing Program

Parasite is killing band-tailed pigeons

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Band-tailed pigeons in Woodside, Portola Valley, Los Gatos and Saratoga are dying. A parasite — avian trichomoniasis — is making its way through the band-tailed population, often through contaminated water in birdbaths, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

It's happening now because the pigeons, which are native to the West Coast, flock around this time of year, bringing them into close proximity with one another and making it convenient for the parasite to spread, said state wildlife biologist Krysta Rogers. Once infected, the

band-tail quickly dies.

Other bird species may encounter the parasite but not fall ill. Trichomoniasis is "fairly bird-species-specific," Ms. Rogers said.

The band-tail pigeon is dark gray with bright yellow legs and beak — and without the wide band of iridescent feathers that circle the neck of the city-dwelling rock pigeon.

Recent reports of dead band-tails in Los Gatos and Portola Valley led the state to declare an outbreak, Ms. Rogers said. Why those two communities? They aren't exactly neighbors. "As the pigeon flies, they're close," she said.

Birdbaths are suspected to be a transmission catalyst. The

parasite lives in and may escape from band-tails' mouths when they drink, perhaps infecting other pigeons drinking the now-infected water, according to the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin, an agency of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Birdbaths should be drained and not refilled, Ms. Rogers said, adding that feeding or providing water for wild birds, even in a drought, is a bad idea. It brings unfamiliar birds together and increases the likelihood of diseases spreading. "Wild birds are capable of finding food on their own. They can survive without handouts from people," she said.

Band-tails avoid bird feeders in that they prefer acorns, particularly those of the coast live

oak. The birds swallow them whole, she said.

Feeding wild birds "comes with a lot of responsibility," she added. About twice a week, feeders and water containers should be thoroughly washed with soap and water and then decontaminated with a 10 percent bleach solution. Using the bleach without first washing the object will undermine the cleansing effect of the bleach.

If you see a sick or dead bird in your yard, to break the disease cycle, you should stop feeding altogether for at least two weeks, Ms. Rogers said.

One bird species believed to carry and spread the parasite while staying immune to its toxicity is the rock pigeon, that



aroid of San Luis Obispo

This pigeon, found in Woodside and Portola Valley, is under attack by a water-borne parasite.

annoying orange-eyed denizen of sidewalks and ledges in cities around the world.

If you see a rock pigeon in your yard, in the interest of "biological security," you should treat it as an unwelcome guest, particularly if you have chickens, she said. ▀

Menalto Cleaners owner pleads not guilty

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

Edwin Gary Smith, the owner of Menalto Cleaners in Menlo Park, pleaded not guilty Jan. 28 to 40 felony counts stemming from alleged credit card fraud.

Menlo Park police arrested Mr. Smith Jan. 14 after an investigation uncovered more than \$678,000 in fraudulent credit card charges to at least 38 customers from December 2011 to October 2014, prosecutors said.

Mr. Smith, a 63-year-old Menlo Park resident, was then charged with felony identity theft, credit card fraud and elder fiduciary abuse — one customer was 79 years old, according to court records.

The current case involves 19

alleged victims who lost more than \$350,000 combined. One client lost \$70,000 without noticing for 18 months, the San Mateo District Attorney's Office said. Other frauds reportedly occurred outside the three-year statute of limitations.

According to the DA, several customers confronted

Mr. Smith about billing errors and he allegedly failed to pay them back as promised. Two patrons went to the police in late 2014.

Represented by attorney Michael Armstrong, Mr. Smith remains in custody on \$350,000 bail. A date for a preliminary hearing is expected to be set by the court on Feb. 27. ▀

Do you want the best in home care for your family? Call Home Care Assistance.



Home Care Assistance - Palo Alto named winner of the 'Best of Home Care' Award by Home Care Pulse*.

It starts with our caregivers. We carefully screen nearly 25 applicants for each caregiver we hire. *Only the best are good enough for Home Care Assistance!*

We follow this with extensive training. Finally we invite geriatric experts to meet with our caregivers so that they are up-to-date with the newest ideas about senior care.

Hourly and Live-In Care. Our caregiving services focus on two basic types of care: hourly and live-in. The service you choose is determined by your particular needs.

Hourly caregiving works well for many families. In this situation we provide trained caregivers on an hourly basis. Here the caregiver focuses all her attention exclusively on the senior.

Live-in care differs from hourly care in that we provide personal aides on a daily basis. Live-in caregivers are often the best choice for those seniors who need the companionship of another person, but who do not have intense "all the time" personal needs.

At Home Care Assistance we mean it when we talk about providing the best in senior care—whether it is on an hourly basis or a live-in basis.

**Home Care Pulse is an independent organization that surveys real clients for accurate, unbiased satisfaction results.*



650-462-6900

HomeCareAssistance.com

148 Hawthorne Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301

From my sellers...



Steve worked with us on what turned out to be a lengthy and complicated sales process on our Portola Valley Home. He was diligent, responsive, patient and tenacious. We were selling our home from out of state and always felt like we were in good hands with Steve and his network of professionals. He was the consummate professional and I recommend him highly and without hesitation.

30+ years of local knowledge. Born in Menlo Park. Raised in Atherton. A Woodside resident.



STEVE GRAY

BRE# 01498634

650-743-7702
sgray@cbnocal.com

CALIFORNIA POPS ORCHESTRA

The Bay Area's Entertainment Symphony

Conductor
Kim Venaas

Feb. 8th
Sunday, 3pm

Presents

On Broadway!

Performing hits from your favorite Musicals!



Singer
Pierce Brandt

The Lion King
Chicago
Cabaret
The Music Man
South Pacific
Thoroughly Modern Millie
and much more...



Singer
Carly Honfi

Smithwick Theater, Foothill College
12345 El Monte Rd., Los Altos Hills
FREE Parking (Lots 5 & 6 only) No Stairs
Tickets: Single \$37, \$42, Youth \$15

www.calpops.org ♦ (650) 856-8432

The **Almanac**
AlmanacNews.com

LET'S DISCUSS:

Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues on Town Square at AlmanacNews.com

Menlo research lab opposes proposed new high school

By **Dave Boyce**
Almanac Staff Writer

As the Sequoia Union High School District moves ahead with plans to build a new high school for 300 to 400 students at 150 Jefferson Drive in the industrial area of Menlo Park, the proposed school is getting the cold shoulder from its future neighbor.

The site is bracketed by the offices of Exponent Inc., a failure-analysis and research firm located on Jefferson Drive for almost 25 years. The company, in a Jan. 28 letter from the law firm Archer Norris, informed the district of its opposition to a school there, claiming that the area's industrial character makes the site inappropriate.

The Sequoia district plans to build two small schools — the other in San Carlos, and each with a theme such as technology or the arts — to make room for a surge of middle-school students, many from Menlo Park districts, with peak enrollment expected

State law allows school district to proceed, regardless.

in the 2020-21 school year.

Attendance at Menlo-Atherton High School is expected to jump significantly. The district hopes to relieve enrollment pressure by enticing around 100 students per year over four years to the Jefferson Drive school, Matthew Zito, the district's chief facilities officer and current M-A principal, told the Menlo Park Planning Commission on Jan. 26.

The commission, which voted 5-2 to support the school, has the right to determine whether district plans are consistent with the city's general plan. State law exempts school districts from zoning laws, so even if the commission were to find the plans inconsistent, the district could proceed.

The site is in the M-2 general industrial zone, "the key" to the city's economy, according to a

recent planning report. Nearby are Facebook, Intuit and Oracle, representing one of "three rapidly growing high-tech sectors" in M-2, the others being life sciences and medical devices, the report says. Another report notes that 735 apartments are planned in the M-2 zone by spring 2016.

Exponent CFO and executive vice president Richard L. Schlenker said the company's labs, which would face the school, handle 6,000 to 7,000 projects annually, some of which involve hazards, including "radiation activities" and biological and medical wastes.

There are "massive pieces of broken pipe from pipeline explosions" on Exponent's property, he said. "If somebody was to trespass and crawl around on those pipes and not be supervised when they were in the area, they could be seriously injured."

"If (Exponent executives) think that that's a health hazard to the community, they should take care of that themselves," Commission Chair Ben Eiref said. ▀

Should Atherton become charter city?

By **Barbara Wood**
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton's City Council is scheduled to hold a study session on Wednesday, Feb. 4, to discuss two items that

could affect most of the town's residents: whether the town should adopt its own charter; and changes to the law governing residents' use of the public right-of-way.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 4 p.m. in the town's

council chambers at 94 Ashfield Road. Also on the agenda is a vote on spending \$175,000 on bike route improvements that would allow the town to apply for a matching county grant.

The council appointed an ad hoc committee to explore adopting its own charter in May 2012. The town now operates under general law, with pre-set state conditions. Adopting a charter, which must be approved by voters, would give the town more flexibility.

One major difference, according to an analysis by City Attorney William Connors, is that Atherton, as a charter city, could charge a real estate transfer tax. It's can't do that now.

The town is considering changes in its encroachment permit regulations to control some of the ways in which Atherton residents have been using the town-owned right-of-way. A report from City Manager George Rodericks says residents have installed "wireless facilities, fencing, walls, landscaping, mailboxes, security panels, pathways, pavement, stepping stones, large drainage facilities, rocks, and/or lumber barriers" on property they don't actually own.

"Because they are essentially unregulated, the private improvements place the town at considerable risk," he said. ▀

Computer Systems Associate

Embarcadero Media is looking for an Information Technology professional to join our IT team to support and manage our Windows and Mac infrastructure.

We are looking for a person who can work as part of a support team, troubleshooting hardware and software, while providing Windows server administration and network management. You would provide computer support for both of our Bay Area locations (Palo Alto and Pleasanton) based in our main Palo Alto office.

This is an entry-level position, but an ideal candidate would have helpdesk and troubleshooting experience. We want that special someone who is technically savvy with excellent people skills. Windows server administration would be a huge plus.

Additionally, as time allows, you will have an opportunity to share in building the exciting web-based features we are constantly adding to our custom-built PHP/MySQL platform for our award-winning websites. But, sorry, no designers please.

Your own transportation is a necessity. Mileage is reimbursed. This is a full-time, benefited position.

Please email your resume and cover letter to Frank Bravo, Director of Information Technology, at fbravo@embarcaderomediagroup.com with "Computer Systems Associate" in the subject line.

Embarcadero Media is an independent, award-winning news organization, with a 35-year publishing history.

embarcadero media

450 CAMBRIDGE AVENUE | PALO ALTO

Menlo Business Park to gain life sciences facilities

Former Office Depot Max warehouse sold

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

A former warehouse distribution facility that was one of Menlo Park's top sales-tax producers will be redeveloped into a life sciences hub by its new owners.

In November, Office Depot Max shut down the 217,000-square-foot warehouse, located within the Menlo Business Park at 1315 O'Brien Drive, to consolidate operations with a larger Fremont facility, the company said.

The site's acquisition by Tarlton Properties Inc. and Principal Real Estate Investors was announced Jan. 27. The commercial property investment firms paid \$36 million for the 11.2-acre property, according to the press release. Its value had been estimated at \$25 million to \$30 million prior to the sale by city staff.

Tarlton plans to redevelop the property into a 140,000-square-foot life science facility, which

will include a rooftop terrace and a conference center, and a 70,000-square-foot distribution facility.

"This opportunity allows us to continue the growth of what (we) believe is a truly innovative research park that is centrally located near the venture capital community, nearby housing options and Stanford University," said John Tarlton, president and CEO, in a press release.

The two-story structure was built in 1987 by and for Boise Cascade Office Products. That company was subsequently sold to OfficeMax, which then merged with Office Depot.

Tarlton holds other properties within the business park, including Menlo Labs, two buildings that offer leases on lab space as small as 250 square feet on a month-to-month basis.

According to Jim Cogan, Menlo Park's economic development manager, Tarlton wants to accommodate the expansion of existing sales tax generators. "Due to FDA regulations, there

is a lot of inertia for biotech companies to overcome in order to change locations," he said. "Allowing opportunities for them to expand in close proximity with property owners who understand their needs means continued and reliable tax revenue growth for Menlo Park." ■



Photo courtesy of Chase Communications

Tarlton Properties will redevelop the former Office Depot Max warehouse on O'Brien Drive.



Stanford
Children's Health

Lucile Packard
Children's Hospital
Stanford

You are invited

Let's Talk About It – Recovery from an Eating Disorder: A Personal Story

This evening discussion is for students, parents, teachers and other adult resources of kids and teens with eating disorders.

Expert-Panelists include:

Jennifer Derenne MD & Neville Golden MD,
Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford,
Stanford University School of Medicine
Kristina Saffran, Project HEAL

Event Details

Thursday, February 26: 7–8:30 pm

Freidenrich Auditorium

First floor
Lucile Packard
Children's Hospital Stanford
725 Welch Rd
Palo Alto, CA 94304

Free!

Information and registration available
online at classes.stanfordchildrens.org
or call us at (650) 724-4601



 Stanford MEDICINE

WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

NOTICE INVITING BIDS for

Architectural Services for Design of Station #7

The Woodside Fire Protection District ("District") will be receive sealed bids on February 16, 2015 until 2:00 PM Bids submitted must be sealed and addressed and noted as follows:

District Clerk
Woodside Protection District
3111 Woodside Road
Woodside, CA

Sealed Bid for Bid Package 100.1
Fire Station #7

Bidders may obtain copies of the bidding documents by visiting the District's website and going to the link: <http://www.woodsidefire.org/>. A pre Bid Meeting is scheduled for 2-4-15 10:00 AM at 3111 Woodside Road. The meeting will start at 10:00 AM.

The District has determined that the Architect must be properly licensed under the laws of the State of California. Failure to possess a valid California license shall render the bid non-responsive. Bid forms received after the time set forth above will not be accepted.

The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids; to make any awards or any rejections based on what the District, is its sole discretion, considers to be in the best interest of the District, or waive any informalities or irregularities in the bids.

The successful bidder must insure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against on the basis of age, color, race, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual preference, marital status, and shall comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.



NOTICE REQUESTING BIDS

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT BELLE HAVEN SEWER PROJECT

Sealed proposals for the BELLE HAVEN SEWER PROJECT will be received at the West Bay Sanitary District, 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California 94025 until 2:00 PM on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Bids shall be labeled "West Bay Sanitary District, Proposal for "BELLE HAVEN SEWER PROJECT."

The Work will include the furnishing of all labor, materials and equipment, and other appurtenances for rehabilitation and replacement of sanitary sewer mains by Open Trench Construction, Pipe Bursting, and Cured-in-Place Pipe, as indicated on the project plans.

The contract documents may be inspected at the office of the West Bay Sanitary District; San Francisco Builders Exchange, Attn: Deanna Johnson, 850 So. Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94110; Peninsula Builders Exchange, Attn: Andrea Nettles, 735 Industrial Road, Suite 100, San Carlos, California 94070; Santa Clara Builders Exchange, Attn: Kanani Fonseca, 400 Reed Street, Santa Clara, California 95050; Builders Exchange of Alameda, Attn: Richard Owen, 3055 Alvarado Street, San Leandro, California 94577; Construction Bidboard Incorporated, Attn: Plan Room, 11622 El Camino Real, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92130; and, Contra Costa Builders Exchange, Attn: April Hamilton, 2440 Stanwell Drive, Suite B, Concord, California 94520.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of the West Bay Sanitary District upon payment of a check or money order in the amount of \$60.00 for each set. The check or money order must be issued to the West Bay Sanitary District. All payments are nonrefundable.

A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at the West Bay Sanitary District Office in Menlo Park, California.

Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check or a proposal guaranty bond payable to the order of the West Bay Sanitary District in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid as a guaranty that the bidder will execute the contract if it be awarded to him in conformity with the proposal. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond in an amount not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price and a labor and material bond in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price.

The District ("Owner") reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to determine which proposal is, in the judgment of the District, the lowest responsible bid of a responsible bidder or group of bidders and which proposal should be accepted in the best interest of the District. The District also reserves the right to waive any informalities in any proposal or bid.

Bid proposals received after the time announced for the opening will not be considered. No bidder may withdraw his proposal after the time announced for the opening, or before award and execution of the contract, unless the award is delayed for a period exceeding forty-five (45) days.

Pursuant to the provisions of Public Contract Code Section 22300, and upon the request and at the expense of the Contractor, securities equivalent to the amount withheld by the District to ensure performance under the Contract may be deposited with the District, or with a state or federally chartered bank as escrow agent who shall deliver such securities to the Contractor upon satisfactory completion of the contract. Only those securities listed in Government Code Section 16430 or other securities approved by the District are eligible for deposit. The deposit of securities with an escrow agent or the District shall be made in the form and on such terms and conditions as the District may require to protect the interest of the District in the event of the Contractor's default. The Contractor shall be the beneficial owner of any securities that are deposited and shall receive any interest thereon.

Pertaining to Sections 1770, 1773, and 1773.1 of the California Labor Code the successful bidder shall pay not less than the prevailing rate of per diem wages as determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations. Copies of such prevailing rates are on file at the District office of the West Bay Sanitary District and which copies shall be made available to any interested party on request. The successful bidder shall post a copy of such determinations at each job site.

In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code Section 3300, the District has determined that the Contractor shall possess a valid Class A License or a combination of Class C-12 "Earthwork and Paving", C-34 "Pipeline" and C-42 "Sanitation System" licenses at the time this contract is awarded. Failure to possess the specified license(s) shall render the bid as non-responsive and shall act as a bar to award of the contract to any bidder not possessing said license(s) at the time of award.

West Bay Sanitary District
Board of Directors
San Mateo County, California

/s/ Phil Scott
District Manager

Dated: January 15, 2015

Ex-Wildcat Edelman stars in Super Bowl

Julian Edelman, a star of Woodside High's championship 2004 season, was a star of Sunday's Super Bowl as a wide receiver for the New England Patriots. He had nine receptions for 109 yards, including the game-winning touchdown catch in the Patriots' 28-24 victory over the Seattle Seahawks.

In Woodside's 13-0 season

in 2004, the Wildcats won the Central Coast Section Medium School Division title with a 36-20 victory over Campbell's Westmont High.

In that game, quarterback Edelman, a senior, rushed for 140 yards, including two touchdown runs. He completed six of 12 passes for 86 yards, including a 15-yard touchdown pass to Dominic Duncan-Cruz.

Portola Valley surveillance cameras?

Should Portola Valley vehicle traffic be monitored by fixed license-plate-reading surveillance cameras operated by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, with the data stored at a regional office of the Department of Homeland Security?

The public is invited to two community forums on this ques-

tion: on Tuesday, Feb. 10, and Tuesday, March 10. Both take place at 7 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road.

The Town Council will be looking for community feedback in anticipation of a possible decision on whether to allow the cameras and policies governing their use.

■ POLICE CALLS

WOODSIDE

Threat: A customer at the Wells Fargo bank at 2925 Woodside Road allegedly threatened to punch a bank teller in the face after learning that his request to access an account would be delayed by a day or two, despite his having shown proof that he was a trustee. A deputy contacted the customer, who admitted being upset but denied having made threats. Jan. 21.

Traffic accidents:

■ A man lost control of his motorcycle and struck a roadside dirt embankment after unsuccessfully trying to negotiate a curve at Woodside Road and Skywood Way. Medics took the rider to the hospital for his injuries. Jan. 18.

■ A woman driving west on Highway 84 near Portola Road fell asleep, veered off the road and collided with a tree. The driver was not injured, but medics took her to the hospital as a precaution. Jan. 22.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglaries:

■ Someone broke through a rear door of a garage of a home on Sharon Park Drive and stole two high-end bicycles. Estimated loss: \$18,000. Feb. 1.

■ A Cadillac Escalade was found without its wheels and sitting on bricks in the driveway of a home on Monte Rosa Drive. Also stolen from the side yard were several bicycles and scooters. No estimate on

losses. Feb. 1.

■ Two bicycles, an unlocked vehicle, a toolbox and tools, golf clubs, sunglasses and a case of beer were stolen from an unlocked garage on Deanna Drive. Estimated loss: \$4,520. Feb. 1.

Commercial burglaries:

■ A thief stole a safe deposit box and a coin box from inside Jan's Deli on Alma Street after forcing the front doors open. Estimated loss: \$230 in currency and \$50 in coins. Jan. 26.

■ Someone stole the cash register from Tony's Pizza at 820 Willow Road. The front door was forced open, breaking the door frame in the process. The cash register was the only missing item. Estimated loss: \$130. Jan. 31.

Thefts:

■ Someone stole a laptop computer accidentally left under a chair at the Allied Arts Guild on Arbor Road. Estimated loss: \$500. Jan. 26.

■ A package of chips and dip were taken from the front porch of a home on Middle Avenue. Estimated loss: \$7. Jan. 26.

■ A woman between 30 and 40 years old tried to exit the Safeway supermarket on El Camino Real with baby formula and diapers that she hadn't paid for. A store employee stopped her, and she left the items, then got into a truck and left the area. No loss. Jan. 25.

BRIEFS

continued from page 7

used to improve the Belle Haven neighborhood.

Projects awarded funding in 2014 included the replacement of hedges dating back to the 1940s with new drought-tolerant landscaping, and construction of a fence around a yard where children play.

An information session will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Onetta Harris Community Center at 100 Terminal Ave.

Go to siliconvalleycf.org/belle-haven for more information.

STATION

continued from page 9

station and I'm very, very well aware of that," he said, speaking rhetorically to residents. "We're on a scenic corridor. We do not want this thing to look ugly."

Finding a builder who will do "exactly" what the district asks for will be the biggest challenge, he said.

"We don't want someone from Kansas to come out here and put up a metal building," he said. "If we're going to spend money, do it the right way and proper for the constituents." ■

SEE OUR PROGRESS

in the Bay Area

An Lam
Senior Gas Engineer

SAN CARLOS RESIDENT

“San Mateo County is my home. And the work I am doing now to improve safety and strengthen reliability in our community is some of the most important and rewarding work I will ever perform.”

At PG&E, our customers are our neighbors. The communities we serve as PG&E employees are where we live and work too.

That's why we're investing \$4.5 billion every year to enhance pipeline safety and strengthen our gas and electric infrastructure across northern and central California. It's why we're helping people and businesses gain energy efficiencies to help reduce their bills. It's why we're focused on developing the next generation of clean, renewable energy systems.

Together, we are working to enhance pipeline safety and strengthen our gas and electric infrastructure—for your family and ours.

SEE THE FACTS IN THE BAY AREA



Replaced approximately 15 miles of gas transmission pipeline



Invested more than \$1 billion into electrical improvements



Connected more than 62,000 rooftop solar installations

“PG&E” refers to Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation. ©2015 Pacific Gas and Electric Company. All rights reserved. Paid for by PG&E shareholders.



Together, Building
a Better California

pge.com/SeeOurProgress



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

TOWN OF ATHERTON
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

2014 ATHERTON-FAIR OAKS-MIDDLEFIELD MAINTENANCE PROJECT PROJECT NO. 56065

Notice is hereby given that SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027, until 3:00 p.m. **MARCH 4, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read, for performing the following work:

Performing of Type II micro-surfacing and 8 inch grind and replacement of asphalt per Town specifications on the listed streets, which includes notifications, traffic control, prep work, oil, compaction, sweeping, and re-striping/pavement markings (as needed) with a 1-year guarantee.

DBE Goal is: 7.4% (RC3.4%, RN4.0%)

The Engineer's Estimate for the project is: **\$435,000**

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

Per Senate Bill 854, all public works projects must use only contractors and subcontractors that are registered with the Department of Industrial Relations (<http://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html>)

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for 2014 ATHERTON-FAIR OAKS-MIDDLEFIELD MAINTENANCE PROJECT, Project No. 56065", along with date and time of bid opening.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By: _____
Gordon Siebert, P.E., City Engineer

Date: _____

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN EIR AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL

The Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD, or the District), 480 James Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94062 is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency for the Menlo-Atherton High School Campus Master Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The purpose of this notice is to request comments on the scope and content of the environmental review the District will conduct on the project.

Project Location: Menlo-Atherton High School – 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton, CA 94027

Project Description: Menlo-Atherton High School is located at 555 Middlefield Road, in the Town of Atherton. Entrances to the school are located on Ringwood Avenue and Oak Grove Avenue, which border the school to the east and west, respectively. The school campus occupies approximately 37 acres of land and is centered on 37°27'44" north latitude and 122°10'27" west longitude. Although located in Atherton, the campus is situated next to both the City of Menlo Park and the Menlo Oaks area of unincorporated San Mateo County. Existing facilities at the campus include more than 100 regular and specialty classrooms (e.g., labs), a library, a performing arts center, athletic fields and courts, a pool, administrative offices, and other academic and athletic-related facilities. The Menlo-Atherton High School Campus Master Plan would be implemented in three phases. Phase 1 would demolish and replace the school's existing, one-story "G-Wing" buildings with new, two-story buildings, yielding a net increase of 10 classrooms plus space for student support and food services. Phases 2 and 3 would potentially consist of up to 12 additional regular and specialty classrooms, as well as campus modernization and other facility improvements, including, but not limited to: classroom conversions (e.g., transform classroom spaces into science labs), ventilation and circulation enhancements, upgrades to student service facilities (e.g., locker rooms), practice field lighting, and other capital repairs. The District is in the process of finalizing its draft Menlo-Atherton High School Campus Master Plan. The EIR will include a copy of the Draft Master Plan for review as an appendix. The District is preparing an EIR for its proposed Menlo-Atherton High School Campus Master Plan because plan components may have the potential to result in one or more significant environmental effects, including traffic.

Scoping Meeting Location: The District encourages all interested individuals, organizations, and agencies to attend the scoping meeting for the Menlo-Atherton High School Campus Master Plan EIR on:

Thursday, February 26, 2015
Menlo-Atherton High School – Main Library
555 Middlefield Road, Atherton, CA 94027
6 PM – 8 PM

Additional project information including maps of the project area and a list of the project's probable environmental effects is available on the District's Website: www.seq.org

Written comments may also be submitted to the SUHSD. Written responses must be received by 5 PM March 6, 2015. Please send your responses to Mr. Matthew Zito, Chief Facilities Officer, 480 James Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94062 or to ma-eir@seq.org (enter "MAHS Campus Master Plan NOP" in the 'Subject' line).

NEWSROOM

Editor
Richard Hine (223-6525)

Associate Editor
Renee Batti (223-6528)

Lifestyles Editor Jane Knoerle

Staff Writers
Dave Boyce (223-6527),
Sandy Brundage (223-6529),
Barbara Wood (223-6533)

Contributors Marjorie Mader, Kate Daly

Special Sections Editor
Carol Blitzer (223-6511)

Photographer Michelle Le (223-6530)

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Marketing and Creative Director
Shannon Corey (223-6560)

Design and Production Manager
Lili Cao (223-6562)

Designers Linda Atilano, Kristin Brown,
Colleen Hench, Rosanna Leung,
Paul Llewellyn

ADVERTISING

Vice President Sales and Marketing
Tom Zahiralis (223-6570)

Display Advertising Sales
Carina Rodriguez (223-6577)

Real Estate Manager
Neal Fine (223-6583)

Real Estate & Advertising Coordinator
Diane Martin (223-6584)

Legal Advertising
Alicia Santillan (223-6578)

ADVERTISING SERVICES

Advertising Services Manager
Jennifer Lindberg (223-6595)

Sales & Production Coordinators
Dorothy Hassett (223-6597),
Blanca Yoc (223-6596)

Published every Wednesday at
3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Newsroom: (650) 223-6525
Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

Advertising: (650) 854-2626
Advertising Fax: (650) 223-7570

Email news and photos with captions to:
Editor@AlmanacNews.com

Email letters to:
letters@AlmanacNews.com

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.

Subscriptions are \$60 for one year and \$100 for two years. Go to AlmanacNews.com/circulation.



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

Town Square forum

Post your views on the Town Square forum at AlmanacNews.com

Email your views to:
letters@almanacnews.com
and note this it is a letter to the editor in the subject line.

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

Call the Viewpoint desk at
223-6528.

Progress on police cameras; more needed

Menlo Park Police Department and city officials, with the help of an advisory committee of residents, are stepping up to the challenge inherent in the department's decision to require police officers to wear body cameras. Because the department is among the first law enforcement agencies in San Mateo County to adopt a body camera program, the city's challenge involves creating a responsible and effective protocol for the cameras' use that will factor in a number of tricky logistical and personal-rights considerations.

An hours-long discussion at the Jan. 27 City Council meeting that focused on changes proposed by the police department to existing policy demonstrated that each player in this effort takes the need for a sound protocol seriously — and that they're determined to find reasonable compromises.

Councilman Ray Mueller asked for the council review after the Nov. 11 fatal shooting by Menlo Park police of a burglary suspect. Police officers had been equipped with the body-worn video cameras months before, but of the three officers involved in the shooting, only two were wearing cameras, and neither of them had the camera on during the shooting. Police Chief Robert Jonsen has made several adjustments to the program already, but the council reviewed several policy changes his department is considering, as well as one it wasn't considering: retention time.

Mr. Mueller's concerns about the department's two-and-a-half-year minimum retention policy are reasonable, and well worth the discussion that will continue — by the department and the advisory group — before the issue comes back for council review later this month. We agree with Mr. Mueller that a compromise is possible "that satisfies both the department's desire to protect itself from liability, and preserve evidence for citizen complaints, while also protecting our residents' right to privacy by not having videotapes of their interactions with the police

compiled in storage."

Equal in importance to that issue is the matter of *when* officers are required to turn on their cameras and when they are permitted to deactivate them. The department's proposed change to existing policy requires officers to "activate their recording devices while responding to any in-progress, serious or high-priority call for service to preclude arriving on scene and being unable to activate the unit." That inability to activate was probably the case on Nov. 11, when officers realized on the scene that a "suspicious person" call was in reality a dangerous situation involving a possibly armed man. This is a welcome policy change.

But the question of when officers are allowed to turn a camera off is problematic. Under the proposed policy change, officers "will have the discretion to keep recording devices off during conversations with confidential informants." Good arguments can be made for such a policy, but we

believe that such a provision is only the starting point. There must also be clear definitions and criteria included in a protocol that allows discretionary action or else, as Councilwoman Kirsten Keith said in an email to the Almanac, "the policy is meaningless."

Ms. Keith summed it up concisely: "Confidential informant" must be defined, "otherwise the discretion is too great." And, if there are other discretionary reasons to turn off the camera, she added, those reasons "must be clearly stated."

Chief Jonsen, who appears to be making every effort to work with council members and to elucidate the logic behind his department's proposed policies, acknowledged that the term "confidential informant" is confusing, and said the language will be clarified. We strongly recommend that the policy on deactivating a camera be amplified with criteria that creates a reasonable framework within which officers can exercise their discretion. ■

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Recalling Hugh Taylor's school board contributions

Editor:

I have just learned of the death of E. "Hugh" Taylor of Atherton this past November.

I had the privilege of meeting Hugh as a member of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees in the late 1960s. I was appointed to the board as its first African American, during a time when school desegregation was the volatile issue in the civil rights movement throughout the nation and on the Peninsula.

These were tense times, because racial desegregation was not universally accepted in all communities. I do recall Hugh welcoming me to the board, and being a calming influence in all board activities and community engagements. Having read his obituary, I have a great appreciation of why. His integrity and temperament are still much in need this very day throughout the nation.

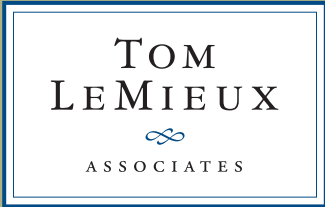
Henry Organ
Euclid Avenue, Menlo Park



Portola Valley Archives

Looking back

Encouraging those in front of a camera to say "cheese" is a popular tradition that in all likelihood was unheard of in the late 1860s, when this portrait of the Bozzo family was taken. At that time, the Bozzos owned land situated on a small plateau on Windy Hill about 3 miles from Searsville, according to the Portola Valley history book "Life on the San Andreas Fault" by Nancy Lund and Pamela Gullard. The patriarch, Emmanuele Bozzo, was an Italian who immigrated to this country in 1852 and eventually built a successful coal and wood business, according to the historians. In the photo are, from left, Charles, Maria, Lena, Nicholas (in front of his father), Emmanuele, and Michael.



COMING SOON



Menlo Park

- Desirable Lane Woods Community built by SummerHill Homes in 2008
- One of the largest lots in the community
- 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths
- Approximately 2,300 square feet
- Hardwood floors
- Amazing rear yard with fire pit, vast terrace, and spacious garden areas in a very private setting
- Convenient location close to downtown Palo Alto and Menlo Park
- Menlo Park schools

NOW AVAILABLE

2014 Annual Real Estate Profiles for Atherton and Menlo Park



These reports summarize real estate activity through 2014, including sales that were not publicly listed. If you are considering buying or selling a home, this report provides crucial and timely market information.

To receive your copy and/or to discuss your real estate needs, please call or email anytime.



SOLD



93 Watkins Avenue, Atherton

Contemporary Craftsman; 4 bedrooms, 3 baths; close to Holbrook-Palmer Park OFFERED AT \$2,095,000

SOLD



41 Lane Place, Atherton

Custom estate; 4 or 5 bedrooms, 4 full baths, 2 half-baths; pool, spa, sport court; 1+ acres OFFERED AT \$6,250,000

SOLD



935 Arbor Road, Menlo Park

Vintage charm with 3 bedrooms and 1 bath; wonderful neighborhood just 2 blocks to downtown OFFERED AT \$1,285,000

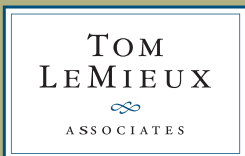
SOLD



89 Mercedes Lane, Atherton

Central Atherton; 4 bedrooms, 4 baths; 1-bedroom guest house; pool and tennis court OFFERED AT \$5,700,000

For more information on these properties, please visit www.tomlemieux.com



License# 01066910

650 465 7459 tom@tomlemieux.com tomlemieux.com

Ranked #80 Nationally, The Wall Street Journal, 2014 Over \$1.9 billion in sales since 1998

