

The Almanac

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

FEBRUARY 11, 2015 | VOL. 50 NO. 23



WWW.THEALMANACONLINE.COM

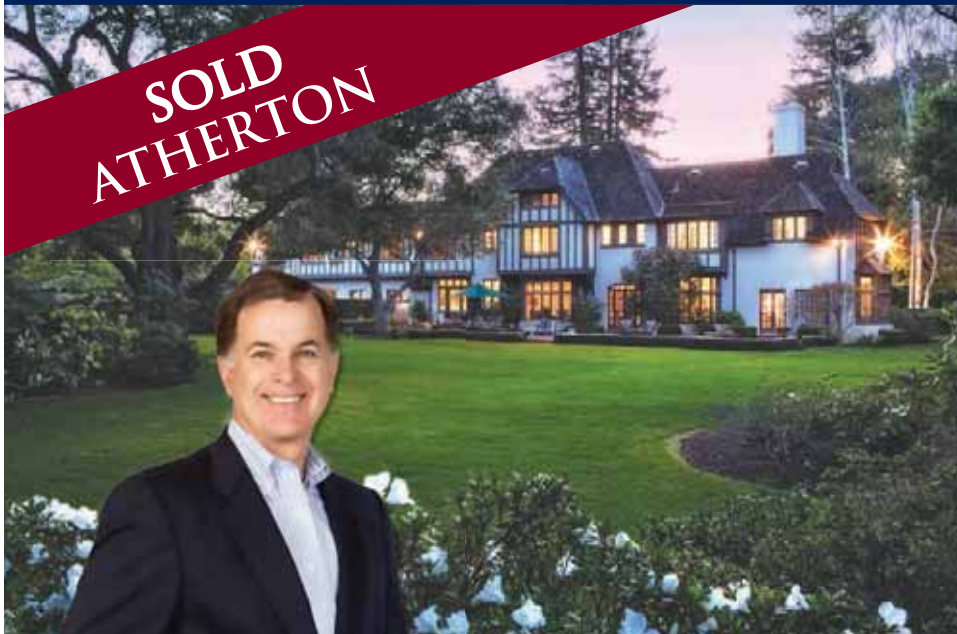
Medical officials urge that
children be vaccinated
to protect those who can't be

WHY vaccinate?

SECTION 2



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ATHERTON**



**SOLD
MENLO PARK**



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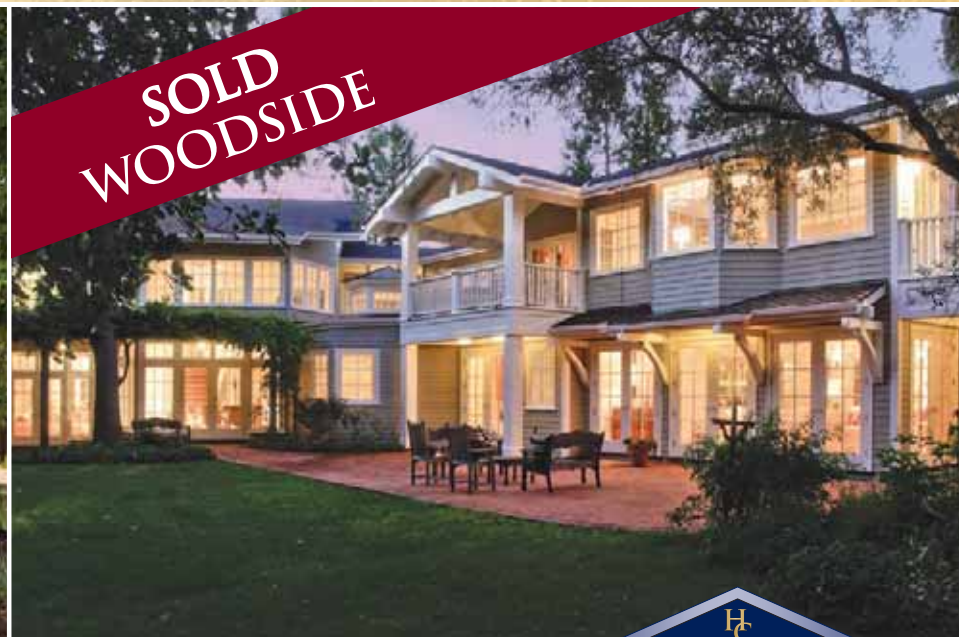


My 2014 Real Estate Review, summarizing the sales statistics for Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, and Woodside, is now available. This comprehensive report is an invaluable tool if you are considering buying or selling your home. Please contact me to receive a copy or to discuss any real estate questions you may have.

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Dr. William Tarr dies at 80; former Stanford football great

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 20, at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church for Dr. William "Bill" Tarr, a former Stanford football captain who completed his college career in 1955 as the school's all-time leading rusher.

Dr. Tarr, a dentist and long-time Menlo Park resident, died Jan. 29 at the age of 80.

The Bellingham, Washington, native rushed for 1,593 yards in his three years, a career rushing mark that stood for a decade. In the waning days of the 60-minute player, he played as a fullback and linebacker, intercepting four passes in 1954.

During his Stanford varsity playing career from 1953 to 1955, he was named captain, earned two awards as the team's



A young and more recent Bill Tarr

most valuable player, and was named the most inspirational senior.

"I've been in athletics all my life," said Paul Wiggin, an All-America teammate of Bill Tarr and later head coach at Stanford. "And there are people at their best when you need them the most. They are rare. He was one of those guys."

Dr. Tarr became a dentist,

settling and raising a family in Menlo Park, where he lived for almost 50 years. He retired after practicing dentistry locally for more than 20 years.

A gifted athlete in many sports, he enjoyed snow skiing, tennis and basketball for many years after college, say family members.

He is survived by his wife, Deanna, children Dr. Bill Tarr of Menlo Park, Cinda Stoddard of Martinez, and Michael Tarr of Morgan Hill; stepchildren Jennifer Pollock and Jeffrey Pollock, both of Menlo Park; and seven grandchildren.

Memorials in Dr. Tarr's name may be made to Rosener House in care of Peninsula Volunteers Inc., 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Ned Chapin, computer science pioneer

Ned Chapin, a longtime resident of Menlo Park, died Dec. 27. Mr. Chapin was a leader in the field of computer science, particularly the discipline of software maintenance.

Born on the Olympic Peninsula, Mr. Chapin attended Stanford University and 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, where he lived the rest of his life.

During his 61-year career, Mr. Chapin worked for Stanford Research Institute for 10 years, served as professor of information systems in the California State University system, and became an independent consultant operating InfoSci Inc.

He was the author of eight books and published more than 250 papers and conference proceedings. His hobbies included reading science fiction novels, listening to jazz vocals, hunting for mushrooms, and advocating a manned mission to Mars, say

OBITUARIES

Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.

family members.

He is survived by his daughters, Suzanne and Elaine Chapin, and one grandson. His wife of 60 years, June Chapin, died in September 2014. Mr. Chapin was a founding member of the Computer History Museum. The family requests donations be made to that museum: computerhistory.org/.

Theodore F. Carter

Former Portola Valley resident

Theodore F. "Ted" Carter, a former resident of Portola Valley and Menlo Park, died Jan. 19 at Rogue Valley Manor in Medford, Oregon. He was 94.

During his many years living locally, Mr. Carter was the founding president of the Foothills Tennis and Swimming Club in Palo Alto and held positions on the Portola Valley school board and in community and charitable organizations.

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Mr. Carter graduated from

Williams College in 1942 and served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Phoenix in the Pacific during World War II.

During his business career, he was employed in electrical equipment manufacturing and sales and later owned marine hardware stores in the Bay Area. He also supervised building construction and landscaping locally, say family members.

He is survived by his companion, Charlotte A. Rising; son Todd, a resident of Italy; daughter Cindy Watkins of Portola Valley; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. His wife, Barbara P. Carter, died in 2000.

A memorial service has been held at Christ Church Episcopal in Portola Valley, where Mr. Carter was a member. Donations in his memory may be made to a favorite charity.

Patricia Nelson

Member, Golden Gate Regional Center

Patricia "Patty" Irene Nelson, daughter of Harold and Puz Nelson of Menlo Park, died Jan. 9 at Stanford Medical

See **OBITUARIES**, page 6

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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 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

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.

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DELUCCHI'S MARKET

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Sale Dates
Feb. 11 - Feb. 24

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650-216-7600

Sale items while supply lasts.

PRODUCE

Strawberries
in clamshell
1 lb
\$2.99 ea

Blueberries
18 oz
\$4.99 ea

Asparagus
\$1.79 lb

Organic D'Anjou Pears
\$1.49 lb

GROCERIES

13 oz
Nutella **\$3.99**

Assorted 4/6.8 oz
Fever-tree **\$4.99**

Assorted
DeCecco Pasta **2/\$5**

5.3 oz, Assorted
Chobani Greek **10/\$10**

14 oz
Häagen Dazs Ice Cream **2/\$6**

6in Cake Assorted
Just Desserts **\$10.99**

1lb
Fromager D'affinois Cheese **\$9.99**

MEATS

USDA Choice Boneless
New York Steaks
\$8.99 lb

Pork Shoulder Butt Roasts
Bone-in **\$2.99** lb

WINE/CHAMPAGNE

Korbel Brut Rose
\$12.99

Stellina Di Notte Prosecco
\$11.99

Hartley Ostini 2011 Hitching Post Pinot Noir
\$23.99

Delucchi's Market features organic produce, organic chicken, grass-fed beef and Clover milk. We accept the following We are your neighborhood market.

TOP LOCAL SIGNIFICANT SALES AND LISTINGS

JANUARY 1–DECEMBER 20, 2014



244 Polhemus Avenue, Atherton
Listed at \$20,000,000



196 Albion Avenue, Woodside
Listed at \$16,950,000



279 Park Lane, Atherton
Listed at \$16,750,000



139 Albion Avenue, Woodside
Listed at \$15,000,000



91 Mandarin Way, Atherton
Listed at \$14,995,000



98 Sutherland Drive, Atherton
Listed at \$14,995,000



35 Ralston Road, Atherton
Listed at \$14,900,000



396 Atherton Avenue, Atherton
Listed at \$14,500,000



49 Tuscaloosa Avenue, Atherton
Listed at \$13,250,000



31 Fairview Avenue, Atherton
Listed at \$12,500,000



325 Manzanita Way, Woodside
Listed at \$11,950,000



65 Selby Lane, Atherton
Listed at \$12,288,000

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Wendy McPherson

Coldwell Banker Managing Broker
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

DA clears officers in fatal Menlo shooting

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

The three Menlo Park police officers who shot and killed a fleeing burglary suspect on Nov. 11 used justifiable force, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

The DA's office concluded that the man who was killed, 52-year-old Jerry Lee Matheny, had a gun and pointed it at officers. Investigators, however, said they were unable to determine whether he had fired it.

District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe released a report on Friday, Feb. 6, detailing the circumstances of the shooting and the conclusions of his investigators, who conducted a review of the incident, as is standard procedure. More than 20 witnesses were interviewed as part of the investigation.

The incident started when Sgt. Jaime Romero and officers Scott Mackdanz and Nicholas Douglas responded when a woman reported a suspicious man in an office building at 64 Willow

Road around 12:30 p.m.

"Although he had simply entered her building, waved at her and left without doing anything further, she was suspicious of him because he strongly resembled a photograph on a flyer posted in her office of a person who was wanted by police in connection with a series of thefts of purses and other property from open businesses," Mr. Wagstaffe's report said.

The suspect, Mr. Matheny, then reportedly drove to 68 Willow Road.

Sixty-five seconds elapsed from the start to the finish of the encounter, investigators said.

65 seconds

The district attorney said the following then unfolded over approximately 65 seconds:

By the time Officer Douglas and Officer Mackdanz arrived at 68 Willow Road, Mr. Matheny had exited his car. He approached Officer Douglas from behind. When asked to put his hands on the patrol car, he cursed and fled, according to the district attorney.

Sgt. Romero, who had his 15-year-old son in the car for a ride-along, arrived as a foot chase ensued.



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

The shooting scene on Willow Road in Menlo Park on Nov. 11, 2014.

Officer Douglas gave a warning and then fired a Taser, which failed to stop the suspect. The investigation determined that only one prong from the Taser had struck Mr. Matheny, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

With three officers now in pursuit, Mr. Matheny pulled

a gun. Officer Mackdanz told investigators he heard someone yell "gun," followed by a shot as the officer tripped and fell. He fired five shots at the suspect.

Officer Douglas dove to the ground, breaking his kneecap in the process, to avoid friendly fire, and fired three shots. Sgt.

Romero, who had yelled the warning, fired one shot before his weapon jammed. He cleared it, then fired a second time.

According to the DA's report, Sgt. Romero told investigators he was scared for the lives of

See **DA CLEARS**, page 10

DA: City did not break law by hiring Measure M consultant

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

There was "no violation of the law" by the city of Menlo Park in hiring a consultant and producing materials, including a Web page, to inform voters about a controversial ballot measure last year, the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office announced Feb. 5.

California law prohibits spending public money on campaign activities. Proponents of Measure M, an initiative seeking to change Menlo Park's downtown/El Camino Real specific plan, questioned the legality of the city's activities after a public records request by former councilman Heyward Robinson uncovered the hiring of a public relations consultant who produced the materials in the months leading

up to the Nov. 4 election.

Mr. Robinson then asked the state attorney general, county district attorney and civil grand jury, and the state Fair Political Practices Commission to investigate. The attorney general declined to get involved, he said.

The initial proposals by the consultant, Malcolm Smith, were rejected by City Manager Alex McIntyre "because they would amount to a 'campaign' as opposed to simply providing information to the public. Additionally, the City Manager rejected much of Smith's work because he felt it crossed the line from providing information to advocacy. Thus, it appears that City officials recognized and sought to adhere to the line set forth by the law," Assistant District Attorney Al Serrato wrote to Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Serrato noted that while specific content would always

■ MENLO PARK

be subject to some debate, that he found the materials did not amount to campaign activity, and that state law does not require the city to be completely neutral in its assessment of Measure M. "Indeed, it is to be expected that the administration in power would express a view as to the merits of the proposed changes" so long as it's not spending taxpayer money to campaign for or against them, he wrote.

Mr. Robinson said he disagreed with the DA's conclusions, and alleged that the city has not produced all the relevant documents.

"I have to wonder if the DA would have reached a different conclusion had all relevant documents been available," he said. "The DA's office did make

it clear that they could reopen this investigation should new evidence come to light."

He called on the council, which has been given copies of documents produced in response to Mr. Robinson's record requests, to provide the public "with a full accounting of staff's activities around Measure M." The first step, he said, should be to insist on what he considers full compliance with all public records requests.

Currently traveling in India, Mayor Catherine Carlton told the Almanac that she was relieved for Mr. McIntyre and not surprised by the outcome of the DA's investigation.

Councilman Ray Mueller, who had asked his colleagues to consider hiring an independent investigator before the DA had agreed to look at the case, said he appreciated the thorough investigation, "closing

the issue of whether City Manager McIntyre or city staff acted criminally with finality."

The District Attorney's Office said the inquiry is considered closed. "However, as in all cases that we consider, should new evidence be uncovered, we would want to review it to determine what impact, if any, it has on our determination," Mr. Serrato said.

Measure M advocates also recently asked the city to file a Form 460, the campaign finance disclosure form that the state requires all political action committees and candidates for public office to file.

"It is clear from the documents produced by the City that the City Staff was engaged in a campaign to defeat Measure M and therefore should be completing a 460 filing as did Menlo (Park)

See **CONSULTANT**, page 10



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

TOWN OF ATHERTON
STATE OF CALIFORNIA2014 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: _____

Hau, Lempres top spenders in Atherton council election

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

The two challengers in Atherton's City Council election spent more than twice as much as the two incumbents, according to the final campaign finance filings for the November election.

The overall spending totals show challenger Rose Hau, who came in fourth in the race for three council seats, spent \$19,390, slightly more than the other newcomer, Mike Lempres, who spent \$19,161. He came in second in the election.

Incumbent Rick DeGolia, who finished first, spent \$10,369 on his campaign, while the other incumbent, Bill Widmer, who came in third, spent \$7,155.

Rose Hau

Ms. Hau also raised more money than any of the other candidates, bringing in \$20,195. She loaned her campaign \$3,266 but had enough money left, \$4,071, to pay herself back.

During the last reporting period, from Oct. 19 to Dec. 31, the major donations to Ms. Hau's campaign included:

- \$500 from L. Freeman, Menlo Park, a self-employed consultant, and E. Jekot, Menlo Park, retired.

- \$450 from J.J. Smith, Menlo Park, a homemaker.

- \$250 from Rosina Sun, Atherton, retired.

Rick DeGolia

Mr. DeGolia raised \$13,435 and ended up with \$16,339 because he started the campaign with a balance from his 2013 council run.

Major donations to Mr. DeGolia's campaign in the last report-

ing period included:

- \$1,000 from J.D. Goldman, Atherton, retired.

- \$500 from Elaine Wong, Santa Rosa, VP of marketing; J. Hannay, Burlingame, auto-dealer; S. Kaplan, Atherton, retired; M.A. Ladra, Atherton, retired; and R. Hellman, Atherton, retired.

- \$250 from S.S. Byers, Menlo Park, homemaker; S. Hyatt, Atherton, homemaker; G. Dillabough, Atherton, venture capitalist; M.A. Stevens, Atherton, venture capitalist; M.P. Wythes, Atherton, homemaker; and R. Payne, Atherton, homemaker.

Mike Lempres

Mr. Lempres raised \$13,107 and loaned himself \$6,250. He had \$96 in cash at the end of the campaign, leaving outstanding debts of \$6,250, the amount he loaned himself.

In the final reporting period, major donations to his campaign included:

- \$1,000 from Kevin McCarthy for Congress, Bakersfield; and T.J. Rodgers, Woodside, Cypress Semiconductors.

- \$500 from Eleanor Jekot, Menlo Park, retired; Lance Freeman, Menlo Park, a Realtor with Pacific Peninsula Group; and \$450 from Joyce Jekot Smith, Menlo Park, a homemaker.

Bill Widmer

Mr. Widmer raised \$7,155 for his campaign and loaned himself \$990. He paid himself back \$953 at the end of campaign, forgiving the remaining \$37 of the loan and leaving his campaign fund with a \$0 balance.

Mr. Widmer had only two donors in the final reporting period: \$500 from H.C. Clough, Atherton, retired; and \$100 from Alfred Dau, Atherton, retired. ■

OBITUARIES

continued from page 3

Center surrounded by family and friends. She was 56.

Ms. Nelson graduated from Carlmont High School in San Carlos and was a member of the Golden Gate Regional Center. She worked for many years with Hope de Anza Workshops in Mountain View. Through them she worked for such companies as Orchard Supply Hardware, Thrifty and Tyco.

She was a member of the Special Olympics swim team and was active in the Redwood City Bowling League. During the past year, while living at Lytton Gardens in Palo Alto,

she enjoyed attending Mass on Sunday, playing bingo, painting, and flower arranging. She was always accompanied by her caregiver and friend, Norma Haw.

She is survived by her parents, Harold and Puz Nelson of Menlo Park; brothers Hal Nelson of Los Altos, Paul Nelson of Los Angeles, and Peter Nelson of Los Altos. Her sister, Peggy de Beaumont, preceded her in death in 2007.

Services have been held at St. Raymond Catholic Church in Menlo Park. Donations in Ms. Nelson's name may be sent to St. Francis Center, 151 Buckingham St., Redwood City, CA 94063.



Gehry Partners Ltd./Almanac

Facebook acquired the 56-acre Menlo Science and Technology Park near its other three properties: the east campus, west campus and TE Connectivity campus.

Facebook buys 56-acre property near its Menlo Park headquarters

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Facebook has acquired another huge property near its main campus at Willow Road and Bayfront Expressway in Menlo Park.

The social networking giant has purchased the 21-building, 56-acre industrial campus known as Menlo Science and Technology Park, located on Willow Road just south of Bayshore Expressway.

A San Francisco-based industrial real estate company, Prologis Inc., which has owned and managed the property since 1998, made the announcement Feb. 6.

A Facebook spokesperson confirmed the acquisition. "This purchase is an investment in our future and the future of Menlo Park," the company said in a statement. "Being a good neighbor is extremely important to us and we look forward to continuing our dialogue with City and community leaders on local priorities in the months and years to come."

No purchase price was given. Prologis said it will provide ongoing management services on behalf of Facebook, which has not announced any plans for developing the site.

"Our team has spent the past several years planning the conversion of this site for higher and better use," Mark Hansen, a senior vice president for Prologis, said in a press release.

Facebook has around 50 offices

worldwide and employs about 9,000 people, about half of whom are located in Menlo Park, the company spokesperson said, adding that while the company owns its sites in Menlo Park, most of the others are leased.

This is Facebook's fourth large property in the Belle Haven area. The other three are:

- The company's 57-acre headquarters (east campus) at Bayfront Expressway and Willow Road (the former home of Sun Microsystems), where Facebook moved from its Palo Alto offices in 2011.

- The 22-acre Frank Gehry-designed "west campus" Facebook is building (and expecting to occupy soon) across Bayfront Expressway from the main campus. About 3,000 employees will work in this building, the company spokesperson said.

- And the 59-acre property adjacent to the "west campus" that it bought from TE Connectivity.

The Silicon Valley Business Journal was the first to report on Facebook's acquisition of the Menlo Science and Technology Park site.

Menlo Park's view

Jim Cogan, Menlo Park's economic development manager, called Facebook's purchase "awesome" and a "game-changer." Asked to elaborate, he noted repeatedly Facebook's sustained interest in being a part of the community, which

includes Belle Haven, the other employers in the M-2 industrial area, and East Palo Alto.

Currently, visitors to Silicon Valley wanting to memorialize their trip by visiting large and influential corporations tend to stand in front of a company headquarters for a photograph. "There isn't a place that you can go and experience anything other than a sign," Mr. Cogan said.

The Menlo Park City Council would like to see a mix of office, retail and housing, he said, and mentioned the mixed use development of Bay Meadows, the former race track in San Mateo, as an example.

The key will be interacting with one property owner that is well integrated into Menlo Park, he said. "I think it's really exciting to have Facebook being the one purchasing the property because they want to move quickly and make things happen," he said. "One company with the horsepower to get things done can really help us with our transportation management problems. ... You can't ask for a better partner."

Talk of reviving the Dumbarton rail line to carry passengers between Newark and Redwood City and points in between could play right into the vision for this area, Mr. Cogan said. It's a great opportunity, he said, but it takes the right kind of attention from local, state and federal leaders, and Facebook would be an important partner in that effort. ■

Citations issued for selling liquor to a minor

A decoy operation on Friday, Feb. 6, in which a minor attempted to buy alcohol at 10 Menlo Park locations, resulted in citations for selling liquor to a minor at three restaurants, police reported.

Iberia Restaurant on Alma

Street, Cafe Del Sol on Doyle Street and Akasaka on El Camino Real were the restaurants where citations were issued, Menlo Park police said.

The state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control took part in the operation with

Menlo Park police. Police said the minor, who was under their direct supervision, complied with guidelines that say a decoy in such an operation must be: under 20, appear to be a minor, not wear clothing or jewelry

See CITATIONS, page 11

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



How Much to Prepare Your Home

Dear Monica: I am selling my father's house and am trying to decide how much, if any, to fix it up before putting it on the market. It is in a good location but not in good condition. Should I bother to paint and stage it?
Matt C.

Dear Matt: In this market it is usually advisable to cosmetically improve a property with new paint, carpet, and plantings, in a way that would attract buyers who want to live in the house. This is especially true if the architectural style of the house is one that buyers like and can remodel

or expand because they can see that the house is appealing and livable. If it is in a good location, there will also likely be interested developers and buyers who would raze the house and build new. By cosmetically improving the property this way, you can expand the pool of buyers to include all groups who might be interested in it.

It benefits you to attract as many kinds of buyers as you can; those who would fix it up and those who would tear it down. This should bring you the highest return when you sell.

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



Notice of Approved Ordinance TOWN OF ATHERTON

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

Ordinance 613

An Urgency Ordinance of the City Council of the Town of Atherton adding a new Chapter 12.05 regarding wireless telecommunications facilities.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 36937(b) the Town may adopt an urgency ordinance if it is for immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety. All legal prerequisites to the adoption of the ordinance have occurred.

For a complete copy of the wireless telecommunications facilities Ordinance 613 please contact Theresa DellaSanta at tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us or 650-752-0529.



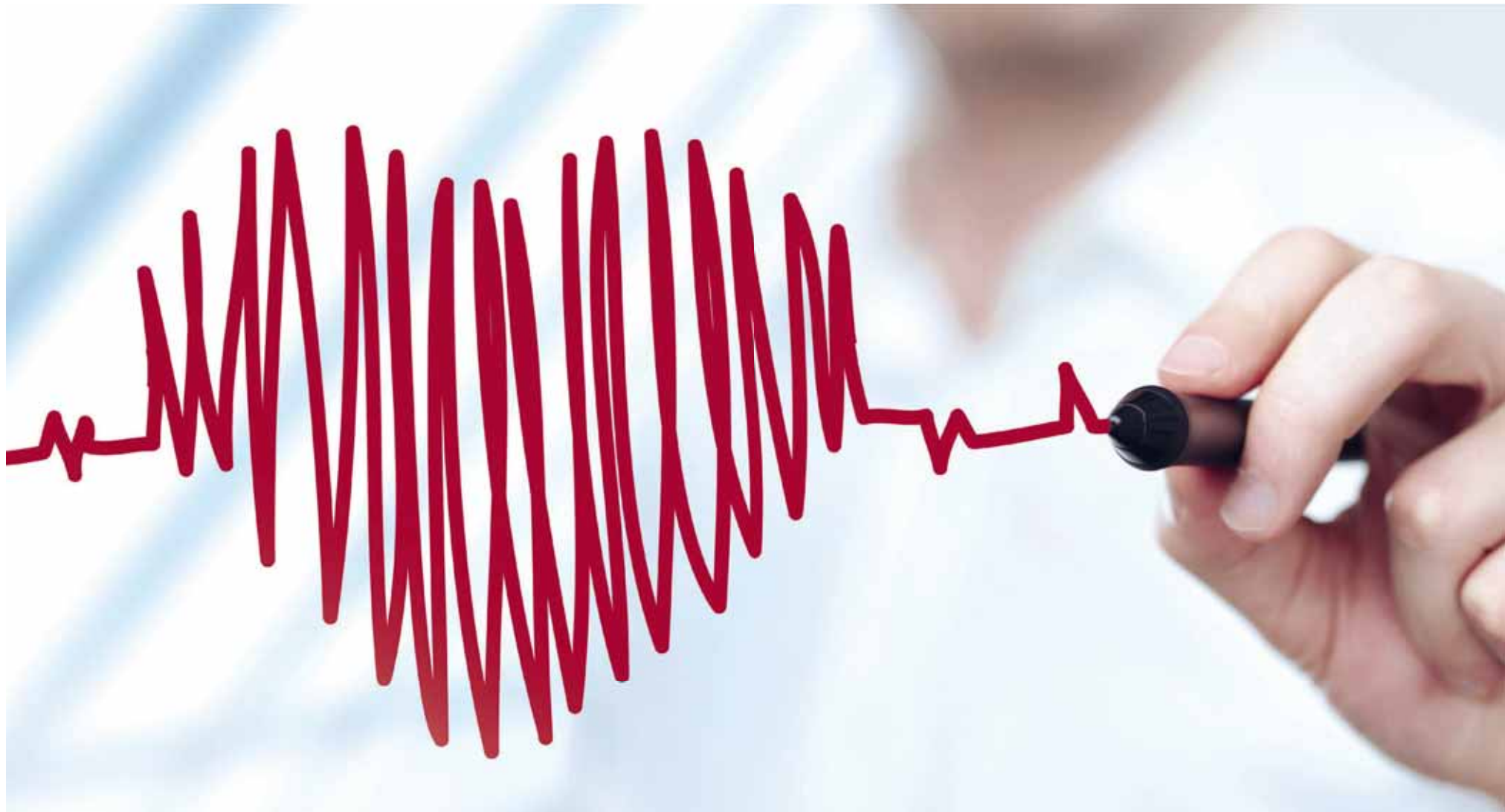
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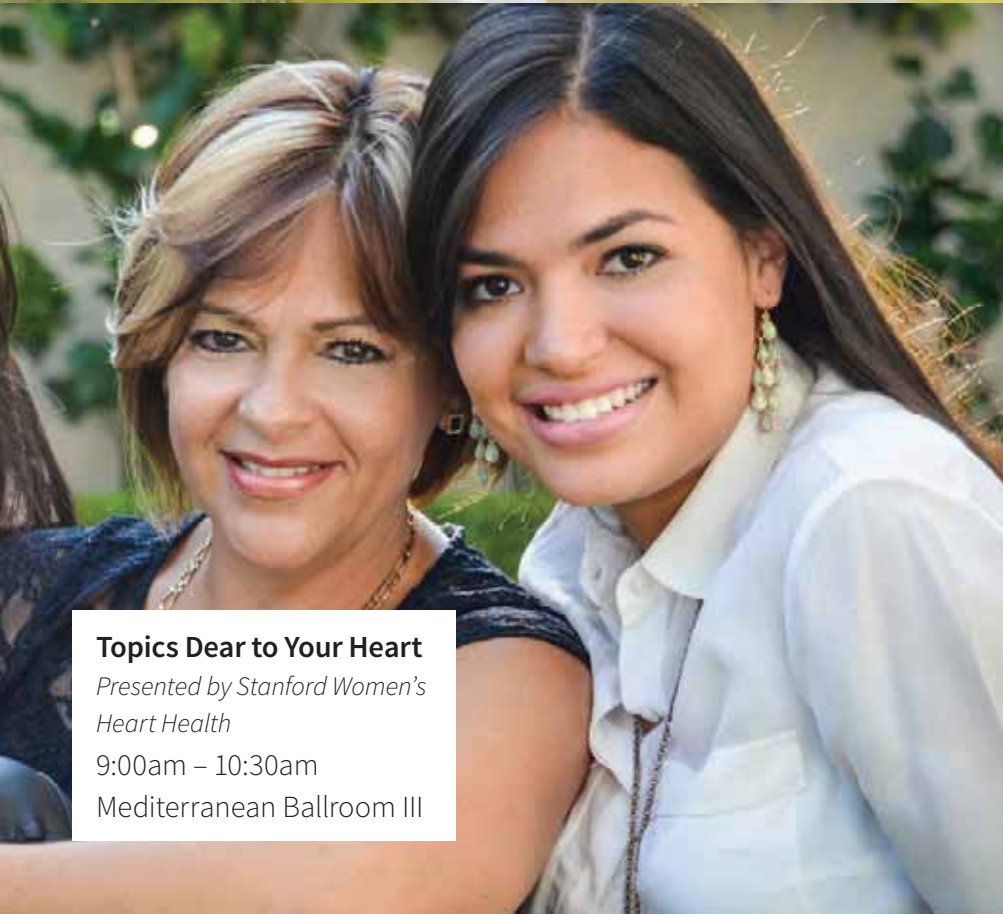
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A Partner for Living a Heart Healthy Life in the South Asian Community
Presented by the Stanford South Asian Translational Heart Initiative (SSATHI)
11:00am – 12:30pm
Mediterranean Ballroom III



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.



Menlo Park Measure M opponents outspent proponents by 31 percent

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

The final batch of campaign finance reports for the 2014 election were due Feb. 2, and the numbers show serious money — by the standards for a Menlo Park campaign, at least — was spent by both sides of the Measure M debate.

Opponents spent approximately \$192,980, while proponents spent about \$146,944.

Approximately 61 percent of voters said no to Measure M, the initiative brought forth by grassroots coalition Save Menlo to change elements of the down-



town/El Camino Real specific plan.

Save Menlo raised \$131,029 in 2014, with \$36,269 coming from October through December. Former councilman Heyward Robinson loaned the campaign a total \$8,500.

The group continued garnering donations well into the final days of the year, with approximately 80 people giving money from Oct. 19 through Dec. 31. Major donors and the total amount given in 2014 included Michelle Lamarre and Brent Townshend (\$5,000); Catherine Wilson (\$3,000); Nancy Couperus (\$2,100); Eric and Sonali Fain (\$1,500); Robert Ekedahl (\$1,250); George Windhorst (\$1,087); and Jeffrey Abramow-

itz, Frank Fischer, Diane and Peter Hart, and Mary Ratner (\$1,000 each).

Nonmonetary contributions came to \$3,926 for items such as mailers and yard signs, with \$3,427 chipped in by Save Menlo organizers Mike Lanza and Perla Ni.

The group spent \$131,029, mainly on consultants (Stearns Consulting: \$15,469) and legal counsel from attorney Keith Wagner. The campaign had \$15,915 in unpaid bills at the end of December, according to the finance report.

No on M

Developer Greenheart Land Co., which is proposing to build a 420,000-square-foot,

mixed-use development on El Camino Real at Oak Grove that would have been affected by Measure M's cap on office space, contributed \$200,000 to the political committee it organized to defeat the measure.

The Committee for a Vibrant Downtown — No on M — spent nearly all of the money, apart from a \$26,486 refund to Greenheart. Expenses included literature such as door hangers and salaries for campaign workers Valerie Bellofatto, based in Menlo Park, and Michael Grealish, based in San Francisco.

It also reported \$2,500 in nonmonetary contributions for the entire calendar year, with none made during the final reporting period, which ran from Oct. 19 through Dec. 31. Some of the “nonmonetary” spending earlier in the year went for “slate cards” and “car-

rying campaign literature door to door” for the three council incumbents running for reelection, with cost estimates of \$992 for Rich Cline, \$867 for Kirsten Keith, and \$992 for Peter Ohtaki.

The other “No on M” committee — Menlo Park Deserves Better — reported that it collected \$16,955 in donations in 2014, with \$250 of that coming in during the final reporting period. Nonmonetary contributions came to \$2,903 for 2014 for food and copying.

The top donor from Oct. 19 through Dec. 31 was Ed Moritz, who contributed \$100.

The committee reported spending \$16,967 in total, with \$8,001 in expenses for the last reporting period, primarily for campaign literature and meetings, along with \$580 on a phone bank. ■

Construction, building interests give \$357K in college bond election

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Construction and building interests, including several from out of state, were in a class by themselves in contributing \$357,100 in 2014 to the campaign for Measure H, a bond measure in the November election put on the ballot by the San Mateo County Community College District, according to a report filed with the county Elections Office.

To pass, the measure needed the approval of 55 percent majority of the voters. It passed with a 66 percent majority, giving the district authority to borrow up to \$388 million in the bond market to finance new and updated facilities and to buy equipment. The measure increased annual property taxes in the district by an estimated \$8.22 per \$100,000 of a property's assessed value.

Of the 101 contributions received by the campaign in 2014, the reports show that not one came from an individual. All came from business interests.

Of the total, the campaign received \$73,000 (about 20 percent) after the last mandatory campaign finance reporting period before the

election, from Oct. 1 to 18. Between Oct. 31 and Dec. 4, 2014, there were 18 late contributions, including six of \$5,000 or more.

McCarthy Building Companies Inc. of St. Louis, gave \$25,000. All of the others were for \$5,000: Charles Pankow Builders Ltd. of Pasadena, Noll & Tam Architects and Planners of Berkeley, TEECOM of Oakland, Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction Company of Santa Clara, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of San Mateo.

Twenty-four of the corporate donors are also listed as members of the Chancellors Circle of the San Mateo Community College Foundation. Admission to the circle requires a gift of \$1,000 or more, according to the foundation's website. The foundation itself gave \$50,000 to the campaign.

Among the major donors in the circle: the aforementioned McCarthy Building in St. Louis, Swinerton Management & Consulting in San Francisco (\$25,000), BCA Architects of San Jose (\$20,000), and MediFit Community Services in New Jersey (\$10,000).

Many more of this year's corporate donors are listed as sponsors of the foundation's annual golf tournament, including Hensel Phelps Construction in San Jose (\$25,000) and Blach Construction in Santa Clara (\$10,000). ■



DA clears officers in fatal Menlo shooting

continued from page 5

everyone in the vicinity upon seeing Mr. Matheny's gun, and said that he “could not let this guy get away; I could not let him take a round at us, or my son. We had to eliminate the threat. We had to stop him.”

The shooting was not captured by any body-worn camera. Officer Mackdanz had turned his in for repairs at the start of his shift. Sgt. Romero activated his immediately after the shooting, and Officer Douglas did not turn his on, the DA's review concluded.

Investigation

Mr. Matheny was pronounced dead at the scene. Toxicological testing performed as part of the autopsy found methamphetamine and its amphetamine metabolite in his blood, the report said.

At the scene, police “moved (Mr. Matheny's) body to try to locate and secure the decedent's firearm.” Police located a .22-caliber semi-automatic gun about 21 feet away from his body. Six unshot bullets were found within 20 feet of the gun, five of them loaded in a magazine.

A gardener who had been working nearby told investigators that he had seen the man throw something silver away during the shooting. Fingerprint and DNA analysis proved insufficient to tie the weapon to Mr. Matheny; however, 19 rounds of ammunition found in the trunk of his car matched those in the magazine and the other bullet, the report said.

The investigation was unable to determine whether he had fired at the officers, although his face and hands tested positive for gunshot residue. Methamphetamine and cocaine were reportedly also in the car's trunk.

Investigators confirmed that the photograph on the flier was of Mr. Matheny, and that he was a suspect in eight office burglaries in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Contra Costa counties, according to the report. He allegedly posed as an IT technician or repairman to gain access and stole items such as wallets from purses.

At the scene of the Nov. 11 shooting, officers said they found a wallet stolen from the purse of an employee at the Willow Road business complex earlier in the day.

The suspect's parole officer, Donna Sanchez of Riverside County, told investigators that she had lost track of him after he removed an ankle monitor while at a casino in July 2014. A warrant was then issued for his arrest. She said that Mr. Matheny was aware that he could go back to prison for violating parole. Both she and a friend of the suspect said that he may have committed “suicide by cop,” the DA's report said.

Department's response

The Menlo Park Police Department command staff expressed appreciation for the DA's thorough review.

“The findings match the findings in the criminal investigation conducted by the police department, which show the suspect's actions in this case

caused the two officers and sergeant to use the appropriate force necessary to safeguard their own lives and the lives of community members in the area,” Cmdr. Dave Bertini said.

“Although it is always tragic when any life is lost, the actions of Sergeant Romero, Officer Douglas and Officer Mackdanz were consistent with their training, experience and the law and they all acted heroically in the defense of others.”

Police Chief Bob Jonsen said he never doubted the officers' actions, and praised their professionalism.

The department will keep striving to improve its service to the community, he said. “We'll continue working with our residents, businesses and elected officials to ensure their trust and confidence in us to keep them safe is impregnable.”

Two of the three officers returned to work in December. Officer Douglas continues to recuperate from the knee injury. ■

CONSULTANT

continued from page 5

Deserves Better and Greenheart Land Co.,” Menlo Park resident Brielle Johnck wrote in an email to the city on Wednesday, Feb. 4.

City Attorney Bill McClure told the Almanac that the DA's findings “clearly show that the city did not engage in any political activities that would require the city to file a Form 460.” The findings are consistent with Menlo Park's position that it did not engage in any prohibited activities, he said. ■

Richard Delucchi dies at 105

A memorial service is set for Monday, Feb. 16, for longtime Woodside resident Richard Delucchi, a father and husband, a builder, an equestrian, a family chef and a hunter. His long life ended at home in the company of his daughter, Dorine Secrest, and a caregiver on Friday, Feb. 6. Mr. Delucchi was 105.

The service is set for 7 p.m. at the Redwood Chapel at 847 Woodside Road in Redwood City. Other services are being planned but were not firm at publication time.

"He was always busy," Ms. Secrest told the Almanac. "He never wanted to retire." Mr. Delucchi had been in the news in October regarding his investment in a new store, Delucchi's Market, in the Marsh Manor Shopping Center in Redwood City.

He got off to an early start, having established himself as a general contractor in San Francisco at the age of 16. During World War II, he built barracks in Wendover, Utah. After the war, he built homes and commercial buildings on the Peninsula, including Marsh Manor in the mid-1950s.

He patrolled the West Coast on horseback during the war and was a founding member of the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County in 1947. He also



Richard Delucchi (seated) is greeted by longtime friend Ray Stone at Mr. Delucchi's 105th birthday party on Sept. 14, 2014.

played a major role in the purchase of the group's headquarters on Kings Mountain Road and was named the Patrol's Outstanding Horseperson-Citizen of the year in 2005.

With his wife Blanche Delucchi (who died in 2004), they were "great cooks," their daughters said. Among the creatures Mr. Delucchi hunted: clams,

ducks, pheasants, deer, elk and moose.

"His zest for life and his strong determination for whatever he is doing has served him well," Ms. Secrest said.

Mr. Delucchi is survived by his daughters: Ms. Vogel of Concord, Ms. Secrest of Portola Valley, and Susan Sanchez of Los Altos.

Atherton plans tighter right-of-way regulations

By **Barbara Wood**
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton's current practice of allowing everything from wireless facilities to big rocks to be placed in the town's right-of-way should change, City Council members said at a study session on Feb. 4.

Council members said residents should help craft a new encroachment ordinance and the town should make sure everyone knows about the new regulations before starting enforcement.

The town began discussing the subject as a way to give residents of Parker Avenue, where the town has a 70-foot right-of-

way, a formal way to use some of the town's property in front of their homes.

The town has also looked at the use of its right-of-way while exploring of ways of making the town safer for bikes and pedestrians.

In his report to the council, City Manager George Rodericks says private improvements on the town's property include "wireless facilities, fencing, walls, landscaping, mailboxes, security panels, pathways, pavement, stepping stones, large drainage facilities, rocks, and/or lumber barriers."

"Because they are essentially unregulated, the private improvements place the town at

considerable risk," he says.

The proposed regulations would allow "revocable permits" for objects in the right-of-way. Council members said it will be important to enforce the regulations, such as those that currently say fences can't be more than 3 feet tall near an intersection, or that gate keypads and intercoms, logs and rocks must all be at least 6 feet from the pavement edge.

"I think this is way overdue," said council member Elizabeth Lewis. "It's a big task that we are undertaking."

City Attorney William Conners said that the council might consider an amortization period for items that aren't safety hazards, allowing non-conforming items to remain for a set period of time.

Council members will form an ad hoc committee to decide how to publicize the new regulations once a draft has been crafted. ▣

Citations issued for selling liquor to a minor

continued from page 7

which makes him or her appear older, and must answer truthfully if asked his or her age.

Police said individuals charged with selling or furnishing alcohol to a minor can be fined \$250 to \$1,000 or serve

24 to 32 hours of community service if found guilty of a first violation. Businesses that sell liquor to a minor can have their liquor license suspended or revoked.

The operation was funded with a mini-grant from the

ABC, which requires such compliance checks at businesses licensed to sell alcohol for consumption both on and off the premises. "The goal of the mini-grant is to reduce alcohol-related crime," Menlo Park Office James Leuvano said.

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ERIC WOLFINGER

County denies Mandarin charter school proposal

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

The San Mateo County Board of Education on Feb. 4 unanimously denied the Menlo Mandarin Immersion Charter School's proposal to open a new school in the Menlo Park City School District.

The county board used as its grounds for denying approval for the charter school a report by county staff analyzing the petition to open a Mandarin immersion charter school next fall.

Board members said they found the charter petition was too flawed to be approved. The petition, if approved, becomes the governing blueprint for a charter school and can only be changed by a vote of the group originally approving it.

"I can only vote to deny this appeal," said board member Joe Ross, who represents the

Menlo Park district area. "I don't think it would do the public, or the community, or the parents, any good to move forward with this petition."

He pointed to a requirement in the school's petition that all students in second grade and beyond must pass a Mandarin proficiency test to be admitted to the school. County staff said that requirement violates a state law requiring all students who want to attend a charter be admitted if the school has space.

"I am afraid that this assumes that all students beyond second grade who do not speak Mandarin actually can not learn at this school," Mr. Ross said.

Board member Susan Alvaro said she was concerned about the lack of specifics about how the school would deal with special education students. "I am really concerned about the students in our county who are struggling and not making it," she said.

'I don't think it would do the public, or the community, or the parents, any good to move forward with this petition.'

JOE ROSS, COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

Board members seemed sympathetic to the school's general concept, which is to eventually be a kindergarten-to-eighth-grade school of 450 students that would teach students mostly in Mandarin in lower grades and use, according to the group's website, "an interdisciplinary, collaborative, and experiential approach that nurtures the whole child."

"I think that with the right support," board member Ted Lempert said, "the petition could be fixed. But that's not the petition before us."

Board members had offered to

allow the Menlo Mandarin group to withdraw its charter petition and start over by bringing a new petition to the Menlo Park City School District. But after a hurried conference, a group of charter backers said they would prefer to have the charter either approved or denied. A denial allows them to appeal to the state board of education.

Board member Rod Hsiao, who said his own children are in an immersion program, said he would have preferred to see the charter group try again. "I am disappointed that they are not going to take a run at correcting the deficiencies and reapply," he said.

About 80 people attended the meeting at the County Office of Education's board meeting room in Redwood City. The size of the crowd was indicative of the attention the charter proposal has received.

County Superintendent Anne Campbell said the board heard

from 45 speakers at a January public hearing, received 240 written comments, and had seven speakers on Wednesday.

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

Carol Cunningham, who has been leading the drive for the charter school, said Feb. 4 that backers have not yet decided if they will appeal to the state board of education.

The school's charter must be approved by May 7 in order to preserve a \$375,000 grant from the federal Public Charter Schools Grant Program, via the Charter Schools Division of the California Department of Education, which would help pay the school's startup costs. If appealed, the state board would have 60 days after the date of the appeal to vote on the charter. ■

Menlo council campaign spending small change next to Measure M

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

Although it was field crowded with six candidates — three seeking re-election to the Menlo Park City Council, and three newcomers — the November election didn't see expenses

anywhere near those by campaigns devoted to either side of the Measure M specific plan ballot initiative.

Final campaign finance reports were due to the city



clerk's office by Feb. 2. Councilman Rich Cline, who was one of the three incumbents re-elected, was out of town and didn't submit his Form 460 on time.

Environmental Quality Commissioner Kristin Duriseti, who lost, did not initially turn in the required itemized list of donors

and expenses for the period covered by the final report — Oct. 19 through Dec. 24, 2014 — but did by Feb. 4.

Of the five submitted reports, Kirsten Keith led the field, raising \$21,222 over the course of her 2014 campaign, including \$2,303 in nonmonetary contributions. Just \$2,096 of that came in during the final period. Major donors included the California Real Estate PAC (\$1,000), and the Carpenters Union Local 217 and Brotherhood of Electrical Work-

ers Local 617 PAC (\$250 each).

Ms. Keith, a criminal defense attorney, also got a \$99 donation from Out Now Bail Bonds.

She spent \$18,676 in total, mainly during the latter days of her campaign and primarily on costs related to literature.

In second was Peter Ohtaki, who took in \$18,463, including \$1,233 in nonmonetary contributions, and collected \$6,905 of that during the final months. Major donors included

See **MEASURE M**, page 14



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Atherton sues Caltrain over electrification

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton has sued the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, alleging the agency improperly approved the environmental impact report on the project to electrify the Caltrain rail system.

Joining Atherton in the lawsuit, filed in San Mateo County Superior Court on Monday, Feb. 9, is the Transportation Solutions Defense and Education Fund, a transit advocacy nonprofit, and the Community Coalition on High-Speed Rail, which is headed by former Atherton Mayor Jim Janz.

The lawsuit asks that the electrification project be stopped and the approval of the environmental report be rescinded until issues raised in the lawsuit are addressed.

Stuart Flashman, the attorney filing the suit, says the lawsuit is an attempt to force the Joint Powers Board, the agency that runs Caltrain, to acknowledge the impacts the project will have on the Peninsula.

Atherton's City Council approved the lawsuit at a closed session Wednesday, Feb. 4, after considering a letter from Marian

Lee, Caltrain's executive officer for the modernization project. Ms. Lee was responding to a Jan. 21 letter from Atherton Mayor Rick DeGolia asking Caltrain for a number of concessions regarding the electrification project.

The town had asked Caltrain to extend the period when the environmental report could be challenged, to give the town and Caltrain more time to negotiate. Caltrain said no, noting "that time will not materially change the responses" to the town's concerns.

The lawsuit says the environmental report is flawed in several ways, including its failure to address the cumulative impact of high-speed rail and electrification. The lawsuit says the projects must be considered together because approximately \$600 million of the projected \$1.5 billion cost of the electrification project is supposed to come from funding approved for high-speed rail by the voters in 2008.

Ms. Lee addressed this issue in her letter, saying that the projects are independent and that "electrification has been a fundamental assumption in the planning for the future of Caltrain long before high speed rail was proposed."

The lawsuit claims that the environmental report fails to take into consideration that the funding for the electrification project that will come from the high-speed rail bonds could be "subject to legal challenge" because that funding was not authorized by California voters and is not a permissible use of the funds.

Caltrain spokeswoman Jayme Ackemann said Caltrain has been "working with the 17 communities along the rail corridor to address and mitigate their issues and concerns related to electrification. All save Atherton are focused on collaboration as the best method for addressing these concerns," she said.

Menlo Park and Palo Alto both recently decided "not to litigate" she said, "citing the close working relationship they have with Caltrain as evidence of our commitment to addressing their concerns."

"The issues Atherton has are no different than those concerns raised by other communities along the corridor," Ms. Ackemann said. "We are disappointed to see that rather than working with Caltrain collaboratively the town of Atherton has chosen this expensive path." ■



'The Philippines in Photos'

"The Philippines in Photos: From Mountains to the Sea" by Frances Freyburg will be on display at the Portola Art Gallery at Allied Arts Guild through February. The vibrant color photographs feature landscapes, city scenes, florals and portraits from Ms. Freyberg's travels through the Philippines. The gallery is located at Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park.

Small quakes strike near here

Two small earthquakes struck the Emerald Hills area Friday morning, Feb. 6, about two miles southwest of Redwood City, the USGS reported.

The first was a 3.1 magnitude quake at 3:44 a.m. The second was 2.5 magnitude at 7:01 a.m.

Local residents reported feeling a "strong jolt" and being "jolted awake pretty good."

There were no reports of damage or injuries.

Go to tinyurl.com/quake272 to see comments from residents who felt the quakes.

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MEASURE M

continued from page 12

himself (\$1,800); the California Real Estate PAC and investor Lawrence Bowman (\$1,000); the California Apartment Association PAC (\$500); and local developer Jeff Pollock (\$400).

He spent all of his warchest, primarily for mailing and printing expenses as well as \$3,500 for campaign consultant Ryan Hatcher, based in Sacramento.

Former councilwoman Kelly Fergusson, who had attempted for the second time to regain

a seat on the council and lost, raised \$15,213 in total, with \$195 in nonmonetary contributions in the form of a case of paper. Major contributors to the \$3,846 she collected during the final reporting period included Susan Schneider and Catherine Wilson (\$500); she also gave herself \$1.

She spent \$14,768, about half during the final reporting period, mainly for campaign literature and postage, and a \$500 donation to "Yes on M," the committee advocating in favor of the specific plan initiative.

Planning Commissioner Drew Combs collected \$9,516 in total, with \$217 in nonmonetary donations. Eight first-time donors contributed to the \$749 raised from Oct. 19 through Dec. 24, giving amounts ranging from \$24 to \$250 (from attorney James Madison). He had no money remaining in his campaign fund by the end of the final reporting period.

Finally, Ms. Duriseti raised \$9,980 in total, including a \$3,332 loan to herself and \$50 in nonmonetary contributions. During the last reporting period, donors gave \$750.

Her expenses used up her campaign fund. She spent \$9,930 on postage, website design and campaign literature. Approximately 14 percent of her expenditures came between Oct. 19 and Dec. 24. ■

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

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

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Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

When 'choice' undermines public health

There's little to celebrate about the measles outbreak now hitting the nation, with most of the reported cases in California. But one positive outcome is the level of attention being given to laws that allow parents to opt out of immunizing their children — and the risks that option poses not only to the unvaccinated kids but to the community at large.

The reasons parents give for their decision not to have their children immunized vary, and can be complicated. Some argue that such parents are scornful of science, which has debunked misinformation that's come out in the past about vaccines, including that they cause such ills as autism.

But perhaps the anti-vaccine phenomenon results not so much from a mistrust of science as from an under-appreciation and ignorance of history. Many of these parents weren't even born when measles and other diseases plagued the population, before immunization regimens made them almost unheard of.

A historical reality check leaves no doubt that contagious diseases such as measles, chickenpox and polio caused significant suffering, and sometimes lifelong consequences or death before effective immunization protocols were put in place. The spotlight turned on the current outbreak reveals that many children who have not received the measles vaccine haven't been vaccinated against other possibly even more dire diseases, such as polio. It's ironic, then, that parents who have decided that the risk of vaccination is greater than the risk of the diseases are drawing their conclusion from a place of ignorance about the diseases themselves — illnesses nearly wiped out by the very vaccines the parents are now saying aren't necessary.

Locally, Peninsula School in Menlo Park has the highest rate of unvaccinated children, with 30 percent of this year's kindergartners not immunized under the state's "personal belief" exemption, according to state records. Other schools with high rates of kids who have opted out of vaccinations with personal-belief exemptions are Las Lomas (6 percent), Laurel (5 percent) and Encinal (4 percent) in Atherton; and Philips Brooks (5 percent) in Menlo Park.

State and federal legislators are responding to the current measles outbreak by urging state officials to reconsider the state's immunization exemption law — which allows parents to opt out of immunizing their kids for medical reasons or for personal beliefs — and with a proposed state law that would end the personal-belief exemption. No one is suggesting an end to the medical exemption, which applies to children with a compromised immune system. But the other category must be rigorously reviewed.

The current law does have serious consequences - non-immunized children without an exemption may not attend school or day care, whether public or private. Current law gives any non-exempt student without all the required immunizations for their age only 10 school days after notification before being barred from attending.

State senators Richard Pan and Ben Allen last week introduced a bill taking away a parent's option to opt out of immunizing a child for personal beliefs. Sen. Pan stands on particularly solid ground to judge the seriousness of the problem. A recent San Francisco Chronicle article quoted him thus: "As a pediatrician, I have personally witnessed children suffering lifelong injury or death from vaccine-preventable infection. This doesn't have to happen."

U.S. senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein are going one step further, asking state health officials to reconsider not only the personal-belief exemption but also urging that religious exemptions not be allowed. Currently parents whose religious beliefs do not allow immunizations may apply for an exemption under the personal-belief exemption. Although ending the exemption for personal beliefs may be an easier sell — and, we believe, the right thing to do — treading on parents' religious beliefs might meet some stiff resistance. But a thorough debate over that issue is certainly needed as the state comes to terms with the long-term consequences of the current exemption law.

Meanwhile, public education is key to this issue. Interestingly, Sen. Pan, the pediatrician, successfully wrote a bill that went into effect in January 2014 requiring parents applying for a personal-belief exemption to talk first with a licensed health care practitioner about the impacts to their children and the community. Although it will take longer than one year to determine whether the law is effective, it's encouraging to note that the rate of personal-belief exemptions went down this year for the first time in many years. Dr. Eric Weiss of the Village Doctor in Woodside told the Almanac that he believes assurances by a trusted doctor can go far in allaying parents' fears about vaccinating their children. He notes that at his clinic, where doctors take the time to talk about the risks of not vaccinating kids, there are no families who have opted out of immunization.

More public awareness is critical, but lawmakers must also take action now to stem the growing problem of non-immunized children who are at risk of preventable disease, and putting the wider community at risk. Public health must trump parental choice in this matter. ■

A sympathetic glimpse at youth, on the edge

By Paul Bendix

"You're very polite," a fellow patron of Draeger's coffee bar observed on her way out. She was referring to the loud and remarkably two-way conversation behind me. A young man sat at a table, cell phone blaring in speaker mode. Being blessed, or cursed, by a capacity for oblivion, I was ignoring him. I assured the passing woman there was no problem. I wasn't listening. But with her departure, I was.

"Look, Mom. ..." His side of the conversation dominated the coffee bar. His mother's side, in lower speaker phone fidelity, joined the rattle of shopping carts.

Should I say something to him, gesture to tone it down? Problem was, I was getting sucked into the conversational thread. He was having roommate problems. He was making a valiant effort to explain himself.



GUEST OPINION

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

It all felt a bit too familiar and too poignant to complain about. In search of a napkin, I got a look at him. Desolated. He didn't need scolding from an old guy, not right now.

What did he need? More to the point, why worry about this at all?

Younger people face a very different world from mine. Baby boomers, by definition, grew up in boom times. If affluent suburban kids seem spoiled ... well, they are also walking a tightrope. Those who fail to get forward momentum early in life run a bigger risk. Simply put, they face a life of roommates.

Statistically flat incomes and soaring housing costs add up to just that.

Should I just say, "Hi, how's it going?" The young man had hung up now. He stared at his coffee, looking lost. It's tough to feel powerless — to be independent, yet reporting in to mommy. And, that other thing, not understanding how to comport oneself in public. It must be a great skill, knowing how to offer young people a friendly nudge. Young man, here is how it's done ... and I am with you.

It's easy to get annoyed with callow youth. It's much harder to be a parent. Or a teacher. Or any one of the people who weave the young into the social fabric.

I left a tip on the table. I rolled my wheelchair toward the elevator. The young man was still sitting there. He stared sadly and silently down at the affluent, mostly older, suburbanites with their shopping carts and their lives. ■

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