

The Almanac

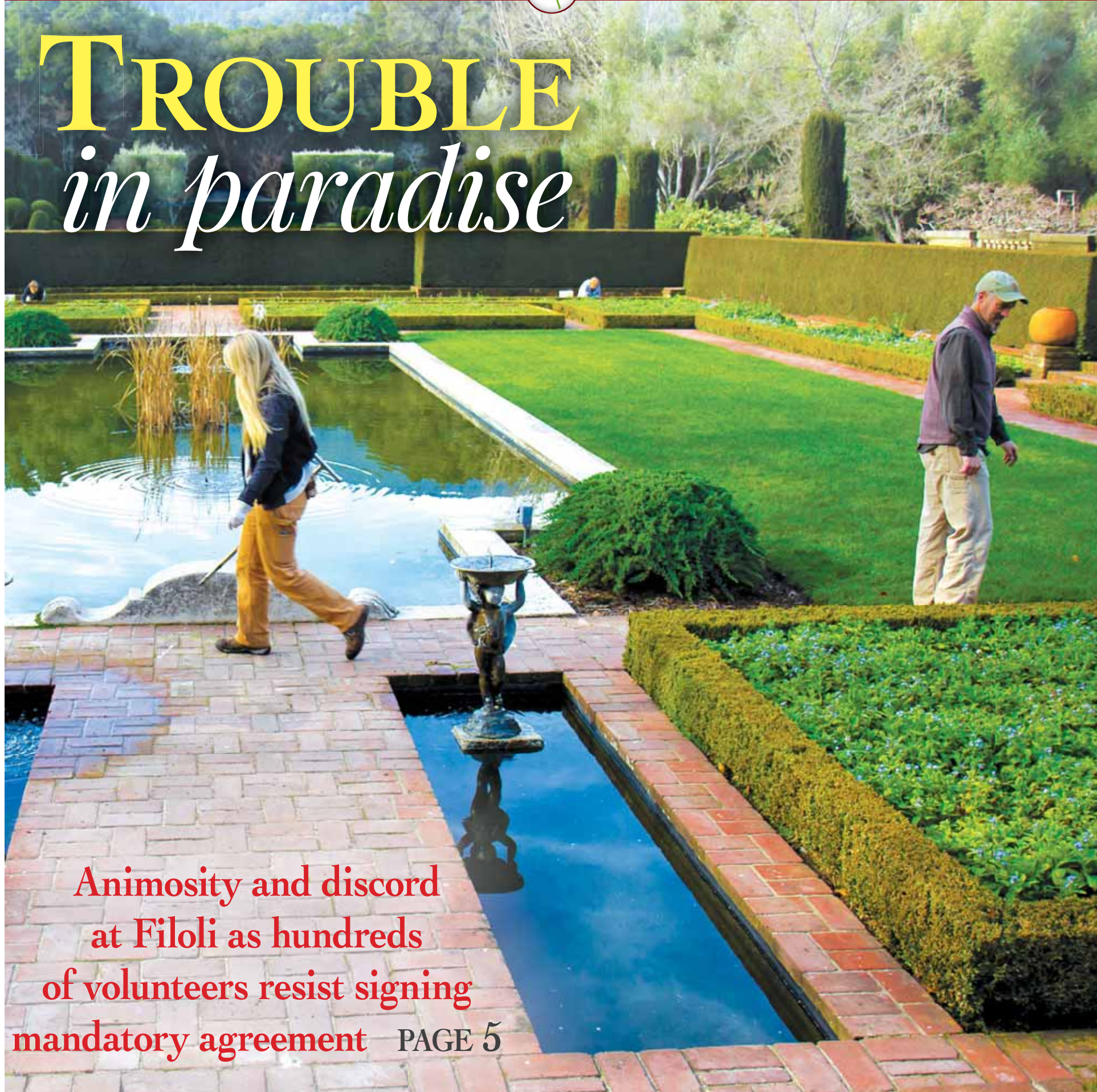
THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

FEBRUARY 25, 2015 | VOL. 50 NO. 25



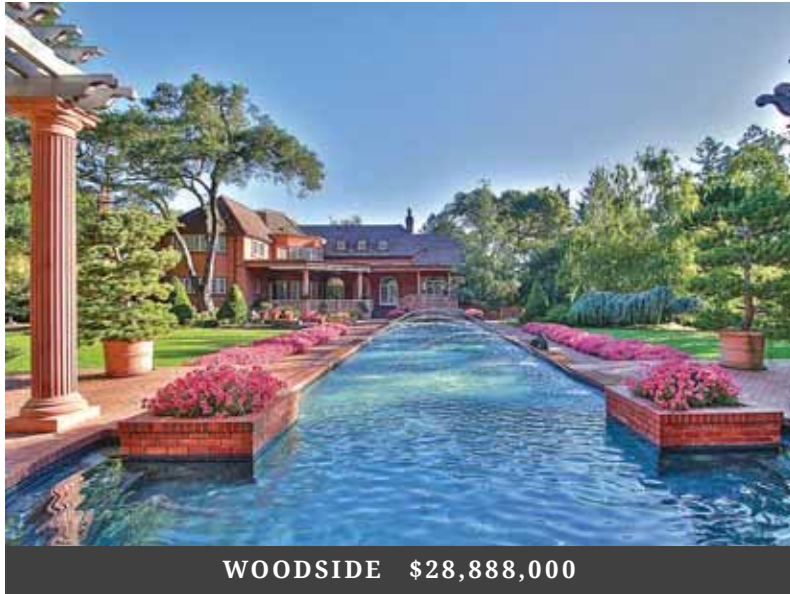
WWW.THEALMANACONLINE.COM

TROUBLE *in paradise*



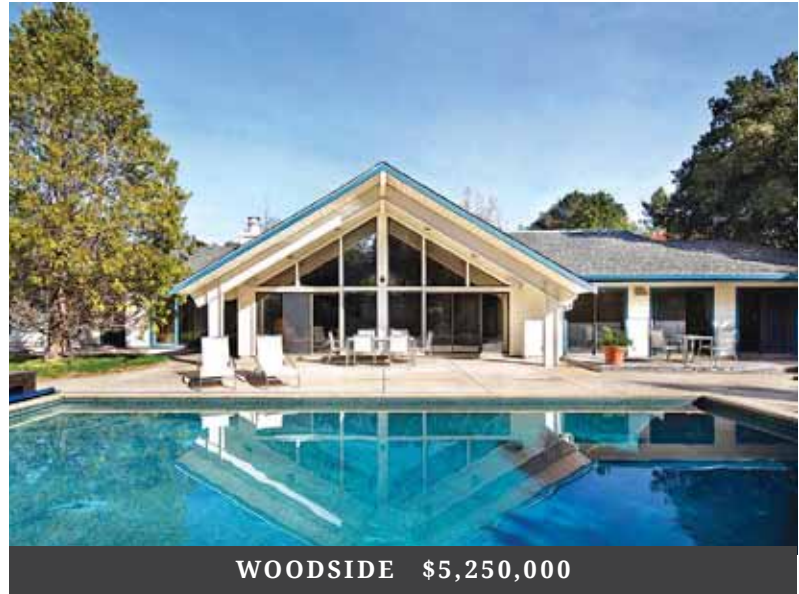
Animosity and discord
at Filoli as hundreds
of volunteers resist signing
mandatory agreement PAGE 5

HOME STARTS HERE



WOODSIDE \$28,888,000

700 Kings Mountain Road | 4bd/5.5ba
Joe & Mary Merkert | 650.462.1111



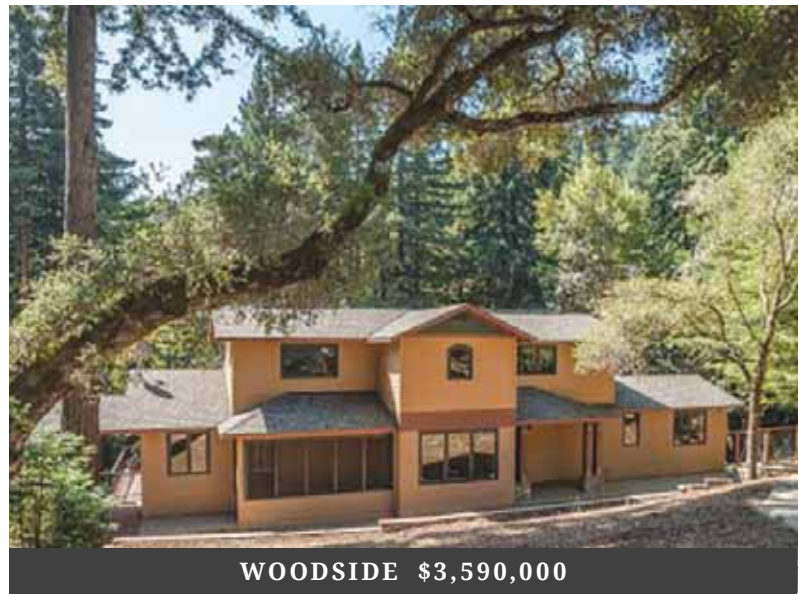
WOODSIDE \$5,250,000

740 Whiskey Hill Road | 4bd/3.5ba
Mary & Brent Gullixson | 650.462.1111



PORTOLA VALLEY \$3,700,000

180 Cherokee Way | 4bd/4ba
Wayne Rivas | 650.529.1111



WOODSIDE \$3,590,000

277 Grandview Drive | 4bd/4ba
Stephanie Nash | 650.529.1111



File photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Gladys Martines, seen here at her Woodside home with her horse Zoro in 2011, is hosting a fundraiser to defray the costs of the recent rescue of 41 starving horses from a Northern California pasture.

Rescuing 41 starving horses

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Woodside resident and equestrian Gladys Martines, a longtime friend of horses, is seeking donations locally to help defray the costs of the recent rescue of 41 starving horses from a Northern California pasture.

At her 32-acre ranch in Penn Valley in Nevada County northeast of Sacramento, Ms. Martines will be hosting a fundraising event on Saturday, March 14. The proceeds would help fund and reimburse an animal shelter in Nevada County and a horse sanctuary in Butte County for the costs of rescuing, feeding and caring for the horses.

About half the rescued horses have already been adopted from the Horse Plus Humane Society sanctuary, said Cheryl Wicks, founder and director of the Sammie's Friends animal shelter in Grass Valley.

Two of the horses had severe injuries and have been euthanized, Ms. Wicks said. The injuries may have come from fighting

with other horses while living unattended in the pasture.

Tickets for the fundraising event are \$20 in advance and \$23 at the door. The day includes an afternoon concert with country music artist Lacy J. Dalton and the band Robby James and the Streets of Bakersfield.

Go to sammiesfriends.org for details and to buy tickets online.

Donations can be made online, by check and by phone. Call 530-471-5041 or write to Sammie's Friends at 14647 McCourtney Road, Grass Valley, CA 95949.

The horses

Officers from Nevada County Animal Control seized the horses from a pasture on Swanson Ravine road in early January after learning of their plight, Ms. Wicks said.

The roundup, which started in the early morning and extended into the night, was arduous, according to a Jan. 15 story in The Union, a Grass Valley-based newspaper. The horses had become semi-wild and many ran off when volunteers attempted to corral them for transport in trailers.

Animal shelter employees and volunteers with horse trailers helped in the rescue, The Union story said.

The herd included 26 stallions, 14 mares and one gelding. The stallions have been gelded, Ms. Wicks said. Costs to care and feed the animals run from \$130 to \$150 a day, she said.

Ms. Martines said she learned of the situation when a friend invited her to a meeting about raising money to pay for the horses' upkeep.

The Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County, a men's equestrian association with headquarters in Woodside, recognized Ms. Martines four years ago, naming her the Outstanding Horseperson-Citizen of 2010.

Patrol member and former Horseperson award winner Bill Wraith said at the time that the Patrol was "deeply honored" to present the award to Ms. Martines "for her tireless, lasting contributions to our community for over 50 years, totally dedicated to improving and preserving our county's horse culture, trails and stabling." ▀

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

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.

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.

DELUCCHI'S MARKET

Formerly the Key Market Location

Sale Dates
Feb. 25 - March 10

3640 Florence Street
Redwood City, CA 94063
650-216-7600

Sale items while supply lasts.

PRODUCE

Organic Raspberries
California grown
\$3.99 ea

Organic Large Tomatoes
\$2.29 lb

Large Artichokes
2/\$5

Hot House Bell Peppers
California grown
\$2.39 lb

GROCERIES

Assorted C&W Frozen Vegetables **3/\$5**

10 oz Pirate's Booty **2/\$10**

17.65 oz assorted Fage **2/\$6**

Assorted 14.5 oz Honey Bunches of Oats **2/\$6**

Assorted 7 oz Athenos Hummus **\$2.29**

50.7 oz assorted Alo **2/\$6**

6 ct Bounty Big Roll White **\$6.99**

MEATS

Foster Farms Bagged Fryers
\$1.29 lb

Boneless Pork Tenderloins
\$4.99 lb

BEER/WINE

Lagunitas IPA
Assorted 6 pack
\$6.99

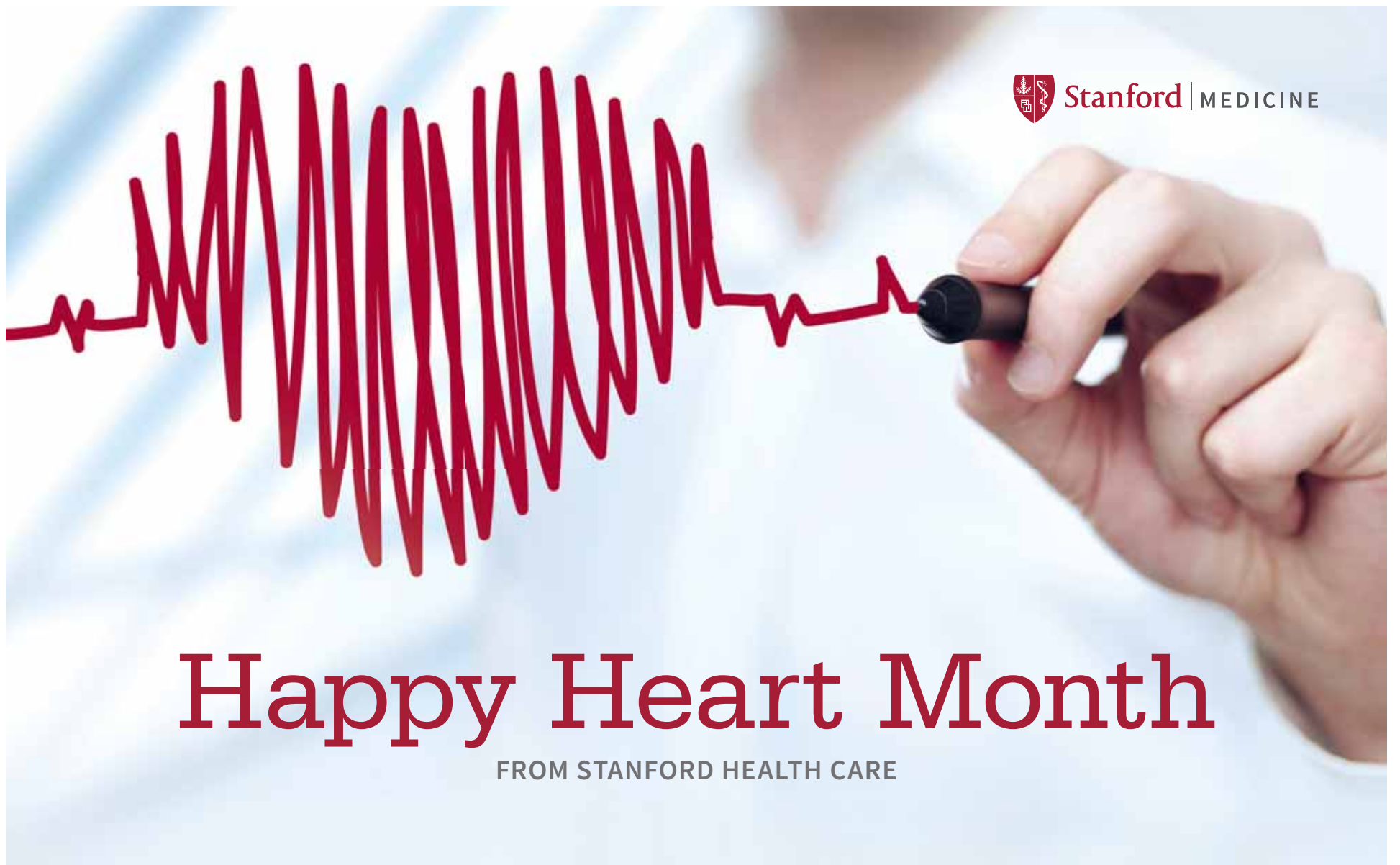
Kendall Jackson 2013 Chardonnay
\$15.99

Sileni 2014 Sauvignon Blanc
\$12.99

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

We accept the following





Happy Heart Month

FROM STANFORD HEALTH CARE

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

Crowne Plaza Hotel • 4290 El Camino Real • Palo Alto, CA 94306

Celebrate American Heart Month with Stanford Health Care. 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. Learn from Stanford Medicine heart experts at our breakout sessions!

Your Heart Rhythm: Atrial Fibrillation (AFIB) Evaluation and Treatment

Presented by the Stanford Cardiac Arrhythmia Service

9:00am – 10:30am

11:00am – 12:30pm

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

Topics Dear to Your Heart

Presented by Stanford Women's Heart Health

9:00am – 10:30am

Heart Disease Prevention: What You Need to Know

Presented by Stanford Preventive Cardiology

11:00am – 12:30pm

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. Free parking is available.

Local News

MENLO PARK | A THERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Trouble in paradise: Filoli volunteers revolt

Animosity and discord at Filoli as hundreds of volunteers resist signing mandatory agreement

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

In the garden at Woodside's historic Filoli estate, the magnolias are just about to end their blooming season and the fields of daffodils to hit their peak. But beneath the serene veneer, like termites eating away at structural timbers, the volunteer organization responsible for everything from ticket sales to building trails for nature walks at Filoli is crumbling.

The problem surfaced, volunteers say, just before Christmas, when Filoli's 1,500 volunteers, 1,300 of them currently active, were asked to sign a volunteer agreement by March 1 or lose their volunteer jobs. Volunteers say they had never before been asked to sign such an agreement.

Many vowed to quit rather than do so.

"At the root of this possible mass resignation is an ill-drafted, one-sided and burdensome agreement which seems to remove Filoli from all responsibility if there is an injury to either the children or the volunteers," said Susan Crocker, a former Woodside mayor who has led school groups on nature hikes at Filoli for a decade.

Like many others, Ms. Crocker said, she called her lawyer "and was advised to not sign the agreement. I talked with my insurance company and was told they will not cover any



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

A volunteer trims a pomegranate tree at Filoli. **On the cover:** A view of the sunken garden at Filoli. (Photo by Michelle Le.)

injury" under the agreement.

The clause that seems to have most upset volunteers says: "Release and indemnification: I agree that I, my successors, assignees, heirs, guardians, and legal representatives will not make a claim of any negligence, personal injury, wrongful death or property damage against Filoli and its employees, officers and agents for claims and liability which was incurred as part of my participation in volunteer

activities, including my travel to and from Filoli."

In a Feb. 23 email to the Almanac, Ms. Crocker said she will be leaving Filoli on March 1 because, even with a concession on one element of the agreement announced by the board last week, the agreement "is still a flawed document."

On Feb. 13 an email from Filoli management admitted that only "over 600" volunteers had signed the agreement.

Filoli's governing board met on Feb. 18. A Feb. 19 email to all volunteers signed by Toni Barack, governing board president, says the board "concluded that the Volunteer Agreement is reasonable and appropriate for Filoli and consistent with common practice in today's nonprofit world."

She then changed course. "After considerable discussion and input from our advisors, the Governing Board has approved the opportunity for volunteers to opt out

of the release clause by crossing out and initialing this clause when signing the agreement. Those who have already signed the agreement will be given the opportunity to re-sign, crossing out this clause if they desire."

The email acknowledges that "some of the interactions during the roll out of the volunteer agreement have been disruptive. It will take significant time and

See **HUNDREDS**, page 8

Filoli volunteers president discusses origins of agreement

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Heidi Brown, president of Filoli's volunteer group, Friends of Filoli, said the volunteer agreement that has caused so much turmoil came into being "because Filoli is really in the process of trying to upgrade all its standards and policies and become a 21st-century business."

"Cynthia (D'Agosta, Filoli's executive director) is trying to move Filoli forward," she said. "The employee handbook was also updated," and the organiza-

tion is "trying to get everything current and the way it should be."

Although Ms. D'Agosta was repeatedly asked to speak to the Almanac, she either did not respond or said Ms. Brown, a volunteer, would be speaking for Filoli.

Two specific incidents with volunteers engendered the agreement, Ms. Brown says,



Cynthia D'Agosta

because Filoli's management felt it did not have the proper documentation in place to discipline or dismiss volunteers. Ms. Brown said she was not involved in crafting the agreement because she was not on the Friends' board at the time.

While the agreement on its surface does not appear to have anything to do with a procedure for dismissing volunteers, it says that volunteers "have read and agree to follow" the volunteer guidelines in another document, called "Volunteer Responsibilities and Policies," which Ms.

Brown said does contain those procedures as well as other specific information about the insurance held by Filoli.

Ms. Brown, a resident of Woodside and eight-year Filoli volunteer, said that as of Feb. 20, about 800 volunteers had signed the volunteer agreement, with more than a hundred of them signing after they were told they could cross out the "release and indemnification" clause.

Filoli has close to 1,300 active volunteers and another 200 "emeritus" volunteers, who get volunteer perks but do not have

to work, or who have their volunteer status "on hold," she said. All volunteers still must sign the agreement by March 1, she said.

In early 2014, Filoli staff and the Friends of Filoli executive board began working on the agreement, submitting their draft to attorneys and the National Trust for Historic Preservation (which owns the Filoli house and formal garden), Ms. Brown said.

Because the new agreement is a Filoli policy, it required approval by Filoli's governing board, she said. Once approved,

See **AGREEMENT** page 8

FREE Homework Help*

C2 Education's personalized K-12 tutoring and test prep programs meet the unique needs of each student.

- 90% of C2 students see grade improvement in 3 months.
- 85% of C2 students are accepted to a top 50 college.
- On average, C2 students increase their SAT scores by 362 points**.

Call to reserve a FREE 2-hour session with one of our skilled tutors.
No strings attached!

C2 Menlo Park
644 Menlo Ave, Suite 100
Menlo Park, CA 94025
1.888.778.4901

C2educate.com



*Offer expires March 31, 2015. One two-hour session per student allowed. Non-C2 students only. Participating centers only. Sessions available on a first-come, first-served basis. **Applies to students with initial scores below 2000. Copyright © 2015 C2 Education. All rights reserved. SAT® is a registered trademark of the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse, this product.

Stanford | Continuing Studies

SPRING 2015



Liberal Arts & Sciences

Featured Spring Courses:

Introducing the Anderson Collection at Stanford University • Paris Transforming
The History and Geography of Current Global Events • Gentle Introduction to Statistics
Design Implementation: Getting to Market • The Cold War: Its History and Legacy
Demystifying Modern China • Joseph Haydn: Music of the Enlightenment

Stanford Continuing Studies offers a broad range of on-campus and online courses in liberal arts & sciences, creative writing, and professional & personal development. Courses are taught by notable Stanford faculty, experienced professionals, and leaders in their fields. All adults are welcome to attend.

Spring registration is now open and most classes begin the week of March 30.

Learn more and register: continuingstudies.stanford.edu

Young entrepreneurs from India to train in Menlo Park this spring

By **Sandy Brundage**
Almanac Staff Writer

Mayor Catherine Carlton may be on track to set a record for international miles traveled as a Menlo Park City Council member. She recently returned from a trip that took her to Dubai and later, Kochi, India.

For those tracking council expenditures, Ms. Carlton is covering most of the costs herself, with assistance of \$2,000 approved by the council for her trip to Kochi, where she signed a sister city agreement.

What is Menlo Park getting in return, apart from a higher international profile as a base for innovation? An economic exchange program: The city will host 100 young entrepreneurs and students during the next year "to train at BootUp Ventures and stay in our hotels and eat in our restaurants," she said.

BootUp Ventures, based at 68 Willow Road in Menlo Park,

specializes in new business development. The company runs programs that teach people how to do business in North America, what levels of venture capital to target, and differences in contract law — basically, "this is how you do your business in America," Ms. Carlton said. "On so many levels it works; it's really exciting."

Joined in Kochi by Councilman Ray Mueller, who heard the original pitch for the economic exchange program while he was mayor last year, she visited "a world-class art festival, orphanages, private schools, universities," she said.

Representatives from the Indian government talked about technology in the classroom. "They were really excited about that" and were "interested in sending more people over to see who they could hire in Silicon Valley to support them on that level," she said.

The first group to train at BootUp Ventures will arrive this spring.

"We are delighted to welcome them, and are proud to have a Menlo Park company working to support entrepreneurs from here and around the world," Ms. Carlton said. ▀



Catherine Carlton

Motorcyclist killed in Woodside crash

Dennis Steven Orellana, 61, of Burlingame died Feb. 16 in an accident on Canada Road in Woodside when the Harley Davidson motorcycle he was riding collided with a dump truck driven by a 43-year-old Redwood City man, according to sources at the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and Coroner's Office.

Both vehicles were northbound on Canada Road. The collision occurred as the truck was making a left turn onto Olive Hill Lane at about 3:15 p.m. and Mr. Orellana attempted to pass the truck on the left, a Sheriff's Office spokeswoman said.

An investigation is ongoing but "it appears that the motorcyclist crossed over the double yellow lines" to make the pass while the truck was turning, Deputy Rebecca Rosenblatt said.

Citing the ongoing investigation and the absence of criminal charges, Ms. Rosenblatt said the Sheriff's Office is not releasing the name of the driver of the dump truck.

Medics from the Woodside Fire Protection District pronounced Mr. Orellana dead at the scene.

The truck driver remained on the scene and cooperated with investigators, she said. Drugs and alcohol are thought not to be a factor.

There were witnesses and investigators are in contact with them, she said. Rangers from the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District called 911 to report the accident.

Authorities closed the road during the investigation of the scene and reopened it at about 6 p.m.

Bay City News Service contributed to this report.

Boutique hotel proposed for El Camino Real in Menlo Park

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

It's a small lot — the property at 1400 El Camino Real in Menlo Park is about half an acre — but big enough for a 63-room, four-story hotel with underground parking, according to a local developer.

The Portola Valley-based Pollock Financial Group wants to turn the former Shell gas station site at Glenwood Avenue, which now has a scattering of shrubs and a whole bunch of dirt, into a boutique hotel on the outskirts of downtown Menlo Park.

The plan is to include a restaurant, bar and pool. The underground garage would accommodate an estimated 75 cars using “stack technology” — as a valet parks one car, a hydraulic lift carries it up to allow a second car to be parked underneath.

“In this location, what made the most sense as a win-win for the city, for us and the public is a hotel,” said Jeff Pollock, after commissioning an analysis by PFK Consultants. The company typically builds medical offices and commercial buildings.

The site is about a block north of 1300 El Camino, where Greenheart Land Company is proposing to build a 420,000-square-foot complex of offices, residential units and retail.

The Pollock Financial Group has been looking for the right location for a boutique hotel since 2006, Mr. Pollock said. With an estimated budget of \$31.5 million for the entire project, the company is in the final stages of purchasing the property. If the proposal proceeds smoothly through the city's planning process, he said, he hopes to start construction in early 2016 and finish within 12 to 14 months.

The company estimates the 33,750-square-foot hotel would deliver \$8.5 million in transient occupancy tax revenue to the city of Menlo Park over 10 years, plus revenue from property and

INFORMATION

Go to tinyurl.com/mp2721 to see concept drawings of proposed hotel.

sales taxes.

The company is aiming at the bonus level of density allowed under the downtown/El Camino Real specific plan, which means the city has the opportunity to negotiate public benefits in exchange for allowing the construction of a hotel that would be larger than allowed under the base-level development rules.

One such benefit Mr. Pollock said the company is willing to provide is an improved right-hand turn lane from Glenwood Avenue onto El Camino Real. Mr. Pollock said he considers revenue from the hotel tax a public benefit as well.

The plan is for a 63-room, four-story hotel with a restaurant, bar and pool.

“The (transient occupancy tax) won't come in unless there's a hotel built,” said Mr. Pollock. “If we cannot work creatively with the city, we may not be able to build the hotel. No one else has come forward with a hotel at that site. While we would like to do it, we have to come to some understanding with the city as to how we achieve it.”

He mentioned the benefits the company sees for Menlo Park: increased vibrancy for downtown, improving the vacant site, and a chance to evaluate how well the stacked parking might work in other parts of the city. Plus, Menlo Park gets an attractive building that's easier on the eyes than a half-acre of dirt.

The hotel will match “LEED silver” levels of green design elements, he said.

The design of the hotel remains a work in progress. The company is working with architect Mark Hornberger of Hornberger + Worstell. His portfolio includes W Hotel in San Francisco and the Ritz-Carlton Highlands in Lake Tahoe.

Project representatives are taking a trip to Napa soon “to look at some examples of successful boutique hotels,” Mr. Pollock said. “At the risk of comparing ourselves to our neighbors, we like a lot of the design elements of the Epiphany (hotel) in Palo Alto.”

Although hotels are a departure from its norm, the Pollock Financial Group, which includes Jim Pollock and Lincoln Westcott, has completed other projects in Menlo Park, such as the office building at 312 Middlefield Road. The company has also sunk roots into the community, founding “Heart of Silicon Valley” in 2002 to raise money for charities by staging concerts in small venues.

The council was scheduled to hold a study session to talk about the proposed hotel on Tuesday, Feb. 24, after the Almanac's deadline.

Check Almanacnews.com for a recap of the discussion.

The hotel “is an interesting opportunity for Menlo Park and I am anxious to hear the feedback from the City Council,” said Jim Cogan, the city's economic development manager. “If nothing else, it illustrates how the guidelines in the specific plan are encouraging the development community to bring forward projects that can enhance vibrancy and provide tax revenue.”

Mayor Cat Carlton also sounded intrigued. “I'm delighted to hear of plans for another boutique hotel on El Camino Real. Both increased property tax for the site and increased transient occupancy tax is a good thing for the financial stability of the city,” she said. ■

Councilman Ohtaki has ties to developer

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

Councilman Peter Ohtaki and local developer Jeff Pollock are longtime friends, but Mr. Ohtaki said there's no need to recuse himself from discussions about the boutique hotel proposal the developer is bringing to the city. “Jeff and I went to La Entrada

and Woodside High School together, and are good friends, but I don't have a financial relationship with his firm, so there is no conflict,” Mr. Ohtaki told the Almanac. “That Jeff grew up here speaks to his firm's knowledge of our community and its needs. But I will consider their project objectively based on its merits.”

Attorney Jim Ewert of the California Newspaper Publishers Association confirmed that the legal standard for a conflict of interest is whether an elected official has a pecuniary interest in the outcome of a decision. “Without one it's nearly impossible to assert a conflict of interest, even though it's a campaign

See **OHTAKI**, page 17

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Buying in a Tight Market

Dear Monica: I am trying to buy a home and am concerned that the lack of inventory will make it impossible for me to find something. Do you have any suggestions of how to succeed in this market? Sally B.

Dear Sally: It will take a combination of preparedness and vigilance to find the right property in this market. First, be ready to buy at any moment. If you are planning to get a loan, this means being fully approved by a lender, subject to finding the property. Keep your approval current. If you are paying cash for a property, have the cash in an account ready to

draw down when needed. Work closely with your realtor, both of you hovering over the areas you are interested in, so that you can move quickly if a good property comes available. Your agent may also know of properties that will be coming on soon, and you can possibly make a pre-emptive offer.

You should be ready to spend the time and effort needed to find a property. If you travel for business, you may be unavailable for days at a time, but keep close to the market from a distance. You may miss out on a few homes, but ultimately you should be able to find what you are looking for.

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

Parenting Teens Through the Challenges of Life

A conference on adolescent mental health and addiction

Saturday, February 28

9am – 3:30pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Philippe Rey
Executive Director, Adolescent Counseling Services Palo Alto
Amy Simpson
Award-winning author of “Anxious” and “Troubled Minds”
John Ortberg
Senior Pastor, MPPC

EXHIBITORS AND BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Register at mppc.org/parentingteens | Cost \$25. Scholarships and childcare available.

We help you make
sure insurance
claims, payments,
and questions are
handled quickly.

**CHARLIE
PORTER**
650-327-1313

Serving the community for over 26 years!

Charlie Porter Farmers® Agency
License # 0773991
671-A Oak Grove Ave, Menlo Park
cporter2@farmersagent.com

FARMERS
INSURANCE



Hundreds of Filoli volunteers refuse to sign agreement

continued from page 5

effort to work through the many issues created.”

The email also says the board “fully supports” its executive director, Cynthia D’Agosta, “in her efforts to restore a productive environment throughout Filoli.”

While some volunteers have said they will now sign the agreement, others are not appeared.

“I’m not resigning. They’re firing me,” said Menlo Park resident Hal Tennant, the head of Filoli’s Bandana Brigade, which helps with Filoli’s trails, building and grounds. Mr. Tennant, who with his wife, Jeane, has volunteered at Filoli for more than 15 years, said the Bandana Brigade will be gone as of March 1.

“Members of the Bandana Brigade will not be signing, but we will continue in our efforts to save Filoli,” Mr. Tennant said.

“Toni Barrack’s (Feb. 19) email is a weak response to a gigantic problem. It’s like putting the cheapest band-aid available on a life-threatening wound. The patient is dying.”

Mr. Tennant said his group is “starting to mothball some facilities, in anticipation of the (March 1) deadline, when the ax falls on those volunteers who do not sign the agreement.”

Others say they want the board to fire Ms. D’Agosta, who has been Filoli’s executive director since December 2012. Joe Brennan, a five-year-veteran nature education docent from Belmont, said: “Only the replacement of Cynthia D’Agosta with a more capable director would change my mind,” about leaving.

Others will sign. “I will now sign the agreement with the offending section struck through,” said an Atherton resi-

dent who has volunteered at Filoli for five years. “But the entire experience has left me with a bad taste in my mouth about Filoli,” she said. “The letter has a clear tone of reluctance and is clearly aimed at making the executive director feel better about the debacle she herself caused.”

Many volunteers say they also object to some of the other parts of the agreement. One provision says: “I will be responsible for medical costs incurred by accident, illness or injury associated with my services to Filoli.” Filoli officials have assured volunteers that Filoli carries secondary medical insurance that will pay costs their own insurance doesn’t pay, but volunteers say they want the agreement to say that.

Mr. Tennant said he and his fellow Bandana Brigade volunteers face the risk of injury due to their use of dangerous equipment, owned by Filoli, such as chain saws and “a wonderful 1974 Chevy pickup that has questionable brakes.”

A Palo Alto Bandana Brigade member for more than 15 years says he broke his leg in an accident at Filoli in January after stepping into a gopher hole while trimming trees and cutting branches with a chain saw. The man said he plans to ask Filoli to help pay any costs his insurance won’t cover.

The volunteer said he also volunteers for the Peninsula Open Space District, which does not require a volunteer release.

Some volunteers who say they value their privacy object to another part of the agreement that says Filoli can “publish any photos in which I appear while volunteering for Filoli.”

Another sentence in the agreement says it “is executed volun-

tarily and without any duress or undue influence.”

“That volunteers are under duress is an understatement — sign or you are out,” said Clare Gardella, a 20-year Filoli volunteer who was president of the Friends of Filoli in 2002 and 2003.

“Many of us are heeding the advice of our attorneys and not signing,” said Ms. Gardella, a resident of San Carlos. “It is also causing many of us to make changes in our wills and memberships.”

Ms. Gardella said even with the changes she won’t sign. “It is my strong feeling that those persons responsible for all this should perhaps consider moving on to a place that is more amenable to commercialization. It is obvious that despite what they say, they have little respect for the history of Filoli and all that it stands for,” she said.

A Portola Valley volunteer said the unhappiness stems from more than the wording of the agreement.

“The volunteers’ hesitancy to sign the (agreement) started out as a reaction to the language and intent” of the document, she said, “but I believe it has grown and snowballed into something else.”

“Because Filoli management has not been responsive to our concerns, the relationship has begun to feel less like a partnership and more like a dictatorship,” said the six-year volunteer.

Nina Bell, a 12-year volunteer from Palo Alto, said she has been “extremely distressed by the way the executive administration has handled the roll-out of this onerous, one-sided volunteer agreement. This experience has destroyed goodwill and has severely impacted the Filoli culture,” she said.

The Portola Valley volunteer



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Executive Director Cynthia D’Agosta in the big kitchen at Filoli. Although Ms. D’Agosta was repeatedly asked to speak to the Almanac, she either did not respond or said Heidi Brown, a volunteer and president of Friends of Filoli, would be speaking for Filoli.

said that she feels as if Filoli’s management has “taken something that was working quite well and has destroyed its fabric. I’ve never been divorced,” she said, “but I can see that this situation has some similarities.”

Kathie Shaw, an 18-year volunteer and Friends of Filoli president in 2004 and 2005, said Filoli volunteer leadership told her that “new volunteers would be available to step in for those choosing to leave.”

Ms. Shaw, from Menlo Park, said “this shows no respect for seasoned, experienced volunteers who have given freely of time and talents for many years. Unfortunately this attitude on the part of the administration has caused a wide divide among the volunteers.”

Ms. Shaw said that Filoli’s success has been based on “the partnership between the volunteers and the staff. We have worked side by side,” she said.

“We are no longer equal partners. Many of us will choose to leave as a result,” she said. However, Ms. Shaw said, “I am going

to sign” the agreement with the release clause crossed out. “I want to be able to be active in the process going forward,” she said.

Filoli, located on Canada Road a few miles north of Woodside, was originally built by William Bowers Bourn II and Agnes Moody Bourn. The Bourns built their country home between 1915 and 1917 and established the garden between 1917 and 1929.

When Mr. and Mrs. Bourn both died in 1936, the property was sold to William P. and Lurline Matson Roth.

In 1975, the Roth family donated Filoli to the National Trust for Historic Preservation (the house and gardens) and the Filoli Center (the remaining acreage). It opened to the public in 1976.

In a January interview, Filoli’s executive director, Ms. D’Agosta, said Filoli has 1,300 active volunteers, 60 employees and a \$7 million annual budget. A total of 120,000 people visit Filoli in the nine months it is open, she said.

Only members of Filoli can volunteer. ▀

AGREEMENT

continued from page 5

the document was returned to the Friends’ executive board in November 2014, Ms. Brown said.

“We figure that at least a hundred pairs of eyes have seen this document,” she said.

The Friends planned to present the agreement to Filoli’s volunteer committees, which are organized around volunteer jobs, in January, she said. The rollout was changed, however, after a committee chair sent the document to members early, she said. “They got the document without background, context or explanation,” she said.

Ms. Brown said volunteers presented her and Ms. D’Agosta

with too many questions to possibly answer. “We’d have to have a staff working to answer every single question,” she said.

They did research answers to the most common questions, including those about insurance. “Filoli has always had insurance. It has insurance now. Nothing is going to change,” she said. The intent of saying in the agreement that volunteers are “responsible for medical costs ... associated with my services to Filoli,” means they must carry the primary insurance, she said.

Because the agreement was approved by the governing board, only the governing board could change it, she said. While

Ms. Brown is vice president of the governing board, she said she could not say why the board did not change nor discard the agreement when it met on Feb. 18.

“The decision to change wording rested with the governing board,” she said.

“I understand if some volunteers just feel as if they cannot sign this agreement and that they cannot stay at Filoli,” Ms. Brown said. “We will miss them, but we’re at a point now where everyone’s got to make their own decision and make their own choice. We have got to put this behind us and move forward. It’s going to take some work and that’s OK.”

Ms. Brown said the Friends’ leadership is looking for ways to repair the rift caused by the agreement. “We don’t know yet what that will be,” she said. “Maybe some mediated meetings to help volunteers share their concerns.”

“There is a commitment from the Friends to our volunteers to do some fence mending, to do a better job communicating going forward,” she said.

She understands the experience has been difficult. “Why it got so emotional is because people care so deeply,” she said.

Ms. Brown said that the process has had “a silver lining.” “We are talking about things, we are better informed. I think

that’s a good thing,” she said.

Safety programs and insurance are now better understood, she said. In addition, “I think we have been told that we’ve got to do a better job communicating — we’ve got to work on that,” she said.

Does Ms. Brown regret taking on the leadership of the Friends right now? “No I don’t,” she said. “Organizations go through growing pains.”

Filoli’s volunteer structure, Mr. Brown said, “was started by a wonderful group of people. They took care of Filoli and treasured it,” she said. Now, however, she said, Filoli has “grown up” and has different needs. ▀

Menlo Park workshop examines options for El Camino Real

By Erin Glanville
Special to the Almanac

Should El Camino Real be a two-lane or three-lane route through Menlo Park? Should bike lanes be added to the roadway? These were among the questions facing local residents at a community workshop on the future of El Camino Real, held Feb. 19 at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center in Menlo Park.

About 60 people participated in the workshop, where they had the opportunity to learn about and comment on lane-design options for El Camino Real in Menlo Park, from Encinal Avenue in the north to Sand Hill Road in the south. This is the city's third workshop on the project. The others were held in October and April of 2014.

Steve Weinberger, of the Oakland-based traffic engineering consulting firm W-Trans, presented an analysis of current traffic conditions and results from an online survey that received responses from 316 people.

The lane-design options were developed within several parameters, including that sidewalks, center medians and newly planted trees not be impacted, and that no grade separations or tunneling be considered.

One option is to increase the number of travel lanes on El

Camino from two to three in each direction between Encinal Avenue and Roble Avenue. This option would eliminate on-street parking on El Camino as well as dedicated right-turn lanes (except at Ravenswood Ave.)

No bicycle paths on El Camino would be added under this option. Bicycle routes would be identified on parallel routes off El Camino.

Community members express views on lane-design changes for El Camino.

A second option would provide for a 6-foot-wide bike lane (separated from traffic by a painted buffer) that would run next to the motor vehicle lanes. This option would be accomplished by narrowing the existing vehicle lanes by one to three feet and by eliminating on-street parking along most of El Camino.

Cars making right turns would share the bicycle lane in a "mixed zone." This option would provide for pedestrian bulb-outs for some intersections. (A bulb-out extends the curb and sidewalk into the roadway, making pedestrians more visible to motorists and shortening crossing distances.)

A third alternative would create one-way dedicated bike lanes protected from vehicle traffic with raised curbs or planters along El Camino. This option would eliminate on-street parking and right-turn lanes on most of El Camino.

According to the city, all of the proposed alternatives can be accommodated within the existing curb-to-curb paved area with the exception of the northbound approach to the Ravenswood Avenue intersection. At Ravenswood, the paved area would need to be widened to accommodate any of the proposed changes.

According to Mr. Weinberger, the city arborist has concluded that options one and two may result in the removal of 11 heritage trees and seven street trees. The third option would result in the removal of only one of the heritage trees in addition to seven street trees.

A fourth option — to do nothing — isn't really an option, Mr. Weinberger said. "The current situation isn't working" as periods of peak traffic have grown. "The heavy (traffic) windows are no longer from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.," he said. "Now they run from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. as people simply adjust their schedule as the demand on our streets has grown."

The analysis by the W-Trans

See **EL CAMINO**, page 14

Atherton puts off study of El Camino lane reduction

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton's City Council has decided to put off a study of reducing the number of lanes on El Camino Real while waiting to see what Menlo Park decides to do on its neighboring stretch of the state highway.

Instead of studying future lane reductions, the council plans to concentrate on improving existing conditions on the road.

In October, the council had given the go-ahead for a study of the effects of reducing its 1.6 miles of El Camino from six travel lanes to four, but had not yet approved a contract for the actual work. Community Services Director Michael Kashiwagi estimated the study would cost about \$150,000. The study would have looked at alternatives, such as reducing the width, but not the number, of travel lanes.

Mr. Kashiwagi said that since 2013, when the town started serious negotiations with Caltrans about ways to make El Camino safer, much of the conversation has centered on the reduction of travel lanes. "It has also been acknowledged that this change could be costly to study and implement," he said.

With Menlo Park about to finish its own study of what to do with its stretch of El

Camino, including the option of increasing the number of travel lanes, the Atherton council members said that now is not the time to go ahead with the study.

"I think we should suspend the study on El Camino at this point in time," said council member Bill Widmer. "If Menlo Park comes back with a surprise we could always reopen it."

Council member Elizabeth Lewis agreed. "We don't live in a 1.6 mile island," she said. Whatever Atherton does should "be complementary" with what neighbors are doing, she said.

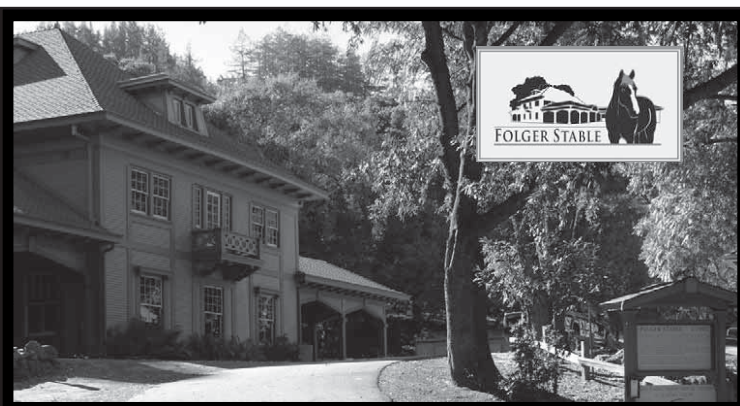
Council members said the town should also see what comes out of a March 16 meeting in Atherton to discuss the Grand Boulevard Initiative, which is working on making improvements to the entire length of El Camino, from San Jose to Daly City.

Stoplights?

Atherton plans to look at current conditions on its stretch of El Camino, including how many pedestrians and bicyclists use and cross the street. The council approved investigating the installation of either a conventional stoplight or a pedestrian-controlled stoplight (called a hybrid pedestrian beacon) on El Camino at Almendral Avenue.

The council asked the town

See **LANE REDUCTION**, page 14



High-touch boarding and unparalleled riding in Wunderlich County Park

Now accepting boarders

4040 Woodside Rd., Woodside, CA
408.828.8721

equikneadswoodside@gmail.com
www.wunderlichfolgerstable.com



Carpaccio says "Leprechauns are really Italian!"



Carpaccio
Northern Italian Cuisine

Open for lunch Mon - Fri 11:30 - 2 ♦ Lite lunch Mon - Fri 2 - 5
Dinner Mon - Thurs 5 - 9:30 ♦ Fri & Sat 5 - 10 ♦ Sun 5 - 9

1120 Crane Street ♦ Menlo Park ♦ 650.322.1211 ♦ carpaccio@carpaccios.com

Join us on St. Patrick's Day,
Tuesday, March 17th,
for Corn Beef & Cabbage!
Make your reservations
sooner than later.

Carpaccio, is celebrating 28 years and is a multiple time Readers' Choice best Italian restaurant winner. Located in downtown Menlo Park, diners experience the **best Italian Cuisine** while enjoying the vibrant decor.



Bob and Ciya

DELEON REALTY'S STATISTICS

Our rapid growth and glowing reviews show that our approach works and our clients are thrilled. Additionally, our market-leading volume give us tremendous resources and experience, not to mention great market knowledge. In 2014 the DeLeon Team was ahead of all other Realtors or teams in Palo Alto and Menlo Park, number 2 in Atherton, and number 4 in Los Altos. In the aggregate, we were ahead of all realtors and teams in Silicon Valley.

2014 Market Share²

1/1/14 to 12/31/14

- #1 Overall - Silicon Valley
- #1 Overall - Our Cities¹
- #1 Palo Alto
- #1 Menlo Park
- #2 Atherton
- #2 Mountain View
- #3 Los Altos Hills
- #4 Los Altos
- #5 Portola Valley

¹ Includes Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, and Portola Valley.

² These statistics, for the period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014, come directly from Broker Metrics® an independent third-party that compiles data from the Multiple Listing Service (“MLS”). Please note that our sales volume is from one team of closely collaborating professionals, not an entire brokerage or office that is including the sales of many agents that are merely commission-based independent contractors—everyone that carries a DeLeon Realty business card is actually an employee of DeLeon Realty. Teamwork, integrity and specialization are key elements to our success. Please call us to hear how our unique business model and stellar people deliver exceptional results for our clients. DeLeon Realty...Reinventing Real Estate.



650.543.8500 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty CalBRE #01903224



12 Biltmore Lane, Menlo Park Offered at \$1,498,000

Spacious Living in Sharon Heights

Bask in the comforts of this quiet 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home of 2,500 sq. ft. (per county) on a lot of 3,248 sq. ft. (per county). On the main floor, the large living areas are ideal for entertaining, and the bedrooms are arranged on the upper level for privacy. Enjoy the fireplace in the sprawling living room, entertain in the dining room with nearby wet bar, or lounge on the newly refinished deck. The sizeable kitchen features granite countertops, double ovens, a Bosch dishwasher, and breakfast area with bar access. Amenities include a wood-paneled elevator, cedar-finished closets, 2-car garage, and natural hardwood floors with inlay. Within minutes of both Interstate 280 and Sand Hill Road, this home is also nearby Sharon Hills Park and within a mile of Alameda De Las Pulgas. Great nearby schools include Las Lomas Elementary (API 943), La Entrada Middle (API 963), and Menlo-Atherton High (API 819) (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.12Biltmore.com



Ken DeLeon
CalBRE #01342140



Michael Repka
CalBRE #01854880



OPEN HOUSE

Saturday & Sunday, 1-5 pm



You can quote me...



Steve was great to work with... he had a full team to help us get the house on the market quickly, he priced it well, he kept us informed, he went above and beyond to answer some specific questions for buyers, and he was quite responsive and good-humored through out the process. He is a real professional

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



STEVE GRAY

BRE# 01498634

650-743-7702
sgray@cbtnorcal.com

Retaliation by DA alleged in prosecution of deputy sheriff

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

San Mateo County Deputy Sheriff Juan Lopez was back in Superior Court in Redwood City on Feb. 13, but not about allegations that he helped smuggle a cellphone into the county jail.

Mr. Lopez, 51, faces new charges in connection with his write-in campaign for sheriff in the June 2014 election, including conspiracy, fraud, perjury and embezzlement. He pleaded not-guilty to all charges.

The defendants include Mr. Lopez's fiancée Evelyn Segura-Chavez, 34, of Redwood City, who is charged with conspiracy and embezzlement.

Mr. Lopez's attorney Stuart Hanlon called the new charges "retaliation against Juan, and now his fiancée Evelyn, because he had the nerve to run against the sheriff. ... I think the charges against Evelyn are absolutely outrageous. Her only crime was to be the fiancée of Juan."

"I think the San Mateo County DA is tied at the hip to the sheriff," he added. "They're trying to bury (Lopez) through legal charges and new costs."

Mr. Hanlon said he plans to

ask that the case be taken out of the hands of Mr. Wagstaffe's office and be turned over to the state Attorney General's Office. "At least we'd get some objectivity on this case," he said.

In an interview, Mr. Wagstaffe acknowledged a friendly working relationship with the sheriff, adding that he has considerable respect for Mr. Hanlon, but that it was "simply not true" that his relationship with Mr. Munks is affecting this case.

Mr. Lopez has been on administrative leave since July 2014. He was arrested at gunpoint in November 2014 outside his home in Newark over the cellphone smuggling charges, the culmination of an 11-month investigation by the office of District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe — at the request of Sheriff Greg Munks, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

The Sheriff's Office had distanced itself from the matter, given Mr. Lopez's candidacy, Mr. Wagstaffe said. "They very quickly turned it over to us," he said. Mr. Lopez is one of seven defendants in the case.

Retaliation?

In the June 2014 election, both Mr. Wagstaffe and Mr. Munks were re-elected. Mr. Wagstaffe ran unopposed; Mr. Munks' bid was, arguably, contested, though Deputy Lopez garnered just 1.4 percent of the vote. As a write-in candidate, his name was not on

the ballot.

On his campaign website, Mr. Lopez had written that he would "restore integrity to the leadership of the Office of Sheriff" that Mr. Munks "is not the person to lead the law enforcement program," and that Mr. Lopez will be a leader that voters can "respect and trust."

Was he referring to an incident in April 2007? Police in Las Vegas detained and questioned Mr. Munks and Undersheriff Carlos Bolanos after finding them on the premises of a brothel in an unmarked house in a residential neighborhood. Mr. Munks said he'd been looking for a massage parlor and believed he was going into a legitimate business.

Mr. Lopez said he was not referring to the Las Vegas incident. "You know, I really can't say anything about that," he said. "I wasn't there and I don't have first-hand knowledge."

Asked to comment at the time, Mr. Munks emailed a statement: "I am honored to be running alone on the ballot again which I believe is an acknowledgment of the progress and fine work that we have accomplished on behalf of our community."

In his write-in campaign, Mr. Lopez raised \$400, including \$200 from his fiancée, according to campaign finance reports. With loans of \$6,060, he spent \$9,526, the report says, including \$687 for robo-calls and \$427 for campaign signs.

Reports show Mr. Munks received a \$1,000 contribution from Mr. Wagstaffe and Mr. Wagstaffe received a \$1,000 contribution from Mr. Munks.

Mr. Wagstaffe acknowledged this exchange of contributions. Mr. Lopez's case "isn't going to be decided on any relationship between the sheriff and myself," he said. "The case will work its way through on the facts."

A whiff of it

"I would agree that there is a whiff of retaliation," said Loyola University law professor and election-law expert Jessica Levinson when informed of Mr. Hanlon's assertions. "Either it is what it looks like, which is retaliation and helping out a friend, ... or it is prosecuting someone who violated the law," she said.

The campaign contribution of \$1,000 would not automatically transfer the prosecution from the DA's office to the state Attorney General's Office, she said.

Given the Las Vegas incident,



Juan Lopez

Looking for the perfect summer adventure?

SUMMER

CAMP ACTIVITIES EXPO

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
12-4pm Macy's Center Court

- MUSEUM PROGRAMS • SPORTS FACILITIES
- SUMMER SCHOOLS • RECREATION CENTERS
- TECH & SCIENCE PROGRAMS
- PLUS MORE! FREE ADMISSION.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY:

HILLSDALE
SHOPPING CENTER

NORDSTROM, MACY'S, FOREVER 21 AND SEARS PLUS 120 FINE STORES. LOCATED OFF HWY 101 AT HILLSDALE BLVD & EL CAMINO REAL IN SAN MATEO. HILLSDALE GIFT CARDS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER. SHOP MON-SAT 10AM-9PM & SUN 11AM-7PM | 650.345.8222 | WWW.HILLSDALE.COM

We're looking for a great CFO

Our CFO of 20 years is retiring and he will be really hard to replace.

Help us find a person with solid financial skills, a passion for local journalism, prior experience with digital media and a personality that fits well with our amazingly talented and diverse staff.

For a complete job description,
go to embarcaderomediagroup.com

embarcadero media

450 CAMBRIDGE AVENUE | PALO ALTO

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

Support The Almanac's print and online coverage of our community.

Join today: SupportLocalJournalism.org/Almanac

STARTING MARCH 1, 2015

New program for all residents in
Atherton and Redwood City




GOT HAZARDOUS WASTE?


Call 800-HHW-PKUP and
we'll pick it up at no additional cost!


For a detailed list of what is and is not accepted, visit www.RethinkWaste.org/hhw or call 800-HHW-PKUP (800-449-7587).

**MANAGING YOUR
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
IS EASY AS 1-2-3!**

**Rethink
waste**
South Bay Area Waste
Management Authority
A Public Agency

1  CALL 800-HHW-PKUP (800-449-7587) or email atyourdoor@wm.com to schedule your pick-up date.

2  RECEIVE YOUR COLLECTION KIT within a few days. The kit will contain instructions and everything you'll need to prepare your HHW for pick-up. Follow the instructions closely to properly prepare your materials.

3  SET OUT YOUR HHW ITEMS for collection by 7 a.m. on your scheduled pick-up day as directed in the kit.

At Your DoorSM
Special CollectionSM

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*.**

Help your senior loved one live safely and independently at home with top-notch care from Home Care Assistance.

24/7 Live-In Care Specialists. We offer the highest quality around-the-clock care for the most competitive price - guaranteed.

The Best Hourly Care. Many families choose to hire our experienced and trained caregivers on an hourly basis. Hourly schedules are flexible - no contracts required!

Experienced with Advanced Care Needs. Our caregivers are experienced with caring for clients with special conditions such as Alzheimer's, stroke and Parkinson's. We also develop more customized care plans and training for these clients. 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.

Brain Health Experts. We are the only home care agency that offers the Cognitive Therapeutics Method™, a research-backed, activities program that promotes brain health and vitality in our clients.

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



650-462-6900

HomeCareAssistance.com

148 Hawthorne Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301

How should El Camino be changed?

continued from page 9

consulting firm challenges conventional wisdom that adding a travel lane (option 1) would result in faster travel times in peak traffic periods. Its study suggested that option would attract more drivers to El Camino who currently take other routes, such as Middlefield Road.

During the workshop, participants had an opportunity to examine large schematic maps, models and charts breaking down the effectiveness of each alternative in terms of the impact

on vehicle and bicycle travel, pedestrian comfort, transit use, parking, and “aesthetic” opportunities, such as improved landscaping. Attendees were invited to comment on each alternative.

Nikki Nagaya, the city’s transportation manager, said the city staff has heard “loud and clear” that residents want the city to more fully explore installing bicycle lanes on parallel routes off El Camino.

A large city map was made available for attendees to highlight suggested bicycle routes.

Finding a route to highlight, however, was problematic. Many residents who bicycle pointed out that Menlo Park does not have another continuous north-south route, aside from Middlefield Road, and that road is far from downtown, where many cyclists want to travel.

Several attendees expressed concerns with how few respondents the survey received, and questioned how effectively parents of school-age children were engaged.

Menlo Park resident Henry Riggs expressed concern that “we’ve talked a lot about the

needs of bicyclists, but not about the needs of pedestrians.”

The public will have more opportunities to give feedback as the options make their way through the Bicycle, Transportation and Planning commissions, before going to the City Council.

Residents who did not attend the meeting but would like to vote online can do so through March 13.

Go to tinyurl.com/vote220.

Go to tinyurl.com/ecr221 to see the city of Menlo Park’s El Camino Real Corridor project page. ▣

LANE REDUCTION

continued from page 9

staff to communicate with residents of Selby Lane to see what could be done to make that intersection safer that would be palatable to those residents.

“The most important focus for us is on the crosswalks because that’s where the accidents are happening,” said Mayor Rick DeGolia. When the town builds a new civic center, the need for residents to safely cross from one side of Atherton to the other will be very important, he said. “I think we need to look seriously at every single one of these unprotected crossings.” ▣

MENLO PARK
CAMP
FAIR

FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH
6:00-8:00PM

10% OFF
 all city run camps
 when you register your
 child at the event!

Free Pizza
 Petting Zoo
 Camp Raffle
 Summer Job Opportunities

Arrillaga Family Recreation Center - 700 Alma Street - 650.330.2200

More traffic control comes to Alpine Road/I-280

By **Dave Boyce**
Almanac Staff Writer

To encourage drivers to pay attention to stop signs at the intersection of Alpine Road and Interstate 280, the state is installing additional traffic control mechanisms. Some are already there.

On Sunday, Feb. 22, workers from the California Department of Transportation etched the pavement on the exit ramp of northbound I-280 to create rumble strips ahead of the stop and yield signs at Alpine Road, according to Caltrans spokeswoman Gidget Navarro.

The corrugated pattern in the pavement creates vibrations inside vehicles so as to warn drivers of the need to stop.

Rumble strips are planned for Alpine Road itself ahead of the stop signs that control eastbound and westbound traffic, but it might be another 10 days, Ms. Navarro said. The truck that does the etching broke down.

Caltrans will also be replacing five stop signs at the intersection with new and much larger signs, Ms. Navarro said.

Safety is a concern. In 2010, at a spot where bicycle and vehicle traffic converged without pavement markings to direct traffic, a cyclist collided with a truck and died. In a long awaited response, San Mateo County Public Works installed green bike lanes in 2013.

Recently, a group of Portola Valley residents complained to Caltrans (which owns the right-of-way there) about drivers blowing through the intersection's stop signs. Caltrans responded within weeks, residents said. ■



THE JEAN AND BILL LANE LECTURE SERIES 2014-2015

Presents *Ellen Bryant Voigt*

Reading

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015, 8:00 PM

LEVINTHAL HALL
STANFORD HUMANITIES CENTER
424 SANTA TERESA STREET
STANFORD UNIVERSITY



Photo by Frank Wing

"*Headwaters* is a slim collection...but in a very limited space it achieves both breadth and depth. Most importantly, like all memorable works of art, it leaves one wanting more."

— *Los Angeles Review of Books*

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

INFORMATION: 650.723.0011 [HTTP://CREATIVEWITTING.STANFORD.EDU](http://creativewriting.stanford.edu)

Sponsored by Stanford University's Creative Writing Program



*Matched
CareGivers*

Menlo Park - San Mateo - San Jose



*"There's no place
like home."*

When you, or someone
you care about,
needs assistance...
you can count on us
to be there.

We provide Peninsula
families with top,
professional caregivers.
Call now

(650) 839-2273

www.matchedcaregivers.com



**To schedule your visit,
please call John Graham,
our Executive Director,
at 650-363-9200.**

**Our off-site Information Center
is located at
536 El Camino Real.**

Proudly introducing Kensington Place, a new memory care community coming to Redwood City this summer

Information Center Now Open

Kensington Place is a new memory care community currently under development in Redwood City. It will be a residence beautifully designed, furnished and staffed to assist seniors and families who are facing the challenges of Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.

Kensington Place will offer more comprehensive services than other similar care communities. It will blend the expertise of passionate senior living leaders and a service-driven team with a full spectrum of clinical support and state-of-the-art technology. Two unique levels of memory care will address needs specific to different stages of disease progression. **Connections** is for residents in the early to middle stages of memory loss. **Haven** is for residents in the middle to late stages.

The founders and team of Kensington Place make this promise: *to love and care for your family as we do our own.* Please, come introduce yourself to us. We are eager to help.



KENSINGTON PLACE

A Memory Care Community

REDWOOD CITY

650-363-9200

Information Center: 536 El Camino Real, Redwood City, CA 94063

Community under development at 2800 El Camino Real

www.KensingtonPlaceRedwoodCity.com

RCFE
License
Pending



Conference on youth health, addiction

The community is invited to learn about adolescent mental health and addiction, and where to find help, at the "Parenting Teens through the Challenges of Life" conference on Saturday, Feb. 28, at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, 950 Santa Cruz Ave. in Menlo Park.

During the conference, which runs from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., breakout sessions will held on

BRIEFS

such topics as depression and anxiety, mental illness, substance abuse, families in pain, and sexuality.

"The conference is in direct response to what families in our community are dealing with and the complex environment facing adolescents today," says Monte Fisher, director of care

and recovery at the church. "Our church wants to be a place where our teens are understood, supported and loved."

Keynote speakers will be Phillippe Rey, executive director of Adolescent Counseling Services in Palo Alto, and Amy Simpson, author of "Troubled Minds" and "Anxious." Pastor John Ortberg will make welcoming remarks.

Visit mppc.org/parenting-

teens to register. Cost is \$25. Lunch is included. Childcare will be provided for children, from ages 3 months to those in the fifth grade.

Ex-councilman fined

Former Menlo Park councilman Andy Cohen has been fined \$1,000 for failing to maintain campaign finance records for his unsuccessful bid for a seat on the county Board of Supervisors in 2012.

The state Fair Political Practices Commission imposed the

fine on Feb. 19, finding that his campaign committee "failed to maintain the detailed accounts, records, bills, and receipts that were necessary to prepare campaign statements for the January 1 through March 17, 2012, March 18 through May 19, 2012, and May 20 through June 30, 2012, reporting periods."

Mr. Cohen did not respond to a request for comment.

The commission became aware of the violation after the Franchise Tax Board, which audits a certain number of campaign committees per year, notified the FPPC of a potential violation of the Political Reform Act, according to Jay Wierenga, the commission's communications director.

Yellow fever mosquitoes

Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, which can transmit several diseases, including yellow fever, were found in Menlo Park on Jan. 27, according to the San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District.

The district said it will continue door-to-door inspections of residential properties for standing water, which serves as a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Anyone bitten by a mosquito during the day should report it to the district by calling 344-8592 or via smcmvcd.org.

Chief doodler

Art in Action has tapped Dennis Hwang to receive the Menlo Park nonprofit's first Visionary Award.

Mr. Hwang helped create Doodle4Google, an annual art competition for students nationwide that showcases the winner's work on Google's homepage, the release said.

"Exposure to the arts develops an invaluable and intrinsic link to creative thinking and innovation and I am honored to receive this award from Art in Action," Mr. Hwang said. "For me, creativity and science have always gone hand in hand. My unique career trajectory at Google developed as a result of having studied

Continued on next page

LOPEZ

continued from page 12

a subsequent supportive and sympathetic email from Mr. Wagstaffe to Mr. Munks and Undersheriff Bolanos, and candidate Lopez's remarks on his website, Ms. Levinson said she would not think it inappropriate for the DA to see a conflict and "in the interest of justice," conclude that it's better for another jurisdiction to step in.

Bay City News Service contributed to this report.

John Joseph Posthauer

August 12, 1924 – February 12, 2015

John Joseph Posthauer, 90, of Menlo Park, CA, peacefully passed away February 12, 2015.

John was born August 12, 1924 in Lafayette, Indiana, to Anthony and Loretta Posthauer. He was the second born of eight children. After graduating from Lafayette's Jefferson High School in 1942, John enrolled at Purdue University. Shortly thereafter, John responded to the call of duty and enlisted as a US Marine and proudly served in the South Pacific during WWII. Returning to the states after the war's conclusion, John's troop ship sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge and he knew immediately he wanted to one day return to the Bay Area. He returned to Purdue where he met his future wife, Marge Stitt, and graduated in 1949 with a degree in business.



John went to work for Pacific Mutual right out of college, and in 1950 he and Marge were married. John worked in Seattle, Cleveland, and St. Louis before being transferred to the home office of Pacific Mutual in Los Angeles in 1957. Upon being named Regional Vice President, John was transferred to Northern California where he opened up a Palo Alto office in 1966. He later became the manager of the San Francisco branch office where he worked until his retirement in 1982.

After retiring, John and Marge enjoyed traveling including trips to Europe and beyond. John was devoted in his faith. He was a member of St. Bede's Episcopal Church for 49 years, where in his early years he taught Sunday School, ushered, and worked on the church grounds. John was an avid fan of the San Francisco Giants and 49ers. John and Marge loved to entertain family and friends at their home in Menlo Park, of which John was very proud. Most of all, John was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. John and Marge were married for 64 years. "Papa" loved attending many of his grandchildren's sporting events, birthday celebrations, graduations and family trips.

John was preceded in death by his siblings Richard, Mary, Jim, and Duane. John is survived by his loving wife Marge, his sisters Marge Davis of Coldwater Lake, MI, and Helen Marack of West Lafayette, IN, his brother Paul Posthauer of Evansville, IN, his daughter Nancy DeLine (Ken) of Vail, CO, and his son John Posthauer (Carla) of Menlo Park, CA, and 5 grandchildren.

John's family will miss him dearly and will always love him. They are extremely proud of him and his life well lived. A memorial celebrating John's life will be held at St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Rd., Menlo Park on Friday, February 27 at 2pm. A reception will follow the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

PAID OBITUARY

Patricia Romelfanger

August 4, 1932 - February 8, 2015

Pat passed away peacefully at home with her 2 daughters and one of her wonderful caregivers by her side. Pat was born in Scranton, PA. Pat graduated from Boston College and became a nurse. Her love of travel brought her to California where she could enjoy the coastline and Lake Tahoe. The color purple, butterflies, eating lobster, watching movies, listening to music, painting and watching her granddaughter grow up were some of her favorite things and activities.

Pat will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

Family and Friends will celebrate Pat's life with a Rosary on February 26th at 7pm and a memorial service and reception on February 28th at 11 am; both services will be at Nativity Church in Menlo Park. Pat's ashes will be buried in June at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Jim Thorpe, PA.

Pat is predeceased by her husband, Norbert. She is survived by her sister, Ann Anderson, by her 3 children, Pam Romelfanger, Eric Romelfanger, Kathy Lewis and her loving granddaughter, Elizabeth Lewis.

If you wish to make donations in honor of Pat, please send donations to LPCH Pediatric Heart Center at Stanford: <https://my.supportlpch.org/fundraise?fcid=406727>

PAID OBITUARY

Graphic Designer

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

Design opportunities include online and print ad design and editorial page layout. Applicant must be fluent in InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator. Flash knowledge is a plus. Newspaper or previous publication experience is preferred, but we will consider qualified — including entry level — candidates. Most importantly, designer must be a team player and demonstrate speed, accuracy and thrive under deadline pressure. The position will be approximately 32 - 40 hours per week.

To apply, please send a resume along with samples of your work as a PDF (or URL) to Lili Cao, Design & Production Manager, at lcao@paweeekly.com

 **embarcadero media**

450 CAMBRIDGE AVENUE | PALO ALTO

■ POLICE CALLS

This information is based on reports from the Menlo Park Police Department. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent unless convicted. Police received the reports on the dates shown.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary reports:

■ Perhaps taking advantage of an open garage door, someone entered a home on Hidden Oaks Drive and stole a camera and lens, a chainsaw and a backpack containing a checkbook, credit cards, keys, medication, and a passport. Estimated loss: \$6,550. Feb. 17.

■ Someone stole a locked bicycle located in the carport of an apartment complex on Elizabeth Lane. Estimated loss: \$1,100. Feb. 19.

■ A resident of Creek Drive came home to a burglary in progress. A computer and two cellphones that had been in a bedroom were sitting in the front yard. The suspected burglar fled in a northerly direction. Feb. 17.

■ A Henderson Avenue home was found with interior doors kicked in and the house ransacked. An exterior door had not been locked. It's not clear if anything was taken. Feb. 6.

■ Aside from the damage of two smashed windows, nothing appears to have been taken in the attempted burglary of a home on Hill Avenue. Feb. 6.

■ Someone entered a home on Berkeley Avenue through the front door by means unknown and rummaged through some papers. Feb. 7.

Commercial burglary reports:

■ A thief made off with some speakers from an events center at the Allied Arts Guild on Arbor Road. Estimated loss: \$2,100. Feb. 9.

Auto burglaries:

■ Thieves smashed windows on two vehicles on Hamilton Avenue, stealing a laptop computer (estimated loss: \$1,075) from one vehicle, and a black purse with a driver's license and credit cards from the other. Feb. 8.

■ Credit cards were stolen from a purse inside an unlocked vehicle parked in the vicinity of Laurel Street and Burgess Drive. The thief did

not take the driver's wallet or \$200 in cash. Feb. 19.

Thefts:

■ A thief stole two pairs of sunglasses, two jackets, a tablet computer, a phone charger and cologne from an unlocked vehicle parked on Oak Grove Avenue. Estimated loss: \$1,098. Feb. 17.

■ A gray-haired white man in his 40s standing about 6 feet 4 inches tall and weighing about 300 pounds walked into LensCrafters at 700 El Camino Real and stole five pairs of sunglasses. Estimated loss: \$1,050. Feb. 6.

■ Someone stole an unlocked and unattended bicycle from a bike rack on Alma Street. Estimated loss: \$770. Feb. 12.

■ An employee of a business in the 1200 block of O'Brien Drive had his cellphone, driver's license and \$160 in cash stolen from his unattended desk. Estimated loss: \$760. Feb. 12.

■ A locked bike was stolen from a parking lot at Menlo Avenue and Doyle Street. Estimated loss: \$760. Feb. 18.

■ Someone stole an unlocked bike from a backyard on Whitney Drive. Estimated loss: \$400. Feb. 12.

■ A bike was stolen from under a carport on Hoover Street. Estimated loss: \$300. Feb. 10.

■ Two bikes were stolen from the common area of an apartment complex on Middle Avenue. Estimated loss: \$300. Feb. 19.

■ Someone broke into a vehicle parked on Fremont Street and stole a tote bag and its contents. Estimated loss: \$150. Feb. 12.

■ Two people entered the Safeway supermarket at 525 El Camino Real, filled up a recyclable grocery bag with goods, and headed toward the exit. When the cart neared the exit doors, the wheels locked and the store manager approached requesting a receipt. The pair fled. Feb. 8.

■ **Stolen vehicle:** Someone stole a black 2006 Pontiac GTO from the driveway of a home on Almanor Avenue. Feb. 9.

■ BRIEFS

Continued from previous page

both art and computer science.”

He was an intern at Google when he was asked to create a doodle for Bastille Day in France. Soon after, he was appointed the chief doodler, and Google Doodles “have become a frequent and celebrated occurrence on Google’s home page,” according to the Art in Action announcement.

Lab leases space

Personalis Inc., a genomics-based clinical diagnostic laboratory, has signed a 66-month lease for approximately 31,000 square feet at Menlo Business Park, located off O'Brien Drive near University Avenue.

Personalis will occupy the entire building at 1330 O'Brien Dr. and the second floor at 1360 O'Brien Dr., according to an announcement by Tarlton Properties, which owns the 50-acre business park.

Coding at JobTrain

Starting in April, a new class will teach JobTrain clients the basics of computer programming. Students will earn college credit through Canada College for participating, JobTrain announced.

Sessions will be held in February and March at Sequoia Adult School at 3247 Middlefield Road and at JobTrain at 1200 O'Brien Drive in Menlo Park.

Email rburns@seq.org or call Re'Anita Burns at 241-9313 to register for orientation.

Councilman Ohtaki has ties to developer

continued from page 7

contributor,” Mr. Ewert said.

Mr. Pollock donated \$400 to Mr. Ohtaki's successful 2014 campaign for re-election to the council; the councilman took in \$18,463 total from donors. The developer did not donate to the other candidates in the race.

The Pollock Financial Group's proposal to build a 63-room, four-story hotel at 1400 El Camino Real could bring Menlo Park up to \$8.5 million in transient occupancy tax over 10 years, according to the developer,

but the company also plans to suggest that \$1 million of that go to its investors instead.

“Although we've discussed with some in the city that we're going to need some help from them in order to attract our investors and make a hotel work on this small site,” Mr. Pollock said, “Tuesday night at the study session is when we will officially bring up the idea of sharing about \$1M or about 12 percent of the total TOT generated, as one of the possible ways they can help. There will be others talked about as well.” ▀

Less pain. More gain.

Joint care and support.

You shouldn't have to live with joint pain. Our joint care specialists have many ways to help you find relief. And if you need a joint replacement, they'll go the extra mile to help you get back to doing what you love as quickly as possible.

Learn more by calling **866.466.1401**.

Hello humankindness™



Dignity Health[™]
Sequoia Hospital

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,
Diane Haas, Rosanna Leung,
Paul Llewellyn

ADVERTISING

Vice President Sales and Marketing
Tom Zahralis (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.

What's behind the Filoli fiasco?

Administrators of the historic Filoli estate have a lot to answer for with their strangely inept handling of introducing a first-ever volunteer agreement — an ill-advised, five-item document that has sparked a rebellion among the people who donate their time and energy to keeping the venerable institution open. The development, as reported in the Almanac's cover story, "Trouble in paradise," is a distressing display of managerial hubris and disconnection that have nearly toppled — and still may dismantle — a volunteer edifice seen as a model for other organizations.

Filoli has always been heavily volunteer-dependent, and in recent times has operated with a 1,300-strong force of volunteers, who must become dues-paying members of the organization to offer their free services. They function as docents, trail-blazers and nature educators, and offer many other services that keep Filoli's doors open and outdoor attractions accessible to the 120,000 yearly visitors to the historic estate.

Many of those volunteers now say they will leave at the end of the month after being told they must sign the agreement by March 1. According to a number of them who spoke to the Almanac, their decision was based in part on advice from their attorneys.

But in addition to the flaws in the agreement itself, the manner in which Filoli's staff and board imposed the new terms on volunteers was ham-handed and corrosive. A number of volunteers told the Almanac that management's handling of the matter has severely damaged goodwill, and that even if concessions are made, they are considering taking their volunteer services elsewhere.

This was an avoidable situation. According to Filoli board member Heidi Brown, terms of the agreement were crafted and approved last year. "We figure that at least a hundred pairs of eyes have seen this document," she told the Almanac. The problem is

that those eyes belonged to management, members of the Filoli governing board, and Friends of Filoli executive board members. The agreement was to be introduced to volunteer committees in January — after it was approved. And yes, there is something wrong with this picture: A top-down model of management is questionable in many if not most enterprises, but it is potentially disastrous in an organization so heavily dependent on volunteers.

Making matters worse was the apparent lack of willingness on the part of management and the board to discuss the agreement with concerned volunteers once word got out about some of the objectionable terms. Ms. Brown said that the filtering down of information before the terms were supposed to be announced meant volunteers got the document "without background, context or explanation," and that the questions pouring in were too numerous to answer.

Ms. Brown noted that Filoli leaders must now do some fence-mending and "a better job communicating going forward." No argument there. And all eyes will be on them in this regard. But the fact that executive director Cynthia D'Agosta, who apparently has been in the forefront of changing volunteer policy, was unwilling to talk to the Almanac about the situation is not a good indicator that communications will improve.

On its website, Filoli offers enticements in an attempt to recruit new volunteers, promising "an environment where your contributions are valued." The still-unfolding fiasco that threatens Filoli's ability to accommodate the tens of thousands of visitors to the estate each year calls that statement into question. Filoli leaders would do well to consider the cautionary words of writer Cynthia Ozick: "We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude."

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Remembering Ed Wells

Editor:

I remember Ed Wells when he was volunteer treasurer for the town of Portola Valley during the time I was town clerk-CAO between 1976 and 1981.

He was the founder of a respected financial consulting firm, and was the signatory on all checks (payroll and other payables) that were paid every two weeks following council approval. At that time, he was not involved in issues before the council, and mostly provided financial advice (for free).

He provided a valuable service to the town, and I will miss him.

Linda Craig
Rondo Way, Menlo Park

Why is Wagstaffe prosecuting Lopez?

Editor:

I am acquainted with sheriff's Deputy Juan Lopez, and DA



From "Through the Gates"

Looking back

College dances looked a lot different in the 1940s, and this photo of a Menlo College spring formal offers a glimpse of that era's traditional college ball. The spring formal was held in Douglass hall, according to "Through the Gates: Eighty-five Years of Menlo College" by Pamela Gullard. Menlo College had purchased the 52-room mansion, located just southwest of its El Camino Real campus, off Valparaiso Avenue, after the arrival in the mid-1940s of William E. Kratt, who served as the college's president until 1970, Ms. Gullard writes. The Douglass mansion, which was home to noted inventor Leon Douglass and his wife, Victoria, has since been renovated and is now owned by the college's neighbor, Menlo School.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Steve Wagstaffe.

When Juan ran as a write-in candidate for sheriff, I voted for him. I later met him and his fiancée at a San Mateo County Libertarian Party meeting. Mark De Paula, John McDowell and I, running as a team for the Sequoia Healthcare District board of directors, sought and received the party endorsement. Juan helped Mark place campaign signs for the team. I trust Juan Lopez.

My experience with Wagstaffe was in relation to a complaint I filed regarding three "sitting" Sequoia Healthcare District directors, Kane, Griffin and Faro, who had voted themselves an increase in health insurance benefits. After exchanging communications with Mark Hudak, counsel for the district, the DA's office declined to take action to seek return of benefits erroneously received by the trio.

Hudak is well-known in the San Mateo County legal community. Was this a conflict of interest? Shouldn't the DA have referred this to the attorney general or the grand jury?

I question Wagstaffe's purpose in prosecuting Deputy Lopez.

Jack Hickey
Emerald Hills

Why immunize your kids? Here's why

By Joyce Rosenstiel

GUEST OPINION

I would like to thank the Almanac and Barbara Wood for the article, "Why Immunize?" I was a child in the 1930s, when families did not have the option of immunization. Children routinely got whooping cough, measles, mumps, scarlet fever, and chicken pox. When they did, the public health department used the only technique it had: quarantine. The agency put a sign on your door stating that no one could enter or leave the premises until the family was germ-free.

The worst scourge of all was polio. It came in waves through the community. All of us had friends, relatives, and neighbors who walked with braces or canes, or used wheelchairs. Parents did not know how it was transmitted, which made protection of your family difficult. Mine decided that it might be airborne, and we were not permitted in crowded places.

We did not go to the movies, and although we lived within walking distance of the beach and Lake Michigan, we did not go swimming, in case it was waterborne.

When I was in sixth grade, the epidemic was so severe that school did not open until November. We went to school for one hour via the radio and were told to save all of our work to bring to school when it finally did open. I always wondered how many students did. I also didn't know if my math homework was correct for three months.

Results of all this vigilance: a mixed bag. In my case the diseases were just lying in wait for a later time. At 16 I got chickenpox from my chemistry lab partner and was miserable. Later that year I got the three-day measles and missed a class trip to D.C.

And it was still not over. At 30 I developed suspicious

swollen glands and discovered that I had the mumps. My two school-age daughters reported no mumps in class, so that one remains a mystery. In my 40s, and again in my 50s, I got shingles, a painful rash that comes about because the chickenpox virus is still in your body.

You will not be surprised to hear that when childhood immunizations were available, I took all three children in for shots immediately. Nothing got us to the doctor faster than the announcement that there was a way to avoid polio. My family had a member in a wheelchair as a result of the disease and all went willingly to avoid this kind of danger.

I have gone into such detail in the hope that I can convince even one family that they are putting themselves and others at risk by not immunizing. This is one person's answer to the question posed by Barbara Wood, "Why Immunize?"

Joyce Rosenstiel is a longtime resident of Woodside.

Support Local Business



The online guide to Menlo Park businesses

- Make purchases
- Write and read reviews
- Find deals and coupons
- Buy gift certificates
- Discover local businesses

ShopMenloPark.com



monicacormanbroker



650.543.1164 | mcorman@apr.com | monicacorman.com

1241 UNIVERSITY DRIVE, MENLO PARK WWW.1241UNIVERSITY.COM

OPEN SAT & SUN, FEB. 28 & MAR. 1 1:30 - 4:30



Very charming and classic, Tudor-style three bed and two bath home in downtown Menlo Park. This desirable home has a beautiful entry, large living room with coved ceilings and fireplace, dining room with built-in buffet and attractive, French-style windows; gorgeous, newly refinished hardwood floors in most rooms, newly painted interior and exterior, two upstairs bedrooms and one updated bathroom, and a third bedroom downstairs finished as an office with built-in desks and cabinets, and a full bath. Attached garage and basement area for utilities and storage. Nicely landscaped grounds with new fencing.

Enjoy comfortable and convenient living, close to Menlo Park shops, restaurants, and transportation. The property is in the award-winning Menlo Park School District and close to top private schools as well.



List Price
\$1,850,000

BRE #01111473 Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Sq. ft. and/or acreage information contained herein has been received from seller, existing reports, appraisals, public records and/or other sources deemed reliable. Neither seller nor listing agent has verified this information. If this information is important to buyer in determining whether to buy or the purchase price, buyer should conduct buyer's own investigation.

Ed Kahl has sold some of Woodside's finest estates.



MOUNTAIN HOME ROAD 3-acre estate home – exclusively listed at \$7,750,000

Ed Kahl :

- Over \$1 Billion Sold
- MA in Economics from UC
- Real Estate Broker since 1972
- Top 1% of Coldwell Banker agents
- Real Estate experience you can trust



MANZANITA WAY listed at \$5,500,000



GREER ROAD listed at \$10,500,000

Ed Kahl

www.EdKahl.com



400-2796

