



**Michelin-starred chef coming
to Bistro Vida in Menlo Park | Page 3**

The Almanac

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Chef Marine Thomas

Courtesy of Marine Thomas

Michelin-starred chef coming to Bistro Vida

By Elena Kadwany

Here's a first: A Michelin-starred chef from Paris is coming to Menlo Park this month to work a two-year stint at downtown French restaurant, Bistro Vida.

Marine Thomas of La Rollange, a French tapas bar in Montmartre (sister restaurant to a well-known restaurant named La Table d'Eugene), touched down in the United States on June 5.

Almost two years ago, on a friend's recommendation, Bistro Vida owner Ali Elsafy went to La Rollange and "left blown away," he said. "I went almost every night to eat," he recently recalled.

Mr. Elsafy has since returned

many times and became friends with Ms. Thomas, who for many years had wanted to work in the United States, she said. She was initially looking for a job in New York, but then met Mr. Elsafy and the stars aligned.

More than eight months ago, as Mr. Elsafy started plotting changes for the Santa Cruz Avenue restaurant, they started a laborious visa process to get her here. Outside of menu tweaks, the most significant change for the restaurant in ever-sleepy downtown Menlo Park might be a plan to keep Bistro Vida open until 11 p.m., serving wine pairings and simple late-night food.

Ms. Thomas started working at La Table d'Eugene in 2009

with chef Geoffroy Maillard. After two years, Mr. Maillard opened La Rollange and asked her to be the chef there.

She said her philosophy in the kitchen is to always cook with love "because if you cook with love, we always get good food," she wrote in an email. She "does not have a special way of cooking" but instead develops dishes based on seasonal produce. She'll fit right in in the Bay Area. She plans to offer a menu "suited to the region" that highlights California products, she said.

"She's going to be something really good for Menlo Park," Mr. Elsafy said. ▣

See Elena Kadwany's Peninsula Foodist blog on AlmanacNews.com.

Bill aims to increase voter registration

The California Assembly has passed a bill, AB 1461, that would automatically add eligible citizens to the voter registration

rolls when they obtain or renew a driver's license. License applicants would have the option to opt out or cancel their voter registration.

The bill, which the Assembly passed June 2 and now goes to the state Senate, could add millions to the rolls of registered voters, said California Secretary of State Alex Padilla.

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

More outdoor dining likely for Menlo Park

By Jason McCormick
Special to the Almanac

More outdoor dining may pop up along downtown Santa Cruz Avenue this summer. The Menlo Park City Council on June 2 voted 5-0 to invest \$253,000 from the capital improvement fund to create seven more “street cafes” like the one currently outside Left Bank.

Mario Vega — the president of Vine Dining Enterprises Inc., the owner of both Left Bank and LB Steak — told the council that his businesses love the project.

“We’ve had the pilot program at Left Bank for about a year and it’s fantastic,” said Mario Vega. “People love it.”

Between June 12 and July 12, any downtown business may apply for a two-year lease of

“street cafe” space ranging in size from 310 to 510 square feet. The city will cover 70 percent to 75 percent of the tab, up to \$30,000, for construction. The business owner will cover the rest of the cost with either a one-time payment or via installments.

“Frankly, I don’t have a problem with the cost-sharing,” said Councilman Ray Mueller. “I look back at how much money we invested in a sprinkler system for hanging baskets of flowers. For that project, we got flowers. For this project, we get people outside: We get community.”

In addition to approving a cost-sharing plan, the council selected designs created by Berkeley-based Ian Moore Design Inc. that use cement-based barriers and planters for safety and aesthetics.

“Because downtown has both

The outdoor dining cafes will replace parallel and angled parking spaces downtown.

parallel and angled parking configurations, it was necessary for Ian Moore Design to design two prototypes that could easily be adapted to specific locations,” said Amanda Wallace, an economic development specialist with the city of Menlo Park.

“Utilizing feedback from the city council’s meeting in January, IMD came up with two designs — a base design and an enhanced design. Each of them features a concrete-slab deck over a plastic sheath, creating (a) semi-permanent and easily removable installation,” she said.

Left Bank’s owner noted that his restaurant group would like the ability to integrate its own designer or architect to incorporate custom design for a “street cafe.”

The council also commented on the extent of design regulation.

“I don’t think that there should be design guidelines,” Mr. Mueller said. “I do think that there should be a baseline for safety. Then, we should let the market drive what that property owner thinks is going to bring people to its business.”

Mayor Catherine Carlton, too, favored allowing more options. “The base design is cost-effective; and the enhanced design is beautiful,” she said. “If someone wants to spend an extra \$40,000 to make it look even prettier, I’d be OK with that, too.”

The cafes will replace paral-

lel and angled parking spaces downtown. The maximum number of parking spaces that may be replaced has not yet been decided, according to Public Works Director Jesse Quirion.

“As we get a feel for how many businesses are interested in the seating project and we get our parking consultant on board for the parking time changes requested by council, we should have a more definitive answer,” he said, referring to the council’s request to extend time limits on certain parking spaces downtown.

Should a business decide not to renew the lease, the space would revert to public space, the staff report said.

The council is expected to review the program after a year, and decide whether to further expand the number of outdoor dining sites. ▀



This drawing shows one of the schemes being considered for the placement of buildings in Atherton’s new civic center.

Drawing by WRNS Studios

Atherton holds meetings on design of new civic center

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton is holding a series of June meetings to find out what residents and others who use its public buildings want in the design of a new civic center.

Architects Adam Woltag and Pauline Souza, the partners in the WRNS Studios architectural firm who are responsible for designing the civic center, showed two possible concepts for the new complex at the first meeting, on June 3. They said the schemes are based on the master plan completed in March 2014, but consider

information uncovered since then, including the location of a 36-inch-diameter water pipe running under the town’s property.

One of the major questions they sought opinions on was the location of the new library and the police offices. One option is a stand-alone library near where the current library is; the second is to share a location with the town administrative offices.

Putting the library with administrative offices and the police headquarters in a separate building makes financial sense, Mr. Woltag said, because public safety activities must “be able to function in a disaster”

so the police building must be built more robustly.

Both schemes show mostly two-story buildings clustered around open green spaces. The noise from and the view of the nearby train tracks would be muffled and screened by buildings, landscaping and built-up berms.

One unknown impacting the civic center design is the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission’s (SFPUC) water line. “We don’t know exactly what the condition is,” City Manager George Rodericks said.

Councilwoman Elizabeth Lewis, a member of the Civic Center Advisory Committee,

said the town is hoping the SFPUC will move the water line closer to the railroad tracks, allowing more flexibility in building placement.

One of the group of about 25 people who attended the June 3 meeting asked whether there is anyone who “might gear up to fight” the new civic center. Ms. Lewis said the town has been working with neighbors of the site for seven years. “A lot of their fears have been allayed,” she said. “The goal is to mitigate the traffic impact and any additional noise.”

Five more meetings are planned this month. The first three will be at Atherton resi-

dences (a postcard with the locations is being mailed to Atherton residents): Sunday, June 14, from 4 to 6 p.m.; Monday, June 15, from 6 to 8 p.m.; and Tuesday, June 16, from 6 to 8 p.m..

Both of the other two meetings will be held on the same day, Tuesday, June 23. One will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Atherton Library at 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane; and the other, a Civic Center Advisory Committee meeting, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Atherton council chambers at 94 Ashfield Road.

Visit tinyurl.com/acc-6-2015 to see the building layouts being considered and other information. ▀

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- 6/27 Early Bird Jazz for Kids: Pentatonics
- 6/27 Regina Carter Quartet
- 6/28 India Jazz Generations with George Brooks

JUL

- 7/5 Jazz Inside Out
- 7/10 Akira Tana and Otonowa
- 7/11 Early Bird Jazz for Kids: Zookeepers
- 7/11 Tommy Igoe Groove Conspiracy
- 7/12 A Billie Holiday Celebration
- 7/17 Michael O'Neill / Kenny Washington Sextet
- 7/18 Pete Escovedo
- 7/19 Mo' Blues Guitar
- 7/20 Donny McCaslin's Fast Future
- 7/21 Caili O'Doherty/Scott Sorkin CD Release Party
- 7/22 Ruth Davies Blues Night featuring Barbara Morrison
- 7/23 SJW Jazz Mentor Fellows
- 7/25 Ms. Lisa Fischer and Grand Baton
- 7/26 Anat Cohen Quartet
- 7/27 Steven Lugerner's SLUGish Ensemble
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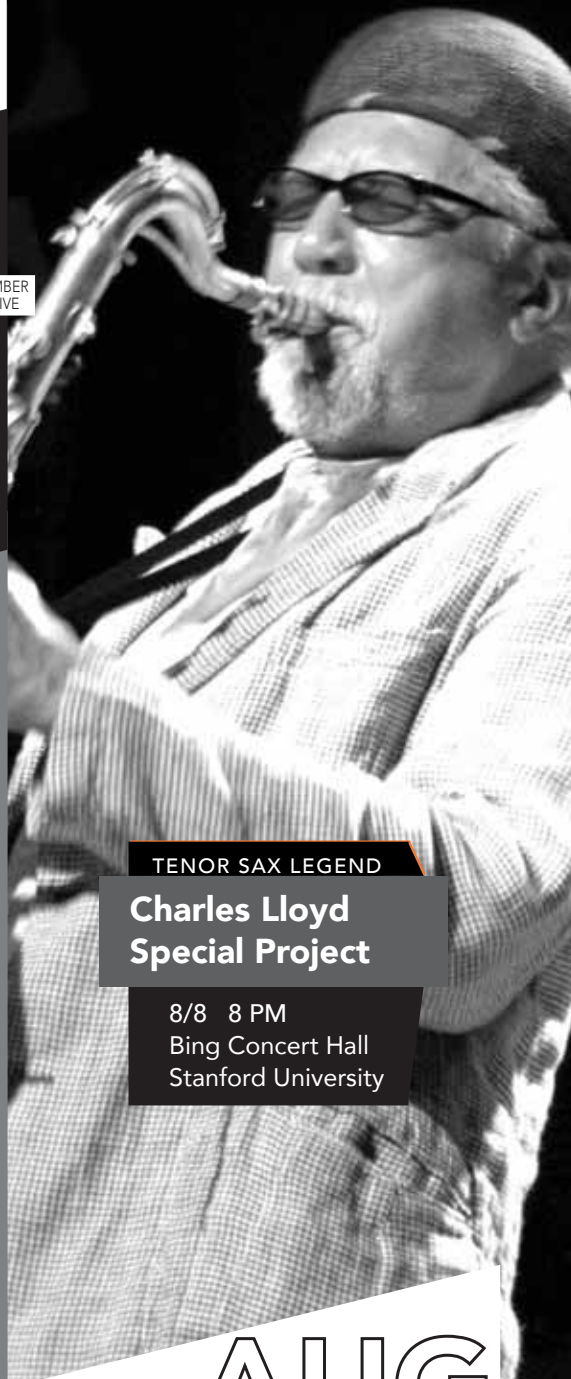
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- 8/7 SJW All-Star Jam
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Sunset headquarters to move to Oakland

By Jason McCormick
Special to the Almanac

After more than a half-century of editorial and business operations based in Menlo Park, Sunset plans to launch a garden-research facility in Sonoma, and move its brand headquarters to Oakland.

Peggy Northrop, the editor-in-chief of Sunset, confirmed in a statement to the Almanac on June 2 that the magazine that covers dining, gardening and traveling in the West will relocate its flagship offices in December to Jack London Square area along the East Bay's waterfront, and develop research and editorial coverage of plants, devices and projects at Cornerstone Gardens in California wine country.

This is a significant transition for the 117-year-old publication long associated with its iconic campus and garden on seven acres of land in Menlo Park's Linfield Oaks neighborhood. Last year, Time Inc., the owner of Sunset, reportedly sold that property at 80 Willow Road for \$78 million.

Sunset held its final Celebration Weekend open house at the Menlo Park campus on Saturday and Sunday, June 6-7.

"Sunset founded its campus in Menlo Park in 1951, when people were moving to the suburbs

across the United States," said Ms. Northrop in a telephone interview June 2. "Now, people are moving closer to urban cores, reusing formerly industrial spaces, and being closer to jobs and food scenes. Sunset is reflecting a trend that our readers are living. In that sense, a magazine always wants to be close to its readers. This is an opportunity for us to do that."

Time Inc. said in a press release that in Oakland, Sunset will occupy 22,000 square feet of commercial space in a mixed-

Publisher plans garden-research facility in Sonoma.

use building at 55 Harrison St., where the brand's offices will include a test kitchen and wine cellar. The publisher has also partnered with Cornerstone Gardens in Sonoma, expecting to host the magazine's test garden, according to Time.

"This new combination of properties in Oakland and Sonoma gives Sunset an incredible opportunity to interact more intimately with our consumers on an ongoing basis," said Time Group Publisher Greg Schumann in a June 2 announcement by the New York company. "We hope visitors to Jack London Square will have the opportunity to connect with Sunset in Water Street Market and that our new facilities at Cornerstone will open up fantastic opportunities for Sunset fans and wine industry partners alike." ■

Vintage Affaire in Atherton

For the 33rd year, Vintage Affaire will be held to benefit the Vista Center for the Blind and the Visually Impaired. This year's gala takes place the afternoon and evening of Saturday, June 13, at an estate in Atherton.

Terry Kurfess of Menlo Park is chair of the event. Her committee includes Suzi Tinsley, Elizabeth Wood and Kathy Parker, all of Menlo Park; and Atherton residents Suzanne Legallet, Kathy Ladra, Terri Ballard and Stephanie von Thaden.

Auction items will include: two tickets to a Billy Joel concert at AT&T Park, a cocktail buffet party for 20 overlooking Coit Tower, a Spanish-themed dinner with

wine for 14, and special wine selections from a private wine cellar.

During the wine tasting and silent auction, vintners and celebrity chefs will offer wine and hors d'oeuvre pairings. Among the chefs taking part is Guillaume Bienaime of Zola, one of Palo Alto's newest restaurants. Chef Bienaime was formerly associated with Marche in Menlo Park. Another local chef is Peter Rudolph of Madera restaurant at Rosewood Sand Hill.

Tickets for Vintage Affaire are \$350 per person.

Go to vintageaffaire.org or call (650) 858-0202 to buy tickets or get more information.

City may spend more than it takes in for three years

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

Menlo Park's proposed \$78.1 million budget for fiscal year 2015-16 may look upside down to some: The city's staff has asked to spend \$49.3 million from the general fund, while revenue is projected to lag behind at \$48.1 million.

"The theme for the budget this year is, it's time to invest," City Manager Alex McIntyre told the City Council during a public hearing on June 2.

According to the staff report, that investment entails "ramping up staffing to meet service-level demand for development-related activity, as well as to achieve other Council priorities."

That translates to hiring the equivalent of about 11 full-time staff members during the next year in public works (six), community development (four) and information technology (one)

departments, on top of nine positions already added to the city's roster this year. Without more staff, so the reasoning goes, the backlog of projects won't be processed, and if the projects aren't processed, the city won't receive the permit fees and tax revenue.

Overall personnel expenses for the city would be \$36.7 million a year, according to the budget report, with \$32.9 million of that coming from the general fund.

Money from various reserve funds, such as the capital improvement fund, would be transferred to cover the deficit, which is projected to last through fiscal year 2017-18. At that point projects already in the works, such as the Menlo Gateway complex, are expected to generate enough revenue to overcome the gap, leaving Menlo Park with at least \$3.1

million more in revenue than it had in 2015, according to the city manager.

Conservative assumptions were built into the budget, Finance Director Drew Corbett explained, and those may prove too conservative. In three years,

Each month that Menlo Gateway stagnates without sufficient city staff to move it along, the city loses \$300,000, the city manager said.

annual hotel tax revenue from Menlo Gateway is expected to reach \$3.1 million, for example, but the budget rounds that down to \$2.2 million to anticipate a possible economic downturn.

The budget also estimates Excess Educational Revenue Augmentation Funds (ERAF) — the amount of property tax

revenue left over from local school funding and returned to the city — at about \$700,000 annually, or 50 percent of what it may actually be.

Three years of deficit spending did not go over easily with the City Council, although three members backed what they described as a "counter-intuitive" budget.

"I do support this budget," Councilman Peter Ohtaki said, but he added that he'd like to see the deficit spending end sooner rather than later.

Vice Mayor Rich Cline acknowledged that the general fund is healthy to the point where investing the money makes sense. So the question becomes, "How do we invest the money and get all these projects through before the window of opportunity shrinks?" he asked, and the answer is that it requires adding staff, quickly. Given the conservative assumptions, he said, he thought the budget looked very strong.

Councilwoman Kirsten Keith noted that she would like to see the city catch up on the backlog of projects, but raised the specter of layoffs in the future should the economy take another downturn.

Mayor Catherine Carlton said she was "loath" to have an unbalanced budget, but that delayed projects get more expensive. There's also an opportunity cost, she said, as developers decide to walk away from Menlo Park and take their proposals to other cities. She asked what the community's return on the investment would be.

City Manager Alex McIntyre responded that the return is a financially stable Menlo Park in three years. Each month that the Menlo Gateway project stagnates without sufficient city staff to move it along, the city loses \$300,000 in revenue, he said.

Councilman Ray Mueller said he wasn't comfortable with the budget as proposed. "I understand it's called making an investment in the future" but it's really just servicing the projects that have come into town, he noted. The economy is robust now, which to him means building reserves, not spending more, to plan for the downturn. "I don't see this economy lasting five more years."

The budget returns to the council for adoption on Tuesday, June 16. ■

Pao to appeal discrimination verdict

Ellen Pao filed a court notice on June 1 indicating she plans to appeal the verdict in her gender discrimination lawsuit against Menlo Park-based venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers.

In March, a jury found that Ms. Pao's gender was not a substantial factor in the firm's decision to deny her a promotion to senior partner. The jury also found that the firm had not demonstrated gender bias with regard to her advancement, did not retaliate against her, and had taken steps to prevent gender discrimination against her.

Ms. Pao's lawsuit, filed in 2012, sought \$16 million in compensatory damages and asked for punitive damages. The suit alleged that Kleiner Perkins discriminates against women for promotions and compensation, and retaliated against her after she complained about harassment by a peer who allegedly pressured her into a brief sexual relationship.

The appeal came after both parties wrangled over legal fees. Kleiner Perkins reportedly asked for \$1 million from the plaintiff to recover a small portion of its trial costs, and then offered to waive the fees to avoid an appeal. Ms. Pao countered by asking for \$2.7 million not to file an appeal, which the firm declined to pay.

■ BRIEFS

Washing sidewalks

Given California's severe drought, the sight of city workers starting to power-wash downtown sidewalks on June 1 raised eyebrows from residents.

City Manager Alex McIntyre,

trying to keep ahead of the critics, explained to the council on June 2 that the water used had been collected from storm drains, and thus was recycled.

The cleaning, which takes place between 5 and 9 a.m. each day, is expected to be finished by June 11, according to the city.

San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission
NOTICE OF INTENT BY SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission will consider a Negative Declaration for the following project: "Vista Verde Annexation and Sewer Line Extension, LAFCo File No. 14-14 (APN 080-233-040)" The Executive Officer has determined that the above-referenced project would have no significant effect on the environment, and therefore a Negative Declaration has been prepared for consideration by the Commission pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines and the Commission's Implementing Procedures. The Negative Declaration and Initial Study may be accessed at <http://lafco.smcgov.org/whats-new>. Any interested person wishing to respond to the environmental finding must do so no later than 5:00 pm, Friday, July 10, 2015. For more information, call (650) 363-4224. Martha M. Poyatos Executive Officer June 10, 2015

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Grand jury: Sea-level rise serious threat to county

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Bay Area experts on climate change have long been saying that sea-level rise between now and the year 2100 is a long-term serious threat to San Mateo County. Now the county's civil grand jury has chimed in with a June 5 report saying that the county is not organized to deal with existing flooding problems much less sea-level rise, and that it needs to get organized — now.

Initial steps, the report says, should include establishing a county agency to address the issue, educating the public, getting the attention and involvement of the county's 20 local governments, and engaging in a coordinated advocacy campaign at the regional, state and federal levels.

If sea levels rise by the 55 inches predicted by 2100, and if nothing is done, flooding could threaten the jobs of 110,000 people, the report says. Flood waters could inundate the homes of 120,000 residents, six wastewater treatment plants, one power plant, 72 miles of highway, 420 miles of roadway, 10 miles of railroad track, 75 percent of existing wetlands, and 78 hazardous materials sites regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency, the report says.

The negative effect on tax revenues, while not known, would be severe, the report says.

In all, some \$24 billion in infrastructure is threatened in

San Mateo County, experts at the Pacific Institute said in a 2012 white paper for the California Energy Commission.

Severe flooding would be likely in Foster City and substantial parts of Redwood City and San Mateo, the grand jury says. Parts of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park would also be flooded.

Cities and towns should be amending their general plans to address sea-level rise, the report says.

Levees in the county have no coordinated oversight or funding sources, the report says. Adapting to higher seas may require more and better levees, buildings designed to cope with high water, restored wetlands, and even the abandonment of low-lying areas, the report says.

Because San Mateo County historically has had so much development of low-lying land, in the process destroying wetlands that could buffer flooding, the county represents 40 percent of the Bay Area's population and economic value that is vulnerable to flooding, according to the report.

The county and its local governments should organize an integrated approach to the problems of sea-level rise, thereby reducing overall costs. "By acting now to coordinate projects and funding sources, San Mateo County (and) the cities and local special districts will be preparing for the inevitable," the report says.

Go to tinyurl.com/rcd334 for the complete report. ■



Charlie Porter, left, Menlo Park Kiwanis Club president, and John Martin, far right, scholarship chair, give out scholarships to, from left, Gordon Williams, Caroline Kelly and Simram Kashayap

Kiwanis Club awards scholarships

Five Menlo-Atherton High School seniors are receiving scholarships totaling \$23,500 from the Kiwanis Club of Menlo Park.

Three of the students, Simram Kashayap, Caroline Kelly and Gordon Williams, were honored at the club's annual scholarship luncheon May 12 at the Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park. The other two seniors, Alan Martinez and Laila Volpe, who missed the luncheon because of tests, received their awards the following week.

Of the May 12 winners, Simram, fresh from an internship with a Silicon Valley

startup, plans to study engineering at UC Santa Cruz. She tutored students in math at Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park and at Ravenswood City School District schools. She participated in several community projects with a program called "Build On."

Caroline will attend the University of Michigan, focusing on English and other courses needed to fulfill pre-med requirements. At M-A, she participated in several school leadership programs, working on Baylands projects and with homeless shelters. She started after-school programs to foster reading and mentorship activities.

Gordon repaired and distributed 60 bicycles to families at Haven House as part of a Boy Scout project. He also provided 60 helmets for them. He worked in the Kiwanis Christmas tree lot for several years, helping raise funds for scholarships and other causes.

The Menlo Park Kiwanis Club gave more than \$90,000 last year to support projects that include scholarships for M-A High graduates. Visitors are welcome to attend the club's weekly luncheon meetings on Tuesdays, from noon to 1:15 p.m., at the Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park. To reserve a spot, call 580-4441.

Three arrested after car chase

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

The driver of a car attempting to evade a San Mateo County Sheriff's Office deputy chose the wrong Atherton street to flee down on Tuesday, June 2, by turning off Middlefield Road onto dead-end Lane Place.

Salvador Zuno, a public information officer for the Sheriff's Office, said a deputy attempted to stop a black Nissan in unincorporated San Mateo County near Atherton for a traffic violation at around 3:50 p.m. that day, but the car did not stop.

With the deputy in pursuit, the car turned onto Lane Place, which is near Holbrook-Palmer Park and also not far from Encinal School. Police followed the car into the cul-de-sac, but three of the four people in the car fled on foot, Deputy Zuno said, with only the driver remaining.

Two Atherton officers assisted six sheriff's deputies in setting up a perimeter around the area, Deputy Zuno said, and found two of the car's occupants. One was in a nearby backyard and another in Holbrook-Palmer Park, he said.

Arrested were the driver, Elaina Renee Ruiz, 32, of San Mateo, on felony charges of evasion; passenger Antonio Lombera, 26, of Hayward, on a felony probation violation, and three misdemeanors — resisting arrest or obstructing an officer, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine; and passenger Joshua Torres, 34, of Redwood City, on misdemeanor charges of resisting arrest or obstructing an officer and parole violation.

Deputy Zuno said sheriff's deputies are looking for the fourth occupant of the car, who they believe is a woman wanted on an outstanding arrest warrant. ■

Cal Water proposes 21% rate hike

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Local water users who must make significant cutbacks in their water use may have been expecting a drop in the water bill to match their conservation efforts.

That drop will likely be smaller than expected because the California Water Service Company (Cal Water) has applied to raise rates by 21 percent, beginning in July. The hike would offset what the company calls "a significant increase" in the price of wholesale water from the San Francisco regional water system, the main source of water for the Peninsula.

In a letter sent to customers, the Bear Gulch Water District said the increased rates would be "a direct pass-through of the higher water prices" it must pay. The district covers Atherton,

Portola Valley, most of Woodside, and parts of Menlo Park and Redwood City.

Monthly service charges would remain the same, except for customers with a 1-inch

meter for fire sprinklers, who would see their service charge decrease from \$40.03 a month to \$20.29 a month.

Cal Water measures water in units of 100 cubic feet (CCF). Charges for the first 10 CCFs would be \$5.91, up from \$4.63; for the next 25 CCFs, \$6.28, up from \$4.92; for any CCFs over

35, \$7.50, up from \$5.88. Rates were last adjusted last August. In addition, customers who use more than their allocated "water budget," which in most cases requires a 36 percent monthly decrease from 2013 monthly use, will see a surcharge of \$10 per CCF unit added to their bills.

Cal Water has said that the average Bear Gulch customer used 23 CCF per month of water in 2014. Customers using that amount of water would see an increase of \$30.48 per month, but will also be hit with a surcharge of \$90 for going 9 CCF units over their water budgets. The total increase would be \$120.48 a month.

The good news? If those average customers decrease their water use by the prescribed 36 percent to 14 units, their bill would be \$26 less than it was in 2014. ■

City manager gets 2-year contract with 9% raise

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

After working under an expired contract since March, Menlo Park City Manager Alex McIntyre is now working under a new employment agreement with the city — one that comes with a 9 percent raise but not without some critical comments.

With Ray Mueller casting the dissenting vote, the Menlo Park City Council voted 4-1 on Tuesday, June 2, to approve a new two-year contract for the city manager.

Under the contract, which runs through March 2017, Mr. McIntyre's annual salary will increase by 9 percent from \$199,000 to \$217,500. The city

will also add \$7,500 to the \$9,500 payment it makes annually to his retirement fund, and pay an amount of deferred compensation each year that equals what Menlo Park would have paid for his health insurance premium.

After pulling the item from the consent calendar, the council members each took a few minutes to explain their positions.

"This is something I struggled with," Mayor Cat Carlton said. Mr. McIntyre has agreed to do better at communicating with the council and



Alex McIntyre

■ MENLO PARK

residents, and has recognized his mistakes, according to the mayor.

Along with council members Kirsten Keith and Peter Ohtaki, she also commented on "what's been done right. He's done a good job of hiring people," such as Finance Director Drew Corbett, Police Chief Bob Jonsen and Economic Development Manager Jim Cogan.

Vice Mayor Rich Cline acknowledged that while there were concerns, there were also a lot of pluses, so he wasn't at the point of "wanting to pull the rug out and start over." Mr. McIntyre had been hired in the hopes of providing some consis-

'A lot of times, it gets overlooked how hard the job is.'

RICH CLINE,
MENLO PARK VICE MAYOR

tency and continuity for Menlo Park. "A lot of times, it gets overlooked how hard the job is."

During public comment, former councilman Heyward Robinson spoke about the city manager hiring public relations consultant Malcolm Smith during the heated Measure M campaign, alleging again that the city stonewalled public records requests.

The San Mateo County district attorney and the state's

Fair Political Practices Commission concluded that the consultant was not used to illegally influence the election's outcome. Likewise, several council members on Tuesday night said they came to the same conclusion after reviewing documents provided by Mr. Robinson and other Measure M supporters, and talking with District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

Still, "I'm voting no tonight," Mr. Mueller said, adding that he had concerns about fiscal philosophy and some issues that arose while he had served as mayor, without going into further detail. He said he had discussed the decision with the city manager and credited Mr. McIntyre for his professionalism. ■

Man who threatened to kill officer is arrested

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

James Gluz, who Atherton police allege emailed a death threat to one of the department's officers on May 27, was arrested in Florida on Thursday, June 4, after he attacked and injured police officers there, according to the Atherton Police Department.

Sgt. Alfredo Guarducci said a warrant has been issued in San Mateo County for Mr. Gluz on charges related to the alleged death threat to the Atherton officer.

Mr. Gluz is a former Atherton resident whose mother still resides in Atherton, police said.

Sgt. Guarducci said that police in St. Petersburg, Florida, where Mr. Gluz now lives, went to his home with a warrant for his arrest. Although Mr. Gluz initially appeared to be cooperating, "as soon as they came in he attacked them," the sergeant said.

One officer suffered a broken cheekbone and another required medical attention, Sgt. Guarducci said. "He went off on them and hit him in the face," he said.

Mr. Gluz is in custody on a \$120,000 bond, charged with making a bomb threat as well as injuring the police officers, he said.

Mr. Gluz admitted to threatening the Atherton officer, Sgt. Guarducci said, "and said as soon as he gets out of custody he is going to come over here and kill our officer."

The May 27 email to the Atherton officer threatened to

"kill you in front of your friends" if the officer did not carry out a request of the emailer.

Police said the email appeared to be from a private account and included the sender's name.

Sgt. Guarducci said Mr. Gluz has a history of making death threats. He said the FBI had investigated an earlier incident in which the man allegedly threatened a Florida public official.

Mr. Gluz is also alleged to have, at least twice in the past, threatened other Atherton residents either via email or social media, Sgt. Guarducci said.

He said police are taking the death threat seriously. "To me, any time you threaten an officer, that's serious," Sgt. Guarducci said. "He has a way to get here."

Sgt. Guarducci said the incident began with an email sent to the Atherton police department containing "some ridiculous demands." He said an officer responded that he could not help because the person sending the email had not made a report.

The person then sent another email claiming his mother, who lives in Atherton, had been murdered. "We obviously went out and verified mom is not dead," Sgt. Guarducci said. "She just threw up her hands and said she doesn't know what to do with him anymore."

The death threat then followed, Sgt. Guarducci said.

Police must take such a threat seriously, he said, because they have no way of knowing the intent of the person making the threat. ■



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46 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton Offered at \$3,488,000

Gated Craftsman Home, Beautifully Restored

Flaunting period details, this 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom Craftsman-style home of 2,680 sq. ft. (per county) covers a lot of 0.62 acres (per county). Two gates open to a semi-circular driveway, leading to this home adorned with 10-foot coved ceilings, white oak floors, antique fixtures, and picture molding. Pocket doors open to a formal living room with a fireplace and a formal dining room with a bronze stove. The elegantly remodeled kitchen adjoins a butler's pantry, a walk-in pantry, and a light-filled breakfast room. Three beautiful bedrooms include the master suite, which features two closets, a sunroom, and a newly remodeled bathroom. These gorgeous grounds enjoy large outdoor entertainment areas, plus new landscaping, a fountain, rosebushes, vegetable planters, and a detached garage. Other highlights include an updated hall bathroom and a lower-level bonus room. Walking distance from Caltrain, the home is also steps from Holbrook-Palmer Park and the Atherton Library. Excellent nearby schools like Encinal Elementary (API 930), Hillview Middle (API 950), and Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.46FairOaks.com



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CalBRE #01342140



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180 Escobar Road, Portola Valley Offered at \$2,988,000

Home Enjoys Treehouse-Like Grandeur

Enjoy treetop luxury living within this 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom home of 2,430 sq. ft. (per county) on a lot of 4.3 acres (per county). Offering an exotic multi-level structure in an intimate woodland environment, this home provides natural hardwood floors, soaring ceilings, and terrific views from almost every window. Oversized windows and a carved stone mantelpiece enhance the great room, which shares beamed ceilings with the romantic raised dining area. The light-filled kitchen provides a breakfast nook and fine appliances like a Sub-Zero refrigerator. A lower-level bedroom forms the ideal in-law suite, while the exciting master suite balances cathedral ceilings and a stunning, sky-lit bathroom. Outdoor attractions include a lap pool, a private trail through the property, and broad rear decks offering incredible bay views. Other features include a three-car carport, an office, and original stained-glass windows. This home is just minutes from Interstate 280 and Ladera Shopping Center. Terrific nearby schools include Ormondale Elementary (API 923), Corte Madera (API 937), and Woodside High (buyer to verify eligibility).

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Firmly in black, Atherton ponders long-term needs

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton's town budget is looking so good that some long-time council members appear to be having trouble believing it can continue.

"That's pretty good, compared to other years in the recent past," said council member Elizabeth Lewis at a June 3 budget study session, after hearing that the town's general fund budget shows revenues exceeding spending \$800,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

"This is not a bubble?" asked Ms. Lewis, who was first elected in 2008.

"This is not a bubble," City Manager George Rodericks assured the council.

Mr. Rodericks said Atherton continues to project healthy balances in its operating budget and plans to pay down long-term liabilities, but still needs to figure out how it will fund major capital improvement projects such as drainage systems repairs, work in Holbrook-Palmer Park and street improvements.

At the study session, in preparation for the June 17 City Council

meeting when the town's budget is scheduled for adoption, Mr. Rodericks said Atherton expects general fund revenues of about \$12.6 million and general fund spending of about \$11.8 million in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

The revenue figure does not include an estimated \$1.2 million the town expects to get in additional property taxes from the educational revenue augmentation funds (ERAF), money that the state years ago shifted from local governments to schools. Only San Mateo, Napa and Marin counties do not use all of their ERAF to support their schools, so some of the money is returned to local governments in those counties each year.

In 2013 Atherton decided not to count the ERAF money as part of its general fund revenue because it could be taken away by the state at any time. Instead, the town uses ERAF funds to pay one-time expenses, such as reducing long-term liabilities that include retirement pensions and benefits, and workers' compensation.

The town also has healthy reserves, including a 15 percent emergency reserve of about \$1.8 million and a 20 percent con-

tingency reserve of about \$2.4 million.

The town is in even better shape than the general fund numbers indicate, because it is starting the year with nearly \$11.5 million in the general fund. Once the projected spending and the reserves are taken out, and money is budgeted so the town can continue paying down its long-term retirement and workers compensation costs, Atherton is expected to end up with a balance of \$7.3 million, Mr. Rodericks said.

'This is not a bubble?' asked Councilwoman Elizabeth Lewis. 'This is not a bubble,' said City Manager George Rodericks.

He has recommended that the council put a big chunk of that balance into its capital improvements fund, to save for major expenditures that are predicted for the near future.

While just how much of that balance will be moved into the town's capital improvements fund will be decided at the June

17 meeting, Mayor Rick DeGolia said he is comfortable moving \$3 million, and council member Cary Wiest said he would accept moving \$3.5 million into the capital improvements fund.

The town must start building up money to pay for major upcoming expenses, Mr. Wiest said, such as the town's drainage system. Otherwise, he said, "we can continue to look the other way and watch the (Marsh Road drainage) channel fall in on itself."

The capital improvements budget was also part of the discussion about the town's parcel tax, which varies by lot size but is a maximum of \$750 for homes on lots of between one-half and two acres.

The council must set the tax rate each year, and will formally vote on doing so on June 17. City Manager Rodericks has proposed that about \$1.5 million of the \$1.86 million raised by the parcel tax go into the capital improvements budget, with the remaining \$372,000 put into the general fund to augment police department funding.

The town has \$1.6 million in capital improvement projects budgeted in the 2015-16 fiscal year, and the parcel tax will pro-

vide 68 percent of the funding.

Council members briefly discussed reducing the parcel tax for the coming year by about 20 percent because the town had received what is believed to be a one-time use tax payment from the state of over \$324,000. Mr. Rodericks said no one has yet been able to tell him why the town received the payment.

"My inclination is to approve the entire parcel tax," Mr. DeGolia said. "I think we have a lot of infrastructure work to do. We need every dollar we can get and we need to use it."

Council member Mike Lempres said spending the money on capital improvements now could save the town money in the long run as costs increase. "Who knows what the future will bring?" he said.

"We have a lot of need. ... I think we can spend this money productively now."

Budgeted spending for most town departments show decreases or only slight increases in the proposed budget. The police department, however, shows

See **LONG-TERM NEEDS**, page 14

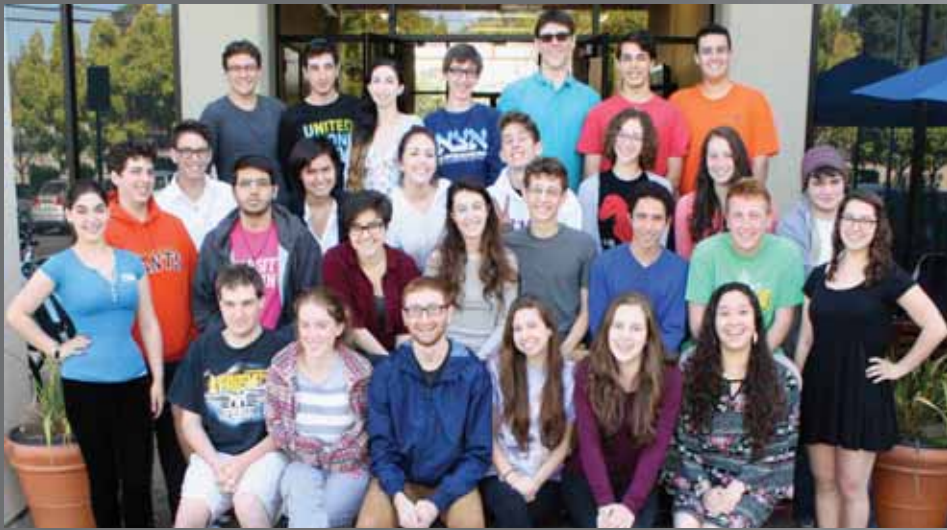
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Colorado State University
Drexel University
Elon University
Emerson College
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Franklin and Marshall College
Guilford College
Haverford College
Hofstra University
Humboldt State University
Indiana University
Kenyon College
Knox College
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Occidental College
Pomona College
Princeton University
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Santa Clara University
Sonoma State University
Southern Oregon University
Stanford University
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Whittier College
Willamette University
Worcester Poly Institute
Yale University



EXTRAORDINARY FUTURES

O'Connor St. transfer request denied by county committee

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park residents who petitioned to have 31 homes on O'Connor Street moved from the Ravenswood to Menlo Park school district say they will appeal to the state board of education after being turned down by the San Mateo County Committee on School District Organization. The county committee on June 2 unanimously denied the request to move 31 homes on the north side of Menlo Park's O'Connor Street from the Ravenswood City School District to the Menlo Park City School District.

Residents say state appeal is next.

"We are all disappointed that our children will not be able to go to school with their neighborhood friends," said Stacy Keller, one of the lead petitioners for the transfer, after the meeting. "We all want what's best for our children, but we will have to wait. From the beginning we understood that this is simply a required step in the long bureaucratic process and we are looking forward to having our petition objectively considered" by the state board, she said.

County committee members cited financial burdens for both districts and the probability of worsening racial and ethnic segregation or discrimination in making their vote.

Even if the state board approves the transfer, the matter will not be settled until an election is held. The state board would decide who votes in the election. It could be only the O'Connor Street residents requesting the transfer, or all voters residing in both affected districts.

The district boundary runs down the middle of O'Connor Street. Residents on the south side are in the Menlo Park district, and those on the north side are in the Ravenswood district. The Menlo Park district is building its new Upper Laurel School about a block away from the homes.

The residents of 235 to 495 O'Connor St., who are seeking the transfer, argue that it was only a historical accident that left them in the Ravenswood district when most of the rest of the Willows neighborhood transferred into the Menlo Park district in 1983. That's because their side of the street was annexed into Menlo Park soon after the original petition to change districts was filed, but their addresses either weren't or couldn't be added to the petition.

For the request to be approved, the board had to find that it met nine state-required criteria. Board members voted on each criteria and voted that three of them were not met.

The committee members unanimously agreed the transfer request did not meet two of the criteria. One is that the transfer not cause a significant "increase in school facilities costs." The second is that the transfer not "cause a substantial negative effect on the fiscal status" of either district.

Representatives of the Ravenswood District had argued that losing the 31 homes would cause the district to lose some of its capacity to issue bonds for future school improvements. Nancy Magee, who is the county office of education's staff member for the committee and its secretary, confirmed that the bonding capacity of the Ravenswood District would be reduced by \$257,000 of its current \$36.8 million bonding capacity by the move.

The Menlo Park district had argued that the increased property taxes it would receive with the new homes in the district would not pay the costs of educating the additional students.

A divided committee voted 6-3 that the request did not meet a third criteria — that the proposed move "will preserve each affected district's ability to educate students in an integrated environment and will not promote racial or ethnic discrimination or segregation."

The residents seeking the transfer argue that they would actually increase the diversity of

the Menlo Park district.

O'Connor Street resident Ajit Jain, who said his parents are from India and Mexico, said he is personally offended by the charges of racism and pursuit of personal financial gain that some have made over the transfer request. "There's nothing here related to racism. There's nothing here related to lying about property values," he said. "If we lose this petition, we will accept it and we will move on with our lives."

But East Palo Alto resident Duane Goff said he does not believe the request has been made only for educational reasons. "Nobody I've talked to believes education is the issue," he said. "We on the other side of the freeway" would see the transfer "as you folks taking something away from people of color."

John Barksdale, one of the lead petitioners, said he spoke to his immediate neighbors in both school districts. "The general consensus from all the neighbors I talked to was — this doesn't make sense," he said. Both sides of the street share the same municipal services, and much more, he said. "We even share the same lemon tree to make lemonade in the summer for our kids."

But Ravenswood school board president Ana Maria Pulido urged the county committee to deny the transfer for the greater good. "When I look at this, I look at the bigger picture," she said. "I'm not looking at the desire of the few; I'm looking at the needs of thousands." ■

Library hosts summer party

Menlo Park Library will host the onset of the summer reading season with a free outdoor party from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 11, on the lawn outside the library at 800 Alma St. in Menlo Park.

Derek Smith's Pankind Quartet will play Caribbean music, while Cafe Zoe provides snacks and beverages. Library staff will be on hand to share information about programs and events, which will include a cooking demonstration, puppetry, story-

telling, music, poetry and a wildlife presentation.

The event is sponsored by Friends of the Menlo Park Library and Cafe Zoe in Menlo Park.

David McCullough

Noted author David McCullough will appear at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 16, at the Fox Theater in Redwood City to talk about his new book, "The Wright Brothers." Tickets are available at Keplers.com.

Correction

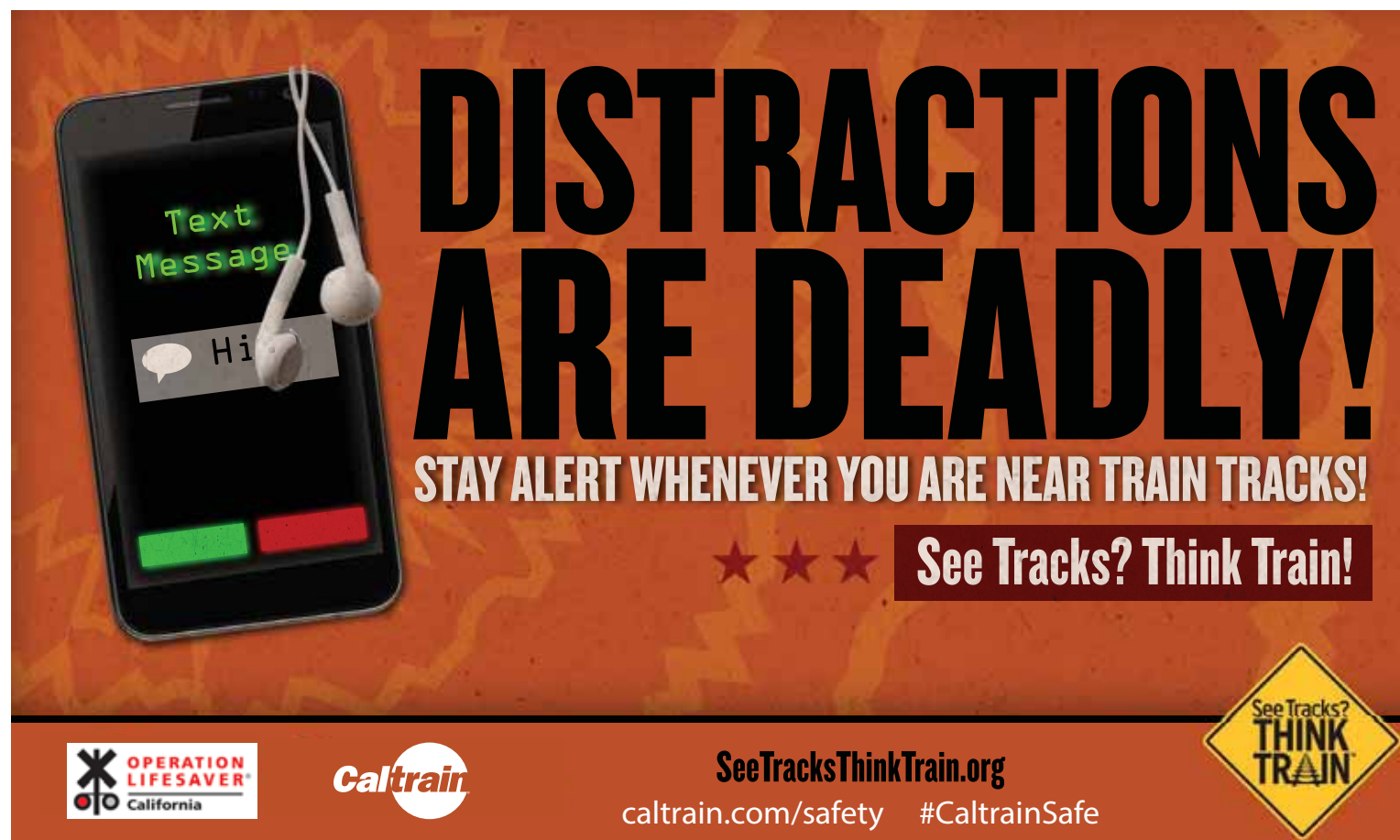
A story in the May 27 issue of the Almanac about a master plan for Atherton's Holbrook-Palmer Park said a preschool would move to the Gilmore House in the park. The plan is to move the preschool near the Gilmore House, not inside it.

LONG-TERM NEEDS

continued from page 12

an increase of nearly \$340,000, mostly because a dispatcher is being added and midway through the current budget year a code-enforcement officer was added.

The public works department also shows an increase because midway through the current budget year a town arborist was added and the department bears part of the cost of the code-enforcement officer. ■



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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Board of Directors of the West Bay Sanitary District at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24, at the District Offices, located at 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California to consider the adoption of an ordinance amending Section 400 "Standard Specifications" of the District's Code of General Regulations to henceforth adopt the Standard Specifications by resolution of the District Board

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT

By: /s/ Phil Scott
Phil Scott
District Manager

■ CALENDAR

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

Special Events

Menlo Park Block Party Sponsored by Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce, ninth annual Menlo Park Block Party will close Santa Cruz Avenue to traffic for a night of local shopping, live music, classic cars, food and more. June 17, 5-9 p.m. Free. Downtown Menlo Park, Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park. menloparkchamber.com/blockparty

Benefits/Fundraisers

Blossoming into Transformation fashion show The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of San Mateo County's Catherine Center holds second annual fashion show fundraiser. The center helps women reclaim their lives following incarceration. June 18, 11:30 p.m. \$75. Filoli, 86 Canada Road, Woodside. Call

373-0622. www.commitchange.com/non-profits/3414/events/196

Classes/Workshops

3D Printer Selfies Community members can have a 3D scan of themselves made and saved to a computer, which will then be printed using plastic. If interested, contact library to register. June 18, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 851-0560.

Musical Theater Performance Workshop In this Summer Arts @ Menlo workshop, singers and actors in grades 6 to 12 learn vocal technique, song acting, lyric interpretation and principles for performing songs in musical theater. Workshop taught by Broadway actor Pierce Peter Brandt. Monday-Friday, June 22-26, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. \$375, plus \$90 supplies fee. Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton. Call 330-2000. www.menloschool.org/experience/summer-arts-menlo.php

Concerts

Earl Thomas & the Blues Ambassadors As part of Redwood City's Music on the Square series, Earl Thomas & the Blues Ambassadors performs blues music. June 12, 6-8 p.m. Free. Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.redwoodcity.org/events/musiconthesquare.html#VXINsSFVhHw

Ensemble San Francisco Season Finale Performances by Ravel Piano Trio and Dvorak Piano Quintet. June 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$25 general; \$15 student, senior. Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 415-758-0373. www.ensemblest.com

Exhibits

'Angles, Lines and Curves' Collection of photographs that captures the aesthetics, values and lifestyles of cultures through architecture. On July 18 and 19, the artists will be on hand to discuss their work and travels. June 16-Aug. 23, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$20 adult; \$27 senior (age 65 and older); \$10 child (ages 5-17). Filoli, Visitor and Education Center, 86 Canada Road, Woodside. filoli.org/art-exhibits/#angles

Art in Action student work exhibit East Palo Alto Library hosts summer-long exhibit of work by kindergarten through second-grade students who participated in Art in Action programs at East Palo Alto Charter School and Belle Haven Elementary School in Menlo Park. June 2-Aug. 28, library hours. Free. East Palo Alto Library, 2415 University Ave., East Palo Alto. Call 566-8339, ext. 210.

Kids & Families

Marine Science Camp The Marine Science Institute will offer summer camps through which children and teens can learn about the biology of the coast and Bay through hands-on activities, viewing live animals and educational field trips. See website for more info. June 15-Aug. 14. Prices start at \$415. Marine Science Institute, 500 Discovery Parkway, Redwood City. Call 364-2760. sfbaymsi.org/marinecamp.html

Summer Learning Challenge for children, teens and adults — which runs from June through August — offers free book for signing up (while supplies last) and another for finishing. Participants can earn tickets for raffle drawings by completing reading and activity logs. A \$1,000 grand prize scholarship will be awarded. Visit the library or its website for more details. June 1-Aug. 31. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 328-2422.

Toddler Storytime for children 18 to 36 months old incorporate songs, stories and movement activities that encourage listening and reading. Special activity follows story time on June 16. Tuesdays, June 2-30, 11-11:30

a.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 851-0560.

On Stage

'My Fair Lady' Broadway By the Bay presents musical theater adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion." June 5-21, Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. (also, Saturday, June 13, 2 p.m.). \$47-\$69. Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway St., Redwood City. broadwaybythebay.org/my-fair-lady/

'The Columnist,' a new play by David Auburn about the powerful American political commentator, Joseph Alsop. May 28-June 21, Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. \$10-\$35. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. Call 493-2006, ext. 2. www.dragonproductions.net

Outdoors

Nature Walk in East Palo Alto Committee for Green Foothills leads easy, family-friendly walk along the bayfront in East Palo Alto, ending with a lunch at the new Cooley Landing park. Bilingual docents will talk about the birds, wildlife and history of the area. Register online. June 13, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Ravenswood Open Space Preserve, end of Bay Road, East Palo Alto. Call 968-7243, ext. 314. www.greenfoothills.org/calendar/

Lectures & Talks

Author David McCullough on 'The Wright Brothers' Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough will share his most recent work "The Wright Brothers," which draws upon a large collection of documents in capturing the lives and work of aviation pioneers Wilbur and Orville Wright. June 16, 7:30 p.m. \$20 general; \$10 student; \$45 premier, includes book. Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway St., Redwood City. Call 324-4321. foxrwc.showare.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=60

Author Jim Shepard on 'The Book of Aron' Speaking in conversation with Tobias Wolff, Jim Shepard will discuss his new novel "The Book of Aron," which captures the experience of a young boy in a Polish ghetto during the Holocaust. Reservations required. June 15, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 324-4321. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1475188

Author Robert Roper on 'Nabokov in America' Robert Roper will discuss his new book "Nabokov in America: On the Road to Lolita," a portrait of the author published on the 75th anniversary of his coming to America that focuses particularly on his years spent in the Western U.S. June 11, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/robert-roper

Stanford Executive Briefings: Pat Gelsinger Pat Gelsinger, CEO of VMWare, will give his perspective on effective leadership, as well as making the most of crises, smart decision-making and the importance of values. June 17, 7:30-9 a.m. \$60. Stanford Faculty Club, 439 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. Call 725-3330. breakfastbriefings.stanford.edu

Teen Activities

Author Mary Pearson on 'The Kiss of Deception' June 12, 7 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 324-4321. www.keplers.com/ya-mary-pearson

Teen Section design brainstorming The Menlo Park Library will hold a brainstorming session with teens to figure out how to decorate the library's teen section. Lunch will be provided. June 17, 12:30-3 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 330-2530. www.eventbrite.com/event/design-the-teen-section-brainstorming-tickets-17017518857?aff=eac2

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Thieves target unlocked autos

Atherton police say that thieves went through three unlocked cars sitting in driveways in Lindenwood during the night of June 7 or early morning July 8.

Credit cards, purses and wallets were taken from two unlocked vehicles on Larch Drive. On Acacia Drive, a wallet and other items were taken from an unlocked vehicle.

To avoid thefts, police advise:

lock doors and roll up windows, even when the vehicle is parked in the driveway; do not keep keys, purses, wallets, electronics or other valuable items inside of a parked vehicle; turn on the alarm system; and make sure nothing valuable can be seen inside the vehicle.

Atherton police ask anyone with information regarding the thefts or other suspicious activity to call the Atherton Police Department at (650) 688-6500.

■ 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 burglaries:

■ Someone stole two bicycles from a garage on Fremont Street. The garage may have been open. Estimated loss: \$5,000. June 5.

■ Thieves broke into a locked storage unit in the 1500 block of Willow Road and stole pots and pans, bedding, bathroom items, a grill, a Dutch oven, dinnerware, kitchen utensils and containers, and a pair of sandals. Estimated losses: \$2,248. June 5.

■ A resident of Spruce Avenue told police that someone entered her house through her open garage and stole her purse from the kitchen table. In the purse were a credit card, a driver's license and \$500 in cash. Estimated loss: \$1,010. June 7.

Auto burglaries:

■ A motorcycle parked on Modoc Avenue was found stripped of major parts, including two motorcycle bags, two handle grips, four speakers, a radio deck, two amplifiers, a front fairing, headlight and seat. Estimated losses: \$5,700. June 4.

■ Someone stole a purse from a vehicle parked with an open window on Gilbert Avenue. Inside the purse were an Apple iPad, a cellphone, credit cards and \$400 in cash. Estimated losses: \$1,700. June 6.

■ Two purses were stolen after some-

one broke into a vehicle parked on Sharon Park Drive. Estimated losses: \$100. June 2.

■ A vehicle parked in the 100 block of Willow Road was found with a window smashed and the interior ransacked, but nothing missing. June 4.

Thefts:

■ Someone stole a purse from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 1600 block of Marsh Road. In the purse were credit cards, a checkbook and \$1,840 in cash. Estimated losses: \$2,017. June 4.

■ A locked bike was stolen from a bike rack in the vicinity of Laurel Street and Burgess Drive. No estimate on losses. June 2.

■ A man in the Safeway supermarket on Sharon Park Drive put several bottles of detergent and two packages of toilet paper into a shopping cart and

left the store without paying for them. A store employee photographed the man's vehicle and license plate, and the store had surveillance footage. Police are investigating. Estimated loss: \$332. June 1.

Hit-and-run accident: A bicyclist collided with a pedestrian running near East Creek Drive and Alma Street, then fled without providing identifying information. The runner had minor injuries for which she declined treatment by medics from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District. June 1.

Fraud: A resident of Woodland Avenue wired \$1,178 to the Dominican Republic after receiving a phone call instructing him to send the money to get his son-in-law out of jail. The resident told police that he didn't think it unusual to receive a call of that nature. He later learned that his son-in-law had not been in jail. May 29.

Man killed by train

The San Mateo County Coroner's Office has identified the man who was struck and killed by a train shortly before 3 p.m. Friday, June 5, at the Atherton Caltrain Station.

The man is Mathew Fix, 42, a resident of Sunnyvale.

There were approximately 400 people on northbound train No. 155, which struck the man at about 2:56. As of 6:08 p.m., both tracks were open for maximum speed, Caltrain spokesperson Tasha Bartholomew said.

A SamTrans bus bridge was set up between the Menlo Park and Redwood City stations.

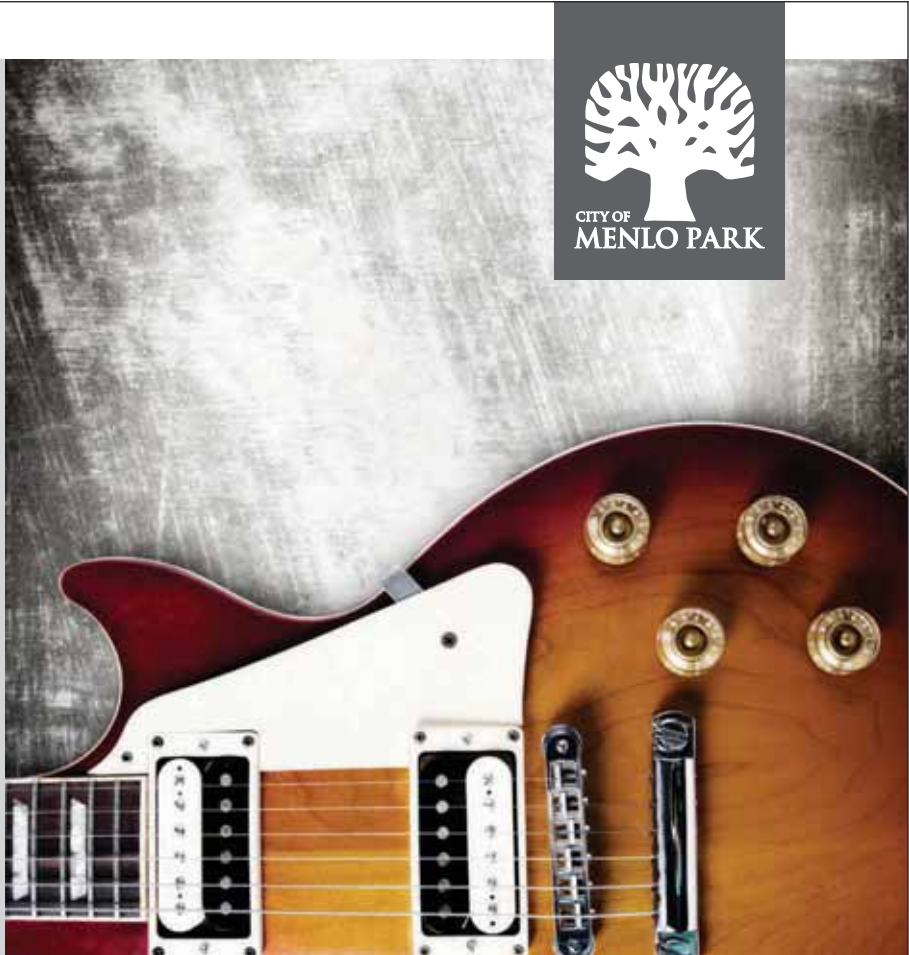
Passengers were delayed by up to 90 minutes, Ms. Bartholomew said. ▴

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8/12	Con Brio	R&B, Soul, Funk

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Women returning to work benefits all

It's a phenomenon known as the "resume gap" — women stepping out of the workplace for a time to raise children, or to care for aging parents, then trying to rejoin the workforce. Sometimes, these women have left extremely demanding jobs at which they excelled and made strong contributions to their employer. But often, when such women try to return to work after a hiatus, they discover that the work they seek is closed to them because employers find that gap in their resumes unacceptable.

In many cases in the Bay Area, women in such situations have degrees from top universities, including Stanford, Columbia and Cornell. And their rejection in the workplace has now been recognized by social scientists and business school academics as "the hidden brain drain."

Recently, Menlo Park resident Singari Seshadri formed a group, SparkUp, to offer support and resources to women hungry to go back to work but encountering stiff resistance. The response from local women has been strong, with the first meeting featuring a guest speaker drawing 93 women — about six times the number Ms. Seshadri had expected, she told Almanac reporter Barbara Wood. "These women are so intelligent, so talented, have so much to offer," she said of those

who have flocked to SparkUp events.

Ms. Seshadri is on to something important: In many cases, these and other women who left their jobs to meet other pressing obligations, usually to their families, "have so much to offer" their society by returning to employment in areas they are highly trained in, and thrive in.

The brain drain that results from shutting women out of the workplace after their other obligations have been fulfilled harms not only the unemployed women, but the companies

that bar the doors as well. Here in Silicon Valley, companies — from high-tech and venture capital firms to the financial sector — have been harshly criticized for the glaring gender imbalance that exists in their

halls. By shutting out a segment of skilled and eager would-be employees whose biggest job-market "misstep" was to take time off to care for kids or meet other family needs, they are missing an opportunity to move toward a more balanced — and enriched — workforce. And to harness the best talent available.

Ms. Seshadri is to be applauded for her work on behalf of women trying to bridge the resume gap and contribute to their society, and for raising awareness locally about a phenomenon that amounts to a waste of brainpower, talent and drive. ■

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

City manager's contract renewal blasted

Editor:

Four members of the Menlo Park City Council — Keith, Ohtaki, Cline and Carlton — voted Yes to a contract extension for City Manager McIntyre. Only Ray Mueller took the right choice and voted No.

Despite being presented undeniable evidence that McIntyre spent public funds in hiring a consultant whose task was to sway citizens to vote No on Measure M, these four council

persons have awarded him a new two-year contract extension, complete with salary and other raises in compensation.

McIntyre's actions didn't stop there. He then delayed responses to public record requests, and even to this day has refused to respond to some record requests — all attempts to cover up the misdeeds.

These four council persons well need to be reminded they were elected to serve all the Menlo Park citizens with integrity. Arguments like "his actions don't rise to the level of being fired," or "he has hired good staff," simply should not sway anyone when you realize his actions were to commit city resources to defeating a voter-

sponsored initiative.

Shame on the four who voted Yes. This was a black day for supporting integrity in Menlo Park governance.

*Morris Brown
Stone Pine Lane
Menlo Park*

More on history of the Beltramo family

Editor:

The history of the Beltramo family (included with the photo) taken in the 1880s ("Looking back," the Almanac, May 20), does not bring out the fact that the family, I believe, grew wine grapes in Portola Valley for many years.

My father, who graduated

from Stanford in 1917, recalled walking from campus out to the present-day Rossatti's Beer Garden, which was a stage stop (Alpine Inn), and remembered the bar was named "Beltramos." Whether this was a conventional description for the family that owned the surrounding vineyards, I don't know.

I have not read Guillard and Lund' book, but I have always thought that the Beltramo and Rossatti families probably both grew grapes out there early in the 20th century, and the Beltramo descendants moved into Palo Alto later, and later established the wine shop on El Camino that still bears their name.

*Leon G. Campbell
Albion Avenue, Woodside*



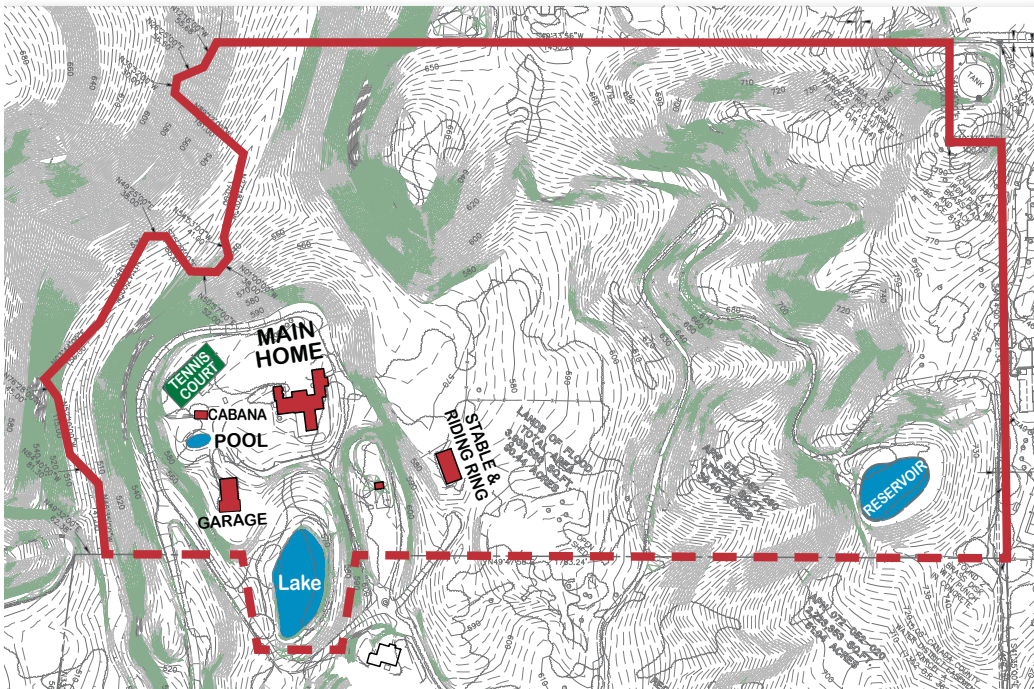
Woodside History Committee

Looking back

In this 1915 photo, children pose in front of Woodside School, built in 1910. The Mission Revival-style building had multiple classrooms, unlike the one-room schoolhouses in the area at the time, according to local historians Thalia Lubin and Bob Dougherty, who included the photo in the history book published by the Woodside History Committee. The building was demolished in 1964, and the bell above the sign is now in the current school's courtyard, according to the historians.

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