



**Competitive riding is a way  
of life for local family** | Section 2

# The Almanac

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

AUGUST 12, 2015 | VOL. 50 NO. 49



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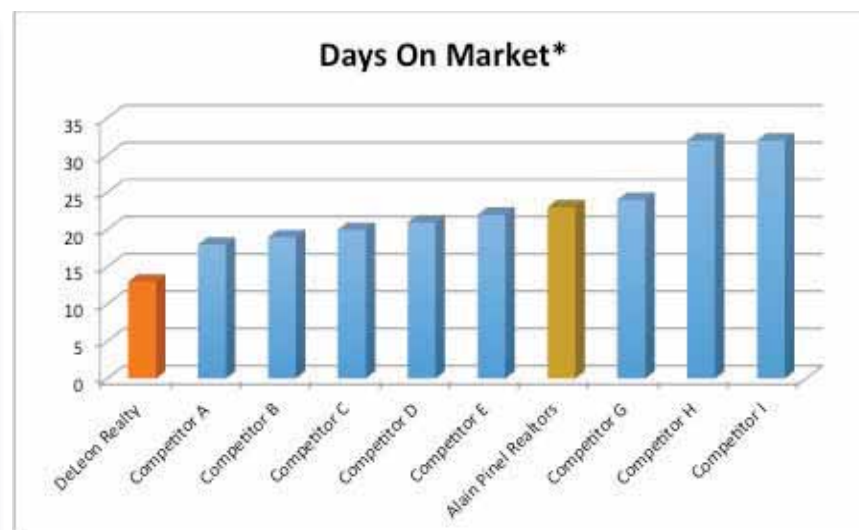
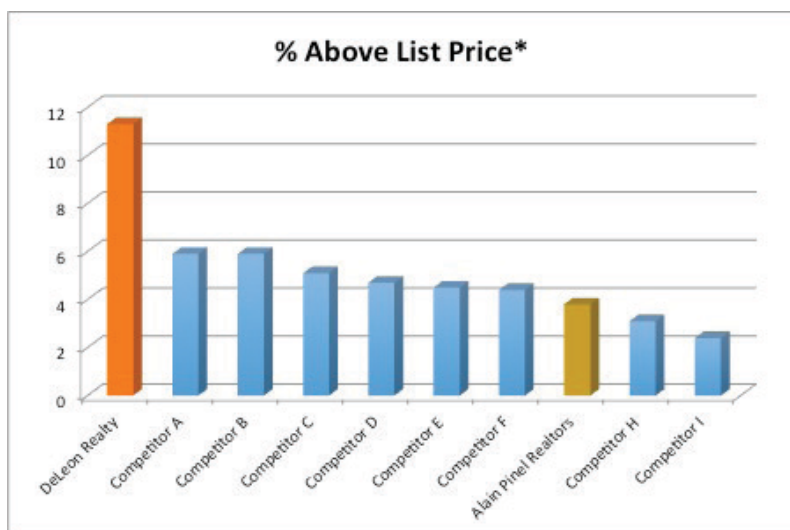
Looking  
for a  
*miracle*

**Woodside  
family  
refuses to  
give up hope  
of saving  
their child's  
life** | Page 5





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# Still waiting for new home

Program uses animals to comfort children under stress

By Kate Daly  
Special to the Almanac

So near and yet so far. That describes the place Jasper Ridge Farm finds itself in now that the nonprofit has run into more delays on building a new home at Webb Ranch.

The organization, which uses animals to provide comfort and healing for children who are ill or in other stressful situations, had planned to put up earlier this summer a modular barn and fencing on a two-acre site at Webb Ranch, located at 2720 Alpine Road, just west of Interstate 280.

However, unexpected requirements and costs keep popping up in the permitting and construction process, so

**'I'm overwhelmed by the goodness of humanity.'**

WENDY MATTES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JASPER RIDGE FARM

things are on hold, said Wendy Mattes, executive director of the program.

"We will have to ramp up the capital campaign again, and simultaneously find more vendors to donate or discount their services," she says.

Several vendors had stepped forward with offers to help after hearing about the program's plight, including the distance the animals — three miniature horses, two sheep, two goats, four rabbits, two guinea pigs, a chicken and a cat — were being shipped from their temporary home in Gilroy to visit with children on the Midpeninsula.

The animals used to live in Woodside and were slated to move to Webb Ranch within a year or so, but, for starters, it took more time and money than expected to get county clearance on bringing utilities to the site.



Photo by Kate Daly

To raise money for Jasper Ridge Farm, co-founder Wendy Mattes, left, sold raffle tickets, including to Laura Hovden in Woodside.

As a year turned into two, donors pitched in hundreds of thousands of dollars to start work on what was estimated to be a \$450,000 project.

A groundbreaking ceremony took place in March, a construction fence went up, and piles of building material were stacked on the site. Then came another holdup: the estimate to excavate grew from \$25,000 to \$200,000.

Ms. Mattes said Grove Construction responded by offering to donate some earthwork, and made "a wonderful deal" on concrete. Soils engineer Richard Kolterer offered to volunteer his time.

"I'm overwhelmed by the goodness of humanity," she said, but admitted she is still concerned about the future.

Meanwhile, the barn-raising date is not set. The animals, staff and volunteers continue to travel to fulfill their active summer schedule at places such as Ronald McDonald House and Holbrook-Palmer Park. And Webb Ranch continues to provide lesson horses for the children and veterans who are participating in Jasper Ridge Farm's special riding sessions.

Go to [jasperridgefarm.org](http://jasperridgefarm.org) for more information. ■

The Board of Directors of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District are seeking public comment on the Tentative Agreement with the Menlo Park Firefighters Association, Local 2400. The Tentative Agreement was passed by the Board on July 7, 2015, and will be ratified at its August 25 Board meeting. Public Comment on the Tentative Agreement will be accepted until August 25 for consideration at the meeting. Please submit your comment to Clerk of the Board Michelle Radcliffe at [mradcliffe@menlofire.org](mailto:mradcliffe@menlofire.org).

You may access a copy of the Tentative Agreement on the District's website: [www.menlofire.org](http://www.menlofire.org) or obtain a copy from the District's Administration Office located at 170 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

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

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Looking for a miracle

Woodside family refuses to give up hope of saving their child's life

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

It was 2 a.m. on July 12 and her husband and two daughters were half a world away, visiting his parents in France, when Marisa Martinez got the call.

Her husband, Marc Lusinchi, told Ms. Martinez what French doctors had just sat him down to say: their 7-year-old daughter, Zamora Moon, had a 4-centimeter tumor on her brain stem that was inoperable and fatal. She probably had only six to nine months to live.

Just hours earlier, Ms. Martinez had called Kaiser Permanente for advice, describing the symptoms her husband had told her Zamora had suddenly started exhibiting — difficulty reading, her eyes not tracking movement, trouble walking and losing her balance. Ms. Martinez was told Zamora should go for imaging tests immediately.

“I still can't believe that this is happening to me. I feel like I should be back at work,” said Ms. Martinez from a hospital room at the Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara Medical Center on Aug. 6. Zamora had been there for two days, since she began exhibiting serious side effects, including nightmares and hallucinations, from the steroids she was taking to reduce the swelling of the brain tumor.

Ms. Martinez has taken a leave from her job as a kindergarten teacher so she can stay at Zamora's side. “I want to spend as much time with her as possible,” she said. Mr. Lusinchi is a software engineer for Aspera, which specializes in data transfer. They live in the Kings Mountain neighborhood of Woodside.

Zamora's 6-year-old sister, Xavia, was in the hospital room, as were the girls' best friends, Madeleine and Isabelle Markel, who had come from San Francisco with their mother, Johanna Markel, one of Ms. Martinez's best friends. Friend Elizabeth Chavez was also there from San Francisco, answering Ms. Martinez's phone and keeping the chaos organized.

The girls love art and music — Zamora plays the violin — and, especially, pretending to be fairies with three other friends in a



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

**Marisa Martinez**, right, says she refuses to accept what doctors tell her about the prognosis for her 7-year-old daughter, Zamora Martinez-Lusinchi, who was recently diagnosed with brain cancer. Friend Johanna Markel looks on, in Zamora's hospital room at Kaiser in Santa Clara.

group they call the Sparks.

The four worked on an art project together for a few minutes, until Zamora had to return to her hospital bed, where she lay surrounded by stuffed animals instead of the real animals she has at home, according to Xavia: three dogs, three cats, a bunny and a 40-year-old tortoise.

The girls all attend Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy in San Francisco's Castro District, where Ms. Martinez would, in a usual year, be getting ready to welcome her kindergarten class back to school.

It had been only a week since Zamora was released from her

last hospital stay, and only weeks since the family received the grim diagnosis.

That diagnosis was that Zamora has a tumor called a diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, known as DIPG. The name of the disease contains clues to why the diagnosis is so grim. According to the DIPG Registry website, the “diffuse” in the name means the tumor grows out into healthy brain tissue, making it “impossible to surgically remove DIPG tumors without damaging healthy tissue.”

Pontine means the tumor is in the pons, the part of brain that regulates, among other things,

### ■ INFORMATION AND HOW TO HELP

- [GoFundMe.com/zkx7fb39s](http://GoFundMe.com/zkx7fb39s) fundraising site has a video by Marisa Martinez about Zamora.
- At [tinyurl.com/Z-Meals](http://tinyurl.com/Z-Meals) people can sign up to bring vegetarian meals to the Martinez-Lusinchi family.
- At [tinyurl.com/Z-BBC-News](http://tinyurl.com/Z-BBC-News) see a story about Dr. Steven Gill's research.
- At [DIPGRegistry.org](http://DIPGRegistry.org) find information about the disease, research and resources.
- At [Facebook.com/ZamoraMoon](http://Facebook.com/ZamoraMoon) get updates on Zamora's condition.
- At [ChickenandABCs.com](http://ChickenandABCs.com) (Ms. Martinez' website), see the award-winning CD of songs by Ms. Martinez and her kindergarten class that raised money for her school, and news stories about her and the CD.

breathing, balance, bladder control and sleep. It is near where the spinal cord joins the brain.

The fact that the tumor is in

the brain, which is very good at protecting itself against intrusion

See **MIRACLE**, page 6

# Planning Commission starts another review of specific plan

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

If Menlo Park residents believe the specific plan governing development in Menlo Park's downtown and El Camino Real corridor is still flawed, they didn't share their views with the city's Planning Commission when it met on Aug. 3 to review the plan.

Patti Fry, the former planning commissioner who was one of the authors of 2014's Measure M, which unsuccessfully sought to have parts of the plan changed, and Greenheart developer Steve Pierce were the only members of

the public to speak at the meeting, although several others sent letters.

The public will have another chance for input when the City Council continues the two-year review, probably at its Aug. 25 meeting, unless a packed agenda pushes it to a future meeting.

Ms. Fry said she'd like the city to look at how the plan is working compared to what was expected by the residents, city staff and consultants who spent years developing it.

"I think you need more information to evaluate how we're doing," she said. "There's a perception that we've lost retail, for

example."

She urged the council to make sure the plan contains "mechanisms where we can manage the

## Few residents ask for changes in downtown, El Camino specific plan.

impacts of growth — not stop growth, but manage it."

Planning commissioners spent most of the meeting reviewing staff recommendations for refinements in the plan.

Two staff proposals they did not support had to do with reducing parking requirements — one for hotels and the other for businesses that fall into the category of "personal services," such as yoga and dance studios or driving schools.

Six commissioners supported retaining the current recommendations for hotel parking, with commissioner John Kadvaný abstaining, but said the staff should remind developers the requirements can be modified case by case.

On the personal services parking issue, the commissioners were divided, with four (Larry Kahle, Katherine Strehl, John Kadvaný and John Onken) voting not to reduce the parking requirements for such services. Katie Ferrick, Drew Combs and Susan Goodhue voted for a

change.

Commission Chair John Onken said he'd instead like to see research on building a city parking garage.

By the time the commissioners finished with the staff's proposals and began to discuss Commissioner Kadvaný's ideas on how to determine the value of the additional square footage a developer requests in trade for "public benefits," it was nearly 10 p.m. They asked to talk about it more at a future meeting.

Even later in the evening, Mr. Kadvaný suggested considering lowering the threshold at which a project's proposed size and scale would trigger a public benefits requirement. He received no feedback from commissioners, who may just have wanted to go home and go to sleep. ▣

## MIRACLE

continued from page 5

from outside agents with what is called the "blood/brain barrier," also makes it nearly impossible to treat a DIPG tumor with chemotherapy. Most drugs never reach the tumor.

According to the registry website, between 100 and 150 children a year are diagnosed with DIPG in the United States, most between the ages of 5 and 7. Only 10 percent live more than two years after their diagnosis. Between 10 to 15 percent of children with brain tumors have DIPG, it says.

Radiation does reduce the size of the tumor, and Zamora's family had been driving 191 miles a week to and from the Santa Clara Kaiser for Zamora's treatments.

They've also enrolled her in a clinical trial at the University of San Francisco. There, Zamora was sedated and a tiny part of the tumor carefully removed so doctors could study it to learn more about how to fight it.

"That's what's lacking is an understanding of the tumor," said Ms. Martinez. "It's the most

## 'I'm trying to save my little girl's life.'

MARISA MARTINEZ

mysterious tumor of all."

Dr. Michelle Monje-Deisseroth, head of the Monje Lab at the Stanford Institutes of Medicine, says that DIPG is the leading cause of brain tumor death in children. "We have made no progress in treating DIPG in over three decades," she said, "due in part to a lack of DIPG tumor tissue for research and a dearth of experimental models with which to study the disease."

Dr. Monje-Deisseroth said the situation has begun to change recently "chiefly due to tumor tissue donations by families affected by DIPG and research funding support by pediatric brain tumor foundations," which she said are also largely the efforts of bereaved families.

"We have made more progress in the past five years than we have in the previous 50, but we still have so very far to go," she said.



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

From left, sisters Isabel and Madeleine Markel work on an art project with sisters Zamora and Xavia Martinez-Lusinchi, in Zamora's hospital room at Kaiser in Santa Clara.

Ms. Martinez said doctors have advised her to concentrate on the quality of what remains of Zamora's life, about making her eighth birthday on Sept. 24 very special, and perhaps asking the Make-A-Wish Foundation for help.

"I'm not going to accept it," said Ms. Martinez resolutely. "I'm scouring the Internet for any kind of a cure." She's trying acupuncture, diet, herbs and essential oils, "anything I could possibly do." She turned Make-A-Wish away.

One glimmer of hope, she and her friends say, is the work of Dr. Steven Gill, a British neurosurgeon who is raising money for a clinical trial of an experimental method of injecting chemotherapy drugs directly into the brains of children with DIPG. Because funding medical research can take so long, and time is one thing children with DIPG don't have, the doctor is raising the

money online.

According to one of the funding sites, Hubbub.net, a group called Funding Neuro has raised close to \$930,000 of Dr. Gill's nearly \$1.4 million goal.

Ms. Martinez hopes she will be able to take Zamora to Great Britain to be part of the trial. Until then, they're just working to "keep her alive as long as possible."

In the meantime, the community has rallied around the family, both in San Francisco where Ms. Martinez has taught for 22 years, including 17 years in Hunters Point and two years at Harvey Milk, and in Kings Mountain, where they've lived for nine years.

An online GoFundMe campaign has raised enough money for Ms. Martinez to take a leave from her job; she's hoping the funds raised will also help pay for travel to be part of the British trial.

"I'm trying to save my little

girl's life," she said. "Every day that there's not a cure for her," she started, before finding herself unable to complete the sentence. "I'm trying to find an answer," she finally added.

She has some advice for other parents. "Love your kids. Don't worry about those bills, that new car." Until your child has "almost been taken away from you," she said, you don't realize that possessions really aren't important.

"You're the richest parent alive if your kids are healthy," she said. ▣



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**On the cover:** Zamora Martinez-Lusinchi, 7, recently diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer, is comforted by her mother, Marisa Martinez, in her hospital room at Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara Medical Center on Aug. 6. (Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac.)

# Aircraft noise: Locals seek meeting with FAA over Surf Air

■ Commuter airline added 10 round-trip flights last week.

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

Local officials have requested another meeting with Federal Aviation Administration representatives, similar to one held in Palo Alto recently, to discuss noise from Surf Air, a commuter airline that started flying in and out of the San Carlos Airport in June 2013.

The July 24 meeting in Palo Alto with four FAA officials (including Glen Martin, the FAA's Western-Pacific Region regional administrator) focused on the problems with flights in and out of San Francisco International Airport. After that meeting local officials, including Supervisor Don Horsley and Atherton City Council member Elizabeth Lewis, requested another meeting to discuss Surf Air.

Local residents began complaining about the noise from Surf Air flights soon after the airline began using the San Carlos Airport, which is owned by San Mateo County. A working group made up of local residents and officials has been meeting with airline and airport representatives since 2013.

At [tinyurl.com/Surf-No](http://tinyurl.com/Surf-No) a Change.org petition asking the airline to stop using the San Carlos Airport or change its route had 765 signatures on Aug. 7. The petition was posted by Calm The Skies, a group formed to combat Surf Air noise.

Despite the efforts, the airline has continued to expand flights into and out of San Carlos Airport. CEO Jeff Potter said in May the airline would go from 79 round-trip flights a week to 106. The airline's latest schedule shows that expansion has taken place, and that it added another 10 weekly round-trip flights on Aug. 3.

The upcoming meeting with FAA representatives may not provide much relief, if a recent letter from the FAA to Gretchen Kelly, who manages the county-owned airports in San Carlos and Half Moon Bay, is any indication.

Ms. Kelly had asked the FAA to answer several questions from local residents about Surf Air's operations and the airport's ability to regulate them.

The July 15 response from James Lomen, the FAA's manager of the San Francisco Airports District Office, says federal law



Map by Kristin Brown / The Almanac

The FAA-assigned flight path for Surf Air passes over Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton and Redwood City, on its way to San Carlos Airport.

governs the services an airport must provide.

Mr. Lomen's letter, quoting from federal law, says the San Carlos Airport's federal grant funding requires it make the airport available "to all types, kinds and classes of aeronautical activities, including commercial."

The FAA letter also says the airport is allowed to adopt regulations that put into place "reasonable, and not unjustly discriminatory, conditions to be met by all users of the airport as may be necessary for the safe and efficient operation of the airport."

In response to questions from Atherton City Council member Elizabeth Lewis, airport manager Kelly said Surf Air operates under a permit agreement with the San Carlos Airport, signed by her as the airport manager. Surf Air is one of two "charter companies" operating at the airport under permit agreements, she said.

Ms. Kelly said that three other charter companies have an additional concession agreement with the county because they also lease office space at the airport, but that Surf Air does not have such an agreement. Ms. Kelly said four of the airport's charter companies operate the same Pilatus PC-12 aircraft that Surf Air uses.

Ms. Kelly said the county may not "deny access to an aeronautical business" that wants to use the airport, unless the FAA agrees to the denial.

Surf Air's latest schedule shows

a total of 20 round-trip flights Monday through Thursday, 21 on Fridays, five on Saturdays and 10 on Sundays, for a total of 116 weekly round trips. The schedule also shows that one Friday-only round trip will be eliminated on Sept. 7. That would leave the airline with 115 weekly round-trip flights. The inbound flights pass over parts of Midtown and downtown Palo Alto, and over Menlo Park, Atherton and North Fair Oaks near and west of Middlefield Road.

The flights are scheduled to arrive in San Carlos between 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. on weekdays, between 9:35 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays, and between 11:15 a.m. and 9:15 p.m. on Sundays.

Surf Air offers members unlimited scheduled flights for a monthly fee. It flies to Santa Rosa, Monterey, Sacramento, Palm Springs, Oakland, San Carlos, Truckee, Hawthorne, Santa Barbara, Burbank and Las Vegas.

The Las Vegas flights are operated in partnership with another airline, allowing Surf Air to not be governed by federal regulations regarding passenger airlines that fly in more than one state.

Complaints about noise from the San Carlos Airport may be made by calling (650) 573-2666 and leaving a name, address, time of day, and phone number on the recording.

CalmTheSkies.org has more information including a link to the airline's schedule, information on how to contact public officials and updates on meetings. ■

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### Managing Drought

Dear Monica: I am getting my home ready to sell in the fall and my once-beautiful lawn is not looking good. The shrubs and flowers are also stressed and dry looking. How can I follow the water mandates and make the landscaping look attractive at the same time? Alice D.

Dear Alice: This is a problem for most homeowners whose gardens are suffering in the drought. If their lawn looks too green, it is obvious they are using more water than they are allowed. And if they keep to the water limits, some plants won't survive. The drought

is taking a toll on gardens. My advice is to do the best you can to keep the mature plants healthy.

The garden aesthetic that has been common for so long, e.g., green lawns, lush greenery and flowers, is changing because of the drought. Some homeowners are installing artificial turf but this is not a good solution for the long term. It is expensive and even artificial turf wears out, ending up in landfills. There are many drought tolerant plants and trees and it makes economic and aesthetic sense to only use these when landscaping. Gardens will be healthy and look beautiful.

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



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## 301 Stanford Avenue, Menlo Park Offered at \$3,488,000

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Touches of Old World luxury refine this new 5 bedroom, 5.5 bathroom home of 3,839 sq. ft. (per plans) that stands on a lot of 9,040 sq. ft. (per county). Boasting elegant ceiling treatments, casement windows, and alder wood surfaces, this fine residence offers exciting spaces like a dining and living room ensemble with 12-foot ceilings, and a family room adjoining the breakfast area and fabulous gourmet kitchen. A guest suite with outdoor access is on the main level, while four more suites, including the resplendent master suite and its private balcony, are arranged upstairs. The property also features an attached two-car garage, water-sensitive landscaping, and large outdoor living areas. Other highlights include two fireplaces, Thermador kitchen appliances, a butler's pantry, dual-zone heating and cooling, a central vacuum system, and limestone bathroom surfaces. This home's quiet neighborhood is just outside Stanford University, near Sand Hill Road. Top schools include Las Lomas Elementary (API 943), La Entrada Middle (API 963), and Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

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## 54 West Summit Drive, Emerald Hills Offered at \$2,198,000

### Rich Amenities Inside Posh Home

Terrific craftsmanship, high-end amenities, and luxurious spaces await within this 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom home of 2,760 sq. ft. (per county) that sits on a lot of 10,230 sq. ft. (per county). Fine features like elaborate millwork and oak floors enhance the open living areas, which include a living room with window seating, a dining room with a coffered ceiling, and a family room that adjoins the kitchen and the breakfast area. Granite countertops and Viking appliances refine the gourmet island kitchen, and a bedroom on the main level may serve as a home office. Three more large bedrooms are upstairs, including the dreamy master suite with its opulent, stone-trimmed bathroom. The property also features an attached two-car garage, and a rear deck overlooking the large backyard. Other highlights include a central vacuum system, two fireplaces, and a finished shed. Here, you will be near Interstate 280, local shopping, and numerous parks and natural preserves. Great nearby schools include Clifford School and Woodside High (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:  
[www.54WestSummit.com](http://www.54WestSummit.com)



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## OPEN HOUSE

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# Fire board member opposes proposed contract

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

It's been seven years since firefighters working for the Menlo Park Fire Protection District have worked under a contract. If district governing board member Chuck Bernstein were to have his way, they will be working without a contract into the fall.

Mr. Bernstein was alone in his dissent among his four colleagues when the board voted 4-1 in July to post the new contract for public comment. The contract with the San Mateo County Firefighters Local 2400 represents years of "protracted and contentious negotiations," Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman has said.

Mr. Bernstein, in an Aug. 3 letter to fire district residents, makes several arguments about why he plans to vote no when the contract comes before the board for approval on Aug. 25. After expressing his pride in the district's performance, Mr. Bernstein said he believes the contract "represents a terrible deal for residents and taxpayers."

Among his assertions: the money used to boost firefighters' pay would be better spent on equipment and facilities; increases in total compensation exceed the consumer price index by 60 percent; firefighters are too well paid given the typical firefighter's education; and an oversupply of applicants for firefighting jobs does not justify the increases.

The board has scheduled a vote for Tuesday, Aug. 25. Board meetings start at 7 p.m. at 300 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park.

The contract requires the district to pay firefighters a total of \$1.5 million as a result of the district's having engaged in unlawful piecemeal bargaining and acting unilaterally, according to rulings by the state Public Employment Relations Board.

In general, firefighters' average base salaries would rise by 18 percent over three years. They would pay an additional 3 percent of their pension costs, and 10 percent of health care costs. They would also receive a stipend for living within 60 miles of the main fire station.

## Fire district responds

Chief Schapelhouman responded to several of Mr. Bernstein's points. The district was not expecting the letter, he said, so responses to specific assertions about compensation, including the cost-of-living issue, would have to wait for an

## Chuck Bernstein says proposed pay hikes for firefighters would be better spent on equipment and facilities.

analysis by Municipal Resource Group LLC, the district's Danville-based consultant.

In his letter, Mr. Bernstein put firefighter total compensation increases in the context of larger issues, such as the district's need to upgrade facilities, buy new equipment to deal with taller buildings, and "find either new routes or new equipment that can bypass our increasingly

congested roads."

"Though the District is well endowed with tax revenues, it will need to spend a great deal over the next 20 years to maintain its current response rates," he said. "Frustration with excessive compensation and benefits will rightfully discourage residents from approving bond issues and other means of financing these needs when they could have been obtained using existing resources that taxpayers feel have been squandered."

"I don't agree with that statement," Chief Schapelhouman said. The district can handle facility upgrades of \$7 million to \$10 million each with existing resources, he said. The current budget projects a \$17.3 million balance in the capital improvement fund, a balance that grows by at least \$2.5 million a year, he said.

The district's one ladder truck now has a crew of three, but the new contract would raise that to four. Mr. Bernstein argues that ladder trucks never deploy alone, so additional firefighters are always available, and that the district has a higher priority: buying and staffing a second and possibly a third ladder truck in response to increased traffic congestion.

"Firefighters see (a fourth crew member) as a safety issue, and I can't disagree," the chief said. Ladder truck crews tend to be more experienced, and they have a "high-intensity, high-risk" job, often involving complex rescues using technical equipment, he said. A fourth crew member has been a standing request for seven years, he said.

The district, Mr. Bernstein said, augments a firefighter's

\$100,000 to \$200,000 annual salary when the firefighter has a college degree, but degrees are uncommon. Residents such as teachers and child care workers have more degrees but are paid much less. "It is not fair or reasonable to tax our residents making less money in fields requiring more education and training to pay for this excess," he said.

Those non-firefighting occupations "are valuable positions, but are these people being placed in harm's way?" Chief Schapelhouman asked. "It's very difficult, dirty, hard work. ... We put ourselves between the emergency and the public. Public safety is a difficult job."

Firefighters in situations involving rescues can contract diseases such as tuberculosis and hepatitis C, he said. Firefighting suits gain weight as they absorb toxins from fires. "We may know all that," he said, "but does that mean that we don't go in?"

Fire district administrative employees receive a stipend for living within 30 miles of the district, but the new contract with firefighters expands that distance to 60 miles. "In a severe emergency, where transportation was disrupted, it would help little to have firefighters stranded in Petaluma, Stockton, and Salinas," Mr. Bernstein said.

This provision is about less-than-major emergencies, the chief said, and "will help us refill positions more quickly." He said he knows of California firefighters who live outside the state and even outside the country. A firefighter is paid overtime for every hour of travel back to the

See **CONTRACT**, page 11

## Former finance director sentenced to county jail

The former finance director of St. Patrick's Seminary and University in Menlo Park, accused of embezzling tens of thousands of dollars from her former employer, was sentenced Aug. 7 to nine months in San Mateo County jail and five years of probation.

In addition, Jennifer Margret Morris, 59, of Hayward must pay \$49,596 in restitution to her former employer, according to the District Attorney's Office.

On June 17, Ms. Morris pleaded no contest to three counts of felony embezzlement.

As finance director at the seminary, Ms. Morris used her own credit card for over \$166,000

in seminary-related purchases over six years — and reimbursed herself from seminary funds — in order to accumulate airline miles, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors accused Ms. Morris of overpaying herself by at least \$36,000 and making unauthorized severance payments to her secretary, Evelyn D. Vallacqua, who was accused of assisting Ms. Morris by issuing improper reimbursement checks.

In May 2014, Ms. Vallacqua, 46, pleaded no contest to felony embezzlement charges in exchange for testifying truthfully, prosecutors said. She is scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 28.



Photo by Tom Anta

**Fifth-grade** Peninsula Bridge students explore computer programming at Castilleja School in Palo Alto.

## Peninsula Bridge gets \$25K Google grant

By Cristian Ponce  
Special to the Almanac

Peninsula Bridge, a nonprofit that provides social and academic support to motivated and underserved middle-school students, received a \$25,000 grant this year from Google to fund computer science education.

The nonprofit used the money for its summer STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) program. A goal was to make computer science more accessible to its students.

Peninsula Bridge was one of 37 recipients worldwide of this 2015 Google RISE Award. The grant is given to organizations that provide computer science education to underrepresented minorities, girls, and students under age

18 who are facing economic setbacks. These are the students Peninsula Bridge aims to help, too, said Jocelyn Swisher, executive director of the organization.

The award is "a stamp of approval" for all of the work Peninsula Bridge does, she said. "It is a huge endorsement from Google."

Peninsula Bridge recruits motivated middle-school students and partners with local schools, which provide their facilities for the summer program. Among those schools are Menlo School and Sacred Heart Schools in Atherton and Woodside Priory in Portola Valley.

During the school year, Peninsula Bridge holds after-school programs that promote computer science as well, Ms. Swisher said.

Go to [PeninsulaBridge.org](http://PeninsulaBridge.org) for more information. ▣

## Arizona man sentenced in Woodside burglary

One of two Arizona men who flew to the Bay Area in 2012 with the purpose of burglarizing homes was sentenced Friday, Aug. 7, in a San Mateo County courtroom.

A judge sentenced 49-year-old Michael Wallen, of Glendale, Arizona, to three years in state prison. Mr. Wallen, however, has already served most of his sentence and could be released from custody as soon as Aug. 10, according to the district attorney.

On July 13, Mr. Wallen pleaded no contest to residential burglary, felony grand theft and felony possession of stolen property. He had two prior convictions in Arizona for a home burglary and a vehicle burglary, prosecutors said.

The DA's office gave this account of what happened:

On May 28, 2012, Mr. Wallen and 52-year-old Bradley Sullivan, also from Glendale, stole between \$30,000 and \$50,000 in jewelry from a

Woodside home.

The two men flew from Glendale to the Bay Area for two days on a travel package arranged by Mr. Sullivan's girlfriend. They rented a car and drove to Woodside, where they were captured on surveillance footage in front of the burglarized home.

The video shows one man going inside while the other stays behind to cover up the car's license plate — but not before it was caught on camera.

It took a year before investigators connected them to the burglary and searched their Arizona home. When they did, investigators found some of the jewelry taken during the burglary, according to prosecutors.

On July 21, a jury found Mr. Sullivan guilty of residential burglary, grand theft and a prior strike conviction. Mr. Sullivan is scheduled to be sentenced Sept. 10.

— Bay City News Service

## City has affordable housing funds

The city of Menlo Park wants developers of affordable rental housing to know that the city has close to \$7.8 million that it can contribute to projects that provide rental housing that will remain affordable for at least 55 years.

The money is from the city's Below Market Rate (BMR) program, which requires developers to either contribute money to the fund

or provide affordable housing units when they build new projects in Menlo Park.

Applicants have until Nov. 2 to apply for funding, which is not meant to cover the entire cost of a project, but to supplement other funding. The money can be used to help pay for the purchase, rehabilitation or construction of rental housing. The City Council will decide who gets the funding.

Developers must have already built two affordable housing projects. The goal is to provide rental housing for households earning 50 percent or less of the median income in San Mateo County.

The affordable part of a mixed-income project with both affordable and market rate rental units is eligible.

See [tinyurl.com/BMR-235](http://tinyurl.com/BMR-235) for more information. ■

— Barbara Wood

### CONTRACT

continued from page 10

station, he said.

As for an oversupply of job

applicants, the chief said that more than half don't show up for the evaluations, and many are unfamiliar with the qualifications. Applicants are winnowed

to those who indicate a strong interest in the district. ■

Go to [menlofire.org](http://menlofire.org) for details on the new contract.

## Susan Sheehan, equestrian, Woodside resident

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Susan Gail Sheehan, a nurse and longtime resident of Woodside, was compassionate, caring, giving, an active member of the Peninsula equestrian community and a true friend, her friends and family said. Ms. Sheehan died at home in Woodside on July 19 after a long illness. She was 74.

Ms. Sheehan found her calling as a nurse, first in the U.S. Army in Northern Italy, where she achieved the rank of captain, then as a public health nurse in Hawaii. She continued nursing at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Palo Alto, and also worked in hospice, as a grief counselor, and in support of people afflicted with Alzheimer's disease.

"She just loved helping people," her friend Debbie Tucker said.

Ms. Sheehan moved to Woodside from Texas in 1976. She was a founding member of the San Mateo County Volunteer Horse Patrol, a group of Peninsula equestrians who

patrol county parks, including Edgewood, Huddart and Wunderlich parks in Woodside, to "inform and assist" park visitors.

Among other local equestrian organizations, Ms. Sheehan was a member of the Happy Hoofers, the San Mateo County Horsemen's Association (where she was a past president), the San Francisco Horsemen's Association, the Los Viajeros Riding Club in Woodside and the Shack Riders.

Ms. Sheehan "did everything she could do to be of help to the horse community," and knew trails "like the back of her hand," Ms. Tucker said. "She was a trooper."

Ms. Sheehan also loved to snorkel and did so in Australia, Hawaii, Belize, Roatan (in Honduras) and Mexico.

Ms. Sheehan is survived by her sister Connie Grady, her extended family and her horse Boogie.

### OBITUARY

Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.

## Rosemary Peterson Lodato Nichols

Rosemary Peterson Lodato Nichols departed this world for a place she was greatly anticipating as she had no doubt her best friends and family were waiting for her there. Given her unique generosity of spirit and unwavering predisposition to human kindness, she is likely already busy cooking Swedish meatballs or dollar size buttermilk pancakes for all.

Born August 1929, she came from hearty Danish and Scottish stock, thus, in addition to her beautiful blonde locks and bright blue eyes, she was gifted the art of being a trooper all her life. A Bay Area native, Rosemary grew up in Hillsborough and San Francisco before settling in Menlo Park. She truly loved the local iconic golden hillsides with their towering oak trees. She attended San Mateo High School and went on to Stanford University, where she lived in Branner Hall, decked out in bobbysox and saddle shoes with her lifelong best friends.

It was there she met and married Frank Lodato, with whom she had four children. Given three of them were rambunctious boys who could put anyone's patience to the test, her trooper quality paid off. She smiled through the pet rats, the hidden motorcycle incident, the botched attempts at playing drums, french horn and piano, and her daughter's inappropriately short mini-skirts. She did request that the house be kept relatively neat. She packed hundreds of lunches, wrapped even more presents until 3 a.m. each Christmas Eve and consistently hosted family dinners for 40+ on holidays.

Rosemary was a consummate hostess and homemaker. Hers was the home that welcomed all. She planned activities for the kids, feasts for the adults and was adept at juxtaposing her roles as mother, partner, and friend. She went to Draeger's nearly every day, which always made it fun to open the fridge. If her family was happy, she was happy.

After she and her husband parted ways, she courageously went back to school to become a paralegal. Shortly thereafter, she met her beloved Bill Nichols, who gave her the jitters when he came to take her on dates. They met through Stanford

Singles, and to her dying day she encouraged her single offspring to follow suit, to give it a try.

Rosemary and Bill shared 27 wonderful years as a married couple, more if you count the years they tested the waters by living together, which she felt wasn't proper but went for anyway. They enjoyed their extended family most of all, hosting "Camp Nichols" for grandkids, traveling together to places near and far, attending Stanford games, and enjoying their book club, bridge club and lecture series.

In Bill, Ro found a true friend, deep love and committed partner.

Throughout her life, Rosemary volunteered at Allied Arts and was a devoted member of the local garden club, several bridge clubs, and her Presbyterian Church Women's Bible Study, all of which gave her joy and fueled her spirit. She was a Brownie and briefly a Girl Scout, but confided she created her own irreverent words to the pledge and songs because it was never for her.

She found her joy in savoring and appreciating all of the little things and moments in life. She went the extra mile to be there, to listen because she genuinely cared, to counsel wisely and to make someone happy. She favored Shakespeare's words "To Thine Own Self Be True." She managed to be simultaneously elegant and down to earth, always gracious, occasionally impish. Mostly, Rosemary was kind and loving; you felt it, you saw it in her twinkling eyes and easy smile.

Her family meant everything to her. She devoted herself to them. She is survived by her husband Bill, her children Tom and Kim Lodato, Jane Lodato, Doug Lodato, Mark and Valery Lodato; her step-children Debbie and John Hudson, John and Amy Nichols, Andy and Nancy Nichols; her grandchildren: Courtney and Adam Alberti; Kim and Zach Nye; Jordan, Sofia, Tyler and Sydney Lodato; Alexander Hudson; Micah Howard; Meg and Ellie Nichols, and her 7 great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers Rosemary requested donations be made to the TESS Foundation, a 501c3 organization.

[www.tessfoundation.org](http://www.tessfoundation.org)

TESS was founded by her Grandchildren.

PAID OBITUARY

# Psychologist writes of dealing with Alzheimer's in family

By Kate Daly

Special to the Almanac

Constance Vincent's late father suffered from dementia and now her 95-year-old mother is in the late stages of Alzheimer's disease. At 74, Ms. Vincent, a Menlo Park psychologist, fears she could one day lose her memory, too.

She recently self-published her first book, "Not Going Gently: A Psychologist Fights Back

Against Alzheimer's for Her Mother ... and Perhaps Herself."

Ms. Vincent has never been a practicing psychologist, but taught at Chapman and Santa Clara universities. She worked on a book about "how and why some people are capable of changing and others aren't," yet never published it.

After her mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2008 and placed in a memory care unit in Nevada, Ms. Vincent

talked to her on the phone several times a week "to stimulate her feelings," and then noticed "she was terribly lonely and depressed."

Ms. Vincent started taking notes and doing research on Alzheimer's. The end result is a 168-page paperback she authored using Amazon's CreateSpace print-on-demand service.

The book starts with her mother's decline, and how after moving several times into smaller and smaller places, "she lost all her belongings and felt under-stimulated and locked up."

Her mother had vision problems caused by untreated glaucoma and a cataract, and ended up in a wheelchair because she kept falling. Surgery eventually helped her regain some eyesight

and equilibrium.

Ms. Vincent is convinced "so much happened to my mother that should not have happened. There's better care than we're giving."

Alzheimer's disease is worse than cancer, she says, because it can't be cured. "It can be delayed," she adds, "but one must start early because deterioration of the brain starts at least two decades before."

She preaches and practices lifestyle and dietary changes to delay the possible onset of Alzheimer's. For example, she advocates regular aerobic exercise a minimum of 30 minutes a day five days a week.

She also advocates mental exercise. "I think you need something much more purposeful than playing a game," she says, encouraging people to take on new tasks and activities where "you're learning" a new instrument, language, art form, or information.

She follows the Mediterranean diet and advises staying away from

"the same things they tells us to avoid to prevent coronary heart disease, strokes and diabetes."

She suggests eating raw seeds and nuts, drinking green tea, and cutting back on animal proteins. She emphasizes the importance of getting plenty of B and D vitamins, glutathione, essential fatty acids and alpha lipoic acids.

Last summer she spent a day at UCSF, participating in a study on the aging brain and was relieved when the tester reassured her she was doing all right.

She has not sought out any genetic testing to see if she is carrying a higher risk for getting Alzheimer's. Instead she plans to continue leading an active life with her husband, Ed. ■

Go to [drclvincent.com](http://drclvincent.com) for more information on Ms. Vincent. She will speak at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 5, at a Menlo Park Library event in the Menlo Park City Council chambers.

## Joseph Ross McLoughlin

July 14, 1923 – August 4, 2015

Joe, a Menlo Park native, has passed away at age 92.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 66 years, Eleanor Lussier McLoughlin, his 5 daughters, 11 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

A memorial mass will be held on August 20, 2015 at 10am at The Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park.



PAID OBITUARY

## Thomas William Howarth

December 29, 1924 - July 8, 2015

passed away on July 8th, 2015 in Carmel, California. Born December 29, 1924 in Portland, Maine, he was 90 years old. Tom received his undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College in 1947 and received his MBA at Stanford University in 1949. He served as a 1st Lieutenant in the US Army in both World War II and the Korean War.

After the Korean War, Tom and his wife, Marilyn (Mimi), settled in Atherton and raised four boys. He was a local businessman, active in the residential and commercial real estate market on the SF peninsula. Throughout his whole life, Tom was an avid sportsman, outdoorsman and athlete. He played basketball and tennis in college. An excellent tennis player, fly fisherman, golfer and hunter, he was a long time member of Foothills Tennis and Swim Club, Menlo Country Club and the Gustine Gun Club.

Ono, as he became affectionately known to his grandchildren, was greatly admired and cherished by family and friends. He will be remembered for his sense of humor, infectious smile, unfathomable energy, zest for life and authentic humility. Ono is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Marilyn (Mimi) and their children Dave (Ann) Carmel, CA, Jeff (Brenda) Carmel, CA, Matt (Joan) Sonoma, CA and Tim (Sandi) Redwood City, CA. He will be missed by his five grandchildren, Megan (Matt Cooper), Sean (Katie), Ryan, Tyler, Dylan and his great grandson, Logan. There will be a private family celebration of his life.



PAID OBITUARY



Photo by Kate Daly  
**Menlo Park psychologist**  
Constance Vincent.

## Junior League partnership aims to boost girls in tech

The Junior League of Palo Alto-Mid Peninsula and Technovation, a mobile app entrepreneurship competition for girls, are partnering in a project to encourage more women to become technology entrepreneurs.

The partnership is part of the Junior League's "new narrowed community focus in the area, which is getting teenage girls in tech," said Joy Peacock, project developer for the Menlo Park-based league. "Studies have shown that if you really engage middle school girls in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), then you have a much better chance at them taking math and science courses in high school."

As part of this project, Junior League volunteers will contact local teachers, women in technology and leaders in the community to let them know about Technovation's competition and its free online curriculum. The league will be recruiting mentors for the program and holding events showcasing the work that Technovation does, Ms. Peacock said.

"It's sort of interesting that Technovation was really born in Silicon Valley, but they've gone global and they don't really have a strong presence here," Ms. Peacock said. "We're hoping to

### ■ BRIEFS

really raise their profile."

Email [communityvp@jlpamp.org](mailto:communityvp@jlpamp.org) for information on serving as a volunteer mentor.

Visit [technovationchallenge.org](http://technovationchallenge.org) for more information on the competition.

### Jackie Drew honored

Jackie Drew, secretary of the board of directors and long-time member of the Friends of the Menlo Park Library, was honored by the SRI Organon Toastmasters Club at its recent 35th anniversary celebration at Michael's restaurant in Mountain View.

Each year the club presents its Communication & Achievement Award to a person in the community, not a member of Toastmasters, who has served the community and improved the lives of others.

Ms. Drew became a volunteer at the library in 1987, after a career that included SRI. She has served as editor of the Friends' newsletter and is the originator of the Mystery Readers book group at the library.

Visit [sriorganon.com](http://sriorganon.com) or call Hal Huntley at 859-2236 for more information about the Toastmasters.

### Finigan named judge

Jeffrey R. Finigan, 47, who has been a deputy district attorney in San Mateo County since 2012, has been appointed as a San Mateo County Superior Court judge, replacing retired Judge Stephen M. Hall, Gov. Jerry Brown announced recently.

Mr. Finigan, a resident of San Francisco, also served as a deputy district attorney in San Mateo County from 1994 to 1999.

He was a senior associate at the law firm of Allen, Matkins, Leck, Gamble and Mallory LLP from 2000 to 2004, assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of California from 2004 to 2011, and an investigative counsel for the Troubled Asset Relief Program from 2011 to 2012.

Mr. Finigan, who holds a law degree from the University of San Francisco, is registered with no party preference and will be paid \$184,610 a year.



Jeffrey Finigan

The **Almanac**  
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### LET'S DISCUSS:

Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues on Town Square at [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com)

# Cal Water chair named president of Rotary Club foundation

Peter Nelson, chairman of the board of the California Water Service Group and its six subsidiaries, has been named president of the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation for the 2015-16 year.

A member of the Rotary Club of Menlo Park since 2009, Mr. Nelson served as president and chief executive officer of Cal Water for 17 years, prior to becoming chairman in 2013. During that time, Cal Water grew from being solely a California company to a four-state operation.

Cal Water says it's now the largest water company operating in the western states, and the third largest in the United States.

As foundation president, Mr. Nelson oversees fundraising and distribution of funds to community service projects from its \$2.5 million endowment.

"From the college scholarship program to providing dictionaries to third-graders, Rotarians continue to impress me with all they do," Mr. Nelson said.

The Rotary Club of Menlo Park, chartered in 1947, is expanding its list of community service projects and acquiring more members,



Foundation President Peter Nelson and Club President Michelle Tsui.

said club president, Michelle Tsui. "This is a perfect time to have the leadership of Mr. Nelson at the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation," she said.

Among its community service projects, the Rotary Club of Menlo Park has a scholarship program for high school graduates going on to college, and recently started

a community garden project in the Belle Haven community. The club holds two major fundraising events annually: the "Taste of Menlo & beyond" food, wine and music benefit in June and the "Tour de Menlo" bike ride in August.

Go to [menloparkrotary.org](http://menloparkrotary.org) for more information.

## Helen Hausman

Helen Hausman passed away on August 3rd, 2015, surrounded by her children, grandchildren, and husband of 70 years. She was 91 years old--and lived a remarkable life.



Born in the Bronx in 1924, Helen was raised in Brooklyn with her three sisters, and was a product of the flapper generation. She loved to dance and perform in community theater, such as the lead role in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Her striking red hair, intellect, and passion for life truly set her apart.

A true trailblazer, Helen attended George Washington University during a time when few women pursued college. While in Washington D.C., Helen met her husband Arthur, and three months after their first date they were married. She would joke that she had a "live-in tutor" in reference to Arthur, an engineer, who helped her with her statistics courses. After traveling the United States, the two settled in Atherton, California. There they raised three children, two girls and a boy, the oldest of whom has tragically passed.

Helen devoted her life to incredible causes. She served on the board of the American Red Cross, where she helped set up the organization's liaison with China. A diligent educational activist, Helen was an active board member of the San Mateo Community College for a series of decades, and in that time helped to raise \$1 Billion for the San Mateo School District. Additionally, she was elected to the San Mateo Women's Hall of Fame.

She is survived by her husband Arthur, daughter Cathy, son Ken, and two grandchildren, Sarah and Sam.

Helen's warmth and joie de vivre brought people together, and we hope to celebrate her vivacious spirit as a community. Memorial Services were held at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills on August 9, 2015.

PAID OBITUARY

# Frank Vitale, firefighter and maitre d'

A memorial to celebrate the life of Frank Tom Vitale was held Aug. 9 at St. Denis Catholic Church in Menlo Park.

Mr. Vitale, who died May 12, was a firefighter for the Menlo Park Fire Protection District for a decade and a resident of Menlo Park and Atherton for 15 years, his family said. He was 84.

Frank Vitale was a native of San Francisco, attended school in the Ravenswood City Elementary and Sequoia Union High School districts, and joined the U.S. Marine Corp in 1947, from which he was honorably discharged in 1950.

Among his careers, along with firefighting, Mr. Vitale owned and tended a bar in Santa Cruz, managed food services in national parks in California and Missouri, taught at a culinary institute in Baltimore, and was a maitre d' at the Bohemian Club in San Francisco and the Bohemian Grove summer camp.

He enjoyed cooking and being with friends and family, and made a deep impression on people, his family said.

Mr. Vitale is survived by daughters Tony and Frankie of Los Angeles and Vicky of Alaska; and son Danny of Australia.

The family recommends that donations in Mr. Vitale's

### OBITUARY

Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.

memory be made to the Jack McGovern Coats Dis-

ease Foundation at 20 Park Road, Suite #E in Burlingame, 94010, and the local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

## Melvin Anisman

1935-2014

Melvin Anisman was born in Borger Texas, graduated from East Side High School Denver. Obtained his BS at Houston University in Texas.

He served in the National Guard as a 2nd Lt.

Married Carla Priola Anisman from Treviso Italy. They made their home in Woodside. He is survived by his daughter Sarah and grandson Samuel Liam and Carla.

Melvin served on the Board of the Salvation Army in Redwood City. Member of the Rotary Club of Redwood City. Member of the A&A Scottish Rite of Freemasonry SJ USA. Member of the B'NAI B'RITH International Arthur Blum Lodge.

Melvin commuted to work for many years from Woodside to Pampa to work at S&M OIL Company as a CEO.

He passed away at Bayview Villa San Carlos on the 24th of July and he is resting at Oak Hill Cemetery in San Jose.

Melvin was a very charitable man. A celebration of his life will be held at Temple Beth-Am in Los Altos on the 13th of August 2015 at 3p.m.

Donations can be made in Melvin's memory to Rotary Club of Redwood City or Salvation Army of Redwood City.

He will be missed by many mostly from his grandson Liam, daughter Sarah, Chris, Randy, Robert, Judy, niece Teresa, Angela, brother in law Alfredo and sister in law Rina and his wife Carla.



PAID OBITUARY

## Doyle Howard Maness

January 27, 1935 - July 25, 2015

Doyle Howard Maness, 80, passed away peacefully at Stanford Hospital on July 25 due to complications from cancer. He was surrounded by family and friends in his final days. Doyle will be greatly missed by his stepsons David Wood of San Mateo, Jason Wood of Menlo Park, their respective wives Elisabeth and Bobbie, as well as five grandchildren, Henri, Harper, Lucy, Will and Vivienne. He was pre-deceased by his significant other, Barbara Wood.



Doyle, an only child, was born on January 27, 1935 in Cheyenne, Wyoming and raised there by his parents Doyle and Catherine. He graduated from the University of Wyoming with a BSEE in Electrical Engineering. While in college, Doyle was a member of ROTC and Kappa Sigma. Afterwards, he served as a commissioned officer in the Army Reserve, retiring with the rank of Captain. Doyle also worked at NASA. In the late 1960s Doyle relocated to the Bay Area, where he remained for the rest of his life, and worked as an engineer at Hewlett Packard for over 30 years. He led a very active lifestyle that included tennis, skiing and golf. Doyle also owned a sail boat and was once part of a crew that sailed to Hawaii. In later years, Doyle and Barbara travelled frequently, and after Barbara's passing due to cancer, Doyle was a financial supporter of the American Cancer society and frequently volunteered to assist with its events. A service for family and friends will be held on Wednesday, August 19 at 10:30 A.M., at the Jennings Pavillon at Holbrook Palmer Park in Atherton. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

PAID OBITUARY

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# Filing deadline extended for four local elections

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

As the list of candidates for the Nov. 3 election settles, the governing boards of four local public agencies will have extended candidate filing deadlines. Three will have contested elections — more candidates running than there are open seats.

The filing period for incumbents closed Friday, Aug. 7. The filing deadline for seats for which an incumbent did not file is the close of business Wednesday, Aug. 12.

The filing deadline is extended for three of the four open seats on the seven-member Woodside Town Council, including the



seat now occupied by Mayor Tom Shanahan, who represents District 3. Nancy Reyerling, a member of the Architectural and Site Review Board, took out candidate papers on Aug. 10, Town Clerk Janet Koelsch said.

Daniel Yost is running for the seat now occupied by Ron Romines (District 1), and Tom Livermore is running for Dave Burow's seat (District 5). Mr. Romines is retiring after 10 years on the council; Mr. Burow said that after serving two terms, he wants to give someone else a chance.

Incumbent Peter Mason has filed to continue to represent District 7.

The extended filing deadline also applies to the Portola Valley Elementary School District board, where incumbents Jocelyn Swisher and Linda Wong did not file,

## Three contested elections ahead.

according to the county Elections Office. Robin Paul Murray had taken out candidacy papers but had not yet filed as of Aug. 10.

The filing deadline has also been extended for the West Bay Sanitary District board race, according to the Elections Office. Incumbent Ronald Shepherd is not running, and the candidates so far for the three open seats are incumbents David A. Walker and Fran Dehn and newcomer Rich Kinder.

The filing deadline has also been extended for the San Mateo County Community College District board race. Incumbents Dave Mandelkern and Karen Schwarz filed, but incumbent Patricia Miljanich did not. The

two challengers in a contest for that seat are Ramiro Maldonado and Mark J. De Paula.

## Two more contests

Contested elections are also ahead for the boards of the Woodside Elementary School District and the Sequoia Union High School District.

In the Woodside school district, challenger Joel Hornstein is running along with incumbents Silvia Ferroni Edwards and Kevin Johnson.

In the Sequoia district, three incumbents — Carrie Du Bois, Laura Martinez and Allen Weiner — are running for re-election. Their challengers are Georgia S. Jack and Noria Zasslow.

## Uncontested elections

Candidates who filed for posts on the Portola Valley Town Council, the Woodside and

Menlo Park fire protection districts, and the Ladera Recreation District are unchallenged.

In the case of uncontested elections, the governing board has the option of voting on the question of whether or not to hold an election.

Incumbents Mayor Jeff Aalfs and Councilwoman Ann Wengert are running for re-election to the Portola Valley council.

Virginia Chang Kiraly and Rob Silano, both incumbents, are running for re-election to the Menlo Park Fire Protection District board.

The Woodside Fire Protection District has three incumbents running for three seats: Pat Cain, John Gardner and Matt Miller.

Karen Fryling and Randy Cook are running for two seats on the board of the Ladera Recreation District. ■

## Vehicle impound problem: City manager says he'll look into it

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

### ■ MENLO PARK

Legislation is in the works in Sacramento that could ease the pain of impoverished drivers who see their vehicles impounded because they're driving with a suspended license.

The issue has resonance in Menlo Park. The police department came under particular scrutiny in a June 17 story, "Driving with suspended license top crime in Menlo Park, many lose cars," by the Peninsula Press, a project of the Stanford Journalism Program. The story received more attention Aug. 5 when KQED broadcast a news segment on it.

In the story, reporter Farida Jhabvala Romero described the plight of drivers from the Belle Haven neighborhood, mostly Latino and African American, who struggle to maintain their livelihoods after being cited and having their vehicles impounded and towed away.

A change in city policy is not out of the question, City Manager Alex McIntyre said, depending on what his research turns up.

In the story, Cmdr. Dave Bertini of the Menlo Park police says that his department concentrated traffic enforcement patrols in Belle Haven in response to residents' complaints in 2013 about bad drivers. As a result, most of Menlo Park's citations for suspended licenses in recent years have occurred in Belle Haven.

Suspended licenses are often a consequence of not having the money to pay a traffic ticket and the late fees that accompany not paying it. A state law enacted in 1995 gave police officers the authority to impound the vehicles of people driving with suspended licenses, Cmdr. Bertini said, and when the vehicle is impounded, it sits in storage at a cost of \$60 to \$80 a day, adding to the driver's woes.

A judge might help people in these circumstances, but an appearance in court often requires that fines and fees be paid first, the story says.

"To me," state Sen. Jerry Hill told the Almanac, "the issue is making sure that policies do not criminalize poverty." Senate Bill 405, by Sen. Robert Hertzberg, D-Sherman Oaks, is moving through the Legislature. SB 405 would not require that fines be paid before seeing a judge, and would allow certain types of suspensions to be lifted if the person has established a payment plan.

This is the 10th bill on impounded-vehicle law since 2000, and most have died in committee, according to information provided by Sen. Hill's office. Safety on the road is the issue, Sen. Hill said. An analysis of Assembly Bill 335, which died in 2014, acknowledges the pain to low-income families of having a vehicle impounded, but adds that drivers with suspended licenses "pose an elevated

risk to all other road users" and that "impoundments are an effective public safety tool."

Research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the DMV concludes that drivers with suspended licenses are at least three times more likely to cause a fatal accident than the average licensed driver, and that impounding their vehicles results in substantial reductions in traffic violations and crashes, the analysis says.

In an analysis of SB 405, Sen. Hertzberg says that "a stagger-

ing number of Californians" have no access to courts after a traffic citation. "As a result of unclear policy and high fees, drivers do not have the opportunity to see a judge and essentially lose their right to due process," he says, adding that his bill would allow 4.2 million Californians to have their licenses reinstated.

City Manager McIntyre said he was going to look into Menlo Park's \$300 vehicle-release fee to determine whether it was "out of whack" and whether or not that fee was contributing

to the problem. According to the Peninsula Press story, San Diego's fee is \$54 and Sacramento's is \$180.

Cmdr. Bertini reiterated what he said in the Peninsula Press story: that when he was patrolling the streets of Pacifica, he would try to get drivers to take the ticketing process seriously. But, he added, people run afoul of the process for all sorts of reasons.

"If people think it's unfair, then they need to talk with their legislators," he said. "We don't make the laws, we enforce them. They know they are rolling the dice every time they drive." ■

## Helen Hausman, career in education governance

### OBITUARY

Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.

A service was held Aug. 9 at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills to remember Helen Hausman, an Atherton resident and former longtime member of the governing boards for the local high school district and community college district.

Ms. Hausman died Aug. 3 surrounded by her family. She was 91.

Born in the Bronx and raised in Brooklyn with three sisters, she was a dancer in her youth and performed in community theater, including



Helen Hausman

the lead in the Tennessee Williams play, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."

"Her striking red hair, intellect, and passion for life truly set her apart," her family said.

She attended George Washington University and met her future husband while in Washington, D.C. The couple traveled the United States and eventually set up housekeeping in Atherton, where they raised three children.

"Helen's warmth and joie de vivre brought people together," her family said.

Ms. Hausman began her

career in education as a teacher in Maryland, and she held a number of leadership positions in state and local PTAs.

She served 13 years on the board of the Sequoia Union High School District and 23 years on the board of the San Mateo County Community College District. She retired in 2013.

Ms. Hausman also served on the board of the American Red Cross and helped establish the organization's liaison with China. She was a member of the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Ms. Hausman is survived by her husband Arthur, daughter Cathy, son Ken and two grandchildren.



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