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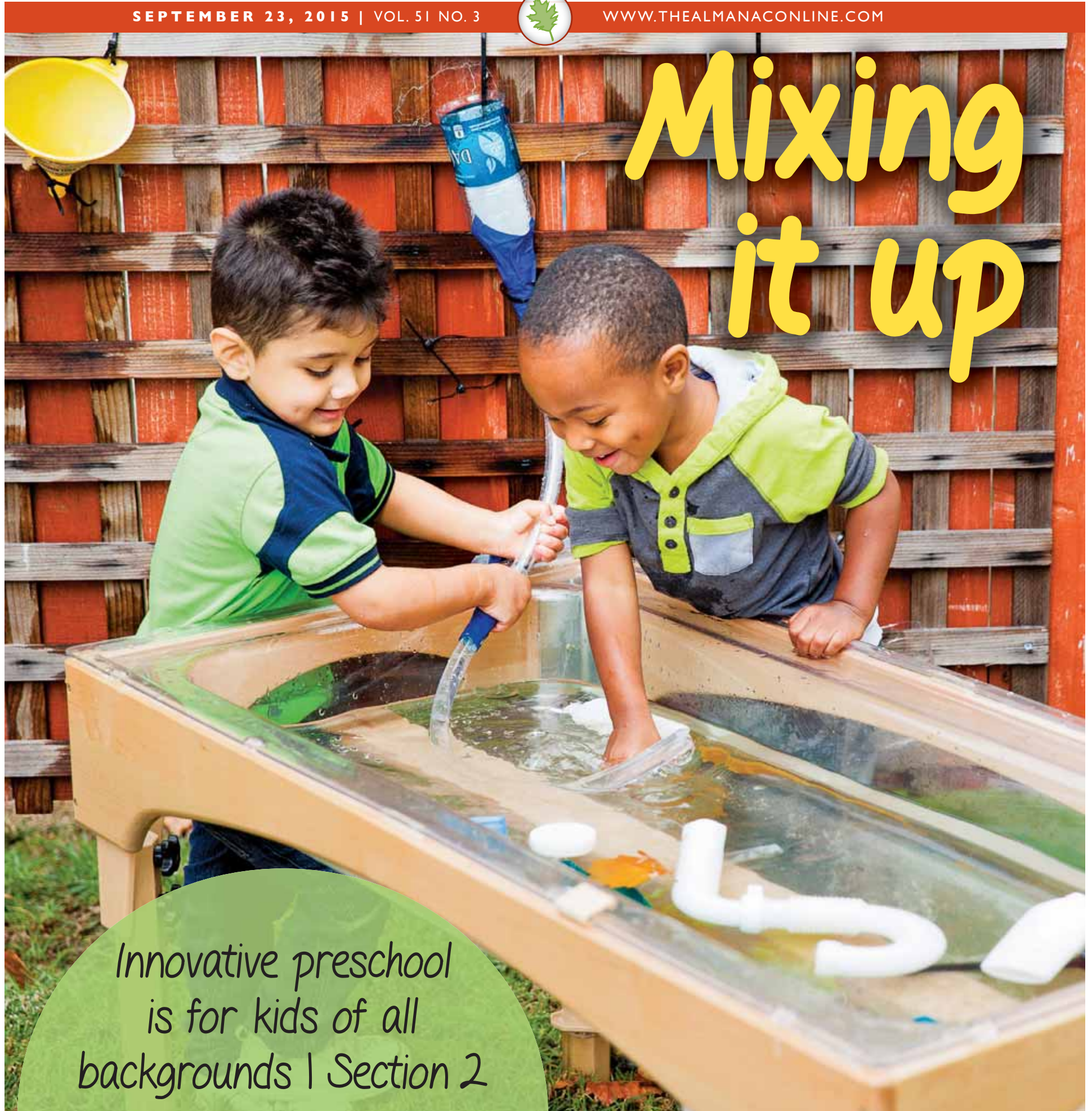
THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

SEPTEMBER 23, 2015 | VOL. 51 NO. 3

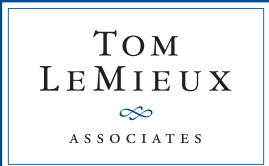


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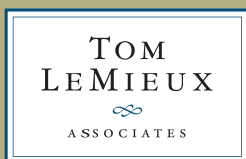
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Confronting challenges of teen mental health, stress, suicide

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

As in Garrison Keillor's Lake Wobegon, many parents in the heart of Silicon Valley see their children as all above average, well above average. Those parents' incomes, educational levels and aspirations for their children are also well above average.

On Monday night, more than 350 people gathered at Sacred Heart Prep in Atherton to hear a panel talk about concerns affecting those above-average children: their mental health, the stress they are under, and what can be done to improve the former, relieve the latter, and ultimately, combat teen suicides.

The event was put together by StarVista, a San Carlos non-profit organization that provides counseling, skill development and crisis prevention services to children, youth, adults and families.

Three of the panelists are parents at Palo Alto's Gunn High School, where a number of students have died by suicide in recent years. Julie Lythcott-Haims is the author of "How to Raise an Adult" and the parent of a freshman and a junior at Gunn. Kathleen Blanchard is an attorney whose son John Paul was a junior at Gunn in 2009 when he died by suicide. Her youngest child is now a senior at Gunn. Dr. Steven Adelsheim is a Stanford School of Medicine child psychiatrist and director of community partnerships, and parent of a Gunn freshman.

Ms. Lythcott-Haims said her book, which came out three months ago, was inspired by her 10 years as a dean of freshman students at Stanford University, where she worked with close to 17,000 students. There she saw "among my well-heeled, affluent students, every year an increasing number who were accomplished on paper ... but less and less familiar with themselves," she said. They seemed to be unable to deal with setbacks and



Photo courtesy StarVista

Panelists at the "Navigating the Tides of Adolescence" forum, from left, are Gunn High School parent Kathleen Blanchard, social media expert Yalda Uhls, and Julie Lythcott-Haims, author of "How to Raise an Adult."

"to be scanning the sidelines all the time for mom and dad."

In speaking with her colleagues across the country, she found out "this was happening everywhere, in communities primarily of affluence, where parents have grown quite accustomed to being involved in the lives of their kids," she said. "Why are so many parents involved in the lives of their college-age sons and daughters?" Ms. Lythcott-Haims asked. "Why don't they seem to trust their kids?"

"I wanted to know what was going on," she said.

What she found, she said, is that beginning about 20 years ago, parents "decided we know best what will lead to our kids' success." What this has grown to include, she said, is the right grades, the right classes, the right schools, tutoring, coaching, homework, sports, drama, music, dance, community service and more; sometimes lots more. "We expect them to be perfect at all of this — perfect in a way we never were," Ms. Lythcott-Haims said.

"In communities like ours, children are effectively breath-

less, or worse, through this process," she said. "We give them the message that your perfection is what's good enough."

"Where does this lead?" she asked. Administrators at Harvard and Stanford say today's students are "failure deprived," she said, and need to be taught resilience. They are, she said, "a set of students who made it to where everyone told them they should go, but the minute something goes badly they have absolutely no wherewithal to deal with it."

The statistics are bleak. She talked about a survey conducted annually of nearly 80,000 students at 140 campuses by the American College Health Association. (About 26 percent of the students responded to the survey.)

The percentages of students who said that at least once in 2014 they had the feeling referred to include: 86.4 percent who "felt overwhelmed by all they had to do," 62 percent who "felt very sad," 46.4 percent who "felt things were hopeless," 32.6 percent who "felt so depressed it

See **TEEN STRESS**, page 8

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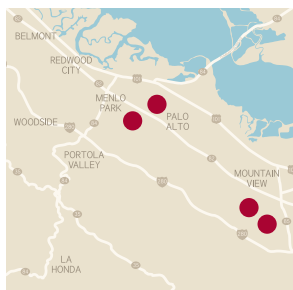


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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Threat to cyclists: Tacks scattered on roads

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Bicyclists have a nemesis roaming the upper reaches of Kings Mountain Road in unincorporated Woodside, according to some cyclists who travel that road regularly. The routine appears to be the same every time: some unknown person scatters carpet tacks on the roadway, giving flat tires to the cyclists who pass over them.

On Saturday, Sept. 12, a group of about 15 cyclists on the Bakery Ride — a morning ride to the coast and back that begins at the Woodside Bakery — discovered tacks in their tires when they reached Skyline Boulevard.

The incident began some minutes earlier on Kings Mountain Road. “Life was fine and dandy, and we got near the

top and one of us pulled over with a flat tire,” Woodside resident Bruce Matheson said.

Mr. Matheson and the other riders continued up the hill, and when they paused at the top to wait for their partner, they checked their tires. Seven bikes had tacks in the tires, he said.

The tacks had not penetrated far enough to cause flats, but represented a significant hazard in that they could puncture a tube on a curve on a fast downhill slope and send a rider tumbling, Portola Valley resident and bicycle commuter Nate McKitterick said.

Mr. McKitterick, who is also on the Portola Valley Planning Commission, was not one of the riders that morning but alerted the Almanac about this hazard. He said he first heard about tacks on the roads in 2012.

“Some people don’t realize they have a (tack) in their tire right away, some (tires go) flat immediately,” he said in an email. “Getting a flat tire going

Cyclists say the tacks can cause flat tires, a hazard in that hilly Woodside area.

down KMR, with both oncoming traffic and an unforgiving road surface, is a frightening prospect.”

All seven riders on the Bakery Ride got off their bikes and replaced the tubes in the affected tires, Mr. Matheson said. One rider called the Sheriff’s Office, he said. On the return trip, they took a different route.

The Sheriff’s Office turned

the matter over to the California Highway Patrol, which has jurisdiction over traffic there.

Officer Art Montiel of the CHP said its office received a call shortly after 9 a.m. on Sept. 12 about “a large amount of tacks or small nails all over the roadway on Kings Mountain Road,” at a spot a mile or so east of Skyline Boulevard. The CHP asked county public works staff to sweep the roadway “as the tacks were small and hard to see,” Mr. Montiel said.

This was not the first call to the county public works department about tacks on the road in the vicinity of Kings Mountain Road. “We received three reports to my knowledge of tacks or nails ... in the past couple of months,” said Joe LoCoco, the county’s deputy director of road services. “Each time, we sent crews to investi-

gate, but were unable to find any tacks or nails on the road. The last couple of times, we also spoke with several cyclists who hadn’t noticed anything during their rides.”

If they had found tacks, the crew would have swept them up with the tools at hand, not a street sweeper, Mr. LoCoco said.

About six weeks ago, Menlo Park resident Andrew Valentine ran over a dark “extremely sharp” tack while on Skyline Boulevard just south of Kings Mountain Road, he told the Almanac. Four days later, a woman riding with the Menlo Bike Club went flat in the same spot, from a dark tack, Mr. Valentine said.

The CHP has opened an investigation. Anyone with information should call Officer Furhman at 650-369-6261, Mr. Montiel said. ■

Downtown pop-up park trial ends soon in Menlo

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

As summer winds to a close, so will lounging in the pop-up park in downtown Menlo Park — perhaps, but not definitely, forever. Following a six-week pilot period, the small turf paseo situated on Chestnut Street between Menlo and Santa Cruz avenues will be dismantled between Sept. 28 and 30. The road is expected to reopen on Sept. 30 or Oct. 1.

“Our goal was to create something fun for Menlo Park and try it out and see what people thought,” said Jim Cogan, Menlo Park economic development manager.

He said that the pilot was met with mixed responses, as expected. Some people enjoyed the city’s efforts to draw people to a new, pedestrian-friendly space downtown, while others were dissatisfied that the road had been blocked.

The next step of the pilot will be to gather community feedback about the paseo using a survey that is expected to be released in early October.

The trial met mixed responses. Some enjoyed it. Others were unhappy that the road was blocked.

After results are collected, they will be shared with relevant city commissions — the Bicycle Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission and Transportation Commission — before recommendations are made to the City Council about whether the paseo should become a permanent fixture.

After some discussion during the Sept. 14 Bicycle Commission meeting, commission members recommended that the paseo be made permanent in some fashion, Mr. Cogan said.

In the meantime, residents are encouraged to take final advantage of the space by attending the last screening in the free Menlo Movie Series, “Cinderella,” at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25. ■



Photo by Andrea Gemmet

A worker removes barriers that prevented eastbound traffic on Ravenswood Avenue from turning right onto Alma Street in Menlo Park.

Intersection cleared of right-turn barriers

By Kate Bradshaw
and Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writers

The controversial barriers that prevented eastbound traffic on Ravenswood Avenue in Menlo Park

from turning right on Alma Street were removed by the city on Sept. 15, closing out that part of a trial to change traffic circulation in the area.

The goal of the trial was to make the nearby Ravenswood Avenue railroad crossing safer,

but the city has evidence the right-turn barriers at Alma Street may have actually made the crossing more dangerous.

The left-turn barriers that block northbound Alma Street traffic from turning left onto westbound Ravenswood Avenue will remain for the rest of the six-month trial period, which began in June, said the city’s Transportation Manager

See **BARRIERS**, page 12

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Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Happy birthday, Kepler's!

The cake attracts a crowd at Kepler's Books 60th anniversary party at the Menlo Park bookstore on Saturday, Sept. 19.



REQUEST FOR BIDS

TOWN OF ATHERTON
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

TOWN OF ATHERTON MICROFICHE DOCUMENT IMAGING CONVERSION PROJECT

Notice is hereby given that bids will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027, until 3:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY, October 21st, 2015.

Town of Atherton is requesting bids from qualified, experienced firms in the State of California to provide document imaging conversion services of the Town's Historic Microfiche Permit Records.

Bids for the work must be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for TOWN OF ATHERTON MICROFICHE DOCUMENT IMAGING CONVERSION PROJECT", along with date and time of bid due date.

Request for Bid may be obtained at the Town of Atherton's website at www.ci.atherton.ca.us under <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/bids.aspx> at no cost.

The Town of Atherton reserves the right to refuse any or all bids.

Any questions regarding the project should be directed to Brett Hale, Building Official, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA 94027, telephone (650) 752-0518, preferably no later than October 7th 2015.

By: _____
Brett Hale, Building Official

Date: _____

Wild parrots spotted in Menlo Park

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

Every morning, Seth Watkins lays peanuts in his driveway on Arbor Road in Menlo Park to feed the neighboring crows and jays. On Tuesday, Sept. 15, at around 9:15 a.m., he noticed something wasn't right. He couldn't see any crows, but he did hear a loud squawking sound.

He looked up to see what was making the noise.

"That's when I saw the birds," he said.

A flock of five parrots, which Mr. Watkins later identified as cherry-headed conures, flew about 30 feet over his head.

Later that evening, a raucous flock of six to 10 wild parrots was again reported in Menlo Park, this time outside of Trader Joe's on Menlo Avenue. Shoppers and birdwatchers alike took in the sight, including Redwood City resident and lifelong birdwatcher Paul Carroll, who knew a sighting of these wild non-native birds was unusual. He dove into some research.

According to Mr. Carroll, the birds likely came from one of the two known nearby colonies

of wild parrots that roost in San Francisco or Sunnyvale. The San Francisco flock was the subject of a 2003 documentary titled, "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill," and the Sunnyvale colony has been documented in the area since 2008.

However, he found no indication that anyone had ever seen these birds in the wild in Menlo Park before.

While he is confident the birds he saw were parrots, Mr. Carroll believed that the birds may have been a species called mitred parakeets. Both cherry-headed conures and mitred parakeets are known by signature splashes of red on their faces.

"Maybe they were checking out Menlo Park as a place to live," he said.

Mr. Watkins echoed Mr. Carroll's enthusiasm for the new avian visitors.

"Now that we have wild parrots in Menlo Park, I'd like to see some emus," he said.

Unfortunately, neither birdwatcher was able to get any pictures. If any of our readers spot the birds and take pictures, please email two or three to the Almanac at editor@AlmanacNews.com

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Atherton council member swims from Alcatraz to San Francisco

By **Barbara Wood**
Almanac Staff Writer

Being a politician, even a local politician in a community as small as Atherton, which has a population of around 7,000, can require a tough skin.

Atherton Councilman Bill Widmer, who is serving his second term on the council, can now claim he's proved his toughness off the job as well as on. On Sept. 13, Mr. Widmer swam from Alcatraz to San Francisco, 1.25 miles in frigid water, finishing in 37 minutes and 31 seconds.

"You are ferried out to just off the island and jump (or get pushed) off the boat in groups of three every 3 to 5 seconds," Mr. Widmer said. "Then you swim through the fog, cold and waves to Aquatic Park."

He finished 80th out of 834 swimmers.

Mr. Widmer said he has been training for the swim since



Photo courtesy Bill Widmer

Bill Widmer, right, an Atherton City Council member, with Buddy Arnheim of Palo Alto, a member of his Mermen team, after they finished a 1.25-mile swim from Alcatraz to Aquatic Park on Sept. 13.

early February, swimming 3,000 yards four times a week.

"It was a great experience, but fighting the currents can be a lonely experience when you look out over the gray bay with no one around," he said.

Mr. Widmer said that it was

the first time he and two other members of his five-man team (the Mermen) tried the swim. Other team members, all from Palo Alto, are Buddy Arnheim, Alex Kaplinski, Jon Ward and Chuck York. All five finished in under 40 minutes. **A**

Almanac news website back online after cyber attack

The five online news sites of Embarcadero Media Group, including AlmanacNews.com, were hacked Thursday night, Sept. 17, at about 10:30 p.m.

Embarcadero Media took down the websites while working to restore them and put them back online by Friday afternoon.

The sites, which provide online content for the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac and Mountain View Voice on the Midpeninsula and the Pleasanton Weekly in the East Bay, were attacked by someone who used an image of Guy Fawkes, the icon of the activist group Anonymous.

There is no indication that the email addresses and passwords of readers who are registered users of the company's websites were hacked, but the perpetrators did have access to those data files, which could have been taken, according to Embarcadero President and CEO Bill Johnson. He advised readers who are registered users to change their passwords and, if they use the same password on other sites, to change all of them.

The company does not store any credit card information on its computer systems, so that data is not at risk, he said.

The hacker posted a message that indicated disgruntlement

with The Almanac, which covers Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside: "Greetings, this site has been hacked. Embarcadero Media Group (Almanac) (sic) has failed to remove content that has been harmful to the well-being and safety of others. Failure to honor all requests to remove content will lead to the permanent

The FBI and officers from the Palo Alto and Mountain View police departments are investigating the attack.

shutdown of all Embarcadero Media Group websites."

As part of the hack, each website's URL was replaced with this text: "Unbalanced journalism for profit at the cost of human right. Brought to you by the Almanac."

The message concluded with language used by Anonymous: "We do not forgive, we do not forget, we are legion."

However, according to Forbes Magazine journalist Parmy Olson, who has written extensively about the group, one of the collective's rules is not attacking the media. In addition, no specific objection to an article or posted

information was provided by the hacker.

The FBI and officers from the Palo Alto and Mountain View police departments are investigating the attack, Mr. Johnson said.

He called the incident a "sophisticated and elaborate attack aimed at inflicting extensive damage."

"Fortunately, numerous backups and safeguards, and a quick response by our IT team, were able to prevent even more serious harm to the company's operations," he said.

While the websites were down, the newspaper staffs published on Facebook, Twitter and Issuu.com. All the websites were restored from backups that are routinely made, and no content is expected to have been lost.

Embarcadero Media Group is headquartered at 450 Cambridge Ave. in Palo Alto. The private, independent media company publishes The Almanac, which covers Menlo Park, Atherton, Woodside and Portola Valley; the Mountain View Voice, which covers the city of Mountain View; the Palo Alto Weekly, which covers Palo Alto and East Palo Alto; and the Pleasanton Weekly, which covers Pleasanton. In addition to weekly print editions, it also operates websites, including DanvilleSanRamon.com, and produces daily emailed news editions, Express. The PaloAlto app for iPhone and Android phones can be accessed through iTunes and the Google Play Store.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Pricing

Dear Monica: I am frustrated by the way some properties have ridiculously low list prices and everyone knows the selling price will be much higher. When I see such a property it makes me not want to make an offer because it will be such a shot in the dark. Do you have any advice that would help me?

Regina K

Dear Regina: I know it is hard for buyers when this happens. They look to the list price to offer some guidance as to both what the seller wants to sell the property for as well as an indication of its likely value. Some agents price their listings way below the

market value and never intend to sell it close to that price. Many buyers, unqualified to buy it at its true value, make offers, creating a frenzy of activity. The serious buyers have to work harder to understand the market so they can make a successful offer.

If you really like a property priced way too low, I would encourage you to make a reasonable offer based on your understanding of market value. If you are lukewarm on the property, I would advise you to let it go and to save your energy for a property you really like.

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

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Atherton moves ahead with new stoplight for El Camino

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

By next spring, bicyclists, pedestrians and fire trucks should all find it easier to negotiate at least one of Atherton's deadly crossings of El Camino Real, if Atherton's plans to install a pedestrian-activated stoplight at Almedral Avenue go as planned.

Atherton's City Council on Sept. 16 approved putting plans out to bid for a pedestrian-activated stoplight that can also be used by fire vehicles and bicycles to get across El Camino Real at Almedral Avenue. The board of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District had earlier in the week agreed to pay half the approximately \$330,000 cost.

The stoplight will remain dark unless activated by a pedestrian or bicyclist, or remotely by a fire vehicle. Once activated it will go through a yellow and red cycle just as conventional signals do.

The town will put the project out to bid as soon as a Caltrans signs off on the encroachment permit needed for the town to do work in the state highway's right-of-way.

Atherton has been pressing Caltrans, which has responsibility for El Camino Real, to make safety improvements for years after a number of serious and fatal pedestrian and

bicyclist accidents on the state highway. Caltrans agreed to install two pedestrian-activated stoplights on El Camino at Isabella and Alejandra avenues. However, despite political pressure from the town, Caltrans does not plan to install the stoplights until 2017.

When 32-year-old Atherton resident Shahriar Rahimzadeh was fatally injured in July 2014 crossing El Camino at Almedral Avenue, the city decided to try something else: paying for the pedestrian-activated stoplight itself. This time the process is proceeding more quickly.

The town had anticipated the light would cost \$330,000; but with the fire district contribution each will pay approximately \$165,000. The district has a station on Almedral Avenue and has said it would like to use the signal to allow emergency vehicles to more easily get through the intersection.

Community Services Director Michael Kashiwagi said that if the town receives an encroachment permit from Caltrans within the next month, construction could start in late January or early February and be done by early spring.

At the meeting some council members asked if the design of the light could be slightly modified; but City Attorney William Connors said that changing an



Graphic courtesy town of Atherton

This graphic shows what the stoplight on El Camino Real at Almedral Avenue would look like, looking northbound. The light will remain dark unless activated by pedestrians, bicyclists or the firefighters.

Fire district will pay half the cost of pedestrian-activated light.

industry standard could leave the town with liability.

Mayor Rick DeGolia said he welcomed the chance to actually see safety improve on El Camino, both for bicyclists and pedestrians and fire vehicles. "I think it provides increased safety for our residents," he said. "I don't want to judge what's right and what's wrong. I want to get the thing in there."

Once the light is in place, the town can see if the design

should be refined for the other installations, he said.

Council member Mike Lempres agreed. "We should get it done," he said.

Fire Chief Schapelhouman said he had recommended the fire board approve the cost-sharing arrangement because the light "will improve the ability and safety of first responders from Fire Station 3" as well as "improve response times to the community."

Chief Schapelhouman said the district had been exploring safety improvements for the intersection of Almedral and El Camino for more than a decade. Driving fire vehicles from the station across as many as six lanes of traffic on El Camino could be "challenging on certain days and times of the week," he said.

Station 3 is at 32 Almedral Ave., several blocks west of El Camino near Park Avenue. ▀

Confronting challenges of teen stress and suicide

continued from page 3

was difficult to function," and 8.1 percent who "seriously considered suicide." Almost every number was worse than in 2013, the year Ms. Lythcott-Haims uses for statistics in her book.

And what do those students have to say? Ms. Lythcott-Haims said that as she has been visiting communities across the country to talk about her book, she has been trying to speak to students before she speaks to their parents. She asks them what they want her to tell their parents.

"Here's what they say," she said. "Don't plan my entire life for me." "Don't judge us when we take a break." "Stop comparing me to others in my grade." "Trust me in choosing a college that's right for me." "On the way to success there will be failure." "All we need is support, we don't need you to do it for us." "Life is

not a video game and it's not all about getting to the next level."

"This holy grail of admission into elite colleges" has something to do with it, Ms. Lythcott-Haims said. "I've learned that this really narrow mindset about what kind of colleges we want our kids to go to is harming our kids."

What needs to be done? "We have to let them grow," Ms. Lythcott-Haims said. "We gave them life and life is to be lived."

In short, she said: "We have to let them become themselves."

Dr. Steven Adelsheim agreed that removing stress from the lives of children can improve their mental health. "I am really concerned we have a public mental health crisis in this country and in this community when it comes to providing early mental health services for young people," he said.

He said he found striking the

'We have to let them become themselves.'

JULIE LYTHCOTT-HAIMS,
AUTHOR AND PARENT

relationship between early stress and serious mental health conditions. Many mental health issues actually surface as young as age 14, he said, and three-quarters of all mental health problems appear by age 24. Removing stress can help even with serious mental health issues, he said.

"As we deal with stress early, and as we identify issues early, we have the ability to wrap supports around young people and their families to really improve their outcomes over time," he said.

First of all, dealing with the stress of school is important, he said.

Also important is talking with others with similar issues.

"We're ashamed when our child is dealing with a mental health issue," he said. "We don't talk about it — we worry on our own," Dr. Adelsheim said.

But when families can get support, connect with others and learn what is going on, "our stress level drops, our communication improves and our children are much more successful," he said.

"There are things we can really do and our first step is lowering stress to really help our young people get back on track."

Kathleen Blanchard gave a very personal insight into the issue. In the six years since her son died by suicide, she has discovered "he was suffering from an unknown and un-diagnosed mental health condition" and stress "that ultimately led to his death." There were signals, she said, "but we didn't understand them."

Parents, she said, need to listen to their children. "We

need to really understand what they're saying to us, and in order to do that we have to stop talking," she said. "Be curious, be open, seek to know. Be quiet."

She also recommended getting to know their friends "so that if something happens and they see something" they have a connection to pass on the information.

StarVista plans to hold two follow-up sessions with a facilitator for smaller groups, one for the public and one for Sacred Heart parents.

The public session will be on Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Sacred Heart Prep's Otto Library in the main building. The session for Sacred Heart community parents will be on Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Piano Parlor in the main building.

To RSVP for either session, email info@star-vista.org.

StarVista has a 24-hour telephone and online support for parents at (650) 579-0358 and for teens at (650) 579-0350. ▀

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Ken DeLeon
CalBRE #01342140



Michael Repka
CalBRE #01854880



Council seeks guidance in transition to new town manager

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

If there is anything to be learned by the Portola Valley Town Council in its hiring in May 2012 of Nick Pegueros as town manager and in Mr. Pegueros' subsequent and abrupt "involuntary resignation" in August 2015, the council is taking steps to find out.

A facilitator from Leadership Balance, an executive coaching and teamwork consultant based in Eagle, Idaho, has been interviewing individual council members and is set to deliver a report to the council on Sept. 23. The public is invited.

A list of ideas and concerns, drawn from the council member interviews, is included in the agenda packet for the meeting, including:

■ Portola Valley has always been a relaxed town with an open administration and a less bureaucratic approach, but maybe a transition is ahead — from a sleepy community to one that is connected to Silicon Valley and California.

■ Town Hall staff like the informal culture, but efficiency

and progress are also important. Maybe that's a balancing act. Maybe the town should be run "more like a business than as a family."

■ Maybe the town needs an assistant town manager and a part-time human resources specialist.

Leadership Balance will "help us identify what guidance we need," Mayor Jeff Aalfs told the Almanac. "We would like to try to make sure the Town Council relationships with the new town manager and staff are optimal," he said.

The town clerk sent the community an invitation on Sept. 18 via PV Forum, an online message board, to hear the facilitator "help the Town articulate a common vision and develop a plan to achieve that vision. Town staff serves the community; and the decisions that the Town Council makes will help shape the character of the staff and the work environment at Town Hall."

The council meets at 7 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road.

A buffer

Asked to elaborate on the need for a facilitator, Councilman Craig Hughes commented on the effects of the recent transition at Town Hall. The council had renewed Mr. Pegueros' contract in October and had given him a 3 percent raise in April. "We thought he was doing a great job" and so did the community, Mr. Hughes said. "At some point, the situation changed and we ended up parting ways."

A facilitator can help "buffer that shock and that transition, to help smooth things out," he said, "and prevent something similar from happening again, and also

to take care of the situation as it exists today."

Mr. Hughes and his colleagues are bound by the contract with Mr. Pegueros to limit comments on details about his resignation to what was said in the press release that accompanied his departure.

A level of comfort

The council picked Leadership Balance from a short list of consultants recommended by Town Attorney Leigh Prince, Mr. Aalfs said. Council members felt a level of "comfort" with the company and their proposal, and the company was available "to move forward quickly" at a

cost compatible with the town's means, he said.

The town has paid Leadership Balance \$8,500 so far, according to Town Hall documents. The payment is an initial installment on a relationship that could extend well to the fall as the council goes about recruiting a new manager, Mr. Aalfs said.

Actual recruiting is set to start with the Sept. 23 meeting, but a hiring decision is unlikely until the end of the year, he said.

The hiring of a facilitator was in the cards even if circumstances had unfolded such that Mr. Pegueros had not resigned but had stayed on as town manager, Mr. Aalfs said. ▀

Mueller leads effort to save Fosters Freeze

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

News of the imminent closing of Fosters Freeze on Oak Grove Avenue in Menlo Park has given birth to a groundswell of support for finding a way for the community to continue to enjoy the shop's burgers and ice cream treats — whether by moving the building and its equipment, or reassembling the equipment at another location.

Sung Lee, who has owned and managed the Menlo Park Fosters Freeze for about 30 years, says he is closing at the end of September because he is moving out of the Bay Area due to the high cost of living here.

Menlo Park City Councilman Ray Mueller is leading the current effort to save Fosters Freeze and is looking ahead to a brainstorming session soon with volunteers.

"The challenge has been identified. There is a vision around what people would like to see," he said, adding: "I'm not Pollyannish about whether this will be difficult to achieve. ... I understand that this is going to be tough. I just feel that it's something that will be worth it."

"It's success will be determined by the strength of the passion of

the community behind it," he added.

Mr. Mueller identified three options, in order of preference:

■ Find a location and move the building there and have it operate as an independent business.

■ Find a building with the space to take in the equipment and Fosters Freeze trim to recreate the shop's aesthetic, and put out a request for proposals to find someone to run the business.

■ Find an existing organization, perhaps a nonprofit, willing to recreate the aesthetic and run the business, perhaps in a park.

Any of these options might turn into opportunities to create jobs for youth, Mr. Mueller said.

Mr. Mueller said he's already talked with, and been rebuffed by, the owner of a downtown property. He said he has also spoken with and is waiting to hear back from a "youth-focused organization" on the idea of recreating the Foster Freeze aesthetic inside an existing building "within the downtown area."

"It's a connection to the past that you can enjoy with your family," he said.

"Today our family often frequents Fosters Freeze in Menlo Park for dipped cones and

■ INFORMATION

Goodbye party: The community is invited to a goodbye party from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, in the parking lot at Fosters Freeze, 580 Oak Grove Ave., about half a block east of El Camino Real in Menlo Park. There will be free ice cream cones. Owner Sung Lee plans to close the business that day.

milkshakes," Mr. Mueller wrote in an email. "Places like this provide an intangible value to a community, tying a magic from generations past to our present."

Fosters Freeze, which opened in Menlo Park in 1949 according to records at the Menlo Park Historical Association, was facing closure or relocation before Mr. Lee's decision to close because it is on the site of the proposed Greenheart Land Co.'s 420,000-square-foot mixed-use development of offices, apartments and retail.

In 2006, the Fosters Freeze building faced demolition due to a proposed Derry commercial development on the site. At that time, Brady Gallagher, then 13, and his brother Nicky, 12, of Menlo Park organized a petition drive to save Fosters Freeze and gathered hundreds of signatures. The development was never built and Fosters Freeze remained in operation. ▀

Harry B. Morey

September 11, 1936 – September 12, 2015

On the evening of September 12, 2015, Harry passed away peacefully at the age of 79. Harry is survived by his three children: Scott (Alayna) Morey, Linda (Joe) Ramacciotti and Todd (Krista) Morey. He is survived by ten grandchildren: Hailey, CJ, Lily, Micaela, Isabella, Jackson, Claire, Madison, Grace, and Johnny. Harry is also survived by his siblings: Phillip Morey, Diane Morey (Peter Valenti), Gary (Nancy) Morey, and by his first wife and mother of his children Valerie Marvin, and his second wife Nancy Flanders.



Born in Menlo Park on September 11, 1936 to Harry B. Morey and Mary Alice Sullivan, Harry lived the majority of his life in Menlo Park and Sunnyvale. He was a 1954 graduate of Bellarmine College Prep.

Harry was proud of his family's local Irish roots and spent considerable time in and around Menlo Park throughout his life. He was a lifetime member of the Palo Alto Elks Club. He valued quality time with loved ones and was always up for a family dinner. He was a proud grandparent, demonstrated by his interest and participation in his grandchildren's sports, school events, and church activities.

Memorial service was held Thursday, September 17th at the Church of the Nativity, located at 210 Oak Grove Avenue in Menlo Park. A reception was held at Sultana, located at 1149 El Camino Real in Menlo Park. www.spanglermortuary.com

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to your favorite charity in Harry's name.

PAID OBITUARY

BARRIERS

continued from page 5

Nicole Nagaya.

After evaluating results from the first phase of the trial, Ms. Nagaya said the city found the right-turn barriers led to congestion during the evening that increased the risk of a vehicle

getting stuck on the tracks.

Since the barriers were removed, two people told the city they would like to keep them, one expressing concern that traffic could rise to previous levels on Alma Street and Willow Road, Ms. Nagaya said.

The city will continue to collect data and monitor and

respond to issues as they arise, she said. Further changes are not anticipated until the trial is completed and a report is given to the City Council.

The city will monitor and tweak signal timing at the intersection of Ravenswood Avenue and Laurel Street to minimize vehicle queuing, she said. ▀

Facebook to open farmers' market

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

Fresh produce fans will have a new market to "like" when Facebook opens a weekly farmers' market Oct. 4 on its campus in Menlo Park. Facebook says it plans to hold the market each Sunday year-round in its parking lot at 1 Hacker Way.

The inaugural market is set for Sunday, Oct. 4, from

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and will feature a kid's zone, food trucks, cooking demos and bike tuneups, said Facebook spokesman Jamil Walker.

The first 200 families to arrive will receive \$5 "MOOLA" dollars to be spent at the event, and the first 500 families to arrive will receive reusable shopping bags, he said.

People can access the farmers' market by entering the

campus at Willow Road and Bayfront Expressway.

Facebook hopes to attract people from neighborhoods near its offices, including Belle Haven, said Lauren Swezey, Facebook sustainability and community outreach manager. "We recognized that there was a lack of access to fresh produce in the community and put this together to help address the issue," she said. ■

Menlo Park man charged with rape

Isaac Adam Rodriguez, 27, of Menlo Park, pleaded not guilty Sept. 18 to six felony charges relating to the alleged rape of a 15-year-old girl, according to Steve Wagstaffe, San Mateo County district attorney.

The girl reported the incident to police Sept. 14, within hours of the alleged rape on the night of Sept. 13, police said. Mr. Rodriguez was arrested Sept. 17.

The two first met at McDon-

ald's in Menlo Park before Mr. Rodriguez invited the girl to his home, where the incident allegedly occurred, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Mr. Rodriguez faces three counts of unlawful sexual intercourse with a victim under 16, one count of oral copulation with a person under 16, one of penetration of a victim and one of rape of an unconscious victim.

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Admission: \$5 (3 yrs & under are free)

This sing-along event is highly interactive with in-movie antics and a special "Fun Pack" for advance ticket buyers. Seating is limited so buy your tickets early. Fun Pack quantities are limited and may not be available for walk-in patrons.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit menlopark.org/events
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Event Partner:



Prime minister of India to visit Facebook in Menlo

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park later this month, following Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's visit to India last October.

Mr. Modi will join Mr. Zuckerberg at a town hall question-and-answer session at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 27. The session will be streamed live on both Mr. Zuckerberg's and the prime minister's Facebook pages.

In a Sept. 12 announcement on his Facebook page, Mr. Zuckerberg invited people to submit questions for the prime minister. Three days later, the post had generated more than 33,000 comments, 39,000 shares, and

687,000 likes.

During Mr. Zuckerberg's visit to India, he spoke at a summit for Internet.org, a nonprofit partnership between Facebook and other tech companies that aims to increase Internet access in the developing world. The Internet.org app provides free Internet access to Facebook and a package of health, employment and education websites.

"We believe that connectivity is a human right," said Mr. Zuckerberg at the summit. "Getting connectivity for the world is one of the fundamental challenges of our generation."

Internet.org also operates innovation labs that explore strategies to broaden network coverage and decrease the amount of data needed to access various sites. ■

Atherton says PG&E can start process to remove 16 trees

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton's City Council is still unhappy about Pacific Gas & Electric's plans to remove trees growing over the company's rights-of-way for gas transmission pipelines. But the council has agreed to let the process begin with 16 trees on six properties.

In July PG&E representatives explained what they called a "pipeline safety and tree vegetation management" program to examine 600 trees in the town for possible removal. Council members asked PG&E to return with more information before removing any trees.

PG&E government relations

representatives William Chiang and Darin Cline told council members Sept. 16 that so far they want to remove only 16 of the 242 trees they've looked at, far fewer than the 30 to 40 percent of trees that they earlier said have been taken out in other communities under the program. Member of the council still weren't placated.

"I don't want to just accept this and have them start the process to remove trees," Councilwoman Elizabeth Lewis said. Instead, she said, the town should formally ask PG&E to move its pipelines away from the trees.

In the end, however, the council agreed to let PG&E try its process with the 16 trees already identified as dangerous. "We can see how it goes with these six properties ... and we can assess that," said Mayor Rick DeGolia.

Mr. Chiang told the council that PG&E is looking at 606 trees along Atherton streets on 44 private properties. He said that so far, the utility has spoken to 27 property owners, and signed six tree removal contracts. They have found 105 trees "that can stay exactly where they are" and others "are manageable" but may need to be removed later, he said.

He and Mr. Cline also promised that even though the utility is exempted by state law from

needing local permits, PG&E will fill out, but not sign, the town's tree removal permit forms and will go before the Planning Commission for any trees covered by Atherton's heritage tree ordinance.

"I just don't want to create any misunderstandings with your Planning Commission that they can say, 'No, you can't take that tree,'" Mr. Chiang said.

"They can say no," Mr. DeGolia said. "We want our Planning Commission to look at this with open eyes."

Mr. Chiang said that while the town can't tell PG&E not to remove a tree, if private property owners refuse permission, the utility will not cut the trees. Later, however, Mr. Cline said that if homeowners did not change their minds it "would lead us to possibly going to court."

The program started after PG&E was ordered by the California Public Utilities Commission in April to put \$850 million of shareholder funds into "gas transmission pipeline safety infrastructure improvements," as part of \$1.6 billion in penalties "for the unsafe operation of its gas transmission system." In 2010, an explosion at a gas-transmission line in San Bruno killed eight people. It was the highest penalty the PUC has even imposed. ■

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Atherton gives go-ahead to new bike routes

The Atherton City Council has unanimously approved plans for the first phase of the town's Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan, designating some streets as shared bike and auto routes.

While streets won't get any wider, Atherton officials say they hope that putting up signs and pavement markings designating the streets as bike routes will make them safer.

The routes are meant to help guide bicyclists, raise motorist awareness and connect existing and future bike routes. It is estimated the project will be completed this winter.

At its Sept. 16 meeting, the council authorize getting bids on the project, which is estimated to cost about \$150,000. Signs and pavement markings will be added to the following streets:

- Elena Avenue, between Valparaiso and Atherton avenues.
- Faxon Road, between Barry and Elena avenues.

- Barry Lane, between Faxon Road and Atherton Avenue.

- Selby Lane, between Atherton Avenue and West Selby Lane.

- Dinkelspiel Station Lane, between Watkins and Fair Oaks avenues.

- Austin Avenue, between Atherton Avenue and West Selby Lane.

- Atherton Avenue, between Alameda De Las Pulgas and El Camino Real.

- Fair Oaks Avenue, between El Camino Real and Middlefield Road.

- Alejandra Avenue, between El Camino Real and Emilie Avenue.

- Emilie Avenue, between Alejandra Avenue and Park Lane.

- Park Lane, between Emilie Avenue and Camino al Lago.

- Camino al Lago, between Park Lane and Alameda de Las Pulgas.

- Watkins Avenue, between El Camino Real and Middlefield Road.

Hey Mark Zuckerberg:



A Friend Request From the People Who Keep Your Servers Running.



The utility Pacific Power — owned by Berkshire Hathaway Energy — is the power provider for Facebook’s key data center in Oregon. But the company is treating its workers poorly by threatening cuts to their health care and insisting on compensation packages below regional industry standards.

When companies as profitable as Berkshire Hathaway try to squeeze skilled workers out of the middle class, we should all speak up. And when these giant corporations put their profits before the service and reliability their customers depend on, we think customers have a right to know.

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Gary Henkel, 30-year veteran of Menlo Park fire district

The ranks of former firefighters from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District who are still around to talk about their experiences were reduced by one recently with the death of Gary Henkel, a 30-year veteran of the district.



Gary Henkel

Mr. Henkel died Aug. 5 in Redwood City after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 77.

He started two businesses: Gary's Auto Repair in Redwood City, and SCBA Safety Check, a Fremont company involved with the safety of the breathing apparatus carried by firefighters. He also built boats and enjoyed softball, golf, dancing and skiing — on the water and in the snow.

OBITUARY

Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.

Mr. Henkel was born in Dinuba in the Central Valley, came to Menlo Park in 1950, and attended high school at Sequoia High and M-A, where he graduated in 1954. He was a Marine from 1955 to 1959, then joined the Menlo Park fire district, where

he rose to the rank of captain. He had a degree in fire service from the College of San Mateo.

He married in 1972. In his 42-year marriage with Carol, Mr. Henkel was "a good listener with an ever present twinkle in his eye," his family said, "and he was able to bring pleasure and unexpected humor to their relationship."

The couple spent vacations with friends in Hawaii and Palm

Springs, Lake Tahoe and Lake Berryessa (in Napa County).

"Gary was a thoughtful, sympathetic, kind and loving soul who brought immeasurable joy to his family and friends," his family said.

Mr. Henkel is survived by his wife; his son Marshall; his daughters Vickie, Kelly, Caryn, Cheryl and Michele; 11 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Services have been held.



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Local writers collaborate on 'History of Female Friendship'

By **Kate Daly**
Special to the Almanac

Keeping it local, Woodside writer Theresa Donovan Brown and co-author Marilyn Yalom of Palo Alto are launching their first collaborative book at Kepler's Books on Thursday, Sept. 24, at 7:30 p.m.

Their 400-page paperback, "The Social Sex: A History of Female Friendship," is published by Harper Perennial and selling for \$15.99.

The free event at Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park, is the first stop on their book tour, which will also take them to Southern California and New York.

Friends for 20 years, the authors have not collaborated before. "What an exercise it was to write about friendship with a dear friend," Ms. Brown says.

They spent two years researching and writing, trading off chapters, and co-writing others, bringing different perspectives to what Ms. Brown describes as "an historical look at a huge subject over a huge swath of time [2,500 years]."

She worked in the financial



Photo by Reid Yalom

Marilyn Yalom, left, of Palo Alto and Theresa Donovan Brown of Woodside will discuss their new book at Kepler's on Sept. 24.

world after earning her MBA, raised a family and writes both fiction and nonfiction, recently publishing a mystery novel, "The Old Inn at Punta de Sangre."

A generation older, Ms. Yalom is also a family woman. She was a French professor at Stanford and is now a senior scholar at the Clayman Institute for Gender Research at the university. Her previous books include "How the French Invented Love" and "A History of the Wife."

The co-authors trace friend-

ships from ancient Greece through modern times, highlighting social mores and trends from medieval nuns to Eleanor Roosevelt's inner circle and up to BFF's (best friends forever) today.

Ms. Brown says one of her favorite chapters is "Quilt, Pray, Club" because it's about a pivotal period when American women started to gather outside the home. With "the club movement, and once women started writing letters back and forth, there was no stopping them," she says.

She feels that's when female friendship really flourished and helped spur on social changes such as abolition, temperance and suffrage. ■

High school grads learn about homeless people

By **Cristian Ponce**
Special to the Almanac

Sophie Scheinman witnessed the challenges facing homeless families during an eight-week summer internship with InnVision Shelter Network, the Menlo Park-based nonprofit that provides shelter and services for homeless people in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

She was one of the five Silicon Valley high school graduates who participated in the paid internship program, part of Bank of America's Student Leaders program. The students got involved in a variety of management activities, from marketing to budgeting, and had firsthand experiences with homeless people.

Connor Crinion, a graduate of Bellarmine College Prep, said he has been thinking about working for a nonprofit since his sophomore year. He viewed the internship as a "preview of what my working life will be like."

Shivani Komma, an intern for InnVision's IT department, said she looked at the nonprofit's budget and helped save thousands of dollars on areas such as cellphone use.

Mei-Mei Chun Moy, who worked as a marketing intern, said the experience helped her improve her communications skills.

The students also went on a week-long leadership summit in Washington, D.C., where they met with members of Congress and participated in skill-building workshops and a community service project.

Many of the interns said that the experience, particularly working with homeless people, opened their eyes to problems in the area.

"I think it's been really enlightening and a great opportunity to be exposed to different issues in the Bay Area that I didn't know existed," said Ms. Komma, a graduate of Burlingame High School.

The internship, she said, "has made me more open to the idea that I can actually help create change in the world. This has shown me more of a direct path on how to do that. There's always a way that you can have a voice and make sure that whatever issue you see, there's a way that you can help solve that issue." ■

You can quote me...



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

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



STEVE GRAY

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Autumn in Woodside

Saturday Sept. 26 • NCEFT Heroes and Horses • A Jewels & Jeans Gala

Hosted Bar, Dinner, Fund-A-Need, Auction and entertainment. All proceeds go to support NCEFT Therapy programs for children, adults and our military veterans. Held at NCEFT— 880 Runnymede Road. More information and tickets www.NCEFT.org/2015Gala

Sunday Sept. 27 • Chili Cook-off

To raise funds for the Woodside-Portola Valley Fire Protection Foundation. Taste some of the best chili around. Enjoy a live band, silent and live auction and old fashioned Firefighter BBQ and kids games all to support your local fire department. Held at Runnymede Farm 3 pm to 7 pm. www.firedistrictfoundation.org

Saturday Oct. 3 • Woodside Barn Dance

Sponsored by the Woodside Recreation Committee.

Bring the whole family and your friends and enjoy pony rides, a petting zoo, face painting, the mechanical bull, Firetruck rides, puppet shows, clowns, magicians, equestrian demonstrations, and more...in a down home country party. Our famous BBQ starts at 5pm for the young and old. Stay around for an evening of rock and roll dancing at the Mounted Patrol Grounds. 3-10 pm. Buy tickets in advance online at www.woodsiderec.net.

Saturday Oct. 10 • Woodside Day of the Horse

Sponsored by WHOA! – Woodside-area Horse Owners Association

Join us at the Horse Fair, for free (Woodside Town Hall 10-2:30). Ride the Wells Fargo Stagecoach, listen to a horse's heartbeat, learn all the horse activities in this area & more! Or pre-register for the Progressive Ride and ride through Woodside's beautiful Town trails (11-2). Proceeds go towards the preservation of the rural heritage, which horses support. www.whoa94062.org

Sunday Oct. 11 • Woodside Pumpkin Festival

Sponsored by the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County

Bring the kids and enjoy pony rides, bouncy house, a haunted house and petting zoo while you find the great pumpkin for your little one at the Mounted Patrol Grounds. Hamburgers, hot dogs, beer, wine, soft drinks are available. A portion of the proceeds benefit schools and equestrian causes in the area. Daily horse events in the arena. 9 am to 5 pm. Free admission. www.Woodsidepumpkinfestival.com Look it up on Facebook!

Saturday/Sunday • Oct. 17 & 18 • Woodside Pumpkin Festival • Continues

Only 2 minutes from downtown Woodside. Why drive for 2 hours to Half Moon Bay? A portion of the proceeds benefits schools and equestrian causes in the area. Mounted Patrol Grounds. 9 am to 5 pm. Free admission. www.Woodsidepumpkinfestival.com

Saturday/Sunday • Oct. 24 & 25 • Woodside Pumpkin Festival • Final weekend

Final days of the festival. Enjoy quality family time while searching for the pumpkin that is perfect for you. Help support local schools and equestrian activities in the area. Mounted Patrol Grounds. 9 am to 5 pm. Free admission. www.Woodsidepumpkinfestival.com

October events are held at the Mounted Patrol Grounds, 521 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside.
See map at <http://www.mpsmc.org>
The Mounted Patrol Foundation, a 501c3 supports all of the events above, and is assisting in the advertising of events.

■ POLICE CALLS

This information is based on reports from the Menlo Park Police Department and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent unless convicted. Police received the reports on the dates shown.

WOODSIDE

Auto burglaries:

■ Someone broke the rear window of a locked vehicle parked in the 3000 block of Woodside Road and stole a backpack containing a camera and a flask. Estimated loss: \$800. Aug. 30.

■ A thief shattered the front passenger window of a vehicle parked in the 3000 block of Woodside Road and stole a backpack containing a headset and clothing. Estimated loss: \$475. Aug. 28.

■ Someone stole two credit cards from a wallet from a vehicle parked on Kings Mountain Road at Josselyn Lane after gaining access to the vehicle by an unknown method. The cards were later used in two purchases, one successful and one unsuccessful. Aug. 31.

■ Some reusable shopping bags

and a flashlight were stolen from a locked vehicle parked on Lawler Ranch Road near Sand Hill Road. The thief smashed the rear window of the vehicle. Sept. 9.

Traffic accidents:

■ Medics from the Woodside Fire Protection District took a bicyclist to Stanford Hospital after he lost control of his bike when he ran over something, possibly loose gravel, near High and Woodside roads. Aug. 23.

■ A woman drove into a wooden fence on Albion Avenue after failing to negotiate a curve. She was taken to the hospital for minor injuries. Sept. 9.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Theft: A thief entered an unlocked Ford pickup truck parked in the 4100 block of Alpine Road and stole \$2,000 in cash and a credit card, which was later used for two purchases in Santa Clara. Aug. 25.

MENLO PARK

Commercial burglary: Someone stole two generators (later returned), a flat-screen TV and two small beverage refrigerators from a Palantir Tech-

nologies storage facility in the 1300 block of Willow Road. Estimated loss: \$1,000. Sept. 18.

Auto burglary: A wallet, cellphone, sunglasses and parking permit were stolen from inside a locked vehicle parked on Noel Drive. It's not known how the thief entered the vehicle. Estimated loss: \$650. Sept. 14.

Thefts:

■ Someone stole two industrial-grade paint sprayers that were sitting on the driveway of a home on Hamilton Avenue. Estimated loss: \$1,050. Sept. 14.

■ A jacket, bike shorts, miscellaneous clothing, paperwork and a checkbook were stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked on Hoover Street. Estimated loss: \$350. Sept. 17.

■ A child's tricycle was stolen from the 700 block of Santa Cruz Avenue. Estimated loss: \$100. Sept. 14.

Fraud: Someone dropped off a forged prescription at the CVS pharmacy on Sharon Park Drive. The person returned to the pharmacy to pick up the prescription, but left after the pharmacist began asking questions. Sept. 17.

Decapitated rabbit found in Menlo

A small rabbit was found decapitated in the 200 block of Hanna Way in Menlo Park, police reported Sept. 18.

Officers noted there was no blood at the scene, suggesting that the rabbit had been placed in the roadway.

The rabbit appeared to be a wild jackrabbit and non-domesticated, said Scott Delucchi, a spokesman for the Peninsula Humane Society. He said further investigations will be conducted by the Menlo Park Police Department.

Evidence at the scene was collected and will be sent to the county crime lab for analysis.

Police ask that anyone with information about this incident call the Menlo Park Police Department at (650) 330-6300.

— Kate Bradshaw

Workshop: Preventing sudden oak death

In a bit of positive news about the extended drought, there's been an upside for oak trees in that the moisture-loving pathogen that causes sudden oak death has been less of a threat.

But with a wet winter predicted, the Forest Pathology Lab at the University of California at Berkeley is holding a series of SOD prevention workshops in the Bay Area, including one in Portola Valley at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, at the Town Center at 765 Portola Road.

The workshop, intended for professionals and a lay audience, will include information on areas at greatest risk for the disease, determining which trees should be treated, and how to care for oak trees during a drought.

Go to suddenoakdeath.org for more information, or call Katie Harrell at (510) 847-5482 or write to her at kpalmieri@berkeley.edu.

Go to tinyurl.com/kdk223 for more information on the workshops.

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WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

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3525 Alameda de las Pulgas
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Embracing our past and our neighbors

By Ray Mueller

This past week news stories have circulated relating to the closure of Fosters Freeze in Menlo Park, and a group of residents who are working together to both restore the restaurant and to find it a new location, in an effort to preserve this small piece of Menlo Park's history that serves families and provides jobs for youth. Our group has appreciated the positive support this project has received, but that support has not come without concerns.

Some have expressed concern our group was attempting to block the redevelopment of the land the Fosters Freeze is located on. We are not. Our group recognizes that the current location of the Fosters Freeze is no longer ideal for the restaurant. We are grateful the property's owner, Greenheart, is supporting and cooperating with our efforts, and has agreed not to demolish the building in the next few months while we conduct our work.

Others have expressed concern that the effort is not a legitimate use of taxpayer dollars. While Mayor Catherine Carlton also has expressed her support for this project and begun working on it, no taxpayer dollars have been spent on the project. Both the mayor and I are conducting our work as individual residents.

And while this project is somewhat romantic, another concern has been expressed that cannot get lost in the shadow of the project. Because even if our group succeeds in locating a new site for Fosters Freeze, the fact remains we may need to find someone new to run the business. Why?

Because after 30 years of serving Menlo Park residents, the current operator, Mr. Sung Lee, has decided to close the business and move away from the Bay Area because, as he

told the Almanac, "The middle class can't stay here. The living costs are so high."

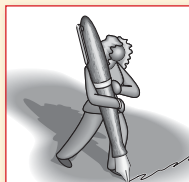
It's a story we have gotten far too used to hearing. The median home sales price in Menlo Park has doubled since 2012, from approximately \$1 million to \$2 million. Rents continue to climb. The middle class, including teachers and small business owners, all are finding it more and more difficult to keep up with the rapid ascent in the cost of the living.

It's a concern the city has worked hard to try to address, with the adoption of the city's Housing Element, and numerous public-private partnerships with nonprofits adding to the city's affordable housing stock.

Recently, as part of the Connect Menlo process, the General Plan Advisory Committee on which I served with council member Peter Ohtaki directed the city's professional staff to create a new policy requiring for the first time residential rental developers to provide the city with a variable number of affordable housing units once the development reaches specific development thresholds. Until now, such requirements were applied only to developments wherein housing units were for sale.

The question we must ask ourselves if the policy is adopted by the City Council, and as we continue to confront this challenge, is this: Will we as a community find the same energy and goodwill to come together and be supportive of affordable housing units being added to our neighborhoods, to serve present and future middle class families in our city, as we found to save the local ice cream store that served the middle class families in our past?

Ray Mueller is a member of the Menlo Park City Council.



GUEST
OPINION

LETTERS

Our readers write

Almanac to the rescue: Former teacher reminisces

Editor:

This started out to be a letter of congratulations to Jane Knoerle on her upcoming move to Southern California and on becoming a roving columnist from afar. But today, I picked up the paper and found myself reading the Fiftieth Anniversary edition and realized I had reminiscences to share.

Almost 50 years ago I transferred to the English department at Woodside High School, and as I was replacing a teacher on sabbatical, I was to pick up his assignment of supervising the publication of the school paper. I had written for my college paper, but had never been involved in putting an issue together. I was in near panic. A friend suggested that I consult Hedy Boissev-

ain, who promptly met with me, bringing along her high school daughter, the editor in chief of the Palo Alto High school paper.

In a very intense afternoon, they gave me production class 101, which in those pre-Mac days, meant typing out headlines and shortening stories by literally cutting off the last paragraph. Then they patted me on the head and told me I already had the most important skill, teaching the students how to write.

Years later, when my son began writing for the Almanac, he got a cheerleading and guidance team consisting of Marion Softky, Marjorie Mader and Jane Knoerle. They continued to keep track of him.

Local papers keep residents informed about stories urban papers don't have time to cover, so keep going Almanac. We wish you another 50 years.

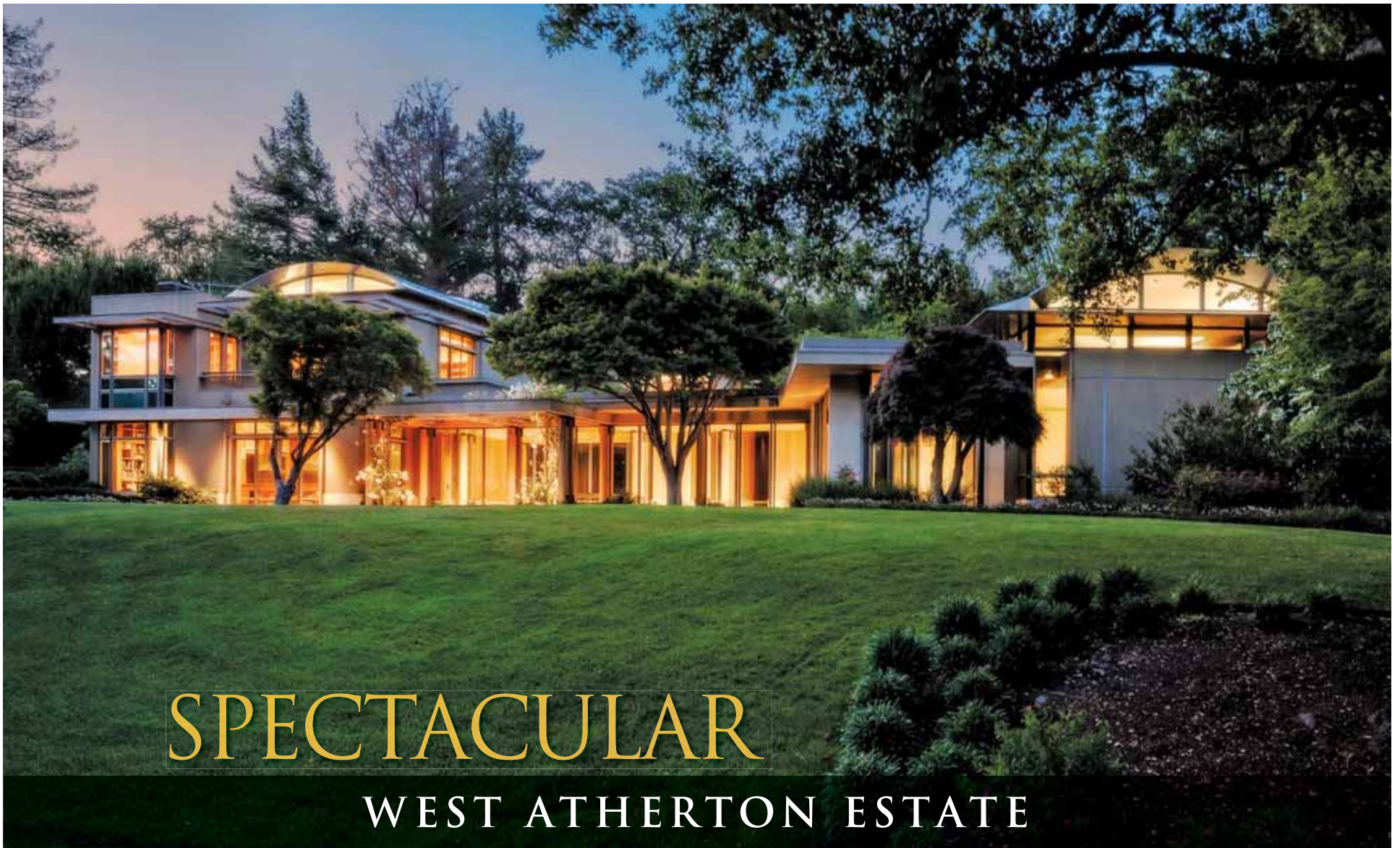
*Joyce Rosenstiel
Blakewood Way, Woodside*



Portola Valley Archives

Looking back

Walter Jelich Sr., left, emigrated from Croatia near the turn of the 20th century and set up farming at the foot of the hills in Portola Valley, where the Jelich Ranch became legendary for its apples. He's shown in this undated photo with his brother Luke, who stayed in this country for only a few years before returning to Croatia, according to the Portola Valley history book "Life on the San Andreas Fault" by Nancy Lund and Pamela Gullard.



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