

The Almanac

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

DECEMBER 16, 2015 | VOL. 51 NO. 15



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Bracing ourselves

**How local communities
are preparing
for El Niño floods**

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Photo by Al Chang

SHP junior running back Isoa Moimoi (right) rushed for 163 yard and one touchdown in a 56-20 romp over McClymonds in a NorCal Division III-A regional bowl game Saturday night.

SHP rolls to state title game

By Harold Gutmann
Palo Alto Online Sports

Undefeated McClymonds made it to the Division III-A regional bowl game on the strength of its defense, having allowed just 20 points total in its last seven games. Sacred Heart Prep (SHP) exceeded that total in the first quarter Saturday night.

Sporting a balanced, efficient offense, the Gators scored touchdowns on all six first-half possessions, including three in the first quarter, and cruised to a 56-20 win at Independence High in San Jose.

After losing two of its first three games, SHP (11-3) will travel to the SoCal region to face Rancho Bernardo (12-2) in the division state championship game Saturday night in San Diego at 6 p.m.

Senior Mason Randall completed 9 of 14 passes for 213 yards and three touchdowns — all in the first half — while cousins Isoa Moimoi (24 carries for 163 yards) and Lapitu Mahoni (16 carries for 94 yards

and three touchdowns) set the pace on the ground.

The Gators had scored in the final minute the previous week-end to beat Riordan in the CCS Open Division III championship game, but didn't need any theatrics this time.

"Right from the start we knew we could run on them and exploit their front seven, and once they started to shut down our run, we opened it up and threw the ball a little bit," said senior tight end/linebacker Andrew Daschbach, who had 106 yards and two touchdowns on four receptions.

Meanwhile, the Gators' defense allowed a touchdown in three plays on McClymonds' opening possession, but then bottled up the speedy team from Oakland after that. The Warriors' (12-1) other touchdowns came on an 85-yard kickoff return and a tipped pass.

"We started a little bit slow, but after that we were exceptional," SHP coach Pete Lavorato said. "One thing that is a mark of our team is that we're disciplined, and it really showed on defense."

The game was a microcosm of the season for a defensive unit that needed to break in nine new starters and started slowly, but has improved each week. David Peterson led the defense with 10 tackles (seven solo) while Brian O'Kelly had nine tackles plus a fumble recovery and Brendan Semien finished with seven. SHP, however, played without injured Cameron Dulsky.

SHP is now back in the state title game for the second time in three years, having lost to Corona del Mar, 27-15, in 2013. Both Randall and Daschbach were starters that season.

"I was naive at that time, and having all that success my sophomore year I thought the road wasn't that hard," Daschbach said. "Coming back this year really has completely changed my perspective on being able to make it this far because we've been through so much adversity as a team and fought through three tough losses. ... Hopefully we'll be able to close it out right." ■

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Bracing ourselves

How local communities are preparing for El Nino floods

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

El Nino, the periodic concentration of unusually warm water along the equator in the Pacific Ocean, may result in severe storms on the Peninsula this winter, and possibly flooding.

If the weather does turn nasty, emergency responders and residents in the vicinity of San Francisquito Creek will have information that was not available when the creek flooded in December 2012: advance warning of at least 90 minutes, and a color-coded map online showing areas at risk if the creek over-tops its banks.

Sophisticated rain gauges have been placed in the foothills to the west by the group that manages San Francisquito Creek watershed — a joint-powers agency comprising representatives from the cities of Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto as well as San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

The rain gauges are located on Windy Hill in Portola Valley and in Wunderlich Park in Woodside and Huddart Park in unincorporated San Mateo County, according to Len Materman, the executive director of the joint-powers agency.

Using data from those rain gauges and storm data from 2012

and 2014, the agency's online Flood Early Warning System map (at floodwarning.sfcjpa.org) shows the likelihood of flooding at four key locations: in Menlo Park, the Middlefield Road bridge just south of Willow Road and the bridge at Pope and Chaucer streets and, in East Palo Alto, a bridge near the intersection of University and Woodland avenues, and another where the creek crosses under U.S. 101 just north of the Embarcadero Road interchange.

"This (system) is new, it's very sophisticated and we're still doing tests," Mr. Materman said. The map is updated every 15 minutes. Colored circles indicate the four bridges and represent expectations of what will happen at a particular bridge and the surrounding neighborhood about 90 to 120 minutes into the future.

The color codes:

■ A green circle indicates no danger from creek-based flooding.

■ A yellow circle indicates a flood watch — that the water in the creek will be at 60 percent of the creek's carrying capacity soon.

■ A red circle indicates a flood is on the way — that the water will exceed 100 percent of the creek's carrying capacity.

The creek management agency's website includes a form to sign up for alerts via text or email, a form



Photo by Len Materman

Storm water runoff from a December 2012 storm filled the bed of San Francisquito Creek to 60 percent of its capacity at the bridge at Pope and Chaucer streets along the border of Menlo Park and Palo Alto.

to report problems and upload photos, and links to rainfall trends and data on rainfall collected from the new gauges.

The sophisticated rain gauges are a result of an extensive evaluation of equipment, Mr. Materman said. "I didn't want the residents or the fire department or the police department to have to look at data to determine where the threat would be," he said.

"We wanted to give them the clearest possible communication."

One thing the gauges do not address is the unexpected. Debris in a creek bed can complicate the potential for flooding, Mr. Materman said. A blocked storm drain anywhere "can be extremely problematic" in its effect on street flooding, he said.

And there is creek bank erosion. For Menlo Park residents living along San Francisquito Creek, while the flood danger west of El Camino Real is lower than further downstream, the rushing water can undermine a back yard or the side of a roadway.

On this issue, Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District recommended that residents with creek frontage consider having tarps installed over vulnerable ground to shield it from the direct impact of the water.

Acting locally

In Woodside, an ongoing effort since September has cleared debris from watercourses that are the town's responsibility, including ditches and storm drains, Town Manager Kevin Bryant said. Staff revisits them after rainy and windy days, he said.

Of particular concern are locations of dead trees and areas in which creeks and streams pass

under roadways, Mr. Bryant said. Staff will be on-call "when it is likely we will have storm-related issues to deal with," he said. Sand and sand bags are available at Town Hall. The town uses Next-Door and a reverse-911 system to keep residents informed, Mr. Bryant said.

In Portola Valley, the town stockpiled 10,000 fill-it-yourself sandbags and has ordered more sand after the first sand pile was much reduced, Public Works Director Howard Young said.

The storm drain system is checked regularly. The town will be standing by with heavy equipment during major storms and will be inspecting every street before and after a storm, Mr. Young said. "We have asked our citizens to assist during storms," he added.

Storm-related news will be broadcast online via PV Forum and over the air via the town's low-

power AM radio station at 1680 kHz.

In Atherton, City Manager George Rodericks said in a report that staff have checked storm drains and walked the entire Atherton Channel to remove debris.

The city has restocked supplies of traffic-control gear, pothole mix, sand and sandbags, and will be ready with trucks, loaders, chainsaws, emergency generators and lighting, Mr. Rodericks said. Staff may be asked to work overtime during heavy weather, he said.

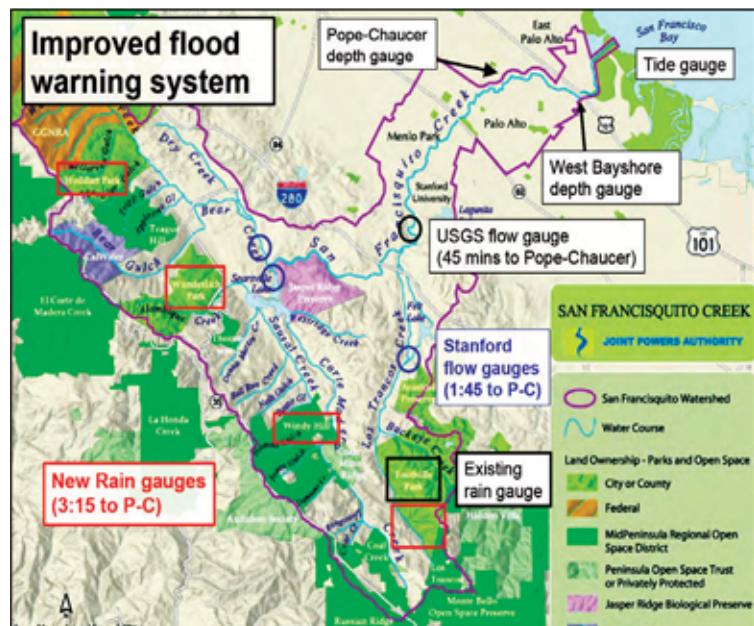
In Menlo Park, the city bought 10,000 fill-it-yourself sandbags and planned to buy 10,000 filled bags (at a cost of \$40,000) more for its own use in flood-prone areas, according to a staff report. The city plans to issue a \$75,000 "storm-response contract" for assistance in deploying sandbags near the creek, clearing debris from the creek, and stabilizing the creek bank.

The city may draw on a contract with a tree service, also for up to \$75,000, to assist with removal, trimming, stump grinding and cleanup, the report said. The city

See **FLOOD**, page 8

■ INFORMATION

A Menlo Park community preparedness meeting is set for Thursday, Dec. 17, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the council chambers at 701 Laurel St.



Graphic courtesy of San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Agency

The red rectangles indicate locations of sophisticated new rain gauges. The gauges provide data for computerized predictions on water levels downstream 90 to 120 minutes in advance.

May Rose Burberick

July 22, 1919 - December 5, 2015

May Burberick, age 96, died on December 5, 2015 at Nazareth Vista, a nursing facility in Belmont.

She was born on July 22, 1919 in Los Angeles to Arthur P. Lazarus and Fernande Lazarus (née Fernande May). May Rose and her brother Paul grew up in San Mateo.

May attended Stanford College and graduated with a BA in 1940. Later that year she married Nathan Most. During World War II, they lived in La Jolla, where her husband did sonar research at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography.

She gave birth to her sons, Stephen and John, in San Diego. From 1947 to 1950, the family lived in Hong Kong and Manila, where Nathan headed the offices of Getz Brothers, a San Francisco-based import/export company.

The Most family lived in Atherton during the 1950s. May gave birth to her third son, Robert, on her 33rd birthday, in 1952, and to her daughter Barbara in 1954.

After her divorce from Nathan Most, May married Arthur Hardy, a psychotherapist who became famous for helping people, primarily women, who suffered from agoraphobia.

Following that marriage, May published a guide to Peninsula businesses called *The Roamer*. Her third marriage, to Stanford Burberick, a real estate speculator, ended with his death in 2005.

May enjoyed playing golf and bridge. Her friendships with Kato Reis and Elaine Ehrman lasted more than 60 years. May was much loved by her children and her grandchildren Ethan, Adam, Rachel, Jonah, William, James, and Alexander Most and Dan and David Weissman. She had one great-grandchild, Aubrey May, Adam's daughter.



PAID OBITUARY

Katherine Agnes (Groo) Dugoni

August 12, 1926-December 3, 2015

Katherine Agnes (Groo) Dugoni died peacefully at her home in Palo Alto, CA, surrounded by family, on December 3, 2015 at the age of 89. Kaye, as she was known to her friends, was born in Montpelier, ID, on August 12, 1926. Kaye lived for her family, her Catholic faith, and her community. She was a life master in duplicate bridge and volunteered many hours of service to Las Lomitas Elementary School, La Entrada Middle School and St. Denis Church, among others. Kaye was the matriarch of four generations and she found the greatest joy in spending time with her 7 children, 15 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Kaye leaves behind her sister, Joann Groo of Spokane, her husband of 66 years Arthur A. Dugoni of Palo Alto, and 7 children to cherish her memory: Steven (Lisa); Michael (Marianne); Russell (Maureen); Mary Rouleau (Bertrand); Diane Descalso; Arthur (Kristen) and James (Lisa). She is also survived by 15 grandchildren: Patrick, Emily, Brian, Christine, Paul, Eric, Sean, Aaron, Nicolas, Elizabeth, Joseph, Mary, Benjamin, Tyler and Jackson; as well as 6 great grandchildren: Brendan, Kenzie, Connor, Claire, Evan and Charlotte.

A celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, December 19, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Pius Church, 1100 Woodside Rd., Redwood City, CA 94061. All family and friends are welcome to attend the service and reception immediately following.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus & Mary, 2911 W. Fort George Wright Dr., Spokane, WA 99224, or to the Arthur and Katherine Dugoni Endowed Student Scholarship at the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, University of the Pacific, 155 Fifth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.



PAID OBITUARY

Woodside council makes changes to home design review process

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

A change to the Woodside municipal code, effective in January, designates one person rather than a review board to determine whether applications for small construction projects such as a guest house or gate or outdoor lighting meet the standards of the town's residential design guidelines.

The change is part of an ordinance adopted Dec. 8 by the Town Council that will turn over such reviews to the planning director, shifting that responsibility away from the Architectural and Site Review Board (ASRB). The board may still review the projects, but at the discretion of the planning director acting in the new role of architectural and site review administrator.

Meetings with the administrator will have the same public-notice requirements needed for a board review.

The vote was 6-1, with Councilwoman Anne Kasten dissenting. The council introduced the ordinance some 30 days earlier, having discussed the changes at that meeting and in a previous meeting. The changes are effective Jan. 8.

Projects reassigned to the administrator for review include accessory living quarters, gates and entry features, signs, outdoor lighting, fences that depart from designs specified in the municipal code, and projects with dimensions less than or equal to 1,000 square feet that are located within scenic corridors and the western hills.

The new ordinance reduced the allowable size of the ASRB to five members from seven. The board currently has only five members. With long meetings that deal with matters that can become controversial, getting a quorum and recruiting new members have been a challenge, town officials have said.

The measure eliminates duplicate review of a project by the Planning Commission and the board, and codifies existing practices around consolidating projects that have grown incrementally since the issuing of a building permit.

The town will also be engaging at least one consulting architect to assist applicants in preparing projects for conceptual design review, a change not included in the ordinance but widely supported.

(No change was made in a

provision of the town's municipal code that did not require ASRB review for projects outside of scenic corridors or the western hills that are less than 2,000 square feet and less than 30 percent of the maximum total floor area for the property if the project is consistent with the residential design guidelines.)

Public comment

Several residents said they saw the changes as a beginning.

William Fender, recalling frustration over his claim of "almost a couple of years" to get a permit for a 700-square-foot garage, called the changes modest and a first step.

Small projects should have it easier, he said, because architects can introduce delays by putting small projects at the back of their lines. "The people at the small end are really getting a pretty raw deal," Mr. Fender said.

Alan Watkins said the electoral defeat of review board member Nancy Reyring in the race for a Town Council seat sent a message: "That there are some people on the ASRB that shouldn't be there." He recommended making it easier for the council to remove a board member.

Rob Hutchinson encouraged adopting the ordinance and dealing with imperfections later. "I think it's time to move forward and review after we do this as opposed to dithering further," he said.

Resident Steve Lubin said he agrees with much of what Mr. Fender said, but disagrees with complaints about the review board.

"I get the feeling that this whole process has come about through complaints, very vocal public complaints, rather than taking a careful look at what the actual problems are and trying to define what we want to fix and then having a systematic way of addressing those problems," Mr. Lubin said.

Thalia Lubin, a review board member, asked the council to consider using a sliding scale and property size to determine which small structures are eligible for one-person review. Change should be gradual, she said, perhaps by reducing board membership and engag-

ing a consulting architect, but delaying the new administrator position. "Let's see if this works and let's revisit it," she said.

She recalled a council/review board study session in April 2014 when board members requested guidance on difficult issues such as applications that don't account for Woodside's topological complexities. Three acres in Woodside are often not three buildable acres, which can seriously affect plans for accessory structures.

This ordinance "has now jumped to the head of the line,"

The town will engage at least one consulting architect to assist applicants in preparing projects for conceptual design review.

Ms. Lubin said. "I'm feeling like the board is being ignored and something else has taken precedence in response to some legitimate and some, in my mind, not legitimate complaints."

The change, she said, removes review responsibilities from citizen/resident oversight, "which I think has been the heart and soul of this town."

Council comments

Councilwoman Kasten's dissent focused on delegating review responsibilities to an administrator, "a huge step," she said. A better approach would be incremental and analytical, she said.

The council, she said, should examine processes in the planning and building departments, taking note of the constraints of the state's uniform building code, an encyclopedic document that takes up several feet of shelf space, Councilman Dave Tanner noted.

There was general agreement on the idea of more frequent council study of permit and plan-review procedures. The new architectural and site review administrator position was worth a try, council members said.

Councilman Daniel Yost cautioned against misreading the ordinance's adoption. "No one should look at this and think that people (who) are members of (the review board) are anything other than dedicated, hard working and trying to make the town a better place, as (are) all of us serving on the Town Council," he said. ▣



Facebook has several properties in the vicinity of Bayfront Expressway and Willow Road, and is now leasing an additional 210,000 square feet on Jefferson Drive.

Facebook expands office space in eastern Menlo Park (again)

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

Facebook is leasing three buildings from its Menlo Park neighbor, Intuit, the financial software company behind Quickbooks and TurboTax. The buildings, located at 180 Jefferson Drive in Menlo Park, will add 210,000 square feet to Facebook's sizable office stock, the Silicon Valley Business Journal reported Dec. 7.

Intuit spokesperson Kali Fry said the company sub-leased the Menlo Park buildings to Facebook in order to focus on its other local operations, including its headquarters in Mountain View. New office space there and in San Francisco is expected to become available over the next year. "We're continuing to make investments in these locations to help us attract and retain top talent in the Bay Area," she said.

Facebook did not say what it intends to do with the new space, or when it will be occupied.

The company's office space in Menlo Park has been on a steep growth trajectory since the social networking giant moved to the city in 2011.

Here's an overview of Face-

book's current stock of land and office space in Menlo Park:

In February 2011, Facebook entered a 15-year lease on office space formerly occupied by Sun Microsystems and Oracle and located on 57 acres at Willow Road east of Bayfront Expressway. Facebook began its Menlo Park operations there. The property contains approximately 1 million square feet of office space.

Before moving to the new location, Facebook purchased in December 2010 two lots totaling 22 acres on Constitution Avenue in Menlo Park, across Bay-

front Expressway from the first property. In March 2015, the new Building 20 or MPK 20, designed by Frank Gehry, was opened, adding 430,000 square feet of office space.

In June 2014, Facebook purchased 59 acres at the former TE Connectivity site next to the MPK 20 property. The company plans to replace existing structures with two new buildings — Building 21 (523,226 square feet) and Building 22 (453,417 square feet) — and possibly a hotel. Building 23 (180,000 square feet) is a renovation of an existing building at 300 Constitution Drive, scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2016. The rest of the project is undergoing an

environmental impact review with the aim of receiving City Council approval by July 2016. Mr. Gehry is the designer of the project.

In February 2015, Facebook purchased the 56-acre Menlo Science and Technology Park, which remains under the management of its former owner, Prologis Inc. No plans have been announced for this 21-building industrial park located on Willow Road just west of Bayshore Expressway, but according to a ConnectMenlo discussion in February 2015 about the city's general plan update, Fergus O'Shea of Facebook said the company would like to construct up to 2,000 new housing units on the Prologis site, some of which would be below-market rate, and up to an additional 1,500 units for interns at the east campus' parking lot. No formal proposals have been made.

As of October 2015, 5,500 of Facebook's 11,000 employees worldwide worked at the Menlo Park offices. By comparison, the entire Belle Haven neighborhood has 5,647 residents.

With the leasing of 210,000 square feet from Intuit, Facebook has about 1.6 million square feet of Menlo Park office space at its disposal, with an additional 1.16 million square feet in the pipeline. All told, that's nearly 2.8 million square feet. Assuming the current ratio of about 300 square feet per employee, that's enough space for about 9,000 employees. ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Am I Responsible for This?

Dear Monica: I purchased a home this year and the sellers provided detailed disclosures, including a roof report. Nothing major was noted and my offer was "As-Is". Now that the rains have started, there is water coming in above a window and through cracks in the same wall. It doesn't seem plausible that this is the first time it has leaked because my roofer said there are inadequate flashings. What are my options since I bought it "As-Is"? Natalie G.

Dear Natalie: If nothing was noted in the inspections and sellers' disclosures, you should

take photos of the leak (while it is active, if possible), and send these photos along with the bid to repair it from your roofer, to the sellers and their agent. Ask them if they can shed any light on this condition. Perhaps they inadvertently forgot to disclose this. If they say they did not experience any leak at this spot, then you will be responsible for the repair. This assumes they are not misleading you or concealing anything from you.

My advice would be to repair this as soon as possible so that no long term damage is done.

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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Preparing for El Nino

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Households wanting to come out safe and sound in the aftermath of a severe storm in this winter of El Nino should take four significant steps: register for email or text-message or cellphone alerts, clear your property of potential hazards, prepare to evacuate if it comes to that, and make an evacuation plan, according to several local sources on how to deal with community emergencies.

Register for alerts

Signing up for alerts can depend on your location.

■ Anyone in San Mateo County can register for alerts via email, voice mail, cellphone and tablet computer at smcalert.info.

■ At tinyurl.com/WS450t, Woodside residents can register cellphones and other devices to a reverse-911 service already set up to send notifications to listed land-line phones.

■ At ci.atherton.ca.us/list.aspx, Atherton residents have a menu of alerts to choose from.

■ Go to menlopark.org/list.aspx if you live in Menlo Park and have not already registered for alerts.

■ Portola Valley has a reverse-911 system that requires registration for any device other than a listed land-line, and further recommends that residents register for the San Mateo County alerts.

FLOOD

continued from page 5

has addressed and will continue to monitor storm drains and the city's portion of the Atherton Channel.

Managing storms

How ready is ready enough? In Woodside, Portola Valley, Menlo Park and Atherton, city and town staff have long had plans to open ad hoc emergency operations centers in a town or city hall in the event of a disaster. They'll function for a severe storm as well as for the aftermath of an earthquake.

Tabletop training for these local centers tends to include setting up a team to track mock incidents such as fallen trees, accidents and downed power lines. The drills often include radio communications and sometimes the participation of actual emergency responders.

In a serious multi-jurisdictional emergency involving the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, local authorities may create "multi-agency coordination" headquarters, according to Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman. The fire

Leaving home, or not

Potential hazards on your property can include dead or dying trees, large dead branches, and swales or ditches or gutters or drains that have not been cleared of debris and made ready to swiftly transport storm-water runoff.

In preparing to evacuate, or to live off the grid for a while if that becomes necessary, it's hard to beat the website of the Citizens Emergency Response Preparedness Program, which serves the residents of the Woodside Fire Protection District.

At cerpp.org/prepare are links to preparing kits for home and vehicle, sheltering in place, caring for people with special needs, and ensuring adequate supplies of food and water. Elsewhere on the CERPP website are links to caring for domestic animals and dealing with landslides.

Evacuation itself can be a touch-and-go kind of situation, experts say. You may have just moments to safely run from life as you have known it, including all the mementos you've accumulated. Or you may have time to walk away.

At cerpp.org/prepare, the evacuation link leads to information on why you should talk ahead of time about evacuation and the alternative of sheltering in place, what to do with pets, and how to prepare to evacuate under two scenarios: departing immediately and preparing your home for a somewhat delayed departure. ■

district serves Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto and nearby unincorporated areas.

"Ideally, everybody should work together," the chief said. "If (a community) chooses to do (its) own thing, that creates problems. That's why we like the multi-agency coordination."

Vital questions can arise, the chief said. When are conditions bad enough in a community to warrant opening an emergency operations center? When are they bad enough to invoke multi-agency coordination? As for shelters, which ones should be opened and who should open them? When is an evacuation order called for?

With multi-agency coordination and everybody in one room, the players can make collective decisions, Mr. Schapelhouman said. "I'm actually pretty confident that we have people who know what their responsibilities will be," he said. "You may not know all that (a storm) is going to do, but you can presume that you know something."

For Chief Schapelhouman, the three top issues locally for first responders in the Menlo Park fire district during a storm are:



Drawing by WRNS Studio/Courtesy Town of Atherton

This design of a library as part of plans to build a new Atherton civic center has won the support of the town's Civic Center Advisory Committee.

Train horns, civic center design on Atherton council agenda

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

The blaring of Caltrain locomotive horns often drowns out speakers at Atherton City Council meetings, but research by a member of the town's Rail Committee says there may be a way that council members can assure they no longer have to compete with the train to be heard.

Rail Committee member Nerissa Dexter's research found Atherton should be able to declare its Fair Oaks Lane railroad crossing a "quiet zone," where train whistles can only be blown if there is a hazard, a report from Community Services Director Michael Kashiwagi says.

The council may decide if it wants to hire a consultant to guide the process of declaring the crossing a quiet zone when it meets Wednesday, Dec. 16. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at 94 Ashfield Road.

The council has several other items on its agenda: selection of a mayor and vice mayor for the coming year; voting on joining the county's Peninsula Clean Energy program; discussing an update on the design of the new civic center; and budgeting more money for the environmental study of Menlo School and College's Cartan Field project.

Quiet zone

Mr. Kashiwagi's report says that

■ Objects falling into San Francisco Creek and becoming dangerous. Volunteers from the creek oversight group removed "several tons of material" in the creek channel this fall, a staff report said.

■ Flood waters, where they will go and where sandbags should be deployed.

■ Life-threatening situations

Ms. Dexter found the town can designate a quiet zone and does not need approval by the Federal Rail Administration or any other public agency because Fair Oaks Lane has a "four quadrant gate system" designed and installed by Caltrain that keeps autos off the tracks when they are down.

However, the report says, a quiet zone designation will not be possible at the town's other crossing, at Watkins Avenue, until it has quad crossing gates.

Civic center

The council will receive an update on the design of the town's new civic center from the project's new project manager, Joe Horwedel, a former San Jose planning director and recently the San Benito County interim public works director.

At its most recent meeting, the town's Civic Center Advisory Group discussed the placement and architecture of the council chambers in the new center, Mr. Horwedel's report says.

The advisory group members asked architects WRNS Studio to make the new council chambers a hybrid of traditional and modern design, echoing features of the current council chambers historic Mission-style building. Plans are to renovate the historic chambers as part of the adjoining new library.

The advisory group also asked for what it called "Santa Barbara-style" traditional residential design features for the new town

offices, especially the Fair Oaks Lane frontage.

The style of the interior plaza, especially the wing housing the police offices, could be more modern, they said.

Committee members said they liked the modern architectural design of the new library, with lots of glass and curved walls.

Cartan Field project

Menlo School and Menlo College, which had put plans for renovating their Cartan Field athletic facilities on hold in 2013, are ready to submit plans that were revised with the input of neighbors, a report to the council says.

The report asks that additional funds, to be paid by Menlo School and Menlo College, be approved for updating the environmental report on the earlier plans. Facility uses remain the same as in earlier submitted plans, except that Menlo College no longer has a football program, the report says.

Energy program

Council members will decide if they want to join San Mateo County's Peninsula Clean Energy joint powers authority to bring energy from renewable resources to residents of member communities. Peninsula Clean Energy will buy power from renewable resources that will be delivered and billed for by Pacific Gas & Electric. Residents will be able to opt out and remain with PG&E. ■

in East Palo Alto if a levee fails. Authorities in East Palo Alto, Palo Alto and Menlo Park have raised creek banks at places considered at risk of flooding, according to the staff report.

In wooded and relatively remote Woodside and Portola Valley and nearby unincorporated areas, all served by the Woodside Fire Protection District, a first line

of defense for residents is the Citizens Emergency Response Preparedness Program, with 25 divisions meant to cover the entire fire district.

Go to cerpp.org for more information. Among the key features: nine weatherproof former cargo containers located throughout the district and stocked with emergency supplies. ■

Property tax assessments to rise about 1.5 percent

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

San Mateo County property taxpayers should receive some welcome news with their 2016 tax bill. Because the state's consumer price index increased by only a little more than 1.5 percent during the past year, property tax assessments for properties that didn't have new construction or new ownership will rise by 1.525 percent in 2016, according to county Assessor Mark Church. It is the third year in a row that property taxes have not increased by the 2 percent maximum allowed each year, but only the ninth time this has happened since Proposition 13 was passed 40 years ago.

When Proposition 13 was adopted by voters in 1975, it tied the assessed value of California properties to their value in 1975. If a property changes

ownership or there is new construction, it is reassessed to current value. The assessed values increase based on any rise in the state's consumer price index for the previous year, up to a maximum of 2 percent a year.

Mr. Church said that while the news may be good for homeowners, government entities "may have to adjust their budget estimates" for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2016.

However, he added, the county's economy has been growing fast enough, with new construction and property changing ownership, that "economic growth will in all likelihood compensate for any reductions in roll value caused by the low inflation factor."

The property tax assessment is based on the California consumer price index between October 2014 and October 2015. ■

Jane Wilson appointed to architectural commission

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Jane Wilson, a resident of Portola Valley for nearly 12 years and a native of Great Britain, is the newest member of the town's Architectural & Site Control Commission (ASCC), a panel of five volunteers charged with maintaining the rural character of the town through its oversight of building projects.

In a unanimous vote on Nov. 11 after interviews of four candidates for two open seats on the ASCC, the Town Council appointed Ms. Wilson and reappointed Commissioner Megan Koch, both to four-year terms.

With Ms. Wilson in England, the council interviewed her by phone. Ms. Koch came to the council meeting in person, as did candidates Rebecca Flynn and Terry Lynn.

Later that evening and also on unanimous votes, the council reappointed Judith Hasko and Nicholas Targ to four-year terms for two open seats on the Planning Commission. The commission oversees policies that govern land use and development.

The council also interviewed Emily Jagoda, a resident of unincorporated Los Trancos Woods/Vista Verde community.

In Ms. Wilson's application letter, she listed her volunteer activities, including member-

ship in Friends of the Library for nine years, the Parks and Recreation Committee for three years, the parent-teacher association (as an executive) for the Portola Valley School District for three years, and as co-chair of the town's annual holiday fair for seven years.

Ms. Wilson bought her first house at the age of 19 and has been a landlord for 30 years. She has dealt with "all types of tenant, craftspeople and contractors," she said in her letter. The ASCC "is the one (panel) I think I'd be most suited for," she told the council.

The ASCC's current issues, as she sees them, are protecting trees and preserving the community's character while trying to solve problems that come before the ASCC "so that everyone's happy," she said.

Councilwoman Ann Wengert asked Ms. Wilson how it would sit with her to enforce an ordinance she doesn't agree with. "That sits very well with me," she said.

In an email, Ms. Wilson told the Almanac that her experiences living in Britain acquainted her with strict rules and their enforcement, and that she "will not have a problem with enforcing ordinances in line with them." ■

Book: Menlo Park in World War I

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

The bomb squad on Nov. 30 detonated a World War I hand grenade found by construction workers beneath the ground near the Stanford Research Park. How did that grenade get there?

The answer lies buried beneath decades of history, but is being brought back to the surface by writer and Menlo Park resident Barbara Wilcox, with her new book, "World War I Army Training by San Francisco Bay: The Story of Camp Fremont."

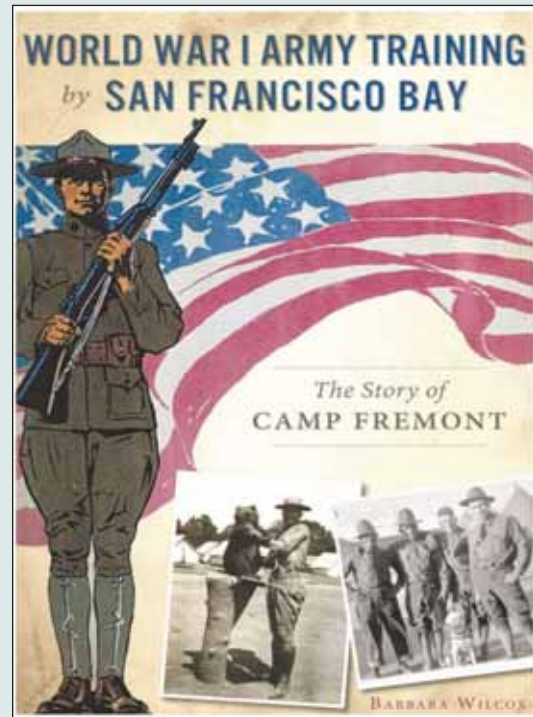
Camp Fremont was the name given to the area made up of thousands of acres throughout Menlo Park and Palo Alto, much owned by Stanford, that in 1917, became the West Coast's training ground for World War I troops.

"An artillery range ran between Los Trancos and Madera creeks," Ms. Wilcox said, "and a trench maneuver ground occupied (what is now) the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory and adjacent properties."

Troops in training used dummy and live grenades to practice advancing through trenches, Ms. Wilcox said.

"Copious ammunition" was used, she said, including at the camp's rifle and artillery ranges, but she emphasized the infrequency of finding buried munitions. In recent years, only two unexploded items were uncovered, in 2008 and 2010, she said.

The camp opened in July 1917, and hit capacity in the summer of 1918, according to Ms. Wilcox. Most troops there were mobilized in October 1918, concurrently the height of the influenza epidemic and weeks before the end of the war. Few actually



Courtesy of Arcadia Books

Cover of new book on Camp Fremont, a World War I Army training camp in Menlo Park.

reached France before peace prevailed.

While the book will not be released until Jan. 11, it can be preordered.

Go to tinyurl.com/fremont342 for more information.

The 144-page paperback book (ISBN 9781467118910) will cost \$21.99.

Dentist pleads not guilty to defrauding patients

Kim Chi Vu, the 52-year-old dentist from Atherton who was charged in May with defrauding patients and an insurance company by charging for services that were not completed or were misrepresented, pleaded not guilty Dec. 3 to all charges.

A jury trial has been scheduled for April 11, 2016, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.


In the meantime, Ms. Vu remains out of custody on a \$125,000 bail bond. She was

charged with five felony counts of grand theft and theft by false pretenses.

According to the DA's office, the charges date to 2010 and 2011, when Ms. Vu was a dentist in San Mateo. She is accused of billing a patient for a root canal that never happened, and of charging five patients for a more expensive type of tooth alignment system than they were given, and of then abandoning their treatment, leaving the patients to find new dentists.

TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

765 Portola Road
Portola Valley, CA 94028



In recognition of the Holiday Season
Portola Valley Town Hall
will be closed from
Thursday, December 24, 2015
through Friday, January 1, 2016





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Peninsula Christmas Services



Holiday Services at Stanford Memorial Church

Sunday, December 13, 2015

1:30 pm Holiday Organ Recital: Robert Huw Morgan

Sunday, December 20, 2015

10:00 am University Public Worship

4:30 pm Catholic Mass

Thursday, December 24, 2015

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family service (Doors open at 3:00 pm)

Please note: Please arrive early for Christmas Eve Services. Attendees must arrive together with their group. Saving seats will not be allowed.

8:00 pm Christmas Eve Festival Communion service (Doors open at 7:00 pm)

Please note: Please arrive early for Christmas Eve Services. Attendees must arrive together with their group. Saving seats will not be allowed.

Friday, December 25, 2014

12:00 am Catholic Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

12:00 pm Catholic Christmas Day Mass

More info: religiouslife.stanford.edu/holiday-services

Stanford Office for Religious Life Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford, CA 94305, (650) 723-1762



CHRIST CHURCH

The Episcopal Parish of Portola Valley & Woodside

CHRISTMAS EVE:

Children's Pageant Eucharist at 3 p.m.

Candlelit Eucharist with Choir at 5:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY: Holy Eucharist with Carols at 10 a.m.

815 Portola Road, Portola Valley; tel. (650) 851-0224; <www.ccpvw.org>



Join Us For Christmas

Christmas Eve

(All services will be about an hour)

3:00 pm Christmas Pageant Service

6:00 & 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship with Choir

9:30 pm Carol Sing

Christmas Day

10:00 am Christmas Day Communion (no music)

330 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park (650) 326-2083

www.trinitymenlopark.org



WOODSIDE VILLAGE CHURCH

Celebrating God's Love • Proclaiming the Gospel • Reaching Out to Serve



Enjoy a Village Christmas



Advent Worship Celebrations

Sundays at 9:30 am

Dec. 13 LOVE ♥ Dec. 20 JOY

Children's Christmas Pageant - Dec. 13 at 9:30am

Mini Christmas Faire with Crafts, Music and Santa - Dec. 13, 11am to 1:30pm

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service - Dec. 24 at 10pm.

WOODSIDE VILLAGE CHURCH

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First Presbyterian Church PALO ALTO

CHRISTMAS EVE AT FIRST PRES

Choir Singing Carols & Anthems

4:30pm, Sanctuary

Service of Lessons & Carols

5:00pm, Sanctuary

Festive Reception & Holiday Treats

6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

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Celebrate CHRISTMAS EVE at Menlo Church

Menlo Park

950 Santa Cruz Ave.

WED., DEC. 23RD at

5, 6:30 and 8pm

THURS., DEC. 24TH at

5, 6:30, 8, 9:30
and 11pm

*CHILDCARE FOR 3 MONTHS TO 3 YRS.
AVAILABLE AT 5 & 6:30pm SERVICES.


<http://menlo.church/christmas>

The Café

700B Santa Cruz Ave.

THURS.,

DEC 24TH at
3:30 and 5pm

 MENLO.CHURCH

Christmas blessings from St. Bede's Episcopal Church

Let us celebrate together!

Christmas Eve—Thursday, 12/24

4PM Children's Christmas Pageant & Eucharist

5:30PM Community Dinner *Free to all*; RSVP appreciated

7:30PM Choral Prelude

8PM Festival Eucharist with Choir

Christmas Day—Friday, 12/25

10AM Holy Eucharist with Carols

First Sunday after Christmas — 12/27

10AM Christmas Lessons & Carols and Eucharist

*Please join us after each service for coffee and cookies,
with piñatas following the pageant.*

St. Bede's Episcopal Church

2650 Sand Hill Rd (at Monte Rosa), Menlo Park

650-854-6555

stbedesmenlopark.org

Inspirations

is a resource for ongoing religious services and special events.
To inquire about or to reserve space in Inspirations, please contact
Blanca Yoc at 223-6596 or email byoc@paweekly.com



Photo by Vincent Toolan

Tea time treats

Thomas, left, and Christopher Toolan decide what treats to try at the Friends of Holbrook-Palmer Park's Holiday Tea on Dec. 6. The sold-out event, held annually to raise funds for the park, featured a visit with Santa Claus, a holiday-themed marionette show and craft activities as well as the tea.

Caltrain raises fares, parking fees

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Caltrain will hike fares by 50 cents each way, effective Feb. 28, making a monthly pass between three of its fare zones (say, between Menlo Park and San Francisco) cost \$190.80.

While that's a hefty monthly expense, it may not be for the average Caltrain rider, who, in 2013, had an income of \$117,000, and may not even have paid his or her own fare, according to Adina Levin, a Menlo Park transportation commissioner who serves on Caltrain's Citizens Advisory Committee and is executive director of "Friends of Caltrain," a nonprofit that advocates for stable funding for Caltrain and better transit service.

With Caltrain's "Go Pass," Peninsula employers can offer their employees unlimited Caltrain rides for a year at no charge to them. For \$15,960 or for \$190 per employee (whichever is higher), employers can participate in this program, so long as all employees who work at least 20 hours a week are offered the benefit.

That's right, the price per employee per year under this program is about the same as a monthly Caltrain bill for those who don't qualify for this discount.

Furthermore, Ms. Levin pointed out, the \$15,960 minimum annual price of those passes makes it difficult for any but the largest and most affluent companies to purchase them. Those passes are then distributed to workers who may not need the subsidy.

According to Caltrain spokesman Will Reisman, the minimum cost of \$15,960 for a company-wide Go Pass helps to recover some costs and maintain consistent participation

rates. Not all employees of companies who purchase Go Passes actually use Caltrain, so the average cost per user is higher than the \$190 yearly fee. He added that the program was created in partnership with Stanford University to reduce traffic congestion in Palo Alto.

Ms. Levin said her biggest concerns are that the recent fare hike does little to promote equity and fairness. In other words, the people who are likely to more acutely feel the loss of 50 additional cents each way are not the people receiving subsidies.

Mr. Reisman said that it was a "tough decision" but Caltrain increased its fare due to "considerable strain" on the system

because of ridership growth and a need to invest in operations and maintenance.

During the Caltrain meeting when the fare hike was

decided, Ms. Levin said, the Citizens Advisory Committee did not recommend increasing the fare, but didn't oppose the hike either. She said the committee hadn't seen sufficient justification for this fare increase and wanted to first learn the results of a study currently underway to analyze Caltrain's fare system.

"It is a very good thing that Caltrain is now going to do their study to address ... corporate pricing, equity, fair structure and the cost of parking," she said.

Caltrain's new fares

All fares, including Caltrain's day pass, 8-ride tickets and monthly passes, will increase. Clipper Card users will get a 15 percent discount off the increased fare, and discount fares for children, seniors and the disabled will be 50 percent of the increased adult price fare.

Beginning July 1, 2016, daily parking fees will also be increased at station parking lots to \$5.50 from \$5 and monthly parking permit fees will rise to \$55 from \$50.

Caltrain said it last adjusted fares on Oct. 5, 2014, when one-way cash fares were increased by 25 cents.

According to a 2015 Caltrain report, between 2009 and 2014, total operating costs rose 26 percent, while fare revenues increased 64 percent.

That increase in revenue parallels the train system's increase in ridership. "The railroad now carries nearly 60 percent more passengers on a typical weekday than it did five years ago," the report states.

So why increase the fare if revenues are up 64 percent? Increasing operating costs, along with a decrease in its on-time performance, are due partly to its old and increasingly heavily used equipment, Caltrain says. To allow for increased and more reliable daily trips, and lowered maintenance costs, the report says, Caltrain aims to transition to an electrified system by 2019.

See tinyurl.com/tariff213 for more information about Caltrain's new fares.

With 'Go Pass,' large employers can offer employees unlimited Caltrain rides for a year at no charge to them.

Menlo Park extends parking hours

The city of Menlo Park is rewarding holiday shoppers with longer free parking time in the parking plazas, setting the limit at three hours instead of two.

However, the city's goodwill doesn't extend to street parking, which is still enforced at one hour.

That will change Jan. 4, when the city starts a six-month trial of extended free parking time downtown.

Parking in downtown lots will remain at three hours, as it is during the holiday season, but street parking will be lengthened to 90 minutes.

The exception is the Draeger's parking lot, which will revert to two hours on Jan. 4.

Peninsula Christmas Services



Christmas Eve at Bethany

5:00 p.m. Family Christmas

Children tell the story of Jesus, as shepherds, angels, wisemen, and the holy family.

Join us between services for wonderful food and Christmas cheer!

7:00 p.m. Classical Music Christmas

Join us for a night of excellent music, singing, and proclamation. We will honor and remember the birth of Jesus in a celebratory and contemplative worship setting.

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas

A quiet and contemplative time to listen, sing, and reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Bethany

1095 CLOUD AVENUE
MENLO PARK
at the corner of Avy & Cloud
www.bethany-mp.org



Valley Presbyterian Church in the Redwoods

945 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA
650-851-8282
www.valleypreschurch.org

Christmas Eve Worship

5:00 pm Family Candlelight Service

10:00 pm Candlelight Service
Lessons & Carols

Give to The Almanac Holiday Fund

Your gift helps local children
and families in need



Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$172,000 for the 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed on this page.

Boys & Girls Clubs

Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, and mentoring for 1,800 low-income K-12 youth at nine locations across Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.

Project Read

Provides free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. Trained volunteers work one-on-one to help adults improve reading, writing and English language skills so they can function more effectively at home, at work and in the community. Basic English classes, weekly conversation clubs and volunteer-led computer enrichment are also offered.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinic in East Palo Alto. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded entirely by voluntary contributions, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers emergency food and clothing assistance.

Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 52 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to more than 250,000 people each month through more than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

InnVision Shelter Network

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

StarVista

Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people, families with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education, and residential programs. StarVista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

Fair Oaks Community Center

This multi-service facility, serving the broader Redwood City community, provides assistance with child care, senior programs, citizenship and immigration, housing and employment, and crisis intervention. Programs are available in Spanish and English.

Health Connected

Serves over 5,000 students and their families each year through comprehensive sexual health education programs. Students learn to have on-going communication with parents and to make informed decisions which will apply to their lives, now and in the future.

The organizations below provide major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.



www.siliconvalleycf.org



Rotary Club
of Menlo Park

*The William and Flora
Hewlett Foundation*

*The David and Lucile Packard
Foundation*

The Almanac will make every effort to publish donor names for donations unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

DONATE ONLINE:
siliconvalleycf.org/
almanac-holiday-fund

Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

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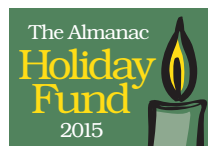
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- In my name as shown above
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OR: In honor of: In memory of: As a gift for:

(Name of person)



The Almanac

All donors and their gift amounts will be published in The Almanac unless the boxes below are checked.

- I wish to contribute anonymously.
 Please withhold the amount of my contribution.

Please make checks payable to:
Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Send coupon and check, if applicable, to:
The Almanac Holiday Fund
c/o Silicon Valley Community Foundation
2440 West El Camino Real, Suite 300
Mountain View, CA 94040

The Almanac Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. A contribution to this fund allows your donation to be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



**Almanac
Holiday Fund
Donor List**

**As of Dec. 4, 2015
73 donors have
donated \$22,530**

12 Anonymous.....	\$5,290
Margaret Melaney.....	200
Joe & Marianne Cullen	75
Dorothy Saxe.....	*
E.R. Dodd.....	100
Karen Sortino	75
Lina Swisher & Daniel Rubin	100
Art & Ruth Barker.....	*
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Mayling Dixon.....	*
Susan Kritzik	500
Lydia McCool	200
Harriet Garfinkle & Dr. Ron Self.....	*
Ken Fenyo	100
Betty Meissner	100
Erika L Crowley	*
Gordon Chamberlain	500
Paul Welander.....	25
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Susan Bryan and Frank W. Adams.....	2,075
Mary Kenney and Joe Pasqua.....	*
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Vern Varenhorst.....	200
Emil Real.....	100
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Paula, Sofie, Inge & Paul.....	*
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As a Gift

Volunteers of Palo Alto Food Closet	250
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Organizations

Menlo Park Firefighters Association	500
Woodside Pilates.....	*

Former client now contributes to Ecumenical Hunger Program

Story by Jose Azrate, a previous Ecumenical Hunger Program client.

When I was a kid, one of the greatest positive presences in my life was the Ecumenical Hunger Program.

The people there helped my family with rent assistance, holiday gifts and food provisions numerous times. My siblings and I are all happy, financially stable, and “successful” members of the community now, and I credit the example and resources of EHP for much of our success.

When I was growing up, the Ecumenical Hunger Program was an important part of my family.

I was one of six children and, through all the uncertainty of my family’s economic situation, we knew we could count on the generosity of EHP.

The frequency and quantity of the donations are not what I remember. It was the reassuring presence that EHP had in our lives for which I am most grateful.

The staff showed us an abundance of kindness and compassion. The simple, grass-roots neighborhood camaraderie and



Photo by EHP staff member

Jose and his children with previous executive director, Nevada Butler. “My relationship with EHP has come full circle,” he says.

ability of EHP to lead a community of supporters and volunteers is what inspired me to continue this spirit of giving in my life as an adult and also to pass this on to my children.

As a family, we often use our own birthdays and other personal occasions to collect for EHP.

My son donates 20 percent of his allowance to EHP. We raised

several hundred dollars through donations from his birthday party.

We helped 13 families put food on their tables for the holidays — collecting 10 turkeys, three hams, and \$240 for holiday distribution — simply by asking family and friends to show their gratitude to our cause.

Our donations help EHP pro-

HOLIDAY FUND

Gifts to the Almanac’s Holiday Fund benefit the Ecumenical Hunger Program.

vide assistance with food, clothing and household essentials all year. I can trust that EHP will distribute our contributions to other families with the same consideration they gave to my family many years ago.

The personal satisfaction I get from knowing my relationship with EHP has come full circle is gratifying in so many ways. Every year we help several families put food on their tables and are supporting many of our neighbors facing struggling times, just as my family benefited from EHP years ago.

My children hand-delivered their hard-earned donation money to the organization and saw first-hand the good that EHP does. Receiving a personal thank you and recognition from staff that know us and have been loyal to the EHP mission for decades is living proof that this is an outstanding organization.

This is why I keep EHP as part of my family.

Email info@ehpcare.org or call (650) 323-7781 for more information on the Ecumenical Hunger Program, located at 2411 Pulgas Ave. in East Palo Alto, CA 94303.

After-school program helps youth realize potential

Story by David Cruz, development associate, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula.

As the final bell rings at Menlo-Atherton High School, some students celebrate the end of the school day. However, for ninth-grade student Esther, the bell signals the beginning of the MyLife after-school program.

MyLife is a ninth-grade transition program of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula in partnership with the 49ers Academy and M-A High School. The program provides academic support, case management and mentorship.

Esther grew up in East Palo Alto, and in middle school moved to the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park. Although she started high school academically strong and ready to learn, her grade-point average dropped and she struggled to navigate this daunting new experience.

Her parents were not able to attend high school before migrating to the U.S. from Mexico, and

they now work multiple jobs, making it difficult for them to advocate for Esther or help guide her through this new journey.

“My parents work long hours to provide our family with what we need,” Esther says, “but what I need most now is support with school — and I get that at MyLife.”

The MyLife program is designed to teach students to advocate for themselves and take advantage of the many resources M-A offers. It encourages students to be open to help and to know how to ask for help.

Since joining MyLife, Esther has taken advantage of homework help, one-on-one case management, and field trips, including a recent tour of Santa Clara University. She has a dedicated mentor — MyLife Success Coordinator Samantha Cortez.

“I can trust Sam — she is cool to be around and I appreciate how she keeps an eye on my grades and what I am going through at home,” Esther says.

Samantha describes Esther’s

growth in the program: “I would meet with her more often because she grew from our interactions. I have helped her realize her potential through her own steps she takes to be what she wants to be.”

Esther enjoys the music production class at the Menlo Park clubhouse, which motivates her to express herself and explore ways to build her creativity.

MyLife also gives students like Esther an opportunity to give back to the community. She volunteers at workshops that teach parents how to access their student’s grades online, support students during final exams, and help with college applications.

Esther also takes part in service learning opportunities. She is working on care packages for the homeless. She and her peers will deliver them in January to a local shelter.

Esther comes from a family of seven and will be the first in her family to graduate from high school and attend college. She credits Samantha’s mentorship for her academic recovery

HOLIDAY FUND

Gifts to the Holiday Fund benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula.

and ability to pursue her goals of attending college and even studying abroad.

Though she has struggled, she is determined. “I’m proud that I haven’t given up,” she says. “I am working hard so I can go to a college far away like Oxford in England or the University of Sydney in Australia.”

Each year, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula provides expanded learning opportunities to more than 1,800 at-risk youth, like Esther, at nine locations across eastern Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and the North Fair Oaks area of Redwood City. Members, ages 6 to 18, attend programs at least twice a week during the school year and receive tutoring, mentoring and academic support.

Go to bgcp.org for more information.

New mayors in Woodside and Portola Valley

The town councils of Woodside and Portola Valley chose new mayors for 2016 on unanimous votes when they met on Dec. 8 and 9.

In Woodside, the new mayor is Deborah C. Gordon, the executive director of the Preventive Defense Project at Stanford University. Ms. Gordon has been on the council for 14 years and is a member of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County, the Council of Cities, the San Mateo County Housing and Community Development Committee, and the San Francisco International Airport Community Roundtable.

Maryann Moise Derwin, a community volunteer, is Portola Valley's mayor for 2016. Ms. Derwin is a member of the City/County Association of Governments, the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County, the county library joint-powers agency, the Closing the Jobs/Housing Gap Task Force, and the Poet Laureate Committee. She's been on the council for 12 years.

Tom Livermore was elected mayor pro-tem in Woodside, and Craig Hughes was elected vice mayor in Portola Valley. Both were also elected on unanimous votes.

Jean Van Rensselaer Chandler Trotter

July 22, 1918 - November 26, 2015

Menlo Park, CA and Sun City West, AZ, California

Jean Van Rensselaer Chandler Trotter of Menlo Park, California, and Sun City West, Arizona, died peacefully on November 26, with her daughter by her side.

Mrs. Trotter, 97, was a World War II veteran, researcher, local volunteer, poet and artist.

She grew up in Norwalk, Connecticut, and attended Wellesley College, class of 1941. Upon graduation, she joined the Navy's first class of WAVES and was assigned to the Chief of Naval Operations Office in Washington, D.C., where she spent the war years in an elite group as a code breaker and analyst.

As Lieutenant Trotter, she met fellow naval intelligence officer and electronics expert George C. Trotter and was married in the National Cathedral. They were married for 54 years before his death in 1999.

After the war Mrs. Trotter began her life-long career as a researcher and analyst at Harvard University while her husband finished his studies there.

Later she moved with her husband to Los Altos Hills, California, where they raised their two children, and her husband set up the computer lab for IRMA, the first industrial computer.

For many years Mrs. Trotter was an active volunteer in many local schools and charities in the Bay Area.

On her husband's retirement, she moved to Arizona, returning more recently to Menlo Park to stay with her daughter. Mrs. Trotter was also an accomplished poet, water color artist, pianist, and avid reader.

The daughter of Elizabeth W. Chandler and Henry A.E. Chandler of Norwalk, Connecticut, Mrs. Trotter was predeceased by two sisters, Mary C. Duncan of East Boothbay, Maine, and Frances C. Morris of Crozet, Virginia. She is survived by her son, Douglas C. Trotter of Albuquerque, New Mexico, her daughter, Caroline C. Trotter of Menlo Park, California, and nieces and nephews Rita Morris Reynolds, Sylvia Morris Young, John C. Duncan, and William C. Duncan.

Services will be held in Washington, D.C., where she will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery with her husband. Private services will also be held in Menlo Park and Sun City West. The family asks in lieu of flowers donations be made to Wounded Warriors or Castilleja School in Palo Alto, California.



PAID OBITUARY



Photo by Diane Eskanazi

A time for fun

These children, who are students in the Ravenswood City Elementary School District, were among those who gathered in East Palo Alto on Dec. 11 to receive toys and games from the nonprofit Peace Builders organization, headed by Woodside resident Diane Eskanazi. About 2,000 toys were distributed, she said. Many children in the district are living in shelters or couch-surfing or living 15 to 30 people in a room, Ms. Eskanazi said. A second toy distribution, this time to local charities, is set for 1:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, at Woodside Village Church.

Celebration for Katherine Dugoni

A celebration of the life of Katherine Agnes (Kaye) Dugoni will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, at St. Pius Church, 1100 Woodside Road in Redwood City. Ms. Dugoni died peacefully Dec. 3 at her home in Palo Alto. The former Atherton resident was 89.

Born in Montpelier, Idaho, she moved to Spokane as a child. She met her future husband, Art, in 1943 when she was a student at Holy Names Academy and he was a freshman at Gonzaga University. They



Katherine Dugoni

OBITUARY

were married at Gonzaga in 1949.

The couple raised their family in San Mateo while Dr. Dugoni was building his dental practice. They moved to Seattle while he studied to become an orthodontist, and finally settled in Atherton. They later moved to a retirement community in Palo Alto.

Ms. Dugoni volunteered many hours of service to Las Lomitas School, La Entrada School and St. Denis Church. She lived for her family, her Catholic faith and her community, say family members. She was a life master in duplicate bridge.

She is survived by her husband

of 66 years, Arthur A. Dugoni of Palo Alto; seven children, Steven of Hillsborough, Michael of Fremont, Mary Rouleau of Los Altos, Russell of Fairfield, Diane Descalso of Redwood City, Arthur of Elk Grove, and James (Lisa) of Stockton; sister Joann Groo of Spokane; 15 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made to the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus & Mary, 2911 W. Fort George Wright Drive, Spokane, WA 99224; or to the Katherine and Arthur Dugoni Endowed Student Scholarship at the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, University of the Pacific, 155 Fifth St., San Francisco, CA 94103.

School boards choose new leadership

Three local school boards have announced new leadership, with Christy Heaton taking over as president in the Las Lomitas Elementary School District, Jeff Childs becoming president in the Menlo Park City School District, and Karen Tate taking the helm as president in the Portola Valley School District.

Woodside Elementary School

District's board was scheduled to vote on its president on Wednesday, Dec. 16.

In the Las Lomitas district, Richard Ginn was elected clerk of the board. Other board members are Diane Honda, William Steinmetz and John Earnhardt.

In the Menlo Park City district, the vice president/clerk of the board is Stacey Jones. Other board

members are Terry Thygesen, Joan Lambert and Maria Hilton.

In the Portola Valley district, Timothy McAdam was elected as board clerk. Two new trustees, Gulliver La Valle and Jennifer Youstra join veteran Caitha Ambler. Board members Jocelyn Swisher and Linda Wong retired at the end of their terms.

— Barbara Wood

Man arrested in connection with Atherton burglary

Atherton police arrested Jason Daniel Cerrutti, 39, of Sunnyvale on Dec. 10 on suspicion of the burglary of a home on Santiago Avenue.

Detectives acted after Mr. Cer-

rutti's employer reported that he found property stolen from the Santiago Avenue home. Detectives said they also found Mr. Cerrutti to be in possession of property stolen from the house.

Police said they are trying to link items found in Mr. Cerrutti's vehicle with other property crimes.

Police are asking anyone with information on this case to call 650-688-6500.

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Atherton's chance to define 'a sense of place'

By Rick DeGolia

In 2013, Atherton launched a resident-driven process to build a new civic center to address the urgent need for better library, administration and police facilities on the land next to the train station that currently feels like a parking lot. Over the past 20 years, attempts to replace Atherton's facilities have failed three times, largely due to lack of funding.

Before I was elected to the City Council, I had no idea that Atherton's facilities are falling apart and beyond repair. Our one-room library is a modified 1928 residence with a charming, small-town feel, but it doesn't begin to offer what modern libraries provide today. The police and administration facilities were built in the 1950s and added to over time, with seven "temporary" trailers that are rotting, leaking and incredibly inefficient. For example, male and female officers — and anyone in custody — share the same restroom. You can see how deplorable these facilities are at tinyurl.com/ATCVideo15.

Thankfully, these conditions are about to change. Atherton has hired nationally acclaimed, San Francisco-based architects, WRNS Studio, to design new facilities and to restructure the 4.5-acre parcel that runs from Fair Oaks Lane to Maple Avenue along the train tracks. The council has approved a conceptual design that will be broadly shared in a series of community meetings early next year. The key features of the proposed civic center will include:

- A new library-tech center that will enable us to access books and digital resources, train students to program over our new fiber network, and host art shows,



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book clubs and other programs to build our community and celebrate our history.

- A modern police facility with state-of-the-art communication systems, a secure armory, and tools to train and manage our community police force.

- An attractive, safe administration building and council chambers to offer postal and other services and facilitate town governance.

- New amenities for our community, from a cafe to a pedestrian-friendly town green that is attractive, but understated, and that represents Atherton.

Imagine a civic center with a cafe where you can meet a friend for coffee. Or council chambers that could be used for music, media presentations and more. And reading or conference rooms in the library, each featuring an Atherton legend — such as Willie Mays, Gertrude Atherton or Joe Montana.

What most excites me about this project is that we have the opportunity to define a sense of place for our town that will serve our residents and our staff for generations to come. This is critical to helping Atherton hire and retain high-quality staff. The community we create today will be the one our children and grandchildren remember.

This is the largest and most important project in Atherton's history. With this project we have the opportunity to design and build something that we can all be proud of, both in terms of its appearance and its function.

One of my personal goals is to make this the first Zero Net Energy civic center in California. Beginning in 2020, the state is requiring every new residence to be ZNE. Atherton can break new ground and be a model for both our residents and other municipalities.

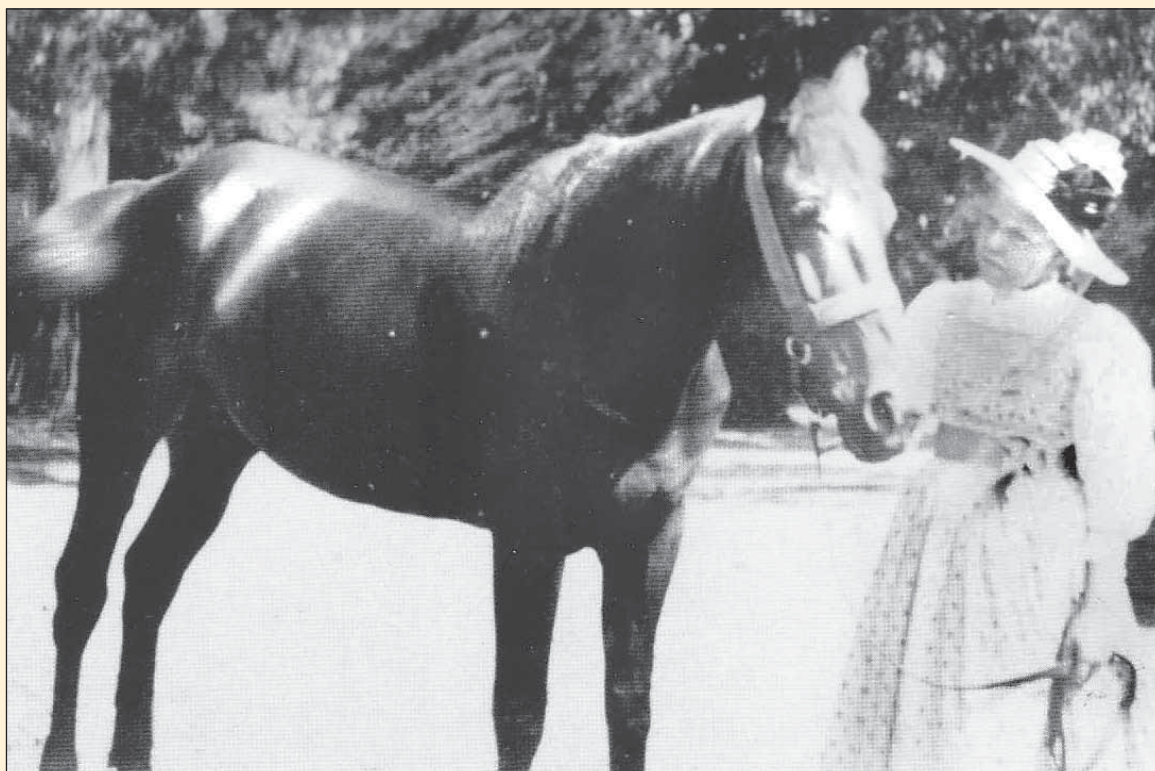
The total estimated cost for this project is \$42.9 million. With \$13.4 million of library tax dollars for the library, as well as some development fees, private gifts and pledges, we are nearly halfway to our goal. (In 2012, Atherton residents approved Measure L, which required the town to build the civic center primarily with private funds. This is why we are not pursuing a bond measure. Go to tinyurl.com/A-CenterFunds12 for more detail.

Now that we are about to get schematic drawings of the civic center buildings, the fundraising is beginning in earnest. Atherton Now has been established to spearhead the fundraising. We need to raise slightly more than \$20 million between now and when we begin construction in spring 2017. Raising these funds will not be easy, but Portola Valley did it for its civic center, and we can do it. Contact info@atherton-now.com or rick@rickdegolia.com to help out.

This is truly a great opportunity. What I ask is that each Atherton resident get involved. To make this happen, we need help with marketing and outreach at every level. This will be a tremendous coming together, but it needs your participation. ▣

Looking back

Olive Holbrook, shown in this 1891 photo with her horse, Nellie, was one of four children of Charles and Sue Holbrook, who settled in what is now Atherton in around 1881, according to the Atherton history book "Under the Oaks" by Pamela Gullard and Nancy Lund. When Olive died in 1958, she bequeathed the 22-acre family property to the town for a park, the historians write. It is now Holbrook-Palmer Park.



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