

The Almanac

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

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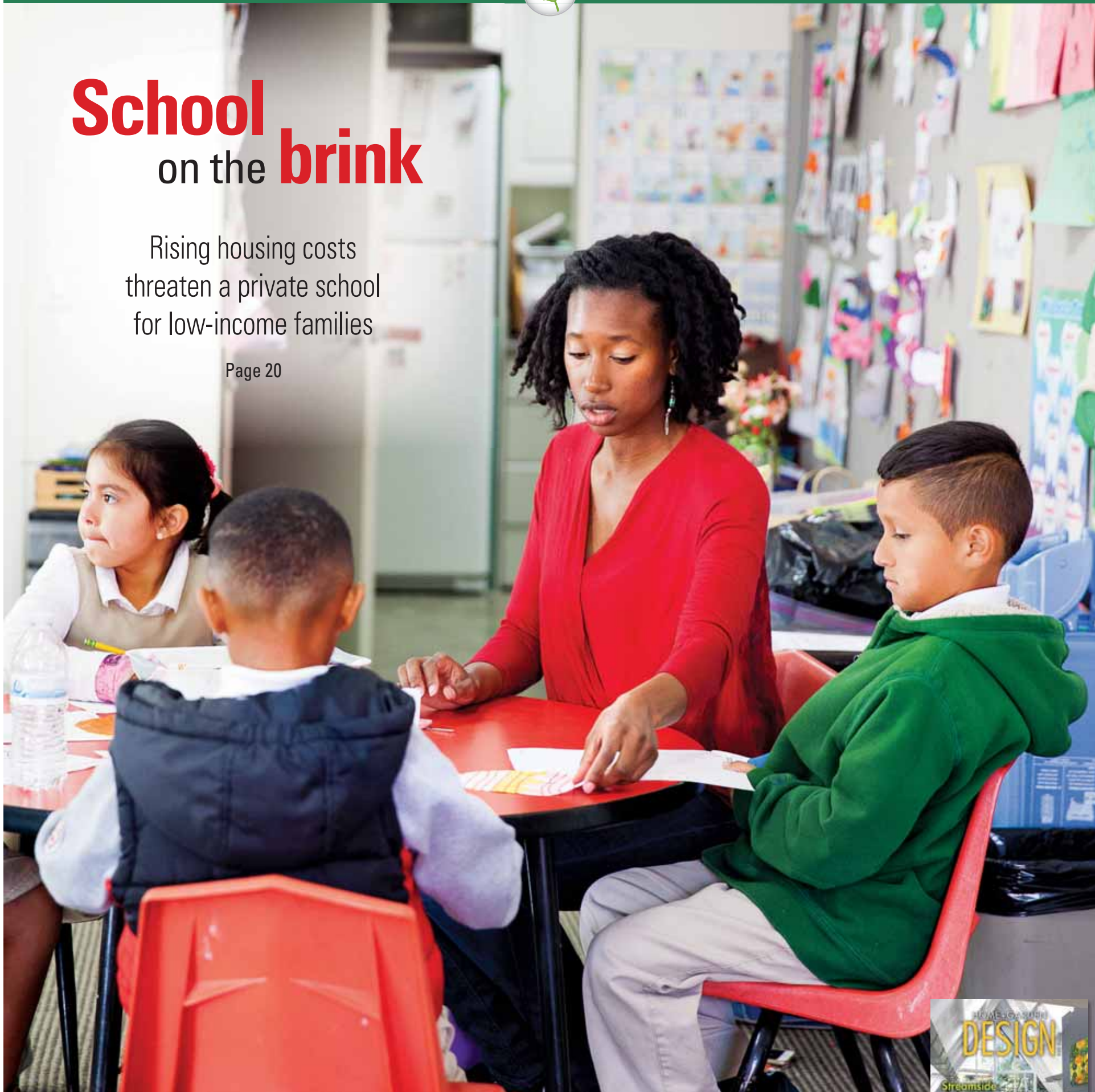


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for low-income families

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Spring 2016



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To request free delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call 854-2626.



PORTOLA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

4575 Alpine Road
Portola Valley, CA 94028

NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS FOR VENDED MEALS

1. Notice: Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of the Portola Valley School District herein referred to as “District”, is requesting proposals for vended meals for the lunch programs at Ormondale and Corte Madera School.

No offer of intent should be construed from this legal notice that the District intends to enter into a contract with the interested company for vended meals unless, in the sole opinion of the District, it is in the best interest of the District to do so. The District reserves the right to negotiate final contractual terms with the successful company.

2. Submittal: Written proposals must be sealed and filed with the District at the address shown above no later than 3:30 pm, Friday, April 29, 2016 and will be opened in public at that time.

3. Withdrawal: Companies may not withdraw proposals for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for opening of proposals.

4. Rejection: The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any irregularity therein. Proposals will be studied and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Trustees at its regular meeting.

5. Questions: Interested companies should direct questions to Jonathan Barth, CBO, at the address shown above or by phone at 650-851-1777, ext. 2560.

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Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Atherton: Greenheart study has flaws

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

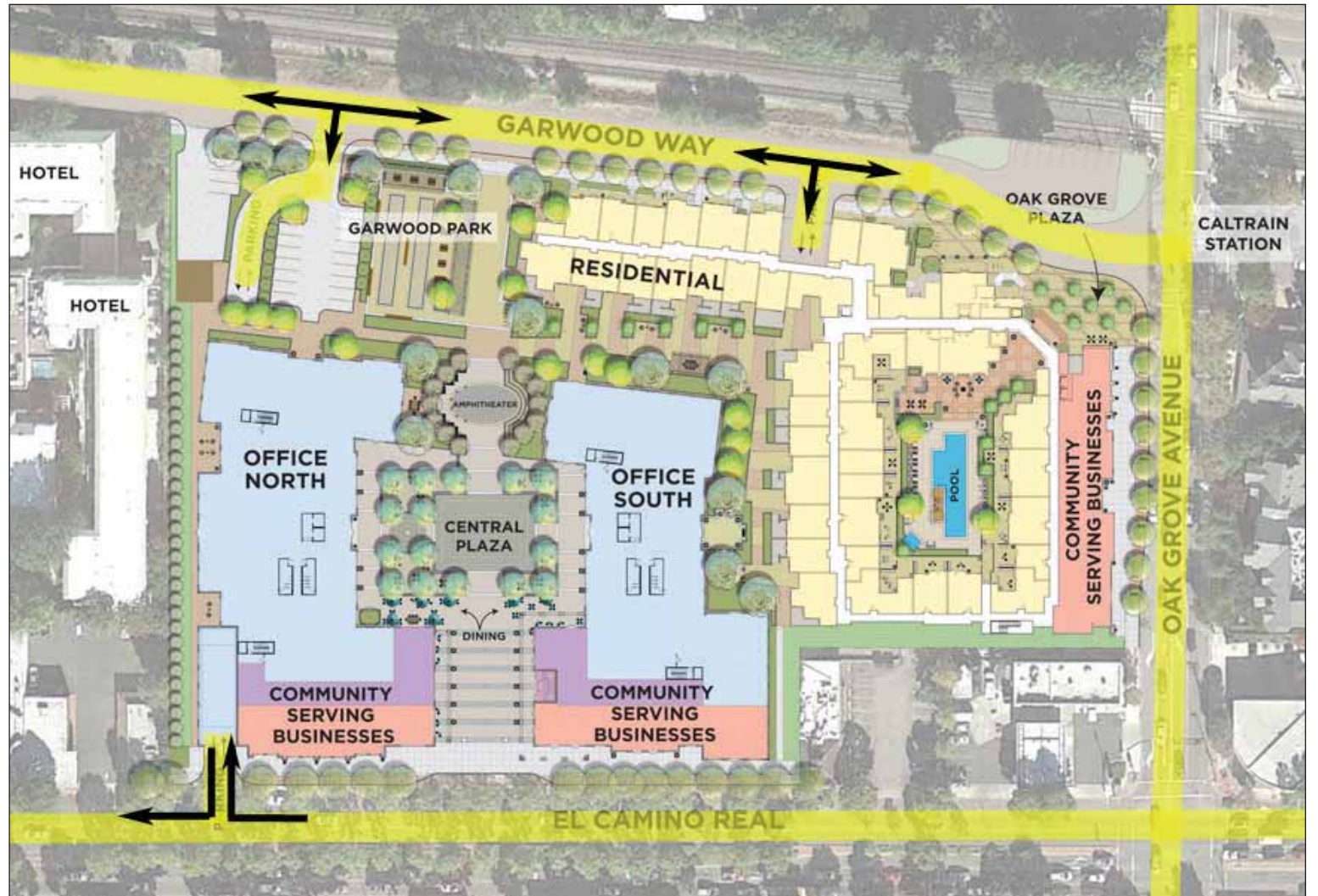
The environmental report on the proposed Greenheart Land Co. mixed-use project on El Camino Real in Menlo Park has major flaws, especially in the way the impacts of increased traffic are calculated, a March 31 letter from Atherton says.

The letter also asks that the developer of the 420,000-square-foot project at 1300 El Camino Real help pay for improvements to make Atherton's roadways safer and more convenient for bicyclists and pedestrians, and thereby take cars off the road and reduce the project's traffic impacts.

The letter, signed by Mayor Elizabeth Lewis on behalf of the town, says that flaws in the process of making predictions about the amount of traffic the project will generate and where that traffic will go "lead to false conclusions and underestimating project impacts" on Atherton.

Assumptions based on 16- to 18-year-old information about where traffic will go need to be updated, the letter says. Assumptions that traffic will grow about 1 percent a year for the next 24 years are also low, it says, based on recent traffic counts done by Atherton showing growth of about 3 percent or more each year between 2002 and 2015 on several Atherton streets.

The letter lists a number of suggested bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects to help take cars off the streets. Those projects are on Middlefield Road and El Camino Real



Greenheart Land Co.

Layout of Greenheart Development Co.'s proposed 420,000-square-foot mixed-use development along El Camino Real in Menlo Park.

and come from Atherton's Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan. City Manager George Rodericks said Atherton thinks Greenheart Land Co. "should pay their fair share based on the project impacts."

Atherton wants the report to look at reducing the amount of parking planned for the project. Plans show more than 1,000 onsite spots plus more

new parking spaces on Garwood Way. The town "believes parking reduction alternatives were not adequately studied," especially given that the proposed project is near the Caltrain station and other public transit, the letter says.

The letter asks for approval by neighboring Atherton residents before making a number of suggested improvements

to local streets to offset the impact of additional traffic from the project.

One proposed change, to the intersection of El Camino Real at Valparaiso and Glenwood avenues, is opposed by Atherton because it might not leave room for a future bike lane on El Camino, the letter says. Any changes "that preclude bicyclists and pedestrians on

El Camino Real will not be supported" by Atherton, the letter says.

Atherton's comments, and all other comments made during the review period for the environmental report, will be addressed in the final environmental report for the project. The final report must be approved by the Menlo Park City Council. ■

Woodside council sends basement ordinance back for more work

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The Woodside Town Council, for the fourth time this year, put off taking the first of two steps to adopt an ordinance to regulate the size and location of residential basements.

On a unanimous vote on March 22, with Councilman Peter Mason absent, the council sent the ordinance back to staff

for revisions, including adding a provision meant to improve the circumstances for someone wanting to build a small basement.

Under the revised ordinance, a site development permit will not be needed if the basement is 25 percent or less of the largest basement allowed for the main house. Site development permits can be onerous in that they engage the town's engineering department for technical analysis of

a project's drainage, geology or grading in anticipation of a substantial alteration to the site.

Resident and architect Steve Lubin, who was in the audience, proposed the idea of small-basement exclusion. Council members, when their turns came to comment, all showed support for it.

In the same action, the council addressed updates to grading calculations, and expressed support for another of Mr. Lubin's

ideas: that gravel-surfaced driveways be allowed on slopes of 5 percent or less, up from the current limit of 3 percent. The current restriction is "a ridiculously low cut-off," Mr. Lubin said, provided that the driveway be designed so as to prevent gravel from being tracked onto a paved road.

The draft ordinance included a provision, deliberated in February, allowing up to 65 percent of a basement to be located beyond

the footprint of the main house.

Before voting to approve the ordinance's draft revisions, Councilwoman Anne Kasten said she preferred an extension allowance of 50 percent rather than 65 percent. In changing her view, Ms. Kasten joined councilmen Dave Tanner and Peter Mason, both of whom were on the council subcommittee that came up with the regulatory skeleton for the proposed ordinance. ■

Community Health Education Programs



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April 25, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

How much is too much? How much is not enough? Featuring pediatric pulmonologist **Mona Luke-Zeitoun, M.D.**



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ADHD: Unlock Your Child's Potential

April 27, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

What is ADHD and how is it treated? Pediatric neurologist **Sarah Cheyette, M.D.**, explains.



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Exercise & Aging

May 10, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

PAMF physical therapists **Caroline Palmer, MPT, OCS**, and **Allison Granot, MPT, OCS**, will explain how exercise can help you stay active, happy and healthy.



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May 25, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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Clinton campaign way ahead in local fundraising

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Of all the candidates running for president of the United States, most local contributions to the campaign for Democratic Party frontrunner Hillary Clinton reach the \$2,700 limits set for giving to the primary and general elections. And Ms. Clinton's totals in her campaign are dramatically outpacing the campaigns of any other candidate of either major party.

In major contributions by local people to major parties and party affiliated superPACs, the numbers are much closer, with \$5.5 million given to Republican interests and \$5.3 million to those of the Democrats, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonprofit nonpartisan research group based in a Washington, D.C., that tracks money in politics.

Also tracking along similar trajectories nationwide are donations from organizations, including corporations and political action committees. Those committed to or leaning Democratic have given \$56.3 million compared to \$55.1 million for Republicans, according to the Center's records.

Clinton well ahead

Ms. Clinton has raised a little more than \$1 million from 500 donors in the Almanac's circulation area, almost twice as much as all the other major 2016 candidates combined, including those no longer running.

The three leading candidates for the Republican Party have raised a total of \$73,090 locally:

■ \$65,600 from 46 donors for Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

■ \$6,550 from 12 donors for Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

■ \$940 from three donors for businessman Donald Trump, who says he is financing his own campaign.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent running as a Democrat, raised \$41,221 from 68 donors spread among

the four communities in the Almanac's circulation area: Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley and Woodside.

Compared to the presidential campaigns in 2012 at this time, records show personal contributions to candidates are down 80 percent in Woodside, 72 percent in Menlo Park, 30 percent in Atherton, and are at about the same level in Portola Valley.

Major gifts

Major local contributors to Republican Party SuperPACs include \$4 million from Oracle founder and Woodside resident Lawrence J. Ellison, \$1.5 million from Atherton residents Charles R. and Helen O. Schwab, and \$1 million from Atherton resident Thomas F. Stephenson of Sequoia Capital, according to the records.

The two major contributions to Democratic Party SuperPACs listed are \$3.87 million from philanthropist Laure L. Woods of Portola Valley, and \$750,000 from Mark W. and Elizabeth Heising of Medley Partners in Atherton.

Other major donors include \$100,000 to America Leads from former eBay CEO Meg Whitman of Atherton; \$31,100 to the National Republican Congressional Committee from Greg Raleigh of Woodside; and \$25,000 to the Carly for America Committee from attorney Larry Sonsini of Woodside.

Also rans

Among the Republican candidates who have dropped out of the race, local totals are: \$158,650 to Sen Marco Rubio of Florida; \$149,800 to former Florida governor Jeb Bush; \$44,900 to former HP executive Carly Fiorina; \$41,500 to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie; \$17,950 to retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson; and \$17,302 to Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky.

Former Democratic candidate Martin O'Malley, the governor of Maryland, received \$3,450 from three donors. ■



Sereno gives to Peninsula Volunteers

Peninsula Volunteers Inc. has been selected to be one of the recipients of the Sereno Group's "1% for good" program. Sereno Group, a Silicon Valley real estate agency, has pledged to give 1% of gross commissions to Peninsula Volunteers Inc.

Last year Sereno Group donated

more than \$400,000 to local charities and community-minded organizations.

In addition to Little House, Peninsula Volunteers Inc. operates three programs for aging adults: Senior Affordable Housing, Meals on Wheels, and Rosener House.



Photo: Gullixson.com

This “just completed contemporary Italian villa” on Camino por los Arboles in Atherton is listed at \$42.8 million by real estate agents Mary and Brent Gullixson.

Atherton faces stiff competition for home sales price crown

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

For three years Atherton’s 94027 ZIP code has been listed by Forbes magazine as having the highest home prices in the country, but now the PropertyShark.com real estate website says based on actual sales prices, Atherton was second in 2015, far behind Sagaponack, New York.

The analysis by PropertyShark.com shows that, based on the median sales price of homes sold in 2015, Atherton’s median price of \$5.9 million isn’t really close

to Sagaponack’s \$8.5 million.

The Forbes rankings are based on asking prices rather than actual sales prices.

Other Peninsula ZIP codes on the PropertyShark list include:

■ No. 5, Palo Alto’s 94301 ZIP code, with a median sales price of \$3.15 million.

■ No. 12, Los Altos Hills’ 94022 ZIP code, at \$2.75 million.

■ No. 14, Los Altos Hills’ 94024 ZIP code, at \$2.6 million.

■ No. 15, Portola Valley’s 94028 ZIP code, at \$2.55 million.

■ No. 22, Palo Alto’s 94306 ZIP code, at \$2.28 million.

■ No. 24, Burlingame’s 94010

ZIP code, at \$2.21 million.

Atherton may yet challenge Sagaponack this year. Zillow shows Atherton currently has two listings close to \$40 million each: a home on Camino por los Arboles listed at \$42.8 million and one on Atherton Avenue listed at \$39.8 million.

Nearby Woodside, which also has skyrocketing housing prices, often does not appear on such lists because it shares its 94062 ZIP code with a big chunk of Redwood City and unincorporated areas.

Tinyurl.com/PS-Ath has the full PropertyShark.com story. ▣

Woodside man killed in hit-and-run crash

The coroner’s office identified the man killed March 27 in a head-on, hit-and run crash west of La Honda as Francois Jouaux, 46, of Woodside.

Mr. Jouaux was killed when the white Honda he was driving collided with a Ford F-250 pickup truck on state Highway 84 at about 7 p.m. on March 27. The truck was headed west and crossed a double yellow line for reasons unknown before colliding with the eastbound Honda, the California Highway Patrol reported.

The Jouaux family did not respond to an Almanac request for an interview.

In the accident, the truck over-

turned and the driver got out and ran into the woods, CHP officers said they were told by witnesses to the accident.

The pickup truck driver, identified as Tom Doane, 46, of El Granada, was arrested at about 3:20 p.m. March 28 at Kaiser Permanente hospital in Redwood City, where he was being treated for injuries, Officer Art Montiel of the CHP said.

The charges against Mr. Doane include felony hit-and-run and vehicular manslaughter, the CHP said.

The CHP located Mr. Doane after calling the hospital to ask about anyone admitted with injuries consistent with what

witnesses to the accident said they had seen, Mr. Montiel said. Officers were looking for major injuries to the left hand and head injuries, he said.

After the accident, officers with K-9 police dogs picked up a trail of blood into the woods, but were not able to find the driver at that time, Mr. Montiel said. “We knew he had sustained some injuries,” he said. “He was definitely out all night. We weren’t sure he was going to be able to make it, out in the cold with injuries.”

The CHP is asking anyone with information about this incident to contact Officer Jason Thinnes at 650-369-6261. ▣

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Having Your Own Agent

Dear Monica: My home is currently on the market and my agent has a client who would like to make an offer and she would like to represent both me and her buyer in this transaction. There may be other offers as well from other agents. Should I allow her to represent both sides in a sale especially if there are multiple offers?
—Greg D.

Dear Greg: You ask a complicated question but it is the right one to ask. On its face, it is not illegal or unethical for an agent to represent both sides in a transaction. But if your agent is also representing a buyer, she is not going to be in a

position to advocate for you should there be a conflict with the buyer. In almost all circumstances it is better to have your agent refer her buyer to another agent, and to have her only represent you. This eliminates conflicts of interest.

It gets even trickier if there are multiple offers. Your agent is the point of contact for any agents who have clients wanting to make an offer on your property. If your agent also has her own client, other agents will be constricted in what they want to share with her because she is in competition with them. This is not beneficial for you and is a conflict of interest for your agent.

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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Plans for major changes in Flood Park worry neighbors

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Some Menlo Park residents who live near Flood Park are concerned about a number of major changes to Flood Park proposed by the San Mateo County Parks Department. The neighbors expressed their displeasure during a recent walk that county parks officials held at the park.

The proposed changes, which grew out of a series of public “Reimagine Flood Park” meetings, would be implemented in phases over five years and cost \$14 million by preliminary estimates, according to Carla Schoof, a community program specialist for the county parks department.

Among the proposals are adding a soccer and lacrosse field, a baseball field, multiple play areas to accommodate all abilities, a shaded structure for an outdoor market, an amphitheater, picnic spaces, trails, a pump track (for sports bike riders), a sand volleyball pit, and tennis, bocce and basketball courts.

These proposals will go before the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission on Thursday, April 7. The meeting starts at 4 p.m. at the county supervisors’ chamber at 400 County Center in Redwood City.

The March 19 walk, attended by nearly 40 people, was intended for nearby residents to visualize the park plans and for county officials to answer questions. The attendees peppered county officials with questions and concerns.

The biggest concern appeared to be the location of a proposed full-size soccer and lacrosse field, which would run along Del Norte Avenue.

Residents of Del Norte said the field would be within 30 feet of their property lines, and would likely result in whistles being blown periodically throughout much of the day on weekends and likely on weekday afternoons during sports practices.

“Whistles carry a long, long way,” said 10-year Menlo Park resident Sarah Phillips.

Having a noisy soccer field so close to their homes could negatively affect their property values, others said.

Nettie Wijsman, who canvassed residents of her street, Del Norte Avenue, and adjoining streets, said she gathered 37 signatures from neighbors who said they wanted to see changes to the plans.

The biggest concern appeared to be the location of a proposed full-size soccer and lacrosse field, which would run along Del Norte Avenue.

Earlier plans had a youth soccer field, while current plans have a full-size field. Despite their protests over the past several months, nothing has changed, she said. She also said she’d like to see the baseball field converted to a multi-use field, instead of building another new field.

In addition, she expressed concern that the proposed pump track (a continuous loop of dirt berms and mounds used by off-road sports bicyclists) could “bring in different kinds of kids than live in our neighborhood.”

Several attendees were concerned that potential offers of

private funding from groups such as youth sports leagues could pressure the county to prioritize sports fields construction over other features. Building a full-size soccer field, they said, could result in felling some nearby trees.

“It’s clear ... there’s funding for soccer and baseball, (but) who’s funding the trees?” said Joan Hilse, who has lived in Menlo Park since 1976.

Others, including Doug Bui, a former Menlo Park planning commissioner, are worried about seeing more street parking due to increased use of the park. The park’s entry fee already drives visitors to park in and around their neighborhood. Adding more features without more parking would exacerbate the problem, he said.

Linda McBain, a 45-year Menlo Park resident, said she wants the park left alone, praising the aesthetics of its savannah-like swaths of grass mixed with trees. “I think it’s fine the way it is,” she said.

Flood Park, once part of the Flood family estate, was a project of the Work Progress Administration in the 1930s. Since then, Ms. Schoof said, its layout and amenity offerings have become “rather dated.”

Several years ago, she said, the park closed because the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission had to do work on the Hetch Hetchy right-of-way underneath the park’s baseball field. There’s no longer construction going on there, but the turf became unkempt and now is not usable as a baseball field.

The park was almost a casualty of county budget cuts, but in 2011 the community rallied around a “Save Flood Park” campaign.

Over the past several months,



Photo by Kate Bradshaw

Residents near Flood Park raise concerns about park changes.

Ms. Schoof said, the county parks department has hosted community meetings to see which amenities are most desired, and came up with its current plan. She said funding can’t be raised until a final plan is approved by the county Board of Supervisors.

While Ms. Wejsman said the process is moving forward too quickly, without sufficient concessions made for the requests of the park’s neighbors, there’s one

aspect that appears to be quite choked in red tape.

When one resident asked if he’d ever be allowed to walk his dog in the park, Marlene Finley, county parks director, said she was optimistic “we can do it in your lifetime.” The process, she said, would involve working with a committee to determine criteria to establish, within certain limits, where and when on-leash dog walking could be permitted. ■

Woodside seeks opinions of how it reviews residential projects

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The Woodside Town Council gave a green light on March 22 to the draft of a survey intended to determine opinions of property owners and/or architects, project managers and general contractors regarding the town’s project review, planning and building processes.

Many homeowners and others have complained about Woodside’s residential review process, and the survey is meant to get an accurate assessment of that opinion.

The survey will use Survey Monkey technology, Town Manager Kevin Bryant said. The draft survey was the result of a collaborative effort by Mr. Bryant and former council member Dave Burow, Planning Commissioner William Fender, and residents Bengt Henriksen and Greg Raleigh.

Go to tinyurl.com/jy6tray to see a copy of the draft survey, which starts on Page 3.

Participation in the survey will be by invitation only and will be completed by email, Mr. Burow said in a comment from the audience.

“I think this is a positive thing for the town,” Councilwoman Anne Kasten said.

Councilman Daniel Yost suggested “a tweak” to the four open-ended questions in the 32-question survey. He said the open-ended questions should seek comment on the town’s requirements as well as its processes for reviewing projects. Councilman Tom Livermore agreed.

An example of a requirement: When the proposed basement ordinance is adopted, it is expected to include a requirement that underground tunnels that connect basements be no more than

eight feet wide and nine feet high inside. Another requirement in that ordinance would not allow more than 65 percent of a basement to be located beyond the footprint of the main house.

Survey questions should be available at the planning counter, Mayor Deborah Gordon said, so applicants will know it’s coming.

The survey will look back as well as forward. The town will ask project applicants from the past two years — a pool of several hundred people — to take the survey, Mr. Bryant said.

Future applicants should see

survey invitations at three points in a project, he said: after project review by the Architectural and Site Review Board and/or Planning Commission; after receiving a building permit; and when the project is substantially complete.

The views of property owners are those most sought after, but owners will be welcome to solicit the views of their key people, including architects, project managers and general contractors, Mr. Burow said. Those latter views will be particularly valuable when the owner is not personally involved in a project, he said. ■

Las Lomitas district parents seek more diverse teaching staff

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

SCHOOLS

After 177 parents signed a letter asking the Las Lomitas Elementary School District to try to add some diversity to its teaching staff, the district has put the matter on the agenda for an April 13 meeting of its school board, scheduled to start at 7 p.m. in the La Entrada MUR at 2200 Sharon Road in Menlo Park.

See tinyurl.com/LLESD-4-13 for the meeting agenda. Superintendent Lisa Cesario said she will give a report about the district's recruitment efforts for the 2016-2017 school year. The public will be given a chance to comment and offer suggestions, she said.

The letter, sent in February, points out that although the district has 38 percent non-white students, it has far fewer non-white teachers.

"We would like to see the educators and administrators who inspire, inform, enlighten and

advocate for our children reflect the spectrum of diversity in our classrooms and community," the letter says.

Statistics gathered by the parents from the California Department of Education show that the Las Lomitas district has only 9 percent non-white teachers, the least diverse of any neighboring district except Woodside Elementary School District, which also has only 9 percent non-white teachers.

The statistics show in the 2014-15 school year that in their middle and elementary schools, the following districts had these percentages of non-white teachers: Los Altos School District, 20 percent; Palo Alto Unified District, 19 percent; Menlo Park City School District, 19 percent; San Carlos School District, 17 percent; and Portola Valley School District, 10 percent.

San Mateo County as a whole had 26 percent non-white teach-

ers and the state of California as a whole had 35 percent non-white teachers, the statistics show.

In March, the district sent a response to the letter, signed by Superintendent Cesario and all the school board members: Christy Heaton, John Earnhardt, Richard Ginn, Diane Honda and Bill Steinmetz.

The district is "actively engaged in recruiting and retaining a high-quality, diverse staff," the letter says. It lists a number of places where the district recruits teachers including colleges with teacher training programs and job fairs.

The letter says the district teaches all its interviewers about "unconscious bias to ensure that our hiring committees do not allow personal biases to prevent qualified candidates from being hired."

The letter says that its efforts "have placed Las Lomitas above surrounding school districts in the breadth and depth of our hiring practices." ■

Atherton assessed property values climb 38 percent in five years

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton's City Council will get its first look at the town's budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year during a study session on Wednesday, April 6. A staff report from Finance Director Robert Barron shows the town starting off with a surplus of nearly \$7.5 million — partly due to rising assessed property values — in addition to a reserve fund of over \$4.6 million.

The council will also look at a proposal from a resident to start a program to help older residents remain in Atherton. The meeting is a study session, starting at 3 p.m. in the town's council chambers, 94 Ashfield Road.

Assessed property values in Atherton have increased nearly 38 percent since the 2011-2012 fiscal year. The assessed valuation, which property taxes are based on, has gone up more than 9 percent a year every year except 2014-2015, when it went up only 6.5 percent.

Property taxes provide 67 percent of the town's general fund revenues the report says.

Mr. Barron says the rise in

assessed valuation is about to slow down and will be in the 4 to 5 percent range for the next five years.

The town has some significant expenses, including for workers' compensation assessment, which Mr. Barron says could increase by 33 percent a year for the next five years — from a projected \$146,079 in 2016-17 to \$461,220 in 2020-21 — compensating for a number of recent claims the town has had. The town is part of a joint powers agreement with other local cities to self-fund workers' compensation claims, but it must reimburse the group for the cost of any claims.

City Manager George Rodricks said the town can avoid a large increase in operational costs by paying for any money owed all at once instead of over five years, as it is allowed, and by maintaining a fund reserve. Since 2012 the town has had four major and three minor workers compensation claims, all related to public safety employees injured in the field.

Another large expense is what the town must pay into the California Public Employers' Retirement System (CalPERS) over the coming years, to

cover the retirement costs of its employees. That amount is about \$550,000 this year but will be over \$1 million in five years, Mr. Barron reports. The town's unfunded retirement liability was \$9.2 million in 2044, he reported.

The proposed budget allocates \$7.5 million to salaries and benefits, with \$5.8 million of that going to the town's police department.

The town also has a number of capital improvement projects it needs to pay for, including drainage system repairs, work in Holbrook-Palmer Park, and improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The study session is just the first of five meetings on the budget. Other meetings are scheduled for May 4, May 18 and June 1 with the budget set to be adopted on June 15.

Aging in place program

The City Council will also hear from Atherton resident Steve Abner who wants to form an organization for Atherton seniors who want stay in the town, or "age in place." He has asked that his group become a

See **PROPERTY VALUES**, page 10

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Ballots arriving this week

San Mateo County started mailing ballots and voter information this week to registered voters in the Menlo Park City School District, which has two parcel tax measures on the May 3 ballot. The county will continue mailing the ballots through April 18, the Elections Office says.

Registered voters are being sent mail-in ballots. For the votes to be counted, the ballots must be mailed and postmarked on or before May 3 and must be received by the Elections Office no later than Friday, May 6; or voters can hand deliver the ballots to the Registration & Elections Division's 24-hour ballot drop box at 40 Tower Road in San Mateo by 8 p.m. Election Day

(May 3) or the Menlo Park City Hall at 701 Laurel St. by 5:30 p.m. Election Day.

Voters may also vote in person at the 40 Tower Road office any weekday through May 2 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or on Election Day, Tuesday, May 3, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voters who have not received a ballot by April 18 should contact the Registration & Elections Division at (650) 312-5222 or by email: registrar@smcare.org.

At ShapeTheFuture.org, registered voters may track their ballots by clicking on the "Track My Ballot" link under the "Voters" section of the home page.

April 18 is the last day to register to vote in this election.

Remodeled Woodside Library sets April 16 date for its reopening

After a nine-month closure for extensive remodeling and rehabilitation, the Woodside public library at 3140 Woodside Road is set to reopen Saturday, April 16.

The daylong reopening ceremony begins at 10:30 a.m. with a ribbon-cutting and will include food, crafts, music, tours, 3D printing, magician Dan Chan and cookbook author Erin Gleeson.

At a cost of about \$2.8 million,

which came from property-tax revenues set aside for library expenses, the 5,000-square-foot interior has been reconfigured to include a learning center/meeting room and improved spaces for children and teens. The layouts for collections is more efficient, according to Shelly Hausman of the San Mateo County Libraries system, which has 12 community libraries, including Woodside's.

The restrooms are larger,

access for people with disabilities is better, the lighting is better and more efficient, and the building has been seismically retrofitted, Ms. Hausman said.

Woodside residents have been advised to use the Portola Valley Library while the renovation in Woodside was underway. The hours for the Woodside Library are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The library is closed on Sunday.

Surf Air expands to San Jose airport

Surf Air, the airline that has sparked thousands of complaints from Midpeninsula residents who said its turbo-prop planes are extremely noisy, is expanding its service to the San Jose International Airport, the company announced March 28.

The airline, which offers all-you-can-fly flights for a monthly fee of about \$2,000, has scheduled three daily round-trip flights on weekdays

between San Jose and Hawthorne, near Los Angeles, starting Monday, April 4.

The airline will operate out of the new Signature Flight Support facility at San Jose airport, a general aviation facility that doesn't require passengers to go through security checks and features amenities such as freshly baked cookies and muffins, popcorn, fresh fruit and showers, according to its website.

Surf Air President and CEO Jeff Potter said the addition of San Jose to Surf Air's schedule does not currently mean fewer flights in and out of San Carlos. "However, the San Jose and San Carlos markets do have some overlapping benefits for members, so we plan to evaluate further once San Jose matures and we understand the market demographics better," he said.

— Barbara Wood

Barbara Rubin Slate

December 7th, 1932 – March 23rd, 2016

Barbara Rubin Slate passed away after a short illness on Wednesday, March 23rd, 2016. Barbara is survived by her husband of 54 years, Harvey, her daughters Pamela (John) Brunson and Sally (James) Lee, her brother John (Claire) Rubin and her three grandchildren, whom she adored - KC and Colin Brunson and Jackson Lee.

Barbara was born in Oakland, California, on December 7th, 1932, to Louis and Katherine Rubin. She grew up in Piedmont, attending Piedmont High School where she met her lifelong friends in her LUNCH POOL group.

At the University of Oregon, Barb was a member of Delta Delta Delta and graduated with a BA in English. After college and working in advertising, Barb became a TWA flight attendant, launching a lifelong passion for travel and gracing passengers with her sunny personality.

In 1960, Barb's life changed forever when she met the love of her life Harvey Slate. They wed in 1961 and settled down in Menlo Park in 1967 with two young daughters, Pam and Sally, in tow.

Barbara became very involved in the local schools as her girls grew, and supported the Children's Hospital at Stanford through her membership in the Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary.

She worked for many years for the Menlo Park City School District, starting as a teacher's aide at Oak Knoll Elementary and moving on to the district office as the Secretary of Curriculum.

Barbara loved gardening and flower arranging, and enjoyed both through her volunteer work at Filoli. She was an avid knitter, dearly loved her KNATTY KNITTERS group and her loving creations for family, friends and charities brought joy to those who received them.

Barb was an accomplished cook, loved entertaining and always enjoyed an ice cube in her Chardonnay. Her years in THE ORIGINAL BOOK CLUB and her weekly BRIDGE GROUP kept her learning, challenging herself and socializing with her many beloved friends.

A celebration of Barbara's life was held on Friday, April 1st, 2016, at Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton. In lieu of flowers, donations would gratefully be accepted in her honor to the Lucille Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford - 400 Hamilton Ave., Suite 340, Palo Alto, CA 94301, or online at: <http://supportlpch.org/ways-give>



PAID OBITUARY

Mary Suransky Kimball Bulf

After living a full life, Mary Suransky Kimball Bulf died February 19 at the age of 92. Born in San Francisco, she moved to Palo Alto in 1932. Mary graduated from Palo Alto High School and attended San Jose State and the University of Washington before the war and later Chouinard Art Institute and UCLA, where she graduated and earned her teaching credential.

At UCLA Mary met and married Bill Kimball. While Bill was doing graduate work, Mary taught elementary school in Santa Monica and Orinda and then worked at UCLA. When the couple divorced, Mary moved back to Palo Alto and continued teaching for 22 years at Las Lomas School.

Through friends, Mary met her second husband Gene Bulf. They were both nature lovers, traveling around the United States in their van. They also traveled to Mexico, Canada, Europe and Japan.

In addition to folk dancing, Mary and Gene were active in Environmental Volunteers and Stanford's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. Through the Stanford International Center they hosted a woman from China for many years and participated in English-in-Action for 27 years. They visited Japan with an International Center group and later were invited back by English-in-Action partners.

Mary was perpetually curious, with a vibrant mind and wide-ranging interests. She remained active in the American Association of University Women Writers and Meditation groups until her death.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband Gene, sister Jewell Greenberg, and lifelong friend Janet Fisher. Mary is survived by Gene's children Jeffrey Bulf, Ellen Bulf, and Carolyn Quayle (Cliff); granddaughter Laura Whelan (Richard); niece Patti Roth (Greg); great nieces Shana Roth and Marcie Greenberg (Jerry Cabrera); and a great nephew Jay Roth (Lisa).

A celebration of Mary's life will be held on April 9th at 4 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 E Charleston Rd, Palo Alto.

Memorial gifts may be made in support of AAUW or Environmental Volunteers.



PAID OBITUARY

PROPERTY VALUES

continued from page 9

town "designated group," which would allow it to use town facilities and pay only any direct costs incurred.

The 2010 federal census found that 22.6 percent of Atherton residents, or 1,562 people, were 65 or older. Of those seniors, 5.4 percent had income below the poverty line at that time, \$10,458 a year.

The update to Atherton's state-mandated housing plan, approved in 2014, includes as goals "policies that enable seniors to 'age in place' as much as possible," and meeting other needs of its seniors.

Mr. Abner says his group would be called "Atherton Seniors Aging in Place (ASAP)". The group, he proposes, could hold regular meetings and help seniors with things such as transportation, technology and security. It could sponsor educational events and special interest groups such a gardening, cooking or book groups.

Other "designated groups" recognized by the town are the Holbrook-Palmer Park Foundation and the Friends of Holbrook-Palmer Park, the Friends of the Atherton Library, the Atherton Arts Foundation and Atherton Now, the group raising funds for the new civic center.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR LEASE-LEASEBACK CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Las Lomitas Elementary School District, located in San Mateo County, California, hereby invites and will receive proposals for Lease-Leaseback Construction Services (LLB) for the following work:

Construction of New Classroom Building and Sitework at La Entrada Middle School

The LLESd School District seeks proposals from qualified LLB entities to provide pre-construction services, construction services, and post construction services as outlined in the Request for Qualifications/Request for Proposals available on the District's website at:

<https://llesd-ca.schoolloop.com/bidding>

Schematic Plans and Specifications may be viewed at:

Las Lomitas School District Main Office
1011 Altschul Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025
By appointment only / 48 hr. notice or Online via District document portal
Call 650-854-6311 ext 42 for appointment or directions to access online portal.
Additionally, final plans and specifications will be available at the same location.

Written proposals must be submitted no later than

2:00 PM Tuesday May 3, 2016

at the Las Lomitas Elementary School District Main Office.

A Mandatory Pre-Proposal conference has been scheduled for

4:00 PM Thursday April 14, 2016

Attendees must be present for the entire meeting.

Meet for the conference at the following site:

La Entrada Middle School (meet at main office)
2200 Sharon Rd, Menlo Park, CA 94025

Selection Process

The successful applicant will be selected based on review of the proposals and interview of applicants to determine the LLB entity that is most qualified to meet the needs of the District.

After selection and approval by the District's Board of Trustees, the District will negotiate a mutually agreeable LLB Contract with the selected firm for construction of the entire project pursuant to the LLB provisions of Education Code Section 17406, *et seq.*

If the District is unable to reach an agreement, the District will proceed, at its sole discretion, to negotiate with the next firm selected by the District.

Prevailing Wage Requirements

This project is a "public work," and the general prevailing wage rates mandated by Labor Code Section 1770, *et seq.*, will apply to the Project. Applicable prevailing wage rates are available on the California Department of Industrial Relations website at www.DIR.ca.gov.

The Contractor and all Subcontractors on the project shall pay all workers on all work performed pursuant to this Contract not less than the general prevailing per diem wage rate and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the DIR for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed.

This project is subject to labor compliance monitoring and enforcement by the DIRs. The successful Bidder shall comply with all requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1, of the Labor Code. Contractor and all subcontractors shall submit certified payroll monthly via the eCPR system.

No contractor or subcontractors may be listed on the bid proposal unless registered with the DIR pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5.

Skilled and Trained Workforce

Pursuant to Section 17407.5 of the California Education Code, the selected LLB entity must commit to use a "Skilled and trained workforce" to perform all work on the project that falls within an apprenticeshipable occupation in the building and construction trades.

Escrow Accounts

Pursuant to Section 22300 of the California Public Contract Code, the Agreement will contain provisions permitting the successful bidder to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under the agreement or permitting payment of retentions earned directly into an escrow account.

Payment Bond

Before commencing any work under the contract, the Contractor shall file a Payment Bond with the Owner. It shall be a surety bond issued by a corporation licensed to transact business in the State of California and approve by the District. The bond shall be issued at the expense of the Contractor; and shall be maintained during the entire life of the Contract. This bond shall be in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price and shall secure the payment of all claims for labor and materials used or consumed in the performance of this contract.

Disabled Veteran's Business Enterprise

In accordance with Education Code Section 17076.11, The Las Lomitas Elementary School District has "a participation goal of at least 3% per year of the overall dollar amount expended each year by the school district for Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises." Thus, the LLB entity will be required during bidding for construction to make a good faith effort to achieve this 3% participation goal. Requirements for showing that this good faith effort has been made will be outlined prior to bidding.

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

Larry Shannon, who arrested one of the Chowchilla kidnappers, was involved in shooting incidents, and investigated homicides as a detective during a 29-year career with the Menlo Park Police Department, died March 26 in Auburn, California, at age 67.

A service was held for Sgt. Shannon on April 4 at Sierra Foothills Funeral Services in Auburn. His ex-wife Marilyn Shannon did not give the cause of his death but said he wasn't in good health. He had two daughters, two granddaughters and two brothers, she said.

Sgt. Shannon was on the Menlo Park police force from 1972 to 2001, retiring as a detective sergeant. Sixteen of those years were as a detective, supervising detective or on the county's narcotics task force, the department said. He also worked undercover.

In 1976, Officer Shannon nabbed one of the Chowchilla kidnappers, according to Burke Bruttig, an officer who served with Mr. Shannon. Three young men from Atherton and Portola Valley had kidnapped a bus full of children in Chowchilla and had attempted to bury them alive at a quarry near Livermore, holding them for a \$5 million ransom. Ultimately the children and the bus driver escaped. As one of the kidnappers, James Schoenfeld, was returning to Atherton, the car passed through Menlo Park, and Officer Shannon with another officer apprehended the driver, Mr. Bruttig said.

Mr. Bruttig told about another Officer Shannon police exploit: While attempting to arrest a suspect who had stabbed another officer in the arm, Officer Shannon narrowly avoided being stabbed in the heart by falling



2003 Photo courtesy Robert Wood
Larry Shannon

OBITUARY

Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.

backward onto the ground. Officer Shannon then drew his gun and shot the approaching man.

"According to Larry, the suspect stopped in his tracks, bleeding profusely, and said to officer Shannon, "Nice shot!" — and collapsed," Mr. Bruttig said.

The suspect survived and ultimately went to prison after a trial, Mr. Bruttig said.

Sgt. Shannon was well-liked by his colleagues and provided "exceptional" public safety service, both in patrol and detective work, according to Mr. Bruttig.

He was the lead negotiator for the police management association in talks with the city of Menlo Park on salary and benefits for police managers.

"He was a good and dedicated officer, held everyone to (a) high standard, and everyone remembers his great sense of humor," said Jeff Keegan, who worked with Sgt. Shannon for 10 years.

"Larry was a really interesting creature," said Wally Joseph, a longtime friend who attended Oak Knoll School with Mr. Shannon.

"While everybody else was arresting somebody or interrogating people, he'd take a guy out, buy him a steak, and (the guy) would tell him everything he needed to know," Mr. Joseph said. "He didn't discriminate at all between old, young, smart or dumb. He talked the same to everybody."

The two men became scuba diving buddies, he said. They received their diving certificates at the same time and would go diving in Monterey.

"Larry's had every hobby in the book," Mr. Joseph said, including fishing, crossbow hunting and taxidermy. He also liked to play golf.

About 10 former members of the Menlo Park Police Department have retired to the Placer County area, said Mr. Bruttig, and they still meet up about quarterly for breakfast or lunch. ■

■ BIRTHS

Menlo Park

■ Julie and Chris Smith, a son, Feb. 17, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Lizia Pech and Joel Bautista, a daughter, Feb. 19, Sequoia Hospital.

Portola Valley

■ Sandy and Jason Schroedl, a son, March 26, Sequoia Hospital.

Emerald Hills

■ Lori and Genio Borghi, twin sons, March 6, Sequoia Hospital.

express

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Fire chief: Grass fire started by 'human action'

By Kate Bradshaw
and Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writers

A grass fire that started at an open swampy area in eastern Menlo Park near Bayfront Expressway and University Avenue burned 13 acres and engaged firefighters for about three hours before the fire was extinguished shortly after 7 p.m. Monday, March 28, fire officials said.

The fire was started by "some form of human action" at one of several homeless encampments in the area, according to Chief Harold Schapelhouman of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District. The Menlo Park Police Department is investigating the case.

Eight fire engines were on the scene from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District and neighboring fire departments, including Redwood City's and Palo Alto's.

Firefighting support also came

from Brandon Vacarro, a private fire photographer, who flew a quadricopter drone to capture real-time aerial footage of the fire, which helped firefighters to extinguish the fire faster, Chief Schapelhouman said. The Menlo Park district is seeking certification through the Federal Aviation Administration for its own unmanned aerial system.

Go to tinyurl.com/fire428 to see the aerial video.

The fire

The location of the fire, a wildlife area with tall brush and spongy, soggy ground, is privately held by the Kavanaugh family. Called the Kavanaugh Tract, it is located at University Avenue and Bayfront Expressway, near the western end of the Dumbarton Bridge and within sight of Facebook's headquarters.

The flames reached 20 feet at one point. "It was pretty dramatic for a period of time," Chief Schapelhouman said. "It must



Photo by Kate Bradshaw/The Almanac

Menlo Park firefighter Scott Blandford sprays water during the "mop up" of a 13-acre fire near University Avenue and Bayfront Expressway on Monday, March 28.

have been a pretty good show for (Facebook) employees to watch."

Firefighters responded to the fire at about 3:50 p.m. when it had engaged about a quarter-acre and was being driven by heavy winds. Firefighters on the scene asked dispatchers to call in a second alarm at about 4 p.m.

"We got a pretty good grass fire," a firefighter reported at 4:10. "It's reaching University with (its) four lanes. We're hoping that is a (fire) break. ... A lot

of smoke. ... Hard to identify anything at this point."

The wind, at 20 mph to 25 mph, played a big role, the chief said.

Firefighters knocked down the fire near power lines. They were worried about the fire moving toward the power lines, where they couldn't get on the ground to fight it. "It's rough going to get out there," Chief Schapelhouman said in reference to the swampy ground the

firefighters were working in.

The stronger than average winds also carried the embers uncomfortably close to the East Palo Alto homes across University Avenue, and the firefighters blocked off some of those streets for safety, issuing a shelter in place order for residents in the area.

The fire never endangered any structures and did not jump across any roads. The untended

See **FIRE**, page 14



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Pit bull hits marks at national obedience competition

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The story of Jasmine, a 3-year-old brown pit bull from Woodside, has the trajectory of a rags to riches tale, and though she wore no rags, she did accumulate riches, of a kind.

With the help of her owner, Nan Daley, Jasmine — a rescue dog of a notorious breed who lacked social skills when introduced to the Daley household — has advanced to a top tier of accomplishment in obedience training.

Jasmine and Ms. Daley were among 134 dog/owner teams invited to the 2016 AKC National Obedience Championship

on March 19 and 20 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and they finished among the top 50 competitors, Ms. Daley said.

Obedience competitions challenge dogs with a series of tests, including finding and carrying away a barbell imbued with its owners scent from a pile of identical barbells, jumping over an obstacle set to the height of the dog's withers, and responding to commands at a distance. "It's the highest level of obedience in the AKC," Ms. Daley said.

Jasmine entered the contest in the All-American category, intended for dogs of mixed heritage, though Ms. Daley said she thinks Jasmine is a purebred

Staffordshire terrier — the term of art the American Kennel Club uses to refer to a pit bull.

The most common competitors at this event are golden retrievers and border collies, Kennel Club spokesperson Brandi Hunter said. Dogs entered as All Americans rarely place in top 50, and the last time it happened was in 2011, she said.

Obedience contests have nothing to do with looks, Ms. Daley said. If they did, Jasmine would flunk on account of her one floppy ear, she said.

Not taught

When Jasmine arrived at the Daleys three years ago, dropped off by a friend of her daughter's,



Photo by Kevin Daley

Jasmine found and carried away a barbell imbued with its owners' scent from a pile of identical barbells.

it was supposed to be for no more than a day. Then the owner said he no longer wanted her. "Oh, great," Ms. Daley recalled thinking. Should she take her to the Humane Society, or have her trained to be more adoptable?

Ms. Daley, who is retired from a career in real estate, chose training through the Canine Good Citizen program. "The faster I got her trained and got the certificate, the faster I could get her out of the house," she recalled thinking. It didn't work out that way. "I kind of switched sides," she said.

Both she and her dog loved the training, Ms. Daley said. Jasmine learned quickly and earned the advanced title of Utility Dog in May 2015, Ms. Daley said.

With her first experiences living as a guard dog marooned in a backyard, Jasmine had missed out on some basic dog experiences, Ms. Daley said. "She had

never been on a walk before and didn't know to go potty on a walk. She was startled by bikes and even a fire hydrant," Ms. Daley said. "Now, two years later, our walks are her favorite thing to do!"

The two work on some aspect of obedience training every day, Ms. Daley said. Jasmine has no guard-dog duties. "We have an alarm for that," Ms. Daley said. The dog sleeps with the couple at night, and naps with the long-haired cat Andromeda. Jasmine gets upset only when she is left behind, Ms. Daley said.

"Her favorite things to do is lick," she said. "I tell people I haven't been kissed like this since high school."

Her goal: "I'm trying to change people's mind so that not everyone thinks (pit bulls) are all bad," Ms. Daley said. "You can have a pit bull and have a very good family member." ■

FIRE

continued from page 13

grass and bushes are between four feet and six feet high, high enough to hide a homeless encampment, Chief Schapelhouman said. The property owners used to mow down the area, he said, but can do so no longer due to environmental concerns.

At the time of the fire, there were at least three homeless encampments on the property. It is also one of several fires within the last month that has originated near a homeless encampment.

During the fire, University Avenue was shut down in both directions and authorities asked

drivers to avoid the area.

The fire's quick growth and strength seemed to surprise some firefighters. Since most of the nearby grasses are green and the ground is fairly moist — it was raining slightly during the fire — it's considered an "off-season" time for fire risk.

"In California, it's always fire season," said Division Chief Jim Stevens of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

The nearest helicopter for a water drop was stationed in Napa, since the helicopter normally assigned to the area and with the capability to drop water is in maintenance and out of service, Chief Schapelhouman said. ■

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Steve was born in Menlo Park, raised in Atherton, and is a Woodside resident.

Nobel Peace Prize winner talks about her work, faith

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Iranian human rights lawyer Shirin Ebadi, who recently spoke to a sold-out auditorium at Menlo-Atherton High School, gave an interview to the Almanac, which was translated by Shirin Ershadi, a colleague of Ms. Ebadi.

In her new book, "Until We Are Free: My Fight for Human Rights in Iran," Ms. Ebadi details how the government of Iran treated her and her family after she won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad rose to power in 2005.

Her phones were wiretapped and her law firm bugged. Spies followed her, detained her daughter, arrested her sister, and harassed her colleagues. Her home was attacked by mobs, her office was seized, her lectures were shut down, a death threat was nailed to her door, and her husband was blackmailed into speaking publicly against her.

Following is a Q&A from the Almanac interview.

Q: In your new book, you write about how you always had a desire to convince people that human rights matter. Where do you think that conviction comes from?

A: There are numerous elements that impact one's personality. The most important is family, and I was born in a modern religious family. This means although I was born in a Muslim family and we were Muslims, I went to a Zoroastrian school (because) it was a good school and it was close to our house.

Also we were three girls and one boy, and my parents never discriminated against the girls, meaning that all of the liberties my brother enjoyed, we enjoyed as well.

All of these impacted the forming of my personality. On top of that is the fact that I am a law graduate. And when I came across all the injustices that happened after the revolution, I decided to dedicate myself to the defense of human rights.

Q: You say in the book, "In my belief system,



Courtesy of Random House

Shirin Ebadi: "What I'm telling young people is this: Don't think that if you fail the world has come to an end. Start again."

human rights work is an act of worship." What did you mean by that?

A: That's true. You don't look at human rights as

a business or a job.

The same (way) some people work for a bank or some people work for the post office, some other people go and work for a human rights organization. That in reality is a job.

But for me that was not the case. I earned my income through legal advice I provided to other organizations, and I just worked on human rights pro bono. It's the same as going to church. You don't charge anyone to worship. I think that human rights should be the same.

This is the only way that you can be a real activist in human rights, because you are working for a higher goal, not for money.

Q: Throughout so much of your story, when it seems that things can't get worse, your response is to not let enemies see you as weak and to just to keep working harder. Are there other things you do to not lose hope?

A: If you get stuck in the middle of the sea on a boat, and the boat breaks down, what is it that you should do?

There's no other way but to continue swimming.

If you lose hope or if you start thinking about how far land could be, then you cannot swim any longer. Some people are like me. It's like we're stuck in the middle of the sea. We cannot lose hope. We don't have the right to lose hope.

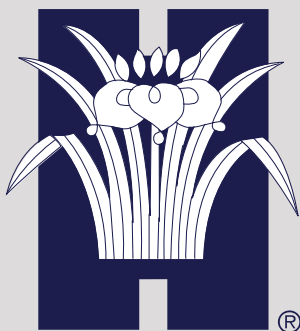
Every morning when I wake up, I tell myself: "You don't have the right to lose hope. You don't have the right to get tired."

Q: What do you see as the purpose of this book?

A: This is a great question. There were two reasons behind writing this book.

First, I wanted to show how the government of Iran treated me. I was neither the leader of a political party, nor a political rival of anyone in the government. I was not running for office. I'm a human rights attorney and I have won the Nobel Peace prize. This is the way the government treated me. Just imagine how they would treat an ordinary student or a

Continued on next page



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Nobel Peace Prize winner talks about her work, faith

Continued from previous page

young journalist who is caught. In reality, by reading this book, you will feel what people are undergoing in Iran.

My second purpose was to give hope to the young people, specifically to young women. At age 63, which is usually the age when people retire, in a single month I lost everything that I had built. I lost my property, all of my bank accounts were closed down. I lost my husband, I lost my family, I lost my career that I had built for all these years. And I went into exile in a country (where) I didn't speak the language and was not familiar with the culture.

But none of these resulted in me stopping my work. I started working more than before, and I have to say that I succeeded.

What I'm telling young people is this: Don't think that if you fail the world has come to an end. Start again. There's only one way where if you work, you will not succeed, and that is when one dies. Of course, if one dies, then there

is nothing else to do because everything has come to an end.

Therefore, (while) you live, under whatever condition, you can start again and succeed.

Q: How were you able to maintain a personal faith when the government around you was carrying out injustice in the name of your religion?

A: I totally kept my faith, and the reason for it was I knew that they are abusing the name of Islam. Many people abuse religion. Of course you remember what happened in the medieval ages with the Christian faith. Also, how the USSR abused socialism.

Therefore abuse of an ideology is different from the ideology itself.

Q: Is there anything that people can do to prevent or deal with a government that is repressive?

A: People (can) continue their resistance and stay unified. ■

Former ABAG official sentenced in \$3.9 million embezzlement

By Julia Cheever

Bay City News Service

A former finance official with the Association of Bay Area Governments was sentenced in federal court in San Francisco on March 23 to one year and one day in prison for a fraud in which he admitted embezzling nearly \$3.9 million in bond funds.

Clarke Howatt, 56, now of Portland, Oregon, was given the prison term by U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer, who also ordered him to spend six months in home confinement after release from prison.

Mr. Howatt was formerly a financial services director in charge of bonds issued by an ABAG affiliate, the ABAG Finance Authority for Nonprofit Corporations, known as FAN.

ABAG, based in Oakland, is a regional planning agency for

nine Bay Area counties.

Mr. Howatt pleaded guilty before Judge Breyer in December to one count of wire fraud in the electronic transfer of \$1.3 million in stolen funds, and admitted to other thefts, bringing the total amount embezzled to nearly \$3.9 million between June 2011 and January 2015.

The stolen bond proceeds were related to the Rincon Hill high-rise development in the South of Market District of San Francisco and the Windemere Ranch housing development in San Ramon.

The funds were intended to be used for public works such as streets, sidewalks and schools to offset the impacts of building developments.

At the time of his guilty plea, Mr. Howatt and his parents had repaid ABAG about \$3.5 million and the agency was satisfied

with that amount of restitution, according to court filings.

The maximum possible sentence for the fraud conviction was 20 years.

In a sentencing brief asking for leniency, defense attorney Mary McNamara said Mr. Howatt was "deeply remorseful" and had suffered from manic phases of a bipolar disorder that was not treated with appropriate medication.

Prosecutors in an opposing brief unsuccessfully asked for a heavier sentence of three years and three months in prison.

They wrote that Mr. Howatt deserved credit for cooperating in the investigation and seeking to pay restitution, but argued that despite any medical problems, his conduct showed "concerted and coordinated steps to achieve his goals" in the embezzlement over three and one-half years.

Documentary on 'Important Things'

"Minimalism: A Documentary About the Important Things" will be screened at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 2, at the Guild Theatre in Menlo Park, if 60 tickets are reserved or sold by May 23.

The screening, hosted by a chapter of the National Association of Professional Organizers, is organized by Gathr, an on-demand theater service that provides screenings of films if

a minimum number of people reserve tickets before a set deadline.

Go to tinyurl.com/gathr457 to reserve a ticket for \$13.50. Credit cards are charged only if the minimum number of reservations is met.

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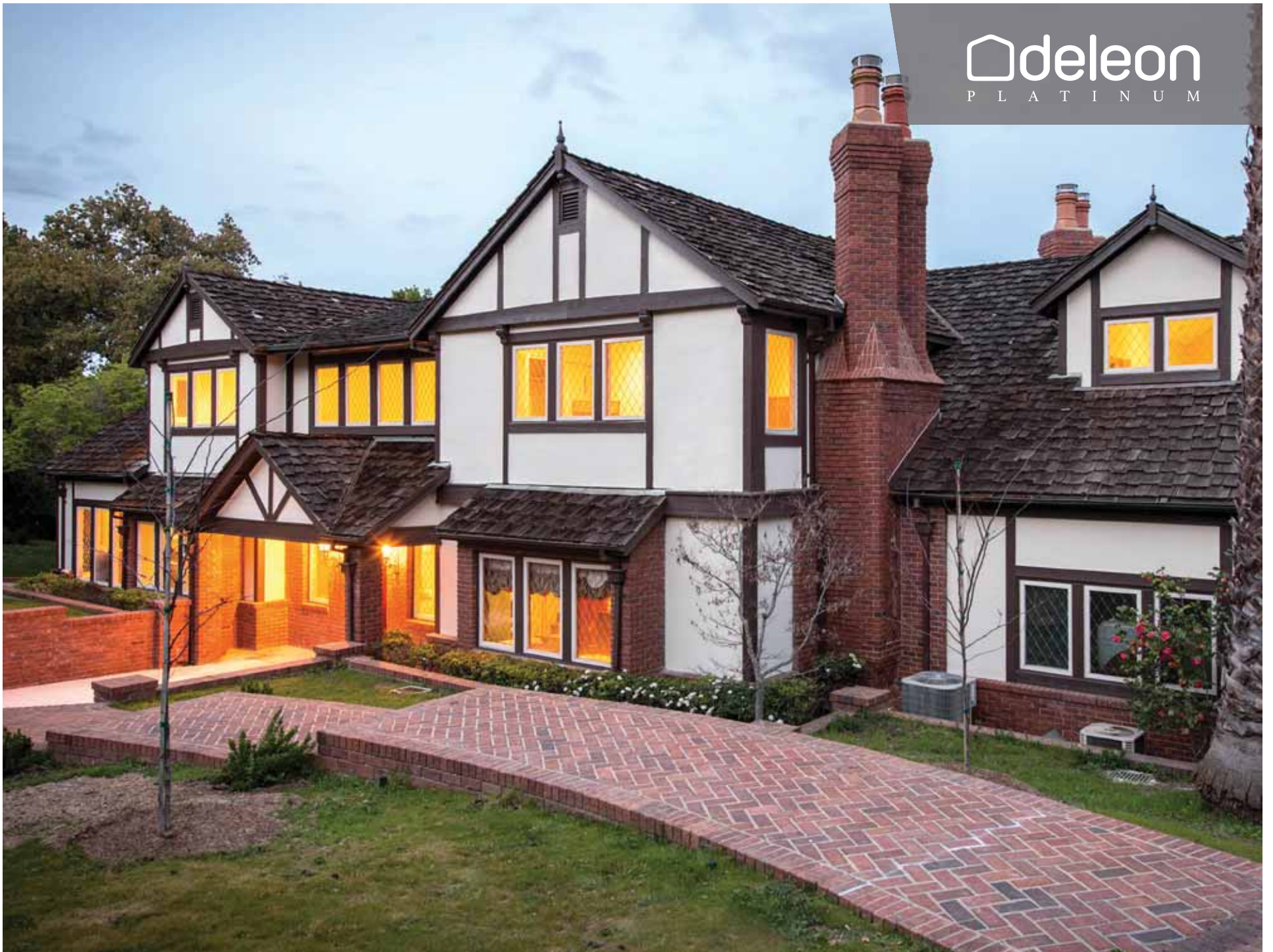
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School on the brink

Students prepare for their talent show audition in the auditorium at Beechwood Elementary School in Menlo Park. Twenty-eight students who began attending the school as residents of Belle Haven or East Palo Alto now live elsewhere.

Every morning, Konstance Kirkendoll leaves her San Leandro home at 7 a.m., with her two children, an 8-year-old and a 3-month-old, in tow.

On good days, she says, she makes pancakes before they head out. Other days, they grab muffins or yogurt to eat in the car. Together, they drive anywhere between 45 minutes to an hour and 15 minutes to get to Beechwood School in eastern Menlo Park. Ms. Kirkendoll drops off her baby at a cousin's house nearby, before they arrive at Beechwood School, located at 50 Terminal Ave. across the parking lot from the Onetta Harris Community Center.

It's the school she attended as a child and now where her daughter attends as a second-grader. It's also where she works as a teaching aide for kindergarten and pre-kindergarten students. After 24 years of learning, volunteering, teaching and parenting there, it's a place she's come to call home.

However, the private elementary school, which enrolls about 170 students from low-income families, mostly

from eastern Menlo Park and East Palo Alto, faces a crisis. As housing costs skyrocket, an increasing number of families the school serves — and the teachers who serve them — find themselves priced out of nearby housing.

One recent day after school, a group of 10 stakeholders at Beechwood gathered in a staff meeting room to talk about the crisis facing the Belle Haven school, which was founded in 1984 and serves students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Those in attendance were David Laurance, the principal; Katie Fields, executive director of the school's nonprofit arm, the California Family Foundation; Helga Wild, a member of the Belle

Haven Community Development Fund; plus a number of concerned teachers and academic support instructors.

At the heart of their concerns are these questions: What do you do when there are fewer and fewer low-income students left in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto to teach? How will the school continue its mission of serving local low-income students? What will the school

Rising housing costs threaten a private school for low-income families

By Kate Bradshaw | Photos by Michelle Le

do when even teachers can't afford to live nearby?

Mr. Laurance, the principal, says that this year there are four families he knows of that have left or will be leaving Beechwood due to the rising cost of housing. Twenty-eight students at the school who previously lived in East Palo Alto or eastern Menlo Park now live elsewhere.

There are also nine staff members experiencing financial strain due to the high cost of housing. Many other families are experiencing strain too, he says. At a school where there are only 10 to 18 students in each class, those strains and changes are seen and felt acutely.

How bad is it?

In Belle Haven, 78 percent of households are categorized in the low, very low or extremely low income categories, with the median household income being \$53,971, according to statistics from the 2010-2014 American Community Survey, recently reported by the city of Menlo Park. That median income is about 47 percent of the citywide median household income of \$115,650.

A 2013 infographic from Menlo Park's housing element presents various income scenarios wherein housing could be afforded. Only the hypothetical household where two adults work — one in a high-earning job for a law firm and the other in a professional career (the example was as a social worker) — were there a number of theoretically affordable housing options throughout the city.

In other words, anything less than two household members making moderate- to high-levels of income would render most of Menlo Park's housing stock out of reach. And those figures are from three years ago. Over



Left: Teacher Priscilla Taylor instructs students on how to play “Settlers of Catan.” The board game involves social studies and math, teaching kids how to barter and negotiate.

Below: Beechwood teacher Nathan Pantoja catches up with students. He and his wife Diana, who also works at Beechwood, have three children and live in Santa Clara. They pay about 45 to 50 percent of their shared income on rent.

On the cover

Kindergarten teacher aide Konstance Kirkendoll mentors students at Beechwood Elementary School in Menlo Park. She and her daughter commute to the school from San Leandro. (Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac.)



subsidized by the California Family Foundation.

Ms. Taylor says about a quarter of the school’s students have vocalized concerns about their family’s precarious housing situations. There are likely others who don’t talk about it out of embarrassment, she says.

Now, teachers say they’re seeing new symptoms of the housing crisis leaking into the lives of their students.

“We have students living in garages, living with multiple families, students whose parents really struggle to find an affordable place to live,” says Katherine Magid, a kindergarten teacher at Beechwood.

That strain children feel, she says, manifests in ways that can negatively affect their schoolwork.

“It’s really hard for kids to focus on learning when they’re wondering where they’re going to live and if they’re going to have to move,” Mr. Laurance says.

Ms. Kirkendoll says that long commutes impact her kindergarten and pre-kindergarten students, who sometimes come to school hungry, having skipped breakfast in a rush to get out the door, or had eaten hours prior to a lengthy commute. Oftentimes, they’re sleepy from waking up so early. Those factors can make them cranky and ill-disposed toward study time. Among older kids, impacts like having to wait a long time for a ride home, or having limited study space, affect their work. One of Ms. Taylor’s bright math students, she says, is underperforming in class because the only place he can do homework is on the kitchen floor.

Teachers say they’re seeing their vibrant community affected. Parent participation, one of the school’s central tenets, has taken a hit. Parents who used to sit and talk in the parking lot as they waited for their kids to get out of school are now passing that time coming back from a second job, picking up and dropping off students late, and spending more time commuting to increasingly far-flung residences.

“You shouldn’t have to commute two hours to contribute to a community, to live or work here,” says Ms. Taylor.

Even students whose housing situations are not under direct threat are affected as they witness the displacement of their friends and classmates.

Alejandro Vilchez, a parent of four children who all attend or have graduated from Beechwood, says recently

the last year, home values in Belle Haven rose 18 percent and are projected to increase another 4 percent this year, according to Zillow Real Estate.

Yet pricey housing is nothing new in the region. Over the years, the teachers say they’ve seen the economic pressures tighten and release for families. Ms. Kirkendoll says that when she was a student at Beechwood (she graduated in 2001), she saw a gradual shift as the community changed from largely African American to largely Hispanic, as many African American families moved to more affordable areas like Tracy, Modesto or Stockton. In 2007 and 2008, things were tough for families too, the teachers say, but what they’re seeing now has escalated to a new level.

“It’s systematic,” says Priscilla Taylor, who teaches math to middle school students, is a former principal at the school, and has been at Beechwood for 20 years.

A single mother of three Beechwood students, who wishes to remain anonymous, will be leaving the school in June to move to Texas, where she says she can live at a lower cost with family members. She works in Palo Alto as a nanny for several families. Her twin 13-year-

old girls and 12-year-old son have been at the school for about eight years on a scholarship. In exchange, she volunteers at the school and takes parenting classes the school offers.

The East Palo Alto home she has been renting with her parents and two brothers will be sold, so she has to leave, and other places in the neighborhood she’s looked at are out of her price range — one was about \$4,000 per month.

“I don’t know what else to do,” she says. “It’s not going to stop. Nobody’s trying to control it.”

“I just want the best for my kids,” she says. “That’s why I made the decision to move and I hope I’m okay with that decision.”

Isabel Jimenez, the school’s office manager, says the housing crisis is escalating on a month to month basis. From last year’s admissions cycle to this year’s, she says she’s observed noticeable changes in the affluence of people who inquire about the school. Families asking for applications now ask her why the school’s tuition is so low. Tuition is \$180 per month, said Principal Dave Laurance, and about 80 percent of the school’s cost is

See page 23

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www.summer.harker.org 408.553.5737

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www.iDTech.com 1.844.788.1858

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iD Programming Academy **Stanford**

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At this two-week, overnight academy, students ages 13-18 explore advanced topics in 3D modeling and printing, video game design, programming, and level design. Create an awesome portfolio, get industry insights, and gain a competitive advantage for college and future careers.

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www.mid-pen.org 650.321.1991

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www.ymcasv.org/summer 408.351.5473

Rising housing costs threaten school for low-income families

continued from page 21

some of his daughter's good friends have had to move away because of increased housing costs. His family has been based in Belle Haven since 2005, first as homeowners and now as renters. The school was a primary reason his family chose to stay nearby after losing their home in 2012.

"For the quality of education that we're getting, I would expect to be paying a lot more than we are now," he says of Beechwood. "It sounds cliché, but it really is like a family."

Teachers

Teachers are facing difficulties in making ends meet, too.

Teacher turnover isn't good for students, Ms. Taylor says. "The last thing you want is inconsistency in the classroom."

Beechwood teaching couple Diana and Nathan Pantoja say things are tough, but the school environment is unique, and worth the sacrifice. "We care about these kids all around, not just about their academic success," he says.

Diana works as an academic support coordinator and Nathan teaches middle school students and leads the school's wrestling program. They both have graduate degrees. They live in Santa Clara with three young children, and spend between 45 to 50 percent of their shared income on rent. On his own, rent would take up about 80 percent of his monthly income, he says. Even to qualify for below market rate housing, he says, their family would need about \$38,000 saved for a down payment. "For me to do that, that's about five to 10 years out," he says.

Ms. Kirkendoll says she's making it work by living in San Leandro and taking on a roommate. The school's atmosphere is worth the sacrifice of a long commute, for now. If economic tightening does persist, though, she says: "Of course I'm going to have to reevaluate. That's life. Would I want to? No, because this environment is a big chunk of my life."

Solutions?

"I don't like the excuse that there's nothing we can do about it," says Ms. Magid, the kindergarten teacher. She has attended various ConnectMenlo meetings to discuss Menlo Park's general plan update and what could be done to increase affordable housing. She says she wants to see future housing planned for Menlo Park's M-2 area be a better

match for the percentage of Belle Haven residents who are currently considered low-income.

"Is it possible to have rent control in Menlo Park?" asked Ms. Taylor, intoning the question as if it were rhetorical. She says she thinks it would take some kind of immediate, if temporary, policy intervention to stem further escalation of student and family displacement.

"What's the number one sign of a healthy growing community?" she asked, and then answered her own question: "What you're putting in education is number one. It always has been."

Katie Fields, executive director of the California Family Foundation, which is the school's largest nonprofit funder, says part of the issue is that "nobody wants to talk about housing,"

least of all housing density. Yet "houses are where jobs go to sleep," she says. When there is an imbalance, it leads to some of the problems the region is experiencing.

Overall, though, the teachers are wary of laying blame. Many landlords do keep rent below market rate to help out residing families, they say. It's not the fault of local tech company employees, either. They're hardly to blame for using their bigger, better paychecks — and in the case of Facebook employees, additional relocation bonuses — to move closer to eliminate soul-sucking commutes. (Facebook has roughly a year-old policy of providing relocation bonuses to some employees who move within 10 miles of its headquarters).

"They (the tech workers) want that community too," Ms. Taylor says.

"I just don't think one should have to be sacrificed for another." ■

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Film forum returns to Atherton

By Kate Daly

Special to the Almanac

Windrider Film Forum returns to the Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center in Atherton for an expanded “very selective” showing of independent films April 14 to 16. “We bring the best of the best from Sundance and other film festivals,” says Terri Bullock of Atherton, the director of Windrider Bay Area.

Now in its seventh season here, the forum has grown from being a one-day event last year at Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park, to three evenings of cinema and conversation at the M-A Performing Arts Center, which seats 492.

This year there will be feature-length films shown on both opening and closing nights, and the middle night will showcase three award-winning short films. Each



Photo: Lucy Bean Films LLC

Sgt. Matthew (Matt) Zarrella, with his dog Buster, from the film, “Searchdog,” screening April 14 at the Windrider Film Forum.

evening’s program will start at 7 p.m. and end with question-and-answer sessions with people who were involved with the films.

Filmmakers and subjects of the films travel here for the event and stay at sponsors’ homes. The forum depends on corporate sponsors, individual donors, and a largely volunteer work force.

Below is the line up for each night.

Thursday, April 14

The forum opens with “Searchdog,” the 2016 “Best of Fest” Selection at the Palm Springs International Film Festival. The movie tracks four years in the life of a former Marine turned police sergeant who saves dogs from shelters and trains them to do search-and-rescue missions.

After the showing, filmmaker Mary Healey Jamiel and Sgt. Matthew Zarrella (with his dog, Buster) will participate in a panel discussion.

Friday, April 15

Three short films will be shown: ■ “This Way Up,” winner of the 2016 Windrider International Student Film Festival (WISFF) Grand Jury Award and the 2015 Student Academy Awards in Narrative. The story involves an unemployed man living in a Las Vegas storm drain who creates a fake life to keep his daughter in the dark about his circumstances.

■ “Frogman,” winner of the 2016 WISFF Honorable Mention in Documentary. The film covers a boy’s complicated relationship with his father, a Navy SEAL team member who is gone on secret missions for long stretches of time.

■ “Day One,” winner of the 2016 WISFF Director’s Choice Award and a nominee for this year’s Academy Award in Best Short Film Live Action. Inspired by a true story, the movie depicts a woman’s first day on the job as a translator working with an Army unit searching for a terrorist.

The Q&A panel will include Mike Langer, producer of “This

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Caltrain changes schedule

Caltrain will be changing its train schedule soon to cope with the growing numbers of riders bogging down stops at several stations along the rail corridor.

Ridership on Caltrain increased to an average of more than 60,000 weekday riders, forcing Caltrain to operate at or beyond 100 percent capacity during peak hours, according to a Caltrain press release. The rising demand is causing trains to stop at stations for longer periods as a growing number of passengers get on board.

The weekly timetable will be adjusted by several minutes per train to better reflect actual departure times at each station, according to the press release. The new timetable will start Monday, April 4. Go to tinyurl.com/train209 to view the timetable online.

The increase in ridership has been particularly tough for bicyclists, who are not allowed onto crowded train cars because of a lack of space. Concurrent with the timetable changes, Caltrain will be adding a third bike car to its Bombardier-style trains to increase bike capacity from 48 to 72 bikes.

In 2014, Caltrain added 16 used rail cars to the system in order to meet growing demand, and officials are currently considering requests to add an additional bullet train service.

Call 800-660-4287 for more information.

— Kevin Forestieri,
Mountain View Voice

Continued from previous page

Way Up”; Patrick Humphrey, narrator and real-life son of the Frogman; and Henry Hughes, a former paratrooper who served two tours in Afghanistan and later made and directed “Day One.”

Saturday, April 16

“How to Dance in Ohio,” a feature film that premiered at last year’s Sundance Film Festival, follows three teenagers on the spectrum of autism and their experiences getting ready to go to a formal spring dance.

After the screening, Dr. Emilio Amigo, founder and clinical director of Amigo Family Counseling, and Caroline McKenzie will talk with the audience. They are both featured in the film.

Tickets

Go to windriderbayarea.org to buy tickets, at \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the door. ■



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Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

*Visit AlmanacNews.com/calendar
to see more calendar listings*

Community Events

Woodside Library Reopening After extensive renovations, Woodside Library reopens. April 16, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Spring Walk at Allied Arts Guild Kathleen Bryan Aquiar, head gardener at Allied Arts Guild, leads talk and tour of grounds. April 15, 2-3 p.m. \$10 donation. Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. alliedartsguild.org

Peninsula Volunteers Author Salon Luncheon features authors Lynn Freed, LM Reynolds, Patrick Hunt, William Carlsen and Bruce Henderson. Visit website for details. April 10, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. \$125. Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club, 2900 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-326-0665 ext. 5001. www.penvol.org

‘Beauty of Wood Fire, Vol. 2.’ Carved ceramic creations by Misako Kambe of Menlo Park. Monday-Saturday, April 1-30, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-321-0220. www.portolaartgallery.com

Classes/Workshops

Hands on History Fuse Theatre and San Mateo County History Museum hold a Pecha Kucha workshop for adults, who discuss their thoughts on immigration related to the museum's exhibit, "The Immigrant Experience in San Mateo County." April 9, 1-4 p.m. \$25 member; \$35 nonmember. San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. Call 650-296-3638. www.historysmc.org/main.php?page=hoh

Meal planning workshop Rosie Banks, nutrition health coach, teaches busy people ways to prepare and eat healthy food. April 9, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Clubs/Meetings

‘Friends of Gamble’ event at Wegman’s Nursery Members of Gamble Garden meet owner Mark Wegman and see the new look of Wegman’s Nursery. Registration requested. April 14, 2-3:30 p.m. Free for members. Wegman’s Nursery, 492 Woodside Road, Redwood City. Call 650-329-1356. www.gamblegarden.org

English Conversation Club (Arrillaga)

Practice English conversation skills with other English language learners and volunteer facilitators. Two sessions: (1) Wednesdays, April 6-May 25, 10:15-11:15 a.m. Arrillaga Family Gymnasium, Conference Room, 600 Alma St., Menlo Park. (2) Wednesdays, April 6-June 1, 5-6 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, downstairs meeting room, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2517. www.projectreadmenlopark.org

Concerts

National Taipei University Orchestra performs classical chamber music and traditional Taiwanese songs. April 6, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. music.stanford.edu/events/national-taipei-university-education-orchestra

Redwood Symphony performs “Roman Carnival Overture” by Berlioz, Mollicone’s Concerto for Violin and Orchestra (featuring violinist Alexander Eisenberg), “Carmen Fantasie” by Waxman, and “Alternative Energy” by young composer Mason Bates. Pre-concert lecture at 7 p.m. Free parking. April 16, 8-10 p.m. \$10-\$30; free for accompanied children under age 18. Cañada College, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City. www.redwoodsymphony.org/concerts/2015-16/concert5_2015.html

Kids & Families

Bilingual Babies & Books introduces infants up to 18 months old to Spanish through stories, songs and rhymes. Older children welcome. April 11, 11-11:30 a.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Little Chefs: Cooking Fun for Children ages 2 to 6 and their caregivers. Jeni Clancy from Parents Place shows how cooking can be a fun, participatory, healthy and tasty experience. April 8, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

On Stage

‘Rent’ Stanford University’s Ram’s Head Theatrical Society will presents Jonathan Larson’s musical about falling in love, finding a voice and living for today. Visit website for details and to buy tickets. April 8, 9, 14, 15 and 16, 8-10:30 p.m. \$10-\$22. Memorial Auditorium, 551 Serra Mall, Stanford. musical.stanford.edu

‘Too Much, Too Much, Too Many’ Bittersweet, poignant and funny drama about the walls people build to protect their hearts and when it’s time to break them down. Through

April 10, Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. \$30 adult; \$25 senior, student. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. Call 650-493-2006 ext. 2. www.dragonproductions.net

Talks & Authors

‘New Leadership for Digital Economy.’ Churchill Club discussion on skills and practices leaders need to thrive in digital economy. April 13, 6-9 p.m. \$69 Churchill Club member; \$93 nonmember. Rosewood Sand Hill, 2825 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. Call 408-265-0130. transition.churchillclub.org

‘Expungement: Sealing Your Criminal Record’ San Mateo County Law Library attorney gives overview of expungement process and how to apply. Process can ease adverse effects a criminal record can have years after crime and punishment. April 14, noon-1 p.m. Free. San Mateo County Law Library, 710 Hamilton St., Redwood City. Call 650-363-4913. www.smclawlibrary.org

‘Religion and the 2016 Presidential Election’ Paul Weithman of Stanford explores whether the prominent role religion plays in American politics today should be celebrated, tolerated or lamented. April 14, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. Stanford Humanities Center, Levinthal Hall, 424 Santa Teresa St., Stanford. ethicsinsociety.stanford.edu/events/paul-weithman-religion-and-the-2016-presidential-election

‘Secondhand Drinking: Our Problem, Your Brain, Your Power’ Lisa Frederiksen explains what secondhand drinking is and provides ways youth can protect their brains. First of three parts. April 7, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. bethany-mp.org/speakerseries

‘High Cost of Low Wages’ Bradley Cleveland from San Mateo County Union Community Alliance discusses how raising minimum wage helps working families and reduces cost of public assistance. April 6, 7 p.m. Free. Woodside Road United Methodist Church, 2000 Woodside Road, Redwood City. Call 408-242-9933. www.smcdfa.org

‘Time Backward: Putin’s Russia in Search of Identity’ Journalist, publisher and poet Maria Stepanova discusses Russia’s current obsession with the past and the implications of what she calls “hybrid archaism as a new model of statehood.” April 6, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Stanford Humanities Center, 424 Santa Teresa St., Stanford. news.stanford.edu/news/2016/march/poet-stepanova-russia-032916.html

Augusten Burroughs, discusses his latest work, “Lust & Wonder,” which explores meanings of love and lust and the experience of figuring them out. April 7, 7:30 p.m. \$20 general. Kepler’s Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2475025

Author Dan Lyons discusses his book, “Disrupted: My Misadventure in the Start-Up Bubble.” A longtime tech journalist, Lyons is the man behind the “Fake Steve Jobs” blog. April 13, 7:30 p.m. \$20 general. Kepler’s Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2505847

Author Jessica Fechter discusses her book, “Stir: My Broken Brain and the Meals That Brought Me Home,” in which she tells how cooking and baking aided her in recovering from a brain aneurysm. April 6, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler’s Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2498386

NOFX, the Los Angeles punk rock band, visits Kepler’s to relive glory days of West Coast punk rock and share its autobiography. April 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler’s Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/nofx

Robert Reich on ‘Capitalism and Democracy’ Former U.S. secretary of labor and professor at UC Berkeley, explores widening inequality, accumulation of wealth at the top, and enormous infusion of money into politics. April 12, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Cemex Auditorium, 655 Knight Way, Stanford. ethicsinsociety.stanford.edu/events/robert-reich-capitalism-and-democracy

Astronaut Steve Smith discusses how his environmental perspective has been influenced by his time in space. April 14, 7:30-9 p.m. \$10 general; free for members. Facebook, 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park. Call 650-962-9876. www.acterra.org/lectures

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POLICE CALLS

This information is based on reports from the Menlo Park and Atherton police departments 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.

ATHERTON

Thefts:

- A resident of McCormick Lane moved out and left furniture as the request of the real estate agent, but returned after the house was sold to find that the furniture had been stolen. The theft included six Williams Sonoma dining room chairs. Estimated loss: \$2,400. March 18.
- A black-and-red striped Specialized Allez bicycle was stolen from Menlo-Atherton High School at 555 Middlefield Road. Estimated loss: \$2,000. March 24.
- A black-and-green Cannondale bike was stolen from M-A High School. Estimated loss: \$779. March 18.
- Someone stole two silver Xootr scooters out of a classroom at M-A High School. Estimated loss: \$500. March 18.
- A white iPhone 6S was stolen from an unlocked locker in the men's locker room at M-A High School. Estimated loss: \$400. March 23.
- Seventeen decorative rocks were stolen from a home on Heather Drive. Estimated loss: \$300. March 19.
- A thief cut a cable lock securing a white-and-turquoise Fixie Sole Breakwater bike at M-A High School. Estimated loss: \$200. March 23.

WOODSIDE

Auto burglary: Someone smashed several windows and stole camera and computer equipment from the trunk of a vehicle parked on Kings Mountain Road about 1.5 miles west of Huddart Park. Estimated loss: \$8,000. March 20.

WEST MENLO PARK

Fraud: Personal identifying information for a resident of Gordon Avenue was used to obtain a loan of \$2,200 from American Web Loan. March 15.

MENLO PARK

Auto burglary: A thief smashed a window on a vehicle parked at Doyle Street and Menlo Avenue and stole a purse and other personal items. Estimated loss: \$51. March 29.

Thefts: Someone stole a backpack containing first-aid materials from the play area of All Five preschool on Chilco Street. The backpack was later found with some of its contents strewn about the playground at nearby Belle Haven School. No estimate on losses. March 29.

Receiving stolen property: A Menlo Park man, 54, was arrested, cited and released after a police officer spotted him riding a bike that belonged to Google Inc. March 25.

Assault with deadly weapon: Police arrested and booked into jail Juan MaganaGuirola, 27, of Menlo Park on assault with a deadly weapon charges. Mr. MaganaGuirola allegedly used his vehicle to twice ram another vehicle, causing moderate damage to the vehicle's rear bumper, and allegedly challenging the other driver to a fight while grabbing him by the shirt. There were no injuries. March 25.

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The absurdity of highway billboards: What will be our legacy?

By Lennie Roberts

Anyone who must navigate our increasingly congested highways during commute periods knows all too well that the recent economic boom has a downside: The price of our region's "progress" is gridlock.

It only takes one fender bender to bring traffic to an agonizing crawl, or complete standstill, which not only inconveniences drivers, but also increases air pollution. Those thousands of idling vehicles contribute to global warming and can cause adverse health effects for people who live nearby, many of whom are low-income or minorities.

A major cause of accidents is driver distraction, which the American Automobile Association (AAA) defines as "hands off the wheel, eyes off the road, and minds off driving." Thanks to former state Sen. Joe Simi's leadership, our state Legislature has wisely banned hand-held cell phones and texting while driving, which has saved many lives, and will continue to do so.

However, there is one driver distraction phenomenon that receives

too little attention by our elected officials, both at the state and local level. This anomaly is the growing plethora of roadside billboards, especially brightly lit, attention-grabbing digital billboards.

The whole purpose of billboards is to get your attention. Just try *not* looking at one of the blinking messages on the new electronic versions. Billboard ads work only if you notice them, after all.

Increasingly billboards are getting bigger, brighter, and flashier as they compete to grab the attention of more and more people. A growing body of evidence has demonstrated that digital billboards pose a threat to traffic safety. According to Scenic America, a study by the Swedish government found that digital billboards took drivers' eyes off the road for significant periods of time, and Sweden subsequently ordered the removal of digital signs.

In early March, San Mateo County Manager John Maltbie reported that he will be bringing a proposal to the Board of Supervisors to assess county-owned property along Highways 280 and 101 as potential sites for billboards. People were rightfully



outraged by the foolish suggestion that Highway 280, "the world's most beautiful freeway," might soon be blighted by these monstrosities. Fortunately, the county quickly backtracked, as 280 is a designated State Scenic Highway, and billboards are prohibited by law. But Highways 101 and "parts of 92" remain on the table.

One might ask: "What's the big deal? Those highways already are beginning to look like the Jersey Shore." Actually, there are many areas along the urban 101 and 92 corridors where vistas of the Bay and the hills still provide significant views of our natural surroundings. As our cities continue to grow more dense,

we should be working to protect and restore these views rather than degrading them, not only for aesthetic reasons, but also to avoid more distractions for drivers.

The Palo Alto City Council in 2013 defeated a similar proposal to lease city-owned property for billboards in response to overwhelming community opposition. Maine, Vermont, Hawaii and Alaska have banned all new billboards, as have Los Angeles, Houston, St. Paul, and Kansas City, to name a few. Locally, Redwood City has banned new billboards, as well as several other Peninsula cities.

Thanks to our region's improved economy, San Mateo County's half-cent sales tax measure, Measure A, has already generated far greater revenues than the initially projected \$60 million annually. But even if the county were in desperate financial need, the price of more visual pollution is simply not worth the revenue.

The Board of Supervisors should just say "no" to sponsoring new billboards, and instead focus on removing the many unpermitted billboards in North Fair Oaks as part of the Middlefield Road Redesign initiative.

Supervisors must take 'reasonable action' regarding Surf Air flights

By Walter Sleeth

The Board of Supervisors can be pleased with the size of the audience at its scheduled study session to address "noise reduction measures" at San Carlos Airport. The supervisors' patience in listening for over three hours on the morning of March 8 is much appreciated.

I sat through the whole hearing, listening to the 60-plus comments made during the session, and found that the vast proportion of comments were either from 1) county residents who feel they have been severely discomfited by the ever-increasing number of flights and noise, or 2) "self-interested" individuals with ties to the airport. The issue has been an ongoing one for almost three years, with residents in Menlo Park, Atherton, Fair Oaks, Palo Alto, Redwood City and Redwood Shores being consistently and increasingly impacted.

I suspect the self-interested comments were instigated,



later acknowledged by email, during a meeting of the private Pilot's Association and Surf Air management the evening before the study session. Not surprisingly, Surf Air is in this for its and its investors' benefit.

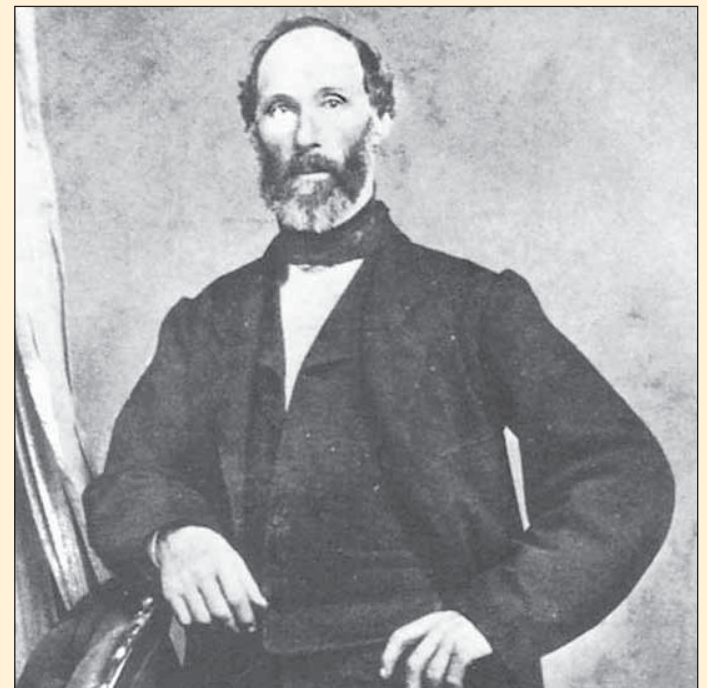
The fear of private pilots and employees that the airport could be closed is an absurd one. If Surf Air put that fear into many speakers' minds, it is sad. No one has suggested such an action. It is unclear what entity printed up the "Save San Carlos Airport" adhesive badges, as it was merely a method to stir up emotions.

Surf Air for almost three years has avoided taking any reasonable actions while building its business in Northern California from three or so

flights a day to over 20 flights a day, a very significant increase. It is significant to note that the complaints from residents in Santa Monica resulted in Surf Air deciding not to fly in and out of Santa Monica (see tinyurl.com/SASoCal2012). Surf Air is a classic self-interested corporation. San Mateo County should take a lesson from Santa Monica.

This is a situation explained by the "tragedy of the commons" theory. Economists recognized this phenomenon several centuries ago. For instance one farmer in a community grazes far too many of his cows on the community's park/commons, thus resulting in a degradation of the commons for all the other farmers and members of the community. This is why early in our country's history communities set up local governments to protect its residents from abusive practices in the community; zoning laws are a good example of such community action.

Continued on next page



Woodside History Committee

Looking back

Robert Tripp, shown in this undated photo, was a dentist who moved to the area now known as Woodside in 1849, according to the Woodside history book by Thalia Lubin and Bob Dougherty. With partners Mathias Parkhurst and Charles Ellis, he manufactured redwood shingles, and from the Bay off Redwood City floated logs north to assist in the building of San Francisco, the historians write. Dr. Tripp and a partner built a general store in 1851 near the junction of Tripp and Kings Mountain roads, and the building is now a museum, called the Woodside Store, managed by the San Mateo County Historical Association.

LETTERS

Our readers write

County needs review board for complaints

Editor:

The Almanac is to be thanked for its vigilance in continuing to cover Jose Verduco's case against the county and Andy Mar. Mr. Verduco, a county courthouse custodian, alleges that Mr. Mar, a county deputy sheriff, drew his gun, issued by the county, and aimed it at him in a courtroom last April.

Mr. Verduco alleges further that while doing so, Deputy Mar commented about delivering "some South Carolina justice," presumably against Mr. Verduco. Deputy Mar has been charged with a criminal misdemeanor, and placed on administrative leave.

Mr. Verduco will have his day in civil court, but what this case highlights is how the county addresses and resolves allegations of misconduct by law enforcement officers and officials. While the district attorney pursues the criminal misdemeanor, allegations of misconduct by law enforcement should be presented to a body or commission that is independent of the Sheriff's Office or the District Attorney's Office.

Given the rise of reports of abuse within police departments nationally, if the county does not have such a body or commission, it would be wise to establish one. The city of San

Jose has an independent police auditor; Santa Clara County has established a commission to investigate possible abuses.

"San Mateo County justice" must be affirmed.

Henry Organ
Euclid Avenue, Menlo Park

Thanks for commitment to local youth

Editor:

I'd like to publicly thank San Mateo County Supervisor Warren Slocum; mayors John Seybert (Redwood City), Donna Rutherford (East Palo Alto), and Rich Cline (Menlo Park); city council members Ian Bain, Kirsten Keith, and Ray Mueller; Redwood City School Board Trustee Janet Lawson; Chief Probation Officer John Keene; and Menlo Park City Manager Alex McIntyre for serving as judges for our annual selection process of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula's (BGCP) Youth of the Year, which is a celebration of our area teens' resilience, character, and accomplishment.

We are grateful for the support of these local leaders, and the ongoing investment that the County of San Mateo has made in our programs for K-12 students. These leaders recognize that when we help our youth pursue academic success and foster their love of learning, we build a stronger and safer community for all.

Peter Fortenbaugh
executive director

Boys & Girls Clubs
of the Peninsula

Continued from previous page

Surf Air has implied falsely it will do something; but it has done nothing. The management at Surf Air should sit up, pay attention and actually take action to require their pilots to approach the airport at higher altitudes and from east of Highway 101. They have indicated that their planes are extraordinarily maneuverable and safe; let them use the planes' capabilities.

Additionally, while they still have some fans, they should petition the government authorities, including the FAA, to revise the landing patterns. If they don't, they may be faced in a year or so with having to fly in and out of real commercial airports (not ones that have served private pilots for so long), with their clients having to pass through the normal security procedures. They need to wake up and accept enlightened corporate citizenship.

Since Surf Air cleverly got its "foot in the door" with its

Club Plans (passengers buying into "all you can eat" monthly rates rather than individual tickets), the supervisors may want to move cautiously. They should not be influenced by the fact that San Carlos Airport accrues revenues for landing and takeoff at the expense of residents and children in the many schools under the flight paths.

Our supervisors can take nondiscriminatory actions. There are no other users who fit Surf Air's mold, so there would be no discrimination with measures to require quieter engines or limit the time when flights can land or take off.

Too many of our officials seem to buy the line, nothing can be done because the FAA controls all this. That is not true! The board can take action, and county residents who have been abused must continue to seek board-designated changes. It is inconceivable that Surf Air would try to avoid reasonable regulations.

What's on your mind?

From City Hall politics and the schools to transportation and other pressing issues, the Almanac aims to keep readers informed about their community. But we also want to hear from you.

Tell us what's on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

You can also submit a longer piece of 450 to 600 words for consideration to publish as a guest opinion column.

Questions? Email Renee Batti at rbatti@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6528.

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855 Real Estate Services

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

EL SANTANECO RESTAURANT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 268462
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
El Santaneco Restaurant, located at 203 Linden Ave., SSF, CA 94080, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
YURI ESCOBAR
203 Linden Ave.
SSF, CA 94080
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 4-06-2011.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 3, 2016.
(ALM Mar. 16, 23, 30, Apr. 6, 2016)

WHITE OAK WORKS
WHITE OAK INTERIORS
WHITE OAK HARDWARE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 268564
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) White Oak Works, 2.) White Oak Interiors, 3.) White Oak Hardware, located at 700 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
VASILE CALIN OROS
1170 Santa Cruz Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 11, 2016.
(ALM Mar. 16, 23, 30, Apr. 6, 2016)

BEADCENTRIC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 268544
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Beadcentric, located at 1708 1/2 Whipple Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County. Mailing address: PO Box 7092, San Carlos, CA 94070.
Registered owner(s):
APRIL VANDERBLT
1708 1/2 Whipple Avenue
Redwood City, CA 94062
This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 2-21-2006.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 10, 2016.
(ALM Mar. 23, 30, Apr. 6, 13, 2016)

DIAL GLASS AND WINDOW COMPANY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 268588
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Dial Glass and Window Company, located at 1704 Palmetto Avenue, Pacifica, CA 94044, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
PETER WILLIAM YOE
903 Pilar Place
Pacifica, CA 94044
This business is conducted by: Married Couple.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/1/1987.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 15, 2016.
(ALM Mar. 30, Apr. 6, 13, 20, 2016)

JESUS GARDENING SERVICE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 268713
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Jesus Gardening Service, located at 3703 Hoover St., RWC, CA 94063, San Mateo County; Mailing address: PO Box 620130, RWC, CA 94062.
Registered owner(s):
JESUS CHAVEZ
3703 Hoover St.
RWC, CA 94063
This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 25, 2016.
(ALM Mar. 30, Apr. 6, 13, 20, 2016)

ARACELY HOUSE CLEANING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 268693
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Aracely House Cleaning, 4 Newell Ct. # 4201, East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
SANDRA A. FRANCO GARCIA
4 Newell Ct. #4201
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 23, 2016.
(ALM Mar. 30, Apr. 6, 13, 20, 2016)

997 All Other Legals

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: CIV537169
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: LISA MARIE BELL aka KHADIJAH HASAN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
KHADIJAH HASAN aka LISA MARIE BELL to KHADIJAH HASAN.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before

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this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: Wed. April 13, 2016, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ, Room: 2D of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

THE ALMANAC
Date: February 29, 2016
/s/ Joseph C. Scott
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Mar. 16, 23, 30, Apr. 6, 2016)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
JUDITH PLATT
Case No.: 126642
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JUDITH PLATT.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: MARILYN K. EARLE in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO. The Petition for Probate requests that: MARILYN K. EARLE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take

many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on April 18, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: 28, of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner:
Kenneth H. Prochnow
Chiles and Prochnow, LLP
2600 El Camino Real, Suite 412

Palo Alto, CA 94306
(650)812-0400
(ALM Mar. 23, 30, Apr. 6, 2016)

PROTECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

If it has been 5 years since you filed your Fictitious Business Name Statement (your D.B.A.), you must file again to protect your legal rights. Check your records now to see if your D.B.A. expires this year.

To assist you with your legal advertising needs call Alicia Santillan (650) 223-6578 or e-mail her at: asantillan@pawebweekly.com

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