

The Almanac

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

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

How new Woodside Library changes things

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The remodeled Woodside Library, which reopened April 16 after a nine-month renovation, includes mobile book shelves capable of being rolled away, creating a new capacity for large indoor community events such as performances and talks.

The open plan for the library's central area "was very much part" of goals to create spaces for community activities, Town Manager Kevin Bryant told the Almanac. "The library, right now, is kind of the best area (for these activities) that we've got."

Under the same roof is a new glassed-in learning center for smaller-scale events such as author lectures and classes.

The library, located at 3140 Woodside Road in Woodside, reopened after a nine-month, \$2.8 million redesign of the interior and upgrade of the 48-year-old building's structural integrity.

The April 16 open house event included a block party, 3D printing, commemorative-button making, live music, crafts, stories, a magician and a cookbook author.

The library now has a partially glassed-in area for teens and a large children's corner set with height-appropriate shelves and walls holding books with covers on display, like artwork.

The old layout had a children's area, but it was cramped and in

the middle of the library, where the noise "kind of spread over everything," said Garrett Kuramoto, manager of the Woodside and Portola Valley libraries.

The stacks in the central area are now on wheels and can be moved for major events. "We could bring in someone who we know is going to be a big draw," Mr. Kuramoto said. "We could easily accommodate a large event because we've designed it with that flexibility in mind."

The library's previous layout had nothing comparable in terms of a community gathering place or areas set aside for teens or groups. "Decades from now, that flexibility will help us be prepared for whatever changes come," Mr. Kuramoto said.

Funding came from a percentage of resident property tax revenues set aside annually, by law, for upkeep of the library.

The new layout includes a lot of "nice comfortable furniture," Mr. Kuramoto said. "It's still going to be a place (where you can) pull down a newspaper or a book off the shelf and sit down and read."

Some of that seating will face the garden in the back.

Old and new

Old interior or new, librarians see themselves as information navigators, ready to help patrons find what they're looking for, said Tom Fortin, deputy director of the San Mateo County Libraries.

The Woodside, Portola Valley

'It's still going to be a place (to) pull down a newspaper or book off the shelf and sit down and read.'

GARRETT KURAMOTO,
LIBRARY MANAGER



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Children's corner at the newly designed Woodside Library has bookshelves that kids can reach, books on the walls that can pique their interest, and furniture and a space meant for children and play.

and Atherton public libraries are members of the county system as well as the Peninsula Library System, which includes the Menlo Park public library.

As for Woodside's library building, it is still somewhat the old building. From the outside, aside from new front doors and roof and an access ramp for the disabled, not much has changed. "The library we had was essentially the library we would have," Mr. Bryant said, recalling a moment of foresight. "We weren't really looking at making changes to the exterior of the building."

The old library had a 3D printer and portable Wi-Fi hotspots for checkout, and both are again available. The book and DVD collections are coming back, but

with some new titles, Mr. Fortin said.

Among the hidden changes are new sewer connections and structural additions to make the building safer against earthquakes, additions that go beyond requirements in the state building code, Mr. Bryant said. "Some of the cost is definitely in stuff you don't necessarily see," he said. "Those kinds of things are all behind walls and underground, and those kinds of things add substantially to the life of the building."

"We'll finally be in an up-to-date building," Mr. Fortin said.

The bathrooms now meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act, changes also reflected in the access ramp and mechanisms to open the front

doors by pushing a button.

The cabinet containing a seed library, formerly located near the rear exit to the native plant garden, is at the Portola Valley Library until officials from the Woodside Library and the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club agree on a new cabinet for the seeds, Mr. Kuramoto said. The old cabinet no longer fits the space, Mr. Fortin said. ■

On the cover

The new interior of the Woodside Library is adaptable, with roll-away book shelves in an open-plan central area, which can accommodate a large performance space and community gatherings. (Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac.)

Appeals court upholds California teacher tenure laws

By Julia Cheever
Bay City News Service

California's public-school teacher tenure laws were upheld by a state appeals court in Los Angeles on April 14.

A three-judge Court of Appeal panel unanimously overturned a 2014 decision by a trial judge who found the laws on teacher tenure, dismissal and seniority to be unconstitutional.

The panel said nine students who challenged the measures

hadn't proved that the laws in themselves, as opposed to other factors, caused any particular group of students to receive incompetent teachers.

Thus, the plaintiffs couldn't support their claim that the laws violated the California constitutional right to equal treatment, the court said.

"Critically, plaintiffs failed to show that the statutes themselves make any certain group of students more likely to be taught by ineffective teachers than any

other group of students," Justice Roger Boren wrote for the panel.

The lawsuit was sponsored by the Menlo Park-based group Students Matter.

The court said local "administrators — not the statutes — ultimately determine where teachers within a district are

assigned to teach."

The panel reversed a decision in which Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Rolf Treu said the laws had a "real and appreciable impact on students' right to an equal education" and imposed a disproportionate burden on poor and minority students.

The students' lawsuit, filed against state officials in 2012, was sponsored by the Menlo Park-based group Students Matter, founded by Silicon Valley

entrepreneur David Welch.

Mr. Welch said the students will appeal to the state Supreme Court.

"Today, the courts failed to safeguard students' constitutional rights," Welch said in a April 14 statement. "I hope and expect that the California Supreme Court will step in and protect the rights of millions of students across California."

The state's two largest teacher unions called the decision "a stinging rebuke" to Judge Treu's ruling and said the tenure laws

See **TENURE**, page 6

Council sets 'affordable housing' as high priority

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

People work in Portola Valley but can't afford to live there. They live there but can't afford to stay. They've grown up there but can't afford to buy.

"The Council is committed to exploring ways to keep families whole, protecting those seniors who want to stay in the community they have called home

for decades and demonstrate the value of those who are employed here, through second units, affiliated housing, and other inventive tools," Town Manager Jeremy Dennis wrote in a memo outlining proposed goals for Portola Valley.

The council agreed at its April 13 meeting and set "affordable housing" as one of its nine high-

priority issues for the budget year starting July 1.

Among the other high priorities that the council agreed to (the council did not rank them):

■ Code enforcement. Over a year ending in August 2015, the town received 49 complaints, of which 42 were considered code violation cases, staff said. Regulations being violated included those governing the use of leaf blowers, building permits, construction hours, lighting and

noise, staff said. And the town lacks a tree removal ordinance.

■ Better communication with residents. The town, located in Silicon Valley, is not making the best use of communication technology that is out there, Mr. Dennis said. "The Town is committed to exploring ways to improve communications with its residents and serve as a portal and repository of important and useful information," he said.

■ Support for alternative sources for electricity. Cities and towns in the county are setting up the Peninsula Clean Energy collective to purchase electricity from renewable sources on the open market as an alternative to buying it from Pacific Gas & Electric. The expectation is that it could reduce greenhouse gas emissions footprints while not raising rates significantly for residents. "The Town is committed to (the project) and the promise it brings," Mr. Dennis said.

■ FAA/aircraft noise. Residents in and around Portola Valley have been complaining to the Federal Aviation Administration and airport officials for years about the altitude, frequency and noise of commercial aircraft flying into SFO. A new committee has formed to develop regional solutions

on issues related to these noise sources. Councilwoman Ann Wengert is a member.

■ Portola Road shoulder widening. There is a stretch of Portola Road near Town Center where the white fog line is unusually close to the edge of the road. The town has already widened a shoulder on Alpine Road; the Portola Road project is considered a high priority.

■ Spring Down Open Space Preserve. A former livestock pond sits in the open-space pasture just south of Town Center. The pool is fenced, but is up to 12 feet deep in places. The town's plan to make the pool shallow, remove the fence and allow it to dry out occasionally is overseen by the state and federal governments, and Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, told the town she is available to write letters. "We need to get it off the table," Councilman John Richards said.

The council was revisiting a list of 28 priorities first considered on March 9. Based on that discussion, Mr. Dennis narrowed the list to the nine high-priority items, as well as four medium- and five low-priority items.

Go to tinyurl.com/goatjyq and turn to Page 26 for more information. ■



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Update on Menlo Park high school

The board of the Sequoia Union High School District is set to receive a progress update on the thinking and planning for a new small public high school planned for the M2 industrial district on the east side of Menlo Park.

The board meets Wednesday, April 20, starting at 5:30 p.m. in the district office at 480 James St. in Redwood City. The update is the third item on the agenda.

The tasks accomplished by a committee working on the

school include creating time lines for building the school and the curriculum, choosing an architect, proposing a master schedule and determining profiles for potential students, according to a staff report.

The smaller committee has been collaborating with the local community college district in developing an instructional program, a bell schedule, a mentoring/internship model, and an academic support system for students in need of it, the report says.

TENURE

continued from page 5

don't harm children.

Eric Heins, president of the Burlingame-based California Teachers Association, said: "This is a great day for educators and, more importantly, for students."

"Stripping teachers of their ability to stand up for their students and robbing school districts of the tools they need to make sound employment decisions was a wrong-headed scheme developed by people with no education expertise and the appellate court justices saw that."

The CTA and the Burbank-based California Federation of

Teachers were allowed to join the case as parties defending the laws.

The laws were a measure that gives teachers permanent tenure after two years; three laws providing procedural protections to teachers whom school districts are seeking to dismiss for incompetence; and a law requiring layoffs to be in order of least seniority.

The unions contend the laws encourage veteran teachers to stay in the profession and young people to join it.

Judge Treu had issued an injunction blocking the laws, but suspended it during the appeal process; the April 14 decision sets aside the injunction. ■

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— L.S. Woodside, Zillow Review



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

Attorneys call for city action on housing crisis

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

The city of Menlo Park needs to take action now to deal with a housing crisis that is driving low- to moderate-income families out of the city. That's the message to the city from attorneys with Community Legal Services, a nonprofit agency based in East Palo Alto that provides free and low-cost legal services to low-income residents.

With rents rising nearly 50 percent over the last four years in San Mateo County, the attorneys urged swift action, including an emergency moratorium on both rent increases and tenant evictions without cause.

In an April 11 memo to the city, they recommend that the city develop policies for rent stabilization and just-cause eviction, create a funding mechanism to support renters in times of emergency, and develop affordable rent preferences for local tenants.

They also call for more "below market rate" housing — including 30 to 40 percent of new housing in the M-2 light industrial area east of U.S. 101 — and more incentives for developers to build affordable housing.

Attorney Keith Ogden said in an interview that he and his colleagues (Jason Tarricone and Daniel Saver) wanted to make the recommendations in advance of a number of meetings coming up in Menlo Park that could affect housing policy.

He said he hopes it is a "launching pad for continuing the dialogue from the community's perspective."

Mayor responds

In an interview with the Almanac, Menlo Park Mayor Rich Cline said the memo contained some great ideas, a few of which, he said, "we can probably take on." Others, he said, were "deeply political," "not insignificant," or would take a "heck of a lot of time" to implement.

In general, he said, he'd support a short-term moratorium on no-cause evictions to give the city "time to think" about housing policies. Such a moratorium would need a clear deadline, he said.

He was more cautious about other proposals, such as increasing the percentage of new housing that developers must build at an "affordable" rate, or preventing rent increases above a certain amount or percent.

Increasing population density anywhere in Menlo Park can be highly controversial and complex, and such a policy could pose implementation challenges, he said. Meanwhile, rent stabili-

zation policies, he said, pose their own logistical challenges.

He said he wants to see how other cities are dealing with housing issues, and hopes broader countywide or regional agencies can also implement their own policies that could apply to Menlo Park.

The city, he said, should be more proactive and quick to react to the regional housing crisis. "The economics are moving so fast that it's a little intimidating," he said.

Menlo Park and its Belle Haven neighborhood, he said, have a "rich, diverse history we need to preserve."

The City Council plans to hold a joint study session on housing issues with the city's Housing Commission on May 3.

Evictions

Real estate speculation affecting rentals is on the rise countywide, the attorneys said in the memo. Investors buy apartment buildings at inflated prices, raising rents to recoup their costs, driving out existing tenants. Then the investors renovate the buildings to attract more affluent tenants.

Commonly, the attorneys say, these building acquisitions come with no-cause, 60-day eviction notices to all or most of the building's tenants, or include building-wide rent increases of hundreds or thousands of dollars per month.

According to University of California, Berkeley, researchers on urban displacement, the attorneys say, "it is not too late for strong affordable housing policies and anti-displacement measures" to help stabilize housing conditions for lower-income families.

Belle Haven data

The memo provides data on housing conditions in Belle Haven, where 57 percent of residents rent their housing. The median annual household income there (about \$57,000) is about 56 percent of the county's median (\$101,000).

The majority of renter households in Belle Haven who earn under \$75,000 are paying more than 30 percent of their monthly income toward rent. For many, that proportion hovers at more than 50 percent of income.

The attorneys recommended that Menlo Park immediately pass an emergency moratorium on "exorbitant rent increase and no-cause evictions."

The city should also have a program that grants rent funding

Rapidly rising rents are driving out low- and moderate-income residents.

to people who are at immediate risk of losing their permanent housing in Menlo Park, the memo says. Forgivable loans or grants based on short-term need, such as in the case of a sudden, unexpected medical, auto or other expense, could help give burdened renters more stability in times of emergency.

Menlo Park should devise a set of rent stabilization and just-cause tenant eviction policies that fit the needs of the city, including capping rent increases to parallel the inflation rate. Landlords should be prohibited from arbitrarily evicting a tenant, but should still be allowed to evict tenants who fail to pay rent, breach the lease, or cause other problems, they say.

The city could set provisions for when market conditions change and the programs were determined to no longer be necessary.

San Francisco recently approved a residential development that would require 40 percent of its units to be affordable, and the city of Concord has committed to making 25 percent of its residential development "affordable," the attorneys note.

New affordable units should be integrated into market-rate housing developments to prevent geographic separation by income level, and to ensure that lower-

income residents can remain housed in the same area as they increase their income over time, the memo says.

In addition, they recommend that the city implement a policy called "right to purchase," that would allow tenants the first chance to buy their apartment building whenever it goes up for sale, thereby keeping it out of the speculative market and allowing it to be community-controlled.

The attorneys concluded their memo by saying: "If Menlo Park

gets it right, ConnectMenlo Plan (the city's review of its general plan) can be an example of how to pursue development without displacement, ensuring that the benefits of future growth will be shared with both the existing residents who made the city what it is today, as well as with the diverse set of new residents who will continue to make Menlo Park a vibrant and complete community."

Go to tinyurl.com/rent321 to read the memo. ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Getting the Highest Offer

Dear Monica: Our father's house is on the market and we received a few offers yesterday. All were above asking price and two offers were all cash with no contingencies. We of course want to reap the highest return from the property and we wanted to counter the highest offer to see if they would go even higher. Our agent cautioned against doing this because she felt it could drive the best buyer away. What do you think? —Paul D.

Dear Paul: Your agent is in the best position to know whether countering the highest offer is a good idea. If you have presented

the property well with full market exposure, you can feel confident that the offers you received reflect market value. To try and extract an even higher price may not be a supportable and the property may not appraise, if there is a loan.

You may certainly give your buyer a counteroffer at a higher price, but you run the risk of alienating them and then you are left without the best buyer. Sometimes it works to do this, but often it doesn't. You should decide if it is worth the risk of losing a good buyer to seek a bit more from them. My advice would be to listen to your agent on this.

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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District claims demolished building was upgraded

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

A slick four-color brochure from the Woodside Elementary School District arrived in the mailboxes of district residents around April 14, with an update on how the district has recently spent the proceeds of a \$13.5 million bond measure approved in June 2014.

The brochure, however, appears to rewrite history. The biggest project built with the bond money, the demolition of an old auditorium and the erection of a brand-new \$8.26 million building, has been edited into a remodel in the brochure.

As soon as school ended in June 2015, the district knocked down the old building and a small adjacent building, and hauled away the debris. Some of the theater lighting and other equipment installed when the building underwent a \$1.5 million renovation in 2003, and a section of the gym floor, were salvaged.

However, the brochure, which says it is “provided as a public service for your information only, from the Woodside Elementary School District,” claims the demolished building was repaired. It says: “Sellman Auditorium was in bad shape. ... We seismically retrofitted it, fixed the leaky roof and upgraded the facility.”

A note signed by district Superintendent Beth Polito says: “Sellman Auditorium has been completely rebuilt to

bring it to current earthquake standards, repair its basic structure and provide a covered lunch area for students.”

School board members and the superintendent did not respond to repeated requests over several days for a comment about the mailer or its costs (Superintendent Polito has been out on family leave). The school board approved the mailing in March when it discussed putting a parcel tax on the November ballot.

\$8.26 million

Costs are never mentioned in the brochure, but the district spent \$8.26 million on the new building, which has a permanent theater, pull-out bleachers with folding seat backs, a kitchen, and a lobby, all of which the previous auditorium did not have.

The new building also houses an office for the middle school principal and is zero net energy, producing as much energy with roof-top solar panels as it consumes, according to Mike Wassermann, a vice president with Capital Program Management, which managed the school construction.

The brochure also contains a few other odd facts. When the district said it was planning to give the new building a new name, many fans of the late George Sellman protested and the school board agreed to name the new building the Sellman Pavilion. However, the brochure repeatedly calls the new building the Sellman Auditorium.



Photo by Barbara Wood/The Almanac

This photo, taken on June 18, 2015, shows the demolished Sellman Auditorium at Woodside Elementary School. In a mailer sent to school district residents, the district claims it “seismically retrofitted” the building, “fixed the leaky roof and upgraded the facility.”

“Please come as my guest to the re-opening of Sellman Auditorium,” says Superintendent Polito’s note.

There are other revisions to history. A postscript to Superintendent Polito’s note in the brochure thanks the Woodside School Foundation for its “capital campaign, which raised private money to match Measure D (bond measure) funds.” Match, however, doesn’t really mean match in this case, apparently; the capital cam-

paigned raised only \$5 million, not even close to matching the \$13.5 million in bond money.

According to a bond budget prepared for the school board’s April meeting, \$2 million from the capital campaign went into two new classrooms for the district’s tuition-based preschool, \$1.5 million went into a new design lab, and close to \$1.4 million went into the new Sellman building. About \$113,000 of capital campaign money went into “program costs.”

While the language of the ballot measure approved by voters in 2014 said its major purpose was to “repair basic Woodside Elementary School infrastructure ... upgrade educational facilities to meet current health/safety codes, renovate heating, electrical, sewer/security systems, fix leaking roofs,” only \$2.1 million of the bond money has so far been spent on such projects, according to budget information provided to the school board. ▣

Woodside council shifts preference on basement ordinance

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

A majority of Woodside council members now favors an ordinance that would allow the floor area of a new basement to extend no more than 50 percent beyond the footprint of the main residence above it.

Previously, four of the seven council members favored 65 percent, but in a straw poll of the council at its April 12 meeting, two members changed their minds: Anne Kasten said her previous view had been a result of feeling unwell that evening. Tom Livermore noted the Planning Commission’s preference for 50 percent.

When the proposal regulating basement size and location returns to the council for consideration, it will contain the 50 percent limit. Councilmen Dave Tanner and Peter Mason,

both on a council subcommittee that recommended a 50 percent allowance, also favor that limit.

How deep?

The council on April 12 heard from resident and architect Steve Lubin, who presented arguments for reducing the allowed volume of a basement excavation by about one third.

The proposed regulations employ a formula that balances basement floor area against depth. At maximum size, a basement’s volume (in cubic yards) would equal the allowed floor area for the main house multiplied by 12 and divided by 27.

The multiplier is a variable that alludes to depth but is somewhat arbitrary, Mr. Lubin told the Almanac. Most basements are 8-feet deep, he said; a multiplier of 12 yields a larger basement.

After Mr. Lubin’s presentation, which showed icons of hundreds

of trucks to demonstrate how deeper basements dramatically increase a project’s total excavation and truck trips, the council decided that excavations deeper than 8 feet would require the applicant to consult with the town engineer.

Deeper basements would require consultation with town engineer.

On deeper cuts, state regulations kick in to prevent earthen walls around the future basement from falling in and endangering workers. Ways to stabilize this situation include injecting the soil with fluids to solidify it, sloping the walls away while the basement is under construction — called over-cutting — or erecting shoring walls.

Over-cutting results in more significantly more off-haul. The council expressed a preference for shoring.

Lots of trucks

Using a multiplier of 12, a maximized basement under a 6,000-square-foot house would require 752 (arrivals and departures) by large-capacity trucks to off-haul soil and add drainage rock, and 102 trips by concrete trucks, according to Mr. Lubin’s illustrations.

A multiplier of 8 yields 379 trips for off-haul and drainage rock, or 50 percent fewer trips, Mr. Lubin said. As for concrete, the smaller multiplier reduces truck trips by 41 percent.

“My hope was that (the council) would realize they’ve been really remiss in understanding the impacts of what their decisions would be,” Mr. Lubin said in an interview.

As for the debate over a 65-percent versus 50-percent allowance outside the house footprint, “it’s almost irrelevant as opposed to modulating the total volume involved,” Mr. Lubin said.

Mr. Lubin also criticized resorting to shoring when a basement goes deeper than 8 feet in that it will probably involve pouring much more concrete, a strong greenhouse gas emitter, and employing a pile-driver from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday mornings. “That would be atrocious,” he said.

Asked about a multiplier of 12, Councilman Tanner said it allows a squash court to be built in the basement. A multiplier of 8 “is a dramatic volume reduction and you can’t get a whole basement,” he said. “It’s hard to pick a number. ... As we go through this, we’re really giving this thing a lot of thought.” ▣

Wide support for bike lanes on Oak Grove Avenue

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

“Hello council members,” said a child who took the podium, lifting onto her tiptoes to better reach the microphone. “I’m Irene Vail. I am in second grade at Encinal School.”

She was there to tell the Menlo Park City Council that she doesn’t feel very safe riding her bike and would like to have bike lanes on Oak Grove Avenue.

She, with a number of other Menlo Park community members, voiced support of a plan proposed by the city’s Bicycle Commission, which would be a pilot program to install bike lanes from near Menlo-Atherton High School to downtown Menlo Park.

Though council members couldn’t vote to approve the pilot project since the matter was not on the agenda, they did voice support for it. The proposal will be brought back to the council for action.

According to bicycle commissioners Jonathan Weiner and Bill Kirsch, the pilot program would be conducted during the 2016-17 school year before being revisited as a potentially permanent installation.

Heading from east to west, the bike route would start at Menlo-Atherton High School (Oak Grove Avenue and Middlefield Road), with 7-foot buffered lanes, and continue along Oak Grove Avenue, past El Camino Real to Crane Street, where the lane would narrow to 5 feet.

Riders would take Crane Street to Santa Cruz Avenue, where they would have to deal with a 530-foot stretch where the bike lane would disappear in favor of “sharrows” (lanes marked by white bicycle signs painted on the road that tell motorists that they are sharing the road with bicyclists).

From there, bicyclists would have access to the existing bike lanes to continue down Santa Cruz Avenue.

Heading from south to north, another bike route is proposed to stretch from Middle Avenue to Valparaiso Avenue, beginning on University Drive, then jogging east along Live Oak Avenue to Crane Street. In all, the proposed project would eliminate 112 street parking spots.

Bike lanes would be on both sides of the streets so cyclists could travel in either direction.

Several bicycle commissioners at the meeting said they had spoken with various stakehold-



Photo by Kate Bradshaw/The Almanac

Irene Vail, a second-grader at Encinal School, tells the Menlo Park City Council she supports bike lanes being installed on Oak Grove Avenue, an idea proposed by the Bicycle Commission.

ers who could be affected by the bike lanes. Kevin Conner, sustainability director at Menlo School, said the school supports the project, and sees it as a way to increase safety and eliminate obstacles that could prevent kids from cycling to school.

Bicycle commissioner Cindy Welton presented letters of support for the project from Monsignor Steven Otellini, pastor at Nativity School and Michael Dwyer, operations director at Sacred Heart Schools.

Lydia Lee, another bicycle commissioner, said that even though she is a bike advocate, it can be hard to encourage others to bike without having proper infrastructure on the streets for people to be safe. Demand for bike lanes is evidenced by the kids who already ride their bikes. She said the plan could make “hundreds of students’ lives better.”

Fran Dehn, president of the city’s Chamber of Commerce, said she supports the project, but wants to make sure that

the proposed elimination of parking spots does not disturb downtown parking. Many of the cars that currently park on Oak Grove Avenue, she said, are from students at Menlo-Atherton High School. They would need an alternate parking location if those spots were eliminated.

Councilwoman Kirsten Keith offered a preliminary suggestion that perhaps nearby church parking lots, which typically remain vacant during the day, could be utilized. ■

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District: We're working to diversify teaching staff

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

A standing-room-only group of close to 75 people filled the meeting room of the Las Lomas Elementary School District's governing board on April 13 to hear and talk about efforts to add more diversity to the district's teaching staff.

Superintendent Lisa Cesario and consultant Eugene Whitlock said the district has been working hard since the issue was first brought to its attention more than a year and half ago. Mr. Whitlock, who is the vice chancellor of human resources and general counsel for the San Mateo County Community College District, said the Las Lomas district currently has nearly 15 percent minority teachers on its staff, up from less than 10 percent in the 2013-14 school year.

According to figures provided by the school to the California Department of Education on its EdData website, 38 percent of the district's students are minorities. The two-school,

Parents are 'entreating the board to recognize the importance of this issue.'

PARENT ALLISON VIRSIK

kindergarten-to-eighth-grade district includes neighborhoods in the western parts of Menlo Park and Atherton and small sections of Woodside, plus nearby unincorporated areas including Ladera.

In February, 177 parents signed a letter asking the district to do more. "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.

David Williams, a parent of biracial children in the school district, said having his children grow up seeing people who are like them "is important to us."

"We need to find some way to measure how much we're willing to invest in finding a more

diverse candidate pool," he said.

Julie Floyd, who has three children who she said have "excelled academically" in Las Lomas schools, said the district needs to include all kinds of diversity. "Achieving minimum requirements is not enough," she said. "Let's strive for excellence for all."

Parents say the issue first surfaced when the district used materials that some parents felt were inappropriate while teaching students about bullying. Parents began asking the district to make efforts to recruit more diverse teachers to their staff.

Allison Virsik, who has four children in the school district, said parents were frustrated after bringing the issue to the district's attention. "We felt we were unable to collaborate or have a constructive conversation," she said.

Ms. Virsik said parents are "entreating the board to recognize the importance of this issue."

In January 2015, Mr. Whitlock prepared a report for the district, assuring it that its

hiring and recruiting practices were legal, but also urging the district to take a number of steps to help recruit a more diverse teaching staff.

He said at the meeting that the district has put most of his recommendations into place, but that two of his suggestions have not yet been implemented.

The suggestions already being followed by the district include training in unconscious bias for interviewers, adding questions about experience in working with diverse groups to the list of interview questions, and recruiting more broadly. He said the district has reached out to professional associations of underrepresented groups and tried to attend a broader array of job fairs.

What remains undone is adopting a "diversity statement" for the district and modifying the district's recruiting materials, he said.

Board members said they want the district to work on a diversity statement that would be in place by the time the district starts recruiting new

teachers for the 2017-18 school year early in 2017.

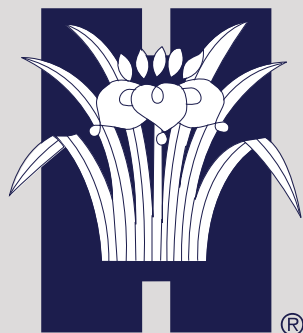
Mr. Whitlock said such an effort, before being approved by the school board, should include the entire school community: students, faculty, parents and administration.

"It's a longer process, but I think it's a process that everyone should participate in," he said. The process, he added, will need to start soon after school starts next fall in order to be completed in time for recruiting the next year's teachers.

Mr. Whitlock said part of the problem is that California, and the nation as a whole, is suffering from a teacher shortage, as well as a shortage of minority teachers. Fewer people are studying to be teachers at a time when the demand for more teachers increases as schools work to reduce class sizes, he said.

Mr. Whitlock pointed out that in addition to the Las Lomas district having improved its ratio of minority teachers this

See **TEACHING STAFF**, page 13



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Roger Reynolds' carriage house is likely doomed

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

The carriage house on the former Roger Reynolds Nursery site at 133 Encinal Ave. in Menlo Park will likely face demolition when structures on the property are razed to make way for building 24 condos.

Once an Edy's Ice Cream parlor before becoming part of Roger Reynolds Nursery, the carriage house has stood there for about 66 years, according to Jim Lewis of the Menlo Park Historical Association.

Developer Deke Hunter said he will give the carriage house to whoever will pay to move it off the lot before May. However, finding someone who will pay to move and retrofit the roughly 600-square-foot building, along with finding a place to put it, may be too big a challenge to meet within the specified deadline.

The consensus among city staff and council members, during a council discussion on the topic April 12, was that the cost to move and retrofit the build-

ing to code is prohibitively high, especially since the building does not meet the qualifications to be a "historical" building by state or federal standards.

The council voted 4-0 to not accept or relocate the building, with Councilman Ray Mueller absent.

Mr. Hunter had met with some ambivalence about the value of the carriage house from Menlo Park's Planning Commission last October. In the original plans considered by the commission, the carriage house was integrated into the designs as one of eight buildings that would be part of the condo development. However, in order to create more flexibility to lower the height of a proposed building that would face neighbors on Stone Pine Lane, the commission told developer Deke Hunter that the carriage house could be eliminated from the plans.

The City Council approved the revised plans in January, but asked what else could be

done with the carriage house. Some council members suggested it could be a good home for the Menlo Park Historical Association, which is currently quartered in a tight basement office of the Menlo Park Library.

The president of the historical association, Jym Clendenin, said the carriage house wouldn't provide much more space and the association would need to find a place to put the structure. Plus, he said, "it's not particularly historic and would take a fortune to bring up to code."

Community members Jim Lewis, Betty Meissner and Bill Weseloh spoke or emailed the council in favor of delaying the building's demolition and having further discussion on what could be done.

"This was a special place that served the needs in a variety of ways over the years for many members of our community," Mr. Lewis said.

While Mr. Lewis said he understood that construction wouldn't begin on-site until the third quarter of this year, City Manager Alex McIntyre said he understood that the lot was



Photo courtesy City of Menlo Park

The carriage house at the former Roger Reynolds Nursery at 133 Encinal Ave. in Menlo Park.

going to be sold at the beginning of May, and would have to be clear of all structures by then.

"I've tried to find someone ... to reach out and adopt this little place," said Councilwoman Catherine Carlton. She said that with a cost estimate of more than \$300,000 to move and retrofit the building, not including

the cost of land, she hasn't found anyone yet. She said she plans to contact Atherton to see if that town would be interested in the building.

Other logistical problems would arise if the city pursued the building's preservation. Jus-

See **CARRIAGE HOUSE**, page 13

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Alain Pinel Realtors.

This 3,661-square-foot home at 520 Olive St. in Menlo Park sold for nearly \$6 million, a record for a sales price per square foot in Menlo Park, according to the listing agent Keri Nicholas of Alain Pinel Realtors.

Nicholas: Record home sales price

Keri Nicholas of Alain Pinel Realtors said she recently closed a sale on a home at 520 Olive St. in Menlo Park for \$5,998,000, which she said set a per-square-foot sales price record in Menlo Park at \$1,630 per square foot.

"This custom home is the essence of understated, elegant living," said Ms. Nicholas, who represented the seller, Benchmark Builders, which construct-

REAL ESTATE NEWS

ed the 3,661-square-foot, four-bedroom, five-bath home.

Some of the house's custom finishes and design elements, she said, are: grass cloth wallpaper in the dining room; a 48-inch Wolf six-burner range and a custom-cabinet-encased Sub Zero 48-inch integrated refrigerator in the kitchen; sepa-

rate walk-in and butlers pantries; Lutron Home Automation; and master bath marble countertops.

Inventory remains "remarkably low" in Menlo Park, Ms. Nicholas said. "Homes in this area are only on the market about 21 days from listing through closing, so when opportunities present themselves buyers move quickly and that benefits motivated sellers."

Woodside School holds meeting on summer building

A public meeting to discuss construction projects scheduled at Woodside Elementary School this summer will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, in the school's Wildcat Room at 3195 Woodside Road.

The campus of the elementary school will be closed to the public most of the summer, from June 11 to Aug. 12, for the construction.

Projects include:

- Installing additional lighting to illuminate the quad area, parking lots, and walkways around the perimeter of school buildings.

- Replacing light fixtures in the Community Gym and Building M exterior with energy-efficient LED lighting. Replacing thermostats with energy-efficient,

web-enabled programmable thermostats.

- Replacing the 7-year-old artificial turf field and repairing drainage on the natural turf field.

- Constructing raised crosswalks and safe pedestrian walkways through parking lots to Woodside Road.

- Replacing all door hardware with locks that allow doors to be locked from the interior.

- Installing bollards along the curb at the pick-up/drop off area north of the primary building.

- Installing and replacing fencing and gates with 6-foot high wood and metal fencing.

- Resurfacing and striping hardcourts.

- Repairing and upgrading school's amphitheater.

— Barbara Wood

Verna Carol Krogh

January 8, 1925 – March 25, 2016

Mrs. Verna Krogh, also known to hundreds of schoolchildren in San Mateo County as Mrs. McDonald or Mrs. Reeves, died peacefully on March 25, 2016, at the age of 91.

Verna was born on January 8, 1925 to Carl & Louise Specker in San Francisco. She graduated from Sequoia High School in 1942 and from Westmont College in Santa Barbara.

Her teaching majors were Christian Education and Music. She began her public school teaching career in Shafter, CA, in 1948. She also taught at Parkside, Bayshore and Bayside Schools in San Mateo.

Verna was a member of Menlo Church, and is mourned by her sisters and brothers in Christ. She is survived by stepchildren Justin and Allison and by cousins, nieces and nephews in both Krogh and Specker families. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Reuben Krogh.

She was an active and dedicated member of the California Retired Teachers Association since her retirement in 1986.

A memorial service is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 28, at Skylawn Memorial Park.

Send donations to "Verna and Reuben Krogh Scholarship Endowment" at Vestment College, Santa Barbara.



PAID OBITUARY

TEACHING STAFF

continued from page 10

school year, the statistics used by the parents that showed the district previously had the lowest percentage of minority teachers of any local district were incorrect.

Parents mistakenly included as minority teachers the number of teachers in other districts who did not supply their race in the reported statistics. While the Las Lomitas district did not have any teachers who did not report

their race, leaving its minority percentage at 9 percent, other districts' percentages were lower than the parents had shown.

The correct numbers for 2014-15, Mr. Whitlock said, are: Palo Alto Unified, 19 percent minority teachers; Los Altos, 18 percent; Menlo Park City, 15 percent; San Carlos, 13 percent; Portola Valley, 8 percent; and Woodside Elementary, 7 percent. Las Lomitas had 9 percent minority teachers in 2014-15.

The numbers are confirmed on the state's EdData.org website. ■

James C. Crittenden

June 25, 1921 - March 29, 2016

James C. Crittenden, a longtime resident of Ladera, died March 29 in his home in San Rafael. He was 94.

He was born in Seattle in 1921 and grew up in Lodi, Sanger and San Jose. Early acquiring a lifelong fascination with automobiles and their design, he studied art and industrial arts at San Jose State College until being drafted in 1943. After training in aircraft and weapons maintenance, he applied and was accepted to Officer Candidate School.

As a lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps, he served in Guadalcanal and the Philippines managing equipment maintenance. Immediately after the war he was ordered to Japan to inspect and document coastal artillery sites. Traveling to and within Japan, he witnessed the devastation of Hiroshima and Tokyo.

Returning to San Jose, he completed his degree and began teaching art and industrial design at Mountain View High School in 1947, later transferring to the new Awalt High School in the same district. He met Isobel Heath and they married in 1949. In 1950 they took a long cycling and driving trip through Europe where they saw further wartime damage in London and Berlin. In 1951, they joined the early residents of Ladera, designing and building their own home where they would raise their three children. The Crittendens were among the founding members of Ladera Community Church.

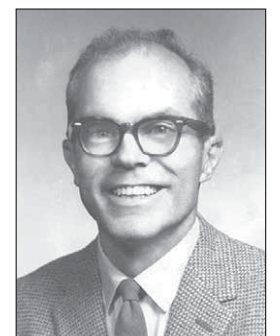
In 1958-59 Jim took a sabbatical to work toward his MFA degree at Stanford, and the family traveled to New Zealand where he studied Maori art, supporting the effort by doing location filming for an educational documentary. In the 1960s he discovered another lifelong passion, sailing. The family rapidly progressed from launching dinghies on lakes and in the south bay, to cruising aboard larger boats in Europe, the Pacific Northwest and Mexico.

In 1977 Isobel died after a long illness and Jim took early retirement. He bought a boat in Maryland and in 1981 sailed across the Atlantic. He would spend much of the 80s cruising Europe from the eastern Mediterranean around to Scandinavia. In 1984 he met Doris Schwarz and they married in 1986, settling in Marin County.

Jim was a mainstay of his church choirs, first at Ladera Community Church and later at Community Congregational Church in Tiburon. He was an accomplished painter, a sculptor and trombonist. He enthusiastically studied, collected and repaired cars, doing a full body-off restoration of a 1930 Chrysler during the 1960s. He worked for peace and international understanding, driven by the destruction he saw after World War II. He was a gregarious friend, connecting with acquaintances and making new ones all over the world in his travels and theirs.

He was preceded in death by his first wife Isobel in 1977 and his second wife Doris in 2011. He is survived by his children, Winnie Crittenden of Sausalito, Max Crittenden of Menlo Park, and Russell Crittenden of San Rafael; stepdaughter Nancy Jackson of Capitola; seven grandchildren and three step-grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, April 22 at Community Congregational Church in Tiburon.



PAID OBITUARY

CARRIAGE HOUSE

continued from page 12

tin Murphy, public works director, said there is no place on city land where the building could be stored. The city would also have to pay to protect the building while in storage, Mr. McIntyre said.

"We can't put money toward this without an idea," said Mayor Rich Cline.

A private individual or group can still claim the building before the deadline, which will be in early May, said Mr. McIntyre. Councilwoman Carlton encouraged people to come forward if they are interested.

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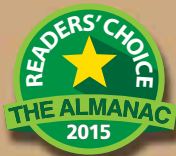
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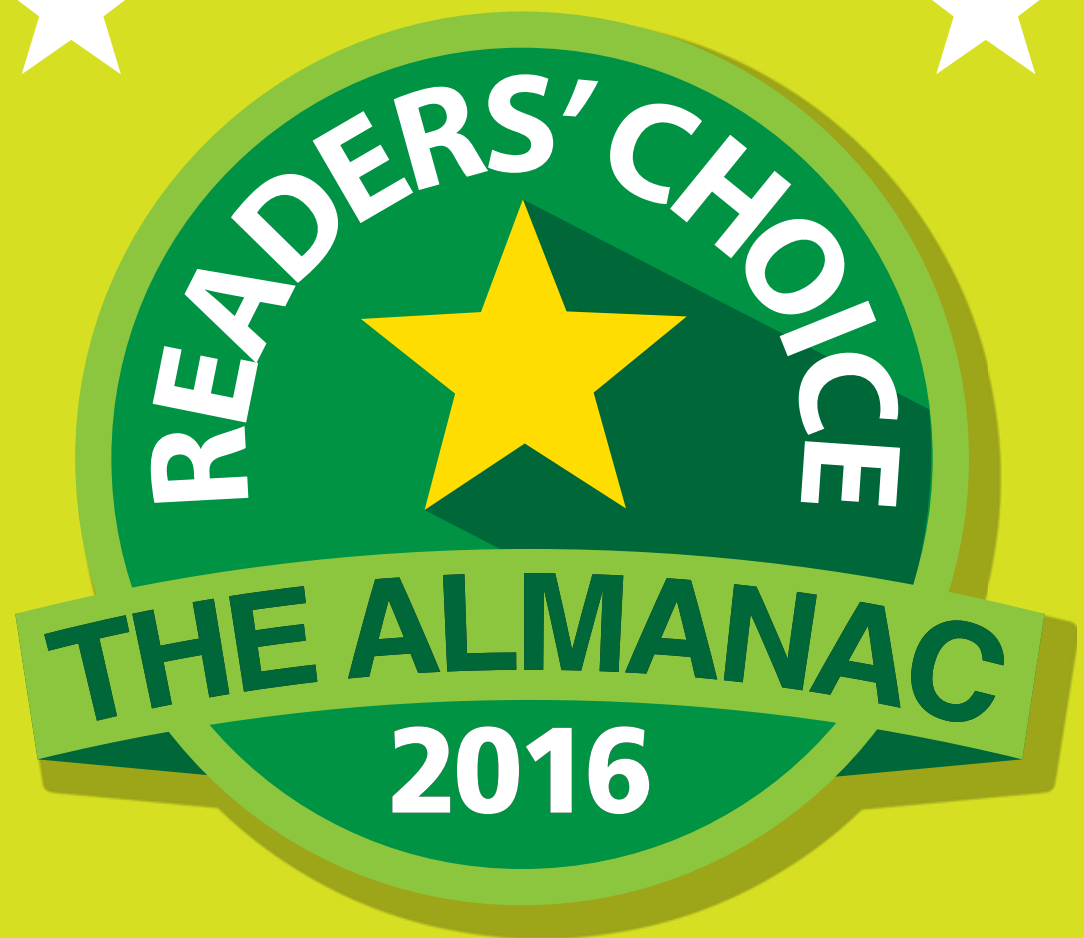
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Misadventure in startup world

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Raucous laughter erupted from the audience at Kepler's Books as writer Dan Lyons told anecdote after anecdote of the culture at Hubspot, a marketing software startup in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he worked for about a year after losing his job as Newsweek's tech editor.

He was there to talk about his book, "Disrupted: My Misadventure in the Start-Up Bubble," in conversation with Joshua Davis, a San Francisco-based contributing editor to Wired magazine.

The plot of Mr. Lyons' story is this: He's 52 and, after a career in journalism, he wanted to reinvent himself as a marketer, while perhaps benefiting from seeing a start-up through its IPO, or initial public offering.

He got a job at Hubspot in

2013, didn't fit in there, was made to feel miserable by his boss and coworkers (some of whom called him grandpa), and quit as soon as he landed a writing job on the HBO show "Silicon Valley" a year later.

At Hubspot, he said, the employees — many of whom were fresh out of college, and most of whom were under 30 — were selected for "culture fit," a phrase he described as a euphemism for the antithesis of diversity.

In his book, he describes the demographics of his co-workers as being "bleachy-clean, driven-snow, Mormon-level (white)," representing "all of (Cape Cod's) summer inhabitants under the age of 30."

Despite his discomfort at the lack of diversity, employees at the company appeared to be happy, he said. They called each other "rockstars," described most things as "awesome" and enjoyed free beer, candy and workplace ping-pong.

They had also been inculcated to believe in the higher purpose of their work. According to Mr. Lyons, employees describe their

marketing efforts not as "spammy," but as an act of creating moments of "delightment" (a made-up word) for their customers.

But, he suggests, beneath the sunny rhetoric and millennial workplace perks, the reality is something darker.

Workplace perks that entice millennials can be misleading, he said. For instance, while an "unlimited vacation" policy sounds nice, it also means that people cannot receive payment for a set number of vacation days if they are fired. If employees don't get reprieve from the demands of meeting a high monthly quota, they are unlikely to be able to take days off anyway, he said.

"It would be nice to think that when everything falls apart, the only ones who get hurt will be venture capitalists on Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park," writes Mr. Lyons in his book.

But, he points out, "a lot of the money being thrown at these kids originally came from pension funds. The pain, when it comes, will not be confined to Sand Hill Road." ▀



RealDanLyons.com
Dan Lyons

Ex-deputy sentenced in molestation case

By Jamey Padojino
Bay City News Service

An ex-San Mateo County sheriff's deputy was sentenced April 15 to what may be the rest of his life in prison for child molestation on an underage female relative in Santa Clara County that had started about 10 years ago.

Galen Underwood was sentenced to 30 years to life in prison plus 38 years for molesting a girl beginning when she was 11 years old at homes in Gilroy and Mountain View, Santa Clara County Deputy District Attorney Charles Gillingham said.

Superior Court Judge Vanessa Zecher imposed the sentence on Mr. Underwood at the Hall of Justice in San Jose and denied a motion for a new trial.

Mr. Underwood will be "spending the rest of his life in prison for his conduct," Mr. Gillingham said.

The former deputy was convicted in August on charges including lewd and lascivious acts with a child under age 14 with force and aggravated assault with a child under age 12 with force, Mr. Gillingham said.

During Mr. Underwood's trial, a jury was presented with physical evidence and heard tes-

timony from the victim, according to Mr. Gillingham.

Mr. Underwood had a "sexual interest" in underage girls based on phone and email evidence and an online subscription to a website, the prosecutor said.

Mr. Underwood has been in custody since his arrest in late September 2013 after the girl told a school counselor that he had molested her for many years, prosecutors said.

The ex-deputy, who had worked in the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office since January 2005, was placed on paid administrative leave after his arrest and later fired, Mr. Gillingham said.

Primer on how Atherton Police Department works

Atherton's City Council members, and interested members of the public, will receive a primer on the town's police department at a special meeting scheduled for noon Wednesday, April 20, in the town's council chambers at 94 Ashfield Road.

Acting Chief Joe Wade, who is filling in while Chief Ed Flint is out on family leave, will present "Atherton Police Department 101: Background and Information."

The talk will include information about the department's hiring and recruitment practices, staffing levels, training, equip-

■ BRIEFS

ment, vehicles and mutual aid with surrounding communities.

Encinal School wins Gold Ribbon award

Encinal School in Atherton, a Menlo Park City School District kindergarten-through fifth-grade school, has received a Gold Ribbon award from the California Department of Education.

The Gold Ribbon Schools Award program has replaced the

California Distinguished Schools Program while the state adopts new assessment and accountability systems. Elementary schools are honored in even years, while middle and high schools are honored in odd years.

Encinal was the only school in the Almanac's circulation area to win the award, which required schools to describe a model program or practice at their site that benefited unique student populations and could be replicated by others.

The awards were given to 772 schools in the state, and nine in San Mateo County.

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Climate Action Heroes

How locals are doing their part to reduce greenhouse gases

All photos courtesy Menlo Spark

By **Kate Bradshaw**

Almanac Staff Writer

In observance of Earth Day and in the face of the challenge of climate change, Menlo Spark, the nonprofit that is working to make Menlo Park a climate-neutral city by 2025, asked many people and agencies in the community what they were doing to reduce their energy use, waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

Their stories, some of which are presented here, were compiled by Menlo Spark staff — Janelle London, director of sustainability, and Diane Bailey, executive director.

“Climate change may be the greatest challenge of our time, with diminished snowpack, greater wildfires, more intense storms, sea levels rising and other impacts,” Ms. London said.

Go to MenloSpark.org to read more about local “Climate Action Heroes,” as Menlo Spark is calling them, and to tell your own stories about reducing energy use, waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

Among the actions that locals are taking:

- Sheldon Kay is offering a \$1,500 cash rebate to 15 Menlo Park families who install solar panels this year. Go to tinyurl.com/skay480 for more information.
- Tom Kabat, energy engineer, replaced his gas water heater with a solar-powered heater.
- Perla Ni, founder of great-nonprofits.org, said her family purchases the solar power generated on someone else’s roof using an online solar power-sharing program called Yeloha.
- Bob and Cathy Oyster, father and daughter and owners of Country Sharon Apartments in Menlo Park, changed land-

scaping to be more water efficient and installed solar panels.

- Julie Shanson, a Menlo Park resident and founder of FindJoyInFood.com, promotes food sustainability by teaching vegetarian cooking, eating vegan with her family, and subscribing to a farm’s local produce delivery service.

- Lulu’s on the Alameda recycles a portion of its cooking oil and uses compostable paper products.

- Left Bank restaurant recycles, composts and uses biodegradable to-go boxes.

- Over several years, Don Zulai-ca rebuilt his childhood home to be energy-efficient while he was caring for his sick mother.

- Hillview Middle School installed solar panels and energy-efficient lighting, and established an environmental science elective (students learn about climate change and take care of the school’s organic garden).

- Fleet Feet, the sports shoe store, promotes pedestrian transport with its running groups and recycles used running shoes, say owners Jim Gothers and Lisa Taggart.

- GeoKids preschool students use recycled materials for their art projects and avoid wasting paper, said Kim Bourne, associate director of the preschool.

- City Council members Ray Mueller and Kirsten Keith say they will drive less this year by biking, taking public transit or carpooling to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

- LED lights are used at Bridge-point Music, Occasions, Etc., the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce, and in the homes of the Heatons, Margo McAuliffe and Jennifer Thelen.

Go to tinyurl.com/Spark422 for more about local “Climate Action Heroes” on the website of Menlo Spark, a nonprofit working to make Menlo Park climate neutral by 2025.



David Cruz of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula says he teaches kids about energy waste. Together, they work with the lights off (by using natural light), ride bikes and garden.



Officers at the Menlo Park Police Department patrol the streets and parks on bike and on a Zero electric motorcycle (the city has two).



Girl Scout Troop 61842, made up of fifth-graders at Oak Knoll Elementary, parade at the school pickup line with signs and educational handouts asking drivers not to idle their cars.



Michael Killen creates art to inspire action. NASA, Stanford, USGS, and the city of Palo Alto have displayed his paintings that aim to raise awareness of the need to act now on climate change and sustainability. He and his wife recently invested in solar panels.



Trader Joe's recently installed seven new bike racks. "Many of our customers arrive by bike. We're glad we're able to support clean transportation and local shopping," says Reggie Cote, manager at the downtown Menlo Park store.



Lance Powell, who teaches AP environmental science at Menlo-Atherton High School, says he adopts acres of rainforest to offset his carbon footprint for about \$50 per acre. Doing so preserves biodiversity in the rainforest and helps the environment absorb carbon dioxide, he says.



Jesse Cool, owner of Menlo Park's Flea Street Cafe, and partner and chef, **Carlos Canada**, focus on locally grown and produced ingredients and organic food. They compost and take care not to waste food. "We believe in shifting the center of the plate from meat being served in large portions to offering more plant-based and delicious menu items with meat as a small part of them."



Matt James, a visiting scholar at the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, says he plans to reduce his air travel by 25 percent this year. According to Menlo Spark, reducing air travel by 1,000 miles can save 1,000 pounds of carbon.

James Crittenden of Ladera, blue-water sailor, peace advocate

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

A memorial service is set for Friday, April 22, in Tiburon for world traveler and former Ladera resident James C. Crittenden, who died March 29 in San Rafael at the age of 94.

The service starts at 11 a.m. in the Community Congregational Church at 145 Rock Hill Drive in Tiburon.

Mr. Crittenden was a native

OBITUARY
Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.

of Seattle, grew up in California, and studied art and industrial arts at San Jose State University until he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943.

As a lieutenant during World War II, he managed equipment maintenance in the Pacific Theater and visited Hiroshima, site of an atomic bomb drop,

and Tokyo, which had been fire-bombed by U.S. forces. In Europe after the war, he saw more damage from wartime bombing, and the experiences led him to become an advocate for peace and international understanding, and to make friends all over the world.

Mr. Crittenden returned to college in San Jose after the war and went on to teach art and industrial design in Mountain View schools. He married Isobel Heath in 1949, and in

1950, the couple toured Europe by bike and car. They moved to Ladera in 1951, raised three children and were founding members of the Ladera Community Church.

On sabbatical in the late 1950s, Mr. Crittenden studied fine arts at Stanford University and the family spent time in New Zealand, where Mr. Crittenden studied Maori art.

In the 1960s, after discovering a passion for sailing, the Crittendens cruised to ports in Europe, the Pacific Northwest and Mexico. When Isobel died in 1977, Mr. Crittenden bought a boat, sailed across the Atlantic Ocean and cruised the eastern Mediterranean Sea and the waters around Scandinavia.

He married Doris Schwarz

in 1986 and they settled in Marin County. His artistic skills included painting, sculpting and playing the trombone. He also collected and repaired old cars and completely restored a 1930 Chrysler.

Mr. Crittenden was preceded in death by his wife Isobel in 1977 and by his wife Doris in 2011. He is survived by his daughter Winnie in Sausalito, sons Max of Menlo Park and Russell of San Rafael, step-daughter Nancy Jackson of Capitola, 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. ■



James Crittenden

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Garden club holds Woodside plant sale

By Kate Daly
Special to the Almanac

Local garden club members will be selling hundreds of plants and sharing a wealth of materials and wisdom at their “Every Day is Earth Day” event at the Woodside Library Native Plant Garden on Saturday, April 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Woodside-Atherton Garden Club members have spent months preparing for this biennial sale, growing their favorite plants ranging from salvias to succulents. With a little extra rain this past winter, they say, everything is off to a good start, primed and ready to find new homes in the spring planting season.

Members have collected dozens of sought-after plants, shrubs and trees at wholesale nurseries to provide buyers with a wide selection of drought-tolerant natives.

“All of the plants we are offering thrive in our Mediterranean climate, and some do double duty benefiting the environment like the narrow leaf milkweed *Asclepias fascicularis*, where monarch butterflies lay their eggs,” says plant sale co-chair Kathy Francis of Woodside.

Plants will be divvied up into categories such as natives, pollinators, kitchen garden, and roses. Wagons will be supplied and student volunteers from

Woodside School will help customers roll purchases to their cars.

New this year, Barron’s Mobile Sharpening Service will be stationed in the parking lot to tune up gardening tools and knives. And expert advice will be on hand at the Ask-the-Master-Gardener Booth.

“Monarch Butterfly Lady” Eleanor Laney and Craig Dre-mann, the ecologist and seed expert who helped restore parts of Village and Kite hills in Woodside, will answer questions.

Club member Anne Schoebel of Woodside will lead floral design demonstrations, providing tips on how to arrange living baskets, which will be for sale.

A garden lovers’ boutique will feature products such as gardening hats and gloves, homemade lemon rosemary bath salts, and avocado citrus honey.

The event will go on rain or shine. Admission is free.

Proceeds from the fundraiser go toward maintaining the Woodside Library Native Plant Garden at 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside, and other civic projects supported by the club.

Go to WoodsideAthertonGC.org for more information.

Kate Daly is a member of the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club and co-chair of this event.



Creating an environmentally sound community

SHREDDING & E-WASTE FREE EVENT

Menlo Park residents and businesses are invited to bring confidential files for shredding and unwanted electronics for recycling. Proof of residency or business card/license required.

Shredding is limited to three boxes (10" x 12" x 15") per vehicle. Electronics accepted include TVs, computers and monitors, DVD players, printers, video game consoles, and cell phones.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit menlopark.org/shreddingandewaste
- Call 650-330-6720

Saturday, April 30, 2016
9:00 am–Noon
City Corporation Yard
333 Burgess Drive
Menlo Park, CA

The Almanac
AlmanacNews.com

LET’S DISCUSS:
Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues on Town Square at AlmanacNews.com

CALENDAR

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

Benefits/Fundraisers

'Symphony in Flowers' with tenor Pasquale Esposito San Francisco Symphony's Mid-Peninsula League will host an evening with a silent auction paired with wines, appetizers and chocolates — to be followed by a dinner and performance by tenor Pasquale Esposito. The event will benefit the San Francisco Symphony and its education and community programs, including the league's Ravenswood Project. May 1, 5 p.m. \$195. Menlo Circus Club, 190 Park Lane, Atherton. Call 650-473-1299. bit.ly/symphony-inflowers

M-A Big Bear Run The Menlo-Atherton High School Athletic Boosters will hold its 11th annual Big Bear 5K run, an event which usually attracts around 1,000 runners. The course will begin at the high school and loop around the Lindenwood neighborhood in Atherton. To register, search for "M-A Big Bear Run" on active.com. May 1, 9 a.m. \$23 youth; \$33 adult. Menlo-Atherton High School, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. active.com

Rally for Riekes The Riekes Center for Human Enhancement will hold an event celebrating its 20th anniversary and raising funds for student scholarships. The evening will include cocktails, delicious food, fun activities and live music — performed by Riekes Center students and instructors. Sponsorship opportunities are available. April 23, 6-9 p.m. \$175 general. Riekes Center, 3455 Edison Way, Menlo Park. Call 650-364-2509. riekes.org/rally-for-riekes-2016/

Classes/Workshops

Food Preservation Class April 23, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

The Future of Investing: How Equity Crowdfunding is Shaping The American Dream Manny Fernandez, an angel investor and founder of SF Angels Group, teaches

workshop. April 27, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Menlo College, Brawner Hall, Room 407, 1000 El Camino Real, Atherton. Call 650-543-3883. www.menlo.edu

Concerts

'Fauré Requiem | Songs of Nature' The boys and young men of Ragazzi Boys Chorus — joined by the alumni chorus Ragazzi Continuo — will present Gabriel Fauré's masterpiece Requiem in D minor. April 24, 2-4 p.m. \$10-\$28. St. Patrick's Seminary and University, 320 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-342-8785. ragazzi.org

Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra: Higdon, Part and Brahms Buy tickets online or at door. April 23, 8-10 p.m. \$15-\$25. Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-208-4159. www.mastersinfonia.org

Dance

Menlowe Ballet: 'Collage' Menlowe Ballet's 10th Season will include the world premieres of three works by three choreographers: Val Caniparoli, Gregory Dawson and Michael Lowe. April 29, 8 p.m.; April 30, 2 and 8 p.m.; May 1, 2 p.m. \$28-\$55. Menlo-Atherton High School, Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Call 650-231-2025. menloweballet.org

Western Ballet: 'Red Riding Hood' and 40th anniversary gala Visit website for details. April 23, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. (gala); April 24, 1 p.m. M-A High Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. www.westernballet.org/performances/

Environment

Portola Valley/Woodside Earth Fair '16 The Portola Valley Town Center will hold an Earth Day celebration, providing information about food waste, recycling, water and energy conservation, electric cars and more. There will be a Food Preservation 101 Workshop at 11:30 a.m., and a show by the Alphabet Rockers at 1:30 p.m. On-site shredding and a free compost giveaway will also be available. April 23, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Town Center, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-1700. www.portolavalley.net

Talks & Authors

'Iron Road, Stone Walls' Folger Stable Speaker Series talk by Dr. Gordon Chang from Stanford University's Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project. He will discuss how the project seeks to give a voice to Chinese migrants who helped shape the physical and social landscape of the American West. April 24, 4-6 p.m. Free. Wunderlich Park, 4040 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-2660. folgerstabletalkseries.eventbrite.com

Author Myra Strober on 'Sharing the Work' Myra Strober, a labor economist and professor at Stanford's Graduate School of Education, discusses her memoir "Sharing the Work," which focuses on her life's work of studying and fighting sexism at work, in academia and in the home. April 26, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/myra-strober

Science fiction authors Kim Stanley Robinson and Paolo Bacigalupi discuss their new novels. April 20, 7:30 p.m. \$20 general. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2502126

Rachana Reddy Agumamidi gives lecture and performance on Kuchipudi dance. April 26, 1:30-3 p.m. Free. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025 ext. 242. www.penvol.org/littlehouse

USGS Lecture: 'Native Bees.' Sam Droege, U.S. Geological Survey wildlife biologist, explores native bees as pollinators and lack of information about status of native bees. April 28, 7-8:15 p.m. Free. U.S. Geological Survey, Bldg. 3, 345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-329-4390. online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar/

Et Alia

VC Taskforce: Pitch! Pitch! Pitch! VC Taskforce will hold a Pitch Fest, where entrepreneurs can find out if they are on the road to getting funded or not. April 20, 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$10. Hogan Lovells US LLP, 4085 Campbell Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-776-1040. www.vctaskforce.com/Event-2016-4-20-Pitch-Pitch-Pitch

Mandarin immersion program open to locals

As it gets ready to enter its second year, the Mandarin immersion program at John Gill Elementary School in Redwood City is recruiting students — including residents of other school districts — to join a second kindergarten class in the program for the fall of 2016.

Rwcmmandarin.blogspot.com has information on the kindergarten-to-eighth-grade Mandarin immersion program at the school, located at 555 Avenue del Ora in Redwood City.

A tour of the campus for prospective families will be held Wednesday, April 27, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., starting from the library on the Avenue Del Ora side of the school. The public may also attend several other events to meet faculty and current families from the Mandarin immersion program.

A.J. Chamorro

A.J. Chamorro, a 2012 graduate of Sacred Heart Prep in Atherton and a construction management major at Cal Poly-

San Luis Obispo, was recognized recently at the California Capitol in Sacramento for winning a national industry competition.

Mr. Chamorro captained a team of eight students to a first place finish in the mechanical division at an Associated Schools of Construction competition in Reno. The event drew 178 teams from 43 universities.

Along with being a three-year captain of the Cal Poly mechanical team, Mr. Chamorro has been president of the Northern California Mechanical Contractors Association student chapter since his sophomore year.

Janet Hafner

Janet Hafner is a new sales associate in the Menlo Park office of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, where Wendy McPherson is manager. Ms. Hafner has a bachelor's degree in mass communications from Menlo College.

She formerly worked at Chizar Properties as a property manager and student housing specialist. Coldwell Banker's Menlo Park office is located at 1377 El Camino Real.



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Look closely at the facts before voting on parcel taxes

By Jeffrey B. Child

I thank the Almanac for publishing Barbara Wood's recent article regarding the current school funding election for the Menlo Park City School District (Measures A and C). She obviously spent considerable time verifying all of the financial analysis that our staff presented at the numerous public school board meetings held last year and this year as we considered placing these measures on the ballot.

However, I am disappointed in the Almanac's voter recommendation ("A reluctant no on A and C") and want to correct several errors in your editorial. In light of the facts explained below, I encourage you to reconsider your position on Measures A and C.

Point 1: You say school boards choose special mail-in-only elections rather than general elections because they have lower voter turnout. FACT: In the Menlo Park City School District, voter turnout has been very high in special elections. In our last special election in May of 2010, 47.6 percent of registered voters actually voted. As a comparison, in the June 2012 presidential pri-



mary election, only 36.5 percent of San Mateo County registered voters voted.

Point 2: You suggest that future voters won't have the ability to decide whether a parcel tax should continue or whether it is no longer justified. FACT: If future voters don't like the tax, they can petition the board to rescind the tax. If they don't like the board's response to the petition, they can take their petition to the voters and an election will be held.

In addition, each year the school board conducts a public hearing to solicit comment about the taxes and then decides whether to collect the tax or not. If future voters don't agree with the school board's decision, they can elect other trustees (elections are held every two years, including

November 2016), or can unseat trustees through a recall election.

Point 3: You say our board, "following another dismaying trend among public-agency governing boards," has developed into a "closed club: [w]hen a member decides not to run for re-election, he or she resigns before the term expires and at a point where the board is allowed to appoint a replacement," giving the new member an incumbent's advantage in the next election.

FACT: Since 1996, there have been 19 different trustees on the Menlo Park City School District Board. Only one of those 19 has ever been an appointed incumbent who ran for re-election: me. I think you should know that I was first elected to the board in 2006 in a contested election and then, after serving my full term and retiring, was appointed to the board in June 2011 when a board member moved out of the country and was therefore legally unable to continue to serve. I then ran for election for a second full term in 2012. I hardly believe that one board member being elected after an appointment in the last 20 years is a "dismaying trend."

I have been a longtime subscriber and reader of The Almanac. I appreciate the service you provide for our community in the face of widening cuts in the news reporting industry. The Almanac endorsed both the 2000 and 2003 parcel tax measures, which like the current Measures A and C were also ongoing authorizations for ongoing funding needs. I encourage you and my fellow voters to make sure the "facts" are correct when taking an editorial or voting position on such an important issue for this community.

I hope I have shed light on these facts and you reconsider your editorial argument.

Editor's note:

We're grateful to Mr. Child for pointing out that he has been the only board appointee in the last 20 years who ran to retain his seat in the election following his appointment. The trend that we cited in our editorial is a troubling one that we've observed in reporting on other public boards, but we were remiss in not double-checking the Menlo Park City School District's record on this point. And we apologize.

LETTERS

Our readers write

A 'no' vote on two parcel tax measures

Editor:

Vote NO on Menlo Park School District's Measures A and C.

If these measures pass, your parcel taxes will eventually rise to around \$1,500 every year. These taxes are permanent!

Today, district residents pay the highest parcel taxes on the entire Peninsula. No other district has so many parcel taxes in such a high amount. Almost no other districts have permanent parcel taxes.

Among mid-size school districts, Menlo Park's already spends the third-highest per pupil in all of California! Yet, Measures A and C will eventually double your parcel taxes to fund more spending. This is one category we don't want our school district be No. 1 in.

Since 2000, the district asked us for six parcel taxes/bonds. We willingly approved all of them. Now, the district wants two more. Send a message demanding more fiscal restraint and accountability.

We all want great schools, but enough is enough. The district is pushing the community beyond

what is reasonable. If we don't push back now, don't be surprised when another parcel tax is proposed after the new money is spent. Tell the school board to live within its means. Vote NO on Measures A and C!

Mail your ballot by May 3.

Alex Keh
Maple Avenue, Atherton

Noise complaints reflect 'us vs. them' politics

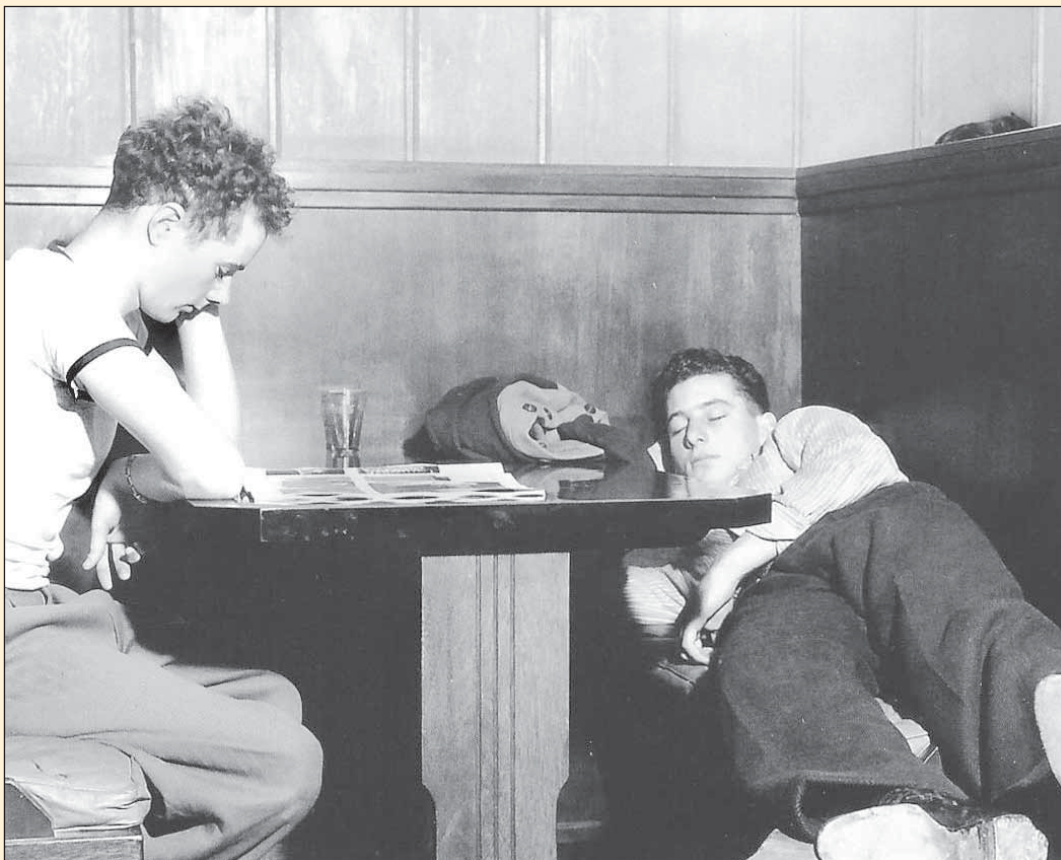
Editor:

Our neighbors in Menlo Park and Atherton seem to have very delicate ears. The sounds of referee whistles from potential soccer games in Flood Park, and a few Surf Air prop planes, have some people in an uproar. Strangely, the constant overflights by commercial jets into SFO and OAK seem to escape those same people's notice.

Looking a little more closely, though, the objection to Flood Park soccer is that it will "bring in different kinds of kids than live in our neighborhood." ("Plans for major changes in Flood Park worry neighbors," The Almanac, April 6, 2016, page 8). I don't need to spell out what that dog whistle means.

The objection to Surf Air is jealousy that its custom-

Continued on next page



Reprinted from "Through the Gates: Eighty-Five Years of Menlo College and its Times."

Looking back

What is now Menlo College in Atherton was once part of Menlo School and Junior College, established in 1927, according to "Through the Gates: Eighty-Five Years of Menlo College and its Times," by local historian and author Pamela Gullard. In this undated photo, one college student reads in the student union while the other gets some shut-eye during a break between rigorous classes that included Latin, rhetoric and philosophy, Ms. Gullard writes.

A remembrance of Walt Gerber, a 'titan of grace' whose impact lives on

By Stephanie Kirtland

A Silicon Valley titan passed earlier this month. He had no website. No blog. No Twitter account. He published no books, not even an article shows up under his byline. He developed no technology, though he was known to love a fast sports car. He wasn't on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest or Snapchat. On the web, this man barely registers, other than as a name in a few Google books, blogs and local articles by others, and then more as just a mention of the past. The one exception is in an article by a former staff member as an example of good leadership.

But his passing on April 4 created huge waves of sadness, love and remembrance among the many — perhaps tens of thousands — who knew him, on the Peninsula where he lived and worked, and throughout the Bay Area and beyond. For this man was a titan of grace, the kind of man whose impact will live long after his passing, not through the technology he developed, but through the hearts he touched, the lives he shaped.

As he did mine.

Walt Gerber was the senior pastor of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church (now Menlo Church), one of Silicon Valley's largest and most impactful churches, for 28 years. When he started in 1974 the church had 2,000 members; when he retired in 2002 MPPC clocked in at 5,500. Some would look at those numbers and infer a "Type A" personality behind the growth. Yet, although he was at times called "a Silicon Valley entrepreneur" when it came to church ministry, Walt was caring, relational and compassionate, more concerned about "the ultimate heresy of making God boring," as he put it, than making the church grow.

But grow it did under him — maybe because God *isn't* boring and people flocked to the way Walt presented his God as he knew him: full of love, grace, kindness — and fun.

Like him.

I first came to MPPC after college. I lived in the South Bay, had never been to Menlo Park or heard of MPPC. But I was spiritually thirsty and needed a place to put down roots and grow after my years away. I had "met Jesus" in a startling spiritual encounter my junior year of college in Germany, then returned to the States and had a hard time connecting the Jesus I had met with my experiences



A writer, editor and public relations consultant, Stephanie Kirtland is a member of Menlo Church.

GUEST OPINION

of church. But when I walked into MPPC after being told by a friend that I "must go there," I felt the difference. And knew I was home: The message was of grace, of love, of a God who longs for you to know his kindness and goodness, to encounter his presence in life-changing ways.

And Walt was the one behind it all, a kind of "spiritual father-figure" whose master's degrees in both psychology and theology helped him bridge the intellectual gap I had with the faith I knew and experienced as true, but didn't fully understand why.

Each week under Walt's rather informal but impactful teaching I felt more intellectually, spiritually and personally grounded, more at peace — more loved. And more aware of the *whys* of my faith that have helped me navigate through all that life has offered. And I'm not the only one.

"It is impossible to think about Walt without thinking about the word 'grace.' I suppose if there is one saying associated with Walt above all others, it is this: 'The church is not a museum for saints, it is a hospital for sinners.' Yesterday he left the hospital. He's with the saints now. The church is a little sadder for a while. But the museum just got a fresh blast of joy." — John Ortberg, senior pastor, Menlo Church

Walt loved his God, his wife, his family, his church. His heart was big enough to grow a large church — and wise enough to pass the baton to others who would be faithful to the grace-filled teaching we all need when he left. (And Menlo Church has been blessed with several pastors since Walt who have followed in his grace-focused faith.)

A titan has passed. With the eyes of faith we know he lives on — no longer plagued by vascular dementia, no longer limited to the speed of the motorized cart he used in his last months (nor even the fast-but-not-fast-enough cars he had earlier owned), living out the love and joy and grace he exemplified to those who heard him weekly for years. But with our very human hearts we grieve his passing, for those who dare to live out the grace of Jesus the way he did are hard to find.

Perhaps in this divisive time we can again remember the way he described his mission — and the mission of all of us who share a faith in Jesus: "I'd like the pulpit to be a fountain of Christ's accepting love. Because that's how I experienced it."

Rest in peace, Walt Gerber. Mission accomplished.

Continued from previous page

ers can afford "all you can eat" monthly rates and don't have to pass through big airport security. ("Supervisors must take 'reasonable action' regarding Surf Air flights," The Almanac, April 6, 2016, page 28).

In both cases, "those people" are different and bad, and others want to punish them for it by denying access to a park or an airport. It's no wonder that larger 2016 politics reflects that sad populist doctrine of us vs. them on a much larger scale.

FYI, I am not a customer of Surf Air nor do I have any ties to any airport.

Brian Schar
Laurel Avenue, Menlo Park

Parcel taxes support 'top-notch' program

Editor:

The Almanac misses the bigger point by failing to endorse the school parcel tax proposals.

Menlo Park schools were considered inferior to Palo Alto when my son entered Oak Knoll School 25 years ago. That is not the case today.

For over two decades, homeowners voted generously to rebuild the schools, lower class sizes, and fund a top-notch educational program.

The unintended consequence of our improved schools has been more families choosing to live here. Their collective action has produced surging enrollment

and increasing property values.

If the parcel tax proposal fails, taxes will go down. However, class sizes will go up or programs will have to be cut. Savvy homebuyers will look for school districts like Palo Alto that are stable and reliable. Homeowners will likely see their property values decline as Menlo Park schools lose their hard-earned reputation for excellence.

The bottom line is consequential. Voting for Measures A and C is a way of "doing well by doing good." Voting no would kill the goose that laid the golden egg.

Gordon Lewin, former trustee, Menlo Park City School District and Sequoia Union High School District, Menlo Avenue

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Notice: Request for Proposals

Food Service Provider

MENLO PARK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Proposal Deadline: 2:00 p.m., May 9, 2016

Place of Proposal Receipts: 181 Encinal Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027

Notice is hereby given that the Menlo Park City School District of San Mateo County, California, acting by and through its Governing Board, hereinafter referred to as "DISTRICT," will receive up to but not later than, the above-stated time, sealed proposals for the award of a contract to provide, prepare, and deliver meals to the District's schools for the 2016-17 school year.

RFP Available April 11, 2016, after 10:00 a.m.:
Menlo Park City School District, 181 Encinal Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027
Web link: <http://district.mpcsd.org/Page/1500>
By email: Isabel Okere at lokere@mpcsd.org.

There will be a mandatory bidder conference at 10:30 am, April 20, 2016 at Menlo Park City School District Office, 181 Encinal Avenue, Atherton, CA. Any bidder failing to attend the conference will be deemed a nonresponsive bidder. Bid will be due at 2:00 pm on May 9, 2016 with an intent to award on June 7, 2016.

Camp Connection

For more information about these camps, see our online directory of camps at www.paloaltoonline.com/biz/summercamps/
To advertise in this weekly directory, call: 650.326.8210

Arts, Culture, Other Camps

Art and Soul Summer Camps **Palo Alto**
Summer Unplugged! Art, Cooking, Yoga and Mindfulness. Weekly full, morning or afternoon options. Walter Hays Elementary School. Kinder-Grade Seven. June 6–July 22. Register online.
www.artandsoulpa.com **650.269.0423**

Camp Galileo: Innovation Camps for Kids **40+ Bay Area Locations**
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www.galileo-camps.com **1.800.854.3684**

Camp Imagineerz **Palo Alto**
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www.imagineerz-learning.com **650.318.5002**

Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) **Mountain View**
50+ creative camps for Gr. K-8! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, School of Rock, Digital Arts, more! One- and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care available. Financial aid offered.
www.arts4all.org **650.917.6800 ext. 0**

Environmental Volunteers Summer Camp **Palo Alto**
Discover nature this summer at Explore! & Girls In Science summer day camps with the Environmental Volunteers in Palo Alto! Field trips, live animals, and hands-on science activities will bring nature alive to kids in grades 1-6. Register and learn more.
www.EVols.org/Explore **650.493.8000**

Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC) **Palo Alto**
PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades 1st to 6th, a wide variety of fun opportunities! We are excited to introduce two new camps to our lineup this year: Leaders in Training (L.I.T.) and PACCC Special Interest Units (S.I.U.). Returning favorites include F.A.M.E. (Fine Arts, Music and Entertainment), J.V. Sports and Operation: Chef! Periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the fun offerings of PACCC Summer Camps! Open to campers from all communities! Come join the fun in Palo Alto! Register online.
www.paccc.org **650.493.2361**

STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research **Stanford**
EXPLORE biomedical science at Stanford! Stanford EXPLORE offers high schoolers the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science, including bioengineering, neurobiology, immunology and many others.
explore.stanford.edu explore-series@stanford.edu

Stanford Jazz Workshop **Stanford University**
Week-long jazz immersion programs for young musicians in middle school (starts July 13), high school (July 19 and July 26), and college, as well as adults (August 2). All instruments and vocals.
stanfordjazz.org

TheatreWorks Summer Camps **Palo Alto**
In these entertaining camps for grades K-5, students enjoy juggling, clowning, puppetry, playwriting, acting, improvisation, music, dance — and present their own original pieces at the end of each session.
www.theatreworks.org/learn/youth/summercamps

Athletics

Hi-Five Sports Summer Camp **Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton, CA**
Children enjoy up to 8 different team sports a week of outdoor fun and fundamentals. With over 25 years of experience and we are the best provider of youth recreational sports in the nation!
www.hifivesportsclubs.com/bayarea_camp_summer_camp_atherton/ **650.362.4975**

Athletics

J-Camp at the Oshman Family JCC **Palo Alto**
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www.ofjcc-jcamp.com **650.223.8622**

Menlo School Sports Camps **Atherton**
Menlo camps are designed for boys and girls grades 4–12 to learn from Knights coaches and staff. Join us this summer to develop skills, foster athleticism and promote sportsmanship in camps covering a range of sports — baseball, basketball, football, lacrosse, soccer and water polo.
www.menloschool.org **650.330.2001 ext. 2758**

Nike Tennis Camps **Stanford University**
Junior Overnight and Day Camps for boys & girls, ages 9-18 offered throughout June, July and August. Adult Weekend Clinics (June & Aug). Camps directed by Head Men's Coach, Paul Goldstein, Head Women's Coach, Lele Forood, and Associate Men's and Women's Coaches, Brandon Coupe and Frankie Brennan. Come join the fun and get better this summer!
www.USSportsCamps.com **1.800.NIKE.CAMP (645.3226)**

Stanford Baseball Camps **Stanford Campus**
Stanford Baseball Camps have gained national recognition as some of the finest in the country. These camps are designed to be valuable and beneficial for a wide range of age groups and skill sets. From the novice 7 year-old, to the Division 1, professionally skilled high school player, you will find a camp that fulfills your needs.
www.Stanfordbaseballcamp.com **650.723.4528**

Stanford Water Polo **Stanford**
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www.stanfordwaterpolocamps.com **650.725.9016**

University Club of Palo Alto Tennis Program
We offer a comprehensive year round junior tennis program for all levels from novice to ranked players. This includes summer camps and clinics for ages 5 and up. After care options are also available from 8am to 5pm in the summer. First trial clinic is free until May 31st, 2016.
mbentley@ucpaloalto.com **650.494.8279**
ucpaloalto.com

Academics

Alexa Café **Palo Alto High School**
Girls ages 10-15 discover technology in a unique environment that celebrates creativity, philanthropy, and entrepreneurship. Girls learn engineering principles, code games, design websites, model and print 3D objects, and much more.
www.iDTech.com **1.844.788.1858**

Bay Area Pathways Academy (BAPA) **College of San Mateo**
The Bay Area Pathways Academy(tm) (BAPA) is an enhanced new summer for students entering grades 6 to 9 which offers an exciting array of grade-appropriate academic classes, engaging enrichment classes and fun fitness and aquatics classes, including the opportunity to register for up to 3 two-week sessions.
www.BayAreaPathwaysAcademy.org **650.574.6149**

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls **Palo Alto**
Casti Camp offers girls a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, computers, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music classes each day along with weekly field trips.
www.castilleja.org/summercamp **650.328.3160**

Academics

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Twelve innovative majors to explore. 5th–8th graders dive into a subject that inspires you. Design video games, engineer catapults, build go-karts, paint with electricity, create a delectable dish. Every week is a new opportunity to realize your personal vision.
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Harker Summer Programs **San Jose**
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www.summer.harker.org **408.553.5737**

iD Tech Camps **Stanford**
Students ages 7–17 can learn to code, design video games, mod Minecraft, engineer robots, model 3D characters, build websites, print 3D models, and more. Campers meet new friends, learn awesome STEM skills, and gain self-confidence.
www.iDTech.com **1.844.788.1858**

iD Tech Mini **Palo Alto**
At Palo Alto High School. Kids ages 6-9 can discover programming, game design, robotics, or graphic design. And with an emphasis on creativity, friendship, and exploration, every camper becomes a maker of fun. We've packed every half-day camp session with tons of tech awesomeness.
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www.mid-pen.org **650.321.1991**

Write Now! Summer Writing Camps **Palo Alto / Pleasanton**
Improve your student's writing skills this summer at Emerson School of Palo Alto and Hacienda School of Pleasanton. Courses this year are Expository Writing, Creative Writing, and Presentation Techniques. Visit our website for more information.
www.headsup.org **Emerson: 650.424.1267**
Hacienda: 925.485.5750

YMCA Summer Camps Throughout Silicon Valley
At the Y, children and teens of all abilities acquire new skills, make friends, and feel that they belong. With hundreds of Summer Day Camps at 30+ locations plus Overnight Camps, you will find a camp that's right for your family. Financial assistance is available.
www.ymcasv.org/summer **408.351.5473**

Real Estate Matters

Fence disputes and good neighbor fences



By Michael Repka
CEO, DeLeon Realty

We have all heard the expression, “Good fences make good neighbors.” Nevertheless, there are countless bitter disputes between neighbors over

the location, construction and maintenance of fences.

Fortunately, the original California Civil Code Section 841, which was enacted in 1872 and vaguely stated that landowners were “mutually bound to maintain” fences, has been updated and clarified by the Good Neighbor Fence Act of 2013 (the “Fence Act”).

Under the Fence Act, which retains codification at California Civil Code, Section 841, the California Legislature laid out specific rules regarding notice, construction and maintenance of fences constructed on property lines.

Under the Fence Act, adjoining landowners are “presumed to share an equal benefit from any fence dividing their properties and, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties in a written agreement, shall be presumed to be equally responsible for the reasonable costs of construction, maintenance,

or necessary replacement of the fence.”

While the language seems straightforward and clear, the words “presumed” and “reasonable” provide a lot of wiggle room for attorneys. In fact, the statute goes on to explain what the litigant has to prove to rebut the presumption.

Fence Act

When a property owner intends to incur costs related to the construction or repair of a fence that runs on a property line shared by a neighbor, the property owner must provide written notice to each of the adjoining neighbors at least 30 days in advance of the work. The notice must include:

- 1) Notice that the neighbors are presumed equally responsible for the cost.
- 2) A description of the nature of the problem facing the shared fence.
- 3) The proposed solution for the problem, including estimated costs.
- 4) The proposed cost-sharing approach.
- 5) The proposed timeline.

If the neighbors disagree, they can overcome the presumption by showing, by a preponderance of the evidence, that such allocation of responsibility would be “unjust,” such as when the financial burden on the neighbors is substantially disproportionate to the benefit conferred, or if costs of the

project are unreasonable. If the neighbors are successful, the court will allocate the costs as it deems appropriate.

So, what does this all mean? It means that, if handled poorly, a common fence issue can result in very unhappy neighbors and very happy lawyers.

It is important to note that this rule of shared responsibility only applies to “division fences,” which is to say fences that are located precisely on the coterminous boundary. If the fence is located entirely on one of the properties, then these rules do not apply, even if there is some benefit derived by the adjacent landowner.

As a practical matter, before undertaking any project on a division fence, a homeowner should reach out to the impacted neighbors and begin a dialogue. Some potential issues can be resolved if both parties understand their individual responsibilities and the related procedures imposed by the Fence Act.

Spite fences

Last year I was in Russia meeting with a leading real estate agent in Moscow. As we drove through a beautiful area just outside of the city, we came upon a large residential compound that was surrounded by a massive metal wall that appeared to be about 20 feet tall.

I was told that was Mr. Putin’s home. While it is clear that this wall would prevent one of Mr. Putin’s neighbors from encroaching on his land, and him on theirs, this could be a violation of spite fence rules if the wall was located in California — not to mention a really long commute to the Kremlin.

Section 841.4 of the California Civil Code

declares that any fence exceeding 10 feet in height that was “maliciously erected or maintained for the purpose of annoying the owner or occupant of adjoining property is a private nuisance.” In many parts of Silicon Valley, the local ordinances provide even more restrictive limitations on the heights of many fences.

Nevertheless, it is interesting that many local homeowners and real estate salespeople have heard that there is a spite fence statute. Unfortunately, they assume that any fence that is constructed in a way that annoys them should be considered a spite fence, and they fail to consider the height of the fence or the intent of the adjacent landowner.

As with most potentially contentious situations, it is important for homeowners to understand the actual law that applies to the situation. Unfortunately, a lot of issues come to a head when someone decides to sell. Some neighbors see this as an opportunity to get “leverage” and others would rather battle with someone who they know is leaving.

Either way, it is important that a potential seller speaks with a qualified residential real estate attorney prior to responding to any correspondence from an adjacent homeowner.


Michael Repka, CEO and general counsel for DeLeon Realty, Palo Alto, formerly practiced real estate and tax law in Palo Alto. He formerly served on the Board of Directors of the California Association of Realtors. He can be reached at MichaelR@DeLeonRealty.com.


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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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This year's public Open House will take place Saturday, May 7, 5 to 10 p.m.

The open house will feature talks, 3D movies of the universe, a planetarium dome, stargazing, Ask an Astronomer and much more. Visitors will also enjoy free hotdogs, snacks and beverages, and a raffle drawing for a chance to win a telescope or other fantastic prizes. For more information, please visit <https://kipac-web.stanford.edu/2016-annual-kipac-public-open-house>

FREE BOOK GIVEAWAY AFTER SALE

Free Concert: Ukulele Master

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Zonta Club turns 10

130 Classes & Instruction

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150 Volunteers

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210 Garage/Estate Sales

Menlo Park, 2650 Sand Hill Road, April 23, 12-3pm; April 24, 11:30am-12:30pm
St. Bede's rummage sale benefits Home & Hope family shelter. Bargain prices, many items, free refreshments; numbers given out Sat. starting at 11 a.m. for entry at noon; no early birds. See online ad for details.

215 Collectibles & Antiques

Charming 5 Room 1960's Tin Doll House - \$49.00

So Cool!! HO Corvette Slot Car - \$19.00

Sweet! Teddy Bear Cookie Jar - \$12.00

Wow! HO Corvette Slot Car - \$19.00

220 Computers/ Electronics

Pristine iPhone 5c - \$130

235 Wanted to Buy

CASH FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS
Up to \$35/Box! Sealed & Unexpired. Payment Made SAME DAY. Highest Prices Paid!! Call Jenni Today! 800-413-3479. www.CashForYourTestStrips.com (Cal-SCAN)

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7 IN 10 Americans or 158 million U.S. Adults read content from newspaper media each week? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecilia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

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Kid's Stuff

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Jobs

500 Help Wanted

Newspaper Delivery Routes Immediate Opening. Routes available to deliver the Palo Alto Weekly, an award-winning community newspaper, to homes in Palo Alto on Fridays. From approx. 650 to 950 papers, 10.25 cents per paper. Additional bonus following successful 13 week introductory period. Must be at least 18 y/o. Valid CDL, reliable vehicle and current auto insurance req'd. Please email your experience and qualifications to jon3silver@yahoo.com with "Newspaper Delivery Routes" in the subject line. Or (best) call Jon Silver, 650-868-4310

PAUSD Coach Openings

540 Domestic Help Wanted

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Male pref. Can lift up to 250 lbs. For elderly, disabled couple. Exp., speak English, own transp. Call Dave, 650/906-4646

560 Employment Information

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604 Adult Care Offered

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have you had complications due to internal bleeding (after January 2012)? If so, you MAY be due financial compensation. If you don't have an attorney, CALL InjuryOne today! 1-800-425-4701. (Cal-SCAN)

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Drought tolerant native landscapes and succulent gardens. Demos, installations, maint. Free est. 650/468-8859

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Mountain View, 3 BR/3.5 BA - \$7950

Palo Alto, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$6000/mont

Redwood City (emerald Hills), 4 BR/3.5 BA - \$5495/ mon

San Carlos - \$7000

**809 Shared Housing/
Rooms**

ALL AREAS ROOMMATES.COM
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(AAN CAN)

Redwood City, 1 BR/2 BA - \$1200/mo +

810 Cottages for Rent

Los Altos, 1 BR/1 BA - Negot

815 Rentals Wanted

Looking for Studio or 1BD/1BA

Room needed July -Sep

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

Belmont, 3 BR/1 BA - \$1,148,880

Redwood City, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$1,299,950



Redwood City, 4 BR/4+ BA
Enjoy year round entertaining in beautifully restored, iconic Mt. Carmel home in Redwood City. Home boasts 1925 grandeur while introducing 21st century style and function. Four bedrooms (3 en suite), four bathrooms, office and casita. Approx. 2,630 sf on gated 8,255 +/- sf lot. Home features modern Italian cabinetry, top of the line appliances, tall ceilings, fireplace, formal dining room, tiled outdoor patio with fireplace. Just 10 minute walk to Caltrain and Redwood City stores, restaurants, theatres and award winning public/private schools. For pictures and virtual tour 1789hopkins.com

Redwood City, 4 BR/4+ BA
Enjoy year round entertaining in beautifully restored, iconic Mt. Carmel home in Redwood City. Home boasts 1925 grandeur while introducing 21st century style and function. Four bedrooms (3 en suite), four bathrooms, office and casita. Approx. 2,630 sf on gated 8,255 +/- sf lot. Home features modern Italian cabinetry, top of the line appliances, tall ceilings, fireplace, formal dining room, tiled outdoor patio with fireplace. Just 10 minute walk to Caltrain and Redwood City stores, restaurants, theatres and award winning public/private schools. For pictures and virtual tour 1789hopkins.com

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840 Vacation Rentals/Time Shares



Santa Cruz Time Share
PLEASURE POINT Ocean Front furnished studio. 1/4 yr timeshare. 1 yr lease req'd. \$1,100/mo for 13 wks/yr (generally 1 wk/mo) VIEWS GALORE! 650-328-9399

855 Real Estate Services

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

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(s) 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(s) 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)

ARACELY HOUSE CLEANING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 268693

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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)

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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)

FILING YOUR FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT? Check your records now to see if your D.B.A. expires this year. We Offer Professional Help. ALMANAC • 223-6578.

JASPER ADVENTURES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 268892

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Jasper Adventures, located at 1529 Seaport Blvd., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 206 Thomson Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94043.

Registered owner(s):
CHERYL JASPER
206 Thomson Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94043

GLENN ALGIE
206 Thompson Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94043

This business is conducted by: Married Couple.

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 April 13, 2016.
(ALM Apr. 20, 27, May 4, 11, 2016)

WESTBOUND COURIER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 268898

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Westbound Courier, located at 361 Hazel Avenue, San Bruno, CA 94066, San Mateo County; Mailing address: P.O. Box 1072, San Bruno, CA 94066.

Registered owner(s):
SERAFIN MOLINA
361 Hazel Avenue
San Bruno, CA 94066

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 April 13, 2016.
(ALM Apr. 20, 27, May 4, 11, 2016)

ERICA'S ECO CLEANING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 268907

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Erica's Eco Cleaning, located at 2145 Capitol Ave., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
ERICA MENDOZA
2145 Capitol Ave.
E. 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 April 14, 2016.
(ALM Apr. 20, 27, May 4, 11, 2016)

FUENTES CONSTRUCTION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 268843

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Fuentes Construction, located at 812 10th Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
JOSE FUENTES
812 10th Ave.
Redwood City, CA 94063

MAYRA E. FUENTES
812 10th Ave.
Redwood City, CA 94063

This business is conducted by: Married Couple.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11-1995.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 8, 2016.
(ALM Apr. 20, 27, May 4, 11, 2016)

FUENTES CONSTRUCTION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 268843

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Fuentes Construction, located at 812 10th Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.

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Redwood City, CA 94063

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812 10th Ave.
Redwood City, CA 94063

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 268843

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Registered owner(s):
JOSE FUENTES
812 10th Ave.
Redwood City, CA 94063

MAYRA E. FUENTES
812 10th Ave.
Redwood City, CA 94063

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 May 11, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Room: 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
2600 El Camino Real, Suite 412
Palo Alto, CA 94306-1719
(650)812-0400
(ALM Apr. 20, 27, May 4, 2016)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
YVONNE L. NELSON
Case No.: 125782

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of YVONNE L. NELSON. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: MICHAEL RENE NELSON in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.

The Petition for Probate requests that: MICHAEL RENE NELSON 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 May 17, 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
2600 El Camino Real, Suite 412
Palo Alto, CA 94306-1719
(650)812-0400
(ALM Apr. 20, 27, May 4, 2016)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
YVONNE L. NELSON
Case No.: 125782

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of YVONNE L. NELSON. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: MICHAEL RENE NELSON in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.

The Petition for Probate requests that: MICHAEL RENE NELSON 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 May 10, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: 28, Room: 2F 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: Jerome Galli & Deborah G. Kramer Radin
Kramer Radin, LLP
280 2nd St. #100
Los Altos, CA 94022
(650)941



ATHERTON | OPEN SUNDAY 1:00-4:00



Sam Anagnostou
Margot Lockwood
 650.888.0707/650.400.2528
 homes@margotlockwood.com
 CalBRE #00798217/01017519

40 Ashfield Rd \$4,295,000
 Gorgeous Mediterranean home. 4BD/3BA w/ Kitchen/Great Rm. Vaulted ceiling, hdwd flrs, outdoor firepit, 2 car garage in excl. Atherton but MP schl dist.



MENLO PARK



Katie Hammer Riggs
 650.515.5255
 Katie.HammerRiggs@cbsnorcal.com
 CalBRE #01783432

746 Partridge Ave \$2,595,000
 Brand new home in Allied Arts, 4 bedrooms, 3 full bathrooms.

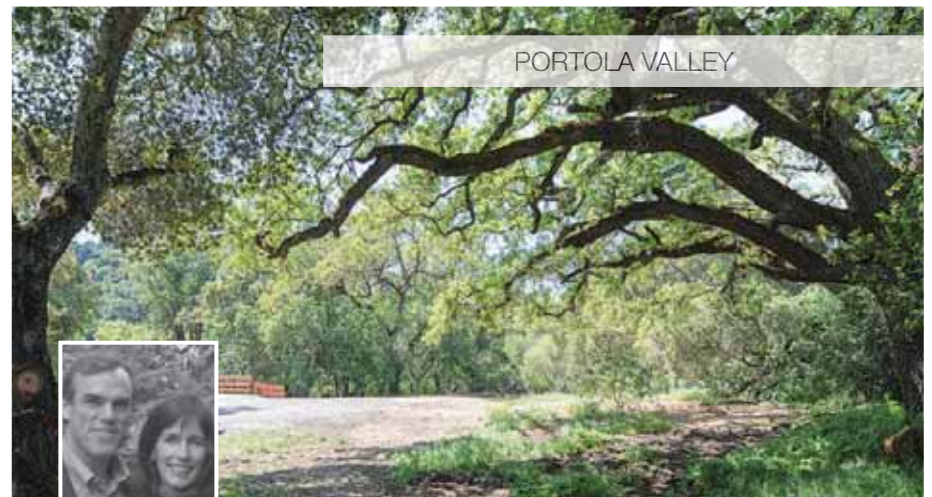


MENLO PARK



Katie Hammer Riggs
 650.515.5255
 Katie.HammerRiggs@cbsnorcal.com
 CalBRE #01783432

2156 Harkins Ave \$1,795,000
 Adorable, updated home in University Heights, 3 bedrooms, 2 updated bathrooms.



PORTOLA VALLEY



Helen & Brad Miller
 650.400.1317
 helenhuntermiller@gmail.com
 CalBRE #01142061/00917768

3343 Alpine Rd \$2,795,000
 Build your dream home on this approx. 4.2-acre undeveloped country parcel situated adjacent to Portola Valley on Santa Clara County land.

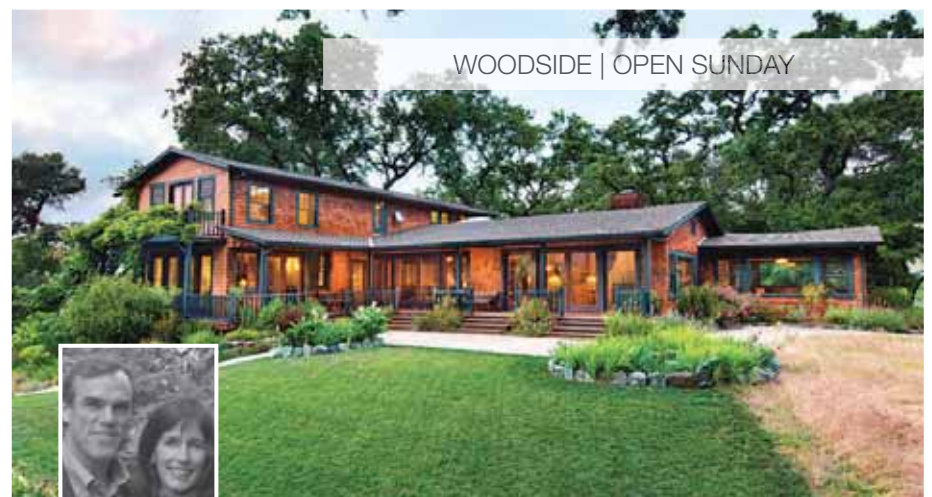


REDWOOD CITY | OPEN SUNDAY 1:00-4:00



Margot Lockwood
 650.400.2528
 homes@margotlockwood.com
 CalBRE #01017519

2015 Abryan Wy \$1,695,000
 Wonderful home on large private lot with pool. 4 bedrooms plus bonus room, 3.5 baths. Bonus room and bedroom could be used as an in-law suite.



WOODSIDE | OPEN SUNDAY



Helen & Brad Miller
 650.400.1317
 helenhuntermiller@gmail.com
 CalBRE #01142061/00917768

280 Family Farm Rd \$9,495,000
 Hear the birds! 4BR/4.5BA on 6 ac w/ surrounding views of Western Hills & Jasper Ridge Preserve. Also 2 guesthouses & pool; land is fee owned.