

The Almanac

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

FEBRUARY 1, 2017 | VOL. 52 NO. 22



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Transforming downtown

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**Fire district gets big slice
of property tax pie** | Page 7

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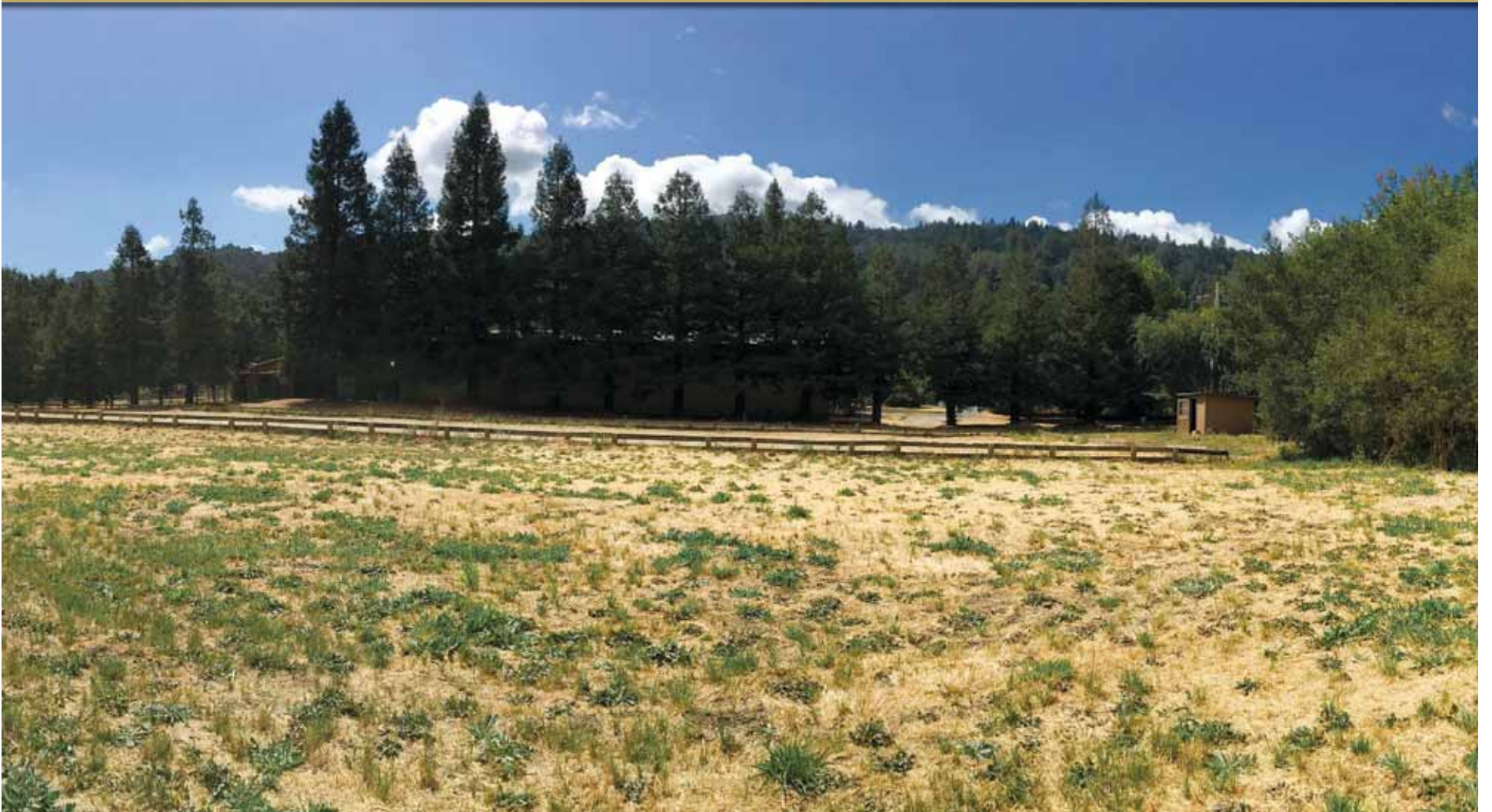
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**LAS LOMITAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP# 17-493084035 E-RATE HIGH SPEED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Las Lomitas Elementary School District, located in San Mateo County, California, hereby invites and will receive proposals and technical specifications for High Speed Data Infrastructure Project to provide Wide Area Network and Internet Access Services

RFP# 17-493084035 E-RATE HIGH SPEED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

E-Rate Form 470 and Request for Proposals available on the District's website on January 25, 2017 at:
<https://llesd-ca.schoolloop.com/techservices>
in addition to the E-rate EPC website at
<https://portal.usac.org/suite/>

Written proposals must be submitted no later than
4:00 PM Thursday February 23, 2017
Attn: Eric Holm, Director of Bond Projects
at the Las Lomitas Elementary School District Main Office
1011 Altschul Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025
or via email to:
eholm@llesd.org

An optional Pre-Proposal conference has been scheduled for
4:00 PM Thursday February 2, 2017

Meet for the conference at the following site:
La Entrada Middle School (meet at main office)
2200 Sharon Rd, Menlo Park, CA 94025

Selection Process

The Board of Trustees of the Las Lomitas Elementary School District reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals, to waive any irregularities in the proposals, to be sole judge as to the merit, quality and acceptability of materials proposed and their compliance to the specifications, if it be in the best interest of the District.

The District, in compliance with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules, will award to the vendor(s) providing the most cost-effective service offering. The District may choose to award different portions to different providers



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Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

How Greenheart will change downtown

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

For years, the fenced-off, vacant lot at 1300 El Camino Real hasn't been much use to anyone in Menlo Park, except perhaps as a contributor to the city's ominous moniker, Menlo Dark.

But as of Jan. 24, Greenheart Land Co. has a unanimous green light from the Menlo Park City Council to begin work on its Station 1300 complex of apartments, office space and retail, a project that is about as opposite to a vacant lot as is possible in Menlo Park — a fact some view with excitement, others with apprehension.

It's the biggest development so far to fall within the standards and requirements laid out in the city's El Camino Real/downtown specific plan, which was approved in 2012.

Many business and political leaders anticipate the complex will transform the downtown area, bringing many new and younger workers and residents to within a block of Santa Cruz Avenue. The development could "jump-start the revitalization of downtown," said Councilman Peter Ohtaki.

On the 6.4-acre site bordered by El Camino Real, Oak Grove Avenue, Garwood Way and the buildings of Naomi Sushi and the Residence Inn, Greenheart plans to build 420,000 square feet of apartments, offices and retail space.

The development will have 183 apartments, up to about 200,000 square feet of offices, and 29,000



Rendering courtesy BAR Architects

The view of the complex from Oak Grove Avenue where it would intersect with an extended Garwood Way.

square feet for restaurants, shops or "community-serving" businesses, such as exercise studios and salons.

About 10,000 square feet may be converted into either office or retail space, depending on the market, Greenheart's principal developers, Bob Burke and Steve Pierce, said. There will be a total of 991 parking spaces in a two-story underground parking garage and a small surface parking lot. The offices will

be in two three-story buildings along El Camino, and the apartments in an L-shaped four-story building running along Garwood Way and Oak Grove Avenue.

Garwood Way will be extended to connect to Derry Lane and Merrill Street. The buildings are designed in the "Spanish Revival" architectural style, with brown and red brick tile roofing and white or tan cement plaster walls.

Go to tinyurl.com/station1300 to see a video produced by Greenheart Land Co. showing 3-D renderings of the proposed development.

Developments within the downtown specific plan area are expected to follow a number of guidelines, including enhancing public space and connectivity, generating vibrancy, maintaining the city's "village character" and promoting healthy living and sustainability.

Because the proposed development is larger than would be allowed under the base-level zoning rules, the city was able to negotiate with the developer to provide a number of public benefits, including \$2.1 million in funding for the city; a guarantee of \$83,700 in sales tax for the city each year; a publicly accessible and fenced dog park; 10 more apartments to be rented below market rate than would otherwise be required (adding up to a total of 20); and a promise to market the office space to startup companies.

Separate from the negotiated

public benefits, the development will have a large public courtyard with a water feature (presumably some type of fountain) and an amphitheater seating area.

Impact on downtown

"It's what, really, the residents of Menlo Park have been asking for," Fran Dehn, president of the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce, said. "It sends a very clear message that Menlo Park is and wants to be a vibrant community."

The addition of new people and jobs to the downtown area, Ms. Dehn said, will have a "spillover" effect on other downtown businesses. Having new people living and working in downtown Menlo Park means that there will be more people who will visit not only the new restaurants and shops at "Station 1300," but will also explore the rest of downtown Menlo Park's retail and food offerings.

Emerald Reilly, a manager at Left Bank, said: "It's good for the city to be investing in the downtown area. It's going to bring new business into Menlo Park."

Councilman Ohtaki noted that the city has "this missing demographic gap between 18 and 35." Part of the reason for that is there aren't enough one-bedroom apartments and restaurants, he said.

"Between the tech workers during the daytime and new residents in downtown, there will be hundreds of new customers for our restaurants and stores in walking distance to Santa Cruz Avenue," he said.

According to Mr. Pierce, there are expected to be between 600 and 900 employees at the offices and between 325 to 350 residents in the apartments.

Traffic, environment

Station 1300, when completed, will be about a block from the Caltrain station, and is modeled after the concept of "transit-oriented development," meaning a mixed-use development of housing, office and retail space located near public transportation.

The goal is to create places where people can comfortably live, work and play with no or limited use of a car.

Unsurprisingly, an environmental impact report compiled for the development found that adding apartments, shops and offices on an empty lot would create more traffic around the area.

"There will be increased traffic, and how we mitigate that is going to be a challenge for staff to try to figure out," said Councilman Ray Mueller.

To reduce traffic generated by the development, Greenheart has promised to take a number of steps to discourage solo driving. Greenheart will promote car-sharing and give tenants and workers free Caltrain passes and bike parking.

Greenheart will charge for parking. Office and retail employees will have paid parking from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and apartment residents will have to rent a guaranteed parking space separate from their apartment costs, according to Mr. Burke, a principal developer at Greenheart.

Charging for parking is a good way to promote alternative, more fuel-efficient modes of transportation, according to Diane Bailey, executive director of Menlo Spark, an environmental group that encourages people to reduce their carbon emissions. "It places



Rendering courtesy BAR Architects

How the complex would look along El Camino Real.

See **GREENHEART**, page 6

Joanna Lucy Cohen

Loving mother of Anne and Geoffrey, beloved wife of Stanley N. Cohen, and beloved friend died on January 16, 2017 in Palo Alto, California. She was born as Joanna L. Wolter in Warsaw, Poland on November 14, 1937, and lived in New York City, Tarrytown, N.Y., and Portola Valley, California. She was a 1959 graduate of Bryn Mawr College. A service celebrating her life is planned.

PAID OBITUARY

Donna Fay Taggart

May 26, 1946 – December 12, 2016

Donna Fay Taggart passed away at age 70 on December 12, 2016. She had been seriously ill for many years. Born Donna Fay Bledsoe in Nampa, Idaho to Lucile Bohannon Bledsoe and Leonard Wayne Bledsoe. She grew up in Marsing, Idaho and graduated from Marsing High School. She attended Marylhurst College in Lake Oswego, Oregon and was taught by sisters of the Holy Names. Donna graduated with a degree in biological science and chemistry. She then attended St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology in 1969.



Looking for a position in Northern California, Donna accepted an offer from Stanford University Hospital to be a Medical Technologist in their Clinical Laboratory.

In 1970 Anna Marie and James Janky introduced Donna to Robert B. Taggart, a graduate student at Stanford. They were married 3 years later on February 14, 1973. Their son, David Robert Taggart was born on March 31, 1974.

Donna loved life with her new family. She enjoyed visiting her parents in Idaho and camping along the Salmon River and many trips to Hawaii. She loved flowers and plants. In 1977 she began designing a home for their property in Portola Valley, CA. The home was built and completed in 1979. In 1985, Donna and her landscape architect won first place in the bay area for her landscaping design for the family home.

Health permitting, Donna travelled with her husband as his business grew. In 1984, Donna was seriously injured in an automobile accident. She had six major surgeries. She remained positive as she struggled to recover.

In 2013 Donna was diagnosed with pneumonia.

All of us who loved Donna cherished the moments we spent together and are happy she is free of pain with the Lord.

Donna is survived by her husband, Robert B. Taggart; her son, David R. Taggart, both of Portola Valley, CA; her brother, Robert Bledsoe of Hammett, ID. She is also survived by her niece, Dr. Annie Bledsoe of Salt Lake City, UT; her nephews Dr. Jake Bledsoe of Boston, MA and Matt Bledsoe of Boise, ID; her aunts Alice Bledsoe of Boise, ID and Thelma Bohannon of Sedro-Woolley, WA and her uncle, Barry Clark in Colorado.

Donna was laid to rest near her parents in Idaho.

PAID OBITUARY

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

In Trump era, city weighs options, including sanctuary-city status

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

Four days after the inauguration of President Donald Trump, Menlo Park's City Council voted unanimously Jan. 24 for a resolution denouncing bigotry, and agreed to look into whether Menlo Park should become a "sanctuary city."

The resolution committed the city to "proactively work to ensure the rights and privileges of everyone in Menlo Park, regardless of religion, ancestry, country of birth, immigration status, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity."

Mr. Trump, who campaigned on banning Muslim immigrants and pledged to crack down on illegal immigration, has since signed an executive order to bar, at least temporarily, immigration from seven majority-Muslim countries.

In addition to a sanctuary city ordinance, the council agreed to examine within the next 90 days whether it should adopt an ordinance prohibiting city staff from creating a registry or database based on a person's religious beliefs or race.

Also, the council will consider a resolution to join a network of cities that call themselves "Welcoming Cities" because of what they do to welcome immigrants.

The council asked that all three options be placed on a council agenda within 90 days.

Denouncing bigotry

The anti-bigotry resolution the council adopted was modeled after one Palo Alto adopted Dec. 12. It commits the city to being "a diverse, supportive, inclusive and protective community."

The resolution was amended to add sexism to a list of behaviors the city opposes.

The resolution states that the city:

■ Rejects "bigotry in all its forms, including but not limited to Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, racism, nativism, misogyny,

sexism, and homophobia."

■ Does not tolerate discrimination, hate crimes, harassment, or assault.

■ Opposes any attempts to undermine the safety, security, and rights of community members.

■ Will proactively work to ensure the rights and privileges of everyone in Menlo Park, regardless of religion, ancestry, country of birth, immigration status, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

'I think we owe it to our community to put in the time to learn what it is to be a sanctuary city (and) what the impacts are.'

COUNCILMAN RICH CLINE

■ Will promote equal protection of constitutional and human rights, leading by example through equitable treatment of all by city officials and departments.

"That's a good first step for us to take as a city," said Mayor Kirsten Keith.

'Sanctuary city'

The council heard a number of pleas and arguments from local residents to make Menlo Park a "sanctuary city."

Council members decided to wait and see what the Trump administration does about illegal immigration and discuss it further within 90 days.

Legal definitions vary, but typically, sanctuary cities provide some form of protection to undocumented residents and can prohibit city employees, including police, from cooperating with federal immigration officials.

An ordinance modeled after one in San Francisco has been

drafted by Jen Mazzon, who is with a Menlo Park grassroots organization, "Radical Resilience," which advocates sanctuary-city status for Menlo Park.

Council members didn't vote on the matter, but did discuss potential courses of action.

Councilmen Rich Cline and Ray Mueller urged the city staff to gather more data about the city-wide impacts of a sanctuary city ordinance. "I think we owe it to our community to put in the time to learn what it is to be a sanctuary city (and) what the impacts are," Mr. Cline said.

Religious registry

The council expressed general support for an ordinance that Mr. Mueller drafted to prohibit city staff, including law enforcement officials, from aiding in the creation of a registry or database that's based on a person's religious beliefs or race.

Mayor Kirsten Keith pointed out that the draft ordinance would apply to U.S. citizens only, and wanted to expand it to include "lawful permanent residents," the phrase typically used to describe someone who has legal authorization to live or work in the U.S. (those with "green cards").

Mr. Mueller and Ms. Keith, who both hold law degrees, agreed City Attorney Bill McClure should look at the legal ramifications of such a change in the proposed ordinance.

'Welcoming City'

The council asked staff to learn more about what it would take to become a "Welcoming City." It would probably require joining a network of other cities and non-profits called "Welcoming America," which provides a toolkit for participating cities to enable them to be more immigrant-friendly and help immigrants become connected to their new communities.

San Francisco and San Jose are part of this network, and Redwood City is reportedly considering it, said Leigh Prince, assistant city attorney. ■

GREENHEART

continued from page 5

transit and driving on a level playing field," she said.

In addition to efforts to curb solo driving, the development is expected to abide by stringent environmental standards for resource efficiency. Though it won't be certain until the buildings are inspected and certified by the U.S. Green Building Council, it's expected that the office buildings will meet the standards

for LEED Platinum, the highest level, and the residential building will be eligible for LEED Gold certification, the second-highest level.

Buildings with LEED certification, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, are rated based on how energy-efficient they are, among other factors.

Ms. Bailey said that in her review of the project, she was impressed with the amount of solar power the development was

expected to generate: nearly one megawatt. By comparison, in 2014, the entire city of Menlo Park had five megawatts of solar power, she said.

"I think they've gone a long way toward generating as much energy as they'll need," she said.

Work at the site is expected to begin "very soon," said Mr. Burke, with building demolition and vegetation removal planned to occur before excavation begins in the spring. Occupancy is expected sometime in 2019, he said. ■

Fire district gets big slice of property taxes

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

As fire board President Peter Carpenter puts it, when looking at the finances of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, the same figures can be seen to prove two points: how “well-run” the district is, and how “rich” it is.

Mr. Carpenter says the district’s prudent fiscal management includes a philosophy of paying “the true cost of doing business” each year by putting away money for pension obligations, capital spending (including replacing buildings), and equipment purchases. That practice has given the district healthy reserve funds equivalent to more than 200 percent of its annual spending.

While Mr. Carpenter says he sees the district as well-run, fire board member Chuck Bernstein sees it another way.

“We’re a rich agency,” Mr. Bernstein said when asked why the district pays its employees so well. “What public agencies do is spend all the money we have. We’ve given it away.”

Property tax revenue

However it’s looked at, the fire district does receive a large chunk of local property tax revenues, the 1 percent of assessed value that property owners pay, which is where most of its funding comes from.

Information from the San Mateo County Controller’s Office shows that during the 2015-16 fiscal year the fire district received \$11.8 million more in property tax revenues than the combined total for the three cities in the district: Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and Atherton.

All receive revenues from other sources, which for the cities may include sales taxes, hotel taxes, vehicle license and other fees, and parcel taxes. The fire district receives additional revenues including funds from fees, federal and state agreements, and agreements with developers.

The county’s figures show that property tax revenue for the fire district totaled \$41.1 million in fiscal year 2015-16, compared with the combined total of \$29.3 million received by the cities of Menlo Park, Atherton and East Palo Alto. Menlo Park’s property tax revenues were \$14.1 million; Atherton’s, \$8.6 million; and East Palo Alto’s, \$6.6 million.

Essentially, the fire district receives more in property taxes for providing emergency medical (excluding transportation), fire and other emergency services (hazardous waste spills and rescues among them) than all three municipalities combined receive

This is the second in a series of stories on the budget and financing of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, which covers Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto and some nearby unincorporated areas.

for providing city services such as police, parks and recreation, streets, and land-use planning (plus the library in Menlo Park).

Employee pay

Much of the fire district’s budget goes to employee compensation, and compared with local cities it pays much more per employee. While the fire district has only about 25 percent of the number of employees the city of Menlo Park has, the fire district in 2015 spent 78 percent as much compensating them, according to the California State Controller’s website (publicpay.ca.gov).

One fire board member says the finance data show good management; another says the district is ‘rich’ and ‘we’ve given it away.’

The fire district spends twice as much as East Palo Alto on employee compensation (wages plus benefits and employer contribution to retirement) although it has only 10 more employees.

The fire district spent four-and-a-half times as much on employee compensation as Atherton did in 2015, with two-and-a-half times as many employees.

Kathleen Jackson, the fire district’s administrative services manager, says the major difference between the district and a city is that most of the district’s employees are firefighters. In 2015, the controller’s website shows 102 of 136 employees worked in fire suppression, as compared, for example, with Menlo Park, where 85 of 531 employees were in the police department. The fire district also has few part-time employees.

The controller’s website shows, for 2015:

■ The fire district had 136 employees (full- and part-time, but not including contractors) with total compensation (wages plus benefits and employer contribution to retirement) spending of \$25.1 million.

■ The city of Menlo Park had 531 employees with total compensation of \$32.3 million.

■ The city of East Palo Alto had 126 employees with total

compensation of \$11.5 million. ■ Atherton had 53 employees with total compensation of \$5.6 million.

Proposition 13

The current system of allocating property taxes can be traced back to 1978, when voters approved Proposition 13, a California constitutional amendment initiative that limited property taxes to 1 percent of assessed value, and limited increases in property assessments.

Immediately after Proposition 13 passed, the Legislature adopted other laws on how the revenues from the now-limited 1-percent property tax should be allocated to local government agencies.

In its first year, Proposition 13 reduced California property tax revenues by \$7 billion.

Senate Bill 154 provided that each local government agency’s share of total property tax revenues would be based on the historical percentage share of property taxes it received within the county prior to Proposition 13.

Since 1978, numerous laws have revised the method in which property taxes are allocated to local government agencies. As assessed values increase, each jurisdiction in the area receives its allocated portion of the increase in property tax revenues.

Or, as fire board director Mr. Bernstein put it: “We as a district lucked out and happen to be very well-funded.”

Healthy reserves

Another result of the funding allocation is that as the local economy has boomed, so have the district’s reserves. At the end of the 2015-16 fiscal year, the fire district had \$72.1 million in reserves, according to its recently released comprehensive annual financial report. The reserves are 207 percent of the district’s total spending of \$34.7 million in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Among the reserve funds is an \$18.1 million “budgetary deficit” reserve, which is 52 percent of all 2015-16 spending, including on capital projects, and almost 60 percent of 2015-16 general fund spending.

The district also has set aside \$28.2 million for capital improvement projects, \$3 million for FEMA deployments, \$2.5 million for debt service, and \$5 million for apparatus, as well as \$13.7 million in miscellaneous reserves for things such as equipment replacement and workers’ compensation.

In addition, the district has been paying down its long-term pension obligations. In the 2014-15 fiscal year, the district paid off \$12 million of its pension obligations, and it has another \$5.76 million set

Property tax revenue distribution
(Fiscal year 2015-16, in millions of dollars)

Atherton	Menlo Park	East Palo Alto	(Three city total)	Menlo Park Fire
\$8.58M	\$14.08M	\$6.62M	\$29.29M	\$41.13M

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District received \$11.85 million more in property tax revenues than the three municipalities in the district combined. These numbers include revenues from the basic 1 percent paid by property owners (secured and unsecured), including deductions for and rebates from the Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) and rebates from former redevelopment agencies. (Source: San Mateo County Controller’s Office.)

aside for this purpose.

The amount of the reserves is beyond what many other agencies keep in their coffers. Atherton’s policy, for example, is to have an operating reserve of 20 percent of its operating budget and an emergency reserve of 15 percent. The town also has about \$6 million reserved in a capital improvements fund. At the end of fiscal year 2015-16, Atherton had total reserves of \$9.76 million, about 82 percent of its \$11.86 million in total spending in 2015-16.

The fire district started the 2016-17 fiscal year with close to \$41.5 million in its general fund and in its adopted budget estimated it would receive total revenues of \$43.4 million, with estimated spending of \$50.1 million (including nearly \$1 million in debt service and \$4 million on capital improvements).

Pay as you go

Mr. Carpenter said the large amount of reserves can be explained not by the property tax allocation, but by the fire district’s fiscal “pay as you go” philosophy.

“As time goes on, our decision looks better and better,” he said.

Mr. Carpenter said any other way of operating would “be mortgaging the future generation” of fire district taxpayers.

Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman said other agencies “don’t plan ahead” like the fire district does, but then complain about the district’s bottom line. “They say you have too much,” he said.

He said the district’s fiscal condition has required sacrifices.

“I don’t want to make it sound like it was easy,” he said. “It wasn’t easy at all.”

Mr. Carpenter said most public agencies “spend most of their money” on current expenses, but the fire district has chosen not to. “We could have added 120 or 130 people” to the payroll, he said, but the district doesn’t want the associated long-term obligations, especially for retirement costs.

“We’ve got this money because we chose not to spend it,” Mr. Carpenter said. ■

■ Still to come: The fire district’s argument for more funding, plus reactions from local officials.

MONTHLY REAL ESTATE
UPDATE WITH
MANDY MONTOYA

January 2017



This January, the rain has not dampened our real estate market. While late 2016 and the holiday months saw a somewhat predictable slowdown in activity, headlines such as, “Is the Silicon Valley Real Estate Market About to Explode?” and “Definite signs of frost on once-sizzling Bay Area housing market”, created a sense of a slowing real estate market. However, a year-to-year comparison of sales and inventory in the month of January indicates we are tracking very close to where we were one year ago. Now that we are past the election, it appears buyers are focused again on home buying and are not letting anything dampen their mood.

JANUARY 2016			JANUARY 2017	
	# of Active or Pending Sales	# of Closed Sales	# of Active or Pending Sales	# of Closed Sales
Atherton	14	2	13	3
Woodside	11	1	9	1
Portola Valley	3	3	5	2
Menlo Park	20	18	26	15

Mandy Montoya
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Board member: Ethics investigation unmerited

By Almanac Staff

■ WOODSIDE

A member of the Woodside Architectural and Site Review Board said Jan. 26 that she will resign from the board and accused the town of conducting an unmerited ethics investigation of her related to an email she wrote in May 2016 regarding a residential project before the review board.

The investigation began about six months ago when former councilman Dave Burow filed a complaint alleging that Nancy Reyerer's May email violated the town's ethics code.

Ms. Reyerer, who was a 2015 council candidate, noted in a Jan. 26 press release that Woodside Councilman Peter Mason was the architect on the project before the board and she said:

"The Woodside Code of Ethics states that members of the Town Council shall not appear on behalf of private interests or third parties before any Town board, including the ASRB. But rather than explore the potential conflicts of interest between Mr. Mason's public and private roles, the investigation focused on Ms. Reyerer's non-binding comment that recommended the avoidance of even the appearance of such a conflict."

Attorney Thomas Brown of



Nancy Reyerer

Burke, Williams & Sorensen in Oakland, which was hired by the town to conduct the investigation, recently submitted a 41-page report, dated Jan. 12, that concludes that five of the nine allegations of ethics violations against Ms. Reyerer should be sustained.

Among the sustained allegations: reaching a conclusion about the project without hearing testimony; and personally attacking the motives of a council member and suggesting that his actions give the appearance that he is attempting to take advantage of his position to gain special consideration for his client.

The report says the next step is for the mayor to determine whether further investigation is warranted. According to the town's ethics code, when the investigation is completed, the report "shall be presented to the Town Council at a public meeting of the Council. The Town Council will accept testimony on the matter and determine whether a violation of the Code has occurred."

Ms. Reyerer's term on the review board was to expire on Feb. 1. She said she does not intend to seek reappointment.

Legal bills

Ms. Reyerer said the town paid the Burke, Williams law firm \$42,905 since January 2016,

according to a letter from Woodside's town attorney's office. "The only item in the public record indicating a decision to hire outside counsel since 2016 is the investigation of Ms. Reyerer," she said the press release.

Town Manager Kevin Bryant said the town has paid Burke, Williams \$27,465 on the Reyerer investigation. The other \$15,441 paid to the law firm was for matters unrelated to the Reyerer investigation, he said.

The Almanac requested copies of the Burke, Williams invoices, but Mr. Bryant said the town is not making them public.

Reyerer's May email

On May 2, 2016, Ms. Reyerer sent an email to two other members of the five-member Architectural and Site Review Board and to the town's planning director to comment on a proposed residential remodeling and construction project that was coming before the board for its review. The board is an advisory body to the planning director and Planning Commission.

In the email, she pointed out that the architect on the project was Councilman Peter Mason. She asked that these comments be read into the record of the upcoming meeting, which she was unable to attend:

"Even a cursory review of the project raises questions as the architect is a member of the Town Council, and as such, is someone in charge of writing our building

regulations. Therefore, he, and anyone else in a similar position, has a great responsibility to bring in projects that are reflective of the Residential Design Guidelines, the General Plan, and the Municipal Code, and these projects should not ask for exceptions.

"Maximum Residence Size Exception, potential lack of neighborhood compatibility, and massive pylons would set a precedent on this street, and create the potential appearance that council members are privileged when bringing projects before the ASRB. I would ask the applicant and architect to reconsider some elements of this design."

In her Jan. 26 press release, Ms. Reyerer said that a "plain reading" of the comments indicates that she was reminding her colleagues of town policy and "encouraging a sitting member of the Town Council to abide (by) the spirit and the letter of local planning guidelines."

Conclusions

Following are the allegations in the complaint against Ms. Reyerer and the conclusions by the investigating attorney, Mr. Brown:

■ Suggesting that Town Council members should be subject to a more strict set of building guidelines, thereby working against the common good. (Charge not sustained.)

■ Stating that unequal treatment should be applied to Town Council members when they are

acting in their individual capacity. (Charge sustained.)

■ Reaching a conclusion about the project without hearing testimony. (Charge sustained.)

■ Personally attacking the motives of a council member and suggesting that his actions give the appearance that he is attempting to take advantage of his position as a council member to gain special consideration for his client. (Charge sustained.)

■ Attempting to improperly influence the ASRB decision-making process and reaching a conclusion about the project based on a cursory review before hearing testimony at a public hearing. (Charge sustained.)

■ Violating the Brown Act with a communication among three of the five members of the board. (Charge not sustained.)

■ Creating the appearance of a conflict of interest between public duty and personal interests "based on personal disagreements with Councilmember Mason regarding work previously done for you while acting as your architect and his failure to endorse your candidacy in the 2015 election." (Charge not sustained.)

■ Failing to maintain a positive and constructive working environment for the project applicant and Mr. Mason's business. (Charge sustained.)

An allegation that Ms. Reyerer had not followed the town's policy on unexcused absences from board meetings was not sustained. ■

Reactions to Reyerer incident

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

An email by Woodside town volunteer Nancy Reyerer, which led to a months-long ethics investigation that cost the town tens of thousands of dollars, adds up to a "very unfortunate incident," said Councilman Peter Mason, who is mentioned prominently in the email.

"I have a lot of respect for Nancy's advocacy on the subjects of conservation and open space," Mr. Mason told the Almanac. "I hope she is continuing to serve as a volunteer on the Open Space Committee."

In the email, Ms. Reyerer commented to two other board members ahead of a review of a residential project for which Councilman Mason is the architect. Dave Burow, a former councilman and a regular critic of the review board's deliberations, filed a complaint about the email, alleging ethics violations.

An investigation by attorney

Thomas Brown of Burke, Williams & Sorensen in Oakland led to a 41-page report in which he concludes that five of the nine charges against Ms. Reyerer should be sustained, including that she attacked the motives of Mr. Mason, suggesting that he was seeking special consideration for his client; and that Ms. Reyerer reached a conclusion about the project before hearing testimony.

Ms. Reyerer said she will resign her position on the board, and will also leave the Open Space Committee. Her terms on both panels expire on Feb. 1.

Asked to comment on the report, Mr. Burow said he thought it spoke for itself. "I accept the findings," he said. "My motive (in lodging the complaint) was only to protect the residents of Woodside who are going through the planning process."

The review board's mission is a complicated one. The panel is charged with evaluating residential construction projects for

their consistency with standards meant to protect Woodside's "natural beauty" and "rural character," a term that is open to interpretation.

Architect Thalia Lubin serves with Ms. Reyerer on the board. Asked about the investigation, she said: "I think it's a waste of a dedicated and hard-working volunteer, and I think it's a waste of taxpayer dollars, and I wish it had been resolved more peacefully."

"Whatever anyone says about Nancy, she is hard-working and dedicated and she really cares about the town. (I'm) going to miss her on the board," Ms. Lubin said.

Current Mayor Tom Livermore and Councilwoman Deborah Gordon, who was mayor when the investigation began, said they had no comment on the report.

Former councilman Ron Romines lamented the impact on people in town, including Mr. Mason and Ms. Reyerer. The thousands of dollars spent on the investigation would have been



And the tape says ...

Woodside High School senior Avelle Campell measures a tree's diameter during a recent Santa Cruz Forestry Challenge. Some 117 high school students from 14 schools in the region assessed the future viability of a redwood forest near Boulder Creek, California, from which trees had been cut down and harvested about a year ago.

better spent trying to improve the review board's processes, he said.

The investigation may

discourage people from volunteering for the town, he said, adding: "For me, that's the worst part of this." ■

Police to get ‘mindfulness’ training in Oregon for \$59K

Twenty-nine Menlo Park Police Department personnel will go to Bend, Oregon, for a three-day “mindfulness” training program in April at a cost to the city of \$59,000.

The Menlo Park City Council approved, without discussion, the expenditure on Jan. 24.

The Police Department plans for all of its staff to go through the 16- to 20-hour training program sometime in the next 18 to 24 months, which is expected to cost a total of \$177,000, including travel, course fees and overtime pay. Future trainings may be held closer to Menlo Park, Police Chief Bob Jonsen said.

The program, called “Resilience Immersion Training,” will

■ MENLO BRIEFS

be facilitated by Richard Goerling, a police lieutenant in Bend, Oregon. It teaches law enforcement officials routines and exercises like yoga and meditation that can help them stay calm or focused, Chief Jonsen said. He called it the “most re-energizing training I’ve been to in my entire career.”

Airbnb and granny units

People who rent out their secondary housing units for fewer than 30 days will be able to continue to do so, until the council decides to establish clearer policies about Airbnb and

other short-term housing rental programs.

The council voted to not approve a policy that would prohibit people from renting out secondary housing units for fewer than 30 days.

The council agreed to postpone a discussion about such a change to a later date when the city can develop a more comprehensive policy about short-term rentals.

The city has received complaints about large numbers of people, noise late at night and overnight parking violations resulting from short-term rentals at secondary units, according to City Attorney Bill McClure.

Under a new state law, a secondary unit cannot be required

to have its own parking if located within a half-mile of public transit.

Emergency well

Drilling was expected to begin the week of Jan. 30 on the Menlo Park Municipal Water District’s first emergency well.

The city has plans to build three or four wells to create an emergency water supply for customers in case a natural disaster cuts off the current water supply from the Hetch Hetchy Regional System.

The first well will be located in the Menlo Park Corporation Yard at 333 Burgess Drive.

It is expected to take 60 days to complete the underground

work. Aboveground work is set to occur during the summer, officials said at a community meeting held Jan. 19.

There will be about two weeks of continuous drilling 24 hours a day, seven days a week, according to Menlo Park Public Works officials, after which construction work will be limited to between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Sound walls will be constructed to reduce the noise, but people nearby can expect to hear the noise of pickup trucks, a small tractor, the drill rig and hauling trucks, officials said. Added traffic from trucks carrying soil and water may also occur, they said.

Go to tinyurl.com/well776 for more information.

Tree intended to shade courtyard topples in rain

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

A heritage oak tree that was to be the centerpiece of a new public courtyard has toppled, apparently due to natural causes related to recent storms.

The tree, located at the site of an office development being built at 1020 Alma St. in downtown Menlo Park, crashed to the ground either Jan. 22 or 23, according to City Arborist Christian Bonner, who evaluated the tree on Jan. 24. It would have provided shade for a publicly accessible courtyard and cafe area.

The three-story, 25,000-square-foot office building being constructed there is planned as headquarters for the family office and philanthropic operations of Eric and Wendy Schmidt of Atherton. Mr. Schmidt, a former CEO of Google, is executive chairman of Alphabet Inc., Google’s parent company.

Why tree fell

Mr. Bonner said that several of the tree’s structural roots appeared broken, and that the soil surrounding it had been saturated with rainwater from recent storms.

When asked whether the nearby excavation of a two-story underground garage may have affected the tree’s roots, Mr. Bonner said that seemed unlikely.

The oak is one of several large-canopy trees that have fallen in Menlo Park in recent weeks due to storms, he said.

Prior to the approval of development at the site, he said, another arborist working on the project had rated the tree’s health as “fair” and suspected

that the tree had root disease.

“From what I understand, it was really just nature that took its course there,” said Assistant City Manager Chip Taylor.

The developer had undertaken a number of actions to preserve the tree, Mr. Bonner said, including adding mulch to improve soil conditions and fencing off the tree around its “drip line,” or the circumference around a tree’s canopy.

Trees can get stressed from disturbances in smaller roots outside of the drip line area, as theoretically could have happened with the nearby excavations, but those changes typically take at least a year to manifest, he said. That is not something he believes happened in this case.

If you think about it, he said, storms put a lot of pressure on trees. Rain weighs about eight pounds a gallon, and when hundreds of gallons are being dumped over a canopy’s entire surface area, it adds up to a lot of extra weight very quickly.

Add strong wind gusts and weakened tree health due to drought or root disease, and it’s no wonder that trees fall over most often during storms, he said.

Anna Henderson, a Menlo Park resident and passerby who recently saw the downed tree, said in an email, “With so many stately oaks succumbing to sudden oak death and other problems — it’s a shame to see a (healthy) one on its side.”

The tree was valued at more than \$25,000, according to an industry standard formula for calculating the values of trees, said Mr. Taylor. The developer will be expected to replace the tree at a similar value. ■



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

A large oak tree that may have had root disease fell over in recent storms at the site where a two-story underground parking garage is being constructed.



Rendering: city of Menlo Park

The oak tree shown in the center of a public cafe courtyard in this rendering has fallen due to natural causes, Menlo Park city staff say.

Residents petition council to halt pig scrambles

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

WOODSIDE

Woodside residents and others opposed to the annual kids-chasing-pigs event at the July Fourth Junior Rodeo put on by the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County can now attach a number to their opposition.

The Committee for a Humane Woodside has more than 300 signatures on a petition to ban the pig scramble, including more than 100 Woodside residents, committee members said.

The group also has support from about 30 veterinarians, many from San Mateo County, most of whom signed a letter critical of the pig scramble by Dr. Bonnie Yoffe, a Woodside resident, former medical chief of staff for the Peninsula Humane Society and veterinarian for the city of Palo Alto.

The petition says pig scrambles are cruel to the pigs and requests the Town Council to ban them, as well as mutton busting — in which small children ride sheep — and any event not sanctioned by the Northern California Junior Rodeo Association.

Go to tinyurl.com/Gxseqq for a video of the 2016 pig scramble.

Non-sanctioned rodeo events, such as pig scrambles, do not showcase skills needed to manage farm animals, Woodside resident and committee member Lorien French told the Almanac in an email.

"They are purely novelty or entertainment events and are not subject to the same

regulations or oversight that govern the sanctioned events at a rodeo," she said. "In practice, that has meant that standards/rules are generally laxer for animal treatment."

The committee has not yet delivered the petition to the town. "We are still in the process of building awareness in our community and gathering additional signatures," Ms. French said.

Pig scrambles are not illegal and the Mounted Patrol, in hosting these events, has not violated the conditions of its use permit, Woodside Town Manager Kevin Bryant said in introducing a discussion of the pig scramble at a Jan. 25 meeting of the town's Livestock and Equestrian Heritage Committee.

Changes to the rodeo, if any, are "completely up to the Mounted Patrol," Mr. Bryant said. But later, in response to a question about modifying the Patrol's permit to prohibit the event, Mr. Bryant said the town would not amend a permit without a reason, such as a new law. He then acknowledged that the council could pass such a law.

During public comment by members of the Mounted Patrol and the Committee for a Humane Woodside, a Livestock Committee member asked about the potential for a compromise. In the end, the Patrol agreed to have two of its members get together with



2013 photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Children compete in the pig scramble at the Woodside Junior Rodeo on July Fourth, 2013.

two volunteers from the audience, but the volunteers were not members of the Humane committee, Dr. Yoffe said in an interview after the meeting.

"That was really upsetting. Now the Mounted Patrol and the Livestock Committee think they're talking to us and they're not," she said. "The only compromise is to get rid of this archaic event. It is not humane."

For their part, Patrol members said that any agreement that did not include the chasing of pigs was "not a compromise."

Point, counterpoint

Woodside resident Bill Gilbert told the Livestock Committee that farm animals are big and strong and have to be pushed around. "They are strong animals. You gotta pull a tail or dump 'em on the ground. People do this all the time," he

said. "We can't cure everything in the world. Little pigs. How do we get into their heads in psychology? It just doesn't work."

Pig scrambles are better than video games and smoking marijuana, he said. "These are good clean values."

Attitudes are changing, said former Woodside resident Belle Stafford, noting concerns over humane treatment of food animals, Sea World's phasing out its whale acrobatic programs, and the closing of the Ringling Brothers circus. "It's because of public sentiment," she said. "The time has come for the town of Woodside to step up to the plate and get rid of this."

A Mounted Patrol captain said that American society's acceptance of boxing, martial arts and American football is an endorsement of violence. "Pig scrambles teach

kids violence? Really? Who comes up with this stuff?" he asked. Western culture teaches children to say, "Thank you, sir" and "Thank you, ma'am," he said. "We believe that maintaining our Western culture and tradition is our duty."

Woodside resident Hillary Sharp, a former kindergarten teacher, asked the room to imagine a classroom of young children interacting with animals. They would be sitting quietly, respecting the animals, quietly taking turns and listening for guidance, she said.

A pig scramble, as a learning environment, "is the antithesis of what we'd expect in the classroom," she said. Encouraging kids to interact "in blatant disregard of (the animals') emotional state and (their) health and well being ... is objectionable," she said. ■

Former Su Hong site finally has new tenant: Yum Cha Palace

By Elena Kadvany
Palo Alto Weekly

New life has finally been breathed into the long-vacant space at 1039 El Camino Real in Menlo Park, the former home of Su Hong's sit-down restaurant, with Yum Cha Palace opening its doors Sunday, Jan. 29.

Jason Kwan, who also owns Jason's Cafe and the to-go Su Hong location (now called Chef Kwan) in Menlo Park, is behind the new dim sum restaurant. An employee confirmed its opening on Sunday.

When Mr. Kwan bought Su Hong's popular takeout location on Menlo Avenue in 2015,

he also took over the larger El Camino Real restaurant space. Su Hong closed there in 2012 for renovations and never reopened.

Yum Cha Palace has both a dim sum and a full menu with typical Chinese fare — dumplings, noodles, peking duck, walnut prawns and more. More expensive items include a grilled "giant" beef short rib (\$29), braised abalone with sea cucumber (\$30) and grilled lamb chop (\$28).

The restaurant also serves market-price lobster and crab; diners can choose how they would like it cooked (wok fried with ginger and scallions; with black bean sauce; salt egg yolk;

steamed; with salt and pepper; or with melted cheese).

Yum Cha Palace is open for lunch daily from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and for dinner from 5 to 10:30 p.m. The restaurant is taking reservations online at yumchamenlopark.com.

The original sit-down Su Hong restaurant opened its doors in 1977. The to-go location opened in 1991 and became a community fixture in Menlo Park — to the point of much fear (and even tears) that when Mr. Kwan took over, it would mean the end of the beloved institution.

Mr. Kwan did change the name of the to-go location, but kept the same menu and staff.



2015 photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Jason Kwan at his restaurant Chef Kwan, formerly Su Hong To Go.

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Two men accused of attempted home burglary plead not guilty

Two men accused of trying to burglarize a Portola Valley home Jan. 19 pleaded not guilty Jan. 23 in San Mateo County Superior Court.

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

Redwood City residents Jesus Franco, 19, and Jose Yahir Rodriguez, 18, were both arrested on suspicion of attempted burglary, conspiracy and possession of burglary tools after attempting to flee from the home, prosecutors said.

According to the Sheriff's Office, a 72-year-old woman called 911 shortly after noon Jan. 19 upon noticing two men in her backyard in the 100 block of Golden Oak Drive.

Deputies said that when they arrived, they saw the pair wearing latex gloves, trying to force open a door to the home. Upon seeing the deputies, the pair fled on foot, sheriff's officials said.

A deputy was able to immediately apprehend Mr. Rodriguez, while Mr. Franco was captured at a neighboring house, officials said.

Mr. Franco allegedly told investigators that he and Mr. Rodriguez decided that morning to break into homes in order to get \$10,000 so that he could "buy



Arrested were Jesus Franco, left, and Jose Rodriguez.

a nice car and take girls out on dates," prosecutors said.

Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Franco are set to appear in court Feb. 3 for a preliminary hearing. The two remain in custody, with bail set at \$20,000 for Mr. Rodriguez and \$50,000 for Mr. Franco, prosecutors said.



Photo: Menlo Park Fire Protection District

Firefighters used a fence to help the kayakers get out of San Francisquito Creek near Willow and Middlefield roads.

Teens' kayak excursion interrupted by cops

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Two teenage boys kayaked roughly a mile down San Francisquito Creek before they were stopped and pulled

out by the Menlo Park police and firefighters on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 22.

The 16- and 17-year-old boys began their journey along the creek at East Creek Drive and Alma Street in Menlo Park and

were ordered out of the creek by the police near the former Sunset magazine headquarters at Willow Road and Middlefield Road.

One teen had capsized and was holding onto the kayak, police spokesperson Nicole Ackers said. Neither appeared to be in danger, she added.

Ultimately, both teens made it back to solid ground after climbing over a fence, aided by firefighters from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, said Chief Harold Schapelhouman.

Someone who had seen a man helping the teens putting their kayaks into the water had asked police to investigate, Ms. Ackers said. The teens were wearing flotation devices, she later confirmed.

The man who helped the teens was cited by the police for child endangerment, she said.

The creek can be dangerous because it contains debris and runoff, she said.

"This is the first time in a number of years we've seen people kayak or raft down the creek," Chief Schapelhouman said.

Both he and Ms. Ackers said they did not know of any law prohibiting people from paddling in the creek. ■



Photo: Menlo Park Fire Protection District

How the drivers escaped uninjured from this head-on collision Jan. 23 near Facebook in Menlo Park surprised firefighters who responded to the scene. The collision occurred on Chilco Street between Constitution Drive and Hamilton Avenue.

Drivers escape uninjured from head-on collision

Two cars were significantly damaged in a head-on collision Jan. 23 near Facebook offices in Menlo Park, but both drivers appeared uninjured, according to Menlo Park Fire Protection District officials.

At 1:04 p.m., firefighters responded to a report of the collision on Chilco Street between Constitution Drive and Hamilton Avenue.

Fire crews arrived and found a Volkswagen sedan and a BMW 325 sedan had collided head-on. Both drivers were outside of their vehicles and appeared uninjured, fire officials said.

The drivers received

medical checks at the scene by paramedics, and then were taken by ambulance to Stanford Hospital as a precaution.

"We were a little surprised to see both occupants out of their vehicles given the destructive damage to each of the vehicles and the head-on collision aspect of the emergency," Fire Capt. Jeff Schreiber said in a statement. "They both were very fortunate to apparently be uninjured, let alone alive."

At 2:14 p.m., fire crews had cleared the scene, removed both vehicles, and the roadway was reopened.

— Bay City News Service

Prison sentence for driver after police chase

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

A man who allegedly ran a stop sign while on the phone in eastern Menlo Park, led a Menlo Park police officer on a high speed chase and crashed into another car has been sentenced to two years in state prison.

Evaimalo Palemene of East Palo Alto, 36, was approached on July 11, 2016 by a Menlo Park police officer patrolling on a motorcycle after he ran a stop sign going northbound on Hamilton Avenue at Sage Street while talking on his cell phone, according to prosecutors. When the officer tried to pull him over, he made a

U-turn and sped away, going 50 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone.

The chase ended when a driver broadsided another car that was leaving the Chevron gas station at Hamilton Avenue and Willow Road, prosecutors said.

The car spun out and collided with a fire hydrant, while the

driver, Mr. Palemene, fled into the nearby strip mall. In pursuit, the officer hit a curb with her motorcycle and was thrown into a light pole, breaking her wrist. Eventually, Mr. Palemene was found hiding in the bushes near railroad tracks, according to prosecutors.

Mr. Palemene on Dec. 5 pleaded no contest two felonies: evading a police officer, and resisting arrest in a way that

injured a police officer, and was sentenced Jan. 20, according to Karen Guidotti, chief deputy of the county district attorney office. He remains in custody on \$100,000 bail and will get 388 days' credit for the time he has already served. He will also have to receive genetic marker testing and pay \$400 in various fines and restitution in an amount still to be determined, prosecutors said. ■

Voting starts Feb. 6 on school parcel tax measure

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Early voting, by mail or in person at voting centers, starts Monday, Feb. 6, on a ballot measure asking Menlo Park City School District voters to approve a \$360 annual parcel tax that would expire after seven years.

Ballots for those who have requested to vote by mail, either permanently or for this election, will be mailed starting Feb. 6.

Neighborhood polls within the

district will also be open on Election Day, Tuesday, March 7.

If voters approve the proposed tax, it will replace a \$207 annual tax that expires at the end of June 2017, adding \$153 per year to the parcel tax voters now pay. Including three existing parcel taxes that have no expiration date, property owners in the district will pay total parcel taxes of \$1,028 a year per parcel, increased by this year's Bay Area rate of inflation.

From Feb. 6 through 8 p.m. on March 7, registered voters can

If Measure X is approved, property owners in the district would pay a total of \$1,028 a year per parcel.

vote at the San Mateo County voting center in the Registration & Elections Division office, 40 Tower Road in San Mateo. The center is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday, March 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On Election Day, the voting center and local polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Vote by mail applications are online at ShapeTheFuture.org under "Access My Election Materials" and need to be submitted by Feb. 28.

The county's ShapeTheFuture.org website also has a "track my ballot" feature to verify when ballot materials were mailed and when the Registration & Elections Division received a voted ballot. Mailed ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day

and received by Friday, March 10. On Election Day, voted mail ballots may be dropped off until 8 p.m. at the voting center or any open polling place in the Menlo Park City School District.

ShapeTheFuture.org also has an electronic version of the voter information pamphlet and more information on the election, plus links for those who want to register to vote online. Registration deadline is Feb. 20.

Tinyurl.com/MPCSD-map has a map of the boundaries of the school district. ■

School districts register kindergarten students

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Kindergarten registration for children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1 is underway, or soon will be, in local school districts.

The Portola Valley and Woodside Elementary school districts also offer a two-year transitional kindergarten program for children who turn 5 between Sept. 2 and Dec. 1.

Las Lomitas district

Las Lomitas district registration began on Jan. 17. Parents should bring the following information to the Las Lomitas Elementary School office, at 299 Alameda de las Pulgas in Atherton, between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. weekdays: an original birth certificate or passport, proof of residency (the originals of two utility bills or a utility bill and lease or mortgage contract) and immunization records. Cellphone bills do not qualify as proof of residence.

A school tour, for adults only, for parents of incoming kindergarten students (and new first-through third-grade students) will be offered on Friday, Feb. 10,

from 9:45 to 11 a.m. Tours are limited to 16 per tour and one tour per family. Call (650) 854-5900, ext. 0, to reserve a spot.

The Las Lomitas district does not offer transitional kindergarten.

Menlo Park district

In the Menlo Park City School District, kindergarten registration starts Feb. 1. Registration packets and directions for filling them out are available at each school. For information on the attendance boundaries for district schools contact the district's registrar at (650) 321-7140, ext. 5600.

Tinyurl.com/MPCSD-map also shows school attendance boundaries.

Proof of residency, either a California Driver's License or a current utility bill, is required.

In this district, a child registered to enter school for the first time who will be 6 years old on or before Sept. 1 will be enrolled in first grade.

The district does not offer transitional kindergarten.

Orientation meetings for parents of those starting kindergarten in the fall are scheduled at Encinal School on Thursday, April 6, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.; at

Laurel School Lower Campus on Thursday, April 20, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.; or Friday, April 21, from 10 to 11 a.m. The Oak Knoll School orientation was on Jan. 26.

Go to mpcsd.org or call (650) 321-7140, ext. 5600, for more information.

Portola Valley district

Ormondale School at 200 Shawnee Pass in Portola Valley has begun the registration process for children entering transitional kindergarten (those turning 5 from Sept. 2 to Dec.

1) and regular kindergarten (5th birthday on or before Sept. 1).

Call 851-1777, ext. 2652, for more information.

Woodside district

Parents of children entering the two-year transitional kindergarten (5th birthday Sept. 2 to Dec. 1) or regular kindergarten (5th birthday on or before Sept. 1) may pick up registration packets for the 2017-18 school year at the Woodside School office, 3195 Woodside Road, and on the school website, Woodside.k12.ca.us.

There will be an information meeting at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 6, in the Wildcats Room for parents with children going into either transitional or traditional kindergarten.

Tours are offered on five Thursdays: Feb. 2, March 2, March 30, April 27 and May 18, from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Reserve a tour by calling (650) 851-1571.

A birth certificate, proof of residency, immunization records and a physician's report will be required before a child enters school in the fall.

Visit Woodside.k12.ca.us or call (650) 851-1571, ext. 4003, for more information. ■

Stanford Saturday University



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Atherton civic center: Tying up loose ends

With the final approval of a design for a new Atherton civic center scheduled for Feb. 15, the City Council will meet with the Civic Center Advisory Committee on Wednesday, Feb. 1, to take a look at the history of the project to date.

The meeting, which will start at 4 p.m. in the town's council chambers at 94 Ashfield Road, will include a discussion of a possible measure for the June 6 ballot that would reverse a 2012 ballot measure and allow more public money to be spent on the civic center.

A staff report suggests possible wording for the ballot measure: "Should the Town of Atherton be allowed to use available general funds to fund the remaining funding need of the new Town Center? Other funding sources include private donations, grants, and building fees; but the Town would not use any of the Town's parcel tax or mandatory reserves."

The town is hoping to put the project out for bid this summer and award a contract in the fall. If that schedule is followed, the project would be completed in 2019.

Atherton honors police department retiree

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

It was a typical retirement send-off as acting Police Chief Joe Wade reminisced about one of his first meetings with the departing member of the Atherton Police force.

Karli Vom Donau Ries, Chief Wade said, had grabbed him by the foot when he had tried to walk by without playing the police dog's favorite game of "chase the shadow." "I'll miss her, but I won't miss that," he said.

The town honored Karli with a proclamation and a plaque as she ended her law enforcement career after five years as part of the Atherton Police



Photo courtesy town of Atherton

Atherton police dog Karli was honored with a town proclamation after her recent retirement at the age of 7 and 1/2.

Department. Karli will spend her retirement with the family

of her partner, Officer David Gomez.

Before starting in Atherton, Karli completed 160 hours of canine certified training in police service work, including tracking missing persons and suspects. She had continuing monthly training once on the job.

The commendation said, in part: "Karli's working relationship with Canine Handler Officer David Gomez made her an invaluable asset to the Town of Atherton and its residents."

Karli, the proclamation said "worked tirelessly over the years to protect and serve with honor, integrity and professionalism alongside Officer Gomez at each and every shift together." ■

New shuttle routes added throughout county

The San Mateo County Transportation Authority has added shuttle routes throughout the county, funded by voter-approved Measure A sales tax funds and a contribution from sponsoring agencies. The additions bring the total number of shuttle routes funded by the

Transportation Authority to 38.

The County Park Explorer shuttle will take residents in East Palo Alto, east Menlo Park, and North Fair Oaks to the Edgewood County Park in Redwood City and Wunderlich County Park in Woodside. Previously, neither park was conveniently

connected to public transportation, according to Transportation Authority officials.

The Coastside Beach Shuttle will run through the Half Moon Bay area on the weekends, from Poplar State Beach to Pillar Point with a connection on downtown Half Moon Bay's Main Street.

The San Carlos Commuter shuttle will run a loop from Holly Street to Industrial Road to Quarry Road and then back onto Old Country Road, connecting the Palo Alto Medical Center and local employers on the east side of town with the San Carlos Caltrain station.

Meanwhile, the San Carlos Community shuttle will connect

the Eaton Park neighborhood with Carlmont High School, Terra Linda Middle School and Caltrain, allowing access for about 5,000 students and relieving traffic on Alameda de las Pulgas.

Go to is.gd/smc93 to get links to schedules for these new shuttle routes.

— Bay City News Service



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Rents, housing prices rise, but rate of increase slows

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

It's a bad news/good news scenario. Housing rental rates in San Mateo County are continuing to rise, but at a much slower rate than in recent years, according to statistics from the county's housing department.

The county figures show a similar pattern for sale prices of homes and condominiums.

Rental rates

Figures released on Jan. 24 by the county's Department of Housing show that in the three months ending Sept. 30, the average market rent, the amount paid by new tenants, for a one-bedroom unit in San Mateo County was \$2,622 a month.

While that is up about 39 percent in four years, it is only 1.8 percent more than the same period a year ago.

The reported average market rent for a two-bedroom unit in San Mateo County was \$2,980, up about 4 percent over a year ago, and not quite 38 percent

more than four years ago.

The county Department of Housing says it bases its data on surveys conducted by the company RealFacts, which says it surveys thousands of apartment complexes four times a year to produce the numbers.

Home sales

The county's figures show sales prices of homes and condominiums in the county were up about 2 percent in the past year.

The median price of a single-family home is up 2.4% in a year, and 40% in four years

The median price, with half the sales higher and half lower, of a single-family home county-wide was \$1.3 million, up from just under \$1.27 million a year ago, a 2.4 percent increase.

The average price (total sales prices divided by number of homes sold) was \$1.65 million, a 1.8 percent increase.

Four years ago, for the period ending Sept. 30, 2012, the median price for a single-family home was \$781,500, which means that price has increased about 40 percent since then.

Condominiums county-wide had a median price of \$750,000, up 3.2 percent from a year ago. The average price of a condominium in the county was \$801,865, up 2.2 percent from the average of \$784,494 a year ago.

The median price for a condominium four years ago was \$438,000, which means that price has increased about 41 percent since then.

17 years ago

An earlier Almanac story reported that the county's statistics going back to 2000 show residential market rents in the county dropped sharply after the dot-com bust in the early 2000s and didn't recover to 2000 levels until about 2012.

Back in 2000, the county's report for the quarter ending Dec. 31, 2000, showed an average rent of \$1,715 for a one-bedroom rental and \$1,900 for a two-bedroom rental.

The county median home sale price in 2000 was \$625,000 and the median sales price for condominiums was \$381,500. ■

Woodside gives final OK to house-size ordinance

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The Woodside Town Council on Jan. 24, in a 6-0 vote with one council member absent, adopted an ordinance to expand the maximum allowable floor area of a main residence.

Under the new ordinance, the total floor area of development allowed on a parcel remains the same, but the allowable square footage for the main residence — when the applicant has been granted an exception by the planning director — will increase by up to 10 percent in most zoning areas.

The old law allowed Woodside Heights homeowners in zoning district SR, for example, to add 1,000 square feet to the main residence; the new law increases that figure to 1,500 square feet, which adds up to a 5,500-square-foot house and a 10 percent increase.

In granting an exception, the planning director considers a combination of factors, such as consistency with the town's general plan, extenuating circumstances such as topology or obstructed

views, building bulkiness, the possibilities for vegetative screening and compatibility with the surroundings.

Go to tinyurl.com/jGHxXj for a list, by zoning area, of the maximum square footage of floor area allowed in main residences.

The council introduced the ordinance at its Jan. 12 meeting as part of a two-step process. With this second vote of approval, the ordinance becomes law 30 days later.

Councilman Chris Shaw was not present for the vote.

The ordinance was on the council's consent agenda and could have been approved in a single vote along with six other items, including a mid-year budget review and a list of checks written by Town Hall for the previous two weeks' expenses, but Councilwoman Anne Kasten pulled the ordinance out for a separate vote, given its significance.

Residents of the Woodside Heights neighborhood, which is located in District 6 and is represented by Ms. Kasten, initiated the idea of expanding the floor area of main residences. ■



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■ POLICE CALLS

This information is based on reports from the Menlo Park Police Department. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent unless convicted. Police received the reports on the dates shown.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglaries:

- A burglar used a second-story window to enter a house on Sharon Park Drive to steal a desktop computer, several kitchen knives, porcelain figures and an autographed Pittsburgh Steelers helmet. Estimated loss: \$11,900. Jan. 18.
- Someone entered a house in the 1800 block of Santa Cruz Avenue through an unlocked front door and stole two bicycles and a camera. Estimated loss: \$8,299. Jan. 19.
- A thief entered a house on O’Keefe Street through an unlocked back door and stole three cameras, two laptop computers, earrings, a video game console, a backpack, a wallet and \$40 in cash. Estimated loss: \$5,838. Jan. 13.
- Someone rummaged through an unlocked garage on O’Connor Street and stole a golf bag, golf clubs, a TV and tools. Estimated loss: \$4,000. Jan. 17.
- A burglar pried open a window at the Blue Garden Cafe at the Allied Arts Guide on Arbor Road and stole cheese, meat and beer from the locked kitchen and wine-storage area. Estimated loss: more than \$1,400.
- A resident of Gilbert Avenue returned home to find two people kicking at the house’s back door. They fled upon the resident’s arrival. Police searched the area but were unable to find them. Jan. 21.
- Someone stole a bicycle from an

- unlocked garage on Laurel Avenue. Estimated loss: \$250. Jan. 24.
- Auto burglaries:**
 - A thief broke into a vehicle parked in the 300 block of Bay Road by smashing a front side window. Stolen were a tablet computer, a portable speaker, pens and pencils. Estimated loss: \$2,300. Jan. 21.
 - Someone opened a locked vehicle parked on Noel Drive and stole a camera, camera lens and the vehicle’s registration card. It’s not clear how the thief entered the vehicle. Estimated loss: \$2,101. Jan. 12.
 - Someone ransacked a vehicle parked on Sharon Road and stole two pairs of sunglasses, a driver’s license, a parking pass and the vehicle’s owners manual. Estimated loss: \$540. Jan. 9.
 - After breaking a window on a vehicle parked in the 800 block of El Camino Real, someone stole a personal bag containing sunglasses, ear-bud headphones, credits cards, a pocket utility device and a house key. Estimated loss: \$322.
 - A burglar entered an unlocked garage on Waverley Street, smashed the front passenger side window of the vehicle, and stole a GPS device and a garage door opener. Estimated loss: \$270. Jan. 10.
- Brandishing incidents:**
 - A man engaged in a verbal argument with a homeless man in the vicinity of Sand Hill Road and El Camino Real allegedly took a knife from his pocket, according to a passing motorist. Upon arrival, police found only the homeless man who had a box-cutter among his possessions and who agreed to have it taken and destroyed. Jan. 11.
 - Police arrested a resident of Madera Avenue and booked him into the county

- jail on suspicion of brandishing charges in connection with an alleged threat to a family member and involving a knife. Jan. 15.
- Thefts:**
 - Someone stole a bicycle from the underground garage of an apartment complex in the first block of Willow Road. Estimated loss: \$3,000. Jan. 25.
 - A thief stole a locked bicycle from in front of Safeway supermarket at 525 El Camino Real. Estimated loss: \$1,200. Jan. 8.
 - A thief broke a window of a classroom at La Entrada School on Sharon Road and stole a laptop computer that had been locked to a docking port on a desk. Estimated loss: \$900. Jan. 10.
 - Someone stole a cellphone from an unlocked vehicle parked on Oak Grove Avenue. The victim told police that he could not recall whether he left the phone inside or outside the vehicle. Estimated loss: \$745. Jan. 23.
 - A thief stole a bicycle from the front porch of a home on Cornell Road. Estimated loss: \$700. Jan. 9.
 - Someone stole a bike locked to a tree in the 200 block of El Camino Real. Estimated loss: \$600. Jan. 26.
 - A thief stole a coat, a camera and a registration card from a vehicle parked on Roble Avenue. There was no sign of forced entry. Estimated loss: \$551. Jan. 12.
 - A woman left her cellphone in the floral department at Safeway supermarket at 525 El Camino Real. When she returned to retrieve it, the phone was gone. Estimated loss: \$500. Jan. 18.
 - A thief stole a bike parked and locked near the dumpster area of an apartment complex on Sharon Road. Estimated loss: \$450. Jan. 26.

- A woman who had left her purse on the back of her chair at Cafe Borrone reported the theft of her wallet from her purse. The contents of her wallet included \$200 in cash. Estimated loss: \$409. Jan. 12.
- A thief stole an unlocked bicycle from the balcony of an apartment on Sharon Park Drive. Estimated loss: \$400. Jan. 26.
- A man reported the theft of his wallet, audio recorder, keys and \$100 in cash from his unattended backpack that had been left at his desk in Facebook headquarters at Hacker Way. Estimated loss: \$330.
- Thieves stole bicycles from apartment complexes on Sharon Road, Coleman Avenue and Glenwood Avenue. Estimated losses: \$450, \$400 and \$300. Jan. 26 and 18.
- Someone entered an unlocked vehicle parked on O’Keefe Street and stole binoculars and vehicle registration paperwork. Estimated loss: \$100. Jan. 26.
- Police are looking for a man last seen in a black Mustang convertible and suspected of stealing four bottles of champagne from Draeger’s Market. Police described him as black, bald and heavyset, in his 40s or 50s, between 5 feet 6 inches and 5 feet 10 inches tall, and wearing a dark blue jacket and dark pants. Jan. 21.
- Police cited a San Jose woman on suspicion of theft and trespassing after she allegedly opened a bottle of wine at the Safeway supermarket and drank from it while inside the store. She became belligerent and left the store after being asked to pay for the wine, employees said. When police encountered her, she admitted to drinking the wine, adding that she had only a “single

- dollar” to pay for it, police said. Jan. 22.
- When employees at CVS pharmacy at 700 El Camino Real confronted a woman suspected of shoplifting cosmetics, the woman reportedly fled to the back seat of a four-door vehicle that then left the parking lot in the direction of El Camino Real. No estimate on losses. Jan. 21.
- Someone stole a package containing a sweater from the porch of a home on Susan Gale Court. Estimated loss: \$73. Jan. 19.
- Police arrested a San Jose woman on suspicion of theft after she allegedly loaded a shopping cart with merchandise valued at \$624 and left the store without paying for any of it, ignoring orders to stop. Police caught up with her and found the cart and merchandise next to her vehicle. She was booked into county jail. The merchandise was returned to the store. Jan. 13.
- A man picked up three blankets in the Bow Wow Meow pet store on Santa Cruz Avenue and walked out with the blankets without having paid for them. An employee followed him and demanded the return of the blankets. The man handed them over and kept walking. Jan. 17.
- A woman reported that she accidentally left her cellphone is a taxi cab, and that the driver told her he would return her phone, something he has not done. The woman has been unable to reach the driver. Jan. 13.
- Defraud innkeeper:** A man staying at the Rosewood Sand Hill hotel ordered \$640 in spa services and paid using a credit card that returned an error message when the hotel tried to complete the charge. Jan. 6.

■ CALENDAR

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

Theater

- ‘Crimes of the Heart’** Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and NY Drama Critics Circle Award, this play, presented by TheatreWorks, follows three hard-luck Mississippi sisters who are betrayed by their passions. Jan. 11-Feb. 5, times vary. \$35-\$85. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatreworks.org
- ‘Dead Accounts’ by Theresa Rebeck** Theresa Rebeck’s (“Bad Dates,” Dragon 2011) dark comedy examines the conflict between Main Street and Wall Street, flyover state values versus coastal state values and the humor within a family in turmoil. Jan. 26-Feb. 19, Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. Dragon Productions Theatre Company, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City.
- Manual Cinema** In a CGI era, the Manual Cinema artists’ collective uses paper cutouts, transparencies, and overhead projectors to tell a haunting tale of elderly twins separated by death — or perhaps not. Feb. 1-4, 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 4, 4:30 p.m., matinee. \$50. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. events.stanford.edu/events

Music

- Stanford Pan-Asian Music Festival** presents “Music from Shanghai” in celebration of the Chinese New Year, featuring Symphony Silicon Valley with a 120-person chorus from the local Chinese community and soloists from Shanghai Conservatory of Music and Peking Opera Company. Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$40. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. events.stanford.edu/events
- PoetryMusic: Chamber Jazz** From Shakespeare to Robert Frost to Pablo Neruda, the chamber jazz duo PoetryMusic will perform poems that have been set to music. Feb. 8, 7 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Talks & Authors

- Asi Burak** joins Angie Coiro for an evening hour on In Deep radop. Over the last

- decade, Burak has worked with NASA, the World Bank, the United Nations and the White House to promote and create video games designed for the social good. Coiro and Burak will discuss what it was like to tackle the Israel-Palestine conflict, work alongside Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, and collaborate with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nicholas Kristof. Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler’s Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.
- Better, safer buildings: Holistic building upgrades for seismic safety and resource efficiency** On the heels of the Peninsula Advanced Energy Community (PAEC) launch, this event will address building owner, manager and tenant concerns and upgrade goals for disaster-prone communities. Speakers at the event will include experts in green building and resilient technology, risk assessment, insurance and climate leadership. Feb. 2, 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$5-\$20. GSVLabs, 585 Broadway St., Redwood City.
- Bobbie and Mike Wilsey Distinguished Lecture for 2017: Trevor Paglen** Trevor Paglen discusses his genre-defying work: image-making, sculpture, investigative journalism, writing, engineering and other disciplines. Among his chief concerns are learning how to see the historical moment we live in and developing the means to imagine alternative futures. Feb. 8, 7 p.m. Free. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. events.stanford.edu/events
- In Deep with Angie Coiro: Robin Zasio** What’s the healthiest way to cope with anxiety, and what special challenges arise when that stress derives from world events? Dr. Robin Zasio visits In Deep with insight and advice. The hour will also touch on her work in reality TV: “Hoarders” and “My Extreme Animal Phobia.” Feb. 8, noon. Free. Kepler’s Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org
- Michael Krasny**, host of KQED’s Forum, discusses his new book, “Let There Be Laughter: A Treasury of Great Jewish Humor and What It All Means.” Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. \$30, includes book; \$15, general admission; \$10, student. Kepler’s Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.
- Pinay Poetry Reading** This evening of poetry features four leading Pinay poets. Arlene Biala, Janice Lobo Sapigao, Veronica Montes and Barbara Jane Reyes

- read from their most recent work and discuss the long tradition of Pinay poetry, its place in the Philippines, the United States and in the literary canon. Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler’s Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.
- Simon Curtis, SJ Kincaid and Erin Summerill** Kepler’s will celebrate the launch of three new books (“Boy Robot,” “The Diabolic” and “Ever the Hunted”) from three new voices in YA literature: Simon Curtis, S.J. Kincaid and Erin Summerill. Feb. 3, 7-8 p.m. Free. Kepler’s Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.

Family

- Baby Sign Storytime** This time is for infants (0-18 months), their caregivers and expectant parents. Each session introduces signs that are based on American Sign Language (ASL). Feb. 4, 11 a.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley.
- Bilingual Babies and Books Storytime** This time is for infants (0-18 months), but older children are welcome too. It is for parents who want to introduce their baby to Spanish with stories, songs and rhymes. Feb. 6, 11 a.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley.
- Parents Club of Palo Alto and Menlo Park’s Funtastic Winter Arts & Crafts Day** The whole family is invited to PAMP’s Funtastic Winter Arts & Crafts Day. It will feature a morning of arts, crafts and activities in a winter-themed, indoor setting. Feb. 5, 10 a.m.-noon. \$10, PAMP members; \$20, non-members (per family). Arrillaga Center, Sequoia Room, 601 Laurel St., Menlo Park. pampclub.org
- Story Time with Tim McCanna** Tim McCanna, a local children’s author and musician, launches his new book, “Watersong,” a journey of a fox seeking shelter from a rainstorm told in onomatopoeia. McCanna is the author of “Teeny Tiny Trucks” and “Bitty Bots.” Feb. 4, 2 p.m. Free. Kepler’s Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

Film

- Kevin Smokler, Brat Pack America: A Love Letter to ‘80s Teen Movies** Technology and culture writer Kevin Smokler discusses Hill Valley, the town of Shermer, Astorias Goondocks and

- Lake Lure, North Carolina, in an evening retrospective of favorite 1980s Brat Pack films. Smokler has scoured the country interviewing actors, writers and directors from this iconic era in film. Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler’s Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.
- Movie Night: ‘Whale Rider’** The movie “Whale Rider” (PG-13, 2001, 1 hour and 41 min.) will be shown; It tells a critically-lauded story of love, rejection and triumph. Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m. Free. Downstairs Program Room, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Health & Wellness

- Evening Fusion Fitness** This class is a full body workout designed for active Baby Boomers. It includes exercises for aerobics, strength training, balance and agility. Mondays, ongoing, 7-8 p.m. \$195, 13-class session. Portola Valley Town Center, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. chezfit.com/index.php/funfit-spring-2014
- Hike with the Friends** This hike will feature a 5-mile loop to McGarvey Flat with a stop for lunch. Docent Tom Davids will lead this hike and talk about nature and history along the way. Feb. 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Huddart Park, 1100 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside.
- Mat Pilates** Geared toward improving mental and physical wellbeing by increasing flexibility and improving muscles, this class is structured around the body’s powerhouse, and it engages muscles and helps to improve the core. Mondays, ongoing, 5:30-7 p.m. \$20 per class, members; \$24 per class, nonmembers. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. penvol.org/littlehouse
- Tai Chi and Chi Kung** In this class, students will learn Tai Chi and Chi Kung with instructor Ben Dineen who will lead a 60-minute class in the Redwood Grove next to the Town Center Community Hall. These centuries-old Asian exercises help relieve stress and build stronger bodies, better balance and sharper minds. This class is open to all ability levels. Wednesdays, Jan. 4-Feb.1, 10 a.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley.

Singles

- Singles’ Trivia Night** This trivia night is focused on local singles over the age of 45, but anyone is welcome to

- participate. There will be three games and teammates will rotate for each, so everyone has a chance to meet and compete together. Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 22, March 29, 8-10 p.m. Freewheel Brewing Company, 3736 Florence St., Redwood City. freewheelbrewing.com

Religion & Spirituality

- “Om” Under the Dome - Yoga in Memorial Church** Yoga instructor Rebecca Snowball leads a class to rejuvenate the body, mind and spirit in the tranquil ambience of Memorial Church. Participants are asked to please bring a yoga mat. Jan. 24, 5:30 p.m. Jan. 24, Feb. 28 and March 14, 5:30 p.m. Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. events.stanford.edu/events

Community Groups

- Getting Rid of the Electoral College** San Mateo County Democracy for America is a chartered Democratic club that meets on the first Wednesday of every month, featuring speakers who are recognized experts in national, state and local areas of progressive policy. Jack Rakove, Pulitzer Prize winning professor of history and political science at Stanford University, will speak at the upcoming meeting. Feb. 1, 7 p.m. Free. Woodside Road United Methodist Church, 2000 Woodside Road, Redwood City. smcdfa.org/calendar
- Knitting Meetup** This is a time for adult knitters to get together and enjoy camaraderie, laughter and stitches. Jan. 25 and Feb. 22, 7 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org
- menloparkkiwanisclub.org/meetings-programs-2/

How to add events to calendar

- Go to AlmanacNews.com and see the Community Calendar module at the top right side of the page. Click on “Add your event.”

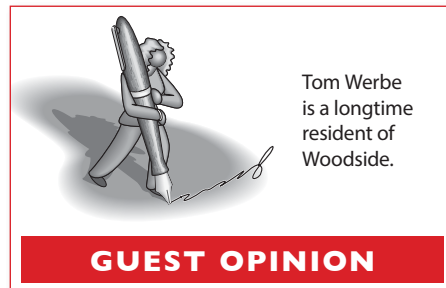
Council should look in mirror when levying ethics charges

By Tom Werbe

If you heard someone make a pitch for having a government agency treat every person equally, would you consider that unethical? In Woodside, apparently, the answer to that question is “yes,” as the town has used it to justify an expensive investigation of a volunteer who did just that.

Nancy Reyerling has served on Woodside’s Architecture and Site Review Board (ASRB) since 2010. Last May, when a project designed by a council member came before the ASRB, she submitted a statement that urged her colleagues to treat the council member as they would any other member of the public.

The statement read, in part, “Even a cursory review of this project raises questions as the architect is a member of the Town Council, and as such, is someone in charge of writing our building regulations. Therefore he, and anyone else in a similar position, has a great responsibility to bring in projects that are reflective of the Residential Design Guidelines, the General Plan, and the Municipal Code, ...[as



submitted, the project could] create the potential appearance that council members are privileged when bringing projects before the ASRB.”

In the Alice-in-Wonderland logic that dominates Woodside’s Town Council, Ms. Reyerling’s statement was unethical by suggesting that even the appearance of a conflict of interest be avoided. This is not just a spat between town leaders. If you live in Woodside, your tax dollars are involved.

Under the direction of former Mayor Deborah Gordon, Woodside’s town manager and town attorney hired an outside attorney who conducted an aggressive investigation of Ms. Reyerling, treating her with suspicion and

contempt. Given the depth of the investigation — and a common-sense understanding of legal fees — it’s hard to imagine that this witch hunt has cost Woodside less than \$10,000, if not two or three times that much. The town has refused to disclose the cost of the investigation.

The town’s actions in this matter are bewildering at best and corrupt at worst. The concern for Woodside residents is the lack of transparency and vindictive treatment of a volunteer by the mayor and staff. This investigation not only unfairly tarnishes the good name of Ms. Reyerling, but it serves as a deterrent to other community-minded citizens who might be willing to volunteer to improve and protect quality of life in our little hamlet.

The town should come clean about this investigation. How much has it cost? Who brought it forward, and what role did the mayor, town attorney, and town manager play in the decision to actively pursue it? What does the town hope to accomplish? Should other volunteers be concerned about making public statements about ethical

behavior? Will they be investigated at taxpayer expense, too?

Town management should identify a plan of action for educating elected and appointed officials about Woodside’s existing code of ethics, which states that officials should: “Avoid even the appearance of conflict between public duties and personal interests and activities in all Town forums.”

Woodside residents deserve better than this circus. Please join me in urging the town of Woodside to drop this investigation immediately and to set into place additional guidelines to avoid a similar scenario in the future. This is nothing short of harassment and bullying, and it is unbecoming of our fine town’s leaders.

Editor’s note: Since Mr. Werbe wrote this column, Ms. Reyerling has obtained a letter from the town attorney that she says indicates the town spent \$42,905 on the investigation. The town manager told the Almanac that the cost was actually \$27,465, but the town will not release documentation supporting that assertion.

School district’s robust elective program allows kids to discover paths to passions

By Ani Ghazarossian

In 2004, I was a fourth-grader at Oak Knoll Elementary School. The first time I had ever used video-editing software was during computer lab sessions where we were assigned a project to edit a video about sharks. At that time, video-editing software wasn’t available to the extent it is today.

Growing up, I had always enjoyed filming video with our hand-held home-video camera, but I had never thought more about how it could be something I studied or did as a career. Playing with iMovie during our computer lab time slowly became my favorite part of my time at school.

Others enjoyed when we talked about history, reading, and math. As for me, I looked forward to the computer lab time we were given at school. We were able to use iMovie for several other projects that year, and they were easily my favorite projects from the whole year.

In the fifth grade, I had the opportunity to help out with Oak Knoll’s morning TV broadcast. It was so exciting to be a part of that, and I knew that it was something I



wanted to continue to do.

When I got to Hillview Middle School, I had the opportunity to take an elective course to create “Hawk Talk,” the school’s morning news program. Being able to crew the whole show ourselves made coming to school very early extremely worth it.

Having this exposure really influenced my decisions up the line. I went on to take the video production class offered at Hillview. These opportunities were instrumental to my elementary and middle school experiences, and helped shape what I did in high school.

At Menlo-Atherton High School, I signed up for both of the video production classes without hesitation. During my senior year at M-A, I helped set up the

brand new studio and realized that this was something I could study in college and do for the rest of my life.

In May, I will be graduating from Hofstra University in New York with a degree in video/television after having interned at CBS during my final year. I can say with absolute certainty that I would not have been able to find this passion without the opportunities presented to me by the Menlo Park City School District.

These opportunities really allowed me to start excelling in my TV classes as soon as I started due to the strong foundation that had been established by the various classes I had already taken. Many of my classmates hadn’t gotten the same exposure that I did, and initially struggled with some of the subject matter.

I know that there will be more kids like me out there who can’t seem to find their passion in the core school subjects, and they should have the same opportunities that I had to explore different subjects through elective courses. Please vote in favor of the parcel tax, Measure X, to ensure the Menlo Park City School District can continue to provide kids a chance to explore their passions.

LETTERS

Our readers write

A Swiftian solution to health care burden

Editor:

In the same vein as Jonathan Swift’s 1729 satire proposing that the Irish solve their poverty and be less of a burden to society by providing their children as food for the rich, I submit the following. To save money on health care we could simply call on sick people who cannot afford adequate treatment to save the nation money by volunteering to be terminated.

The resulting spending on funerals would add to our gross domestic product (GDP) and at the same time save the budget tons of money. We could have parades with marching bands and flags and general fanfare for those bravely lining up for termination. After all, they would be national heroes in helping to balance the budget.

See **LETTERS**, page 18

The Almanac

LET’S DISCUSS:

Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at **AlmanacNews.com**

See more viewpoints
on the next page

Colleges in crisis: A call for comprehensive ethics training

By Thomas G. Plante

Are colleges in crisis regarding student misbehavior? Certainly many news reports suggest that they are.

Reports from the National Institutes of Health maintain that each year more than a half-million college students are assaulted by inebriated students while an additional half-million are accidentally injured due to their own intoxication.

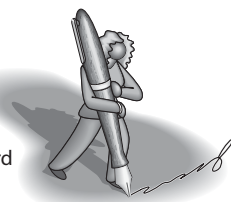
Tragically, there are more than 1,400 college student deaths each year associated with alcohol misuse. A recent White House task force found that about 20 percent of college women have been victimized by sexual assaults on their campuses, with alcohol abuse being involved in most of these events.

Additionally, about half of college students report that they have cheated on tests and written assignments, with some large-scale cheating scandals occurring at many of our most prestigious universities, including Harvard and Stanford.

Incidents of discrimination, racism, sexism, and so forth are more common than we'd like to admit as well. Locally, Stanford has been highlighted in the press about troubles in all of these areas.

While there are no easy answers to

Thomas G. Plante is a professor of psychology at Santa Clara University, an adjunct clinical professor in psychiatry at Stanford University, and a Menlo Park resident. His most recent book (co-authored with his wife and fellow psychologist, Lori Plante) is "Graduating with Honor: Best Practices to Promote Ethics in College Students."



GUEST OPINION

these and other student behavior challenges on college campuses, there are a variety of strategies that could be implemented to move the needle in the right direction toward better student behavior.

First off, we need to understand the developmental challenges of this age group. It is easy to remember them by using the 4 I's: Independence, Intimacy, Impulse Control, and Identity Formation.

The developing brains of young college-age students, typically 18 to 22, have not fully formed and won't do so until well after most finish college.

Too often, students do the wrong thing but for the right reason. Their efforts to become independent agents

separate from their parents and family of origin often results in poor decisions regarding alcohol, for example.

Their desire for intimacy frequently results in hookups and sometimes sexual assault (especially with alcohol involvement). Their impulse-control challenges often result in making quick and immediate decisions that are not adequately thought through and can sometimes have tragic consequences. And their desire for identity can lead them to affiliate with clubs, sporting teams, and fraternities and sororities that, as a group, can make poor decisions due to desires to fit in and be accepted by others.

One important strategy to improve this state of affairs that I strongly endorse as a college professor for almost 30 years is an emphasis on ethical development for college students. Attention to ethical discernment and formation can be accomplished in all aspects of campus life including curricular, extracurricular, athletics, residence halls, fraternities and sororities, clubs, and in judicial processes.

Faculty, staff, and alums can be important ethical role models. There are best practices that are available from campuses across the country, as well. For example, at Santa Clara University, all students, regardless of their academic major, are required to

take at least one applied ethics course as well as at least one community-based learning course that asks them to work with nonprofit community social service agencies and reflect on the ethical implications of their work.

Santa Clara also uses a restorative justice approach to judicial processes, helping students who misbehave on campus to make restitution and seek forgiveness rather than only being punished for their actions.

Closer attention to ethical decision-making doesn't necessarily force rules and unrealistic expectations upon students, but gives them the tools of moral philosophy, thoughtful reflection of ethical principles and values, roles models, and both strategies and resources to help them make better decisions for themselves.

Often, at the end of the day, a focus on respect, responsibility, integrity, competence, and compassion (RRICC) can help organize and center students to more likely make good decisions.

In this age of increased vitriol, nastiness, and incivility within our culture, now may be a critical time to pull a page from an old playbook and bring ethical development and character education back to the forefront of society, including on college campuses. Our future may very well depend upon it.

Showing up at the March on Washington

By Tom and Kathe Gibboney

Now that we are back from Washington, D.C., it has become clear that President Trump was not impressed with the Women's March on Washington, which for those who walked on Jan. 21 was an incredibly uplifting and positive experience.

It is hard to describe what it feels like to be in the middle of 500,000-plus like-minded people and not be afraid of being crushed, to have those around you say "excuse me" if they wanted to pass. District police could not believe that there was not one incident and no arrests.

But now we are back in Menlo Park, and have watched helplessly as in just a few days the new president has moved rapidly to roll back many of President Obama's signature policies and reauthorized the Keystone pipeline over Indian lands, stopped employees of the Environmental Protection Agency and Interior Department from issuing press releases or other outgoing messages, and proceeded with plans to complete a huge wall along the U.S. border with Mexico.

Those who were hoping to see a more conciliatory first week are left with few options and must ask themselves whether the luster from the march is sadly just a faded memory.

But some marchers have not given up. They believe that perseverance will pay off in the long run. Here is a sample of what you can do:

■ Call Republican senators of conscience who may be willing to oppose

Tom and Kathe Gibboney are Menlo Park residents. Tom was editor and publisher of the Almanac for more than 20 years and retired in 2014. Kathe is a nurse practitioner who works in Redwood City.



GUEST OPINION

President Trump on vital issues. Only three Republicans are needed to join with Democrats to get a simple majority in the Senate. Here are senators to call: Lamar Alexander, Tennessee; Susan Collins, Maine; Jeff Flake, Arizona; Cory Gardner, Colorado; Lindsey Graham, South Carolina; Chuck Grassley, Iowa; Orin Hatch, Utah; Dean Heller, West Virginia; John McCain, Arizona; Lisa Murkowski, Alaska; Rand Paul, Kentucky; and Marco Rubio, Florida.

■ Volunteer for MoveOn.org, which has meetings all over the country, including in Menlo Park. Another site: indivisibleguide.com.

■ Donate to media organizations such as the New York Times or Washington Post, or to the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, or the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Our decision to join the Women's March on Washington was hardly routine. To travel from Menlo Park to Washington just to take a walk seemed

like a stretch. But as it became clear that this was one of the better ways to express our disappointment with the presidential election results, we made a commitment and decided to go.

Little did we know that millions of women, men and children from all over the country and around the world would make the same decision to march, even if it was closer to home. (It also helped that we had relatives near Washington who kindly put us up.)

Now we are proud we took part in this historic event, the largest protest by far of an incoming president, dwarfing the marches against Vietnam and the Iraq war. In cities and towns around the country, some 300 in all, marches took place, all free of violence. It was a massive statement that we hope will not be forgotten, no matter what happens in the next few months.

express

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LETTERS

continued from page 17

Since termination would cost something, though far less than actual health care, we could create a charity collecting money to fund their extermination — oops, I mean termination — another economic sector that could add to the GDP.

Problem solved in ways totally in accord with the dominant ideology.

Reminder, lest some congressional Republican take this seriously: This is satire.

Gail Sredanovic
Ashton Avenue, Menlo Park

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



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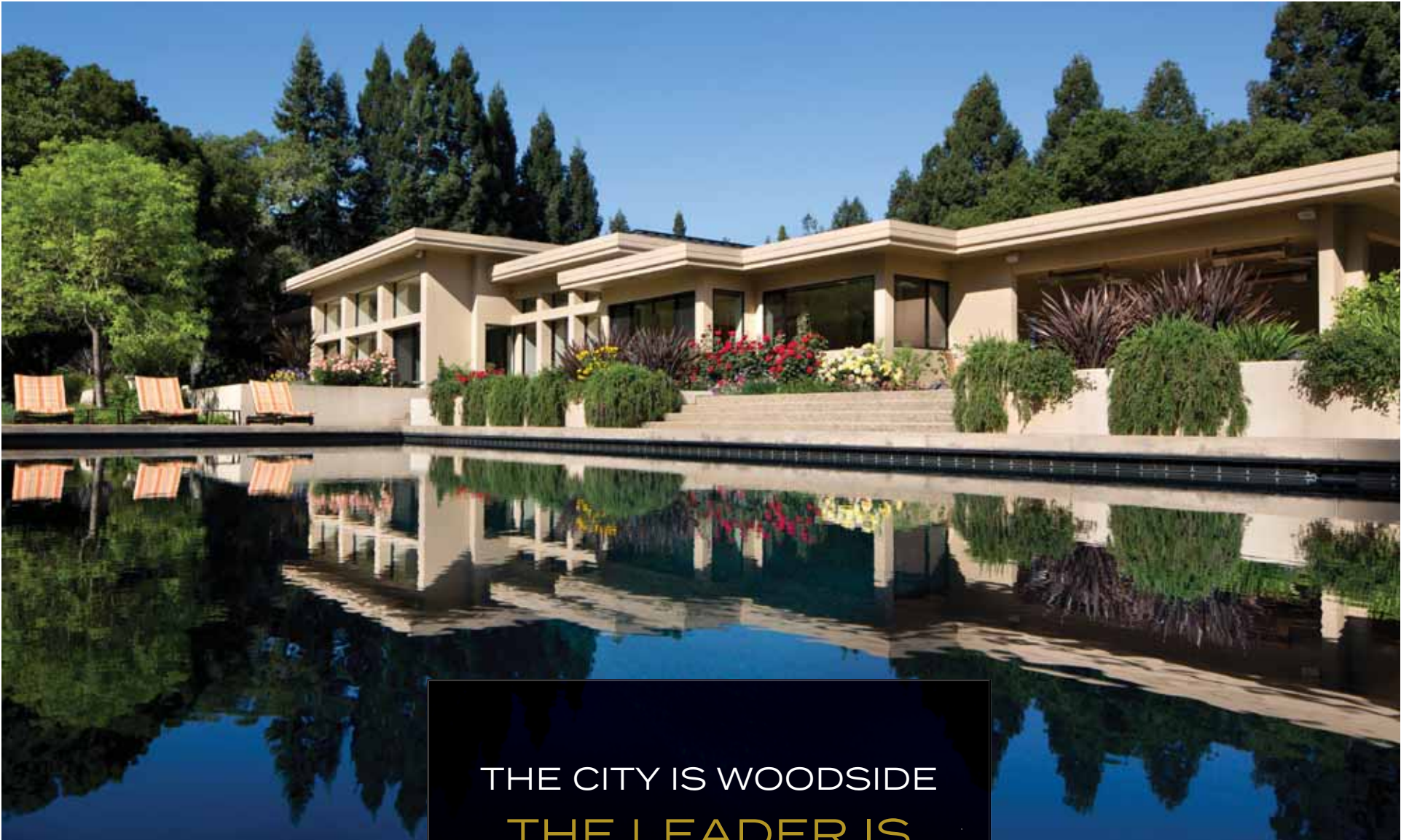
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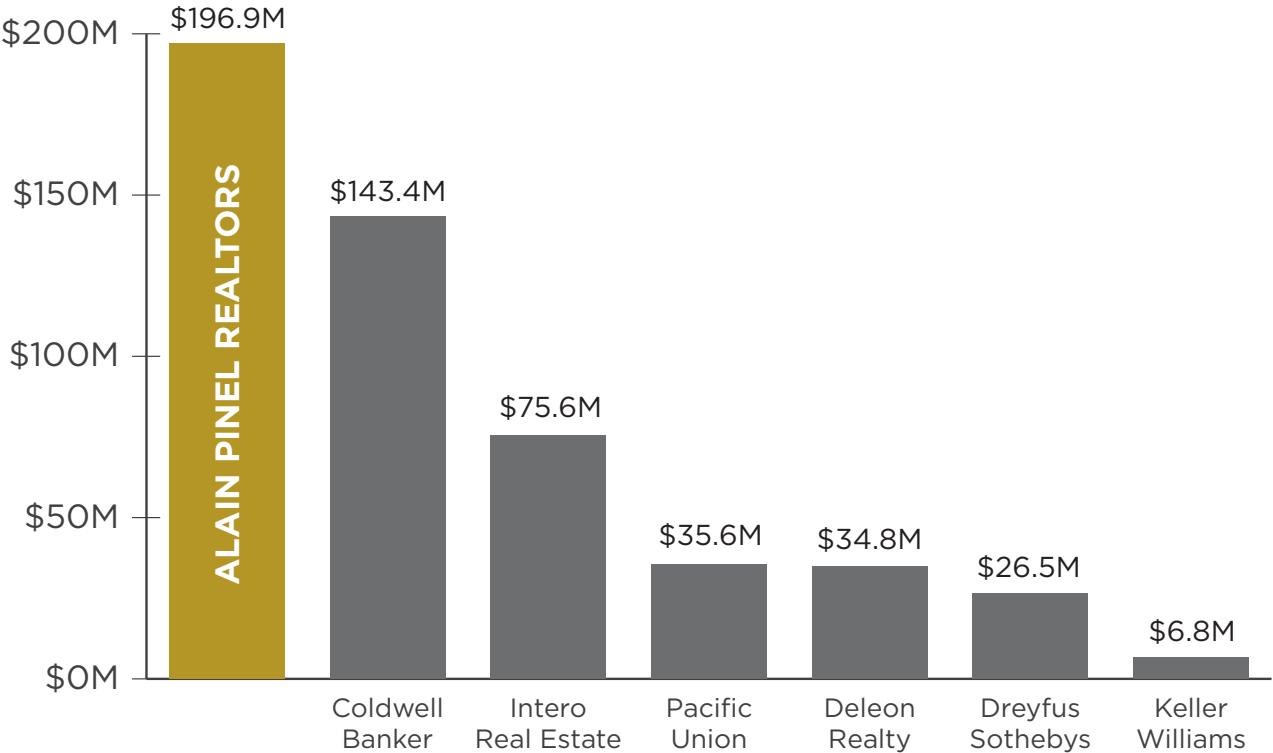


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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

WILSON PINEDA PAINTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 271857
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Wilson Pineda Painting, located at 561 Lancaster Way, Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
WILSON PINEDA
561 Lancaster Way
Redwood City, CA 94062
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 29, 2016.
(ALM Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 2017)

ROMO JANITORIAL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 271923
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Romo Janitorial, located at 1820 W. Bayshore Rd. #23, East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MARIA DEL REFUGIO ROMO
1820 W. Bayshore Rd. #23
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 January 4, 2017.
(ALM Jan. 11, 18, 25; Feb. 1, 2017)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. M-250716
The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.
The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s).
RAE MARTIN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):
ASSOCIATED ENTERTAINMENT

CONSULTANTS GROUP, INC.
2 Dwight Road
Burlingame, CA 94010
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON: June 1, 2012
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):
RAE MARTIN
2 Dwight Road
Burlingame, CA 94010
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY: Corporation.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on January 9, 2017.
(ALM Jan. 18, 25; Feb. 1, 8, 2017)

GIGNRAE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 271975
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Gignrae, located at 2 Dwight Road, Burlingame, CA 94010, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
DENNIS LOUIS XIFARAS
2 Dwight Road
Burlingame, CA 94010
RAE LYNN MARTIN
2 Dwight Road
Burlingame, CA 94010
This business is conducted by: A General Partnership.
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 January 9, 2017.
(ALM Jan. 18, 25; Feb. 1, 8, 2017)

MOMENTUM GLOBAL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 271952
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Momentum Global, located at 533 Airport Blvd., 4th. Floor, Burlingame, CA 94010, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MIN TING KWONG
182 Poplar 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 01-06-2017.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 6, 2017.
(ALM Jan. 18, 25; Feb. 1, 8, 2017)

CROSSING POINT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 271853
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Crossing Point, located at 8 Gardenia Court, East Palo Alto, California, 94303, San Mateo County.
Is (Are) hereby registered by the following owner(s):
BOB E. JONES
8 Gardenia Court
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 December 29, 2016.
(ALM Jan. 18, 25; Feb. 1, 8, 2017)

NIBAN FISH
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 272002
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Niban Fish, located at 208 Estrella Way, San Mateo, CA 94403, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
KENJI ISHIMARU
208 Estrella Way
San Mateo, CA 94403
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on June 12, 2012.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 11, 2017.
(ALM Jan. 18, 25; Feb. 1, 8, 2017)

NAMBE FALLS PROPERTIES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 272044
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Nambe Falls Properties, located at 5090 La Honda Road, San Gregorio, CA 94074, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
THOMAS STAFFORD
5090 La Honda Road
San Gregorio, CA 94074
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/17/17.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 17, 2017.
(ALM Jan. 25; Feb. 1, 8, 15, 2017)

REBEL MONK PRODUCTIONS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 271989
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Rebel Monk Productions, located at 679 Coleman Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MARIA LAURA FERRO
679 Coleman Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on January 10, 2017.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 10, 2017.
(ALM Jan. 25; Feb. 1, 8, 15, 2017)

YM BUILDING MAINTENANCE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 272176
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
YM Building Maintenance, located at 50 Bepler St., Daly City, CA 94014, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
EDUARDO MUSASHI SUMAI
50 Bepler St.
Daly City, CA 94014
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 26/01/17.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 26, 2017.
(ALM Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2017)

ADELANTE COACHING + CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 271977
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Adelante Coaching + Consulting, located at 115 Springwood Way, South San Francisco, CA 94080, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ADELANTE ALMA, INC.
115 Springwood Way
SSF, CA 94080
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on Dec. 15, 2010.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 9, 2017.
(ALM Jan. 25; Feb. 1, 8, 15, 2017)

KIMBERLY'S CATERING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 271843
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Kimberly's Catering, located at 1079 Garden Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
KIMBERLY BROWN
1079 Garden Street
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 December 28, 2016.
(ALM Jan. 25; Feb. 1, 8, 15, 2017)

GO THERx Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 271928
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
GO THERx Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine, located at 150 Portola Rd., Suite B, Portola Valley, CA 94028, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
PacifiTHERx
150 Portola Rd., Suite B
Portola Valley, CA 94028
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 8/15/2016.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 4, 2017.
(ALM Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2017)

I AM By Rocco LaRue
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 272085
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
I AM By Rocco LaRue, located at 12 Wildwood Ave., San Carlos, CA 94070,

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San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
KELLY ANN ORLOWSKI
12 Wildwood Ave.
San Carlos, CA 94070
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 January 19, 2017.
(ALM Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2017)

CECI WONG
CECIWONG
WORLD OF CECI WONG
CECILIA WONG
CCWONG
CECI WONG JEWELERS
CECI WONG FINE JEWELRY
CECIWONG INC
CECI WONG INC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 272032
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Ceci Wong, 2.) CeciWong, 3.) World of Ceci Wong, 4.) Cecilia Wong, 5.) CCWong, 6.) Ceci Wong Jewelers, 7.) Ceci Wong Fine Jewelry, 8.) CeciWong Inc., 9.) Ceci Wong Inc., located at 611 Santa Cruz Ave., Ste. B, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
CECIWONG INC.
611 Santa Cruz Ave. Suite B
Menlo Park, CA 94025
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on December 7, 2014.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 13, 2017.
(ALM Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2017)

997 All Other Legals

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 16CIV02229
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: MICHELLE THERESA MATEJKA filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: MICHELLE THERESA MATEJKA to MICHELLE THERESA LIEFWALKER.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: Wed. February 8, 2017, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ, Room: 2D, of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: THE ALMANAC
Date: December 27, 2016

/s/ John L. Grandsaert
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 2017)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 16CIV02992
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: KAYLA GARRY filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
KAYLA ANN GARRY to KAYLA ANN BARANZELLI.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: Wed. February 8, 2017, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ, Room: 2D, of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: THE ALMANAC
Date: December 28, 2016
/s/ John L. Grandsaert
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Jan. 11, 18, 25; Feb. 1, 2017)

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Woodside **Price Upon Request**
Country estate built in 2012 to LEED Silver standards. Aprx 3+ stunning ac in Central WDS. 5 BR/5 BA + 2 half BA
Erika Demma
CalBRE #01230766 650.851.2666



Woodside **\$14,995,000**
155 Kings Mountain Rd. Stunning estate in Central Woodside. Renovated and expanded on 5 flat sunny acres. 5 BR/4 BA + 2 half BA
Erika Demma
CalBRE #01230766 650.851.2666



Woodside **\$8,695,000**
618 Manzanita Wy. Beautifully remodeled home, equestrian facilities + pvt pool & spa, on 2.6+ landscaped ac. 4 BR/4 BA + 1 half BA
Erika Demma
CalBRE #01230766 650.851.2666



Menlo Park **Price Upon Request**
1025 San Mateo Dr. Brand new contemporary-style home. Movie theater, wine cellar, & lower level large patio. 6 BR/5 BA + 1 half BA
Hossein Djalali
CalBRE #01215831 650.324.4456



Portola Valley **\$4,350,000**
20 Cordova Ct. Stunning 1+ acre offers breathtaking views and amazing deck & pool area.
20CORDOVA.COM 5 BR/3 BA
Ginny Kavanaugh
CalBRE #00884747 650.851.1961



Redwood City **\$4,295,000**
9 Colton Ct. Private gated villa on 1/2 ac resort lot w/ pool. Huge custom open flrpln. Sep in-law ste. 5 BR/4 BA + 1 half BA
Sam Anagnostou
CalBRE #00798217 650.851.2666



Portola Valley **\$3,595,000**
183 Vista Verde Way. Expansive and modern home with commanding views of Foothills Park, the valley and Bay. 4 BR/3 BA + 1 half BA
Ginny Kavanaugh
CalBRE #00884747 650.851.1961



Menlo Park **\$3,325,000**
570 Berkeley Ave. Nearly 3/4 acre lot w/60's built, one-owner home. First time on market. Mature trees. 5 BR/2 BA
Nancy Goldcamp
CalBRE #00787851 650.325.6161



Atherton **\$3,195,000**
41 Maple Ave. Charming Atherton Cottage w/ MP Schools. Country chic appeal in a tranquil garden setting. 4 BR/4 BA
Tim Kerns
CalBRE #01800770 650.324.4456



Woodside **\$2,998,000**
650 Woodside Dr. SPACIOUS home w/ VIEWS & separate cottage! Great Woodside Hills location! 1.29 acres! 4 BR/3 BA
DiPali Shah
CalBRE #01249165 650.851.2666



ATHERTON **\$2,698,000**
355 Lloyd Park Lane. Tasteful & private 11,700 sf lot. New kitchen, master bath, & interior doors. MP/ATH high. 4 BR/2 BA
Camille Eder
CalBRE #01394600 650.324.4456



Portola Valley **\$2,595,000**
131 Mimosa Way. Updated Ladera home on quiet cul-de-sac. Open floor plan, high ceilings & kitchen-fam room 4 BR/2 BA + 1 half BA
Billy McNair
CalBRE #01343603 650.324.4456



Menlo Park **\$2,498,000**
PRICE REDUCED
844 Partridge Ave. 'Spacious & inviting w/dramatic 20" ceilings. 1180 sf Basement/garage w/custom built-ins. 3 BR/3 BA
Wendi Selig-aimonetti
CalBRE #01001476 650.324.4456



Los Altos Hills **\$2,100,000**
14486 Liddicoat Cir. Gorgeous Views! Spacious home with high ceilings, pool, & guest house. Palo Alto schools! 5 BR/3 BA
DiPali Shah
CalBRE #01249165 650.851.2666



Menlo Park **\$1,450,000**
514 8th Ave. Beautifully updated home in North Fair Oaks. New kitchen, bathroom, refinished flrs & more 2 BR/1 BA
Drew Doran
CalBRE #01887354 650.325.6161



Menlo Park **\$1,350,000**
410 9Th Ave. Traditional ambiance. Remodeled kitchen & bathroom. Hardwood floors & new paint in & out. 4 BR/2 BA
Cristina Bliss
CalBRE #01189105 650.324.4456



Menlo Park **\$858,000**
2140 Santa Cruz Ave A305 Sought after penthouse at Menlo Commons. Complex includes pool, spa, exercise rm. 2 BR/2 BA
Beth Leathers
CalBRE #01131116 650.324.4456



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