

# The Almanac

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

JUNE 28, 2017 | VOL. 52 NO. 43



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## ***RENEGADE ROBOT MAKERS***

All-girls robotics team  
embraces engineering  
with flair

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**Renowned criminal defense attorney to  
defend ex-deputy, candidate for sheriff** | Page 7

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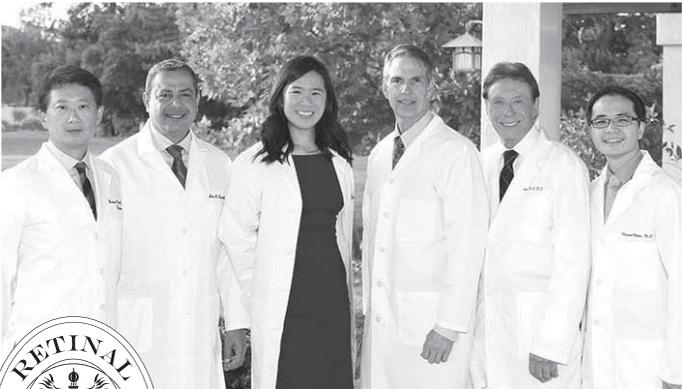
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### Meeting on SLAC Clean-up Plan: Wednesday, July 13

Local residents are invited to attend a public meeting that will present a plan to remove impacted soil from two drainages at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory located at 2575 Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 13, at the Menlo Park Library\*, at 4 p.m. The library is located at 800 Alma Street, in the Civic Center complex.

The meeting is designed to provide information on a plan to remediate impacted soil in the drainages located at SLAC and to give people the opportunity to ask questions about the plan. Alternately, written comments may be sent to:

Nathan King, Case Manager  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400  
Oakland, CA 94612  
[Nathan.King@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Nathan.King@waterboards.ca.gov)

Formal comments on the plan will be accepted June 28 through July 28 at 5:00 pm. The plan is available on the Water Board's GeoTracker webpage at [https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/uploads/GEO\\_REPORT/6052690625/T10000008038.PDF](https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/uploads/GEO_REPORT/6052690625/T10000008038.PDF) and in the Reference Section of the Menlo Park Library.

\* This meeting is not sponsored by the Menlo Park Library

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# The Almanac

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Residents: Name park after World War II hero

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

### ■ MENLO PARK

Two residents in Belle Haven have asked the city of Menlo Park to consider renaming their neighborhood's Market Place Park after Carl Clark, a longtime neighborhood resident and decorated World War II veteran who died in March.

The city's Parks & Recreation Commission is scheduled to discuss the topic Wednesday, June 28, at its meeting, which starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Senior Center at 110 Terminal Ave. in Menlo Park.

The commission is responsible for recommending facility names to the City Council after getting community input, according to a staff report by Derek Schweigart, assistant community services director.

In April, Belle Haven residents Cecilia Taylor and Julie Shanson approached city staff and asked that they consider naming the park after Mr. Clark. Though the land is now called "Market Place Park," there was no sign bearing its name at the time the

request was made, according to the report.

Market Place Park is located on the corner of Hamilton Avenue and Market Place, near the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula's Belle Haven location.

The city's policy for renaming city facilities says that it is done only "with the greatest reluctance and only to commemorate a person or persons who have made

major, overriding contributions to the City and whose distinctions are as yet unrecognized." The policy also says that if a facility is being renamed after a person who has died, it should

be done at least five years after the person's death.

The report notes, however, that there have been several exceptions to the policy, including naming the Burgess Park Little League field in honor of Tom Harrison and Bedwell-Bayfront Park after Michael Bedwell, and adding the name "Arrillaga Family" to a number of city buildings after John Arrillaga.

Mr. Clark died March 16 at age

**Carl Clark was credited with saving a ship hit by six Japanese kamikaze planes.**



Photo by Michelle Le

**Carl Clark**, a World War II veteran, during a commendation ceremony at Moffett Field on Jan. 17, 2012.

100.

During World War II, Mr. Clark was credited by his commanding officer with saving a ship that was hit by six Japanese kamikaze planes. He fought fierce fires that threatened to sink the vessel, and rescued injured shipmates by carrying them to the infirmary, despite his own injuries.

Because he was African American, however, he was denied official recognition as a war hero, according to Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park. It was not until January 2012 that he received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

Ms. Taylor said that at Mr. Clark's funeral, she was inspired to make the request to change

the park's name. She said Mr. Clark believed in educational opportunities for youth, was a writer, and worked as a mentor to young people for decades.

She said she and a colleague are also seeking funding to produce a play that Mr. Clark co-wrote before he died. They hope to put on a performance for Veterans' Day. ▀

## County budget reflects remarkably strong economic conditions

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

Family and individual income are at record highs in San Mateo County, with per capita personal income at \$97,553 a year. The unemployment rate, at 2.7 percent, is the lowest in the state, and property assessments are expected to increase at even higher rates than in previous years.

Those are among the striking economic data points in the county's \$5.2 billion two-year 2017-19 spending plan, which the Board of Supervisors has approved. That plan includes \$500 million for capital improvements.

While the county is experiencing record economic growth, the county government actually plans to reduce spending over the next two years. Spending is expected to drop from \$2.75 billion in fiscal year 2016-17, to \$2.69 billion in 2017-18, and to \$2.53 billion in 2018-19.

County Manager John Maltbie said while the county is in "a very strong fiscal position," it needs to plan for a possible economic downturn. Reserves will be at about 11 percent, above the 10 percent minimum required by the supervisors, but far below the 2009 reserve level of 23.5 percent.

"I would like to see our reserves in the 14 to 15 percent range," Mr. Maltbie said.

The county also faces uncertainty over federal funding, and has set aside \$10 million over the next two years that could go toward health care for county residents if the Affordable Care Act is substantially changed.

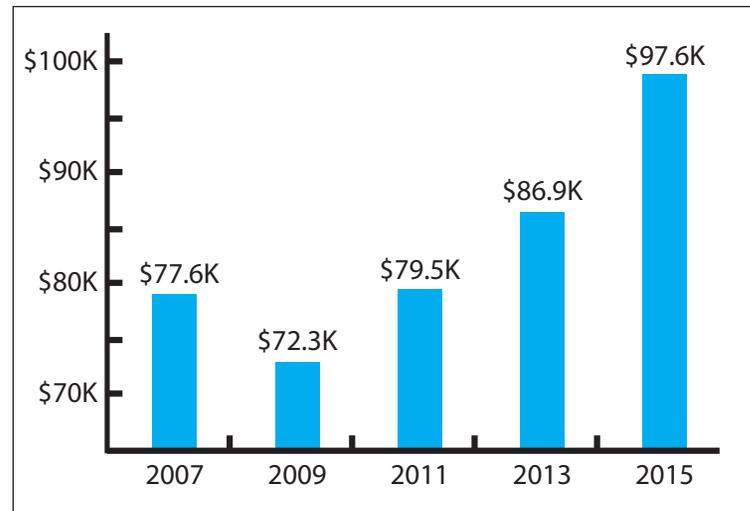
One problem that most other government agencies face — ever ballooning retirement contributions — is much less severe for the county, which funds its own retirement system. The county has been paying down its unfunded pension liability, and should have it completely paid off by the end of the 2022-23 fiscal year, Mr.

Maltbie reports.

That means the county is in good shape even though the San Mateo County Employees Retirement Association's board may reduce the forecast earning assumptions for money invested in the system to 6.75 percent annual growth while also adjusting upward its assumptions for how long retirees will live. Both changes will require higher pension contributions, but Mr. Maltbie's report says that even so, the county's contributions to the system should be cut in half once the long-term obligations are paid off, saving between \$90- and \$100-million a year.

Among major expenses in the budget is \$10 million for services and jail beds for mentally ill inmates, whose population dramatically increased after the state required counties to take prisoners who previously were in state prisons.

The budget adds 18 full-time permanent employees to bring the



Source: San Mateo County 2017-19 budget

**Per capita income** in San Mateo County has grown from \$77,643 in 2007 to \$97,553 in 2015, the latest year for which data is available, according to San Mateo County's 2017-19 two-year budget document.

total to 5,508. Among the departments scheduled to get more workers is the assessor's office, which is expecting it will need to assess 12.3 million square feet of new development over the next three years.

The budget, Mr. Maltbie said, continues three programs with the goal of helping the county's most vulnerable residents:

See **BUDGET**, page 6

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**July 11-13: David O'Connor Clinic**

www.horsepark.org (650) 851-2140

**July 17-23: Reining By The Bay**

www.reiningbythebay.com (602) 677-3774

**July 29-30: CA Coto Cup Drill Team Competition**

www.californiastatehorsemen.org (661) 254-0132

**August 11-13:**

**The Summer Event at Woodside Horse Trials**  
www.WoodsideEventing.com (805) 239-3930

**August 26-27: JK Presents Summer Invitational**

www.jkpresents.net (925) 216-2276

**September 3: San Mateo County Horsemen's Association Open Show**

www.smcha.org

**September 9: Woodside Event Derby**

www.horsepark.org (650) 851-2140

**September 10: Woodside Pony Club Classic**

www.horsepark.org (650) 867-1820

**September 30 – October 1:**

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www.horsepark.org

## High school foundation raises \$1M for students

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Woodside High School students during the past school year were beneficiaries of a pile of private money.

The nonprofit Woodside High School Foundation has set a record, raising \$1 million for the 2016-17 school year. The money went toward keeping class sizes small as well as for electives, academic support for students, adding flexibility to the library interior, and the purchase of equipment for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) classes.

The 2016-17 amount exceeded the previous year's total by \$100,000, the foundation reported.

By paying for 14 class sections for advanced-standing and advanced-placement English, social sciences and math, classes that might normally have 30 students per section have around 25 students, and sometimes fewer than 20, foundation spokeswoman Lucia Tedesco said.

The full-year AP calculus course, for example, would have

had 35 students per class instead of the current 18 students with foundation funding, Ms. Tedesco said.

Foundation money also pays for Woodside High's entrepreneurship class as well as participation in the Urban Debate League. A second college-and-career counselor, field trips, grants for the robotics team, books for the library and summer classes in geometry and algebra 2 are all supported by foundation funds.

The foundation also helps fund digital and visual arts courses and pays for AP placement tests and a boot camp for freshmen and sophomores to help them develop skills they'll need to take AS and AP classes.

"We're excited as we look toward this coming year," Principal Diane Burbank.

A new STEM building opening in the coming school year will mean new options for students with interests in that direction, she said. "The smaller class sizes are so important to giving students the 1:1, focused support that is key to learning at all levels, from core to advanced placement classes." ■

## Djerassi compound celebrates arts, science collaboration

The once-a-year opportunity for the public to visit the Djerassi Program's Artists' Barn and private grounds, including open studios, dance and music performances, and literary readings, takes place Sunday, July 16, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This year's event, with an arts-and-science theme, involves the collaboration of 11 artists and scientists in-residence.

Visitors interested in exploring the landscape of the 585-acre property on the western slope of the Santa Cruz mountains — and who download the iNaturalist app to their smart phones before arriving — can help the staff get a clearer picture of what species reside there.

This "bioblitz" recruits visitors

as citizen scientists to use their phones to inform themselves as to what they're observing while on a guided hike and search for amphibians, butterflies and wildflowers. Such observations add information to the species list and atlas of the Djerassi property.

The Djerassi compound is at 2325 Bear Gulch Road. Tickets, which are held at the door and must be reserved, are \$50 for general admission, \$25 for children ages 6 to 12, and free for children under 6 and alumni of the program.

A portion of the admission price goes to Woodside's Arts and Culture Committee.

Go to djerassi.org for more information.

### BUDGET

continued from page 5

■ Eliminating homelessness. Funding includes \$6 million toward a homeless shelter on the east side of U.S. 101 and \$27 million for homeless services over the two years.

■ Having all foster children graduate from high school or get equivalency diplomas and then

enroll in higher education or vocational programs. The program involves the county's housing, mental health and human services departments.

■ The Big Lift, which aims to have 80 percent of the county's third-graders reading at grade level by 2020. It has \$5 million in funding over the two years and now includes seven school districts and 10,500 children, Mr. Maltbie reports. ■

# Renowned attorney to defend ex-deputy, candidate for sheriff

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Famed San Francisco criminal defense attorney J. Tony Serra may attempt to demonstrate that the arrests and prosecution of Juan Pablo Lopez, a former deputy with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, was retribution by the county for his June 2014 run for election as sheriff against his boss, then-sheriff Greg Munks.

Attorney Maria Belyi, Mr. Serra's assistant, confirmed recently that the high-profile Serra is now defending Mr. Lopez, who faces a series of charges related to his run for the sheriff's post and his duties at the county jail. The case is expected to go to trial later this year.

"Essentially, we view the case against him as a political case ... a sort of retribution, almost, for running for sheriff," Ms. Belyi said. "I don't think that there is going to be any evidence of criminal wrongdoing."

District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said he had no response to Ms. Belyi's comment "other than to say we will let the evidence in court speak for itself."

In the 2014 primary election, Mr. Lopez, 54, was both a candidate for sheriff and a deputy employed by the two-term sheriff whose job he wanted and who was running for a third term.

Circumstances, possibly including his lack of experience running for public office, led him to miss a key filing deadline. He then ran a write-in campaign — his name was not on the ballot — and Mr. Munks won easily.

By the time the following June rolled around, Mr. Lopez had been arrested twice, each time on a different set of charges, including obstruction of justice, conspiracy, counterfeiting and perjury. His two cases are now into their third year of winding their way through the San Mateo County Superior Court system.

## Jail-related charges

Mr. Lopez was a 26-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office and at the time of his candidacy for sheriff, had the responsibility of transporting prisoners to and from the jail.

About five months after the election, and following an investigation by the Sheriff's Office internal affairs department, Mr. Lopez and two jail corrections officers were arrested on charges related to smuggling.

Prosecutors accused Mr. Lopez and the corrections officers of conspiring with a gang-affiliated

jail inmate to provide that inmate with two cellphones and oxycontin over several months, and to allow the inmate to use the phone openly in the jail.

Prosecutors subsequently brought charges of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and gang involvement against Mr. Lopez. He pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Those charges have since been modified to two counts of conspiracy, Assistant District Attorney Al Serrato told the Almanac.

Mr. Lopez has not responded to several requests for comment.



Juan Pablo Lopez

The absence of co-conspirators also led Judge Novak to dismiss a charge of perjury and another of embezzlement, noting that a fine from the Fair Political Practices Commission was an adequate remedy for embezzlement against a political campaign, Mr. Serrato said.

Mr. Lopez has been out of custody on \$100,000 bail on the jail-related charges, with preliminary hearings set for July 21 and Aug. 18 and a jury trial set to begin Oct. 30.

He is out on \$170,000 bail on the election-related charges, prosecutors said. His pretrial conference on Aug. 18 will also serve to address those charges, including the setting of a date for a jury trial, prosecutors said.

## Respect and trust

On his campaign website, Mr. Lopez had written that he would "restore integrity to the leadership of the Office of Sheriff," that Mr. Munks "is not the person to lead the law enforcement program," and that Mr. Lopez will be a leader whom voters can "respect and trust."

About seven years earlier, in April 2007, Las Vegas police had detained and questioned Mr. Munks and Carlos Bolanos — Mr. Munks' second in command and his eventual successor — after finding them on the premises of a brothel in an unmarked house in a residential neighborhood. Local police said Mr. Munks explained his presence by saying he'd been looking for a massage parlor and that he believed he'd been going into a legitimate business.

Mr. Lopez, asked during his campaign whether assertions about Mr. Munks' integrity and leadership ability were in reference to the Las Vegas incident, said they were not. "You know, I really can't say anything about that," he said. "I wasn't there and I don't have first-hand knowledge."

Mr. Lopez retired from his law enforcement career in March 2016, Sheriff's Office spokesman Detective Salvador Zuno told the Almanac.

Mr. Munks retired in July 2016. In that same month, by a 3-2 vote, the Board of Supervisors appointed Mr. Bolanos to serve out the remaining two-plus years in Mr. Munks' term.

## 'Defending outcasts'

Tony Serra, in a 2012 Youtube interview, describes himself as someone who supports "the antithesis, whatever opposes,

## Election-related charges

In February 2015, while on administrative leave, Mr. Lopez was arrested again, this time in connection with his run for sheriff.

**'Essentially, we view the case against him as a political case ... a sort of retribution, almost, for running for sheriff.'**

DEFENSE ATTORNEY MARIA BELYI

Officers from an Alameda County task force arrived at his house in Newark with sirens wailing and lights flashing, according to one of his former defense attorneys, David Washington. He was ordered to his knees at gunpoint and handcuffed, Mr. Washington said.

Prosecutors accused Mr. Lopez of fraud in trying to secure a real estate loan while claiming he lived in Redwood City when, they said, he actually lived in Newark. That claim of Redwood City residency also figured in allegations that he signed documents, under penalty of perjury, in which he claimed to be a resident of San Mateo County.

He faces seven election-related charges: fraud, conspiracy, perjury by filing a counterfeit document, an election code filing violation, an election code voting violation and two counts of forgery, prosecutors said.

The charge sheet had been longer. San Mateo County Judge Lisa Novak dismissed two charges of conspiracy related to fraud against Mr. Lopez after charges against his alleged co-conspirators were dropped, Mr. Serrato said.

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### Buying Property Using Retirement Funds

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Sandy D.

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choose a custodian to help you understand what you can and cannot do.

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

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See JUAN LOPEZ, page 10

# Lots of local ways to celebrate Fourth of July

By Christian Wagner  
Special to the Almanac

As our country's birthday approaches, many families choose to travel, celebrating the Fourth of July away from home. For those staying at home, there are many easy and local ways to celebrate. All events below are on July Fourth.

## Menlo Park

The city will be holding its annual Independence Day parade in downtown Menlo Park and holiday fair in Burgess Park.

Parade participants are asked to assemble by 11:45 a.m. in the Wells Fargo bank parking lot at Chestnut Street and Santa Cruz Avenue.

Kids are encouraged to decorate bikes and wagons and join the parade, which will move up Santa Cruz Avenue and end at Burgess Park, where they and their families can partake of inflatable jumpy houses, giant slides, arts and crafts, face painting, a rock climbing wall, and other activities.

The Burgess Park fair, sponsored by Facebook, will feature live music from the band Pop Fiction, known for performing soulful classics and danceable oldies by artists including Stevie Wonder and The Beatles.

Wristbands will be available for purchase at the fair for \$7 and will be required in order to participate in some of the activities.



## Woodside

The Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County will hold the annual Woodside Junior Rodeo at the Mounted Patrol Grounds, located at 521 Kings Mountain Road in Woodside.

Gates open at 7:30 a.m., with the main event starting at noon. The event will include roping competitions, women's barrel racing, and bull riding. There will also be pony rides, a mechanical bull, a pig scramble, and a petting zoo.

Admission to the rodeo is \$15 for those 18 and over, and \$10 for children, ages 6 through 17. Free admission will be given to children under 6 years old. Tickets may be ordered in advance by phone at (650) 851-8300, or purchased at the gate.

The night before the rodeo, the Mounted Patrol will host a dinner and dance, also on the Mounted Patrol Grounds. Barbecue chicken will be served starting at 6 p.m., followed by dancing at 8 p.m.

Admission to the dinner and dance is \$20 for those 12 and over and \$10 for children under 12.

## Mountain View

The San Francisco Symphony performs classic songs from the "Summer of Love," such as Janis Joplin's "Piece of My Heart" and the Jefferson Airplane's "Somebody to Love." Admission is \$34.25 to the concert, which starts at 8 p.m. at Shoreline Amphitheatre, 1 Amphitheatre Parkway in Mountain View.



Photo by Brenten Brandenburg/The Almanac

Cierra Polhemus competes in the barrel racing event at the 2016 Woodside Junior Rodeo.

## Redwood City

The Redwood City Independence Day Parade will commence with a cannon blast at 10 a.m. at the corner of Brewster Avenue and Winslow Street in Redwood City.

Following the parade, a Fourth of July festival will be held in the vicinity of Hamilton Street, Broadway and Jefferson Avenue. The festival will feature local artists and a battle of the bands between Stanford and U.C. Davis.

Before the parade, a 5k race will start at 8 a.m., and will consist of running around the

parade course three times. A pancake breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the fire station at 755 Marshall St.

Breakfast proceeds will go to the Redwood City Firefighters Association.

To conclude the celebration, a fireworks show will start at 9:30 p.m. at the port of Redwood City.

Visit [parade.org](http://parade.org) for more information.

## History Museum

The San Mateo County History Museum will host "An Old

Fashioned Fourth of July for Children and Adults" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the museum in the former courthouse at 220 Broadway in Redwood City.

Children will have the opportunity to hand-crank and taste homemade, vanilla ice cream, while adults will be invited to view vintage films of the San Francisco Peninsula from the museum's archives, starting at 1 p.m.

Admission will be half price on July Fourth: \$3 for adults and \$2 for students and senior citizens. Children under 5 will be admitted free. ■

## County may spend \$1 million to deal with aircraft noise

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

San Mateo County's Board of Supervisors was scheduled to meet Tuesday morning, June 27, to consider spending close to \$1 million over three years on items related to the San Carlos Airport and the noise complaints it has been receiving since Surf Air began using the airport in June 2013.

Go to [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com) for updates. The meeting was held after the Almanac's presstime.

On the agenda for the meeting was an authorization to: hire an airport communications specialist to work with the public and pilots; hire a contractor to investigate new air routes that would avoid residences; and hire a contractor who would

automatically track flights using the airport. If approved, all three components of the plan would be put in place for three years.

Atherton officials on June 23 sent a letter asking the county to immediately undertake three additional actions: submit a county airport curfew ordinance to the Federal Aviation Administration; adopt a resolution declaring the airport has a "noise problem" and send it to the California Department of Transportation; and submit to the FAA a proposal for a county ordinance limiting the number of scheduled flights per operator using the San Carlos Airport.

Atherton Mayor Mike Lempres said the town's understanding is that the FAA would have to approve a curfew or limit on

### Atherton urges county to 'mitigate the continued unbearable noise' of Surf Air flights.

scheduled flights, but "the town would be happy to be wrong on that one," if the county can pass such ordinances without FAA approval.

The proposed resolution says the airport communications specialist, who would receive \$150,000 annually in salary and benefits, would be expected to "address noise/operational issues, make personal contact with pilots and community members, provide outreach and

education to the public and pilots, and monitor and track noise complaints."

The proposed resolution also approves a contract with Hughes Aerospace for three years, at a cost of \$226,800, "to review and recommend flight paths into and out of the San Carlos Airport, develop instrument flight procedures for departure flights, and evaluate instrument approaches that support noise abatement procedures."

A third item, a contract with Vector Airport Systems for \$313,695, would be for "an aircraft departure monitoring system (that) provides real-time flight track data, automates the integration of flight track data into the Airport's noise complaint system, allows timely and efficient monitoring

of complaints and aircraft operations, and provides additional security for the airport after-hours."

Atherton's letter, which council members unanimously endorsed on June 21, urges the county "to take immediate actions to mitigate the continued unbearable noise created by the increasing flights into San Carlos Airport by the commercial chartered airline, Surf Air."

The letter says that residents and council members "have reached the tipping point." Four years of meetings and negotiations with Surf Air and the county have resulted only in "more daily flights, more early morning and late night flights and more surprises on the

See AIRCRAFT NOISE, page 9

# Developer plans up to 150 units of affordable housing

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

## ■ MENLO PARK

A proposal to build as many as 150 apartments on Willow Road for displaced and lower-income families could result in the largest affordable housing project in Menlo Park history.

Meghan Revolinsky, an analyst with the city's housing and economic development department, confirmed that a proposal by MidPen Housing Corp. to tear down 82 existing apartments in the 1300 block of Willow Road and replace them with at least 118 new ones would be the "largest affordable housing project in Menlo Park, ever."

According to Jan Lindenthal, vice president of real estate development at MidPen Housing Corp., the current Gateway apartments on the site are functionally obsolete.

MidPen Housing has proposed several options to the council. It could, by locating the new structures closer to Willow Road, build up to 150 apartments, versus a maximum of 28 if built at the existing site. By reducing the number of apartment by 10, the developer could create an 8,000-square-foot, mixed-use space.

Council members agreed that all of the apartments should be designated for families that make less than 60 percent of the area median income, which means an income maximum of \$78,960 for a family of four, based on this year's San Mateo County data.

They also expressed support for a plan to give preference to prospective tenants who have been displaced or are at risk of being displaced from Menlo Park. Homeless families in the Ravenswood City School District may also get preference. Establishing preferences takes careful legal considerations, Ms. Lindenthal said.

Planting trees or shrubs to provide screening to neighbors on Carlton Avenue was also recommended.

Any space that's not going to

be rented as affordable housing, she noted, will have to either be subsidized by the city or be leased at a high rate to cover the construction cost, since that won't be covered by federal tax credits.

Ideas about what that space could be used for include a day care center, a library, a pharmacy or a grocery store.

A pharmacy or grocery store may be difficult, and would likely require some subsidization, because the site is considered too small for that type of retail location, Ms. Lindenthal said.

Some Belle Haven residents polled don't like the idea of using the space for a library because it would require kids to cross busy Willow Road. Others, who live in the apartments to be replaced, Ms. Lindenthal said, did support a library or ground floor retail space there.

## Several Belle Haven residents said the city shouldn't put so much affordable housing in their neighborhood.

There was also interest expressed in putting a daycare center on-site, and finding a service provider that would be able to help take care of children from low-income families.

In 2013, when the city of Menlo Park updated its housing element — part of the city's general plan that designates where new affordable housing can be built — the council upgraded the zoning to allow the MidPen properties on Willow Road to build more units. According to the city's zoning allowances, MidPen would be permitted to build up to 182 units on five stories at the site, Ms. Lindenthal said.

In public comments, several residents of Belle Haven said they did not believe the city should put so much affordable



Image courtesy MidPen Housing Corp./Mithun, Inc.

A concept drawing shows what the proposed development on Willow Road in Menlo Park might look like.

housing in their neighborhood. Nina Wouk suggested that each affordable unit built in Belle Haven be matched with one built in Menlo Park west of U.S. 101.

Pam Jones said having affordable units for lower-income families that allowed them to live in western Menlo Park would allow kids the opportunity to attend schools in higher-performing districts.

The agency has requested funding from the city's Below Market Rate fund, which the Housing Commission has recommended the council put a maximum of \$6.7 million toward, though less would be preferred, according to Commissioner Meg McGraw-Scherer.

Longtime Menlo Park resident Francis Robert supported the maximum number of units.

"I know there's all these organizations that provide affordable housing, but as far as I can tell, you have about as much chance at winning the Powerball as getting one of these units," he said. "Anything you can do to increase the number available would be a lifesaver."

Next steps are for MidPen Housing to pursue funding from the county and complete a schematic design. Initial occupancy is targeted for as soon as April 2020, according to a staff report. ■

abatement procedures for the San Carlos Airport. We are aware of no such formal submittal by the County. Why has the County not acted to protect its residents?" the letter says.

Atherton's letter asks that the county's proposed curfew not include aircraft flying to or from another state, and allow one takeoff or landing per operator during the curfew period.

The letter says that limiting

scheduled flights per operator "is a non-discriminatory action that helps ensure that no single operator monopolizes airport resources and ensures that the airport is open to the entire community as was originally intended."

The letter says that the county's own legal research shows it "has more authority over the operation of the airport than originally believed." ■

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## AIRCRAFT NOISE

continued from page 8

horizon as Surf Air launches growth in our area. This is unacceptable," the letter says.

The letter also refers to conversations Atherton council members have had with the FAA. "In direct conversations with the FAA, we were advised that the FAA would consider a formal request for noise

# Sales tax could give Caltrain reliable revenue source

Recently introduced state legislation would allow Caltrain to seek voter approval for a new sales tax to help cover capital and operating costs.

Senate Bill 797, introduced June 21 by state Sen. Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo, along with several other Bay Area senators and Assembly members, would authorize the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, which runs Caltrain, to place a one-eighth-cent sales tax

on the ballot in San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

The measure could only be placed on the ballot once the joint powers board gives it two-thirds approval. The boards of supervisors for San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and transportation authorities in the three counties would also have to approve it.

Caltrain currently runs on voluntary contributions from the

three counties participating in the joint powers authority, and is the only passenger rail service in the U.S. to be financed in that manner.

SB 797 is intended to end fluctuations in those contributions and establish a reliable funding source, according to Sen. Hill.

Caltrain, which carries commuters between Gilroy and San Francisco, is currently operating over capacity and needs funding

to meet demands for increased service, he said.

“Our region is an economic powerhouse for our state, but its continued growth is jeopardized if our residents cannot get back and forth to work, school and their families because our main transportation corridor cannot accommodate them,” Sen. Hill said.

The legislation was introduced with the backing of Peninsula business groups including the

San Mateo County Economic Development Association and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group.

“Highway 101 has become so congested that we’ve changed its name to the 101 Parking Lot,” Silicon Valley Leadership Group CEO Carl Guardino said. “This bill would enable voters to dramatically increase Caltrain’s ridership capacity, which would be transformative in the congested 101 corridor.”

## Molly Alexander, owner of Alpine Inn, dies at 93

Amelia “Molly” Alexander, for years the proprietress of the Alpine Inn in Portola Valley, was until a few years ago a familiar face to regular customers as they placed orders for burgers, fries and other gastronomic gratifications common to popular roadhouses.

Ms. Alexander died of heart failure on June 20 in a nursing home, her daughter Geri Alexander said. She was 93.

A memorial service is set

for 11 a.m. Saturday, July 22, at Saint William Catholic Church in Los Altos at 611 El Monte Ave., with a reception to follow, relatives said.

Ms. Alexander was a native of Phoenix. She married John



Molly Alexander

See **ALEXANDER**, page 21

## City of Menlo Park plans to spend \$117 million in new fiscal year

Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park’s City Council voted unanimously June 20 to approve a nearly \$117 million spending plan for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

In giving preliminary approval to the budget June 6, council members spoke about the city’s good fortune — marked by another year of major property tax revenue growth, increasing hotel tax revenue and a projected surplus.

“We’re in a really fortunate time,” said Menlo Park Mayor Kirsten Keith, contrasting the present with her time on the council during the economic downturn when the council had to cut the city budget.

Late changes to the budget included the addition of:

■ \$300,000 to continue to manage four city parks without using herbicides for six months, and

prepare to expand herbicide-free practices to other city parks.

■ Up to \$50,000 for initiatives to make Menlo Park more welcoming to immigrants, following the council’s adoption of a “Welcoming City” ordinance. City Manager Alex McIntyre said the city is “still developing the specifics” on what programs might be adopted.

### The numbers

The approved budget for the fiscal year starting July 1 projects an increase in general fund spending of 6.5 percent to \$56.3 million, up from \$52.8 million in the 2016-17 fiscal year.

General fund revenue is expected to increase 5.7 percent to \$56.87 million.

The city’s total 2017-18 fiscal year budget plans for \$126.5 million in revenue and \$116.9 million in spending.

Most of the revenue is

## Large Tortoise visits home in Portola Valley

A large tortoise paid a surprise visit Monday morning, June 26, to the Portola Valley home of Reed Cornish (shown here) on Wyndham Drive. Buffy Martin Tarbox of the Peninsula Humane Society said the staff members there “believe it’s a Sulcata African tortoise, and since they are not native it’s more than likely someone’s pet.” The tortoise was taken to the humane society’s San Mateo shelter. “We will scan it for a microchip to see if it has one and hopefully it can be reunited with its owner,” she said.



Photo by Brooke Cornish

expected to come from property taxes (\$19.7 million), followed by hotel taxes (\$7.2 million), sales tax (\$5.2 million), utility users’ taxes (\$1.3 million), plus sources such as grants from other governmental agencies, fines, and fees for service.

A trend showing growth in hotel tax revenue and a slight decrease in sale-tax revenue is expected to continue.

### Future

During a public hearing June 6 — during which no one from the public spoke (a Menlo Park rarity) — council members discussed how best to preserve the city’s strong fiscal status.

“Where’s the dip?” asked Councilwoman Carlton, pointing to a 10-year budget forecast, which inches conservatively upward each year. “It’s coming, we just don’t know when,” she said.

Administrative services director Nick Pegueros, who acts as the city’s chief financial officer, said that his model did factor in an economic slowdown, but indicated that the city would be largely insulated from the effects because the assessed values of properties in Menlo Park have increased so rapidly over the last few years.

Another concern is that the city

will have to more than double its contributions to employee pension plans in coming years because of a policy change by the California Public Employees’ Retirement System. And recently, the city has seen an increase in worker compensation costs.

## General fund spending is expected to rise 6.5 percent to \$56.3 million.

### Spending

The bulk of the city’s general fund will go to pay salaries and wages for the city’s staff, budgeted to include 270 full-time employees, up from 262 in the previous year.

During the 2016-17 year, the council approved 5.5 new employees. Mr. McIntyre proposes to add two new members to the city’s water maintenance staff and funding for a part-time position to expand hours at the Belle Haven Library. A recent study found that a water system the size and age of that operated by the Menlo Park Municipal Water District should have seven employees. The city currently has three.

In coming months, the council

could also approve a proposal by Facebook to fund for five years the launch of a new police unit for the city’s M-2 area (east of U.S. 101 and not including Belle Haven). The unit could add six sworn officers to the city’s police department.

The city also plans a number of projects, including a library services needs assessment for the Belle Haven branch library, stormwater inspections for businesses, and the removal of hazardous trees that are at risk of falling and causing damage.

The city plans to spend \$37 million for capital improvements in the new fiscal year; \$29 million of that would come from appropriations from previous years to pay for about 38 approved projects.

The remaining \$8 million would be new funding, and would pay for about 21 new capital projects, such as developing a conceptual design for a renovated or rebuilt main library, resurfacing city streets, replacing water mains, modifying traffic signals, repairing sidewalks, doing a traffic study in the Willows neighborhood incorporating cars, bikes and pedestrians, and remodeling the Belle Haven Child Development Center kitchen and restrooms. ■

### JUAN LOPEZ

continued from page 7

whatever rejects, whatever is against the main theme.”

He says that as a young lawyer in the 1960s, he worked “mostly murder and political trials,” and that he’s defended the Black Panthers and the White Panthers — an anti-racist, anti-capitalist group.

“Defending society’s outcasts”

has been his life’s work, Mr. Serra’s web page at Pier 5 Law Offices says, and continues: “Perceiving himself in the role of a warrior, Mr. Serra has continued to battle for more freedom for more people through law. ... Tony Serra has always known how to express the poetry of the law, while fighting in the ditches and dark alleys of legal practice. He has gained national prominence for his closing argument techniques.” ■

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# Fire district veteran looks forward to fly fishing

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

Wrapping up 48 years with the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, including 36 years as a firefighter, Rex Ianson is stepping down from the district governing board effective Aug. 31.

He said he and his wife, Cece, found a home in the small town of Sisters, Oregon, sooner than they expected and

He and his wife, Cece, plan to move to Sisters, Oregon — at least for a one-year trial.

are expediting the relocation process.

In an interview, he cited great fly fishing, a quilting community, and less traffic as reasons the couple plans to move — at

least for a one-year trial.

The fire board voted on June 20 to elect board member Rob Silano as the board's vice president, succeeding Mr. Ianson in that position. The vote was 4-0-1, with board member Chuck Bernstein abstaining.

## Departure questioned

Mr. Bernstein, questioned Mr. Ianson's resignation as vice president prior to departing the board.

Having Mr. Ianson leave the board so suddenly, Mr. Bernstein said, creates the need for a special election, which can be costly, or the appointment of a new board member, who could have an incumbent's advantage at the next election without having much experience.

Mr. Silano served as board president in 2016, while Mr. Bernstein, who has been on the board since 2013, has not served as vice president or president.

Mr. Ianson said in the interview that he decided to resign as vice president immediately and as a board member Aug. 31 because he and his wife plan to spend much of their time going back and forth between Menlo Park and Sisters, Oregon, and he

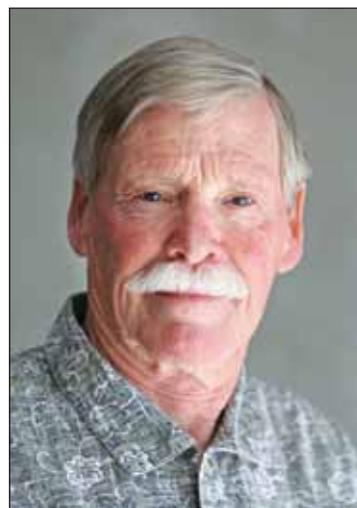


Photo by Michelle Le

Rex Ianson, who retired as a firefighter in 2003, joined the board of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District in 2005.

can't commit the time needed to be vice president.

"I'm resigning from the board because I don't have consistency — I can't give a definite commitment," he said. "The citizens deserve better than that."

## Role on board

Mr. Ianson, who retired as a firefighter in 2003, joined the board in 2005.

During his tenure on the

board, he said, he brought institutional knowledge about firefighting to other directors, and often explained how firefighting works to board newcomers.

"I think we've done a good job to bring people up to speed," he said.

During his time as a firefighter, he said, there were two major changes in services provided by the district, which includes Atherton, East Palo Alto and unincorporated areas, in addition to Menlo Park.

One big change was the introduction of paramedic programs in the 1970s and 1980s, he said.

Public fire prevention campaigns reduced the incidence of fires, he said, and after more district firefighters went through paramedic training, the district's services expanded to provide rapid emergency response for medical problems.

The other major change has been the addition of urban search-and-rescue programs. Many district firefighters have been trained to participate in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) search-and-rescue programs and have been sent to help during natural disasters and emergencies across the U.S. ■

## Margaret Valerie Eikenberry

August 16, 1930 – May 6, 2017

Margaret "Miki" Eikenberry passed away peacefully at home in Redwood City, California at the age of 86. Born in Monrovia, California and raised in Southern California, she then moved to the Bay Area to continue her education, attending Stanford University, San Francisco, where she met her future husband, Donald Eikenberry. Graduating from Stanford School of Nursing in 1952, she worked as a registered nurse at San Francisco County Hospital. After raising four children with her husband, Donald, she returned to nursing, working in the nursery and pediatric units at Stanford Hospital, Palo Alto, and then at the Kaiser Allergy Clinic in Redwood City until she retired.



Miki had many passions in life. She loved family, travel, music and the theater. Generous and loving, Miki developed many lasting friendships with people met throughout her life and travels. She was an avid reader, loved writing poetry and playing cards. A great sports enthusiast, she loved "her" San Francisco Giants, Golden State Warriors, San Jose Sharks, the SF 49ers and the Stanford Cardinals.

Miki was predeceased by her husband and love of her life, Donald Eikenberry, and her beloved sister and best friend, Marie. She will be lovingly remembered in the hearts of her four children Shirley Eikenberry Lesure (Wynn), Carl Eikenberry (Trudy), Eric Eikenberry (Barbara), Lisa Eikenberry Jewett (Michael) and six grandchildren Xander-Marie, Christopher, Amy, Anthony, Andy, and Stuart.

A memorial service will be held Saturday July 22, 2017 at 11 am at Trinity Church, 330 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park, with reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations to Doctors without Borders would be gratefully appreciated.

PAID OBITUARY

## Town examines civic center changes that could reduce costs if necessary

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton's City Council has asked project architects to design options that could reduce the cost of the town's new civic center if bids on the project exceed current cost estimates.

The town expects the project to go out for bids in January, and is now pre-qualifying interested contractors.

The contractors will bid on the project both with and without the options, so if bids come in high, parts of the project can be dropped to reduce the cost. Many of the options would defer parts of the project, so if they were eventually built the total cost of the project would rise.

City Manager George Rodericks said it is expensive to redesign the project for some of the options because many project features are interconnected. If a feature is eliminated or deferred, the systems connected to it must be redesigned to function without those features, and in some cases to accommodate adding them back later, he said.

The current estimated cost is \$25.17 million for construction

## ATHERTON

and site development of the new administration and police building, the new council chamber/emergency operations center, and the town's corporation yard, where the town's maintenance equipment is stored.

The library's construction and site development cost is just under \$15 million.

## The town expects the project to go out for bids in January.

A staff report says project manager Mack5 has suggested that bids could come in up to 10 percent higher than its most recent cost estimates. The alternatives will allow the town to reduce the cost of the project if that happens.

The options the council chose that could reduce costs would:

- Defer improvements to the town's corporation yard at potential savings of \$1.43 million, but with up to \$20,000 in additional design costs.

- Defer building a new council

chamber/emergency operations center at potential savings of \$1 million, but up to \$88,000 in additional design costs.

- Replace wood windows with aluminum in the library at potential savings of \$241,000, but with \$15,000 in design costs.

- Plant grass instead of other landscaping (not including the library area) at potential savings of \$223,000. There would be no additional design costs because this aspect of the project has already been designed.

- Plant grass instead of other landscaping in the library area at potential savings of \$366,000, but with \$8,000 in design costs.

The council put off a decision on whether to spend up to \$85,000 on design work involved in deferring the renovation of the historic current council chambers, which could save \$1.14 million, until it takes a closer look at the available funds for the library project on July 19.

Mr. Rodericks said redesigning the project to defer the renovation of the historic chambers is expensive because the work is part of the library project, and is currently designed with interconnected heating, air conditioning and electrical systems. ■

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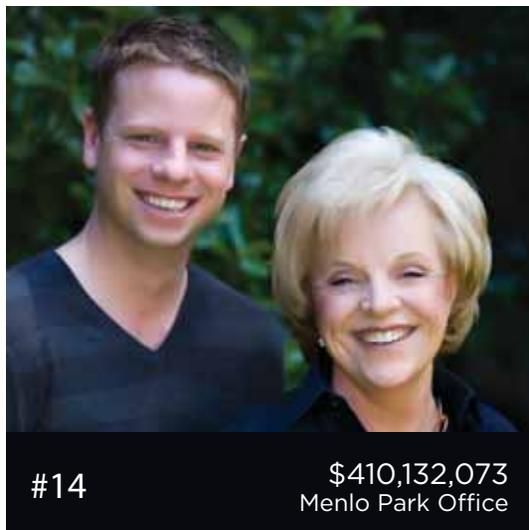
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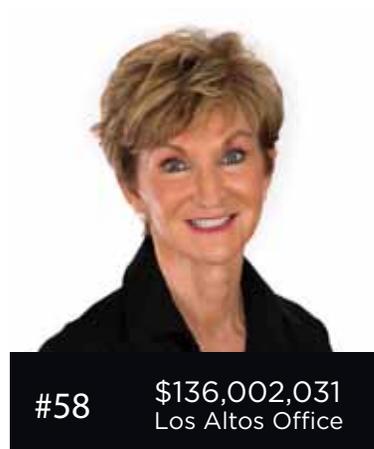
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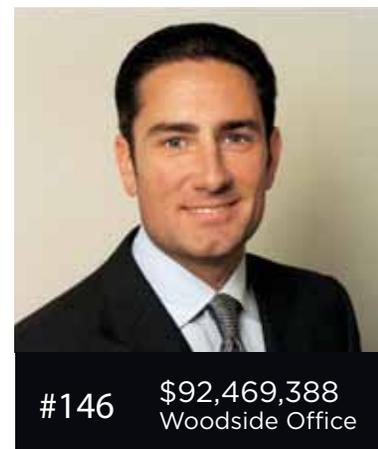
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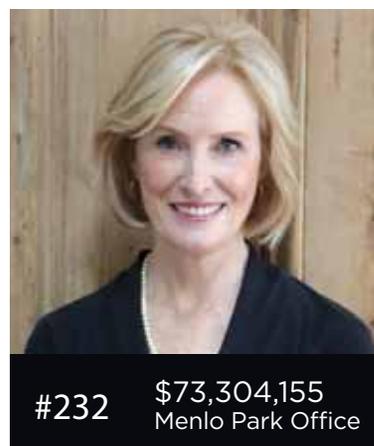
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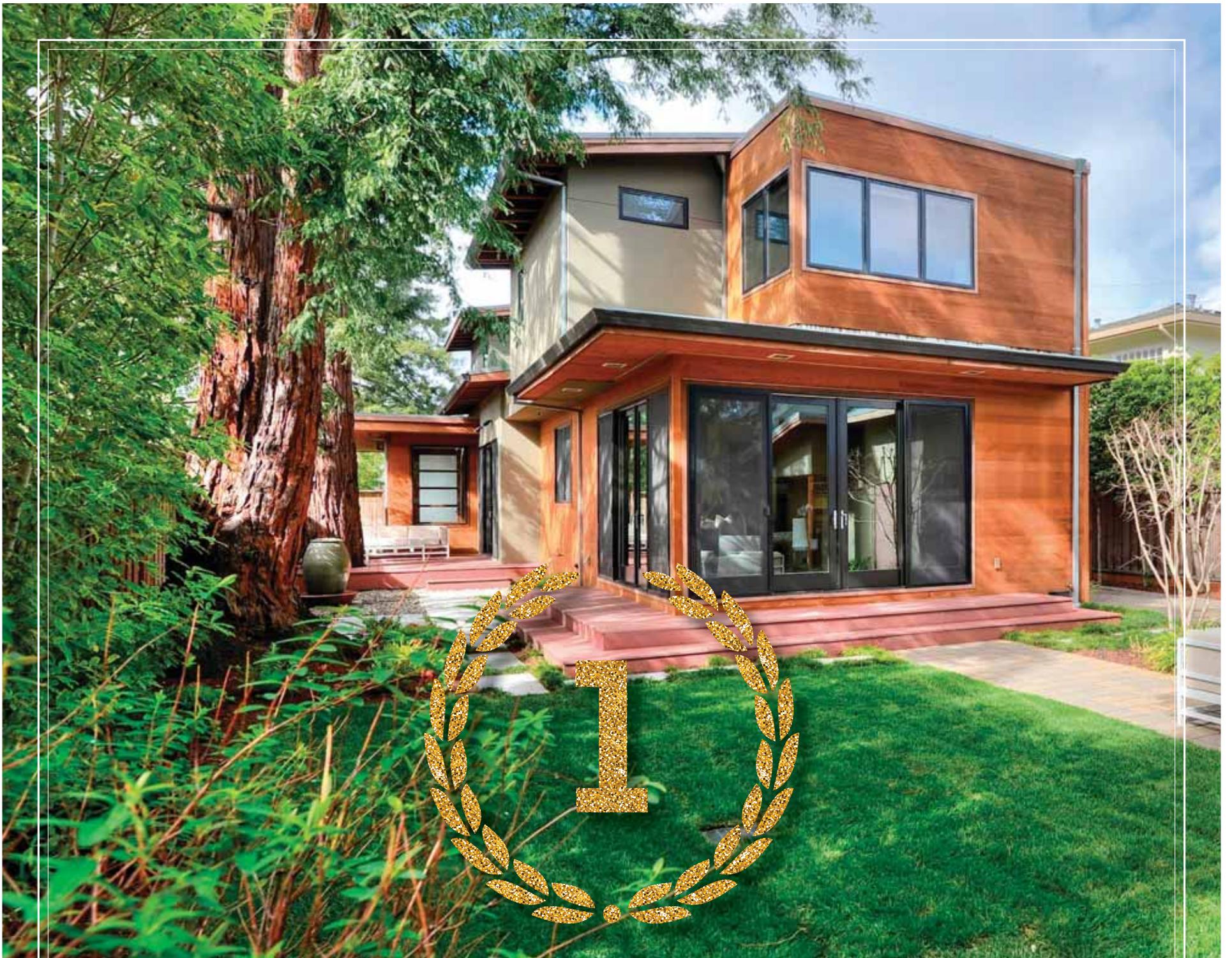
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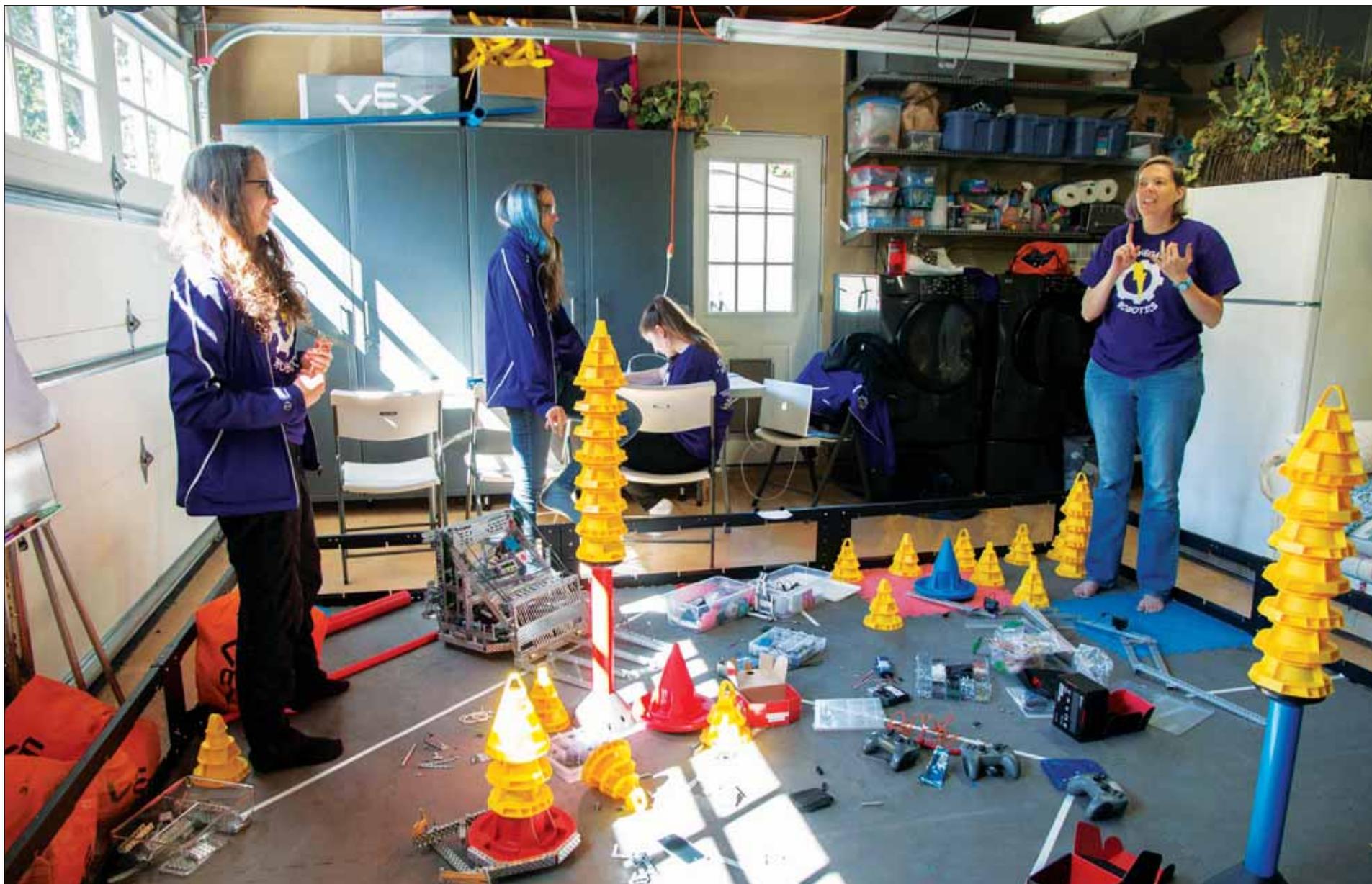


Photo by Ana Sofia Amieva-Wang/The Almanac

**At a Menlo Park garage**, members of the all-girls Renegade Robotics team discuss their work building a prototype robot. From left, they are, sisters Elizabeth and Serena Peters and their mom, Leslie Peters, who coaches the team. **About the cover:** Anna Beaver of Portola Valley works on part of the robot. (Photo by Ana Sofia Amieva-Wang.)

## RENEGADE ROBOT MAKERS

All-girls robotics team embraces engineering with flair

By **Kate Bradshaw**  
Almanac Staff Writer

**T**hey wear purple capes. They decorate their gear with stick-on jewels, and carry a tote bag decorated with their team logo. They also program a robot to operate autonomously and with remote controls.

And, in two years, they've gone from starting their own team to competing in the world championships at an activity known widely to be skewed male.

They're Renegade Robotics, an all-girls robotics team made up of five high school students from Menlo Park and Portola Valley: Serena Peters (grade 9), Avani Anne (grade 10) and Navya Anne (grade 12) at Menlo-Atherton High School; Anna Beaver (grade 11) at Woodside High School; and Elizabeth Peters (grade 11) at Pinewood School.

Coached by Leslie Peters, mother to Elizabeth and Serena, they compete in a league called VEX Robotics, run by the Robotics Education &

Competition Foundation. Unlike other leagues, where there is a set amount of time that teams are given to work on their robots, the VEX league allows teams to work on iterations of their robots over the course of a year, as they develop robots that can complete a set of challenges during two-minute, two-on-two competitions.

Of about 11,000 teams in 32 countries, about 700 are all-female, a VEX Robotics spokesperson says. At the California state championships, the Renegade team members were almost the only girls competing among 36 teams, Coach Peters says.

"VEX Robotics has a particularly bad male-to-female ratio," she says.

Renegade is one of only two all-girls teams in Silicon Valley — "the other one is the one we left," she says.

The girls split from the other team because they wanted to spend more time building robots, Ms. Peters says.

Team members interviewed by the Almanac say they typically

meet for three-hour sessions twice a week in a teammate's garage. They have been known to log as many as 14 hours in a single weekend, but they find the work rewarding.

"It's the best way to spend your free time," Anna says.

Elizabeth, who does a lot of the programming to make the robot move autonomously, says she loves the feeling when the robot starts working. "It's all this work, but then (it starts) and you're like, 'Whoa! We built this! It's doing things. It's doing really cool things!' ... and you feel so proud that you made this thing that can move on its own."

### THE COMPETITION

At the annual world championships, the next year's "game," or set of challenges that the robots will have to complete, is announced.

Then the work begins back home. After an intensive study of the rules, there are discussions of strategy and how to best score points. Then comes

designing, prototyping, testing and practice driving the robot.

Unlike many of the boys' robots, which are driven usually by one student, the girls say, the Renegade team has multiple drivers operating different parts of the robot.

This year, after competing in local tournaments and the state championships, the girls' robot didn't perform well enough to qualify for the world championships the traditional way, by beating the tournament bracket.

Instead, they got into the competition with a wild-card spot given for winning a video competition. Their video was about how to use an LCD display to calibrate the robot. They say they were motivated to win the competition after receiving an honorable mention the previous year for their tongue-in-cheek video about how handy it is to have a "magic" tote bag to carry extra supplies.

At the 2017 VEX Worlds, a world competition, held April 19 to 22 in Louisville, Kentucky,

they saw all-girls teams from other countries, and placed higher than they expected to, with a 5-5 record. Unsurprisingly, the level of robotics competition in Silicon Valley more than holds its own compared to other regions.

"The problem with being from Silicon Valley is that this is where all the good teams are," Anna explained. China and Singapore are also known to be highly competitive, the girls say.

### MENTOR OF THE YEAR

The team also submitted an essay to the organization nominating Ms. Peters for the Mentor of the Year award, which she won and was presented with at the world championships.

Though she has a STEM background — she studied mathematics at Princeton and was an actuary before she had kids — Ms. Peters says. "I had to learn all of this stuff really quickly so I get to be just a bit ahead of the girls." She now blogs about

See **ROBOTICS**, page 18



# Canada Day Celebration

**Saturday, July 1, 4:00 PM**  
Bing Concert Hall  
Stanford University

Celebrate **Canada's 150th birthday** with live music, square dancing, Canadian bites, and more! Headlining artists include Jenn Grant, David Myles, Troy MacGillivray, Wendy MacIsaac, and the St. Lawrence String Quartet.

**Cost:** \$30 Adult / \$15 Youth  
[live.stanford.edu/canadaday](http://live.stanford.edu/canadaday)



Troy  
MacGillivray



David Myles



Jenn Grant



Wendy  
MacIsaac



St. Lawrence  
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# Fire district offers to pay \$175K for special stoplights

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

While the governing board of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District has agreed to pay half the cost of two pedestrian-activated stoplights near its Menlo Park fire station on Middlefield Road, coming up with the money may be the easy part.

Local residents asked the fire district to help make walking and bicycling safer by adding two push-button-activated stoplights on Middlefield Road at Linfield Drive and Santa Monica Avenue in Menlo Park. They got exactly what they asked for at the June 20 fire board meeting.

The board voted unanimously to provide up to \$175,000 for the lights, and even authorized paying Menlo Park's half of the cost up front in return for the city's promise to repay the fire district in the next fiscal year.

District officials said they like the plan because it would also allow those operating fire vehicles to control the lights, turning them red to ease the vehicle's way in and out of the 300 Middlefield Road station.

"I'm for anything that's going to keep not only bicyclists but kids safe," said board member Rob Silano, himself a frequent cyclist.

However, major hurdles remain before new lights will stop any traffic. Menlo Park Assistant City Manager Chip Taylor said on June 21 that the city has just heard about the proposal. Before the idea can even be presented to the City Council, which would need to approve further study and analysis, city staff will need to gather preliminary information, including how much the streets are used by bicyclists and pedestrians in that area.

Such data could be hard to obtain in the summer, Mr. Taylor said, but the city might have some similar numbers from previous studies.

In addition, the City Council, he said, would have to give the project priority over other projects already in the city's work program to get the research underway.

With more information in hand, including a look at whether it fits in with Menlo Park's bicycle and pedestrian routes, and a review by the Complete Streets Commission, the City Council could give the project the go-ahead.

Preparing engineering drawings would probably take three to four months, Mr. Taylor said, before the project could be put out to bid and built.

## Atherton stoplight

In Atherton, where pedestrian-controlled stoplights at El Camino Real and Almaden Avenue were approved by the Atherton council in February 2015, they were not put into operation until August 2016. All the work was not finished until that October.

Atherton officials had asked for the project to be fast-tracked, but did have the additional step of having to pass plans through Caltrans for approval because El Camino is a state highway.

The fire district paid for half of that project, which cost just over \$290,000, because it can control the stoplight to help its vehicles get on and off Almaden Avenue to its station there.

## Parents group

Residents who are part of the Parents for Safe Routes group want to have two pedestrian-activated stop lights on Middlefield Road at Linfield Drive



Courtesy Parents for Safe Routes

The Parents for Safe Routes group presented this concept for adding two linked pedestrian/cyclist-activated stoplights on Middlefield Road at Santa Monica Avenue and Linfield Drive. They want the stoplights to be connected so that both turn red simultaneously, allowing bicyclists, walkers and fire trucks time to go from one cross street to the other.

and at Santa Monica Avenue in Menlo Park. They want the lights, which would be dark until activated, to be connected so that both turn red simultaneously, allowing bicyclists, walkers and fire trucks, time to go from one cross street to the other.

Jen Wolosin, a Menlo Park parent of two elementary school children, started the group in January after trying to find safer ways for kids to get to school. The group now has more than 300 supporters, she said.

Safe routes for bikes and walkers don't just help students, but the entire community, she said. "We really want to take everyone in this community along on our journey," she said, and create something "that outlives just one parent and one generation."

When streets aren't safe to

ride or walk on, more people use their cars, which makes the streets even less safe, she said. "We're stressed, our kids are stressed, everybody in the city is stressed," she said.

David Lehmann, who has lived in Menlo Park for 40 years, said he was hit by a car while riding a bike on Middlefield Road making a left turn near where they want one of the lights. "My helmet was broken in five places," he said, and he spent two days in intensive care at Stanford. "It's absolutely not safe to assume cars will stop" at the lighted crosswalk now at the intersection, he said.

Bill Kirsch, the chair of Menlo Park's Complete Streets Commission, said that traffic congestion has become so bad that "I don't see any other way for

this city to go forward" except to find ways to get people out of their cars by creating safe places for people to walk and ride.

Chief Harold Schapelhouman warned the residents that they still have a lot of work to do. "We're not in charge of engineering. We're not in charge of the roadway," he said.

Board member Rex Ianson said: "I don't think it will be as easy to work with Menlo Park as it was with Atherton."

The fire district will also look at the possibility of adding such lights near its other stations. Chief Schapelhouman said that such a light could probably be installed near its station on Chilco Street in Menlo Park, and could possibly be installed near its downtown Menlo Park station on Oak Grove Avenue. ■

## ROBOTICS

continued from page 16

strategies and problem-solving for VEX teams.

Ms. Peters and Serena have also helped to mentor an upcoming robotics team at the Corte Madera School in Portola Valley. According to principal Cyndi Maijala and Jason Borgen, the school's director of innovation and learning, parents of Renegade Robotics team members have been involved in helping to launch a competitive robotics program at the school, and the girls have helped to mentor the co-ed middle school team.

## SUCCESS

"I think their success is self-reinforcing," Ms. Peters says about the team. "They put in a lot and they have a lot to show

for it, and that makes them want to keep going." She points to a shelf in the garage lined with trophies: "This is two seasons of five girls in a garage."

Because each team must join with another team to face off against two others during the competitions, and are matched up randomly during the tournaments, Ms. Peters says, the team has had to learn how to negotiate with other teams to discuss strategy and have confidence in their robot's performance.

As middle- and high-school female engineers, they say they sometimes come up with fixes that are different than what boys would do. Using hair ties to help hold pieces in place is an example, Anna said.

They also decorate their robots with stick-on jewels and stickers, and have a tradition of

naming each year's robot after a secondary Disney character.

Ms. Peters said the team is looking to add one or two more girls, but noted that there is a significant time commitment. Their next tournament is expected to be held in September.

"It really is fantastic preparation for the real world of engineering," she said. "The girls are getting more confidence as they get older."

Serena, who will start as a freshman at Menlo-Atherton High School in the fall, said the skills she's learned on the robotics team make problem-solving challenges in science class easier and more fun.

Anna described how she felt when the team's robot performed well at a competition.

"You get this insane vibe — you just want to dance," she said. ■

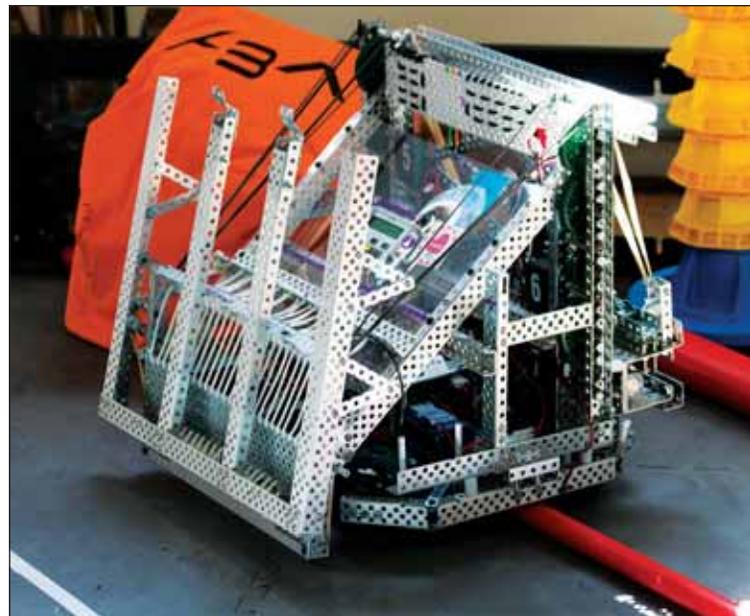


Photo by Ana Sofia Amieva-Wang/The Almanac

Guido, last year's Renegade Robotics robot, named after a character from the Disney/Pixar film "Cars." The team has a tradition of naming their robots after secondary Disney characters.

# Accused Facebook bus robber found not competent to stand trial

A man accused of stealing an iPad from a Facebook bus in Menlo Park and leading police on a wild car chase across the Dumbarton Bridge has been found not competent to stand trial by Superior Court Judge Donald Ayoub, based on evaluations by two doctors.

Richard Joseph Espinoza, 40, of Bay Point, is in custody on \$150,000 bail facing charges of robbery, evading police,

hit-and-run and driving under the influence of drugs.

He is due back in court July 7, when the judge is expected to decide which hospital he will be sent to. He will be kept there indefinitely until he is found competent to stand trial, according to Karen Guidotti, chief deputy district attorney.

On June 28, 2016, Mr. Espinoza boarded a Facebook bus near the Ravenswood pier south of

the Dumbarton Bridge in Menlo Park and grabbed an iPad out of the driver's hands while holding what appeared to be a gun, prosecutors said. He got off the bus and into a car, and police were called.

Mr. Espinoza drove across the Dumbarton Bridge while throwing items out of the car, before rear-ending another vehicle and later colliding with a center divider near the approach

to Interstate 880, police said.

On the other side of the Dumbarton, the car swerved into oncoming traffic and Menlo Park police abandoned the chase.

Within about a half hour, the Union City Police Department got a call about a possible carjacking on Alvarado-Niles Road, about a mile north of Decoto Road. They found the suspects fleeing on foot and

the abandoned vehicle nearby, police said.

After apprehension, Mr. Espinoza appeared to be under the influence of an unknown substance, refused to give a urine sample, and claimed he was being chased by Russians, police said.

Mr. Espinoza has a prior conviction for negligently discharging a firearm.

—By Kate Bradshaw

## 4TH OF JULY PARADE AND CELEBRATION

Creating a sense of **community**

### Parade

11:45 am start time

Meet at Santa Cruz Ave.  
and Chestnut St.

### Celebration and Activities

Noon–2:30 pm

Burgess Park

Alma St. and Burgess Dr.



### PARADE

Come dressed in red, white and blue! Decorate your bike or wagon and participate in this fun-filled people parade to Burgess Park!

### CELEBRATION

Enjoy our annual celebration with carnival games, jump houses, rock walls, crafts, face painting, outdoor bubble play, food and more!

### WRISTBAND

A \$7 event wristband is required for some activities. To avoid the lines buy yours in advance until June 30 at the Arrillaga Family Gymnasium, 600 Alma St., Monday-Friday, 7:00 am-5:00 pm.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit [menlopark.org/4thofjuly](http://menlopark.org/4thofjuly)
- Call 650-330-2220

Music provided by:



Event sponsor:



# Windrider Film Forum returns to Atherton

By **Kate Daly**  
Special to the Almanac

Once again Windrider Film Forum/Bay Area is bringing award-winning independent films, their makers and some of their subjects to the Center for Performing Arts at Menlo-Atherton High School.

The screenings will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 6-8, followed by question-and-answer sessions with some of the principals involved in the films.

On opening night, Thursday, July 6, the documentary, "The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo-Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble," will be shown, then discussed with the film's executive director and one of the dozens of multicultural musicians who

traveled the world in an eclectic group with the acclaimed cellist.

The second night, Friday, July 7, four short films will be featured, followed by a discussion period with the filmmakers.

"Teen Press" is a documentary about middle school students learning how to be journalists by covering celebrities at a film festival in Santa Barbara.

"DeKalb Elementary" is based on a real incident at a school in Atlanta when a man came on campus with a rifle.

"SOAR" is an animated short involving a young girl and a miniature boy who team up to solve airplane problems.

"Nocturne in Black" is inspired by war-torn Syria, where a man secretly plays piano until Jihadists discover him.

The film "STEP" will screen

on the final night, Saturday, July 8. Based on a true-life story, the film is about high school girls in

Baltimore striving to compete in a Step championship that could help pave their way to college.

The filmmaker, three of the team members, their coach and school counselor will participate in the Q&A.

Local Windrider Director Terri Bullock said this year's selections align so well with the forum's goal of "exploring the

human condition with creativity and respect, hoping to inspire meaningful discussions, and to motivate its audience to respond actively and constructively."

Go to [windriderbayarea.org](http://windriderbayarea.org) for tickets, which will also be sold at the door. They are \$10 for students and \$15 for adults. The theater is located at 555 Middlefield Road in Atherton. ▣

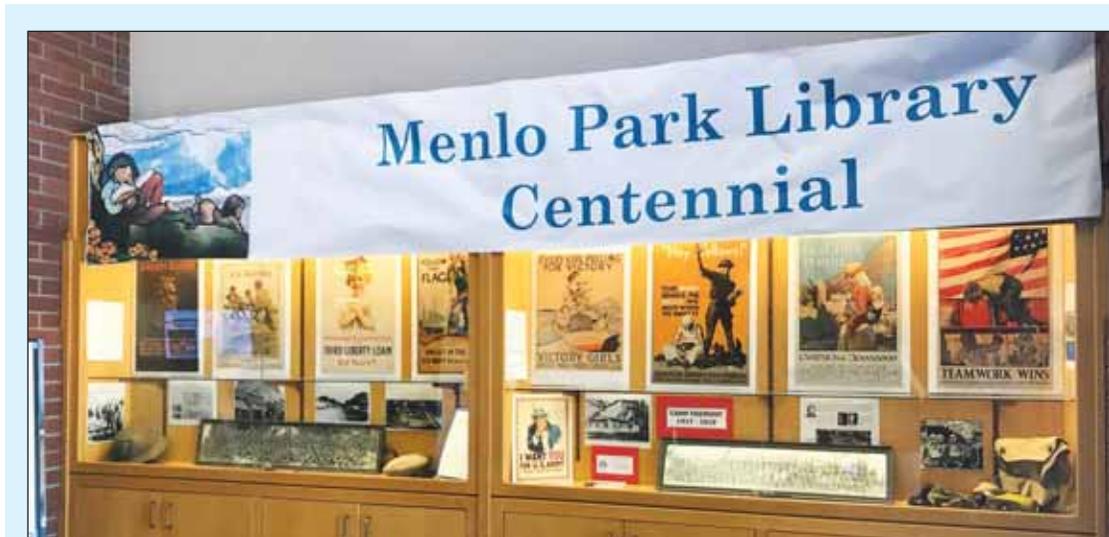


Photo by Christian Wagner

## Camp Fremont exhibit

The Menlo Park Historical Association recently opened an exhibit at the Menlo Park Library commemorating the 100th anniversary of Camp Fremont, a former World War I training camp in Menlo Park. The exhibit, open through June, is in the library at 800 Alma St. in the Menlo Park Civic Center.

**TOWN OF WOODSIDE**  
**2955 WOODSIDE ROAD**  
**WOODSIDE, CA 94062**

**PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**July 5, 2017**  
**6:00 PM**

PUBLIC HEARING

- Honeybee Hill LLC** ASRB2017-0008; GRAD2017-0001; MERG2017-0002; X2DR2017-0001; XMAX2017-0003  
349 Manuella Avenue Planner: Sage Schaan, Principal Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a proposal, requiring Formal Design Review (ASRB2017-0008), to demolish an existing main residence, two carports, a detached garage, a guest house, and other small outbuildings and sheds; and construct a new main residence with a partial basement, detached guest house/ADU, pool, and pool house; and to rehabilitate an existing nonconforming ADU, greenhouse, shed (#3), and barn. The project proposes a second driveway with a vehicle gate. The existing driveway, entry walls, and decorative gate are proposed to remain, and a new vehicular gate and fencing would be installed.

The Planning Commission will consider the design review recommendation from ASRB (ASRB2017-0008), a proposed Grading Exception (GRAD2017-0001) for grading over 1,500 cubic yards, a proposed Second Driveway Exception (X2DR2017-0001), and a Residence Size Exception (XMAX2017-0003). The applicant is also pursuing ministerial approval by Town staff of a Voluntary Lot Merger of the two underlying lots (MERG2017-0002). This item was continued from the June 12, 2017, meeting.

- Matthew & Kelly Murphy** NCOU2017-0002  
70 Tripp Road Planner: Corinne Jones, Assistant Planner

Review and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a proposed Change of Use of a non-conforming structure. The subject structure was constructed as a barn (prior to August 12, 1980) and converted to an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) without permits, sometime thereafter. In 2016, the Town approved Building Permit (BLDG2015-0554), which would allow the applicant to demolish the unpermitted ADU and rebuild the barn. The applicant now proposes to construct an office, which would utilize the same footprint and have plate heights that are equal to or lower than those of the approved barn.

All application materials are available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 – 10:00 AM and 1:00 – 3:00 PM, or by appointment. For more information, contact the Woodside Planning and Building Department at (650) 851-6790.

## CALENDAR

Go to [AlmanacNews.com/calendar](http://AlmanacNews.com/calendar) to see more local calendar items.

### Theater

**TheatreWorks: 'Hershey Felder, Beethoven'** Felder brings Beethoven to life through the eyes of a Viennese doctor who spent his boyhood by the Maestro's side. June 7-July 9; \$45-\$105. Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. [theatreworks.org](http://theatreworks.org)

**'The North Pool'** follows Khadim, a Syrian-born student in a large U.S. high school who is called into the vice principal's office to discuss recent absences; he soon becomes caught in a web of lies about crimes he may (or may not) have committed. June 23-July 16. post-show discussion, July 2. \$15-\$35. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. [dragonproductions.net](http://dragonproductions.net)

**Palo Alto Players: 'The Graduate'** June 16-July 2. \$25-\$52. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. [paplayers.org/on-stage-now](http://paplayers.org/on-stage-now)

### Music

**Menlo Park Concert in Park: California Groove** is a six-piece party/dance band performing a blend of contemporary music and old favorites. June 28, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Fremont Park, Santa Cruz Avenue & University Avenue, Menlo Park.

**Clint Baker and the Cafe Borrone All-Stars** Dixieland Jazz Band. Friday, June 30, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Free. Cafe Borrone, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.

### Talks & Authors

**Author Roxane Gay** discusses her new book, "Hunger," about the sometimes public and often private struggle she has fought with her body. June 28, 7:30 p.m. \$40. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. [brownpapertickets.com/](http://brownpapertickets.com/)

**Barry Eisler: 'Zero Sum,'** the ninth novel in the John Rain series. June 29, 7:30 p.m. \$10. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. [brownpapertickets.com/event/](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/)

### Food & Drink

**@Venture Series 13: Food Tech** Chinese Software Professional Association will host an evening of lively discussion on the state of the food technology startups. The evening will

begin with a startup pitch session with 5 to 6 startups, followed by the discussions with the distinguished speaker and panel of investors. June 28, 6-9 p.m. \$25-\$150. Orrick, 1100 Marsh Road, Menlo Park. [eventbrite.com/](http://eventbrite.com/)

### Community Groups

**Book Club** All are welcome to join in as this book club discusses "Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin" by Jill Lepore. This biography is a portrait of Benjamin Franklin's youngest sister and a wholly different account of the founding of the United States. July 3, 1-2 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside.

**Compost Giveaway** The city of Menlo Park offers two ways to get free compost for those whose soil is in need of nutrient replenishment to support their gardens. July 1 and Aug. 5, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Bedwell Bayfront Park, 1600 Marsh Road, Menlo Park. [menlopark.org/bedwellbayfrontpark](http://menlopark.org/bedwellbayfrontpark)

**Pokemon Scavenger Hunt** Kids can search the library for the missing Pokemon and do their best to catch 'em all and earn a prize if they're successful. July 5, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside.

### Et Alia

**Family: Catch Me If You Can with CuriOdyssey** Kids will meet some of CuriOdyssey's most fascinating creatures and prepare to discover the unusual ways they defend themselves against predators. June 28, 2-3 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. [smcl.bibliocommons.com/events/](http://smcl.bibliocommons.com/events/)

**Lifetime Fitness** This class is designed to strengthen, stretch and tone specific muscle groups of the body, helping build strong bones and accelerate metabolism with hand weights. Body mechanics is taught, and participants should bring their mat and hand weights. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8:30-9:30 a.m. \$12-\$15. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. [pervol.org/littlehouse](http://pervol.org/littlehouse)

**Fabric Swap-A-Rama and Sewing Machine Open Lab** Sewing-enthusiasts can reserve a Janome sewing machine to work on their own creations in the library. To reserve a machine and the conference room, those interested can contact the library by phone at 650-851-0147 or by email at [woodsides@smcl.org](mailto:woodsides@smcl.org). June 30, noon-4 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside.

## ■ POLICE CALLS

*This information is from the Atherton and Menlo Park police departments. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent unless convicted. Police received the reports on the dates shown.*

### ATHERTON

#### Residential burglaries:

■ Someone entered a home on Linda Vista Avenue through an unlocked bathroom window, causing about \$150 in damages to the screen on the window. It's not known if anything was taken from inside the home. June 21.

■ Residents of a house on Atherton Avenue discovered a pair of windows in the rear of their house had been smashed, allowing someone to unlock a door and enter the house. Missing from the house was jewelry valued at \$2,500. The burglar may have left behind a black watch and a gray hooded jacket. June 11.

### MENLO PARK

#### Residential burglaries:

■ Someone entered an unlocked garage on Trinity Avenue and used a pry bar of some kind to force open a door into the residence. It's not known if anything was taken. June 17.

■ An East Palo Alto man was arrested and booked into jail on suspicion of burglary after squeezing his way into a construction site on Oak Court. A man fled the scene before police arrived, but was arrested a short distance away. June 7.

**Robbery:** Police arrested a man on a bike after he allegedly brandished a BB gun and demanded a set of keys from a man and a woman walking in the vicinity of Jason's Cafe at 1246 El Camino Real. The cyclist was riding on the sidewalk and allegedly told the pedestrians they were in his way. Police made an arrest in the 900 block of Alma Street. June 25.

#### Auto burglaries:

■ Someone smashed a window on a vehicle parked on Menlo Avenue and stole a bag from the front seat. Inside were personal items, a checkbook and cash. No estimate on losses. June 20.

■ A vehicle parked on Carlton Avenue was found with the rear windshield smashed, but nothing taken. June 5.

#### Thefts:

■ Police are looking for two men who allegedly entered Beverages and More at 700 El Camino Real, removed a lock from a display box and stole bottles of cognac, including Martell Cordon Bleu, Martell XO, Hennessy XO, Remy Martin XO Excellence and Louis XIII. Police described one of the men as Hispanic and wearing black pants and a navy T-shirt with a white cube on the back, and the other man as Asian wearing black skinny jeans, a Golden State Warriors jacket, a white hat and sunglasses. Estimated loss: \$2,300.

■ Someone stole a bicycle locked to a rack on Santa Cruz Avenue. Estimated loss: \$1,000. June 20.

■ An unlocked bike was stolen from an open garage on Glenwood Avenue. Estimated loss: \$800. June 11.

■ A thief took a bicycle from the balcony of an apartment in the 400 block of Willow Road. Estimated loss: \$785. June 20.

■ A locked bike was stolen from a car-

port of an apartment complex on Roble Avenue. Estimated loss: \$600. June 5.

■ Someone stole an unlocked bike from the front porch of a home on Trinity Drive. Estimated loss: \$419. June 19.

■ A thief stole two packages containing wine from the front porch of a home on Arbor Road. Estimated loss: \$357. June 13.

■ A resident of Elm Street told police that someone stole a package from the front porch. Inside was an electric meter test device. Estimated loss: \$125. June 7.

■ A package on the front porch of a home on Sharon Park Drive was opened, with coffee and patches stolen from inside. Estimated loss: \$120. June 16.

■ A resident of Stanford Avenue told police that her wallet had been stolen from her purse, and her credit cards used fraudulently. June 15.

■ Three women were about to steal about \$1,000 in merchandise concealed in "various bags" at the Safeway supermarket at 525 El Camino Real, but dumped them in an aisle upon seeing they were being observed, then fled in a beige Acura. June 22.

■ A man told police that his property had been stolen from his rented storage space in the 1500 block of Willow Road, but an investigation revealed that his goods had been auctioned off as a result of "financial negligence." June 11.

■ Police arrested and booked an East Palo Alto woman on shoplifting charges because she allegedly took a bottle of shampoo and other items from the Safeway at 525 El Camino Real. June 2.

■ A shopper at the Safeway supermarket at 525 El Camino Real left the store with a shopping cart full of groceries, but left them and fled after being confronted outside the store by employees. No losses. June 5.

■ A woman left the CVS pharmacy at 700 El Camino Real with vitamins she hadn't paid for. Staff tried to stop her outside the store, but she fled in a vehicle in an unknown direction. June 6.

#### Stolen vehicles:

■ A gold 2003 Toyota Sienna from the 800 block of Coleman Avenue. June 4.

■ A gray 2006 Volkswagen Passat that the driver borrowed from the owner on Oak Grove Avenue but did not return. June 6.

## ALEXANDER

*continued from page 10*

Alexander in 1951 and the couple raised five children.

In a partnership with Don Horther, Mr. Alexander bought what was then called Rossotti's in 1956 at 3915 Alpine Road and renamed it the "Alpine Inn Beer Garden," according to Palo Alto historian Steve Staiger.

After Mr. Alexander died in 1994, Ms. Alexander assumed control of the inn in her

husband's honor, Vicki Alexander said. "Both she and John were well known and loved by many customers," Vicki said. "Her spunky spirit and smile will be missed by family and friends."

Ms. Alexander had her own career that included work at MEC and Sylvania, Vicki said.

Ms. Alexander is survived by daughters Maxine, Geri and Leslie; son Norman; nine grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

## New Japanese restaurant to replace Akasaka

By Elena Kadvanj

Longtime Menlo Park sushi restaurant Akasaka has been sold to new owners, who plan to open another traditional Japanese restaurant in its place.

Jeffrey Son, the new owner, said he and his family took over the 925 El Camino Real space in early June. Jeffrey said he's not sure why the Akasaka

owner decided to close but that "he did mention that he wanted to rest."

Jeffrey has worked in restaurants as a server since he was 14 years old and his father, who goes by Son, is a longtime chef.

The family lives in Milpitas but has operated Japanese restaurants in Santa Cruz and Korea, where they lived when Jeffrey was young, he said.

Their new restaurant,

Octopus, will serve traditional Japanese fare such as sushi, rolls and tataki. All sauces will be homemade by Son, Jeffrey said.

Octopus is one of a number of new Japanese restaurants coming to Menlo Park, including Kyosho Japanese Restaurant (in the former Tokyo Subway space) and 32 Fahrenheit Japanese Bistro (in the former Quizzos space). ■

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## Council stymies ‘sunshine’ by not considering proposal

In April, Menlo Park City Councilman Ray Mueller floated a reasonable proposal intended to increase transparency in city government by requiring council members, planning commissioners and the city manager to make his or her calendar on city-related business available to the public online. He had hoped that the draft proposal for what he calls a “sunshine calendar” would be placed on an agenda for discussion by the council and the public, but it appears that won’t happen any time soon.

Mayor Kirsten Keith has indicated she’s not interested in putting such a discussion on the agenda, although as mayor she has the authority to do so. The other means of scheduling a council discussion of the proposal is for a second council member to support Mr. Mueller’s request. At the June 20 council meeting, Councilman Mueller unsuccessfully sought that support.

It’s disappointing that the City Council’s other four members have chosen not to honor their colleague’s request to give his idea a public airing. Public calendars are required in a small number of jurisdictions, including Santa Clara County, where Mr. Mueller had first-hand experience of how such a policy works. And he has since late April voluntarily posted his own calendar

on the city’s website, a process, he told the Almanac, that “doesn’t take that much work.”

His proposed mandatory calendar would shine light on city leaders’ day-to-day business conducted on behalf of the public. The calendar would include information on meetings that city leaders covered by the policy have with constituents, developers, consultants, lobbyists, commercial property owners, and representatives of unions, nonprofits and non-governmental organizations.

Mayor Keith has said that the council has many matters it must attend to this year, and “staff has a

limited bandwidth to get everything done.” But one wonders how much staff time would be needed for a sunshine calendar policy to be discussed, refined and put in place. Former mayor Steve Schmidt, who believes the mandatory calendar is “needed today more than ever,” noted in an email to the Almanac that Mr. Mueller “has posted his calendar without the assistance of staff, so I fail to see why staff time would be required with other council members posting theirs.”

The council’s de facto rejection of Mr. Mueller’s request to, at the very least, discuss the proposal is troubling enough. But the episode raises another important question that Menlo Park residents would

do well to consider: Is it good policy to require the support of multiple elected officials to place an issue of concern to an individual council member on the agenda for public airing?

Atherton resident Peter Carpenter, who is a long-time Menlo Park Fire Protection District board member, has publicly answered that question with a resounding “no.” Speaking for himself and not the fire board, he has publicly suggested that Menlo Park adopt an agenda-setting policy similar to the fire board’s, which allows any one board member, as well as the fire chief, to place an item on the agenda. It also honors requests of any member of the public, as long as the issue is within the scope of the fire district, Mr. Carpenter said. “We work for the public,” he noted, adding that each board member was individually elected and therefore should be able to help set the agenda determining what issues are brought before the board and the public.

Would Councilman Mueller’s proposed sunshine calendar be a worthwhile tool in expanding transparency in Menlo Park city government? We think it would be. There can be no accountability in government without transparency. It remains to be seen if residents agree and are willing to pressure the council to give this proposal the public airing it deserves. ▀

### EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

## We need to improve Menlo Parks’ ‘safe city’ ordinance for all residents

By Karen Grove and Grisel Ruiz

In January, residents proposed, and city leaders of Menlo Park unanimously passed, a resolution stating that the community stands for the rights and dignity of all of its members, whether they are citizens or not. The resolution promised to proactively safeguard “the rights and privileges of everyone in Menlo Park” — a commendable goal that requires that we continue to assess where we may fall short and strive to do better.

Today, we ask that the city continue its leadership on this issue by revising its policy to ensure that no one is excluded from its protections.

We have come to understand the steep human cost of deportations from the personal stories that have emerged. In Menlo Park and throughout the country, people are saddened and alarmed by the deportation of their longtime immigrant neighbors who are an integral part of our community. We’ve learned of painful family separations, some leaving children without their parents. And we are shocked by reports of inhumane conditions in immigration detention centers across our state.

In pursuit of its January promise, Menlo Park recently passed a “safe city” ordinance. The ordinance exists to dispel the fear of unnecessary deportations. In practice, Menlo Park law enforcement already follows the “safe city” policies, and this new ordinance — with some exceptions — codifies current practice.

The decision to pass the policy was made by those who live here, and the decision to continue to improve it is also rests with residents.

One of the most fundamental of rights in America is due process for all, without exception. Yet, the new ordinance allows local law enforcement to cooperate with immigration officials when individuals have been convicted of certain crimes — even after serving their time for those crimes. Through this provision, due process may be denied to certain immigrants, as the policy fails to take into account the way that immigrants are already affected by criminal proceedings.

It is important to realize that our criminal justice system already works to punish immigrants twice. Even convictions for low-level offenses have the potential to cause catastrophic

consequences for immigrants, including obstacles to obtaining citizenship, harsher sentences than those imposed on U.S. citizens (see [tinyurl.com/harshpunish17](http://tinyurl.com/harshpunish17)), and permanent separation from their homes and families.

Those representing immigrants in court have a constitutional duty to advise and defend against these consequences, yet often aren’t armed with the resources to meet this duty. Our immigration laws are so broken and misaligned with our local criminal law, that immigrants will sometimes plead to more serious offenses simply because they will not lead to deportation, as some lesser charges do.

The recent policy compounds this injustice by indicating that certain individuals — even after paying their debt to society — should be transferred to federal immigration custody, codifying a double-standard for immigrants alone.

The current federal administration has a laser focus on targeting immigrants in the name of public safety, perpetuating harmful stereotypes, despite evidence (see [tinyurl.com/sanctuary01-17](http://tinyurl.com/sanctuary01-17)) that crime has gone down in areas where immigration has increased. Half of the children in our state have an immigrant parent (see [tinyurl.com/calkids17](http://tinyurl.com/calkids17)), and we must make sure that we curb the unnecessary detention and deportation of anyone who calls Menlo Park home.

Let’s start a conversation about why we would create any due process exceptions

to the local immigration policy, especially when our immigrant residents already feel marginalized and targeted by the federal government. We should let our law enforcement community know that there are no circumstances under which we want them to unnecessarily cooperate with federal immigration authorities, like ICE, which has a long history of violating the law to arrest and detain immigrants.

We commend local leaders for taking bold steps on this crucial issue. We also ask that we revise this policy as soon as possible, to remove all exceptions and ensure that our immigrant residents all receive access to this valuable policy, consistent with our values.

## What’s on your mind?

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

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



Karen Grove is a Menlo Park resident, advocate and philanthropist. She is also board chair of the Grove Foundation. Grisel Ruiz is staff attorney at the California-based Immigrant Legal Resource Center.

### GUEST OPINION

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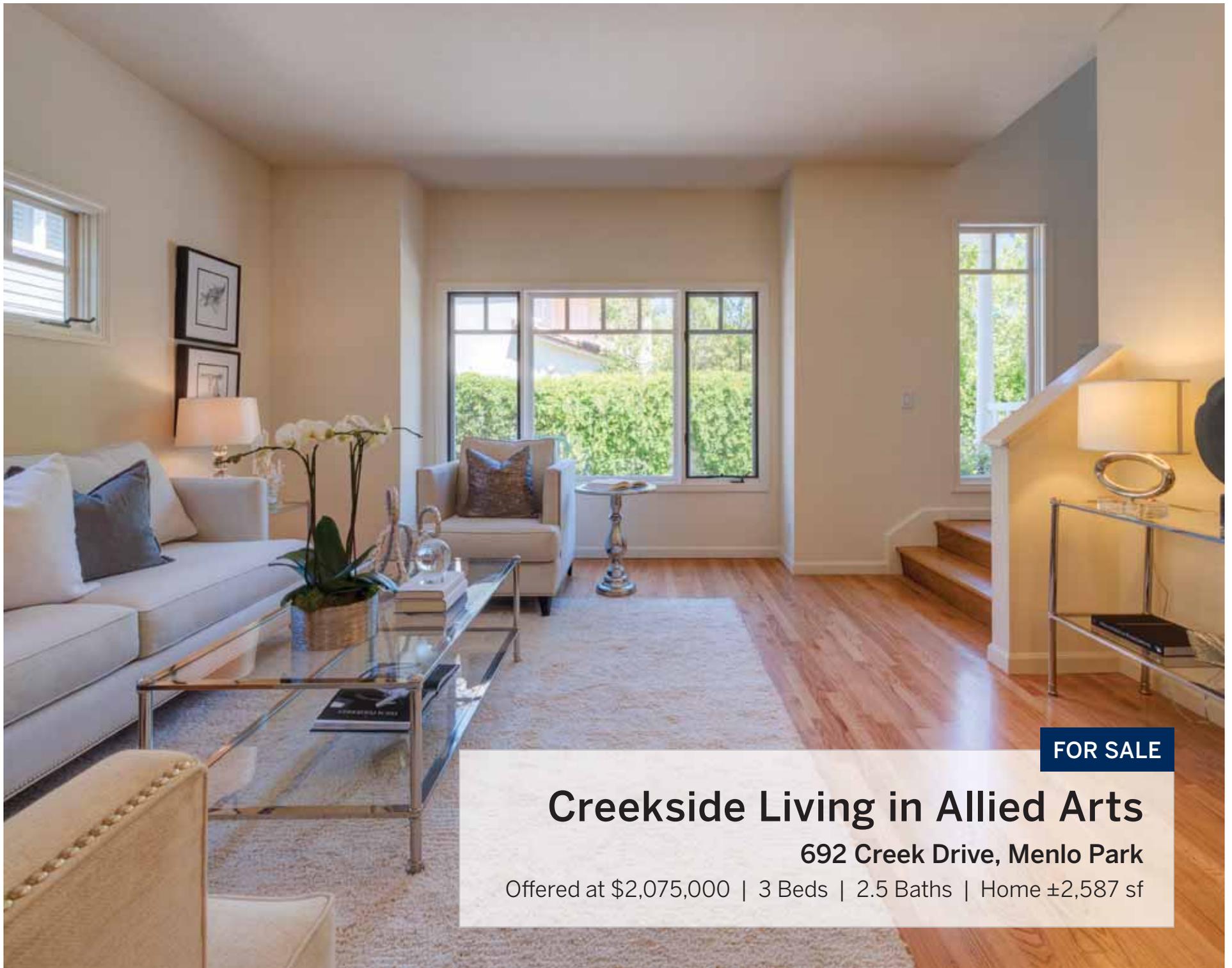
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For people in your community that would like an additional \$300-\$500/month. <http://tinyurl.com/HelpInYourCommunity> Bring us the lead, we do the work!

## Business Services

### 624 Financial

**Do you owe over \$10,000**  
To the IRS or State in back taxes? Our firm works to reduce the tax bill or zero it out completely FAST. Call now 855-993-5796. (Cal-SCAN)

## Home Services

### 715 Cleaning Services

**Isabel and Elbi's Housecleaning**  
Apartments and homes. Excellent references. Great rates. 650/670-7287 or 650/771-8281

#### Orkopina Housecleaning

Cleaning homes in your area since 1985. Last minute calls! 650/962-1536

**Silvia's Cleaning**  
We don't cut corners, we clean them! Bonded, insured, 22 yrs. exp., service guaranteed, excel. refs., free est. 415/860-6988

### 748 Gardening/Landscaping

**LANDA'S GARDENING & LANDSCAPING**  
\*Yard Maint. \*New Lawns. \*Clean Ups \*Irrigation timer programming. 20 yrs exp. Ramon, 650/576-6242 [landaramon@yahoo.com](mailto:landaramon@yahoo.com)

### 751 General Contracting

**A NOTICE TO READERS:**  
It is illegal for an unlicensed person to perform contracting work on any project valued at \$500.00 or more in labor and materials. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs that total less than \$500.00 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board.

#### cardinal construction

CSLB# 1014088  
New homes, Remodels, bathrooms, basements, ADU

### 771 Painting/Wallpaper

**Glen Hodges Painting**  
Call me first! Senior discount. 45 yrs. #351738. 650/322-8325, phone calls ONLY.

#### STYLE PAINTING

Full service interior/ext. Insured. Lic. 903303. 650/388-8577

### 775 Asphalt/Concrete

**Roe General Engineering**  
Asphalt, concrete, pavers, tiles, sealing, artificial turf. 36 yrs exp. No job too small. Lic #663703. 650/814-5572

## Real Estate

### 801 Apartments/Condos/Studios

Mountain View, Studio - \$272 - \$89

San Carlos, 1 BR/1 BA - \$2,200.00

### 825 Homes/Condos for Sale

Redwood City, 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$2668000



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# Public Notices

## 995 Fictitious Name Statement

DISTRIBUIDORA LA NUEVA SAN SALVADOR  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 273780

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Distribuidora La Nueva San Salvador, located at 1903 E Bayshore Rd., #16, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
VICTOR MANUEL MELARA MARTINEZ  
1903 E Bayshore Rd., #16  
Redwood City, CA 94063

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5-30-17. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 31, 2017.

(ALM June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2017)

UNITECM CHEMICALS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 273802

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Unitecm Chemicals, located at 1371 Sevier Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
SONGYUAN XIE  
1371 Sevier 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 8/24/2009. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 1, 2017.

(ALM June 14, 21, 28, July 5, 2017)

E Y L CLEANING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 273677

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
E y L Cleaning, located at 216 S. Canal St. #B, Merced, CA 95341.

Registered owner(s):  
LUZ M. VILLA  
216 S. Canal St. #B  
Merced, CA 95341

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5-22-17. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 22, 2017.

(ALM June 21, 28, July 5, 12, 2017)

BUTTON ELECTRIC  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 273830

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Button Electric, located at 1956 Menalto Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

KEVIN R. BUTTON  
1956 Menalto 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 5/20/17. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 5, 2017.

(ALM June 28, July 5, 12, 19, 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.: 17CIV02306

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: EDUARDO PELEGRI LLOPART filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: EDUARDO PELEGRI LLOPART to EDUARDO PELEGRI-LLOPART.

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: July 11, 2017, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ 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: May 26, 2017

/s/ Jonathan E. Karesh  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2017)

APN: 055-342-520 TS No: CA08000247-17-1 TO No: 170028283 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE (The above statement is made pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(1). The Summary will be provided to Trustor(s) and/or vested owner(s) only, pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(2).) YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED December 17, 2003. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On July 25, 2017 at 01:00 PM, Marshall St. Entrance, San Mateo County Courthouse, Southern Branch Hall of Justice & Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063, MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps, as the

duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust recorded on December 30, 2003 as Instrument No. 2003-354932, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California, executed by JOSE LUIS GUZMAN RIVAS, AN UNMARRIED MAN, as Trustor(s), in favor of WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA, A FEDERAL ASSOCIATION as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST

The property heretofore described is being sold 'as is'. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1326 CHILCO STREET, MENLO PARK, CA 94025 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$254,821.50 (Estimated). However, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorse as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction,

you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call Auction.com at 800.280.2832 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Web site address www.Auction.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA08000247-17-1. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Date: June 12, 2017 MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps TS No. CA08000247-17-1 17100 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 Phone:949-252-8300 TDD: 866-660-4288 Myron Ravelo, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ONLINE AT www.Auction.com FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: Auction.com at 800.280.2832 Trustee Corps may be acting as a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained

may be used for that purpose.ISL Number 32149, Pub Dates: 06/21/2017, 06/28/2017, 07/05/2017, THE ALMANAC

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
JOHN REILAND, aka JOHN CLIFFE REILAND, Deceased

Case No.: 17-PRO-00151-A To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JOHN REILAND, aka JOHN CLIFFE REILAND, Deceased .

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: PATRICIA MUELLER-VOLLMER in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.

The Petition for Probate requests that: PATRICIA MUELLER-VOLLMER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on July 25, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: 28, of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Petitioner:  
Patricia Mueller-Vollmer  
774 Seneca Street,  
Palo Alto, CA 94301  
(650)321-3632  
(ALM June 28; July 5, 12, 2017)

## LEHUA GREENMAN



"When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on!"

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**Sold for \$1,850,000**  
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This well-maintained duplex has been updated. First time on the market since it was built in 1969! Light and Bright Private units with large side yards and a huge driveway. Each unit has a cozy fireplace in the living room. There are eat-in kitchens and dining areas and dining room. Each unit has a Master Suite. Close to Shopping, Parks and Schools. Spacious 2 car garage for each unit. Plenty of storage area.

5 Bedrooms | 4 Bathrooms | Approx. 4,000 Square Feet of Living Space  
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The Almanac  
223-6578



**Central 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 + 1 half BA  
**Erika Demma**  
CalBRE #01230766 650.851.2666



**Menlo Park** **\$6,800,000**  
625 Hobart St Contemporary award winning Masterpiece home. 5 bd suites. Gorgeous gardens. 625Hobart.com 5 BR/5 BA + 1 half BA  
**Lyn Jason Cobb**  
CalBRE #01332535 650.324.4456



**Atherton** **\$5,495,000**  
399 Atherton Ave Carriage House from the 1900's restored & updated. Original charm. Private serene acre. 5 BR/4 BA + 1 half BA  
**Sue Crawford**  
CalBRE #00587710 650.324.4456



**PORTOLA VALLEY** **\$4,800,000**  
7 Coal Mine Vw Exquisitely remodeled Portola Valley Ranch home with spectacular views - 7Coalmine.com 4 BR/3 BA  
**Ginny Kavanaugh**  
CalBRE #00884747 650.851.1961



**Menlo Park** **\$3,695,000**  
1030 Lassen Dr Spacious 6-bedroom Sharon Heights home w/ a private yard & pool. 1030Lassen.com 6 BR/3 BA + 1 half BA  
**Hugh Cornish**  
CalBRE #00912143 650.324.4456



**Woodside** **\$3,495,000**  
65 Roan Pl Gorgeous views & modern flair on a quiet cul-de-sac. Woodside schools. 65roan.com 4BR/3BA  
**Erika Demma**  
CalBRE #01230766 650.851.2666



**Portola Valley** **\$2,975,000**  
20 Vista Verde Way Expansive custom-built home with spectacular views of the Bay and beyond -20VistaVerde.com 3 BR/3 BA + 1 half BA  
**Ginny Kavanaugh**  
CalBRE #00884747 650.851.1961



**Menlo Park** **\$2,895,000**  
1025-1027 Marcussen Dr Centrally located MP duplex. 3/1.5 + bonus room, & 2/1. Completely remodeled owner's unit.  
**Billy McNair**  
CalBRE #01343603 650.324.4456



**Portola Valley** **\$2,750,000**  
10 Sandstone St Wide, tranquil views. Rustic setting. Contemporary home in community environment. 3 BR/2 BA  
**Nancy Goldcamp**  
CalBRE #00787851 650.325.6161



**Menlo Park** **\$2,590,000**  
337 Central Ave Willows home w/new kitchen, new bath, new hall bath, flooring, huge lot in great location. 3 BR/2 BA  
**Elaine White**  
CalBRE #01182467 650.324.4456



**Woodside** **\$2,395,000**  
17507 Skyline Blvd Gorgeous & updated w/stunning Bay views. Guest cottage. Portola Valley schools. 5 BR/4 BA  
**Veronica Kogler**  
CalBRE #01788047 650.324.4456



**Menlo Park** **\$2,295,000**  
248 Hedge Rd Turnkey 4 bd, 4 ba w/kitchen family great rm. MP schools. Easy commute access & close to Facebook 4 BR/4 BA  
**Billy McNair**  
CalBRE #01343603 650.324.4456



**Menlo Park** **\$1,995,000**  
**NEW PRICE**  
2061 Ashton Ave 4 bedroom / 2 bath updated home with open floor. Award winning Las Lomas School District 4 BR/2 BA  
**Elaine White/Kimm Terpening**  
CalBRE #01182467/01522106 650.324.4456



**San Mateo** **\$1,799,888**  
472 E 28th Ave Spacious luxury 2-year new townhome, walking distance to Town Square. Lots of upgrades. 4 BR/3 BA + 1 half BA  
**Judy Shen**  
CalBRE #01272874 650.325.6161



**Redwood City** **\$1,499,000**  
2673 Ohio Ave Spacious home in Woodside Plaza close to Downtown Woodside, Hwy 280, Stanford University. 4 BR/2 BA  
**DiPali Shah**  
CalBRE #01249165 650.851.2666



**Palo Alto** **\$1,299,950**  
358 Fernando Ave Darling and quaint 1BR w/separate office/den. Zen like yards. Quiet location. Shows great! 1 BR/1 BA  
**Wendi Selig-aimonetti**  
CalBRE #01001476 650.324.4456



**Horgan Ranch Etc.** **\$1,095,000**  
278 Beresford Ave 1 BR/1 BA  
**David Kelsey**  
CalBRE #01242399 650.851.2666



**Belmont** **\$968,000**  
400 Davey Glen Road #4705 1 M, remodeled modern-Italian kit, walls of glass, privacy, views, wood floors & more. 3 BR/2 BA  
**Charlotte Van Orden**  
CalBRE #00525483 650.324.4456



**Millbrae** **\$899,000**  
230 Magnolia Ave Spacious backyard. Excellent Spring Valley/Taylor/Mills schools. Close to BART, Caltrain. 2 BR/1 BA  
**Deniece Smith**  
CalBRE #01295757 650.325.6161



**San Jose** **\$349,000**  
3268 Shadow Park Place Cheerful end-unit condo, updated throughout. Built in 1988. Remodeled kit. Evergreen area. 1 BR/1 BA  
**Maha Najjar**  
CalBRE #01305947 650.325.6161