

# The Almanac

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

OCTOBER 18, 2017 | VOL. 53 NO. 7



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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Could North Bay inferno happen here?

■ Fire officials say it's unlikely, but would not rule it out.

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

It's fire season in Woodside and Portola Valley, two wooded communities that analysis has shown have terrain, prevailing winds and the types and moisture content of vegetation that make for a severe risk of wildfire. Not that far away are raging infernos, driven by low humidity and dry northeasterly winds, that led to a devastating loss of life and property in the North Bay.

An aerial video of the suburban Coffey Park neighborhood in Santa Rosa shows block after block after block of parcels that are now uniformly, and chillingly, the color of ash.

Could such a fire happen here? "We don't typically get those type of winds, but that doesn't mean that they couldn't happen," Fire Chief Dan Giorso of the Woodside Fire Protection District said. "Mother Nature makes her own rules."

"That is a wind-driven fire," the chief said of the fire that destroyed Coffey Park. "There is just too much wind for anybody to do anything about that. The fire's just moving too fast, with way too much heat and the humidity is low. ... It's just so

intense that there is no way to stop it."

It's not yet known what happened in Coffey Park, what caused the fire to spread from house to house to house, the chief said. But the Woodside fire district will take what lessons it can from "the nightmare that's been happening up there," he said.

### From the inside out

Woodside district Fire Marshal Denise Enea noted that while some 2,000 houses are now gone in Santa Rosa, the trees are still there — an indication that the homes may have burned from the inside, that burning embers found a way in.

When an ember is in the outside air, it quickly burns itself out, but when it's inside a house, "it's like getting into a box," Ms. Enea said. "It has nowhere to go so it has to burn the box." Embers enter through an airway, which can then serve to funnel air inside to feed the fire. "These houses could have had hundreds or thousand of embers (inside)," she said.

Embers would behave no differently here than there, but the conditions that led to the intensity of the Santa Rosa fires are



Photo by Marin County Fire Department

**Low winds** inhibited the spread of this underbrush fire in mid-September in the wooded hills west of Woodside. Wind is a key factor in fire intensity, as are humidity and temperature, firefighting officials say.

uncommon here, Ms. Enea said. "The Bay creates a lot of water moisture in the air, as does the ocean and its off-shore breezes, which keep winds blowing from west to east, which is always the

saving grace for us," she said. "Ninety percent of the time, that's the wind we have. That's why we're so very very lucky."

The Woodside fire district is most vulnerable in the absence

of offshore winds, and when the air is hot and dry. But 50-mph winds are "very very infrequent" here, she said. "When you have that type of weather," she added, "there is no structure that is totally fireproof."

Had the wind come up during the Skeggs fire in mid-September in the hills west of Woodside, "that would have been a game-changer," Chief Giorso said.

### Raining fire

The destruction of Coffey Park has changed the norm for flatland communities, said Chief Harold Schapelhouman of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District. But the same thing happening in the Menlo Park Fire Protection District has a very low probability, he said.

"You can't say never because that would be a little dangerous to think it could never happen," he said.

Efforts to remove ignitable material from around structures might not have mattered in Santa Rosa, he said. Restaurants, schools, hotels, all burned. As to the possibility that buildings might not have been sufficiently protected against the entry of embers, Chief Schapelhouman noted that the conditions were severe.

See **INFERNO**, page 6

## How locals are helping victims of Northern California wildfires

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

As smoke from the North Bay fires led to keeping students indoors and canceling athletic activities, including football games, local residents sprang into action to help their northern neighbors.

### Helping horses

Members of WHOA! (Woodside Horse Owners Association) raised money and collected new and "gently used" horse equipment to help equestrian fire victims.

The Fire Relief Fund for Horses and Livestock has been set up by the Woodside Community Foundation, which is matching

donations up to a total of \$2,500.

The fund paid to send two truckloads of hay to Santa Rosa and Solano counties late last week.

Go to [is.gd/wcf\\_horse](http://is.gd/wcf_horse) to make an online donation.

Donations of horse equipment and supplies — including buckets, halters, lead ropes, supplements and medicines — can be delivered to the Mounted Patrol grounds at 521 Kings Mountain Road in Woodside.

The Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County's foundation paid to send more than 250 bales of hay to Napa Valley, where the horsemen's association is holding 200 horses.

Donations may be sent to: Mounted Patrol Foundation, 521

Kings Mountain Road, Woodside, CA 94062.

Go to [is.gd/whoa\\_help](http://is.gd/whoa_help) to see an online list of ways to help horses and livestock.

Two horses owned by longtime Woodside residents Judy and Frank Gage, who were forced by the fire to evacuate their home in Santa Rosa, were being boarded at Webb Ranch.

The Gages and Judy's mother escaped unharmed, but their barn and guest cottage were destroyed, former neighbors say. Their home was spared.

The Horse Park at Woodside is offering to board evacuated horses. Those needing boarding are asked to call the Horse Park's main office at (650) 851-2140 to arrange stabling.



Photo by Mary Gilles

**Donations for fire victims** dropped off at Seaport Storage in Redwood City.

### Needs filled

Several local people, including students and families at the two campuses of Laurel School in Atherton and Menlo Park, donated items that had been requested by fire evacuee shelters.

Seaport Storage, at 1703 E Bayshore Road in Redwood City,

was serving as a drop-off point for the requested donations. Drop-off hours are between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

Among the major needs were: water, Gatorade, medical grade N-95 masks, and dog and cat

See **HELPING VICTIMS**, page 6

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## Atherton takes on traffic problems, solutions

Atherton wants to do something about traffic problems in town, including coming up with strategies for dealing with the expected increase in traffic from new development in neighboring cities.

On Wednesday, Oct. 18, the City Council will discuss what it would like a consultant to include in a study of the town's traffic problems. The town

plans to request proposals from consultants who would conduct the study.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the town's council chambers at 94 Ashfield Road.

Also on the agenda is an update on the civic center project, appointment of a new member of the Rail Committee and approval of a budget for the Atherton Arts Foundation.

### INFERNO

*continued from page 5*

With a constant horizontal stream of embers crossing the road at 50 mph, 60 mph, 70 mph, "it's basically raining fire," he said. "What we just saw is really something that hasn't been seen before in an urban environment."

"There's no reality to compare it to," he said. But now that this fire has occurred, an analysis can begin, lessons can be learned, and the state building code may be amended, he said.

A big difference between this fire and the Oakland Hills fire in 1991 is that firefighters in Oakland were familiar with the behavior of fire on hills, he said.

### What to do?

"I do think the residents (in the Woodside fire district) are more proactive than many residents throughout the state of California," Chief Ghiorso said. The guidelines for fire safety are well publicized: avoid shake shingles and roofs, protect against the intrusion of embers, remove vegetation that could ignite from around homes, have evacuation plans.

The town of Woodside allocates \$100,000 every year to a fund that pays residents up to \$2,000 in a 50 percent match to take such steps as removing dead brush and woody debris from around a structure, mowing dry grass, removing limbs from nearby trees and removing some trees altogether.

"Residents are taking fire resistance zones seriously, replacing the roofs at the right time, installing ember-resistant vents," the chief said. "Not everybody is doing it. Slowly but surely we are getting there."

"The tragedy that is happening in Northern California right now, we should learn from it," Ms. Enea said. "People should take heed and try to build their houses as fire safe as possible."

"I'm really proud of how we get people signed up for SMC Alert," Ms. Enea said. "Lots of people are very inquisitive."

There are district residents who are "very upset" to see the destruction of thousands of homes that are just an hour away, she said. "People are having a hard time with this amount of smoke in their community," she said. "It's very disturbing to them."

Chief Schapelhouman said he's been thinking about the loss of cellphone service that led to Coffey Park residents waking up only when their neighbors were pounding on their doors. "Really what troubles me is the lack of time that people had to get out," he said. "A lot of them weren't notified at all."

A siren would have helped, he said. Cellphones may be more effective, but why not have both, he said. "Notification didn't occur. The notification fell apart. You've got to go back to something that's simple and that will work," he said. "You could have essentially woken the community up." ■

### HELPING VICTIMS

*continued from page 5*

food. Only new clothing was being accepted.

Local volunteers helped sort the donations before they were picked up by shelter volunteers.

### Students raise funds

Menlo-Atherton High School seniors and Menlo Park residents Maria Ornes and Katherine Steere started a GoFundMe

campaign after learning that many teachers and students had friends and family affected by the fires.

"We will be using the funds to buy supplies that local organizations have specified as a priority as well as working with the Red Cross and local churches to distribute the supplies," Ms. Ornes said.

Go to [is.gd/alm\\_fire](https://is.gd/alm_fire) for a roundup of the latest fire-related information. ■

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# Critics question wisdom of rebuilding Menlo's main library

By **Kate Bradshaw**  
Almanac Staff Writer

A plan to accept a multi-million-dollar gift from developer John Arrillaga to rebuild the Menlo Park main library has its critics who point out that the city may have to come up with as much as \$30 million for something the city doesn't really need.

Menlo Park resident Adina Levin told the City Council on Oct. 10 that she is "befuddled" over how rebuilding the main library is a community priority. Spending money on a new library could defer work on more urgent needs, she said, such as forming a transportation management association to reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicle trips in the city.

The council had on its plate at the meeting a proposal to start work on a library rebuild by authorizing spending of up to \$1 million for preliminary planning and hiring a manager for up to five years to

oversee the project.

The plan has its supporters as well as critics, but the council decided to defer action until Councilwoman Catherine Carlton, who was absent, could join the discussion, which may be as early as Oct. 17.

## Supporters say delays could result in the loss of John Arrillaga's offer to give the city millions.

Supporters of moving forward with the new library, including Gloria Darke and Iona Szkurnik, wrote in emails to the council that delays could "permanently affect Mr. Arrillaga's gift and this would be a real loss to the entire Menlo Park community."

### Belle Haven library

Another point raised by critics of the plan is that the Belle Haven branch library

has more urgent needs than the main library in the Civic Center.

Matt Henry, who lives in Belle Haven, told the council that residents of his neighborhood have for years asked the city to improve their library. "We did not just start thinking about this library four months ago," he said. "We've been working on this for a decade and we're still waiting."

The city does plan to make improvements there. City staff is recommending that the council authorize spending \$140,000 on a new carpet and furniture, a paint job, and an expanded collection of materials for adult library users.

Also, the city is working on a library needs assessment for the Belle Haven library, set to start in November. To help with the assessment, city staff recommends forming a Belle Haven Neighborhood Library Advisory Committee. ■

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### The Fires Will Affect How We Do Things in the Future

**Dear Monica: I never thought as much about fire danger as I have this week with the Napa and Sonoma fires raging. I live in town but Santa Rosa's fires show that being in town doesn't mean you are protected. How do you think counties and cities will respond to increased fire danger?**

**Carol C.**

Dear Carol: It is too soon to know what the response of local and state governments will be but there is no doubt that changes in building, zoning and general codes in response to fire dangers are coming. Individuals will be much more alert to creating defensible space around

their homes. While the homes in Coffey Park in Santa Rosa burned so quickly that it didn't matter whether they had more fire-safe materials, there will certainly be an analysis of what building materials should and shouldn't be used.

There will be emphasis on establishing a warning system any time the fire danger is high. Citizens will take these alerts seriously, especially after this week. So many people had almost no time to escape. Expect forestry rules to be affected too. We all need to stay informed so we can protect ourselves and our property in a disaster.

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# Struggles over leadership at Woodside church

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

There's turmoil at the Woodside Village Church. Interim Pastor Ama Zenya, presiding since March 2015, is both loved and under fire, and perspective is everything in trying to determine whether she'll be staying or going.

She has been terminated as an "authorized minister" in the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ, an action that is under appeal.

Her most recent six-month contract as interim pastor expired at the end of September, but a key member of the Woodside Village Church council, the governing body for the local church, noted that she remains interim pastor and that she will continue in that role and be essential to the congregation's search for a permanent pastor.

"We will renew it," Mark Dickey, a Woodside resident, council member and congregation member since childhood, said of the contract. "Pastor Ama is very much our pastor. She's very much engaged, and I can just tell you ... that she is incredibly highly thought of. ... The fact that she has embraced this church and gotten it back on its feet to the point where we can conduct a meaningful search and attract a very qualified candidate is amazing."

Council member and Woodside resident Susannah Wright said she is "just so thankful and appreciative for all of the work that Ama has done. She helps us continue to grow and thrive and be a vibrant part of the community. ... It is such a wonderful place to be. It has had such a positive impact on the community."

Church council member Iris Hecker said the regional authorities' action is a result of a few longtime members of the Village Church complaining. "The community loves her," she said.

The community's views are significant. In the United Church of Christ, Ms. Zenya said, decisions are made by the local church congregation when possible, and not by authorities such as bishops. "A local church can decide who its pastor is," she said.

The Rev. Diane Weible of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ confirmed that statement. "All employment decisions are between a minister and her or his congregation," she said in an email.



File photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

**A contemplative moment** in April 2015 for Interim Pastor Ama Zenya outside the Woodside Village Church in the company of DJ, the church cat. Two and a half years later, Ms. Zenya is receiving high praise from the congregation for revitalizing the church ahead of finding a permanent pastor, but the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ says she is no longer an authorized minister.

The complaints against Ms. Zenya came from "at least six" members who've been with the church for more than 25 years, said Marsha Campbell, a former Woodside resident (she now lives in Menlo Park), longtime church member and former church council member. While Ms. Campbell is a critic of Ms. Zenya, she did not include herself among those six.

Church council members interviewed for this story say there were three complaints. Mr. Dickey, when asked to estimate the number of the pastor's critics in a congregation of between 60 and 70, replied: "Way less than 10."

The complaints were forwarded to an ethics committee associated with the regional conference. In a July 21 letter to Ms. Zenya, the Rev. Weible and two colleagues wrote that her standing as a minister in the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ has been terminated as a result of a recent fitness review, and that she was "unlikely to become fit for ministry in and on behalf of the United Church of Christ."

Ms. Zenya is appealing the process that led to the decision.

## Public censure

The ethics committee of the Northern California Nevada Conference alleged that Ms. Zenya inappropriately called for "public censure" of the congregation's elected representative to the Woodside Village Church

council, Ms. Campbell.

Ms. Campbell, Ms. Zenya said, had been unwilling to meet with her for months, and had avoided worship services and meeting new members. Ms. Zenya recalled her message to the congregation: "If you believe that your elected leader should come to worship and get to know the new members and be willing to meet with me, then please call her and tell her."

"I was kind of feeling at my wit's end," she said, adding that she later apologized for her statement to the congregation, acknowledging that it had been

## Staying put?

The ethics committee alleged that Ms. Zenya "intentionally interfered" with the church's progress in choosing a permanent minister.

Ms. Zenya was hired because the church had become stagnant with no new members, Ms. Hecker said. Things were so bad, she said, that church leaders were considering joining with another church.

"The church needed to get itself right-sided," Mr. Dickey said. "As an interim pastor, doing a turnaround is not easy." The council had to find

## Interim pastor is terminated as 'authorized minister' by regional body, but local church authorities say she's not going anywhere.

inappropriate.

Asked about all this, Ms. Campbell said she had decided not to meet with Ms. Zenya unless someone else was present to validate the exchange, and that her absence at services had been because she was teaching Sunday school.

As for not meeting new members: "Totally not true," Ms. Campbell said. "I have a great regard for the new members and the young people."

Ms. Zenya noted that while the Sunday school teachers are not at the entire service, they do attend the first 10 minutes before adjourning with the children.

someone willing to step into a temporary job and commit to several years of work, he said.

"She has re-energized the possibility of what the church can be in this community," Mr. Dickey said. "I, for one, am excited. I know I speak for the vast majority of the congregation."

The pastor "made it very clear that she is the interim," Ms. Wright said. "That perception that she wants to stay permanently, I don't know where that comes from," she said. The point is to move forward in the "best possible manner that will lead to the vibrant future for the church," she said. "We should be able to attract a really

outstanding permanent pastor."

"I just have to so sing her praises," said Dr. Eric Weiss, a physician in town whose main concern was community vitality. The Hub, a church and community gathering program, recently launched after 12 months of setup time, he said.

Among The Hub's community-oriented activities: Seder dinners, Buddhist studies, community acupuncture, arts and crafts fairs and "Curious minds," a Friday morning get-together.

"We've really tried to create a place where people can come and participate in what is of interest to them," he said. "Without her and her energy and her commitment, none of that would be possible."

Church attendance rose sharply — to 73 from 29 — after Ms. Zenya's became interim pastor in March 2015, averaged 57 for the rest of the year, and has fluctuated since, according to a spreadsheet that Ms. Zenya provided.

As interim pastor, Ms. Zenya "has brought probably about 20 new families to the church," a congregation member who preferred anonymity told the Almanac. "We had no kids when she came and now we have a whole bunch. The young families feel very supported by Ama."

Ms. Campbell did not entirely disagree with the praise. "Ama is trying very hard to change the culture of the congregation from pessimism to optimism and has succeeded," she said in an email. "Unfortunately, it has been done at the expense of some of the long-term members who are not included and have no voice."

She continued: "I believe that delaying the search process was intended to give her more time in Woodside," she said. Ms. Zenya wanted to become the "settled pastor," Ms. Campbell said, evidenced in part by not referring to herself as an interim pastor.

"Suffice it to say that those who oppose her actively encounter a determination to maintain control that is in direct contrast to her public persona," Ms. Campbell said.

In searching for a permanent pastor, it's key to involve young families, Ms. Zenya said. "(Engaging) five or six 70- and 80-year-olds to pick a pastor who would resonate with younger families did not seem like a reasonable idea," she said.

## One person's charisma

The ethics committee alleged that Ms. Zenya "seem(s) to

See **WOODSIDE CHURCH**, page 10

# Former Woodside residents escape fire but lose home

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

Vicky and Dan Pardini, who lived in Woodside and then Redwood City until 2015, lost their home and barn in Redwood Valley to the Redwood Complex fire in Mendocino County.

The Pardini's son Stavros said on the GoFundMe page he created for his parents that "our family built this log cabin from scratch off the grid with our bare hands on weekends and whatever free time we had."

The Pardinis report that even though they had only 15 minutes of warning, they, their two sons, daughter-in-law and four

grandchildren and all their animals were able to escape safely.

Vicky Pardini said the family members would probably all be dead had not a friend called at 1:30 a.m. and warned them a fire was racing up their hill.

"We didn't smell it, we were asleep," she said. As she left with her grandchildren, other family members tried to grab some belongings, but a propane explosion sent them fleeing nearly empty-handed, she said.

Only two homes in their neighborhood remain unburned, she said.

The Pardini's son Danny, a graduate of Woodside Elementary and Serra High School, and his wife and four children lived

with his parents and also lost their home and belongings.

Stavros and his family were also evacuated from their home in the area.

For now, the extended family of 15 is staying at the Campovida winery in the Mendocino County town of Hopland, where their daughter-in-law works.

The Pardini family lived in Woodside from 1987 to 1997 and then moved to Redwood City, where they owned Dan Pardini's Auto Body.

Go to [is.gd/p\\_fund](https://is.gd/p_fund) to see Dan and Vicky Pardini's GoFundMe page.

Go to [is.gd/dp\\_fund](https://is.gd/dp_fund) to see Danny and Amy Pardini's GoFundMe page. ■



Photo courtesy Pardini family

**The Mendocino County barn** of Dan and Vicky Pardini a few days after the fire that also destroyed the home and possessions of the former Woodside residents. The family escaped unharmed.

## Menlo Park animal hospital aids families with pets

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park's Mid Peninsula Animal Hospital is pitching in to help people with pets impacted by the

North Bay fires.

The animal hospital, located on Merrill Street across from the Menlo Park train station, has sent at least two truckloads full of pet crates and animal food to evacuation centers. At

some evacuation centers, people cannot register with their pets unless their pets are crated.

Many people fled the fire in the middle of the night and

See **ANIMAL HOSPITAL**, page 10

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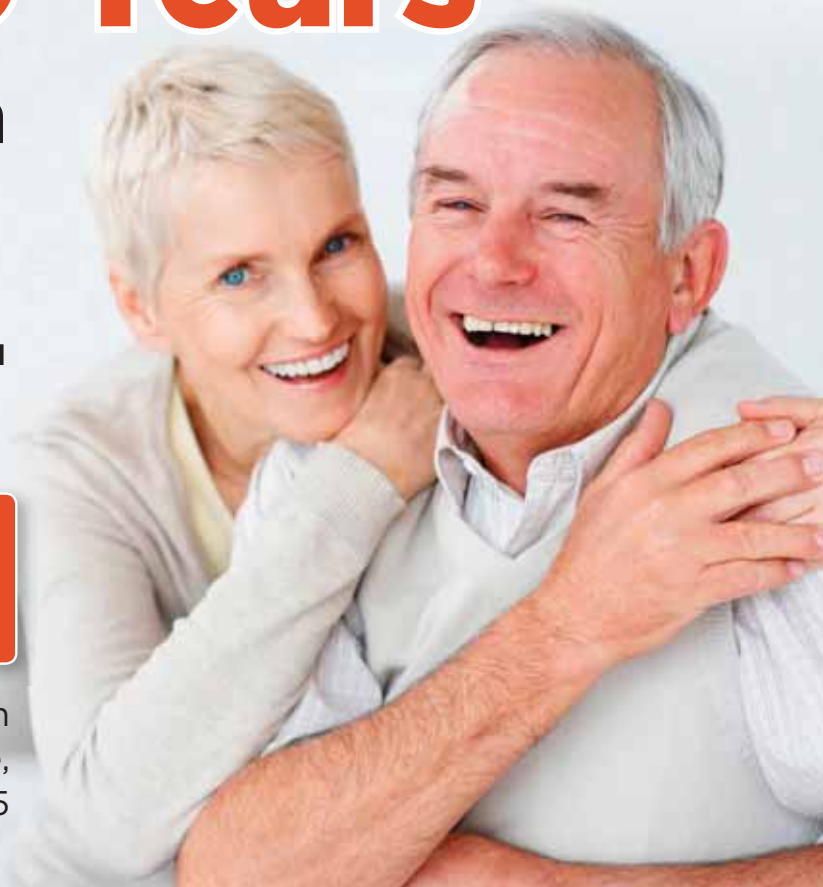
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## Herbicide spraying among meetup topics

To discuss Caltrans' broadcast spraying of herbicides along roadsides and other concerns, state Sen. Jerry Hill and Assemblyman Marc Berman will meet for coffee and conversation with local residents on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the La Honda Elementary School, 450 Sears Ranch Road in La Honda.

Caltrans plans to "broadcast spray" herbicides from a sprayer truck along state highways 84, 35 and 1, but has not yet said when, according to Patty Mayall, the director of the community group, Protect Our Watershed San Mateo County.

Ms. Mayall said the meeting with lawmakers was organized by La Honda Indivisible, which submitted questions to the legislators. (Indivisible is a national movement of local grass-roots groups

### BRIEFS

organized to resist the agenda of President Donald Trump.)

"We hope our representatives will address (those questions), including what are they doing to end roadside broadcast spraying by Caltrans in San Mateo County and to have better response from this public agency that ignores our concerns," Ms. Mayall said.

Protect Our Watershed advocates spot spraying and manually removing invasive species of plants. Broadcast spraying is done along Interstate 280, U.S. 101, El Camino Real, La Honda Road/Woodside Road, Skyline Boulevard and state highways 92 and 1, the group says.

Go to [protectourwatershed.org](http://protectourwatershed.org) for more information.

Call (650) 212-3313 to get answers to questions about the meeting with the legislators.

### Newspaper boxes

The city of Menlo Park has received complaints that newspaper boxes on the streets are unsightly, ill-maintained, and out of control, with private companies putting up boxes wherever they choose.

A public meeting will be held Wednesday, Oct. 25, to gather comment on a proposed city ordinance regulating the boxes.

Go to [is.gd/newsbox874](http://is.gd/newsbox874) to see the staff report. It may take a minute to load.

The meeting will run from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Oak Room of the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center at 700 Alma St. in the Menlo Park Civic Center.

### ANIMAL HOSPITAL

continued from page 9

didn't have time to grab their pet crates, Carol Schumacher, principal at the animal hospital, said.

The hospital is raising funds to buy crates, pet food, medicine and other supplies for pets, and plans to send a team of veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians to help. Several veterinarians at the hospital are being deployed by the California Veterinary Medical Association to provide emergency care for injured animals, Ms. Schumacher said.

Naomi Pearce, animal hospital spokesperson, said she's contacting evacuation centers to figure out what's needed where. "As you might imagine, there's a lot of sorting out going on up north," she said.

One positive note: Ms. Schumacher said that at least in one of the more accessible evacuation centers in Marin, donations were being turned away because so many contributions had been received.

"I'm just really impressed with the overwhelming response," she said. "This is an ongoing disaster that's going to be a problem for a long time. We're going to be there for the long haul to help people get through this."

Go to [is.gd/midpen22](http://is.gd/midpen22) to access the donation website. Ms. Schumacher said the animal hospital will match donations up to \$10,000.

People who have extra animal crates can drop them off at the animal hospital for delivery to evacuation centers. The animal hospital is located at 1125 Merrill St. in Menlo Park. ■

### WOODSIDE CHURCH

continued from page 8

believe that the most important role of the church leadership is to protect the pastor instead of to determine what is best for the life of the church."

Ms. Zenya is "endowed as a religious leader," and has used

her endowment to violate an ethics contract that said that "she would not use her personal power," Ms. Campbell said. "She is a wonderful person. She is charismatic. She is outgoing and friendly. ... She is very smart and she has many gifts, but she is probably not in the right position now."

It's a gender thing, Ms. Hecker said. The regional church administration wants female pastors "to be very subdued," she said. "They don't encourage women to be strong as pastors, saying that the congregation should lead. That doesn't work. The council is the one that governs and the pastor is

supposed to lead."

"I can't say anything negative about Pastor Ama," she added. "She's used to being in charge and making decisions."

In her appeal, Ms. Zenya asked the committee to re-examine the process that led to the termination letter to determine if it was done "fairly, transparently and thoroughly," she said. "It wasn't any of those, and I think they saw that," she said.

The church council gave the appeal its unanimous support, Ms. Hecker said. "We feel that she's done nothing wrong and has only done good things for the church.

She ruffled a few feathers."

Asked to comment on the appeal, the Rev. Weible replied via email. "The Committee on Ministry takes ethical issues very seriously and has a process for addressing issues brought before the Committee," she wrote. "The process was followed in (this) instance ... Our prayers are with Ama during this difficult time."

While the conference cannot remove Ms. Zenya as interim pastor, the effect is "that she is no longer authorized to serve as a minister in and on behalf of the United Church of Christ," the Rev. Weible said. ■



(Left) Susie Solomon, Director of College Counseling

(Right) Current Student, Class of 2018



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# Menlo Park OKs hikes in pay, benefits for city employees

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park City Council has unanimously approved spending more than \$1.9 million for pay and benefit increases for 192 city employees and supervisors between now and June 30, 2020.

The compensation increases are part of agreements with bargaining units representing the employees and managers.

The city also reached a tentative agreement with the Menlo Park Police Sergeants Association, representing eight police supervisors and sergeants, for pay and benefit increases expected to cost the city \$80,300 by the expiration date of the agreement on June 30, 2019.

In the agreements with the three bargaining units, unanimously approved by the council on Sept. 26, the city employees and supervisors will receive

three pay rate increases: 4 percent on Oct. 1, 2017; 3 percent on July 1, 2018; and 2.5 percent on July 1, 2019.

These employees and managers will also receive increases in their "cafeteria" health care benefits packages: \$50 more per month per employee starting Jan. 1, 2019, and another \$50 more per month per employee starting Jan. 1, 2020. Employees can use the money for qualifying healthcare expenses

incurred by them or their eligible dependents.

These employees and managers will also get a four-hour annual increase in holiday time, up to 34 hours a year. One-time, four-hour holiday allowances for supervisor employees may be cashed out for a maximum cost to the city of \$9,000.

City staff estimates that by locking in terms with the bargaining units and not having to negotiate again until the end of

June 2020, the city will save an estimated \$120,000 in legal costs and internal staff time.

The bargaining units are Local 521 Service Employees International Union, which represents 151 city employees; and Local 829 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), which represents 35 supervisors. There are six employees who are

See **EMPLOYEES**, page 20

## Edwin Charles Wright

Edwin Charles Wright, a resident of Atherton for 53 years, passed away peacefully on October 6 at the age of 89. Ed was born with his twin brother Roger in DeKalb, Illinois on June 14, 1928 -- Flag Day. He said that he and his twin were 10 years old before they realized that all the flags in town were not put up to celebrate their birthday. Ed was predeceased by Roger and his older brother, Robert.

Ed grew up in the farming town of Belvidere, Illinois, and was the son of Herman and Hannah (Nan) Wright. He graduated from Belvidere High School where he was editor of the school paper, running back on the football team, guard on the basketball team and Captain and top player on the golf team. The summer before his senior year of high school he attended the Northwestern University Journalism Institute and was honored as the outstanding male student by the faculty.

In 1946, Ed travelled West with his twin brother in their De Soto convertible to attend Stanford University, where he graduated in 1950 with a degree in Political Science. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta and Rally Com, and contributed to the Chaparral magazine. As a Stanford alumnus he chaired or co-chaired his class reunion off and on for over 50 years. Stanford Associates presented him with an Outstanding Achievement award in 2000.

In 1950 Ed married Barbara Jean Gates and returned to Belvidere, where he became the Personnel Manager for the Green Giant Company cannery. In 1952 he was the Boone County, Illinois chairman of the Dwight Eisenhower presidential campaign. In 1953 Ed and Barbara returned to California, where Ed worked as Personnel Manager for the Libby Foods west coast headquarters in San Francisco. In 1957 Ed went into the life and health insurance business, specializing in estate planning and employee benefits. He became a Certified Life Underwriter and a lifetime member of the Million Dollar Roundtable. He served on the board of directors for both the



CLU association and the Life Underwriters association. In 1999 he was named Professional of the Year by the 400-member Life Association.

Ed was also active in the community. He was president of the Atherton Little League in 1968-69. He was a member of the Peninsula Kiwanis Club for 44 years, serving as President in 1982. In the 1970s he was on the Board of the Peninsula Big Brothers. Ed was a competitive golfer and a longtime member of the Stanford Golf Club. In later years he enjoyed golfing with the Sirs retirement group. Ed and

his wife Barbara enjoyed many trips together especially to Hawaii and Palm Desert. They also traveled often to Mexico and Europe. Ed had a big appetite for baseball and had been a loyal Chicago Cubs fan since age 5. He was also a fan of the San Francisco Giants and the Stanford Cardinal in all sports.

Ed had a wonderful sense of humor and loved telling jokes and stories about his life experiences. His stories got enhanced as the years passed. He always had a very sociable character, and made friends easily. He was never a great adventurer, except for the great trip West that he and his twin brother made from Illinois in 1946 in their De Soto convertible to attend Stanford.

Family always played a key role in Ed's life. Blessed with a calm and reassuring character and a strong work ethic inherited from his parents, Ed always endeavored to provide financial and emotional support to his wife, children and grandchildren, and to set a good example to both family and friends.

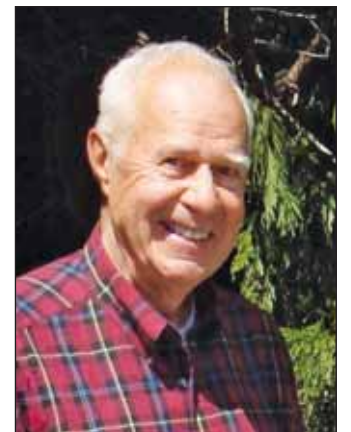
Ed is survived by his wife, Barbara after 67 years of a very happy marriage. He will be missed by his sons John, Chuck, Dan and Jim and by daughters-in-law Ruth, Lisa and Michele. He was a loving grandfather to Adam, Peter, Thomas, Sam, Scott, Steven, David, Joshua, Lindsay and Ashley.

## Fred James Eder Jr.

August 10, 1928 – September 30, 2017

Fred passed away following a short illness on September 30th at his home at the Vi in Palo Alto.

Born in Lucerne, Pennsylvania, Fred was the oldest son of Anna Koschak Eder and Fred James Eder. The family moved to Jersey City, New Jersey where Fred had many fond memories of his friends and the vibrant community that was the melting pot of Jersey City. Fred



served our country as a weatherman for the Air Force during the Korean War. Following the war, Fred was in the insurance business and was responsible for drafting complex policies for many national and international firms. Fred worked at several prominent firms in New York City and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Fred married Patricia ("Tricia") Allen Eder and enjoyed a loving and happy marriage for 43 years, until Tricia preceded him in death. When just newlyweds, Fred and Tricia relocated to California and raised their two children in Atherton, where they lived for more than 30 years. Fred and Tricia then moved to Gilroy to build their dream house, where they enjoyed retirement. Fred was a fantastic chef and he celebrated his love of cooking with his 5 favorite sous-chefs, his grandchildren.

Fred was devoted to his family and supported his grandchildren by attending many of their activities. He will be remembered by his son, daughter and their families, Fred and Ellen Eder of Menlo Park, Pamela and John DeVoy of Redwood Shores and his beloved grandchildren, Elizabeth Eder, Fred J. Eder IV, Oliva DeVoy, Harrison DeVoy and Zachary DeVoy.

In his later years, Fred was an avid community volunteer. He was active at Filoli Center on the security team, planned art trips for the Committee for Art at the Cantor Arts Center and served as a volunteer at the Stanford Hospital. He cherished time spent with many friends including his Thursday dinner group and his dear friend Denise.

Fred was loved by his extended family. He was predeceased by his brother Robert Eder. He will be missed by his sister in laws, Eleanor Eder of Colonia, New Jersey and Dolores (Allen) Rybinski of So. Plainfield, N.J., and his brother in law Harold Allen and his wife Kathy of Kansas City, Kansas and their families.

A memorial mass will be held at the Church of the Nativity, Menlo Park on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 10:00 am. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Redwood Empire Food Bank in support of the Sonoma County fire victims at [refb.org](http://refb.org).

PAID OBITUARY

PAID OBITUARY

# Reformers recommend ranked-choice voting

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

## ■ MENLO PARK

Menlo Park has more options to at-large voting — electing all City Council members citywide — than just moving to district elections, according to two officials from election reform organizations.

The city is facing a threat of a lawsuit, under the California Voting Rights Act, if it doesn't move away from at-large elections toward a system that makes it easier for candidates supported by minority residents in Belle Haven to get elected to the City Council.

Steve Chessin, president of Californians for Electoral Reform, and Jennifer Pae, director of FairVote California, explained options for the city during a public workshop in Menlo Park on Oct. 7.

Menlo Park can keep itself safe from a lawsuit by switching to by-district elections, in which the city would be split into districts, and only residents of a given district could elect their representative.

But that system has drawbacks, said Mr. Chessin. Drawing boundaries throughout the city can foster balkanization and governance by “mini-mayors,” he said, since council members would be accountable only to the constituents of their district, rather than responsive to the needs of the entire city.

### Ranked choice

Mr. Chessin and Ms. Pae spoke in favor of a ranked-choice voting system, rather than the current “winner-take-all” system.

Ranked-choice voting sounds complicated, but basically, the idea is that voters would be given the option to rank candidates, depending on the number of seats available.

Any candidate that gains enough first-choice votes to cross a threshold to win (more than 50 percent of the votes for one open seat, 33 percent for two open seats, or 25 percent for three open seats) would give up any excess votes beyond that winning threshold to be redistributed to voters' second-choice picks.

If the right number of candidates has not yet crossed that threshold to win, then the candidate with the fewest votes, after the first round of vote

distributions, would be eliminated and those votes would be redistributed to voters' second- or third-choice picks.

The ranked-choice system has some advantages. One is that runoff elections can be done instantly and a separate round of voting is not needed, according to Ms. Pae.

The system also produces more cordial campaigns, she said. That's because candidates are discouraged from attacking other candidates, since supporters of other campaigns are not opponents, but rather, potential sources for second-choice votes.

According to FairVote, there are four cities that use ranked-choice voting in California: San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley and San Leandro. The organization cites a study claiming that in those cities, more women and people of color have run for and won elected offices.

### Mix and match

Mr. Chessin pointed out that cities can mix-and-match different systems to do what makes sense depending on the demographics of each city.

Santa Clara, which is being sued on allegations of violating the California Voting Rights Act, established a Charter Review Committee, which has recommended that the city be divided into two districts, each with three seats, to be selected via ranked-choice voting. That proposal is expected to go before voters next June.

However, ranked-choice voting alone doesn't guarantee that Belle Haven will get representation on the council, and may not be enough to solve the problem for which the city is facing a lawsuit threat. Some form of districting may be needed too.

To move forward with any alternative form of voting, other than strictly at-large (the city's current election system) or by-district systems, Menlo Park would have to convert from what's called a “general law” city to a charter city. That would mean changing the city's constitution, which requires voter approval.

Mr. Chessin encouraged the council to talk to Kevin Shenkman, the attorney representing the undisclosed plaintiff or



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See **VOTING**, page 20

# Meet the candidates for Portola Valley school board

By **Barbara Wood**  
Almanac Staff Writer

With the unexpected news that health problems mean incumbent Karen Tate is dropping out of the Portola Valley School District's governing board race, only three candidates remain for three open seats on the board.

Ms. Tate has said that she will finish up her term, which ends in November, and that if she is elected she will have to resign, leaving the school board to either appoint a board member or hold another election.

Ms. Tate said she has full confidence in the candidates vying for the three expiring terms and asks voters to not vote for her.

Here is information on the three candidates.

## Jeffrey Klugman

Mr. Klugman, 57, is the father of twins (a son and daughter in fifth grade at Corte Madera School and married to May Chen, a Stanford oncologist.

He has an engineering degree from Carnegie Mellon University and an MBA from Stanford University. He is a retired software executive, most recently working for TiVo for 15 years as executive vice president of products and revenue.

He lives on Willowbrook Drive in Portola Valley.

Mr. Klugman has volunteered

in his children's classrooms since they were in kindergarten, has been a parent tutor and basketball coach, and serves on the district's technology committee. He previously served on the board of the Anti-Defamation League.

His business background, including his experience negotiating contracts and as an officer of a publicly traded company, will serve him well on the school board, Mr. Klugman said. His engineering background means he is data-driven and analytical, he said.

Mr. Klugman said he became interested in joining the school board partly over concerns that the district needed to think more carefully about how it uses technology in the schools.

The concern arose, he said, when his fourth-graders were given take-home Chromebooks. "This was a device that did not easily have the ability to be turned off," he said. "I think there is an embrace of technology too soon."

The facilities master plan currently being considered by the district should receive more public scrutiny and input before it is adopted, he said. "I think we just need to be out there more talking to the community," he said.

## Karyn Bechtel

Ms. Bechtel is 41, has two children (daughters in sixth and

eighth grades at Corte Madera School), and is married to Adam Bechtel, who works for Apple in infrastructure.

She has a degree in speech-language pathology from Colorado University at Boulder and a degree in dialogue, deliberation and public engagement from Fielding University.

She previously worked for Stanford University, including at the Haas Center for Public Service. In Colorado she helped to open a small one-room rural charter school.

A resident of Skywood Acres in Woodside, she has been volunteering at Portola Valley schools since moving to the district five years ago. She has been a math tutor and a costumed "Mystery Reader," has worked on service learning projects, served on the the Corte Madera site council, and helped organize PTO assemblies.

Ms. Bechtel said she vowed to get more involved in her community after the November 2016 election "because I wanted to be sure there are thoughtful and engaged people in the room."

"Karen Tate was very inspiring to me," she said.

Ms. Bechtel said she does not see the school board, which will have four new members after the election (one is to be appointed Oct. 25), approving



The three remaining candidates are, from left, Jeffrey Klugman, Karyn Bechtel and Mike Maffia.

a facilities master plan and the details of a bond measure in time to get a bond measure on next June's ballot.

"I think the question will become should we try to do it by November (2018) or not," she said.

Ms. Bechtel said when her family moved to the district she took to heart its vision statement: "We are an innovative learning community inspiring the hearts and minds of all our children."

"That drives everything we do," she said.

## Mike Maffia

Mr. Maffia, 39, has three children, including two at Ormondale School: a 7-year-old daughter in the second grade and a 5-year-old son in kindergarten. His third child is 2 years old. A resident of the Westridge neighborhood, he is married to Vanessa Maffia.

With degrees in economics and applied economics and finance from the University of California at Santa Cruz, he is a real estate developer and investor who owns Preserve West Capital.

Mr. Maffia helped raise money for the Windmill Preschool's new home and with his wife has collected books and materials for schools in need.

Experience as a developer — working with contractors, architects and consultants — should serve him well on the school board as it puts together its facilities master plan, Mr. Maffia said.

"There are still a lot of decisions to be made," he said, adding that more feedback from the community is needed before a plan is adopted.

"I genuinely enjoy Portola Valley," Mr. Maffia said. "I think it's a unique place that has a strong sense of community." ■

## Incumbent Karen Tate withdraws from election

By **Barbara Wood**  
Almanac Staff Writer

Karen Tate, one of four candidates and the only incumbent running for one of the three open Portola Valley School District board seats this November, has announced she is withdrawing after she was recently diagnosed with health problems.

Board president Timothy McAdam said Ms. Tate has been a key member of the school board. "Karen is the most conscientious, energetic and thoughtful trustee that this district has ever seen, full stop," he said. "Her passion for education and the PVSD is infectious and she has single-handedly upped the game of everyone around her, from the district team, to the teachers and administrators to the Trustees."

Mr. McAdam said that although board members are "disappointed that she has decided to withdraw from the race due to health concerns, we are confident that the slate of

interested parties running are eminently qualified to pick up the reins from the outgoing Board members."

"We all wish Karen a heartfelt and speedy recovery," he said.

Ms. Tate's departure means the Portola Valley school board will be deciding what should be in its facilities master plan, and the details of a bond measure to pay for some plan projects, with only one veteran board member in office.

After November, Gulliver La Valle, who has been on the board for less than two years, will be the senior board member. Board member Jennifer Youstra resigned Sept. 8 with more than two years left in her term and the board plans to appoint her replacement on Oct. 25.

Superintendent Eric Hartwig said the new development



Portola Valley School district  
**Karen Tate**

means the district may hold off putting a bond measure on the ballot. "I'm going to have to consider what my recommendation would be," he said. "It just may not be appropriate" to work toward a June election, he said.

The board had discussed putting a bond measure on the June 2018 ballot, which would have to

be finalized by early March.

Ms. Tate's name will remain on the ballot, which most voters have already received, but the announcement of her withdrawal says she would have to resign her seat if she is elected.

"Trustee Tate regrets any inconvenience," the statement says. "She has full confidence in

the three other candidates who are vying for the three expiring terms and asks that you support them instead."

Ms. Tate, who has two children in Corte Madera School, was appointed board in April, 2013, and re-elected in November of that year. She plans to complete her term. She is an active community volunteer

See **TATE**, page 20

## Wednesday deadline to apply for school board

Wednesday, Oct. 18, is the deadline to apply for appointment to fill a vacancy on the Portola Valley School District's governing board that was created when board member Jennifer Youstra resigned Sept. 8 with more than two years left in her term.

The appointment will be made on Oct. 25, effective immediately upon the appointment.

Candidates will be interviewed in public at the Oct. 25 board meeting. The appointee

will serve the remainder of Ms. Youstra's term and will then be able to run as an "appointed incumbent."

District voters will elect three additional board members in November. Four candidates had applied but incumbent Karen Tate has dropped out due to health problems.

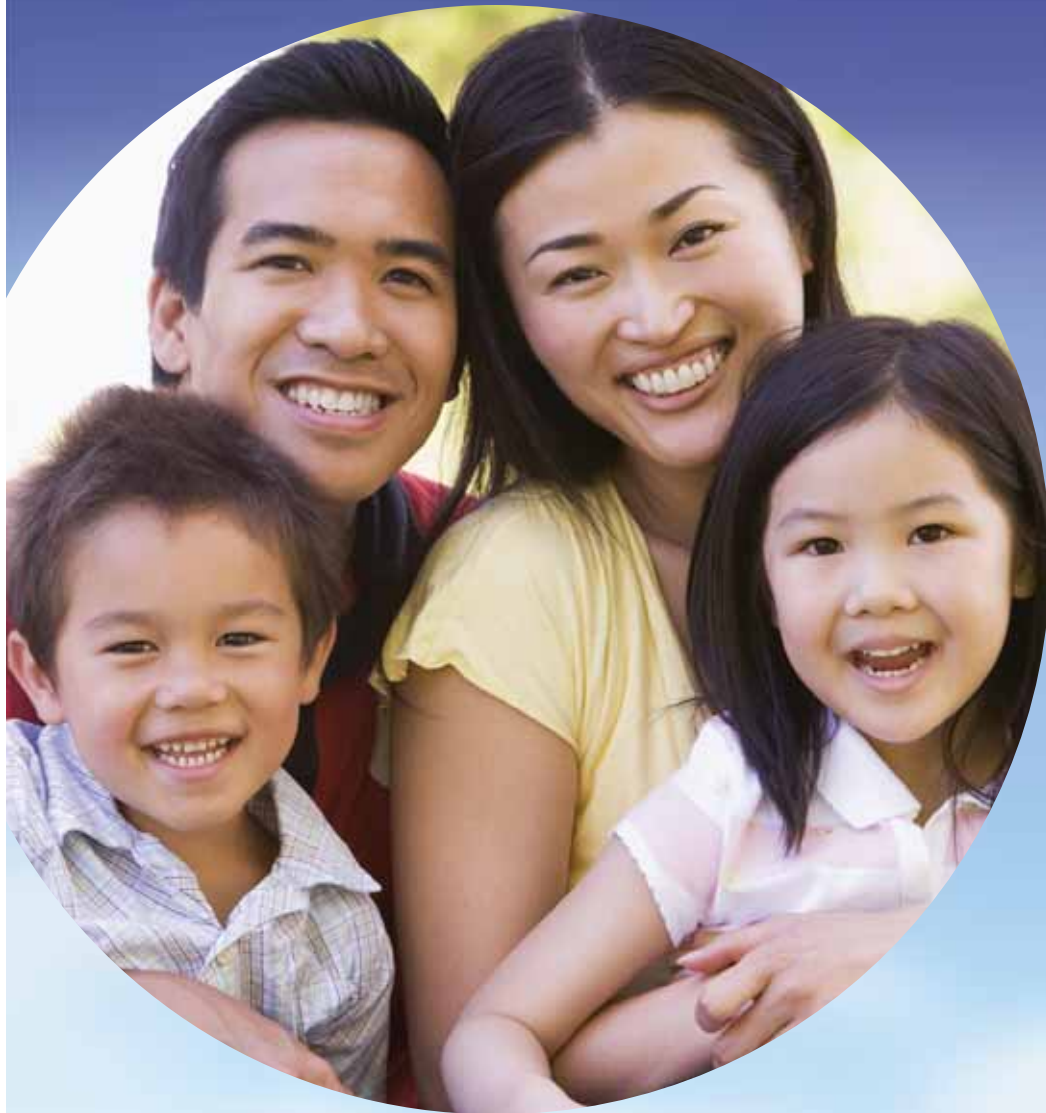
Gulliver La Valle, who has been on the board for less than two years, will be the only veteran on the board after November.

State law requires that school

board members live in the district, be a registered voter, and not be a current school district employee.

The board usually meets on the third Wednesday of the month, with the open session starting at 6 p.m., in Room 201 of Corte Madera School, 4575 Alpine Road in Portola Valley.

At [is.gd/appoint](http://is.gd/appoint), the Almanac's online story has links at the bottom to documents including the school board appointment application.



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# FINDING REFUGE THROUGH ART

A mission trip to treat hearing loss brings art by Syrian refugee children to Menlo Park

By Kate Daly  
Special to the Almanac

A team of American audiologists and volunteers were on a humanitarian mission treating patients at a refugee shelter in Amman, Jordan, last spring when they stumbled across a treasure trove of art: a collection of heart-wrenching paintings Syrian children had done on patches of old United Nations tents at a refugee camp.

That find set in motion a quest to pay young artists there to make more pictures. Now 15 of those paintings of doves, flowers, people and bombs, and their Arabic captions sharing feelings about escaping war, are hanging in a special display in Menlo Park through November.

Thanks largely to the efforts of Menlo Park resident and audiologist Dr. Jane Baxter, these paintings and others are mounted at her Pacific Hearing Service office as “phase one” of what she hopes is more art and more awareness stemming from her mission trips to that part of the world.

Since 2015 she and her husband Steve Beck have volunteered in Jordan four times, and plan to return next March, and possibly again in September.

One canvas by a 13-year-old shows

two girls, one staring straight ahead, the other with her eyes shut. The caption reads:

*Sister tell me when  
Hope arrives  
So, I open my eyes.*



Dr. Jane Baxter

A blossom, three colorful birds and a lone black bird perch on a stark branch in a canvas by another 13-year-old artist. The caption reads: “I came to the camp with all my memories. I will not forget you my three friends, one day I shall meet you in the heavens.”

These powerful paintings were done by children living in the Zaatari refugee camp. The camp was created in 2012 on three square miles in the desert to house Syrians fleeing violence at home, and has evolved into a permanent complex for 80,000.

Dr. Baxter’s friend Maggie Conroy was the one who discovered the art and arranged to commission more pieces from the young artists with the twin goals of providing “them with some kind of income and to try to help build awareness of the refugee situation,” Ms. Conroy said.

Getting the art out of the country was somewhat of a challenge, Ms. Conroy acknowledged, but she plans to continue buying the art and bringing more out.

Ms. Conroy works as an art therapist and was with the audiologists on their mission trip to Jordan last April. She entertained families while they waited for treatment, promoting healing while having fun.

She framed 13 additional pieces from her art therapy sessions for exhibit. She shares the story of one boy being fitted for hearing aids at the Irbid Camp, a camp established in Jordan in 1951 for



Girls with Dove  
Hajar Alkifri  
Age 13



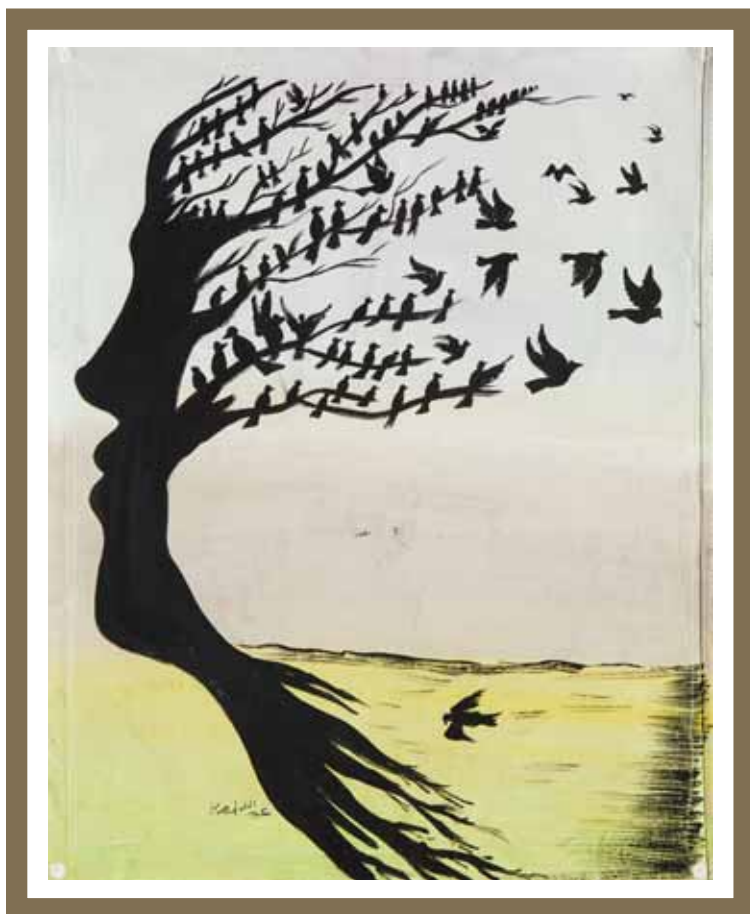
Dove in the City  
Leila Jokdar  
Age 10

Vases with Flowers  
Suheima Alamari  
Age 11



## ■ THE EXHIBIT

The art exhibit coincides with Pacific Hearing Service celebrating its 40th anniversary. Through November, the public is welcome to stop by 3555 Alameda de las Pulgas, Suite 100, in Menlo Park, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and take a short self-guided tour of the collection.



*Tree Person*  
Abdullah Almisri  
Age 13



*Girl holding town*  
Artist unknown



*Let us play  
Live and love*  
Taj Jukdar  
Age 13

Palestinian refugees. He drew many pictures of little boys with huge ears, saying he wanted more brothers to play with. He left the clinic hearing for the first time in years.

One of the framed art pieces is a sample of crochet done by another patient, a Syrian mother whose husband was a dentist but is not allowed to work in Jordan. She goes to a refugee center that houses and feeds war-wounded children, and also offers rooms and supplies to women so they can crochet, knit and sew items to sell and help provide for their families.

Dr. Baxter said she and her colleagues see hundreds of patients during a week's stay. Typically, a team of 25 to 35 audiologists and volunteers, organized through Entheos Audiology Cooperative, hand-carry in 500 to 600 hearing aids, older generation models manufacturers give them, recycled ones from American patients, and others bought with donations.

She said they always run out of inventory so they see kids first and then the adults.

Many of the refugees "have very severe hearing loss, a lot of it (because of) bombs and war," and some due to intermarriage, she said.

She treated a family with four sons, all with severe hearing loss. She also worked with two sisters whose father said they couldn't hear since they were babies, that there must have

been something wrong with the breast milk.

Dr. Baxter said, ideally, they would like to get out to schools to test students because "if they don't have hearing, they send them home from school," and the children are then further isolated.

She was astounded to find "some families where the kids don't sign and don't speak," and smiles when talking about the rewards of being able to give the gift of hearing.

Dr. Baxter remembers having reservations initially about

working in pediatrics at these makeshift clinics, where they have to bring in all the equipment, test long lines of children, and outfit them with hearing aids, but she has found "the kids are so well-behaved; they sit all day and are cooperative because they know it's the best day of their life."

She recalled one 10-year-old boy who was so determined to get to the clinic he came by himself, but most show up with a parent.

Post-care can be an issue. She said the United Nations

often provides free batteries at the camps, but hearing aids can break and need periodic cleaning.

The team usually brings along a hearing aid maintenance kit, and tries to teach locals what to do, but there are no formal learning opportunities in Jordan for the study of audiology. Dr. Baxter said the World Health Organization is looking to make some strides in hearing care and she'd like to "partner with them." ▣

#### Art on the cover:

Left: "Boy with Balloon," by Bash'r Suleiman. Top: "Tree Person," by Abdullah Almisri, Age 13. Bottom: Artist unknown.



Dr. Jane Baxter works with a patient.

Photo by Alan Wagmeister



Children at the Zarqa refugee camp in Jordan greet American audiologists and volunteers.

Photo by Alan Wagmeister

# State of the city? Things are good, Menlo's mayor says

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park Mayor Kirsten Keith presented an upbeat take on where things stand in Menlo Park during her "State of the City" address Oct. 12 at the renovated British Bankers Club restaurant downtown.

The event drew a sizable crowd, including regional and city elected officials and leaders who crammed together, literally rubbing shoulders.

Free beer, wine and appetizers were provided to attendees.

"This is an exciting time for Menlo Park," Ms. Keith said in her remarks. "This is a red hot real estate market. Things are booming right now. Let's be thankful we have each other. It's an amazing time to be here, it really is."

"Our concern must extend beyond the city's boundaries," she said. That includes working on crafting regional solutions to

deal with traffic congestion and the housing shortage, she argued.

Ms. Keith presented a couple of notable bragging points for the city.

Menlo Park, she said, added three-fourths of the new housing built in San Mateo County in the past year.

(Jeff Bellisario, vice president of the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, said the number is closer to two-thirds. According to the California Department of Finance, he says, 738 of the 1,118 new housing units built in San Mateo County in 2016 were in Menlo Park.

(Still, that's far more units than any other city in the county by a wide margin. According to Mr. Bellisario's data, the city of San Mateo came in second



Mayor Kirsten Keith



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Menlo Park's "State of the City" event filled the house at the British Bankers Club restaurant on Oct. 12.

place with 149 units. Other cities in the county were in double or single digits.)

Menlo Park is the first city in the country to have its entire police force go through mindfulness training, Mayor Keith said.

(Menlo Park Police Chief Bob Jonsen confirmed later that he believed this will be the case, once its third cohort of staff goes through a training program in Oregon, scheduled at the beginning of next year.)

Ms. Keith also pointed to accomplishments in the past year of the council, staff and commissions. Among them:

- Launching a pilot program to test out bike lanes on Oak Grove Avenue.

- Building and opening new outdoor street cafes on Santa

Cruz Avenue.

- Eliminating the use of herbicides in city parks.

- Working with other cities on the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority to improve flood protections in areas near the creek closest to the Bay. ▣

## TATE

continued from page 14

and had a major role in raising the money to find a site for and build a permanent home for the Windmill School preschool.

Ms. Tate's son, Liam, is in fifth grade and daughter Abigail is in eighth grade. Ms. Tate is a graduate of the University of California, Davis who majored in chemical engineering. She met her husband, Charles Krenz, at Davis.

Eric Hartwig, the district's superintendent, said that Ms. Tate will be missed. "She's such a hard worker, spirited and even

tempered," he said.

Ms. Tate "has been a rock on the School Board and in the community. We will miss her contributions but will benefit from her vision and leadership. I wish her all the best as she faces her current challenges," Superintendent Hartwig said.

In the district's statement, Ms. Tate said: "It has been an honor and pleasure to serve this community over the past four years. I look forward to seeing the District move forward with its key initiatives and with its continued focus on supporting, inspiring, and challenging every student." ▣

## EMPLOYEES

continued from page 12

unrepresented "confidential" employees who work in the city manager's office and the administrative services department and whose benefits have, by practice, mirrored those provided under the AFSCME agreement.

## Police agreement

The tentative agreement

between the city and the Menlo Park Police Sergeants' Association is scheduled to be reviewed, and was scheduled for consideration for approval by the City Council on Oct. 17.

The agreement provides for a 3 percent pay increase Oct. 29, 2017, and another 3 percent increase July 1, 2018. City staff estimates the city will save \$30,000 by not having to go through negotiations again until June 30, 2019. ▣

## VOTING

continued from page 13

plaintiffs in the Menlo Park lawsuit threat, to see if he would consider extending the deadline to allow a ranked-choice voting option to be brought before voters in a special election next June.

The city of Menlo Park is scheduled to host two public meetings to discuss options for election reform on Monday, Oct. 30, and Wednesday, Nov. 29. The meetings will likely start around 7 p.m. Locations have yet to be determined, according to Menlo Park Mayor Kirsten Keith. ▣

## More online: John Freidenrich dies at 80

Go to AlmanacNews.com for many more important stories. Go to the web addresses below (set in bold) for more information.

### John Freidenrich

Atherton philanthropist, lawyer and founder of the venture capital firm, Bay Partners, John Freidenrich died Oct. 11 at age 80.

A holder of two degrees from Stanford, he was a major donor to and fundraiser for the university.

Go to [is.gd/John22](http://is.gd/John22) for more information. The Almanac will

publish a longer obituary later.

### Grade separations

The Menlo Park City Council's answer to the nearly \$400 million question — "One grade separation, or three, at Menlo Park's Caltrain crossings?" — will have to wait.

About the only thing the council, absent Councilwoman Catherine Carlton, could agree on, following a lengthy discussion at its Oct. 10 meeting, was to table a vote on the matter until she was present. That may happen this week, so check AlmanacNews.com for

updates.

Go to [is.gd/grade22](http://is.gd/grade22) for more information.

### More stories

[is.gd/Tittle](http://is.gd/Tittle) 49er great and Atherton resident Y.A. Tittle dies at 90

[is.gd/annex66](http://is.gd/annex66) Menlo Park council may reconsider West Menlo Park annexation in January.

[is.gd/douse22](http://is.gd/douse22) Firefighters douse structure fire in Menlo Oaks.

[is.gd/pet66](http://is.gd/pet66) Menlo Park Animal Hospital delivers pet supplies to fire victims.

## Albert Camarillo headlines college fund lunch

Stanford University history professor emeritus Albert Camarillo of Menlo Park and NBC Bay Area news anchor Raj Mathai will headline a community-engagement lunch supporting the Peninsula College Fund, which provides scholarships for low-income, first-generation students.

The two-hour event, open to the public, starts at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 26, at the Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club, 2900 Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park.

Mr. Camarillo, who was director of the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity at

Stanford, will talk on the topic, "Changing Lives, Changing Communities through Higher Education."

The Peninsula College Fund, founded by Charles Schmuck of Menlo Park, has expanded south to include high school students in San Jose. This year the fund provided scholarships to 40 students, doubling the count from the previous year.

Some 115 scholarship recipients are currently in college, most of them attending state universities, and 75 have graduated, according to Peninsula College Fund CEO Phillip Powell.

"As a first generation Mexican American college student myself," Mr. Camarillo said, "my career has been about opening doors of educational opportunity for the next generation. I support PCF because it, too, is dedicated to helping students from underserved groups achieve college and career success."

Woodside resident and philanthropist Susan Ford Dorsey is to be given a leadership award at the event.

Go to [is.gd/Lunch26](http://is.gd/Lunch26) to reserve a seat at the lunch. Tickets are \$50.

Go to [peninsulacollegefund.org](http://peninsulacollegefund.org) for more information.

# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## Woodside Community Theatre animates 'Annie' with additions

By Kate Daly  
Special to the Almanac

How to make the hit musical "Annie" feel fresh 40 years after it debuted on Broadway? Woodside Community Theatre's approach is to add tap dancing, roller skating, tumbling, some physical comedy and a dream sequence to liven things up and boost the show's positive message. As director Gary Stanford Jr. of Woodside says: "If Annie can, anybody can."

The amateur theatrical group's fall show will be staged with a cast of 20 children, 30 adults, four dogs and a live orchestra at the Woodside High School Performing Arts Center from Oct. 20 to 29.

The setting is 1933, during the Great Depression. "The country is in despair, and an orphan girl who has no idea who her parents are, comes across a rich man and wins his heart," Mr. Stanford said.

At the point when Annie sings the song, "Tomorrow," he wanted to illustrate what could happen tomorrow, so he has scripted in a kid, teen, and adult version of Annie to be lit in silhouette.

Brynn Ayoob, an eighth-grader at Northstar Academy in Redwood City, plays the lead role in six of the shows. Her understudy, Gabriella Rosendin, a sixth-grader from San Jose, plays Annie in the matinee performance on Oct. 28.

Brynn, who has been doing competitive dancing for five years, played Little Girl in the Woodside Community Theatre's production of "Ragtime" last year. This is her first lead role in musical theater.

Her sister Samantha is also an orphan in "Annie." Their dog Monty is appearing as one of the strays, while their father Brett is assistant stage manager.

Oliver Warbucks is played by Steve Wilner, a salesman in human resources in Dublin, who returns to the Woodside Community Theatre after portraying Billy Flynn in "Chicago" a couple of years ago.

Playing Miss Hannigan is someone new to the theater group, Jessica Lafever, who is coming straight from performing in Palo Alto Players' "Million Dollar Quartet."

A dozen Woodsiders are in the cast, including Minna Rogers



Photo by Stephanie Maysonave

**Playing orphans** in the cast of "Annie" are, in back, from left, Megan Branstad, Rebecca Louderback, Brynn Ayoob, Ava Ricci, Katelyn Nightengale and Kate Cornyn. In front is Samantha Ayoob.

as Grace Ferrell, Torrey Rothstein as Rooster, and his wife, Fiona Ryan, in various parts. The couple has participated in Woodside Community Theatre productions since 2012, but the performance record probably belongs to longtime veterans Darrell and Darlene Batchelder, who are appearing in multiple roles in this show.

Students Vianne Nickel, Kate Cornyn, Grace and Molly Sikorski, Ava Ricci, and Mari Marhefka play orphans. Mari's father, Damian, is back acting in a couple of parts after headlining as Captain von Trapp in the Woodside group's production of "Sound of Music."

Mercy High School dance teacher Gary Ferguson was in "Ragtime" and is back in the ensemble. So is Richard Vaughan, music director at Hillview Middle School where most of the rehearsals have taken place. He is joined by his wife, Liz Matchett, in the ensemble. She is also co-producing the musical with Mark Bowles, Donna Losey and Raissa Marchetti.

Sacred Heart Schools vocal teacher Kristen Pfeifer returns as music director. Kim Harvath of Woodside is back as choreographer, collaborating with the director.

When he's not minding his ingenue acting dog Candy, Don

Coluzzi of Portola Valley is the technical director, working on lights and set design. He is assisted by a handful of Woodsiders: Steve Patrick as shop director, Steve's wife Tina painting sets, Kevin Stanford on props, Chuck Martin on spotlight, and Karen Peterson as house manager.

Mrs. Losey said given "the theme is orphanages and adoption we thought we may be able to ... do some good for another organization," so 20 tickets are being given to foster families. Donations will be collected at the shows for the San Mateo County Children's Fund. That program provides clothing, school supplies, diapers, Halloween costumes and holiday gifts to families in need. ■

### TICKETS

Go to [is.gd/Annie33](http://is.gd/Annie33) to buy tickets online. Prices range from \$15 for students to \$30 for adults, and may be sold at the door depending on demand. Performances are on Friday, Oct. 20, and Saturday, Oct. 21, at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 22, at 1:30 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 27, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 28, at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 29, at 1:30 p.m. The Woodside High School Performing Arts Center is at 199 Churchill Ave., off of Woodside Road.

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# Community

STORIES ABOUT PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY



## DAY OF THE HORSE

Woodside's annual celebration of equestrian culture, the Day of the Horse, was held Saturday, Oct. 14, and included a fair, equestrian exhibits, stage coach rides, children's activities and a progressive trail ride.

Day of the Horse is put on by WHOA! (Woodside Horse Owners Association). Proceeds go to various horse-related programs and projects.

There were two contests: costumes worn by riders and horses, and the best poker hand after collecting playing cards from various stations along the town's trails.

The winners in the individual costume contest were Annie Tyo, who took first place and a prize of \$1,000; Anne Gadd, who came in second for a \$250 prize; and Mike Tyo, who finished third with a \$150 prize. Prizes were also awarded for couples with the best costumes and groups of four riders with the best costumes.

Prizes for the best poker hands went to Laura Raynak, \$1,000; Mike Tyo, \$250; and Sean Flynn, \$150.

Eighteen prizes in the day's drawing included meals at the Parkside Grill in Portola Valley, the Sundance Steakhouse in Palo Alto, and Alice's Restaurant, Buck's and The Village Bakery, all in Woodside.



**Clockwise from top:** (1) The costumes of Mike and Annie Tyo won prizes in Woodside's 2017 Day of the Horse celebration. (2) Free rides on a Wells Fargo stagecoach were part of the day. (3) Ava Henry, 7, listened to a horse's heartbeat. (4) Children brushed a horse. (5) Teri Baron in costume as a "superwoman."

# Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

## Endorsement: Yes on Atherton's Measure F

Atherton voters are being asked to renew the town's parcel tax next month, a tax that's been in place for nearly 40 years. The annual per-parcel tax rate has been the same for 22 years — \$750 for most homeowners in the affluent town.

Opponents argue that the tax, which raises about \$1.86 million for the town each year, is obsolete. That argument is bolstered by the fact that, with the wildly escalating property values in town, the increase in property tax revenue that reaches the town coffers — about 9 percent of the total collected — is more than adequate to keep the town fiscally healthy and operational.

Tax proponents, which include all

five City Council members, point to the services the tax has funded in recent years, including the long overdue Marsh Road Channel project, drainage projects, bicycle and pedestrian roadway improvements and general road maintenance. The spending of parcel tax revenue is restricted to capital projects and another budget item Atherton residents have indicated should be a funding priority: police services.

Approval of Measure F on the November ballot would renew the parcel tax for three years, which is one year less than the typical renewal. We think voters should support the measure.

Longtime town residents and observers have undeniably seen periods when

Atherton was governed with a loose rein, with some elected leaders paying inadequate attention to spending priorities and accumulating debt from unfunded liabilities. This council and the council that preceded it, which included the fiscally astute Kathy McKeithen and Jim Dobbie, cannot be accused of that.

With the help of sharp and savvy Town Hall staff, the council has shown concern about spending public money wisely and responsibly. And it supports a Finance Committee of volunteer residents who review town spending and the big-picture financial outlook, including long-term liabilities stemming from employee costs.

This council has also taken on projects that some would argue should have been addressed years ago but that were

shunted into the “deferred maintenance” column in the budget, such as drainage, park and roadway improvements — all costly but necessary. And with funding for these projects coming in large part from the parcel tax, the town has more flexibility in directing revenue from other sources toward further paying down unfunded liabilities and another major capital project that's long overdue: the replacing of decrepit, substandard buildings that now house the town's police force and other staff as a new civic center is built.

Atherton's leaders have shown responsibility in identifying the town's needs and spending the public's money, and they have earned the confidence of voters. Renewing the parcel tax for another three years is the wise thing to do. ■

### EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

## City needs to accept gift, move forward with plans to build two new libraries

By Monica Corman

Menlo Park has been presented with a tremendous opportunity to create two 21st century libraries: a new main library in the Civic Center and a branch library in the Belle Haven community. Not just repositories of books, today's libraries are vibrant community resource centers.

However, the main library is woefully outdated. Small and crowded, it lacks adequate meeting spaces for a community of our size. The Belle Haven branch is housed in a portion of a local school and is completely inadequate for the neighborhood.

Six years ago, the Menlo Park Library Foundation (MPLF) surveyed neighboring Bay Area communities and found that they had already built — or were in the midst of building — new libraries designed to meet the needs of a digital

21st century. The foundation then initiated a space needs study conducted by Noll and Tam, one of the foremost library architectural firms in the country.

The study was funded by a \$90,000 grant from MPLF and \$50,000 from the city. The multi-year study included input from library staff, volunteers, and community members over many meetings.

Study findings made it clear that building a new main library was more cost-effective than remodeling the old one. The new library would have the same book- and media-lending services as a traditional library, and it would function as a community gathering spot with large and small

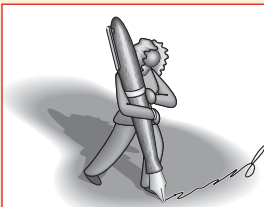
meeting rooms, facilities for project collaboration, spaces for children and teens, and areas to provide services for job-seekers, reading and language learners, seniors, retirees, and other community members.

With plans in motion, real estate developer and philanthropist John Arrillaga has offered to help. If the city will fund \$20 million, plus soft costs, he will pay the rest — whatever that might cost. His firm would build the library, as it built the gymnasium, gymnastic center and recreation center. This gift would dramatically jump-start the new main library. The council has voted to accept his offer and to ask the public's support for a bond issue.

The city also has designated funds to conduct a library needs assessment for the Belle Haven neighborhood. This week, the council is expected to vote on important next steps.

These include establishing a Belle Haven advisory committee, approving \$140,000 in appropriations for immediate improvements to the existing Belle Haven branch library, and increasing public outreach.

We urge the council to approve the next steps for library system improvements. A “yes” vote means the process can continue toward its goal of building two new libraries. A “no” vote means the projects will stall and our donor might withdraw. That would be a shame for the Menlo Park community. With several years of effort already devoted to creating new libraries, it makes no sense to stop progress. We're focused and have momentum — please urge the council to vote yes on the next proposed steps.



Monica Corman is president of the Menlo Park Library Foundation.

### GUEST OPINION

### LETTERS

Our readers write

## Why I'm voting No on F

Editor:

In this election, Atherton is asking its residents to approve an ongoing parcel tax. Most parcels are billed \$750 per year, resulting in \$1.8 million to the town. The tax was born when Proposition 13 passed several decades ago to offset the town's loss in revenue. Since then, income from property taxes, not parcel taxes, has increased dramatically each year.

In just the past four years, the town's annual income has grown an extra \$1.9 million from property taxes alone,

more than the parcel tax. Two years from now, property taxes are projected to increase another \$2.2 million. In just three years from now the town's property taxes will increase to over \$3.1 million dollars.

The special parcel tax has simply been replaced by very generous increases from property taxes. This is smoke and mirrors. We don't need the parcel tax. The taxpayers don't need this burden anymore.

Much of the parcel tax has

See **NO ON F** page 24

## Yes on Measure F — for Atherton

Editor:

It was spring 2005 when I received a call from Philip Lively asking me to work with him and Marion Oster on the Measure W campaign to renew Atherton's parcel tax in the special election of June 2005. I said, “Yes!”

Phil was perhaps the most influential community volunteer in Atherton, serving on the Planning Commission, General Plan Committee, Rail Committee, and more. I was thrilled to be asked.

Phil's passion about renewing the parcel tax was contagious,

and working with him and Marion inspired me.

They gave me a bright orange *W-in for Atherton* T-shirt, told me to go door to door and talk to residents about the importance of renewing the parcel tax.

Residents were grateful for my visit and remembered 1978, when the parcel tax was first passed. That June 2005, the parcel tax passed with an 80 percent majority!

Now, here we are in 2017, asking Atherton residents once

See **YES ON MEASURE F** page 24



# RESOLUTION NO. 2054 (2017)

## RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE

Lands of Holliday

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

- A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR"), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.
- B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the "Parcel") to the District's On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the "Zone"). The Parcel is described in Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit "B" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.
- C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes "real property" for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:
  - X All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or

Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit "B" and are incorporated by reference.
- D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

**IT IS RESOLVED** by the District Board as follows:

1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.
2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: November 8, 2017  
 Time: 7:00 PM  
 Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices  
 500 Laurel Street  
 Menlo Park, CA 94025

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i).
4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.
5. The District Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

**Exhibit A**

DATE: 06-09-17  
 ANNEXED TO: WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT  
 NAME OF ANNEXATION: WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT

**GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION**  
 LANDS OF HOLLIDAY AND PORTIONS WITHIN FAWN LANE  
 PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF A 1.169 ACRE +/- PARCEL

ALL THAT REAL PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEING ALL OF LOT 7, BLOCK 5, AS DESIGNATED ON THAT CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED "TRACT NO. 788 ARROWHEAD MEADOWS UNIT NO. 1, SAN MATEO COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA" WHICH MAP WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA ON FEBRUARY 13, 1998, IN BOOK 48 OF MAPS AT PAGES 21-23, AND PORTIONS OF LAND LYING WITHIN FAWN LANE AS SHOWN UPON SAID MAP DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF FAWN LANE AND BEING THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER OF SAID LOT 7, AS LOT IS SHOWN ON SAID MAP; THENCE ALONG THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 7, SOUTH 07°41'51" WEST 314.10 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 7; THENCE ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 7, SOUTH 87°17'59" WEST 85.00 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 7; THENCE ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 7, NORTH 17°11'19" WEST 287.95 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 7, BEING AT THE SOUTH LINE OF FAWN LANE AS SHOWN ON SAID MAP; THENCE LEAVING SAID NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 7, NORTH 11°53'31" WEST 25.00 FEET TO CENTERLINE OF FAWN LANE (60 FEET IN WIDTH) AS SHOWN ON SAID MAP, BEING A POINT ON A CURVE, CONCAVE NORTHWESTERLY, HAVING A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 68°59'40", A RADIUS OF 405.00 FEET AND A RADIAL BEARING OF SOUTH 11°27'31" EAST; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID CURVE 61.22 FEET TO A POINT OF REVERSE CURVE, CONCAVE SOUTHEASTERLY, HAVING A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 23°55'46" AND A RADIUS OF 395.00 FEET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID CURVE, 182.66 FEET; THENCE LEAVING SAID CENTERLINE, SOUTH 03°18'29" WEST 23.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

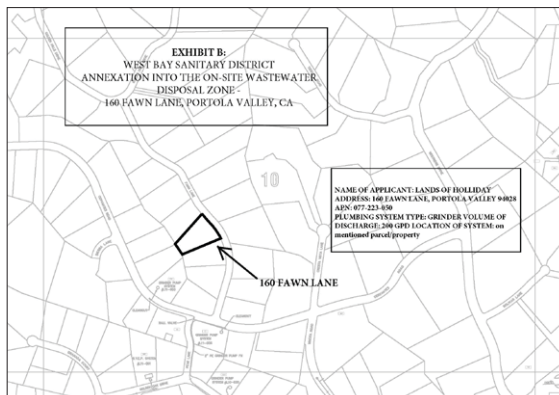
CONTAINING 1.169 ACRES +/-

FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY. THIS DESCRIPTION OF LAND IS NOT A LEGAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AS DEFINED IN THE SUBDIVISION MAP ACT AND MAY NOT BE USED AS THE BASIS FOR AN OFFER FOR SALE OF THE LAND DESCRIBED.

APPROVED  
 SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY  
 FORMATION COMMISSION  
 455 COUNTY CENTER  
 REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

EXHIBIT A, PAGE 1 OF 2

**Exhibit B**



### LETTERS

Our readers write

#### NO ON F

continued from page 23

been designated to capital improvements. The supporters try to instill fear that capital improvements such as road and drainage will be eliminated. The town will fall into disrepair and neglect. This is not the case.

With all this new-found money coming from property taxes, why not direct it into much-needed capital improvements? The increase in property taxes can replace the loss of the parcel tax with millions of dollars left over. Seems pretty straight

forward.

Property taxes represent the major source of income to the town. For the past 10 years, and earlier, the income from property taxes has been on a steep curve upward with no decline, greatly exceeding the Bay Area Consumer Price Index, or cost-of-living increase. Each progressive year, the town's income increases substantially with no sign of abatement. Even during the Great Recession, the revenue to the town continued to increase. The increase in the past four years has exceeded the parcel tax revenue. Into the future the revenue will continue to increase.

I will be casting my "No" vote.

Sandy Crittenden  
Heather Drive, Atherton

#### YES ON MEASURE F

continued from page 23

again to renew their parcel tax. I am sad Phil is not here to help us.

Five Important facts you should know:

■ Only 8-1/2 percent of your property tax dollar goes to the town — not enough to pay for critical infrastructure projects. Atherton has no commercial, retail or other significant tax revenue.

■ The parcel tax provides \$1.86 million annually. Every penny goes to the town for police services and road/drainage projects: Almendral/El Camino Real

bike/pedestrian crossing signal; Marsh Road Channel; street light replacement; drainage.

■ The rate residents pay has not changed in 22 years.

■ The rate is only \$750 for the majority of our 2,500 parcels.

■ Tax revenue cannot be used for park or civic center projects.

This is a smart investment for Atherton residents and great value for security and safety of our town!

I urge you to vote Yes on Measure F for Atherton's future.

Elizabeth Lewis  
Atherton City Council member  
Alejandra Avenue, Atherton

## What's on your mind?

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

Tell us what's on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The

Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

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

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



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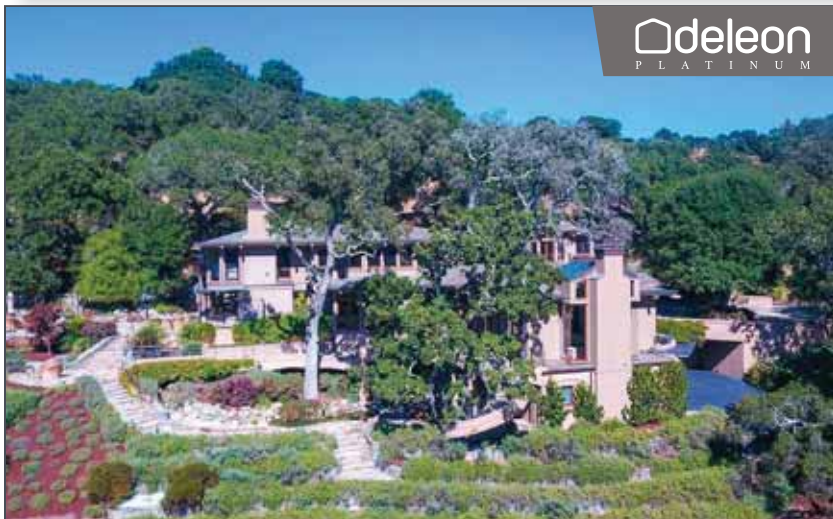
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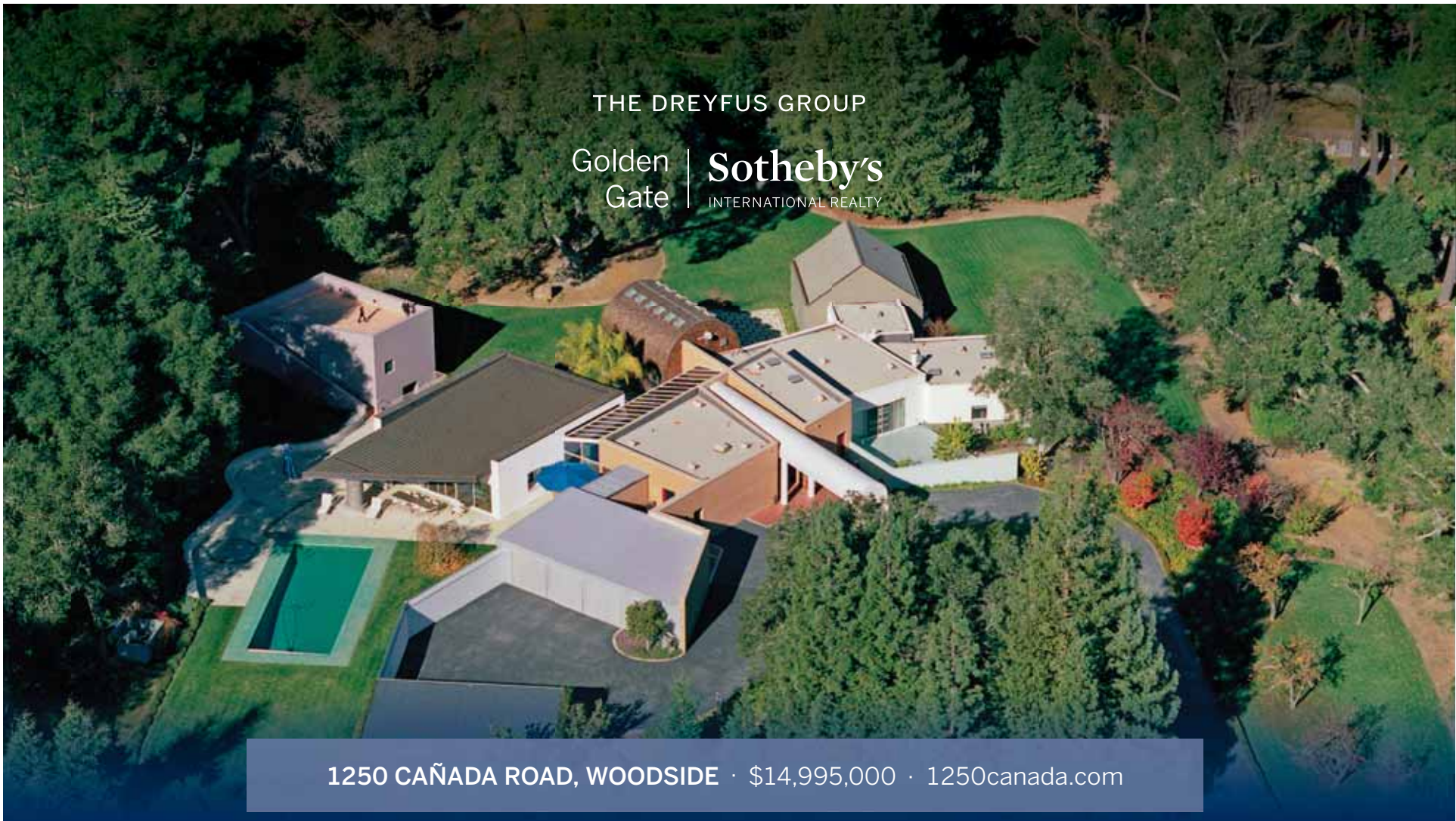
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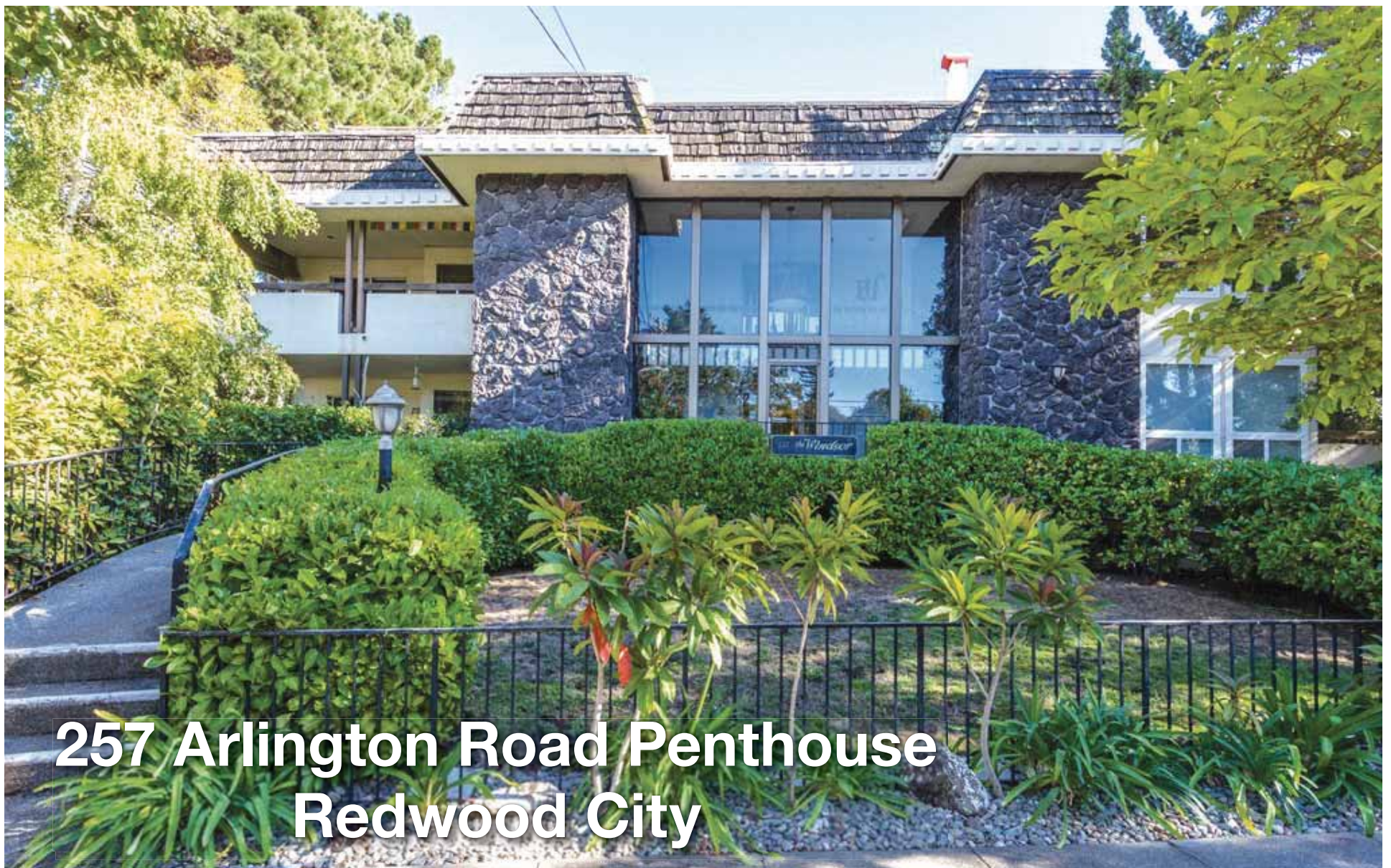


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Palo Alto, 50 Embarcadero Road, Oct. 21, 9-3

Palo Alto, 909 East Meadow Drive, Oct 28 2017 9-3

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Mountain View High School Wear

NASA Pioneer 1st Day Cover Mugs

Vintage Mountain View Mugs

### 245 Miscellaneous

**SAWMILLS**  
from only \$4397.00- MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill- Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship! FREE Info/DVD: [www.NorwoodSawmills.com](http://www.NorwoodSawmills.com) 1-800-578-1363 Ext.300N (Cal-SCAN)

Rachel Bentley - \$2000.00

## Mind & Body

### 405 Beauty Services

**ELIMINATE CELLULITE**  
and Inches in weeks! All natural. Odor free. Works for men or women. Free month supply on select packages. Order now! 1-844-703-9774. (Cal-SCAN)

### 425 Health Services

**Got Knee Pain?**  
Back Pain? Shoulder Pain? Get a pain-relieving brace - little or NO cost to you. Medicare Patients Call Health Hotline Now! 1-800-796-5091 (Cal-SCAN)

**OXYGEN**  
Anytime. Anywhere! No tanks to refill. No deliveries. The All-New Inogen One G4 is only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! FREE info kit: 1-844-359-3976. (Cal-SCAN)

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Alert for Seniors. Bathroom falls can be fatal. Approved by Arthritis Foundation. Therapeutic Jets. Less Than 4 Inch Step-In. Wide Door. Anti-Slip Floors. American Made. Installation Included. Call 1-800-799-4811 for \$750 Off. (Cal-SCAN)

## Jobs

### 500 Help Wanted

**Engineering.**  
**Various levels of experience.**  
Informatica LLC has the following position available in Redwood City, CA:  
**Software Engineer (YN-CA):** Develop and maintain tools using J2EE (Java Enterprise Edition) technologies to build dashboard which can monitor, deploy, automate and product delivery process. Submit resume by mail to: Informatica LLC, Attn: Global Mobility, 2100 Seaport Blvd., Redwood City, CA 94063. Must reference job title and job code: YN-CA.

**Biotech**  
Scientists & Engineer, Statistical Computing: Pacific Biosciences of California, Inc. has openings in Menlo Park, CA. Job ID 1843 Scientist (Sequencing): develop new technologies & lab work. Job ID 1849 Sr Technical Support Scientist, Bioinformatics: analysis & problem solving. Job ID 1853 Sr Engineer, Statistical Computing: analysis & support + models. Submit resume (principals only) submit resume at <http://www.pacb.com/company/careers/>. EOE

**BUSINESS**  
Tencent America LLC has job opp. in Palo Alto, CA: **Strategic Business Developer.** Dsgn & execute mobile product market'g strategy. Mail resumes refernc'g Req. #SBD25 to: Attn: K. Simoukda, 661 Bryant St, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

To place a Classified ad in The Almanac, The Palo Alto Weekly or The Mountain View Voice call 326-8216 or at fogster.com

### FULL-TIME & PART-TIME Dishwasher - \$15.00!!!

Please contact Human Resources for job details.

650-646-6311 or email-jobs@shgcc.com

Reports to:

Executive Chef

This is a full-time position. Days and hours of work vary based on need. Frequent evening and weekend work is required.

Employer: Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club

**GOOD DRIVER NEEDED**  
Drive my car from Menlo Park to SF and back Tues and Thurs Evenings. \$25 per hr. Call 650-227-7208. Lv. Name Number and Calif Dr. License # Or Email [mac@maccorkle.com](mailto:mac@maccorkle.com)

### Senior Programmer Analyst

American Century Services, LLC seeks Senior Programmer Analyst à€ Fixed Income in Mountain View, CA to provide analysis and design skills to support the Fixed Income Team. Work closely with fixed income portfolio management, research, and risks teams. Develop portfolio analysis, portfolio construction, trading, risk analysis, vendor interfaces, portfolio accounting, back office and middle office systems integration.

Construct and analyze tasks and develop/integrate applications to accomplish portfolio design goals. Manage requirements gathering, request prioritization, resource planning, technical design, application development and architecture, documentation and validation testing of investment applications. Evaluate vendors and identify system requirements, interfaces and integration techniques for successful implementation. BS in CS, CIS, Engineering or rld and 5 yrs exp. in Software Engineering. Must have more than 6 months exp. using Java, SQL, C++ and the demonstrated ability to use one or more of Bloomberg AIM, Barclays POINT, Investortools. Send resumes to Stacia McCloskey, 4500 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

### Software Engineer

Software Engineer w/ Zoon (Menlo Park, CA). Design & implement software solutions for self-driving veh systs, focusing on planner componens. Req Master in Physics, Comp Sci, or rldt field. Reqs 1 yr of exp in Software Engineer pos for an auto, engineer, or robo comp. Req 1 yr of exp w/ : Create data structures & models for road networks; Implement plan algors, data structures, & Linear Temporal Logic systs; Support & improv simul & visual systs; Design & implement software solutions for engineer systs using C++. Resumes to Alexandra McDonald, 325 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Ref code: 456.

### Software Engineer

Software Engineer w/ Zoon (Menlo Park, CA). Respons for design & implem complex, scalable software systs for autonomous vehics. Reqs Masters in Comp Sci or a closely rldt field. Reqs 2 years of exp as software engr. Exp must include 2 yrs w/: Design, develop, & deploy libraries, frameworks, & apps; Analyz user needs & apply knowl of adv algors & data structures; Design tech dependencies, software stack, code layout, & build/release supp; Perform deploys to live prod systs at scale & defect resol; Design processes & libraries to automate build, release, deploy, & testing processes; & Utiliz C, Java, Python, Go, ORM libraries, RESTful services & SOA standards. Resumes to Alexandra McDonald, 325 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Ref code: 871

### 560 Employment Information

**AIRLINE CAREERS**  
begin here – Get started by training as FAA certified Aviation Technician. Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 800-725-1563 (AAN CAN)

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Make \$1000 A Week Mailing Brochures From Home! No Experience Required. Helping home workers since 2001! Genuine Opportunity. Start Immediately! [www.AdvancedMailing.net](http://www.AdvancedMailing.net) (AAN CAN)

## 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)

**Over \$10K in Debt?**  
Be debt free in 24 to 48 months. No upfront fees to enroll. A+ BBB rated. Call National Debt Relief 844-831-5363. (AAN CAN)

**Social Security Disability?**  
Up to \$2,671/mo. (Based on paid-in amount.) FREE evaluation! Call Bill Gordon & Associates. 1-800-966-1904. Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL., member TX/NM Bar. (Cal-SCAN)

### 636 Insurance

**Lowest Prices**  
on Health & Dental Insurance. We have the best rates from top companies! Call Now! 888-989-4807. (Cal-SCAN)

## Home Services

### 715 Cleaning Services

**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.

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Repairs**

**Water Damage to Your Home?**  
Call for a quote for professional cleanup & maintain the value of your home! Set an appt. today! Call 1-855-401-7069 (Cal-SCAN)

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Wallpaper**

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

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

**775 Asphalt/  
Concrete**

**Roe General Engineering**  
Asphalt, concrete, pavers, tiles, sealing, artificial turf. 41 yrs exp. No job too small. Lic #663703. 650/814-5572

**Real Estate**

**805 Homes for Rent**

Menlo Park - \$6,500.00  
Redwood City/emerald Hills, 4 BR/3.5 BA - \$5650  
West Menlo Park - \$7,000.

**809 Shared Housing/  
Rooms**

**Menlo Park 1B/1BA**  
Furnished 1BR/1BA near downtown.  
\$2K/Mo incl utils. 650 322-2814

**825 Homes/Condos  
for Sale**

Mountain View, 3 BR/2 BA - \$99,000

**845 Out of Area**

**NORTHERN AZ WILDERNESS RANCH**  
\$197 MONTH - Quiet secluded 37 acre off grid ranch set amid scenic mountains and valleys at clear 6,200'. Near historic pioneer town & large fishing lake. No urban noise & dark sky nights amid pure air & AZ's best year-round climate. Evergreen trees /meadowland blend with sweeping views across uninhabited wilderness mountains and valleys. Self-sufficiency quality garden loam soil, abundant groundwater & maintained road access. Camping & RV's ok. No homeowner's Assoc. or deed restrictions. \$22,900, \$2,290 dn. Free brochure with additional property descriptions, photos/ terrain map/ weather chart/area info: 1st United Realty 800.966.6690. (Cal-SCAN)

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BRE 01041073. (Cal-SCAN)

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650.245.1845 **ALAN PINEL**

**Public Notices**

**995 Fictitious Name Statement**

CLUB TO COLLEGIATE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 274894  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Club To Collegiate, located at 538 San Benito Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
KYLE THOMAS HAGENBURGER  
538 San Benito Ave.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 7, 2017.  
(ALM Sept. 27; Oct. 4, 11, 18, 2017)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
File No. 270781  
The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.  
The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s).  
Q2 KICKS, INC.  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):  
KINDER KICKS OF MENLO PARK  
c/o Arrillaga Rec. Center,  
700 Alma Street  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:  
09/15/16  
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):  
Q2 KICKS, INC.  
602 Cedar Street Unit 1  
San Carlos, CA 94070  
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY:  
Corporation.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on September 14, 2017.  
(ALM Sept. 27; Oct. 4, 11, 18, 2017)

NOORANI DANCE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 275117  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Noorani Dance located at 56 Lorelei Lane, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
FARAH YASMEEN SHAIKH  
56 Lorelei Lane  
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 1/1/17.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 26, 2017.  
(ALM Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2017)

PENINSULA PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 275175  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Peninsula Pathways to College, located at 17 Parker Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
METIS BIOCONSULTING LLC  
17 Parker Ave.  
Atherton, CA 94027  
CA  
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 3, 2017.  
(ALM Oct. 11, 18, 25; Nov. 1, 2017)

MUNTEAN INVESTMENTS  
MUNTEAN INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 275256  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Muntean Investments, 2.) Muntean Investment Management, located at 214 Cerrito Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94061, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
WINDY HILL VENTURES, INC.  
214 Cerrito Avenue  
Redwood City, CA 94061  
California  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 10, 2017.  
(ALM Oct. 18, 25; Nov. 1, 8, 2017)

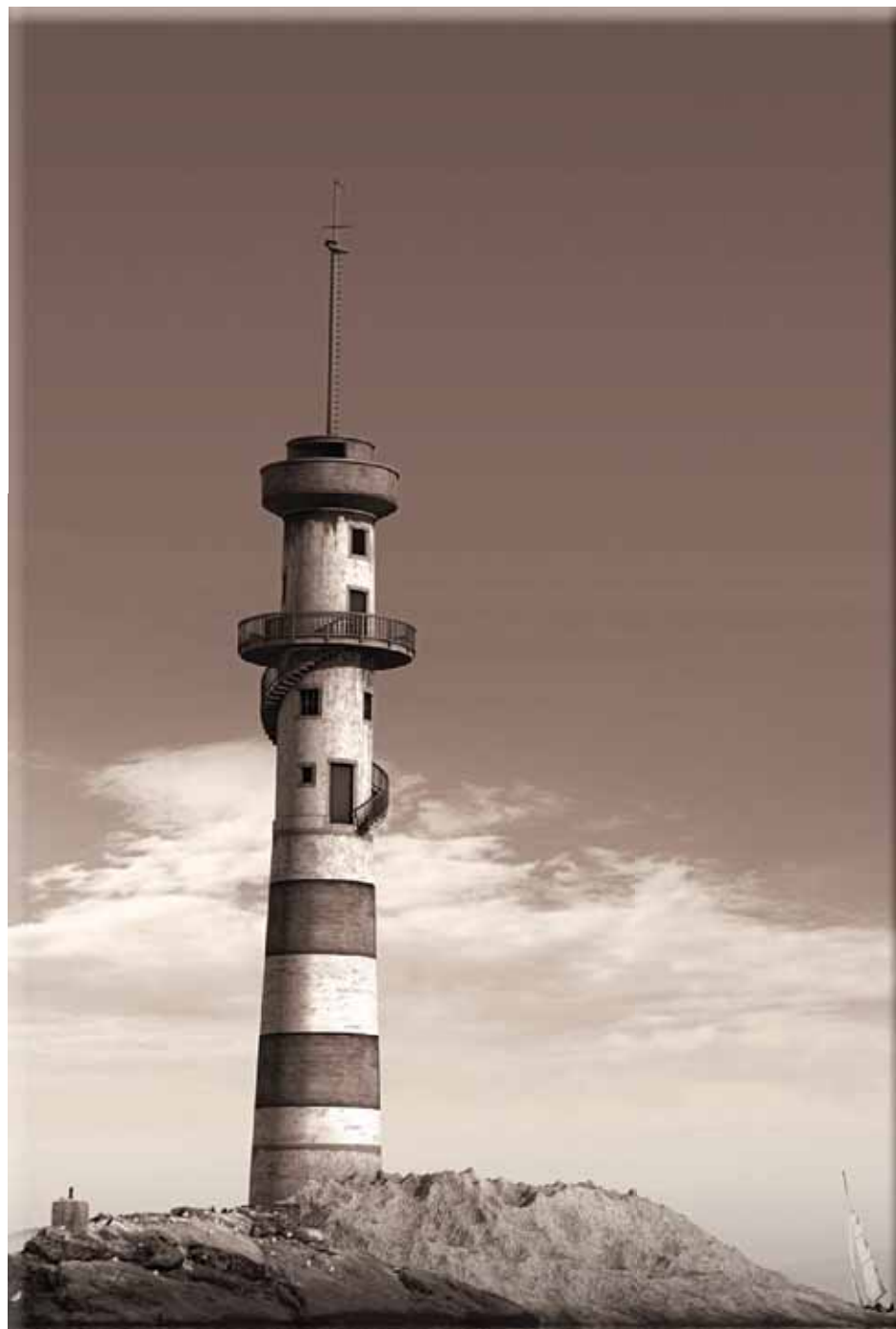
ELITE MOBILE AUTO DETAILING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 275101  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Elite Mobile Auto Detailing, located at 597 6th Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
ANDY RAMIREZ  
597 6th Ave.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
CECILIA VAZQUEZ  
597 6th Ave.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
This business is conducted by: Joint Venture.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 25, 2017.  
(ALM Oct. 18, 25; Nov. 1, 8, 2017)

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**Atherton** **\$5,988,000**

157 Watkins Ave Beautifully remodeled 1-level home w/ resort-like backyard. Nearly 1 acre on a private lot 5 BR/3 BA + 1 half BA

**Hossein Jalali**  
CalBRE #01215831 **650.324.4456**



**Portola Valley** **\$3,695,000**

1 Portola Green Cir 18,295 sqft of amazing, park-like grounds, chef's kitchen, home theater, PV schools. 4 BR/4 BA + 1 half BA

**Billy McNair**  
CalBRE #01343603 **650.324.4456**



**Portola Valley** **\$3,495,000**

900 Wayside Rd Stunning views across SF Bay from Mt. Diablo to Black Mountain! www.900wayside.com 5 BR/3 BA + 1 half BA

**Jean & Chris Isaacson**  
CalBRE #00542342 **650.851.2666**



**Cordilleras Heights** **\$3,395,000**

761 Bain Pl No details spared in this unique home. Grand open floorplan and tons of natural sunlight. 4 BR/4 BA

**Sam Anagnostou**  
CalBRE #00798217 **650.851.2666**



**Skywood Area** **\$3,300,000**

580 Old La Honda Rd Custom-built home on approximately 9.5 acres with views the Valley, Bay and beyond. 4 BR/3 BA + 1 half BA

**Ginny Kavanaugh**  
CalBRE #00884747 **650.851.1961**



**Cordilleras Heights** **\$3,295,000**

765 Bain Pl Brand new custom built home offers nearly 3500 sq. ft. of luxury living on a large lot. 4 BR/4 BA

**Sam Anagnostou**  
CalBRE #00798217 **650.851.2666**



**Woodside** **\$2,995,000**

132 Otis Ave Open living/dining & kitchen. Quartz kitchen counters, natural white oak floors and more! 4 BR/3 BA + 1 half BA

**Cesar Cervantes, CalBRE #01752329 650.325.6161**  
**Alain Pinel Realtors**  
Margot Lockwood, CalBRE #01017519 650.400.2528  
Ricky Flores, CalBRE #02027985 408.565.5626



**Redwood City** **\$2,295,000**

424 Quartz St Open floor plan w/ great indoor/outdoor spaces (spa, putting green, patios) & great views. 4 BR/2 BA

**Elaine White**  
CalBRE #01182467 **650.324.4456**



**San Carlos** **\$1,498,000**

3180 Brittan Ave Bright single-level home w/ garage and amazing storage area downstairs! San Carlos schools 3 BR/2 BA

**Doug Gonzalez**  
CalBRE #00895924 **650.324.4456**



**Redwood City** **\$1,495,000**

403 Topaz St. Located in desirable jewel streets. This. 3 bed, 2 bath home offers perfect family living. 3 BR/2 BA

**Julie Ray**  
CalBRE #01881349 **650.324.4456**



**Central Park** **\$1,398,000**

1860 Anamor St Woodside Plaza classic mid-century ranch. Remodeled for modern living w/ spacious backyard 3 BR/1 BA

**Erika Demma**  
CalBRE #01230766 **650.851.2666**



**Redwood City** **\$1,395,000**

465 Nimitz Ave Turnkey 3 bed, 2 bath home with remodeled kitchen & tranquil backyard on quiet street. 3 BR/2 BA

**Billy McNair**  
CalBRE #01343603 **650.324.4456**



**Sharon Heights / Stanford Hills** **\$749,000**

2140 Santa Cruz Ave A207 Opportunity to own at Menlo Commons-pool view-close to Stanford-easy access to I 280. 1 BR/1 BA

**Beth Leathers**  
CalBRE #01131116 **650.324.4456**



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