

The Almanac

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

DECEMBER 6, 2017 | VOL. 53 NO. 14



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Comfort and joy

Holiday happenings
on the Midpeninsula

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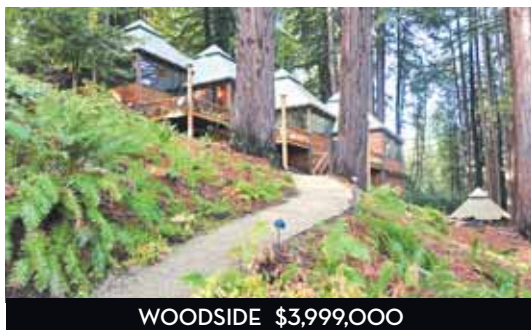
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Associate Editor
Renee Batti (223-6528)

Staff Writers
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Kate Bradshaw (223-6588)
Barbara Wood (223-6533)

Contributors Jane Knoerle, Marjorie Mader, Kate Daly

Special Sections Editor
Linda Taaffe (223-6511)

Photographer
Michelle Le (223-6530)

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Marketing and Creative Director
Shannon Corey (223-6560)

Design and Production Manager
Kristin Brown (223-6562)

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The Almanac is published every Wednesday at
3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025

■ **Newsroom:** (650) 223-6525
Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

■ **Email news** and photos with captions to: Editor@AlmanacNews.com

■ **Email letters** to: letters@AlmanacNews.com

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Willows residents plead for traffic relief

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Over Thanksgiving weekend, a time when many seek respite to spend time with families, a group of about 30 Willows residents gathered to draft a petition to the City Council, and collected about 350 hard-copy and online signatures (as of Nov. 29) in favor of immediate action to curb unprecedented levels of cut-through traffic, according to Willows resident Amar Murugan.

Though residents have for years complained about commuters cutting through the Willows, the recent installation of temporary traffic signals at the Willow Road/U.S. 101 interchange as part of Caltrans' project to rebuild the interchange has resulted in blocks of residential streets being gridlocked from roughly 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. each weekday.

Some locals took their concerns to the City Council on Nov. 29, bombarding council members with horror stories of being locked out of their neighborhood, of kids on bikes experiencing near-misses with frustrated drivers going down the wrong side of the road, of

angry commuters shouting and refusing to let residents out of their driveways.

As might be expected, residents of the side streets closest to the Willow Road/U.S. 101 entrance have been hardest hit. Residents of Durham, Chester and O'Keefe streets say that in recent weeks their street has become a logjam of angry commuters, backed up blocks to Laurel Avenue starting around 4 p.m., and farther down the street at evening peak times.

Go to is.gd/willows483 to watch a video of the traffic a Willows resident recorded on Nov. 29.

Birgit Greschner, a resident of Chester Street, said that the

traffic has become a major quality of life problem and a safety concern. Starting as early as 3 p.m., she said, she's had cars idling in front of her house. She's

taken to parking blocks away from her home, even after grocery shopping runs, since she can't get in or out of her driveway during peak evening traffic hours.

Chris DeCardy, who is a member of the Environmental Quality Commission, but was speaking to the Almanac as a resident of the neighborhood, said that in his time on the

Residents say traffic is a major quality of life and safety problem.



Photo by Michele Barry.

Cars lined up on Durham Street in Menlo Park's Willows neighborhood at around 4 p.m. on Nov. 29, about a block and a half from Willow Road.

commission, he's never seen a neighborhood so united in its desire for immediate action.

The petition itself is straightforward. It reads, "We are Willows neighbors concerned about the safety of our streets due to the unprecedented speed and volume of traffic during many hours of the day. This ongoing problem has been exacerbated by construction of the Willow Road / Highway 101 bridge. We urge the City Council to take immediate measures during this construction period to restore our neighborhood

safety by addressing speed and volume of traffic while protecting the character and vitality of our neighborhood, including residences, schools and businesses."

A simpler version of the petition online at change.org had attracted 208 signatures as of Dec. 1.

What can be done?

On Tuesday, Dec. 5, the Menlo Park City Council was scheduled to discuss some short-, mid-, and long-term ideas to ease congestion. The

council could act to approve the short-term ideas Tuesday; city staff are recommending the council hold off on implementing the others until the short-term ideas have been enacted and their effects studied.

Short-term ideas

- Install signs prohibiting right turns onto Willow Road from O'Keefe, Chester and Durham streets between 3 and 7 p.m. on weekdays.

- Add "Keep clear" pavement

See **WILLOWS**, page 8

Judge dismisses cellphone smuggling charges against Lopez

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

A San Mateo County Superior Court judge on Dec. 1 dismissed two counts of conspiracy brought by the county against Juan Pablo Lopez, a former Sheriff's Office deputy and a write-in candidate for sheriff in 2014.

Mr. Lopez, who worked in the county jail, had pleaded not guilty to a charge of conspiracy with corrections officers and a gang-affiliated jail inmate to smuggle in two cellphones and oxycontin over several months, and to allow the inmate to use the phone openly in the jail.

Prosecutors subsequently brought charges of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and gang involvement against Mr.

Lopez. He pleaded not guilty to them all; those charges were later modified to two counts of conspiracy.

Representing Mr. Lopez, attorneys Tony Serra and Maria Belyi of the San Francisco-based law firm Pier 5 filed a motion to dismiss the two counts on the premise that the prosecution, in presenting evidence to the grand jury, "did not present the full scope of the evidence" and left out material that could have been exculpatory to Mr. Lopez, Ms. Belyi told the Almanac.

Criminal Presiding Judge Donald Ayoob "had serious concerns," Ms. Belyi said. In summarizing the morning's events, she noted two arguments that the judge agreed on and that led to the dismissal:

- The prosecutor "was

imprecise with his language" in describing to the grand jury a letter from a witness, Ms. Belyi said.

In an interview, Deputy District Attorney Sean Gallagher, who is supervising the prosecution of the case, acknowledged that prosecutors did not present the grand jury with an actual piece of paper.

- A photo submitted as evidence allegedly showed an inmate using a contraband cellphone, but the photo actually showed an inmate using a phone borrowed from a deputy because of an emergency, Ms. Belyi said.

Mr. Gallagher acknowledged that a discussion did take place in the hearing as to whether a statement related to the photo should have been presented to the grand jury.

In determining the basis for

their motion, Ms. Belyi said, she and Mr. Serra "went through all the evidence and saw what was presented and what was left out that needed to be presented to the grand jury for them to see the full picture."

"We're very happy with the dismissal of the indictment," she said. "We're waiting to see what happens."

Mr. Gallagher said that prosecutors "absolutely (disagree), no question," with Judge Ayoob's conclusion that the District Attorney's Office erred in presenting the case.

Prosecutors can appeal the decision or refile the case. "We don't have a timetable on the decision," he said, in part because there are other defendants whose cases have not yet been resolved.

Other charges

In connection with Mr. Lopez's unsuccessful 2014 write-in campaign for sheriff against then two-term sheriff Greg Munks, the former deputy faces seven election-related charges: fraud, conspiracy, perjury by filing a counterfeit document, an election code filing violation, an election code voting violation and two counts of forgery, prosecutors said.

Mr. Serra and Ms. Belyi have filed a motion to dismiss this case as well, but their arguments won't be heard until Jan. 25, Ms. Belyi said.

Mr. Lopez has been out of custody on \$100,000 bail on the jail-related charges, and out on \$170,000 bail on the election-related charges. ■

John Bentley closing out career in restaurant business

By Elena Kadvany

After decades in the restaurant business and 22 years of running his eponymous restaurant on the Midpeninsula, John Bentley will hang up his chef coat for the last time come this spring.

The longtime owner of John Bentley's plans to close his restaurant at 2915 El Camino Real in an unincorporated San Mateo County area near Atherton. Now 62, he said the time was right to retire and spend more time with family.

"I might start crying," he said in an interview last week, wearing chef whites and sitting at a table in the restaurant's upstairs private dining room. "This is really emotional for me. ... I have had just an unbelievable run."

Mr. Bentley said he and his wife "made a business decision" to sell the property two years ago, but leased it back to have some more time with the restaurant. The lease ends April 30, 2018.

He has not set a firm date yet but plans to shutter sometime in the spring.

Sunrise Senior Living Corp. has proposed to build a 90-unit residential care facility at the site.

Mr. Bentley opened the first iteration of John Bentley's in an old firehouse in Woodside in 1995. In 2004, he purchased and renovated the historic El Camino Real building, which had housed Fabbro's for nearly 70 years. He closed the Woodside

'I have had just an unbelievable run.'

JOHN BENTLEY

restaurant six years later.

Mr. Bentley, who was born and raised in San Francisco, got his start as a chef there in the 1970s and 1980s. He attended the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco and worked alongside culinary household names such as Mario Batali and Joey Altman. He worked at a 42-seat, French-Viennese restaurant in the city called Lipizanner for years, working his way up from bus-boy into the kitchen.

On the Peninsula, he worked as executive chef at Michael's Restaurant in Sunnyvale and at the Los Altos Bar and Grill.

Mr. Bentley said he stumbled upon the Woodside firehouse in the 1990s and spent three months in a "protracted" interview process with the owners, the Gilbert family, to take over the space. He remembered writing 12-page papers on why he should be given the opportunity to run a restaurant there, cooking for the Gilberts and having them meet his family. Though he planned to name the restaurant after his daughter, Lee Ann Gilbert insisted that he call it John Bentley's.

He opened the restaurant in 1995 "with chicken wire and chewing gum" but soon found



Photo by Michelle Le | The Almanac

John Bentley plans to close his restaurant on El Camino Real near Atherton sometime this spring.

success. He was delighted when a diner called requesting a reservation in the "starlight room" — the outdoor patio, decorated with string lights Mr. Bentley's mother purchased the day before the restaurant opened because he couldn't afford \$800 to install real lighting.

"For a guy in the restaurant business, to bust your rump to get it open and hear nothing and then all of a sudden when you've finished cooking for the night and to hear that electricity, to hear the buzz coming off

the dining room ... it was like magic," he said.

He said he told his staff about the impending closure of the El Camino Real restaurant as soon as the decision was made and none left. Some have worked for him for more than 20 years. Others have gone on to open their own restaurants (including Zu Tarazi, who with his wife Kristy Borrone took over the Woodside firehouse after John Bentley's closed to open Station One. The restaurant has since closed).

Mr. Bentley does not describe

himself as a great chef, but rather a good restaurateur and people person.

He said this moment is bittersweet in many ways, but he's grateful for the space he's carved out in the Midpeninsula dining scene.

"What I think I'm most proud of here ... is that we use really good, honest product; we try to do as little to it as possible and, most importantly, we like to think that we serve it in a warm, unpretentious manner," he said. "That's what I feel best about." ▀

Senior housing proposed at site of restaurant

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

Sunrise Senior Living Corp. has proposed to build a 90-unit residential care facility at 2915 El Camino Real, where the John Bentley's restaurant is located. Mr. Bentley said he plans to close the restaurant in the spring.

The 120,000-square-foot development would reach 44 feet at its highest point facing El Camino. (The height would drop to 32 feet in the back, according to San Mateo County Planner Carmelisa Morales.

The development would occupy about 1.4 acres and have an underground garage. Of the 90 units, 53 would be single-occupancy, 19 would be double-occupancy, and 18 would be semi-private, Ms. Morales said.

The project complies with new zoning approved for that stretch

of El Camino Real and relies on an environmental analyses conducted when the overall plan for development in North Fair Oaks was approved in 2011.

Sunrise Senior Living, based in McLean, Virginia, has 19 Bay Area locations, including in Palo Alto, Sunnyvale and San Mateo.

The project is being reviewed by county staff and would need to be approved by the San Mateo County Planning Commission.

According to Ms. Morales, one of the big points of contention with the proposed development is whether the alley that runs behind the John Bentley building should be acquired by the senior housing developer and "vacated" by the county.

Kent Manske, a North Fair Oaks resident who was on the work group for the recent El Camino Real rezoning, said that the alley that runs behind the



Sunrise Senior Living

A rendering of the proposed 90-unit senior living facility at 2915 El Camino Real, as seen from the intersection of El Camino Real and E. Selby Lane.

El Camino Real-facing buildings from Berkshire Avenue to 5th Avenue has long been a pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly route. He says the alley is county

land that belongs to the public.

"If you're going to give away county land, tell us what the public good is," he said.

A meeting was held to get

public comment on the development. Aside from the alley problem, "it seemed like the public was in support of the project," Ms. Morales said. ▀

Facebook officials meet privately with East Palo Alto advocates

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

A private town hall meeting was held at the East Palo Alto Senior Center on Nov. 28, between Facebook executives and members of the East Palo Alto-based advocacy group known as the Real Community Coalition.

Reporters were excluded. Coalition founder JT Faraji cited bad past experiences with the press as the reason for the group's blanket policy to exclude reporters from its meetings.

Sitting in an outside room for the meeting's duration, this reporter could hear the timbre of elevated voices, but not much of what was said.

The meeting's purpose, Mr. Faraji said, was "to start generating a dialogue between our community and the corporation, without having a middle man."

Among the subjects discussed were how Facebook's presence is spurring gentrification and housing costs in the area, the need for affordable housing, how a new police unit in Menlo Park might impact communities of color in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto, and how to connect local residents to jobs at Facebook, according to Kyra Brown, program director at Youth United for Community Action, an East Palo Alto-based nonprofit advocacy group, who was attending and speaking as a community member.

About 30 people attended the event, which was hosted by the Real Community Coalition — an advocacy group made up of East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park residents, plus "anyone and everyone that is for positive change and for our community," said Mr. Faraji.

The meeting included Facebook employees Lewis Knight, development manager, Juan Salazar, local public policy manager, and Bernita Dillard, local talent partner.

Some people from the Silicon Valley chapter of Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) joined the discussion partway through the meeting.

Mr. Faraji said he founded the Real Community Coalition about two years ago and that it has regular town hall meetings to talk about problems in the community. The organization's private Facebook group has about 170 members.

Reactions

Ranjeet Tate, a DSA member from Cupertino, who attended the meeting, said that the

Facebook officials in attendance "say the right things," but that the company should have anticipated the problems its expansion would cause to the community and started earlier to try to mitigate those impacts.

Ms. Brown said she asked that Facebook codify a corporate social responsibility policy.

"It's not infeasible," she said. "Other corporations have CSR (corporate social responsibility) departments."

Both Ms. Brown and Mr. Faraji said that, following the meeting, they felt that Facebook officials didn't make any promises, but were open to further discussions.

"They gave the impression they were committed to having more conversations," Mr. Faraji said.

Mr. Salazar, the Facebook employee, declined to comment after the meeting and Mr. Knight could not be reached for comment.

In response to an earlier version of this story online, a Facebook spokesperson said in an email that Facebook has a "community engagement team (e.g. Juan Salazar, Bernita Dillard) akin to a corporate social responsibility team" that meets regularly with people in East Palo Alto, Belle Haven and North Fair Oaks.

The spokesperson noted that the corporation has created the "Catalyst Housing Fund" with community groups and the city of East Palo Alto and made an initial investment of \$18.5 million. ■

MONTHLY REAL ESTATE UPDATE WITH MANDY MONTOYA

November 2017



In November Atherton, Portola Valley and Menlo Park had significantly fewer homes for sale than the same month last year. With buyers competing for fewer homes for sale, these three towns also had strong sales. Woodside still has more inventory than last year but the number of sales this November was strong, possibly indicating that buyers for Woodside have decided to act now rather than waiting to see if the market will change. There are still many active buyers competing for few homes so it continues to be a great time to sell. Contact me for more information.

	November 2016		November 2017	
	# of Active/ # of Sold Homes	Average Sales Price*	# of Active/ # of Sold Homes	Average Sales Price*
Atherton	30/2	\$11,650,000	11/10	\$3,375,575
Woodside	29/5	\$3,560,178	43/12	\$2,236,869
Portola Valley	26/5	\$2,631,500	13/14	\$4,147,929
Menlo Park	64/40	\$1,681,562	47/32	\$2,027,756

*Small Sample sizes

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El Camino affordable housing development proposed

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

Within the next couple of years, drivers traversing the North Fair Oaks section of El Camino Real, just north of Atherton, may say goodbye to the Enterprise Rent-A-Car shop and hello to a new affordable housing development.

That's the plan if local non-profit housing developer Palo Alto Housing gets its way.

The developer has proposed to build a four-story, 68,243-square-foot affordable housing building with 67 apartments at 2821 El Camino Real, where the Enterprise Rent-a-Car is located.

Palo Alto Housing formally acquired the property in October 2017 with funding help from the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust (HEART) of San Mateo County, according to Palo Alto Housing CEO Candice Gonzalez.

The development would have 61 studio apartments, five one-bedroom apartments, and one two-bedroom manager's unit. About 30 will be reserved for veterans.

All units will be designated

as "affordable" and will be dedicated for tenants with "extremely low, very low or low-income" as defined by the federal government, according to San Mateo County planner Laura Richstone.

At a Nov. 9 meeting to gather public comment, Ms. Richstone said, there were between seven and 10 attendees, and speakers expressed concern about traffic and parking, how neighboring trees would be affected, and how the project would impact property values.

The most common question, though, according to Ms. Gonzalez, was how to get on the wait list. "North Fair Oaks is being hit hard by the housing crisis and residents are very much aware of the critical need for affordable housing in the community," she said.

According to Ms. Gonzalez, the developer is trying to get project approvals and start construction in 2019 and 2020, with leasing to start in early 2021. The project is currently in a "pre-application" phase with the San Mateo County Planning Department, Ms. Richstone said.

The development would have 50 parking spots and 36 bike



Palo Alto Housing/Dahlin Group Architecture

A rendering of the proposed 67-unit affordable housing development slated to replace the Enterprise Rent-A-Car shop along El Camino Real, just north of Atherton..

parking spaces. According to Ms. Gonzalez, lower-income tenants means lower rates of vehicle ownership.

"Affordable housing in general produces a lower need for parking since the cost of vehicle ownership and maintenance is often cost-prohibitive for our lower-income residents," she

said, noting that the agency also encourages public transit and biking via free or reduced public transit passes, access to shared cars, and abundant bike parking.

The development complies with new zoning that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors approved Nov. 21 for the

El Camino Real-facing stretch of North Fair Oaks, Ms. Richstone said.

Funding sources so far are HEART of San Mateo County, the Housing Authority of San Mateo County, veteran housing and homeless prevention programs and tax credits, Ms. Gonzalez said. ■

WILLOWS

continued from page 5

markings on Willow Road at O'Keefe, Chester and Durham streets.

■ Add signs prohibiting left turns from Woodland Avenue to Baywood Avenue between 3

and 7 p.m. on weekdays.

■ Add signs saying "No access to Willow Road" on Laurel Avenue at Chester Street and Menalto Avenue at Chester and Green streets.

■ Create a partial "bulb out" at Middlefield Road and Woodland Avenue.

■ Dedicate \$275,000 in funding to coordinate traffic signals. (The city has applied for a grant to do this, but putting city funding into it would speed the process.)

Mid-term ideas

■ Prohibit right turns from Gilbert Avenue onto Willow Road.

■ Prohibit left turns from the Pope-Chaucer bridge onto Woodland Avenue between 3 and 7 p.m. on weekdays.

■ Prohibit left turns from Marmona Drive onto Gilbert Avenue and from Woodland Avenue onto Blackburn Avenue.

■ Close Clover Lane at Willow Road to create a cul-de-sac.

While these changes might deter cut-through commuters, they might also make it harder for residents to get around the neighborhood, according to staff, so they're being held for consideration at a future date, after the short-term ideas are implemented.

Other ideas

Staff presented a third tier of ideas that, according to a staff report, "would have potentially significant unintended consequences."

Those ideas are to:

■ Temporarily lift the overnight parking ban along Woodland Avenue.

■ Restrict access to the neighborhood to locals only. This would require giving about 2,500 local residents (including residents of East Palo Alto west of U.S. 101) placards and monitoring the neighborhood's 15 entrances. The city would also have to figure out a way to allow business and school employees, students and patrons access to the neighborhood.

■ Make Willow Road one-way during evening peak traffic hours.

■ Add lanes to Willow Road by removing parking or bike lanes.

■ Add stop signs on Central Avenue and Laurel Avenue at Walnut and Elm streets.

■ Close the Pope-Chaucer bridge to car traffic and allow only pedestrian and bike access.

City staff members said that many of the ideas haven't been vetted with a formal community outreach process, but noted that some of the recommendations come from a neighborhood traffic study completed in 2011. At the time that study was completed, according to Assistant City Manager Chip Taylor, residents could not reach consensus on which measures should be implemented, so the study was shelved.

Other recommendations have been compiled from residents' comments and suggestions on how to ease the problem.

Action so far

To address the Willows traffic crisis so far, the city has installed "No Thru Traffic" signs at several Willows neighborhood entry points: on Woodland Avenue at Middlefield Road and the Pope-Chaucer bridge, on Baywood Avenue at Woodland Avenue, on Blackburn Avenue at Willow Road, and on Menalto Avenue at Chester Street.

The yellow "advisory" signs initially installed were replaced with white "regulatory" signs, but, staff note, the signs "do not appear to be enforceable."

Caltrans' contractor has added some pavement painting at the interchange to make it less confusing, and more traffic signs have been ordered and will be installed soon, staff say. Caltrans and the city are working on coordinating the traffic signals along Willow Road from Durham to Newbridge streets, according to the staff report. The city has also increased police enforcement and presence in the construction and neighborhood areas.

The Dec. 5 City Council meeting was held after the Almanac went to press. Go to almanacnews.com for the latest updates. ■

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Celebration of life for Jean Lane, philanthropist and environmentalist

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

A celebration of the life of Jean Lane, a philanthropist, environmentalist, gardener and notable Portola Valley resident, is planned for early 2018 at Valley Presbyterian Church in Portola Valley. She died at her home Nov. 18 after a brief illness. She was 87.

Jean Lane's philanthropic and environmental activities were a complement to those of Bill Lane, her husband of 55 years.

The couple was noteworthy in Portola Valley since the town's incorporation in 1964, though the spotlight tended to find Mr. Lane, the longtime publisher of *Sunset* magazine, the U.S. ambassador-at-large to the First International Ocean Exposition in Japan during the Ford administration, and the U.S. ambassador to Australia during the Reagan administration. He died in 2010.

She co-founded the Westridge Garden Club and was a docent at Stanford University's research-oriented Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. She served on several boards, including the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., the National Tropical Botanical Garden in Hawaii, and the Filoli Center in Woodside.

The Lanes were major and early donors to the construction of an environmentally advanced Town Center complex that opened in 2008, and their two names adorn the entrance to Portola Valley's Town Hall. Through their philanthropy, they helped restore the Historic Schoolhouse where the town's governing bodies meet and helped build a trail in the Woodside Highlands neighborhood, a hall at Ormondale School and a family room at Valley Presbyterian Church.

The couple would deliberate about philanthropic decisions at home, according an account by Mr. Lane recalled by former mayor Gary Nielsen. "They'd sort of do it over the dinner table, between the two of them ... which is kind of a neat thing," Mr. Nielsen said.

The Lanes were major donors to the construction of an environmental education center that bears their names in Edgewood Park & Natural Preserve at the northern border of Woodside. The couple also won approval from the Town Council in



Photo by Kathy Korbholz

Jean Lane was the "First Lady of Portola Valley," former mayor Steve Toben said. She was emphatic about civic duty and the obligation of generosity to her community, he said.

2006 to establish their 10-acre Westridge Drive property as a conservation easement to guarantee the preservation of its current natural state.

"Jean was the First Lady of Portola Valley," former mayor Steve Toben said in an email. "She was the more quiet member of the Lane duo, but she was no less emphatic than Bill about civic duty and the obligation of generosity to her community. The countless gifts the Lanes made over many decades always bore both Bill and Jean's names."

Jasper Ridge has an environmental education classroom named after her. Philippe Cohen, the preserve's former executive director, said in an email that she "had a rare grace and kindness that was contagious. ... There were so many circumstances when she and Bill provided support during the most critical times, and mostly in ways invisible to others. But I knew and was grateful for her presence and her willingness to come to the aid of (Jasper Ridge) whenever they were needed to make a difference."

Donna Jean Gimbel grew up in Lincoln, Illinois, where she liked to walk in the woods and collect rocks. She could "see the universe in a grain of sand," her family said. She graduated with a major in art history and interior design from Northwestern University — an alma mater that has since attached her name to a piano performance prize and to an artist-in-residence program in the humanities.

She played the harpsichord

See **LANE**, page 12

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Meeting on lessons learned from fires in North Bay

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Lessons learned from the North Bay fires and how to prepare for similar fires locally will be discussed at the annual joint meeting of the Board of Directors of Menlo Park Fire Protection District and the Atherton City Council on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

The public meeting will be held in the Jennings Pavilion at Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave. in Atherton, starting at 5 p.m.

The only other topic on the agenda is a discussion of traffic problems within the town, including the impact of regional growth on traffic.

At a November fire board meeting, board President Peter Carpenter said he especially wants to discuss with Atherton the fire in the Santa Rosa neighborhood of Coffey Park. "There was a fundamental event that took in Coffey Park that we had not seen before," he said. "It's a miracle that more people weren't killed."

"After Coffey Park I look at the whole district as being at risk in a wind-driven fire," he said, with Atherton being particularly vulnerable "because of very heavy vegetation."

Also of high importance is the fire district's emergency access on a day-to-day basis, Mr. Carpenter said. "We have to solve the Marsh Road problem," he said. If traffic gets much worse, "there are going to be areas that we can't serve."

The fire district and the town have had an uneasy relationship since the City Council decided in late 2016 that it wanted to do a cost-benefit

analysis of the services the fire district provides in Atherton.

The review of how much in tax revenues the fire district gets from the town, how much the district spends on serving Atherton, and what it might cost the town to get its fire services elsewhere is nearing completion, but probably won't be released until January, so won't be on the agenda at the joint meeting. ▀

'It's a miracle that more people weren't killed.'

BOARD PRESIDENT PETER CARPENTER

Sunset magazine sold to private equity investor

Sunset magazine, for decades an iconic Menlo Park institution on Willow Road co-published by the late Bill Lane of Portola Valley and his brother, the late Mel Lane of Atherton, has been sold to Regent L.P., a Los Angeles-based private equity firm, Time Inc. has announced.

Regent, led by investor Michael Reinstein, adds Sunset to a portfolio of companies listed at the company's website (regentlp.com).

"For almost 120 years Sunset has been the definitive, pioneering voice of the promise, hope, values and innovative spirit of the West," Mr. Reinstein said in a statement. "We are excited to partner with Sunset's

... accomplished team to ensure that Sunset continues to thrive for generations to come."

Sunset Publishing Corp., founded in 1898, relocated to Oakland in December 2015, leaving its longtime location at 80 and 85 Willow Road. The property was sold to Embarcadero Capital Partners.

The Lane brothers sold the magazine to Time Warner in 1990.

Rich Battista, president and chief executive of Time Inc., said the company was pleased to have found Mr. Reinstein.

Time Inc. itself recently reached an agreement to be sold for \$2.8 billion to Meredith Corp.

working as an interior designer in Chicago. Through Sunset magazine, Mr. Lane championed his take on the spirit of the West, and she was there with him, Mr. Toben said. "Jean was no doubt Sunset's most important reader," he said. "Her home

LANE

continued from page 10

and liked Baroque music, Mr. Nielsen said, adding that he and his wife would accompany her to concerts.

She met her husband while

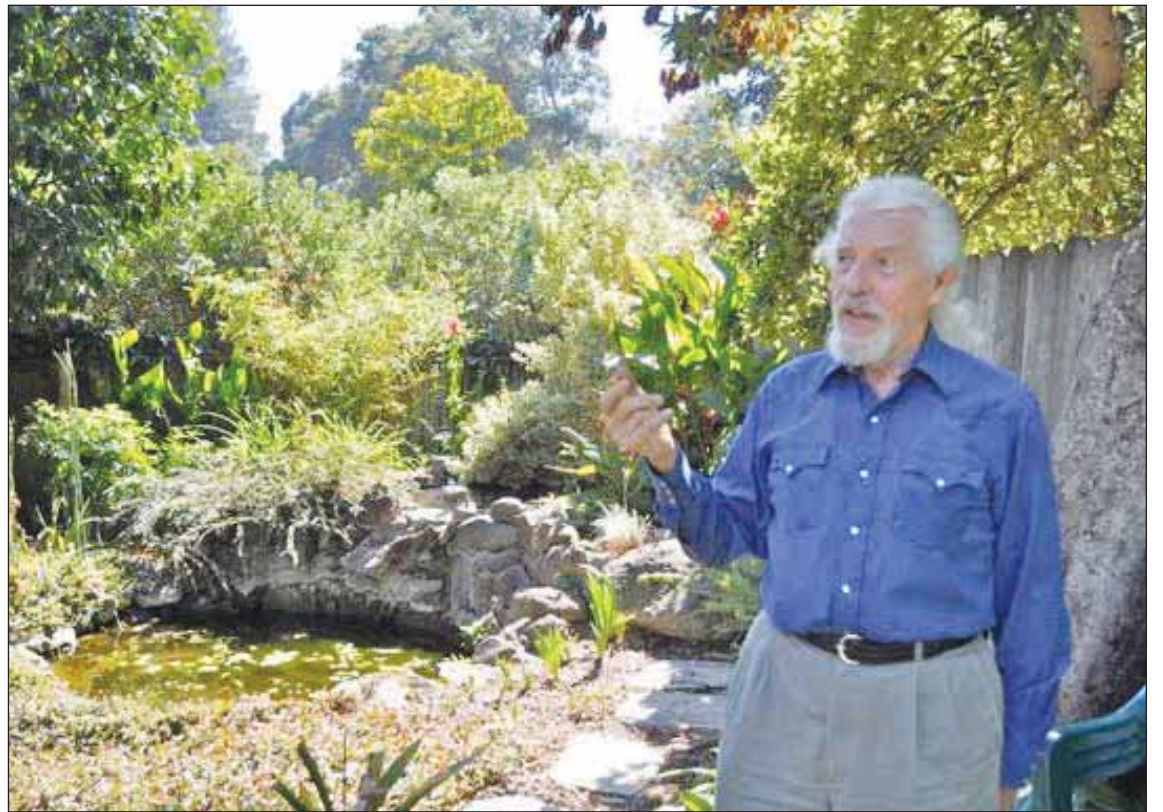


Photo by Linda Hubbard | InMenlo.com

Ernst Meissner, an architect and community volunteer, at his home in Menlo Park in 2010.

Ernst Meissner, advocate for civic improvements, dies at 86

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park resident Ernst Meissner, who died Nov. 25 at the age of 86, could rightfully lay claim to having added 1,000 points of light to the city.

Those strings of white LED lights wrapped around the street trees along the Santa Cruz Avenue business district? An idea put forth by Mr. Meissner, along with his idea for the median itself and for the trees and flowers (now gone) planted there.

For Mr. Meissner, an architect and community volunteer, the city and its beautification was a work in progress, according to a chronology of his life provided by his wife, Betty Meissner.

Mr. Meissner would monitor the lighted street trees on Santa Cruz Avenue and inform the city of outages. "For years he would walk down the street at night," she said, looking for burned out bulbs and checking on the mechanisms that governed when

the lights came on.

At the time of his death, Mr. Meissner, a longtime member of the Menlo Park Historical Association, had been working with the association for about two years on plans to build a replica of a 19th century gateway that once stood near the intersection of El Camino Real and Ravenswood Avenue.

Mr. Meissner presided over the city's Chamber of Commerce in 1984 and 1985 and was given the Chamber's Golden Acorn Award in 1994 — a recognition repeated in 2011, when the Chamber gave the award to the Meissners as a couple.

The Meissners were hosts to more than 35 international graduate students as members of the Stanford Homestay program.

As a Peninsula horseman, he was a member of the San Mateo County Volunteer Horse Patrol. He was inducted into the San Mateo County Horsemen's Association Hall of Fame in 2016.

A native of Hoechst, Germany,

he chose to study architecture. After becoming a U.S. citizen, he found work as an architect in Chicago and San Francisco. Once in the Bay Area, Mr. Meissner built a house on Big Tree Way in unincorporated Woodside; he moved to Menlo Park in 1970.

Once a year, the Meissners departed the Bay Area, including for a trip to Madagascar in 2004, then Tibet and Nepal in 2005. Their trips abroad included China, Sicily, Peru, Scandinavia, Cambodia and Vietnam. Mr. Meissner returned to Germany with his wife in 2011 and went by himself in 2015. Their last trip was to Croatia, where they took a cruise in the Adriatic Sea.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Melina in San Leandro; his son, Bernhard of Hollister; and his sister, Sieglinde in Kelkheim, Germany.

Donations in memory of Mr. Meissner may be made to the Peninsula Open Space Trust. ▀

and garden exemplified understated elegance and respect for the natural world that were hallmarks of the Lanes and the magazine."

Mr. Toben said he sat next to her at the town's annual volunteer appreciation dinner several years after Mr. Lane had died. "A very long line of well-wishers

quickly formed at her chair, and she spent the entire dinner in conversation with everyone," Mr. Toben said. "She never touched her food. Everyone was graced by her presence."

She is survived by her daughters, Sharon Louise Lane of North San Juan, California, and Brenda Lane Munks of

Portola Valley; son Robert Laurence Lane of Atherton; brother Arthur Gimbel of San Mateo; and five grandchildren.

The family prefers that memorial contributions be made in her name to the National Tropical Botanical Garden, 3530 Papalina Road, Kalaheo, HI 96741. ▀

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Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

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Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, and mentoring for 1,800 low-income K-12 youth at nine locations across Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.

Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 52 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to more than 250,000 people each month through more than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

LifeMoves

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

Project Read

Provides free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. Trained volunteers work one-on-one to help adults improve reading, writing and English language skills so they can function more effectively at home, at work and in the community. Basic English classes, weekly conversation clubs and volunteer-led computer enrichment are also offered.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinic in East Palo Alto. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

Upward Scholars

Sequoia Upward Scholars empowers low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education, get higher paying jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.

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Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded by voluntary contributions and community grants, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers take-home bags of food, as well as emergency food and clothing assistance.

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HOLIDAY FUND 2017



■ HOLIDAY FUND

Gifts to the Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit Upward Scholars and nine other community-service organizations.



Photo by David Moor

When Moises Bautista graduates in December from Cal Poly with a bachelor of science degree in industrial engineering, he'll be the first Upward Scholars student to earn a four-year degree. He has accepted a job offer from Oracle.

Upward Scholars helps adults move up in careers and in life

By Elizabeth Weal, executive director, Upward Scholars

Even though she was only 16 when she arrived in the U.S. from Mexico, Upward Scholars alum Viridiana Yengle didn't even consider going to high school; rather, she went straight to work.

In May, at age 32, Viridiana graduated from Canada College in Woodside with an associate degree in early childhood education and recently started working as a resource teacher at a local preschool.

Viridiana's trajectory was made possible by Upward Scholars

(Formerly Sequoia Adult School Scholars), a small nonprofit that supports adults, mostly immigrants, so they can continue their education in community college, get better jobs and serve as role models and advocates for their children.

During Viridiana's time at Canada, Upward Scholars paid for her textbooks and parking pass and gave her a laptop. Her Upward Scholars tutor, a Stanford undergrad, helped her improve her writing. Upward Scholars also arranged for her to meet with two early childhood education professionals who advised her about her career.

"Upward Scholars is part of my family now," Viridiana says. "They made my success possible."

Ms. Yengle is one of close to 500 students served by Upward Scholars since it was founded in 2011.

Upward Scholars was created to provide opportunities for the most overlooked members of our community. Most of our students have jobs like prep cooks, dishwashers and gardeners. They're the people who make our community hum but are rarely given the opportunity to move up.

Upward Scholars provides students with funds for books and transportation — a bus pass or parking pass — to college; laptops

for students who need them, one-on-one tutoring with community volunteers, and mentors for students who request them.

The goal of most Upward Scholars students is to complete Canada College's rigorous English as a Second Language (ESL) program and gain English proficiency. Some students stay in college after completing their ESL classes and earn certificates in areas such as medical assisting and accounting. Other, like Ms. Yengle, complete their associate degrees. A few then transfer to four-year universities.

In December, when Moises Bautista graduates from Cal Poly with a bachelor of science degree in industrial engineering, he'll be the first Upward Scholars student to earn a four-year degree.

Mr. Bautista came to the U.S. from Mexico when he was 18 and attended Canada College for seven years. It took him that long because he worked full-time and had limited time to study. In addition, he knew very little math. He had to start with pre-algebra and work his way up to the advanced math he needed to be an engineer.

"At Canada I learned about life," he says. "And Upward Scholars showed me that there are a lot of people in this community who want to help."

He recently accepted a job offer from Oracle.

Go to UpwardScholars.org for more information. Email: info@upwardscholars.org. Phone: (650) 383-8449. Address: 3481 Janice Way, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

Transforming lives, one family at a time

By Maleah Preston, Ecumenical Hunger Program

"I am very grateful for the Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP) being in this community and helping and doing all that they do for the positive transformation of lives. EHP has definitely transformed mine." Those are the words of Connie, a 37-year resident of East Palo Alto and a single working mother of four.

Since 1992, EHP has been able to assist her family with food, clothing, furniture and other services when they needed them most.

"It broke my heart to see my children suffer and I had no one to turn to for help," she says. "Then I found out about EHP."

■ HOLIDAY FUND

Gifts to the Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit the Ecumenical Hunger Program and nine other community organizations.

She credits EHP with helping her through many difficult times and for the look of joy on her children's faces when they experience the miracle of special holiday gifts, and backpacks full of supplies and clothes and shoes for a new school year.

Connie is very proud of the awards that her children earn with their hard work in school and for her eldest son's accomplishments as a video editor with a local community organization.

She says that none of this would be possible if it were not for EHP's



support.

Currently a member of the EHP women's support group, Connie has been attending classes through UC Davis and JobTrain. She plans to open a family child care home in the near future.

Many families like Connie's are on the verge of losing their homes, losing their jobs because they cannot afford the rising cost of housing, utilities, gas and other necessities, and they have or are

experiencing true hunger.

We are seeing more and more people walking through our doors, desperate for food and hoping for solutions. With our Family Intake Program and with the continued generous support of our donors, we will be able to help these families get back on their feet.

Connie is thoughtful and at a loss for words when asked to describe her feelings about what EHP has done for her family. After a long pause, she looks up with tears in her eyes and says, "blessed and thankful!"

And she is teaching her children to pay this forward. "They won't have to go through what I went through because with EHP's help, I've been able to set a different foundation for them," she says. "EHP has helped me transform my life, my family and my children's future and for this, I am forever grateful."

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Mary A.W. "Alex" Coleman

August 5, 1922 - September 22, 2017

Alex Coleman, resident of Menlo Park, CA., departed her earthly life on September 22 at 1:40 PM. She passed away peacefully at home with her son, Winstead and, daughter, Mary at her bedside. She was ninety five. Alex, a beloved mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, was also a loving wife to John C. Coleman from 1950 until John's death in 1990. She is survived by four children, Karen Newsom, of Portland OR, John Coleman of Napa CA, Winstead Coleman of Aptos CA, and Mary Way of Paradise Valley AZ; and by five grandchildren and seven of her eight great grandchildren.

Alex Coleman entered this world in Wilson North Carolina as Mary Alexander Wells on Aug 5 1922. She was the first born child of John David Wells, and Mary Shields Alexander Wells. Alex's parents were both from old American lines. Her parents' forbearers were among the earliest settlers in the British colonies of North Carolina and Virginia. Alex spent her childhood in Wilson NC, where she attended and graduated from Charles L. Coon High School. After high school, Alex enrolled at St. Mary's Episcopal Jr. College in Raleigh NC. Alex's maternal grandmother had also attended and graduated from St. Mary's. After graduating from St. Mary's, Alex continued her college education in Chapel Hill, at the University of North Carolina. She majored in English and minored in Drama. Two years after entering UNC, Alex graduated with a bachelors degree.

After college, Alex taught 7th grade English in the towns of Washington N.C. and Swansboro N.C. for a couple of years, and then moved to Richmond, Va. to work in creative advertising for Miller and Rhodes Department Store. Alex later left Richmond for St. Louis, MO to go to work for Women's Wear Daily as a footwear fashion editor. It was in St. Louis where Alex was introduced to a man who had recently been assigned by his Employer, Magna Power Tools, to move from California to St. Louis. This man, John Coleman, would become Alex's husband of forty years. The couple were married on May 6, 1950 in Littleton, North Carolina at an Episcopal Church where her beloved



Aunt Angeline was an active member of the congregation. After a few years that saw them transferred to Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Cleveland Ohio, John had the good fortune of being transferred to the company's headquarters in Menlo Park in 1952. John and Alex decided to make Menlo Park their final destination. John died in 1990. Alex never re married and chose to live out her life in the same home where she and John had lived and raised a family together.

Alex volunteered her time generously to multiple charitable causes and activities in the Menlo Park area. As an active member of the Woodside Atherton Auxiliary, Alex helped raise money for Stanford Children's Hospital by devoting years of service to working at the Menlo Park Allied Arts Guild, co chairing the Tally Ho Horse Show, and playing a significant role on the Woodside Atherton Auxiliary's membership committee. Alex was active in her local Chi Omega Alumni Chapter's philanthropic causes, and enthusiastically participated in their efforts to help deserving students receive scholarship funding. Among her many other volunteer contributions to her community, Alex steadfastly did volunteer work to deliver meals to house bound seniors, served as the President of the Parent/Teacher Association at Trinity Parish Day School, volunteered as a teacher's assistant at a local grade school and donated her teaching talent to help children in East Palo



Alto develop better reading and writing skills. Alex was a devoted parishioner of St. Bede's and St. Mark's Episcopal Churches, where she worked in numerous volunteer capacities from teaching Sunday School, to working at rummage sales. She worked for decades as part of the St. Bede's Alter Guild. Alex committed her life to Christian values. Most of all, Alex was an adoring mother and wife. She loved and was loved by her family, friends and neighbors. She maintained life long friendships from all stages of her life. She leaves behind a life's legacy of caring about and giving to others. She will be missed by all those whose lives she touched.

A Celebration of Alex's life will be held at St Bede's Episcopal Church in Menlo Park on Dec 9 at 2:00 PM. The family encourages all to attend. A reception at the church's Parish Hall will follow. The family requests that in lieu of flowers you make contributions in her memory to St Bede's Episcopal Church Menlo Park, or The Coleman Family Scholarship Fund Whitman College, Walla Walla WA.

PAID OBITUARY

Menlo Park grapples with tough choices on elections

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

After hours of deliberation, the Menlo Park City Council voted 4-0, with Ray Mueller absent, on Nov. 29 to take further steps to change the city's election process from an at-large system (in which all voters can vote to fill all five council seats) to a by-district system (in which voters residing in a district can vote to fill only the one council seat in that district).

The council voted to create an advisory commission that would seek public input and recommend to the council how to split the city into five or six districts. The council also ironed out a process that would avoid having the council members select the members of the commission and would stick to a tight schedule.

Looking forward, council members also favored creating an independent commission that would have the authority to make the final decision on district boundaries when new census data is released, in advance of the 2022 election.

Lawsuit threat

Menlo Park is facing a lawsuit threat that alleges the city's at-large voting system violates state law because racial minorities, specifically residents of the predominantly Latino and African-American Belle Haven neighborhood, don't get fair representation on the council.

The city must change its election system to districts by the November 2018 ballot or be liable to the suit. The lawsuit threat, in the form of a letter from attorney Kevin Shankman of the Shankman & Hughes law firm, is on behalf of unnamed plaintiffs. The law firm has been involved in such lawsuits against a number of California cities. No cities have prevailed in court and many have switched to district elections rather than face such a lawsuit.

To make the switch to district voting by the November 2018 election, the city must meet deadlines much earlier in 2018. According to City Attorney Bill McClure, Menlo Park must have its district boundaries decided by the end of April to give the county time to prepare for the changes.

The process for moving forward is twofold. First, there will be a method made available for members of the public to submit a map with recommendations for district boundaries. There will be the option to create five or six districts. Second, members of the advisory commission will be selected and will work with the submitted boundary ideas to come up with final recommendations.

(Under a six-district plan, voters would elect a mayor at-large who would also sit on the council, meaning that there would be a total of seven council seats. With five districts, the council members would select a mayor from one of their members, as is done now.

Council favors independent commission after 2020 census.

The title of mayor rotates each year among the council members.)

The districts will have to have roughly the same number of people, within a margin of 10 percent, according to demographer Chalise Tilton from the National Demographics Corp., the firm the city has hired to guide the change to district elections.

The corporation has created a software tool the public can use to draw district boundaries on a map containing census data and then submit it as a recommendation. Respondents will be asked if they're a resident, but submissions won't be limited to residents, she said.

Go to is.gd/district643 to access the tool.

Independent?

The big question of the night was whether the commission appointed to draw district boundaries should be advisory, leaving the final approval to the council, or completely independent, meaning its decision would be final.

In public comments, 13 people spoke in favor of an independent commission, and one opposed it.

In summary, the appeal of an independent commission is that current council members — who have an implicit stake in how district boundaries are drawn since it may affect their re-election — would have less opportunity to interfere with the process.

The problem with creating an independent commission, according to Mr. McClure, is

See **ELECTION PLANS**, page 20

ClassGuide

The Class Guide is published quarterly by the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac and the Mountain View Voice.

Just because it's winter and the days are colder and shorter, doesn't mean you have to stay bundled at home. There are plenty of classes and other activities offered along the Midpeninsula this season to get you out of the house and moving. Whether its dancing, cooking or learning a foreign language, our list of local offerings is bound to fulfill at least one of your goals, interests or passions.

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DANCE

Brazivedas

53 Shorebreeze Court, East Palo Alto. 650-644-7343 / brazivedas.com

Brazivedas offers classes in Brazilian dance, music and martial arts for all ages and experience levels. Classes are held at several venues, including Lucie Stern Community Center, Stanford University campus and a home studio in East Palo Alto.

Silicon Valley Ballet

Cubberley Community Center, G-6, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. 408-288-2820 ext. 223 / school@siliconvalleyballet.org

The Palo Alto Studio of Silicon Valley Ballet (previously known as Ballet San Jose) provides ballet instruction to children ages 2.5 to 10, with particular attention paid to dancer health and child development. There are also creative movement classes and a Dance With Me class (for ages 1.5 to 2.5 and caregivers) held at the studio. Sessions are held at various times on Fridays.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS

Kim Grant Tennis Academy

3005 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. 650-752-8061 / admin@kimgranttennis.com / kimgranttennis.com.

The Kim Grant Tennis Academy organizes an array of tennis classes and programs for adults and children, including those with special needs.

United States Youth Volleyball League

Mitchell Park, 600 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto. 310-212-7008 / info@usyvl.org / usyvl.org/locations/paloalto.

Run by the league and volunteers, the youth volleyball program allows boys and girls of all skill levels from ages 7 to 15 to play and learn the sport in a fun, supportive and co-ed environment.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Blue Iris Studio

3485 El Camino Real, Palo Alto 650-858-1440 / blueirisstudiopaloalto.com Blue Iris studio offers classes in yoga, Pilates and meditation.

Studio Kicks

796A San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. 650-855-9868 / info@studiokickspaloalto.com / studiokickspaloalto.com.

Studio Kicks is a family fitness center offering cardio kickboxing classes and training in martial arts for children and adults.

Taoist Tai Chi Society of the USA

3391 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto / 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto / 600 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto. 650-396-9244 / taoist.org/usa/locations/palo-alto.

The Taoist Tai Chi Society of the USA, a charitable organization with nationally accredited volunteers, holds classes designed to improve balance, strength, flexibility, relaxation and health. Beginner classes are held a few days each week.

SENIORS

Menlo Park Senior Center

100 Terminal Ave, Menlo Park. 650-330-2280 / menlopark.org (search "senior center")

Menlo Park's Senior Center offers more than 100 classes year-round in exercise/movement, arts and crafts, sewing, cooking, language and more for adults aged 55 and older. Membership costs, fees and class descriptions are listed on the website.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Bay Area Friendship Circle

3921 Fabian Way, Suite A023, Palo Alto. 650-858-6990 / bayareafc.org / info@BayAreaFC.org

The Bay Area Friendship Circle offers programs for children, teens and young adults with special needs ages 2 to 22 year-round as well as winter and summer camps. Trained teen volunteers provide one-on-one friendship and support. To register for programs or camp visit the website.

LANGUAGE COURSES

German-American School

GAIS Campus, 475 Pope St., Menlo Park. 650-520-3646 / contact@gaspa-ca.org / gaspa-ca.org

Started in 1960, the German-American School of Palo Alto (GASPA), a Saturday school, teaches immersive German language classes, which also cover culture and traditions. Sessions are available for all skill levels and students ages 3 to 18. No prior knowledge of German is required.

MUSIC, ARTS AND CRAFTS

Art Works Studio

595 Lincoln Ave., Palo Alto. 650-796-1614 / artworkspaloalto@gmail.com / artworkspaloalto.net

Art Works Studio holds regular fine-art classes for youth, who are given

the chance to explore and learn about art history.

Lingling Yang Violin Studio

Middlefield Road and East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto. 650-456-7648 / linglingviolin.blogspot.com / linglingy@gmail.com

This studio offers private violin instruction to children ages 7 and up and adults of all levels. Enrollment is offered year-round.

The Midpen Media Center

900 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. 650-494-8686 / info@midpenmedia.org / midpenmedia.org

The center offers workshops for a range of media arts, including video production, photo enhancement, studio work and more. The center suggests starting with one of its free hour-long orientation sessions.

Pacific Art League

668 Ramona St., Palo Alto. 650-321-3891 / info@pacificartleague.org / pacificartleague.org

The classes and workshops at the Pacific Art League are taught by qualified, experienced instructors for children and adults with varying experience. Instructors teach many mediums, including drawing, painting, watercolor, printmaking, digital art and more.

PARENT EDUCATION

Children's Health Council

650 Clark Way, Palo Alto. 650-326-5530 / info@chconline.org / chconline.org

Children's Health Council holds a variety of classes touching on child-behavior issues, dyslexia, anxiety and depression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism and other topics related to encouraging all children's success. All classes are taught by the organization's experts.

Parents Place

200 Channing Ave., Palo Alto. 650-688-3040 / parentsplaceonline.org/peninsula

A resource center for parents, Parents Place on the Peninsula offers workshops on subjects ranging from sibling rivalry to building a child's self-esteem and confidence. Parent and child activity groups are also organized.

SCHOOL DAYS

Amigos de Palo Alto

1611 Stanford Ave., Palo Alto. 650-493-4300 / info@amigosdepaloalto.com / amigosdepaloalto.com

Amigos de Palo Alto is a Spanish-immersion preschool for children 2 1/2 and older.

Emerson School

2800 W. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. 650-424-1267 / emersonschool@heads-up.org / heads-up.org/emerson-school Emerson School provides a full-day, year-round program for grades one to eight, teaching a personalized, Montessori curriculum.

Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School

450 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. 650-494-8200 / hausner.com Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School provides strong academics, instruction in Jewish studies and the Hebrew

language, enrichment opportunities and after-school programs.

HeadsUp! Child Development Center

2800 W. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. 650-424-1221, pacdc@headsup.org, headsup.org/headsup

HeadsUp! Child Development Center serves infants, toddlers and preschoolers (to age 6) with a full-day program, year-round. The Montessori curriculum focuses on building thinking skills and personal values. A bilingual Chinese-English preschool classroom is also available.

International School of the Peninsula

151 Laura Lane, Palo Alto.

650-251-8500 / istp.org / istp.org International School of the Peninsula is an independent bilingual immersion day school with two nursery-to-fifth-grade programs in French and Mandarin Chinese, as well as an international middle school program.

Lydian Academy LLC

815 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.

650-321-0550 / lydianacademy.com Lydian Academy is a middle and high school offering individualized instruction to prepare students for college.

Peninsula School

920 Peninsula Way, Menlo Park.

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Menlo Park to appeal approval of Stanford medical office building

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park is taking a hard stance against Stanford University's growth near its territory, as evidenced by the council's 4-0 vote Nov. 29 to appeal the approval of a medical faculty office building slated for 453 Quarry Road in Santa Clara County.

Stanford's "Center for Academic Medicine" would be a 155,000-square-foot, four-story building with three levels of underground parking. It was approved by the Santa Clara County Planning Commission on Nov. 16. The appeal goes to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Menlo Park staff and the council were surprised that they hadn't been alerted about the project, only hearing about it prior to the scheduled hearing of the matter at the county planning commission.

In fact, the revelation of this project caused Councilwoman Catherine Carlton to renege on her approval of another

Stanford office development at 2131 Sand Hill Road, causing that project's approval to be reversed.

(Councilman Ray Mueller had alerted the city of plans for the Quarry Road development; he says he learned of the proposal due to a tip from Kristina Loquist, a staffer in Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian's office. Mr. Mueller previously worked as chief of staff there. Until recently, he said, Ms. Loquist wanted her name to stay "behind the scenes.")

The appeal comes with a price tag of \$1,359 and will require staff time, a commodity in short supply, to be pulled from other city projects, as City Manager Alex McIntyre frequently reminds the council.

One of the council's big concerns about the development is that it moves 115,000 square feet of Stanford's allowed development from its east campus to near Quarry Road.

Even though the building would not add more parking

spots than were allowed when Stanford's 2000 growth plan was approved, the Menlo Park council and staff worry that the traffic impacts have not been sufficiently analyzed, and anticipate Sand Hill Road and roads in Menlo Park territory would be adversely affected with the new building.

Santa Clara County Planning Director Kirk Girard sees things differently. In a previous interview, he said that county planners did take Menlo Park's concerns into account and layered on more analysis as to what traffic might be like when the university's two hospitals — currently under construction — go live. The traffic projections, he said, were comfortably beneath projected traffic volumes estimated in 2000. "This project wasn't making things worse," he said.

The appeal would likely go before the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in January or February, Councilman Peter Ohtaki predicted. ▀

Menlo Park moves ahead with district election plans

continued from page 18

the tight time crunch the city is under. If the council were to create an independent commission, he said, it no longer would have the legal authority to impose hard deadlines.

Picturing the worst-case scenario, he said, an independent commission might not reach consensus in time for the county to prepare for a district election in Menlo Park. If that happened, the 2018 election could be canceled and the city slapped with a lawsuit. In that hypothetical scenario, he said, he didn't know if the current council members would keep their seats or vacate them.

Ultimately, the council decided to move forward with an advisory commission — since the council would have more control in ensuring the deadline is met.

Belle Haven resident Pam Jones recommended certain requirements for members of the commission, and the council adopted many of them, including these: members

must have lived in Menlo Park for at least five years, have voted in at least two of the last three city elections, if they were eligible (exceptions could be made for people who were under the voting age or not citizens in previous elections), and have not given more than \$500 to any City Council candidate in the last eight years.

The advisory commission would have nine members, but that number could be decreased if not enough people apply. All candidates would be vetted. The first three commissioners would be selected at random from among applicants who meet the requirements. Then, those three would select the rest, focusing on ensuring the commission's diversity.

The commission would have to make its recommendation on district boundaries by the middle of March to give the council time to hold two required public hearings before getting the final map to the county by the end of April. ▀

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Atherton residents protest height of planned Caltrain poles

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

As Caltrain begins construction to electrify its train service, Atherton residents whose backyards are bordered by the railroad tracks are protesting plans to install nearly 46-foot-tall cantilevered poles near their homes for the electrical wires.

Resident of the Lloyd Park neighborhood wrote a letter to Caltrain's board of directors and Executive Director Jim Hartnett on Dec. 1 saying they "strongly object" to plans to put 45.5-foot-tall poles, with cantilevered arms that span two sets of tracks, "in the Lloyd Park neighborhood, a quaint residential area of Atherton."

They've also peppered Atherton officials with emails, urging them to refuse to sign the agreement that allows Caltrain to start working (and repays the town for any costs it has related to the agreement, starting off with a \$25,000 deposit).

Atherton Rail Committee member Nerissa Dexter said residents "don't want to have our modest and quaint neighborhood destroyed" by the tall poles.

Atherton council members also expressed consternation when they heard about the planned height of the poles at a Nov. 15 City Council meeting, when the agreement to allow Caltrain to begin construction in Atherton was to be approved. Council members pulled the item from their consent calendar, where it could have been approved without any discussion, along with other routine business.

The town staff report about the agreement said the 19 poles Caltrain planned for Atherton would be "25 to 30 feet in height."

But Stacy Cocke, Caltrain's principal planner for the project, said that is not correct. "The poles in some instances are taller than that," she said. "We're seeing some 40-45 feet" in other areas where design has been completed. The taller poles are designed to span two sets of train tracks, she said, and also have larger foundations than poles that carry wires for only one track, she said.

"I'm actually shocked," Councilman Cary Wiest said when he heard the new height estimates, adding that the town should have been told about the taller poles much earlier.

"We've got a reputation for not necessarily being so friendly on this topic," Mr. Wiest said, alluding to the fact that Atherton has filed several legal actions against Caltrain over the electrification plans. "This is why we're not friendly."

Ms. Cocke said Caltrain was using the taller cantilevered poles to help preserve trees along the tracks. Caltrain officials say they don't know why the town thought the poles would

be shorter. The environmental report on the project says the poles could be up to 50 feet tall.

Caltrain says that replacing the planned cantilever poles with 30- to 35-foot-tall poles on both sides of the tracks means more impact on trees. One more tree will have to be removed and 11 more trees will need moderate pruning (less than 25 percent). Caltrain would also have to pay for a redesign.

Caltrain is working with town officials on the pole height issue

and it was to be discussed at a Dec. 5 Rail Committee meeting and at the council's Dec. 20 meeting.

In the meantime, Lloyd Park residents plan to attend a Thursday, Dec. 7, meeting of the Caltrain board and share their concerns during the public comment portion of the 10 a.m. meeting, which will be held in the Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, 1250 San Carlos Ave. in San Carlos. ■

Former after-school aide re-arrested

A continuing investigation by San Mateo County Sheriff's Office detectives into the activities of Emerald Hills resident and former after-school aide Hoang Tran has turned up another 6-year-old girl who deputies are referring to as a third victim.

Mr. Tran, who is 19 and a former aide at a San Carlos elementary school, was arrested Nov. 27 on suspicion of lewd acts with a child under the age of 14. Deputies at that time had spoken with two girls — one 6 and the other 7 — from the Brittan Acres Elementary School.

Deputies re-arrested Mr. Tran

on Thursday, Nov. 30, after identifying the third girl, Detective Salvador Zuno of the Sheriff's Office said in an email.

The investigation of Mr. Tran began in September after a 6-year-old girl told detectives she had been touched inappropriately by him while he was working at Brittan Acres, deputies said. The alleged touching was done over the girl's clothing, prosecutors said.



Hoang Tran

School officials placed Mr. Tran on leave immediately upon learning from detectives of the alleged incident. He was subsequently let go as an employee of the school district, deputies said.

A second girl, a 7-year-old, came forward during the investigation, alleging that Mr. Tran inappropriately touched her sometime at the beginning of the school year, deputies said.

Investigators are asking anyone with information about the case to contact Detective Jesse Myers at 650-363-4050 or jmyers@smc.gov.org. To make an anonymous tip, call 800-547-2700.

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FOR THE RECORD

Driver convicted in crash that killed Woodside man

A 48-year-old man was convicted Nov. 22 of felony vehicular manslaughter and hit-and-run charges for a crash near La Honda last year that killed a Woodside man.

A San Mateo County Superior Court jury found El Granada resident Tom Doane guilty of the charges in connection with a crash on March 27, 2016, that killed Francois Jouaux, a 46-year-old Woodside man with a wife and children, prosecutors said.

Just before 7 p.m., Mr. Doane drove his 2001 Ford F-250 into opposing lanes of traffic in the 7400 block of La Honda Road and crashed head-on into a 1992 Honda Civic driven by Mr. Jouaux.

The truck rolled over the Honda, killing Mr. Jouaux, according to the District Attorney's Office.

A witness saw Mr. Doane climb out of the overturned Ford bleeding from his mangled left hand and arm, saying, "I need to die. ... I really just need to die," prosecutors said.

He fled into the woods and

California Highway Patrol officers were unable to find him.

He later showed up at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Redwood City and said he had been in a motorcycle accident, but he was the registered owner of the truck and investigators were able to link him to the crash, prosecutors said.

The jury convicted him on its third day of deliberations after a 21-day trial. Mr. Doane is scheduled to return to court on Jan. 10 for sentencing.

His defense attorney, Dan Barton, was not available for comment.

— Bay City News Service

Police: Man brandished firearm while stuck in Willows traffic

Menlo Park police arrested a Danville man at about 5:40 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, in the Willows neighborhood on charges of brandishing a weapon and carrying a concealed firearm in a vehicle.

Police responded to a report about a man in an SUV who allegedly displayed a pistol to other drivers while stuck in traffic near the intersection of Willow Road and Durham Street.

In checking the SUV, police said they found a pistol and a loaded magazine inside and in close proximity to the driver.

Traffic jams have been a major headache in the Willows area as the state highway department rebuilds the interchange at Willow Road and U.S. 101.

■ POLICE CALLS

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

MENLO PARK

Attempted robbery: Police arrested a 35-year-old transient man on suspicion of attempted robbery, attempted carjacking and assault with a deadly weapon after an incident that unfolded at Tri-E-Z Liquors at 1820 El Camino Real. Police gave this account: The transient man asked for change from a man going into the liquor store and repeated his request after the customer left the store. On both occasions, the customer said he didn't have any change, police said. The transient man cursed the customer, threw a water bottle at the customer's vehicle as the customer was trying to enter it, then approached and spit on the vehicle and in the customer's face. The transient man tried to enter the vehicle himself and threaten to take it. The customer chased the transient man around his vehicle and the chase continued along El Camino Real toward Spruce Avenue. At one point, the transient man picked up an A-frame sign and threw it at the customer, hitting him in ribs. The customer declined medical treatment, police said. Police found and arrested the transient man and booked him into jail. Nov. 26.

Auto burglaries:

■ Someone broke into a vehicle parked at the Bedwell Bayfront Park on Marsh Road and stole a purse. Inside the purse were a wallet, make-up, jewelry, gift cards, credit cards and \$289 in cash. Estimated loss: \$10,929. Nov. 28.

■ A thief broke into a vehicle parked at the Bedwell Bayfront Park on Marsh Road and stole a purse hidden under the front seat. Inside were a wallet, three credit cards, keys and \$100 in cash. Estimated loss: \$360. Nov. 26.

Thefts:

■ A thief stole two packages delivered to a home on Mansion Court. The packages contained clothing. Estimated loss: \$500. Nov. 28.

■ Someone stole a bicycle from the porch of a home on Hamilton Avenue. Estimated loss: \$500. Nov. 30.

■ A thief took a woman's wallet from her purse while it was hanging on the back of her chair as she had lunch at Cafe Borone at 1010 El Camino Real. Estimated loss: \$200. Nov. 29.

■ A backpack containing personal documents was stolen from the El Rancho Supermarket at 812 Willow Road. Estimated loss: \$50. Nov. 27.

■ Someone stole a Social Security card and \$20 in cash from a woman's bag while she was at her workplace on O'Brien Drive. Nov. 30.

Fraud: A resident of East Creek Drive told police that someone had spent almost \$400 from a gift card she'd purchased in a supermarket a few days earlier. She was advised to fill out paperwork associated with a dispute. Nov. 26.

Brandishing a weapon: A Danville man was arrested on charges of brandishing and carrying a concealed firearm in a vehicle after a report about a man displaying a pistol to drivers of other vehicles that were stuck in traffic near Willow Road and Durham Street. During the arrest, police said they found a loaded pistol in the vehicle in close proximity to the driver. Nov. 29.

Correction

A voting tally was incorrect in the Nov. 29 story on Supervisor Joe Simitian's recent trip to three economically depressed counties — in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Michigan — to talk with voters about why they helped elect Donald Trump in 2016 after having previously voted for Barack Obama.

Mr. Trump won in Cambria County with 66.8 percent of the vote compared to 29.3 percent for Hillary Clinton.

Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Theater

A Holiday Mashup: The Nutcracker at Fox Theatre "Hip-Hop Nutcracker" features 17 hip-hop artists joined by dancers from Peninsula Ballet Theater. Dec. 15, 7 p.m. Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway St., Redwood City. peninsulaballet.org/hiphop-nutcracker

TheatreWorks Presents 'Around the World in 80 Days'

A story set in the 1870s centered around adventurer Phileas Fogg and his valet. Nov. 29-Dec. 31. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org/201718-season/201718-season/around-the-world-in-80-days/

TheatreWorks: 'The Santaland Diaries' A comedic one-man show written by David Sedaris about holiday hype. Dec. 5-23. \$20-\$45. Lohman Theatre, 12345 S. El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. theatreworks.org/201718-season/201718-season/santaland-diaries/

Very Merry Dorktales Dragon Theatre performs its own version of the classic "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. Dec. 15, 4:30 p.m. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. dragonproductions.net/activities/dorktales-story-time.html

Concerts

Winter's Gifts: Family The Choral Project performs its holiday concert with San Jose Chamber Orchestra. Dec. 16-17, times vary. \$10, students/alumni; \$25, seniors; \$35, general admission. First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper St., Palo Alto. choralproject.org/categories/winters-gifts/

Bay Choral Guild and the Redwood Symphony present 'Messiah' Paul Ayres re-writes G.F. Handel's "Messiah." The variations in jazz, gospel, mash-ups and improvisation are rooted in Handel's familiar melodies. Dec. 9, 7 p.m. \$35, general; \$30, seniors; \$10, students. First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. baychoralguild.org/

Ukulele Master Hiram Bell Traditional Hawaiian music and more. Dec. 9, 11 a.m.-noon. Menlo Park

City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org/ukulele

Talks & Lectures

The Climate vs. the Weather A National Weather Service meteorologist explains the distinctions between climate and weather. Dec. 12, 6:30-8 p.m. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. Search menlopark.org/Calendar.aspx for more info.

Joe Simitian on 'Trump's America' Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian, who visited three counties that had historically voted for Democratic presidential candidates, to learn what made them "flip" in 2016. Free; online registration required. Dec. 7, 7-8:30 p.m. Menlo Park City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. Search menlopark.org/Calendar.aspx for more info.

Outdoor Recreation

Hike with Friends This is a family hike just long enough for the youngsters to burn off some pre-Christmas energy. The hike starts at the parking lot just beyond the entrance kiosk and is about 2 miles. Takes place rain or shine. \$6 parking fee. Dec. 17, 2-4 p.m. Free. Huddart Park, 1100 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside. huddartwunderlichfriends.org/events/75-come-hike-with-the-friends

Community

2017 Holiday Showcase features highlights from Menlo Park Community Services Department's programs and classes. Dec. 13, 7-9 p.m. Free for children. Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

NFL Alumni Annual Toy Drive Collection drive for unwrapped toys or useful items for families of fallen military members. The NFL Alumni NorCal Chapter will host an event with former NFL players, military personnel, Gold Star families, first responders and local celebrities. Dec. 16, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free, but please donate a new, unwrapped toy. Bruce Bosley NFL Alumni Building, 1311 Madison Ave., Redwood City. nflaluminoca.org

Submitting items for the Calendar

Go to **AlmanacNews.com** and see the Community Calendar module at the top right side of the page. Click on "Add your event." If the event is of interest to a large number of people, also e-mail a press release to **Editor@AlmanacNews.com**.

Village Hub hosts gift faire, party

By Kate Daly

Special to the Almanac

The Village Hub's Holiday Gift Faire and party offers a one-stop place to play, eat and buy from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, at Woodside Village Church, 3154 Woodside Road in Woodside.

Fourteen local vendors will sell their wares, which include succulent arrangements created by Fiona Ryan with Bloom Floral Design, decorative sugar cubes from Jen Werbe's The Sugar Studio, Louise Stroe's Peace a Porter handmade jewelry, Lacey Caslow's wreaths, and Vera Renski's wool and felting Magic Wool pieces. All of these businesses are based in Woodside.

In addition to handicrafts, artists such as Woodside Plein Air painters and Swan Mosaic's Huan My Ho will

sell their works.

Organizer Vicki Coe says 15 percent of the proceeds will be going toward The Village Hub, a community gathering point at Woodside Village Church. She says 300 people attended the inaugural event last year.

There will be a bouncy house and bake sale, and childcare available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Toddler Play Corner and Kids Zone with cookie decorating and ornament making will be open from 2 to 6 p.m.

Photos with Santa are scheduled from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Hot dog and lasagna dinners will be served from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Go to thevillagehub.org to buy advance tickets for some of the activities and dinners.

Santa visits

Continuing a holiday tradition of more than 30

years, Santa will be appear at all three of the Woodside Fire Protection District's open houses on Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Christmas trees, decorations and polished fire trucks will be on display, and hot cocoa and cookies will be served at these three locations: Station #7 at 3111 Woodside Road in Woodside; Station #8 at 135 Portola Road in Portola Valley; and Station #19 at 4091 Jefferson Ave. in Redwood City.

Families are invited to take photos with Santa and bring along new unwrapped gifts for the Redwood City and San Mateo County Toy and Book Drive.

Every year the firefighters join other agencies in the area to collect, wrap, and deliver presents to less fortunate children. Collection bins will be posted at the stations throughout the month of December. ▣

RARELY AVAILABLE ALLIED ARTS CHARMER

Nestled in the heart of Allied Arts, this home combines traditional appeal with modern living. The fabulous floor plan is open and bright with a unique stained glass window entrance that invites you home. Enchanting lush garden in the front and backyards filled with antique Camellia, Ilex and hydrangeas. Master bedroom with views of the back yard and beyond. Lovely natural light throughout entire home. Large outdoor deck is ideal for entertaining. Everything on this street spells exceptional living and a warm sense of community.

OUTSTANDING FEATURES:

- Four Bedrooms and Two Baths
- 1610 Sq. Feet on a 7500 Sq. Foot Lot
- Elegant crown molding and baseboards
- Beautiful Wood floors
- Air Conditioning
- Double pane windows throughout
- Living room with wood burning fireplace
- Large Level Backyard
- Detached Two Car Garage
- Custom built driveway gate
- Spacious Outdoor Living and Entertaining areas
- Potting Shed with Separate Outdoor Sink for Gardening Enthusiasts
- Close Proximity to downtown Menlo Park, downtown Palo Alto, and Stanford bike bridge
- Excellent Menlo Park Schools
- Plenty of room to GROW.

Price upon request



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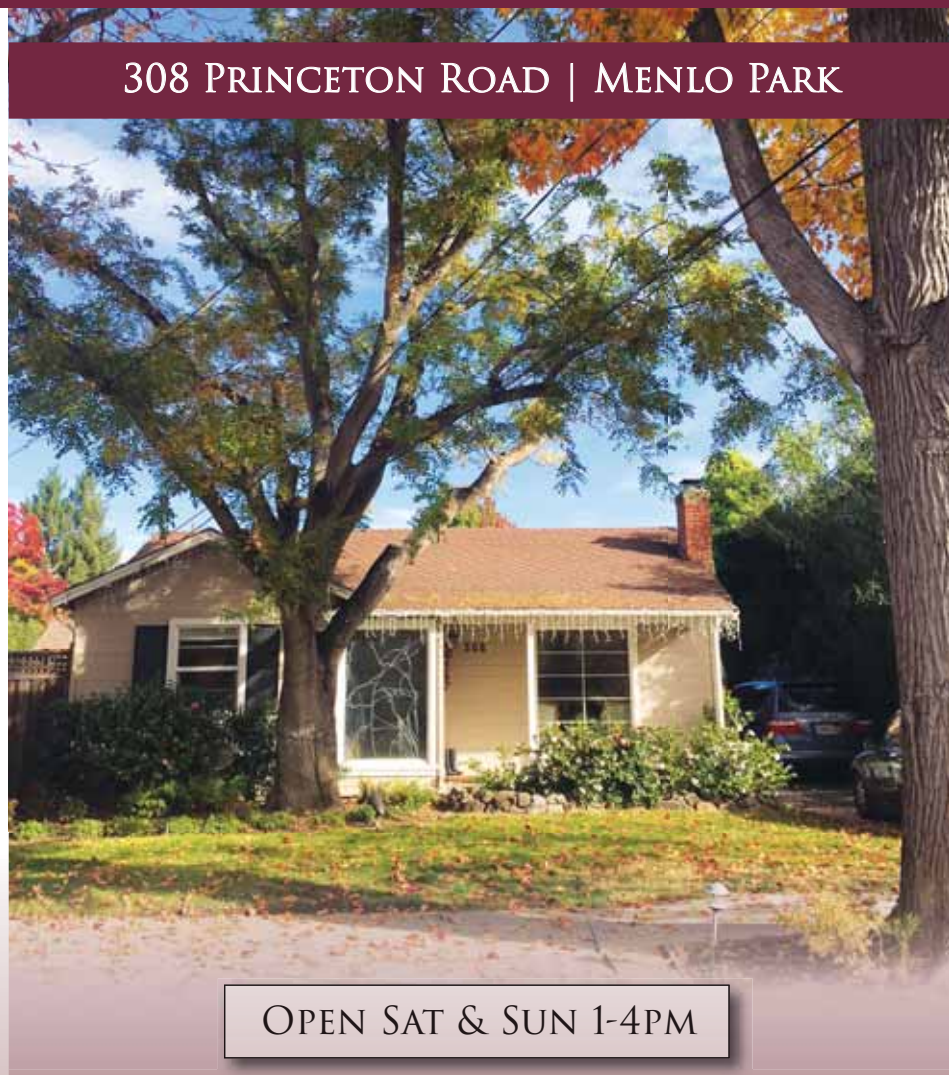
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Comfort and joy

Holiday happenings on the Midpeninsula

By Karla Kane, Linda Taaffe and Kate Daly

Tis the season to be jolly, as the old song says. But perhaps you're in a more contemplative mood? Whether you're feeling merry and bright, quiet and reverent or more "Bah! Humbug!" than "deck the halls," there's something for everyone happening on the Midpeninsula this holiday season.

Looking for a traditional concert of classic carols? Check out a

cappella group Chanticleer's annual performance at Stanford University's Memorial Auditorium. The winter season itself will be honored by the beautiful voices of Kitka, an all-female vocal group singing songs of Eastern Europe, while Hanukkah (and Woody Guthrie) will be celebrated by the Grammy-winning Klezmatics.

There's no shortage of local



Courtesy of Stanford Live

The Grammy-winning Klezmatics fuse Klezmer sounds with melodies by Woody Guthrie.

"Nutcrackers" for dance fans: Try Menlowe Ballet's for a unique blend of the beloved ballet with the tear-jerking film "It's a Wonderful Life" (with a few new, politically aware twists this year).

If it's some snarky laughs you're after, try TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's "The Santaland Diaries" or the Pear Theatre's "Millionth Production of a Christmas Carol." Of

course, plenty of festivities for kids and families are on the calendar, too.

Featured here are but a few of the many holiday-themed events happening locally in the coming month. So grab your scarf and cup of hot cocoa and start making your plans.

Go to AlmanacNews.com/calendar for information on more local events. ■

Music

Live holiday music at the mall

What: Stanford Shopping Center is hosting a variety of free musical performances during the holiday season, including performances by Holiday Festival Strings, Dickens Carolers, Steel Pan Band, Musical Toy Solider Guard and Merry Mariachi Band.

Where: 660 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto.

When: Afternoons, Saturdays and Sundays through Christmas Eve.

More information: bit.ly/StanfordHolidayEvents

Festival of Lessons

What: Stanford University's Department of Music, Office for Religious Life will hold its annual Festival of Lessons and Carols service this holiday season. The Memorial Church Choir and Stanford Chamber Chorale will perform.

Where: Stanford Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford.

When: Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30-9 p.m.

More information: events.stanford.edu/events/710/71077/

'Messyah'

What: The Bay Choral Guild and Redwood Symphony present Paul Ayres' "Messyah," a reimagined, light-hearted update of the Handel original choral masterpiece.

Where: First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto.

When: Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m.

More information: baychoralguild.org

Winter's Warmth

What: Ragazzi Continuo, the adult a cappella choir for graduates of the Ragazzi Boys Chorus, presents its holiday concert "Winter's Warmth."

Where: First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, 1985 Louis Road.

When: Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m.

More information: ragazzicontinuo.org

'The Hot Sardines' Holiday Stomp'

What: The Hot Sardines present a concert of jazz versions of holiday favorites.

Where: Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford.

When: Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m.

More information: live.stanford.edu

'A Chanticleer Christmas'

What: Male a cappella choir Chanticleer returns to

Stanford University for its annual holiday concert.

Where: Memorial Auditorium, Stanford.

When: Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m.

More information: live.stanford.edu

The Klezmatics' 'Happy, Joyous Hanukkah'

What: The Grammy Award-winning Klezmatics fuse Klezmer sounds with melodies by Woody Guthrie in this holiday concert.

Where: Memorial Auditorium, Stanford.

When: Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m.

More information: live.stanford.edu

'Winter's Gifts'

What: The Choral Project performs its annual holiday concert, "Winter's Gifts: Family," with the San Jose Chamber Orchestra.

Where: First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper St., Palo Alto.

When: Saturday, Dec. 16, 8 p.m.

Cost: General admission: \$35; senior admission: \$25; student/alumni: \$10.

More information: choralproject.org/categories/winters-gifts

PACO Holiday Extravaganza with Anderson & Roe

What: The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra will perform its annual holiday show with special guests piano duo Greg Anderson and Elizabeth Joy Roe, plus dancers from Pacific Ballet Academy.

Where: Smithwick Theater, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills.

When: Saturday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m.

More information: pacomusic.org

The Gryphon Carolers

What: The Gryphon Carolers, a 30-voice ensemble, will perform its 36th-annual holiday concert.

Where: Canada College Theater, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Woodside.

When: Sunday Dec. 17, at 6:30 p.m.

More information: gryphoncarollers.com

Schola Cantorum's holiday concerts

What: Schola Cantorum Silicon Valley will present two holiday concerts with sing-along opportunities: "Warmest Christmas Traditions" (a selection of favorite carols) and "51st Annual Messiah Sing."

Where: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St.

When: Sunday Dec. 17, at 3 p.m. ("Warmest Christmas Traditions") and Monday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m. ("Messiah Sing").

More information: scholacantorum.org/home

Kitka's 'Wintersongs'

What: Kitka, the women's Eastern European music vocal ensemble, will perform its annual concert of winter songs, featuring selections from its new seasonal album "Evening Star."

Where: St. Bede's, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park; Filoli, 6 Canada Road, Woodside.

When: Sunday, Dec. 10, at 4 p.m. (Menlo Park) and Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m. (Woodside).

More information: Kitka.org

Dance

'It's a Wonderful Nutcracker'

What: The professional company Menlowe Ballet and students from its ballet school, Menlo Park Academy of Dance, are performing their third annual "It's a Wonderful Nutcracker," which blends Tchaikovsky's ballet with Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life." New this year: some nods to today's political climate, plus a shorter, "sensory-friendly" version on Sunday, Dec. 10, especially appropriate for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Where: Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton.

When: Dec. 8-10 and 15-17.

More information: menloweballet.org

'The Christmas Ballet'

What: The 2017 edition of Smuin's "The Christmas Ballet" features several new works choreographed by company dancers.

Where: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St.

When: Dec. 6-10.

More information: smuinballet.org

'Twas the Night Before Christmas'

What: Dancers Repertory Theatre is once again staging "Twas the Night Before Christmas," a colorful spectacle featuring a cast of 90 adults and children acting out Clement C. Moore's poem of the same name.

Where: Woodside High School Performing Arts Center, 199 Churchill Ave., Woodside.

When: Sunday, Dec. 9 and 10.

More information: twasthenight.org

More 'Nutcrackers'

What: More local dance groups offering versions of the holiday ballet include (names of the companies are in parenthesis):

■ americanballet.com/home/perform/ (Ballet America)

■ haoexpression.com/ballet.html (HaoExpression)

■ ramonmorenoballet.com (Ramon Moreno School of Ballet)

■ westernballet.org (Western Ballet)

■ peninsulaballet.org (Peninsula Ballet Theatre with The Tribe and Poise'n)

Miscellaneous Festivities

Photos with Santa

What: Santa Claus will be at Stanford Shopping Center daily through Christmas Eve to take photos with children.

Where: Center Pavilion, 660 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto.

When: Through Sunday, Dec. 24.

More information: bit.ly/SantaPhotosStanford

Gingerbread house decorating

What: Executive Pastry Chef Eric Keppler teaches parents and their children how to decorate a gingerbread house like a pro during "Quattro's Perfect House."

Where: Quattro at the Four Seasons, 2050 University Ave., East Palo Alto.

When: Sunday, Dec. 10, at 10:30 a.m.

More information: quattrorestaurant.com/quattros-perfect-house | 650-470-2889

Tropical Holiday Family Day

What: Free tropical art-making and performances for participants ages 5 to adult.

Where: Palo Alto Art Center, 1213 Newell Road, Palo Alto.

When: Sunday, Dec. 10, 2-4:30 p.m.

More information: bit.ly/HolidayFamilyDayPaloAlto

Christmas Tree Lane

What: Christmas Tree Lane has been a Palo Alto yuletide tradition since 1940, when homeowners spontaneously decided to decorate two blocks from Embarcadero Road to Seale Avenue with Christmas trees and lights for the community to enjoy.

Continued on next page



Photo by Eric Raeber

Menlowe Ballet combines “The Nutcracker” with “It’s a Wonderful Life” in its holiday performance, “It’s a Wonderful Nutcracker.” Cover photo also by Eric Raeber.

Local ballet companies offer their own holiday traditions

By Kate Daly

Special to the Almanac

Once again this holiday season, two local companies are taking a break from presenting the traditional ballet, “The Nutcracker,” and offering up their own versions of festive family fare.

‘Twas the Night’

For the 13th year in a row, Dancers Repertory Theatre is staging “Twas the Night Before Christmas,” a colorful spectacle with a cast of 90 adults and children acting out Clement C. Moore’s poem of the same name.

Artistic director and choreographer

Coleen Duncan says they have been rehearsing since September and have added more bling to their costumes this season.

Tickets cost \$22 and are on sale now for shows on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 3 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 10, at 1 and 4 p.m., at Woodside High School Performing Arts Center, 199 Churchill Ave. near Woodside.

Go to twasthenight.org to reserve a seat.

‘Wonderful Nutcracker’

The professional company Menlowe Ballet and students from its associated ballet school, the Menlo Park Academy

of Dance, are performing “It’s a Wonderful Nutcracker” for the third year in a row.

The two-hour program blends two stories — Tchaikovsky’s ballet and Frank Capra’s film from the 1940s, “It’s a Wonderful Life.” The message: the importance of sharing time with family and friends.

Performances are at the Performing Arts Center on the Menlo-Atherton High School campus at 555 Middlefield Road in Atherton.

Show times are Friday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 9, at 2 and 7 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 16, at 2 and

7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 17, at 2 p.m.

Go to menloweballet.org to buy tickets ranging from \$28 to \$55.

New this year, the dancers are putting on a shorter, 45-minute “sensory-friendly” version called “It’s a Suite Nutcracker” on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 11 a.m. “for children and adults with developmental disabilities,” says Menlowe Ballet’s executive director, Lisa Shiveley.

The music, sounds and lights will be softened, “and audience members are welcome to verbally express their delight and exit/re-enter the theater as needed,” she explains.

Tickets for that special matinee are \$20.

Continued from previous page

Where: Fulton Street (off Embarcadero Road) Palo Alto.

When: Lights are displayed 5-11 p.m. nightly for two weeks during the holiday season, starting approximately the week before Christmas.

More information: christmastreelane.org

Hanukkah celebration

What: Hanukkah celebration with free musical performances, arts and crafts for children, face painting, dreidel games, candle lighting and a special Hanukkah puppet show and sing-along.

Where: The Plaza (near Neiman Marcus), Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto.

When: Thursday, Dec. 14, 5:30-8 p.m.

More information: paloaltojcc.org/Events/hanukkah-celebration-at-stanford-shopping-center-4

‘The North Pole Review’

What: The Fratello Marionettes perform “The North Pole Review.” The 30-minute holiday variety show will feature high-kicking antics of the Russian Trepak Dancers, the graceful ice skater Crystal Chandelier and the dazzling acrobatic penguins. There also will

be arts and crafts, refreshments and goody bags for children.

Where: Gamble Garden Carriage House, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto.

When: Sunday, Dec. 17, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

More information: Tickets available at gamblegarden.org or 650-329-1356.

Theater

‘Madeline’s Christmas: A Musical’

What: Madeline and her friends embark on a Christmas adventure in this musical adapted from Ludwig Bemelmans’ book.

Where: Main stage, Palo Alto Children’s Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

When: Nov. 30 - Dec. 17.

More information: bit.ly/MadelineTickets

‘The Millionth Production of a Christmas Carol’

What: The Pear presents James Kopp’s satirical story of a small Northern California theater company struggling to pay the bills and begrudgingly putting on a production of the Dickens Christmas classic.

Where: Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View

When: Nov. 30 - Dec. 17.

More information: thepear.org

‘Selected Shorts’

What: Kirsten Vangsness leads a cast of actors, including Tate Donovan and Christina Pickles, telling holiday tales by notable writers.

Where: Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford

When: Sunday, Dec. 10, at 2:30 p.m.

More information: live.stanford.edu

‘The Santaland Diaries’

What: TheatreWorks Silicon Valley presents the staged version of David Sedaris’ humorous essay “The Santaland Diaries,” about his short tenure as a Macy’s elf.

Where: Lohman Theatre, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills.

When: Dec. 5-23.

More information: theatreworks.org

‘A Very Merry Dorktale’

What: Dorktale Storytime will present a comedic,

fast-paced take on Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” for families.

Where: Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City.

When: Dec. 15 and 17.

More information: dragonproductions.net

‘The 1940’s Radio Hour’

What: Los Altos Stage Company presents the musical story of a radio station preparing its holiday broadcast for overseas soldiers in 1942.

Where: 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos.

When: Nov. 30-Dec. 23.

More information: losaltosstage.org

‘Oy Humbug!’

What: Theatrical burlesque company Curtains Cabaret presents a saucy variety show celebrating “the winter holidays that Christmas forgot.”

Where: Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City.

When: Sunday, Dec. 24, at 7:30 p.m.

More information: oyhumbug2017.brownpapertickets.com

Holiday Fund: The season of giving is here

In this final month of 2017, the festivities of the holiday season have already begun. Whether we immerse ourselves in a swirl of traditional celebrations or wind up the year in a more low-key manner, we should remember that for many less-fortunate members of our communities, the holidays are a difficult time. They struggle to pay the heating bill, to keep food on the family table, and to put toys for their kids under the tree.

For 24 years, Almanac readers have risen to the challenge of helping neighbors in need during the holiday season. The Almanac's Holiday Fund this season will support 10 nonprofits that help the poor, the hungry, those in need of medical care, kids from disadvantaged families or in need of mental health services, and many others who need a helping hand to get through difficulties in their lives. Last year, Almanac readers and Holiday Fund supporting foundations raised \$174,000 for those nonprofits.

Donations are handled by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which doesn't charge for administering the program. Matching funds will be provided by the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

Please consider making a contribution to the Holiday Fund this year by using the coupon elsewhere in this newspaper, or online at almanacnews.com/holiday_fund.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

Below are this year's beneficiaries:

Boys & Girls Clubs

With locations in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood in Redwood City, this organization provides academic and after-school support, enrichment, mentoring and activities for 1,800 low-income K-12 kids.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

This program provides emergency food, clothing and household essentials, and

sometimes financial assistance, to families, regardless of religious background. At Thanksgiving and Christmas time, the program provides baskets to more than 2,000 households.

LifeMoves

With 18 sites on the Peninsula and throughout Silicon Valley, this program serves thousands of homeless people. It offers counseling, assistance in securing housing, children's programs and training so that its clients can achieve self-sufficiency.

Project Read-Menlo Park

Project Read offers free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. It trains volunteers to work one-on-one with students wishing to improve their basic reading, writing and English language skills.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

The center provides primary medical and preventive health care at a clinic in East Palo Alto. Most of the center's registered patients, who number more than 17,000, are low-income and uninsured, and live in the Belle Haven, East Palo Alto, and North Fair Oaks areas.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

St. Anthony's serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need. It also offers take-home bags of food, and emergency food and clothing assistance. St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose.

StarVista

StarVista serves more than 32,000 people in San Mateo County with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education and residential programs. It also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services, and an alcohol and drug helpline.

Second Harvest Food Bank

Second Harvest distributed 52 million pounds of food last year. More than 250,000 people each month are beneficiaries of the program, which distributes the food through more than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

Upward Scholars

This program, provides financial support, tutoring, and other assistance to low-income adults, allowing them to continue their education, improve their workplace prospects, and serve as role models and advocates for their kids.

Fair Oaks Community Center

The center is part of the network of community service agencies of San Mateo County. It offers services — including senior programs, housing and employment assistance, and crisis intervention — to residents of the broader Redwood City/Fair Oaks community.

Menlo Park's voter districting effort needs *you*

By Pamela Jones and Jen Wolosin

Season's greetings, Menlo Park! It's that time of the year when many of us are busy preparing to disconnect from work so that we can spend well-earned quality time with our families. The Menlo Park Residents for Good Governance would like to invite you to also make time for your larger family, your community, during this holiday season.

Due to an alleged California Voting Rights Act violation, the city of Menlo Park has been threatened with a lawsuit. To avoid litigation, Menlo Park must transition from "at large" elections (any citizen can vote for any candidate) to "by district" elections (citizens can vote only for a candidate who lives in their district); the transition must be in place for the November 2018 election. Menlo Park has a very tight time frame in which to complete the voting process transition. According to the city attorney, district maps must be adopted by the end of March 2018.

The drawing of district lines is complicated. To accommodate the fast moving timeline of this transition, the City Council *could* expedite things and draw the district lines itself. However, while we have faith in the integrity of our current



Pamela Jones is a former Ravenswood City School District board member, and a current Menlo Park Historical Association board member. Jen Wolosin is founder and chair of Parents for Safe Routes, and a member of the city's Transportation Master Plan Oversight and Outreach Committee.

GUEST OPINION

council members, even the perception of potential gerrymandering endangers the public's trust in the entire process. To avoid this, a citizens' oversight committee must be established.

The ideal oversight body would be an independent districting commission, composed of members selected specifically to ensure the removal of political bias, and with binding authority. The City Council has rejected such a commission due to time constraints. In its place, the council decided to pursue the formation of an advisory districting commission. Understanding the need to remove political bias from the process, the council appropriately directed staff to adopt commission-appointment criteria modeled after that of a true independent commission. Details are still being ironed out, but the general requirements for committee membership are that those eligible to serve must not have engaged in specified political activities

for a determined amount of time and agree to not engage in those activities for a determined amount of time in the future.

For those who heed the call to serve on the commission to feel their efforts will be respected and honored, we believe

that the council must give the advisory commission the power to select the final maps. We therefore propose that once the drawing of the district lines is completed, the advisory commission submit a recommended map to the council. The council then has the option of approving the draft map, in which case it goes into effect, or rejecting the map and returning it to the commission for further consideration. The commission would have the power to then adopt its original map, unchanged, or create an amended map that is responsive to the council's objections.

This city commission cannot exist merely to rubber stamp pre-ordained decisions. As noted by members of existing commissions, too many times it's been the case that commissioners have been provided incorrect information and/or limited to no real decision-making power. To be able to recruit the best people to serve, and to ensure the community's confidence in this process, the

advisory districting commission must have final say.

We urge you to apply for and serve on this commission. To avoid the same polarization that created the need for this shift in the first place, a diverse commission, made up of citizens from all sides of Menlo Park, must be formed. If not enough qualified applicants come forward to serve (the commission will have a total of nine members), the City Council will have no choice but to draw its own lines. We know that Menlo Park has far too many well-versed and active citizens to be comfortable with that.

The current national political scene is quite daunting for many. Regardless of your political leanings, we are convinced that changes in government must begin at the local level and demand civic engagement and participation.

The City Council will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 12, to finalize the application criteria. Residents will have about one month to apply to serve on the advisory districting commission. Therefore, please plan to take a break from your festivities this holiday season to apply for this important commission. Menlo Park needs you!

(The authors are expressing the views of Menlo Park Residents for Good Governance, a newly formed group of civic-minded residents from all areas of the city. To join the group, go to tinyurl.com/MPGoodGov17.)



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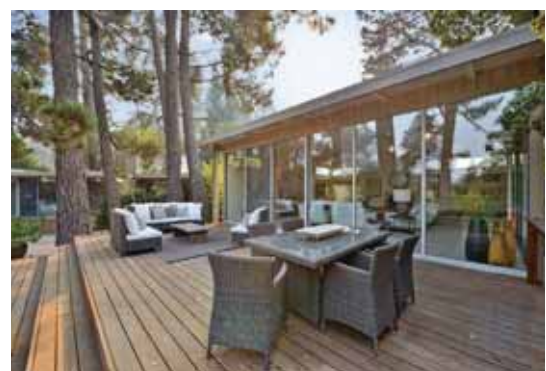
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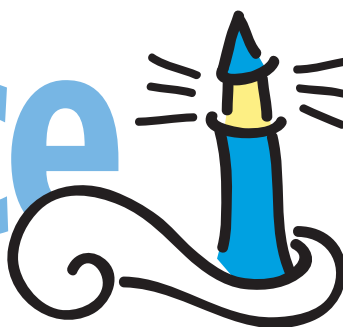
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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

EXCELPRO HANDYMAN
EXCELPRO ENTERPRISES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 275547
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) ExcelPro Handyman, 2.) ExcelPro Enterprises located at 1021 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA 94402, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
EDGAR NELMIDA
816 Peninsula Ave. Apt. A
Burlingame, CA 94010
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on November 03, 2017.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 11/03/2017.
(ALM Nov. 15, 22, 29; Dec. 6, 2017)

File No. 275473
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
CVS/Pharmacy #16746, 133 Serramonte Ctr., Daly City, CA 94015, County of San Mateo
Mailing address if different: One CVS Drive, Woonsocket, RI 02895
Registered Owner(s): Garfield Beach CVS, L.L.C., One CVS Drive, Woonsocket, RI 02895, CA
This business is conducted by: a limited liability company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 12/15/2016.

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)
Signature of Registrant: Melanie K. Luker
Print name of person signing. If corporation, also print corporate title of officer: Melanie K. Luker, Secretary
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of SAN MATEO COUNTY on October 30, 2017.
Notice - In accordance with subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the Office of the County Clerk. Except, as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration.
The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Original
MARK CHURCH, COUNTY CLERK
SAN MATEO COUNTY
BY: GLENN S. CHANGTIN
Deputy Clerk
CN943073 10675585 SO
Nov 15,22,29, Dec 6, 2017

BT PROPERTIES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 275485
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
BT Properties, located at 800 W. El Camino Real, Ste., 180, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.
Registered owner(s):
BAY AREA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT INC.
800 W. El Camino Real, Ste. 180
Mountain View, CA 94040
a California Corporation
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on September 1, 2016.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 30, 2017.
(ALM Nov. 15, 22, 29; Dec. 6, 2017)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF
USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. M-270893
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).
MARY ANN KANYAL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):
1.) BT PROPERTIES - Management & Investment Services, 2.) BT PROPERTIES
800 W. El Camino Real, Suite 180
Mountain View, CA 94040
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:
September 22, 2016
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):
BAY AREA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT INC.
800 W. El Camino Real, Suite 180
Mountain View, CA 94040
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY:
Corporation.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on October 30, 2017.
(ALM Nov. 15, 22, 29; Dec. 6, 2017)

ROBINSON & COMPANY, REALTORS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 275564
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Robinson & Company, Realtors, located at 3603 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA , San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ROBINSON FINANCIAL CORP.
3603 Alameda De Las Pulgas
Menlo Park, CA 94025
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 7/1/1980.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 6, 2017.
(ALM Nov. 15, 22, 29; Dec. 6, 2017)

EVOLVE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 275625
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Evolve, located at 8 Crocus Ct., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
YVONNE FULCHIRON SCHMIDT
8 Crocus Ct.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
BRIAN CHARLES SCHMIDT
8 Crocus Ct.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: Married Couple.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/13/17.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 13, 2017.
(ALM Nov. 22, 29; Dec. 6, 13, 2017)

SARA'S MASSAGE THERAPY, INC.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 275581
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Sara's Massage Therapy, Inc., located at 1285 Bay Laurel Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
SARA'S MASSAGE THERAPY, INC.
1285 Bay Laurel Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 2/20/15.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 7, 2017.
(ALM Nov. 22, 29; Dec. 6, 13, 2017)

SULTANA
SULTANA MEDITERRANEAN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 275633
The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:
1.) Sultana, 2.) Sultana Mediterranean, located at 1149 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MENMET KARACUBAN
1851 Idyllwild Ave.
Redwood City, CA 94061
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12-27-2005.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 13, 2017.
(ALM Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 2017)

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL BUILDING
SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 275747
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Residential & Commercial Building Services, located at 782 Hamilton Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ANTONIO NORIEGA
782 Hamilton 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 6/21/11.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 28, 2017.
(ALM Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2017)

COFFEEBAR MENLO PARK
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 275641
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Coffeebar Menlo Park, located at 1149 Chestnut St., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County; Mailing address 10120 Jibboom St., #101, Truckee, CA 96161.
Registered owner(s):
COFFEEBAR MENLO PARK LLC
10120 Jibboom St. #101
Truckee, CA 96161
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/14/17.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 14, 2017.
(ALM Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2017)

997 All Other Legals

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 17CIV05160
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: KAREN LYNN RUSSELL filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
KAREN LYNN RUSSELL to CAREN LYNN RUSSELL.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: December 27, 2017, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: THE ALMANAC
Date: November 15, 2017
/s/ Susan Irene Etezadi
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Nov. 29; Dec. 6, 13, 20, 2017)

CAN CAN CLEANSE
CAN CAN NUT MILK
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No.: 275623
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CAN CAN Cleanse, 2.) CAN CAN Nut Milk, located at 250 S. Maple Ave., Suite D, South San Francisco, CA 94080, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 305 W. Broadway #114, New York, NY 10013.
Registered owner(s):
CAN CAN HEALTH & WELLNESS LLC
305 W. Broadway #114
New York, NY 10013
CALIFORNIA
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/14/2012.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 13, 2017.
(ALM Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2017)

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