

# The Almanac

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

DECEMBER 13, 2017 | VOL. 53 NO. 15



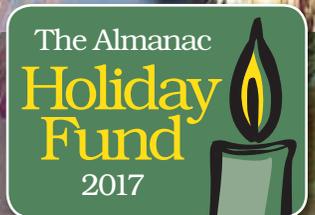
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## BACK WHERE HE STARTED

FORMER WOODSIDE ELEMENTARY  
STUDENT RETURNS, WITH A RIVER  
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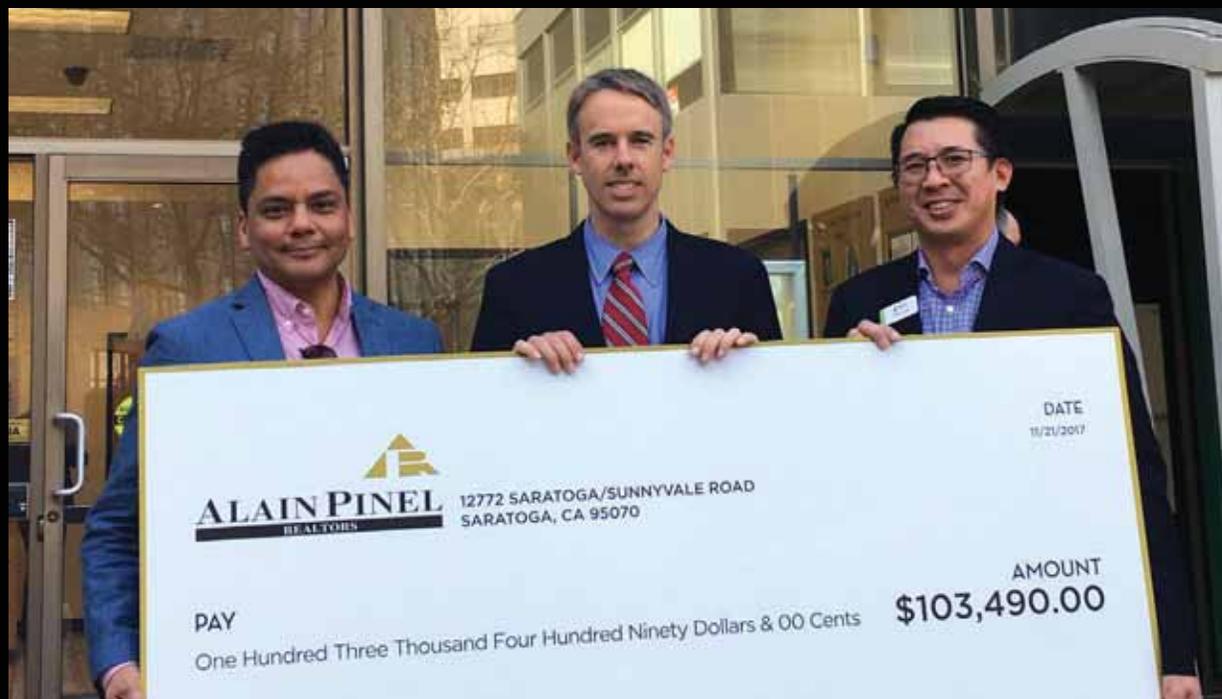
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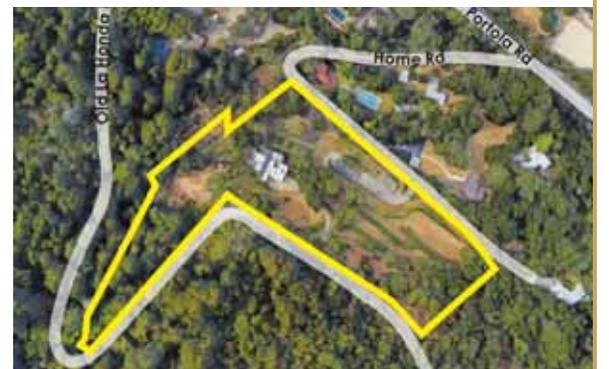
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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Pot sales in town worry residents

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

### ■ PORTOLA VALLEY

The idea of a retail marijuana dispensary in a central commercial area in Portola Valley has residents painting grim scenarios.

Resident Peter Draeger said he welcomed the “intelligent regulation” of a now-legal substance that, when illegal, would sometimes cause death and violence. He was speaking to the Planning Commission at a Dec. 6 study session on how to locally regulate commercial marijuana activities in town.

A dispensary at the corner of Alpine and Portola roads, the only spot in town zoned for commercial activity and far enough from a school so as not to run afoul of state law, would expose students passing by from Corte Madera School and Woodside Priory School to “highly visible glamour and normalcy to getting high,” Mr. Draeger said.

It could trigger “Peninsula cannabis tourism,” he said, and attract “seedy characters who may be seeking more than your normal high, and those who would serve that need, perhaps, out of (the dispensary’s) back door.”

Since Proposition 64 was approved in November 2016, the state has been working on regulations for commercial

cultivation and is expected to publish them in January. Peninsula communities, including Woodside and Menlo Park, have been imposing local temporary moratoriums to allow time to consider what local regulations might be needed after seeing what the state has done.

For its part, the Portola Valley council in October chose to rely on the strength of its existing ordinances to sideline permit applications that don’t fit with the town’s ethos. Since that decision, the town has not received any permit applications for commercial or agricultural cultivation or a retail dispensary, Planning Director Debbie Pedro said.

Olivia Cheney offered the commission a student’s perspective. “I just don’t see how (a dispensary) could be good,” she said, noting the daily presence of “so many” students at the small park located at the corner.

State law specifies that retail marijuana outlets be located at least 600 feet from schools, daycare centers and “youth centers.”

Olivia’s mother, Monika Cheney, said the park draws enough students every day to be considered “essentially an extension of the (Corte Madera) campus.” A dispensary there would change parents’ comfort

level in allowing children to be in the town unsupervised, she said.

“A lot of people live in Portola Valley because they have this sweet spot in their minds that it’s this bucolic place, and I think many of us want to cling to that for as long as possible,” Ms. Cheney said.

A subcommittee composed

### Residents fear town policy could lead to a marijuana dispensary setting up shop.

of planning commissioners Jon Goulden and Nicholas Targ, Public Works Director Howard Young, Town Attorney Cara Silver, and Fire Marshal Denise Enea of the Woodside Fire Protection District will be studying the municipal code and making recommendations to the commission that address cannabis-related activities.

### Retail regulations

In their remarks, several residents acknowledged that Proposition 64 passed with a 68 percent majority in Portola Valley compared to 57 percent statewide, but they questioned the council’s action.

“I think it’s unfortunate for this commission that the council

has left the door open for early applications for what could be the very first retail cannabis operation in the area,” said Mr. Draeger, who lives near the area.

Resident Rob Shostak of the Westridge neighborhood said a dispensary would increase non-resident traffic and add to the workload of the planned automatic license-plate-reading cameras. He recommended that town government consider a referendum on the question of a dispensary in town.

On the point of drawing in out-of-towners, Town Manager Jeremy Dennis noted that retail outlets must demonstrate that customers are primarily town residents. Other check points the Planning Commission would apply: impacts on the rights of nearby property owners, impacts on the public welfare, and the importance of harmony with the purpose and intent of the town’s general plan.

Jon Silver, a former mayor and resident of the Brookside Park neighborhood, said that an application for a marijuana dispensary in Portola Valley “would almost be rejected out of hand.” But if a moratorium “calms people, maybe the Town Council ought to reconsider that issue,” he said.

John Zussman of Portola Valley Ranch suggested the commission be mindful of online ordering and micro-businesses

— a one-stop shop, licensed by the state, in which the resident grows the cannabis, assembles cannabis products and sells them. In crafting local regulations, “Don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater,” he said.

### Commission take aways

Commissioner Jon Goulden said his concerns included environmental — streams have gone dry from cannabis irrigation demands, he said — the size of the exclusion zones around schools, daycare and youth centers, and the relevance of alcohol and tobacco regulations.

Commissioner Alexandra von Feldt added regulation of vineyards to that list, and wondered whether the corner was not, in some capacity, a youth center.

Commissioner Nicholas Targ said he was intrigued by the concept of micro-businesses and stressed that the town learn from other communities. “Portola Valley shouldn’t be reinventing the wheel,” he said.

Councilwoman Maryann Derwin attended the study session. Asked to comment, she replied via email. “I’m confident that the Planning Commission has the expertise and deep understanding of our rigorous land-use laws to craft regulations that will mitigate any unintended consequences of the new law while respecting the will of the Portola Valley voters.” ■

## Portola Valley prepares for license-plate-reading cameras

- The cameras will create a record of every vehicle that passes through town.

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

The poles are now in the ground in Portola Valley and waiting for their intended purpose: as mounts for license-plate-reading cameras that will create a daily visual record of every vehicle that passes through town.

Crews installed two wooden poles on Dec. 6, one at the intersection of Arastradero and Alpine roads and the other on Portola Road near Family Farm Road at the town’s border with Woodside.

Portola Valley has a third entrance at the border with Ladera, but San Mateo County

has plans to install a camera in that unincorporated community, Town Manager Jeremy Dennis said. Any Alpine Road traffic into or out of Portola Valley that does not use Arastradero Road must pass through Ladera.

The next step, expected within weeks, is an inspection by Pacific Gas and Electric Company of the electrical infrastructure for the cameras at the two poles, Mr. Dennis said. Once the cameras have been installed, there will also be a two-week testing period, he added.

The cameras should be up and running in January, he said.

See **CAMERAS**, page 6



Photo by Howard Young | Town of Portola Valley

**Workers install** poles that will serve as mounts for license-plate-reading cameras on Portola Road near Family Farm Road at the town’s border with Woodside.

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## Menlo Park settles lawsuit over development impacts

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

After nearly a year of closed-session council talks and negotiations, the cities of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park have agreed to the terms of a lawsuit settlement.

The city of East Palo Alto filed a lawsuit against the city of Menlo Park on Dec. 28, 2016, following Menlo Park's approval of its general plan update, which creates the zoning to allow up to 2.3 million new square feet of non-residential space, 4,500 units of new housing and up to 400 hotel rooms, all east of U.S. 101.

East Palo Alto alleged that Menlo Park violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because the city underestimated the amount of new employment and traffic that would result from those changes to its general plan.

The terms, which the Menlo Park City Council approved without public discussion on Dec. 5, lay out protocols that both cities will follow relating to big development projects.

Menlo Park City Attorney Bill McClure said the settlement agreement "more specifically memorializes in writing what is generally the practice already, and provides East Palo Alto some assurances — and vice versa — that we will each, kind of, follow these best practices."

The settlement says that a full environmental impact report will have to be done for any development in Menlo Park's rezoned "M-2" area that meets or exceeds certain thresholds. It would apply to any proposed development that seeks "bonus" level density allowances, adds more than 250,000 net new square feet, or includes a master plan (such as Facebook's proposed "Willow Campus").

Mr. McClure said he thinks

the settlement terms could apply to five or six future developments in the M-2 area.

Developers must do such environmental analyses on any project that is likely to "have a significant environmental impact," according to the California Environmental Quality Act. In some cases, the process can be streamlined if the potential impacts have already been studied and accepted by a city, as Menlo Park did in its updated general plan.

Both cities have agreed that developers will conduct separate housing-needs assessments to look specifically at residential displacement and the "multiplier effect."

The concept behind the "multiplier effect" is that additional low-income housing demand is created by the service needs of residents at new housing developments.

For example, when new apartments are built, the tenants add to the demand for services such as restaurants and schools, which creates demand for new workers, who need affordable housing.

While the cities will conduct housing-needs assessments to quantify this impact, the California Environmental Quality Act does not require this impact to be addressed. But a city council could potentially withhold discretionary approval of a development if the developer doesn't address the housing demand created, Mr. McClure said.

The city would also have to pay "fair share" mitigation traffic impact fees on any intersection in East Palo Alto adversely affected by Menlo Park development, and East Palo Alto would do the same for Menlo Park.

Under the agreement, East Palo Alto could request quarterly monitoring reports from developments that impose a lid on the number of vehicle trips allowed. ▀

### CAMERAS

continued from page 5

#### Records disclosure

The Town Council approved the cameras in March 2017 in the wake of two home-invasion robberies in town in 2016, both involving armed men.

Before approving the cameras, council members met with community members several times to discuss the cameras' value in preventing crime and the potential impact on personal privacy through the recording of the comings and goings of everyone in the community.

Mayor Craig Hughes, then in his role as councilman, repeatedly raised the question with law enforcement officials on whether the camera records could become public records, opening the door to their use as a means to track a resident's movements.

In August, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department could not withhold redacted camera records from the public by claiming an "investigative records" exemption to the state's Public Records Act. ▀

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# Should new library include housing?

■ Questions remain over new library's location and features

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

Where to put a new main library and whether it should include housing were two questions discussed but not resolved at a public meeting held Monday, Dec. 4, at the Menlo Park Library.

Straw polls during the meeting were split, and the majority of the roughly 25 attendees said they felt they needed more information before making a decision.

The city of Menlo Park is expediting the process to build a new main library after receiving an offer by developer and philanthropist John Arrillaga to cover the construction costs of a new library after the first \$20 million.

A "space needs" study completed earlier this year found that the community was interested in more public meeting spaces, study rooms, a dedicated area for teens and a larger children's area than the current library offers, according to Christopher Noll, an architect at Berkeley-based consulting firm Noll & Tam, which oversees a number of regional library construction projects.

There have been two options proposed for where to put the new main library at the Civic Center. One is the current site at Alma Street and Ravenswood Avenue. The other is closer to Laurel Street, and could overtake the footprint of where the council chambers and Children's Development Center are now.

If that site were selected, the new structure might include a large public meeting room that could double as the new council chambers. The Children's Development Center would likely have to find somewhere else to operate, according to Library Director Susan Holmer.

One advantage to the Laurel Street location is that the city would not have to set up a temporary facility during construction, which could cost roughly between \$1 and \$2 million, according to Mr. Noll.

A major unknown factor is how a grade separation at the Caltrain/Ravenswood crossing would affect such a project. If Ravenswood Avenue were to run beneath the Caltrain tracks, then vehicle access to Alma Street could be eliminated. Another option, to elevate the rail line and lower the roads at multiple rail crossings, would not cut off Alma Street access.

The council hasn't decided whether to pursue either option,

Kennedy of the Berkeley-based architectural firm, Studio Skaggs Kennedy, presented examples of developments in Chicago and Portland that have ground-floor libraries and housing on top.

Several attendees favored adding affordable apartments, saying that the location is a prime one because the city already owns the land and it is near downtown and the Menlo Park Caltrain station, which will limit the need for residents to drive.

Others said they didn't support the concept for traffic-related reasons, or because tenants might remain there even if ineligible for affordable housing.

Mr. Noll said his firm was tapped to conduct public outreach and develop a rough layout for the building, but the ultimate design and construction will likely be done by donor John Arrillaga's development company.

More public meetings are scheduled for Jan. 17 and Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. ■

## ■ MENLO PARK

Page 10: Residents question city's survey on support for library.

or something else.

According to Ms. Holmer, the new library would not have a space for the Menlo Park Historical Association, which currently occupies a small room in the library's basement. Dedicated space for the group was not evaluated during the library's space needs study, she said.

### Housing?

Another option under consideration is to add affordable housing above the library. Consultant Sean

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### Median Home Prices Rise Again

Dear Monica: Homes in my neighborhood have been selling at very high prices according to the latest reports. We have lived in our home for many years and wonder if we should take advantage of this market and sell our property now. What would you advise?

Jane D.

Dear Jane: You should sell your home when you are ready to move. If your home, your neighborhood and community still suit your needs, and you are close to your work, if you are still working, then you are probably not ready to move on. If you are counting on selling at

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# City tries to battle Willows traffic madness

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

## ■ MENLO PARK

A little less than a month since Caltrans installed new traffic signals at the Willow Road/U.S. 101 interchange — and in rapid response to the debilitating congestion in the city's Willow neighborhood that has resulted — the Menlo Park City Council approved Dec. 5 a number of actions to address the problem.

Caltrans is rebuilding the highway interchange to widen it and convert it from a full cloverleaf (with four loops to enter and exit the highway) to a “partial” cloverleaf (with two loops), in order to give drivers more space to safely merge onto U.S. 101.

But the construction is causing massive traffic delays for anyone trying to get onto Willow Road, especially at the residential cross-streets some commuters take as a shortcut to the highway or Bayfront Expressway.

The city plans to:

- 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 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 Menlo Avenue at Chester and Green streets.

- Create a partial “bulb out” at Middlefield Road and Woodland Avenue. This will force people to slow down when turning on to Woodland Avenue, according to city staff.

- Dedicate \$275,000 in funding

to coordinate traffic signals along Willow Road, Bayfront Expressway and Marsh Road. The city has applied for a grant to do this, but won't know until the spring if it will be granted. Putting city funding into it will speed the process.

The council also authorized city staff to act nimbly and, in Silicon Valley parlance, use a process of “iteration,” and trial and error to build on what works and scrap what doesn't.

While more specific metrics are to be determined, the goals are to reduce traffic volumes in the area and to make sure the small businesses there aren't adversely impacted,

Councilman Ray Mueller said.

After hearing comments from 24 people, most of whom supported the turn restrictions, the council approved the measures 4-0, with Councilwoman Catherine Carlton absent. The topic is slated to return to the council for an update at the council's first meeting of 2018 on Jan. 16.

In the meantime, the new signs will be installed on a dedicated date to be determined, said City Manager Alex McIntyre. According to state law, the Police Department can't enforce the signals until 30 days after they're put up, Police Commander Dave Bertini said.

A number of people spoke in favor of right-turn restrictions farther down Willow Road, specifically banning right turns from Gilbert Avenue onto Willow Road. That option was ruled out, at least for now.

According to Willows resident Brian Gilmer, the right-turn prohibition might re-route commuters across Gilbert Avenue, right on Santa Monica Avenue, and then right on Coleman Avenue to return to Willow Road at

### Actions are aimed at reducing cut-through traffic.



Map courtesy city of Menlo Park.

**Right turns will be prohibited** from O'Keefe, Durham and Chester streets onto Willow Road from 3 to 7 p.m. on weekdays, among other measures, to ease traffic congestion in Menlo Park's Willows neighborhood.

the traffic light.

Concerns were also raised about right-turn restrictions on Durham Street: motorists might instead go straight on Durham Street across Willow Road toward the VA hospital, where they could make a U-turn and proceed left on Willow Road.

#### New normal?

Caltrans' project to rebuild the interchange is in the second of four phases, the last of which is expected to end in early 2019, according to Angela Obeso, Menlo Park transportation engineer.

Phases two and three, expected to last a year in total, are likely to be the worst for local traffic, she said. After the project's completion, there will be more space for cars on the interchange, so traffic won't back up into the neighborhoods as

it does now, she said.

But some say that the redesigned interchange may worsen traffic conditions in the long term. Councilman Mueller pointed to an email from Gary Lauder, an Atherton transportation commissioner and longtime critic of the Caltrans Willow Road/U.S. 101 interchange project.

Mr. Lauder argues that the amount of traffic that the new configuration at the interchange (known as a partial cloverleaf) will accommodate will be lower than what the current full cloverleaf handles.

Mr. Lauder said in his email he feels like the Greek mythological figure Cassandra, who could see the future, but whose predictions nobody believed.

“The current nightmare will — in hindsight — be considered to be NOTHING compared to

the permanent problems that will result if the present plans are carried out as planned. They don't have to be. It's not too late to go back, but the longer you wait, the greater the liability — both legally and politically.”

Mr. Mueller said he wanted to talk to Caltrans about changing it to the interchange's original configuration as a full cloverleaf.

Mr. Cline said he's done some research of his own and come to different conclusions. “Everything I research disputes that these (partial cloverleaf interchanges) are failures,” he said, adding he was “uncomfortable” asking an engineer to make the project back into a full cloverleaf pattern.

The council agreed to invite Caltrans to respond to questions regarding the project's capacity to handle traffic. ■

## Is Palo Alto to blame for much of the Willows traffic problem?

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

During the Menlo Park council discussion of traffic problems in the Willows area, there was a frank acknowledgment by several council members that much of the traffic on Willow Road is coming from Palo Alto.

“I think we're carrying an unnecessary burden of Palo Alto's traffic,” Councilman

Rich Cline said. “I do think (a) discussion with our neighbors needs to become more serious.”

When he was mayor in years past, he said, he had tried talking to Palo Alto officials about traffic problems. “They laugh. They say ‘Good luck with that,’” he said.

He suggested the possibility of cutting off access to Willow Road from Palo Alto, at least

temporarily, “until they sober up.” “Nothing's going to stop until we work together on it,” he said.

As Menlo Park's mayor this year, Kirsten Keith said that she has talked to the mayors of Palo Alto and East Palo Alto. She said she's been pushing to have changes made in other choke points between Menlo Park and Palo Alto.

She has called for the

elimination of the Palo Alto barriers that prohibit motorists from driving across El Camino Real from Sand Hill Road onto Alma Street.

Regarding the Willows-area congestion, she suggested the city install a stop sign at the intersection of Middlefield Road and Woodland Avenue. That way, she said, when traffic invariably backs up, it will be a Palo Alto problem.

Councilman Ray Mueller pointed to yet another place where Palo Alto's traffic problems leak into Menlo Park: near each of the foot bridges.

He said that Palo Alto's downtown parking program “does not work,” and that employees in downtown Palo Alto park their cars on the Menlo Park side of the pedestrian bridges and walk downtown from there. ■



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## City's 'satisfaction survey' raises red flags for some

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

### ■ MENLO PARK

Page 7: Should new library include housing?

Menlo Park's biennial survey by Godbe Research, circulated randomly among residents in early December to gauge their satisfaction with city services, raised concerns by some respondents that the way several questions were phrased may result in wrong conclusions.

Specifically, several residents emailed the City Council to say that questions regarding a plan to rebuild the Menlo Park main library appeared to be written to generate support for the project.

"I strongly support rebuilding (or just building) a new library for the 'Bayside of 101' but hugely do not support rebuilding the Main library," Dana Gleson wrote. "I feel that the questions were biased and worded so as to support rebuilding the Main library."

An email signed Teddy and Robert Wilson says: "I can't imagine that the answers to the questions as written would provide any useful information. Of course an improved library would provide all the services described and would be a good thing. Agreeing that those are a good thing is not the same as agreeing that the city should accept the developer's offer of financing."

City Manager Alex McIntyre

said the library-related questions were designed to ascertain general public opinion. He acknowledged that some respondents may favor a new Belle Haven library over a new main library.

The survey also asked what residents think about the possibility of a seven-story, mixed-

use parking garage being built on a current parking lot. There are no plans to build such a parking garage, Mr. McIntyre confirmed.

He pointed out that at the start of the year, the council made it a priority to look into a parking structure; the survey will determine if there's public sentiment to move forward with the concept. Doing so would require changing the zoning in the downtown specific plan, he noted.

The survey was conducted via internet and telephone and was available in Spanish. The surveyors hoped to receive responses from at least 400 Menlo Park residents who are registered voters, according to city analyst Peter Ibrahim.

Godbe Research will present the findings of the study to the City Council. ■

**Residents say questions appear skewed to elicit support for new library.**

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## New shuttle heads to parks

By Kate Daly  
Special to the Almanac

In an attempt to encourage more people to enjoy the great outdoors and leave their cars behind, the San Mateo County Parks Department is running a new shuttle from Menlo Park and East Palo Alto to Wunderlich and Edgewood county parks.

On-site parking is often overcrowded at both parks. Now there's an option to take a free shuttle on Saturdays and Sundays.

The service starts at 9 a.m. in Menlo Park and East Palo Alto and runs in continuous loops until the last departure from Wunderlich County Park in Woodside at 4:45 p.m., and Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve in Redwood City at 4:50 p.m.

The shuttle follows two routes, which overlap at two stops in Redwood City, giving passengers an opportunity to transfer from one route to the next.

One route starts at East Palo Alto City Hall, 2415 University Ave., with stops at Fair Oaks Community Center at 2600 Middlefield Road in Redwood City and the Redwood City Transit Center on Winslow Street behind the Caltrain Station, before arriving at Edgewood.

The other route starts at Marketplace Park, 313 Market Place in Menlo Park, with stops at Fair Oaks Community Center and Redwood City Transit Center before arriving at Wunderlich.

Both parks offer walking and hiking trails. No dogs or bikes are allowed. The free Carriage House Museum in Wunderlich displays historical artifacts and is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Go to [parks.smcgov.org/parkshuttle](http://parks.smcgov.org/parkshuttle) to see the routes, schedule, and signup groups. The shuttles accommodate 20 passengers, but larger groups can be managed with enough advance notice. ■

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# Give to The Almanac Holiday Fund

Your gift helps local children  
and families in need



Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$174,000 from more than 150 donors for the 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

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.

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed on this page.

## Boys & Girls Clubs

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

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.

## St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

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.

## Fair Oaks Community Center

This multi-service facility, serving the broader Redwood City community, provides assistance with child care, senior programs, citizenship and immigration, housing and employment, and crisis intervention. Programs are available in Spanish and English.

## StarVista

Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people, families with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education, and residential programs. StarVista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

The organizations below provide  
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St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Several hundred people enjoyed a free Thanksgiving meal at St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room this year.

## At St. Anthony's, hundreds enjoy a festive day

By Bob Dehn, a volunteer at St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

This Thanksgiving Day close to 700 people enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal of turkey, ham, dressing, mashed potatoes and all the trimmings at the "other St. Anthony's", that is, the Padua Dining Room here in Menlo Park.

A great meal was had by all in the festively decorated Hall that serves as the Dining Room.

This same room is where as many as 400 guests a day can get a complete hot meal, Monday through Saturday, all year long. St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room is located on Middlefield Road at the Atherton-North Fair Oaks border.

The mission of the Dining Room is to provide a hot,

nutritious meal to anyone in need. We charge no fees, ask no questions, and turn no one away.

Christmas is another busy day, with up to 1,000 individuals enjoying a holiday meal. Also, in conjunction with the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, toys collected during the Christmas season are distributed.

### St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room feeds the hungry, and does much more.

As many as 2,000 children receive toys during this annual event, held in the parking lot just before Christmas, this year on Saturday, Dec. 23.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room serves from 11 a.m. to 1

p.m. every day except Sunday. Guests may take home a bag full of food items, including fresh produce.

In addition to the hot meal and take-home food program, the Dining Room is a place to meet, to talk, to share information about possible new support services or job openings.

Adjacent to the Padua Dining Room there is a Clothing Distribution Center that provides shoes, clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, and baby and infant wear to more than 1,000 patrons a month.

The Clothing Center is open Wednesday for women and Thursday for men.

St. Anthony's is funded by donations and grants from many individuals, local businesses, and foundations. The cost of serving over 150,000 meals each year is significant and additional donations are

#### HOLIDAY FUND

Gifts to the Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room and nine other community organizations.

welcome and needed.

Individuals and groups may assist St. Anthony's by directly donating money, food, gently used clothing, or unwrapped new Christmas toys for children 12 years and under.

St. Anthony's operates through the work of more than 200 dedicated core volunteers, and many other helpers. New volunteers are always appreciated.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room is at 3500 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Go to [paduadiningroom.com](http://paduadiningroom.com) or call (650) 365-9664 or email [paduadiningroom@gmail.com](mailto:paduadiningroom@gmail.com) for more information.

## Project Read: Combating illiteracy in our community

By Susan Holmer, Menlo Park Library director

Did you know that roughly 23 percent of adult Californians do not have the basic literacy skills needed to read a bedtime story to a child? That translates to more than 4.5 million Californians.

In San Mateo County, 15 percent of adults have difficulty completing job applications, reading street signs, or

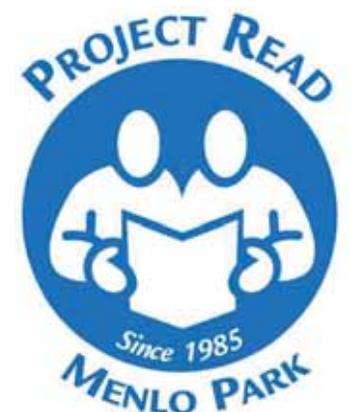
understanding the instructions on a medicine bottle.

Since 1985, Project Read-Menlo Park has been helping adults improve their English reading, writing and speaking skills, making them more effective at home, at work, and in the community.

Health. Poverty. Unemployment. Every important social issue is impacted by low-level literacy.

When individuals learn how to read, write, do basic math, and use computers, they have the power to lift themselves out of poverty, improve their health, find and keep sustainable employment, and ultimately change their lives.

Project Read-Menlo Park is



See **PROJECT READ**, page 21

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# BACK WHERE HE STARTED

FORMER WOODSIDE ELEMENTARY STUDENT RETURNS, WITH A RIVER

Story and photos by Barbara Wood

Gregory Gavin says he's had a lifelong preoccupation with creeks, starting more than five decades ago when he was a young Woodside Elementary School student who sometimes wended his way home from school along Bear Gulch Creek, which runs behind the campus.

"When I was really little, I spent a lot of time in the creek," which ran from the school to near his home on Mountain Home Road, he says.

Now, the 57-year-old with a master's of fine arts degree makes his living playing with water.

Mr. Gavin's Riveropolis business melds his fascination for

creeks with other of his interests — art, architecture, teaching, children, carpentry, community and bringing disparate people together to work on joint projects.

For two decades, Riveropolis has been bringing portable water features to museums, street fairs, schools, parks and storefronts. The rivers are art, but not the type viewed from afar. Instead, Mr. Gavin's rivers are completed and modified by audience members, children and adults who build boats and buildings, landscape river banks and even change the course of the river, quite often getting wet in the process.

The collaborate process often

brings together people who normally wouldn't interact. It reminds Mr. Gavin, he says, of the "metaphor of water being the universal solvent."

The rivers are also a teaching tool. The rocks that go into them offer geology lessons, while boat-making provides teaching about design and buoyancy. The running water in the rivers offers lessons about the water cycle as well as engineering and hydrology.

It seems somewhat inevitable that Mr. Gavin and one of his rivers would find themselves back where he started, set up in a playground just a few hundred yards from the creek

that originally inspired him at Woodside Elementary School.

Mr. Gavin spent nine years at Woodside Elementary; his mother, Carolyn Gavin, taught there for 30 years. His mom still lives in Woodside with his dad, Michael, although they've moved from the house next to

the creek.

But Jen Upson, the Woodside Elementary parent who conceived of asking Mr. Gavin to spend a week on the pre-kindergarten to eighth-grade campus, says she had no idea about his connection to the school when she arranged his visit.



**Second-graders** in Linette Griffith's class had a short lesson about geology before being allowed to get their hands wet exploring the river Gregory Gavin (left) brought to Woodside Elementary School.



**Woodside Elementary School** second-graders explore the portable river Gregory Gavin and Riveropolis brought to their campus. The children created boats out of recycled materials.



**Third-graders** created "Toadville" along the river, populating it with animals, islands, boats and structures.

Taking a break between classes during his recent visit to Woodside, Mr. Gavin talked about some of his other inspirations for Riveropolis. One was watching a nephew who had been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder spend two hours happily playing in a very cold Sierra Nevada creek.

Another was the first river he built, a 100-foot long structure he made with the residents of San Francisco's Portola neighborhood, in a storefront studio he was about to be forced out of.

He builds the underlying structure of the rivers himself, starting with a model and then building full-sized wood forms and finally the fiberglass structures that are filled with water. He's currently working on an ocean.

Mr. Gavin has set up his rivers in places as diverse as the DeYoung Museum, several makers' fairs, the Bayview Opera House, and Chevron corporate offices in San Ramon. He says he uses gigs that pay full price to subsidize those in less-affluent neighborhoods, such as the North Oakland neighborhood where he now has his studio.

In summers he does more extensive camps where, he says, kids "build whole worlds" on the

banks of the rivers.

After Woodside Elementary, Mr. Gavin attended Ravenswood High School, helping to co-author a book about it in the year before it closed. He attended architecture school at the University of California, Berkeley, leaving when he received a fellowship to hitchhike across North America to study the architecture of rural communities.

After spending years visiting communities ranging from an organic farm in Oregon to a Trappist monastery in Massachusetts, he set off on the R.V. Heraclitus, a ship designed to travel up tropical rivers and conduct ethnobotany.

The ship, he says on his website, turned out to be "more a cult than a scientific expedition," and he ended up jumping ship in the Marquesas islands.

Instead of going back to Berkeley to finish the architecture program, he went to San Francisco State University to study film and video. He later received a master's of fine arts degree from the California College of the Arts.

Before starting Riveropolis, Mr. Gavin did a series of installations, public art projects and artist residencies in San Francisco, Oakland, San Rafael, Boston

and Las Vegas.

He often worked with children. Before starting Riveropolis he taught children to use tools and a wide array of materials to build their own full-sized working soap box race cars, in a project he called Will Power Motors.

As part of that project, he made a movie, "Bernaltown," starring some of the soap box race cars and the residents of San Francisco's Bernal Heights neighborhood. In a 1997 story about the movie and Mr. Gavin, the San Francisco Chronicle called the movie "a charming neighborhood fable."

He's brought his river to Woodside Elementary for two years, Ms. Upson says, and will probably be back next year.

"It is a huge hit with the students and the teachers," she says. ■

**Information**

- Learn more about Mr. Gavin on his website, [GregoryGavin.com](http://GregoryGavin.com), and about Riveropolis on its website, [Riveropolis.com](http://Riveropolis.com).
- At [is.gd/Btown](http://is.gd/Btown) see "Bernaltown" on YouTube. (And if you happened to have Carolyn Gavin for a teacher, look for her short speaking part in the movie.)

**Stumped on What to Give Your Parents?**



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# Brooke Day is new Portola Valley school board member

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

The Portola Valley School District's governing board on Nov. 6 appointed district parent and active volunteer Brooke Day to fill out the remaining two years of a board term that originally came open when Jennifer Youstra resigned in September.

Ms. Day has a child in third grade at Ormondale School, where she has served as the president and vice president of

the Parent Teacher Organization, as a chair of home room parents and the breakfast club, and as a home room parent.

She has also spent four years as a music leader working with more than 80 children ages 3-11 at her church.

Ms. Day is a former human resources and recruitment professional in the high-tech industry where, Ms. Day said in her application, she had "built, developed and helped maintain high functioning, cohesive teams."

"I thrive in a team environment and enjoy helping to build and guide the future direction of teams," she wrote.

Three important upcoming district projects Ms. Day singled out in her application are:

- Communicating about and enlisting support for the district's facilities master plan.

- Hiring and developing great district leaders.

- Following through on the district's current strategic plan and updating the plan, which

goes through 2018.

Jeff Klugman, Karyn Bechtel and Mike Maffia were elected Nov. 7 to fill three open school board seats. Because Mr. Klugman had been appointed in October to fill the remaining two years of Ms. Youstra's term, he had to resign from the appointive seat to take his elective seat.

Gulliver La Valle, who was elected two years ago, is the only veteran board member. He was elected board president at the Nov. 6 meeting. ■



Brooke Day

let there be light

**Christmas Eve at Valley Presbyterian Church**  
5:00 Family Candlelight Service  
10:00 Lessons and Carols Candlelight Service

Valley Presbyterian Church  
945 Portola Road  
Portola Valley  
valleypreschurch.org  
650-851-8282

## Peninsula Christmas Services

**CHRIST CHURCH**  
*The Episcopal Parish of Portola Valley & Woodside*

**CHRISTMAS EVE:**  
Children's Pageant Eucharist at 3 p.m.  
Candlelit Eucharist with Choir at 5:30 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS DAY:** Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m.

815 Portola Road, Portola Valley; tel. (650) 851-0224; <www.ccpvw.org>

**Christmas Services  
Stanford Memorial Church**

**Sunday, December 24, 2017 - Christmas Eve**  
4:00 pm Family service (Doors open at 3:00 pm)  
*Please bring new, unwrapped toys which will be given to children in need.*

8:00 pm Christmas Eve Festival Communion service (Doors open at 7:00 pm)

*Owing to the popularity of our Christmas Eve services, saving seats will not be allowed.*

**Monday, December 25, 2017 - Christmas Day**  
12:00 am Catholic Christmas Eve Midnight Mass  
12:00 pm Catholic Christmas Day Mass

More info: <https://religiouslife.stanford.edu/christmas>



**Christmas Eve at Bethany**

**5:00 p.m. Family Christmas**  
All children are invited to tell the story of Jesus, as shepherds, angels, wisemen, and the holy family.

*Join us between services for wonderful food and Christmas cheer!*

**7:00 p.m. Classical Music Christmas**  
Join us for a night of excellent music, singing, and proclamation. We will honor and remember the birth of Jesus in a celebratory and contemplative worship setting.

**10:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas**  
A quiet and contemplative time to listen, sing, and reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ.

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Bethany

1095 CLOUD AVENUE  
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[www.bethany-mp.org](http://www.bethany-mp.org)

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

8pm Festival of Carols in the chapel

10:30pm Lessons and Carols in the sanctuary

Find Joy for the journey in the New Year on Sunday at 9:30am

**CHRISTMAS BRINGS JOY**

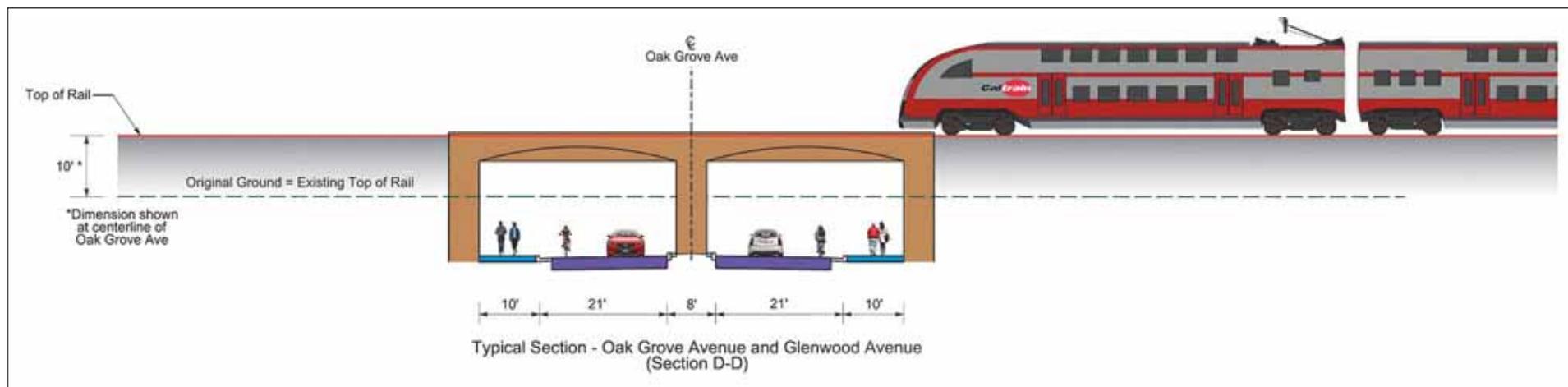
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Woodside Village Church  
[wvchurch.org](http://wvchurch.org)

**Children's Christmas Pageant**  
Dec. 17 at 9:30am

Woodside Village Church  
3154 Woodside Road,  
Woodside CA 94062

For info go online or call:  
650-851-1587



City of Menlo Park

**This drawing** shows what a grade separation, in which the rail tracks would be raised and the road lowered, might look like at Glenwood or Oak Grove avenues in Menlo Park. Menlo Park had asked Atherton if it might enable a similar grade separation at Encinal Avenue by allowing the tracks to be elevated in Atherton south of Watkins Avenue.

## Atherton has little interest in elevating train tracks

By Barbara Wood

Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton's City Council, responding to a request for input from Menlo Park, offered no hope at a Dec. 6 study session that it supports elevating train tracks to separate them from the two roadways that cross the tracks in the town. The council also expressed no interest in enabling such changes at nearby Encinal Avenue in Menlo Park.

Residents of Menlo Park's Felton Gables neighborhood, located between Encinal Avenue and the Atherton border, turned out in force at the meeting to oppose the idea of elevating the tracks so Encinal can pass under them.

Menlo Park has for the past two years been studying options for roads in the city that cross the train tracks.

While Menlo Park has been looking into separating tracks

from roads, called grade separations, for many years, the matter has become more urgent as Caltrain begins to electrify its trains.

### Menlo Park asked if Atherton would support raising the rail line to allow an Encinal Avenue grade separation.

Caltrain says electrification, due to be completed by 2022, will increase commute service from five hourly trips in each direction to six hourly trips each way. If high-speed rail ever materializes, even more trains would pass through the Peninsula.

In November, Menlo Park

Mayor Kirsten Keith sent Atherton Mayor Mike Lempres a letter asking if Atherton would be interested in raising the rail line within the town limits to allow Menlo Park to add a grade separation at Encinal Avenue.

The letter also asked if Atherton is interested in grade separations at Watkins or Fair Oaks avenues, Atherton's two roads that cross the tracks.

Because Encinal Avenue is so close to the Atherton border, raising the train tracks there would mean they would not return to existing grade until near Watkins Avenue, according to Menlo Park transportation engineer Angela Obeso.

That means Menlo Park can't install the type of grade separation it is considering at Encinal without Atherton's cooperation.

Felton Gables residents said they don't want the elevated

tracks in their neighborhood.

"We oppose any elevated grade separation at Encinal," said Felton Gables resident Marcy Abramowitz. Adding safer four-gate railroad crossing quad gates and establishing a quiet zone where train horns are limited "best meet the needs of the neighbors," she said.

Councilman Rick DeGolia had a similar view for what to do with the Atherton rail crossings. "The right answer to us" is to add quad gates at Watkins, he said. "I cannot see any reason to seriously consider grade separations at Watkins," he said. "It makes zero sense to me."

Atherton already has quad gates at Fair Oaks Avenue.

Councilwoman Elizabeth Lewis said she has been involved in the discussions about grade separations since 2008.

"I wholeheartedly agree ... we

need to somehow figure out how to finance the real solution" of dropping the tracks into a trench or tunnel, she said. "I think our communities could come together and figure out a way" to finance such a project, she said.

Elevating the tracks "is going to ruin our neighborhoods," she said.

Ms. Lewis said she also opposes the proposed grade separations at Oak Grove and Glenwood avenues in Menlo Park because both streets soon cross the border into Atherton and the grade separations would bring more traffic into the town.

Councilman Bill Widmer, who lives on Glenwood Avenue in Atherton, said that if grade separations are put on Oak Grove and Glenwood, there should also be one on Encinal, to fairly distribute the east-west traffic that would use them. ■

## Menlo gives \$266K to nonprofits

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park City Council voted Dec. 5 to increase the city's community funding program by about a third over last year and give more than a quarter of a million dollars to local nonprofits.

The community funding program, created in 1996, dedicates no more than 1.7 percent of the city's general fund property tax revenue to nonprofits that provide emergency services and support for youth, seniors, people with disabilities and low-income people in the community. The focus is on organizations that provide services the city doesn't already provide.

The \$266,000 represents about a 32 percent increase over last year's contribution of \$202,140.

The council agreed to put an

extra \$91,000 into the program, beyond the \$175,000 originally budgeted.

Funding recommendations came from a council subcommittee made up of Mayor Kirsten Keith and Councilwoman Catherine Carlton.

Mayor Keith recused herself from voting on allocations to organizations she has ties to: Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse, the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, and the Service League of San Mateo County. Councilman Ray Mueller recused himself from voting on the LifeMoves allocation.

Funding amounts and recipients are: \$35,000 to Star Vista for youth counseling services at Menlo-Atherton High School, \$25,000 to Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center for a restorative justice and leadership program for youth, \$22,000 to

Peninsula Volunteers Inc., \$20,000 to Acknowledge Alliance, \$17,500 to HIP Housing, \$17,500 to LifeMoves, \$15,000 to Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula, \$10,000 to Ravenswood Education Foundation, \$10,000 to Rebuilding Together Peninsula, \$10,000 to Vista Center for the Blind, \$10,000 to JobTrain, \$10,000 to Family Connections, \$10,000 to Center for Independence of the Disabled, \$8,000 to the Riekes Center, \$7,500 to Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA), \$7,500 to Pathways Home Health/Hospice, \$8,000 to Youth Community Service, \$6,000 to Project WeHope, \$5,000 to Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, \$5,000 to Nuestra Casa, \$3,000 to Service League of San Mateo County, \$2,000 to Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County, \$1,500 to Jobs for Youth, and \$500 to My New Red Shoes. ■

### Proposition 65 Warning

L-3 Randtron Antenna Systems operates facilities located at and around 130 Constitution Dr., Menlo Park which uses and emits chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. We do not believe that any person is exposed to these chemicals at levels constituting a health or safety risk. However, we have not made a formal determination that actual exposure levels are below the Proposition 65 "no significant risk" levels for carcinogens or "no observable effect" levels for chemicals known to cause reproductive harm, and we have not performed a risk analysis to determine the precise amount of exposure that any individual would receive over a 70 year period. Proposition 65 therefore obligates us to provide this warning to potentially effected individuals. Further information may be obtained by contacting L-3 Randtron Antenna Systems at 650-326-9500 Ext. 483.

# Winant calls Atherton police probe 'a travesty'

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

Richard "Dick" Winant, the Stanford University researcher who claimed the Atherton Police Department mistreated him after he got lost on the Sharon Hills golf course at night and ended up in an Atherton backyard, says the department's "report on the disposition of my citizen's complaint is a travesty."

Mr. Winant, who was 71 at the time, was detained by police in handcuffs before being released without charges in the March 1 incident.

The Menlo Park resident filed a citizen's complaint alleging that after he refused to provide officers with his identification, Sgt. Alfredo Guarducci and officers David Gomez and Matt Barrera addressed him by vulgar terms, used excessive force, denied him his legal rights, and humiliated him by demanding an apology before they would release him.

Commander Joe Wade said the report on the investigation itself cannot be released because

it concerns personnel matters, which are exempt from public records requirements. Commander Wade did, however, provide Mr. Winant with a report on the "disposition" of the investigation, which Mr. Winant in turn provided to the Almanac.

The report, signed by Commander Wade, says only one of seven allegations of misconduct that were investigated was sustained. However, the report also shows the investigation did not find any of the alleged misconduct had not occurred.

With regard to three of the misconduct allegations, the report says "the alleged act occurred, but that the act was justified, lawful and/or proper."

The report also found three of the allegations to be "not sustained," which it defines as being unable to be proved or disproved because of "insufficient evidence."

Commander Wade told the Almanac the investigation was "incomplete" because Sgt. Guarducci left the Atherton department on June 1, "before he could be interviewed about this

incident."

Officer Barrera also left the Atherton Police Department, on Sept. 22, Commander Wade said. "Their absences in Atherton have nothing to do with the incident with Mr. Winant," he said.

He said Officer Barrera has gone to work for another local police agency. As for Sgt. Guarducci: "I cannot say why he is gone," Commander Wade said.

The sustained allegation is that the officers did not file a report on the incident.

The document says sustained means: "the investigation discloses sufficient evidence to establish that the act occurred and that it constituted misconduct."

Commander Wade's report says the department has this policy: "If an individual is restrained and released without an arrest, the office shall document the details of the detention and the need for handcuffs or other restraints."

Commander Wade said he could not say exactly what would happen to the remaining officer with the finding of misconduct but that the department has "a

variety of measures ... to deal with officer misconduct including but not limited to re-training, formal letter of reprimand, suspension without pay, and termination."

One of the allegations investigated and considered "not sustained," was that the officers did not use their body cameras to record their interaction with Mr. Winant.

Commander Wade said although it is true that the incident was not recorded, at the time of the incident the department's policy said only that officers "should" record enforcement related contacts, but not that they "must" be recorded. That wording has since been changed, he said, and recording is now mandatory.

The remainder of the camera policy says: "The camera should be activated prior to actual contact with the citizen, or as soon as safely possible thereafter, and continue recording until the contact is concluded."

Mr. Winant said that had the body cameras been turned on, the recording "would have sustained every element of my complaint." ■

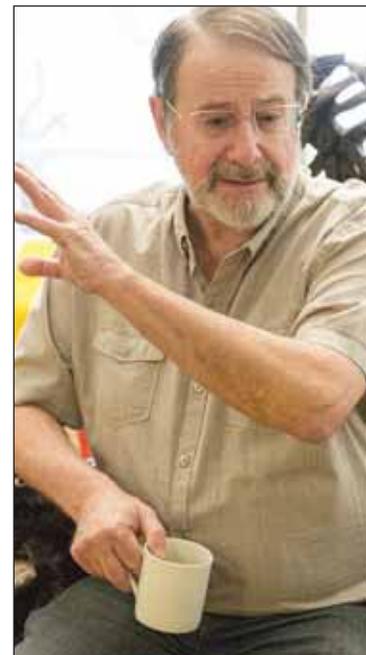


Photo by Natalia Nazarova/The Almanac

**Richard Winant**, a 71-year-old Stanford researcher and Menlo Park resident, filed a complaint against the Atherton Police Department in March after he was handcuffed and detained before being released without charges.

## Here come the Holidays

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## Fourth girl says she was touched inappropriately

County prosecutors have added a fourth child, this one 5 years old, to the list of girls who claim to have been touched inappropriately by an Emerald Hills man who had been employed as an after-school coach at a San Carlos elementary school. The other reported victims are two 6-year-old girls and a 7-year old.

Hoang Kim Tran, 19, is in San Mateo County jail on a bail of \$1 million and charged with five counts of lewd acts with children under the age of 14, District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said.

A former aide at Brittan Acres Elementary School in San Carlos, Mr. Tran has pleaded not guilty to all charges, prosecutors said. His

next court appearance is scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 15, to set a date for a preliminary hearing and to hear a motion by Mr. Tran's attorney, Jeffrey Jackson, to reduce bail, prosecutors said.

Mr. Jackson did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Brittan Acres school officials placed Mr. Tran on leave immediately upon learning from detectives of the alleged incidents. He was subsequently let go as an employee of the school district.

The latest allegation came after a parent from the San Carlos area brought her daughter to detectives with a claim that Mr. Tran, in July, had touched the

girl on the buttock while at a summer camp where he worked, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

When allegations of lewd acts with children involve more than one child under the age of 10, defendants face 15 years to life in prison, Mr. Wagstaffe said. If convicted, the offender must serve at least 12 years and will stay in prison until a parole board deems it safe for the offender to be released, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

The allegations by the three girls earlier identified by detectives involved activities at Brittan Acres school in or around September 2017.

The investigation is still "open," Mr. Wagstaffe said. Anyone with information about the case should contact Detective Jesse Myers at 650-363-4050 or jrmyers@smc.gov.org. To make an anonymous tip, call 800-547-2700.

## Bail restored in child porn case

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Matthew Emilio Coda, the Menlo Park man charged with possessing child pornography images and arrested Nov. 27 as he stepped off a plane at the San Francisco International Airport, has had his bail restored, according to San Mateo County prosecutors.

Mr. Coda had been in custody on \$200,000 bail in connection with a felony charge that he had more than 3,500 images of child pornography on his computer. But on Nov. 30, District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe reported a change to no-bail status in connection with a second felony charge against Mr. Coda, this one related to 17 pornographic

images investigators found on an iPad in Mr. Coda's possession.

In Mr. Wagstaffe's report for Dec. 1, Mr. Coda's bail is again listed as \$200,000.

When Mr. Coda left the plane, in addition to the iPad, he was also in possession of an iPhone and a laptop computer, prosecutors said. Mr. Coda's wife had helped investigators in unlocking the iPad, and the Hillsborough Police Department is providing forensics assistance to examine the laptop, but Mr. Coda's iPhone remains locked, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Daniel Olmos, Mr. Coda's attorney, said he had no comment on his client's arrest.

The initial charge related to possession of more than 3,500 images carries a maximum penalty of

five years in prison. The second charge carries a maximum penalty of three years in that there were fewer than 600 images involved, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

The Sheriff's Office investigation of Mr. Coda began in September after a technically adept friend of Ms. Coda, at her request, examined her husband's computer and found latent images of child pornography.

The couple had been together for six years and married for three years and were considering adopting a child, Mr. Wagstaffe said. According to prosecutors, Mr. Coda informed his wife of a prior child pornography conviction; when she asked him whether he had images currently, he said he did not. ■

### PROJECT READ

continued from page 13

working to change the state of literacy in our community in several ways.

■ More than 70 volunteers and adults are paired in the one-to-one tutoring program. As a result of increased literacy skills, these adults are securing new jobs, receiving promotions, pursuing their GED, enrolling in community college, and becoming United States citizens.

■ Our adult English as a Second Language (ESL) program held at Belle Haven Community School is a year-round program including a summer session.

■ Our weekly ESL Conversation Club has been active for more than two years, giving new English speakers opportunity to practice group conversations in a non-threatening environment.

With your support of Project Read- Menlo Park through the Almanac's Holiday Fund, adults are able to improve their literacy skills so they can reach their full potential as parents, workers,

lifelong learners and active members of the community. This builds a stronger Menlo Park for everyone. Our vision at Project Read is "Building Literacy, Building Community."

**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY**

765 Portola Road  
Portola Valley, CA 94028



In recognition of the  
Holiday Season

**Portola Valley Town Hall**  
will be closed from  
Monday, December 25, 2017  
through Monday, January 1, 2018

### ■ POLICE CALLS

*These reports are from the Atherton Police Department and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent unless convicted. Police received the reports on the dates shown.*

#### WOODSIDE

**Residential burglary:** A burglar smashed a window of a house on Mountain Home Road and rummaged around inside, but it's not known whether anything was stolen. Nov. 27.

#### LADERA

**Fraud:** Someone used the credit card number of a resident of Erica Way to go online in June and buy merchandise valued at \$2,571.12. Nov. 30.

#### MENLO OAKS

**Theft:** A thief stole a package of silverware from a residential mailbox in the 500 block of Bay Road. Estimated loss: \$48. Nov. 22.

#### ATHERTON

**Theft:** Someone forced open two locking mailboxes on Fair Oaks Lane and stole mail. Mail was also taken from a non-locking mailbox on Fair Oaks. No estimate on losses. Dec. 4.

**Fraud:** A resident of Fair Oaks Lane told police that he'd lost his wallet and that credit cards inside had been used in the East Bay communities of San Leandro, San Lorenzo and Hayward. Dec. 4.

#### Traffic accidents:

■ A bicyclist traveling south in the bike lane on Middlefield Road collided with the side of a vehicle that had been traveling north and had made a left turn into a driveway during "heavy morning commute traffic." Police don't know if the cyclist was injured. Dec. 7.

■ A vehicle traveling east on Glenwood Avenue attempted to turn left onto Middlefield Road when struck by a motorcyclist traveling west and crossing Middlefield from Linden Avenue. Minor injuries, police said. Dec. 7.

## Paul Ziegler, M.D., FACP 1933 - 2017

Paul Joseph Ziegler, physician, musician, gardener and devoted family man, died on Nov. 25th at age 84, after several years of declining health.

He was born in Boston, Massachusetts to Mary and Arnold Ziegler on November 12, 1933. He attended Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts and Loyola Medical School in Chicago. He was a Menlo Park, California resident for 51 years.

Paul practiced pediatrics for 30 years. He completed his residency at Mercy Hospital in Chicago and went on to establish a private practice in Oak Park, Illinois. While on the attending staff at Presbyterian St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago, he met his loving wife, Dr. Margaret Deanesly. They were married within a year and soon moved to the San Francisco Bay Area where he continued his practice as one of the first pediatricians at Kaiser Permanente in Santa Clara. Paul was drafted into the Navy in 1966 and served during the Vietnam War as a Commander and Chairman of Pediatrics for the Naval hospital in Charleston, South Carolina. Paul and Margaret returned to Menlo Park in 1968, each to practice medicine and raise their family. Margaret and Paul were very happily married for 54 years.

He had the greenest of thumbs and loved to spend time in his rose gardens and caring for his greenhouses filled with orchids from around the world. He was also an avid reader of early American history. Paul was known in the community as a talented jazz drummer, marimba player, and trombonist through his membership in a number of local bands and orchestras.

All who knew Paul were struck by his patience and loving kindness. He was selfless and generous beyond compare. A man of few words but always profound and wonderful observations.

Above all of his intellectual and career accomplishments, his greatest joy came from caring for his wife and his two sons.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret; his two sons, Richard (wife Jackie) and John; his grandchild, Margaret; his sister, Mary Fockler; and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his two sisters, Martha and Ann and two brothers, Arnold and Albert.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity Parish Episcopal Church in Menlo Park on Thursday, December 21st at 10:00 a.m.

PAID OBITUARY

# Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

## 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**.

Visit [AlmanacNews.com/calendar](http://AlmanacNews.com/calendar) to see more calendar listings

### Theater

**A Holiday Mashup: The Nutcracker at Fox Theatre** Returning after its premiere at the Fox last year, "Hip-Hop Nutcracker" features 17 hip-hop artists joined by dancers from Peninsula Ballet Theatre. Dec. 15, 7 p.m. Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway St., Redwood City. [peninsulaballet.org/hiphop-nutcracker](http://peninsulaballet.org/hiphop-nutcracker)

**Very Merry Dorktale** Dragon Theatre performs its own version of the classic holiday tale, "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. Dec. 15, 4:30-5:30 p.m. \$10. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. Search [dragonproductions.net/box-office/vbo-test.html](http://dragonproductions.net/box-office/vbo-test.html) for more info.

**Dragon Theatre presents: Walt & Hans are: FRIGID** Dragon Theatre presents a retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen." Dec. 15, 10:30-11:30 p.m. \$17, pre-sale; \$20, at the door. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. Search [dragonproductions.net/box-office/vbo-test.html](http://dragonproductions.net/box-office/vbo-test.html) for more info.

**Riekes Center Recital** Students sing, show movies, share artwork and celebrate milestones. Snacks and refreshments. Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m. Free. The Riekes Center for Human Enhancement, Riekes Center, 3455 Edison Way, Menlo Park. [riekes.org/workshops-special-events](http://riekes.org/workshops-special-events)

**TheatreWorks Presents "Around the World in 80 Days"** A story set in the 1870s centered around adventurer Phileas Fogg and his valet. Through Dec. 31. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto. [theatreworks.org/201718-season/201718-season/around-the-world-in-80-days/](http://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; discounts available for students and subscribers. Lohman Theatre, 12345 S. El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. [theatreworks.org/201718-season/201718-season/santaland-diaries/](http://theatreworks.org/201718-season/201718-season/santaland-diaries/)

### Concerts

**A Chanticleer Christmas** Stanford hosts Chanticleer, the a cappella male choir, founded in 1978 in San Francisco. The group has sung alongside the New York Philharmonic. Dec. 13, 7:30-10 p.m. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Search [facebook.com/events](http://facebook.com/events) for more info.

**Hillview Jazz Collaboration Concert** Menlo Park's Hillview Middle School Music Department hosts its first Jazz Collaboration Concert with the La Entrada Middle School Jazz Band and Stanford Jazz Workshop's Giant Steps Middle School Big Band. Hillview's Lab and Jazz Band's will also perform. Dec. 13, 7-8:30 p.m. Free, registration required. Hillview Middle School, 1100 Elder Ave., Menlo Park. Search [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) for more info.

**Big Band Showcase** The SJW Alumni Big Band, Miles Ahead Combo and the Miles Ahead Big Band are featured in this jazz showcase directed by Ray Brown. Dec. 17, 2-4 p.m. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita

Drive, Stanford. Search [events.stanford.edu](http://events.stanford.edu) for more info.

**Brandi Carlile: Winter Acoustic Tour** Singer-songwriter comes to Stanford with longtime bandmates Tim and Phil Hanseroth (aka the Twins) as part of their winter tour. Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$80. Stanford Memorial Auditorium, Stanford. Search [facebook.com/events](http://facebook.com/events) for more info.

### Community

**Children with No Place to Call Home** This program will feature a filmed interview with Jennifer Herrera, director of the Colfax Community Network, an organization dedicated to serving children and families in Colorado. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss ways to address child homelessness. Dec. 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Bethany, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. [facebook.com/LTCMenloPark](http://facebook.com/LTCMenloPark)

**2017 Holiday Showcase** features highlights from the Menlo Park Community Services Department's best programs and classes of the year. Dec. 13, 7-9 p.m. Free-\$5. Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Search [eventbrite.com](http://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 hosts 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. [nflalumninoca.org](http://nflalumninoca.org)

**Mental Illness: Breaking the Silence, Overcoming the Shame** Filmed interview with Amy Simpson, author of the book "Troubled Minds." Lifefree participants will discuss why a stigma is commonly attached to mental illness. Dec. 20, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Bethany, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park.

### Family

**Hike with the Friends** Family hike just long enough for the youngsters to burn off some pre-Christmas energy. Hike starts at the parking lot just beyond the entrance kiosk and is about two miles. Hike 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](http://huddartwunderlichfriends.org/events/75-come-hike-with-the-friends)

**Xtreme Science Magic** is an interactive family show of experiments, demonstrations and audience participation opportunities for children and adults. Dec. 21, 7-8 p.m. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. Search [menlopark.org/calendar.aspx](http://menlopark.org/calendar.aspx) for more info.

### Dance

**'It's a Wonderful Nutcracker'** Menlowe Ballet presents a production inspired by the 1940s Frank Capra film, "It's a Wonderful Life." It's set to the original Tchaikovsky score, with additional jazzy renditions from Duke Ellington. Fri.-Sat., Dec. 8-17, times vary. \$28-\$55; discounts for seniors and children. Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. [menloweballet.org](http://menloweballet.org)



Photo courtesy Atherton Police Department

**Shown here** with the toy collection box in the lobby of the Atherton Police Department are, from left, dispatcher Antoinette Gutierrez, code enforcement officer Monica Diaz, reserve officer Martin Mijangos (kneeling), reserve officer TJ Boyle and officer David Gomez.

## Police collect toys for families

The Atherton Police Department is collecting new, unwrapped toys for families at Selby Lane School through Monday, Dec. 18. Drop off toys and gift cards for kids ages 5 to 11 in the gift box in the Town Hall lobby at 91 Ashfield Road. For more information, contact school resource officer David Gomez at [dgomez@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:dgomez@ci.atherton.ca.us) or call (650) 752-0509.

Atherton is also collecting holiday cards to send to soldiers the town has "adopted," members of B Company 1/506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Drop off cards at the police department front counter (dispatch office).

### Nativity tree lot

A Christmas tree lot, with proceeds from the sale of trees benefiting educational and extra-curricular programs at Nativity School in Menlo Park, is open most days until Saturday, Dec.

### BRIEFS

16, at the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and Laurel Street.

Oregon fir trees — Douglas, Nordmann, Grand and Noble firs — are available along with classic wreaths, candy-cane wreaths, Advent wreaths and garlands.

The lot is closed Mondays, but open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sundays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Tuesdays through Fridays from 4 to 8 p.m. The lot closes at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16.

Payment by cash or local personal check is preferred, but Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover cards are also accepted.

### Filoli

Filoli, the historic Woodside estate, has changed its holiday program. Among this year's events, which run through Dec.

23 (except Mondays), are:

■ **Visits from Santa:** Santa arrives at 10 a.m. every Saturday and is available for photos from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. There will be family-friendly music and family activities on Saturdays.

■ **Garden lights:** Friday and Saturday evenings, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., the sunken and walled garden will be lit up.

■ **Alcohol sales:** Wine and beer will be sold in the Garden House throughout the season, and in the Quail's Nest Cafe from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday-Sunday and from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Filoli will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday and from Tuesday through Thursday.

Go to [Filoli.org](http://Filoli.org) for advance tickets, which are recommended.

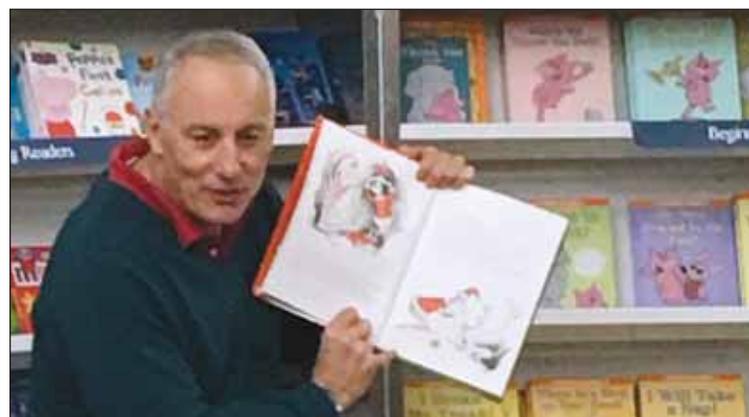


Photo by Stephanie Lempres

**Atherton Mayor Mike Lempres** reads holiday stories to students at Sacred Heart Schools' recent book fair.

## Having hot chocolate with Atherton Mayor Mike

By **Fiona Lempres**  
*Sacred Heart third-grader*

Atherton Mayor Mike Lempres recently read "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and "The Little Drummer Boy" to students at the Stevens Library at Sacred Heart Schools.

There was quite a crowd and when he read "The Little Drummer Boy" the entire audience sang the

pa-rum-pum-pums-pums.

The event was part of the annual SHS Book Fair, which raises money for the library. SHS librarians Alison Anson and Madison Brown Moffitt were in charge of the event, and said they considered it an "incredible success."

SHS parents and kids ranging from babies to adults went to the event to buy books, drink hot chocolate and listen to the mayor read. Many

wore their cutest Christmas pajamas.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to read to so many students who love books," Mayor Lempres said. "We had so much fun and we raised money for a great cause. The families are really connected to their community and their school. Events like this are what makes living in our town so special."

*Fiona is the daughter of Mayor Mike Lempres.*

# THE ADDRESS IS THE PENINSULA

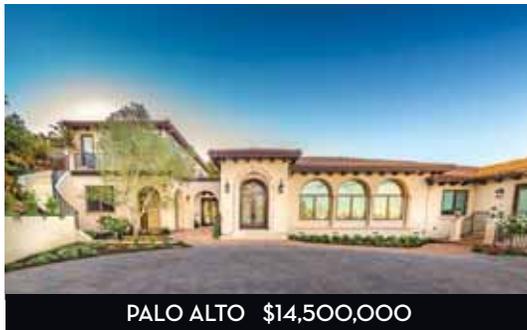
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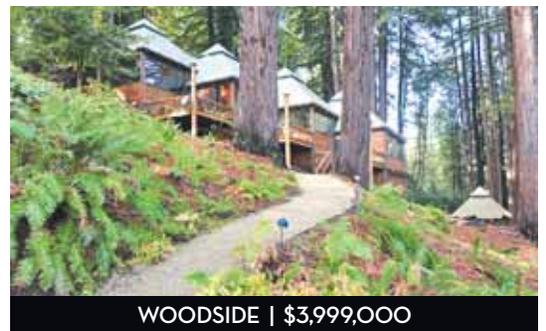
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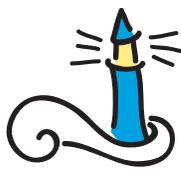
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**995 Fictitious Name Statement**

**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)

**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)

**PALM VILLAS REDWOOD CITY**  
PALM VILLAS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 275882  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Palm Villas Redwood City, 2.) Palm Villas, located at 1931 Woodside Road, Redwood, City, CA 94061, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
FOREVER YOUNG ASSISTED LIVING, INC.  
1931 Woodside Road  
Redwood City, CA 94061  
California  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 2008.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 5, 2017.  
(ALM Dec. 13, 20, 27, 2017; Jan. 3, 2018)

**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)



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