

The Almanac

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

DECEMBER 20, 2017 | VOL. 53 NO. 16



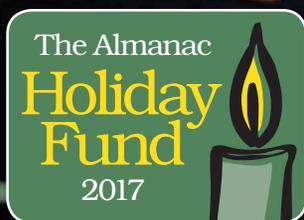
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Living with uncertainty

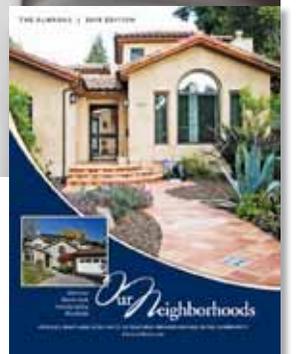
As a national deadline looms to legislate a solution, three undocumented young people tell their stories

Page 12

When you give to the Holiday Fund, you help local families in need.
Page 18



Community | Page 16
Viewpoint | Page 20
Neighborhoods | INSIDE





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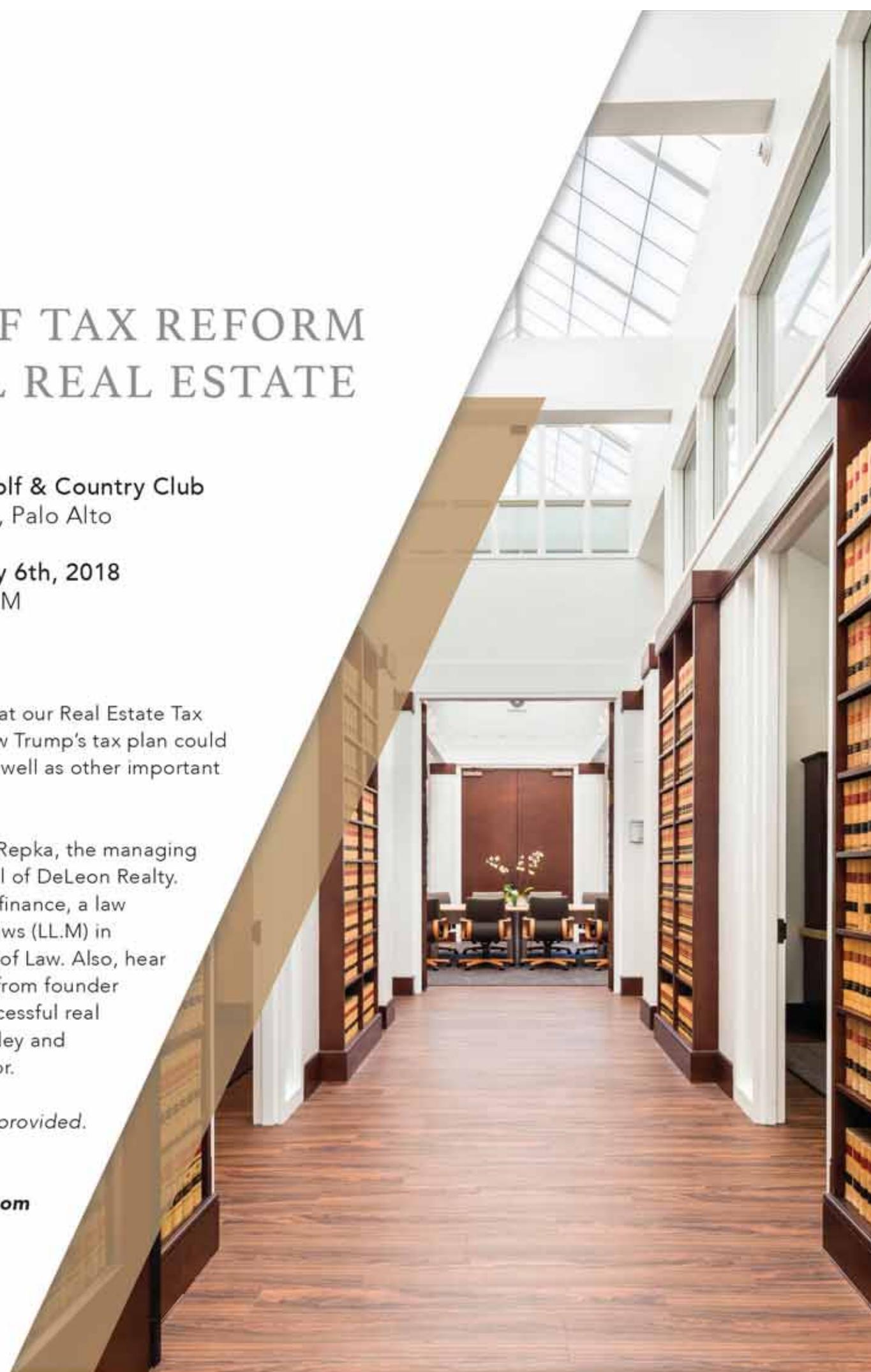


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INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR COMMITTEES

ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE – Meets monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 5:00 p.m.; 2-year term; strengthens community involvement by initiating, sponsoring, and celebrating local art and cultural activities including, art, photography, design, music, horticulture, culinary arts, literature, drama, and dance; organizes and supervises events showcasing local creative talent.

CIRCULATION COMMITTEE – Meets monthly on the 4th Thursday at 7:30 p.m.; 2-year term; supports the General Plan goal to foster a community of all users of the public roadway system; works with the Town Engineer, Sheriff's Department, and local and regional organizations to encourage "share the road" programs; develops educational programs on traffic safety, promotes safe, convenient access to schools, businesses, public and private institutions, and neighborhoods.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE – Meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.; 2-year term; supports the General Plan Policies related to education on natural hazards and emergency preparedness; develops and maintains appropriate plans and procedures with staff to respond to disasters and emergencies; supports the Citizens' Emergency Response and Preparedness Program.

ENVIRONMENT: OPEN SPACE, CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – Meets monthly on the 4th Thursday at 5:30 p.m.; 2-year term; advises and assists the Town Council, Planning Commission, and staff on implementing the goals and policies of the environmental elements of the General Plan: Open Space, Conservation, and Sustainability.

LIVESTOCK & EQUESTRIAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE – Meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.; 2-year term; reviews applications for professional stable permits and forwards recommendations to the Planning Commission; reviews applications for exceptions to the private stable regulations, forwards recommendations to the Planning Director, and conducts stable inspections in accordance with the Municipal Code; develops and supports education and information programs which aid the community in sustaining, protecting, enhancing, and enjoying equestrian activities and facilities.

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Meets monthly on the 1st Thursday at 6:00 p.m.; 3-year term; guides the activities of the community recreation program. The Committee provides organized and supervised community recreation services in all areas of the Town and makes recreation budget recommendations to the Council.

TRAILS COMMITTEE – Meets monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 3:00 p.m.; 2-year term; reviews land divisions, subdivisions and conditional use permits for locations for equestrian, pedestrian and bicycle trails and makes recommendations to the staff and to the Planning Commission; advises on trail maintenance projects and on rules, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the trails.

WOODSIDE HISTORY COMMITTEE – Meets monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 10:30 a.m.; 2-year term; advises the Town Council and staff regarding actions, policies and plans relating to historic preservation; plans and recommends means for ensuring the security and public accessibility of the Town's historic archives; gathers and catalogues historic material.

*These are volunteer positions and serve in an advisory capacity to the Town Council. Interested residents may request information and applications from the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, or telephone (650) 851-6790, or through the Town's web site at www.woodsidetown.org.
Deadline for applications is Friday, February 2, 2018 by 5 p.m.*

Date: December 13, 2017
Published: The Almanac on December 20, 2017
Posted: December 13, 2017 through February 2, 2018

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Districts 3 and 4

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The Planning Commission participates in the administration of the planning laws and policies of the Town. It is responsible for recommending to the Town Council ordinances and resolutions necessary to implement the General Plan and adopted development policy. The Commission also conducts necessary public hearings to administer the planning laws and policies of the Town and acts upon applications for zoning amendments, conditional use permits, variances, subdivisions, and other related functions as may be assigned by the Council.

The Planning Commission meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

To obtain information on residency or addresses of residential properties located in District 3 or 4, please check the Town's website at www.woodsidetown.org, What's New, Town Council and Planning Commission Districts.

Interested residents may check residency requirements and request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1-5:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, on the Town's web site at www.woodsidetown.org, What's New, or by telephoning (650) 851-6790. Deadline for applications is Monday, January 29, 2018 by 5 p.m.

Date: December 13, 2017
Published: The Almanac on December 20, 2017
Posted: December 13, 2017 to January 2018

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The Almanac (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, The Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Copyright ©2017 by Embarcadero Media, All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Officials share insights on fires, prevention

By Barbara Wood

Almanac Staff Writer

The conditions that led to the recent North Bay fires — hot weather, low humidity, strong winds and lots of fuel, including trees stressed by years of drought — could occur here, Menlo Park Fire Protection District officials warn.

“The wind really created the devastation in the North Bay,” Deputy Chief Don Long said at the Dec. 12 annual joint meeting of the board of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District and the Atherton City Council.

He showed photos of the air filled with wind-blown embers that he said behaved like “throwing thousands of matches horizontally.”

Many fires burned so hot, the radiant heat ignited neighboring structures. “There’s nothing fire-fighters can do” in such conditions, he said.

Even a Santa Rosa fire station, upgraded and renovated just two years ago, and equipped with fire sprinklers, was destroyed in the fires.

“The question is, could this happen here?” said Deputy Chief Long.

While the Peninsula is known for its mild climate, it is not unknown to have hot and dry conditions and high winds, he said. “We could easily see something like this,” he said.

The fire district has robust resources including an automatic

aid agreement with the rest of San Mateo County to dispatch additional fire resources without them even being requested, he said.

In West Atherton, the most rural part of the town, the fire district has an agreement with CalFire to supply aircraft, helicopters, bulldozers and hand crews if a wildfire breaks out, he said.

Meant to burn

Fire Marshal Jon Johnston said much of the state shares some of the problems that caused recent fires. “We have an increase of building in the wildland zones,” he said. “We have people living where they never lived before.”

Making the problem worse, the fire marshal said, is the fact that California is “meant to burn.” Historically, fires regularly burned California’s wildlands, clearing out the low-growing plants and fallen vegetation and acting as “nature’s broom,” Fire Marshal Johnston said.

For the past 60 years, however, such fires have been prevented or quickly extinguished, he said. That allows low-growing and fallen vegetation to form a “ladder” for fire to reach into the tree canopy, he said.

The other problem is the “it won’t happen here mentality,” he said, that leaves places without a recent fire believing they will never have one. Santa Rosa, he said, hadn’t had a significant fire



Menlo Park Fire Protection District

The density of the tree canopy in Menlo Park and Atherton can be seen in this photo taken by a Menlo Park Fire Protection District drone. In the foreground is the fire station under construction on Oak Grove Avenue. The view is toward Atherton.

for 60 years.

“Our mentality needs to change,” Fire Marshal Johnston said. “We need to change that thinking.”

One step, he said, is to look at building codes written for areas at high risk for fire, and adopting some of their requirements.

Tree canopy a risk

Fire district Chief Harold Schapelhouman said the heavy vegetation in Atherton is “a risk” that has grown greater over the years. The town may need to find ways to encourage the “thinning”

of its tree canopy, especially of non-native trees such as eucalyptus. “Those are things we need to look at,” he said.

Fire board President Peter Carpenter suggested Atherton also supply residents with information on actions that aren’t required, but could make a home and property more fire safe. “If we could give people specs for best practices ... they can make decisions on whether they want to do it,” he said.

Atherton Councilman Rick DeGolia said the town would appreciate such information. “I

think we would really welcome suggestions from you” regarding beefing up building codes, and best practices for fire safe construction, he said.

Fire board member Chuck Bernstein said the fire district also needs better warning systems. In both the recent San Jose floods and the North Bay fires, many residents received no warnings. “People died as a result of it,” he said. “We need a good, low-tech auditory warning system.”

The fire district has another

See **FIRES**, page 6

School board agrees, again, to comply with open meeting law

By Barbara Wood

Almanac Staff Writer

The Woodside Elementary School District’s board has, for the second time in less than six months, had to change the way it does business in order to comply with the state’s open meeting law, the Brown Act.

It appears the district has violated several of the Brown Act’s provisions.

The Brown Act, adopted in 1953, is intended to ensure the business of the public is conducted in public. It lays out how public meetings must be announced and the very limited circumstances under which a meeting of public officials may be held in private.

Recently, Woodside Elementary School parents told the Almanac the district had met

in closed session on Oct. 10 for what the agenda said was a “conference with legal counsel” to discuss anticipated litigation. But the meeting’s minutes said only the school board and Superintendent Beth Polito were present at the meeting.

The law aims to ensure the public’s business is conducted in public.

John Nibbelin, the district’s attorney and San Mateo County’s chief deputy counsel, said the district was relying on past advice from a law firm to hold the meeting without an attorney present. He said the district “will, in the future, meet in closed session regarding litigation matters

only with counsel present.”

A written statement from Mr. Nibbelin said: “The Woodside Elementary School District is committed to complying with all of the requirements of the Brown Act.”

The notice of the Oct. 10 closed session meeting also did not comply with the Brown Act’s requirement that the agenda state what provision of the law allowed the closed session. At a subsequent meeting, the district added to the meeting’s minutes that it was held under the provision allowing a closed session if facts and circumstances are known that “might result in litigation against the agency.”

However, the Brown Act says that when using that provision the “facts or circumstances shall be publicly stated on the agenda or announced.”

Those facts and circumstances were not on the agenda, and not announced until Dec. 10, two months after the meeting, and then only in an email to the Almanac from Mr. Nibbelin. He said the school board had “met to discuss a potential claim regarding an alleged physical injury.”

The district also has failed to honor the Almanac’s requests that it be notified of upcoming board meetings, including a special meeting held on Dec. 6. The Brown Act says that a special meeting requires written notice at least 24 hours in advance to “each local newspaper of general circulation and radio or television station requesting notice in writing.” Notice must also be posted on the agency’s website, which was done.

“I apologize. We will be sure to

make sure you are notified of all board meetings in the future,” Superintendent Polito said when the violation was pointed out.

In May, the Almanac alleged the district had violated the Brown Act by taking actions not on the agenda, and that the meeting’s minutes did not match the actions taken at the recorded meeting. Mr. Nibbelin denied the district had violated the Brown Act, but the board revised its minutes, rescinded the action it had taken on May 1 and voted again.

Brown Act

The introduction to the Brown Act says: “In enacting this chapter, the Legislature finds and declares that the public commissions, boards and

See **BROWN ACT**, page 6

How much should Atherton spend to protect trees?

■ Civic center and Caltrain electrification will cause loss or pruning of trees.

Photos courtesy town of Atherton

On the left is a pole with a cantilevered, horizontal arm spanning two sets of tracks. (The arm supports the wires needed for Caltrain electrification.) On the right is a shorter pole with the horizontal arm spanning one track. Lloyden Park neighbors want the 10- to 15-foot shorter one-track poles.



By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton's City Council members asked in November how much they'd have to spend to redesign parts of the new civic center to save 13 heritage trees scheduled to be cut down as part of the project.

They have their answer — it ranges from \$35,000 to \$425,000 per tree, and could

take up to 10 months. Now council members must decide how much time and money they're willing to spend to save the trees.

When the council meets on Wednesday, Dec. 20, members will have another tree-related decision to make — whether saving one tree and the pruning of 11 others is worth adding 10- to 15-foot taller poles on the Caltrain tracks?

The council won't be pondering these questions in its usual time and place, but from the Main House in Holbrook-Palmer Park, from 6 to 7 p.m. At 7 p.m. the town hosts its annual holiday party for town volunteers in the park's Jennings Pavilion.

Civic center trees

The town says 18 heritage trees, with a 48 inch or greater circumference at 4 feet above the ground, must be removed to make way for the civic center. There are 15 oaks, two redwoods and a carob.

Arborists say five unhealthy trees should be removed, and the civic center architects have already found a way to save three trees previously scheduled for removal.

The least expensive redesign to save one of the remaining

10 trees would cost between \$35,000 and \$58,000 and take at least seven weeks, a report from architects WRNS Studio says. That redesign would also eliminate a planned parking space.

The most expensive redesign, to save a tree that is now what would be part of the new police and administration building, would cost between \$225,000 and \$425,000 and take a minimum of 10 months, the architects say.

Caltrain poles

A group of Lloyden Park residents have protested Caltrain's plans to place 45-foot-high poles (with cantilevered arms spanning two sets of tracks) near their neighborhood. The arms support the wires needed for Caltrain's conversion to an electric rail system.

Caltrain says replacing the five two-track poles with twice as many 30- to 35-foot-high, one-track poles means one more tree must be removed, and 11 more trees pruned by less than 25 percent of their canopy.

Caltrain, which says it would also have to pay to redesign the pole change, has the final say on what goes in, but the council plans to send a recommendation. ▣

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BROWN ACT

continued from page 5

councils and the other public agencies in this State exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the law that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly.

... The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know.

"The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created." ▣

FIRES

continued from page 5

idea of how the communities it serves can better prepare for fires and other disasters. Division Chief Jim Stevens said he plans to get officials from Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto and San Mateo County together in January to form an inter-governmental disaster services committee.

While what the committee would do is to be determined, Division Chief Stevens said he hopes the group would "get each of the agencies responsible for emergency response at the table" to develop common plans and resources for disaster preparation and response. "We would develop the program together. It would be a collaboration," he said.

ADAPT at work

Tom Prussing, chair of the Atherton Disaster and Preparedness Team (ADAPT), said the group has already been addressing some of the issues brought up by the fire district. ADAPT has been working on evacuation routes for Atherton neighborhoods, and planning how people could get out if roads are blocked. "We discussed how to survive if you can't get out," he said.

Other issues the citizens' group has looked at are how Atherton's heavy tree cover affects fire safety and the role the group can play after a disaster in gathering information for public officials "so that we can best take care of the community," he said.

Atherton Mayor Mike Lempres said he looks forward "to following up on this meeting." ▣

Peter Ohtaki named Menlo Park mayor

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

A couple of key things will likely define Menlo Park's City Council agendas in the coming year, according to Councilman Peter Ohtaki, who will hold the title of mayor in 2018.

Those topics are traffic, Stanford's application to renew its general use permit, the city's transition to district elections, and ongoing growth at Facebook.

In remarks on Dec. 12, after the council elected him mayor, he said he hopes the council can also look at such matters as developing roadmaps for Belle Haven improvements and strategic financing, and continuing discussions about education in Menlo Park.

"This is probably the best economy to be able to address some of the issues of inequality in the city," Mr. Ohtaki said. "If we don't do it now, when the next recession comes, people will go back to their silos. It's not easy when we have at least 45 projects on our current work plan. I hope it's something we can at least start. ... I don't presuppose any options."

The council elects a mayor each year from among its members. The mayor presides over council meetings and represents the city at ceremonial and public functions.

The title usually goes to the council member who has gone



Peter Ohtaki

the longest without serving as mayor (so long as she or he has been on the council at least a year). The pattern this year was no exception.

Councilman Ray Mueller was named vice mayor for the coming year. Both picks were made by acclamation.

Santa Clara County Supervisor

Joe Simitian and representatives from the offices of state Assemblyman Marc Berman and state Sen. Jerry Hill attended the meeting.

Mr. Simitian offered brief remarks on Ms. Keith's work as mayor, saying their discussions over weekend brunches "shaped my views regarding what's going on in the wider region."

Ms. Keith remarked that the year has been a busy one, reviewing briefly a number of projects and accomplishments, including making Menlo Park a "safe city," adding housing, developing safe bike routes downtown, making parks herbicide-free, and a number of development approvals and groundbreakings.

The council plans to hold its annual goal-setting meeting, during which staff and council members lay out priorities for the new year, on Friday, Jan. 26. ■

Shaw elected Woodside mayor

Chris Shaw, who was elected to the Town Council as a write-in candidate in 2015, was given the title of mayor of Woodside for 2018 in a unanimous vote of the Town Council on Dec. 12.

The mayor's job is largely ceremonial and includes setting the agenda and chairing council meetings.

Mr. Shaw is chief executive and co-founder of H2ORS, Inc., a vendor of electrolyte drink mix related to cancer

treatment. He has a bachelor's degree in economics from San Diego State University and lives in Woodside's District 3, which includes Mountain Home Road.

Councilman Daniel Yost was named mayor pro-tem and will step in when Mr. Shaw is absent.



Chris Shaw

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Richards elected to mayor's post

John Richards, an architect in his second four-year term on the Portola Valley Town Council, was named mayor for 2018 in a unanimous vote of the council Dec. 13.

The vote was 5-0, with Mr. Richards, under some jovial pressure from outgoing mayor Craig Hughes, agreeing to vote for himself.



John Richards

The mayor's job is largely ceremonial and includes setting the agenda and chairing council meetings.

Mr. Richards won election in 2009 to take the seat vacated by Richard Merk, and was re-elected in 2013.

In another unanimous council vote, Councilwoman Ann Wengert was named vice mayor. She will step in when Mr. Richards is away.

SamTrans adopts Dumbarton Corridor traffic study

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

The Board of Directors of the San Mateo County Transit District has adopted the final version of a study on how to ease severe traffic congestion in the Dumbarton Corridor.

Traffic on and approaching the bridge is bad and likely to get worse. According to data collected early on in the study, which launched in January 2016, during peak traffic hours, motorists inched as slowly as 4 mph in the main direction (west in the mornings and east in the evenings).

By 2040, there are expected to be 24 percent to 28 percent more workers and residents on both sides of the Bay, according to SamTrans officials.

The study, funded by Facebook and conducted by SamTrans officials and a team of consultants, lays out a number of short- and long-term projects for multiple transit modes that might help reduce traffic. Further analysis is needed, officials say.

The plan

The study calls for SamTrans to increase by 2020 the frequency of the agency's "Dumbarton Express" bus service across the

Bay and add routes to run from the Union City BART station to Menlo Park and south to Mountain View and Sunnyvale and back. Doing so could increase the number of transbay bus riders by one-third, or 13,700, according to SamTrans spokesperson Dan Lieberman.

That's expected to cost about \$51 million, with annual operational costs of \$12 million, according to Mr. Lieberman.

The study recommends that SamTrans by 2025 look into implementing the following:

- Installing express lanes on the highway bridges and arterial approaches.

- Making toll collection all-electronic.

- Adding bus-only lanes on Bayfront Expressway and Willow Road.

- Building grade separations on Bayfront Expressway at Willow Road and University Avenue.

- Connecting an express lane from U.S. 101 to Marsh Road.

- Building a 1,200-vehicle park-and-ride structure in Newark.

- Adding bus-only ramps between U.S. 101 and the Dumbarton rail right-of-way.

- Starting a rail line between Redwood City and Newark.



Photo by Clui.org/courtesy of SamTrans.

A SamTrans study recommends rebuilding the abandoned Dumbarton rail bridge (two segments shown here) across the Bay to provide a continual passenger rail connection from Newark in the East Bay to the Caltrain station in Redwood City. This view is looking east. The vehicle bridge is outside the image on the left.

Work to restore the rail bridge and create two tracks would cost about \$975 million, plus \$295 million to bring the line from Newark to Union City. These changes would allow an estimated 15,600 transit riders to cross the Bay daily. Recommendation for 2030 and beyond:

- Extend the rail shuttle service from Newark to the Union City BART station and integrate trains with the Altamont Corridor Express and Amtrak's Capitol

Corridor lines at an estimated cost of \$327 million.

- Increase the frequency of bus services.

Bikes, not buses

In Menlo Park, one of the study's more controversial recommendations is to add a bus line that would run between Redwood City and East Palo Alto along the abandoned Dumbarton rail line. The study's authors previously said the rail corridor wasn't wide enough to have a rail, bus and pedestrian/bike route there.

At a public meeting held at the Menlo Park Senior Center in September, attendees favored keeping the bike and pedestrian route

and eliminating a bus route there if necessary. A bus line would cut through Belle Haven and could cause traffic, pollution and noise at adjacent homes, schools, churches, parks and the retail center at Hamilton Avenue and Willow Road, city staff said.

In response to public feedback on an earlier version of the study, the study's authors decided to not rule out a bike and pedestrian route.

According to Mr. Lieberman, the next steps for the project will be to acquire more funding and to conduct a technical refinement study that will answer some of the questions raised during the public comment process. ▣

New turn restrictions aim to combat traffic nightmare in the Willows

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

City officials are warning drivers near Willow Road in Menlo Park to brace for a temporary worsening of traffic as drivers adjust to several new turn-restrictions implemented Dec. 18 designed to address cut-through traffic in the Willows neighborhood.

New, temporary traffic signals installed in early November at

the site of construction work at the Willow Road/U.S. 101 interchange have caused such a backup on residential streets that many residents say they can't leave their driveways in the evening peak traffic hours.

Starting Dec. 18, signs were installed banning right-turns from Chester, Durham and O'Keefe streets onto Willow Road, and left turns from Woodland Avenue onto Baywood

Avenue, between the hours of 3 and 7 p.m. on weekdays.

The turn restrictions are temporary during the construction project, which is expected to be finished in early 2019, according to Menlo Park transportation engineer Angela Obeso.

Email transportation@menlo-park.org to submit comment on the changes. City staff are expected to give the City Council an update on the changes in January.

Pressure growing for downtown parking garage

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

A group of Menlo Park's downtown business owners is rallying community support for a downtown parking garage.

On Dec. 12, John Conway, president of the Menlo Park Chevron at 1200 El Camino Real, presented the Menlo Park City Council with a petition containing about 360 signatures expressing support

for building one or more parking garages downtown.

Mr. Conway is the leader of the "Menlo Park Downtown Business Group," a coalition of downtown business owners formed about six months ago that has organized through emails and meetings to discuss downtown business problems.

For now, he said, parking is the main problem the group is focused on.

The problem has two parts, he said. Strict parking enforcement may result in business customers getting parking tickets, which sours them on doing business downtown. In addition, at busy times of day, such as lunch hour, it can be hard for customers to find a parking spot, he said.

To gather signatures, he and a colleague walked downtown and passed out copies of the petition and signature-gathering sheets to businesses, which then presented the petition to their customers. Generally, the businesses that received most signatures were downtown restaurants and salons, he said.

Menlo Park man, 42, pleads not guilty to stalking teen

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

A 42-year-old Menlo Park man pleaded not guilty Dec. 14 to stalking and attempting to communicate with a minor for the purposes of seduction, according to San Mateo County prosecutors.

Israel Mora, a resident of Belle Haven in Menlo Park, has been charged with two felonies and four misdemeanors after a number of alleged incidents of leaving flowers sitting in containers of urine on the porch of a 14-year-old girl.

The girl's family, alarmed, moved out of the home for several days while the police investigated and ultimately apprehended the man, prosecutors said.

Mr. Mora is in custody with bail set at \$100,000.

According to San Mateo County District Attorney

Steve Wagstaffe, the two felonies are due to alleged violations of laws that prohibit contacting minors under certain circumstances and stalking people. The misdemeanors charged are for annoying a child.

Between Nov. 12 and Dec. 10, 2017, Mr. Wagstaffe said, there were at least four incidents during which Mr. Mora left yellow and pink roses and other flowers on the front porch of the 14-year-old girl who lives on a neighboring street. At least some of those flowers were left soaking in vases or Coke bottles that contained his urine, according to prosecutors.

One delivery allegedly included a note saying the girl was attractive.

A preliminary hearing has been set for Dec. 22.

— Bay City News Service
contributed to this report.

The streets of Menlo Park

By Bo Crane

Menlo Park Historical Association

In January 2017, Jim Lewis, the incoming president of the Menlo Park Historical Association, said he wanted to uncover the origin of street names in the city.

After all, Palo Alto has such a list in booklet form. He assigned the task to the historical association's secretary (that's me), and it has resulted in my new book, "The Streets of Menlo Park." I previously wrote a book titled "The Life and Times of Dennis Martin" about an early Menlo Park pioneer.

My first home was on West O'Connor Street in what then (in 1950) was considered North Palo Alto, but is now within the Menlo Park city limits. My current residence is in Palo Alto, of which I know a lot. Writing the book finally enabled me to learn my way around the city next door.

Partridge Avenue is a lengthy street off El Camino Real that runs without any side streets all the way to University Drive. It turns out that the heirs of Patrick Mary Partridge held out their parcel from developers who mapped all the surrounding streets with collegiate names.

In 1889, Patrick inherited the parcel from his younger brother, Peter, who had invested in Menlo Park property but died from a fall on Market Street in San Francisco. Both brothers had been born in Manchester, England, to Irish parents. That's one of the longer stories in the book but it's one example of how the namesakes have been tracked.

I dug into the background of any street with a Menlo Park mailing address, plus defunct street names such as Mulberry Street, an early name of West Menlo's Alameda de las Pulgas.

Our goal was get the book out by November, the 90th anniversary of Menlo Park's 1927 incorporation. After eight months and approximately 1,000 hours of work later, the book was ready to be printed locally.

In doing the research, my starting point was a San Mateo County website with subdivision maps. The names of map signers often match street names. I also dug into the Menlo Park Historical Association's books and archive files, located in our office in Menlo Park's main library at 800 Alma St. in the Civic Center.

I gathered more information about individuals from online sources, including California census lists.

May Brown and Susan Gale are streets with both the first and last names listed. Easy, right? Susan Gale was the town's longtime



Menlo Park Historical Association

The new 124-page book, "The Streets of Menlo Park," is the product of eight months and about 1,000 hours of research by Bo Crane for the Menlo Park Historical Association.

historian but May Brown was actually May Broun, as was her street name originally.

Wallea and Marmona sound like combined names but only one is.

Marmona is a compound of Marion and Ramona McKendry, granddaughters of a Civil War colonel who served in the Union Army. The girls' father, who was divorced, had reportedly set fire to the farmhouse he inherited in the Willows to avoid paying taxes.

I found a Wallea who was renamed by her grandmother for her deceased father, who was named Wallace.

Streets with first names were the most difficult to identify. I found sources for Nancy, Franks, Doris and Robert S, for instance. Cathy, Cheryl, Helen and Patricia proved difficult. Ansel, surprisingly for me, is named for photographer Ansel Adams.

Residents will be interested in learning about their own street, of course, and streets in their neighborhood. But there's more to it, as the back cover of the book states: "Within this book is a story told through street names of how an American town was formed over the last 150 years."

All proceeds from the sale of



Photo courtesy Angel Food Fund

Some of the women whose families have been helped by the Angel Food Fund are cooking pupusas, tamales and enchiladas to raise money for other families who need similar help.

Paying it forward: Women turn tamales into housing

By Barbara Wood

Almanac Staff Writer

Woodside resident Jenn Holden, who since 2011 has been providing food and other help to needy families on the Midpeninsula through her non-profit Angel Food Fund, has a new goal this holiday season: provide an opportunity for some of the women she has already helped to "pay it forward" by cooking delicious food to sell to the community, with the proceeds going to help other families on the Angel Food Fund list.

On Dec. 23, a group of women previously helped by the Angel Food Fund will be selling and distributing pre-orders of handmade tamales, pupusas and enchiladas at the Fair Oaks Community School in Redwood City.

Thanks to a generous donation last year, the Angel Food Fund was able to repair more than 22 trailer homes in North Fair Oaks and replace five trailer homes completely.

There were still three families on the list when funds ran low,

See **FORWARD**, page 10

"The Streets of Menlo Park" go to the Menlo Park Historical Association, which is the publisher.

Go to is.gd/street23 for information on how to buy the 124-page book. It's \$20 if purchased directly, \$27 if mailing is required.

To learn more about our association and Menlo Park's history, search online for: Menlo Park Historical Association.

You can call us at (650) 330-2522 or email mphistorical@yahoo.com. ☐

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High school district hires spokesperson

The Sequoia Union High School District has hired an elected member of the Ravenswood City School District board for a public relations position that reports to the Sequoia district superintendent.

Ana Maria Pulido can keep her seat on the Ravenswood board in accepting the job of

executive assistant to Sequoia district Superintendent Mary Streshly, according to a Dec. 8 announcement by the high school district.

Ms. Pulido starts on Jan. 8 and will be paid an annual salary of about \$100,000, Ms. Streshly said in an email. She will help plan, develop and administer



Ana Maria Pulido

the district's public information program, including contact with the media and communications with the public, the announcement says.

Ms. Pulido has served as chief operating officer of the One East Palo Alto Neighborhood Improvement Initiative. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from San Francisco State University and is working on a master's degree in public administration from the University of San Francisco.

express

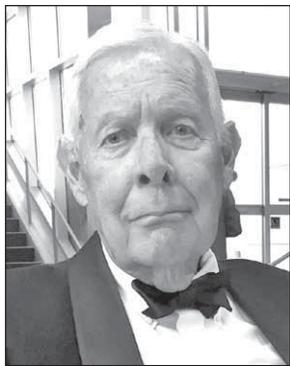
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Richard D. Givens

July 4, 1939 – December 4, 2014

Richard D. Givens (Dick) died on Monday, December 4, 2017, at his home in Livermore, CA, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Dick is survived by his wife, Sonya Sheffield; his sister, Gail Givens; his children, Leslie Sarandah (Basem), Amy Givens, Katie Amoroso (Josh); stepchildren, Kimberly Evans (Dave), John "Tripp" Sheffield (Fua), Brennan Sheffield (Erin); his grandchildren, Addison Amoroso, Summer Sarandah, Sabrine Sarandah, Frankie Amoroso, TJ Sheffield, Michael Sheffield, Sean Sheffield, Taylor Sheffield, Aidan Sheffield, Angelica Evans and Naomi Sheffield. Last but not least, he left behind Mazie, his Australian Shepherd and faithful companion.



Dick was born in Chinquapin, Yosemite National Park to Violet and Frank Givens on July 4, 1939. A son of a National Park Service Ranger, Dick developed a love of the outdoors at an early age.

The family was transferred to Twenty-Nine Palms, CA (Joshua Tree National Park), where he finished his elementary education, and then to Bar Harbor, Maine (Acadia National Park), where Dick entered high school.

It was in Bar Harbor that he developed his love for sailing and he spent many enjoyable years crewing on both the east and west coasts. He loved to crew as he got to enjoy the sport without the hassles of boat ownership. His first crew master told him the two happiest days in a yacht owner's life are the days he buys his boat and the day he sells it!

Dick attended prep school at Hebron Academy, where he excelled in baseball and soccer. He was recruited by the Boston Braves out of high school and spent a year with the Braves farm team. After a year of traveling with the team, he decided that an education had a better long-term outcome than pro ball. He accepted a full scholarship from Stanford to play baseball on the Indians team, but a shoulder injury prevented him from playing. He went on to play soccer during his four years at Stanford.

After graduation from Stanford in 1962, he attended UC Hasting Law School and began his law career with Boise Cascade. He then moved on to Ropers-Majeski and eventually became a sole practitioner.

He spent almost 50 years in litigation

and counted the National Football League, McDonald's Corporation and U.S. Steel among his clients.

Dick was an active sportsman throughout his life. He loved fly-fishing the rivers of Oregon, Idaho, Alaska and Montana; duck hunting in the Buttes, diving the Great Barrier Reef; skiing some of the Sierras and the Alp's highest peaks; and annually running the Dipsea and the San Francisco marathon.

Later in life he developed a passion for cycling. He was in his 60s and had only been riding a few months when he decided to tackle the Aids ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles. After that you couldn't get him off a bike!

Dick often said that a life of service is a life worth living. He was committed to giving back to the communities that gave so much to him.

Dick served as Chairman of the Board of the Lupus Foundation; President of the Menlo Park Rotary; President of the Rotary Foundation; Regional Chair, Relay for Life; and Chairman of the Board of Pacific Chamber Orchestra.

Dick also co-founded Menlo Park's Tour de Menlo ride, working tirelessly to make it the success it is today. Proceeds from last year's ride enabled Rotary to provide nearly \$40,000 for needs-based scholarships and local nonprofits.

Throughout his life, Dick enjoyed the many friendships he made through his memberships in the Bohemian Club, Olympic Club, Tahoe City Yacht Club, Rotary Club and his Stanford fraternity, Theta Delta Chi.

He was famous for his sharp wit, leadership skills, commitment to service, and his unwavering loyalty and support for family and friends.

Dick leaves behind a rich legacy of personal and professional success, always lending a helping hand to those in need. Dick led a full and rewarding life.

Friends are invited to attend a memorial service on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 2:00 pm at Wente Vineyards, 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore, CA 94550 (925.456.2425).

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Pacific Chamber Orchestra, <http://www.pacificchamberorchestra.org/support-us/donate> or The Rotary Club of Menlo Park/Tour de Menlo - P.O. BOX 876, Menlo Park, CA 94026.



Photo courtesy Shivakumar family

Menlo Park's Shivakumar brothers, Shawnak, 9, left, and Sahil, 5, pose with the trophies they won in the recent grade-level national chess championships in Florida.

Menlo Park brothers are chess champions

By Barbara Wood

Almanac Staff Writer

Shawnak Shivakumar, the Laurel School student who in 2016 won the California state chess championship for third-graders, placed second recently in the national chess championships for fourth-graders.

This year, Shawnak's brother, 5-year-old Sahil, also competed in the U.S. Chess Federation tournament, held Dec. 8-10 in Orlando, Florida. He came in eighth among kindergartners.

Shawnak, who is 9, won five out of seven games with draws in the remaining two games. He will go on to play in the Pan-American championships in Chile and the world championships in Spain in 2018.

Sahil won five of seven games

and lost two.

Both boys tied for second place in their grade level in the state tournament on Dec. 3 to win a place in the national tournament.

Last year Shawnak told the Almanac that his goal was to increase the number of points he earned in tournament play to 1,900 from the 1,686 he then had. He's surpassed that goal. After the national tournament, he had 1,996 points. A point total 2,000 or above ranks a chess player as a U.S. Chess Federation expert.

The grade-level tournament had 1,800 competitors; more than 200 competed at the fourth-grade level.

The Shivakumar brothers and their parents, Devleena and Shiva, celebrated their victories at Disney World before returning to Menlo Park, where they live in the Willows neighborhood. ♣

FORWARD

continued from page 9

so the women stepped forward to show their gratitude for the help they had been given by offering their cooking skills, donating all the proceeds to help the next family.

The Angel Food Fund has provided all the ingredients, and a licensed kitchen.

"We hope that the community will come together with us to provide a holiday miracle for some very fine families in need," Ms. Holden said.

All proceeds will go toward trailer home repairs and replacements that are needed immediately.

The tamales are El Salvadoran, chicken or vegetable and wrapped

in banana leaves. The pupusas are pork or bean and cheese, and the enchiladas are either chicken or cheese.

They are \$15 for six or \$30 for a dozen. Order by calling Lili at the Tamale Hotline (650) 771-0887 or email jennangelfood@gmail.com.

Pickup is at the Fair Oaks Community School, 2950 Fair Oaks Ave., Redwood City, on Saturday, Dec. 23, from 2 to 5 p.m.

"Or just come down during those times to witness kindness in action, and bring home some delicious food made with love," Ms. Holden said.

At is.gd/AngelFood more information about the Angel Food Fund is on the Woodside Community Foundation website. ♣

PAID OBITUARY

Portola Valley: Improving communication is priority

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Staff in Portola Valley Town Hall have occasionally been disrupted in their routines when they're called on to monitor and sometimes set the record straight in the free-for-all online community gathering place known as PV Forum.

Since October, that duty and others involving engagement between Town Hall and the public, including social media,

have been the province of Ali Taghavi, the communications and sustainability management analyst.

His hiring is a consequence of the Town Council setting a priority to improve communications with the public. Mr. Taghavi's portfolio also covers green initiatives, including those related to water conservation, energy efficiency, waste management, recycling and transportation.

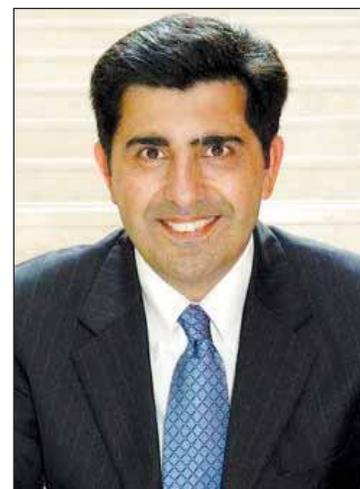
These matters had been the province of Brandi de Garneau, but she was promoted in July to assistant to the town manager.

Mr. Taghavi is being paid an annual salary of \$94,000. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in political science and a master's in public administration, all from California State University Long Beach, he said in an email.

Mr. Taghavi came to Portola

Valley from a public relations position with an association of eye physicians and surgeons in San Francisco, he said. He lives in Woodside.

A recent development: The town launched a Twitter account (@PortolaValleyCA) and a Facebook account (@TownofPortolaValley). Mr. Taghavi said he shares access to these accounts with Town Manager Jeremy Dennis and Ms. de Garneau. ■



Ali Taghavi

Peninsula Christmas Services

The Love Story of Christmas
Celebrate the true spirit of Christmas in a Candlelight Gathering of song and stories!
Sunday, December 24th
at 6:00 pm

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(650) 323 8544 • www.firstbaptist.com

**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>

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>

Join Us For Christmas

Christmas Eve
(All services will be about an hour)
3:00 pm Christmas Pageant Service
6:00 & 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship with Choir
9:30 pm Carol Sing

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www.trinitymenlopark.org

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CHRISTMAS EVE AT FIRST PRES

Children's Christmas Pageant
4:30pm, Sanctuary

Service of Lessons & Carols
5:00pm, Sanctuary

Festive Reception & Holiday Treats
6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

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Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24
4:00 pm • 6:00 pm • 9:00 pm
Communion, Readings & Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25
10:00 am
Communion, Readings & Carols

a place for you!

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**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
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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



Photo by Michelle Le | The Almanac

Sarahi Espinoza Salamanca, a DACA recipient who created a nonprofit app to help undocumented students find scholarships they're eligible for, unpacks new T-shirts at the office of her organization, "DREAMer's Roadmap."

Living with uncertainty

As a national deadline looms to legislate a solution, three undocumented young people tell their stories



By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

Imagine growing up in the shadows in Silicon Valley. Your parents work long hours and are terrified of the police, but you go to school and daydream with your classmates about the future: getting a driver's license, going to college, and eventually landing the dream job.

Then imagine having all

those opportunities shut to you because your parents, who weren't born in the U.S., brought you here from a homeland you can't remember. This was the fate of undocumented young people in the U.S., until June 2012, when the Obama administration launched the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, policy.

The policy allowed a subset of undocumented residents in the U.S. — young people brought

to the country illegally before they were 16, who were under 31 in June 2012, and had lived in the U.S. since 2007 — to avoid deportation, participate in Social Security and receive work permits on a two-year, renewable basis.

Then, on Sept. 5 this year, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that DACA would be rescinded. Renewal applications received before Oct. 5 will be honored, but unless Congress

acts soon to pass more permanent immigrant protections, the roughly 800,000 young people in the U.S. who had received protection under DACA may become eligible for deportation when permits begin to expire starting March 6. The Trump administration may grant an extension, according to some national news publications.

There are many undocumented young people who live in the Peninsula and South Bay.

In San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, about 14 percent of the half-million young people between 18 and 32 are undocumented, according to a study on immigrant and undocumented youth conducted by the UCLA Labor Center.

The Almanac talked to three people who had received legal protections from DACA and now face uncertainty about how their status in the U.S. will be affected.

Yasmin

Yasmin Gomez, a poised and polished 19-year-old, is the daughter of undocumented immigrants, the mother of a 2-year-old daughter, the first in her family to go to college, and a sophomore at Menlo College in Atherton.

She was brought to San Jose from Mexico when she was 8 months old, and though her parents were open with her about not having the right papers to be in the U.S., she said, it wasn't until she was older that she understood the implications of what that would mean for her future.

'As soon as my parents got to this country, they've been working. They never really had a break, never really had a vacation.'

— YASMIN GOMEZ

Growing up, she noticed a few differences between her childhood and those of her peers. She didn't understand why her parents didn't like it when she shared with friends that she wasn't born in the U.S. She didn't understand why her friends could travel internationally, but she couldn't.

She also noticed that her parents worked. A lot.

"As soon as my parents got to this country, they've been working. They never really had a break, never really had a vacation," she said.

They encouraged her to pursue her studies. When she began to apply for college, she said, "I remember my mom saying 'Just do it. You deserve (this) because you worked for it.'"

As a first-generation college student, she had to learn all about the SATs, and what it takes to get to college on her own.

Many college scholarships are for citizens only, which made her search for college funding more challenging.

After she was accepted at Menlo College, she said, she had to overcome several fears. One was that people would "lower their expectations because I had a daughter so young." Another concern was that she might struggle to relate to other students. "They don't have that big of a responsibility yet."

But, she noted, "I couldn't let that stop me from coming to school and trying to better my future." Sharing her story with others has helped her



Photo by Michelle Le | The Almanac

Yasmin Gomez, 19, is a sophomore at Menlo College. As a DACA recipient, she was able to visit Disneyland for the first time with her daughter last summer.

understand what she's accomplished and pushed her to stay the course. "It creates a sense

(that) I can't let those people down," she said. "It makes me want to keep going."

Nancy

Nancy Orocio, 24, was 11 months old when her parents moved to the U.S. from Mexico, and she grew up in Redwood City.

As the oldest of three kids, she felt pressure to excel and set an example for her two younger siblings, who were born in the U.S. and are citizens.

When asked if that influenced the dynamics of her childhood, she said that she didn't ever feel jealous of her siblings — though now, she sometimes wishes she could travel outside the U.S., as her sister has had the chance to do.

Instead, her parents encouraged her to set a good example for her siblings, in spite of her situation, and set education as a high priority for her.

'I felt like this world of opportunity opened. When Trump was elected, it put all of those opportunities into question.'

— NANCY OROCIO

When she was 5 or 6 years old, she remembered asking why she couldn't go to Mexico when a cousin made the trip. "You don't have papers," her mom told her. She didn't understand it, and why she couldn't get, or apply for, those papers, until she started working in the field of immigration law.

For high school, she attended Sacred Heart School in Atherton. But she didn't realize how stressful and challenging it would be to apply to college until she started the process. As a longtime participant with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula, she received ongoing mentorship, but she said she and her high school had to learn together to navigate the challenges of

Undocumented youth: what statistics tell us

There are an estimated 75,000 undocumented young people between the ages of 18 and 32 in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, or about 14 percent of all young people in the area, according to a study by the UCLA Labor Center.

The study found that:

■ Undocumented youth are almost four times more likely than other youth to not complete high school.

■ Nearly one-third of undocumented youth, compared to nearly two-thirds of other youth, have some college education.

■ Undocumented students who do access higher education are almost twice as likely as U.S.-born and documented youth to earn an advanced degree.

■ More than one-third of undocumented youth do not speak English well or at all, a

rate three times higher than documented immigrant youth.

■ Undocumented youth have median wages about 28 percent lower than U.S.-born and documented youth.

■ Of undocumented youth in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, 61 percent are Latino, 34 percent are Asian, 3 percent are white and 1 percent are black. By country, 53 percent are from Mexico, followed by India, the Philippines, China, El Salvador, Vietnam, Guatemala, Korea, Honduras and Brazil.

Data came from the Center for Migrant Studies Democratizing Data program and the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

Go to is.gd/report593 to see the study. ■

— Kate Bradshaw



Photo by David Cruz/Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula

Nancy Orocio, 24, who was 11 months old when her parents moved to the U.S. from Mexico, was encouraged to set a good example for her siblings and make education a high priority.

See **UNDOCUMENTED**, page 15



Happy Holidays ²⁰¹⁷

from all of us at

The Almanac

Mountain View
VOICE

Palo Alto
Weekly

UNDOCUMENTED

continued from page 13

paying for college without federal aid. She ultimately won a full scholarship to Santa Clara University.

When she was 19, the DACA policy took effect, just in time to open some important doors for her, she said. She received her work permit just before landing an internship at LinkedIn, and she was able to get a

driver's license. She said it was special to go to the DMV for the first time, because, growing up, she had been told that it was a scary agency you don't go to "unless you have a Social (Security number)."

With DACA, she said, "I felt like this world of opportunity opened. When Trump was elected, it put all of those opportunities into question."

She now works as an immigration and legal services

counselor with Catholic Charities in San Jose, a job that comes with its own challenges. It's been a crash course in immigration law, and has had some frustrating limitations.

"When I have to sit in front of a family, or an individual, and tell them — 'I'm sorry, there's nothing available right now. You have to know your constitutional rights and hope that something changes; that Congress will change

immigration laws' — it really sucks," she said.

She started at Catholic Charities as a DACA coordinator, helping young people like herself apply for and renew DACA permits. She told peers her story, and reassured them that it was OK to put their trust in the system. When President Trump announced that DACA would end, she said, she remembered feeling responsible for the people

she'd encouraged to apply, who now, like her, face new vulnerability from providing the federal government with personal information.

"Holy moly, I just helped all these kids apply (for DACA) for the first time," she said she remembered thinking at the time of the announcement. "I had my own fears and anxieties playing out. It has been an emotional roller coaster I can't put into words."

Sarahi

Sarahi Espinoza Salamanca, a resident of East Palo Alto and the youngest of 11 children, was born in Michoacan, Mexico, but grew up in Redwood City. Her family moved back and forth between there and Los Angeles, where she attended high school.

Ms. Salamanca's family was split up in her teen years as the result of bad information. Her mom was told by a false "notario," or notary, that she could get a green card to be in the U.S. legally if she returned to Mexico. She went back, and the family is still struggling to find a way for her to return. (The rural area of Mexico she was born in did not create the proper records to enable her to get a Mexican passport, according to Ms. Salamanca.)

Ms. Salamanca wanted to be the first in her family to go to college. But when she went to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, there was a box that required a Social Security number, which she didn't have.

Her application was denied. Not sure what to do, and thinking she was alone, since she didn't know of anyone else who had experienced similar problems, she returned to the Bay Area.

From a woman at church, she learned about opportunities for undocumented students like her to keep going to school at community college. A 2001 California law, Assembly Bill 540, allows longtime California residents who are undocumented and are seeking public higher education to be eligible for in-state tuition. Before then, undocumented students had to pay international tuition rates.

In 2008, she enrolled at Foothill College. The following year, her father was diagnosed

with cancer, and her grades began to suffer.

She dropped out to work full-time and, at 18, became the main breadwinner for her family. She nannied, washed, ironed, and worked "whatever job I could get," she said. She worked long, grueling hours, and, without a car, had to walk, take the bus, or scooter herself to her various jobs. In 2011, her father died.

Feeling sad and alone, she wanted to go to Mexico to be with her mom, but her mom insisted she stay in the U.S.

"I had thought about suicide.

'I had thought about suicide. I felt I had no future in this country, and even less of a future in Mexico.'

— SARAHÍ ESPINOZA SALAMANCA

I felt I had no future in this country, and even less of a future in Mexico," she said.

After a spiritual experience brought her back from the brink of suicide, she said, she decided to stay in the U.S. "So I stayed. And (my mom) was right. Things did get better," she said.

DACA became available in June 2012, but she waited until October of that year to apply. "I was afraid to expose myself to the government; to say, 'This is where I live and I am undocumented,'" she said.

That year, she also created a blog to consolidate information about scholarships for which undocumented students would be eligible.

In 2013, she went back to school and applied to a "hackathon" for Dreamers through FWD.us, an organization of tech leaders who support immigration and criminal justice reform in the U.S. She was selected for the hackathon to develop the DREAMer's Roadmap, an app that helps undocumented students find and track scholarships.

She pursued other opportunities to develop and expand the app, including participating in the Voto Latino Innovators Challenge. Piecing together what she called the "ugliest demo" for her app, she applied,

and was ultimately flown to Washington, D.C., to receive training and participate in the challenge. In March 2015, she won first place in the competition and was awarded \$500,000 for the project.

Today, she works on the app full-time from a co-working space in Palo Alto through the Stanford Latino Entrepreneurship Initiative. Because it is a nonprofit app, she said, she's had some difficulty funding it. She lives in East Palo Alto with her husband and child and continues to speak publicly about her story and in support of young undocumented people. She was named to the 2016 Forbes 30 under 30 list and is a 2014 White House "Champion of Change."

"I wish I would have had (the app)," she said, noting that she doesn't yet know if or when she'll return to college. "Life took some other pathway and eventually I became successful."



Photo by Michelle Le | The Almanac

Sarahi Espinoza Salamanca dropped out of community college to support her family while her father battled cancer.

Challenges

Being a DACA recipient comes with both valuable freedoms and complicated emotional tolls, as these women described.

Because they happened to have been born outside of the U.S. and brought to the country as children, DACA recipients have more privileges than their parents, but fewer than any younger siblings they might have who were born in this country. The sense of obligation to their parents, who can't access the same privileges, though they have lived and worked in the U.S. for many years, was something all three women spoke about.

"It's very easy to talk about Dreamers and uphold them as exemplary," Ms. Orocio said. (Young undocumented people are often called "Dreamers," after the proposed DREAM Act, which has never passed.) What's made stories like hers possible are the stories of people like her parents, she said.

"We can't blame our parents," she said. "They're the dreamers. They're the ones who dreamt of a better future for us, made sure we were fed, sheltered."

Receiving DACA protection, for Ms. Orocio, comes with "a combination of feeling responsible and also feeling guilty," she said. The sense of responsibility, she said, comes from feelings that she should make the most of her protected legal status while she has it, and to help people who don't have access to those protections. The guilt comes from a sense of the arbitrariness of who can access those protections. Her friends who were brought to the U.S. after age 16 or missed the age cutoff don't qualify for those protections.

Ms. Orocio said one misconception is that people living in other countries can get into a line to immigrate legally to the U.S. That's not the case. In some places, there can be a 20-year wait, she said. For families living in danger in their home countries, the opportunity to raise their kids

in a safe environment in the U.S. would already be past, were they to work through the "system" in place.

Another misconception, Ms. Gomez said, is evident when people say things like "Mexicans are taking away our jobs." Her response, she said, is: "How? I'm working for it just as hard as anybody else is. I didn't just appear and say I want that thing you have and took it away. It doesn't work that way."

So how are these young people coping with the enormous uncertainty that lies before them? For now, by learning, working and laughing when they can.

Ms. Orocio plans to one day become an immigration attorney. If she loses her work permit, those plans will have to be accelerated, she said, and she may have to open her own business if she can't get a permit to work for another company.

"I'm going to go back to school. That has only continued to open doors, and whether or not I'm able to continue working, education is something that can't be taken away," she said.

Ms. Espinoza said she plans to continue to work on her app, DREAMer's Roadmap, noting, "If I could change the life of one person, and help them go to college, that's success for me."

For Ms. Gomez, the support of family and humor have helped her get through what she calls "crazy times." Her family has taken to joking about President Trump because, "It's all we can do right now," she said. "If we stay in that fear, it's only going to make things worse for us. We know the reality. ... We're not doing anything bad. We're working." ■

About the cover: Sarahi Espinoza Salamanca said she plans to continue to work on her app to help undocumented youth access funding for higher education. (Photo by Michelle Le | The Almanac.)

Community

STORIES ABOUT PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Richard D. Givens, 78, former Rotary president

Richard D. Givens, a longtime Menlo Park resident and a former president of the city's Rotary Club, died Dec. 4 at his home in Livermore. He was 78.

Mr. Givens and his family lived in Menlo Park from 1967 until about 2013. He co-founded the Rotary Club's annual Tour de Menlo bike ride, which funds needs-based scholarships and other projects.

With a lifetime of athleticism behind him, he took up cycling in his 60s and participated in the AIDS/LifeCycle ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

Mr. Givens was born in Chinquapin, California. He graduated from the Maine prep school Hebron Academy, where he excelled at baseball and soccer. After a year with a farm team for the Boston Braves baseball franchise, he enrolled at Stanford University on a baseball scholarship.



Richard Givens

OBITUARY

A shoulder injury led him to play soccer for the school.

He was a fly-fisherman, duck hunter, mountain skier and marathoner.

He graduated from Hastings Law School at the University of California at San Francisco and became a litigator. Among his clients: the National Football League, McDonald's Corporation and U.S. Steel.

He chaired the boards of the Lupus Foundation and the Pacific Chamber Orchestra and believed that a life of service was a life worth living, his family said.

Mr. Givens is survived by his wife Sonya Sheffield; sister Gail Givens; daughters Leslie Sarandah, Amy Givens and Katie Amoros; four step-children and 11 grandchildren.

Go to is.gd/Givens for more information from the family and to leave remembrances on the Almanac's Lasting Memories page.

Atherton's Jim Plunkett inducted into California Hall of Fame

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Jim Plunkett, a Heisman Trophy-winning Stanford University quarterback who went on to lead the Oakland Raiders to 1980 and 1983 Super Bowl victories, was inducted into the California Hall of Fame on Dec. 5 by Gov. Jerry Brown. An Atherton resident, Mr. Plunkett turned 70 the night of the event.

Born in Santa Clara, he grew up in San Jose, where his father ran a news stand and young Plunkett worked, starting in elementary school, at jobs that included gas station cleanup, delivering newspapers, bagging groceries, and working in orchards.

His football and other skills helped him get into Stanford University, where in 1970 he led the team to a Rose Bowl victory and won a Heisman Trophy as college football's most outstanding player.

During his National Football League career, from 1971 to 1986, he played for the New England Patriots and the San



Photo by Joe McHugh/California Highway Patrol

Atherton resident and college and professional football star Jim Plunkett was inducted into the California Hall of Fame at the California Museum in Sacramento. He is shown with Gov. Jerry Brown.

Francisco 49ers before joining the Oakland Raiders in 1978.

Mr. Plunkett was one of nine people awarded the "Spirit of California" medal and inducted into the Hall of Fame at the California Museum in Sacramento on Dec. 5.

The others are: entertainer Lucille Ball, bioscientist Susan Desmond-Hellmann, artist and activist Mabel McKay,

atmospheric chemist Mario J. Molina, poet Gary Snyder, filmmaker Steven Spielberg, musician Michael Tilson Thomas, and vintner Warren Winiarski.

"These are people with beautiful minds and I think we should enjoy them and take some inspiration," said Gov. Brown. "This is California in its very diverse expression." ■

Holiday closures in local towns

Town halls in Woodside and Portola Valley will be closed for the week between the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Portola Valley Town Hall will be closed Monday, Dec. 25, through Monday, Jan. 1, and will reopen at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2.

Woodside Town Hall will be closed Monday, Dec. 25, through Monday, Jan. 1, and will reopen at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2.

The libraries in both Woodside and Portola Valley will be closed

on Sunday and Monday, Dec. 24 and 25, and on Sunday and Monday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Menlo Park

For the holidays, administrative services at Menlo Park City Hall and recreation facilities will be closed from Monday, Dec. 25, through Friday, Dec. 29. The Menlo Park main and Belle Haven branch libraries will be closed Monday, Dec. 25, through Wednesday, Dec. 27.

CALENDAR

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

Theater

The 1940s Radio Hour is a musical full of classic tunes, swinging dance numbers and five-part harmony. Songs include "Ain't She Sweet," "Blue Moon," "You Go to My Head" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." Nov. 30-Dec. 23, times vary. \$30-\$38. Bus Barn Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. losaltosstage.org/1940s-radio-hour/

TheatreWorks Presents "Around the World in 80 Days" Set in the 1870s, the play follows adventurer Phileas Fogg and his valet as they circle the globe in an unheard of 80 days. Nov. 29-Dec. 31, times vary. \$35-\$100. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org/201718-season/201718-season/around-the-world-in-80-days/

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

Talks & Lectures

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

Overcoming Hardship: A Father and Son Beat the Odds Attendees will discuss practical solutions for coping with unexpected

hardship and watch a film of Patrick Henry Hughes and his father. Though in a wheelchair, the younger Hughes performed in the University of Louisville marching band, his father pushing his wheelchair through every practice and performance. Dec. 27, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Bethany, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park.

Seasonal Event

Noon Year's Eve Party An event featuring dancing and music by Cotton Candy Express, followed by snacks and fun capped with a countdown to iNoon Year's Eve. Dec. 29, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley.

Music

Young Beethoven The San Francisco Chamber Orchestra and guest soloist pianist Rin Homma, led by conductor Ben Simon, will perform early works by Ludwig van Beethoven. Jan. 1, 3-5 p.m. Free. First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto. thesfco.org

Exhibits

Bethlehem A.D. Rise City Church presents the largest living nativity in California, a re-enactment of Bethlehem on the night of the first Christmas, including volunteer actors as townspeople, Roman soldiers, sages and scholars. Features live animals, refreshments and music. Dec. 21-23, 6-9:30 p.m. Free. Bethlehem A.D., 1305 Middlefield Road, Redwood City.

VR Lab A virtual reality lab featuring a collection of mini games and experiences. Participants need to be at least 13 years old to safely wear the headset, but the experience will be projected for everyone to view. Dec. 28, 2-3 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside.

Food & Drink

Portola Valley Farmers' Market This weekly farmers market offers farm produce, berries,

local eggs and more. Dec. 21 and 28, 2-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Town Center, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. pvfarmersmarket.com

Film

Kids Movie Matinee: iDespicable Me 3i A matinee showing of iDespicable Me 3i, a 90-minute, PG-rated movie for the family. Snacks provided. Dec. 21, 3:30-5 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside.

Movie Matinee: Victoria & Abdul A brown bag lunch matinee of Victoria and Abdul, a 112-minute PG-13-rated movie. Snacks provided. Dec. 22, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside.

Family

Xtreme Science Magic An interactive family show of experiments, demonstrations and audience participation opportunities for both children and adults. Dec. 21, 7-8 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. Search menlopark.org/Calendar.aspx for more info.

Block Party - Build & Learn! Children will play with blocks, developing fine motor skills and social skills along the way. Dec. 28, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside.

Winter Crafts The Menlo Park Library will lay out supplies for families to make seasonal art pieces. Dec. 27, 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St, Menlo Park. Search menlopark.org/Calendar.aspx for more info.

Food & Drink

Christmas Eve Celebration: LB Steak Menlo Park open for brunch and dinner to serve regular a la carte dinner menu plus holiday specials. Dec. 24, brunch, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., dinner, 4-9 p.m. Four-course, prix-fixe meal, \$70. LB Steak, 898 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. lbesteak.com

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 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

Auto burglaries:

■ Someone smashed open a rear side window of a vehicle parked on Constitution Drive and stole a laptop computer, headphones, sunglasses and a checkbook. Estimated loss: \$1,210. Dec. 7.

■ A thief entered a vehicle parked on Coleman Avenue and stole tools and a backpack containing personal items. Estimated loss: \$315. Dec. 5.

Thefts:

■ Someone stole a computer router device and cables from a construction site in the 100 block of Middlefield Road. Estimated loss: \$22,000. Dec. 1.

■ A thief stole a package containing an audio amplifier that had been delivered to the doorstep of a home on Waverley Street. Estimated loss: \$1,500. Dec. 2.

■ An electric tricycle was stolen from the patio of a home in the 200 block of Willow Road. Estimated loss: \$950.

Dec. 5.

■ Someone stole a purse from an unlocked employee locker near the public restroom in the CVS pharmacy at 325 Sharon Park Road. Inside the purse were the owner's personal cards, including a Social Security card, and \$40. Estimated loss: \$700. Dec. 6.

■ A thief stole a wallet from the purse of a woman shopping at Trader Joe's supermarket on Menlo Avenue. Inside the purse were personal cards and \$57 in cash. Estimated loss: \$213. Dec. 2.

■ A thief took an unattended skateboard from in front of the Soleska Market at 1305 Willow Road. Estimated loss: \$50. Dec. 4.

Animal bite: An unleashed bulldog allegedly bit in the stomach one of two leashed greyhounds at Bedwell Bayfront Park at the eastern end of Marsh Road. The case was referred to the Peninsula Humane Society. Dec. 7.

Weapons violation: Police arrested, cited and released a Goleta man in the vicinity of Oak Grove Avenue and Mills Street on suspicion of possessing a "chemical device" that had an altered or removed serial number. Dec. 7.

Stolen vehicle: A white 2015 Volkswagen GTI from a parking lot in the 500 block of Willow Road. Dec. 2.

Menlo Park commission hits pause on Santa Cruz Avenue project

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park Planning Commission wants to conduct further review of plans to knock down the building that is home to Juban Yakiniku, Union Bank and a computer repair store in downtown Menlo Park and replace it with a three-story building offering office, retail and housing.

While the proposed 47,000-square-foot development at 706-716 Santa Cruz Avenue complies with the zoning in the city's El Camino Real/downtown specific plan, according to city staff, the commission voted unanimously Dec. 11 to continue its review to a later date.

Unresolved concerns are the building's design, a planned rear

parking lot, whether utilities should be installed underground, and how neighboring businesses would be affected.

The building would be the first on Santa Cruz Avenue — the core of Menlo Park's downtown — to be developed under the downtown specific plan. It would have parking, mostly underground, for 55 vehicles.

Retail space would be on the first floor, offices on the second, and four for-sale housing units on the third. The proposal would need clearance by the City Council to give the developer the option to convert the site at a later date to 14 condominium units.

Commissioners discussed ways to make it easier and safer to get in and out of the private parking lot at the rear of the building,

along Chestnut Lane. They also discussed whether the developer would be required to underground utilities along the front of the building, even though those lines serve other businesses.

Some commissioners criticized the design of the proposed structure, specifically its "massing," "style," "articulation," and "character," and asserted that it needed more "intimacy."

In public comments, several members of the McMillan family, which owns the Le Boulanger building across Chestnut Street from the site of the proposed development, and their lawyer, raised concerns that construction noise and the proposed building's height (and subsequent blocking of sunlight) would adversely impact their tenants' businesses. ▣

Former Cindy's Flowers owner ordered to pay restitution

Cynthia Ann Smith, 60, the former owner of Cindy's Flowers and Gifts in Menlo Park, has been ordered to pay more than \$131,000 in restitution to various people and agencies, following a no contest plea to felony charges of insurance fraud and

unemployment insurance fraud in August.

The plea came on the condition that she not serve time in state prison. She was sentenced Oct. 19 to 90 days in county jail, starting on or after Dec. 16, and five years of supervised probation.

Superior Court Judge Barbara J. Mallach on Nov. 30 ordered Ms. Smith to pay the following restitution totaling \$131,168:

■ \$61,783 to FTD Flowers, a floral and gifting company.

■ \$41,187 to the California Employment Development

Department.

■ \$14,200 to James Waldschmidt, a former coworker.

■ \$13,998 to State Farm Workers Compensation.

According to prosecutors, Ms. Smith was paying her employees under the table in cash and failed

to renew her workers' compensation insurance policy, which was canceled because the premiums were not paid. Pay deductions for state and federal taxes were not being made, and she allegedly did not pay some employees at all, prosecutors said.

— By Kate Bradshaw

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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
major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.



www.siliconvalleycf.org



Rotary Club
of Menlo Park

*The William and Flora
Hewlett Foundation*

*The David and Lucile Packard
Foundation*

The Almanac will make every effort to publish donor names for donations unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

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The Almanac

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2440 West El Camino Real, Suite 300
Mountain View, CA 94040

The Almanac Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. A contribution to this fund allows your donation to be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

As of Dec. 12, 2017,
82 donors have
donated \$89,995
to the Holiday Fund

16 Anonymous.....	\$8,850
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Woodside Fire Department.....	500
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Organizations

Menlo Park Rotary - Tour de Menlo Bike Ride.....	20,000
Packard Foundation.....	15,000
Hewlett Foundation.....	8,750
Narrative Histories.....	100



HOLIDAY FUND 2017



Photo by Heather Dito

Volunteer Marcus Tjernlund packs apples for distribution at Willow Oaks Elementary School in Menlo Park.

New data shows one in four residents at risk for hunger

By Diane Baker Hayward, Second Harvest Food Bank

Silicon Valley is a vibrant community at the center of technology and innovation, but it's also a place where hunger and malnutrition are pervasive.

The soaring economy has generated immense wealth for some while increasing the cost of living for everyone, making it more difficult for many local families to put food on the table.

The harsh reality is that more people rely on Second Harvest Food Bank for food today than ever before in the Food Bank's history — an average of more than 257,000 people every month, including nearly 89,000 kids and nearly 57,000 seniors.

While the number of people relying on the Food Bank for assistance can easily fill Levi's Stadium more than three times over every month, Second Harvest recently released alarming findings from a study it conducted that reveal hunger in Silicon Valley is far more pervasive than previously believed.

According to the new data, which unlike prior estimates of hunger reflects the impact of the cost of local housing, nearly 27 percent of those

living in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties — almost 720,000 people — are at risk for hunger. That leaves a gap of about 450,000 Silicon Valley residents who are not being served, but who are struggling to put food on the table.

"It's stunning to think that one in four Silicon Valley residents is at risk for hunger," said Cat Cvengros, vice president of marketing and development at Second Harvest Food Bank. "These results are particularly surprising when you consider that unemployment is at an all-time low."

Hunger in Silicon Valley does not fit the stereotypical image. Many are working families who cannot stretch their income any further to cover rent increases or unexpected costs — people who might not necessarily look like they need help.

Robert and Annie and their daughter Abby are an example of a young family that represents this new face of hunger. Robert works full time as a special education teaching assistant working with autistic children. Annie is a full-time student pursuing a career in nutrition.

While they are very much a family raising their daughter together, housing costs have

HOLIDAY FUND

Gifts to the Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit Second Harvest Food Bank and nine other community organizations.

forced Robert and Annie to live separately with their respective families and rely on assistance from Second Harvest for food.

Fortunately, Robert and Annie are receiving nutritious food from Second Harvest that will serve as a foundation for a healthy and productive life at

work, at school, and as parents.

Unfortunately, there are many others like them who are not getting the help they need so Second Harvest is exploring innovative ways to reach more people. But we cannot do it alone. Local hunger is a problem that can and should be solved, and it is going to require everyone's help.

Visit SHFB.org or call (866) 234-3663 to donate, volunteer, or for more information about how to help.



Photo by Heather Dito

Volunteer Clint Powell directs clients filling shopping carts with food at the Ravenswood School distribution in Redwood City.

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

Grade separation is a golden opportunity for Menlo Park

By Dana Hendrickson

Imagine yourself in an awful predicament when an unavoidable future event will have a large negative impact on you and many others *unless* you can identify a way to greatly minimize its consequences, but the most promising solutions also create big new problems. Plus, you doubt there is time to carefully evaluate additional options. Feel anxious, overwhelmed, and frustrated? The Menlo Park City Council is now in this unenviable position as it attempts to prepare our city for future increases in vehicle traffic, more frequent Caltrain trains, and high-speed rail.

Together these changes threaten to severely disrupt future Menlo Park traffic unless some existing crossings are replaced with grade separations. The council has studied two alternative plans for grade separations and is inclined to select the least objectionable one. I recommend the council instead evaluate a fully elevated and open rail structure (FEORS) for at least the section of track that runs downtown from Oak Grove to Ravenswood. The tracks on either side could be raised with any combination of this structure and simple berms. The superior value of this alternative becomes clear when one views grade separation as an extraordinary opportunity for our city — rather than a dreaded problem.

Like other Peninsula cities, Menlo Park is now developing a grade separation strategy for its major east-west vehicle corridors. Council members do not like the two alternatives the city has studied. One would lower Ravenswood and keep the tracks roughly at current grade (neither Oak Grove nor Glenwood would have grade separations). This likely would produce long-term traffic circulation problems on El Camino, Oak Grove, Glenwood and possibly Ravenswood.

The other requires Ravenswood, Oak



Grove and Glenwood be lowered and tracks raised on an unattractive berm that is 10 feet high between Oak Grove and Ravenswood. This solid barrier would further physically divide Menlo Park neighborhoods. Plus, the concurrent construction of three new grade separations would severely disrupt east-west and El Camino traffic for at least three years. The council feels pressured to select one of these alternatives soon, thinking delays might jeopardize future government support if other cities were to apply for funding before Menlo Park.

So what should our council do? First, take a deep breath. Our situation is not so bad. There is plenty of time to evaluate additional solutions, and the potential reward is one that becomes a source of civic pride rather than disdain.

Next, view the grade separation challenge as a wonderful opportunity to transform the area bounded by El Camino, Alma, Ravenswood and Oak Grove into a community-enriching commercial district, one that energizes our downtown. This central area is already changing rapidly. The BBC at 555 Santa Cruz Ave. was renovated in 2015. A three-story office building will be completed at 1020-1026 Alma in 2018, and Station 1300 will open in 2019. Also, a builder has proposed replacing existing buildings at 1125 Merrill St., and 506 and 556 Santa Cruz Ave, with a multi-use development.

These private investments should be complemented by a civic project that



Plaza Area = Red Line

Train Tracks = Green

Fully Elevated Open Rail Structure = Orange

New Developments (2015-2019) = Yellow Dotted Line

Existing Buildings:

1 = 1165 Merrill — Restaurant (formerly BFD)

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integrates them with a central pedestrian and bike-friendly public space that seamlessly connects both sides of the tracks. This project could include a large plaza, attractive landscaping, and the existing train station. A fully elevated and open rail structure between Oak Grove and Ravenswood would make this possible. And perhaps, the existing Caltrain parking could be relocated underground to create even more public space. (Note: More details are available at the Re-Imagine Menlo Park website at tinyurl.com/MPGradeSep17.)

I encourage the Menlo Park City Council to evaluate the FEORS alternative. It is technically feasible; construction will be much less disruptive and possibly less costly than lowering three streets, and the city has sufficient time to select the best possible solution.

In the meantime, Menlo Park can monitor Palo Alto's pursuit of an extremely costly underground rail solution and consider this popular alternative if Palo Alto is successful.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Overpass project an expensive boondoggle

Editor:

I opposed the new Willow/101 overpass for years as an expensive boondoggle that would do nothing to improve traffic and leave us with the status quo. I was wrong. The actual new overpass is an expensive boondoggle that has degraded badly traffic for a mile in any direction at rush hour.

I live on a street that is now impassable three to four nights a week at rush hour because of

the new traffic signals on the overpass. Those signals are not temporary; as I understand it, they are to be permanent fixtures on the overpass. They are the root cause of the traffic woes we face.

The problem we have in the Willows is not traffic in the neighborhood; that is a consequence of adding those new signals and the delays and chaos those signals cause. At least once a week I have to abandon my car and walk one to two blocks to get home, because driving that last block would take 20 to 30 minutes.

Still, I vehemently oppose attempts to restrict traffic into and out of the Willows. Our streets are public streets; we do not live in a gated community.

Further, any restrictions on traffic inevitably will boomerang on residents themselves, who will get barred from entering the neighborhood in ways that make sense for getting home.

Nevertheless, the new traffic signals have been a boon to those who want to privatize the public streets in the Willows, as the city has put out ineffective and unenforceable "No Thru Traffic" signs around the Willows. However, even if every road in and out of the Willows were barricaded shut, the fact remains there is nowhere for traffic to go at rush hour. Willow, Marsh and University are archaic and woefully inadequate two-lane roads that simply can't handle the burden of today.

That is the root cause of our problems, exacerbated by those poorly considered additional traffic signals on Willow Road. That is the reality we have to face. One or ideally all of those streets need to be widened to accommodate the volume of people who use those roads now and in the future.

Caltrans perhaps could modify the design of the bridge, but those two traffic signals seem to be integral to the bridge design. That is Caltrans' fault. Its project materials and EIR completely ignored the massive and terrible impact of the project on traffic in areas near the bridge. That analysis was Caltrans' responsibility, and it failed.

The Menlo Park police

department has done its best to deal with the chaos; I have seen (officers) direct traffic at Chester and Willow by hand to clear traffic out of the neighborhood. It's not sustainable to expect them to do that three to four times a week in perpetuity in order to deal with inept traffic engineering choices. However, it looks like they will have to, at least until main traffic arteries are widened.

Caltrans sold the city a bill of goods, for what seems to be no reason at all other than to build a bridge for the sake of building a bridge. Now we get to live with the consequences of Caltrans' incompetence.

Brian Schar
Laurel Avenue, Menlo Park

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- FOR SALE
200-299
- KIDS STUFF
330-399
- MIND & BODY
400-499
- JOBS
500-599
- BUSINESS SERVICES
600-699
- HOME SERVICES
700-799
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FOR SALE
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- PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICES
995-997

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Sight Sciences/Sr Quality Assurance Engr

Sr Quality Assurance Engr (SQAE-CA) Assure compliance of tech aspects by successfully integrating activities w/ other functional areas in company. MS+2orBS+5. Mail resume to Sight Sciences, Attn Catalina Webb, 3000 Sand Hill Rd, Bldg. 3, Ste. 105, Menlo Park CA 94025. Must ref title & code.

Senior Software Engineer (AF-CA)

As part of Informatica's Rev team, work closely with architects and product managers as well as collaborate with cross-functional teams in an Agile environment to work on the next generation UI design. Submit resume by mail to: Informatica LLC, Attn: Global Mobility, 2100 Seaport Blvd., Redwood City, CA 94063. Must reference job title and job code AF-CA.

Engineering. Various levels of experience

Informatica LLC has the following position available in Redwood City, CA: **Principal Consultant (Solution Delivery Manager)** (PT-CA): Act as Project Manager for the overall initiative when there is no Project Manager assigned from the customer's organization. Position based out of headquarters but may be assigned to unanticipated sites throughout the US, may require travel up to 75% and telecommuting may be permitted. Submit resume by mail to: Informatica LLC, Attn: Global Mobility, 2100 Seaport Blvd., Redwood City, CA 94063. Must reference job title and job code PT-CA.

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File No.: 275747

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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
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File No.: 275623

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Registered owner(s):
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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)

FENZI DOG SPORTS ACADEMY
THE DOG ATHLETE
FENZI DOG TRAINING
FENZI TEAM TITLES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 275950

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Fenzi Dog Sports Academy, 2.) The Dog Athlete, 3.) Fenzi Dog Training, 4.) Fenzi Team Titles, located at 937 Canada Rd., Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
FENZI DOG ENTERPRISES, INC.
937 Canada Rd.
Woodside, CA 94062

California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 2010, 2013, 2016.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 11, 2017. (ALM Dec. 20, 27, 2017; Jan. 3, 10, 2018)

AVANTI PIZZA FRESH PASTA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 275966

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Avanti Pizza Fresh Pasta, located at 3536 Alameda De Las Pulgas #4, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
MODERN FUSION GRILL LLC
3536 Alameda De Las Pulgas #4
Menlo Park, CA 94025

This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 6/1/2004.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 12, 2017. (ALM Dec. 20, 27, 2017; Jan. 3, 10, 2018)

RHG CONSTRUCTION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 275979

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
RHG Construction, located at 174 Longview Drive, Daly City, CA 94015, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):

RAMIL H. GUEVARRA
174 Longview Drive
Daly City, CA 94015
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/13/17.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 13, 2017. (ALM Dec. 20, 27, 2017; Jan. 3, 10, 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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- The Almanac publishes every Wednesday.

Notices of Petition to Administer Estate • Public Hearing Notices
Trustee's Sale • Resolutions • Bid Notices • Lien Sale

Deadline: 5 p.m. the previous Thursday

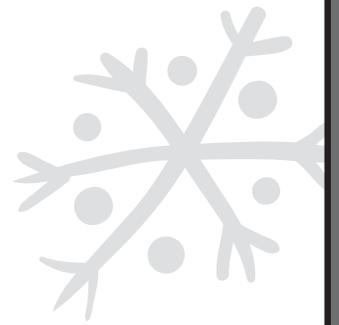


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Judy brings a seasoned perspective to real estate that translates to successfully serving buyers and sellers on the mid-Peninsula. She has a unique blend of skills, knowledge, professional relationships, and experiences that sets her apart in the industry. Judy's exceptional, dedicated customer service is legendary.

She works tirelessly and diligently for her clients and prides herself in being ethical and honest. She provides data-driven analytics and research on each home, as well as market projections and neighborhood evaluations, while bringing her sense of humor and incredible work ethic – earning her the 2017 designation #1 Individual Agent for Alain Pinel Realtors and #39 Agent in the USA per *The Wall Street Journal* 2017.



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—Adam C.

"We have worked with a number of agents over the years and, hands down, Judy's simply the BEST! She's incredibly real, genuine and honest with high energy, a great sense of humor and amazing work ethic. We can't recommend her highly enough and are so thankful we finally found the 'perfect' agent."

—Lea A.

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