

The Almanac

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

JANUARY 17, 2018 | VOL. 53 NO. 20



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EMPLOYEE CHURN, END OF MANY TRADITIONS
HAVE SHAKEN WOODSIDE HISTORIC ESTATE

STORIES BEGIN ON PAGE 5



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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

What's behind former Filoli employees' departures?

Almanac Public Records Act request yields insights on employee fear and turmoil

By **Barbara Wood**
Almanac Staff Writer

For the past three years, Filoli has been celebrating its 100th birthday, allowing the celebration to stretch out because it took years to build the Woodside estate and gardens now owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

As Filoli has entered its second century, many changes on the historic estate have been put in place, from extending operating hours to revising marketing in an attempt to attract more families and residents of a wider geographic area. The property is now being marketed for event rentals.

The way volunteers are used and managed has also completely changed. The estate has more employees and fewer volunteers than in the past, and volunteers have been barred from many of the jobs they previously did.

One more recent change at Filoli is who works there.

Since Kara Newport became Filoli's executive director in September 2016, at least nine longtime employees have been fired or quit their Filoli jobs, with several others hired by Ms. Newport leaving within months of their hiring.

It's a rate of turnover nearing 20 percent for an organization Ms. Newport says now has the equivalent of 64 full-time employees.

Related story

Change is hard: Filoli enters its second century, but some long for the past | Page 16

Among those who have left are: 17-year veteran Cathy Rampley, the education program administrator; 10-year veteran Linda Fujimoto, the retail manager and buyer for Filoli's gift and garden shop and Holiday Traditions; 10-year veteran Beth Lau, the marketing manager; nine-year

'Staff no longer has the extra pep in its step. We're just afraid to comment one way or another.'

FILOLI EMPLOYEE

veterans Gina Rossi, the visitor services lead, Christina Syrett, the public relations head, and Donna Kenison, the manager of member and volunteer services; three-year veteran Alyssa Gillooley, the administrative assistant to the executive director and board; and garden shop employees Ann Harara (eight years) and Nancy Hoffacker (10 years).

Employees hired during Ms. Newport's tenure who have already come and gone: Lori Stone, who was director of external relations for six months; and



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Kara Newport, right, and Filoli's head curator Julie DeVere set up decorations in Filoli's dining room in November. There has been major turnover of Filoli's employees since Ms. Newport came to Filoli in September 2016.

Kevin Hall, who was supervisor of visitor services for two months.

Four of the women who have left filed a lawsuit alleging violations of employment law.

Behind the departures

In late December, Filoli and four former employees who had left within six months of Ms. Newport's hiring reached a confidential settlement to the lawsuit filed by the women.

Both the women's attorney and Ms. Newport said they could say nothing other than

that the suit was settled to both parties' "mutual satisfaction." The former employees claimed age discrimination and other employment-related violations.

While the settlement is confidential, a lot of information about what happened to the employees is not. That's because Filoli decided to appeal when it was ordered to pay unemployment benefits to three of the women. Recordings of the appeals hearings with three administrative law judges, and all the evidence entered in the hearings, are public records, which the Almanac

obtained through a California Public Records Act request. All testimony was given under oath.

Filoli appealed the rulings awarding unemployment benefits to Linda Fujimoto, Alyssa Gillooley and Donna Kenison. In some of the cases, Filoli filed multiple appeals, but in the end the women all received benefits. Three different administrative law judges found that each woman had either been fired without cause or had voluntarily left for good cause.

See **FILOLI LAWSUIT**, page 18

Wrapping up 30-year run, Richard Hine says farewell

Do old editors ever really retire? "I will be keeping an eye on The Almanac and offering my help where I can," says Richard Hine, who after nearly 30 years as The Almanac's editor has retired, effective this month.

Soon, he'll be "keeping an eye" on the newspaper he has overseen for all these years from a Southern California perch. He and his wife, former Almanac advertising manager Jennifer Brown Hine, plan to move south to be close to family.

Hired as managing editor in 1988, Mr. Hine has been at the helm of the community paper for well over half its existence, and for the entirety of its online

life at AlmanacNews.com. The creation of three Portola Valley women who wanted better coverage of local schools, issues and people of the community, the newspaper was born in 1965 as the Country Almanac.

In his three decades at the paper, Mr. Hine has not wavered in his effort to meet the founders' goal of keeping residents of the communities served by The Almanac well informed, leading a team of journalists who cover city halls, schools, businesses and much more in Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Woodside and Atherton.

"Richard has epitomized what every community needs from a local newspaper editor," said Bill

Johnson, president and CEO of Embarcadero Media, which has owned The Almanac since 1993. "He cares intensely about getting the facts right, being fair to news sources and mentoring younger journalists.

"He has helped to break many important stories over the years and has supported reporters' efforts to make sure local government agencies and schools operate with transparency, often when they would prefer not to," Mr. Johnson said.

"His attention to detail and to everything going on in The Almanac's circulation area is legendary. The Almanac and its readers have been blessed to have

Richard editing the paper for the last 30 years, as have dozens of young reporters who became outstanding journalists under his guidance."

Renee Batti, who began her tenure at The Almanac in 1991 and has served as associate editor until this month, has stepped into the editor's position.

"There was never a question that Richard's successor would be The Almanac's longtime associate editor, Renee Batti," Mr. Johnson said. "Renee has worked as a reporter and editor at The Almanac for the last 26 years and has been a big part of



Almanac file photo

Richard Hine has led The Almanac's news team since 1988.

See **RETIREMENT**, page 7

29 apply for Menlo Park district advisory committee

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

The applications may have come in last-minute, but they came in.

By a 5 p.m. Jan. 8 deadline, the city received 29 applications to serve on a committee to help draw Menlo Park's first voting district boundaries, according to Menlo Park Interim City Clerk Clay Curtin.

Two days earlier, the city had

The city of Menlo Park must decide how to split the city's population up into voting districts before the next election or may face a lawsuit.

received only four applications, he said.

The city of Menlo Park must decide how to split the city's population up into voting districts before the next election or may face a lawsuit. The city received a

letter in August threatening a suit, alleging the city violates the California Voting Rights Act because its at-large voting system makes it harder for minority candidates to be elected.

The applicants are: Carolyn

Bowsher, Charles "CJ" Jameson, Honor Huntington, Horace Nash, J. Michael Gullard, Jennifer Michel, Joan Westley, John Wallace, Karen Barrett Moore, Karen Zak, Katie Cage, Ken Doninger, Lorri Holzberg, Mark Heim, Michael Hoff, Michael Perez, Michael Paul Cohen, Nancy Collins, Nicholas Corsano, Nicholas Taylor, Noria Zasslow, R. Todd Johnson, Sam Wright, Stephen Walter, Sylvia Smullin, Tim Rochte, Valerie Bellofatto-Ambwani, William Nack and Yvonne Murray.

of age or citizenship.

Applicants cannot have served in or run for an elective office in the city, or been an officer, paid consultant or donor of more than \$500 to a City Council campaign in the past eight years.

While serving on the committee, members may not campaign for or run for office, and for four years afterward, cannot accept an appointment to be on a city board, committee or commission, among other restrictions.

To create a committee that's both fair and representative of the community, three vetted applicants will be chosen randomly and tasked with choosing the other six members of the committee from among the other applicants, with a focus on getting a range of people with geographic, racial and age diversity on the committee.

A meeting to appoint committee members has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 20.

Others who wish to participate in the process can submit their own district boundary recommendations by drawing a map on paper or online.

Go to menlopark.org/district-elections for more information. ■

Selecting the committee

Next, the applicants will be vetted for eligibility. They must meet a number of state-mandated requirements and city-imposed rules intended to promote impartiality and discourage gerrymandering in the district boundary-drawing process.

To be eligible for the committee, an applicant must be a current resident of Menlo Park and have lived in Menlo Park for at least the past five years; must be a registered voter; and must have voted in two of the last three Menlo Park City Council elections — unless the person was not eligible to vote because

Poles, trees, alarms, tax on Atherton agenda Wednesday

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

There's a lot more than a fire services fiscal review (See Page 8) on the agenda of the Atherton City Council when it meets on Wednesday, Jan. 17. The agenda also includes Caltrain poles, civic center trees, false alarms, a business tax and safety improvements for the El Camino Real/Selby Lane intersection.

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

Among the items on the agenda are:

■ A report on the number of false alarms the Atherton Police Department responds to each year. Chief Steve McCulley has recommended that residents start paying an annual alarm registration fee and a \$200 fine for all false alarms beyond the first each year.

The chief's report says that from January 2016 to November 2017 the police department received 4,599 false alarm calls. The department was able to determine that about half the calls were false alarms without responding. But ones they

did respond to took up the equivalent of 13 months of one full-time police officer doing nothing but responding to false alarms, at an approximate cost of over \$136,000, the chief's report says.

■ More discussion of Caltrain's electrification poles. The town sent a letter in December asking Caltrain to change its plans for some of the poles that will soon be placed to support the electric wires needed to run electric locomotives. But Caltrain responded that the town's request will mean removing a tree on private property and reducing the landscape buffer of three other homes at a cost of at least \$200,000.

Caltrain asked the town to use that information to reconsider its request that five planned 45.5-foot poles be replaced with 10 36-foot poles. The council will also consider if it wants green, brown, yellow or galvanized poles in the train station area. All other poles will be green.

■ Discussion of, and recommendations on, alternatives for the El Camino Real/Selby Lane

See **ATHERTON**, page 8



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Don Brawner, Menlo Park advocate for slow growth, dies at age 84

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

Don Brawner, a longtime advocate for slow growth in Menlo Park, died Dec. 10 at age 84.

A memorial service is set for Jan. 27 at the Menlo Park City Council Chambers (701 Laurel St.), followed by a reception at the Arrillaga Recreation Center.



Photo courtesy
Julianne Brawner
Don Brawner

Known for his jeremiads opposing “Manhattanizing” Menlo Park and turning it into a “concrete canyon,” Mr. Brawner was for several decades a vocal and reliable opponent of development in Menlo Park in the City Council Chambers. He also served on the city’s transportation and housing commissions.

“His strength was sabotaging any project,” said Brielle Johnck, a proponent of the 2014 slow-growth voter initiative Measure M that Mr. Brawner also favored. “There was nothing he supported.”

Patti Fry, also a slow-growth advocate in Menlo Park, recalls him as “quite an institution.”

“I saw him mostly oriented toward caring about the quality of life,” she said. “He loved Menlo Park and loved our community and he was just very passionate about what he thought was best for it and us.”

Anyone who knew Don, said his wife Julianne Brawner, would say, “Yes, he was quite the character.”

“He was a very smart man, and it was hard to get to know him,” Ms. Brawner said. “The guy didn’t want people to know

how sweet and vulnerable he could be. That’s my guess.”

Don Juan Brawner was born in Wichita, Kansas, in 1933 and moved to San Francisco when he was 10. He graduated from Lincoln High School and San Francisco State University, where he was president of the Sigma Pi Sigma fraternity for a term.

Following college, he served in the Army and Air Force Reserve and attended graduate school for business. He worked in the real estate and insurance industries.

He and Ms. Brawner met in San Francisco in February 1967. By May, they had plans to marry. “We met and married very quickly in the Summer of Love,” Ms. Brawner said. “It was one of those very whirlwind romances.”

Even in his older years, Ms. Fry said, it was evident that Mr. Brawner loved his wife. “He’d just sparkle when they were together,” she said.

The couple moved to Menlo Park in 1973, and their son DJay was born in 1981. They purchased a 10-unit apartment building at the corner of Willow Road and Waverley Street in Menlo Park’s Linfield Oaks neighborhood, and Mr. Brawner managed it throughout his career.

In 1987, Mr. Brawner took on the role of slow-growth crusader when a development near St. Patrick’s Seminary was proposed that would have included housing, a skilled nursing facility and a convenience store.

“Back in the day, it was just a scruffy band of residents, and not even that big a band of residents. We got out there and papered the neighborhoods,” Ms. Brawner said.

Ultimately, the so-called

residentialists won through a voter referendum, and the development was defeated, she said.

In the years following, Mr. Brawner grew more involved in City Council campaigns, and spoke often against developments, particularly of below-market-rate housing.

According to former mayor Steve Schmidt, Mr. Brawner was a “steadfast protector of his vision for a static suburban environment,” and his voice of opposition extended to a number of public proposals at the Civic Center, including a new children’s center, an undercrossing of the Caltrain tracks, a skate park and bigger playing fields.

“He never let his guard down,” Mr. Schmidt said.

“If you were a developer, you didn’t like Don Brawner,” Ms. Brawner said.

When he wasn’t railing against development at City Council meetings, Ms. Brawner said, Don Brawner kept up his health with a routine of daily exercise at the Y, followed by a milkshake at either McDonald’s or Jack in the Box. He also enjoyed playing and coaching soccer, dancing and golf.

Mr. Brawner is survived by his wife, Julianne, son DJay (Alexis), granddaughter Brixton, brother-in-law Don (Joyce) Schwegel, and nieces and nephews.

A private burial at Golden Gate National Ceremony was held. The Jan. 27 memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. in the Menlo Park City Council Chambers (701 Laurel St.), followed by a reception at the Arrillaga Recreation Center.

Donations may be made to the Salvation Army, Peninsula Humane Society or Alzheimer’s research. ■

RETIREMENT

continued from page 5

the paper’s success.

“She has worked side-by-side with Richard to guide the paper’s coverage and oversee its reporters, and while she will make her own imprint on The Almanac, readers need not fear that a change in editors will bring a change in the paper’s dedication to in-depth coverage of what makes our community so unique.”

Reflecting on his long run at the newspaper, Mr. Hine recalled that when he began his tenure at The Almanac, he also reported on the town of Atherton, “and greatly enjoyed it.” Back then, “we wrote stories on a manual typewriter,

which I also loved, and the stories were set by a typesetter,” he said.

Under his leadership, The Almanac won many awards from the California Newspaper Publishers Association, including general excellence and public service honors. In the latter category, The Almanac took a first-place award for its in-depth reporting project calling attention to what one legislator called “the ticking time bomb” of the high future costs of paying for public employee pensions, Mr. Hine noted. He added that The Almanac was “way out front” in reporting on the issue when it was a little-known threat to the financial stability of government agencies.

“I am so grateful to have been

able to work for The Almanac for nearly 30 years,” Mr. Hine said last week. “I greatly appreciate the contributions of so many people, in the community and on the staff, too numerous to mention, who have kept this enterprise going.

“While The Almanac has a deep history in the community, going back to 1965, the thing to focus on now, and always, is the future: how we can continue to share useful and interesting information necessary for a successful community. The new editor, Renee Batti, who is really a veteran editor at The Almanac, is open to your ideas and contributions.

“Here’s to the next 50 years of The Almanac.” ■

JANUARY 2018 REAL ESTATE UPDATE WITH MANDY MONTOYA

Happy New Year!



Looking back at the close of 2017, December saw the typical holiday slow down with fewer listings than previous months and, with the exception of Woodside, fewer to a flat number of listings than the same month last year. Of note, Woodside saw 10 homes close escrow in December, absorbing some of the inventory that’s been sitting for several months – perhaps a sign that buyers for Woodside are finally recognizing its inherent value. Inventory is very tight in all of our communities and prices are predicted to continue to rise. Contact me if you’re thinking of buying or selling a home.

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|----------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
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| Woodside | 12/5 | \$2,788,600 | 20/10 | \$2,967,300 |
| Portola Valley | 13/11 | \$2,758,833 | 4/5 | \$4,797,000* |
| Menlo Park | 21/23 | \$2,085,408 | 13/29 | \$2,721,198 |

*Very Small Sample sizes

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Atherton taxpayers pay more than twice what fire services cost

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

A study of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District shows that services provided by the fire district to Atherton cost less than half the property tax revenue it receives from the town's property owners.

Commissioned by the town of Atherton, the Matrix Consulting study, which will be reviewed by the City Council when it meets on Wednesday, Jan. 17, was released on Jan. 11. It shows that the district receives an annual operating subsidy from Atherton property owners of more than \$7 million in tax revenue.

The study, which the town has emphasized was not looking at the quality of service provided by the fire district, investigated how much the district spends providing services to Atherton and how much it receives in property tax revenue from Atherton residents.

It also looked at what it might cost for the town to contract out its fire services or form its own municipal fire department.

A letter the city manager proposes be sent to Atherton residents about the study, which is included as part of the Jan. 17 meeting materials, notes that the town "believes that the District provides Atherton residents with exceptional service."

The Matrix study shows in the 2015-16 fiscal year,

Atherton, which has 8 percent of the residents in the fire district, provided 31.7 percent of the fire district's total property tax revenue. That year Atherton property owners provided \$11.8 million in property tax revenue to the fire district. In comparison, the town of Atherton received only \$7.5 million of property tax revenue from its property owners that year, the study shows.

The study also says that in 2016-17, the fire district spent \$4.6 million providing fire services to the town, or more than \$7 million less than its property tax revenues from the town.

To come up with the spending figure, Matrix looked at the district's computer-aided dispatch records, which show the geographic location of responses and time spent on them. Those records show that responses to Atherton accounted for 9.6 percent of the district's time spent on emergency calls in 2016.

The consultants then went through the district's 2016-17 operational budget and in most cases applied either that factor, or actual costs if known, to come up with a cost of providing service in Atherton. They also added in \$550,000 in capital investment costs (an allocation of the district's annual spending on equipment and other capital costs).

The study also says if the town were to have its own fire department it would probably cost \$6.8 million a year.

Cost of Services to Atherton

- ◆ While the MPFPD provides Atherton with excellent service, the cost is more than double the actual cost of providing the services.
- ◆ The cost for MPFPD to service Atherton = \$4.6M.
- ◆ Atherton's tax dollars flowing to MPFPD = \$11.8M.
- ◆ Atherton's annual subsidy for MPFPD's Operations: **Over \$7M Annually**

Courtesy town of Atherton

This slide from a presentation that will be given to the Atherton City Council on Jan. 17 shows that Atherton property tax revenue provides the Menlo Park Fire Protection District with a more than \$7 million annual operating subsidy.

The study assumed the town would have two fire stations and automatic aid agreements with nearby fire agencies, including the Menlo Park Fire Protection District. It would equip the stations with an engine and a combination ladder truck and pumper, each staffed with at least three people. The administration would include a fire chief, deputy chief in charge of fire prevention and an administrative assistant.

Contracting with another fire department would cost it \$7.4 million annually, the

report estimates, using as its basis a contract between San Carlos and the Redwood City Fire Department.

The start-up costs for a municipal fire department would be steep, the report says: \$14.2 million. But City Manager George Rodericks says those costs could be less depending on what arrangements were worked out with the fire district for taking over its existing Atherton station and apparatus.

Wednesday's City Council meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the town's council chambers, 94 Ashfield Road.

The council will review the

report and provide town staff with feedback about what the next steps should be, which could include further investigation of the town's separation from the fire district.

In addition to a letter, City Manager George Rodericks has recommended that the town send a two-page summary of the report to all Atherton residents, inviting them to comment at the council's Feb. 21 meeting about what they'd like to see happen next.

Fire district officials were invited to comment about the study for this story, but said they need more time to review it. ■



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ATHERTON

continued from page 6

intersection. Since mid-2015 the town, San Mateo County and Caltrans have discussed alternatives for the intersection, which has a high accident rate that has risen further since discussions began. While the town currently has no funding for a project at the intersection, it has narrowed the choices for the project down to eliminating all turns at the intersection except for left turns from northbound El Camino onto Selby, or installing a traffic signal.

■ A decision on saving several heritage trees now scheduled to be cut down as part of the civic center project. In October, the town's Planning Commission approved a permit to remove 18 of the 85 heritage trees on the civic center site. But City Council member balked, and

have tried to figure out how to save more trees. Five trees must go because arborists agree they are unhealthy, and the town has figured out how to work around eight other trees. Saving the remaining trees could add considerable costs to the project and might also delay it, so the council must decide if those trade-offs are worthwhile.

The town will also receive an update from its consultant about the current cost estimates for the civic center project, which is still on schedule to go out to bid in March.

■ Consideration of hiring election and polling consultants to help design a business license tax measure that would go on the ballot in November. The council has approved the concept of increasing the town's business license tax, but such an increase must be approved by just over 50 percent of voters. ■

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Facebook found in compliance with city agreements

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

When it was permitted to build massive new buildings in Menlo Park, Facebook agreed to make certain commitments to the city.

At Facebook's annual check-in with the city, the Planning Commission voted 5-0 in agreement that the company is making a good-faith effort to meet those commitments. Commissioners Susan Goodhue and Drew Combs were recused because of their ties to Facebook: Ms. Goodhue is an attorney who works on Facebook-related matters and Mr. Combs works for the company.

Facebook has negotiated multiple development agreements with the city, the terms of which now add up to a 27-page checklist. Many conditions have been completed and several have become

an ongoing part of the company's operations.

The company has completed its "Local Community Fund" requirement but plans to continue that program, which offers small grants to local nonprofits in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto.

Another agreement Facebook made in an early development agreement was to encourage local jobs. The company hosts local job fairs twice a year. At the first, in March, Facebook ended up hiring nine full-time employees and 12 contractors from of a total of 493 job fair attendees.

A second job fair was held Sept. 30 with 541 attendees. Their resumes are still being reviewed, according to a staff report. Recently, Facebook launched "Access," a separate job application portal for locals, and hired a coordinator to bolster local hiring.

Another condition by the city

was for Facebook to promote volunteerism with local nonprofits. Through 2026, the company has committed to host a volunteer recruitment fair for local nonprofits to inform Facebook employees about volunteer opportunities. At a Nov. 2 event, 400 Facebook employees attended a volunteer fair that included 21 nonprofits.

Facebook has discontinued other programs after meeting the company's obligation to the city. One program, called "Facebucks," gave Facebook employees incentives to visit Menlo Park businesses, but was met with limited success. According to Sustainability and Community Outreach Manager Lauren Swezey, people who lived locally liked the

program, but many Facebook employees didn't have an easy way to get from the Facebook campus to downtown Menlo Park. More than half of Facebook's workers don't drive to work solo, she said.

A number of initiatives from Facebook's more recent development agreements are in the works. Among them are the company's commitments to:

- Sponsor with \$1 million in funding and convene a regional transportation forum with officials from Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, San Mateo County and Santa Clara County, to follow up on recommendations in the SamTrans Dumbarton Corridor Transportation Study.

- Fund up to \$350,000 and hire

a consultant to conduct a housing inventory and local supply study to assess "the conditions, occupancy and resident profiles of residents" living near Facebook, including in Belle Haven, North Fair Oaks and East Palo Alto.

- Coordinate with the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge and nonprofits to work on habitat protection and restoration.

- Build a public access bicycle and pedestrian bridge across Bayfront Expressway between Facebook and Bedwell Bayfront Park.

- Build a recycled water system for its Buildings 21 (under construction) and 22.

- Complete streetscape improvements on Chilco Street. ■

County manager to retire

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The job at the top of San Mateo County government will be vacated sometime within the next 12 months.

County Manager John Maltbie recently announced that he plans to retire by December 2018. The statement goes on to say that the county's Board of Supervisors will

also recruit a successor in 2018.

The county manager and the county counsel are the only two officials who report directly to the board. The other notable county officials — sheriff, district attorney, coroner, tax collector-treasurer and assessor-county clerk-recorder — are elected.

For Mr. Maltbie, it will be his second retirement from the same

position. He managed San Mateo County from 1989 to 2008, when he stepped down the first time.

His successor at that time, David Boesch, came to the county from Menlo Park, where he was the city manager. Mr. Boesch left the county job after three years, citing philosophical differences with the

See **MALTBIE**, page 13

Mirjana (Maryana) Katurich Preston

July 7, 1924 – December 19, 2017

Mirjana (Maryana) Katurich Preston died peacefully, after a brief illness, on December 19, 2017 at the age of 93. Mirjana was born in Risan, Boka Kotorska, Montenegro and immigrated to San Francisco with her parents Novak and Vidosava Katurich and her older brother Bogdan (Bob) in 1933. The family lived in San Francisco's Richmond District and happily participated in the Serbian community, which thrived in San Francisco and nearby areas in the Santa Clara Valley and the Central Valley. Mirjana attended Washington High School, graduating in 1943. During the war she worked in various offices at San Francisco's Presidio. She was introduced to her future husband Clifford T. Preston by mutual friends. They were married in 1946. After living in San Francisco, Cliff and Mirjana purchased their Palo Alto home in 1950, where they raised their four sons. Mirjana resided in that home at the time of her death, and with Cliff until his death in 1994. In the mid 1960's, when the boys were older, Mirjana began as a teller at the Bank of America, retiring after 22 years of service in 1987. She worked at branches in Palo Alto and Menlo Park. In her later years, Mirjana enjoyed numerous trips to Montenegro, Italy, Russia, China, Costa Rica, England and Australia. Mirjana had a deep affection for San Francisco, whether it was visiting her mother and brother in the Richmond District or shopping at Union Square. Well into her eighties when asked what she wanted to do for her birthday, it was Beach Blanket Babylon one year, a Giants' game another. Mirjana enjoyed her volunteer work at the Avendas Senior Center, and was proud of her award as, "Best Volunteer," which she was given in 2017. Mirjana was at her best as the gracious hostess and cook extraordinaire for the numerous gatherings for family and friends held at her home on Holidays and other important family events. Mirjana's warm and caring nature was well known by all. She was always generous, especially to those in need. Mirjana was preceded in death by Cliff, her parents and her brother.

She is survived by her sons, Richard (Joan) of Woodside, Brian (Janice Mulholland) of Portola Valley, John (Holly Hausmann) of Bozeman, MT, and Jeff of Ukiah. She is also survived by grandchildren Jennifer Preston (John Toman), Noelle (Charles Packer), Alexandra Preston, David Preston and Christopher Preston and by great grandson Hudson Packer. Private services are pending. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to a charity.



PAID OBITUARY

Roland Lampert

May 6, 1924 – December 29, 2017

Roland Lampert, 93, passed away peacefully on December 29th, 2017 in Redwood City, CA surrounded by his family. Loved and respected by everyone he knew— he will be deeply missed.

Roland was born May 6, 1924 in San Mateo, CA to Masha and Israel Lampert. He went on to school in San Francisco after his parents moved to the city. A graduate of Washington High School, he then attended University of San Francisco. In 1942, he enlisted in the Navy and was sent to Midshipmen's School in Chicago. He became an officer and was very proud serving on Admiral Nimitz's staff. After his Naval service, he finished his studies at Cal Berkeley. He became a Nash Motors agent in Redwood City where he met the love of his life, Audrey. They were married in 1948 and raised three children whom he loved dearly.

Later, he went on to form Lampert Insurance until his retirement over 30 years ago and became active in real estate. He was one of the first developers in Silicon Valley and was still very much involved in his own real estate projects up until his passing.

Roland was a presence in the local community, including Lt. Governor of the Optimist Club, on the board for many years of Peninsula Family Service and served on the San Mateo County Grand Jury. An avid golfer, he was fond of playing 'a round' with close friends. He adored spending time with his family, traveling the world with his wife and



taking the boat out for a spin in Lake Tahoe.

Those left to treasure his memories and timeless stories are his loving wife of 69 years, Audrey Lampert, son, David Lampert, daughter Julie Lampert Bell, former son-in-law, Herb Bell and his grandchildren, Tyler Bell (Haley), Jordan Bell, Joshua Lampert, Cameron Bell and Nicol Lampert. He will be missed by his many friends, his brothers-in-law Bob and Arvin Bernstein, sister-in-law Phyllis Bernstein and nieces and nephews. He is now reunited with his son Gary Lampert and they are surely flying high together.

A memorial service will be held 11:30 am Friday, February 2nd 2018 at Peninsula Golf & Country Club 701 Madera Dr., San Mateo, CA 94403. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to Peninsula Family Service of San Mateo County, 24 2nd Ave. San Mateo, CA. 94401 or your favorite charity.

PAID OBITUARY

Three-story building planned for Menlo Avenue moving forward

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

A proposal to build a three-story mixed-use building at 840 Menlo Ave., adjacent to Draeger's Market and at the corner of Menlo Avenue and Evelyn Street, is expected to get a closer look by the Menlo Park Planning Commission on Jan. 22.

Plans for the project were first submitted for the project back in January 2014, but were delayed after the first architecture and design team ended up quitting the project, according to Menlo Park Principal Planner Thomas Rogers.

The new architecture firm heading the project is Redwood City-based Hayes Group Architects, Inc.

"I think they've stepped up and done something unique. It's context-sensitive and not any sort of cookie-cutter design," Mr. Rogers told the Planning Commission on Jan. 8.

The proposal is to build a 39-foot-tall, 11,471-square-foot, three-story building with parking and a lobby on the first floor, with 6,610 square feet of non-medical office space on the second floor and three housing units on the third, with the main entrance on Evelyn Street.

The development would create some logistical challenges for the neighboring Draeger's Market, which currently uses Evelyn Street as a loading dock for its food and wares.

City staff recommended that Draeger's Market relocate its loading area to Menlo Avenue from Evelyn Street so as to not restrict access to the new development.

At a Jan. 10 meeting, the Complete Streets Commission recommended the city instead look at locations other than Menlo Avenue for the loading zone. The question will ultimately be decided by the City Council, according to Associate Planner Kaitie Meador.

The Planning Commission is scheduled to discuss the project at its meeting Monday, Jan. 22. The commission generally meets at 7 p.m. on alternating Mondays at the City Council Chambers at 701 Laurel St., in the Civic Center. ■



A rendering of the three-story building proposed for the parcel at 840 Menlo Ave. (Drawing courtesy Hayes Group Architects/city of Menlo Park.)

Adelaide Veronica Iverson

August 17, 1912 – December 20, 2017

Adelaide Iverson passed away at her Menlo Park home on December 20, 2017. She was 105 years old.

Adelaide was born on August 17th, 1912 in Oketo, Kansas, the daughter of Paul and Veronica Schmitt. Her parents were educators and every week her father brought home a book for each of his four daughters, fueling a life-long passion for learning that all four sisters shared.

Adelaide graduated from Central State Teachers College, now Central Michigan University, in 1933 and received a master's degree in history from the University of Michigan. She began her teaching career in Grosse Point, Michigan where she met the love of her life, fellow teacher Bill Iverson. Adelaide and Bill married in September of 1942 while Bill was in the army, and though they remained separated for much of World War II, they sustained their relationship through daily correspondence. In one of his letters, Bill wrote, "Sometimes I think that out of trying times may come a timeless purity which we will always hold in our hearts."

In 1946, Bill began graduate work at Stanford University and during those early campus years, the Iverson's forged lifelong friendships with several Stanford families including the Hofstadters, the Chodorows, the Schiffs, the Pindars and many more. When Bill joined the faculty in 1950, Adelaide supported his work by hosting student and faculty gatherings and typing Bill's manuscripts.

Her life was one of service to family, friends and community. She was active in the League of Women Voters, serving as president of her local chapter. Among her many volunteer activities, she was particularly proud of tutoring women at the San Mateo County Jail. In her later years, she would travel to the Stanford campus to read to her close friends. When she quit driving at the age of 90, she kept up her weekly visits by taking cabs, prompting one driver to comment, "You sure know your way around this campus. Did you know Leland Stanford?" She may not have known Stanford's founder, but she was a passionate supporter of all things Stanford, particularly its sport teams, attending well over one thousand football, basketball and baseball games. When she was 95, she threw out the first pitch at a Stanford baseball game, prompting then Coach Mark Marquess to note that she had a pretty good arm.

The family is deeply grateful to Adelaide's caregiving team who provided wonderful home care during her final years. She is survived by her sons Peter, David and Paul, their wives Kaaren, Lynn and Yoko, her grandchildren Erika, Jens, Laura and Ayuko, her great grandchildren Freya, Ada, Hannah and William and caregivers Eileen Khan and Sinai Latu.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, January 25th at 2pm at the Stanford Memorial Church. To honor her remarkable life, the family suggests donating to the League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County Education Fund, PO Box 2244, Menlo Park, CA 94026 or to the Catholic Community at Stanford University, P.O. Box 20301, Stanford, CA 94309.



Harold Carl Hohbach

December 3, 1921 – December 28, 2017

Harold Carl Hohbach, age 96, passed away on Dec. 28, 2017, at his home in Atherton, California. Harold was born in Plankinton, South Dakota, on Dec. 3, 1921. He was married to Marilyn Alice Krouser for 62 years and had 4 children.

Harold practiced patent law for 50 years, owned and developed multiple real estate projects, and was involved as an investor, officer and director in several technology start up companies.

Harold earned his B.S. in Electrical Engineering at South Dakota State University in 1943 and then joined the US Army Signal Corps serving as a first lieutenant in WWII in Germany and North Africa. He later served in the Army Reserve Corp as a major. Harold then received his B.S. in Business Administration at UC Berkeley followed by his J.D. from Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley, in 1952.

Before starting law school, Harold worked for Westinghouse Electric Corporation. After graduating, he joined Flehr and Swain which later became Flehr, Hohbach, Test, Albritton and Herbert. In 2002 the firm merged with Dorsey and Whitney and Harold retired from law.

During those 50 years, Harold's practice covered a broad spectrum of technologies, including electronics; semiconductor manufacturing; mainframe computing; optically variable thin films; and electro-mechanical, mechanical and medical devices. He had close working relationships with many Silicon Valley entrepreneurs.

The following years until his death he owned and developed significant commercial real estate projects in the California Avenue business district of Palo Alto.

Harold was also responsible for introducing the founders of the technology start up Advanced Cardiovascular Systems, later Guidant, and served as a board member for the early venture capital fund, Sutter Hill Capital.

Harold respected education and established professorships at South Dakota State University and UC Berkeley. He also commenced funding of endowed positions at the Silicon Valley Archives at Stanford University Libraries. Through his Silicon Valley Luminary Society, Harold wanted to introduce the next generation to inventors. He commissioned a series of oil paintings featuring these pioneers at the age of their inventions.

Growing up during the depression in South Dakota, Harold was the oldest of 6 children. He drove a horse and buggy to school, studied by kerosene lamplight and picked up his lifelong hobbies of coin and stamp collecting.

Harold enjoyed work and continuously thought of ways he could contribute and accomplish what he valued. Very inquisitive and curious to the end of his life, he appreciated spending time with people of all ages. He enjoyed traveling, dancing, and tennis. He skied the Shirley Lake run at Squaw Valley until age 87.

Harold is survived by his wife, Marilyn; his sisters, Lorraine, Carol and Sharon; his children and their spouses, Douglas (Kay), Janet (Chris) and Ellen (Lance); his 11 grandchildren, Kasimira, Timothy, Pamela, Amanda, Cynthia, Joshua, Gerhard, Genevieve, Robert, Nolan and Elizabeth.

He is predeceased by his brothers, Carl and Lawrence, and his daughter, Ann

A Memorial service will be held on February 2, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at the Menlo Church, 950 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, Boalt Hall, 215 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 94720 or to the charity of your choice.

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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.

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Site, uses of planned new library up for discussion

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Questions of where to locate a new Menlo Park main library and what other uses should be accommodated there are among those that will get public airings this week.

The second of three community meetings on where to put a new Menlo Park Main Library within the bounds of the Civic Center campus will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 17, at the Menlo Park Library at 800 Alma St.

The city will also seek public input on other possible uses for the library, such as housing or a new City Council chambers.

At the first meeting, representatives from Noll & Tam, the architectural consulting firm that conducted a previous study about the library's space needs, spoke about the pros and cons of building the new library on the current site, and of relocating it closer to Laurel Street.

With the latter option, the city would save some money by avoiding having to set up an interim library space during construction, since the current structure would remain in place. But the new library could encroach on the current council chambers' footprint and displace the Menlo Children's Center.

Child care to stay

In recent days, several parents of children who attend the Menlo Children's Center emailed the

City Council with concerns that the library construction plan could mean the demise of the center. Nora Dunn said she was "extremely disappointed that no one has reached out to me," and said she'd like to have more information about any potential impact the library expansion would have on the children's center.

Menlo Park City Manager-Alex McIntyre confirmed with the Almanac that the city "has no intentions of getting out of the child care business."

"If a library site includes the existing child care center, a new center would be anticipated either as a stand-alone, or more likely integrated into the new library," he said.

The Noll & Tam study determined last March that people in the community generally favor more public meeting spaces, study rooms, a dedicated area for teens and a larger children's area than the current library offers. The study's authors determined that those needs translate into a need for about 11,000 square feet more space than exists at the current library.

The process to build a new library is being expedited, despite the fact that such a project had not been high on the city's priority list, because local billionaire and philanthropist John Arrillaga has offered to cover the building costs of the structure after the first \$20 million. ■

MALTBIE

continued from page 10

board. The supervisors tapped Mr. Maltbie as interim manager in November 2011, then hired him permanently in December 2012.

Among the county's notable developments during Mr. Maltbie's second round on the job:

- Voters approved Measure A in 2012, establishing a half-cent countywide general-purpose sales tax, then extended the tax by 20 years in 2016. The county uses the \$85 million in annual revenues for "essential county services," including public safety, youth and education, and older adults and veterans, but a priority has been expanding the availability of housing affordable to low- and middle-income people.

- The Parks Department is once again active after deactivation during the Great Recession.

- The county now has an Office of Sustainability to oversee environmental matters.

"It was an honor to be asked back and I'm grateful the Board felt I still had something to contribute,"



County Manager John Maltbie announced plans to retire by December 2018 after 26 years in the position — from 2011 to 2017 and from 1989 to 2008.

Mr. Maltbie said in the statement. "I will always hold dear my time with the County and the men and women who make it so special."

"I'm confident that the County and its residents are in good hands and that the Board will select a successor who will continue building on its investments in our services, our community and our residents," he added. ■



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Change is hard

Filoli enters its second century, but some long for the past

By Barbara Wood

Almanac Staff Writer

For 29 years Filoli, the historic Woodside estate owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, celebrated the holiday season in the same way.

Each year, the century-old home and garden would close to the public in late October. After most of the furniture was moved from the ground floor of the grand old home, a huge crew of volunteers and Filoli employees lavishly decorated and stocked it with merchandise for a nine-day holiday-themed shopping extravaganza that began the day after Thanksgiving. Glitz and glamour ruled the day, with shopping bags handed out at the door.

Tickets to the Holiday Traditions event, Filoli's major annual fundraiser, often sold out a month in advance. Daily merchandise sales totals sometimes surpassed \$200,000. Volunteers say they sold \$1.3 million in merchandise in 2016, with more than half of that profit.

When Holiday Traditions was over, the estate closed again until February, by which time the furniture was back in the house and the daffodils beginning to blossom.

Time for change

But as Filoli enters its second century, myriad changes are being put into place. Kara Newport, who became Filoli's fifth executive director in 11 years in September 2016, says the changes are necessary if Filoli is to be preserved to operate and exist for another century.

"The expenses were escalating, and the revenues weren't escalating at the same rate," Ms. Newport said in an interview. The goal, she said, is to bring in more people and elevate Filoli's profile, leading to more revenue and more contributions. "I think it gives you better tools to work with," she said, noting the century-old estate needs significant work.

Recent changes include extending operations from nine months to year-round, extending daily operating hours and adding more evening hours, opening a new self-guided estate trail, and revising marketing to attract more families and residents of a wider geographic area.

The property is also being marketed for event rentals, bringing in more than \$400,000 in 2017, which is more than a 400 percent increase over the \$25,000 event rentals brought in during 2016. The second



Photo by Natalia Nazarova/The Almanac

Burt and Maria Norall head toward Filoli's visitors center on Jan. 7 as they attend the members-only launch of Filoli's first-ever public winter season. The estate is now closed only two weeks, instead of three months, each year and has also extended operating hours.

wedding in the estate's entire history is scheduled for June, and Filoli now has a liquor license.

In addition, the way volunteers are used and managed has been completely revised. The estate has more employees and fewer volunteers than in the past, and volunteers have been barred from many of the jobs they previously performed.

All volunteers now need to pass a background check, and all were forced to sign a volunteer agreement containing a provision that is essentially the same as one that caused a fuss two years ago; in the earlier instance,

Filoli eventually relented and allowed volunteers to cross out that provision of the agreement.

In 2015, before the controversial volunteer agreement was originally unveiled, Filoli said it had 1,300 active volunteers. The organization's tax forms say it had 1,442 volunteers in 2013. Today, there are 850. Ms. Newport says most of the attrition is due to inactive volunteers who have been removed from the lists, but many volunteers say they have left for a host of reasons.

A new tradition

One change that has drawn a major reaction is the end of Holiday Traditions.

This year, instead of closing in late October, Filoli remained open (except for Mondays, when it's always closed, and Thanksgiving Day) through Dec. 23. The furniture remained in the house, with the rooms decorated to reflect the history of the Bourn and Roth families who had lived there. Rooms that in previous years had been filled with voracious shoppers snapping up holiday gifts and decorations now had stanchions and velvet ropes to keep the public away from the exhibits. Display cards gave historic information about the Bourn and Roth families' Christmas celebrations.

This time, shopping was confined to Filoli's Clocktower gift shop, the house's back porch, and a tent set up between the house and the shop. The garden remained open, parts of it strung with white lights, and more family-friendly activities were scheduled.

The new event, called Holidays at Filoli, ran from Nov. 18 through Dec. 23, more than

three times the length of the Holiday Traditions events, with three daytime admission periods every day but Monday, plus two nighttime admissions on Fridays and Saturdays. A bar was set up in the garden's teahouse.

The changes infuriated some longtime attendees.

Robert R. from San Francisco wrote on Yelp on the day after Holidays at Filoli opened about his "deep disappointment." The event, he wrote, had "lost all of the magic, splendor and festive elements that put us under its spell last year."

"Where were the rooms bursting with holiday treasures at every turn that you could discover and admire? Missing was the wonderful aroma of sweets, the popping of corks and bubbly libations and merry laughter drifting throughout," he wrote.

"We left disheartened, disappointed and saddened. The magical, enchanting and timeless atmosphere of last year was absent," Robert R. wrote.

"My mother, child and I have been attending Filoli's Holiday Traditions the past few years," wrote Pippi B. from Los Gatos on Yelp the same day. "We were expecting much grandeur, as in years' past. I'm quite the minimalist these days and no longer a big consumer of things, but we enjoyed strolling through the festive halls and spacious rooms which were filled to the brim with holiday-themed gifts in all shapes and sizes. It had always been a wonderful way to kick start the season!"

This year, she wrote, the visit on opening day was "very much a waste of my money."

"If you are planning to buy



Photo by Natalia Nazarova/The Almanac

Filoli's reopening for its first-ever winter season was celebrated on Jan. 7 with an evening in the historic ballroom featuring the First Street Opera.



Photo by Eric Thomas Chu/Special to the Almanac

Filoli's historic ballroom in 2016, set up for Holiday Traditions, filled with merchandise for sale and decorated to the hilt. The event often sold out a month in advance, and patrons were handed shopping bags at the door to fill with gifts and decor.

advance tickets to Filoli's Holiday Traditions, please know that it is absolutely NOT what it once was," Pippi B. wrote.

At least one reviewer said she had asked for and received a refund from her credit card company for her admission tickets.

On Nov. 26, Cathy C. from Los Gatos wrote on Yelp: "Coming to Filoli for their holiday celebration has been a tradition in my family for over 20 years and it was always wonderful until this year."

"The house was cold and empty. If I had known it would be like this, I would never had come," she wrote. "Filoli is too magical a place to be wasted like this!"

New format a hit?

Ms. Newport said, however, that the new format was a hit, drawing 24,217 guests during the 30 days it was open. She said 78 percent of guests had not previously been to Filoli during the holidays, and the number was far above the

10,618 who attended during the nine days of the 2016 Holiday Traditions.

"While certainly some people missed the old format, we had many, many more supporters of this new program which openly welcomed families and allowed visitors to see the beautiful gardens," she said. "Plans for next year are already underway with even more entertainment, expanded garden lights and more evening hours and new themes throughout the house," she said.

"Retail's changing," Ms. Newport said. "We were lucky we were doing as well as it was."

The Yelp reviews were not all negative. Julie M. from San Francisco wrote on Nov. 27 that she and family had made two trips this year to Holidays at Filoli and "absolutely loved our experience." She said they enjoyed the "kid-friendly activities like craft tables, Santa photos, and even ponies in the front of the mansion! Serious cuteness overload. We also got to stroll the gardens which, in past years,

we were never able to do."

"Instead of a claustrophobic, over-the-top shopping experience (why on earth would you turn a historic house into Macy's on crack!?), they have presented the house the way the families who lived here would have had it which makes complete sense if you ask me!" Julie M. wrote.

"I can't wait to make this a new post-Thanksgiving tradition for my family each year," she wrote.

While the number of visitors was up from the number of those attending the much shorter Holiday Traditions event, it was far short of Filoli's goal. According to the Holidays at Filoli training manual provided to volunteers, the goal was 35,000 visitors — 11,000 more than the number who attended. The manual said it was possible that 50,000 people could attend in 2017, and that there is capacity for 75,000 visitors using the timed admission scheme.

Even the members-only evening event, with prices slashed,



Photo by Michelle Le

Filoli's historic ballroom set up for Holidays at Filoli in 2017 empty of the merchandise of past seasons. Some attendees complained they had been tricked into buying tickets for an event completely different from those they had attended in the past.

did not sell all available tickets.

Average daily attendance was 807 for this year's Holidays at Filoli, whereas at the nine-day Holiday Traditions in 2016, with shorter operating hours, the average daily attendance was 1,180.

The revenue goal for this year's event was \$838,000, but on Jan. 4 Ms. Newport said Filoli still hadn't figured out how much money it had made.

While the changes in Holiday Traditions received much attention, so did some of the other changes that have taken place.

Filoli Unlocked

After closing for two weeks, Filoli reopened on Jan. 7 for its first-ever open winter season, with the theme of "Filoli

Unlocked." Opening day was reserved for members only, with a show of black-and-white photos featuring images of gates, keys, doors and historic architecture at the estate, plus an evening of opera from First Street Opera in the ballroom.

Filoli is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. In January members can bring one guest at no cost each visit. Special tours, which cost an additional \$10 each, will look closely at the garden's camellias (Thursdays and Sundays at 11 a.m.), Filoli's architecture (Friday at 11 a.m.), garden objects (Saturday at 11 a.m.) and the greenhouse (Sunday at 2 p.m.)

Coming next: More on the effects of Filoli's changes on its volunteers ▣



Photo by Natalia Nazarova/The Almanac

Singers from First Street Opera perform for guests at the "Filoli Unlocked" celebration.

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FILOLI LAWSUIT

continued from page 5

Employees of the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board said they did not have records of any appeal of benefits awarded to Gina Rossi, the fourth former employee in the lawsuit.

Many current and former Filoli volunteers and employees were eager to talk about the events that led to the departures of the four women and other changes that have taken place at Filoli in the time since Ms. Newport was hired, although most asked to speak anonymously.

Through their attorney, the four women who filed the lawsuit declined to be interviewed by the Almanac.

On Dec. 12, Filoli was provided a synopsis of this story and the quotes used in it, and given a chance to comment. Ms. Newport responded in an emailed statement that Filoli does not comment on personnel matters. She added: "We currently have a very positive, passionate, creative and supportive team of staff that are working hand-in-hand with me, in partnership with volunteers and with the full support of the Board of Directors and National Trust for Historic Preservation."

Carolyn Daley, the president of



Photo by Natalia Nazarova/The Almanac

Carolyn Daley, the president of Filoli's governing board, says the board is supportive and excited about the changes at Filoli under Kara Newport's leadership. Here she's helping to celebrate the start of Filoli's first-ever open winter season on Jan. 7.

Filoli's governing board, said the board "is not only supportive, but excited about the changes that

have evolved as a result of Kara Newport's leadership over the past year."

See the complete text of the two women's comments at AlmanacNews.com.

Linda Fujimoto and Holiday Traditions

Linda Fujimoto was 66 and had worked at Filoli for more than 10 years when she was asked to leave in November 2016, three days into the nine-day Holiday Traditions event that she oversaw. She had announced that she planned to retire less than two months later, on Jan. 6.

According to the appeals hearing records, Ms. Fujimoto was called in by Ms. Newport on Nov. 28, and questioned about an emailed letter a volunteer had sent to board members the night before. Ms. Fujimoto was listed as having been copied on the email.

The email, entered as evidence in the hearing, said in part: "Did the board really authorize Kara to dismantle the signature Filoli events, discourage and divide the staff, and again disrupt the volunteers like what happened with the volunteer agreement flap?"

The letter said Holiday Traditions sales "have exceeded last year's numbers, but have not met Kara's goals despite the fact that all three days have been sold out."

"There is nothing more we can control to meet Kara's uninformed goals. Yet the staff are very concerned about what may

happen to Filoli, to our reputation in the community and to overall morale..." the email said.

"Staff have taken a lot of abuse," the email said, prompting the email and a request that Holiday Traditions "be allowed to finish as planned without further meddling by an inexperienced-with-the-ways-of-Filoli ED (executive director)."

"I didn't know anything about the letter," Ms. Fujimoto told the administrative law judge. Ms. Fujimoto said Ms. Newport "was mad that I did not come to her with this letter," but that she had been so busy she had not seen it.

"She said, 'Get off the property.' Gave me 10 minutes to get off the property," Ms. Fujimoto said. "I said, 'Are you firing me?' She said, 'I want you off the property.'"

Lisa Thompson, Filoli's human resources director, told a slightly different story to the judge. "Linda said, 'Would you like for me to go?'" Ms. Thompson said. "And Kara said, 'That would probably be best for right now for that to happen. You can go on ahead and head on out,'" Ms. Thompson said.

Ms. Thompson testified there were no written reprimands in Ms. Fujimoto's personnel files and there had been no warning she might be fired.

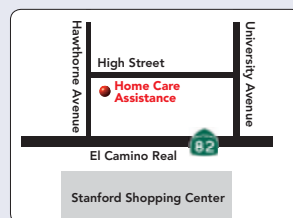
"I'd been there 10 years, had

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Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Kara Newport said that while Filoli does not comment on personnel matters, she has the full support of her board and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which owns Filoli.

an impeccable record, everyone loved me. When (Kara Newport) arrived, it was just a different game," Ms. Fujimoto testified.

She also testified that during the first three days of the 2016 Holiday Traditions, which was Filoli's biggest fundraiser of the year, sales had been between \$220,000 and \$240,000 each day, far above the \$180,000 to \$190,000 in daily sales of the previous year.

Someone who formerly worked with Ms. Fujimoto (and who asked not to reveal her name) said Ms. Fujimoto made the Holiday Traditions event, which had gone on for 29 years, into something "heart-stopping."

"She was so easy to work with," the woman said. Each year, as the house filled with volunteers opening boxes of merchandise and decorating trees, Ms. Fujimoto's "name was being called out from every room," the woman said. "The more chaos around her, the calmer she was," she said. "Linda (Fujimoto) went beyond," she said. "They had a gem in her as a worker."

The woman said after Ms. Fujimoto was told to leave, some of the workers called and asked her: "What do we do? Do we walk out of this place?" Ms. Fujimoto told them to "stay and make it the best Christmas ever," the former co-worker said.

'She would flip'

At an appeal hearing, Ms. Fujimoto testified that she was subjected to "bullying and the hostile environment and discrimination by Kara (Newport)."

"She hated me," Ms. Fujimoto said. "Anything I did, she would question it."

"She'd bully you, she'd harass you," she said.

She added: "She gets out of control. She had a temper like you can't believe. She would flip."

"I'm afraid of her, I really am," Ms. Fujimoto said.

Ms. Thompson, however, testified that she had "not experienced the words that were used

to describe Kara."

"I have never heard Kara raise her voice. She is direct. She is confident. She knows her business," she said. "She asks a lot of questions about everyone," Ms. Thompson said.

Ms. Thompson also said she has not been subject to age discrimination. "I'm 64 years old and I felt that I've been treated appropriately," she said.

The administrative law judge ruled that Ms. Fujimoto had "a reasonable, good faith and honest fear of harm to (her) health and safety from the work environment and conditions of employment" and should receive unemployment compensation.

Employees in tears

Volunteers say they have seen several employees in tears. A current employee, who asked that her name not be used because she wants to keep her job, said most Filoli employees are now very careful of what they say and whom they speak with. "Staff no longer has the extra pep in its step," she said. "We're just afraid to comment one way or another."

Ms. Newport "tends to reprimand volunteers and staff in front of people," she said.

Dream jobs are turning into nightmares, she said. "Everybody feels the same way. It's become more of a job, that you almost get up in the morning and dread coming to," she said.

"I think changes need to be made," the employee said. "They need to make money."

"It is a business, we understand it," she said.

However, she said, "I think the spirit and the heart of the (Bourn and Roth) families are being overlooked."

Donna Kenison

Donna Kenison was 57 and manager of volunteer and member services when she left the job she had held since 2008, barely a month into Ms. Newport's tenure.

"I was really looking forward to working with the new executive director and I had no intention of quitting," Ms. Kenison testified.

"In the three short weeks in which I worked with the new Executive Director, I was called into her office numerous times to be reprimanded," a memo from her personnel files entered as evidence says. "I was accused of doing and saying things I did not do nor say," she wrote.

"When I attempted to explain myself I was told I was making excuses."

"I was so defeated and discouraged that I went out on medical leave. Toward the end of my leave, I realized that I could not jeopardize my mental and emotional health by returning to this hostile work environment.

"I was being forced out with unreasonable treatment and I could not endure the mistreatment any longer."

She wrote: "I believe I have a boss who will never be satisfied with my job performance. My efforts are minimized and deemed unsatisfactory. I am not respected. I feel the harassment

'The claimant was not able to return to work and resigned from her position due to mental and emotional stress.'

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

and workplace bullying I have been experiencing will continue. I cannot endure more of this abusive treatment under Kara Newport.

"All of this has taken a toll on me. I am tired and beaten up."

However, Ms. Newport told the administrative hearing judge, "at no time did (Ms. Kenison) express to us that she had mental anguish about the way in which she was being treated."

Ms. Newport did admit, however, that Ms. Kenison had, at least once, left a meeting with her in tears.

"It was our goal to have ... all employees be as effective as possible," she said.

The administrative law judge twice ruled that Ms. Kenison should receive benefits. "The claimant was not able to return to work and resigned from her position due to mental and emotional stress," the administrative law judge said.

"The claimant voluntarily quit the most recent work with good cause," she wrote.

Alyssa Gillooley, administrative assistant

Alyssa Gillooley, who had worked at Filoli for only three years but had served two executive directors and two interim directors, lasted only about two months after Kara Newport took over.

Her original unemployment benefit award said: "The department finds the reasons for the discharge do not meet the definition of misconduct connected with the work."

Like Ms. Fujimoto, Ms. Gillooley, who was 55 at the time, was put on administrative leave. Ms. Thompson testified that "it was a decision that was made by Ms. Newport."

"There were communication disconnects," Ms. Thompson said.

Ms. Gillooley testified that she had never been fired from a job before. Before coming to Filoli, she had worked for the Peninsula Bible Church in Palo Alto for 17 years, according to her LinkedIn

page. She taught Sunday school and volunteered for a nonprofit that raised funds to build schools in Africa.

"The first four or five weeks, (Kara Newport) treated me really well," she testified. "And then something changed ... She wanted me out of there." The Monday after she was fired, Ms. Gillooley said, there was someone else in her job.

"I tried to work with Kara," she testified. "I said what can I do, how can I improve?"

"She tried to be intimidating, and she was," she said about Ms. Newport.

A memo written by Ms. Gillooley entered as evidence in the appeals hearing said that when Ms. Newport first came to Filoli, "she told me she wanted a lock on her door because she likes to lock employees out. At her old job she would lock the door and hide from her employees. She was serious," the memo says.

"I found that Kara would forget and she was very unorganized," she wrote. "She forgets things and then blames me for not providing her with what she needs."

Similar criticism

The memos from Ms. Newport found in Ms. Kenison's and Ms. Gillooley's files are remarkably similar. "There can be a harshness to your words and tone," she wrote in a memo to Ms. Kenison. She told Ms. Gillooley, "upon occasion your tone and manner in which you approach situations can be punitive, scolding and overall negative."

Ms. Gillooley asked Ms. Newport to help her try to work on that. She wrote that she had asked her boss: "From now on

when you think my tone is bad, can you call me on it?"

"Her response to me was cold and curt. 'Not my job to do that.'"

Ms. Newport also told Ms. Gillooley, in two separate memos: "Not everyone needs to know everything."

To Ms. Kenison she wrote: "You need to become far more comfortable with not being in the 'know' on everything."

Too many directors

Many volunteers and employees expressed their frustration with the fact that Filoli has had five executive directors and two interim executives since 2005, when Anne Taylor retired after leading the organization for 16 years. Susanne Pandich lasted only one year, followed by Jane Risser, who lasted six years. Bob Walker then served as interim executive director before Cynthia D'Agosta was hired and served three years. Before Ms. Newport was hired, Norm Robinson served as interim director.

"When she first came, we were all so excited to meet this smiling young woman," the current employee said of Ms. Newport.

"We've been very patient," she said, adding that Filoli has been in need of good leadership from an executive director for a long time. "The last ones don't seem to be truly what we need," the employee said. ▀

About the cover: Filoli volunteers greet visitors to the opening celebration for the winter season's "Filoli Unlocked," an evening with the First Street Opera in Filoli's ballroom. (Photo by Natalia Nazarova/The Almanac)



NOTICE INVITING BIDS TOWN OF ATHERTON, CA

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Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for **2018 SLURRY SEAL PROJECT**", along with date and time of bid opening.

Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Submitting items for the Calendar

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

Theater

The Laramie Project The Palo Alto Players present the story of a young teen who was brutally murdered in 1998. Jan. 19-Feb. 4, 8 p.m. \$22-\$46. Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

TheaterWorks Presents 'Our Great Tchaikovsky' In "Our Great Tchaikovsky," written and performed by Hershey Felder, composer Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky springs to life in a tale that explores both current Russian politics and historical context. Jan. 10-Feb. 11. Show times vary. \$45-\$105, with discounts for educators,

seniors, under 35. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatreworks.org/

Concerts

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center: Brahms and Dvorak This program juxtaposes two giants of Romanticism: Antonin Dvorak and Johannes Brahms, whose Slavonic and Hungarian dances feature alongside trio and quintet chamber works. Jan. 19, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$20-\$52; discounts for under-30s. The Center for Performing Arts, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. musicatmenlo.org/

Robert Huw Morgan Organ Recital Robert Huw Morgan will be performing Organ Mass by Nicolas de Grigny (1672-1703) at Memorial Church. Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu.

Slavic Winterfest by the Slavyanka Russian Chorus & Iskra Etno The Slavyanka Russian Chorus presents Slavic Winterfest, a concert of Orthodox Christmas hymns, carols and folk songs celebrating winter. The chorus will be joined by Iskra Etno, a Serbian group who will sing about Slavic winter songs and Serbian Christmas. Jan. 21, 4-6 p.m. \$20; discounts for students and children. St. Bede's Episcopal

Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. Search brownpapertickets.com for more info.

Voices of Music: An Evening in Paris This concert will feature music by Couperin, Marais and Telemann with Carla Moore, Hanneke van Proosdij, Elisabeth Reed, William Skeen, Derek Tam and David Tayler. Jan. 19, 8 p.m. \$5-\$45. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. voicesofmusic.org/Concerts.html

Music

Intersections: Recent Works to Date by Pope.L A display of work by Pope.L, a visual artist and educator whose multidisciplinary

practice uses binaries, contraries and pre-conceived notions embedded within contemporary culture to create art works in various formats. Jan. 18, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. Oshman Hall, 355 Roth Way, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

St. Louis Symphony The St. Louis Symphony, the second-oldest orchestra in the nation, will perform selections from Thomas Ades' Dances from the opera "Powder Her Face," Benjamin Britten's Violin Concerto with Grammy-winning violinist Augustin Hadelich, and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 1. Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$100. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Search facebook.com/events/ for more info.

Talks & Lectures

Author Cara Black The Menlo Park Library will host an author event with Cara Black, New York Times bestselling writer of the private investigator Aimee Leduc series. Jan. 17, 7 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org/

Book Launch with Michelle Oberman Scholar Michelle Oberman, a law professor at Santa Clara University, will launch her new book "Her Body, Our Laws: On the Front Lines of the Abortion War, From El Salvador to Oklahoma." Jan. 17, 7-9 p.m. Free. Books Inc. 855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. booksinc.net/event/

Film Series: Classics of Soviet Cinema, 1927 - 1938 The event will feature a film screening of "The Fall of the Romanov Dynasty" and include a Q&A with the audience after the screening. Jan. 25, 6 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center auditorium, Stanford University, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. events.stanford.edu

Matthew Zapruder and Louise Glück Two of America's prominent poets, Matthew Zapruder and Louise Glück, will discuss why poetry matters. Zapruder's work has appeared everywhere from The New Yorker to The Paris Review, while Glück has won a Pulitzer Prize. Jan. 17, 7:30-9 p.m. \$50, with book; \$25, general admission; \$15, students. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Family

Maker Lab: Cardboard Construction Children ages 6 and older can work on a creative project with specially designed tools and cardboard. Jan. 17, 3-4 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside.

Woodland School Open House Parents will hear about curriculum, mission and school culture of the Woodland School, followed by a Q&A session. Applying students from kindergarten through eighth grade will have the opportunity to participate in a group design challenge with other applicants of similar age. Jan. 20, 10 a.m.-noon. Woodland School, 360 La Cuesta Drive, Portola Valley. woodland-school.org/openhouse

Film

Movie Matinee An after-school matinee for children of "Smurfs: The Lost Village," a PG-rated, 89-minute film. Snacks provided. Jan. 18, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside.

Lessons & Classes

Paint Like Henri Matisse Students will learn how to paint in the style of Post-Expressionist artist Henri Matisse. Supplies provided; registration is required. Jan. 19, 1-3 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside.

Health & Wellness

Youth Mental Health First Aid Class SafeSpace is offering youth mental health first aid classes. This one-day, eight-hour course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development and teaches a five-step action plan on how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Jan. 20, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. \$20. SafeSpace Community Engagement Center, 708 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Outdoor Recreation

Hike with the Friends Participants will explore the lower part of Huddart Park for five miles on a hike while learning about the park's history. Jan. 17, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Huddart County Park, 1100 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside. huddartwunderlichfriends.org/events/



West Bay Sanitary District Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the District Board of the West Bay Sanitary District will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday evening, January 24, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Room located at 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park.

The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to consider Silicon Valley Clean Water CIP Bond Issuance of \$35,000,000 Allocable to West Bay Sanitary District.

The need for this bond issuance was discussed by the District Board at the December 13, 2017 Board meeting.

Silicon Valley Clean Water (SVCW) is proceeding with a Bond issuance, in February 2018, of approximately \$150,000,000 for their Capital Improvement Program (CIP) in particular the replacement of the Conveyance System delivering wastewater from the member agencies to the SVCW treatment Facility.

West Bay Sanitary District will be obligated for debt service on \$35,000,000 and as the governing body authorizing this obligation on behalf of the District, must comply with Senate Bill 450 (Chapter 625, Statutes of 2017) requiring California local agencies, including special districts, to disclose the full cost of using bond financing prior to approving the issuance of the bonds.

REQUIRED GOOD FAITH ESTIMATES PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 5852.1

1. True Interest Cost of the Bonds: 3.24%.
2. Finance charge for the portion of the Bonds which is allocable to the District, being the sum of all fees and charges paid to third parties (Costs of Issuance of approximately \$98,803 plus estimated underwriter's compensation and bond insurance assuming bond insurance is obtained): 8
3. Amount of proceeds of the Bonds expected to be received by the Authority which is allocable to the District, net of proceeds for Costs of Issuance in (2) above and net of capitalized interest (if any) and reserves (if any) paid or funded with the proceeds of the Bonds: \$35,328,026.
4. Total payment amount for the portion of the Bonds which is allocable to the District, being the sum of (a) debt service to be paid on the Bonds to final maturity, plus (b) any financing costs not paid from proceeds of the Bonds: \$55,862,856.

At this hearing, the Board of Directors will consider public comment. If you would like additional information, please call the District at 650-321-0384.

West Bay Sanitary District /s/Phil Scott
Board of Directors District Manager
San Mateo County, California
Dated: January 10, 2018

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NOTICE INVITING BIDS TOWN OF ATHERTON, CA

The Town of Atherton will accept bids for construction of the following public work:

2018 SPRING PATCHING PROJECT

Grind and replace approximately 20,000 square feet of asphalt to a six-inch depth. This work to include all necessary traffic control and will involve grinding, sweeping, tack coating, replacing asphalt to appropriate depth in an appropriate number of lifts and finish rolling per Town of Atherton Standard specifications and special provisions. Some hand work around utility access hole covers will be necessary (special provision #107).

Plans & Specifications may be obtained at <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/bids.aspx> at no cost. The Contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the Town's website.

SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027, **until 2:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on Thursday, February 8, 2018**, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for **2018 SPRING PATCHING PROJECT**", along with date and time of bid opening.

Caltrain's electrification plans 'a disaster'

By Michael Brady

I have been an attorney for 50 years here on the Peninsula and have spent 10 of those years working, at no charge, in fighting statewide high-speed rail (HSR) and the expansion of HSR to the Peninsula. I think I know a lot about the issues and the dire adverse effects faced by the Peninsula if this comes to pass — including Caltrain electrification.

This is a game being played by Caltrain. Electrifying the corridor from San Francisco to San Jose will get you to San Francisco a few minutes faster than a *modern* Tier 4 diesel system (yes, new diesel, not the old-fashioned one we now have).

And did you know these facts?

■ Already Caltrain's electrification program has gone from \$800 million in cost to nearly \$3 billion!

■ Modern Tier 4 diesel will not require condemnation of property or the removal of thousands of trees and other vegetation.

■ Modern diesel will not involve ugly, 45-foot catenary towers and wires making the Peninsula look like an ugly, denuded (no vegetation), industrialized slum, devoid of the beauty it now possesses.



Michael Brady is a longtime Menlo Park resident. He practices law in Redwood City.

GUEST OPINION

■ Modern Tier 4 diesel could be implemented immediately, whereas electrification will take many years of disruption and construction headaches.

■ Modern Tier 4 diesel would cost 20 percent of what Caltrain says electrification will cost.

Do the voters on the Peninsula realize that Caltrain, vastly overstretched and poorly managed, is about to go on a big campaign to enact a permanent tax imposed on all of us to finance its ill-conceived plans for HSR and Caltrain electrification, when modern Tier 4 diesel would make that unnecessary?

Caltrain has waged a 15-year campaign to completely suppress all discussions of the modern diesel alternative, pretending that electrification is the only way to go; and no wonder, since its little partner, the California High-Speed Rail Authority, is telling Caltrain to do exactly that and is giving it

hundreds of millions of dollars to do HSR's bidding.

The plans for Caltrain electrification are a disaster, indicative of the wholly incompetent management of Caltrain. Caltrain seeks to develop a "signaling" system that will automatically raise the crossing gates as an electric train approaches the intersection. And who have the geniuses at Caltrain hired to do this? A company called Balfour-Beatty, which has been working on a signaling system in Denver for an electrical train system with 15 intersections. The company has been working on that system for almost two years, and concedes that it will not work (state and federal regulators agree) and, as a result, in Denver they have had to have individual flag-persons working 24:7 to make the trains work and avoid collisions (back to 19th century technology!). Knowing this, Caltrain hires Balfour anyway! What a scandal.

HSR is planned to come up the Peninsula. The number of trains crossing 52 intersections (going northbound and southbound) will be 20 per hour. The crossing guards will have to come down every three minutes! Right now, they come down every six minutes at most. Three minutes will paralyze the

Peninsula (almost all intersections are at grade), inhibiting getting to and from work, school, shopping, and to the hospital, and adding to the intolerable gridlock that now exists in the lower Peninsula, from San Carlos to Mountain View.

And there is even a third disaster. To avoid collisions between trains, Caltrain for more than six years has spent tens of millions of dollars on a system called CBOSS, or positive train control (PTC). Caltrain recently fired the contractor on that project because it could not make the system work, and now must start over from scratch. How encouraging for the future. Great management, Caltrain!

Peninsula residents have no clue as to the financial and aesthetic disasters awaiting them. Is getting to the Museum of Modern Art four minutes faster on an electric train worth all this? Could the billions for electric trains, versus a system costing 25 percent as much (modern Tier 4 diesel), be used for more high-priority projects? Of course. But there is no discussion of these matters as we tear down the course of permanent and irretrievable destruction.

Wake up, Peninsula residents! Do something before it is too late.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Why should new library bump identified priorities?

Editor

Sure a new library would be great. So would a lot of things. That's why the council holds sessions each year to establish The List. When it's deserving enough for at least three council votes, it goes in the 180-page Capital Improvement Projects list, or CIP.

There are six categories (not counting the self-funded water department), with a CIP budget of \$5.475 million. The two largest categories are streets and sidewalks at \$2.2 million and parks and recreation at \$1.565 million; third on the list is city buildings (including the library) at \$785,000.

Upon seeing a \$30 million gift dangled in front of them if they prioritize a whole new downtown library building (the city has to pay the first \$20 million plus "soft costs"), the council

jumped — and in effect decided to pay for it by borrowing \$25 million to \$30 million. At a cost of up to \$3 million in payments per year for 30 years.

So if we repair and maintain no more streets or sidewalks for 30 years, we only need to cut another \$800,000 from the previous priorities.

If the council can't make the hard choices of what is most needed, something is very wrong in Menlo Park.

Henry Riggs
Callie Lane, Menlo Park

Applause for M-A senior's guest opinion

Editor:

Brava to Menlo-Atherton senior Beatrix Geaghan-Breiner for her guest opinion in the Jan. 3 Almanac. Her article makes crystal clear the reasons Menlo Park should reject the idea of hiring conservative lobbying firm Mercury Public Affairs to represent our city in Washington, D.C.

Not having done my homework on this issue, I opined

that it was a poor idea to spend money on lobbying, but had no idea that the group being considered stands against the general interests of our more inclusive citizenry. What were Mayor Keith and the City Council members thinking?!

When she finishes her education, Ms. Geaghan-Breiner should consider running for public office. Perhaps she will represent us one day in the nation's capital.

Nancy Barnby
Spruce Avenue, Menlo Park

Lowering roadways for tracks could cause flooding

Editor:

For Caltrain grade separations, Menlo Park is considering lowering the roadways at Ravenswood, Oak Grove, and Glenwood avenues. Among other issues — disruption during construction, complex traffic patterns, etc. — to do so would add the ongoing and permanent problem of water pumps' operation and maintenance and potential flooding of

the roadways.

The Oregon Expressway underpass frequently floods, either because the rain is too much for the pumps to handle, or the pumps fail, as they did recently due to a power outage. Menlo Park should not introduce this problem where

the problem does not currently exist. Fully open elevated structures avoid lowering the roadways and avoid introducing this problem, among many other benefits.

Mike Forster
Palo Alto

What's on your mind?

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

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

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

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

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

The Almanac

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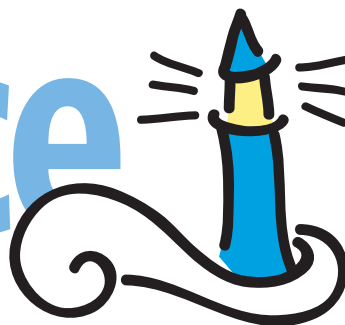
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Informatica LLC has the following position available in Redwood City, CA: **Product Manager** (VNA-CA): Define, develop and manage activities for key areas of the Informatica cloud IPaaS platform including cloud based elastic agent infrastructure, analytics, high availability, multi-tenancy and cloud organizations, APIs, etc. from product definition and planning through production, release, and end of life. Submit resume by mail to: Informatica LLC, Attn: Global Mobility, 2100 Seaport Blvd., Redwood City, CA 94063. Must reference job title and job code: VNA-CA.

IT/Software

Laserlike, Inc. has an opening in Mountain View, CA for a Software Engineer, Frontend (SWEF01) Developing mobile applications for iOS, Android etc. using Javascript and experience building user interface code interacting with backend APIs. Location: 888 Villa Street, Ste. 200, Mountain View, CA, 94041. Send resume including job code SWEF01 to jobs@laserlike.com to apply.

MobileIron/Senior Escalation Manager

Senior Escalation Manager (Job Code: SEM-AS): Liaison btwn Supp Engr/ Sustaining Engr/Dev Engr on Escalated Cstmr Supp cases. MS+2orBS+5. Mail resume to MobileIron, Attn: Piper Galt, 401 E. Middlefield Rd, Mt. View, CA 94043. Must ref title & code.

TECHNOLOGY

Hewlett Packard Enterprise is an industry leading technology company that enables customers to go further, faster. HPE is accepting resumes for the position of **Compensation and Benefits Advisor** in Palo Alto, CA (Ref. #HPECALMETD). Provide analytical support to help implement, administer and evaluate compensation strategies consistent with business and human resource strategies related to annual equity awards (options and restricted stock units), off-cycle equity awards, employee stock purchase plan, job architecture, base pay, and short-term incentives as necessary. Mail resume to Hewlett Packard Enterprise, 14231 Tandem Boulevard, Austin, TX 78728. Resume must include Ref. #, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

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751 General Contracting

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

BAY GENERAL CONTRACTOR
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 275767

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

Bay General Contractor, located at 308 Sheridan Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
HOANG CHIEU NGUYEN
308 Sheridan Drive
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 04/15/2008.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 29, 2017.

(ALM Dec. 27, 2017; Jan. 3, 10, 17, 2018)

File No. 276009

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: NRG Residential Solar Solutions, 804 Carnegie Center, Princeton, NJ 08540, County: Mercer

Registered Owner(s): NRG Residential Solar Solutions LLC, 804 Carnegie Center, Princeton, NJ 08540, DE This business is conducted by: a limited liability company.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 12/11/2012.

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

Signature of Registrant:
Kevin P. Malcarney
Print name of person signing. If corporation, also print corporate title of officer: Kevin P. Malcarney, Secretary This statement was filed with the County Clerk of SAN MATEO COUNTY on December 14, 2017.

Notice - In accordance with subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the Office of the County Clerk. Except, as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

New Filing
MARK CHURCH, COUNTY CLERK
SAN MATEO COUNTY
BY: XIMENA CASTILLO,
Deputy Clerk
CN944113 10723937 SQ Dec 27, 2017,
Jan 3,10,17, 2018

EL DORADO TOWING SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 276122

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

El Dorado Towing Services, located at 429 Macarthur Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
EMILIO PRIETO GOMEZ
6295 Escallonia Dr.
Newark, CA 94560

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/08/17.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 27, 2017.

(ALM Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2018)

MGB MOBILE CAR WASH AND HOUSE CLEANING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 276167

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

MGB Mobile Car Wash and House Cleaning, located at 1169 Willow Rd. Apt. #3, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
MIRIAM GAMBOA CAMPOS
1169 Willow Rd., Apt. #3
Menlo Park, CA 94025

GEORGINA BARRERA
1169 Willow Rd., Apt. #3
Menlo Park, CA 94025

This business is conducted by: Married Couple.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1-21-18.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 2, 2018.

(ALM Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2018)

CASTELLON DRYWALL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 276190

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Castellon Drywall, located at 157 Arch St. Apt. #304, Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
DANIEL CASTELLON GARCIA
157 Arch St. Apt. #304
Redwood City, CA 94062

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11-12-17.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 3, 2018.

(ALM Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2018)

A & G LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 276200

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

A & G Landscape Construction, located at 72 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County; Mailing address: P.O. Box 620303, Woodside, CA 94062.

Registered owner(s):
NOE GARCIA
7767 Thornton Ave.
Newark, CA 94560

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1-4-18.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 4, 2018.

(ALM Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2018)

EL DORADO TOWING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 276198

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

El Dorado Towing, located at 429 Macarthur Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
EMILIO PRIETO GOMEZ
6295 Escallonia Dr.
Newark CA 94560

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/08/17.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 4, 2018.

(ALM Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2018)

UNFORGETTABLE BAPTISM, BABY SHOWER & ACCESSORIES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 276062

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

UNFORGETTABLE Baptism, Baby Shower & Accessories, located at 3262 Middlefield Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
LUCIA PAREDES
625 Lakehaven Dr.
Sunnyvale, CA 94089

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/19/17.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 19, 2017.

(ALM Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2018)

ROY'S DRIVE-IN CLEANERS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 276178

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Roy's Drive-In Cleaners, located at 1100 El Camino Rl, Redwood City, CA 94063,

San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
GRACE J. CHUNG
4024 Fair Oaks 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 2002.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 3, 2018.

(ALM Jan. 17, 24, 31; Feb. 7, 2018)

BAY VIEW LANDSCAPING & GARDEN MAINTENANCE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 276235

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Bay View Landscaping & Garden Maintenance, located at 2730 Devonshire Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
BENITO AGUILAR CIBRIAN
2730 Devonshire Ave.
Redwood City, CA 94063

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03-02-2014.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 8, 2018.

(ALM Jan. 17, 24, 30; Feb. 7, 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.: 17CV05862

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: MEGAN STREICHER filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

JOHN SLOCUM NICHOLS to JOHN DAVID STREICHER- NICHOLS.

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: February 8, 2018, 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: Dec. 27, 2017
/s/ Susan Irene Etezadi
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2018)

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Ginny Kavanaugh 650.851.1961
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Erika Demma 650.851.2666
CalRE #01230766



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Erika Demma & Paula Russ 650.851.2666
CalRE #01230766/00612099



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Hossein Jalali 650.324.4456
CalRE #01215831



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Lyn Jason Cobb 650.324.4456
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Camille Eder 650.324.4456
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Ginny Kavanaugh 650.851.1961
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John Alexander 650.324.4456
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Charlotte Van Orden 650.324.4456
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