

The Almanac

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

JANUARY 24, 2018 | VOL. 53 NO. 21



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Feeling good

Carla Germano has inspired students young and old during 44 years of teaching yoga

Page 16



Park dedicated to Karl Clark | Page 19

Viewpoint | Page 23

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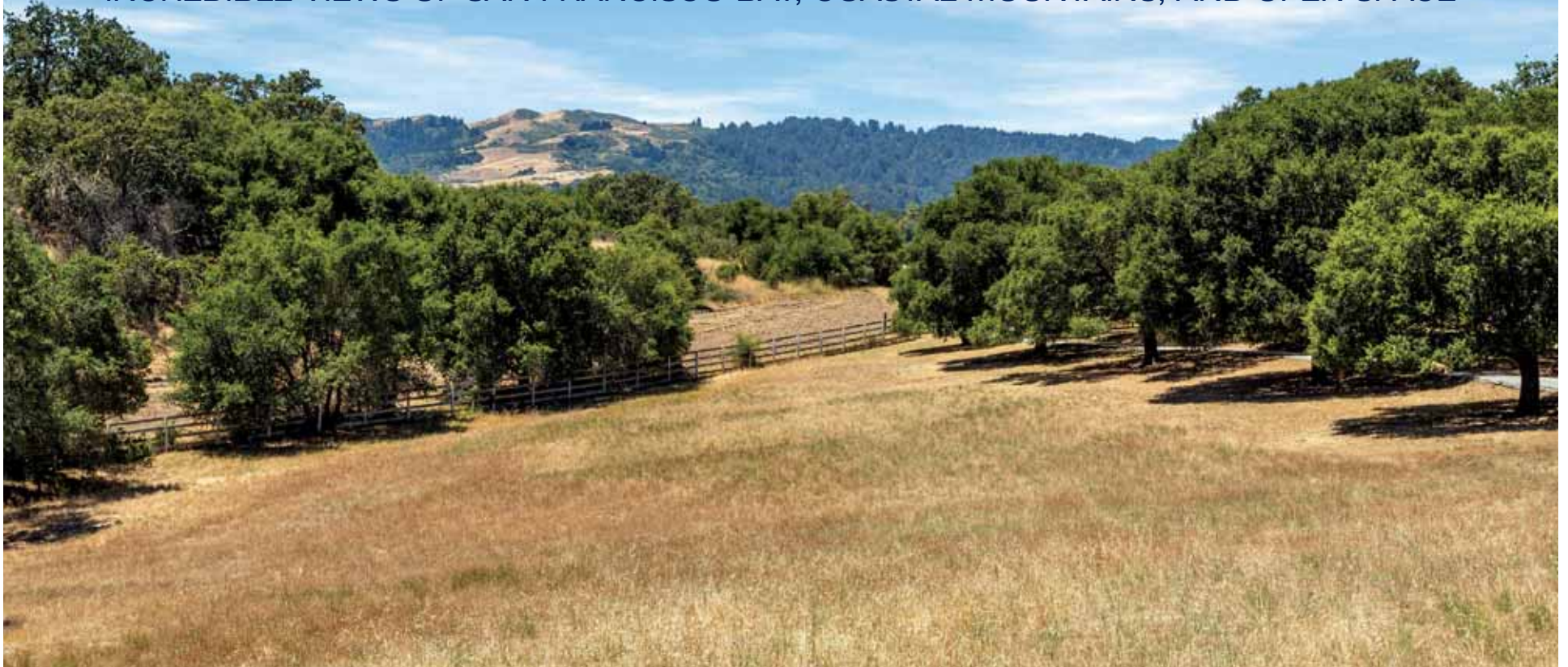
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RESOLUTION NO. 2078 (2017)

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

Lands of Choi

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

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

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

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

Date: February 14, 2018
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices
 500 Laurel Street
 Menlo Park, CA 94025

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

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

Exhibit A

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

EXHIBIT A
 ANNEXATION TO WEST BAY SANITATION DISTRICT
 LANDS OF ONO AND PORTIONS LYING WITHIN MEADOWOOD DRIVE
 TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY, SAN MATEO COUNTY EXHIBIT A PAGE 1 OF 2

Situates in Rancho Corte Madera, Town of Portola Valley, County of Santa Clara, State of California.

Being all of Parcel One of the lands of George Y. Choi and Michelle M. Ono, Trustees of the Choi Ono Horn Trust dated October 9, 1997, by Grant Deed dated July 22, 2015, and recorded July 27, 2015 as Document Number 2015-073546, San Mateo County Records, and

Being a portion of Meadowood Drive, as said road is shown and delineated on that certain Tract Map entitled, "Tract No. 738 Oak Hills," filed for record on August 9, 1954 in Book 45 of Recorded Subdivision Maps at Pages 40 through 43, San Mateo County Records and being more particularly bounded and described as follows to wit:

Beginning at the northern most corner of said Parcel Ono, said point also being the northern most corner of Lot 5 as shown and delineated on the aforementioned Tract Map.

Thence from said point of beginning along the northeastern boundary of Lot 5 and its southeasterly prolongation thereof (LINE 1) S 68°22'32" E 440.78 feet to a point in the southeastern line of Meadowood Drive; thence along the southeastern line of Meadowood Drive (LINE 2) S 29°11'18" W 371.04 feet to the point of intersection of said southeastern line of Meadowood Drive with the southeasterly prolongation of the southwestern boundary of said Lot 5; thence along said last mentioned boundary (LINE 3) N 44° 17'00" W 400.87 feet to the western most corner of Lot 5; thence along the northwestern boundary of Lot 5 (LINE 4) N 14° 22'09" E 205.82 feet to the point of beginning.

Attached hereto is a plat labeled "Exhibit B" and by this reference made a part hereof.

Compiled by Alpha Land Surveys, Inc. in July of 2017.

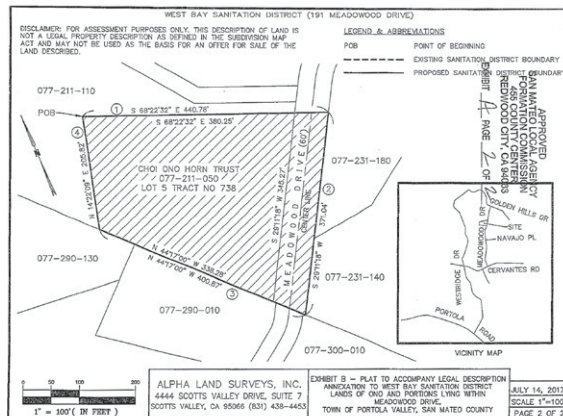
Containing 2.67 acres, more or less.

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

John-Paul Happee, PLS 8807

1 OF 2

Exhibit B



The first step in planning your weekend starts here



The weekly email with tips and insights about hot events and cool activities

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- Eating out
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Menlo Park survey finds new library a hard sell

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park's biennial "satisfaction survey" results, and results of a poll to gauge city interest in big-ticket projects, are in. Among the findings: People don't seem overly enthusiastic about a possible bond measure to build new libraries and are less satisfied with the quality of life in Menlo Park than they were two years ago.

The 22-minute two-tiered survey was conducted by the Godbe Research firm between Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, and polled 808 adults in Menlo Park. Data for the survey was collected via a range of methods, including by texting, emailing, landline phone and cellphone.

Library

Survey respondents generally favored improving the city's library system: about 76 percent of respondents said they supported the idea, with 14 percent opposed.

When some respondents were asked more specifically if they'd support a \$50 million, 30-year bond measure "to replace the aging Menlo Park and Belle Haven library system with 21st century libraries," 61 percent said they'd definitely or probably support it; such a measure would need a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

The hypothetical measure survey participants were asked about said the new libraries would meet earthquake and fire codes, with space for kids' books and story times, homework centers, computer workstations for software training, up-to-date

collections and resources, quiet reading areas and improved senior and disabled access.

The same question was posed to another subset of respondents asking if they'd support an increase in the city's utility users' tax to pay for the new libraries. About 53 percent said they'd definitely or probably support doing so.

Raising the utility users' tax requires only a simple majority of voter approval, so this may be a more promising route for the city to pursue funding for new libraries, a Godbe representative told the City Council last night (Jan. 16).

The researchers also experimented with different information the city might include on a ballot, asking residents whether different details would make them more or less inclined to favor the measure. Details about how a new main library might have two-thirds of its costs funded privately, for instance, or more information about features of an updated Belle Haven Branch Library, tended to be more

influential than details about there being more space at a new main library or other uses at a new library like housing and civic facilities.

At the time when the survey was

conducted in December, some residents said they felt that some of the questions were leading.

See **SURVEY**, page 6

Q1. Satisfaction With Overall Quality of Life in Menlo Park (Adults 18+)

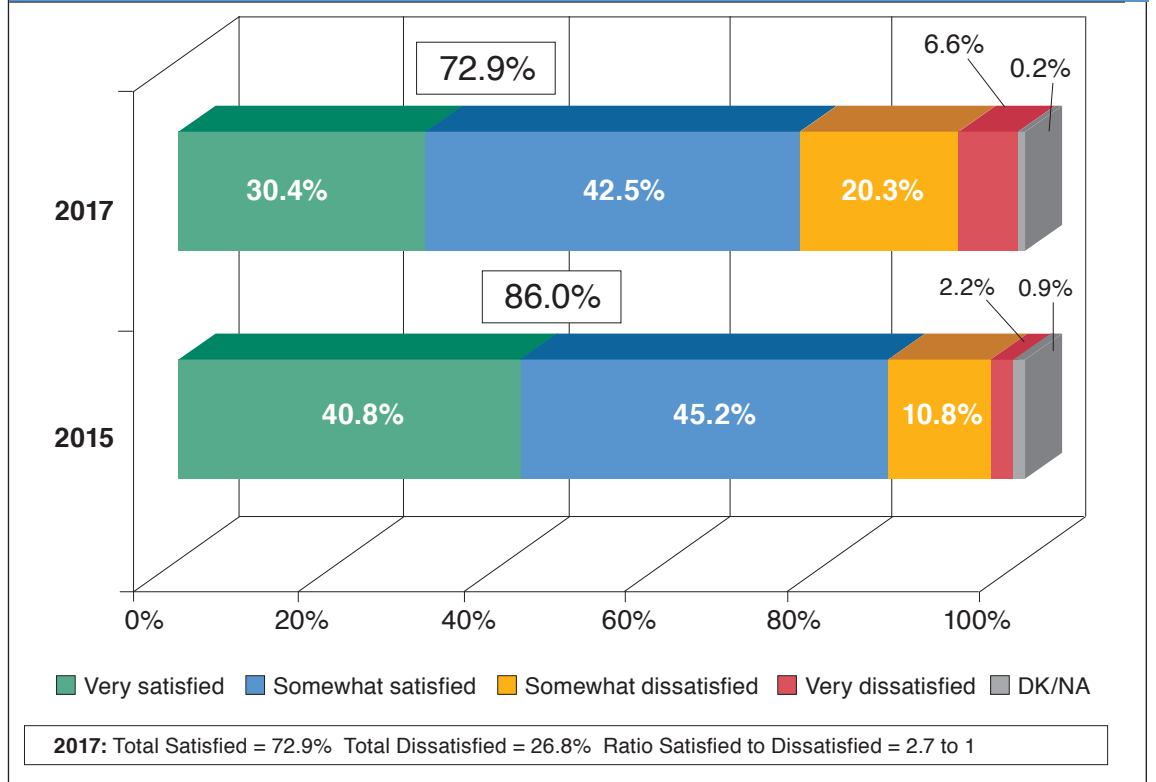


Image courtesy Godbe Research/city of Menlo Park.

According to the Godbe Research 2017 biennial Menlo Park satisfaction survey, satisfaction with the overall quality of life in the city is down from 2015.

Nine named to districting committee

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

The team tasked with splitting up Menlo Park into voting districts has been chosen.

With three members of Menlo Park's advisory districting committee randomly chosen earlier last week, six additional members were selected on Jan. 19; the committee's first meeting was scheduled for Jan. 22, after the Almanac went to press.

To ensure both diversity and impartiality on the committee, the first three randomly chosen members, Honor Huntington, Michael Hoff and Mark Heim, were tasked with selecting the six others. According to interim City Clerk Clay Curtin, the early committee members had an



Image courtesy city of Menlo Park

A map showing the geographic distribution of the members of Menlo Park's new advisory districting committee. Committee applicants are shown in red and the chosen applicants are in green.

See **COMMITTEE**, page 8

Atherton to begin billing residents for false alarms

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Among Atherton's many unique characteristics is that it allows its 7,000 residents to connect their burglar alarms directly to the town's police station, which monitors the alarms at the cost of only the one-time initial connection fee of \$61.

The police department also has the keys and gate codes for program participants, allowing quick responses when an alarm call comes in.

Police Chief Steve McCulley says he has no intention of dropping the program, which 80 percent of residences are signed up for, but he'd like to reduce the amount of time his officers spend responding to false alarms.

A report the chief prepared for

the Jan. 17 City Council meeting says that from January 2016 to November 2017 the police department received 4,599 alarm calls — all of them false. While the department was able to determine that about half the calls were false alarms without responding, checking out the others 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 \$136,000, he reported.

"It's very disruptive," he said. "I know we can do much better with our time."

The chief said that in the past year, 350 residents had more than one false alarm call, with one resident racking up 18 such calls.

"It's becoming an increasing

See **FALSE ALARMS**, page 19

Portola Valley: ‘Inappropriate contact’ with student under investigation

By **Barbara Wood**
Almanac Staff Writer

The San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office is investigating allegations by a former student at Corte Madera School in Portola Valley that a now-retired employee had “inappropriate contact” with her 10 years ago when she was in fourth or fifth grade, Superintendent Eric Hartwig said on Friday, Jan. 19.

The Sheriff’s Office confirmed there is an “open investigation of an allegation of a student who said she was touched by a staff member.”

Detective Salvador Zuno said the alleged incident is considered a sexual assault. “Inappropriate contact is the same as sexual assault” if it is unwanted, he said.

Mr. Hartwig said the Portola Valley School District was contacted on Jan. 8 by the parent of the former student. District administrators immediately met with the parent and the now 19-year-old college student, who told a story “which was quite disturbing,” Mr. Hartwig said.

The incident allegedly took place at Corte Madera and involved a male district employee, he said.

The employee was not a teacher and not someone who normally had contact with students; he retired from the school district several years ago, Mr. Hartwig said.

The allegations were reported to the Sheriff’s Office and “we are cooperating fully with their preliminary investigation,” the superintendent said.

He said the investigation is in “very preliminary stages,” and the district is waiting to hear more from the Sheriff’s Office.

“We can’t really come to any conclusions right now until we hear more facts,” he said. “We have no idea whether this was widespread or a single incident or not, and this is what we’re counting on the (sheriff’s investigators) to figure out.”

In a message emailed to the district’s current parents on Friday afternoon, Superintendent Hartwig said that “the school district is limited in what we can

discuss publicly about this investigation.” He said school leaders legally must protect the due process and confidentiality rights of everyone involved.

“Maintaining safe schools is our highest priority. We are working closely with law enforcement as they move forward with their investigation,” he wrote.

“We know that there is heightened sensitivity and awareness in our society regarding sexual misconduct and sexual harassment concerns. It is up to us as individuals and institutions to elevate the discussion of this serious subject and to take timely and appropriate actions whenever allegations of unprofessional or inappropriate conduct are raised, especially when they relate to children and schools,” Mr. Hartwig wrote.

The superintendent said part of the reason the district has gone public with the information while the investigation is still in a preliminary stage is because the Sheriff’s Office released a report

See **INVESTIGATION**, page 13

SURVEY

continued from page 5

Quality of life

One of the key findings of the study is that overall satisfaction with the quality of life in Menlo Park is down by a statistically significant margin: 73 percent of survey respondents are very or somewhat satisfied with the quality of life in Menlo Park in 2017, compared with 86 percent in 2015.

According to Charles Hester, director of business development for Godbe Research, the decline in overall quality of life isn’t unique to Menlo Park. In the firm’s work with other Bay Area cities such as San Rafael, Hayward, Los Altos and South San Francisco, it is seeing a decline in respondents’ reported quality of life, especially in cities with major regional transportation arteries where increasing traffic has become a part of daily life and housing costs continue to rise.

Also, satisfaction with the job the city is doing to provide services is down to 70 percent from 80 percent in 2015.

Satisfaction with various city services was down from 2015, but generally still positive,

according to survey results. The one area that showed improvement since 2015 was “opportunities to attend cultural activities or social events.”

Areas in which the city received comparatively high satisfaction marks were library facility and services, police services and park and recreation programs and events.

Parking structure?

The survey asked some respondents how they might feel about a downtown parking structure built at various height levels. Generally, a favorable response to the proposal increased the shorter the building.

About 50 percent supported a seven-story, multi-use parking structure; 60 percent supported a five-story, multi-use parking structure; and 75 percent supported a three-story, multi-use parking structure.

About 68 percent of residents also said they were able to find parking downtown in a “reasonable amount of time” either always or most of the time.

Go to is.gd/survey485 to access the survey results and questions. ■



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TISHMAN SPEYER

If new library is built, what's the best site?

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

If a new Menlo Park main library is going to be built, it should be on the library's current site. That seemed to be the informal consensus of attendees at a Jan. 17 meeting held to help pick the site of a proposed new main library at the civic center.

Two site options

Assistant Library Director Nick Szegda told the roughly 70 attendees that there are two possible sites for the proposed new library at the Civic Center campus: at its current location on Alma Street, or shifted closer to Laurel Street.

He and Chris Noll, architectural consultant from the firm Noll & Tam, also presented preliminary maps of how both sites could be configured to allow housing in addition to new council chambers, and possibly a new child care center.

According to a study completed by Noll & Tam last March, the expressed desires of residents in the community for more study and group-meeting areas at the library equate to new demands for about 12,000 new square feet of library space.

At both possible sites, the city could plan for underground parking and a new 4,000-square-foot "community hall" that might operate as new council chambers. Housing might be added at either site as an adjacent building with 30 to 40 affordable apartments up to four stories tall,

according to early staff maps.

If the Laurel Street site were used, and the city were to decide to add below-market-rate housing, the footprint of that new structure might require the current Menlo Children's Center to be demolished. A number of parents of children attending day care there who attended the meeting objected to that option.

Staff emphasized that if the city were to move forward with that option, there would be an interim day care site and a new facility built.

Under that scenario, the city would not have to establish a temporary library facility during construction; that option also would require more underground parking, and about 30 to 35 trees would have to be removed, according to staff.

If the Alma Street site were used, the child care center could stay in its current location, but the temporary library facility that would have to be installed during construction would cost an estimated \$1 million, and some 15 to 20 trees would have to be removed.

Other questions remain unanswered: environmental analyses have not yet been done to indicate what the impacts of each site option might be on local traffic patterns. And since the City Council hasn't yet picked a preferred option for how to separate Ravenswood Avenue from the Caltrain rails, it's not known how a grade separation might impact Alma Street access.

Study of the proposed project is on an expedited timeline because local philanthropist and developer John Arrillaga has offered to help fund the construction costs of a new library after the city spends the first \$20 million — plus "soft costs" of an unknown amount, currently projected to be about \$10 million — with an expectation that the city move forward as quickly as possible on the project.

But the funding offer doesn't extend to the costs for other possible uses at the library beyond the proposed multi-purpose "community hall"; those uncovered uses being discussed as possibilities include affordable housing and child care facilities, Mr. Szegda said. If the city wants to install affordable housing on the site, it's not known where funding would come from.

The funding question

Although questions in a 2017 survey by Godbe Research were calibrated to ascertain public opinion regarding a possible 2020 ballot measure to help generate funds for the new library, City Manager Alex McIntyre confirmed that the city would need to pass a revenue measure in 2018 in order to continue at full speed with the proposed, but not yet approved, library project.

The Godbe polling results indicate that there may not be enough support to pass a bond measure, which requires approval from two-thirds of voters.

Another option Godbe Research floated to survey respondents was the possibility of an increase in the utility users tax, which fared more favorably

with possible voters.

The goal of such a measure would be for the city to raise \$50 million from public sources (bond revenue or higher taxes), \$30 million of which would go to the main library and \$20 million of which would go toward the Belle Haven branch library, Mr. McIntyre said.

Plans aren't far along enough yet to know where or how big a Belle Haven library would be, though. The city is currently working with consultants on a study to determine what the needs of a Belle Haven library might be.

The city still needs to gather

more information and conduct more polling to see what residents think, Mr. McIntyre said.

The question of why a new library is needed was posed more than once during the meeting. When asked why people don't just use other group meeting rooms in the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Mr. Szegda said that those rooms are often booked months in advance, and are intended more for exercise groups or classes, rather than educational programs.

If and when the funding is secured and the project is

See **LIBRARY**, page 8

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Secondary Dwelling Units

Dear Monica: I have a detached guest house on our property and we would like to rent it to have some additional income. I am in a zone of single family homes and don't know whether a second unit would be allowed. Can you advise?
Charles B.

Dear Charles: It is probable that you will be able to convert your guest house to a secondary dwelling. Nearly two-thirds of California cities and counties allow secondary dwelling units, owing to a lack of affordable housing and other compelling reasons. And last year new laws took effect in California relaxing some of the previous requirements.

These ordinances allow homeowners to generate rental income, allow older owners to age in place by providing housing for care givers or family members, and a host of other uses. Many cities require that the owner must live in one of the units in order to rent out the secondary one. But some cities allow both units to be rented to third parties. There are rules for parking, for obtaining variances if the unit exceeds the allowable limits on size and setbacks, and many other items. Check with your city to determine what the specific rules in your neighborhood are for adding or converting space for this unit.

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Atherton council OKs up to \$175K to save five heritage oaks

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton's City Council has agreed to spend some of the limited pool of funds it has for a new civic center to try to save five large old oak trees from the chainsaw by tweaking the project's design and moving one tree.

Two of the trees, located near where Dinkelspiel Station Lane meets Maple Street, will be saved only if the redesign can make that intersection safer and easier to navigate.

Council members unanimously agreed at the Jan. 17 meeting to redesign the new police department's secured parking lot to save two oaks trees that were scheduled to be cut down because they are in the path of the lot's driveway. The redesign will cost \$69,000 and take up to nine weeks.

"These are both healthy, terrific trees," said council member Rick DeGolia. "I think we should make the change and save these trees."

Some council members, however, expressed dismay that they were making the last-minute changes to the civic center's plans.

"We knew these trees were here, and we knew the community values these trees," council member Bill Widmer said. "It's a shame that we're this far down the line" and making the changes, he said.

Council member Elizabeth Lewis said that even though she was on the Civic Center Advisory Committee, she and other members had not been

informed by the architect or landscape architect that such important trees were slated to be removed.

"We should have been notified long before," said Ms. Lewis. "I honestly believe that the town should not bear the entire burden of the redesign to save these trees," she said. She said the town staff should negotiate some cost-sharing with the architects, WRNS Studio.

The council was divided on the fate of two other trees in the path of a redesign of the intersection of Dinkelspiel Station Lane and Maple Street. Dinkelspiel Station Lane is now offset into two separate sections by a short section of Maple, requiring through traffic to make two sharp turns in close proximity. The plan was to remove the trees and change the street to replace the offset with more gentle curves.

The change is needed for safety, said nearby resident Alex Keh. "The offset is the reason why it's unsafe," he said, adding that the trees also limit visibility.

"I don't want to compromise a public safety concern," said Mayor Cary Wiest.

Council member Bill Widmer said those two trees aren't as valuable as some of the others the council was considering. "If they're heritage trees, they're barely heritage trees," he said. "I'd rather for safety's sake not bother with this."

But other council members said that if the town can save the trees while making the intersection safer than it now is, they want to do so.

The architects will work to shift the street enough to improve the Dinkelspiel/Walnut intersection and retain the trees. If that's not possible, the trees will go.

The fifth tree is a very large old oak that sits near the planned entry to the new library, close to another oak that is to be preserved, surrounded by the library's deck.

Cost to move the tree is estimated to be \$60,000 to \$75,000, with a 60 to 70 percent chance of survival, the staff report says.

Plans show the tree will move to the courtyard near the new council chamber and city hall building, where council member Rick DeGolia said it would be "a statement tree."

Council members said that before moving the tree they want to have an arborist make sure digging it up won't damage the oak tree that is to stay in place.

The cost of moving the tree will be charged to the library project.

The redesign costs and time estimates are greatly reduced from the architects' first estimates, and WRNS Studio's Pauline Souza said it's possible that the redesign could be done concurrent with the bidding process, which is still scheduled to begin in March, so it won't delay the project.

The council also heard that the cost estimates for the civic center construction have increased, but only because of a significant increase in the cost of the library's microgrid battery system, which would store energy from the library's solar array.

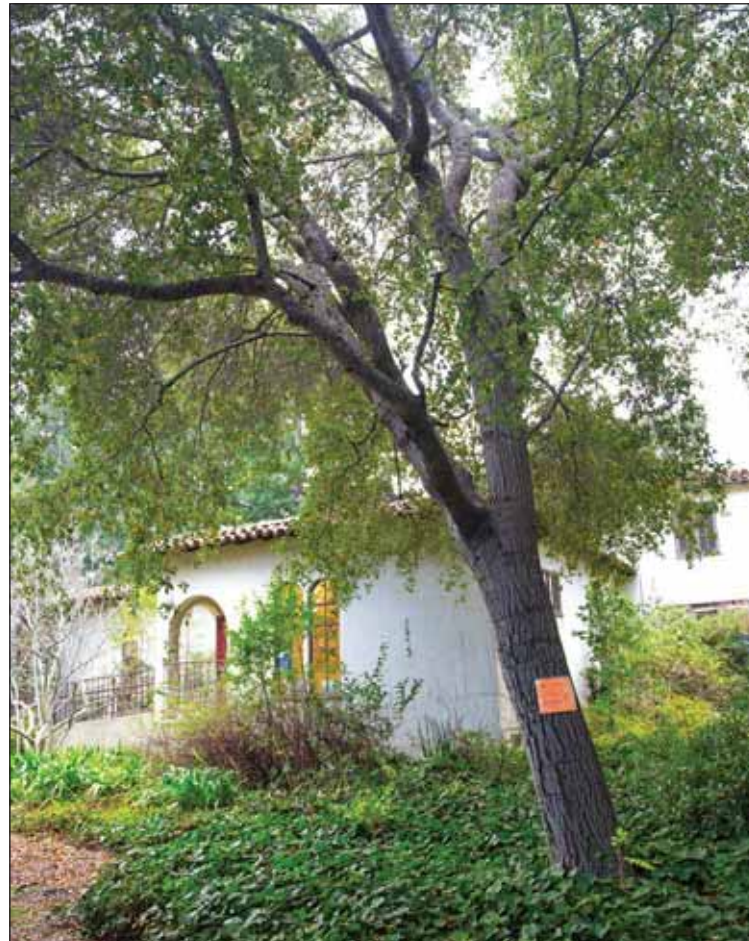


Photo by Michelle Le /The Almanac

The Atherton City Council has asked that this tree be transplanted if digging it up won't harm a nearby tree, when construction begins on the new civic center.

Paul Beamer of Mack5, which is managing the town's civic center project, said the cost of the microgrid battery system for the library had increased by \$4 million since the last estimate. However, he said, he believes that number will soon drop by \$2 million. Total construction cost for the library and civic center is now estimated at \$41.5 million,

up from \$38.7 million at last estimate.

However, the cost estimate for the city hall complex has actually decreased by about \$500,000 since the last estimate, Mr. Beamer said.

The library and the city hall complex are funded by two separate pots of money, with the funds much tighter for the city hall. ■

Two gunmen rob Woodside bank Saturday

Sheriff's Office investigators are working with the FBI as they seek the two people who, armed with handguns, robbed the Chase Bank at 2977 Woodside Road in Woodside at about 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, according to a bulletin from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

Details from the agency are sketchy; the bulletin says the two robbers were dressed in black clothes but doesn't identify their gender.

The news bulletin issued Saturday afternoon said that once the armed duo

entered the bank, "they approached bank staff and demanded money. The suspects were able to steal an undisclosed amount of cash and fled the scene in an unknown vehicle. There were no reported injuries."

The Sheriff's Office asks that anyone with information about the crime contact Detective Jesse Myers at (650) 363-4050 or Jrmyers@smcgov.org.

Alternatively, a person wishing to remain anonymous can call the San Mateo County Sheriff's Anonymous Tip Line at 1-800-547-2700.

COMMITTEE

continued from page 5

"extensive discussion" at the Jan. 19 meeting. In circumstances where multiple qualified applicants were clustered in the same geographic area, they held random drawings.

The other committee members they chose are: Carolyn Bowsher, Katie Cage, Michael Paul Cohen, Nicholas Taylor, Joan Westley and Karen Zak.

The city is on a deadline to make the change because it received a lawsuit threat in August that claims the city's at-large voting system violates the California Voting Rights Act because it makes it harder for Latino and African American voters to elect the candidates they prefer. To have districts in effect for the November 2018 election, the city has to finalize the

boundary lines by early April.

There were 29 applicants originally, none of whom came from Sharon Heights. Two withdrew their applications and a third, Charles Jameson, did not meet the five-year residency requirement. He was disqualified because he had technically lived in Menlo Park proper for only four years, and had previously been a resident of unincorporated Menlo Park.

At the City Council's Jan. 16 meeting, he requested that the council grant him a waiver, explaining that he believed that the five-year residency requirement limits the numbers of renters and young people who can participate on the committee.

"I'm eager to be on the committee to represent those voices," he told the council. The request was rejected. Council members said that changing

the eligibility qualifications would require the city to re-do the application process.

The City Council on Jan. 16 unanimously approved spending \$45,000 more on the districting process, including \$16,000 for consultant fees with the National Demographics Corporation, \$15,000 for public outreach and \$14,000 in legal fees. ■

LIBRARY

continued from page 7

approved, the work will likely take three years: 18 months to go through the design process and another 18 months to build the project.

A third meeting to talk about the proposed library's possible siting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15, in the library at 800 Alma St. ■

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Portola Valley voters may reset utility tax rate in June

By Fiona Kelliher
Special to the Almanac

Portola Valley voters may be able to decide in June whether to set a permanent rate of 4.5 percent for the general purpose portion of the Utility User Tax (UUT), the Town Council indicated on Jan. 10, rejecting the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the council revisit the tax rate annually.

The town collects two utility taxes for both general use and

for its open space fund. The general purpose tax is set at a 5.5 percent rate in the city's municipal code; the open space portion is 2 percent.

But since 2006, a ballot measure has allowed voters to temporarily reduce the general purpose rate to 4.5 percent for a four-year period, and that's its current rate.

Without action from the council, the general purpose tax would automatically return to 5.5 percent on June 30, when the most recent cycle ends.

At the Jan. 10 meeting, the council debated various ways to approach the tax, Town Manager Jeremy Dennis told the Almanac. Options included a ballot measure that would permanently reduce the rate to 4.5 percent or lower, an alternative measure that would continue the same four-year voting cycle, or a measure allowing for a yearly council decision on the rate, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

The council on Jan. 10 reviewed an analysis of appropriation limits for the next five years, which predicted that the town will remain under its limits during that time. The four-year cycle had been set in accordance with an appropriation waiver, but based on projections, the town will not require one in future years.

The Finance Committee's

recommendation was based on the idea that the council would assess the UUT on a year-by-year basis. Such a move would allow for "flexibility and prudence," the committee's chair said during the meeting, but some council members worried that future councils could use the wiggle room to eradicate the tax or raise it unnecessarily. Mr. Dennis said that council members ultimately felt that the 4.5 percent rate had been well-tested and found appropriate for budgetary purposes in past years, and residents also feel comfortable with it.

Currently, the general purpose UUT provides around \$550,000 per year — or 13 percent of the town's general spending revenue, supporting "a number of essential services including augmented law enforcement services and

infrastructure improvements," according to the town's website.

The open space UUT, which is a separate tax, provides about \$245,000 to a fund that supports the acquisition and maintenance of open space in the town.

Instead of reassessing the tax annually or introducing a ballot measure every four years, the council directed staff to craft a ballot measure that will set the general purpose rate at 4.5 percent with no expiration date. A proposal to place a measure on the June ballot is scheduled to be considered by the council at its Jan. 24 meeting.

"I think one of the things we're able to do here is make it less complicated — there's clarity in where we are moving forward — as well as assurance that the finances of the town are in good shape," Mr. Dennis said. ■

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Menlo Park: Charter talks tabled

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

The introspective process of drafting a city charter will for now take a backburner to more pressing city priorities, judging by comments from the City Council offered at its Jan. 16 meeting.

Where exactly that undertaking ranks among other projects on the city's to-do list will get hashed out later this month at the council's annual goal-setting meeting on Monday, Jan. 29.

The possibility of changing the city's constitution from one

under "general law" to a "charter" system of governance has to be done in order for the city to have more options for its voting system.

However, making the switch could open the door to renegotiate an array of now unavailable opportunities to customize the city's governance code and affect other areas of the city.

And no matter how complex, any charter the city decides to take on, and any subsequent changes to it, would require voter approval before taking effect.

It would be theoretically

possible to bring a limited charter document before voters — basically changing only the parts that apply to the city's election system — by November 2018, but it would be a massive undertaking with tight deadlines, according to Menlo Park's legal staff.

Councilman Rich Cline expressed surprise that the expedited timeline was even being considered. "I didn't think 2018 was a goal," he said. Knowing Menlo Park, the process will likely take longer than expected,

See **CHARTER**, page 19

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Steve was born in Menlo Park, raised in Atherton, and is a Woodside resident.



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Performing of Type II micro-surfacing per Town specifications on the listed streets, which includes notifications, traffic control, prep work, oil and chip installation, compaction, sweeping, and re-striping/pavement markings (as needed) with a 1-year guarantee.

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 2:30 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 SLURRY SEAL PROJECT**", along with date and time of bid opening.

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SamTrans may partner with Facebook on Dumbarton rail

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

SamTrans may enter an exclusive negotiation process with Facebook for the programming of the Dumbarton rail corridor, Menlo Park City Manager Alex McIntyre informed the Menlo Park City Council at its meeting Jan. 16.

SamTrans spokesman Dan Lieberman confirmed the agency is “exploring a public-private partnership to expedite Dumbarton corridor improvements.”

“This caught us somewhat by surprise,” Mr. McIntyre told the council. “We may or may not have anything to do with it, because it’s not our jurisdiction specifically, but it is in our town. I will make it clear we have an interest in this as it progresses.”

When asked what that means, Mr. McIntyre responded, “I think it means they’re going to build out the train system and operate it, or somehow be the funding source for the construction and operation of the rail solution.”

The topic was raised at a Jan. 4 meeting in remarks by SamTrans

CEO Jim Hartnett to the SamTrans board. He was not forthcoming with details, but told the board to prepare to discuss the matter at its upcoming February meeting.

Facebook previously funded a \$1.2 million study by SamTrans, the San Mateo Transit District, exploring a range of actions that could ease transbay traffic congestion along the Dumbarton corridor, both along the vehicle bridge and the now-defunct rail bridge. SamTrans adopted the findings of that study in December.

“In adopting the Dumbarton corridor plan,” Mr. Hartnett told the board, “I think there was an implicit recognition that in order to bring this project forward, something different might have to occur — that we might not approach it in the typical delivery method.”

“We recognized and hoped we’d attract partners or a partner to help us implement the vision laid out in the plan. And we have,” he said. “Facebook came to us to have a discussion about how we might together as partners move

forward with the rail corridor side of the study.”

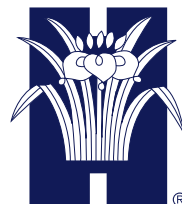
So far, he said, talks with the company have been “preliminary yet substantive.”

The next steps to move forward with the project are to complete environmental work and detailed studies of the corridor, and analyze what it would cost to improve the bridge and make transbay rail service happen, he said.

The study recommended running buses and a rail line along the Dumbarton corridor, but at the insistence of the city of Menlo Park and possibly other stakeholders, SamTrans is also exploring the feasibility of adding a bike and pedestrian-friendly path linking the Redwood City Caltrain station to the Dumbarton Bridge.

Mr. Hartnett said that the three principles he hopes to use in his negotiations with the company are that SamTrans should prioritize “the public benefit and the public good” in building the project; that the project should be done at no risk to the district; and

See **SAMTRANS**, page 13



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Bumps in the road ahead in west Menlo

Four new speed bumps and a set of neighborhood “gateways” are planned for installation on North Lemon Avenue in Menlo Park, between Santa Cruz Avenue and Valparaiso Avenue in western Menlo Park, following the approval of the project by the City Council on Jan. 16.

The estimated cost of the project is \$30,000.

Councilman Rich Cline was recused because he lives on that street.

The steps are part of a six-month trial designed to reduce cut-through traffic and slow cars passing through. Property owners of the street submitted a request to the city last May to install the speed bumps to slow the traffic.

The plan cleared the Complete Streets Commission in June with a 9-0-1 vote, with one commissioner absent. Next, the city surveyed the 43 households that might be affected: About 70 percent supported the changes, 9 percent opposed them and 21 percent did not respond.

The proposal was also cleared with the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, according to staff.

Next, the city will have to go through a bidding process for the construction work.

INVESTIGATION

continued from page 6

saying on Jan. 9 it had received a report of a rape at the school's address that had occurred on Aug. 1, 2007.

“There’s nothing that we heard,” Mr. Hartwig said, “that indicated anything even as remotely disturbing as rape.”

Detective Zuno confirmed that the incident being investigated is not a rape case, but he said that the county’s reporting system sometimes codes any sexual assault cases as “rape.”

“No rape occurred,” he said.

The incident is also now being considered an isolated incident because in the 10 years since it happened, no one else has come forward, Detective Zuno said.

“Right now, it’s just an allegation.” ■

SAMTRANS

continued from page 12

that the project enable the district to “maximize the value” of its assets — namely, create a revenue stream for the district.

The partnership could be first of its kind in the country, he said.

Facebook could not be reached for comment. ■

Donna Jean Lane

March 28, 1930 - November 18, 2017

A Celebration of Life for Donna Jean Lane (March 28, 1930 - November 18, 2017) will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2018 at 11 am at Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California. A reception will immediately follow the service at the Portola Valley Town Center.

PAID OBITUARY

Lee Clements

February 8, 1938 - December 28, 2017

Lee Clements, most recently of San Jose, CA, died of complications due to a long-time heart condition, exacerbated by a recent bout of pneumonia, the evening of December 28, 2017, en route to the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Hospital from his loving home of the past several years, the Empress Care Center, San Jose. He was 79 years old.



Born Buddy Lee Clements in Texarkana, Arkansas, the son of the late Jesse Lee Clements and the late Melva Anderson Clements Gray, Lee lived in Texarkana, Texas, until the age of eight, when he and his mother moved to Seminole, Oklahoma, with his mother's second husband and Lee's stepfather. Lee attended a nearby country school and later graduated from Strother High School, before attending the University of Oklahoma where he earned both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Theatre, paying for that education himself with part-time jobs, including one at a local bank. Leaving Oklahoma in the early 1960s, Lee came first to San Luis Obispo, California, and soon thereafter to San Jose, California, where he began his teaching career at Del Mar High School. In 1964, he came to Menlo-Atherton High School in Atherton, California, where he would spend over twenty years as both an English and Drama Teacher and the Producer/Director of dozens of Dramatic and Musical Productions for that high school. He also continued his own education throughout his career, taking classes and accumulating more college credits and certifications every summer in the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles and New York. For several years after retiring from Menlo-Atherton High School, he assisted in nearby productions at both the high school and community level. Lee touched the lives of literally hundreds of students-- “his children”-- who participated in those productions and whose lives were changed by his influence and nurturing. Many remained his life-long friends.

Lee is survived by his two stepsisters, Amelia Carol Little and Linda Lea Varvil of Norman, Oklahoma, his half-brother, Dale T. Gray of Oklahoma City, seven nieces and nephews and fifteen grand-nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00PM on February 8, 2018, which would have been Lee's 80th birthday, at Bay Area Mortuary Services Community Chapel, 1701 Little Orchard Street., San Jose, CA 95125, telephone 408-998-2202. Following the service, friends and family will retire to a nearby restaurant to continue reminiscing and to plan a Celebration of Lee's Life for sometime in the Spring. In lieu of flowers, the family and friends request that contributions be made to Not In Our Town in Memory of Lee Clements at: <https://www.niot.org>

PAID OBITUARY

Mary Jane McCune

October 22, 1915 - December 30, 2017

Mary Jane McCune, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, died peacefully in Portola Valley on December 30, 2017. She was born in Bladensburg, Maryland, just across the Anacostia River from our nation's capitol, on October 22, 1915 to James and Ruby Chowning. He worked for the US State Department and she



was a homemaker. Two years later, she was blessed with twin sisters, Catherine and Caroline. Caroline died in the diphtheria epidemic of 1920, but Catherine survived to age 96. Both sisters lived together, or in proximity, their whole lives, binding their two families into one. These bonds have made the many cousins into brothers and sisters today and for all time. The Chowning family left for a warmer, drier climate in 1921, settling first in Pomona, California and three years later in San Pedro, where James worked at the US Customs office. Mary graduated from San Pedro High School in 1933. Her good grades earned her a scholarship to Whittier College, but her heart was set on a singing career. James and Ruby were reluctant to let their 18-year-old daughter live on her own, but finally they acceded to her desire. In Washington, D. C., and later in Philadelphia, she studied under voice coaches, including the renowned Lillian Fairchild Jesso. Sister Catherine joined her in 1935 to continue her modeling career. For three years they roomed together, pooled their earnings and dreamed of stardom. There was no surrender in their decision to return to California. Mary sang at every opportunity, from weddings to memorials. While performing with a live orchestra at a garden party in Glendale in July, 1941, she met the love of her life, Roland. He was a manufacturer's representative in San Francisco. He embodied the city's reputation for style and sophistication. He arranged for a Labor Day weekend triple date: he was Mary's, and he found dates for Catherine and friend Ann. On this whirlwind of fancy nightclubs he said to Mary in perfect certitude, “I'm going to marry you!” And so it was that by Thanksgiving they were wed. Two weeks later, Catherine married Ed Hannay, her Labor Day date. The sisterhood was born when children arrived for both in 1944. Roland and Mary settled in Redwood City, while Catherine remarried and settled in Atherton. Their families were together at countless birthday, Christmas, graduation and other celebrations of life's milestones. Mary sang her whole life. Able to accompany herself on the piano, she loved opera and Broadway show tunes. She had a lovely soprano voice, clear and strong. Her bond with Roland was doubly strengthened by their faith in Jesus Christ. They joined the First Christian Church of Redwood City, where she sang in the choir, often as a soloist. When her voice began to falter late in life, she retired to the congregation to sing there. They had two children: Ned, b. 1944 and Jennifer, b. 1952 and d. 2008. Thirty-two years a widow, Mary made many new friends and traveled the whole world. The hardships and surprises she encountered only made a trip more fun. She returned with pictures and film that will be a family treasure as long as we exist. Mary is survived by her son, Ned, grandson Dan, granddaughter Natasha Browne and great grandchildren Skylar Rose and Hayden Mac. Burial was at Alta Mesa Cemetery on January 9, followed later that day with a memorial at Menlo Church.

PAID OBITUARY

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Photos by Natalia Nazarova

Carla Germano's yoga classes, offered through Woodside's Recreation Committee, are so popular that there's a waiting list to join, and some participants have taken her classes for more than 40 years. Ms. Germano has taught yoga for 44 years.

By Maggie Mah
Special to the Almanac

Feeling good

Carla Germano creates a remarkable community through her yoga classes

Note: Ms. Germano's classes are conducted through the Town of Woodside Recreation Committee. They are currently fully subscribed, but there is a waiting list for prospective students.

It's 9 o'clock on a weekday morning as people begin streaming into Woodside's Independence Hall. Soon the floor is covered with thick foam mats sporting colorful fabric covers. The hall buzzes with lively conversation.

At precisely 9:30, Carla Germano's clear, gentle voice is heard through the din. "We're about to start."

Everyone settles quickly into comfortable seated positions and the room falls silent.

"Namaste and welcome to yoga. Namaste means I honor the light within you. Close your eyes. Let go of all tension, all negativity. Smooth out the space between your eyebrows. Remember, this is your hour." So begins the session that has become a necessary ritual and an important aspect of daily life for many in the class.

Carla Germano has been teaching yoga in Woodside and Portola Valley for 44 years. She started teaching in 1973, a time when yoga was unfamiliar to most people and maybe even uncomfortably exotic to some.

Today, yoga studios are everywhere and variations on yoga's theme proliferate

through the culture like Flavors of the Month. With so many options available, it might seem surprising that without active promotion, Ms. Germano's classes are always packed — it's even hard to get in.

The reason for her success can't be neatly boxed or defined by a particular concept. Rather, it is a combination: Ms. Germano and who she is as a person, the relationships she develops with her students, and the philosophy of yoga she has developed over the years.

Once people join, they tend to stay on, and many have been students for 20, 30 and even 40 or more years. Although initially brought together by a common interest in the physical benefits of yoga, they seem to have found something more deeply satisfying.

Asked why she thinks her classes are so enduringly popular, Ms. Germano replies: "Poses are not the most important part of yoga. There's a real feeling of community, and people feel good about themselves."

Longtime student Bobbie Verde welcomes the atmosphere that Ms. Germano has created, adding, "Most important has been her teaching of kindness. We all seem to care about one another."

Christine Soenksen has taken other yoga classes over the years but says: "Carla's voice is in my head most of the time, reminding me to breathe, to keep my shoulders back and down, to honor my body. There is strong rapport among the students in her classes



Photos by Natalia Nazarova

Participants, including retired Judge LaDoris Cordell, say they are “hooked” on Carla Germano’s yoga classes, in which she combines Hatha, Pranayam, and Raja practices. “We’re so lucky to have her,” Ms. Cordell says.

and dedication to her as our teacher. There is an atmosphere of respect for each and every participant.”

How Ms. Germano’s interest in yoga was first ignited is a surprising tale involving a chance encounter with a horse and, as such, might be said to have been an only-in-Woodside moment.

She and her husband Rich were out for a walk on Canada Road when they met a woman leading a horse. “There was something about her, a quality I couldn’t put my finger on,” Ms. Germano recalls.

“When I asked her what she did, she replied, ‘yoga.’ Right then, I knew what I wanted to do.”

About that serendipitous moment, Ms. Germano reflects, “There is a saying in yoga: When you least expect it, your guru, teacher or inspiration will be there.”

Ms. Germano began by taking yoga classes from local instructors. Along the way she took courses in anatomy and adaptive physical fitness. Although she has studied with a number of high-profile yoga experts, she cites Liliás Folan, of public television’s “Liliás, Yoga and You,” as being her inspiration and the mentor who gave her the confidence to forge her own unique philosophy.

Ms. Germano describes her approach to teaching yoga as being closest to Liliás’ — a combination of “Hatha” (the physical poses), “Pranayam” (breathing) and “Raja” (meditation).

Now 72, Ms. Germano exemplifies the youthful strength, grace and flexibility that practitioners of yoga hope to attain. You will not, however, find her demonstrating headstands. Although she can do the more extreme poses that yoga is known for, they are not part of her classes. One reason is that not everyone can do them.

“When you can’t do something, you feel bad. I don’t want that,” she explains. “My goal for my students is to do the very best they can and feel really good about themselves. Unless you have sufficient strength in a specific area, you can really get hurt.”



Photos by Natalia Nazarova

A serendipitous encounter with a woman walking a horse on Canada Road led Carla Germano to her interest in yoga, which she’s been teaching now for 44 years. Her students range in age from 20-something to 90.

Ms. Germano’s philosophy also includes doing each pose slowly. “Slower is actually harder and also puts you in touch with your body. When you are doing a pose slowly you can also stop if you feel it’s not right.”

Although she respects the principles of yoga, she doesn’t follow a prescribed set of poses. Instead, she develops a master plan at the beginning of each eight-to-12-week session and changes the program every two weeks. “Yoga is about being flexible and in this way you can feel how you progress,” she explains.

Woodside resident Thalia Lubin began taking Ms. Germano’s classes about six months after they began 44 years ago, and has this to say: “Carla covers the entire anatomy and tailors each exercise to a person’s ability. It’s a necessary part of my life.”

Doing headstands is one stereotype that doesn’t



Photos by Natalia Nazarova

Besides being a yoga practitioner, Carla Germano is a stained glass artist. To the right in this photo, taken in her Woodside home, is a self-portrait.

apply to Ms. Germano — and there are others. “I love sugar!” she declares over tea and cake. She also loves Elvis and rock ‘n roll, and is not a vegetarian. Of the latter she says, “I tried it for 10 years and felt terrible the whole time. I believe each person has to respect their body and do what’s right for them. For me, it’s everything in moderation.”

Over the years, Ms. Germano has taught yoga to people in all stages of life, from nursery and elementary school children, to teens, and to adults as advanced in age as 96. Currently, her classes are composed of both women and men ranging in age from 20-something to 90. Regular students also include a number of physicians.

Elke Demme, 82, started Ms. Germano’s class 25 years ago at her daughter’s urging, and says, “I am addicted to the feeling I get when finishing a class. ... it is a great feeling, as if there is space in my mind and body.”

The distinguished retired judge LaDoris Cordell has been Ms. Germano’s student for 10 years and sums it all up with this: “After my first class with Carla, I was hooked. I knew right away that she was the real deal.

“She is passionate about her craft and is a terrific teacher. Carla exudes warmth, compassion, and a genuine belief in her students. I’m able to perform asanas I never dreamed that I could do.

“I made thousands of decisions as a judge, but none was better than my decision to study yoga with Carla. She has literally changed my life for the better, physically and spiritually. “We’re so lucky to have her.” ■

About the cover: Carla Germano in her home in the Woodside Glens neighborhood. (Photo by Natalia Nazarova/The Almanac)



**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.

**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
NOTICE OF PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the Historic Schoolhouse, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California on the following:

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY ADDING CHAPTER 18.39 [CANNABIS LAND USES] TO TITLE 18 [ZONING] AND AMENDING SECTION 8.12.010 [DEFINITION OF NUISANCE] OF CHAPTER 8.12 [NUISANCE ABATEMENT] OF TITLE 8 [HEALTH & SAFETY] OF THE PORTOLA VALLEY MUNICIPAL CODE AND A FINDING THAT THE ACTION IS EXEMPT UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA).

(The proposed ordinance bans most commercial cannabis activity within the Town, including dispensaries and retail sales, but allows limited cultivation in certain areas, provided comprehensive safeguards and requirements are met.)

Information pertaining to the proposal may be viewed at Town Hall Building and Planning Department, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. All interested persons are invited to appear before the Planning Commission to be heard at the time and place mentioned above.

Public Hearings provide the general public and interested parties an opportunity to provide testimony on these items. If you challenge a proposed action(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at a Public Hearing(s) described above, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the Public Hearing(s).

Dated: January 18, 2018
Arly Cassidy, Interim Planning Director



Photo by Laurie Naiman

The hand on the left is that of LaDoris Cordell, and on the right, that of Josephine Gandolfi. The two women will be among the performers in "Out of the Blues: The Gift of Song."

**Weekend concerts celebrate music
by African American composers**

The musicians and guest artists of the African American Composer Initiative are set to deliver another rousing set of concerts next weekend celebrating the music of such legendary composers as Billy Strayhorn and Thelonius Monk as well as contemporary composers, performing works ranging from spirituals and jazz to original modern compositions and genre-blending arrangements.

The ninth annual benefit concerts, "Out of the Blues: The Gift of Song," will feature vocal and instrumental music drawn from "the traditions of spirituals, jazz, blues, popular, and concert music," says pianist Josephine Gandolfi of Menlo Park, who with Judge LaDoris Cordell and Deanne Tucker co-founded the African American Composer Initiative. They will be performed on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 27 and 28, at 3 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center of Eastside College Preparatory School in East Palo Alto.

The AACI presents programs

devoted to music by African American composers. In addition to Strayhorn and Monk, composers include William Grant Still and Florence Price, and contemporary composers Valerie Capers, Regina Baiocchi, Roxanna Wright, Andre Meyers, John Robinson, Charles Lloyd and Charles Brown. Music by some of the founders of the spirituals preservation movement, including Roland Hayes, Hal Johnson and Harry Burleigh, also will be performed, according to Ms. Gandolfi.

The concerts will feature a "special offering" in the form of two jazz works arranged by Ms. Capers, "incorporating musical themes from Wagner's Ring Cycle," Ms. Gandolfi says.

Performers include many acclaimed musicians of the Bay Area and beyond: sopranos Yolanda Rhodes and Roxanna Wright; tenor Othello Jefferson; pianists/vocalists LaDoris Cordell and Deanne Tucker; pianist Josephine Gandolfi; violinist Susan C. Brown; cellist Victoria

Ehrlich; clarinetist Carol Somersille; percussionist Jim Kassis; trumpeter John Worley; trombonist John Monroe; flutist Stephanie McNab; bassoonist Doug Brown; and saxophonist Oscar Pangilinan.

Featured guests artists are pianist/composer Valerie Capers and bassist John Robinson. The Eastside Choir will also perform, under the direction of Jansen Verplank.

Proceeds from the concert benefit Eastside College Preparatory School. A reception for audience and performers, donated by the Santa Rosa nonprofit culinary apprentice program Worth Our Weight, will follow the Sunday performance.

Tickets are \$20 general, \$10 for seniors, and \$5 for students. They may be purchased online through Brown Paper Tickets: brownpapertickets.com/event/3133100.

Eastside College Preparatory School is at 1041 Myrtle St. in East Palo Alto. There is on-campus parking for attendees. For information, call 650-688-0850.

**Program on Native American-based
sports mascots Jan. 30 at the library**

The Menlo Park library will host a free screening of the documentary, "More than a Word: A film about Native American-based sports mascots and the Washington R*dskins," on Tuesday, Jan. 30, starting at 6 p.m. in the main library's downstairs program room.

The documentary explores the controversy surrounding the Washington football team's name and mascot and addresses the appropriation of Native American culture and racial stereotyping.

A panel discussion will follow the film, moderated by Sami Chen, president of Stanford Native American Graduate Students.

Panelists are: Gregg Castro, (T'rowt'raahl Salinan/Rumsien Ohlone), who works on indigenous cultural preservation in California; Ana Khanna, a faculty member of De Anza College's Communication and Intercultural studies departments; Makha Blu Wakpa (Cheyenne River Sioux), a researcher and consultant on indigenous

language; Tria Blu Wakpa, a postdoctoral fellow at U.C. Riverside's dance department and an assistant professor of dance at UCLA whose research and art focuses on indigenous and Native American topics; Angniq Woods-Orrison (Koyukon Athabaskan), a collegiate wrestler and psychology student at Menlo College; and Gary Norris Gray (First Nation Leni-Lenape Tribe-New Jersey-Canada), a writer, historian, disability activist and radio host.

Menlo Park celebrates MLK Day with new name for park



Clockwise from top left: Belle Haven Action founder Cecilia Taylor speaks about Karl Clark, describing his legacy of service in the U.S. Navy, in the Postal Service and in the community of Menlo Park (Photo by Natalia Nazarova). Children play at the newly named Karl E. Clark Park after the dedication ceremony on Jan. 15 (Photo by Natalia Nazarova). Karl Clark, a World War II veteran, salutes Secretary of the U.S. Navy Ray Mabus during a commendation ceremony held at Moffett Field on Jan. 17, 2012 (Photo by Michelle Le). Elected officials and community members unveil a sign bearing the park's new name (Photo by Natalia Nazarova).

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

While the nation celebrated the contributions of Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 15, Menlo Park celebrated its own national and local hero, Karl E. Clark, who many say stood for many of the same things Dr. King did.

On Monday, Jan. 15, community members and local dignitaries unveiled the new “Karl E. Clark Park” at 313 Market Place in Menlo Park’s Belle Haven neighborhood.

In attendance were Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (D-Menlo Park), state Assemblyman Marc Berman (D-Palo Alto), state Senator Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo), East Palo Alto City Councilwoman Donna Rutherford, Menlo Park Mayor Peter Ohtaki and City Council members Catherine Carlton, Kirsten Keith and Ray Mueller.

Mr. Clark, who died at age



100 last March, was a World War II hero whose actions were not recognized for 66 years. In January 2012, he was awarded a Commendation Medal with the Combat Distinguishing Device for his response to the May 3, 1945, attack on the USS Aaron Ward.

On that day in 1945, his ship was hit by six kamikaze planes. As the sole survivor of his

eight-person damage-control unit, Mr. Clark single-handedly used a fire hose to put out a fire in the ship’s ammunition locker, despite suffering from a broken collarbone and having had his shoes and helmet blown off his body. He also carried injured survivors to the medic ward.

Rep. Eshoo, who worked for two years to secure the military



honors for Mr. Clark, said in previous remarks that he wasn’t recognized earlier “because he was black.”

On Jan. 15, she told attendees, “I think Karl Clark mirrored Dr. King because he was all about justice. He was all about service. He was a man (who) loved his country, and he loved his community.”

Mr. Clark was a longtime Menlo Park resident and active member of the community.

Lois Reed said the Clark family was one of the first black families to buy a home in eastern Menlo Park, and that Mr. Clark was the first black

mailman in Menlo Park, making deliveries by bike.

Cecilia Taylor of Belle Haven Action, a neighborhood activism group, told the audience that she came by the idea to pursue renaming the park after Mr. Clark during his memorial services last year.

“It was clear that he was a person to be loved, honored, respected and remembered, especially by the neighborhood where he worked quietly and tirelessly,” she said.

Several members of the community, Hilda Jones-Allen, Lola Clewis, and East Palo Alto Councilwoman Donna Rutherford, shared fond reminiscences of Mr. Clark and visiting his household as friends of his children.

Ms. Clewis said that Mr. Clark was a father figure to her and helped her establish the Bayshore Community Resource Center. “He worked by my side for 15 years to make it happen,” she said. ▀

FALSE ALARMS

continued from page 5

problem,” he said.

Chief McCulley recommended that residents start paying a \$50 annual alarm registration fee, have their alarms inspected annually, and face a \$200 fine for all false alarms beyond the first each year.

“This is not revenue-generating for the police department in any way,” he said. “It does create awareness.”

Council members said they’ve heard from some residents who didn’t see the proposal in quite

the same way. “They see this as nickel-and-diming the residents, coming on the heels of the loss of the parcel tax,” said council member Bill Widmer.

He asked for an allowance of more than one false alarm call before the fines kick in, and said he does not support an annual inspection requirement.

One speaker said the inspection could cost close to \$200 each year, which some residents might find difficult to pay.

Council member Mike Lempres said that the cost could be hard on some of Atherton’s longtime residents. “There’s an awful lot of people in town

who aren’t millionaires or billionaires,” he said.

Mayor Cary Wiest said the fines could also have another negative impact on some elderly residents. His mother, he said, would simply not turn on her alarm if she thought she was bothering the police department.

“I would not like to see ... this impact our senior population,” he said.

City Manager George Rodericks said he would bring back an ordinance that has a small annual fee, no inspection requirement and an escalating fine after the second or third false alarm call.

The new proposal will also include a process to waive the fines for older residents and the

town will work to educate its residents about the impacts of false alarms, he said. ▀

CHARTER

continued from page 10

he noted.

Several people who spoke publicly on the matter asserted that rather than rush to meet a November 2018 timeline, the city should instead aim to organize something more comprehensive for the 2020 ballot.

Jennifer Wolosin, who identified herself as part of a group

called “Menlo Park Residents for Good Governance,” said that “pausing might not be such a bad thing at this time.”

That doesn’t mean the city shouldn’t start talking about the pros and cons in earnest, though, noted former planning commissioner John Kadvanly in a public comment. “Let’s have a discussion about what we think is best for the city in terms of voting practices,” he said. ▀

El Camino may be transformed by new zoning

Rezoning aims to promote economic development in North Fair Oaks

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

■ **NORTH FAIR OAKS**

The mile-long stretch of El Camino Real in North Fair Oaks, right on the border with Atherton, may never be the same.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors recently approved a number of zoning changes that laid out how new density will be permitted along El Camino Real in North Fair Oaks, roughly between Northumberland Avenue and Loyola Avenue.

Three distinct zones in that area have been created along El Camino and along 5th Avenue: commercial mixed-use categories 1 and 2, and neighborhood mixed-use.

In commercial mixed use area 1, the maximum building height is 60 feet, while in commercial mixed use area 2, it is 50 feet, and in the neighborhood mixed-use area, it is 40 feet.

Most of the El Camino Real-facing properties will be granted

the tallest of those height allowances, with the more stringent height restrictions clustered around the north side of 5th Avenue between El Camino Real and the Caltrain tracks, and along El Camino Real between Berkshire Avenue and 5th Avenue.

The zoning changes include new design standards, such as minimum setbacks, requirements for parking and street trees, and sidewalks that are at least 10 feet wide along El Camino Real. There are provisions for shared and off-site parking, and new requirements to accommodate parking for electric vehicles and bicycles.

The new zoning bans certain types of new businesses along El Camino Real. No drive-through establishments, funeral homes, car vendors, gas stations, golf driving ranges or mini-golf venues will be allowed.

The rezoning affects new

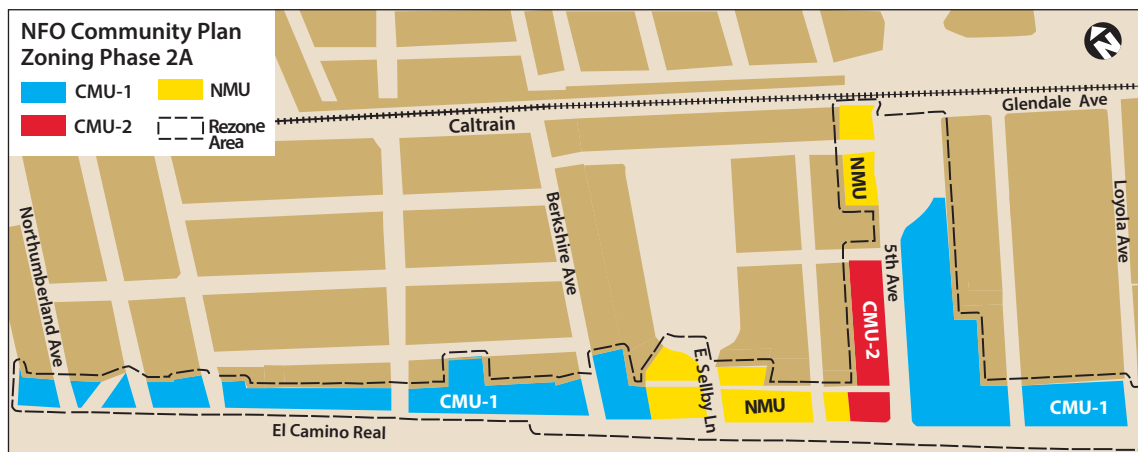


Image courtesy County of San Mateo

El Camino Real between Northumberland and Loyola avenues in North Fair Oaks, right on the border with Atherton, could be transformed by zoning changes approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

development only. Existing uses can continue as they are.

Under the new zoning, indoor exercise facilities will be allowed, as will, under certain strict circumstances, non-chartered financial institutions or payday loan operations.

History

According to Linda Lopez, a member of the North Fair Oaks Community Council, an advisory group to the Board of

Supervisors, the zoning changes represent the implementation of a community plan, first launched in the late 1970s, to support economic development in the community.

For years, she said, North Fair Oaks was “disenfranchised.” Because the area is unincorporated San Mateo County, decisions that affect the area are made by the county and the Board of Supervisors rather than a city government. “It was

an uphill battle to get anything for the community,” she said.

Over time, things have changed, and now, with the support of Supervisor Warren Slocum and additional county resources, more is getting done, she said.

She credits the changes to a county initiative called “North Fair Oaks Forward,” run by the county manager’s office with the

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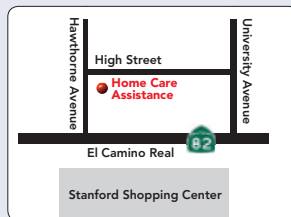
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Continued from previous page

community council and community-based organizations.

In 2011, the county updated the community plan, laying out the concept for added density and mixed-use development in North Fair Oaks, a roughly 800-acre area of unincorporated land sandwiched between Atherton and Redwood City and between El Camino Real and Bay Road.

The plan also specifies desired community features such as more parks, public art and farmers' markets.

El Camino Real is the second of four areas in North Fair Oaks that are being rezoned.

Before El Camino, Middlefield Road from 1st through 8th avenues was rezoned. The next phases will involve rezoning the part of North Fair Oaks closest to Redwood Junction (the intersection of Woodside Road and El Camino Real) and the area along the Caltrain and Dumbarton rail tracks parallel to Edison Way, according to county planner Will Gibson.

Preliminary preparations to rezone the next area, such as scoping the project, drafting work plans and identifying research needs, has begun, according to Joe LaClair, county planning services manager.

Outreach challenges

As with many public processes, there was a range of opinion on how effectively participants had been asked for their feedback and whether their responses had been heard and incorporated into the final version.

To guide the zoning process, the county's planning department formed a working group with various stakeholders and residents in the community, which included residents, property owners and representatives from the North Fair Oaks Community Council.

Some residents and property owners in North Fair Oaks said that the county did not sufficiently gather and respond to their feedback.

Kent Manske, who was part of a working group assembled to work through specific zoning policies, wanted less density — the amount of square feet of development allowed per square foot of land.

In October 2016, he and nine other residents of the Selby Park neighborhood in North Fair Oaks sent the county an email laying out specific zoning recommendations, such as limiting building heights to three stories and increasing setbacks.

Since then, he said, only marginal changes were made to the plan: "We got them to go down to three or four stories on a couple of parcels."

A continuing concern for him and his neighbors, he said, is cut-through traffic. Some residents can't get out of their neighborhood, with "cars zipping through to deke a traffic light," he said. Some parents don't let their kids ride their bikes in the neighborhood because of safety concerns, he added.

Janet Davis, who lives in Stanford Weekend Acres and owns rental property in North Fair Oaks, alleged that the process was not inclusive enough of

the area's Hispanic community, which represents the majority of residents in North Fair Oaks. As of the 2010 U.S. census, 73 percent of the 14,693 residents of North Fair Oaks identified as Hispanic or Latino.

At one public meeting held at the St. Francis Center/Siena Youth Center, a hub for North Fair Oaks' Hispanic community, she said, a number of attendees said they'd never heard about the community plan, nor the added density it would bring, and people were upset.

In contrast, Joe LaClair, county planning services manager, said great lengths were taken to gather feedback from the community at 17 public meetings over 23 months, some of which happened with the working group, and three of which were designated as "community meetings."

At the Siena Youth Center meeting, he said, there was a possibility that misinformation had been spread that upset people.

Translators were present at the three "community meetings," Mr. LaClair said, and some — not a lot — of Spanish speakers did share their points of view.

"I think that we listened," he said. "We made substantive revisions to the proposals from staff based on what we heard, and we're really trying to be responsive to (the) neighborhood."

The county extensively informed residents about meetings via door hangers, websites, postcards and newspapers, he said. Getting people to show up to those meetings is a different matter, he added. "If we mail

1,000 postcards, we might get 50 people at a meeting."

Ms. Lopez, the Community Council's representative to the working group, noted that it can be a challenge to recruit people to such groups because of the commitment involved.

"Quite honestly, more people need to get involved," she said. "It's been a long process, and it could use more participation."

But to her, the new zoning is a sign of progress. For the first time, she said, the community council will have more leverage to ask developers to scale

down developments if proposals don't fit the zoning. Developers now must hold a public meeting before any development proposal is formally submitted, allowing the community to give public feedback on such projects.

"Some still think that they don't have a voice, (that) whatever they say doesn't matter," she said. "So all I can do is talk to them and encourage them to participate. If you look at where we were 10 years ago, (and) where we are now, there has been some really good progress. You have to have hope." ■

4th Quarter 2017

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

The O'Connor Tract Co-Operative Water Company has levels of manganese above the secondary drinking water standard.

Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. Our water system is in violation of a secondary drinking water standard. Violation of a secondary standard does not pose an immediate threat to health.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Average results for water samples for the last four quarters have manganese levels of 50 ppb in well #1 and 153 ppb in well #2 (ppb=parts per billion). This is above the secondary drinking water standard, or secondary maximum contaminant level of 50 ppb. Manganese concentrations above the standard may have an effect on taste and tend to leave black deposits in some plumbing systems.

What should I do?

You do not need to use an alternative water supply (e.g., bottled water). There is no health risk.

What happened? What is being done?

O'Connor Water has been above the secondary standard for manganese for many years, and this has been described to members in the annual Report on Water Quality Measurements. Recent state regulations have imposed stricter requirements for complying with the secondary standard for manganese. The state has issued the company a citation for noncompliance. The state ordered the company to start quarterly monitoring in February 2012, and this monitoring was completed in September 2012. The state also required that manganese monitoring be continued quarterly and that the results of these tests be reported to all water consumers.

The Company is working with State agencies and the City of Menlo Park to complete the planning of a manganese treatment facility that will then be installed and operational on the Company's property.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this public notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

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Theater

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

Theater: 'Insignificance' The play "Insignificance" imagines a meeting between Albert Einstein, Marilyn Monroe, Senator Joe McCarthy and Joe DiMaggio in a New York hotel room in the 1950s. Jan. 26-Feb. 18, 8 p.m. \$35 general admission, \$27 students and seniors. The Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway, Redwood City. Search goldstar.com/events for more info.

'The Road to Mecca' at Pear Theatre "The Road to Mecca" by Athol Fugard is inspired by a true story; it follows Miss Helen, a South African widow who harbors an unconventional artistic impulse and is caught between an old friend who urges her to conform and a young friend who encourages her to follow her heart. Jan. 18-Feb. 11, 8 p.m. \$10-\$35. Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida, Mountain View. info@the-pear.org. 650-254-1148.

TheatreWorks Presents 'Our Great Tchaikovsky' In the play, 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

Concert: Renee Fleming Renee Fleming, recipient of the National Medal of Arts in 2013, will be holding her debut recital at the Bing. Fleming has not only performed at opera stages and concert halls worldwide, but was also the first classical artist to perform at the Super Bowl. Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Jeremy Denk & Stefan Jackiw at Bing Concert Hall Jeremy Denk, piano player and winner of a MacArthur "Genius" award, will perform all of the sonatas of the American modernist composer Charles Ives at Bing Concert Hall with violinist Stefan Jackiw and members of the Stanford Chamber Chorale. Jan. 28, 2:30-5 p.m. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Music: 'Skies of Paris' Vocalist Jennifer Mahawi and Pianist Douglas McKeenan will perform as a duo at Angelica's. In order to get a free ticket to the event, the purchase must be made online in advance. Jan. 31, 7 p.m. Free. Angelica's, 863 Main St., Redwood City. Search tunestub.com/ for more info.

Piano Recital: Robyn Carmichael Pianist Robyn Carmichael makes her debut at Arts at St. Bede's. A reception will follow the performance. Jan. 28, 4-6 p.m. Students and seniors, \$15; all others, \$25. St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. stbedesmenlopark.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 for more info.

World Harmony Chorus The World Harmony Chorus brings the community together through celebration of song. This diverse choral group performs traditional vocal music from around the world, including Africa, Europe and Latin America. Jan. 29, 7:30

Music

Ana Gasteyer Ana Gasteyer has played and sang on six seasons of "Saturday Night Live." Jan. 27, 10-11 p.m. \$15-\$65; discount for students. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

In Concert: Karla Kane with Khoi Huynh Karla Kane will perform her new record "King's Daughters Home for Incurables" with Khoi Huynh at the Downtown Library in Redwood City on Jan. 25 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Downtown Library - Fireplace Room, 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Live Music: Moss 11 Moss 11, an alternative rock cover band from San Francisco, will play at the Freewheel Brewing Company. Jan. 27, 7-9 p.m. Free. Freewheel Brewing Company, 3736 Florence St., Redwood City. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Talks & Lectures

Homebrewing 101 Derek Wolfgram and Mike Conant from the Silicon Valley Sudzers homebrew club and Andrew Carroll from the HeadQuarters homebrew club will present an interactive introduction to homebrewing beer. The talk will cover ingredients, techniques, equipment, beer styles and recipe formulation. Jan. 27, 2-3:30 p.m. Downtown Library, 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City. redwoodcity.org

Moffett Field, Then and Now John Suckow, Vietnam War aviator and Moffett Field Historical Society Museum docent, will offer an insider's look at a local landmark and discuss his experiences as a navy attack pilot and Vietnam War veteran. Jan. 29, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org/aviation

Talk: Do We Do Too Little About Child Abuse — or Too Much? In this talk, three speakers will observe the current way in which child abuse is handled by caseworkers and judges, and discuss if the system can be improved. Jan. 25, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. Stanford Law School, Room 290; 559 Nathan Abbott Way, Stanford. ethicsinsociety.stanford.edu/events

Lessons & Classes

Friends for Life Keys to forming and maintaining lasting friendships will be explored at Lifetree Cafe. The program, "Friends for Life: 10 buddies. 38 years. 1 week a year," features the filmed story of a group of men who have remained friends 38 years after graduating from middle school. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the factors involved in making and keeping friends, as well as the benefits of longtime friendships. Jan. 31, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Bethany, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Master Class: This is Your Year to Write Your Novel Take this class to learn how to make writing a priority and develop the self-confidence needed to write for a larger audience. Feb. 1, 7-8:30 p.m. \$50. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Business

Business Issues & Transportation Committee Meeting The Business Issues and Transportation committee will inform community members about issues impacting the city. Jan. 25, 8-9:30 a.m. Free. Menlo Park Chamber Conference Room, 1100 Merrill St., Menlo Park. business.menloparkchamber.com/events/



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COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

The County of San Mateo's Sustainability Academy provides NO-COST educational opportunities to San Mateo County community members.

Register for our offerings at www.smcsustainability.org/academy



FIXIT
CLINIC

Saturday, February 24, 2018
11:00 am - 2:00 pm
San Bruno Library
701 Angus Ave W., San Bruno

Fixit Clinics are community workshops where neighbors, friends, and families work collectively to learn how to repair their broken items: electronics, appliances, toys, bicycles, fabric items, etc. for assessment, and possible repair. Bring your broken items and we'll provide a workspace, specialty tools and volunteer Fixit Coaches to help you disassemble and troubleshoot your items.

Exploring Sustainability Webinar Series

Deepen your understanding of sustainability topics and gain practical methods to reduce your environmental impact. Turn your lunch break into a learning experience on Wednesdays, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm.

Please see website for additional webinars.

Composting Made Easy: February 28, 2018

The **Almanac**
AlmanacNews.com

LET'S DISCUSS:

Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at

AlmanacNews.com

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.

Your opinions on Stanford development will help decision-makers

By Joe Simitian

Local development is rarely just local in its impact.

The development decisions made by one community inevitably affect its near neighbors. And so it is with Stanford University, whose current application for 2,275,000 square feet of development approvals plus 3,150 housing units is now pending in Santa Clara County.

Under any set of circumstances, assessing and addressing the impacts of such a project would be challenging. But Stanford's application for a General Use Permit represents a particular challenge. That's because the totality of Stanford lands encompasses property in six different, and independent, governmental jurisdictions: unincorporated Santa Clara County, Palo Alto, Woodside, Portola Valley, Menlo Park and unincorporated San Mateo County.

Simply put, the land use decisions we make in Santa Clara County later this year will affect the quality of life in all of these communities for generations to come.

Of course, when you have a half-dozen local governments involved, it's

important to make sure the left hand and the right hand, or in this case almost an octopus-worth of hands, are mindful of each other's thoughts, interests, and actions.

Equally important, the individual residents who live in those communities have to be aware of the development that's being proposed, and have an opportunity to weigh in, even if (perhaps especially if) the decisions will be made by elected officials in another jurisdiction. Sharing their perspectives and interests with decision makers in another jurisdiction may not come naturally to locally affected residents, but it's essential to a good result.

Between the meetings hosted by the county and those hosted by neighboring jurisdictions, there have already been more than a dozen opportunities for people to attend a meeting, learn about the project, and offer comments. We've heard from scores of folks over

the past several months, and while their concerns have been wide-ranging, some common themes have emerged. Housing, traffic, open space and protection of the foothills, school impacts, and questions about the maximum buildout of the campus have all been recurring topics.

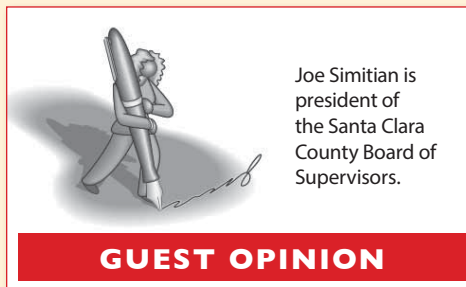
These comments have been timely and helpful because a draft environmental impact report (DEIR) analyzing the potential impacts of the development was released in October 2017, and the period for public comment has been extended until 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2.

Kudos to the Menlo Park City Council, and to San Mateo County Supervisors Warren Slocum and Don Horsley, for not just putting a discussion on their council and board agendas, but also holding hearings where members of the community could learn about the project, ask questions, and offer their perspectives.

As the Feb. 2 deadline for draft EIR comments approaches, I'm making a final push to ensure that folks interested in commenting can do so before the deadline. On Jan. 23 from 6 to 8 p.m., I'm hosting a public meeting where members of the public can make comments that will become part of the formal record and will be responded to in the final EIR.

While the meeting will be held in the Palo Alto City Council Chambers, I hope you'll come wherever you're from. And if you can't make the meeting and need to know how to submit comments via email or just need more information about the application and the draft EIR, go to tinyurl.com/SCC01-18. There are hard copies of the draft EIR at the main library in Menlo Park.

It's important that my colleagues and I on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors have the benefit of your thinking. And the only way we'll know what you think is if you tell us. So please, take advantage of the opportunity to comment before the draft EIR comment period closes. We can't take your comments into account if you don't make them!



Joe Simitian is president of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

GUEST OPINION

Facebook, where is your corporate social responsibility policy?

By Kyra Brown

Six months ago, I wrote a guest opinion, "Facebook needs corporate social responsibility policy" (The Almanac, Aug. 2). More recently, I attended a meeting (Nov. 29) in East Palo Alto (EPA) with community members, residents from the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park, Stanford University students, and three Facebook representatives (Bernita Dillard, Lewis Knight and Juan Salazar).

Almanac reporter Kate Bradshaw's article, "Private meeting held between Facebook officials and East Palo Alto advocates" (The Almanac, Nov. 29), covers this same meeting.

During the question-and-answer segment, I asked, "Has Facebook given any thought to creating a corporate social responsibility (CSR) policy to institutionalize programs which alleviate the adverse impacts of its expansion on neighboring communities, namely, Belle Haven and EPA?" According to Mr. Salazar, Facebook's public policy manager, the answer was "no."

Last June, I attended another meeting in EPA, asking the same question. Facebook's VP of communications and public policy, Elliot Schrage, answered, "We don't have a CSR department because all departments should be socially responsible."

When Ms. Bradshaw highlighted my question in her article, a Facebook spokesperson delineated that the corporation has a "community engagement team (e.g. Juan Salazar, Bernita Dillard) akin to a CSR team that meets regularly with people in East Palo Alto, Belle Haven and North Fair Oaks."

After considering all three answers, I realized: (1) corporations aren't innately socially responsible, (2) a community engagement team isn't a codified CSR policy, and (3) Facebook isn't interested in creating one and it's better that it admits this, rather than give ad-hoc additions to job descriptions or insulting responses to longtime EPA and Belle Haven residents whose families are being displaced daily, because of the tech giant's expansion.

While Facebook spokespersons

downplay a CSR policy, it should be stated that:

1. Stanford University's Haas Center for Public Service, whose aim is "a more just and sustainable world," has seven pillars, of which CSR and social entrepreneurship is one. While Stanford is also complicit in exacerbating the Bay Area's housing crisis (it has a 17-year expansion plan on the Peninsula), I applaud Stanford's acknowledgment that with social entrepreneurship comes CSR!

2. Corporations, such as Starbucks, have CSR departments or strategies which become policies. In a New York Times interview last November, retired Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz said, "There's a great need to achieve the fragile balance between profit, social impact, and a moral obligation" to do everything possible "to enhance the lives of our employees and the communities we serve." I applaud Mr. Schultz's CSR work.

Evidently, Facebook's more interested in charitable acts than justice. My suggesting a CSR policy moves beyond donating money, towards shifting the culture — and possibly the mission of the corporation.

Facebook/Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative's recent donations to EPA: \$2 million for water shortage; \$20 million for affordable housing (Catalyst Fund); and \$3 million for legal support of tenants facing

evictions (Community Legal Services). That's \$25 million.

My next questions are: "How much of this money created actual jobs for EPA residents? How is progress being tracked?" Jobs are critical in allowing people, amid the gentrification spurred by the #TechTakeover, to simultaneously access the wealth of Silicon Valley and afford to live in the community where they grew up.

I've been writing on this topic since February 2016, and I gather that ultimately, Facebook's "bottom line" is expansion. Yet, a CSR policy would limit that expansion, thus conflicting with Facebook's bottom line.

At this point, what I find most disconcerting is the white and/or corporate privilege of key decision-makers at Facebook, which allows them the choice to not engage fully and long-term to combat the detrimental impacts, on both communities, of their well-intentioned start-up. This is unfortunate, because populations of color in EPA and Belle Haven are shrinking daily — and we don't have that same luxury.

Lastly, given the current damage and history of corporations entering and erasing similar communities, good intentions aren't enough.

Dear Facebook, Humanity must become your bottom line!



Kyra Brown is an East Palo Alto native and works in the nonprofit sector. She holds a master of divinity degree with an emphasis in social justice from Howard University. Her blog can be found at writetoliveblog.blogspot.com.

GUEST OPINION

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Ginny Kavanaugh 650.851.1961
CalRE #00884747



Woodside | 4/4.5 | \$8,495,000
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Erika Demma 650.851.2666
CalRE #01230766



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Hossein Jalali 650.324.4456
CalRE #01215831



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Lyn Jason Cobb 650.324.4456
CalRE #01332535



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Jean & Chris Isaacson 650.851.2666
CalRE #00542342



Woodside | 4/3.5 | \$2,850,000
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Ginny Kavanaugh 650.851.1961
CalRE #00884747



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CalRE #01249165



San Carlos | 2/2.5 | \$1,288,000
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in mind--two on the first floor and two more plus an office / playroom / or even possibly a fifth bedroom on the second floor. Remodel, rebuild or live in as is. This Old Palo Alto period home offers plenty of possibilities and the premier location provides proximity to Silicon Valley's top tech companies, Palo Alto's excellent public schools, all that Stanford University has to offer, and convenient access to local shops and restaurants!

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

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 RI, 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)

RIK
AUTOMASTER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 276341

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

1.) Rik, 2.) Automaster, located at 1130 Mandela Court, East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
ELENA KHAN
1130 Mandela Court
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 18, 2018. (ALM Jan. 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 2018)

AUTODECOR
GENUINE PARTS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 276325

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

1.) AutoDecor, 2.) Genuine Parts, located at 1130 Mandela Court, East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
SERGEI KHAN
1130 Mandela Court
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 16, 2018. (ALM Jan. 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 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.: 17CIV05862
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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Woodside | 4/4.5 | \$8,495,000
Sunday 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM 3970 Woodside Rd
 Custom Craftsman home, w/ flawless details and awe inspiring 2 acre setting. Boasts Pinot Nior Vineyard, vast lawns & privacy of Wunderlich Park.



Erika Demma 650.851.2666
 edemma@cbnorcal.com
 CalRE #01230766



Woodside | 5/5.5 | \$8,900,000
Sunday 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM 135 Farm Rd
 Classic estate situated on 4+ acres features sprawling 5-bedroom, 5.5-bath residence with equestrian facilities, pool and tennis court - 135Farm.com



Ginny Kavanaugh 650.400.8076
 gkavanaugh@cbnorcal.com | KavanaughGroup.com
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Woodside | 4/3.5 | \$2,850,000
Sunday 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM 580 Old La Honda Rd
 It's worth the drive for this custom-built 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath home on approximately 9.5 acres with awe-inspiring views - 580OldLaHonda.com



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 gkavanaugh@cbnorcal.com | KavanaughGroup.com
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