

The Almanac

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

OCTOBER 10, 2018 | VOL. 54 NO. 06



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VOTERS' GUIDE ★ 2018 ★

A look at Menlo Park and
Woodside council candidates, and
key issues in their communities

Section begins on Page 5



INSIDE: Fall Real Estate

What's next for Menlo Park Library? | Page 7
House fire kills two pets | Page 15
Endorsements | Page 27



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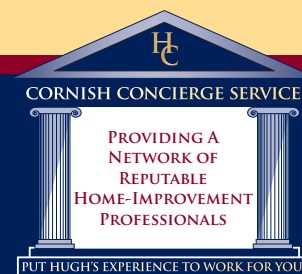
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Voters' Guide 2018

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Menlo Park City Council: Three seats, eight candidates.



District 1
Mike Dunn

Age: 36
Occupation and civic engagement: Software engineer at Fitbit, YMCA volunteer for Youth & Government and Summer Camp programs.
Education: Bachelor's degree -English and creative writing.
Family and local ties: Married to Norayma and parent of 3-year-old son, Crawford. Born and raised in Los Altos, current Menlo Park home for eight years.
Campaign website: Mike4menlopark.com.



District 1
Cecilia Taylor

Age: 48
Occupation: Executive director/ founder Belle Haven Action
Education: Bachelor's degree - mathematics, San Francisco State University; working on graduate certificate, Ethnomathematics, University of Manoa, Hawaii; certificate, early childhood education, Canada College.
Family and local ties: Married to Alfred, has five stepchildren and six grandchildren. Grew up in Belle Haven neighborhood, attended local schools. Returned to neighborhood in 2015.
Campaign website: taylor4menlopark.com.



District 1
George Yang

Age: 42
Occupation and civic engagement: System architect at GARM8 Inc. Current board member of Asian Pacific American Political Association and vice chair of Menlo Park's Sister City Committee. Former board member of Belle Haven Community Foundation and chair of San Bruno Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee.
Education: Bachelor's degree - computer information systems; master's degree - telecommunication management, from Golden Gate University.
Family and local ties: Married to Karen and parent of two kids, 11 and 7. Has lived in Bay Area for 25 years and 11 in Belle Haven.
Campaign website: Georgeyang2018.com.



District 2
Drew Combs

Age: 41
Occupation and civic engagement: Online operations manager at Facebook; current planning commissioner; member, Heritage Tree Task Force; volunteer, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula.
Education: Bachelor's degree in urban studies from Columbia University, law degree from Harvard Law School
Family and local ties: Married to Alexa, parent of toddler, Dailey. Resident of Menlo Park for six years.
Campaign website: www.drewcombs.com.



District 2
Kirsten Keith

Age: 51
Occupation and civic engagement: Attorney, currently on boards of Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, Service League of San Mateo County and the advisory board of CORA, Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse.
Education: Golden Gate University, School of Law, law degree, recipient, Public Interest Law Award; University of California, Santa Barbara, bachelor's degree, political science with an international relations emphasis
Family and local ties: Married to John, parent of two adult children.
Campaign website: kirstenforcouncil.com

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

During Menlo Park's inaugural district elections, there are eight candidates vying for three City Council seats — each of those seats contested by people passionate about their platforms. Voters will elect council members for District 1, which covers Belle Haven and Menlo Park east of U.S. 101; District 2, which includes the Willows, Flood Triangle and Suburban Park neighborhoods; and District 4, which includes downtown, Allied Arts and a southern segment of El Camino Real.

Only voters residing in the district can cast a ballot in that district's election.

Running for District 1 are: parent and commuter Mike Dunn, community advocate Cecilia Taylor, and Sister City Committee member George Yang.

In District 2, incumbent and lawyer Kirsten Keith, and planning commissioner and Facebook employee Drew Combs will square off.

And in District 4, incumbent "numbers guy" Peter Ohtaki faces two challengers: Complete Streets Commissioner

Betsy Nash and Finance and Audit Committee member Ron Shepherd.

The following candidates are presented alphabetically by district.

District 1

Mike Dunn

A newcomer to Menlo Park politics, Fitbit software engineer Mike Dunn said education and traffic are his key reasons to enter the City Council race. "My whole motivation to run is because I want my son and, of course, all of his neighbors ... to have the same great schools that Menlo Park is known for," he said.

He ran for a council seat instead of a school board position, he said, because there are five school districts in Menlo Park, and he hoped that as a council member, he might be able to bring their leaders together and start discussions about the Ravenswood City School District, which administers Belle Haven Elementary School.

He argued that he's got "more skin in the game" than most to promote educational equality

See **CITY COUNCIL**, page 18



District 4
Betsy Nash

Age: 63
Occupation and civic engagement: Former associate director of clinical research at Genentech; member, Complete Streets Commission; former member, Bicycle Commission.
Education: Bachelor's in human biology and psychology from Stanford University
Family and local ties: Married to Horace, parent of three adult children. Has lived in Menlo Park since 1987 and grew up in the area.
Campaign website: betsynash2018.com.



District 4
Peter Ohtaki

Age: 57
Occupation and civic engagement: Vice president, Enterprise Incident Management for Wells Fargo; Menlo Park City Council since 2010; served as mayor in 2013 and 2018; former member, Menlo Park Fire Protection District Board of Directors, serving as board president in 2010.
Education: La Entrada Middle School in Menlo Park, Woodside High School, Harvard University; MBA, Stanford Graduate School of Business
Family and local ties: Married to Julie, parent of three kids, ages 9, 11 and 13.
Campaign website: PeterOhtaki.com



District 4
Ron Shepherd

Age: 77
Occupation and civic engagement: Founder/Treasurer of Shepher & Associates Insurance Services; former member, West Bay Sanitary District; member, Menlo Park Finance and Audit Committee, Heritage Tree Task Force.
Education: Bachelor's degree in accounting from San Diego State College
Family and local ties: Has lived in Menlo Park since 1972, just celebrated his golden wedding anniversary, and has two adult children.
Campaign website: ronscpa2018.nationbuilder.com

**MONTHLY REAL ESTATE
REVIEW WITH
MANDY MONTOYA**

September 2018



Comparing this September to last, inventory was down or flat in all towns except Menlo Park, but the number of homes sold in each town stayed the same. While the samples sizes are very small, these figures illustrate the correlation between inventory and prices.

Real Estate is hyper-local and even varies from one block to the next. If you're considering buying or selling a home, please contact me for strategic guidance.

	September 2017		September 2018	
	# of Active/ # of Sold Homes	Average Sales Price*	# of Active / # of Sold Homes	Average Sales Price*
Atherton	32/4	\$7,243,750	18/6	10,630,000
Woodside	43/10	\$2,667,910	32/6	\$2,820,833
Portola Valley	17/5	\$ 3,855,000	18/4	\$3,462,500
Menlo Park	34/19	\$ 3,065,421	44/18	\$2,401,833

*Small sample size

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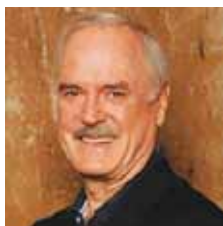
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Proponents reel from withdrawal of Arrillaga offer to help build new city library

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

An offer by local philanthropist and billionaire developer John Arrillaga to help the city of Menlo Park build a new main library has been rescinded, according to an Oct. 1 statement from the city.

Arrillaga made the offer in July 2017, in which he committed to fund the project's costs after the first \$20 million. But with the withdrawal of the offer, plans to build a new main library will be shelved.

"I'm very disappointed," said Monica Corman, president of the Menlo Park Library Foundation. "Here was an opportunity to have just a tremendous contribution from someone who Menlo Park has worked with in the past," she said. "We had such an opportunity and we blew it."

"Since the year 2000, 51 libraries have been built new or substantially remodeled in the Bay Area," she said. Libraries today, she noted, are "community centers of the 21st century in ways you don't even know."

The foundation had prepared a video with footage of the Los Gatos and Mitchell Park libraries, with interviews from library staff who said that, as a result of new libraries, they were experiencing renewed interest in library activities and issuing more library cards than before.

"I respect his decision," said Councilwoman Kirsten Keith,

who, along with Councilman Rich Cline, was on the City Council subcommittee tasked with communicating with Arrillaga on the project. "(Arrillaga) made a generous offer. ... There aren't other cities that get opportunities like that."

Susan Holmer, who retired as Menlo Park's director of library services on Oct. 5, said that, while she was disappointed with the withdrawal of the offer, "We're also very hopeful that the process will continue. The idea of giving Menlo Park a new main library is not a dead idea to us."

Without the offer, though, the project is back to being on a 10-year timeline, she said. "That's the standard amount of time it takes," she added. The city not only has to plan a new library, but collect community input, get community support, find funding for the project — potentially through bond issues — and then move forward to build the project.

"I think that we weren't able to move as fast as (Arrillaga) desired," Holmer said. "You can't rush public outreach. In Menlo Park public outreach is really of great import. People really want to have their opinions sought. And as much as we tried to do it in a tight time frame, it probably wasn't enough to get that kind of support."

She said she does think there is support from library users for the project, though — but noted



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Parents and caregivers must register in advance to attend children's story time events at the Menlo Park library because of limited space — the basement room fits about 30 kids and has no windows. Above: Wendy Kuhnen of the Menlo Park Library runs a story time session for 1- and 2-year-old children.

that the same reason they're good library customers may explain why there wasn't a particularly loud clamoring from the public in favor of the project.

"People who come to libraries aren't the kind of people who bang on countertops and raise their voices," she said. "They're quiet and polite, and they want it, but they're not going to jump up and down. ... They're quieter about their desires."

The proposal

Arrillaga's offer, conveyed through third parties like staff

and council members, carried some controversy since it was proposed, partly because of the strings attached to the offer.

The offer applied only to the main library at the city's Burgess Park campus, and not to a library in the Belle Haven neighborhood. At the time the offer was made, City Manager Alex McIntyre said he had suggested that Arrillaga's donation be used to help cover costs of building a Belle Haven library, which was higher on the city's list of priorities. The offer also did not apply to soft costs like

new furniture and materials, which the city estimated to be about \$10 million.

On the other side, staff reported, as discussions of a new main library progressed, Arrillaga's offer was extended to include the costs of underground parking and a new City Council Chambers or large public meeting area — bringing cost estimates for the project up to about \$58 million.

The developer had worked with Menlo Park in the past as

See **LIBRARY**, page 25

Surf Air returns to San Carlos Airport this month

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

Surf Air, the controversial members-only commuter airline behind thousands of residents' noise complaints to the San Carlos Airport, will be back at the airport later this month, the company confirmed with The Almanac on Friday.

Gretchen Kelly, the manager of the San Mateo County-owned airport, confirmed in August that the airline had stopped using the San Carlos Airport, saying that the last record the airport had of a Surf Air plane landing there was June 29. She said at the time that workers affiliated with

Surf Air indicated the company may be back in October.

A company spokesperson confirmed via email last week that Surf Air will resume service in San Carlos later this month. The spokesperson said an exact date for when flights will resume has not been determined, "but we're hoping to begin in the next couple of weeks," the spokesperson said.

"We've worked closely with the community since suspending service over the summer to identify ways to reduce our noise footprint, which we believe we've addressed by modifying our schedule and using a quieter type of aircraft," the Surf Air spokesperson said.

"We'll stay in close contact with our friends in San Carlos to quickly address any issue that may arise as we resume service."

Menlo Park resident Joe Straton of CalmTheSkies, an Atherton-based group concerned with the noise from Surf Air, said that to his knowledge no one in the community had conversations with Surf Air as the spokesperson stated. Community members are not pleased with the return of Surf Air.

"The early morning and later evening flights are disruptive to many people throughout the flight path," said Straton, who is the administrator for CalmTheSkies' website. "The

flights disturb sleep, work and leisure time." It sounds like a helicopter is right above your house for the duration of the plane passing over, he said.

The company's 90-day flight schedule, emailed to Surf Air website subscribers on Oct. 3, runs from October through January, Mondays through Fridays. Flights from San Carlos to Santa Barbara are listed in the schedule, along with flights from San Carlos to Hawthorne. The schedule did not list specific dates for flights.

Surf Air also has San Carlos back as a destination on its website.

Kelly could not immediately be reached for comment.

Asked how many flights will be scheduled in and out of the airport, the Surf Air spokesperson said, "Once we resume flight operations we'll start slowly as our planned service will not be as robust as previous."

"San Carlos is the most popular destination for members in our network today and I can confirm that the San Carlos Airport is aware of our return, and I've been told that we have indeed made the county aware," the spokesperson added.

A startup airline that began using the San Carlos Airport in June 2013, Surf Air offered

See **SURF AIR**, page 8

Residents, officials want details on neighbor's construction

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

WOODSIDE

For now, officials in Woodside Town Hall are short on answers when asked about what's happening at 2350 Alameda de las Pulgas, a residential property located a block south of Woodside High School that is owned by Markos Kounalakis — the husband of Eleni Kounalakis, a developer and one of two Democratic candidates for California

lieutenant governor in the Nov. 6 election.

Woodside officials and neighbors want to know: Is there or has there been unauthorized construction on the site, including a fence, a gate and an accessory structure? Is there more than one residence on the grounds?

Town Hall recently received a petition signed by 18 residents,

most of whom indicated they live on Ward Way, a nearby cul-de-sac. "We appreciate the rural feel of the town and want to preserve it," the petition begins.

A short catalog of grievances follows that includes allegations of unpermitted new separate entrances to the main residence, new auxiliary buildings, new paving, a new fence and a new gate, with a note that development on Kounalakis' property has been going on for three years.

"The suspected building code violations were turned over to the Woodside Town Attorney a number of months ago," the petition says. "Extreme violators of the town building ordinances and Woodside Town mission should be made to comply with the permit process the same as the rest of us."

Woodside's Town Attorney Jean B. Savaree recently sent an ultimatum to attorney Dori Yob Kilmer, who is representing Kounalakis. The letter, dated Sept. 25, requests that Kounalakis grant the town access to the property or face the possibility of a warrant for a court-ordered inspection.

"These complaints and accusations are groundless," Kounalakis told The Almanac on Monday. "The remodeling we did was permitted and allowed and expensive. These particular neighbors have not contacted me personally, but

have been harassing my father (who lived there) and trespassing for years.

"I'll respond to the city's letter," he said. "Honestly I just don't understand what's wrong with these people. ... It is just saddening that neighbors can't get along for whatever reason. They feel it incumbent upon themselves to continue this unneighborly act."

Savaree notes that the town "continues to receive complaints that the main residence on the property has been converted to multiple living spaces, accessory structures have been built, and both fencing and a gate have been installed on the property. The Town's files do not contain permits for any of this alleged work."

The letter requests permission to enter and inspect the property "to determine whether or not unpermitted construction has occurred." If access is not granted, "the Town will be left with no alternative but to request that the court issue an inspection warrant," the letter says.

Noise and parking

Katherine Doughty, who lives next door, said she had been shown around the property by Kounalakis' father in 2016. At the time, an outbuilding had been converted to a living space and a garage conversion to living spaces was underway, she said.

The 160-foot fence she shared with the Kounalakis property was taken down and re-erected in part on what she says is her side of the property line.

Doughty said she is waiting for the town to act. Of vital concern, she said, is the possibility of a fire risk if electrical work was done in violation of codes.

For Nora Contos, a resident of Ward Way, the problem is noise — for two and a half years, six days a week and sometimes on Sundays, she said. "The pounding," she said. "There were times when I couldn't open my windows because of all the noise over there."

Parking is insufficient on the property and so visitors park on Ward Way. "Basically it's the noise and the people parking on Ward Way," she said. "I have no idea who they are. ... You don't know what's going on. They're very private. It's like, 'Mind your own business.'"

Contos said she checked with Town Hall and learned that work was being done without permits, but she has not called San Mateo County Sheriff's Office deputies to complain about the noise. "We don't because we just kind of have a wait-and-see attitude," she said. "I just keep all the windows closed at night. I just ignore it. I just sit in my family room and watch TV." ■

Invitation for Bids Demolition & Reconstruction of District Residences at 20000 Skyline Blvd, Redwood City

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) will receive bids at their Administrative Office located at 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA **on or before 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 7, 2018** for the furnishing of all labor, materials and services required for the following designated scope of work: demolition, lead and asbestos abatement, and renovations at multiple structures at 20000 Skyline Blvd, unincorporated San Mateo County. **All bidders must attend a mandatory pre-bid meeting and site tour scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 17, 2018.** Reservations required. Contact: Elaina Cuzick at 650-691-1200 no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday, October 16, 2018 to make a reservation and receive directions.

Complete project information is contained within the project Bid Package, which is now available online at the District's website: www.openspace.org/bids

A hardcopy is available for review at the District Administrative Office.

SURF AIR

continued from page 7

unlimited flights for a monthly fee and scheduled as many as 45 flights a day in and out of the airport.

In mid-June, however, Surf Air replaced Encompass Aviation LLC with Advanced Aviation LLC as its flight operator. Days later Encompass sued Surf Air, claiming \$3.1 million in unpaid bills. In addition, the federal government says Surf Air owes \$2.33 million in taxes, and San Mateo County says Surf Air owes it \$131,371 for 2017 taxes, and may owe more for 2015 and 2016.

Surf Air has since filed a counterclaim to the Encompass lawsuit, asking that Encompass return the PC-12 turboprop planes it has subleased from Surf Air and claiming at least \$10 million in damages. Surf Air has also requested a jury trial.

After the change in flight operators, the airport recorded only 51 arrivals or departures



Michelle Le/The Almanac

Passengers board Surf Air flight at the San Carlos Airport. The airline is returning to the airport this month.

by Surf Air before the flights stopped altogether.

In August, Kelly said that no one from Surf Air officially notified the airport that the flights would be discontinued, but that the company's ground crew said flights would be discontinued through the end of September.

Surf Air raised an additional \$9.1 million in funding in September, according to a regulatory filing. This brings the Santa Monica-based company's total funding to \$92.9 million, according to business information website Crunchbase. ■

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Proposed hotel plans raise concerns

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

A proposal to demolish the 28-room Red Cottage Inn & Suites at 1704 El Camino Real and replace it with a 68-room Hampton Inn was scheduled to be reviewed by the Menlo Park Planning Commission on Monday, Oct. 8, after The Almanac went to press.

Go to almanacnews.com for the latest update.

It's not the first time the Planning Commission has looked at the project, nor will it be the last. At a March study session, the commission favored changing the architectural style to "Spanish Eclectic" from a "farmhouse" style, and lowering floor heights from 15 feet to 13 feet to make the three-story building less imposing.

Since then, however, construction costs have risen to the point where the builder says it's no longer financially feasible to build an underground parking garage. The proposal has been redesigned to have parking on the east side of the ground floor, and an entry with a lounge, lobby and a dining area (intended only for hotel guests to eat breakfast) on the ground floor on the side facing El Camino Real. There would be 68 guest rooms.

The building as proposed would be 37,787 square feet, 42 feet tall at its highest point, and built at a density requiring some form of additional contribution to the public. The developer also proposes to remove all 15 trees on the site, six of which are considered "heritage" trees, and install 52 parking spaces, with room on site to fit a total of 68 cars using valet

parking. The developer would also have to provide \$256,480 in fees toward the city's below-market-rate housing fund.

The project is expected to generate about \$661,000 in hotel taxes per year. In several recent hotel developments in the city's downtown area, hotel taxes have been considered to be a sufficient "public benefit" to justify the additional density being sought.

Despite previous conversations with nearby residents, a number of complaints about the project have recently come into the City Council's email inbox. An online petition on change.org had, as of the morning of Oct. 8, 84 supporters, who demand that the developer create a 38-foot setback boundary from Forest Lane, replace the third-floor rooms facing Forest Lane with a trellis, and add second-story landscaping. ■

Day of the Horse celebration Saturday

Woodside celebrates its equestrian heritage — this year on Saturday, Oct. 13 — as it has in years past: with a fair, stagecoach rides, a trail ride, exhibits, prizes and a blessing of the horses.

Now in its 10th year, the day begins at 10 a.m. with the horse fair at Town Hall, located at 2955 Woodside Road. The fair runs until 2 p.m. and includes information tables, exhibits and activities.

New this year is a covered-wagon exhibit set up to emulate pioneer life during the trek west. Visitors can also check out a blacksmith at work, decorate cookies made in the shape of horses, create equestrian-themed art, listen to a pony's heartbeat, ride a pony and have one's face painted.

A blessing of the horses take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on

the grounds of the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County at 521 Kings Mountain Road.

The progressive trail ride also runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. A mapped-out route on public trails allows riders to enter the route at any point. The ride includes stops for food for both riders and horses. Riders who make the minimum number of stops receive a gift bag.

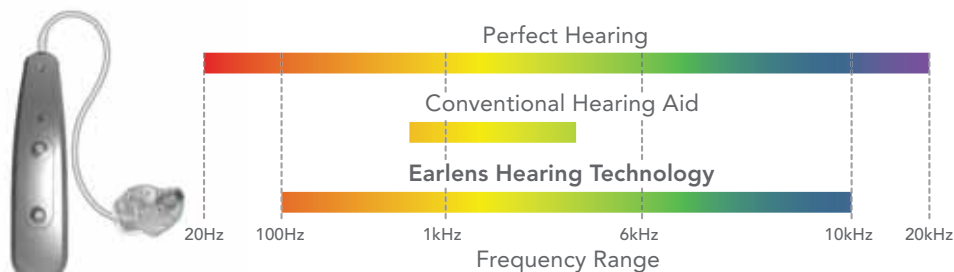
Over the years, the fair's proceeds of over \$195,000 have enabled projects such as the restoration of Folger Stable; trail maintenance in town, in the county parks and in the regional open space district; and the "Spring and Sprite" statue overlooking Woodside Road in the town center.

Go to is.gd/DayOfHorse for more information.



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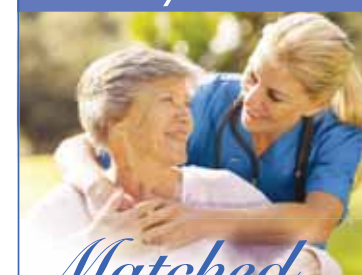
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Board of Supervisors bans flamethrowers

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Flamethrowers are not yet illegal possessions for the general public in unincorporated San Mateo County, but a process is now underway to make them so.

The county Board of Supervisors last month unanimously approved an ordinance that would prohibit the use, ownership, sale, trade, transfer or distribution of flamethrowers in unincorporated communities such as Ladera, Los Trancos Woods, North Fair Oaks and Stanford Weekend Acres.

A flamethrower ban may seem an unusual matter for county supervisors to take up, but it was in fact a timely move. In February, The Boring Company — a California firm founded by Elon Musk, the chief executive at Tesla and Space X — announced plans to sell 20,000 automatic-rifle-like devices, for \$500 each, that shoot flames a distance of several feet. The devices sold out in five days, according to a February CNBC story.

A spate of recent news stories brought the matter to the attention of supervisors Don Horsley and Warren Slocum, who sponsored the ordinance.

The ordinance defines a flamethrower as a portable device “designed or intended to emit, or capable of emitting or propelling, fire or a burning stream of combustible or flammable liquid” a distance of 22 inches or more.

The flamethrowers made by Boring are powered by propane gas. A state permit is required only if the device shoots a burning liquid a distance of at least 10 feet. Videos show this device shooting flames several feet, but less than 10 feet.

The board gave final approval to the ordinance in late September; it will go into effect the last week of October.

‘Not a fun device’

“This is not a fun device,” Horsley said before the initial vote. “This is not something that we want to see. ... Rather than wait and find that these are a problem in

the community, we decided to pursue an ordinance.”

In an interview, Horsley said he hopes that cities and towns in the county will consider their own ordinances in the interest of fire safety. Though the Boring devices sold out, other manufacturers may come along, he said.

“If it can be done, it will be done,” he said. “We’ve been lucky so far, but we could have a wildland fire as well.”

Slocum, in explaining his sponsorship, recalled a plethora of illegal fireworks going off within hearing distance of his house on the Fourth of July, and the relevance to the public’s health and safety. “We don’t need to add to the chaos that’s already going on on July Fourth,” he said.

As for widening the ban to include ordinances by incorporated cities and towns, Slocum said he plans to talk with officials from a couple of communities “and see what the temperature is.”

Mayors John Richards of Portola Valley and Chris Shaw of Woodside said they had no current plans to introduce ordinances. Shaw said he’s more worried about fires sparked by vehicles and landscaping equipment operating in dry grass, and by lit cigarettes tossed or dropped by pedestrians.

Violations of the county ordinance would result in fines: \$100 for the first violation, \$200 for the second and \$500 for subsequent incidents within one year.

Firefighters using a flame-throwing device in the line of duty would be exempt from the ordinance, as well as residents with permits to own flamethrowers.

Asked to comment on the Boring flamethrowers, Chief Dan Ghorso of the Woodside Fire Protection District said he hadn’t seen one but based on a description of a weapon-like device, said he didn’t see any purpose for it other than seeking thrills.

“It doesn’t sound like it has any practical application,” Ghorso said. He said he was “flabbergasted” and wondered what Musk was thinking when he decided to manufacture them. ■

‘Rather than wait and find that these are a problem in the community, we decided to pursue an ordinance.’

SUPERVISOR DON HORSLEY



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See over 250 costumed riders along the Woodside Trails for this year's theme, "California Gold Rush"



Menlo Park library director retires

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park Library Services Director Susan Holmer retired Oct. 5 after 16 years in the role. When she started in 2002, the library still had phonograph records in circulation, and Wi-Fi wasn't a thing, she said.

The addition of self checkout machines and an automatic check-in machine has sped up the library's circulation processes dramatically and eliminated some tedium for staff, she said.

Initially, she said, "when the internet came along, people thought, 'You don't need libraries.'" But as time has gone on, it's become clear that

even though there is a lot of information available online, the skills that librarians possess to track down that piece of information people really want or need are as important as ever, she said.

"Libraries aren't going to go away. Books aren't going to go away," she said.

Over the years, she said, as library director she's tried to be responsive to the ideas of her staff librarians, especially the younger ones. Together, she said, they've changed the perception of a public library as somewhere you go to borrow materials to a place you go to meet people "in a stimulating and intellectual environment."

Replacing her on an interim basis is Sean Reinhart, most



Photo by Michelle Le

Susan Holmer headed library services since 2002.

recently director of library and community services for the city of Hayward.

As for Holmer, she plans to continue expanding her skills in being a helpful resource for people as a master gardener. She'll be heading to San Jose weekly to complete a 17-week course through the University of California at Davis to learn more about gardening, after which she plans to share that knowledge in her home community in Mountain View.

"You can't stop being a librarian," she said. ▣

'Libraries aren't going to go away. Books aren't going to go away.'

SUSAN HOLMER, MENLO PARK LIBRARY SERVICES DIRECTOR

City seeks input on Nealon Park

The city of Menlo Park is seeking public input on a new "nature-themed" playground planned at Nealon Park.

To provide feedback, the

public can attend a meeting set for 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 10, at Nealon Park, 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park.

The event is family-friendly, and there will be activities for kids and refreshments provided, according to city staff.

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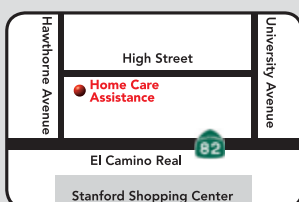


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“Because we knew her BRCA status, we could more optimally select therapies,” said her Stanford medical oncologist Melinda Telli, MD. After 12 weeks of targeted, combination chemotherapy, followed by surgery, Parul was cancer free.

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Menlo Park: House fire kills two pets, causes major damage

By Renee Batti
Almanac Editor

A fire that broke out in a two-story home in the unit block of Robert S Drive in Menlo Park Friday afternoon (Oct. 5) claimed the lives of two family pets and caused damage that could exceed \$2 million, according to the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

Chief Harold Schapelhouman said some 21 fire personnel from Menlo Park, Woodside and Palo Alto fire agencies responded to the incident, reported by a gardener working nearby at 4:23 p.m. Friday. They brought the blaze under control at about 4:39, he said.

The homeowners were away at the time the fire started, but arrived home soon after the blaze was extinguished, Schapelhouman said in a written statement issued tonight.

Of the three family pets at the house when the fire broke out, two cats died of smoke inhalation, he said.

Firefighters responding to the scene reported that smoke and fire were visible to the rear of the house and that they would be forcing entry through the front door.

'The fire crews inside did a great job under difficult and dangerous conditions.'

CHIEF HAROLD SCHAPELHOUMAN

The fire was primarily in a large room that had 16-foot vaulted ceilings, Schapelhouman said.

The 5,000-square-foot house was built in 2005 in a neighborhood just south of Valparaiso Avenue, according to the fire

district statement. "Roughly 1,500 square feet of the first floor of (the) structure was significantly damaged by the fire, with smoke and heat damage throughout the rest of the building," the statement said.

Schapelhouman said in the statement: "The fire crews inside did a great job under difficult and dangerous conditions; they told us that this fire was so hot inside, that the wood stairway banisters and hand railings were on fire all the way up to the second floor of the building. We certainly don't see that very often.

"We are estimating that the fire loss and damage could exceed \$2 million dollars, based upon the amount of significant structural damage and destruction of major portions of the first floor."

Fire investigators from the district located what they believed was the fire's area of origin near



Peter Mootz

A fire that broke out in a home on Robert S Drive in Menlo Park Friday afternoon claimed the lives of two family pets and caused damage that could exceed \$2 million.

a large flat-screen television and entertainment center, Schapelhouman said. The official cause of

the fire is still under investigation. No firefighters were injured during the incident. ■

District cites tough standards for school building project

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

The Portola Valley School District board took steps at an Oct. 3 meeting to determine how the district would implement Measure Z, the \$49.5 million bond measure to fix aging and leaky buildings, if it passes in November.

The measure, which requires 55 percent of the vote for approval, would add a maximum of \$300 per \$1 million of assessed valuation to property tax bills.

At the afternoon meeting Eric Holm, director of bond projects for the neighboring Las Lomas School District, explained to the board how school buildings are customarily built.

"I get a lot of questions about why it costs so much money (to fix school buildings)," Holm said. A classroom is about 1,000 square feet, which is about the size of some people's homes, he said. Schools might add thousands of square feet in a rebuild or renovation, he said.

"It's a big undertaking," he said.

The government also has a lot of liability for having students in classrooms, so every time there's school construction it's closely monitored, he said. For example, every time a hole is drilled into a school building, inspectors have to observe it.

The structural requirements of school buildings are just one tier below hospitals, Holm said. Schools are not considered essential services buildings, the category that hospitals, fire departments and police departments fall into, he said.

Schools in California are still governed by the Division of the State Architect. This division was established by the Field Act after significant damage to 230 Southern California schools during a 6.3 magnitude earthquake in 1933, according to a report from the state's Seismic Safety Commission. The buildings were not constructed to resist earthquakes, so they were either destroyed, suffered major damage or were deemed unsafe to occupy, according to the report. The earthquake didn't happen during school hours, so

no students were present.

During Holm's presentation, Portola Valley School District Superintendent Eric Hartwig was struck, he said, by the many factors that contribute to the high cost of school construction, such as constant inspection and the need to design for use by hundreds of children over a period of years. There is a lot of deep planning and consideration of the extremely high standards that school construction is subject to, Hartwig said.

"These realities add to the time and cost of developing projects," Hartwig wrote in an email. "All contribute to a final cost that is more than most of us are used to."

The district has to diligently communicate with residents about the higher cost and timeline of construction because of the "extreme attention to detail" required by the district, said board President Gulliver La Valle. This way, the community won't be so surprised by costs or project timelines, he said.

Part of the discussion at the meeting focused on hiring a

project manager to run the bond's building program. The district would need to decide if it wants to hire a project manager through an outside consultant or hire someone internally, Holm said. That hiring process would begin in mid-November if the measure passes. The manager would start in February 2019.

One of the added challenges of building a school in the Bay Area is that it is difficult to hire construction workers because the region already has so much construction, Holm said.

High-priority projects at Corte Madera School (which has grades four through eight) include a new two-story classroom building, which would cost between \$38.4 and \$42.5 million, according to a facilities master plan. There are \$10.9 million to \$12 million in projects included as immediate priorities at Ormondale School.

The Portola Valley district had 574 students enrolled this school year as of Sept. 6.

The board did not take any action related to the bond measure. ■

Menlo Park is state's 11th-safest city, report says

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

According to an analysis done by Safewise, a home security company, the city of Menlo Park ranks 11th out of California cities for safety, based on 2016 FBI crime report statistics and population data. Some cities were not included based on population thresholds.

The report says the city's rate of violent crimes is 0.89 per 1,000 residents and that its property crime rate is 18.47 per 1,000 residents. According to the report, the East Bay city of Danville tops the list with a violent crime rate of 0.20 crimes per 1,000 residents and property crime rate of 8.13 per 1,000 residents. Palo Alto ranked 20th, with a

violent crime rate of 1.08 per 1,000 residents and property crime rate of 21.33 per 1,000 residents.

Violent crimes cover reports of aggravated assault, murder, rape and robbery, and property crimes cover reports of burglary, arson, larceny-theft and car theft.

Go to is.gd/safe596 to access the report. ■

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CITY COUNCIL*continued from page 5*

and keep traffic from worsening in the city.

"I don't know anyone who would be more passionate," he said.

He lives the reality of having one's day dictated by the traffic patterns that plague Menlo Park, and of worrying about where he's going to send his son to school. He commutes daily down Willow Road to the Caltrain station, and takes the train to San Francisco, about a two-hour commute both ways, he said. He often stays around downtown Menlo Park in the evenings until traffic eases up and he can get home more quickly.

While he hasn't served on any city commissions, he has been involved in the community on a civic level as a volunteer in Palo Alto at the YMCA, where he has taught high school kids about the importance of local and state government, he said.

On the traffic front, he said: "I think we've inherited a problem that is not going to be an easy fix. ... People need to make sure the neighborhood isn't negatively impacted. We need to make sure all the considerations are made, not just build as big as possible and see what happens."

He thinks Menlo Park should be more "inclusive," especially for youth. The city should offer the same level of public amenities, after-school and recreation programs in Belle Haven as are offered through the city's Burgess Park recreation facilities.

He said that as a Belle Haven resident, he's so far seen some positive impacts of Facebook in the neighborhood: "I don't want to badmouth Facebook for being there. The stuff they're bringing is helping a lot in the neighborhood. ... Development isn't a bad thing."

On Facebook's proposed Willow Village, he said he's excited the neighborhood may get a supermarket — given how traffic can lock his neighborhood in, it would be great to be able to get food nearby, he said.

Regarding the woes of the Willow Road/U.S. 101 interchange, Dunn said he was at a meeting where council members talked about landscaping instead of safety at that section of roadway, making him wonder if any of them had tried traversing Willow Road at rush hour.

"I don't want to be there long enough to enjoy the landscaping," he said. "I want to be able to get through it."

For him, safety problems at the interchange are a more pressing concern. Every day, he said, people are "either swerving into people or dangerously changing lanes."

Dunn has pledged not to accept campaign contributions — partly because he doesn't want donors to expect anything from him, and partly because of the amount of paperwork involved.

Cecilia Taylor

In the two years since her initial run for the Menlo Park City Council, Belle Haven resident Cecilia Taylor has become embedded in the neighborhood as a community advocate. When she didn't win a council seat in 2016, instead of joining a city commission — a more traditional route to eventually pursuing a City Council seat — she launched Belle Haven Action, a project of the UnaMesa Association for Community Engagement, a Palo Alto-based nonprofit.

Through that organization, which she currently heads as executive director, she has come to understand the needs of residents in her neighborhood and launched projects to address those needs, she said.

When she felt that a new affordable housing development for seniors in Belle Haven didn't do enough to alert homeless seniors to the housing opportunity, she started a campaign to help those seniors submit forms indicating their interest in the housing. When World War II hero and longtime Belle Haven resident Karl Clark died in March 2017, Taylor campaigned to have the neighborhood's Market Place Park named after him, rallying Belle Haven residents to attend Parks and Recreation Commission meetings in support of the change.

"The fact of the matter is: How many people on the council actually come and spend more than two hours in the neighborhood that's most impacted by the choices that have been made?" she asked "... I live it."

Taylor said she favors more below-market-rate housing, especially downtown, and some form of tenant relocation assistance that is not burdensome to landlords, but gives priority to longtime residents. She also supports redeveloping the Belle Haven community complex and constructing a new library there.

On Facebook's proposed Willow Village, she said new developments should provide agreed-upon public benefits before structures are built, and incorporate needed infrastructure and police and fire services. "It is a serious discussion about reality," she said. "This area was not built for that number of people. ... I just start adding up the numbers and it's like, are we creating our own little city?"

"We have to start paying attention to residents' needs, not developments," she added.

One concern that has been

raised is that Belle Haven Action has accepted a \$75,000 grant from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative — a philanthropic investment company funded by the fortune of Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Dr. Priscilla Chan. However, according to City Attorney Bill McClure, the matter is likely not to constitute a conflict of interest that would preclude Taylor from voting on Facebook matters.

On her statement of economic interests filed with the Fair Political Practices Commission, Taylor said she plans to resign as executive director of Belle Haven Action when a successor is found, and will instead serve as a member of its advisory board. She also hopes to get back into classroom teaching eventually, but if elected, she will commit to serving on the council full time for the first year.

"The reason why I am stepping down from Belle Haven Action is so that I can commit my first year on council (to) council. ... I would like my primary focus to be on council so that I can learn, because there's a whole lot to learn and there are a lot of issues going on. ... I don't want to be up until 1 a.m. every night for the next four years. I want to be effective."

George Yang

George Yang, a self-described "tech person," has a wealth of ideas about how to improve regional public transit, promote the development of higher-density housing for local teachers, and call upon tech-based strategies to address some city problems.

Making change, though, starts by inspiring people with ambition, he said. "The quote that I sometimes use is: If you want to build a boat, don't just start giving out planks and giving out nails. You inspire people to the ocean. You long for the ocean, then you get it done."

As a member of Menlo Park's Sister City Committee, he encourages the city to look abroad for ideas for how to improve traffic and integrate residential and commercial spaces.

One of his ambitious proposals to address traffic — which is so ambitious it transcends the jurisdiction of the City Council — is to advocate for a comprehensive light rail loop around the South Bay, pushing for the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to expand its light rail system northward past Moffett Field, and then to connect to a rail system across the Dumbarton Bridge. The boundaries between jurisdictions that act as barriers to addressing regional traffic problems need to be broken down, he said — traffic is everybody's problem.

On an old Twitter account

affiliated with Yang's 2012 run for a state Assembly seat, which Yang said he no longer has access to, he identified as a Bay Area conservative, rifle owner and born-again Christian. Those labels are mostly still true, he said — minus the rifles. He lost that election, against incumbent Rich Gordon, receiving 29.6 percent of the vote.

For his campaign for the council, however, he said he "would like to focus on solutions that transcend party and ideology."

"I really feel like we need to have consistent traffic solutions before we move forward to more development," he said. "Right now I think our transportation resources are being pushed to their limits."

One idea he proposes: Instead of running a shuttle program that sends shuttles out around town whether there are passengers or not, the city could put funds toward a program that gives seniors money for ride-share programs during non-peak traffic hours to run their needed errands.

Moving forward, he'd support further development on a case-by-case basis, based on traffic and neighborhood impacts, he said.

On Facebook's proposed Willow Village, he compared Willow Road to a river, and said, "We don't want Willow Village to be a citadel, a fortress on the other side of the river that we just can't get to. We need a way ... for people to go there and be a part of the same community."

While he said he'd like to see locals have greater control over schools in Menlo Park that are part of the Ravenswood City School District, including Belle Haven, and better governance in that district, those concerns are better addressed through the school district board. "The City Council does not have jurisdiction over education," he said. "As a candidate, I do not want to make a promise that I cannot keep."

District 2**Drew Combs**

Drew Combs, who ran unsuccessfully for City Council in 2014 and is serving his fifth year on the city's Planning Commission, said he is running for office because of concerns he has about City Council ethics, and to promote "the idea of returning the focus to residents."

"That's something that has seemingly not been a priority with my specific opponent," he said.

"If you look at some of the ethical issues that certain members of the City Council have faced in recent months, it's not just that ... they did these things and faced these issues that are

problematic," he said. "There seems to be no humility, ... no real sense of 'This is wrong, I'm going to take these actions to make sure this never happens again,' or 'This should not have happened,'" he said.

He questioned, too, the ethics of the decision for the city to prioritize holding elections for districts 2 and 4 this year, giving consideration to current incumbents. He said the districts chosen for having elections this year should have been selected randomly.

The council has taken many steps to make it easier for developers to build major projects in the city, through the downtown and ConnectMenlo zoning plans, he said, but has done little to streamline the approval process for residents who live on substandard lots — of which there are many — to renovate their homes.

"It can be a pretty hellacious experience," he said.

If elected, he wants to develop a plan for those homeowners to streamline renovation proposals so that they do not have to go before the Planning Commission in situations where neighbors support the project and there aren't other objections.

He also proposes to convene people to discuss developing a special zoning district on the Willow Road corridor — and potentially developing a "Specific Plan lite" for the retail and commercial spaces on Willow Road. He plans to promote transparency with a requirement for council members to publicly disclose when they meet with people who have business before the city, develop a district neighborhood council, have bi-weekly office hours, and refuse offers of free travel.

However, more than any other council candidate, Combs is likely to experience significant restrictions on what he can vote on because he is employed by Facebook. Menlo Park City Attorney Bill McClure reports that Combs would not be able to vote on and participate in discussions of Facebook's Willow Village proposal — the city's largest-ever development.

When the city was developing its specific plan, the City Council made accommodations to break down agenda items so that council members who had conflicts because of ties to Stanford, for instance, could still participate in some aspects of council deliberations, Combs said. Something similar could be done for his situation, in close consultation with the city attorney and perhaps with guidance from the FPPC, the state's political ethics commission.

"I'm not completely recused from everything happening in the Bayfront area, but certainly the stuff of which there is a direct

impact on Facebook and maybe a sort of clear indirect impact, then I'm recused," he said.

He is also a newcomer to his neighborhood, having moved just in time to file paperwork to run for office. "The homes in District 2 are one of the more affordable areas to get more space," he explained. "I was always either moving to the Willows or Flood Triangle at some point. ... The decision to run was a factor in the move. "It's certainly probable it moved up our timeline a few months." He argues that he knows the needs of the neighborhood well from his previous campaign and his work as a planning commissioner.

Kirsten Keith

Kirsten Keith, a two-term incumbent, has seen Menlo Park through the last eight years.

When she took office, the city was still reeling from the recession. Since then, Facebook has come to town, and the city has completed both its Downtown/El Camino Real specific plan, to change zoning downtown, and its general plan update, to increase the zoning allowances on the Bay side of Menlo Park. Much of the development permitted in those plans has already been claimed by developers.

She's no newcomer to Menlo park politics, having served as mayor in 2012 and 2017 and, prior to her election to City Council, serving on the Planning Commission, Housing Commission, and Mediation Services Committee for Menlo Park. She also has a long list of civic involvement and ties to local groups like JobTrain, Haven House, San Mateo County Legal Aid Society, the Service League of San Mateo County, the state Democratic Municipal Officials, and the Women's Caucus of the League of California Cities.

She currently serves on a number of regional committees for the city and is the city's main liaison on the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority, and liaison to the Complete Streets Commission and Transportation Master Plan Oversight and Outreach Committee.

Among her campaign promises is to continue with initiatives she has worked on as a council member.

One is the Dumbarton rail corridor. She says she will "demand that a world-class commuter rail system to the East Bay" be a "requirement for any large-scale development near the rail corridor."

Keith said that one clear thing she can offer voters, in contrast to her challenger, is the absence of a Facebook "conflict." She will be able to vote on Facebook's "Willow Village" project, while Drew Combs, as a Facebook

employee, will not.

Keith is currently the subject of an ethics violation complaint alleging that she accepted free travel to China in excess of what the state permits. The allegation hinges on the specifics of whether or not the organization that funded the trip had the proper certification as a formal 501(c)(3) nonprofit. She had traveled to China when the council held a major study session on Facebook's proposed Willow Village project.

No ruling has yet been made by the state's Fair Political Practices Commission. She voted recently to approve a City Council policy that would provide clearer guidelines for council members about what steps must be taken in order to accept free travel.

Keith's voting record shows support for bicycle and environment-friendly policies and housing. She pointed to the completion of an affordable housing project for veterans on Willow Road as one achievement during her council tenure.

"We've actually put our money where our mouth is to get projects approved and built to help with this housing crisis," she said.

District 4

Betsy Nash

Betsy Nash, who has lived in Menlo Park for 31 years, said she got her first taste of what it was like to create change in the city in recent years when she got involved in promoting sidewalks on Santa Cruz Avenue, which were installed in 2017.

She's lived in the area her whole life, minus three years in Boston, she said. After graduating from Stanford, she pursued a career in biotech and raised her kids in Menlo Park, volunteering over the years as a 4-H leader and soccer coach, among other things.

In 2015, she was appointed to the Bicycle Commission, which eventually fused with the broader-scope, nine-member Complete Streets Commission. Being on the commission has been "eye-opening" — one realization being that the nuanced discussions by city commissioners that precede City Council deliberations don't always get passed along to the council.

"I'm running because I feel that I can give a better voice for residents of Menlo Park," she said.

Like other challengers in this year's election, she's critical of the direction the City Council is taking Menlo Park. "We've had eight years of the incumbent council and we've got runaway development. We've got traffic that's getting worse and worse. We have an incredible jobs-housing imbalance, that's again, getting worse, and I think that the council really needs to be serving the residents," Nash said. "I can do

that. ... At this point I've got the time, energy and experience to be that voice."

Nash said she is independent and data-driven. To remain independent, she said, she is not accepting contributions larger than \$250 from individuals and is not accepting donations from organizations or developers.

When it comes to data, Nash said, the city should be better able to provide numbers on some basic matters — like the number of existing square feet of buildings that have been proposed for redevelopment in the "ConnectMenlo" area east of U.S. 101. (Staff recently reported that they had not yet calculated that data.)

As a Complete Streets commissioner, her clearest policy priorities are transportation-related. She favors transit-oriented development — specifically, building more housing downtown near public transit — as the city works on updating its downtown plan, and wants to see a safety-first, multi-modal (bike and pedestrian friendly) approach to traffic infrastructure.

The future of transportation in Menlo Park should be shaped around goals to reduce solo driving in favor of other options, especially for nearby residents.

She said she'll keep a close eye on Stanford's "Middle Plaza" project, now under construction, because she is concerned about bicycle and pedestrian safety and facilities in the project's vicinity.

The most pressing transportation problem, in her eyes? City staffing. There's currently a major shortage of planning and public works staff members who can make transportation projects happen, she noted.

Peter Ohtaki

Peter Ohtaki, a two-term incumbent who serves as mayor this year, said he's running again because "I think I bring a special talent about being able to analyze complicated issues and come up with a good compromise. ... I think I'm very good at finding solutions and ways to solve issues and problems and get things done."

He says he comes from a "rather quantitative, wonky background" and aims to take a "mainstream" point of view, representing families like his, with young kids, two working parents, and little extra time to follow what's going on in city politics.

His family-oriented point of view, he said, means that he prioritizes both the desires of families who want to see more bike lanes, and those who want to see a parking garage built downtown that makes it less stressful to find parking. That perspective balances the need for reducing the time it takes to transport a child to soccer practice after school

with the desire for some families to have housing near transit that's affordable near downtown, he said. However, he's wary of having a large number of children in new apartments downtown because of likely impacts to Menlo Park schools, he added, so favors smaller housing units, and near transit so it doesn't add car trips.

Well-managed parks and a city government "that lives within its means" are priorities too, he said.

On the City Council, Ohtaki said, he is proud of his negotiations with Stanford to get funding for half, or \$5 million, of a bike and pedestrian crossing at the Caltrain tracks and Middle Avenue.

Moving forward, he said, he wants to work with the community on ways to promote educational equality in the city. "All of our kids go to Menlo-Atherton High School, and we want to make sure everyone's well-prepared," he said. However, the educational disparity that existed when he was a student in Menlo Park continues.

He said he's working "quietly" with the community to try to come up with a solution to address capital needs in the Ravenswood City School District and the achievement gap between students in the Ravenswood district and other districts in Menlo Park.

Ohtaki sat on an advisory committee that supported the development of new zoning guidelines for development on the city's eastern side. He acknowledged that the allowed office development is getting claimed rapidly, but said it was always planned to happen that way.

The designation of some permissible development as life science space was carefully considered, he said, and he isn't ready to convert that to other uses; unlike office space, which causes traffic and doesn't generate revenue, life science space generates less traffic and can produce sales tax revenue for the city, depending on the size of the company. It's also important, Ohtaki said, to maintain diversity among the businesses in the city. "We want to have economic diversification," he said. "Don't have all your eggs in one social media giant."

Ron Shepherd

Ron Shepherd's motivation for running for City Council is tied to two things: taxpayers and transparency, as he explained it.

"I'm running because I don't think the taxpayers are well-represented," he said. "Transparency to me is a real issue."

Shepherd is a former board member of the West Bay Sanitary District, serving on that board for 16 years and as commissioner for Silicon Valley Clean Water.

There's a lot the city should do to improve its fiscal health, he said, noting that he wants to see more fiscal responsibility from the council and a clearer focus on spending that puts the taxpayers first.

Shepherd comes from a background in finance and works as founder and treasurer of Shepherd & Associates Insurance Services.

An example of the city's lack of transparency, he said, is the recent consideration of an offer by philanthropist developer John Arrillaga to help the city build a new main library, covering the costs after the first 20 million, not including soft costs. Arrillaga's offer was rescinded Oct. 1. Shepherd said he would have stopped planning for the library project unless a majority of residents favored it.

He said that in general he'd prefer the city to spend more time polling the public, and then developing policies, rather than having staff come up with plans that the council then goes along with.

"The trick is not who's the loudest, but what do the citizens want," he said. "My thinking is the government should provide services needed by all residents on a most cost-effective basis, and those services should be provided equally to all citizens."

At the sanitary district, he said, he worked to reduce worker compensation requirements and pension increases to save money.

On the council, he'd want to home in on the budget to get clearer information about where money is being spent, he said. Currently, he said, "the budget is a sales tool, not a financial budget."

Another idea to improve the city's fiscal health is to sell the city's water resources to an entity like Cal Water. There are tens of millions of dollars in capital improvements needed to the water system to replace the pipes, and now is the time to make that change. The city's water department staff, he said, may not have the expertise to know what to do. "And it's not because the employees aren't smart, it's just Cal Water or somebody like that's got thousands of employees, and they've got people who know how to replace pipe."

He said he is good at getting people to work together, something he's practiced as a Republican with liberal friends.

"The thing we say is, look, we all have different views on things, but if you had to list the 10 biggest problems we're facing, seven of them would be on everybody's list. And so if you concentrate on the seven, instead of like Washington, where they throw each other crap over three, you can get something done," he said. ■

The candidates on key issues

	HOUSING AFFORDABILITY	RENTER PROTECTIONS	TRANSPORTATION	DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
Mike Dunn	Supports the designation of below-market-rate units in housing developments. "I don't think we should get rid of that," he said. Not sure what the right percentage of BMR units should be, but believes it should be consistent across the city.	Supports tenant relocation assistance and just-cause eviction policies. "I think that's not enough," he said, referring to tenant relocation assistance. "You shouldn't be allowed to remove tenants without cause. ... I think we need to make sure that people are able to continue to live in this area. "	"I think we've inherited a problem that is not going to be an easy fix," he said. He supports increased police enforcement at the Willow/101 interchange, finding more efficient ways to get people to and from the East Bay, a rail system to connect Facebook employees to Redwood City, and bigger-picture planning to keep traffic from worsening.	Downtown plan: "I feel that we've already kind of reached our limit as it currently is, so I don't necessarily want to see more development in that area. El Camino traffic is already horrible near rush hour right now." Bayfront: "With how much is already being built, it's hard to imagine where else we can build more offices, and do that responsibly and make sure we have the infrastructure in place. I feel that we are bursting at the seams."
Cecilia Taylor	"Anything done on public land needs to include housing affordability." Supports an amnesty program for accessory dwelling units. Would look to the San Mateo County housing task force "Home for All" for further policy guidance.	Supports tenant relocation assistance, with a formula that gives tenants progressively more support based on the number of units in the building and the number of years a tenant has lived there — without creating a financial burden for landlords.	Supports an improved public shuttle system to connect Menlo Park to Redwood City and Palo Alto. Supports improved efficiency of shuttle system — promoting increased ridership. Supports the city developing a local hiring preference to reduce in-commuting, and improved public schools in Belle Haven to reduce outbound morning trips.	"Let's address problems that exist today, before we start digging deeper into something else." "We have an office cap for a reason." On the Willow Village plan: "This area was not built for that number of people, and so it's hard for me to answer that. ...I just start adding up the numbers and it's like, are we creating our own little city?"
George Yang	Supports the easing of density restrictions downtown for teacher housing, still consistent with the city's suburban character. A design contest could be held among architects to come up with a set of pre-approved building designs to streamline approval.	Says a tenant relocation assistance ordinance seems "pretty reasonable" and is keeping an open mind about it.	Short term: Instead of running a shuttle regardless of whether people are using it, work with Uber or Lyft to give seniors discounted rides during off-peak commute times, so they don't add to traffic at its worst. Long term: Develop a comprehensive light rail loop connecting the South Bay. Expand light rail northward along U.S. 101 past Moffett Field, and across the Dumbarton corridor, possibly through the VTA.	Development proposals beyond the office space caps downtown and in the city's bayfront area should be considered on a case-by-case basis. Look to other countries to get ideas about mixing commercial and residential development. On Facebook's Willow Village proposal: There should be a transportation plan in place and a clear timeline for its completion before the new campus is approved. Supports child care resources and a grocery store there. It should be integrated with the community and easy to access. Comparing Willow Road to a river, he said, "We don't want to be in a situation where Willow Village is like a citadel, a fortress on the other side of the river that we just can't get to."
Drew Combs	Favors including affordable housing in plans to develop a parking garage downtown. Opposes affordable housing being built on the city's Burgess Park campus.	Supports tenant relocation assistance "in broad strokes," with questions about which types of housing and durations of tenancy under which the policy would take effect. "We have situations where people who have lived in Menlo Park and rented for years and years and years, who have seen their rent go to levels which don't allow them to stay in the city. There should be some sort of ... obligation on the part of the landlord to... help out with that transition."	Supports agreements with developers to create trip caps and work accommodations by employers for flexible or remote commutes. Does not favor widening Willow Road. "Rarely is increasing capacity going to solve traffic issues." Menlo Park is in the middle of the thriving economy's "center of gravity" in its "longest expansion period in American history," and he's wary of "overcorrecting" solutions to traffic. Skeptical of earmarking millions for parking structure.	"A cap is a cap is a cap. If it really is a cap, and if it really ... means something, then it has to be, as you approach it or reach it or hit it - that has to be a real moment. It can't be something you blow past." Favors cautious approach to changing caps. "We can't just say (development-related impacts) are things that can't be mitigated and move on to the next shiny new development."
Kirsten Keith	Supports considering using publicly owned land to build affordable housing. "It's not unprecedented, and we see other communities on the Peninsula doing this now. ... There are so few sites to build affordable housing that I think this is a viable option." Said the city has approved many housing units after many years of minimal housing production. "We've actually put our money where our mouth is to get projects approved and built to help with this housing crisis," she said. Has talked to CORE about another affordable housing project for veterans.	Supports tenant relocation funding. "I also think that having some sort of landlord-tenant mediation is beneficial." She served on Menlo Park's mediation committee and aided in landlord-tenant disputes. Mediation would be mandatory, but resolutions reached there wouldn't be binding. "I've seen it work," she said. Voted in favor of city's mandatory 12-month lease ordinance that requires landlords to offer a 12-month lease to tenants, she said.	Current co-chair of the city's Transportation Master Plan Oversight and Outreach Committee. On Willow: Reconfigure Willow/Middlefield intersection for bike/ped/driver safety. Continue bike lane to connect to bike/pedestrian route at new Willow/U.S. 101 interchange. Increase viability of getting places on foot or bike rather than car. Widening streets often leads to more cars idling at peak times, she says. Supports the Dumbarton Rail, previously served on a Dumbarton policy advisory committee. "This is something I've pushed for and think is really important for any growth in this area." Favors bike path over buses for Belle Haven section of the proposed Dumbarton rail corridor. Open to looking into Willow Road buyback from Caltrans to get more local control.	"I think we have a jobs to housing imbalance right now, so as the caps get approached, I'm not interested in lifting the caps. If somebody wants to come forward with something, they're going to have to do an EIR." In Bayfront: Does not support transferring life sciences development allowances to office space. Talked about how the cyclical nature of Silicon Valley's economy indicates that not every project will happen as quickly as it seems. "I don't have a crystal ball to see how long this will last, but we're kind of due for a slowdown." The Menlo Gateway project, approved in 2010, was just completed this past year. Downtown: Open to considering plans to update the specific plan to allow a parking garage with a movie theater or housing.
Betsy Nash	Supports increasing the amount of housing permitted downtown. Believes the city should more thoroughly evaluate the impact of new developments on the city's jobs-housing imbalance.	Supports tenant relocation assistance for no-cause evictions and significant rent increases.	As a Complete Streets Commissioner, believes the Transportation Master Plan should look strategically to the future, planning not just for automobiles and bikes, but electric scooters, electric bikes, and autonomous shuttles. Safety is a priority as a "Vision Zero" city. Believes the process for neighborhoods to install traffic calming measures should be streamlined. City should get people out of cars by providing better infrastructure for other modes of transportation. Disagrees with council's decision to pursue only one Caltrain grade separation at Ravenswood Avenue.	Would promote housing and retail growth over new office space. Believes Stanford's El Camino Real project may be a challenge to integrate with the community. "I don't believe the right answer is just to increase the cap, or to just say no to everything. I think we need to take a look at - what is the jobs housing imbalance?" That imbalance, she said, is "driving the traffic coming into the city - and driving Menlo Park residents crazy."
Peter Ohtaki	Supports revisiting the housing limits laid out in the Downtown Specific Plan. "I do think there is support from the community for more units." It would be "very difficult" to add affordable housing on the Burgess Park site. Supports new apartments downtown near transit, to reduce traffic, but wary of school impacts of new housing, so favors more, smaller apartments. "In my opinion we need the supply of apartments" -- not condos or townhomes -- "We have a lot of catching up to do," citing the city's lack of residential construction in prior decades.	Believes that the production of new housing units in Menlo Park and Redwood City is "finally starting to stabilize the rental market, including new apartments on Haven Avenue and Hamilton Avenue. Supports a policy that allows people who have been displaced from Menlo Park to be part of the city's below-market-rate housing waitlist. He supports some policy to give displaced tenants more time to find alternate housing.	Negotiated with Stanford to get a \$5 million for the Caltrain separation for bikes and pedestrians at Middle Avenue. Supports more shuttle buses or "transportation management associations" to get people from work centers and Caltrain or other hubs, and wants them to work with schools to reduce traffic tied to school drop-offs and pick-ups. Supports requiring employers to incentivize mass transit for workers. In the longer term, supports grade separation at Ravenswood Avenue, Dumbarton corridor improvements and ultimately, Dumbarton rail. On Stanford's proposed growth plan, opposes a "no net new trips" promise without clearer expectations about where those trips will happen. Wants Stanford to pay for infrastructure improvements related to its growth.	"Being part of ConnectMenlo process, there was no question the office space was going to be spoken for fastest," he said. "I think we're going to have to adhere to that cap -- that may mean that certain projects might not get built on the office side," he said. Other projects may have to be converted to mixed-use. Opposes converting designated life science space to office space.
Ron Shepherd	"Affordable housing is a joke - There is no affordable housing here. I don't think the city should be in the affordable housing business. I think we should leave that to nonprofits who know what they're doing." "I do not want the city involved in day-to-day affordable housing." "If Menlo Park has some money in an affordable housing fund that it has to put there because of state requirements, he said he would look to nonprofits and religious organizations to administer those funds.	"Well, I'm a property rights person, so I would not want the city to get involved in rent control. There's an ordinance the (Housing Commission) is considering forcing landlords to pay three months' rent for low-income people that are going to move out. I don't think the city should be involved in that at all. That's a private discussion between a landlord and a tenant. ... How do you legislate being nice? You can't."	Sees traffic like a sewer plant, with a goal to unclog bottlenecks and keep things flowing. On El Camino Real: Consider widening two lanes each way to three by removing street parking there. "If you can't drive there, you can't park anyway," he said. On Willow: In the narrowest segments, widen it to three or four lanes. On Sand Hill Road: Get Palo Alto involved to fix the Sand Hill Road/El Camino Real intersection. "Maybe you hold their feet to the fire." On Bayfront Expressway: Consider opening up some nearby dead-end streets to ease traffic flow.	"I'm pro-growth if it's sensible. If you don't grow you die. I kind of relate it to the sewer plant. You have a plant that takes care of a certain issue and what you do is, you take the bottlenecks out of that plant's operation so you can streamline as much stuff through it, if you will. But there's a limit on what that plant can accept, so, for example in Silicon Valley, there are a certain number of hookups. And once all the hookups are in place, there are no more. Similarly, the big issue is traffic. So if you relate those two, what you have to do is make sure that you get rid of as many bottlenecks as you can so the streets you currently have will flow as well as possible."

One contested election highlights Woodside council race

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

It's not often that an election for an open seat on Woodside's seven-member Town Council attracts more than one candidate. In the Nov. 6 election, of the four open seats, just one is contested; the three others, representing districts 2, 4 and 6, have just one candidate running for each.

The three unopposed candidates are:

■ Brian Dombkowski for District 2: neighborhoods on Woodside Road west of Albion Avenue, and along Kings Mountain and Tripp roads (currently represented by Deborah Gordon).

■ Sean P. Scott for District 4: neighborhoods along Canada Road, and north of Arbor Court and Olive Hill Lane (currently represented by Dave Tanner).

■ Richard "Dick" Brown for District 6: neighborhoods south of Woodside Road and east of Mountain Home Road on both sides of Interstate 280, and parts of town south of Bardet Road along Canada Road (currently represented by Anne Kasten).

The Almanac will be running profiles of each of the unopposed candidates before the new council is seated in December.

Ned Fluet and Frank Rosenblum are vying for the District 7 seat; the district includes neighborhoods along La Honda and Old La Honda roads and areas west of Portola Road.

The Almanac recently interviewed Fluet, an attorney, and Rosenblum, a civil engineer, about their priorities, should they be elected.

The candidates agreed on the importance of addressing the increasing presence of

commuters routed through town by smartphone apps such as WAZE, and the suitability of uniform building standards for all residents — both key issues in town — but disagreed in their views of the Architectural and Site Review Board.

Traffic and zoning

On the daily invasion of commuters, Rosenblum raised the idea of adding a stop sign somewhere on Canada Road, and mentioned possible steps such as discussing the problem and installing speed bumps in places, provided they don't detract from the town's rural character.

Fluet mentioned speed bumps as well, and possibly road signs urging caution around horses and children on the theory that they might discourage drivers from taking those routes. First, he said, he would consult with the City/County Association of Governments, which might have more of an impact on outfits like WAZE. "This is an issue for everyone in San Mateo County," he said.

As for revised building standards for residents of Woodside Glens and other zones of small or oddly shaped lots — referred to as "nonconforming" by the town — Fluet floated the notion of separate standards for blocks or streets or neighborhoods. "I think we should be open to those kinds of creative ideas rather than just setting a universal standard on the entire town that may not fit what we are," he said. "I'd want to try to help the homeowners get through the planning process as efficiently and transparently as possible."

Rosenblum said the council should consider reducing setbacks and revising rules for

determining structure heights. Calculations for determining a property's average slope should be simpler, he said, with maybe just three categories: slopes greater than 35 percent, between 10 percent and 35 percent, and below 10 percent. That's how they do it in other towns, he said.

Fluet also cited wildfire safety and safe routes for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians as vital matters. "If we can't provide safe routes not only to schools but to our stores, our shops and other services, then what good is town government?" he said. "If there's nothing else, a kid should be able to walk to school. A kid should be able to bike to school. Cyclists should be able to cycle through town without worrying about getting hit."

Rosenblum criticized the work of the state Department of Transportation in repairing major failures of Highway 84 during a recent winter. He said he complained to Caltrans that the work was not being done as scheduled, that Caltrans sees projects on the Peninsula, including Woodside, as having a lower priority. "It was obvious to me that the contractors doing the projects weren't being pressured to get them done," he said.

Road work done at the intersection of Woodside Road and Interstate 280 shortchanges bicyclists, he said. "Woodside is limited in what they can do (regarding state highways); however, they can be a voice telling Caltrans what they need to take care of," he said. "It's an important function of the town and maybe the Town Council to be that voice."

Differing on ASRB

The town's Architectural and



Frank Rosenblum

Age: 56

Education: Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo; surveying certificate from City College of San Francisco.

Occupation: Civil engineer and land surveyor

Public Service: Five years on Circulation Committee, currently as chair.



Ned Fluet

Age: 40

Education: Bachelor's degree in English from the University of California at Los Angeles; law degree from Loyola University in Chicago.

Occupation: Attorney

Public Service: Two and a half years on the Environment: Open Space, Conservation & Sustainability Committee, currently as chair.

Site Review Board is, perhaps arguably, a subjective body. The board's mission is to protect rural character and natural beauty by considering a project's site planning, building design and landscaping in keeping with sustainability-oriented directives added to the general plan and design guidelines in 2012.

It was not long ago that the board was a flash point for some residents outraged by what they saw as undue subjectivity by some board members in evaluating residential projects.

The board's membership has since changed, with two of the more controversial members no longer serving, but for Rosenblum, subjectivity remains an issue. When asked to elaborate on his criticism of excessive subjectivity among current board members, he responded in an email, "I've attended some recent ASRB meetings and have observed what I thought was too much subjectivity coming from some of the ASRB members."

The effect of this "subjectivity" on rural character is not necessarily negative, but it has cost property owners in time and money, he said. He acknowledged as a positive step the council's bid to expedite reviews by reducing board membership to five from seven, but added: "I still sense some subjectivity."

Fluet said he has no point of view on past controversies, and that the definition of rural character will never be settled. "It's subjective," he said. "It really is. I think the general plan lays it out pretty clearly that this is a town that appreciates its natural setting, that ... appreciates its open spaces, that appreciates its equestrian community, its trail system. These are really things that are very unique to Woodside."

"Everyone here is trying to get to the same goal," he said, recalling conversations with "dozens and dozens" of people. "Nobody wants a concrete, bricked-over, cookie-cutter planned subdivision." ■

Early voting begins this week for November election

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

All San Mateo County voters will again receive their ballots in the mail in the coming days and can choose to either vote by mail or in person at a voting center.

Four voting centers opened on Tuesday, Oct. 9. They are the Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder's Office at 555 County Center in Redwood City; the San Mateo County Registration & Elections Division at 40 Tower Road in San Mateo; the Lewis and Joan Platt East Palo Alto Family YMCA at 550 Bell St. in East Palo Alto; and South San

Francisco's main library at 840 West Orange Ave.

The four centers are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and will also be open the same hours the weekend of Oct. 27 and 28, when five additional voting centers will open. On Saturday, Nov. 3, through Monday, Nov. 5, all 39 voting centers will be open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Election Day hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The additional voting centers available beginning Oct. 27 will be open daily through Election Day. They are the North Fair Oaks Community Center at 2600 Middlefield Road in Redwood City; the Emergency Operations Center at 537 Kelly

Ave. in Half Moon Bay; Skyline College, Building 19, Room 213, at 3300 College Drive in San Bruno; the Boys & Girls Club at 200 North Quebec St. in San Mateo; and Daly City's City Hall at 333 90th St.

Thirty more voting centers will open Nov. 3 and remain open through Election Day.

The voting centers have accessible voting machines, paper ballots, election materials in numerous languages, and bilingual assistance. Voters can also receive replacement ballots, register to vote or update registration information through Election Day at the centers.

Voters can also drop off

ballots in designated boxes, or mail in their ballots in the provided postage-paid envelope.

Local drop-off locations, open during business hours, are Menlo Park City Hall at 701 Laurel St.; Atherton Town Hall at 91 Ashfield Road; Woodside Town Hall at 2955 Woodside Road; the Lewis and Joan Platt East Palo Alto YMCA; and Portola Valley Town Hall at 765 Portola Road.

The nearest 24-hour outdoor drop-off locations are the San Mateo County Registration & Elections Division, and the East Palo Alto Government Center at 2415 University Ave.

For a complete list of drop-off locations and voting centers,

visit smacre.org.

San Mateo County was the first in the state to conduct a county-wide, local consolidated all-mailed ballot election in 2015. ■

Correction

An Oct. 3 Almanac story about Menlo Park Fire Protection District board candidates and the editorial endorsement in that race incorrectly stated that candidate Jim McLaughlin retired from the California Highway Patrol as an assistant chief, when in fact he held the position of chief of the agency's Planning and Enforcement Division.



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2 Guest Units · Lot ±4.96 acres

JosselynEstate.com
Noelle Queen & Michael Dreyfus



27464 Altamont Road, Los Altos Hills

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4 Beds · 3.5 Baths
Home ±4,928 sf · Lot ±4.2 acres

LosAltosHillsAcreage.com
Dulcy Freeman & Michael Dreyfus



Bates Ranch Vineyard

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Woodside student a finalist in competition

Georgia Hutchinson, an eighth-grader at Woodside Elementary School, has been named one of 30 national finalists in the Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology and Engineering for Rising Stars) middle school competition.

Georgia's project, which allows solar panels to follow the sun for maximum energy production, won first place in the state science fair last year.

Georgia will receive a \$500 cash award and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the competition, and her school will receive \$1,000 to use in its STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program. In Washington, she will participate in team challenges, meet with government officials and show her project to the public during a free event at the National Geographic Society on Oct. 20.

Students will be competing for prizes of up to \$25,000. Winners



Photo by Natalia Nazarova

Jennifer Parker, left, a Woodside Elementary School science teacher, shares a laugh with Georgia Hutchinson as she adjusts the solar tracking device that earned Georgia a trip to Washington, D.C., as one of 30 finalists in the national Broadcom MASTERS middle school competition.

will be named during an awards ceremony on Oct. 23 at the Carnegie Institution for Science.

Finalists were chosen by a panel of distinguished scientists and

engineers from a record number of 2,537 applicants in 35 states.

First- and second-place winners will represent the U.S. at the 2019 Broadcom MASTERS International next spring in Phoenix and attend the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, the largest international high school science fair.

—Barbara Wood

Oak + Violet opens in Menlo Park hotel

By Elena Kadvany

Oak + Violet, the restaurant inside Menlo Park's new Park James Hotel, opened for dinner on Monday, Oct. 8.

The 61-room boutique hotel officially opened at 1400 El Camino Real two weeks ago.

A press release describes Oak + Violet as serving "California craft" cuisine, with locally sourced, seasonal dishes like Dungeness crab toast and a whole-roasted Petaluma chicken.

Oak + Violet's dinner menu is split into "shared bites," "grains and greens," entrees, sides and desserts. Entrees include fare such as stuffed whole branzino fish with roasted fennel, artichokes, olives and peppers; a toasted farro risotto with baby spinach, butternut squash puree, mascarpone cheese and toasted hazelnuts; and a cast-iron bone-in filet with roasted shallots, fennel, parsnip puree and bone-marrow butter, among other dishes.

There will also be daily "off the menu" chef specials, according

to an announcement.

A "casual, tapas-style" menu is available in the outdoor O+V Courtyard, which is open now from 5-11 p.m. nightly.

Oak + Violet serves wine, beer and cocktails.

The restaurant will serve breakfast starting Oct. 15, lunch on Oct. 22, and Sunday brunch on Oct. 28. For more information, go to parkjames.com/oak-and-violet.

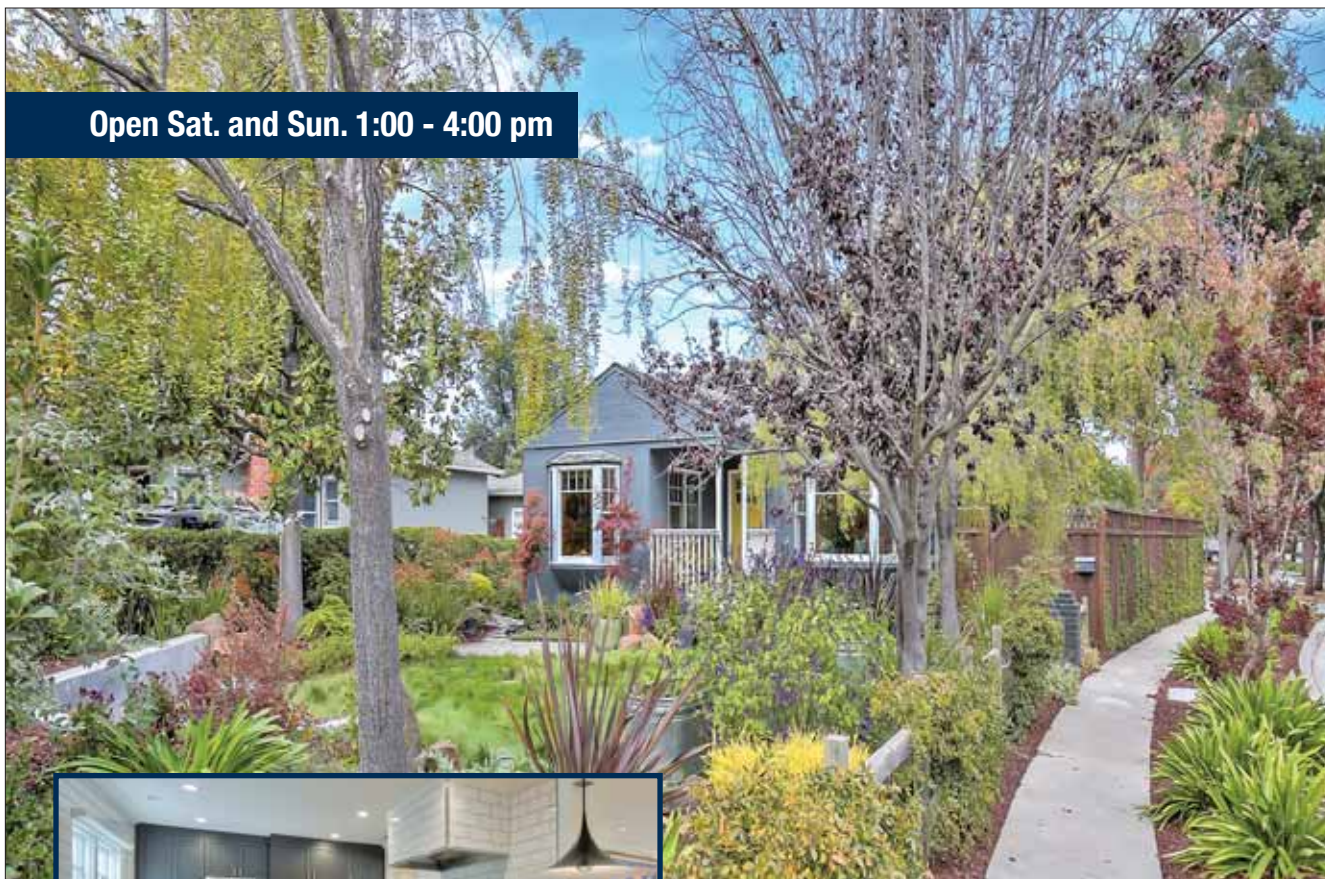
The hotel and restaurant names are locally inspired. The "James" is intended as a nod to Menlo Park's Irish history, after Dennis "James" Oliver, one of the ranchers who gave Menlo Park its name. (The name doubles as an homage to the hotel developer Jeff Pollock's father, James Moore Pollock, who has developed over 80 real estate projects since the 1960s, mainly in the Bay Area, he said.)

Oak + Violet is named for Menlo Park's designated city tree and city flower. ■

Elena Kadvany writes for the Palo Alto Weekly and writes the Peninsula Foodist blog at AlmanacNews.com.



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**WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT
ALPINE ROAD SANITARY SEWER
REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Sealed proposals for the ALPINE ROAD SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT will be received at the West Bay Sanitary District, 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California 94025 until **2:00 PM on Wednesday, November 7, 2018** at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Bids shall be labeled "West Bay Sanitary District, Proposal for "ALPINE ROAD SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT."

The Work will include the furnishing of all labor, materials and equipment, and other appurtenances for replacement of sanitary sewer mains by Open Trench construction as indicated on the project plans.

The contract documents may be inspected at the office of the West Bay Sanitary District; San Francisco Builders Exchange, Attn: Deanna Johnson, 850 So. Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94110; Peninsula Builders Exchange, Attn: Andrea Nettles, 282 Harbor Blvd, Bldg. D, Belmont, California 94002; Santa Clara Builders Exchange, Attn: Kanani Fonseca, 400 Reed Street, Santa Clara, California 95050; Builders Exchange of Alameda, Attn: Richard Owen, 3055 Alvarado Street, San Leandro, California 94577; Construction Bidboard Incorporated, Attn: Plan Room, 11622 El Camino Real, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92130; and Contra Costa Builders Exchange, Attn: April Hamilton, 2440 Stanwell Drive, Suite B, Concord, California 94520.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of the West Bay Sanitary District upon payment of a check or money order in the amount of \$60.00 for each set. The check or money order must be issued to the West Bay Sanitary District. All payments are nonrefundable.

A pre-bid meeting will be held at **10:00 AM on Wednesday, October 24, 2018** at the West Bay Sanitary District Office in Menlo Park, California.

Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check or a proposal guaranty bond payable to the order of the West Bay Sanitary District in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid as a guaranty that the bidder will execute the contract if it be awarded to him in conformity with the proposal. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond in an amount not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price and a labor and material bond in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price.

The District ("Owner") reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to determine which proposal is, in the judgment of the District, the lowest responsible bid of a responsible bidder or group of bidders and which proposal should be accepted in the best interest of the District. The District also reserves the right to waive any informalities in any proposal or bid.

Bid proposals received after the time announced for the opening will not be considered. No bidder may withdraw his proposal after the time announced for the opening, or before award and execution of the contract, unless the award is delayed for a period exceeding forty-five (45) days.

Pursuant to the provisions of Public Contract Code Section 22300, and upon the request and at the expense of the Contractor, securities equivalent to the amount withheld by the District to ensure performance under the Contract may be deposited with the District, or with a state or federally chartered bank as escrow agent who shall deliver such securities to the Contractor upon satisfactory completion of the contract. Only those securities listed in Government Code Section 16430 or other securities approved by the District are eligible for deposit. The deposit of securities with an escrow agent or the District shall be made in the form and on such terms and conditions as the District may require to protect the interest of the District in the event of the Contractor's default. The Contractor shall be the beneficial owner of any securities that are deposited and shall receive any interest thereon.

Pertaining to Sections 1770, 1773, and 1773.1 of the California Labor Code the successful bidder shall pay not less than the prevailing rate of per diem wages as determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations. Copies of such prevailing rates are on file at the District office of the West Bay Sanitary District and which copies shall be made available to any interested party on request. The successful bidder shall post a copy of such determinations at each job site.

In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code Section 3300, the District has determined that the Contractor shall possess a valid Class A License or a combination of Class C-12, "Earthwork and Paving," C-34 "Pipeline" and C-42 "Sanitation System" licenses at the time this contract is awarded. Failure to possess the specified license(s) shall render the bid as non-responsive and shall act as a bar to award of the contract to any bidder not possessing said license(s) at the time of award.

West Bay Sanitary District
Board of Directors
San Mateo County, California
/s/ Phil Scott, District Manager
Dated: September 14, 2018



Pinewood School

INSPIRING CURIOSITY,
CREATIVITY, CHARACTER



OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

November 3, 2018
Lower Campus
477 Fremont Avenue
Los Altos, CA 94024
9:00am - 11:00am

November 3, 2018
Middle Campus
327 Fremont Avenue
Los Altos, CA 94024
11:30am - 1:30pm

November 10, 2018
Upper Campus
26800 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
10:00am - 12:30pm

.....
Register online at www.pinewood.edu



LIBRARY

continued from page 7

the chief donor for the projects to build the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, the Arrillaga Family Gymnasium and the Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center in Menlo Park's Civic Center.

The catch? The city had to come up with the first \$20 million, and fast.

But just how fast Arrillaga expected the community buy-in to come up with that amount of money was not something that had been made public before the announcement of the offer's withdrawal. The statement the city issued on Oct. 1 said that Arrillaga's anticipated timeline was for construction of the new library to begin in 2020.

The city's Oct. 1 statement declares, "Efforts to build consensus in project scope and site have delayed that timeline."

Last year, there were some preliminary efforts to see if voters would support a bond measure to generate up to \$50 million — \$30 million for the new main library and \$20 million for a new Belle Haven library — but polling indicated public support fell flat of the two-third majority needed for such a measure to pass. Survey results indicated that when Menlo Park voters were asked whether they would support a \$50 million, 30-year bond measure "to replace the aging Menlo Park and Belle Haven library system with 21st century libraries," only 61 percent said they would definitely or probably support it.

"I think it was pretty clear that we as a city haven't been able to reach a consensus on the main library for all sorts of reasons," said Menlo Park Mayor Peter Ohtaki. "One of the biggest is the cost. ... I think we were hearing clearly from our residents that the city has more pressing priorities, such as the Belle Haven library."



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

One complaint about the Menlo Park Main Library is that the lights are dim and the ceilings are low in the magazine and newspaper sections of the library.

Public outreach problems

During discussions with the City Council, City Manager Alex McIntyre had hinted that the matter was urgent, and that it was by no means a done deal, but efforts to streamline the public outreach process came across as heavy-handed. A public survey to gauge interest in a bond measure to raise taxpayer funds for the project was criticized for appearing to ask leading questions.

Later, a series of three public meetings held in December, January and February to select the site for a new library were dismissed by some for not engaging in the broader, more basic question of whether a new library is needed at all, and if so, where the project should fall on the city's priority list.

McIntyre said in a written statement, "The loss of Mr. Arrillaga's generous contribution to the new main library project delays this project until a new funding

source can be identified."

"Part of me does feel like it didn't have to go the way it went," said council member Rich Cline, who was on a subcommittee that was tasked with discussing the project with Arrillaga.

"It's unfortunate. I don't think anybody's to blame for it," he said.

Cline reflected that perhaps if the city had unveiled the information differently, it would have been met with less skepticism from the public, but added, "No matter what, we were going to have a public process."

He said he hadn't been aware, either, that the deadline was as hard and fast as described in the city's Oct. 1 announcement.

"He definitely wanted to have this thing moved along quickly," Cline said, but noted that in previous conversations, Arrillaga hadn't balked at requests for more time; instead, he joked that the offer was on the table as long as he was alive — he's in his 80s.

According to Ohtaki, making improvements to the main library will likely still remain on the city's to-do list, but will probably be pushed back to a 10-year timeline. "I think this effectively moves the main library to the back burner," he said.

Initial cost estimates from consultants to build a 44,000-square-foot library from March 2017 came in at around \$45 million.

After the city received Arrillaga's offer last year, the council authorized staff to expedite the process. In October 2017 the council approved the creation of a \$1 million fund to begin the public outreach process for the proposed main library, which included hiring a new full-time assistant to work on the project.

Funds were also used to make improvements at the existing Belle Haven Library and start early assessments to evaluate what might be needed at a new library in that neighborhood.

As the city explored whether to rebuild the library at its current site or move it closer to Laurel Street, staff explored the options of other uses as part of a new library structure, acknowledging that nowadays, many libraries serve not just as receptacles for books and media, but as community meeting spaces. The city briefly considered building a new child care center to replace the existing Menlo Children's Center as part of the project, but the idea was opposed by a number of parents.

Staff also discussed the possibility of including affordable housing as part of the project — if not as part of a new library structure itself, then as a development consideration near Alma Street if the council

agreed to tear down the old library and build a new one on Laurel Street. The concept of affordable housing on the Burgess campus has been supported by the Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County.

In May, the discussion was put on pause. And in August, a discussion on the project was postponed after a Brown Act violation characterized as "inadvertent" occurred.

A discussion of future improvements to the city's libraries is likely to be postponed until January, when the council develops its annual work plan.

Meanwhile, as staff reported with some urgency, construction costs continue to escalate.

Corman added that she believes it will be more challenging for the foundation to raise funds for a library renovation or reconstruction project now that Arrillaga's offer is withdrawn. She suspects that private donors will be skeptical when they're approached at some later date with funding requests from the foundation.

Still, Ohtaki said, "I think it is appropriate that we take our time and do this right."

Belle Haven Library

The city's efforts to move forward with plans to build a new Belle Haven Library are unaffected.

There is also a possibility that the \$1 million the city has set aside to work on library improvements could be redirected to the Belle Haven Library, Ohtaki said.

The City Council was scheduled to finalize and potentially approve a recently completed needs assessment for the Belle Haven Library at its next meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 9, held after The Almanac went to press.

The council was also scheduled to decide whether to move forward with a space needs assessment for the library, and potentially execute a contract with architecture consultants from the firm Noll & Tam to spend up to \$75,000 on that study.

Based on a tentative timeline, the space needs study would be scheduled for completion in July 2019. After that, schematic designs and siting decisions would need to be completed, which could happen as soon as June 2020.

Next steps: identify funding, completing an environmental impact analysis, getting final City Council approval for the project, approving final building designs, and then building the library. A tentative timeline puts that final completion date at April 2024.

Go to almanacnews.com for the latest updates. ■



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

A long row of strollers at the Menlo Park Library shows the popularity of the library's story time sessions in the basement. However, due to limited space, only pre-registered kids can attend.

CALENDAR

Visit AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more calendar listings

Theater

'Hedda Gabler' Stuck in a loveless marriage, bored and facing financial constraints Hedda feels confined by society's standards. Pear Theatre presents "Hedda Gabler," with Elizabeth Kruse Craig in the title role. Oct. 11-28, times vary \$15-\$35. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. thepear.org

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley Presents 'Fun Home' TheatreWorks Silicon Valley presents a "Fun Home," a play about growing up around a funeral home and coming to terms with one's identity and past. Through Oct. 28, times vary. \$40-\$100. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatreworks.org/201819-season

Film

'Budapest Noir' Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival hosts a screening of 'Budapest Noir,' about a reporter who investigates the brutal murder of a prostitute and is led into the dark underworld of 1930s pre-Nazi Hungary. Oct. 15, 6:30-8:05 p.m. \$12-\$14. Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. svjff.org/films/budapest_noir.shtml

'The Last Suit' Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival features the film "The Last Suit," in which an aging Jewish tailor leaves his life in Argentina to embark on a journey back through time and halfway around the world. Oct. 16, 8:30-10:05 p.m. \$12-\$14. Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. svjff.org/films/last_suit_the.shtml

'Scaffolding' The Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival hosst a screening of "Scaffolding." Torn between the teachings of his literature teacher and the expectations of his father, a 17-year-old must choose between his family obligations and his personal aspirations. Oct. 16, 8-10:05 p.m. \$12-\$14. Oshman

Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. svjff.org/films/scaffolding.shtml

'Shelter' The Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival features "Shelter," about a Mossad agent called back from sick leave to protect a Lebanese informant. Oct. 17, 8:30-10:05 p.m. \$12-\$14. Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. brownpapertickets.com/event/3606025

Dance

Spotlight 2018 Dance Identity presents its annual showcase, Spotlight 2018. Dance forms will include Bollywood, Hip Hop, Contemporary, Bhangra, Salsa and Bharatnatyam. Oct. 13, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Free. Woodside Performing Arts Center, 199 Churchill Ave., Woodside. Search brownpapertickets.com for more info.

Festivals & Fairs

'Truck Yeah!' Facebook Festivals presents 'Truck Yeah!' a festival and parking lot party featuring beer, wine, bands, line dancing, BBQ competition, a kids' zone and more. Oct. 13, 1-6 p.m. Free. Facebook HQ, 1 Hacker Way, Parking Lot 14, Menlo Park. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Talks & Lectures

Amy Stewart, Ellison Cooper, John Buley, Nick Taylor Books Inc. and Writeous Writers present the third installment in their "Craft Series for Aspiring Authors" with four authors in conversation discussing tips and tricks on writing suspense. Oct. 11, 7-9 p.m. Free. Books Inc. Palo Alto, 855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. booksinc.net/event

Book Talk: 'Moon Brow' Shahriar Mandanipour discusses his new book "Moon Brow," about a young soldier who re-emerges from the Iran-Iraq war missing a limb and most of his memory. He is haunted by the vision of a mysterious woman whose face he cannot see. Oct. 16, 6:30 p.m. Free. Stanford Bookstore, 519 Lausen Mall, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

Carol Moldaw Puschart Prize-winning poet Carol Moldaw shares her new collection, "Beauty Refracted." Oct. 17, 7-9 p.m. Free.

Books Inc. Palo Alto, 855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. booksinc.net/event

Justin Driver Constitutional law scholar Justin Driver will discuss his work, "The Schoolhouse Gate: Public Education, the Supreme Court, and the Battle for the American Mind." Oct. 16, 7-9 p.m. Free. Books Inc. Palo Alto, 855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. booksinc.net/event

Nancy Boyarsky Author Nancy Boyarsky shares the third installment in her "Nicole Graves Mysteries" series, "Liar Liar." In the story, protagonist Mary Ellen Barnes sues her university's quarterback for rape when the authorities won't act. Oct. 10, 7-9 p.m. Free. Books Inc. Palo Alto, 855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. booksinc.net/event

2018 State Propositions: Pro & Con Presentation The League of Women Voters South San Mateo County members will present the pros and cons of each of the 11 state propositions on the Nov. 6 ballot. Oct. 16, 1 p.m. Free. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. lwwssmc.org

Becky Albertalli and Adam Silvera Becky Albertalli, author of "Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda" and Adam Silvera, author of "They Both Die At the End, More Happy Than Not" and "History Is All You Left Me," will discuss their co-written book "What If It's Us." Oct. 11, 7-8:30 p.m. \$10-\$24. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Ben Fountain American fiction writer Ben Fountain will discuss his new book "Beautiful Country, Burn Again." Oct. 16, 7:30-8 p.m. Free, RSVPs requested. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Celebrating Stephen Hawking's Life and Work Astronomer Andrew Fraknoi will give a nontechnical, illustrated talk on Stephen Hawking's complex life and innovative science, focusing on his discovery that black holes may not be totally black. Oct. 12, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Smithwick Theater at Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills.

Doctor Danger: What Every Patient Needs to Know The dangers of medical

mistakes will be discussed at Lifetree Cafe Menlo Park. The program features a filmed interview with Dr. Martin Makary, a cancer surgeon at Johns Hopkins Hospital and author of "Unaccountable: What Hospitals Won't Tell You and How Transparency Can Revolutionize Health Care" Oct. 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Bethany Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. vimeo.com/287094998

SRI Organon Toastmasters SRI Organon Toastmasters helps community members become better public speakers and leaders by providing a supportive, positive environment for practicing communication and leadership skills. Guests are welcome to visit and join. Tuesdays, year-round. Free. St. Patrick's Seminary & University, Redon Hall, 320 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park. sriorganon.com

Fundraisers

'Dine and Donate at Celia's Mexican Restaurant to Benefit EHP' Celia's Mexican Restaurant in Menlo Park will donate 20 percent of purchase to Ecumenical Hunger Program. Participants must present the flyer or tell the server they support EHP. Oct. 11, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. \$11-\$30. Celia's Mexican Restaurant Menlo Park, 1850 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. ehpcares.org

Family

Leona Hoegsberg: 'Stories from the Bookworm' The Menlo Park Library's 2018 Storytelling Festival presents Texas-based storyteller Leona Hoegsberg. The performance is best suited for ages 5 to adult. Oct. 16, 7-8 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Main Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlo-park.org/storytelling

Workshop

Menlo Park Library's Arduino Workshop The MathAndCoding Arduino workshop will introduce kids in fourth to seventh grade to electronics and programming. Oct. 14, 1:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Museums & Exhibits

'Vintage Toys: It's Child's Play!' This exhibition featuring a variety of antique toys will cover the origins of playtime, toy factories, toy trains, builder toys and more. Sept. 28-Feb. 17. Free. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto.

Artist Collaborative: Judy Gaulke & Yoko Kubrick A.Space art gallery presents a exhibition of oil paintings from the past two decades by Atherton artist Judy Gaulke. Marble sculptures by Yoko Kubrick, a sculptor from Woodside will also be displayed. Until Oct. 27, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. A.Space Art Gallery, 773 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park.

Portola Art Gallery Presents 'Impressions of Indonesia,' an Exhibition of Watercolor Paintings by Yvonne Newhouse The Portola Art Gallery presents "Impressions of Indonesia," watercolor paintings by Yvonne Newhouse of San Mateo. The exhibit includes scenes from her travels earlier this year, and highlights the people and their culture. A reception will be held Oct. 13, 1-4 p.m. Through Oct. 31, Mondays-Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. portolaartgallery.com

Outdoor Recreation

Beginner/Refresher Bird Walk, Bedwell Bayfront Park Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park & Sequoia Audubon Society will host a one- to two-hour beginner bird walk. Attendees may see wintering ducks, shorebirds, egrets and hawks, and are encouraged to bring binoculars. The walk will begin at the restrooms in the parking lot. The event will be canceled if there's heavy rain. Oct. 13, 10 a.m.-noon. Free. PO Box 802, SLAC, 2575 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park.

Community

Anne E. Campbell Retirement Celebration Early Childhood Education Center will celebrate San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools Anne E. Campbell's retirement. Oct. 18, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Free. Early Childhood Education Center, 65 Tower Road, San Mateo. Search eventbrite.com for more info.



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TESTIMONIALS

Taylor, Combs and Nash for City Council

Much has changed in Menlo Park since 2010, when two incumbents who are now running for re-election to the City Council were elected to their first council terms. And though change is inevitable and some of the changes in the last eight years have been positive, too many have adversely affected the quality of life for residents — or threaten to do so in the future. Many of those residents are calling for change, citing transportation and housing crises stemming from the jobs-to-housing imbalance exacerbated by shortsighted approvals of big developments.

Incumbents Kirsten Keith of District 2 and Peter Ohtaki of District 4 are asking voters to return them to the council for third terms. Their challengers point to what they see as the current council's record of accommodating developers at the expense of residents' needs, and to a lack of transparency in how the city governs.

Voters can look at the records of Keith and Ohtaki to determine for themselves whether the changes the incumbents have supported argue for their return to office come December. But it would be difficult to consider changes that have resulted in roadway gridlock, a burgeoning of office space where housing and retail might have been built, and the severe housing-to-jobs imbalance as positive.

Both incumbents can rightfully boast of accomplishments that served the community well. They have also been part of majority votes supporting, for example, the adoption of a general plan update that greatly increased allowable development on the city's Bay side before working out a plan for needed infrastructure to support that growth. They were part of a four-member council majority that ignored Councilman Ray Mueller's request

to discuss a proposal aimed at increasing transparency by requiring council members to make their calendars of council-related meetings with others — developers, businesses, residents and others — available to the public. And they tacitly supported the city manager's opaque strategy of working directly with billionaire developer John Arrillaga in pursuing Arrillaga's offer of millions of dollars to rebuild

the main library in a process marred by secrecy and a "public" process that amounted to a charade.

The city faces many difficult challenges that have grown in scale over the last eight years and that stem from rapid development, traffic gridlock and a housing crisis. Three non-incumbents can offer fresh thinking and approaches to confronting those challenges.

We endorse **Cecilia Taylor** for the District 1 seat. Taylor grew up in the Belle Haven neighborhood, and since her unsuccessful run for council in 2016, has founded and led Belle Haven Action, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of those in the lower-income, traditionally unrepresented community. She often attends City Council and other public city meetings, and her understanding of the development, housing and safe streets challenges facing the city would make her a valuable member of the council.

Taylor's challengers have much to offer, but would do better serving Menlo Park and their Belle Haven community in other capacities: George Yang, an impressive "idea man," would be a positive force in efforts working toward transportation and housing solutions; and Mike Dunn, who is concerned about the poor quality of schools in the district that oversees Belle Haven School, would do well to run for a seat on the Ravenswood City School District board, where strong leadership is needed to solve

the district's multi-layered problems.

We support **Drew Combs** for the District 2 council seat. Yes, he's a Facebook employee who would have to recuse himself when matters involving his employer were before the council. But that's not as problematic as it might appear to be at first glance. With a four-member decision-making body, any project approval would still need three votes. One could argue that such a requirement might make greenlighting a project even more difficult.

Combs forcefully argues for a stronger commitment by the city and the council to addressing residents' needs and concerns, giving them just as high a priority as the needs of developers. He also is an advocate for more transparency, which we agree has been lacking in City Hall.

We acknowledge and appreciate Kirsten Keith's commitment to the community, and her investment of time and effort on behalf of the city. But after eight years, we believe change is in order.

We support **Betsy Nash** in her bid to represent District 4. A member of the Complete Streets Commission, Nash wants to focus on making our streets safer for everyone, but has a specific goal of encouraging people to get out of their cars by making walking, biking and other alternative means of getting around more convenient and safe.

She also has a strong commitment to address the jobs-to-housing imbalance, in part by supporting more transit-oriented development.

We're grateful for the service Peter Ohtaki has given the city during the last eight years, and for Ron Shepherd's oversight of city spending as a member of the city's Finance Committee and Audit Committee.

We encourage Menlo Park voters to support Cecilia Taylor, Drew Combs and Betsy Nash for the City Council. ■

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

Ned Fluet for Woodside Town Council

It's unfortunate that of the four new members who will take seats on the Woodside Town Council in December, voters will be able to choose only one. Three of the four seats are uncontested, so three of the town's new top decision-makers won't even be compelled to convince residents that they possess the judgment and understanding of the community's needs to be an effective council member while serving a four-year term.

On the other hand, voters in District 7 are fortunate to have a choice: There are two candidates, both of whom have a record of service to the town.

Ned Fluet is a member of the town's Environment: Open Space, Conservation & Sustainability Committee, and is currently its chair; Frank Rosenblum is the current chair of the town's Circulation Committee.

Both men express a strong desire to help address some of the town's challenges concerning safe roads and building standards that can be applied fairly and effectively. Their approach to a fairly hot-button issue, the town's Architectural and Site Review Board (ASRB), appears to be a point of departure. It's an important distinction, considering how a

recent public battle over the suitability of an ASRB member created rancor in the community and cost the town dearly in attorney fees.

The Almanac endorses **Ned Fluet** to represent District 7 on the Town Council. An attorney who has lived in Woodside for four years, Fluet wants to focus on safe routes to schools, general roadway safety and maintenance, fire safety and environmental programs.

He expresses a willingness to listen to residents about their concerns, and to

consult with the pros regarding such matters as fire safety, a program he's eager to see expanded to protect the community from the threat of wildfires.

Fluet welcomes creative ideas to address the town's process of approving property-owners' projects on nonconforming lots and other challenges, and is open to working collaboratively with other jurisdictions to tackle problems whose reach extend beyond Woodside, such as the redirection of commute traffic to rural streets by smartphone apps like WAZE. For the latter problem, he reasons: Why not work with a regional group such as the City/County Association of Governments since the problem is areawide?

Regarding the ASRB, his attitude is one of moving on in the wake of the recent episode that involved a former councilman's complaint against an ASRB member, and pitted neighbor against neighbor.

Rosenblum said he believes there's "too much subjectivity" on the ASRB when

members review residential projects in the town, but it's hard to understand how a panel of volunteer residents charged with reviewing design elements of building proposals in town could avoid subjectivity.

Fluet accepts that the ASRB's job is to assess a proposed project using the town's "rural character" standard. And that, he says, is necessarily subjective. "Everyone here is trying to get to the same goal," he sums up.

Fluet would be a welcome addition to the Town Council. We hope he's given a chance to prove it. ■

Endorsements

Last week, The Almanac endorsed:

■ Menlo Park Fire Protection Board: Jim McLaughlin, Chuck Bernstein, Robert Jones

■ Portola Valley School District's Measure Z: Yes

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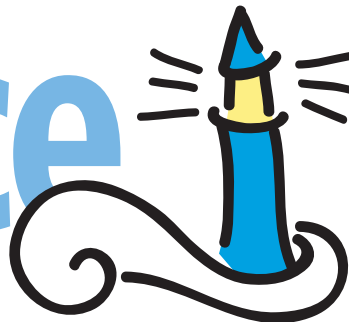
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File No.: 278849

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Registered owner(s):
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238 Hillview Ave.
Redwood City, CA 94062
DINO ANDRIGNETTO
2670 Ohio Ave.
Redwood City, CA 94061
This business is conducted by: A General Partnership.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 9/12/18.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 12, 2018.
(ALM Sept. 19, 26; Oct. 3, 10, 2018)

TEA IT UP
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 278876

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Tea It Up, located at 993 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 3289 South Ct., Palo Alto, CA 94306.
Registered owner(s):
JM Tea Room LLC
993 El Camino Real
Menlo Park, CA 94025
California
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 17, 2018.
(ALM Sept. 26; Oct. 3, 10, 17, 2018)

RAVENSWOOD MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 278877

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Ravenswood Mobile Health Clinic, located at 1885 Bay Road, East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
SOUTH COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, INC.
1885 Bay Road
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
CA
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/15/2007.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 17, 2018.
(ALM Sept. 26; Oct. 3, 10, 17, 2018)

BARAJAS JANITORIAL SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 278912

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Barajas Janitorial Services, located at 1123 O'Connor St., East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
FRANCISCO BARAJAS
1123 O'Connor St.
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 September 20, 2018.
(ALM Sept. 26; Oct. 3, 10, 17, 2018)

APEX AUCTIONEERING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 278897

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Apex Auctioneering, located at 670 La Mesa Dr., Portola Valley, CA 94028, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MARGARET OREN
670 La Mesa Dr.
Portola Valley, CA 94028
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 September 19, 2018.
(ALM Sept. 26; Oct. 3, 10, 17, 2018)

SIALE CONSTRUCTION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 278889

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Siale Construction, located at 1119 Del Norte Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
SIONE LS SEALE
1119 Del Norte Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
AKATA SIALE
1119 Del Norte Ave.
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 N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 18, 2018.
(ALM Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2018)

LYFCHANGES CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 278948

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Lyfchanges Consulting, located at 2315 Ralmar Ave., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
KESHA L BROWN
2315 Ralmar Ave.
E. 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 September 25, 2018.
(ALM Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2018)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE
OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. M-278916

The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.
The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s).
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MENLO PARK
1100 Middle Avenue,
Menlo Park, CA 94025
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):
NEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
1100 Middle Avenue,
Menlo Park, CA 94025
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:
09/20/18
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY:
Corporation.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on September 28, 2018.
(ALM Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2018)

SORIA & LEMUZ
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279013

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Soria & Lemuz, located at 1837 Clarke Ave. Apt. 21, E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
JUAN SORIA NUÑEZ
1837 Clarke Ave. Apt. 21
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303
JOSE DE LA CRUZ LEMUZ
14980 Terreno De Flores Ln.
Los Gatos, CA 95032
ADRIAN SORIA NUÑEZ
1837 Clarke Ave. Apt. 21
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: A General Partnership.
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 October 1, 2018.
(ALM Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2018)

Rewire Sports Performance
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 278930

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Rewire Sports Performance, located at 12111 Madera Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
DIAMOND HAWKINS

1211 Madera Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
DEON HAWKINS
1211 Madera Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: A General Partnership.
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 September 21, 2018.
(ALM Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2018)

BJ'S MOVING SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279018

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
BJ'S Moving Services, located at 1305 Woodberry Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
BETTY ATOCHE SALDANA
1305 Woodberry Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on September 8, 2018.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 1, 2018.
(ALM Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2018)

ROYAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 278896

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Royal Building Maintenance, located at 427 Stambaugh St., #2, RWC, CA 94063, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
BERNARDO ANGUIANO
427 Stambaugh St., #2
RWC, CA 94063
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 9/19/18.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 19, 2018.
(ALM Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2018)

S & G JANITORIAL SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279031

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
S & G Janitorial Services, located at 2235 Poplar Av., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
FEDERICO MEMBRILLO
2235 Poplar Av.
E. 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 2008.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 3, 2018.
(ALM Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2018)

CLEAN THUMB CLEANING
MAINTENANCE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279063

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Clean Thumb Cleaning Maintenance, located at 2773 Hunter Ave., East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
NICEFORO MORALES C.
2773 Hunter Ave.
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 01-2016.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 5, 2018.
(ALM Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2018)

997 All Other Legals
SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER: 34-2015-00181475
(Numero del Caso):

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
LAUREN SPEARS,
Additional Parties Attachment form is attached

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTA DEMANDADO EL DEMANDANTE):
BRIAN SPEARS

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the Information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and cost on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la

corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil, Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y direccion de la corte es):
SACRAMENTO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
720 9TH STREET,
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

Case Number: 34-2015-00181475
(Numero del Caso):

The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

Brian Spears
P.O. Box 409099
lone, CA 05640

DATE: Mar 28, 2017
(Fecha):
Clerk, by C. CULLEN-SANDOVAL, Deputy (Secretario) (Adjunto)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served
(ALM Sept. 26; Oct. 3, 10, 17, 2018)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 18CIV04871
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: CHAN MYE KYAW filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
CHAN MYE KYAW to JACKSON KYAW CHAN.
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: November 1, 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: September 18, 2018
/s/ Susan Irene Etezadi
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2018)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 18CIV04923
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: SUN SUN KYUNG MARTIN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
SUN SUN KYUNG MARTIN to SUNNY CHOI MARTIN.
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: November 7, 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: September 21, 2018
/s/ Susan Irene Etezadi
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2018)

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- PUBLIC HEARING NOTICES
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If it has been 5 years since you filed your Fictitious Business Name Statement (your D.B.A.), you must file again to protect your legal rights. Check your records now to see if your D.B.A. expires this year. Then call the Almanac, 223-6578, for assistance in re-filing. It's inexpensive and easy.



The Almanac
223-6578



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Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team

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