

# The Almanac

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

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## New agency is bringing renewable energy to county

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

An assortment of elected officials from across San Mateo County crammed into two vans on a recent morning and headed inland. Their destination: Los Banos.

Their route was a winding roadway through the Pacheco Pass, with dry, brown hills in every direction — a desolate California, far from the foggy sea, lush Santa Cruz Mountains or oaky chaparral that characterize their home jurisdictions.

Only one hiccup occurred when one of the vans got stuck on a pile of rocks on the dirt road leading up the hill. After the officials had been safely transferred to another van, they were deposited at their dusty destination, the literal end of the road that had a large shade structure, tables, a dais with a microphone, a team of supporters and collaborators, and a collection of golden shovels.

They had made the journey for the Oct. 11 groundbreaking of what's called the "Wright Solar Project," the installation of a solar farm that is going to be a 1,200-acre, 200-megawatt collection of solar panels that will provide between 500,000 and 600,000 megawatt hours a year of electrical power to meet the energy needs for about 15 percent of San Mateo County.

The Wright Solar Project is so far the largest solar power plant

ever commissioned by what's called a "community choice energy" provider in California, according to Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE), a community choice energy program that San Mateo County formed in February 2016.

The concept behind community choice energy programs is to pool energy demand across a large base of customers to purchase cleaner energy at cheaper rates than what Pacific Gas and Electric Company offers, thereby giving energy users an option for an electricity provider that's not for profit but operated as a public, locally controlled utility. Currently there are 19 community choice energy programs in California serving more than 8 million people, according to the California Community Choice Association.

Employees working on the project acknowledge that it's on an ambitious timeline. The plan is to cover these golden, rolling fields in Merced County in solar panels containing cells that move with the sun. Barring any major delays, the project is expected to be completed in November 2019, a timeline the project manager called "ambitious, but doable."

For longtime landowner Dominique Arotzarena and his family, the solar farm represents a way to more productively use the land that's been in his family for about a century.

About eight years ago, he



Photo by Dawn Harmer

**Breaking ground** in Los Banos are: PCE board member John Keener, PCE board member Marty Medina, Corky Sherwood, PCE Vice Chair Rick DeGolia, Jim O'Banion, Clenera CEO Jason Ellsworth, PCE board Chair Jeff Aalfs, Swinerton Renewable Energy President George Hershman, PCE board member Rick Bonilla, PCE board member Pradeep Gupta, Dominique Arotzarena, Suzanne Arotzarena, PCE CEO Jan Pepper, PCE founding board Chair Dave Pine, PCE board member Ann Schneider, PCE board member Wayne Lee.

said, he started talking to representatives of a solar power company, Frontier Renewables, and reached an agreement with them to install a solar farm on his property. Over time, Frontier Renewables sold its project to Idaho-based Clenera, and PCE purchased the power expected to come from the project. Arotzarena will collect a monthly lease for the property and, since he lives in San Carlos, will eventually receive some of the electricity generated from his property at his home.

The roughly 1,200 acres planned for the project were

being used as grazing land and for winter wheat, Arotzarena said.

Clenera CEO Jason Ellsworth explained that the solar panels will follow an algorithm to optimize their absorption of solar power.

Solar power now comes at a lower cost than many other alternatives, the cost is known up front, and in this case, it will create an estimated 400 local, union jobs during the construction and upkeep phases of the project, he said. According to George Hershman, president of Swinerton Renewable Energy,

the firm building the project, renewable energy employs more people than the coal, oil and gas industries combined.

Jeff Aalfs, a Portola Valley Town Council member and chair of the Peninsula Clean Energy board, told attendees at the groundbreaking that investing in solar power is "absolutely essential," not only from an environmental point of view — he pointed to the recent report by the U.N.'s International Panel on Climate Change that warns of dire environmental impacts

See **RENEWABLE**, page 14

## Taylor, Combs and Nash win Menlo Park council races

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

After nearly three weeks of watching election results come in slowly, enough ballots have now been counted to declare winners in the Menlo Park City Council election.

Cecilia Taylor from District 1, Drew Combs from District 2 and Betsy Nash from District 4 will take the dais at the City Council chambers starting in December.

There were 9,969 unprocessed ballots in all of San Mateo County that remained to be counted as of 4:49 p.m. on Nov. 24, according to the California Secretary of State's office.

The election signals a shift in Menlo Park politics, as

both Combs and Nash have unseated the council incumbents they ran against, who had each been seeking third terms: Combs

will take the seat of Councilwoman Kirsten Keith, and Nash will take Mayor Peter Ohtaki's seat.

These results are the outcome of Menlo Park's inaugural district-based elections. Previously, the city held at-large elections, in which all residents can vote for any candidate to represent the whole city. In August 2017, the city was threatened with a lawsuit unless it switched to district elections in which



Cecilia Taylor

each candidate must come from a designated area and be elected only by residents of that area.

The Belle Haven neighborhood, which is the city's only majority-minority district, made up of mostly Latino and black residents, hadn't had a City Council representative for 30 years. That changes with the election of Cecilia Taylor to District 1, which covers the city east of U.S. 101 and includes the city's Belle Haven neighborhood.

### District 1

According to results posted



Drew Combs

Sunday, Nov. 25, Taylor dominated District 1 with 1,127 votes (77.3 percent); George Yang had 227 votes (15.6 percent) and Mike Dunn had 103 votes (7.1 percent). Those results show the counted ballots of 1,588 of the district's 2,659 registered voters, or about 59.7 percent.

Taylor will be the first African American woman to serve on Menlo Park's City Council, and the first Belle Haven resident on the council since former councilman Billy Ray White ended a term in 1986.

"I think it's long overdue we have someone from our district



Betsy Nash

on the city council," said Mike Dunn. Yang and Taylor were not immediately available for comment.

### District 2

District 2 covers the Willows, Flood Triangle and Suburban Park neighborhoods. In District 2, Combs had 1,806 votes (62.8 percent); incumbent Kirsten Keith had 1,069 votes (37.2 percent). These figures include 3,075 ballots counted out of 3,952, or 77.8 percent of the registered voters in the district.

The high turnout, Combs said, "could be considered a plus for the district system. It is clear that with the switch (to district elections) people didn't become

See **CITY COUNCIL**, page 6

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## PV schools superintendent announces resignation

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

Portola Valley School District Superintendent Eric Hartwig announced at a Nov. 14 board meeting that he will be leaving his post at the end of the school year.

"This is the perfect time for the ... District to seek new leadership as it embarks on the rehabilitation and building plan authorized by the recent passage of Measure Z," Hartwig said in a prepared statement after submitting his resignation.

"This is an immensely talented district that has many years of important and challenging work ahead. I am proud to have made a small contribution and will do everything I can to effect a smooth transition."

Semiofficial election results updated by the San Mateo County Elections Office on Nov. 25 show Measure Z, a \$49.5 million district bond measure, passing with 62.2 percent of the vote and few votes left uncounted as of Nov. 25. The measure requires 55 percent of the vote to pass.

Hartwig joined the district in October 2015 to fill in on an interim basis when former superintendent Lisa Gonzales abruptly left. Hartwig's temporary stay turned into more than three years.

"Eric came to the district at

time of sudden change and was an amazing presence," school board President Gulliver LaValle said in a prepared statement.

"He was able to boil down the immediate needs of the district and follow through beautifully. I regret to see him leave but we got far more from him than we originally expected. The board is grateful for Mr. Hartwig's service and accepted his resignation with regret."

Hartwig served as superintendent of Las Lomitas Elementary School District for five years before retiring in 2012.

He began his career as an English teacher in middle and high school before becoming assistant principal at Capuchino High School in San Bruno. He then served as principal at Menlo-Atherton High School for nine years.

Hartwig's last day with the district is June 30. He has not yet decided if he will retire, he said in a Nov. 16. email. "I'll tackle that one further down the road," he wrote.

The district's school board will form a subcommittee to develop a search process for a new superintendent. The district expects to complete the search process "well before" Hartwig's contract ends, LaValle said in the statement.

The board launched its search on Nov. 26 by interviewing executive search firms. ■

### CITY COUNCIL

continued from page 5

disengaged."

The support from District 2 voters, he said, "gives me a sense that the things that I was talking are things that resonated with people."

Combs is a planning commissioner and works for Facebook, so he will have recuse to himself from key discussions about the proposed Willow Village and potentially other projects tied to Facebook. Two policies he favors are to change the requirements for house projects on substandard lots and implement a "sunshine" or transparent calendar policy.

### District 4

District 4 covers downtown Menlo Park and the Allied Arts neighborhood. As of Nov. 25, Nash had 1,732 votes (55.2 percent). Incumbent Peter Ohtaki had 944 votes (30.1 percent) and Ron Shepherd had 463 votes (14.7 percent). Those votes add up to 3,440, or 78.3 percent of District 4's 4,392 registered voters.

Nash said her campaign was "grassroots" and had about 180 people involved, whether through donations or endorsements. She said her key priorities on council will be to choose a new city manager, work on hiring new staff members and improve traffic safety.

Ohtaki expressed disappointment at preliminary election results. "It's a clear message that voters want to slow down growth and resulting traffic congestion," he said in a written statement.

Shepherd said he wants to congratulate Nash and noted that he stands by the way he ran his campaign and the policies he promoted.

"I don't think there's anybody that will be on the council that has the understanding of finance that I do," he said, noting he'll continue to work on the city's Finance and Audit Committee.

The next round of election results was scheduled for release Monday, Nov. 26, at 4:30 p.m., after The Almanac went to press.

Go to [almanacnews.com](http://almanacnews.com) for the latest updates on all races The Almanac is following. ■

# Celebration of life set for Dec. 1 for Frances Pierce

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

The many interests of Portola Valley resident Frances Stephani Pierce included literature, teaching, religions that honored goddesses — and life itself.

“She had a wonderful sense of humor and was always laughing,” her daughter Stephani Pierce Shanske wrote in an online obituary for The Almanac’s Lasting Memories website. “Bursting with life, to Frannie everything was the best thing she had ever eaten or the most gorgeous thing she had ever seen, and her grandchildren were the most brilliant people she had ever met. She loved her friends, speaking of them with immense affection.”

But despite her seemingly upbeat disposition, her mother suffered from a bipolar illness that, in the end, led her to cut her life short, Shanske said.

## New library auto-renewal pilot program starts Dec. 1

Constantly racking up overdue fines from the Menlo Park Library? (Maybe that’s only a problem for this reporter.) That may change, thanks to a new pilot program being implemented by the Menlo Park Library to auto-renew checked out library materials.

Starting Dec. 1, the library will begin to automatically renew eligible items one day before each item’s due date. Items that

A woman’s body, later identified as Pierce’s, was discovered floating in the ocean at about 9:45 a.m. on Nov. 18 by an off-duty harbor patrol employee who was fishing off Miramontes Point in Half Moon Bay. Frances Pierce was 75.

A celebration of Pierce’s life is set for 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1, at Valley Presbyterian Church at 945 Portola Road in Portola Valley, with a reception to follow across the street at the Windmill School at 900 Portola Road.

### Car found

On the evening of Friday, Nov. 9, the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office said, Pierce’s car had been found parked at Martin’s Beach, about 4 miles south of Miramontes Point.

She had been reported missing around 9 a.m. that morning and had left a note at home saying she was running an errand, according to the Sheriff’s Office. Detectives found no signs of foul

are not eligible for auto-renewal include those that are on hold for someone else or those that are from the city’s “Quick Pick” collection of higher-demand items.

The maximum number of renewals is five, after which the checked-out item will not be automatically renewed. People who have a balance of \$15 or more will also not be able to automatically renew their items.

— By Kate Bradshaw



**Frances Pierce** was reported missing before her body was found in the sea off Half Moon Bay.

play.

“She walked into the sea at Martin’s Beach, a final end to a harrowing and swiftly deepening depression brought on by bi-polar illness that had quite literally consumed her in the last two weeks of her life,” her family wrote in the online obituary. “Her family is stunned and heartbroken.”

### An appreciation of art

Pierce was a native of Richmond, Virginia, grew up in Walnut Creek, California, and

graduated from Las Lomas High School. While teaching, she earned two master’s degrees: in art nouveau from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and in English from San Francisco State University. “Her work ethic in everything she did was stupendous,” her daughter wrote.

She married Bob Pierce in 1965 and after 53 years of marriage, the couple still held hands at the movies, her family wrote.

A K-12 teacher for 45 years with a focus on art, English and history, Pierce was “intensely committed” and “well loved,” her family said. The Bay Area schools in which she taught includes Corte Madera School in Portola Valley for the 1994-95 school year. “(She) lit up her students with her enthusiasm, whether they were six or 16.” Pierce once directed a sixth-grade class in a performance of the Oresteia, a trilogy of Greek tragedies by Aeschylus.

Pierce’s politics were progressive and art appreciation was a passion, whether in museums, movies or books. She revered paintings of the Annunciation. Chaucer, Henry James, and Virginia Woolf were among her favorite authors. She became an

expert in religions that honored goddesses, and traveled to places in Europe where archaic goddesses inspired cathedrals.

She loved Paris, where she and husband lived in 1966 and again in 1980 with their children. Her love for her children and grandchildren “inspired great feats of dedication that she would undertake constantly,” her family wrote. “She filled her children with confidence, making them feel capable of greatness.”

Pierce is survived by her husband Bob Pierce of Portola Valley; sister Ruth Lisha of Palo Alto; daughter and son-in-law Stephani Pierce Shanske and Darien Shanske of Davis; son and daughter-in-law Dr. Brendan Pierce and Dr. Lindsey Pierce of Portola Valley; and four grandchildren.

The family suggests donations in her memory be made to Planned Parenthood or to the National Association for Mental Illness.

*(Anyone who is feeling depressed, troubled or suicidal is urged to call 1-800-784-2433 to speak with a crisis counselor. People in San Mateo County can also call the StarVista Crisis Hotline at 650-579-0350.)*

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

### Fire Safety



**Dear Monica: This year’s Camp and Woolsey fires have convinced me that no community is fire safe. What can a homeowner do to protect property? Edward W.**

Dear Edward: There are large and small things that can be done to lessen the fire risk. The main utility company has been shown to have been the cause of several of the worst fires and the California Legislature will be looking at many proposals for regulating them more strictly.

Building codes will also change to lessen fire risk. Fire

safe roofs and building materials will likely be required on all new installations. Strict rules on defensible space will be enforced. Utility lines will be put underground where possible. Propane tanks may also be underground. Homeowners should be sure that electrical wiring is safe.

Forest management is another key part of any fire prevention plan. The drought has produced many dead and dying trees that spread the fire quickly when ignited. Much can be done to reduce this risk.

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# M-A wrestler files retaliation lawsuit against school district

Coach, district retaliated for complaints about 'racist,' 'sexist' comments and unsafe behavior by coach, lawsuit claims

By **Angela Swartz**  
Almanac Staff Writer

A Menlo-Atherton High School student is suing the Sequoia Union High School District, district administrators, the M-A athletic director and a wrestling coach for alleged retaliation against her and her father after they complained about "disturbing behavior" by a wrestling coach at the school.

Senior Kiernan Dunn filed a lawsuit on Nov. 9 in San Mateo County Superior Court, updating and amending it on Nov. 19. The suit alleges that the district retaliated against her because she filed a Title IX complaint on Aug. 22. Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in educational activities that receive federal funding.

The lawsuit also alleges that Kiernan's father, Kevin Dunn, who was a volunteer wrestling coach at M-A, was the victim of retaliation after he complained about the behavior and coaching practices of another coach, Cliff Olson.

The lawsuit outlines the

"disturbing behavior" by M-A wrestling coaches that Kiernan and her father say they observed and objected to.

One example: Olson, according to the lawsuit, made wrestlers blindfold themselves before practicing the "most dangerous moves in wrestling." This caused one student to fracture his neck, the suit states.

Kevin Dunn had complained to M-A wrestling coach Phil Hoang and coach Daniel Williams, stating that blindfolding student athletes was "very dangerous" and a student could get hurt, but the two coaches ignored his complaints, according to the suit.

Olson, the Dunns had complained, also made racist and sexist comments, which led several wrestlers to quit the team, according to the lawsuit. The "offensive" sexist comments made Kiernan and other girls on the team uncomfortable, the suit states.

After Kevin Dunn complained to coaches about Olson's behavior, Olson threatened him with physical violence at a wrestling practice, the lawsuit asserts.

The school investigated Olson's conduct and fired him, according to the lawsuit. The district did not respond to questions about whether Olson was or is employed by the district.

The district "very recently received this complaint and is reviewing it and preparing a response," said district spokesman Rolando Bonilla in a prepared statement.

"That said, the district is confident that it responded appropriately to the matters that are raised in the complaint," he said.

## Retaliation

According to the lawsuit, Hoang, who is named as a defendant in the lawsuit, "immediately retaliated" against Kevin Dunn after the complaints were made, not allowing him to coach the girls team.

Hoang also invited Olson to continue to attend games, including a CCS (Central Coast Section) tournament, which made Kiernan uncomfortable, the suit states. At the same tournament, Hoang approached Kevin Dunn while he was sitting with the girls team, yelled "get up," and pushed him, the lawsuit asserts.

Another matter alleged in the lawsuit: Hoang asked female

wrestlers during the summer of 2018 to report their weight to him every week during off-season, the suit states. Hoang retaliated against Kiernan by excluding her from all team emails and she didn't know about a team event after she complained about the questions about weight, the suit states.

The suit calls the student wrestler weight requests "entirely inappropriate and abusive" and a "violation of CCS rules."

But CCS bylaws only restrict male weigh masters and/or male officials from conducting or being present at female weigh-ins. This does not apply if wrestlers are weighing in wearing their uniform. If a skin inspection or any other type of test that requires the removal of the uniform is necessary, such procedures are to be done in a place where only same-gender supervisory personnel are present.

CCS bylaws also "go silent" during the summer months, said CCS Commissioner Duane Morgan.

"The only thing you can't do is practice contact football or recruit," Morgan said. "You always ask questions, but you can't have practices outside of the season."

The lawsuit claims that, despite the Dunn family's concerns about the wrestling coach's behavior and a promise by M-A Athletic Director Steven Kryger to arrange a meeting with Hoang, the Dunns and the school's vice principal about the Dunns' complaints, Kryger failed to schedule the meeting.

Kryger is also listed as a defendant in the lawsuit. In addition to him, Hoang, and the district itself, other defendants are: District Superintendent Mary Streshly, M-A Principal Simone Rick-Kennel, and M-A Vice Principal Stephen Emmi.

A district investigation into Kiernan's Title IX complaint has not been completed, so Kiernan has missed two weeks of wrestling practices so far, the suit states. Kiernan is not listed on the roster on the M-A wrestling team's website.

Kiernan is seeking damages and asking that her father be made a coach of both the boys and girls wrestling teams. The suit asks to remove Hoang as wrestling coach.

M-A has boys junior varsity, boys varsity, girls junior varsity and girls varsity wrestling teams.

See **LAWSUIT**, page 12



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## More than just a garden ornament

By Sister Christina Heltsley, executive director of St. Francis Center

You have to know the story of Saint Francis to understand the culture of Redwood City's St. Francis Center. Like the St. Francis Center, Saint Francis of Assisi certainly embraced the economically poor, but more than that he set out to walk with them to change their lives, he advocated for them when he spoke truth to power, and he did not back down in trying to get their unmet needs met! Where some would throw up their hands in despair and walk away from the enormity of challenges associated with being economically desperate, Saint Francis of Assisi dug in, networked and created solutions. Giving up was not a part of his make-up. The St. Francis Center shares that same DNA!

The center began as a food and clothing program, but evolved,

over 32 years, into a multiservice, nonprofit serving families in the Bay Area. The center is a non-affiliated 501(c)3 charitable foundation offering food, clothing, educational programming, seminars for parents, GED and ESL programs, after-school youth programs, two large community gardens, a children's lending library, and 135 units of low-income housing.

Since it keeps its finger on the pulse of the communities it serves, it is very probable that other services will develop in response to the signs of the times and the needs of people. Approximately 2,500 people each month find their way to the center for assistance offered in a caring and nonjudgmental way.

Silicon Valley, home to the center, is considered one of the most prosperous areas in the nation. However, poverty is easy to find. Most of the families served at the center are working two and

### HOLIDAY FUND

Donations to The Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit St. Francis Center and nine other local nonprofits. To donate, see the coupon on the next page, or go to [siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund](http://siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund).

sometimes three jobs just to make ends meet, and most spend more than half of their total income for housing.

Though rich in programs and services, the center has few paid staff. The mission of service is achieved due to the 200 selfless and joy-filled volunteers who participate in every program, from bagging groceries to tutoring children and adults. Their generosity means that most of every dollar that comes to the center, from private donors and foundations, can go directly to serving the client families.

For some, Saint Francis of Assisi has become a beautiful garden



Courtesy of St. Francis Center

**Saint Francis of Assisi** is more than just a garden ornament to those at the St. Francis Center, who embrace his spirit in service to those in need.

ornament, inviting birds and protecting gardens, but for the St. Francis Center, his spirit of generosity, peace and getting things done for the underserved is not encased in cement, but rather is

fully alive! Come visit and see your much-appreciated donations, your investment in others, in action. The center is at 151 Buckingham Ave. in Redwood City. Learn more at [stfranciswc.org](http://stfranciswc.org).

## Maria's story: Not letting diabetes win

By Rachel Tarantino, development associate at Ravenswood Family Health Center

At Ravenswood Family Health Center (RFHC), our patients' health is our first priority. We work diligently with our patients to address their medical conditions and to achieve their health goals. RFHC staff work hand-in-hand with patients, providing them the tools they need to become empowered individuals and to take control of their health.

Maria has been a patient at RFHC for more than a decade. After being hospitalized with pre-diabetic complications, Maria underwent lab tests at RFHC. Her results indicated that she was diabetic. "(When)

they told me I had diabetes, I said 'wow' and I felt (shocked)," Maria says.

Maria's RFHC nurse practitioner worked with her to manage her diabetes by prescribing her medication, a glucometer, and test strips. Maria's RFHC health educator also provided her with informational resources to help her manage meal portion sizes and eat balanced meals. With the support of her RFHC care team Maria made significant changes to her lifestyle. She began to drink more water, incorporate more vegetables and fish into her diet, and exercise regularly.

After a year of lifestyle and dietary improvements, Maria has been able to regulate her

### HOLIDAY FUND

Donations to The Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit Ravenswood Family Health Center and nine other local nonprofits. To donate, see the coupon on the next page, or go to [siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund](http://siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund).

diabetes so effectively that she no longer needs to rely on medication. With a big smile on her face, Maria is proud to say that now "we will only work with food and diet control, and I only have to see (my nurse practitioner) every six months!" With the help of her care team at RFHC, Maria has controlled her diabetes successfully and has learned the tools to help her live a long and healthy life.

You can support the health



Courtesy of Ravenswood Family Health Center

**Elva**, on staff at the RFHC, takes Maria's blood pressure.

goals of patients like Maria. Visit [ravenswoodfhc.org](http://ravenswoodfhc.org) for more information about RFHC, our patients, our services, and how you can make a difference

in the health and well-being of our community. For more information about how you can help, email us at [development@ravenswoodfhc.org](mailto:development@ravenswoodfhc.org).

## Litterbug laments? Pothole predicaments?

There's an app for that in Portola Valley

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Government employees in Portola Valley keep regular hours, but trees have no such scruples when they drop limbs. Likewise for asphalt when it opens up a pothole or a miscreant when he deposits litter

at a dark street corner.

Now residents can alert Town Hall to such problems around the clock through a smartphone app: PV Connect, available at the town's website at [portolavalley.net](http://portolavalley.net).

Voice mail and email are still available, but the app is new and

inviting and perhaps easier to use. It directs resident concerns to the person responsible and logs responses until the matter is solved. And others using the app can monitor what's happening.

The app is preloaded with issues and service requests that Town Hall has been encountering for years, Town Manager Jeremy Dennis said. "We expect an increase in service requests because we've made it easier," he said.

"It should also raise our accountability. We're saying to the community that we want

to address these problems as quickly as possible."

The app could shift work away from the front desk in Town Hall and streamline the town's responses, said Brandi de Garmaux, the assistant to the town manager. And residents may find it helpful in answering questions as they become familiar with town regulations, including what kinds of landscaping activities are allowed on weekends.

Two types of service requests will not be visible to the public: noise complaints and code

enforcement. "They could ... create angst," de Garmaux said.

Software by Accela, a San Ramon-based company, underlies PV-Connect. State, city and county government agencies use Accela," according to its website. The company mission: to "improve efficiency, increase citizen engagement and enable the development of thriving communities."

Dennis said he chose Accela because the company "is sort of ahead of everybody else." He uses it as a resident of Redwood City. ■

# Give to The Almanac Holiday Fund

Your gift helps local children  
and families in need



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

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

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

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Rotary Club  
of Menlo Park

The organizations below provide  
major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.

*The William and Flora  
Hewlett Foundation*

*The David and Lucile Packard  
Foundation*

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

## Boys & Girls Clubs

Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, and mentoring for 1,800 low-income K-12 youth at nine locations across Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City.

## Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.

## Health Connected

Serves over 5,000 students and their families each year through comprehensive sexual health education programs. Students learn to have ongoing communication with parents and to make informed decisions that will apply to their lives, now and in the future.

## LifeMoves

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

## Project Read

Provides free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. Trained volunteers work one-on-one to help adults improve reading, writing and English language skills so they can function more effectively at home, at work and in the community. Basic English classes, weekly conversation clubs and volunteer-led computer enrichment are also offered.

## Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinic in East Palo Alto. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

## St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded by voluntary contributions and community grants, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers take-home bags of food, as well as emergency food and clothing assistance.

## St. Francis Center

Helps low-income, working families become self-supporting members of the community by providing long-term solutions through educational programs for children and parents, as well as after-school programming at Siena Youth Centers. St. Francis Center also provides housing, food and clothing services to address short-term needs.

## StarVista

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

## Upward Scholars

Upward Scholars empowers low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education, get higher-paying jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.

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## Foundation names new top exec

The Mountain View-based giant of the philanthropic world, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF), announced Nov. 8, it has chosen a new top executive following a monthslong search. Nicole Taylor, a Bay Area native who most recently served as vice president of the Arizona State University Foundation, has been picked to take the helm of the influential \$13.5 billion nonprofit.



Nicole Taylor

The change of leadership comes amid a focused effort by SVCF officials to rebuild the organization's reputation following a series of scandals involving workplace harassment and bullying. A storm of complaints from employees and donors led to the resignation of at least three SVCF executives, including CEO Emmett Carson, who had headed the organization since its inception in 2006. Since April, the SVCF has been temporarily led by former board member Greg Avis.

In a press release, the SVCF board of directors praised Taylor as the right person to manage the nonprofit and connect the private sector with the philanthropic world. She has previously served as CEO and president of the East Bay Community Foundation and the Thrive Foundation for Youth in Silicon Valley. At Stanford University, she worked as associate vice provost of student affairs and dean of community engagement.

Taylor will officially begin her role at SVCF on Dec. 19.

— *By Mark Noack, Mountain View Voice*

### LAWSUIT

*continued from page 8*

Wrestling runs during the winter season.

Hoang coached both the boys and girls programs for the past few years and, following the success of the girls program, the school decided to hire a separate coach for the boys team, according to the Palo Alto Weekly. This fall, Hoang moved to coaching the girls team. M-A is the two-time defending CCS champion.

In four years, Hoang went from coaching one female wrestler to nearly 20. He has coached a state champion (Chelsea Wilson), a state runner-up (Fola Akinola) and several other state qualifiers, according to the Palo Alto Weekly. ▀

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# County plans 100-plus affordable apartments, child care center

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

San Mateo County has begun a process to contract with a developer to build at least 100 affordable housing units, a child care center and some community-serving commercial space at “Middlefield Junction,” at 2700 Middlefield Road in North Fair Oaks, between Atherton and Redwood City.

The property, which the county owns, is a 3.2-acre parcel that was once a recycling facility, and is located just east of the North Fair Oaks Health Center, built in 2013. A key consideration in the development plans, according to county housing and community development policy specialist Heather Peters, is how the project will fit in with its surroundings, which include the health center and the Dumbarton Rail Spur, including a curved segment of railroad that ties the Caltrain rail to the Dumbarton rail line. The tracks are used an estimated two times per month, according to county documents.

The county has received four submissions following a request for proposals and is scheduled

to make its recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for its Jan. 29 meeting. The proposals are not yet public because the county is still in negotiations, said Peters.

Once the developer is chosen, the county plans to begin a public outreach process in the spring, she said.

The priorities of housing and child care were identified through the North Fair Oaks Community Plan, completed in 2011, and a child care needs assessment completed for the county and Redwood City. The needs assessment found that there will be a shortfall of 350 infant spaces, 800 preschool spaces and 600 school-age spaces in Redwood City by 2025.

In addition, the county has requested up to 12,000 square feet to be community-serving commercial space — a term kept intentionally vague because the county aims to seek public input to determine how it’s used, Peters said.

The county is expected to rezone the property to fit the development, and is likely to allow buildings 50 to 60 feet tall and residential densities up to 80 housing units per acre.

The county is in the process of rezoning certain parts of North Fair Oaks for redevelopment and has so far completed two areas: Middlefield Road and El Camino Real. The area that this parcel is in, designated as “Phase 2B,” is part of the next section to be rezoned.

The exact density will probably depend on the developer’s planned mix of units, and how much structured or underground parking the developer can finance.

The developer will also likely have to contend with environmental contamination from the former on-site recycling facilities and the nearby rail lines.

All of the apartments will be designated for renters earning under 80 percent of the area median income, and some for renters in lower income categories, Peters said.

Though the zoning may change, a “master plan” has already been developed for the site, resulting from collaboration between county Supervisor Warren Slocum, Redwood City council member and former mayor John Seybert and retired Sequoia Healthcare District CEO Lee Michelson.



Courtesy San Mateo County

The planned complex will be built on a 3.2-acre parcel in North Fair Oaks.

The county expects to negotiate successive 99-year ground leases with a developer, who will secure construction financing and own and manage the development on the property, according to the request for proposals document.

The county provided three alternative plans it expected developer proposals to take as a jumping-off point.

The alternatives are:

■ In two phases, the construction of 130 apartments, a child

care center and community-serving commercial space, estimated to cost \$126 million.

■ In one phase, the construction of 100 apartments, 31 townhouses, a child care center and community-serving commercial space, estimated to cost \$113 million.

■ In one phase, the construction of 130 apartments, the child care center and community-serving commercial space, with

See COUNTY, page 18

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# Fire district to station employee inside Facebook

By **Dave Boyce**  
Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District governing board voted 3-2 on Nov. 13 in favor of a plan to station an employee inside Facebook's Menlo Park offices to help prepare emergency response plans for the company in coordination with the fire district, as well as help in employee training, drills and team building.

Board members Peter Carpenter, Virginia Chang Kiraly and Robert Jones voted to approve the three-year agreement, while Chuck Bernstein and Rob Silano dissented.

The employee, a public-service assistant, will receive a salary of up to \$150,000 per year. Facebook plans to reimburse the fire district for work done for the company, but if the assistant does emergency planning work for some other entity, such

as the city of Menlo Park, the fire district would pay for that work.

In a verbal tussle with Bernstein over the agreement's wording, Carpenter explained his support for the proposal: A Facebook employee in need of help would be sitting at a desk with no "address," Carpenter said. "When you get a 911 call for that big huge building, where do you go?" he said. What you don't want, he added, are firefighters outside the building trying to figure out what to do.

"The fact that (Facebook) will pay for it ... is just spectacular," Carpenter added, noting that Facebook pays property taxes and could opt to leave problems associated with emergencies up to the fire district.

Silano dissented, he said, because the agreement involves a private entity. He said he would support it if the other party were a public agency, such

as the city of Menlo Park.

Bernstein differed, mainly with Carpenter, over two clauses that he said placed the fire district at a disadvantage:

■ The agreement says that the fire district must refrain from making claims against the company and its employees "arising out of the activities" of the assistant except in the case of company negligence or willful misconduct.

Bernstein argued that this clause could be used to find the fire district liable if someone at Facebook is hurt during a drill using an operations plan provided by the district.

Carpenter disagreed. Facebook can accept or reject a plan, but "once they accept ... it's theirs," he said. "We don't give them a plan and then give them a guarantee. We don't hold them harmless in the execution of their plan."

Jones agreed. "Once you own

that, it's yours. It's no longer ours," he said.

The fire district's attorney, Tim Cremin, said that in such cases, the district would likely argue that the action that led to the injury was solely Facebook's responsibility.

■ The agreement also says that the fire district will protect Facebook from claims and expenses, including attorney fees, stemming from the "activities of the Public Service Emergency Assistant," except in the case of company negligence or willful misconduct.

"This is major stuff," Bernstein said. "We see what's happening up north," he added, referring to allegations of negligence on the part of Pacific Gas & Electric Company over equipment failures that may have played a role in the Camp Fire in Butte County.

"Wow. It scares me to death that we're indemnifying

Facebook," Bernstein said. The district "could be sued for literally hundreds of millions of dollars."

"We're indemnifying for activities rising out of the activities of the (public-service assistant)," Carpenter replied. "It's very restrictive." The assistant is there to make recommendations to Facebook, he added.

"If it (the agreement) said we provided guidance, that would be one thing, but it doesn't say that," Bernstein said. "It says we provide a plan, and I think we're warranting that plan to be of the highest quality."

"There's no language in here on warranting," Carpenter said. "Everything involves risk. You can't have a zero-risk arrangement. ... I don't think we can run the district based on worst-case assumptions on 99 things going wrong. We have to do what we think is, on balance, best." ▀

## RENEWABLE

continued from page 5

if global climate change is not capped at 1.5 degrees Celsius — but also from a business perspective. "This is the lowest-cost power," he said.

The project's director of development, Dustin Thompson, noted that the project has been in the works for several years. Siting and environmental studies, evaluations of topography, and geotechnical analyses had to be done, and upgrades had to be made to the existing power grid in the area to carry the power generated in Merced County to San Mateo County.

Project officials also had to secure state and federal permits. In this case, a conditional use permit was needed to set up the solar power farm for 30 to 40 years, he said. And when the photovoltaic cells in the solar panels reach the end of their useful life — which takes roughly 30 years — the plant could either be decommissioned and the land returned to its former state relatively easily, or the panels could be renewed.

## Fees increase

Because Peninsula Clean Energy is operated as a public utility, any profits that might result from the difference in what it costs to purchase the energy from renewable sources and what the energy is sold for gets reinvested into promoting cleaner energy use throughout the county. At present, PCE provides most customers an energy mix that's 50 percent renewable and 85 percent carbon-free at

a slight discount from PG&E rates, and offers everyone the option to buy 100 percent renewable energy at a cost slightly higher than PG&E rates. In San Mateo County, businesses like Facebook, Visa and Guittard Chocolate — as well as the entire town of Portola Valley — have opted for the 100 percent renewable energy option, according to county Board of Supervisors President Dave Pine.

But because of a controversial decision by the California Public Utilities Commission last month, there's a catch.

The same day that the San Mateo County officials were breaking ground on the giant solar farm, the state PUC unanimously decided to increase the fees that community choice energy program users must pay to PG&E for "opting out" of the company's power offerings.

Those fees, and their variability, have been at the heart of the question of the viability of community choice energy programs across the state.

Despite the opposition of most of the public speakers responding to the proposal, and the recommendations of an administrative law judge, the commission adopted an "alternative" plan that raised the fees, called a "power charge indifference adjustment."

"We don't think it was a good decision," PCE Chief Executive Officer Jan Pepper told The Almanac, noting that PCE's position is in line with that of the California Community Choice Association.

The association released a statement saying the state PUC's



**Local council members** Jeff Aalfs of Portola Valley and Rick DeGolia of Atherton have been active players in the county's efforts to create Peninsula Clean Energy.

action is expected to steeply increase the fees for customers who buy energy through community choice energy programs. "At a minimum, the action will impair CCAs' abilities to accelerate the state's decarbonization and economic justice policy goals and to better tailor electric service to meet the needs of local communities," the statement read.

In addition, on Nov. 19 the association, along with CleanPowerSF and Solana Energy Alliance, formally filed for a request for a rehearing with the state PUC to revise the fees, alleging that the decision included "legal errors" that "run afoul of the California Public Utilities Code, California Code of Civil Procedure, as well as other statutes," according to a press release.

PCE is still evaluating the financial impacts of the rate hike, Pepper said.

The viability of newer community choice energy programs



may be compromised by the fee hikes, according to people who advocated for lower exit fees at the PUC meeting. But PCE is in a relatively secure financial position.

"We have been very conservative in how we've structured the company," said Atherton City Councilman Rick DeGolia, who represents the town on the PCE board. At the end of the 2017-18 fiscal year, PCE had a net position of \$85.4 million. But any loss in profits means less funding to put back into cutting greenhouse gas emissions and promoting renewable energy in the county, Portola Valley council member Aalfs noted.

According to Pacifica Mayor John Keener, who is that city's representative on the PCE board, "PCE is strong enough (that) it will probably be the last (community choice energy program) standing."

"We came in at the right time to get it to market when it was relatively cheap. We were able to

buy our power for less than what most (community choice energy programs) did," he explained.

The agency recently announced the recipients of its first grant cycle aimed at funding renewable energy efforts in the county. They are ARCA Recycling, Inc., for a program to recycle old refrigerators; Ardena Energy, LLC, to pilot a project for whole-house electrification; Build It Green, for energy-efficient remediation and repairs for low-income homes; CA Interfaith Power & Light, to install clean backup power at select faith organizations for use during emergencies; Envoy Technologies Inc., to promote electric vehicle car-sharing in an apartment complex in a disadvantaged community; and the county Office of Sustainability, to help city governments get clean-fuel vehicles in their fleets.

Vehicle emissions remain a major source of greenhouse gas in the county, DeGolia said, so to encourage people to buy electric cars that they can charge with cleaner energy, PCE has started a program with local car dealerships, including Nissan of Burlingame, Peter Pan BMW and Stewart Chevrolet, to provide PCE customers with discounts to buy or lease certain electric vehicle models. Go to [peninsulacleanenergy.com](http://peninsulacleanenergy.com) for more information about that program. ▀

**On the cover:** Jan Pepper, Peninsula Clean Energy CEO, stands at the site of the new Wright Solar Project. Photo by Dawn Harmer.

# Pacific Hearing Service Invites You to a Hearing Symposium



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As Chief Technology Officer and Executive Vice President of Engineering for Starkey Hearing Technologies, **Dr. Achin Bhowmik** leads the company's research and product development efforts. Prior to joining Starkey, Dr. Bhowmik was vice president and general

manager of the Perceptual Computing Group at Intel Corporation. There, he was responsible for the R&D, engineering, operations, and businesses in the areas of 3D sensing and interactive computing, computer vision and artificial intelligence, autonomous robots and drones, and immersive virtual and merged reality devices.

Dr. Bhowmik holds adjunct and guest professor positions, advises graduate research and lectures on human-computer interactions and perceptual computing technologies at the Liquid Crystal Institute of Kent State University, Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, Stanford University, and the University of California, Berkeley,

where he is on the board of advisors for the Fung Institute for Engineering Leadership. Dr. Bhowmik has over 200 publications, including two books and 34 issued patents.

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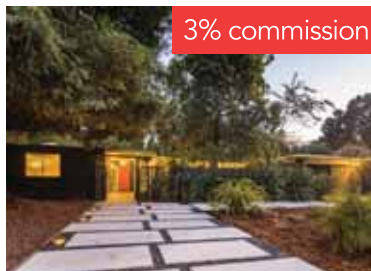


# SELECTED DELEON REALTY 2018 SALES IN MENLO PARK



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Listed for \$9,988,000  
**Sold for \$10,075,000**  
19 days on MLS



3% commission

941 Peninsula Way  
Listed for \$3,988,000  
**Sold for \$4,410,000**  
10 days on MLS



750-800 Menlo Oaks Drive  
Listed for \$3,988,000  
**Sold for \$4,630,000**  
10 days on MLS



161 Stanford Ave  
Listed for \$3,488,000  
**Sold for \$4,001,000**  
10 days on MLS



1903 Valparaiso Avenue  
Listed for \$3,488,000  
**Sold for \$3,750,000**  
13 days on MLS



514 Laurel Avenue  
Listed for \$2,788,000  
**Sold for \$3,605,000**  
14 days on MLS



2307 Crest Lane  
Listed for \$2,488,000  
**Sold for \$3,350,000**  
10 days on MLS



445 Santa Margarita Ave  
Listed for \$1,988,000  
**Sold for \$3,151,000**  
10 days on MLS



112 Laurel Ave  
Listed for \$1,988,000  
**Sold for \$2,500,000**  
10 days on MLS



11 Campo Bello Lane  
Listed for \$1,988,000  
**Sold for \$2,380,000**  
10 days on MLS

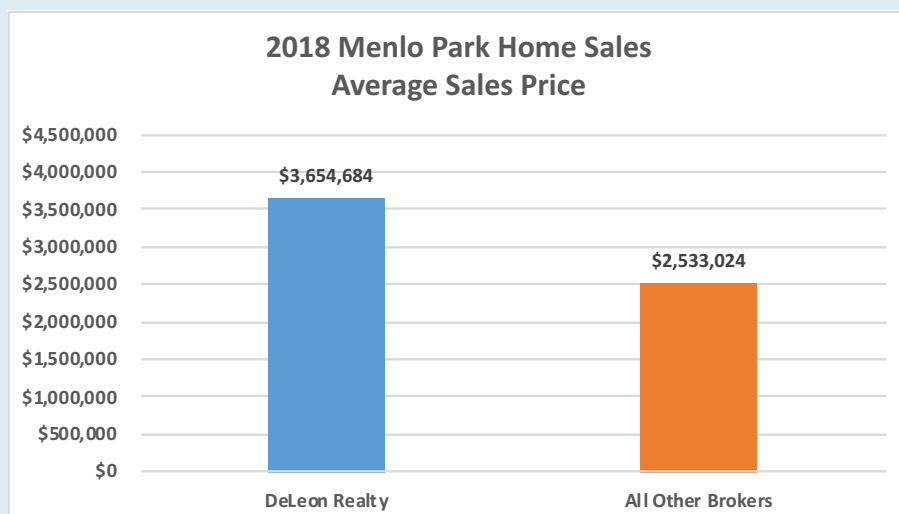


927 Arnold Way  
Listed for \$1,988,000  
**Sold for \$2,300,000**  
11 days on MLS



2331 Blueridge Ave  
Listed for \$1,988,000  
**Sold for \$2,300,000**  
11 days on MLS

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\* Based on MLS Listings Data for Homes Sold 1/1/2018 - 11/4/2018

# A peek at Atherton Library's past

The 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane library demolition began last week

By Angela Swartz  
Almanac Staff Writer

As the Atherton Library is demolished to make room for a new \$22.8 million library, The Almanac took a look back at the library's history.

The town began taking down the structure of the permanent library at 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane on Nov. 19, several weeks after the library moved to a temporary location on the same lot.

The library moved into what was until last month its permanent space in 1968 when Atherton Police Chief Leroy Hubbard, who lived in the building, retired, according to "Under the Oaks: Two Hundred Years in Atherton." The 2009 book by local historians Pamela Gullard and Nancy Lund chronicles the history of Atherton.

In 1968, town officials and San Mateo County supervisors agreed to lease Hubbard's house, next to the town hall (now the city council chambers), to the county to house a library.

Before that, a branch of the San Mateo County library was located in a small space in the police headquarters in town hall, shortly after it was inaugurated in 1929, according to the book.

The Atherton Heritage Association now occupies this space, which houses documents on the town's history, its residents and buildings. The association will move to the Main House of Holbrook-Palmer Park in January 2019 if the town goes forward with plans to revamp its civic center.

Architect John White designed the 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane building and the Minton Company constructed it. Hubbard

made the space his residence when he became police chief in 1929. The department operated out of town hall starting in 1928.

When the library occupied the police headquarters, it was open two afternoons a week. The "book custodian" received the "astounding" salary of \$10 per month, according to the book.

"With his office just steps away, Hubbard was able to preside over the sleepy little town," "Under the Oaks" states. "Little did he know that he lived in what would become the town library."

Joan Sanders, who has lived in Atherton since 1970, said that because the library was a home, it was like being in a home.

"As a small, cozy home-type library, we hope some of that feeling can be retained in the new library," said Sanders, who is active in Friends of the Atherton Community Library. The group supports the programs, services and projects that enrich the library.

Still, the library is "bigger than the building it's in" and is just changing buildings, she said.

The excitement of knowing the new library will one day occupy the same location tempers the loss, wrote Sandy Crittenden, president of Friends of the Atherton Community Library.

"I will always remember the old library as a quaint, warm, and charming place," he wrote. "The back portion of the library was once the home of the Chief of Police, Leroy Hubbard. A trip



Photo courtesy of Atherton Heritage Association

**Police Chief Leroy Hubbard** (back center) works alongside Librarian Hazel Farrell (second from left) in the town hall space the library and police department. The photo is from the 1940s.



Photo courtesy of Atherton Heritage Association

**Marcia Elias**, right, entertained babies at the library in 1998.



Photo courtesy of Atherton Heritage Association/Art Ray

**Atherton Librarian Linda Chiochios** at the library in 1982.

up to the second floor showed it was original, even with a dumbwaiter (a small freight elevator). Losing this part is a loss of some of our history."

The new library is part of a civic center construction project; early next year the town will go out to bid for specific

elements of the project. The library already has a substantial amount of money in its building fund, but the San Mateo County Libraries Joint Powers Authority agreed in September to advance the town approximately \$10 million in property tax revenue to help with building costs. ▣

## COUNTY

continued from page 13

as much surface parking as possible, estimated cost \$124 million.

The first option would have some apartments ready for occupancy within five years, and the rest within six; and the other options would be expected to be ready for occupancy

within five years.

Another component of the plan is that the developer will be expected to work with households facing homelessness that are referred by the county's human services agency to provide them with some level of services at the site.

Funding the project is a complicated process, especially because it will permit multiple uses, Peters explained. "It's not like building a library or a single-use project where you just sell bonds and one person or entity pays for it," she said.

The opportunity to build affordable housing on a vacant lot is a rare one, she noted. "We have very few unused pieces of land in San Mateo County. ... The county is looking to incorporate affordable housing into every opportunity they can find for it." ▣

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## Deputies rescue man from overturned vehicle

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

A 70-year-old Cupertino man is in critical condition after San Mateo County sheriff's deputies rescued him from an overturned vehicle on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 22), the Sheriff's Office said.

The vehicle was found on its roof about 30 feet down an embankment along Highway

84 in the steep and winding section of the road between Portola Road and Skyline Boulevard, according to a post on the Sheriff's Office Facebook page.

The driver's family prefers not to release his name, Detective Rosemerry Blankswade said in an email Monday.

Deputies and detectives began a search for the man on Wednesday night (Nov. 21) after he had been reported missing by his family. The

search took place along Woodside Road and Skyline Boulevard and extended into the morning, deputies said.

Searchers got a break on Nov. 22 when they noticed a tree with recent damage to the bark near its base. They looked down the embankment and saw an overturned car matching the description of the vehicle being driven by the missing man.

Deputies climbed down and found the driver, and medics transported him to a local hospital. Blankswade said Monday that it was "too soon to tell" whether he would make a full recovery. ▀

## Winners decided in Woodside council, fire board races

With fewer than 10,000 votes left to count, results released Nov. 25 by the San Mateo County Elections Office indicate winners in contested Woodside Town Council and Menlo Park Fire Protection District board races.

The county had 9,969 unprocessed ballots as of Nov. 24, according to the California Secretary of State's Office.

### Council race

Ned Fluet has won the race for the Woodside council's District 7 seat. As of Nov. 25, Fluet had 1,442 votes (57 percent); Frank Rosenblum had 1,074 votes (43 percent). Fluet will be one of four new members on the council, joining Brian Dombkowski (District 2),

Sean Scott (District 4), and Dick Brown (District 6), who all ran unopposed.

Fluet will represent neighborhoods along La Honda and Old La Honda roads and areas west of Portola Road.

### Fire board race

In the fire district board election, appointed incumbent Robert Jones was the top vote-getter with 34 percent of the vote (17,682 votes) as of Nov. 25. Jim McLaughlin had 26 percent (13,351 votes), followed by incumbent Chuck Bernstein with 25 percent (13,022 votes). Sean Ballard had about 15 percent (7,636 votes).

The fire district provides first-responder services for Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto and nearby unincorporated communities.

## Breakfast with Santa coming up

A pancake breakfast, holiday activities and visits with a certain jolly old elf will be part of the festivities at the city-hosted "Breakfast with Santa" event on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, at 600 Alma St. in Menlo Park.

Reservations are required and

can be made online at [is.gd/santa836](http://is.gd/santa836), in person at the Arrillaga Family Gymnasium at 600 Alma St., or by calling 330-2220. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for kids. People can receive \$1 off the ticket price if they bring an unwrapped toy for a toy drive hosted by the Menlo Park Firefighters' Association.

Each year, the association collects new unwrapped toys, food and monetary donations. Collection barrels will be set up throughout the city, including City Hall and each of the fire stations in the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, according to firefighter Scott Nixon.

## HERE COME THE HOLIDAYS

**The Ladera Country Shopper Merchant's Holiday Fair**

Saturday, December 8th \* 11 am-12:30 pm

Konditorei: Photos with Santa

First 20 people receive Konditorei gift card \*

**~Plus~**

- Ladera Garden & Gifts:** Bulb Planting
- Bianchini's Market:** Matt's Famous Eggnog
- Amigos Grill:** Piñatas
- UPS Store:** Holiday Cards – First 20 people receive gift cards worth 100 copies
- Portola Kitchen:** The Madrigal Singers
- Alpine Optometry:** Snow Globe Ornaments
- Ladera Cleaners and Diane's Beauty:** Holiday Candy
- Chase Bank:** Cookies, Drinks, and Gifts
- Lobster Shack:** Live Music and hot clam chowder samples



Photo by Avidah Yaghmai-Samardar

“With the air quality being as poor as it was, most of our seniors who were suffering from breathing issues were forced to stay inside, and not be active outdoors at all,” said Avidah Yaghmai-Samardar, recreation coordinator at the senior center. The donated masks enabled seniors and other visitors, like this little girl, to leave home and participate in programs at the center, she said.

## Facebook donates 1,000 masks to Menlo Park

By **Kate Bradshaw**  
Almanac Staff Writer

Last week, when smoky air blanketed the Bay Area at levels deemed “unhealthy” by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Facebook donated 1,000 “N95” masks to the city of Menlo Park, which set up distribution centers at six locations in the city.

“I think we were all taken a little by surprise by how long the poor air quality lasted,” said Ryan Patterson, strategic initiatives manager at Facebook. “It’s just sort of the right thing to do.”

“It’s a really nice thing we didn’t ask them to do,” Menlo Park Vice Mayor Ray Mueller said.

Mueller said employees at Facebook initially contacted him because they had extra masks and wanted to distribute them, so he, interim City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson and council member-elect Cecilia Taylor worked together to distribute masks at the Menlo Park Senior Center on Friday, Nov. 16. By Monday, Facebook employees reported they had secured more masks, so additional distribution sites were set up.

“I’m grateful they worked with

the community on their own to get these to people who need them,” Mueller said.

The donation raises the question of whose responsibility it is to provide the public with things like masks and other public health needs when the air turns unhealthy.

The Camp Fire started Nov. 8 and poor air quality in the Bay Area has been nearly constant since then. The mask donations came in toward the end of the Camp Fire’s reign of devastation, but how does the city aim to protect city residents from the air quality impacts from future fires? Preparing for such occurrences is not part of anyone’s job description at City Hall at his point, Mueller said.

“The fact of the matter is, we are starting to see these events happen more and more in California, and we face significant wildfire threat ourselves here in San Mateo County,” he said.

He said he spoke Nov. 19 with Facebook and plans to gather key players, including the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, to discuss how the city can partner with the private sector to “prepare for events like this and create community resilience.”

## Coat donations accepted

The Menlo Park Police Explorers program is hosting a coat drive to collect coats and jackets of all shapes and size between now and Jan. 6, 2019.

People who wish to donate can bring new or clean and gently used coats to a donation bin at

the police department lobby at 701 Laurel St. any time.

Coats will be delivered to local shelters and people in need through a partnership with One Warm Coat, a national nonprofit that supports and encourages coat drives.

# Public Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

STAR POOLS SERVICE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 279339  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Star Pools Service, located at 1490 Kavanaugh Dr., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
MARVIN A. CERRATO HERNANDEZ  
1490 Kavanaugh Dr.  
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 October 30, 2018.  
(ALM Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
File No. 258262  
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) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s).  
MAGGIE FOARD  
REGISTRANT’S NAME(S):  
MAGGIE FOARD  
265 Portola State Park Rd.  
La Honda, CA 94020  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):  
PORTOLA VALLEY FARMERS’ MARKET  
265 Portola State Park Rd.  
La Honda, CA 94020  
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:  
6/13/13.  
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY:  
Individual.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on October 16, 2018.  
(ALM Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018)

CRYPTO MARKETING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 279364  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Crypto Marketing, located at 157 Bellevue Ave., Daly City, CA 94014, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
BRYAN JUDSON HAUPT  
157 Bellevue  
Daly City, CA 94014  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on October 31, 2018.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on Oct. 31, 2018.  
(ALM Nov. 14, 21, 28; Dec. 5, 2018)

CAMINO VILLA’S  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 279396  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Camino Villa’s, located at 1280 El Camino Real, Millbrae, CA 94030, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
TINA FATICA  
155 Tiptoe Lane  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
MARGARET BENEDETTI  
2750 Belmont Cyn. Rd.  
Belmont, CA 94002  
MARY DELUCA  
175 Tiptoe Lane

Burlingame, CA 94010  
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 November 2, 2018.  
(ALM Nov. 14, 21, 28; Dec. 5, 2018)

TACOS EL GRULLENSE C&D  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 279428  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Tacos El Grullense C&D, located at 60 31st. Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 513 Hurlingame Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063.  
Registered owner(s):  
TACOS EL GRULLENSE C&D INC.  
513 Hurlingame Ave.  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/6/2018.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 6, 2018.  
(ALM Nov. 28; Dec. 5, 12, 19, 2018)

### 997 All Other Legals

SUMMONS  
(CITACION JUDICIAL)

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

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:  
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):  
LAUREN SPEARS, JASON BARTLETT, JOHN ANDERSON, DEAN KRATZER, PLM LOAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC. DOES 1 TO 5

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](http://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](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://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 dias, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la information a continuacion.

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](http://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](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://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  
Ione, CA 05640

DATE: Mar 28, 2017  
(Fecha):  
Clerk, by C. CULLEN-SANDOVAL, Deputy  
(Secretario) (Adjunto)  
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served  
(ALM Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018)

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or email [asantillan@pawekly.com](mailto:asantillan@pawekly.com)  
for assistance with your legal advertising needs.**

## PORTOLA VALLEY THEATER COMPANY STAGES 'SHE LOVES ME'

By **Kate Daly**

Special to the Almanac

Looking for a heart-warming story to uplift holiday spirits? "She Loves Me," Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory's new musical offering, may be just the ticket.

The theater group will be performing the Broadway hit at Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road in Portola Valley, from Nov. 30 through Dec. 15.

The story revolves around two shop clerks working in a Hungarian perfumery during the 1930s. Georg and Amalia do not get along until they both respond to a newspaper ad for lonely hearts, and end up exchanging love letters.

Director Noelle GM Gibbs of Woodside, PVTC's producing artistic director, says she looks for shows about hope and transformation, and this time around she sees opportunities for the audience "to be moved emotionally and intellectually."

"I really love this show; it's so

beautifully crafted, the characters are so lovable, and the play is still really relevant," she says.

The musical debuted in 1963. Joe Masteroff wrote the book, Sheldon Harnick the lyrics, and Jerry Bock the music.

A 13-piece live orchestra will play songs such as "Vanilla Ice Cream" and "Twelve Days to Christmas," tunes Gibbs describes as "music to fall in love with; you walk away humming it."

PVTC is a nonprofit her parents, Cheryl and Mark Goodman-Morris, founded in the 1990s when they were co-pastors at the church.

In this MainStage production, six cast members are also church members. Don Gustafson plays Mr. Maracek, Max Ball is Ladislav Sipos, Annegret Boge and Ginger Holt of Menlo Park are in the ensemble, as is Geoff Moyer of Portola Valley.

Alexandra Ornes of Menlo Park plays Arpad Laszlo. Her father, Raf Ornes, is the show's music director and church choir



Photo by Kevin Gibbs

**The cast** includes Amalia Balash (Leher Pathak) and Georg Nowak (James Schott), who in this scene finally find something in common.

director.

The creative team includes church members Gibbs and her husband, Kevin, on sound design, and Lindsay Saier on hair and makeup design.

Many of the actors are PVTC veterans, and local. The male lead,

James Schott, is from Fremont and female lead Leher Pathak is from San Francisco, but neighbors may recognize Woodsiders Torrey Rothstein as Steven Kodaly and Fiona Ryan as a shop customer, or Portola Valley's Alessio Seemann as a busboy and Dorian Dunne as

Detective Keller. Cory Downing of Menlo Park is a member of the ensemble.

Katya Lohngoon of Menlo Park is stage manager, assisted by Cailin Wright of Woodside. The

See **SHE LOVES ME**, page 24

## Coffeebar hosts show by Menlo Park painter

By **Kate Bradshaw**

Almanac Staff Writer

"I was the kid that just kept doing art," Menlo Park painter Krista Skehan recently told The Almanac in advance of her upcoming art show at Coffeebar on Nov. 29. But making the transition from being a kid who loved art to a grown-up creative professional and artist hasn't been a straightforward journey, she says.

She credits her initial passion for art to the then-nascent Art in Action program, a Menlo Park-based nonprofit founded by Atherton resident Judy Sleeth that promotes art education in local schools. She participated in that program as a child, and her mother, an art teacher at Saint Francis High School in Mountain View, also supported her, she says.

In college at Indiana University, she created her own major, "visual communications," because she was so interested in fusing art and business.

She went on to found Personify,

a Menlo Park-based branding and design company where she now works as creative director, got married and had two daughters. Eventually, work and family life pushed her painting work to the backseat.

"Like so many, I felt like I didn't have time for it," she says.

But her passion for painting didn't wane. Working with a life coach helped her to find the time to paint by readjusting her priorities, she says. She opted to watch less TV and spend less time cooking.

"I thought I needed to cook every night," she recalls. "In actuality, my kids and husband didn't care (and were) fine with it not being perfect."

She's since had two art shows — in spring 2017 and spring 2018. The upcoming show at Coffeebar will be her first open to the public.

Skehan says that she believes pursuing painting helps set an example for her two daughters, ages 6 and 9.

"My kids see me doing something I love," she says. "It's

powerful to see a mom making time for herself. I want them to find their passion and live that passion."

Now, when things get tough at work, she likes to think about the scene she's working on at her easel back home.

"Inside, I start smiling," she says. "It changes my whole thinking to be more positive."

She believes that the artistic sense she's developing through painting is helping her be more creative in her design work, she says. Plus, the combination of producing art alone at home and doing collaborative design work at the office provides her with a sense of balance, she adds.

### 'California-inspired'

"I'm known for bright, happy art," Skehan says, describing her work. "A lot of thought goes into each piece before I paint it."

She says she's cultivated an aesthetic style that is "California-inspired," with bright colors — beaches, babes in bikinis, palm trees and tropical leaves. The time she has spent in Carmel and at her parents' home in Hawaii has also shaped her art, she explains.

"The ocean is therapeutic for me," she says.



Photo courtesy of Krista Skehan

**Krista Skehan** says the ocean inspires her work.

Another source of inspiration for her painting is Instagram. She uses it to follow photographers and interior designers to get ideas about different patterns, fabrics and textures.

"I take all that info, and then, you know, it leads me to the next spot in my mind," she says.

### If you go

Skehan's art show will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday,

Nov. 29, at Coffeebar, 1149 Chestnut St. in Menlo Park.

"It's kind of the latest hotspot that people enjoy in Menlo Park," Skehan says.

The event will be open to the public with live music, wine and cheese.

Skehan also does some work on commission. To see more of her art, go to @kristaskehan on Instagram or to her website at kristaskehan.com. ■

# Winter wonders

HOLIDAY  
EVENTS  
THAT WILL  
GET YOU IN  
THE SPIRIT

by Karla Kane

When deciding on the theme for this year's holiday concert, Ragazzi Boys Chorus Artistic Director Joyce Keil turned to nature for inspiration.

"I noticed how many composers set texts that positioned the contrasting stories of roses growing from the bleak hard snowy frozen ground, of the sadness of loss with the joy of hope for peace in the world, and the paradox of light in the midst of winter," she said. The concert, "For the Beauty of the Earth," includes the hymn of the same name as well as various other seasonal music that celebrates nature's gifts.

"We all have different interpretations when it comes to faith, but we all can count on the coming again of the beauty of the Earth, the blooming of the rose, the outbreak of spring and the renewal of hope in the midst of the dreariness of winter," she said.

## Menlo Park tree-lighting ceremony

**What:** Menlo Park's tree-lighting event will feature a visit from Santa Claus along with other treats.

**Where:** Fremont Park, Menlo Park.

**When:** Nov. 30, 5:30-7 p.m.

**More information:** menlopark.org/treelighting.

## 'Presents from the Past'

**What:** The J. Gilbert Smith House will be decorated in 1930's holiday splendor for an exhibition of Christmas gifts, including toys, books and more, from yesteryear.

**Where:** Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos.

**When:** Through Jan. 6.

**More information:** losaltoshistory.org/exhibits/presents-from-the-past/.

## Hometown Holidays

**What:** Redwood City's annual downtown celebration includes snow and a tree-lighting.

**Where:** Downtown Redwood City,

**When:** Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**More information:** hometown-holidays.org/HTH/index.html

## Caltrain Holiday Train

**What:** Caltrain's festive Holiday

The chorus, which includes around 200 boys from the local community, will perform Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto, 625 Hamilton Ave. in Palo Alto, and Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church, 1835 Valota Road in Redwood City.

The organization's alumni chorus, Ragazzi Continuo, will present "An English Christmas," featuring English carols and seasonal songs from the past to the modern era on Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 178 Clinton St. in Redwood City, and Dec. 2 at First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper St. in Palo Alto. For tickets and more information, go to [ragazzi.org](http://ragazzi.org) and [ragazzicontinuo.org](http://ragazzicontinuo.org).

Below are some more holiday offerings, listed in roughly chronological order. For more event listings, or to submit your own, check out the Midpeninsula event calendar at [AlmanacNews.com/calendar](http://AlmanacNews.com/calendar).

Train will make nine stops along the Peninsula, boasting lights, entertainment, characters and a chance for locals to donate a new, unwrapped toy to the annual toy drive.

**Where:** The train will stop in Redwood City at 6:10 p.m. and Mountain View at 7:25 p.m. on Dec. 1; and Menlo Park at 7:05 p.m. on Dec. 2.

**More information:** [holiday-train.org](http://holiday-train.org).

## 'Buon Natale'

**What:** The California Bach Society will celebrate five centuries of Italian Christmas and Advent music.

**Where:** All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto.

**When:** Dec. 1, 8 p.m.

**More information:** [calbach.org/season#buonnatale](http://calbach.org/season#buonnatale).

## "Twas the Night Before Christmas'

**What:** Dancers Repertory Theatre presents the annual dance and theater production of the classic holiday poem.

**Where:** Woodside Performing Arts Center, 199 Churchill Ave., Woodside.

**When:** Dec. 2 and 9 at 1:30 and 4 p.m.; Dec. 8 at 3 p.m.

**More information:** [twasthe-night.org/](http://twasthe-night.org/).



Photo by Eric Raeber

**Menlowe Ballet** continues its tradition of presenting its original "It's a Wonderful Nutcracker." Shown are Michael Lowe and Leighton Shiveley.

## Hanukkah on the Square

**What:** Chabad Mid Pen hosts a Hanukkah celebration featuring festive refreshments, a glow-in-the-dark menorah, music and games.

**Where:** Courthouse Square, downtown Redwood City

**When:** Dec. 2, 4-5:30 p.m.

**More information:** [redwoodcity.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/34339/2569?curm=12&cury=2018](http://redwoodcity.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/34339/2569?curm=12&cury=2018).

## 'The Christmas Ballet'

**What:** Smuin presents its annual holiday performance, incorporating classical ballet and contemporary dance into a two-act show ("Classical Christmas" followed by "Cool Christmas") suitable for all ages.

**Where:** Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View.

**When:** Dec. 5-9, 7:30 p.m., plus 2 p.m. matinees on weekend.

**More information:** [tickets.mvcpa.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=252](http://tickets.mvcpa.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=252).

## 'The Santaland Diaries'

**What:** TheatreWorks Silicon Valley presents a staged version of David Sedaris' comedy, starring Max Tachis. The one-man show (for mature audiences only) chronicles the misadventures of a department-store elf.

**Where:** Lohman Theatre, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills.

**When:** Dec. 5-23, 8 p.m. plus 3 p.m. matinees on weekends.

**More information:** [theatre-works.org](http://theatre-works.org).

## Hanukkah Celebration at Stanford Shopping Center

**What:** The Oshman Family JCC hosts a free family

Hanukkah celebration with a musical performance by Noa Levy and her band, who will lead dancing both in English and Hebrew, arts and crafts, dreidel games and a candle-lighting ceremony.

**Where:** Stanford Shopping Center, The Plaza (near Neiman Marcus), Palo Alto.

**When:** Dec. 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**More information:** [paloaltojcc.org/Events/hanukkah-celebration-at-stanford-shopping-center-11](http://paloaltojcc.org/Events/hanukkah-celebration-at-stanford-shopping-center-11).

## 'Metropolitan Klezmer'

**What:** Metropolitan Klezmer will perform a family Hanukkah-celebration concert incorporating a variety of fresh sounds and eclectic arrangements.

**Where:** Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto.

**When:** Dec. 8, 5:30 p.m.

**More information:** [paloaltojcc.org/Events/metropolitan-klezmer](http://paloaltojcc.org/Events/metropolitan-klezmer).

## Friends of Music Holiday Musicale

**What:** The Friends of Music at Stanford present their annual holiday showcase featuring the Stanford Philharmonia, Stanford Chamber Chorale, Early Music Singers and other guests.

**Where:** Memorial Church, 450 Serra St., Stanford.

**When:** Dec. 8, 2:30 p.m.

**More information:** [music.stanford.edu/events/friends-music-holiday-musicale](http://music.stanford.edu/events/friends-music-holiday-musicale).

## 'PACO Holiday Extravaganza'

**What:** The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra will be joined by special guest TwoSet Violin and dancers from Pacific Ballet Academy for its annual performance of holiday music.

**Where:** Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Palo Alto.

**When:** Dec. 9, 3 p.m.

**More information:**

See **WINTER WONDERS**, page 24



Photo by Kevin Berne

**Actor Max Tachis** performs as Crumpet the Elf at a department store in "The Santaland Diaries" by David Sedaris and adapted by Joe Mantello. The production by TheatreWorks Silicon Valley runs in Los Altos Hills Dec. 5 through 23.

## Frances Stephani Pierce

June 30, 1943 – November 9, 2018

Frances Stephani Pierce, our beautiful, loving, light-filled, cherished wife and mother, died November 9th at Half Moon Bay. She was 75.

She walked into the sea at Martin's Beach, a final end to a harrowing and swiftly deepening depression brought on by bi-polar illness that had quite literally consumed her in the last two weeks of her life. Her family is stunned and heartbroken.

Frannie was born June 30, 1943 in Richmond, Virginia to Stephani Gallaher and Dr. John A. Gallaher, originally of Louisville, Kentucky and California, Missouri, respectively. She was raised in Walnut Creek, graduating from Las Lomas High School in 1961. She and her husband Bob met when both were teenagers in Walnut Creek, fell deeply and permanently in love, and married in 1965. Fifty-three years later, they still held hands at the movies.

She had a wonderful sense of humor and was always laughing. Bursting with life, to Frannie everything was the best thing she had ever eaten or the most gorgeous thing she had ever seen, and her grandchildren were the most brilliant people she had ever met. She loved her friends, speaking of them with immense affection.

For forty-five years, Frannie was an intensely committed and well-loved teacher in local public schools, teaching grades K through 12, and specializing in art, English, and history. She had sixth graders performing the Oresteia and lit her students up with her enthusiasm, whether they were six or 16. Frannie held a M.A. in History from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, focusing on Art Nouveau, and a second M.A. from San Francisco State University in English, focusing on Chaucer; both degrees were pursued while teaching. Her work ethic in everything she did was stupendous.

She loved art and art museums, literature, gardening, movies, and travel. She especially loved Paris, where she and Bob lived in 1966 and, with their children, in 1980. She was passionate about progressive politics. In books, Frannie particularly loved Chaucer, Henry James, and Virginia Woolf. She had a fascination with the ancient mother goddess religions and became an expert in the subject. She loved traveling to the archaic goddess sites that became Europe's cathedrals and loved collecting goddess-inspired objects from around the world. She had a reverent love of annunciation paintings.

Frannie was profoundly generous and indefatigably giving in her love for her family. To say she was a devoted mother is a great understatement. Frannie's love for her children and grandchildren inspired great feats of dedication that she would undertake constantly. She filled her children with confidence, making them feel capable of success.

She is survived by her husband Bob Pierce, of Portola Valley, her daughter Stephani Pierce Shanske of Davis, her son, Dr. Brendan Pierce, of Portola Valley, her son-in-law Darien Shanske, her daughter-in-law Dr. Lindsey Pierce, her grandchildren, Juliet and Catherine Pierce, and Margaret and Alexander Shanske, as well as her sister, Ruth Lisha, of Palo Alto.

A non-denominational celebration of her life is planned for December 1st at 11 am at the Valley Presbyterian Church in Portola Valley, the town where she lived for the past forty-three years. A reception will be held afterward across the street at Windmill School.

Donations in her memory may be made to Planned Parenthood and/or NAMI (National Association for Mental Illness).



### WINTER WONDERS

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[brownpapertickets.com/  
event/3695012](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/3695012).

#### Gryphon Carolers

**What:** The Gryphon Carolers and All-Star Band will perform their annual concert of holiday songs from around the world.

**Where:** Woodside Village Church, 3154 Woodside Road, Woodside.

**When:** Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m.

**More information:** [brownpapertickets.com/event/3818186](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/3818186).

#### 'It's a Wonderful Nutcracker'

**What:** This original dance performance is a mash-up of "The Nutcracker" and the holiday film, "It's a Wonderful Life." Performed by the professional, Menlo Park-based Menlowe Ballet, this year it features an expanded second act.

**Where:** Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton.

**When:** Dec. 14-16 and Dec. 21-23.

**More information:** [menloweballet.org/nutcracker](http://menloweballet.org/nutcracker).

#### 'Winter's Gifts: Journeys'

**What:** The Choral Project and the San Jose Chamber Orchestra present their annual "Winter's Gifts" concert, with a theme of journeys both physical and emotional. The concert will include choral works from various faith traditions and cultures.

**Where:** First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, 1140 Cowper St., Palo Alto.

**When:** Dec. 15 at 8 p.m.

**More information:** [choralproject.org/event/winters-gifts-journeys-palo-alto/](http://choralproject.org/event/winters-gifts-journeys-palo-alto/).

#### 'Heartfelt Season 2018'

**What:** Bravissimo Dance Studio presents a tale of a Grinch, Santa Claus and more, told through dance.

**Where:** Canada College, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City.

**When:** Dec. 15, 4 p.m.

**More information:** [brownpapertickets.com/event/3612774](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/3612774).

#### Italian Christmas market

**What:** Mitchell Park Community Center will host "Bay Area's Natale," an Italian Christmas market, where Italian-style crafts and foods will be sold, carols sung and more. Admission is free.

**Where:** Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

**When:** Dec. 16, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**More information:** [bayareaitalianevents.com/events/bay-areas-natale-italian-christmas-market](http://bayareaitalianevents.com/events/bay-areas-natale-italian-christmas-market).

#### 'A John Rutter Christmas'

**What:** Schola Cantorum presents



Photo courtesy of Caltrain

**Caltrain's annual Holiday Train** and toy drive will spread holiday cheer to local families along the Caltrain corridor on Saturday, Dec. 1, and Sunday, Dec. 2.

a concert of cozy Christmas carols by John Rutter, followed by a singalong of holiday tunes.

**Where:** Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View.

**When:** Dec. 16, 3 p.m.

**More information:** [scholacantorum.org/concerts/a-john-rutter-christmas/](http://scholacantorum.org/concerts/a-john-rutter-christmas/).

#### Holiday organ recital: Robert Huw Morgan

**What:** Stanford University organist Dr. Robert Huw Morgan will present his annual holiday recital.

**Where:** Memorial Church, 450 Serra St., Stanford.

**When:** Dec. 16, 1:30 p.m.

**More information:** [music.stanford.edu/events/holiday-organ-recital-robert-huw-morgan-2](http://music.stanford.edu/events/holiday-organ-recital-robert-huw-morgan-2).

#### 'Gypsy Soul Holiday Experience'

**What:** Eclectic jazz-pop duo Gypsy soul puts its own spin on holiday music.

**Where:** Club Fox, 2209 Broadway St., Redwood City.

**When:** Dec. 16, 6 p.m.

**More information:** [clubfoxrwc.com/event/1728470-gypsy-soul-holiday-experience-redwood-city/](http://clubfoxrwc.com/event/1728470-gypsy-soul-holiday-experience-redwood-city/).

#### 'Messiah Sing'

**What:** Schola Cantorum's annual singalong (age 12 and up) of Handel's "Messiah" will be presented with Sinfonia Schola Cantorum. Scores will be available.

**Where:** Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View.

**When:** Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m.

**More information:** tickets. [mvpca.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=241](http://mvpca.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=241).

#### 'An Irish Christmas'

**What:** The music and dance of the Emerald Isle comes to the Peninsula for a performance of Irish dancing and singing with a holiday theme.

**Where:** Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View.

**When:** Dec. 20, 7 p.m.

**More information:** tickets. [mvpca.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=256](http://mvpca.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=256).

#### Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir

**What:** The OIGC will perform a concert of gospel and spiritual music holiday music.

**Where:** Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View.

**When:** Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m.

**More information:** tickets. [mvpca.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=242](http://mvpca.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=242).

#### Holidays at Filoli

**What:** Filoli will be hosting holiday decor and special events throughout the season.

**Where:** Filoli Historic House & Garden, 86 Canada Road, Woodside.

**When:** Through Dec. 23; schedule varies.

**More information:** [filoli.org/events/holidays/](http://filoli.org/events/holidays/).

*Karla Kane is the arts and entertainment editor of the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac's sister paper.*

### SHE LOVES ME

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Dohertys from Portola Valley are actively involved, with Stacie serving as production manager and Alex as lighting designer.

The 10 performances are taking place in the church's Lane Family Hall, where a special stage has been built so the audience is seated around the action on three sides.

Show times are 8 p.m. on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1; 5 p.m. on Dec. 2; 8 p.m. on Dec. 6, 7 and 8; 2 p.m. on Dec. 9; and 8 p.m. on Dec. 13, 14 and 15.

The Dec. 2 show is Conservatory Night, when PVTC students and families are invited to have pizza at 4, and stay afterwards for ice cream and a conversation with cast members.

Dec. 7 ticket proceeds will go towards the nonprofit Benetech to promote global literacy. On Dec. 9, babysitting will be available onsite.

Go to [pvtc-ca.org](http://pvtc-ca.org) to buy tickets. Prices start at \$15. ■

PAID OBITUARY

# Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

## Theater

**'Girls Kill Nazis'** In "Girls Kill Nazis" by James Kopp, the American Nazi Party has been elected to the highest office in the United States. Nazi law is now American law. But the women of the book club of Bisbee, Arizona, are fighting back, in part by killing Nazis and storing their decapitated heads in jars. Through Dec. 2, times vary. \$15 preview, \$35 opening, discounts for seniors/students. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. thepear.org

**'Into the Woods'** Los Altos Stage Company will show a production of "Into the Woods," a musical that combines the stories of several fairy-tale characters to show what happened after the movies ended. Nov. 29-Dec. 23, times vary. \$20-\$41. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. losaltosstage.org/into-the-woods

**'K2,' a play by Patrick Meyers** Stranded on an icy ledge at 27,000 feet on K2, the second highest mountain in the world, two climbers are in serious trouble. Harold, a nuclear physicist, has broken his leg and Taylor, a district attorney, is trying to retrieve a critical rope to be able to descend the mountain. The play examines survival, friendship and meaningful existence against the backdrop of one of the deadliest places on earth. Through Dec. 1, 8-9:30 p.m. \$15-\$35. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. dragonproductions.net/box-office/vbo-test.html

**TheatreWorks Silicon Valley Presents 'Tuck Everlasting'** TheatreWorks Silicon Valley will produce a showing of "Tuck Everlasting." The play tells the story of a young girl who meets a family who has found immortality and must decide between returning to her life or choosing immortality as well. Nov. 28-Dec. 30, times vary. \$40-\$100. Lucie Stern Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org

## Concerts

**Stanford Jazz Orchestra with special guest Carl Allen, drums** Michael Galisatus directs the Stanford Jazz Orchestra's program, featuring guest artist Carl Allen on drums. Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m. \$18-\$23. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

**Stanford Symphony Orchestra** Paul Phillips conducts the Stanford Symphony Orchestra's fall program, which will include Stravinsky's Funeral Song Op. 5, Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 and music by violin soloist Lea Bourgade. Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 2, 2:30 p.m. \$13-\$28. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

**'Wintersongs' With Kitka** "Wintersongs" is Kitka's winter holiday program showcasing seasonal music from a wide variety of Eastern European ethnic and spiritual traditions. Dec. 2, 4 p.m. \$17.50-\$35. St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park.

## Festivals & Fairs

**Ninth Annual Chanukah Festival** Chabad Mid Pen will host the ninth annual Chanukah festival. The festival will feature the lighting of a glow-in-the-dark menorah, entertainment, music, latkes and donuts and more. Dec. 2, 4-5:30 p.m. Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. redwoodcity.org

## Talks & Lectures

**'The Next Revolution Will be Led by Women'** In 2014, Iranian journalist Masih Alinejad launched the "My Stealthy Freedom"

campaign, one of the many such efforts inside and outside Iran against the oppression of women in the Islamic Republic. She will discuss her memoir and her experience in this movement. Nov. 29, 6:30 p.m. Free. Stanford Bookstore, 519 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

**Michael E. Mann** Dr. Michael E. Mann, distinguished professor and director of the Earth System Science Center at Penn State University, joins Stanford Woods Institute for a conversation with the environment director Chris Field. This series provides a forum for wide-ranging, informal discussions exploring the who, how and why of major developments in environmental science and policy. Much of the time is reserved for interactions with the audience. Nov. 29, 3:30 p.m. Free, RSVP requested. 326 Galvez St., Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

## Family

**'Frosty's Magic Hat'** Belle Haven Library will host "Frosty's Magic Hat," a show featuring puppets and magic. Dec. 4, 3:30-4:15 p.m. Free. Belle Haven Library, 413 Ivy Drive, Menlo Park. menlopark.org

**Caltrain Holiday Train** Caltrain's Holiday Train will once again make its way down the Peninsula. Decorated with more than 75,000 lights, the Holiday Train will visit nine Caltrain stations during the weekend. At each of the train's 20-minute station stops, people can join in singing with onboard carolers and a Salvation Army brass band. Dec. 1 and Dec. 2, 4-8 p.m. Free, donations accepted. View train stop locations and schedule online. bit.ly/2KsVcXi

**West Bay Model Railroad Holiday Train Show** Watch trains run on the scenic two-level layout while club members answer questions. See the Polar Express, the California Zephyr and long freight trains. Lots of scenery, including industries, buildings, bridges, trestles and tunnels. Dec. 1, 1-5 p.m. Free, donations accepted. South end of the Menlo Park Caltrain station, 1090 Merrill St., Menlo Park. wbmrra.ning.com

## Museums & Exhibits

**'Blackboard'** "Blackboard" brings together works that imitate, resemble or feature a blackboard, to consider the relationship between art and education. The "blackboards" on view interrogate schooling, authority, literacy, form and color. Through Jan. 27. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions

**Kahlil Joseph: 'BLKNWS'** Kahlil Joseph, a visiting artist in the new Presidential Residences on the Future of the Arts program, is presenting his work "BLKNWS," a two-channel video projection that blurs the lines between art, journalism, entrepreneurship and cultural critique. Through June 16, times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions

**'Painting Nature in the American Gilded Age'** The Cantor Arts Center's exhibition will consider how nature was depicted by American artists from the 1880s to 1910, an era of unprecedented industrialization and urban development. Through landscapes, portraits and still lifes, the exhibition will delve into the importance of nature for artists and the public. Through Aug. 25, times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions

**Public Tour: Contact Warhol: Photography Without End** The exhibition brings to life Warhol's many interactions with the social and celebrity elite of his time, with portraits of stars such as Michael Jackson, Liza Minnelli and Dolly Parton; younger sensations in the art world such as Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat; and political stars, including Nancy Reagan, Maria Shriver and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Select days through Jan. 6, 2:30 p.m. Free. 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

**'Vintage Toys: It's Child's Play!'** The museum will be showing a variety of antique toys that belonged to children in the past. This exhibition will cover the origins of playtime, toy factories, toy trains, builder toys and more. This exhibit aims to evoke childhood memories over the decades. Through Feb. 17, times vary. Free. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. moah.org

**Anderson Collection Public Tour** The collection hosts docent-led public tours five times a week. Ongoing until December 30; Wednesdays 12:30 p.m., Saturdays 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. and Sundays 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Free. Anderson Collection, 314 Lomita Drive, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

**Portola Art Gallery Presents 'Artistic Journeys'** The Portola Art Gallery presents "Artistic Journeys," a joint exhibition by Inna Chernenkina and Jan Prisco. The exhibition of oil and pastel paintings includes colorful still life and landscape scenes from the artists' collections. A reception will be held Dec. 8, 1-4 p.m. Through Jan. 31, Mondays-Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park.

## Dance

**'The Nutcracker'** Dance Connection & Palo Alto Dance Connection Youth Ensemble present the 20th annual production of "The Nutcracker." Nov. 30, 7-9:30 p.m. \$15-\$30. Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. danceconnectionpaloalto.com

## Health & Wellness

**'Overcoming Childhood Pain: Facing Unresolved Family Issues'** The group will discuss healing from childhood trauma. The program features a filmed interview with Delisa Mayer, a woman whose family took part in an ill-fated university study during her childhood. Participants will discover steps to help recover from the scars of past experiences. Nov. 28, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Bethany Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. vimeo.com/292326579

## Outdoor Recreation

**Vista Verde Skyline Run** At the Vista Verde Skyline Run, racers will see the vistas of the Pacific Coast and Lambert Creek Watershed, Butano Ridge, Portola Redwoods State Park and the newly opened Mindego Hill. Dec. 2, 8 a.m. \$50. Vista Verde Skyline Run, Skyline Boulevard, La Honda. trailrunner.com/event/vista-verde-skyline-run

## Business

**LinkedIn Lab** This workshop will cover the basics of creating a LinkedIn profile and share strategies for showcasing talent and value to employers through the platform. Nov. 29, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free. Jobtrain, 1200 O'Brien Drive, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

## Submitting items for the Calendar

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

# Marketplace

## REAL ESTATE Apartment for Rent

**Apartment for Rent**  
Menlo Park 1 Bedroom.  
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## Ann Affrunti

April 1, 1927 – November 17, 2018

Ann Affrunti, age 91, passed away peacefully on November 17, 2018. She was born in San Francisco and lived her entire life in Menlo Park, CA. Like most post depression era families, Ann's family had a large garden with fruits, vegetables and flowers. A love of gardening and flowers continued throughout her life. She attended local schools, Las Lomas Elementary and Sequoia High School. After high school graduation, she worked as a seamstress and furrier, sewing beautiful clothing for both clients and family. She modeled her fur coat creations for clients. She was also very resourceful sewing doll clothes from fur remnants.

Ann was preceded in death by her husband of 45 years, Tony Affrunti. Ann and Tony met while dancing at the Sunnyview Family Club in Sunnyvale. They married in 1955 and together enjoyed dancing, traveling and raising their two daughters. Ann was a member of the Italian Catholic Federation and enjoyed attending functions at the Menlo Park Italian American Social Club. For many years, Ann and Tony played bocce ball together at the Red Morton bocce ball court in Redwood City. In her later years, Ann enjoyed lunch and dancing with friends at the Mountain View Senior Center. She had a lifelong fondness for cats and found great companionship and comfort in her two sweet black cats.

She is survived by her children, Christine (Al Stahler), Tina (Tony Real) and her grandchildren (Kathleen, Amanda, Lauren and Jessie). The family owes a world of thanks to Ann's caregivers and to the entire loving, caring staff at Voralto Village, a memory care facility in Menlo Park. Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to your favorite charity in Ann's honor.

PAID OBITUARY

## Holiday fair this Saturday in Portola Valley

Portola Valley's holiday fair — the annual opportunity to buy holiday gifts from some 40 local artists, craftspeople and nonprofits — celebrates its 10th year on Saturday, Dec. 1, with sales of fine art, ornaments, textiles, clothing and items of wood, leather and ceramic.

There will be equestrian-themed candles, skincare products, seasonings and succulents, according to the fair's sponsor, the Portola Valley Cultural Arts Committee.

The town library will host a crafts table for children, and visitors will have an opportunity

to give acupressure a try.

The fair starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. at the Woodside Priory Performing Arts Center at 302 Portola Road in Portola Valley.

For details, including how to apply to participate in the 2019 fair, send an email to [pvholidayfair@gmail.com](mailto:pvholidayfair@gmail.com).

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# Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

## Help fight proposed rule that would harm immigrant families

By Karen Grove

I'm proud that in 2017, the city of Menlo Park declared our values of inclusivity and diversity by passing a Welcoming City resolution and a Sanctuary City ordinance. Now we, the residents of Menlo Park, must take action to defend those values and protect our immigrant families by opposing one of the latest moves in the Trump administration's attack on immigrants and refugees.

The administration has proposed a rule change that will penalize applicants for permanent residence for their use of public assistance, including access to publicly funded health care, nutrition and housing, for being too young or too old, or for not being wealthy.

The proposed new rule would cause immigrant families to avoid seeking public assistance in any form. Even fully employed immigrant families, working their fingers to the bone, use public services, because one job — sometimes even two or three — is not enough to make ends meet.

Those most harmed will be children, including citizen children, who will experience lifelong harm to their mental and physical health caused by the toxic stress of poverty.

The harm caused by this rule won't be limited to immigrants and their children. Avoiding

routine health care often results in more serious, more expensive publicly funded emergency care. Moreover, if we discourage immigrants from accessing health care, we place the whole community at public health risk. Schools will struggle to educate children experiencing pain from untreated

Together, my parents raised two daughters, built Intel into a Fortune 500 company, and started the Grove Foundation.

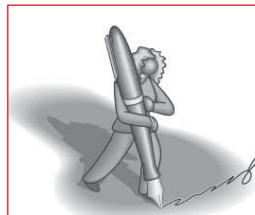
My parents would not have been able to contribute to their family, community, and the economy of this country and the world if they had not attended excellent colleges in New York City — for free; if they had not been able to count on public health services, and safe places to live.

The Grove Foundation seeks to make the "American Dream" that my parents experienced, and that so many others seek, into a reality for all, regardless of when

or how they got to this country, and no matter how much or how little money they have. We work nationally and locally, and we cannot achieve our mission without our government's cooperation and commitment, so I ask your help in opposing this new rule.

Before the "public charge" rule can be finalized, the administration must review and respond to every unique public comment it receives about the proposed regulation.

Please join me in submitting a comment opposing the rule change by the Dec. 10 deadline. You may do so at [protectingimmigrantfamilies.org](http://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org), where you will find additional information about the proposed rule.



Karen Grove is a Menlo Park resident, and chair of the Grove Foundation.

### GUEST OPINION

dental disease or hunger, and all students will suffer.

It doesn't have to be this way.

We can support all our residents and provide opportunity to all. We know that it is well worth doing so, because half of all Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children, and immigrants have made immeasurable contributions to American arts and culture.

My father, Andy Grove, escaped to the United States from Hungary in 1956, and my mom, Eva Kastan Grove, immigrated to the United States from Bolivia in the 1950s after escaping from Austria in 1938 after her father was rounded up and fortuitously released on Kristallnacht.

### What's on your mind?

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

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

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

Questions? Email Renee Batti at [rbatti@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:rbatti@AlmanacNews.com), or call 650-223-6528.

### Looking back



Menlo Park Historical Association

Camp Fremont in Menlo Park was one of 16 World War I basic training centers designated by the War Department, and the largest one west of the Mississippi, according to the Menlo Park history book "Beyond the Gate" by Michael Svanevik and Shirley Burgett. The main part of the base of 25,000 acres stretched from El Camino Real to Alameda de las Pulgas, and from Valparaiso Avenue south to San Francisquito Creek, surrounding the downtown area of the town, the historians write. The photo shows two soldiers and their friends taking a break on the base.

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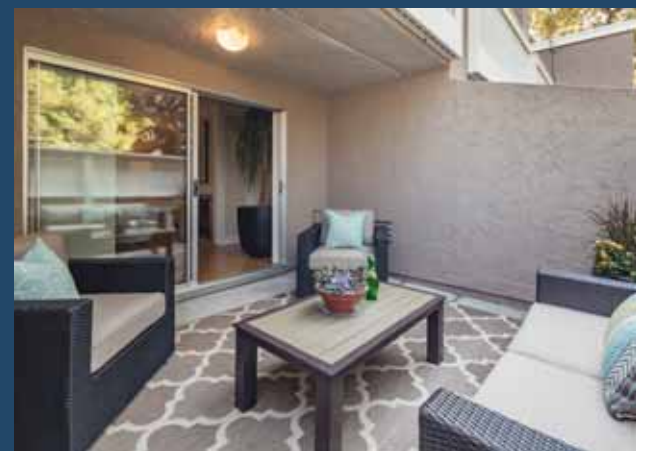
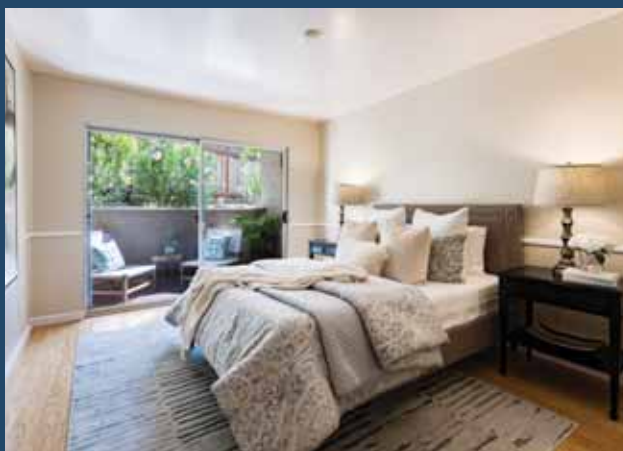
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*Square footage, acreage, and other information herein, has been received from one or more of a variety of different sources. Such information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors®. If important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation.*



Listed by **Michael Repka** of the DeLeon Team

650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | DRE #01903224



## FLEXIBLE LIVING IN A PRESTIGIOUS LOCATION

675 Sharon Park Drive #134, Menlo Park

**Offered at \$1,288,000**

Nestled in the esteemed Sharon Heights neighborhood of Menlo Park, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath condominium offers upscale convenience, efficiency, and centrality to top attractions. Occupying a ground-floor end-unit space, this property offers privacy and peaceful views of the grounds. The spacious interior is outfitted with custom closets that provide valuable and abundant storage space. Marble detailing, bamboo floors, granite kitchen countertops, a master suite, and two patios offer desired style and serenity. Enjoy the common swimming pool at your leisure, dine at award-winning Madera or Mitsunobu, or explore Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club, peaceful Sharon Park, scenic Sand Hill Road, and hiking trails along Alpine Road. Children can attend excellent schools in the Las Lomas School District, including Las Lomas Elementary, La Entrada Middle, and Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).

**OPEN HOUSE**

Saturday  
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:

**[www.675SharonPark134.com](http://www.675SharonPark134.com)**



Listed by **Michael Repka** of the DeLeon Team

650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | DRE #01903224



## FLEXIBLE MULTI-FAMILY HOME IN MENLO PARK

773 & 775 Partridge Avenue, Menlo Park

**Offered at \$4,288,000**

Located in the prime Allied Arts & Downtown neighborhood, this recently remodeled multi-family property offers two ground floor units and additional upstairs space with 3 more bedrooms and 2 baths across a 7,500 square foot lot (per county). Perfect as potential rental property or extra room to house overnight friends and family, this unique design allows for a world of possibilities. The first unit features an inviting arch window that brings natural light into the combined living, kitchen, and dining rooms. Two bedrooms share a jack-and-jill bath and a walk-in closet, while another full bath services the third bedroom. The second back unit offers two additional bedrooms that share a full bath, a granite kitchen, and a relaxed lounge area. Upstairs, a rooftop deck provides excellent entertainment potential, while a great room, master suite, and two other bedrooms await inside. In this great location, you'll be moments away from popular Santa Cruz Avenue, Fremont Park, Allied Arts Guild, and top-rated schools.

**OPEN HOUSE**

Saturday  
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:

**[www.773and775Partridge.com](http://www.773and775Partridge.com)**



## 123 Tennyson Avenue, Palo Alto

### Pristine Excellence in Old Palo Alto

Elegant traditional architecture and custom construction is presented at its finest in this remarkable 5 bedroom, 5.5 bath home of 6,044 square feet (per plans) on a 12,000 square foot lot (per city). Four spacious levels and a beautiful backyard fill this grand estate, complete with three bedroom suites, a dedicated home office, sound-proofed professional home theater, downstairs billiards room, private master balcony, high-end appliances and finishes, outdoor koi pond and fire pit, and home automation including Ring and Nest systems. In this prime and prestigious location, residents will be moments away from exploring Gamble Garden, Rinconada Park, fine dining along California Avenue, downtown University Avenue, Stanford University, and nationally-acclaimed Palo Alto schools.

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

[www.123Tennyson.com](http://www.123Tennyson.com)

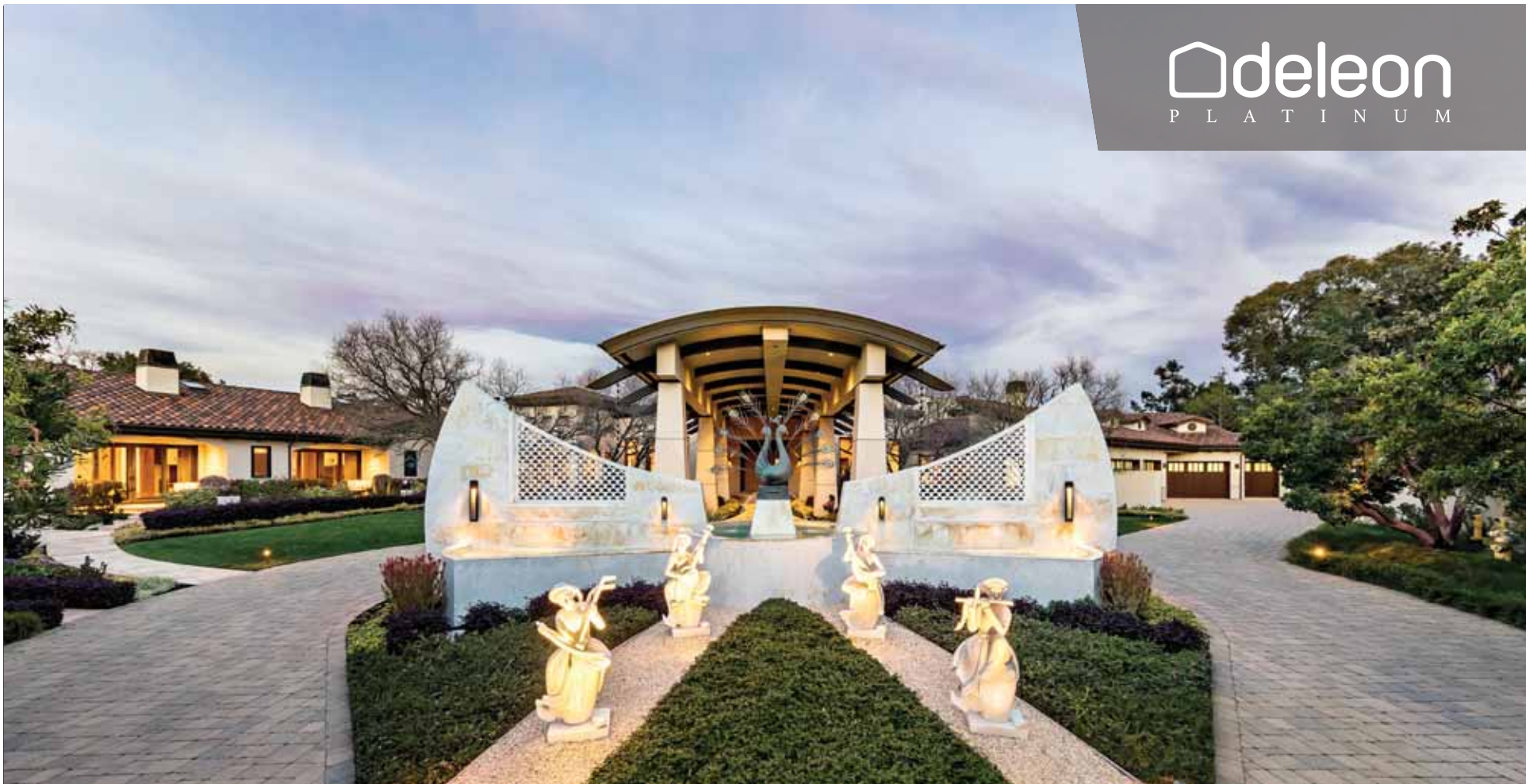
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## 27500 La Vida Real, Los Altos Hills

### Silicon Valley's Ultimate Estate

The long driveway entices you toward the arched beam portico that only hints at the magnificence within. This 5 bedroom residence of 20,982 sq. ft. (per county) has 7 full baths and 5 half baths and rests on more than 8 acres (per county) of resort-like grounds. Globally-inspired architecture, flawless construction by an award-winning builder, the finest selection of materials, finishes, and technology, and exquisite interior and landscape design, create spaces that are both inspiring and comfortable. From its sumptuous master suite, supremely appointed kitchens, and indoor pool under retractable skylights, to its 15-seat theater, 3,000-bottle capacity wine cellar, and comprehensive home automation, this remarkable haven offers every conceivable amenity. A separate office structure is amply outfitted to host executive-level meetings and serve other business needs. As much as an heirloom to be cherished as a place to call home, this prestigious estate is surrounded by verdant views and is just minutes from all the major Silicon Valley tech companies, Sand Hill Road VCs, top-10 ranked California schools, major airports, and central to the best of Bay Area attractions.

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

[www.27500LaVida.com](http://www.27500LaVida.com)

\$49,990,000

**By Appointment Only**

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**Atherton** | \$6,995,000  
A marvelous lifestyle is found in this fashionable 5BR/3+BA residence.

Karin Riley  
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karin.riley@cbnorcal.com  
CalRE #01725481



**Atherton** | \$5,895,000  
Uniquely individual 4BR/4+BA residence that provides gracious living.

Nancy Goldcamp  
650.325.6161  
nancy@nancygoldcamp.com  
CalRE #00787851



**Mountain View** | \$1,648,000  
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