

The Almanac

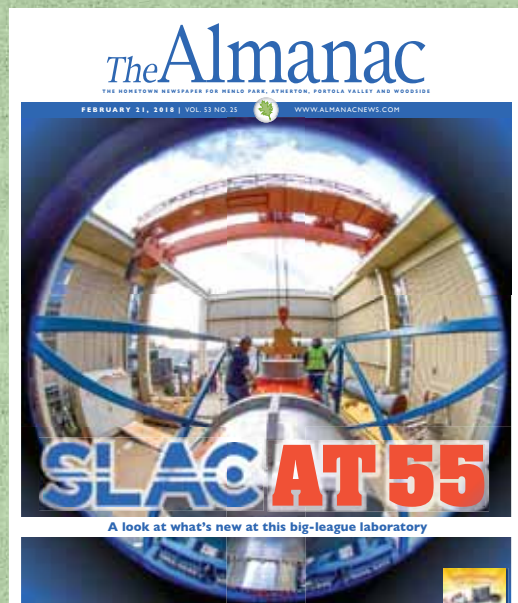
THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

DECEMBER 26, 2018 | VOL. 54 NO. 17



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2018 Year in Review



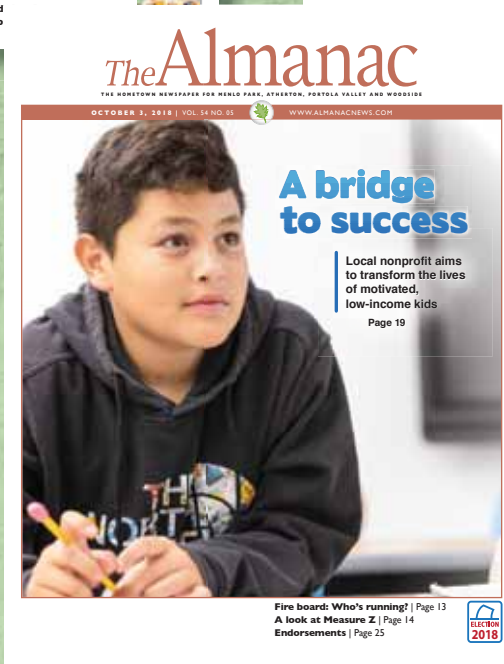
Fire chief catches flak for ad Camp



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During this special time of year, we look back with utmost appreciation and gratitude to our amazing clients and wonderful community that have made our success possible.

We hope that 2018 has been just as memorable for you and your loved ones, and look forward to an even better 2019 together. From all of us here at DeLeon Realty, Happy New Year!



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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Summing up a year of change in Menlo Park

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

The year 2018 has been one of change in Menlo Park, characterized by growing skepticism as the city has been forced to reckon with the negative impacts of rapid growth citywide.

Over the course of the past 12 months, Menlo Park has been subdivided into voting districts, and three of the city's five City Council members are no longer in office. After an active election season, voters unseated two council incumbents running for re-election.

The Menlo Park City Council now has three newcomers and a total of three women and two African-Americans — groups historically underrepresented in governing bodies.

Second-term council member Ray Mueller was handed the mayor's gavel during the council's Dec. 11 council meeting, and has spelled out a number of priorities he wants to pursue during the coming year. (See story, Page XX.)

High school students and grown-ups alike marched to protest gun violence in March. La Entrada Middle School got flooded, twice, thanks to breaks in municipal water lines. Throughout the year, intense national and international scrutiny was critically directed at Menlo Park's marquee business, Facebook.

Progress inched forward on the city's "Transportation Master Plan" — though not quickly enough to prevent some deeply existential conversations among

members of the Planning Commission about the city's future. The council passed a master plan for its water system and an ordinance that will shape where charging infrastructure is installed for electric vehicles.

A group of local civic leaders working to solve key problems facing Menlo Park united to form Menlo Together.

In addition, following more than a year of intense citywide debate about whether the city should accept a generous but very expensive strings-attached offer by billionaire John Arrillaga to help build a new Menlo Park main library, the offer was rescinded in October. Meanwhile, the city completed a needs assessment for a new Belle Haven library, and is moving ahead with the next step, which is to complete a space needs assessment.

When it came to daily life, much stayed the same. It's probably safe to assume nearly everyone spent more time than they would have liked sitting in traffic, and more money than they would have liked paying for shelter, whether in a fancy house or not.

People came together for gatherings like the downtown block party, the Menlo Summer Fest and the annual tree-lighting ceremony. Two hotels opened, and quickly became venues for community events — the annual Golden Acorn Awards was held at the Hotel Nia and the Mayor's State of the City address occurred at the new Park James Hotel.

Menlo Park lost The Oasis,



Photo by Magali Gauthier

A construction zone at 1300 El Camino Real in Menlo Park, site of the future "Station 1300" with apartments, offices and shops, signals more change to come in the city.

John Bentley's, Yogurt Stop and Random Acts of Flowers. Other institutions transformed, or will transform: LB Steak became Camper and the Guild movie theater will become a nonprofit live music venue, thanks to the City Council's rapid, enthusiastic approval of the project.

Hotel Nia, the Park James Hotel, art galleries A.Space and Marcela's Village, and pop-up Etalon opened. Robinhood took over the former Sunset headquarters.

Facing the impacts

A majority of the change shaping Menlo Park over the past year has roots in two major plans: the El Camino Real/Downtown specific plan approved in 2012, and the "ConnectMenlo" general plan update, approved in November 2016.

Construction has begun on two major projects within the El

Camino Real/Downtown plan zone: Station 1300 at 1300 El Camino Real and Stanford's Middle Plaza project at 500 El Camino Real. The city has begun to see a rise in number of other smaller, mixed-use developments in the area that will add some downtown housing units and additional retail and commercial space.

While construction hasn't yet started on any buildings proposed under the new zoning in the ConnectMenlo plan, the projects proposed so far already account for the bulk of the new office space the plan permitted. Moving forward, city policymakers will have to grapple with what to do about the development caps set forth in these plans, because they're going to be reached much faster than expected.

In the aftermath of the general plan update, and the major questions it raised about how the city

could feasibly handle the amount of traffic the new development would bring, the city began to develop a Transportation Master Plan, which was seen by some as a panacea that would levy the proper "Transportation Impact Fee." The fee program would require developers to pay to offset the transportation impacts that their projects have on local road infrastructure.

However, as of the most recent meeting of that plan's oversight and outreach committee, held Dec. 6, there still remains no clear consensus on which projects — out of a list of more than 170 — should take priority, and how they should be ranked. Also, it's not clear how many of those projects would have a major impact on traffic congestion, since that is absent from the expressed main goals

See **MENLO PARK**, page 14

Longtime aging expert, at 88, heeds his own advice

Dr. Walter Bortz of Portola Valley talks about what it's like to be a senior

By **Chris Kenrick**
Special to The Almanac

Aging expert Walter Bortz, widely known as the "running doctor" who completed 45 marathons while proclaiming the correlation between exercise and longevity, can no longer run.

At 88, the retired Stanford University professor, physician and author of titles such as "Dare To Be 100," "Living Longer for Dummies" and "Roadmap to 100" is personally

experiencing some of the health trials he's spent a career studying and writing about.

During a recent interview at his Portola Valley home, seated in a comfortable chair with a walker by his side, Bortz shared what it's like to be a senior.

Advanced age "used to be something I observed in other people, and now it's happening to me," he said. "So instead of being objective, it's subjective."

Bortz, who until recently was an active runner, is scheduled to undergo back surgery to address

spinal stenosis.

He holds out hope that the surgery might enable him to get back to the running routine he loves so much — or at least to walk comfortably. He considers the surgery a minor disruption in his quest to stay true to one of his cardinal tips for successful aging: "Don't slow down."

He remains firmly convinced that regular, sustained vigorous exercise is key to living 100 years in good health.

"Use it or lose it," he said. "My mantra is '100 healthy years.' Our birthright, our warranty



Photo by Veronica Weber

Dr. Walter Bortz poses for a portrait in his Portola Valley home earlier this month.

See **WALTER BORTZ**, page 18

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A rough-and-tumble year for the Menlo fire district

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The year 2018 was a challenging one for the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, which provides first-responder services for emergencies in Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto and adjacent unincorporated communities.

■ The town of Atherton challenged the fire district to discuss findings that revealed a district bottom line that grows yearly by millions of dollars in Atherton property tax revenues over and above what the district spends in providing services to Atherton.

■ A San Mateo County grand jury report challenged the fire district on its lack of a strategic plan even as it spends almost \$22 million on property acquisitions, lobbies its member communities (unsuccessfully) to authorize development impact fees, then negotiates “directly with private companies (such as Facebook) and developers within the District for additional resources.”

■ Ahead of a 4-1 vote by the board to approve a contract with the firefighters’ union that, over five years, boosts wages an average of \$58,726, members of the public challenged the board by flooding their inboxes with messages in opposition. With an average wage of \$166,568, fire district employees are the highest paid in the state for a local or state agency for the second consecutive year, according to the state Controller’s Office.

About that \$7.2 million

The Atherton City Council commissioned a report on the distribution of its property tax revenues in the 2015-16 fiscal year. The results, released in January 2018, found that while the town retained \$7.5 million in property tax revenues for government operations, it gave the fire district \$11.8 million.

In return, the fire district provided Atherton with services valued at \$4.6 million, a difference of \$7.2 million. Atherton is home to 8 percent of the fire district’s residents and provided 31.7 percent of the district’s revenues, the report said.

Since announcing the report’s results, Atherton officials have made a point of saying that they are not at all dissatisfied with the services the fire district provides.

The report noted that options for Atherton include detaching the town from the fire district,

negotiating with the district to reallocate some Atherton tax dollars, or asking the state Legislature to reallocate the funds, since the allocation is based on a state formula.

The council requested a public meeting to discuss the findings with the district governing board in July. Fire district Chief Harold Schapelhouman recently announced a joint meeting for Tuesday, Jan. 22.

More property

The fire district expanded its portfolio of properties in 2018, spending \$3.2 million for a house next to its Alameda de las Pulgas station in unincorporated Menlo Park. And the board voted unanimously to hire a property management firm to rent out the house.

The house purchase was part of the \$13.7 million spent in district reserve funds in the 2017-18 fiscal year, including \$5 million for a warehouse in East Palo Alto, a section of which is rented to the federal government for Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 3 equipment.

All told, the district has spent almost \$29 million in property purchases since 2006. All were made with cash from district reserves, which were \$65 million — 120 percent of the district’s operating budget — for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Impact fees

On a 3-2 vote, the fire district board approved 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.

The employee, to be known as 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.

This arrangement comes in the wake of a county grand jury report that accused the district of taking “donations” from companies, including Facebook, to support district operations in lieu of receiving funding through the development impact fee process.

The traditional impact fee

See **FIRE**, next page

Plenty of fodder for the question ‘What’s new?’ in 2018

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The ownership of the Alpine Inn, a much loved beer garden and burger joint in Portola Valley, is expected to change hands before 2018 ends. A negotiation has been rumored to be underway since June, when a consortium of residents were bested in a final bid

by a local couple, consortium organizer Lucy Neely told The Almanac. Information has been hard to come by ever since.

The year 2018 has been eventful for Portola Valley, including enactment of new laws on marijuana cultivation and new rules for outdoor lighting, introduction of a new smartphone app for communicating with Town Hall, and the opening of a new home for an old school.

Windmill School, the non-profit preschool said to have first opened its doors in 1957, celebrated its move to a permanent home at 900 Portola Road in April. It's come a long way from inhabiting a small house near the windmill at Georgia Lane and Portola Road and employing an outdoor curriculum that included students gathering hens' eggs and watching sheep being sheared.

The new location, on 1.67 acres, includes an organic vegetable garden and a farm-like area for small animals. Plans included three classrooms inside along with outdoor playing areas, a theater, an outdoor gathering space, a courtyard and a family hall for large gatherings.

Council actions

It's uncommon for the Portola Valley Town Council to take action with a divided vote, but it happened in 2018 on the question of allowing commercial cultivation of marijuana. The council approved an ordinance in March on a 3-2 vote allowing

commercial cultivation of up to 12 plants on any residential property in town.

The council is usually unanimous, and among the issues addressed unanimously in 2018 are the following:

- Agreeing to share “excess” property tax revenues earmarked for the town library with libraries in the nine less-wealthy communities in the county library system. The agreement is the result of four years of negotiations by the San Mateo County Libraries JPA (joint powers authority) and won't be in effect until after Atherton completes construction of its new library, expected to happen in 2021. Were the system in effect today, the library system would be getting about \$33,000 annually from Portola Valley, according to Anne-Marie Despain, the system's director of library services.

- Revising nighttime outdoor lighting policies to reflect advances in lighting technology. Under the old rules, motion sensors were associated with flood lights, and discouraged. The new law prohibits flood lights and encourages motion sensors when used with low-intensity, downward-facing illumination sufficient to light a walkway or doorway.

- Asking residents to vote to renew the 4.5 percent utility users tax. Voters did so with a majority of 84.2 percent — 661 votes in favor, and 124 opposed. Revenues are used for non-specific purposes such as town operating expenses and capital improvements.

National issues, local actions

There were at least two politically oriented nighttime events in Portola Valley in 2018, including one with dim lighting:

- A candlelight vigil on the evening of Oct. 3 at Town Center in support of the FBI investigating the sexual assault allegations made by Christine Blasey

Ford against Brett Kavanaugh, a nominee for a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court at the time. About 35 people attended.

- A gathering on the evening of Nov. 8 at the corner of Alpine and Portola roads to protest the appointment of Matthew Whitaker as acting U.S. attorney general. About 20 people attended.

Other town matters

Since mid-November, residents have been able to contact Town Hall via a smartphone app — PV Connect — to request service for problems like littering and potholes. The app is available at the town's website and promises to keep subscribers up to date on public events, neighborhood events, emergency preparedness, and more.

The town is seeking comments from residents on its promotion of electric leaf blowers. Their gasoline-powered cousins can, in one hour, generate greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to a car trip from Los Angeles to Denver; can produce noise up to 112 decibels, equivalent to a car horn at 3 feet away; can distribute toxic compounds; and can propel dust particles at speeds of hurricane-force winds.

Town Hall asks that residents send their ideas and comments to leafblowers@portolavalley.net.

A saloon since 1868

The Alpine Inn has had a good run at what is now 3915 Portola Road. A bronze tablet embedded in a boulder there notes that the building dates from the 1850s and that it served “as a gambling retreat and meeting place for Mexican-Californios.” It has been a roadhouse and saloon since 1868.

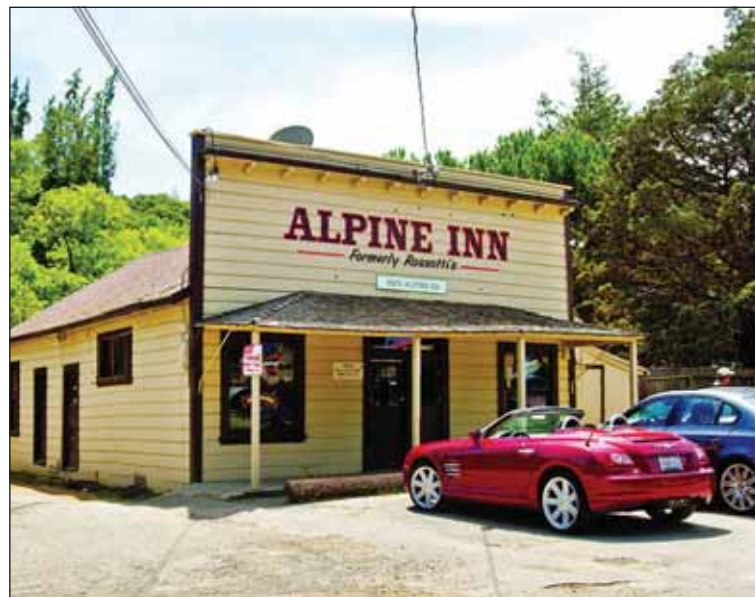
And on it goes. Restaurateur and executive Greg St. Claire of the Avenir Restaurant Group in San Carlos said in an email that a transfer of ownership was

an active campaign by the departing Carpenter to see him defeated.

For the duration of the vote counting, Jones led by 34 percent, with McLaughlin in second place with 26 percent and Bernstein in third place with 25 percent.

Jones is the first African-American to serve on the board. McLaughlin is retired from the California Highway Patrol, where he led the planning and enforcement division. Bernstein is known for his dissenting views, often concerning how the district spends its money. ■

2018
YEAR IN
REVIEW



File photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

A deal to acquire the Alpine Inn (formerly Rossotti's) at 3915 Portola Road in Portola Valley was expected to close in mid-December, according to Greg St. Claire of the Avenir Restaurant Group.

expected in mid-December, but has since said that deal has not closed.

St. Claire said that he would not yet elaborate on the deal. “I never talk about a deal until it's done,” he said, but added: “It's going to be a great project as we all have deep roots, connections and a love of the property. As you know it has a rich history in the community.”

The Alpine Inn is registered as both a state and a federal landmark. In Portola Valley's general plan, the inn is assigned a “preserve” designation. A historic resource singled out for preservation “shall have its exterior appearance retained to the maximum extent possible,” the plan says.

Marijuana for sale?

Although commercial cultivation of up to 12 marijuana plants is allowed on any residential property in town, the town's ordinance prohibits curing or processing in town and requires that the plants be sold wholesale to a distributor. The grower must have state and local permits and must attend a hearing before the town's Planning Commission.

Voting against the ordinance were then-mayor John Richards and Councilwoman Ann Wengert. Councilwoman Maryann Derwin and councilmen Jeff Aalfs and Craig Hughes voted for it.

See **PORTOLA VALLEY**, page 14

FIRE

continued from previous page

process involves municipalities imposing the fees on developers and companies and passing a portion along to special agencies. Fire district officials lobbied local towns to impose the fees without success. Town officials say the district didn't provide the information required to justify imposing the fees.

The grand jury report cited the danger of a public entity accepting money from a business that is “subject to inspection and regulation” by district employees. It

creates “the possible appearance of favorable treatment or disparate application of rules or laws,” the report said.

Change in leadership

The election in November saw the departure of a longtime board member, Peter Carpenter, who chose not to run again; the victory of an appointed board member, Robert Jones of East Palo Alto, who was by far the top vote-getter; the arrival of a new board member, Jim McLaughlin of Atherton; and the return of a veteran board member, Chuck Bernstein of Menlo Park, despite

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

Year-End Indicators



Dear Monica: There is volatility in the economic markets these days. What effect do you think this will have on the real estate market? Sarah G.

Dear Sarah: Several things have combined lately that are affecting real estate prices and activity. The stock market has lost significant value in the U.S. and globally, thus reducing investors' wealth. Homeowners are not able to deduct state and local taxes in excess of \$10,000 on their federal tax returns and this affects California and other states with high property values and salaries. In addition, interest rates are rising

which makes owning a home more expensive.

How this has translated to the local real estate market is that prices are down by some percentage from where they were last spring and sellers are willing to negotiate, which they didn't have to do before. Buyers, motivated by wanting to buy before further rate increases, are also actively picking up properties that are on the market if the price is reasonable. I see this trend continuing into 2019. Buyers have more leverage than they have had for awhile and they are taking advantage of it.

Happy New Year.

Contact me at monica@monicacorman.com; Office: 650-465-5971
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Atherton looks to the skies and its civic center grounds in 2018

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton had to go back to the drawing table after bids for construction of a new civic center complex came in 40 percent higher than expected. Town officials plan to go out for new bids for the project next year.

The town also continued its fight against Surf Air, and its contentious relationship with the Menlo Park Fire Protection District continued.

Civic center

The Atherton City Council rejected bids for the new civic center in June after the lowest bid came in 40 percent higher than expected.

The town had estimated the construction cost for its library, administration, planning and police buildings at \$40 million. The low bid from C. Overaa & Co. was nearly \$56.4 million. The second bid, from Hensel Phelps, was \$68.2 million.

As a result, the town redesigned the project to cut costs by \$4.3 million. But the new estimate is now about \$48 million to pay for the administrative, library, police and planning division buildings, with town officials acknowledging that the earlier estimate was overly optimistic.

As part of the project, construction workers demolished the library in November to make way for a new library building.

Surf Air

Surf Air, the commuter airline that has been the subject of noise complaints from Peninsula residents, resumed operations at the San Mateo County-owned airport in the fall, after a short hiatus — but one that residents living under the flight path welcomed.

A startup airline that began using the San Carlos Airport in June 2013, Surf Air offered unlimited flights for a monthly fee and scheduled as many as 45 flights a day in and out of San Carlos.

The airline company suspended flights from San Carlos from the end of June until October. Flights resumed on a limited schedule, but neighbors in Surf Air's flight path continue to be frustrated with the airplane noise.

In 2017, the county hired attorneys to consult on aviation matters relevant to Surf Air's operation out of San Carlos. Ultimately, the attorneys filed a legal document with the federal Department of Transportation, claiming Surf Air is deceptively using another company as a front, and asking for an investigation.

In October, The Almanac broke the news that Surf Air owed the county about \$328,372 in business property taxes.

Fire district

Atherton officials clashed with staff and the board of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District over what some call an

imbalance between what the town's taxpayers contribute to the district and the cost of the district's service to Atherton.

A study commissioned by the town found that the district, which provides services to Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Atherton and nearby unincorporated areas of the county, spends less than half its Atherton-generated property tax revenue providing fire services in the town.

A follow-up report from Matrix Consulting said that the town's options to address the issue include separating from the fire district and either providing its own fire service or contracting with another agency, such as the Redwood City Fire Department; or asking the fire district to reallocate some of the revenues back to the town. In September, the fire district board voted to reallocate its property tax revenues only after approval by district voters.

New mayor, vice mayor

Only incumbents Rick DeGolia, Bill Widmer and Mike Lempres filed for the three open City Council seats this year, leading the council to decide not to hold an election.

This is the second consecutive election in which only the incumbents filed. In 2016, incumbents Elizabeth Lewis and Cary Wiest were the only two candidates, and the council also voted to cancel the election and appoint the incumbents to new terms.

In December, council



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

The building housing the Atherton Library for many years was demolished in November to make way for the new library.

members selected Widmer as the town's new mayor and DeGolia as vice mayor, respectively.

Police sleeping quarters

The town continued to search for quarters for its police officers and dispatchers to sleep between or after 12-hour shifts.

City Manager George Rodericks has looked into options for providing temporary sleeping quarters for police employees.

Many live far from Atherton, and speakers at a City Council meeting said that as many as seven officers and dispatchers were sleeping in two shifts in a house they had been allowed to use in Holbrook-Palmer Park.

But that arrangement, which had been worked out with the Atherton Police Officers Association in 2014, ended in April after new Police Chief Steve McCulley couldn't find

affordable living quarters near Atherton for himself and his wife, and they moved into the house.

A shocking loss

The year is ending on a sad note for Atherton residents and town staff who knew former town arborist Kathy Hughes Anderson. The 62-year-old Menlo Park resident was found stabbed to death in her Valparaiso Avenue home on Dec. 12; a suspect has been arrested.

Hughes Anderson worked for the town from 1989 until her 2011 retirement, but she remained in touch and involved. She was well-known and well-liked — her friend, Valerie Gardner of Atherton, commented after Hughes Anderson's death: "There was a very bottomless amount of love in her." ■

Respect for ethics, renters, pedestrians and neighbors

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

If an elected or appointed official in Woodside is formally accused of an ethical lapse in 2019, the consequences will not be what they were in 2016: the launching of an investigation that eventually would cost the town tens of thousands of dollars in attorney fees.

Over several months in 2018, a committee of Woodside residents developed, and the Town Council adopted, a new ethics code that is informal, replacing a formal code. The new code relies on the town manager's judgment rather than on an inflexible procedure that included an investigation.

Flexibility was apparent among officials from the Woodside Fire Protection District in 2018 when they advanced and

then, when neighbors objected, abandoned a proposal for a larger fire station at the corner of Haciendas Drive and Woodside Road to replace the main station at 3111 Woodside Road.

The town has four new officials as a result of the November election and in the wake of the retirement of Town Council members Deborah Gordon, Anne Kasten and Dave Tanner — and the resignation of Peter Mason in March. New to the council are Dick Brown, Brian Dombkowski, Ned Fluet and Sean Scott.

At its Dec. 11 meeting, the council elected Councilman Daniel Yost as mayor for 2019 and Fluet as mayor pro tem.

The council authorized three new crosswalks in town in 2018 to improve safety for children going to and from school: at Canada Road and Laning Drive; at Mountain Home Road and

Cedar Lane; and at Albion Avenue, where it terminates at Woodside Road. The town also relocated the crosswalk at Romero and Canada roads to increase its visibility for drivers.

Marva Oaks Drive, a road with no crosswalks, also became a road with no parking in 2018, giving residents part of what they wanted: to discomfit drivers looking for free parking while hiking in Huddart Park. Residents also asked the council to approve relocating a horse trail that runs alongside the road, but were advised to find a compromise with equestrians.

The roads and other public spaces in Woodside lost a champion in 2018, Antonio Corgas, who supervised Town Hall's maintenance department, retired after 30 years of working in Woodside, initially for elementary school district.

"He really cares about (the town)," Town Manager Kevin

Bryant said of Corgas. "I've never met anyone like him, (and) I doubt I ever really will again."

'I think that this is written in a kinder and gentler way.'

TOWN ATTORNEY JEAN SAVAREE
ON THE TOWN'S NEW ETHICS CODE

Not living large

On the affordable housing front, a change to Woodside's municipal code in 2018 means more headroom for apartments above garages and beneath a sloped roof. Facing a 17-foot maximum roof height, and in light of a submitted plan for an apartment that would have restricted walking and standing for an adult of average height to the aisle under the roof's peak, the council expanded the space allowed for dormers.

Elbow room and its scarcity is part of life for residents of the Glens neighborhood. They get that they're living in close quarters. What they don't get — and what they complained about to town staff at a community meeting in September — is being obliged to meet development standards designed for larger properties, and to be labeled "nonconforming" for not doing so. Their message appears to have resonated, if council members' sympathetic reactions are any guide.

At the other end of the spectrum, the Fleishhacker estate along Albion Avenue — seven houses, three swimming pools and an 18,000-square-foot reflecting pool on 75 acres — is on the market. San Francisco banker Mortimer Fleishhacker and his wife, artist Bella Gerstle Fleishhacker, bought the property in 1909.

See **WOODSIDE**, page 15



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• •

#1

Compass Agent in 2018

#20

Agent Nationwide WSJ, 2018

55+

Homes Bought and Sold in 2018



Judy Citron
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Give to The Almanac Holiday Fund

Your gift helps local children
and families in need



Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$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.

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.

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



www.siliconvalleycf.org



Rotary Club
of Menlo Park

*The William and Flora
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*The David and Lucile Packard
Foundation*

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

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The Almanac

All donors and their gift amounts will be published in The Almanac unless the boxes below are checked.

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Thank you for supporting the Holiday Fund

As of Dec. 19, 93 donors have contributed \$97,224 to The Almanac Holiday Fund.

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Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Junior sits next to Leona and Robert while their teacher reads them a story at the Early Learning Center.

School matters: Bond measures pass, enrollment dips, new preschool opens

By **Angela Swartz**
Almanac Staff Writer

It was a busy year for local schools, with voters approving two new parcel taxes — worth nearly \$120 million combined — the opening of a new preschool, and new board members taking their seats.



Parcel taxes

In November, the Portola Valley School District's \$49.5 million bond measure passed with nearly 62.5 percent voter support. High-priority projects at Corte Madera School (4-8) include a new two-story classroom building, expected to cost between \$38.4 and \$42.5 million. There are projects estimated to cost \$10.9 million to \$12 million that are considered immediate priorities at Ormondale School (K-3).

Voters in the Las Lomas Elementary School District approved a \$70 million bond measure to complete district construction plans for projects begun in 2017 at the district's two schools: Las Lomas (K-3) in Atherton and La Entrada (4-8) in Menlo Park.

The measure, known as Measure R, won with 67.92 percent of the vote.

Leadership

Portola Valley School District Superintendent Eric Hartwig announced that he will be leaving his post at the end of the 2018-19 school year at

a November board meeting. The district expects the search process to be completed "well before" Hartwig's contract ends, according to school board President Gulliver LaValle.

The Ravenswood City School District had the only school board race in The Almanac's coverage area in November; four other local districts' elections were automatically canceled because the number of candidates equaled the number of open seats.

Two local school boards welcomed new board members in December.

Sherwin Chen and Scott Saywell began their terms as school board trustees for the Menlo Park City School District. Chen, Saywell and incumbent Stacey Jones were the only candidates for the board's three open seats. Incumbents Terry Thygesen and Joan Lambert did not run for re-election.

The Las Lomas Elementary School District welcomed Dana Nunn and Jon Ververloh as its newest board members. Incumbents Rich Ginn and Christy Heaton did not run for re-election. Incumbent John Earnhardt also began a new term in December.

New Woodside Elementary School District board members — Jenny Hayden and Peter Baily — will begin in January. Appointed incumbent Jennifer Zweig will start her first four-year term in January.

Awards

Woodside School eighth-grader Georgia Hutchinson took home top honors, and a \$25,000 prize, at Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology and Engineering for Rising Stars) national science and engineering competition in Washington, D.C. She won the Samueli Foundation Prize for building a system that allows solar panels to follow the sun for maximum energy production.

Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, awarded Anna Quinlan, a senior at Menlo-Atherton High School, the 2018 18th Congressional District's App Challenge for an insulin pump app she created. Anna's "A Smarter Insulin Pump" application runs on a small computer, called a Raspberry Pi, and helps diabetics maintain normal blood glucose (or sugar) levels. Although similar products are on the market, Anna's app connects to a pump and is lower in cost (\$40 versus \$6,000 to \$10,000 for alternatives), Anna said. Users can control the pump using their phones.

Enrollment

Enrollment dipped for local school districts during the 2018-19 school year. The drop, local experts say, is due to the migration of young families from the area to find more affordable housing. The enrollment breakdown is as follows:

■ **Las Lomas Elementary**

See **SCHOOLS**, page 15



West Bay Sanitary District has accomplished a lot this year. We started construction on a recycled water treatment facility in Sharon Heights and began planning for another for the Bayfront area. We replaced 3.5 miles of sewer pipe primarily in the Belle Haven area and sent over 1.4 billion gallons of wastewater to the treatment plant in Redwood City for treatment and disposal. We cleaned 190 miles of sewer line and used cameras in over 54 miles of sewer line to inspect them for cracks, breaks, or tree root intrusion.

But the best thing we did all year was receive a 98% satisfaction rating from you, our customers. That's the one statistic we're most proud of, because if we don't do a good job and keep our customers happy none of the rest matters. We take great pride in providing excellent customer service and continually work to improve our response time to calls—which is now 18 minutes on average to a home during the day—because we know that when you're having sewer problems you can't afford to wait.

We've improved the transparency of our website so you can have the most recent information available regarding the District and also

increased our community outreach by participating in events such as the Chamber of Commerce Block Party, Movie Night, and Halloween Hoopla. Our goal is to keep our customers educated on current issues such as how we are using recycled wastewater to conserve resources and how West Bay is using your feedback to better adapt to your needs. We have the best employees around and they are dedicated to helping our customers and providing them with the very best service.

I also want to remind you that it is the District's policy to clean, when requested, your private sewer line to its connection with the public sewer at no cost to you if a visible, accessible "wye" type property line clean out has been properly installed to allow us to do so. That's why we say "Call us First!" We're confident that we will respond quickly, day or night, analyze any sewer problems you have and determine if it is our responsibility or if you need to call a plumber. If it is our responsibility, we will take care of it promptly with no charge to you and probably save you a plumbing bill. If it is your responsibility, we'll let you know that quickly so you don't have to wait any longer than absolutely necessary for a plumber to arrive. We're here to help 24/7, so call us anytime at 650-321-0384—but call us FIRST.

Happy New Year to all and we hope you're having a safe and wonderful holiday season!

BELLE HAVEN III SEWER PROJECT UNDERWAY TO REPLACE AND REHABILITATE MAINS

The Belle Haven III Sewer Project is the third of a three-phase project to replace and rehabilitate over two miles of 6- to 24-inch diameter sanitary sewer mains. These sewer mains were identified as needing upgrades as part of the updated Capital Improvement Master Plan.

The Belle Haven area is one of the four sites encompassing the project. The second area is located between Willow Road, Hamilton Avenue, and the Bayshore Freeway within the City of Menlo Park. The third is on Oak Avenue, Vine Street, Campo Bello Lane and Alameda De Las Pulgas in unincorporated San Mateo County and the City of Menlo Park. The fourth area is on Maple Avenue and El Camino Real in the Town of Atherton and on Cascade Drive and Gabarda Way in the City of Menlo Park and the Town of Portola Valley respectively.

The District will use a standard open trench method in most areas where the pipeline needs replacement and a trenchless method called pipe-bursting where open trenching is not practical. Another trenchless method called CIPP can also be used in areas where pipe rehabilitation, which involves relining the existing pipes instead of replacing them, is feasible. The project was awarded to Precision Engineering with a bid of \$4.8M.



For more information and a larger version of the map, please visit westbaysanitary.org/services/projects

RECYCLED WATER PROJECT TO SAVE MILLIONS OF GALLONS OF HETCH HETCHY WATER ANNUALLY

West Bay Sanitary District is excited to announce that it has broken ground on a satellite recycled water treatment facility that will bring recycled water for irrigation and industrial purposes to the Sharon Heights area of Menlo Park. This recycled water will save approximately 50 million gallons per year of Hetch Hetchy water in Phase I of the project and possibly another 27 million gallons per year of Hetch Hetchy water when Phase II of the project is implemented.

The first phase of the \$22.6 million project will include a recycled water facility at Sharon Heights Golf Club that will supply irrigation water and replace drinkable water used locally in industrial applications. In addition to replacing thousands of gallons of potable water from Hetch Hetchy that is now used for irrigation, Phase II will potentially deliver up to a half-million gallons per day of recycled water to the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center for irrigation and industrial uses such as cooling towers. West Bay is receiving grants and a 1% interest loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to finance the project.

"This is a public-private partnership that uses recycled water in Menlo

Park for the first time and conserves resources," said West Bay Sanitary District Manager Phil Scott. "It benefits the entire community and is cost-neutral to district ratepayers."

Funding for the \$22.6M project has been provided in full or in part through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. California's Clean Water State Revolving Fund is capitalized through a variety of funding sources, including grants from the United States EPA and state bond proceeds. Construction is expected to be complete in late 2019.



Construction on the District's new Sharon Heights recycled water plant is underway.

For a sewer emergency or sewer-related problems, please call us first! You can reach us day or night at (650) 321-0384. If the main public sewer line is blocked, only West Bay has the authority to clear the system. If the public sewer main line is clear, we may advise you to contact a plumbing contractor to resolve the issue on your property.

DISTRICT TRANSPARENCY EARNS RECOGNITION

The West Bay Sanitary District was awarded the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence in March from the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance.

“This award is a testament to West Bay Sanitary District’s commitment to open government,” said District Manager Phil Scott. “It recognizes the effort by the entire district staff to maintain a high level of transparency, which empowers the public by ensuring local citizens have the information they need to engage with the district and facilitate oversight.”



Colleen Haley of the California Special Districts Association presents District board members with the Certificate of Excellence.

To receive the award, a special district must demonstrate the completion of essential governance transparency requirements that include conducting ethics training for all board members, properly

conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner.

The SDLF is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California’s special districts through certification, accreditation, and other recognition programs. Special districts are independent public agencies that deliver core local services to communities such as water, wastewater treatment, fire protection, parks and recreation, healthcare, sanitation, mosquito abatement, ports, libraries, public cemeteries and more. Districts are established by voters and their funding is approved by voters to meet specific needs through focused service.

West Bay Sanitary District is dedicated to operating transparently and ethically as we protect public health and the environment by providing cost-effective sanitary sewer service. We utilize the highest technical, environmental, and safety standards available and are committed to providing the very best customer service, ensuring the fiscal viability of our District through sound business principles and to the optimum operation of our infrastructure and facilities for the benefit of our community.

GETTING TO THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

Roots are one of the biggest causes of sewer damage and overflows. Since we began using an innovative root control method eight years ago that uses foam to kill and break roots apart, we have been extremely successful in reducing sanitary sewer overflows. During that time we have treated—and re-treated—approximately 1 million feet of pipe and have experienced a total of only two overflows in areas that previously had up to 14 overflows each year.



Foam kills and breaks roots, reducing overflows.

and continue to prevent sanitary sewer overflows. No one maintenance method is a panacea for totally eliminating overflows, so West Bay will continue to use all available means to control root growth in its collection system and ensure it operates safely and efficiently for our customers.

These pipes must be re-treated on a 3-year cycle to control root growth

WEST BAY PARTNERS WITH SAVE THE BAY

The West Bay Sanitary District has partnered with SAVE THE BAY to support the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project.

West Bay has opened up part of our Flow Equalization and Resource Recovery Facility (FERFF) located behind the Bedwell/Bayfront Park to allow SAVE THE BAY to create a temporary nursery facility adjacent to the tidal marsh where it will grow plants for a plant community called the transition zone. These native plants, which are in elevated beds, will then be used to restore vegetation on the former salt ponds.

“West Bay’s FERFF is close to SAVE THE BAY’s Salt Pond Restoration Project, so it’s a convenient location and we’re glad we could offer it for this valuable effort,” said Phil Scott, West Bay District Manager. “We’re proud to work with SAVE



Raised beds at FERFF are being used to grow plants that will be used in the largest wetlands restoration project on the West Coast.

THE BAY by providing an excellent location, creating and maintaining the raised beds needed to grow plants, and keeping them irrigated. By helping to restore native plant life and improve the Salt Marsh’s ecosystem, this partnership benefits the environment and the entire Bay Area community.”

REPAIR PLANS AVAILABLE FOR WEST BAY CUSTOMERS

Our customers have often asked for a way to assist in reducing the significant costs that occur when a sewer lateral pipe, which connects our system to your home, needs to be repaired or replaced. As a homeowner, you may be unaware that it is your responsibility to repair this line, which typically runs from the center of the street to your home and can crack from wear and tear over the years. Repairs can be expensive and are usually not covered by basic homeowners insurance.

That’s why we’ve partnered with Home Emergency Insurance Solutions to offer our customers an optional protection plan for exterior sewer lines. Home Emergency Insurance Solutions currently provides up to \$6,000 per year for repairs on sewer laterals between the home and sewer main at a cost of \$18.99 per month.



Sewer line repairs can be expensive and not covered by homeowners insurance.

This is an optional service that we make available to our customers through a third party and the District does not receive compensation from it. Your choice of whether to participate in this plan will not affect the price of service provided by West Bay, its availability to you or our terms of service.

Home Emergency Insurance Solutions uses local technicians and all repairs include a one-year guarantee on covered repairs. For more information, visit www.WestBaySewerPlan.com or call Home Emergency Insurance Solutions at 1-855-807-6628.

MENLO PARK

continued from page 5

of the master plan, which are to improve traffic safety, increase sustainability, and promote modes of transportation other than driving.

In November, voters barely passed the countywide Measure W, a half-cent sales tax that will generate about \$80 million a year for transportation projects.

Regarding big infrastructure projects that could have a major impact on Menlo Park, SamTrans announced in October that it has entered a partnership with Facebook and the Plenary Group, an infrastructure developer, to evaluate, with an environmental impact analysis, the feasibility of reinstating a transbay rail line from Redwood City to Newark.

Development

When it comes to new buildings, on the western side of town, comparatively modest building proposals at 840 Menlo Ave. and 40 Middlefield Road met with some opposition and a lot of concern before attaining approval.

The Menlo Park Planning Commission has held numerous discussions of proposed office, residential and life sciences buildings on the east side of U.S. 101, but nothing has been approved yet. But the much larger scale of what's being proposed there has some commissioners asking what their role should be in approving buildings that technically comply with the new zoning but don't make sense in terms of planning, given the gridlock in that part of town.

On the housing front, the council passed an ordinance requiring

that new rental housing include 15 percent affordable housing, and an anti-discrimination ordinance stating that landlords may not rule out renting to potential tenants based on their source of income. The Housing Commission has hashed out a proposal for a mandatory rent relocation policy that the City Council will be expected to review in the coming months.

Another major source of local growth is Stanford: The university is undergoing a process to renew its general use permit and is seeking clearance from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to build up to 2.275 million square feet in academic space, 3,150 housing units, and 40,000 square feet of child care space and other supporting facilities between 2018 and 2035.

One recommendation then-Menlo Park mayor Peter Ohtaki made in a letter commenting on the proposal was to consider building satellite parking lots near Sand Hill, Alpine and Page Mill roads to connect commuters to campus with a shuttle, aerial tramway or gondola. In the final environmental impact report released Dec. 13, Santa Clara County officials more or less dismissed the idea by arguing that Stanford is trying to get people to not drive solo at all, rather than drive most of the way to campus and then leave their cars at a satellite site.

Goodbyes

A substantial number of city staffers also left for greener pastures — in other cities or in retirement. City Manager Alex McIntyre left for Ventura at the end of October, Housing and

Economic Development Manager Jim Cogan left in April for Paso Robles, and Assistant City Manager Chip Taylor left in February for Sunnyvale. Library Director Susan Holmer retired in October, Community Services Director Cherise Brandell retired at the end of June, and Assistant Community Development Director Ron LaFrance left in December.

Internally, Dave Bertini moved up to take on the role of police chief from a commander position, and Deanna Chow became assistant community development director. The city hired Judi Herren as city clerk and Rich Struckman as police commander.

Former mayors Billy Ray White and Dee Tolles died, as did slow-growth advocate and civic activist Don Brawner, Ikie Kurose of the former Nak's Oriental Market, and Lee Clements, a beloved Menlo-Atherton High School drama teacher.

Facebook

The city's marquee business, Facebook, has been facing a much more serious reckoning with the public this year. The company faces national and international scrutiny for a series of privacy scandals, which began in March with the revelation that Cambridge Analytica, a political consulting firm, had used data from Facebook users without their consent during Donald Trump's 2016 campaign.

Most recently, on Dec. 18, the New York Times reported that Facebook had partnered with large tech companies to give them access to users' personal data. The Times reported that there were more than 150



Photo courtesy city of Menlo Park

New Menlo Park City Council members Besty Nash, left, Cecilia Taylor and Drew Combs.

partnerships with companies, mostly tech firms, as recently as 2017, and that some existed this year as well. The user data access granted in these partnerships varied, but companies Netflix and Spotify were given the ability to read Facebook users' private messages, the Times reported.

On the positive side, Facebook started a local hiring program and a program to train local youth without college degrees, and partnerships with local community colleges. On the negative side, it peeved many neighbors who were awakened multiple times in the middle of the night when the alarm system at the company's new "MPK 21" building malfunctioned.

The more integrated Facebook

becomes with Menlo Park, the more potential for conflict arises. For instance, The Almanac discovered that City Councilwoman Catherine Carlton had — inadvertently, by her reports — through her husband's retirement account held Facebook stock during the time she voted to approve Facebook's expansion proposal and the "Connect-Menlo" plan, which dramatically boosted what Facebook could build on the property it owns in eastern Menlo Park.

Newly elected councilman Drew Combs works for Facebook so will not be permitted to vote on any of the company's projects and may have to recuse himself from decisions about other matters affecting areas near where the company owns land. ■



Photo by Magali Gauthier

Traffic is at a stop, though the light is green, at Willow Road and Durham Street in Menlo Park, a little before 4 p.m. on Sept. 28.

PORTOLA VALLEY

continued from page 7

Wengert questioned whether it would address needs, concerns or requests of residents, and whether it passed a test of reasonableness. "They're not going to apply for all those permits. They're going to probably cut it down and dry it on their site," she said, adding that crime and fire could follow.

"It's a lot of work for 12 plants,"

Derwin said, "You know, if it were me, I just wouldn't get a permit."

The ordinance is imperfect, Hughes said, but added that he was against discouraging people from asking about commercial growing. The ordinance, he said, may help residents with property not amenable to cultivation who might form limited-liability corporations with neighbors who have more suitable land. ■

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SCHOOLS

continued from page 11

School District, which serves portions of Menlo Park and Atherton, is one of the area districts with the most significant dip. Enrollment dropped 5.4 percent from the 2017-18 school year. Enrollment was 1,331 in the 2017-18 school year, dropping to 1,259 this school year.

■ **Menlo Park City School District**, also serving portions of Menlo Park and Atherton: down 2.2 percent from the 2016 high of 2,999 students. There are 2,932 students currently enrolled in the district. That's a 1.4 percent drop from last school year. This nearly lines up with a demographer's prediction that the district would be at 2,936 students this fall.

■ **Portola Valley School District**: down nearly 5 percent from last school year. There are 574 students enrolled in the district (as of Sept. 6); there were 604 students during the 2017 school year.

■ **Woodside Elementary School District**: down less than 1 percent from the 2012 high of 453 students. Enrollment is stable this year, with 410 students enrolled (as of Sept. 12) — the same number as in the last school year.

Officials in the Sequoia Union High School District expressed concern that a proposed housing development in Menlo Park could cause enrollment to explode at Menlo-Atherton High School, with more students than the campus can accommodate. Facebook's "Willow Village" project would add 1,500 housing units within the district's boundaries. The district's Board of Trustees in November unanimously approved a resolution that sets forth principles on the need to mitigate the impacts



Photo by Natalia Nazarova

Work crews went into action on the first floor of the new La Entrada Middle School classroom building after a water main break caused part of the building to be flooded.

of new development on the district's schools.

La Entrada flooding

La Entrada Middle School in Menlo Park opened at the beginning of the school year a new two-story building with 21 classrooms, a project funded by a \$60 million facilities bond measure. Just two months later, the school, including nine classrooms in the new building, flooded. Five weeks later, the school flooded again. Both incidents were caused by breaks in the nearby water mains.

Officials are still assessing damages.

New preschool

The Menlo Park City School District in August opened a new preschool, called the Early Learning Center (ELC), at Laurel School Lower Campus in Atherton.

School officials say they want the district to be a model in creating a unique, high-quality early education program for a diverse socio-economic group of children. The district subsidizes

tuition for 25 percent of the preschoolers on a sliding scale based on family income. The other 75 percent of students pay market-rate tuition, which covers all the preschool's operating costs.

There are 54 students enrolled during this school year, and the program's director, Jessica Mihaly, hopes to expand enrollment to 72 students during the 2019-20 school year.

Teacher pay

The Menlo Park City School District began developing a philosophy for how to pay its teachers. The district began studying the issue of teacher retention after it found through a survey that 34 percent of teachers and staff who left the district at the end of the 2017-18 school year did so because of long commutes and high cost of living in the area.

The Sequoia Union High School District awarded its teachers a 3.5 percent raise in October. The pay increase was retroactive to July 1, and the contract runs through June 30, 2020. **A**

WOODSIDE

continued from page 8

The main house has been listed with the National Registry of Historic Places since 1986 and an easement disallows subdivision of the property. Some local real estate agents expect the selling price to surpass \$150 million.

'Kinder and gentler'

In the spring of 2016, a former Woodside mayor accused a resident-volunteer serving on the town's Architectural and Site Review Board of unethical behavior. The ethics code required an investigation, which then involved the services of the town attorney, an outside attorney working for the town, and at least two attorneys defending the accused.

The council sought changes to the ethics code, and an ad

hoc committee of about a dozen residents set about crafting them, with help from the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University. The result is based on a code used by the city of Santa Ana.

"I think that this (code) is written in a kinder and gentler way," Town Attorney Jean Savaree said. The focus is on personal responsibility and buy-in "from all the folks who are appointed and elected," she said.

Back to square one

For decades, firefighters driving engines back to the main fire station in Woodside have had to stop in front of 3111 Woodside Road and back into the station. The absence of drive-through bays has been key to plans to rebuild the station. The plan includes individual rooms to

replace the firefighters' dorm. Because the site is just one acre, there would be no room for administrative staff.

The parcel on Haciendas Drive is three acres, but neighbors' feelings about a fire station in their midst was one of four open questions, district fire Chief Dan Ghiorso said. He also wanted to know whether the property had easements; whether its geology and topography would accommodate a fire station; and the results of traffic and noise studies.

Residents of Haciendas Drive emphatically rejected the proposal at a Town Council meeting in June — and provided welcome feedback, Ghiorso said. "The community definitely had an input, and we wanted them to," he said. "It is a done deal. We are not pursuing it anymore." **A**

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New Menlo Park mayor, new priorities

Grade-separation reconsideration, 'sunshine calendar' for council on Mueller's priority list

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

As Menlo Park's mayor for the coming year, Ray Mueller will play a role in shaping what gets put on the City Council's agenda and, by extension, what policymaking gets done over the next 12 months. The Almanac spoke with him to discuss his priorities for 2019.

To start, he said, the new council members have to be brought up to speed and the city needs to hire a new city manager.

"We're cognizant that the council coming in is inheriting a state of transition," he said.

While the city continues to recover from a hemorrhagic year of staff departures by making new hires, Mueller says he wants the council to focus on issues of self-governance; consider

creating a policy to make council members' calendars public; and re-evaluate the city's travel policy.

Mueller said he also wants the council to consider a minimum wage ordinance and discuss how to build more affordable housing and protect existing affordable housing.

"We've gone through a number of years here in Menlo Park where it seemed there was one big, giant, massive strategic plan after another," he said. "It's time to give our staff the opportunity to focus on building our core strengths. At the same time they're doing that (there is an) opportunity for us as a council to build strength as well."

A key personal priority is to take a new look at the city's ongoing debate over grade separations — ways of separating

the roadway from the Caltrain tracks so they don't intersect. A plan to separate only Ravenswood Avenue from the tracks, as opposed to multiple rail crossings throughout Menlo Park, had the support only of the three council members no longer in office.

On Dec. 17, Mueller emailed the Palo Alto City Council and indicated he is still interested in a tunnel option, which would likely cost billions. "I remain very interested in meeting with representatives of the Palo Alto City Council and other City Councils subregionally, formally, to discuss the viability of a tunnel for high speed rail in our portion of the peninsula," he wrote.

Further efforts to relieve traffic congestion, he said, will require work in neighborhoods

to ease cut-through traffic and effort at the county level to ensure that the city receives funding from Measure W, the half-cent transportation sales tax that barely passed in November.

Mueller said he also wants the city to work more closely with the Menlo Park Fire Protection District and local school districts, especially in communicating about new developments.

When asked whether he thought district elections would change the dynamics on the City Council, he said he was "optimistic." "When you have a more focused area you're representing, it's easier to take community feedback and understand what's happening. I see a lot of benefit in that," he said.

There may be some rough spots, initially, he said, but



Photo by Michelle Le

Ray Mueller

added, "I don't foresee it to be an issue."

Other matters coming up this year are the launch of the environmental review process for Facebook's Willow Village project and the city's Parks and Recreation facilities master plan.

Mueller said he's also exploring having a city gala instead of a "State of the City" event in 2019. ■

Crosswalks in the cross hairs

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Portola Valley is a small town at the end of a road, but it has traffic problems nonetheless.

About a dozen residents attended a special meeting of the Bicycle, Pedestrian & Traffic Safety Committee on Dec. 6 to voice their concerns, mostly about unsafe encounters with vehicles at crosswalks.

Traffic consultant Paul Krupka led the meeting. The town hired Krupka to study the issues and get feedback from residents. He is scheduled to make recommendations to the public works director in January.

With Krupka's enlarged bird's-eye views of town intersections propped up along the walls of the Historic Schoolhouse, residents were asked to use sticky notes to paste suggestions over problem areas. Among the

suggestions: Build a pedestrian bridge over Portola Road, stagger release times for students at the schools, and employ crossing guards at crosswalks.

The areas under discussion included crosswalks at Roberts Market at the corner of Alpine and Portola roads, at Windmill School at 900 Portola Road, and at the Woodside Priory at 302 Portola Road, where there are four side streets within 300 feet.

At the Priory, students crossing Portola Road are daily "navigating (around drivers who are) in a hurry because they're late to pick up their kids," said nearby resident Jose Iglesias.

Resident Ruhi Khan said she was speaking for several mothers who use jogging strollers on town trails along Cervantes Road and Westridge Drive to take their children to school. The trails are steep

and sometimes they wind up in the roadway, she said. "We understand they were meant

'Basically everything is driven by the notion that we're all supposed to stay alive, and there's no amount of convenience that can override that.'

KIRAN KAMBOJ, ARGUING FOR REDUCED SPEED LIMITS TO PROTECT PEDESTRIANS

for horses," she said. "But we've ended up on the roads and there are blind curves and construction vehicles coming up early in the morning."

"This is perfect input," Public

Works Director Howard Young said in response. "This is exactly what we want to hear and I can bring that also to the Trails Committee for coordination."

One particularly troubling crosswalk is not near a school, but across Los Trancos Road at Alpine Road. "That is just not a safe crossing," said resident Elizabeth de Oliveira. "You actually have to be looking in three directions at once," she said. "It's terrifying."

Students avoid the intersection by jaywalking further along on Los Trancos, but at a blind curve and near a deep dip in the road, de Oliveira said. "They don't get it," she said. "I'm terribly worried about that intersection."

Resident Chuck Corley said he uses the crosswalk that goes across Alpine Road at Los Trancos Road about 400 times a year and has had close encounters with vehicles four times in two months. With the turn pockets and bike shoulders, it's like crossing five lanes, he

said, adding that a driver once castigated him for not wearing a brightly colored shirt.

Resident Geoff Baldwin said that the setting sun makes pedestrians "completely invisible" at that crosswalk for a couple of weeks every year.

"There really isn't an intersection ... in this town that doesn't have some problems," said resident Kiran Kamboj. She advised the town to look into Vision Zero, an international program aimed at eliminating traffic fatalities. "It can't be ethically acceptable that people are killed or injured when moving through the transport system," Kamboj said.

If pedestrians are at risk, the speed limit has to come down, she said. If that doesn't work, then pedestrians and traffic need to be separated. "Basically everything is driven by the notion that we're all supposed to stay alive, and there's no amount of convenience that can override that," she said. ■

Town to seek new bids for civic center project

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton will launch a new bidding process for its civic center project in early 2019.

The Atherton City Council voted 4-0 at a meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 19, to go out for new bids on Jan. 3 for a project to rebuild the town's police, administration, library and planning division

buildings.

Council member Michael Lempres recused himself because his property is within 500 feet of the project.

Initial bids for the project — now estimated to cost about \$48 million — came in 40 percent higher than expected in June. The previous estimate was \$40.5 million.

New bids will be due on Feb. 13, according to a staff report. The city clerk's office

will accept sealed bids until 11 a.m. that day, when they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The council plans to award a bid on Feb. 20, but it could extend the bidding period if contractors need more time to put together their proposals, Marty Hanneman, the town's project manager, said at the council meeting.

If the bidding process is successful, the town plans to break ground on the project on March

13. Under the plan, the new civic center would open at the end of March 2021.

January is a much better time of year to go out for a bid because that's when contractors tend to prepare their work schedules for the rest of the year, Hanneman said.

The town will hold a pre-bid conference at 10 a.m. on Jan. 16 in the council chambers at 94 Ashfield Road. The meeting is open to the public. ■

LEHUA GREENMAN

"Wise men still seek Him."



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M-A state football title brings school community together

Menlo Park to celebrate championship with parade on Jan. 12

By Andrew Preimesberger
Palo Alto Online Sports

Menlo-Atherton High School had a great week. Former M-A student and lead singer of the rock band Fleetwood Mac, Stevie Nicks, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and the Bears football team won its first-ever state championship on Saturday, Dec. 15.

What made the football victory so special, possibly the biggest game in the history of the program, was playing for the title at Sequoia High School, about 5 miles north of Ben Parks Field.

The proximity of the game to the school meant the Bears drew a near-capacity crowd, something longtime fans hadn't seen in a while.

"As far as I can remember, this is the first time I've seen anything like this," said 2005 M-A grad and current Bears baseball coach David Klein. "This is the largest turnout for an event I've seen. It means a lot and this team is special. They went up to

Humboldt, about seven hours north, and had to win a tough game on the road and they really earned it."

Klein wasn't the only M-A graduate at the contest. The stands were full of former Bears who brought that much more energy to the atmosphere.

"I love to see all the alumni," said M-A teacher Jenna Carson, who has seen a few decades of Bears football. "There's letter jackets out here, there's people who have graduated and are bringing their kids back. It's such a great atmosphere."

Part of what made for a historic run was the decision by coach Adhir Ravipati to establish an after-school study program for players to help them get eligible and remain eligible. That's also led to multiple scholarship offers for several players.

"That's all coach," said senior lineman Noa Ngalu, who accepted an offer from the University of Washington. "He reaches out to college coaches, sends them game films."

Ravipati has been able to put together a roster filled



Photo by Karen Ambrose Hickey

Daniel Heimuli was the heart and soul of Menlo-Atherton's defensive efforts this season.

with athleticism, which also includes a handful of transfers from private schools. In addition to Ngalu, linebacker Daniel Heimuli, wide receiver Troy Franklin and defensive back Justin Anderson are being recruited by several top programs. Heimuli narrowed his list to a few Pac-12 schools and the University of Alabama,

the nation's top-ranked team. They've helped turn the culture around and it means a lot to the future of the program.

"I think it shows the program and the younger kids that you can do that," said Klein. "If you work hard and keep your head down, the type of coaching staff you have at M-A, they're going to work hard to get you to a place at a school where you can move on and play at the next level."

Heimuli is also one of Klein's top baseball players.

"There's a sense of excellence at M-A that people strive for in all avenues of what we do — academically, athletically, theater, art," said Carson. "It

can be stressful to be that person but it can also create a sense of community when you're dealing with people who all want to go that direction."

M-A's football team now has tangible evidence of that pursuit of excellence in the form of the state championship trophy.

The community will come together to celebrate Menlo-Atherton's championship at a parade on Saturday, Jan. 12, in Menlo Park. The parade is tentatively scheduled to start at 9 a.m. Further details about the parade and celebration that will follow will be announced in early January, according to a press release from the city of Menlo Park. ■

An unblinking eye to accompany deputies on patrol starting in June

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Encounters with law enforcement officers are seldom something to look forward to. There's a built-in imbalance, with the officer having the power to question, arrest and incarcerate, and the civilian having to rely on the Constitution to have his or her back.

It may be of some comfort to know that by next June, all deputies working for the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, including deputies on patrol and correctional officers working in the jail, will be wearing cameras.

In a unanimous vote on Dec. 11, the county Board of Supervisors approved a resolution authorizing a \$3.9 million five-year contract with Axon Enterprise Inc. of Scottsdale, Arizona. Axon, formerly TASER International, supplies cameras to 107 law enforcement agencies in California, including five in San Mateo County, Sheriff Carlos G. Bolanos told the supervisors.

The contract specifies 537 body-cameras and 80 in-car front-and-rear-facing replacement cameras for patrol cars. When fully implemented, some

200 cameras in operation every day should generate 350,000 hours of footage annually, Bolanos said. Such evidence will be stored in the internet cloud, he said.

Research has shown that body cameras improve law enforcement "civility" in public encounters, and improve the public's perception of and confidence in local policing, Bolanos said. They have been shown, he added, to reduce use-of-force incidents by law enforcement officers, reduce assaults against them, and reduce complaints and allegations about them.

Employment of the cameras by both deputies and corrections officers is meant to "ensure that we are applying the same principles across the board," Bolanos said.

Authorized system users can access the evidence through the internet from anywhere, Bolanos said.

"I'm very excited to see this happening," board President Dave Pine said. "It's important to have a record, and it's great."

There are policy considerations, and they include when to use the cameras and when not to, when their use should be prohibited,

how long camera-based evidence should be kept, who can review it and when, Bolanos said.

"Of course," he said, "the overriding expectation is that we will always be sensitive to the dignity of the individuals that we encounter."

The approved resolution includes hiring a minimum of four new employees: one to handle the IT duties associated with the cameras and three to manage the digital evidence, Bolanos said.

For the first year of operation, the \$525,000 needed to pay the salaries for these employees will come from asset-forfeiture funds, Bolanos said. In the second year, the department will tap a state-wide half-cent sales tax, he said.

Supervisor Don Horsley wanted to know if the "contract cities" — towns such as Portola Valley and Woodside that employ deputies for police services — would pay a portion of the costs.

"We have established a long-term positive relationship with all our contract cities," he said. "They realize that they're getting outstanding service at a very reasonable price and they've never balked at paying us for technology." ■

TOWN OF WOODSIDE
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PLANNING COMMISSION
January 9, 2019
SPECIAL MEETING DATE
6:00 PM

PUBLIC HEARING

1. The Glens Neighborhood

Study Session: Non-conforming Regulations ~
Planner: Jackie Young, Planning Director

Review and distribution of the newly-prepared Glens Neighborhood Data, Regulation Primer, and Process Primer to support upcoming in-neighborhood meetings; a schedule for Planning staff meetings out into the Glens neighborhood — with neighborhood groups assigned by like property characteristics; presentation of "guide rails" for considering code changes (e.g., minimum setback requirements for sufficient fire separation, ...); and several ideas for code change considerations and neighborhood improvements, given the input received to date. Large-scale, working maps of The Glens for table-top use in the upcoming in-neighborhood meetings will also be presented and reviewed.

All application materials are available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 – 10:00 AM and 1:00 – 3:00 PM, or by appointment. For more information, contact the Woodside Planning and Building Department at (650) 851-6790.

WALTER BORTZ

continued from page 5

is 100 healthy years if we don't screw it up."

With his engagement and curiosity undiminished, Bortz said he continues to travel and lecture, and is at work on his next book — about aging — with the tentative title of "Aging Is Negotiable."

Running — around Stanford's Angell Field, up Portola Valley's Windy Hill, and on tracks and paths throughout the world — has been one of the great passions of his life. But he admits he might have overdone it on the marathons.

"The Greeks said, 'Everything in moderation,' and I was not moderate. I think I just wore (my legs) out, just gone from too much use," said Bortz, who ran the Boston Marathon in 2010 to celebrate his 80th birthday and then again in 2013.

"I never had any distinction as a runner — I was once interviewed by PBS for coming in last in the Boston Marathon — but I love to run," he said. "I'm terribly upset when I see runners running and I can't do it. It bothers me."

On death and dying, Bortz aligns himself with the message of surgeon and writer Atul

Gawande in the book "Being Mortal": People should consider their deepest values and strive to maintain them as much as possible even in the final weeks and days of life.

"We want to die actively, not inactive," Bortz said. "My wife died here in this house after falling out of bed and hitting her head. She had advanced Alzheimer's. No pain, no tubes, no loneliness."

**'Use it or lose it.
My mantra is "100
healthy years."'**

DR. WALTER BORTZ

Ruth Anne Bortz died in July 2015.

Bortz was delighted to share that in the past year and a half he has found new love and companionship with Jeanne Kennedy of Palo Alto, whose photo sits among the many family images in his memento-filled home. (Kennedy, contacted separately, confirmed that she is equally delighted.)

Bortz began his career in the 1950s, practicing medicine in Philadelphia with his father, geriatrics trailblazer Edward Bortz, who chaired an

early White House Conference on Aging and helped found the AARP.

"I was an only child, and I worshiped him," he said.

At his father's death in 1970, Bortz, then 40, took up running and exercise to deal with his overwhelming grief. "I knew exercise was the best treatment for depression, and I was devastated, clinically depressed," he said.

That same year, Bortz and his wife Ruth Anne left Philadelphia and moved their four children to California, buying the home in Portola Valley he still occupies. Bortz began practicing at the Palo Alto Medical Clinic, a precursor to today's Palo Alto Medical Foundation.

"When I joined the clinic they said, 'You are our anointed gerontologist,' and I loved it," he recalled. He served as a physician for local senior communities Channing House, the Sequoias and Casa Olga. He made house calls and began teaching Stanford medical students, which he has continued to do.

Among his proudest achievements, he said, was chairing a board responsible for building a senior center in East Palo Alto. He also took on national leadership roles in the American

Medical Association, the American Geriatrics Society and the Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation.

Though he'd published extensively in medical journals, Bortz never considered writing for a general readership until he befriended Norman Cousins, a nationally prominent writer and editor who died in 1990.

"Cousins was brilliant — he espoused the idea of attitude and wellness," Bortz said. "He told me, 'Walter, you've got to stop writing these scientific articles and write a lay book.' He wrote a wonderful blurb for my first book and got Bantam to print 75,000 copies."

That first book, "We Live Too Short and Die Too Long," came out in 1991. Over the next two decades — on top of a busy medical and teaching schedule — Bortz produced seven more.

"The writing was interspersed," he said. "When I was writing a book, I'd write a chapter a month. I was disciplined."

Recurring themes were aging, diabetes and reform of the health care system.

In "Next Medicine," published in 2011, Bortz argued that financial interests have "eroded the values of the medical profession and placed profit before human well-being."

Heart disease, for example, "is widely treated with drug interventions and invasive surgery — both of which are extravagantly profitable for pharmaceutical giants and hospitals. But daily exercise and a healthy diet can help prevent heart disease and can be obtained by patients essentially for free."

Until the "medical-industrial complex" drops its "vested interest in keeping Americans sick ... medicine will fail to effectively address the leading cause of disability and mortality today: chronic diseases like diabetes that are largely preventable," he said.

Bortz advocates reforming health care by boosting incentives for healthy lifestyle choices throughout the system.

"I went to talk to health insurers in Minneapolis about five years ago, and I said, 'Why don't you preach health? Give everybody who registers for AARP a step-counter. For every 25 steps you take, you can save a penny on health care costs,'" he said.

As he approaches his 89th birthday, Bortz said he's sticking to his eight tips to age "successfully" laid out in his first book, including: "Set goals and accept challenges that force you to be as alive and creative as possible." ■

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Menlo Park firm developing device to stop postpartum bleeding

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

At a nondescript office nestled on Edison Way in North Fair Oaks, a small company is hard at work developing a medical device that could transform the way physicians treat postpartum hemorrhage, the world's leading cause of maternal death.

Alydia Health, led by CEO and longtime Menlo Park resident Anne Morrissey, is working with the Food and Drug Administration to complete a clinical trial to evaluate whether the device the company has developed effectively stops bleeding after a woman gives birth in instances of postpartum hemorrhage.

The condition causes about 35 percent of all maternal deaths, according to the World Health Organization. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), severe maternal morbidity — defined as when a labor or delivery has unexpected, significant short- or long-term consequences on a woman's health — has been steadily increasing in the U.S. in recent years, nearly tripling between 1993 and 2014.

Generally, in the U.S. and developed countries, drugs are the first line of defense against bleeding after a baby is born and the placenta comes out. Specifically, mothers are typically given a drug called pitocin, which induces the uterus to contract to close off the arteries that had been used to nourish the fetus. If that doesn't work, then often what's called a "balloon tamponade" is used to apply pressure to the bleeding parts. In mild cases, the woman may be sent home anemic or may need to receive a blood transfusion,

and in more serious cases, a woman may be required to undergo a hysterectomy or may even die if the bleeding can't be stopped.

The device Alydia is developing is a simple one, built on an idea developed, in large part, by Jessie Becker, a young biomedical engineer. In 2010, as a student at California Polytechnic State University, Becker was on a team of two doctors and two engineers in a competition put together by PATH, a Seattle-based international global health nonprofit, to develop a better balloon tamponade — a medical device that essentially operates like a balloon, inflating inside the uterus and applying pressure to the source of the bleeding.

Morrissey said the idea for Alydia's device came about when the two doctors and engineers were gathered together one weekend to brainstorm about their project for the competition.

"These engineers, like good engineers, and not knowing anything (about the physiology of childbirth) or having preconceived notions, asked the basic question, which is, 'When a woman has a postpartum hemorrhage, physiologically, what's happening?'" Morrissey said.

The doctors, she explained, said something to the effect of, "Well, the majority of the time it's because the uterus can't contract."

What can happen after childbirth, she said, is that in some cases, the uterus is too exhausted to contract anymore.

"It's like if you go run a marathon and you have nothing left to run another 500 feet. That's basically this: The uterus is all out of gas," she said.

If the uterus is unable to close



Photo courtesy of Alydia Health

The staff at Menlo Park-based medical device company Alydia Health, which is in a clinical trial to develop a medical device that aims to more effectively stop dangerous bleeding after childbirth.

itself off, then the big blood vessels that the mother has developed to feed the fetus through the placenta can keep bleeding, up to 800 milliliters a minute, one Alydia Health employee said.

Then, Morrissey added, the engineers asked, "Then why would you put something in there (the uterus) and blow it up? That doesn't make any sense."

Becker and her colleagues concluded that the balloon method does the opposite of what the woman's uterus naturally does to stop the bleeding, which is to collapse inward. She and her colleagues completed the competition, but held onto the idea that perhaps working along with the body's natural programming might be more effective, Morrissey explained.

Becker further developed the concept at The Fogarty Institute for Innovation, a Mountain View-based center that promotes medical innovation, Morrissey said.

The device that was developed is a simple lasso-shaped silicone loop — soft, like a pacifier, Morrissey said — attached to a low-pressure vacuum that helps compress a woman's uterus when she is bleeding after childbirth by sucking out the blood and helping the uterus contract naturally.

Becker was 21 years old when she co-founded Alydia, then called InPress Technologies, with Nathan Bair in 2011. After graduating from Cal Poly, she worked at the university's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship while she developed the device until the summer of 2013.

"What drew me to InPress was the clear need for the technology, my vision that it could make a clear difference in improving maternal health globally, and the fact that I was well-suited to bring the company forward

from its early days," she said in an email.

Testing its impact

A pilot study of the device, published in "Obstetrics & Gynecology" or the "Green Journal," found that in 10 out of 10 cases, the woman's bleeding stopped within two minutes after it was determined that drugs weren't stopping excessive bleeding.

Currently, Alydia Health is conducting a clinical trial of 107 patients to evaluate the device's effectiveness. The trial is in its early stages: The company has so far tested the device on only five patients at six centers across the U.S., but plans are in the works to have the device ready for use at 12 centers by the end of the first quarter of 2019, Morrissey said.

The trial is expected to run for 12 to 18 months, and the device may reach the market as soon as the end of 2020, she said.

The business' strategy has changed since Morrissey began leading the company, according to a recent article about the business in Forbes. While Becker's focus had been on bringing the product to the developing

world, Morrissey has shifted the focus to include distribution on domestic soil too, with the first goal of attaining product approval from the FDA.

But the goal of helping mothers safely deliver babies in the developing world "is an essential part of our strategy," she said. The product aimed at the developing world will likely have to be differentiated so it can work in places where medical providers can't rely on a stable source of electricity, she noted. "I think it's the right thing to do as a human, but I think it makes good business sense to have a longer view of the product trajectory and making it as easy as possible to use."

The company now has about nine full-time employees, plus consultants, and on Sept. 20 it closed an initial \$10 million in Series B fundraising, led by Global Health Investment Fund.

People who work on medical devices generally like developing products that impact lives, Morrissey said, but this specific device is unusual in the industry.

"Not very often do you get to work on one that so clearly saves lives," she said. ■



Photo courtesy of Alydia Health

Anne Morrissey, CEO of Alydia Health, works at her office in North Fair Oaks. The medical device that the company is developing aims to more effectively stop bleeding after childbirth.

Marketplace

The Almanac offers advertising for Home Services, Business Services and Employment.

If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email digitalads@pawekly.com.

Food & Drink

HAPPY CAMPER

Chef-driven Camper brightens the Menlo Park dining scene

By Dale F. Bentson

In case you haven't heard, no insect repellent is needed at Camper restaurant in Menlo Park. They don't serve s'mores or roasted weenies and patrons need not arrive in Airstreams.

It's not that kind of camper. In this case, Camper is a homonym for "happy camper" — the convergence of experience and skill and making diners happy. That's the restaurant's goal, according to chef-partner Greg Kuzia-Carmel and managing partner Logan Levant. On each of my visits, I left a happy camper.

Camper is the latest incarnation of 898 Santa Cruz Ave. LB Steak preceded it and Marche before that — all good restaurants but a bit too formal and pricey for everyday consideration. Camper isn't inexpensive but it is in step with today's prices for casual-upscale dining and has a neighborly vibe.

The idea for Camper

germinated at a mutual friend's dinner party where Levant and Kuzia-Carmel met. Add Roland Passot of the Left Bank restaurants and La Folie in San Francisco as a silent partner, who had an interest in the departed LB Steak, and the enterprise was born.

Kuzia-Carmel, who grew up in upstate New York, started cooking to earn some extra money while in high school. He discovered his calling and has since cooked in Michelin-starred restaurants in Spain, Per Se in Manhattan and Quince in San Francisco.

Levant's background was in public relations, but for over 10 years she owned and operated the acclaimed Buttercake Bakery in Los Angeles. She also co-authored the cookbook "The Kitchen Decoded."

They overhauled the 4,000-square-foot space into an efficient contemporary restaurant with 72 indoor seats, about



Veronica Weber

Greg Kuzia-Carmel, partner and executive chef, and **Logan Levant**, managing partner, sit in the main dining room of Camper in Menlo Park.

100 on a patio and a private dining room that seats up to 50. Spare but not spartan, industrial hard surfaces of wood, metal, and quartz were softened with pillows, pendant lanterns, a colorful backlit bar and outdoorsy artwork on the walls. Camper is inviting, a glowing gem box on the corner of Santa Cruz Avenue and University Drive.

For starters, the chicken and dumpling soup (\$11) featured floating gnocchi, dill, carrots, celery and Cipollini onions. The broth was flavorful, the gnocchi yielding and luxurious.

The creamy burrata (\$17) from family-owned Di Stefano Cheese was surrounded with braised artichokes, sunchokes, dried chicories and speckled lettuce.

Pork and duck terrine (\$9) with toasted pistachios was a nice balance of fatty and meaty, served with toast, coarse mustard and pickled vegetables.

La Quercia acorn-fed jamon (\$12) was a handsome plank of the best Iowa ham, possibly the best in the U.S. Not quite Iberian quality, but Menlo Park is much closer than Barcelona.

Chef-driven restaurants are obsessed with finding the best quality ingredients. Kuzia-Carmel has used his relationships with specialty growers in Northern California to source the freshest and finest, and because of that, his menu is ever evolving. Of the main dishes, I loved the suckling pig (\$37) with butter beans, fava beans, Cipollini onions, dandelion greens and

pear. The pork was fork-tender and the beans mimicked the creamy texture of the meat.

The skewered Rosa Bianca eggplant (a rosy-lavender Italian heirloom globe-shaped eggplant) was accompanied with babagnoush on a bed of quinoa and flavored with mojo de ajo za'atar — like a salsa verde with more herbs (\$22).

The housemade squid ink tagliatelle (\$24) with Dungeness crab, ginger, chili and tomato cream was a luxurious layering of earthy and elastic, silky and savory.

The overnight braised and smoked Tuscan-style short rib (\$40) with creamy red corn polenta, spring onions and carrots was bit chewier than I expected but succulent, and the polenta was dreamy good.

No toasted marshmallows but Camper's desserts were worth saving room for. The brulee sweet corn grits with roasted fruit and sweet cream gelato (\$9) was a tad too grits-y for my companion but she loved the fruit and ice cream.

The caramelized milk jam pudding with Chantilly cream and pecans (\$9) was so good I considered ordering a second. The apple crisp (\$9) with oat crumble and sweet cream gelato was a delight. Black walnut and chocolate gelatos (\$10) were dense and buttery.

In all, Camper offers a focused menu that still allows for plenty of choices for vegetarian and gluten-free diners.

While there were several cabernet sauvignons, the wine list tilted toward less ponderous varietals such as pinot noir, sangiovese, zinfandel, merlot and Rhone blends that pair well with the chef's fare.

Service was excellent on my visits. I commend the restaurant for its strong staff in these days when staffing is a major issue in restaurants everywhere.

Camper is another welcome, chef-driven, high-quality addition to the local restaurant scene. It is easy to foresee Menlo Park and environs filled with happy campers. ▣

Dale F. Bentson is a food critic for Embarcadero Media.



Veronica Weber

The burrata salad is drizzled with saba and served with artichokes and bitter greens.

INFORMATION

Camper

898 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park
650-321-8980
campermp.com

Hours: Lunch: Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinner: Monday-Saturday, 5-10 p.m. Closed Sunday.

Reservations: yes

Credit cards: yes

Parking: city lots

Alcohol: full bar

Happy hour: no

Corkage: \$25

Children: yes

Takeout: no

Outdoor dining: yes

Noise level: high

Bathroom cleanliness: excellent

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

teamLab explores the 'Now of Eternity'

Pace Gallery presents encore exhibition
by Japanese art collective

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

Since opening in 2016, Pace Gallery has presented a varied, blue-chip roster of artists such as David Hockney, Agnes Martin, Louise Nevelson and James Turrell (to name a few) in its Palo Alto space. The current exhibition returns to a favorite theme of the gallery: the intersection of art and technology.

"Continuous Life and Death at the Now of Eternity" marks a second appearance by the Japanese conglomerate teamLab, with six new monitor works on view until Jan. 13.

For those who don't remember the first exhibition, it was a massive effort, staged in a pop-up space (a former car dealership) in Menlo Park. Twenty interactive, immersive exhibits were situated throughout the building in a museum-type installation, with none of the objects for sale. During the course of its 10-month run, more than 200,000 entry tickets were sold, which is probably one reason the gallery has invited the group back for a smaller, more intimate show where all the works are available for purchase.

"This show will mark a homecoming of sorts, since teamLab helped get it all started with Pace in the Bay Area. It will be an amazing opportunity to welcome new audiences to the gallery to experience teamLab's signature digital worlds," Pace President Elizabeth Sullivan said.

"Digital" is the key word in understanding

the basis of teamLab's working method. All of its art is made by computer, using complex graphic algorithms. Some pieces also include recorded video.

"Everything we do is digital," teamLab founder Toshiyuki Inoko said, "and everything is the latest technology, so it is natural for us to explore and experiment."

When asked if he ever thought the collective, which began with five employees, would grow (to 500) and become so successful, Inoko laughed and said he did not.

"We are a tech company," he explained, "and we originally started with web design and system integration."

Collective member Kazumasa Nonaka added that not all of the teamLab employees work on the art-related exhibitions, and that the technology part of the business supports their artistic efforts.

This past summer, the group opened a museum with more than 60 continuous installations in Tokyo. It was an immediate sensation.

"At this pace, we estimate that we will have around four million visitors a year," Nonaka said.

Most of the pieces displayed at Pace have facets of nature (water, flowers, birds, etc.) as subject matter.

"We want to always explore the relationship between humans and nature, and also the boundaries between humans and nature," Inoko explained.

The way the teamLab artists explore this relationship may use ultra-modern technology, but the imagery reflects a very traditional approach, and one that is uniquely Asian, the use of "ultrasubjective space." Nonaka explained that, unlike Western art, which relies upon various uses of perspective to achieve depth and space, the teamLab artist strives to give the viewer the feeling of being one with the art. He cited "Waves of Light" (2018), a piece that involves a continuous series of calligraphic lines that look like waves ebbing and flowing in the ocean.

"This piece was not rendered in perspective because that separates us from the world," he said. "We want the viewer to get inside the frame."

"Our work is all about continuity," noted Inoko. "It is about the flow of life, of time, of water — the rhythm of life."

That sense of continuity is sometimes presented in a very literal way, as in the "Fleeting Flower Series, Chrysanthemum Tiger" (2017). In this single-channel work, thousands of colorful flowers bloom, flow, float and eventually form a large peacock that slowly moves his head. Stay a while longer and the flowers morph into a tiger.



Courtesy of teamLab

Japanese collective teamLab's "Continuous Life and Death at the Now of Eternity" is on display at Pace Gallery in Palo Alto through Jan. 13. The exhibition consists of digital monitor works that evolve and change in real time.

Taking in the full sequence requires over five minutes of watching — perhaps a major effort for the average gallery/museum goer who only spends seconds in front of a work of art.

Nonaka acknowledged the patience required but pointed out that the pieces in the show were designed for discerning collectors.

"This can be purchased, taken home, when you will have more time to watch and get closer."

There are two works that take a more abstract approach: "Enso" and "Impermanent Life" (both 2017). These pieces operate on a continuous loop and depict swooping black brush strokes against a grey background. The strokes change and move in a circular manner, influenced by the Zen paintings made by monks for thousands of years.

"We wanted to explore the nature of calligraphy," said Inoko, "and the circle is a symbol of unity, the world and totality."

As with the "Waves of Light," watching the strokes flow and reform across the nine monitors is mesmerizing; one can imagine sitting in a living room and enjoying a meditative session of quiet reflection while gazing at the continuously changing scene.

The largest installation, for which the

show is named, is a riot of color, movement and transfiguration. It gives a feeling of standing over a tide pool, watching the plants and flowers gently wave from side to side, followed by an explosion of blue, red, purple, yellow petals that take over the screen. Befitting its name, this nine-channel work loops continuously.

If you can't pop into the gallery, stop by and look into the front windows. All of the pieces will be running, with several changing ("Waves of Light" will transition from gold leaf to a black background) after dark — very appropriate for an exhibition that addresses the contrasting concepts of continuity and impermanence. ■

Freelance writer Sheryl Nonnenberg can be emailed at nonnenberg@aol.com.

INFORMATION

What: "Continuous Life and Death at the Now of Eternity."

Where: Pace Gallery, 229 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto.

When: Through Jan. 13. Pace Gallery is open Tuesday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: Free.

Info: Go to pacegallery.com.



Courtesy of teamLab

Another example of an evolving artwork that is part of Pace Gallery's latest exhibition.

Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Submitting items for the Calendar

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

Visit AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more calendar listings

Theater

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley Presents 'Tuck Everlasting' TheatreWorks Silicon Valley presents "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. Through Dec. 30, times vary. \$40-\$100. Lucie Stern Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org

Concerts

James Welch Organist James Welch performs at the annual New Year's Eve concert at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Dec. 31, 8 p.m. \$10 donation. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. welchorganist.com/pages/appearances.shtml

'Ring in the New Year with the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra' This New Year's Day concert features the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Maestro Benjamin Simon, and its triumvirate

of classical masters, Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. Haydn's overture to his 1799 opera *L'isola disabitata* begins the program, followed by three Mozart concert arias performed by soprano Christine Brandes. Jan. 1, 3-5 p.m. Free. First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton St., Palo Alto. theSFCO.org

Museums & Exhibits

Public Tour: 'Auguste Rodin' This exhibition celebrates Auguste Rodin's pursuit to convey complex emotions, diverse psychological states and sensuality through the nude. A century after his death, Auguste Rodin continues to be recognized for making figurative sculpture modern by redefining the expressive capacity of the human form. Sundays, 3 p.m.; Wednesdays, 2 p.m.; Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

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.

Public Tour: 'Painting Nature in the American Gilded Age' This exhibit focuses on how nature was depicted by American artists from the 1880s to 1910, during a time of industrialization and urban development. Tours do not require a reservation. Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays through Aug. 24, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Free. 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

'Vintage Toys: It's Child's Play!' The museum presents a variety of antique toys that belonged to children in the past. This exhibition covers the origins of playtime, toy factories, toy trains, builder toys and more, and 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 Dec. 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 Chermeykina and Jan Prisco. The exhibition of oil and pastel paintings includes colorful still life and landscape scenes from the artists' collections. Through Jan. 31, Mondays-Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park.

Dance

Peninsula Ballet Theatre's 'The Nutcracker' Peninsula Ballet Theatre's 25 professional dancers with Clara, Fritz and friends present a performance of "The Nutcracker" in celebration of the holidays. Through Dec. 29, times vary. \$30-\$78. Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway St., Redwood City.

Film

Film Screening: 'The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill' The Menlo Park Library hosts a screening of the award-winning

documentary "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill," following a flock of urban parrots in San Francisco and the aging bohemian who befriends, feeds and names them. Jan. 2, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Main Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlo-park.org/birds

Food & Drink

New Year's Day Brunch Benefit Mountain Terrace offers brunch with live entertainment, build-your-own mimosas, lawn games and an all-you-can-eat buffet. A portion of the proceeds will benefit victims of the California wildfires. Jan. 1, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$20-\$65. The Mountain Terrace, 17285 Skyline Blvd., Woodside. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Et Alia

Public Tour: Memorial Church A public tour guides visitors through one of the earliest interdenominational churches in the West. Fridays at 1 p.m. and last Sunday of the month at 11:30 a.m. Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

TIDY TRANSFORMATIONS
GREGOIRE MARTINEAU
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279591
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Tidy Transformations, 2.) Gregoire Martineau, located at 1770 Oakdell Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
GREGOIRE JACQUES MARTINEAU
1770 Oakdell Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 26, 2018.
(ALM Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2018)

HAIGHT & ASSOCIATES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279635
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Haight & Associates, located at 380 Cotton St., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
HAIGHT INVESTMENT CORPORATION
380 Cotton St.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on April 23, 1990.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 28, 2018.
(ALM Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2018)

SK WHOLESAL AND RETAIL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279620
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
SK Wholesale and Retail, located at 310 Larkspur Dr., East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
SARISHMA MAHARAJ
310 Larkspur Dr.
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/27/2018.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 27, 2018.
(ALM Dec. 12, 19, 26, 2018; Jan. 2, 2019)

SOLE TO SOUL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279687
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Sole to Soul, located at 3330 Alpine Rd., Portola Valley, CA 94028, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
LETTY FLOHR
3330 Alpine Rd.
Portola Valley, CA 94028
This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 3, 2018.
(ALM Dec. 12, 19, 26, 2018; Jan. 2, 2019)

J & J CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279709
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
J & J Consulting, located at 423 Wildwood Dr., South San Francisco, CA 94080, San Mateo County; Mailing address: P.O. Box 1271, San Bruno, CA 94066.
Registered owner(s):
JONATHAN LOUIS CASTAING
423 Wildwood Dr.
South San Francisco, CA 94080
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on March 2018.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 5, 2018.
(ALM Dec. 12, 19, 26, 2018; Jan. 2, 2019)

LEVEL 10 STUDIO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279673
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Level 10 Studio, located at 1156 Arroyo Ave., San Carlos, CA 94070, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ERICA LYNN MALFATTI
1156 Arroyo Ave.
San Carlos, CA 94070
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10-1-2013.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 3, 2018.
(ALM Dec. 12, 19, 26, 2018; Jan. 2, 2019)

ARGO WELDING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279681
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Argo Welding, located at 2964 Bay Rd., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MIGUEL ANGEL ZERTUCHE PIEDRA
1433 Oxford St.
Redwood City, CA 94061
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 December 3, 2018.
(ALM Dec. 12, 19, 26, 2018; Jan. 2, 2019)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. 278359
The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.
Registered Owner(s) abandoning the use of the

fictitious business name(s):
KUATA VAINIKOLO
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):
KUATA VAINIKOLO
1290 Garden St.
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):
KUATA'S DANCE GROUP
1919 Menalto Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON: July 20, 2018.
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY: Individual.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 28, 2018.
(ALM Dec. 19, 26, 2018; Jan. 2, 9, 2019)

KUATA'S PERFORMING ARTS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279626
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Kuata's Performing Arts, located at 1919 Menalto Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
KUATA VAINIKOLO
1290 Garden St.
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 7/30/2018.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 28, 2018.
(ALM Dec. 19, 26, 2018; Jan. 2, 9, 2019)

T & G GROUP
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279725
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
T & G Group, located at 1339 Sevier Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
TEWODROS NORBERTO MULUGETA
1339 Sevier Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
GAGE NELSON
1234 Stanhope Ln. #263
Hayward, CA 94545
This business is conducted by: Copartners.
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 December 6, 2018.
(ALM Dec. 26, 2018; Jan. 2, 9, 16, 2019)

AUTHENTIC YOU
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279814
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Authentic You, located at 751 Laurel St. #130, San Carlos, CA 94070, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ELLEN HOHBACH SCHEETZ
2690 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on March 4, 2014.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 14, 2018.
(ALM Dec. 26, 2018; Jan. 2, 9, 16, 2019)

997 All Other Legals

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 18CIV06257
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: BALBANEDA PACHECO DE ORTEGA filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
BALBANEDA PACHECO DE ORTEGA to NINA ORTEGA.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: January 11, 2019, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: THE ALMANAC
Date: November 28, 2018
/s/ Susan Irene Etezadi
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Dec. 12, 19, 26, 2018; Jan. 2, 2019)

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee's Sale No. CA-GCE-17017935 NOTE: PURSUANT TO 2923.3(C) THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED. [PURSUANT TO CIVIL CODE Section 2923.3(a), THE SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REFERRED TO ABOVE IS NOT ATTACHED TO THE RECORDED COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT BUT ONLY TO THE COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR.] YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 11/7/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 714-730-2727 or visit this Internet Web site www.Ipsasap.com, using the file number assigned to this case, CA-GCE-17017935. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. On January 8, 2019, at 01:00 PM, AT THE MARSHALL ST ENTRANCE TO THE HALL OF JUSTICE, 400 COUNTY CENTER, in the City of REDWOOD CITY, County of SAN MATEO, State of CALIFORNIA, PEAK FORECLOSURE SERVICES, INC., a California corporation, as duly appointed Trustee under that certain Deed of Trust executed by MARK MIDGAL, AS TRUSTEE OF THE MARK MAGDAL 2000 REVOCABLE TRUST, as Trusters, recorded on 11/16/2007, as Instrument No. 2007-163323, of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of SAN MATEO County, State of

CALIFORNIA, under the power of sale therein contained, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Property is being sold "as is - where is": TAX PARCEL NO. 079-124-020 All that certain real property situated in the County of San Mateo, State of California, described as follows: LOT 39, BLOCK 1, AS DELINEATED UPON THAT CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED, "TRACT NO. 718 ALPINE HILLS UNIT 3, SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, BEING A PORTION OF RANCHO EL CORTE MADERA", IN THE CITY OF PORTOLA VALLEY, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, FILED FOR RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF THE COUNTY OF MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ON MAY 24TH, 1955, IN BOOK 42 OF MAPS, AT PAGES 27, 28, AND 29. From information which the Trustee deems reliable, but for which Trustee makes no representation or warranty, the street address or other common designation of the above described property is purported to be 445 GOLDEN OAKS DR., PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028. Said property is being sold for the purpose of paying the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust, including fees and expenses of sale. The total amount of the unpaid principal balance, interest thereon, together with reasonably estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Trustee's Sale is \$6,578,488.28. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. SALE INFORMATION LINE: 714-730-2727 or www.Ipsasap.com Dated: 12/10/2018 PEAK FORECLOSURE SERVICES, INC.; AS TRUSTEE By Lilian Solano, Trustee Sale Officer A-4678743 12/19/2018, 12/26/2018, 01/02/2019

Holiday Fund donations make a difference for those in need

As the new year approaches, The Almanac is nearing the end of its annual Holiday Fund drive, which raises money through charitable donations to benefit 10 local nonprofits that support the neediest people in our communities. The recipients of this support are hungry families, children and individuals who can't afford needed medical care, community members who struggle to learn English and other necessary skills that can help them succeed in society and the workplace. They are often the working poor, some of whom don't have a place to call home.

Our readers are stepping up again this year to contribute to the effort, which is supported through matching funds by the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. We hope you will consider making a donation to help make this year's drive as successful as last year's effort, which raised some \$150,000.

To find out how to donate online or by mail, go to Page 10 in this newspaper.

Below are the nonprofits that will benefit from this year's Holiday Fund:

Boys & Girls Clubs

With locations in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood in Redwood City, this organization provides academic and after-school support, enrichment, mentoring and activities for 1,800 low-income K-12 kids.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

This program provides emergency food, clothing and household essentials, and sometimes financial

assistance, to families, regardless of religious background. At Thanksgiving and Christmas time, the program provides baskets to more than 2,000 households.

LifeMoves

With 18 sites on the Peninsula and throughout Silicon Valley, this program each year serves thousands of homeless people, including families. It offers one-on-one counseling, assistance in securing housing, children's programs and training in comprehensive skills so that its clients can achieve self-sufficiency.

Project Read-Menlo Park

Project Read offers free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. It trains volunteers to work one-on-one with students wishing to improve their basic reading, writing and English language skills so they can achieve their goals and function more effectively at home, at work, and in the community. It also sponsors basic English classes and weekly conversation clubs.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

The center provides primary medical and preventive health care at a clinic in East Palo Alto. Most of the center's registered patients, who number more than 17,000, are low-income and uninsured, and live in the Belle Haven, East Palo Alto, and North Fair Oaks areas.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

St. Anthony's serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need. It also offers take-home bags of food, and emergency food and clothing assistance. Funded through donations and community grants,

St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose.

StarVista

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

Upward Scholars

This program, formerly the Sequoia Adult School Scholars, provides financial support, tutoring, textbooks and other assistance to local low-income adults, allowing them to continue their education, improve their workplace prospects, and serve as role models and advocates for their kids.

Health Connected

This organization serves more than 5,000 students and their families every year, offering comprehensive sexual health education programs. It helps kids learn to communicate with their parents through "Family Talk" and other programs, and offers classes on healthy relationships and consent.

St. Francis Center

The center offers a range of services to low-income families, providing food, clothing, educational programs, after-school programs, a children's lending library, and 135 units of low-income housing. With a small paid staff, St. Francis accomplishes its work through donations and the efforts of some 200 volunteers. ■

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Another definition of a city's 'character'

Editor:

At first, I had a hard time figuring out just what Rachel Horst was trying to say in her guest opinion piece published in your Dec. 12 issue. She seemed to go all over the place. After a couple of read-throughs, though, her fundamental message became clear. She wants Menlo Park to grow, become more of a city, have more "affordable" housing, more people using public transportation, etc. The usual litany of urban planning experts.

In trying to justify this view, she stressed "values." And she tied the "character" of the town to the "values" that she happens to personally hold dear. I find that terribly specious, and it's why I had so much trouble with her essay. It's a faulty premise, and her reasoning that flows from it isn't much better.

There's nothing at all special about the people who live in Menlo Park. There is no Menlo Park "culture." In terms of the "values" people have here, they are probably similar to those of any other randomly assembled group of 30,000 or so people. Some people may share Ms. Horst's "values," some don't. I am in this latter category, and so are many residents whom I know and speak with. For us, the issue has nothing to do with "Who is Menlo Park." It's about "What is Menlo Park."

When we speak of the "character" of the town, we refer to a place that doesn't try to be all things to all people, where it doesn't take 10 minutes to go one mile because of the traffic, where you can park downtown, where kids walk to school rather than being ferried in motor vehicles, where they play outside in their neighborhoods, where neighbors actually know one another and periodically spend time together, where the local merchants are often on a first-name basis with their customers, and where the local staff of large organizations doesn't turn

over every couple of years. In other words, as far as many residents like myself are concerned, the "character" of Menlo Park refers to how it feels to live here now, not the economic, political, or social views that some may hold about the future. It's disappointing that she chose to politicize the term as she has.

Ms. Horst is simply trying to rationalize the views held by the real estate industry, politicians, and urban planning bureaucrats who have their own parochial interests at heart, not those of current residents, and who have put us in the congested mess we are now in. Given her profession, that's not surprising. Many, though, if not most, of us do not share those views and are disappointed that we are losing the character of the place that drew us here originally.

Bill Wood
Felton Drive, Menlo Park

Drive-through commuters endanger walkers, bikers

Editor:

As Peninsula residents know well, traffic congestion

throughout the Bay Area has worsened over time. Particularly at the end of the workday traffic heading north on 280 is increasingly sluggish as Silicon Valley companies disgorge their workers, many of whom live in San Francisco.

For residents of the towns where Almanac readers live (Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Atherton and Woodside), northbound commuters are declining to take 280-north in favor of driving west on Sand Hill and Portola roads, turning north on Whiskey Hill into Woodside, and then continuing northwards on Canada Road as far as possible before turning back on 280-north to complete their journeys.

The impact on Woodside is particularly egregious as commuters fail to observe stop signs and speed limits in their hurry to reconnect to Canada Road, where resident children walking or on bicycles are streaming to and from school. A classic accident waiting to happen in my opinion.

Leon G. Campbell
Albion Avenue, Woodside

What's on your mind?

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

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

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

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

The Almanac



Atherton | \$5,895,000

This elegant 4br/4.5ba home offers vintage character with designer flair, modern features and finishes. The floorplan is ideal for entertaining with formal living and dining rooms and a cook's kitchen. The beautifully landscaped grounds include a rose cutting garden, fruit trees, a spacious lawn, fountains, a pergola and a fire pit. There is a detached 1br/1ba approx. 475 sqft. guest quarters. Convenient location.

Nancy Goldcamp
650.400.5800
nancy@nancygoldcamp.com
CalRE #00787851



Pebble Beach | \$1,395,000

This beautiful and spacious 4br/3ba Pebble Beach home offers a flexible floorplan and offers two fireplaces. Features include an updated kitchen and baths, recent carpeting, a ground floor master and a private upstairs guest suite. The home is bordered by a greenbelt and is adjacent to the SFB Morse Preserve which offers miles of trails.

The Heinrich Team
831.626.2222
team@theheinrichteam.com
CalRE #01069022 | 00584641



Mountain View | \$680,000

This lovely first floor 1br/1ba condo is in a park-like setting. It offers a spacious living room, a cozy gas fireplace and a beautiful waterfront view. The master bedroom has a large closet and a side space for a possible home office. It is close to downtown Mountain View, and the community includes two heated pools, a hot tub, exercise room, tennis courts, bike racks, laundry room and a club house.

Tiffany Tong
650.325.6161
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CalRE #01843221