

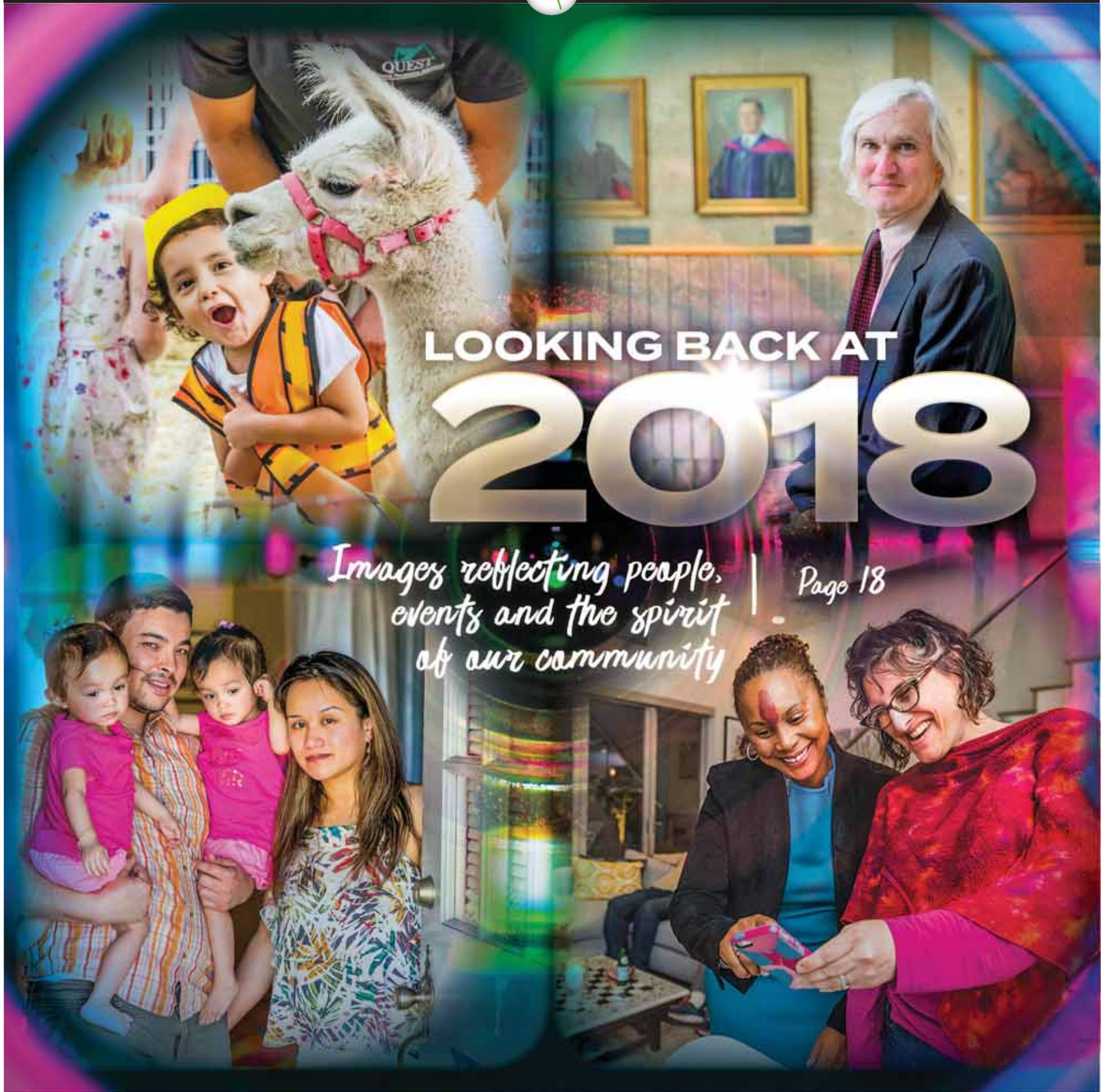
The Almanac

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

JANUARY 2, 2019 | VOL. 54 NO. 18



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LOOKING BACK AT 2018

*Images reflecting people,
events and the spirit
of our community*

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Seven redwoods face the ax | Page 5

Wildfire disaster plan for horses? | Page 14

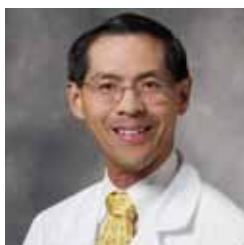
The restaurant scene of 2018 | Page 21

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SPEAKERS



Paul J. Wang, MD

*Director, Stanford Arrhythmia Service
Co-Director, Stanford Center for Arrhythmia Research Professor of Medicine (Cardiovascular Medicine) and Bioengineering (by courtesy), Stanford University School of Medicine*



Anson M. Lee, MD

Assistant Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery (Adult Cardiac Surgery), Stanford University School of Medicine

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TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY NOTICE OF PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., in the Historic Schoolhouse, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California on the following:

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY AMENDING SECTION 18.12.040 [ACCESSORY USES PERMITTED IN R-E DISTRICT], SECTION 18.36.040 [ACCESSORY USES PERMITTED IN ALL DISTRICTS], AND SECTION 18.48.030 [ONE TIME INCREASE TO PARCEL AREA, OPEN SPACE AND BULK REQUIREMENTS] OF THE PORTOLA VALLEY MUNICIPAL CODE AND A FINDING THAT THE ACTION IS EXEMPT UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA).

The Planning Commission will consider a recommendation to the Town Council regarding amendments to the Portola Valley Municipal Code related to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). Proposed Municipal Code amendments include:

1. Move the regulations for ADUs from Section 18.12.040 to Section 18.36.040
2. Amend Section 18.48.030 describing the maximum size allowed for an ADU for consistency with other Sections
3. Amend the ADU regulations to make the following policy changes:
 - Allow ADUs on all parcel sizes, with some restrictions
 - Increase the allowed ADU size
 - Allow a separate address for ADUs
 - Create a streamlined review process for certain ADU applications

Information pertaining to the proposal may be viewed at Town Hall Building and Planning Department, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Additional information can be found at <http://www.portolavalley.net/housing> or email housing@portolavalley.net.

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

Publication Date: January 2, 2019

Laura Russell, Planning & Building Director

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Locals protest planned felling of seven redwoods

Period to appeal Planning Commission decision extended to Jan. 9

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

The clock is ticking for seven redwoods situated near one of Menlo Park's busiest intersections, El Camino Real and Ravenswood Avenue.

In October, the Menlo Park Planning Commission voted 6-0-1, with Camille Kennedy absent, to approve the removal of those trees — which meet the city's guidelines to be considered “heritage trees” and worthy of extra protection — so that the parking structure underneath could be repaired and made waterproof. The roots of the trees have significantly damaged the parking structure, according to a staff report.

But a number of residents who recently became aware of the plan are speaking out, asking the city to explore options to removing the trees. Opponents of the plan now have more time to make their concerns known. The original Dec. 28 deadline to appeal the decision has been extended to Jan. 9 because of City Hall closures, according to an email from Public Works

Director Justin Murphy.

John Kadwany, a former planning commissioner, sent an email to the City Council asking that the matter be formally appealed and other options for the tree removal be explored.

“I would like to find out if there is another way of handling this rather than chopping down iconic 40-year-old redwoods at the corner of El Camino Real and Ravenswood,” wrote Keri Meredith in an email to the City Council Dec. 20.

Project applicant Matt Matteson proposed the tree removals as part of a plan to fix the failing underground parking garage at the site, Cornerstone Research. He also proposed to replace the trees with 14 new ones planted around the site; they would be a mix of Brisbane box, coast live oak, London plane and white barked birch trees, with two planted along El Camino Real.

The proposal also requested permission to repaint the building at 1000 El Camino Real, update some landscaping and lighting, and widen sidewalks to 10 feet from 8 feet.

As of early Dec. 28, at least



Photo by Adam Pardee

Seven trees on top of an underground garage at 1000 El Camino Real are slated for removal, but a recent spate of complaints and emails of concern to the City Council have extended the period during which the matter can be appealed to the City Council.

12 people had sent emails to the City Council asking that it reconsider the felling of the trees.

According to an email from City Attorney Bill McClure sent to Kadwany, “The trees have caused significant damage the foundation of the building resulting in cracks and water leaking into the structure and parking garage.” Though

other alternatives were considered, McClure wrote, “They need to effect repairs from the El Camino side of the structure and then install a waterproof membrane on the exterior of the foundation. Thus, the trees need to be removed. Unfortunate but a reality.”

At the core of the concern is a less obvious question: Would removing the trees

make it possible to widen El Camino Real at the approach to the Ravenswood Avenue intersection?

Widening the northbound approach to that intersection is often mentioned as a possible solution to the traffic jam that motorists experience as the right-most lane becomes a

See **REDWOODS**, page 7

Affordable housing a crucial piece of Measure K spending

By **Dave Boyce**
Almanac Staff Writer

Affordable housing is scarce for low-income individuals and families in San Mateo County. U.S. Census Bureau statistics for 2017 show a median annual household income in the county of \$105,667, while the California Association of Realtors says that the median price of a home in the third quarter of 2018 was \$1.6 million, requiring an annual salary of at least \$341,300 to afford the mortgage payments.

In December, the Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County published a report indicating that the county has “dramatically increased its ability to build affordable homes” thanks, in part, to Measure K, according to the council's executive director, Evelyn Stivers.

In the fall of 2016, county

officials lobbied the public to vote for Measure K to extend by 20 years a half-cent sales tax first approved by voters in 2012 as Measure A. The pitch wasn't only about affordable housing, but that was a principal talking point. Measure K's other priorities included improving public transit, combating human trafficking, addressing sea level rise and maintaining safe schools and neighborhoods.

Because Measure K revenue is not earmarked for a particular use, the measure needed a simple majority to pass rather than the two-thirds majority required for most tax initiatives. Voters approved it with a 70 percent majority, surpassing the 66 percent majority for Measure A four years earlier. The revenue from the extended tax at that point became known as Measure K funds.

In the run-up to the 2016 election, county Supervisor Don

Horsley noted that between 2010 and 2014, the county saw an increase of 55,000 new jobs but only 2,000 new housing units, a ratio of 28 jobs for each new home. “You can walk up and down just about any main street in this county and you will see ‘help wanted’ ads for our service industry,” he said. “That is why we are asking voters to join with us and help provide resources to address the housing crisis. ... Delaying dealing with it only makes the problem worse.”

The half-cent sales tax had boosted county revenues by \$413 million as of the end of the 2017-18 fiscal year on June 30, 2018, of which \$251.2 million had been spent. How much of that has gone to affordable housing?

Beyond Measure K

In a recent speech on the state of the county, Supervisor Dave Pine said the county has

spent \$115 million on affordable housing since 2013. About \$68.7 million of that is Measure K revenue, which is one source of revenue for the county's Affordable Housing Fund. The fund also includes money from county and federal agencies and state money formerly allocated to redevelopment agencies.

Using money from this fund, the county typically contributes 10 percent to 15 percent of the financing for an affordable housing project, Monali S. Sheth, a deputy attorney in the county counsel's office, said in response to a Public Records Act request by The Almanac.

The rest of the financing comes from sources outside the Affordable Housing Fund, including cities, the state, the federal housing authority and banks and tax credits, which are typically the largest contributors, Sheth said. “The county strives to leverage its public

dollars as best (as) possible to attract investment from all sorts of different sources,” she said.

The county works with outside organizations to acquire, preserve, design and build housing. Its list of partners includes MidPen Housing, located in Foster City; HIP Housing, a home-sharing nonprofit based in San Mateo; the nonprofit Palo Alto Housing; and the nonprofit Bridge Housing of San Francisco.

The \$115 million the county has allocated so far has financed about 1,880 units of affordable housing, Sheth said. Of 456 new units completed, 32 of them used Measure K funding, she said.

Among those affordable housing projects to have received county subsidies between January 2013 and October 2018 are two completed affordable

See **MEASURE K**, next page

MEASURE K

continued from previous page

housing developments in Menlo Park: 90 apartments for seniors at the Sequoia Belle Haven development, and 60 units of veteran housing at the Willow Veterans Housing development.

The county has also provided funding to support pre-development work to build 27 affordable units at 1283 Willow Road and to redevelop and expand the low-cost apartments at 1345 Willow Road to a total of 140 units, according to the housing leadership council's report.

The report's authors argue that investments of county funds dramatically boost the amount of funding that can be leveraged from state and federal sources. Looking forward, the county should plan to take advantage of the \$4 billion for

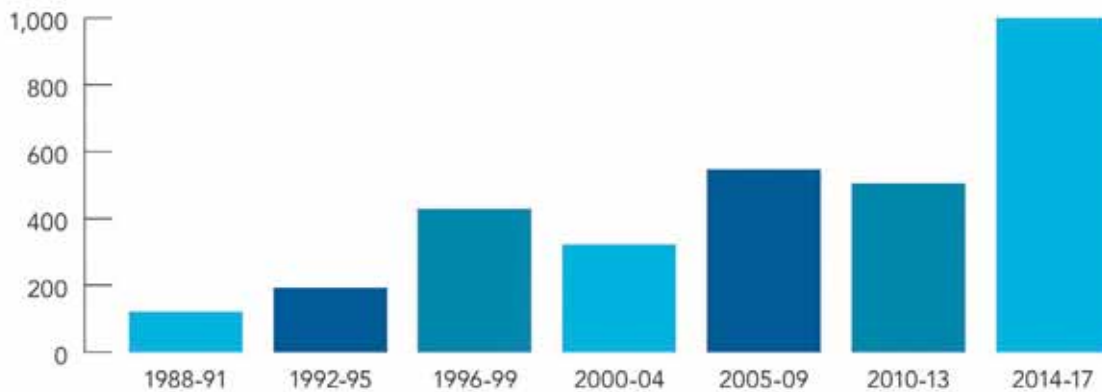
affordable and veteran housing to come from the passage of Proposition 1 and to seek funds from the state's cap-and-trade program, the report recommends.

A Measure K financing round announced in July — the sixth round since 2013 — provides money for 580 new units, most of which are still in the project planning stage, Sheth said. The sixth-round funding will also preserve 87 existing units, Sheth said.

Measure K budget

In a September revision to the 2018-19 county budget, County Manager John Maltbie reported total allocations of \$194.6 million in Measure K funds in seven categories of spending: public safety (\$56 million), housing and homelessness (\$54.2 million), health and mental health

Figure 1. Affordable Homes Built in San Mateo County, 1988-2017¹⁵



Data courtesy Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County

According to the Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County, the production of affordable homes in the county increased significantly between 2014 and 2017. The chart does not include housing units constructed as part of cities' "inclusionary" housing policies.

(\$11.9 million), youth and education (\$15.3 million), parks and the environment (\$18.6 million), older adults and veterans (\$3.2

million), community projects (\$27.2 million) and miscellaneous spending (\$8.1 million). Go to is.gd/SeptRevise to

access the budget, or is.gd/housing468 to access the report. ■

Kate Bradshaw contributed to this report.

Phillips Brooks School summer academic program gets OK

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

A summer academic program at Phillips Brooks School in Sharon Heights received clearance from the Menlo Park Planning Commission on Dec. 10 to launch for future summers following an initial pilot program this year.

The Planning Commission voted 6-1, with Commissioner John Onken opposed, to approve a change in the school's use permit that would allow the program to run and its number of staff to increase to 68 from 58.

The program is expected to run for eight weeks, from June through early August, and have an enrollment cap of 120 students, ages 5 to 11. The main program would run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and would have morning and afternoon care offered from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The commission agreed that the school should submit a plan for its lighting system to create less ambient light in the dark hours when activity occurs on the campus after 6 a.m. and before 10 p.m., and to make sure the school's lights are off between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

That was a compromise in response to complaints from one of the school's Avy Avenue neighbors, Thomas Warden, who alleged in a letter that Phillips Brooks School has had incidents of noncompliance with noise and parking rules.

Several other people who live near the school also wrote in with concerns about the after-hours noise generated by custodial work and the increased summer traffic.

In favor of the summer program permit were several members of the public who described the benefits of a different

summer program for children in the community.

Patrick and Lynda Galligan wrote: "As the parents of three children we are keenly aware of the need for great summer programs. Phillips Brooks provides a school-based environment with extended academic learning during the summer months that many parents in the school district would otherwise not have access to."

"As many households require dual incomes to sustain the high cost of local living, a safe and welcoming place for young children is imperative," Priti and Sanjay Morey said in an email. "Many summer programs and camps are so highly subscribed that many families cannot find adequate, stimulating environments for their children. We believe that this program will fill a vital need in the community." ■



Map courtesy city of Menlo Park.

Phillips Brooks School is located near La Entrada Middle School in Sharon Heights.

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New members bring business experience to Las Lomas board

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

Two new members have taken their seats on the Las Lomas Elementary School District governing board: Parents Dana Nunn and Jon Venverloh began four-year terms on the five-person school board on Dec. 12.

Nunn, a nonprofit executive, and Venverloh, an executive at Google, took out candidacy papers to run for the board, along with incumbent John Earnhardt, in the Nov. 6 election. (Incumbents Rich Ginn and Christy Heaton did not run for re-election.) But since they were the only candidates for three open seats, the election was automatically canceled.

Nunn and Venverloh join Earnhardt, who begins his second term, Diane Honda and Bill Steinmetz on the board.

The district has two schools — La Entrada Middle (4-8) in Menlo Park, and Las Lomas Elementary (K-3) in Atherton. There are 1,259 students in the district this school year, according to Sept. 12 enrollment numbers. The district includes neighborhoods in the western part of Menlo Park and Atherton and small sections of Woodside, plus nearby unincorporated areas including Ladera.

District voters passed a \$70 million bond measure in June. It is set to go toward administration and parking lot fixes, repairing/replacing obsolete building systems (roofs, security and fire alarms, lighting, etc.), restore fields, create a science room, demolish portables and more.

Dana Nunn

Nunn, 47, works as a consultant at Friends of the Children, a nonprofit youth mentorship program. She was a member of the district's Las Lomas Design Team, which looked at shifting school day schedules.

Nunn has a bachelor's degree in economics and government from Dartmouth College, a master's degree in economics from Stanford University and a doctorate in business from Stanford Graduate School of Business.

She has three children — two high schoolers and a third-grader at Las Lomas Elementary — and lives in unincorporated Menlo Park.

Nunn has a unique perspective on persistent district issues because her children have grown up through district schools, she said.

She emphasizes the importance of having women on the board, noting that it benefits the decision-making process to "have lots of different voices at the table."

"If we're all talking to our daughters about women stepping up," it's important to actually do so by running for elective positions, she said.

Nunn said she brings to the board her background in business and youth development, and her governance experience.

Nunn said a key goal as she begins her term as a board member is to make sure the district spends money prudently. "It's a lot of money; we need to make sure we're spending it well," she said.

Now that she's on the board,

she's impressed with how well-run and organized the district is, she said. The budget is in good shape. "It's a good foundation to build off of," she said.

Classes in the district's schools have tended to be more traditional, Nunn said, and she wants to see more innovation in classrooms, with an emphasis on project-based learning and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education.

"Our district will need to update its strategic plan in the next couple of years, which we can leverage to strengthen our approach to innovation," she said.

The board's job, she noted, is to create a culture and framework supporting innovation, and to set long-term goals. Teachers and administrators, on the other hand, are the experts in specific standards and curriculum, she said.

Nunn said she would like to see parents, teachers and administrators collaborate more. "I think what I saw from the design team was that working together collaboratively is the best way to understand the district from multiple perspectives," she said. "We can build that muscle by doing more of that collaboration."

Jon Venverloh

Venverloh, 46, has four daughters — a preschool student, a third-grader, a seventh-grader and an eighth-grader. He served on the Las Lomas Education Foundation's executive board from 2010 to 2016 before he and his family moved to Zurich,



Courtesy of Dana Nunn
Dana Nunn



Courtesy of Jon Venverloh
Jon Venverloh

Switzerland, for his job with Google, where he is director of operations for Google Shopping product management.

Venverloh chose his Atherton home 12 years ago so that his kids could attend district schools. He has a bachelor's degree in advertising from Southern Methodist University and an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he was a Sloan Fellow.

He said he is excited to oversee how the district is preparing for the future and said he's "well-equipped" to serve in this capacity. He is knowledgeable about the district itself from his work on the foundation, he noted. And professionally, he has worked on projects that involve organizing people, businesses and contracts, while encouraging innovation.

"That's a lot of what the school board is tasked with — construction projects, contracts with teachers, maintaining high standards in the district," Venverloh said.

He is personally invested in the district's future, given that he has four daughters who

attend, or will soon attend, Las Lomas schools.

Venverloh is also interested in computer science education. The district has had a good start on 21st-century technology education, he said, but there's room for improvement. Since the state has strict curriculum requirements, he'll push for more extracurricular activities in the district that involve learning computer programming. A good start? A recent Hour of Code event in the district, which introduced students to their first hour of computer science.

He believes the district is in good shape, but said he also wants to make sure to spend revenue from bond measures responsibly.

Venverloh said he plans to work out more of his own priorities for the district in the coming months. In the meantime, he'll focus on items already on the district's plate: tackling issues springing from recent flood damage at La Entrada that resulted from breaks in municipal water mains, renovations, and setting the school calendar, among other things, he said. ■

How is federal shutdown affecting local agencies USGS, NASA Ames?

By Mark Noack

The NASA Ames Research Center furloughed nearly all its employees and closed down most operations with the federal government shutdown that began Dec. 22.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Menlo Park and Mountain View has also been shut down. Only a small number of the agency's employees nationwide have been permitted to work to keep key safety operations running, according to the Department of the Interior website.

With the budget impasse in Congress unresolved as of The Almanac's press time on Dec. 28, NASA officials were expected to furlough nearly 17,000 employees and contractors

across the space agency's facilities. At the Ames Research Park near Mountain View, this meant just under 1,200 workers were put on unpaid leave.

An updated NASA shutdown memo drafted last week notes that a baseline of staff would be kept on hand to monitor critical functions involving space operations and security. About 44 employees would remain on the job at Ames, according to the work plan.

The shutdown also resulted in the Ames Research Park closing down all tours and public access.

USGS impacts

During a similar threat of government shutdown earlier this year, the USGS reported it would need to furlough about 500 employees from the Menlo

Park and Moffett Field campuses. USGS spokeswoman Catherine Puckett said in a Dec. 26 email that she has been "prohibited from conducting work as a Federal employee, including returning phone calls and emails, until further notice."

According to the Department of the Interior, the USGS planned to suspend all activities except those needed to "protect life and property." The agency planned to permit 75 of its 8,032 employees nationwide to work as needed, mainly to operate the National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC) in Colorado and the Earth Resources Observation and Science Center (EROS) in South Dakota.

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REDWOODS

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right-turn-only lane and other drivers must merge left.

Former Menlo Park councilman Steve Schmidt wrote in an email he suspects that these tree removals may facilitate the process to widen El Camino Real in the future.

"Adding a third (northbound) through lane would have required the removal of these same trees and certainly would have attracted vigorous opposition from residents who oppose choosing cars over trees," he wrote. "Assuming the trees were then gone when the (El Camino Real) widening comes up, the arguments against that project would be less specific and weaker, thus facilitating its approval."

During the Planning Commission's discussion of the matter, Commissioner Henry Riggs said he believes that only

2 more feet are needed to widen the street, and that he wants the city's transportation division to figure out what the alternative should be for widening El Camino Real and coordinate the placement of the new trees accordingly.

Regardless of potential plans to widen the road at the intersection, several people wrote to the council expressing appreciation for the trees and opposition to their removal.

"Let's not be a Joni Mitchell song please!" wrote Michele Sherman, who urged the council to save the trees (referring, presumably, to Mitchell's "Big Yellow Taxi," whose lyrics include: "They paved paradise / And put up a parking lot.")

The trees, wrote Wendy Hornstein in an email, "are beautiful and a treasure to our community. We owe it to our community and our future to question and look for a solution." ■

Atherton police treat kids in need to a holiday shopping spree

By **Angela Swartz**
Almanac Staff Writer

It was an experience they could only have dreamed about: Eight local kids were taken on a holiday shopping spree at Target in Redwood City on Dec. 19 to buy gifts for family members, a treat for themselves, and a necessity like a coat or pajamas, thanks to the Atherton Police Department and its non-profit supporting groups.

It was the department's first-ever "Shop With a Cop" holiday event, intended to provide local students with a positive mentoring experience with police, Atherton Police Chief Steve McCulley explained in a press release.

The eight students live in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and Redwood City, but attend school in Atherton. They were chosen by their teachers at Las Lomitas, Encinal, and Laurel elementary schools based on need as well as on good academic performance and attendance.

Each child had 30 minutes to spend \$200 shopping with police officers before wrapping

their gifts. The Police Activities League and the Atherton Police Officers Association provided the funding for the excursion.

"We are very excited about this program and plan to make it an annual tradition," McCulley said.

Veronica Zuleta's son Ryan, a third-grader at Las Lomitas, was one of the students chosen to participate. She accompanied him to the event.

"I'm so excited to buy the things I've always wanted..." Ryan said. On his shopping list? Video games and a plush toy of the Nintendo video games character Yoshi. Ryan and the other children hopped in Atherton police cars for photos before embarking on their shopping sprees.

Atherton police also host a holiday toy drive every year for Selby Lane School in Atherton. Police delivered toys to Selby Lane students last week.

Police are planning a "Shop With a Cop" event to help students and families in need buy school supplies, clothes and shoes at the beginning of the school year in August. **A**



Photos by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Police Commander Joe Wade, above, helps Leonardo pick out a bike during the "Shop With a Cop" event at Target in Redwood City on Dec. 19. **Erica Johnson**, at right, a community service officer with the police department, helps Marilyn wrap a present during the event.



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

FROM ALL OF US AT

The **Almanac** MountainView **VOICE** Palo Alto **Weekly**



Photo by Nona Chiariello

The spreading foliage of an oak tree native to Portola Valley graces the home of Delle Maxwell and Pat Hanrahan. A sod roof is in the background. The couple were one of three households recognized recently for their sustainable backyard habitats.

Three households recognized for welcoming native plants, critters

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Living in tune with the natural world is fundamental in Portola Valley, a town with an ethos of sustainability, Mayor Ann Wengert noted in recent remarks upon being passed the gavel. While the town is not exactly Eden for the plants that dwell there — they do have pathogens to contend with — the yards of the winners of the 2018 Backyard Habitat awards are surely among the friendlier confines on the Peninsula.

The winners this year are Delle Maxwell and Pat Hanrahan from the Westridge neighborhood, Loren and Erika Walden from Portola Valley Ranch, and Marge DeStaebler from Woodside Highlands. They join the other 15 winners evaluated and chosen by the town's Conservation Committee since the program began in 2013.

Residents apply for the award and a team from the committee makes an evaluation, according to the program brochure. If asked, they will visit the property to make suggestions on how to “create an optimal habitat.”

The visible component of the award is an intentionally rusted sheet-metal frontispiece about 3 feet long by 6- to 8-inches wide, topped with a silhouette of an oak tree. It attaches to a

redwood post to be placed on the property.

“All three properties (this year) have many elements in common, including a predominance of native plants, features that support wildlife, and elements aimed at reducing risk of fire,” committee chair Nona Chiariello said in an email. “In addition, their owners are ardent about nature and sustainable environments.”

‘Stunning’ trillium

The yard at the DeStaebler household, according to an evaluation sheet describing the property, is notable in that 95 percent of its plant species are native, its pest management is done with mechanical traps and hand weeding, and it has no lawn.

Her home is “forested,” Chiariello said, sitting amid redwoods, bay trees and big-leaf maples. “With patience and persistence over many years,” DeStaebler has removed invasive species and encouraged natives, including “stunning spreads” of trillium, Chiariello said. A native geranium, uncommon in Portola Valley, exists there, she said.

Fences can deter wildlife and the habitat program discourages them. The only fence on the DeStaebler property surrounds the garden, and it's near the

house, according to the evaluation sheet. A bath is available for the birds there, but the pests, including weeds, are in for a tough time. It's got to be hard for a plant to defend against a foe who pulls you up by your roots, as DeStaebler does.

Her award is “especially fitting,” Chiariello said, “as she has been a stalwart of the Portola Valley Conservation Committee for many years and has chaired the Backyard Habitat Award program.”

No pest management

There are no invasive species in the landscaped areas of the Waldens' property, according to their evaluation. Fences are absent, as are lawns. A pool is made use of by wild animals and birds, who also nest there seasonally. Bees have quarters, as do bats, but the bats don't use them. They apparently prefer nesting next to their box rather than in it.

The Waldens' success “is a function not only of what they have done, but of what they haven't done,” Chiariello said, referring to the absence of irrigation, fertilizers and even biologically based pesticides. Other than rain, the plants are watered with the gray water from the Waldens' shower.

Some of their shrubs have fallen prey to a parasite, according



Photo by Loren Walden

The yard of Loren and Erika Walden has neither lawn nor fence nor irrigation system. For water, the plants depend on rainfall, supplemented with water recycled from the couple's showers.

to the evaluation sheet, which includes a suggestion that they seek out plants resistant to this parasite.

A sod roof

Maxwell and Hanrahan live in close proximity to the 89 acres of open space known as the Stanford Wedge, along Alpine Road between Westridge and Golden Oak drives. On their property are blue oaks, manzanita, native wildflowers, succulents and other features of drought-resistant landscaping, Chiariello said. The couple put in manzanitas to replace poorly faring redwood trees, Chiariello said.

In a statement provided to The Almanac by Chiariello, Maxwell

summarizes their efforts: “We have birdhouses, brush and rock piles,” she said. “We harvest rainwater, have a grey water system and use no pesticides. We're trying to conserve resources as well as provide a pleasant spot for critters and people.” A portion of their house has a sod roof.

“We encourage habitat so that we can host more wildlife and keep the property in a more natural state,” Maxwell said. “We are happy to participate in a program that may encourage others in town to do the same thing. Also, I like to demonstrate that native plants can create a very beautiful year-round garden.”

Multi-city flood control project hits major landmark

Next phase to focus on stronger flood protection to area between U.S. 101 and Pope-Chaucer Bridge

By Sue Dremann

Under dark clouds and an eventual downpour, public officials on Dec. 14 unveiled the completed first phase of a San Francisquito Creek project that aims to protect 1,000 homes from a 100-year flood event during an extreme high tide.

The \$76 million Phase 1 project is also designed to protect East Palo Alto homes against sea level rise that could be 10 feet higher than today, officials said.

Officials created the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority — a five-member coalition including representatives from the cities of Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and Palo Alto, the San Mateo County Flood Control District and the Santa Clara Valley Water District — to

devise flood-prevention strategies after storms in February 1998 caused the creek to overflow. The floods affected 1,700 homes and businesses in the three cities and caused more than \$28 million in damage. The JPA's ultimate goal is to protect more than 5,700 homes and businesses in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Palo Alto.

The completion of the first phase enables work to move forward on the second phase, which will provide stronger flood protection to the territory near the creek between U.S. 101 and the Pope-Chaucer Bridge. That area includes land in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and Palo Alto, JPA Executive Director Len Materman told *The Almanac*.

This second phase will be broken down into two parts. The first will provide protection from a 70-year flood — an inundation that would be on par with the infamous flood of 1998. The second part will provide protection from a 100-year flood, and will require work with Stanford University to develop a plan to retain water farther upstream on university land. The creek is dammed at the Searsville Reservoir at Jasper Ridge, a Stanford-owned biological research preserve, Materman explained.

Work is underway to complete an environmental impact analysis identifying a “preferred

alternative,” or preferred method for completing the second phase of the project. The JPA plans to release a report by the end of February for public comment, he said.

The Army Corps of Engineers is also doing a federal environmental impact analysis and has identified the same preferred alternative, he added. He declined to describe what that alternative is, but said it will be released in the report.

The JPA is working on a funding package and will also apply for permits. If all goes well, project construction could begin in 2020, he said.

While officials had problems obtaining permits for the

‘You notice that no federal money went into this project. If that was the case, we’d still be debating this.’

U.S. REP. JACKIE SPEIER

project’s first phase, Materman said, he is hopeful that the one and a half years spent working with regulatory agencies will bear fruit and allow the upstream project to go through more quickly.

The end of the first phase caps more than 60 years of debate to finally address dangerous flooding along the creek, which has been exacerbated by upstream development that eliminated permeable ground that absorbed rainwater and the construction of homes and businesses in the flood plain.

Phase 1 of the project covered the creek and surrounding flood plain from San Francisco Bay to U.S. Highway 101. The improvements include a widened creek channel in East Palo Alto and at the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course, which will help move water faster to the Bay and prevent backups; a horizontal levee that is adaptable to sea-level rise; and enhanced habitat and environmental improvements for wildlife and endangered species.

The project has also improved connections for pedestrians and bicyclists between the creek and adjacent marsh by adding a boardwalk at the Friendship Bridge between East Palo Alto and Palo Alto as well as improving trail access. The project will add thousands of new plants for wildlife.

The first phase restored a total of 22 acres of marsh. The Palo Alto golf course had the biggest gain in native habitat. Twelve acres of golf course land were used for widening the creek



Photo by Sue Dremann

Homes in East Palo Alto abut the Faber Marsh where water fowl swim. The neighborhood was once threatened by flooding and is now protected due to the efforts of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority.

flood plain, Materman said.

The massive undertaking involved Pacific Gas & Electric’s relocating a gas pipeline and cooperation with state and federal agencies to receive permits and protect the habitat for the federally protected salt marsh harvest mouse and Ridgway’s rail. The California Department of Transportation also added another culvert and improvements to alleviate a constriction under US 101 during the highway bridge replacement on both East and West Bayshore roads.

On Dec. 14, as the storm clouds gathered, flocks of mud hens pecked in the shallows and the widened flood plain looking for insects while geese and ducks trawled the waters of the Faber Marsh. The rooflines of dozens of homes, which back up to the marshlands, still sit below the levee, a reminder of the times when the creek overflowed in major storms and the neighborhood flooded, putting lives at risk.

In December 2012, the creek again overflowed and damaged the protective mud levees, prompting then-East Palo Alto mayor Ruben Abrica to seek

and receive an emergency declaration and funding from Gov. Jerry Brown for temporary repairs.

But now the homes, including that of current East Palo Alto Mayor Lisa Gauthier, are safe, said Gary Kremen, JPA chair and a Santa Clara Valley Water District board member.

Gauthier noted that, during one of the flood events that affected her street, she had put on her rain boots before venturing out. As she waded through the rising water, she wondered if she was going to need higher boots, she said. The dangers for East Palo Alto were particularly great because there are so many seniors living in the community, she said.

Abrica recalled that in 1998, when he was on the Ravenswood City School District Board of Education, he called out district school buses to help transport residents from the evacuated area.

Dennis Parker and his wife, East Palo Alto flood victims, lost everything in two floods from the creek, in 1955 and 1998. “We feel safe for the first time since 1998,” he said.

Materman said the project

will protect more than homes and property. The creek flooding also endangers and damages open spaces, local parks and the golf course. “You can be assured this creek will not threaten the spaces that you love,” he said.

Concerns about the volatile and unpredictable creek and the effort to repair it have spanned more than six decades. After the 1955 flood, the Palo Alto City Council discussed working collaboratively with other jurisdictions, Kremen noted. But there was little forward movement until after 1998.

Receiving proper permitting from federal agencies concerned with wetland and endangered-species protections proved to be one of the most challenging aspects of the project, officials said.

U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier, who attended the Dec. 14 event, said she fought hard to get the permits so the project could move forward.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was to receive \$7 million for a feasibility study, but then-president George W. Bush’s administration did not include the money in the federal budget, necessitating a local effort to fund the project.

“You notice that no federal money went into this project. If that was the case, we’d still be debating this,” Speier said, lauding the power of local and regional collaboration.

During the ceremony Dec. 14, at about 11:30 a.m., the skies opened up and the rain began to pour as a squall blew across the new levees. State Sen. Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo, said it was fitting that the weather would turn rainy on the day of the project’s unveiling.

“Let it rain. Let it rain. Let it rain,” he said. ■

Kate Bradshaw contributed to this report.

Sue Dremann writes for The Almanac’s sister publication, the Palo Alto Weekly.

SHUTDOWN

continued from page 7

Up to 450 employees would remain on call in case of natural disasters or spacecraft emergencies.

Other impacts

The shutdown closed federally run parks; however, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area announced on Dec. 22 that sites such as Alcatraz Island and Crissy Field would remain open.

More than 800,000 federal employees in charge of non-essential services nationwide were expected to be affected by the furloughs. Postal service, airport security, military and emergency personnel continue to work. Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid functions are all expected to stay open, according to reports.

The experience of bringing federal services to a grinding halt has become all too familiar in recent years. As recently as last January, a similar budget

impasse centered on immigration policy led to a three-day government shutdown.

In 2013, a budget feud over austerity measures caused a shutdown that lasted about two and a half weeks. The full cost to the national economy was estimated to be \$24 billion, according to Standard & Poor.

—Kate Bradshaw contributed to this report.

Mark Noack writes for The Almanac’s sister publication, the Mountain View Voice.

Horse DNA-testing service sets up shop in Menlo Park

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

The only thing better than science is science with horses,” Christa Lafayette, CEO of Etalon Diagnostics, said with a smile on a recent Wednesday afternoon at her pop-up lab situated at the former site of Yogurt Stop along El Camino Real in Menlo Park.

(It appears that plans to pass the former yogurt shop to a successor have fallen through, but The Almanac has not yet received a response to requests for comment from the shop’s former owner.)

Lafayette is a Menlo Park resident who describes herself as a person deeply interested in biotech and in horses. She said she suspects people tend to be more “horsey” and “geeky” on the Midpeninsula than average, and hopes Menlo Park will be a fruitful location to set up her equine DNA-testing lab.

The Etalon Diagnostics lab, which looks unassuming in the back corner of the small storefront, can do several on-the-spot DNA tests with a single horse hair: a positive alternative to other animal testing systems that

require animals to be in cages or stuck with needles, she said. Lafayette would know, having worked in the area of preclinical trials at Stanford University before her current venture.

Genomic tests for horses can help people make sure they’re getting what they pay for in an expensive horse, and can prevent people from breeding horses that may carry recessive genes that lead to diseases or traits deemed “undesirable,” she explained. “It makes sense in an animal this expensive to know what you’re getting,” she said.

Lafayette described horses that are born with a condition called cerebellar abiotrophy, a neurological condition that can be fatal. Others are born “gaited,” a term that describes a condition in which horses are unable to synchronize their front and back legs to run in a coordinated motion.

But the company, she said, can do more than provide parentage tests for horse breeders and buyers.

Using an artificial intelligence algorithm, she said, Etalon is able to combine the DNA sequences with other information about the horses — such as



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Christa Lafayette, the chief executive officer of Etalon Diagnostics, retrieves a mailed-in equine DNA sample in her Menlo Park lab

statistics from equestrian and dressage competitions — to get a uniquely intimate portrait of what each horse’s strengths and weaknesses are.

Each horse’s data is kept private, but in a database where the algorithm can search for patterns and abnormalities across genomes.

What’s more, Lafayette said, joking that the program can “kill two horses with one stone,” she’s

optimistic that the database could prove useful for further study of similar diseases in humans.

Etalon Diagnostics will remain open at the Menlo Park storefront at 405 El Camino Real through Jan. 30, into the start of “breeding season,” which runs between January and May, she said.

The business, which currently has about 10 to 12 employees, is growing. Lafayette said the

company plans to release a “build-a-horse” online program using the DNA profiles of horses whose owners support it. The program will allow users to put together a “genetic wish list” of the features they would want to breed for.

“We want (fewer) poorly bred lawn ornaments and better matches for people who enjoy horses,” she said. “We’re not Jurassic Park yet.” ■

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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.



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Thank you for supporting the Holiday Fund

As of Dec. 25, 111 donors have contributed \$101,649 to The Almanac Holiday Fund.

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Ann Wengert returns to mayor's chair for 2019

As the new year gets underway, Portola Valley has two new officials at the top of town government, both of whom have been there before.

Councilwoman Ann Wengert is the mayor for 2019, a position she held previously in 2009 and 2014.

Councilman Jeff Aalfs, who served as mayor in 2015, is the new vice mayor.

Both were elected on unanimous votes by the Town Council at its Dec. 12 meeting.

The mayor leads council meetings and sets agendas for the meetings in coordination with the town manager. The council member elected vice mayor is typically next in line to be mayor for the following calendar year.

In brief remarks, Wengert said the three top priorities for town government in 2019 were public safety — including an emphasis on emergency preparedness in light of recent wildfires in Northern California —, affordable housing and sustainability.



Ann Wengert was elected by her colleagues to a third term as mayor.

The recent wildfires “brought us all a major mind shift relative to what the new norm potentially will be in terms of fire,” Wengert said. “We’re probably going to have to up our efforts in making sure our residents feel adequately prepared for what’s happening or what could happen in the future.”

— By Dave Boyce

School board member may resign her post

Stacey Jones has announced that she may resign from the Menlo Park City School District board next summer because she and her family are likely to move from the state. The school board has begun discussing how to fill her position should her resignation become official.

Jones, who joined the board in 2014, told district officials around the end of November that her husband took a new job in Colorado. Her family may move to accommodate his job once the school year wraps up, she said.

Jones said won't submit her resignation to San Mateo County Superintendent Nancy Magee until her plans are definite. Until she does that, her resignation is not official.

“It’s very hard, in all honesty,” said Jones, who has a ninth-grader at Menlo-Atherton High School, a seventh-grader at Hillview Middle School and fifth-grader at Laurel School. “I’ve so enjoyed the opportunity to work with everyone in the school district and serve the community in this way. It was a tough choice for my husband and I because we’ve been in Menlo Park for a long time. Our children have essentially only known Menlo. We love it; we love the community.”

During a Dec. 11 meeting, the

school board discussed options including holding a special election next November or appointing a replacement for Jones if she resigns.

The board leaned toward holding a special election. A drawback of appointing someone? He or she could serve only until 2020, whereas if there was a special election, the person could serve out the last three years of her four-year term, Jones said.

Newcomers Sherwin Chen and Scott Saywell joined Jones as the only candidates this year for the board’s three open seats, so the Nov. 6 board election was automatically canceled. Chen and Saywell took their board seats in December.

“Had I known about this in July, I wouldn’t have run for a second term,” Jones said.

For a November 2019 special election to fill the seat, the board would have to pass a resolution 130 days before the election. This means that Jones would have to resign by the beginning of June for the position to be on the ballot.

— By Angela Swartz



Stacey Jones

Disaster plan for large animals? Right now it's up to you

By Maggie Mah
Special to The Almanac

Fire has always been a concern in California, but periods of heightened awareness were largely confined to the driest summer months. The massive all-consuming fires in the North Bay in 2017 and in Butte County late last year have jolted everyone out of any complacency, and Gov. Jerry Brown said recently that Californians should expect major wildfires to break out year-round, stating: "This is not the new normal. It's the new abnormal."

Travel back in time for a moment to where this writer grew up: in the East Bay community of Alamo. Nestled in the hills near the base of Mt. Diablo, it was a "cow town," with vast expanses of land devoted to grazing Hereford cattle.

One July day, fire swept up the valley through nearby ranches and headed straight for my parents' home. We were told to evacuate — orders that might have been fairly straightforward except for the two family members in the pasture down below. What would happen to our horses? There was no trailer so the firefighters said they would open the fences and the horses would have to fend for themselves.

This story has a happy ending, thanks to our very wise mare, Bonnie, who took charge of the other horses and led

them along the edges of the fire to safety.

Fast forward to present day Woodside and Portola Valley: Both communities are home to substantial numbers of horses and other large animals, and along with the rural ambiance and lifestyle come complications like the one described above. In that regard, some things haven't changed.

The reality is that planning for fires is focused on humans. Woodside Fire Protection District Chief Dan Ghiorso explains it this way: "We have a simple mantra in response

'We were told to evacuate — orders that might have been fairly straightforward except for the two family members in the pasture down below. What would happen to our horses?'



Photo by Maggie Mah

A 5-by-5-inch reflective sign is available to residents of the Woodside Fire Protection District to post in a visible spot to let first responders and volunteers know that there are large animals on a property.

to these events — 'Protect life (human), property (animals, structures, vehicles, etc.), and the environment. In that order.'

How effectively fire and other emergency personnel are able

to handle situations involving large animals depends largely on the nature and scope of the emergency. Wildfires of the last two years have imposed a new reality. According to Chief Ghiorso, "The speed and intensity of these fires has been a game changer. For the most part, there is no time. Thus it is a case-by-case assessment of what can be done."

"It's unlikely we could evacuate many large animals in a firestorm-type event," Woodside district Fire Marshal Denise Enea said. "Large cleared paddocks and arenas are likely their best survival chance. Having an organized and trained livestock rescue group to retrieve, house and/or assist large animals in our area should likely be considered."

Ghiorso adds: "Learning from recent events, it won't be our folks that are available to help, but most likely from outside the area. ... [I]f this were an event today, we would be looking for the same type of volunteers that are helping up north."

"Organized and trained" being the operative words, if government agencies are too constrained to mobilize, filling the void with individuals could be disastrous. Unlike groups in Butte, Napa and several nearby counties, there is currently no organized body in San Mateo County equipped to deal with evacuation and rescue of large animals.

Asked what would happen in the event of an evacuation, and whether guidelines are in place for what to do and where to go with large animals, Ghiorso replied, "As of now there are 'ideas' but not much, if anything, committed."

The organization that has been instrumental in helping animals impacted by the fires in Butte County is the North Valley Animal Disaster Group,

David Lawrence Powell, Sr.

February 6, 1937 – December 5, 2018

Dave was born on February 6, 1937, and passed on December 5, 2018. He was a resident of Woodside, CA, at the time of his passing.

Dave was born and raised in New York. He attended Bronxville High School and graduated from St. Lawrence University. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps and spent the subsequent four years serving his country, ascending to the rank of Captain.

Dave spent his professional career in the recruiting business. He worked in personnel for Del Monte Foods, Fairchild Semiconductor, and National Semiconductor before moving into the executive search business in 1971. After five years with Staub Warmbold and Associates, Dave founded David Powell, Inc., to serve the recruiting needs of the emerging technology sector. Widely recognized as a pioneer in Silicon Valley, Dave was instrumental in building the senior leadership teams of some of the Valley's most influential and successful companies.

Dave brought passion, intensity, and warmth to all aspects of his life, business, hobbies, family and friends. He was an avid outdoorsman and sports enthusiast, a talented artist, and a gifted fly fisherman. Dave enjoyed cooking, music, gardening, Jack Daniels, and fine cigars. Among his favorite places were Cabo San Lucas, Tuscany, Squaw Valley, Fall River Mills, and any trout stream in the Mountain West.

Dave is survived by his wife, Jean Bagileo; his brother, Dick; his children from his first marriage, Andrea, Dave Jr., Suzy, and Dana; and their extended families. He is preceded by his father Edward, his mother Doris, and his brother Ted.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Fall River Conservancy (www.fallriverconservancy.org), an organization to which Dave was deeply devoted.

Services will be held on Friday, January 18, 2019.

- 11:00am – Mass
Church of the Nativity,
210 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park
- 1:00pm – Reception
Peninsula Golf and Country Club,
701 Madera Dr., San Mateo

PAID OBITUARY

Mila Desiree Wright

October 25, 1987 – November 18, 2018

Mila was born in Bulgaria, adopted by Phyllis and Larry Wright when she was five years old, and died peacefully at home on the evening of November 18, 2018. She was only 31 years old. She had been suffering for many years from a disease known as autonomic nervous systems failure, for which there is no cure. She leaves behind her parents, Phyllis and Larry Wright, her brother Michael, her aunt and uncle, Doreen and Carl Weber, numerous cousins, her beloved co workers at the Stanford ER and many friends.

Mila attended Las Lomas and La Entrada schools, graduated from Carlmont High School, and went on to the College of San Mateo. While taking classes there, she worked as a patient transporter at Stanford Hospital. She liked working there and decided to take classes to become an Emergency Medical Technician. This then led to her job as a tech worker in the Stanford ER. She loved this job! She loved the constant action, the working with others to save a life, and just helping and caring for another person. She worked there for ten years until her disease forced her to retire. Even then she kept coming back to Stanford as a volunteer and as an advisor on doctor/patient communications.

Mila was a vibrant, joyful, passionate person who loved adventures, excitement, and beautiful places like Yosemite and our lovely coastal beaches. Mostly, though, she loved her family and friends. And they, in turn, loved her back ever so much. As her disease worsened she was compelled to move back home with her parents and seek out the help of Mission Hospice. Her friends kept coming by to visit and take her places, and her family took her on road trips, weekends at the beach and weekly movies with Mom. The wonderful Dream Foundation granted her wish of five days with her family in Monterey.

Mila lived her life to the fullest and then even decided what she wanted for her memorial Mass and celebration of life reception. She worked with her mom and her best friend, Amber, in planning this out. We think she would be pleased with how lovely everything turned out. Any donations in her honor may be made to the Dream Foundation at dreamfoundation.org

PAID OBITUARY

POLICE CALLS

These reports are from the Menlo Park and Atherton police departments and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent unless convicted. Police received the reports on the dates shown.

ATHERTON

Residential burglaries:

■ Someone broke through a glass door at the rear of a home on Knoll Vista Avenue and ransacked the interior. It's not known if anything was taken. An investigation is underway. Dec. 19.

■ Burglars broke through a glass door at the rear of a home on Monte Vista Avenue and stole items from the master bedroom, though it's not known what they stole. An investigation is underway. Dec. 20.

WOODSIDE

Auto burglaries: Three vehicles were reported burglarized in the 3000 block of Woodside Road, all entered via shattered windows. Stolen were two laptop computers and a briefcase. Estimated losses: \$3,000, \$1000 and \$100. Dec. 17.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Residential burglaries:

■ Someone entered a home on Crescent Avenue via an unlocked side door and stole a laptop computer and "numerous miscellaneous items." No estimate on losses. Dec. 12.

■ A burglar shattered a window in

a rear door of a home on Cervantes Road, entered the home and stole several laptop computers. No estimate on losses. Dec. 20.

Auto burglary: A resident of the 4400 block of Alpine Road informed deputies of the theft of a Bluetooth stereo system from the resident's vehicle. The resident could not recall whether the vehicle was locked. Estimated loss: \$400. Dec. 14.

Exhibition of speed: Based on observation of a vehicle leaving "large skid marks" in the roadway at Alpine and Portola roads, a deputy cited and released a 20-year-old Portola Valley resident who admitted to the deputy that he had created a "burn out." Dec. 19.

MENLO PARK

Fraud:

■ An employee of the Safeway supermarket at 525 El Camino Real talked an 86-year-old man out of buying \$2,500 in gift cards. The man was prepared to wire the money to a caller who told him that his computer had a virus and that the caller, who claimed to be an Apple employee, could remove the virus after the transfer of money. No losses. Dec. 19.

■ Someone wired a deposit to an online address in response to what turned out to be a false advertisement for an apartment to rent on Live Oak Avenue. Estimated loss: \$2,660. Dec. 19.

Appropriation of lost property: A woman withdrew some cash from her account using an ATM machine

in the 800 block of Willow Road, but she forgot to pick up the cash and someone else took it. Dec. 14.

Commercial burglary:

■ Police are looking for two suspects accused of breaking a window at LensCrafters at 700 El Camino Real and stealing merchandise, an inventory list of which was not yet available. Dec. 17.

■ Someone cut through a fence at Extra Space Storage at 1520 Willow Road and broke into a storage unit there. It's yet not known if anything was taken. Dec. 22.

Residential burglary: In a case from September 2018 that East Palo Alto police handled because Menlo Park officers were not available, someone entered a home on Carlton Avenue and stole three laptop computers, a phone charger and a framed picture. Estimated loss: \$3,240. Dec. 17.

Auto burglaries:

■ Someone broke into a vehicle parked in the 3700 block of Haven Avenue and stole a purse. Estimated loss: \$300. Dec. 24.

■ Using unknown means, someone entered a locked vehicle parked on Coleman Place and stole a checkbook, a pair of shoes and \$50 in cash. Dec. 24.

Thefts:

■ Thieves stole four bicycles recently: two from Hillview School on Elder Avenue, one from an apartment in the 3600 block of Haven Avenue, and one from a carport on Live Oak Avenue. One bike was locked, one was unlocked and the state of the

other two was unknown. Estimated losses: \$5,000, \$600, \$1,100 and unknown. Dec. 20, 19, 19 and 24.

■ Someone stole a generator from the side yard of a home on Bieber Avenue. Estimated loss: \$1,200. Dec. 18.

■ A thief stole a vehicle registration card and a pair of sunglasses from an unlocked vehicle parked on Coleman Avenue. No estimate on losses. Dec. 17.

■ Someone stole lenses from LensCrafters at 700 El Camino Real. No estimate on losses. Dec. 17.

■ Police arrested and booked into jail a 23-year-old San Francisco man on suspicion of shoplifting and assault and battery. The man allegedly stole drinks from the 7-Eleven at 525 Oak Grove Ave., threw a drink at an employee there and attempted to punch the employee. Dec. 18.

■ A doorbell camera was reported stolen from a resident of Sevier Avenue. The camera was found discarded a block away. Dec. 22.

■ Police arrested, cited and released a 54-year-old man on suspicion of shoplifting beer and batteries from the Safeway supermarket at 525 El Camino Real. All of the merchandise was recovered. Dec. 24.

■ Someone stole an inflatable Christmas decoration from the front yard of a home in the 200 block of Willow Road. Estimated loss: \$50. Dec. 18.

Brandishing: Police cited and released to his family a boy accused of brandishing a knife at the 7-Eleven at 525 Oak Grove Ave. Dec. 14.

HORSES

continued from page 14

an organization devoted solely to helping animals in emergency situations. Ironically, the organization was formed in order to help humans who were reluctant leave their animals behind, putting themselves in danger as well.

Despite the lack of resources and critical timing under which first responders must operate, there is something you can do now to improve the odds for large animals on your property: make it easier for emergency personnel to find them.

A 5-by-5-inch reflective sign is available to post in a visible spot to let first responders and volunteers know where to go. Although the massive, all-consuming wildfires are at the top of everyone's disaster list, there are still other calamities to worry about, such as earthquakes, flooding and landslides. "The signs can help in all these scenarios," Ghiorso said.

Anyone residing on property within the Woodside Fire Protection District may obtain one of these signs at the Woodside town offices. There is no charge for the signs and instructions for where they should be placed are included. ▣

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Weekend Express

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



- Music
- Eating out
- Movies
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2019

Happy New Year

As we reflect, we are grateful for the relationships we have built this year. We look forward to working together to achieve great things in 2019. From our Rossetti Realty family to yours, we wish you a Happy New Year filled with happiness, health, and prosperity.

Rossetti Realty Inc.

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Menlo Park | CA
650.465.6550 | Gail@RossettiRealty.com
www.RossettiRealty.com

January is 'for the birds' with Menlo Park library events

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park Library is dedicating a series of 13 events throughout the month of January to bird-themed activities for adults and children.

Some of the events planned for the "January is for the Birds" series are as follows:

■ **Wednesday, Jan. 2, 6:30 to 8 p.m., "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill"** will be screened at the main library.

■ **Saturday, Jan 5, from 11 a.m. to noon, Judy Irving, documentary filmmaker, and Mark Bittner, author of the book "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill,"** will talk about their work in the Menlo Park City Council Chambers.

■ **Tuesday, Jan. 8, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Irving's follow-up bird documentary, "Pelican Dreams,"** will be screened.

■ **Wednesday, Jan. 9, from 7 to 8 p.m., biologist Maria Viteri of Stanford's Hadly Lab** will give a talk called, "Birds, Bats, and Pterosaurs: The Independent



Photo courtesy city of Menlo Park.

Mark Bittner (left) and Judy Irving of San Francisco together created "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill," a documentary about the relationship between a homeless street musician and a flock of wild parrots in San Francisco. The film will be screened at the Menlo Park Library on Jan. 2 and the couple will speak in Menlo Park on Jan. 5.

Evolutions of Powered Flight," at the main library.

■ **Sunday, Jan 13, from 2 to 3 p.m., Yiwei Wang, Ph.D., executive director of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory,** will talk about that organization's avian research at the Belle Haven library.

Other activities scheduled include a paint-your-own bird-house session, a presentation about raptors from a wildlife photographer, and a talk about attracting birds to one's garden.

Go to menlopark.org/birds for the full schedule. ☐

Market Street, before and after the great quake

It's been nearly 113 years since the San Andreas fault slipped and triggered the earthquake that left San Francisco in ruins. A nine-minute film, recently discovered and to be screened in Woodside on Friday, Jan. 4, shows activity and destruction on and around Market Street in the aftermath of the April 1906 quake.

The free public event, at Independence Hall at 2955 Woodside Road, begins at 7 p.m. and includes the well-known 12-minute film "A Trip Down Market Street," taken before the quake and showing the hustle

and bustle of a busy commercial center.

The Friday night event includes a discussion and behind-the-scenes stories with film historian David Kiehn of the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum in Fremont, and Rick Laubscher of Market Street Railway, a nonprofit museum and transit preservation group with headquarters in San Francisco.

The event is sponsored by the Woodside Arts & Culture Committee and includes light refreshments and books for sale.

Go to is.gd/QuakeFilms for more information.

Committee and commission openings

The city of Menlo Park is recruiting applicants for its Complete Streets, Environmental Quality and Planning commissions and its Sister City Committee. These commissions provide policy recommendations to the City Council.

The Environmental Quality Commission seat expires April 30, 2019; the Sister City Committee seat expires April 30,

2020; and the Complete Streets and Planning commission seats expire April 30, 2022.

Term lengths and eligibility requirements vary by advisory group, but all applicants must be at least 18 years, a registered voter and a resident of Menlo Park (with a few exceptions).

Go to is.gd/apply847 for more information and to access the application form. Applications are due Friday, Jan. 11, at 5 p.m.

CALENDAR

Visit AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more calendar listings

Concerts

Diana Gruber Local Jazz vocalist, Diana Gruber collaborates with accompanist Mark Goldstein, a graduate of Johns Hopkins' Peabody School of Music, to present an evening of jazz standards and more. Jan. 5, 7:30 p.m. \$30. Gruber residence, 205 Pope St., Menlo Park. Search brownpapertickets.com for more info.

Aurora Mandolin Orchestra The Aurora Mandolin Orchestra continues a tradition of mandolin music that flourished in San Francisco's North Beach area in the mid-20th century. The orchestra kicks off the 2019 Filoli Ballroom Cultural Series. Jan. 6, 3-5 p.m. \$22-\$30. Filoli Gardens, 86 Old Canada Road, Woodside. filoli.org/event/aurora-mandolin-orchestra

Talks & Lectures

'Birds, Bats, and Pterosaurs: The Independent Evolutions of Powered Flight' The Menlo Park Library hosts a presentation by biologist Maria Viteri of Stanford's Hadly Lab, who discusses how vertebrates got off the ground. Jan. 9, 7-8 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Main Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org/birds

Mark Bittner and Judy Irving: The 'Wild Parrots' Whisperers Filmmaker Judy Irving and author Mark Bittner, the duo made famous by their work (his book, her documentary film), "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill" discuss their journey, their current projects and the San Francisco birds that still live not so far away from them. Jan. 5, 11 a.m. Free. City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

'Re-New Year Organizing and De-cluttering' Professional organizer Wendy Quaccia gives a talk, with time for Q&A, exploring new ideas for transforming the challenging areas of the home into desirable living spaces. The talk focuses on how organizing a space, room or entire home can be life-changing. Jan. 5, 1-2 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley.

Museums & Exhibits

Alphabete: The World Through the Eyes of Frederic Bruly Bouabre The Cantor Arts Center displays Frederic Bruly Bouabre's artwork. The exhibit shows Bouabre's original pictographic alphabet and brightly colored postcard-size illustrations. Through Feb. 25, times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions

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

BayLUG's 15th Annual Holiday Show BayLUG's 15th Annual Holiday Show presents holiday scenes in a miniature Lego city. This event is family friendly. Through Jan. 13, Fridays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$3. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto.

The Dancing Sowel: Performing Beauty in Sierra Leone This exhibition focuses on one spectacular work in the Cantor's collection — a sowel mask, used by the women-only Sande Society that is unique to Sierra Leone. Ongoing until December; Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays-Sundays 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Thursdays 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions

Do Ho Suh: The Spaces in Between In this exhibition, artist Do Ho Suh uses a chandelier, wallpaper and a decorative screen to focus attention on issues of migration and transnational identity. Through Feb. 25, times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions

Flight Simulator Rally The Flight Simulator Rally, held monthly in the Hiller Aviation Museum's Flight Sim Zone, presents participants with a specific mission in simulated flight. Each 30-minute session provides ample time for participants to learn a particular flight, then ends with a challenge flight. Jan. 6, 2-4 p.m. Free with museum

admission. Hiller Aviation Museum, 601 Skyway Road, San Carlos. hiller.org/event/fszrally

January Free First Friday The San Mateo County History Museum continues its "Free First Fridays" program. Two programs are planned for the public without any fees. At 11 a.m., preschool children are invited to learn about automobiles and will make paper license plates to take home. Then museum staff conduct a special program within its "Journey to Work" gallery where kids hear the story, "Cars Rushing! Honking! Zooming!" At 2 p.m., museum docents lead tours of the museum for adults. Jan. 4, 10 a.m. Free. San Mateo County History Museum, San Mateo. visithalfmoonbay.org/events

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

Open Cockpit Day On Open Cockpit Days the doors and canopies of many aircraft in the museum's collection open to allow visitors to sit inside and explore the controls and instruments needed to fly these aircraft. Jan. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free with admission. Hiller Aviation Museum, 601 Skyway Road, San Carlos. hiller.org/event/open-cockpit-day

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

Public Tour: 'Contact Warhol: Photography Without End' The exhibition brings to life Warhol's many interactions with the social and celebrity elite of his time with portraits of stars such as Michael Jackson, Liza Minnelli and Dolly Parton; younger sensations in the art world such as Keith Haring and

Jean-Michel Basquiat; and political stars, including Nancy Reagan, Maria Shriver and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Select days through Jan. 6, 2:30 p.m. Free. 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

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 August 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

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.

Film

Film Screening: 'Pelican Dreams' The Menlo Park Library screens a documentary by "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill," director Judy Irving, who this time follows an injured pelican from its "arrest" on the Golden Gate Bridge into care at a rehab facility and beyond. Jan. 8, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Main Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org/birds

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. menlopark.org/birds

First Friday in Woodside: 1906 in San Francisco/Two Rare Films Woodside's Arts and Culture Committee presents two motion pictures, first of San Francisco's main street just four days before the 1906 earthquake, followed by a recently rediscovered second film that chronicled the immediate aftermath. Film historian David Kiehn of the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum and Rick Laubscher of the transit preservation group Market Street Railway share behind-the-scenes stories of these films. Jan. 4, 7 p.m. Free. Woodside Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, Woodside. woodsideartandculture.org

Outdoor Recreation

Mushroom Specialty Tours Filoli's mushroom hikes are intended for visitors new to the world of mushrooms and enthusiasts interested in discovering what fungi are fruiting on Filoli's nature preserve. Visitors learn about the important ecosystems of fungi and how to spot mushrooms on the forest floor. This 90-minute hike traverses 2-3 miles of uneven terrain including moderate hills. The trails are not stroller or wheelchair accessible. Bring water, walking shoes and clothing for light rain. Heavy rain cancels the hike. Children 5 and older are welcome to attend. Jan. 8-Feb. 16, Tuesdays and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$15. Filoli Gardens, 86 Old Canada Road, Woodside. filoli.org/event/mushroom-specialty-tours

Business

Ask the Career Advisor Jobtrain career advisors offer one-on-one help to those that drop-in. Services range from career guidance to assistance with job searching. Jan. 9, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free. Jobtrain, 1200 O'Brien Drive, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Classes

Computer Literacy Class The computer literacy program is a one-week course that focuses on function, programs, creating an e-mail account and using and understanding the Internet. Beginning Jan. 7, 1 p.m. Free. Jobtrain, 1200 O'Brien Drive, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

'Little Free Library' boxes coming to more Menlo Park neighborhoods

Literacy advocates hope to 'fill in the gaps' in neighborhoods that aren't close to public libraries

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park Library is launching a new pilot program to partner with local homeowners to boost residents' access to books.

Starting this month, people will be able to apply to have a "Little Free Library" box installed in front of their home for free if they agree to maintain the wooden box and keep it supplied with books.

The Little Free Library program operates on an honor-based, take-one-leave-one philosophy.

The number of book-sharing boxes that will be available for installation depends on funding for the initiative. At this point, about half of the funding for the pilot program has been approved by the Menlo Park Library Foundation. Consideration of funding the second half of the costs is scheduled for a meeting of the Friends of the Menlo Park Library on Jan. 14, according to Sean Reinhart, interim library services director.

According to Reinhart, a number of community members, some of whom have already installed Little Free Libraries in front of their homes, wanted to

encourage others to install the boxes.

"In general, the idea here would be to incentivize or prioritize sites that are adjacent to parks, schools, ... gathering areas, (and) thoroughfares," Reinhart said.

The Menlo Park Library Commission, which has provided guidance for the program, would also likely give greater consideration to areas that don't currently have Little Free Libraries or are far from the main Menlo Park and Belle Haven branch libraries.

According to Kristen Leep, chair of the Library



Photo by Kate Bradshaw.

A "Little Free Library" book-sharing box in West Menlo Park. Many are painted in whimsical colors.

Commission, the commission has been talking about Little Free Libraries for over a year, since commissioner Jacqui Cebrian introduced the concept. "They seem like a great way to fill in the gaps in communities that aren't close to libraries, especially in areas where children tend to struggle with

literacy," she said in an email.

"We were thrilled to encourage the Library to move forward with it," she added.

There are more than 75,000 book-sharing boxes in 88 countries; 15 are currently registered in Menlo Park, according to the Little Free Library website, littelfreelibrary.org. ■

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

SK WHOLESALE 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)

THOR HAULING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279722
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Thor Hauling, located at 2115 Jefferson Ave., Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
RODRIGO COTRIN PERRETTI
2115 Jefferson Ave.
Redwood City, CA 94062
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 6, 2018.
(ALM Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2019)

MMACCH ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279721
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Mmacch Architectural Drafting, located at 287 Hedge Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MARIA ELENA PERRETTI
287 Hedge Rd.
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 December 6, 2018.
(ALM Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 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, 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

Looking back at

2018

Images reflecting
people, events
and the spirit
of our community

Michelle Le

Almanac photographers have helped us tell the stories of people, places and events in our community throughout the year. Here's a visual sampling of memorable moments of 2018.

Top: Local students march down El Camino Real during the nationwide walkout for gun control on March 14. At right: **JoAnn Loulan** of Portola Valley discusses campaign research at the Portola Valley Library on Oct. 10. She leads a group of local volunteers called Local Majority, which assists Democratic candidates to win political races in other parts of the country.

On the cover: Clockwise from top left, a llama was a petting zoo favorite of this child at the Aug. 16 Downtown Block Party in Menlo Park. (Photo by Robert Most); Allen Weiner of Menlo Park poses at Stanford University. He heads the international and comparative law program at the law school and is co-director of the center on international conflict and negotiation. (Photo by Natalia Nazarova); Cecilia Taylor, left, and Belle Haven Action colleague and supporter Julie Shanson review early results on election night. Taylor won the District 1 seat in a landslide victory. (Photo by Federica Armstrong); Chad Yamate and Kara Sandoval with their twins, Kaitlyn and Khloe, in their Menlo Park apartment in March. The family was in danger of losing their home in an area where high housing prices are driving residents out. (Photo by James Tensuan).



Magali Gauthier



Michelle Le



Jane Baxter

Top left, patrons at the Oasis in Menlo Park in February, shortly after the owners announced they were closing the the iconic bar and grill. **Top right, Ahmad Popal** waits with his son, Bilal, during a visit to the audiologist in Menlo Park. Bilal and his family are Afghan refugees, and the little boy was treated by local humanitarians for his hearing impairment.



Robert Most



Magali Gauthier



Magali Gauthier



Dawn Harner

Clockwise from top left, A panel of local high school students from East Palo Alto and Redwood City, including students from Menlo-Atherton and Summit high schools, shared their experiences with the housing crisis at Kepler's Books in May; **High school teacher David Talcott** on BART as he travels from Carlmont High to his East Bay home — a five-hour round-trip commute; **Groundbreaking** for the solar farm in Los Banos that will deliver energy to San Mateo County's Peninsula Clean Energy project; **Menlo Park City Attorney Bill McClure**, a 2018 Golden Acorn Award recipient, in his office.



Michelle Le



Robert Most



Adam Pardee



Natalia Nazarova



Natalia Nazarova

Clockwise from top left, Judy Sleeth of Atherton at the Cantor art museum with student participants of Art in Action, which she founded; **A little boy**, all suited-up, greets Menlo Park Fire Protection District personnel at the Aug. 7 National Night Out event in Menlo Park; **Cyclists** who call themselves the Geezi (plural for geezer) ride down Canada Road under the I-280 in Woodside in August; **Pig scramble protesters** stand at the entrance of the rodeo grounds in Woodside; **A Jan. 15 ceremony** was held to rename Market Place Park to Karl E. Clark, in honor of the Belle Haven resident and World War II hero who died in March 2017 at age 100.

Food & Drink



2018: A look at the restaurant scene

Photo courtesy of Ramen Nagi

The busy kitchen at Ramen Nagi produces ramen that keeps lines of customers coming back.

The year's noteworthy newcomers, lamentable closures and a Michelin star surprise

By Elena Kadvany

You could say that 2018 was a banner year for the local restaurant scene, particularly in Palo Alto, which saw the awarding of a new Michelin star, the arrival of a major name in the burger world and the first U.S. outpost of a popular Japanese ramen chain, among other noteworthy additions.

Typically quiet Menlo Park got a slew of new eateries this year, while the already vibrant downtown Redwood City dining scene continues to grow at a rapid pace as development increases in the area.

The Mountain View restaurant scene was relatively quiet this year but there was a wave of smaller ethnic restaurants that opened throughout the city, spanning Mediterranean, Vietnamese and Japanese cuisines.

Read on for our take on some of the notable comings and goings in the Midpeninsula dining world in 2018.

MOST ANTICIPATED ... As evidenced by the three-hour wait for Shake Shack's burgers and crinkle-cut fries on opening day (including one mother who lined up for her son and his friend at 6 a.m.), the East Coast burger chain was easily the Peninsula's most anticipated opening of 2018. Shake Shack made its Northern California debut at Stanford Shopping Center earlier this month, serving up the classics that the eatery is known for — straightforward Angus beef cheeseburgers served on squishy-soft Martin's potato rolls, a fried chicken

sandwich, crinkle-cut fries and the dessert concretes — plus new menu items exclusive to Palo Alto. Palo Alto marks Shake Shack's 130th location in the United States and 202nd location worldwide. Shake Shack, born in New York City in 2001, took its time planning this location, said its culinary director, Mark Rosati. "We know the bar is high" in the Bay Area, he said. "We want to make sure we exceed that bar." (Want to skip the line? Check Shake Shack's mobile app, which for now is offering a limited number of orders for Palo Alto.)

MICHELIN-STARRED IN ITS FIRST YEAR ... Just nine months after opening in Palo Alto, ProtÈgÈ won a much sought-after Michelin star. ProtÈgÈ opened on California Avenue in March with high hopes and expectations to match, with co-owners and a pastry chef who hailed from three-Michelin-star The French Laundry in Yountville. In a November announcement, the Michelin guide said that ProtÈgÈ "displays a level of finesse to prepare consistently excellent meals, while the dining experience remains casual and approachable." The guide defines one star as high quality cooking that's worth a stop. "We are floored," chef and co-owner Anthony Secviar said the day the stars were announced.

A 'NEW CULINARY ORDER' FOR MENLO PARK ... In 2019, will we have to stop calling the Menlo Park restaurant scene "sleepy"? This year saw the opening



Photo by Veronica Weber

The burrata salad at Camper features Di Stefano burrata, served with artichokes, bitter greens and saba.

of several new projects, including Camper restaurant on Santa Cruz Avenue, with a pedigreed chef from San Francisco; Coffeabar, a café just blocks away on Chestnut Street; and two hotel restaurants, Oak + Violet inside the Park James on El Camino Real and Porta Blu

Continued on next page

RESTAURANTS

continued from page 21

inside the Hotel Nia near Highway 101. All have generated their own buzz in a town where there has been little movement in the dining scene for years. When asked why he opened Camper in Menlo Park, chef Greg Kuzia-Carmel said, “Why not?” “The beauty of this is,” he said, “I think there’s a readiness for a new world order of what can become an institution down here.”

WHERE THERE’S ALWAYS A LINE ... No matter the time of day, there seems to be a line at Ramen Nagi in downtown Palo Alto. The Japanese ramen chain opened its first-ever U.S. outpost at 541 Bryant St. this summer — a smart move, given the near-absence of quality ramen in the Palo Alto area. At Ramen Nagi, customers can choose from four kinds of broth — original (tonkotsu), black (squid ink), red (red miso and red chili paste) and green (with basil, parmesan and olive oil) — and then customize flavor, noodle firmness and toppings. Special to the Palo Alto Ramen Nagi is a vegetarian ramen with broth made from cauliflower, onions, milk and garlic.

GEORGIA RISES ... The Midpeninsula gained not one, but two Georgian eateries in 2018. Pavel Sirotnin, who is from Russia, opened Bevri in downtown Palo Alto in February after moving to the Bay Area and noticing the absence of Georgian restaurants. And in Mountain View, couple Teresa Kasoyan and Georgy Khatoev launched a Georgian food truck called Kolkhida — named for an ancient Georgian kingdom known for its wine, food and farming — in late September. Both restaurant and truck serve traditional Georgian dishes such as pkhali (a mixture made from spinach, beets, walnuts and other ingredients), khinkali (dumplings filled with meat and/or vegetables) and khachapuri (a large boat-shaped piece of bread filled with cheese and an egg).

LONGEST WAIT ... It only took three and a half years. After much delay, Bay Area sandwich favorite Ike’s Place opened on Lytton Avenue in Palo Alto in November. Owner Ike Shehadeh took over the lease in 2015; he declined to comment on what took so long to open. The Lytton Avenue location is serving the classic, massive Ike’s menu, plus three new sandwiches only available in Palo Alto. There’s the Jim Harbaugh (the shop was set to open when he was still the 49ers’ coach) with chicken, pepper jack cheese and a sweet chili glaze; the Mayfield with salmon, avocado and sweet chili glaze; and Kermit the Frog, a vegetarian sandwich with cucumber, avocado, cream cheese and sweet chili glaze. Until it’s fully staffed, the sandwich shop is open daily from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

KOREAN GOES UPSCALE ... After a year of operating quietly as a private dining space in downtown Palo Alto, Korean restaurant Maum opened to the public this summer, bringing a new concept to the Midpeninsula. The high-end restaurant at 322 University Ave. serves a tasting-only menu carefully curated by husband-and-wife co-chefs Michael and Meichih Kim, who both have fine-dining experience. Their food is at once modern and nostalgic, marrying the flavors of Korean and Northern California culinary traditions. The Maum kitchen is fueled by a small, private farm in Los Altos Hills that exclusively supplies the restaurant, including with hard-to-find Korean produce.

A FRENCH-CREATED PATISSERIE ... Three French pastry chefs with illustrious resumes left careers in Paris to make croissants, canelÉ and quiche at Maison Alyzee in downtown Mountain View this year. Owner Laurent Pellet, a native of Lyon, France, convinced the three chefs to move here to start the bakery, which opened on Castro Street in July. The team is baking levain bread, baguettes, croissants, brioche and other traditional viennoiserie as well as sweets and savory dishes. Maison Alyzee is now serving full breakfast, brunch and lunch, Tuesday through Sunday. Before opening, Pellet envisioned customers sitting outside to share food over glasses of wine “like you would be in the south of France in the terrace of a cafe.”

WE SAID GOODBYE TO ... several longtime restaurants this year. In Palo Alto, farm-to-table Calafia Cafe closed suddenly after nine years at Town & Country Village. (Owner Charlie Ayers, Google’s first-ever chef, said that “The costs were greater than the take. I couldn’t operate that way anymore.”) The first location of health-conscious restaurant chain LYFE Kitchen, which opened in downtown Palo Alto in 2011, closed in August, and Max’s Opera Cafe shuttered after three decades at Stanford Shopping Center. (Max’s owner Dennis Berkowitz also cited financial challenges and declining revenue.) In Mountain View, the owner of Hangen Szechuan on Castro Street decided to retire in September after 25 years in the restaurant business.

EAT THERE ASAP ... Two local institutions have announced plans to close in 2019, so use what time is left to have your last suppers. Cho’s Mandarin Dim Sum, which relocated from Palo Alto to Los Altos in 2014, will close for good on Jan. 25. “After 39 long years of serving the community his beloved food, Cho is finally moving on with his retirement,” the restaurant announced on Facebook in December.



Photo by Natalia Nazarova

Chef and owner Anthony Secviar of Protégé adds the finishing touches to dishes before they’re served.

Until then, Cho’s will be serving its locally famous potstickers and pork buns at 209 1st St. daily from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The owner of Su Hong Palo Alto also plans to retire next year, bringing an end to a restaurant legacy that served generations of local families and Chinese immigrants who have moved to Palo Alto. The first Su Hong opened in Menlo Park in 1977. Then came the first Palo Alto location at 4101 El Camino Way in 1987 and a takeout restaurant in Menlo Park in 1991. About 10 years ago, David King purchased the 4256 El Camino Real site, which was then a Denny’s, remodeled it and opened the new Su Hong in 2010. A proposal to replace the restaurant with a five-story hotel is currently making its way through the city’s approval process. ■

— Elena Kadavy writes for *The Almanac’s* sister publication, *the Palo Alto Weekly*.



Photo by Veronica Weber

Bevri in Palo Alto is one of two new restaurants serving Georgian food on the Midpeninsula.



Photo courtesy of Maison Alyzee

Three French pastry chefs opened Maison Alyzee in downtown Mountain View in July.

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

LETTERS

Our readers write

An appreciative note to Project Read supporters

Editor:

The Oct. 5 retirement of Menlo Park Library Director Susan Holmer gives us an opportunity to thank her and the city of Menlo Park for the enduring support Project Read-Menlo Park has received from the City Council, Friends of the Menlo Park Library, and the library system itself for ensuring 30-plus years of ongoing service to the community.

As Lauren Kelmar's Almanac story (Sept. 12) about Project Read-Menlo Park's four-year-old Conversation Club points out, Project Read locally has offered tutoring services to more than 736 learners from 56 countries — and that is just during the last six years of our

33-year-old program.

Many of our local residents are surprised that Project Read, which raises funds through its own nonprofit board, Literacy Partners, is in fact a service of the Menlo Park Library and its staff. While our community's contributions are essential to keeping Project Read healthy, the reality is that more than half of our funding comes from city and state resources and the Friends of the Menlo Park Library.

The library provides active leadership and oversight, and as many library patrons have probably noticed, hosts Project Read's services at the main and Belle Haven libraries. Project Read is "your tax dollars and contributions at work." Project Read programs are woven deeply into the fabric of our city for the benefit of all of our communities.

Thanks to all of our supporters, volunteers, learners, and the people of Menlo Park, along with the wisdom and

support of our City Council and the leadership of our library.

We wish Susan Holmer all the best in exciting retirement adventures.

Jason Sugimura
Program manager
Project Read-Menlo Park

Linda Carlson
President, Literacy Partners

Thoughts on county's affordable housing plan

Editor:

According to The Almanac, San Mateo County wants to build "at least 100 affordable housing units, a child care center and some community-serving commercial space" in Redwood City ("County plans 100-plus affordable apartments, child care center," by Kate Bradshaw, Nov. 28). Redwood City and Menlo Park are already exploding with new development. Both cities were

once homey, comfortable cities — but not anymore.

What do large corporations plus excessive population add up to? Global warming and rising tides. Have not the intensity and frequency of earthquakes, tornadoes and hurricanes increased over the years as population has increased?

Large businesses don't just bring in an employee, they bring in the whole family — crowding those people out who were raised here.

Tall and/or closely built structures cut back on the amount of sun that can enter the living environment, which results in more use of our natural resources, raising utility bills for all, and makes it more difficult for those who want to have a garden.

What is the solution? Two elements are: Stop bringing people in from distant areas for jobs, and support family planning. It doesn't matter how much affordable housing is built; if the population

continues to rise, so will our environmental problems and probably health problems too.

Jackie Leonard-Dimmick
Walnut Avenue, Atherton

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](mailto:Renee.Batti@rbatti@AlmanacNews.com), or call 650-223-6528.

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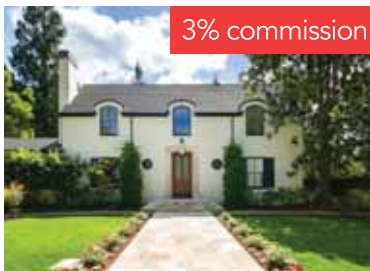
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SELECTED DELEON REALTY 2018 SALES IN MENLO PARK



7 Robert S Drive
Listed for \$9,988,000
Sold for \$10,075,000
19 days on MLS



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

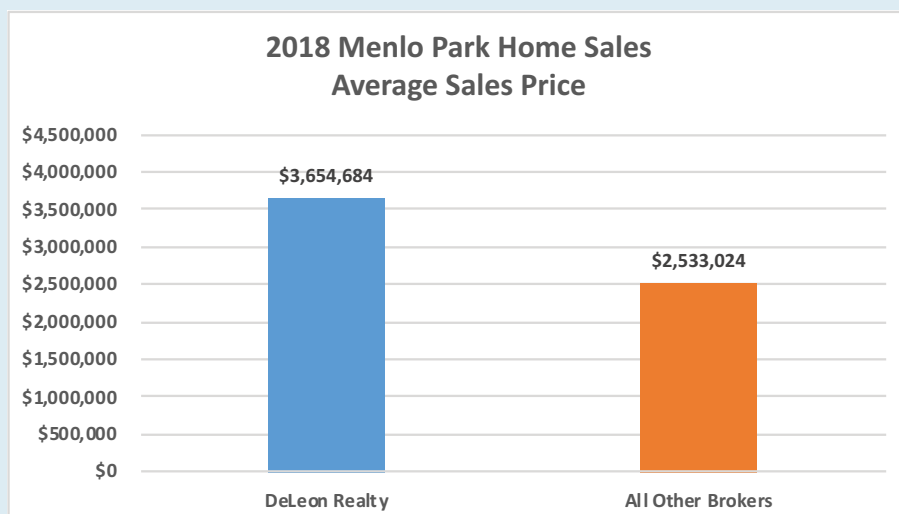


927 Arnold Way
Listed for \$1,988,000
Sold for \$2,300,000
11 days on MLS



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

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EXPOSE YOUR HOME TO
MORE BUYERS IN PALO
ALTO, LOS ALTOS, AND
LOS ALTOS HILLS
IN ADDITION
TO MENLO PARK



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

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