

The Almanac

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

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Bird man

Woodside photographer stalks perfect avian shots

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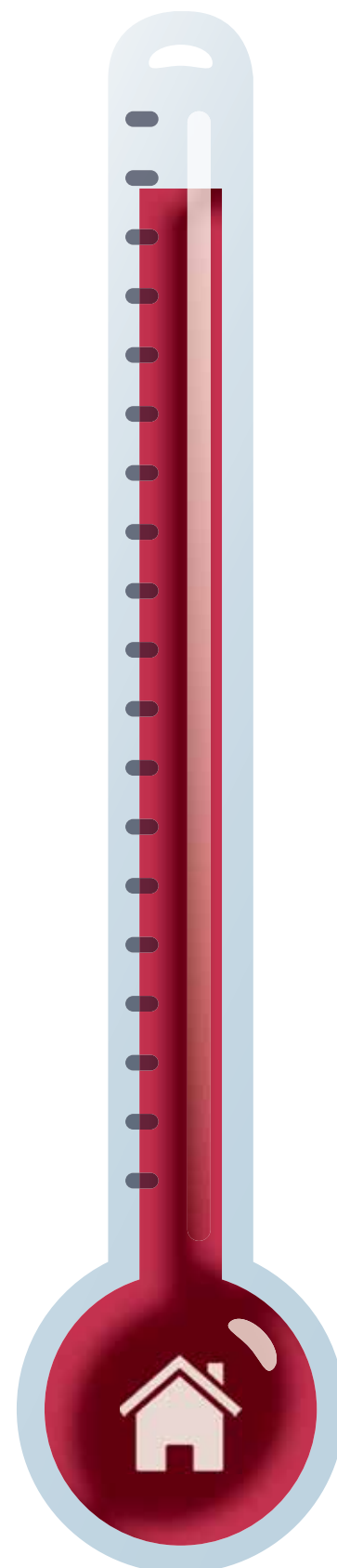
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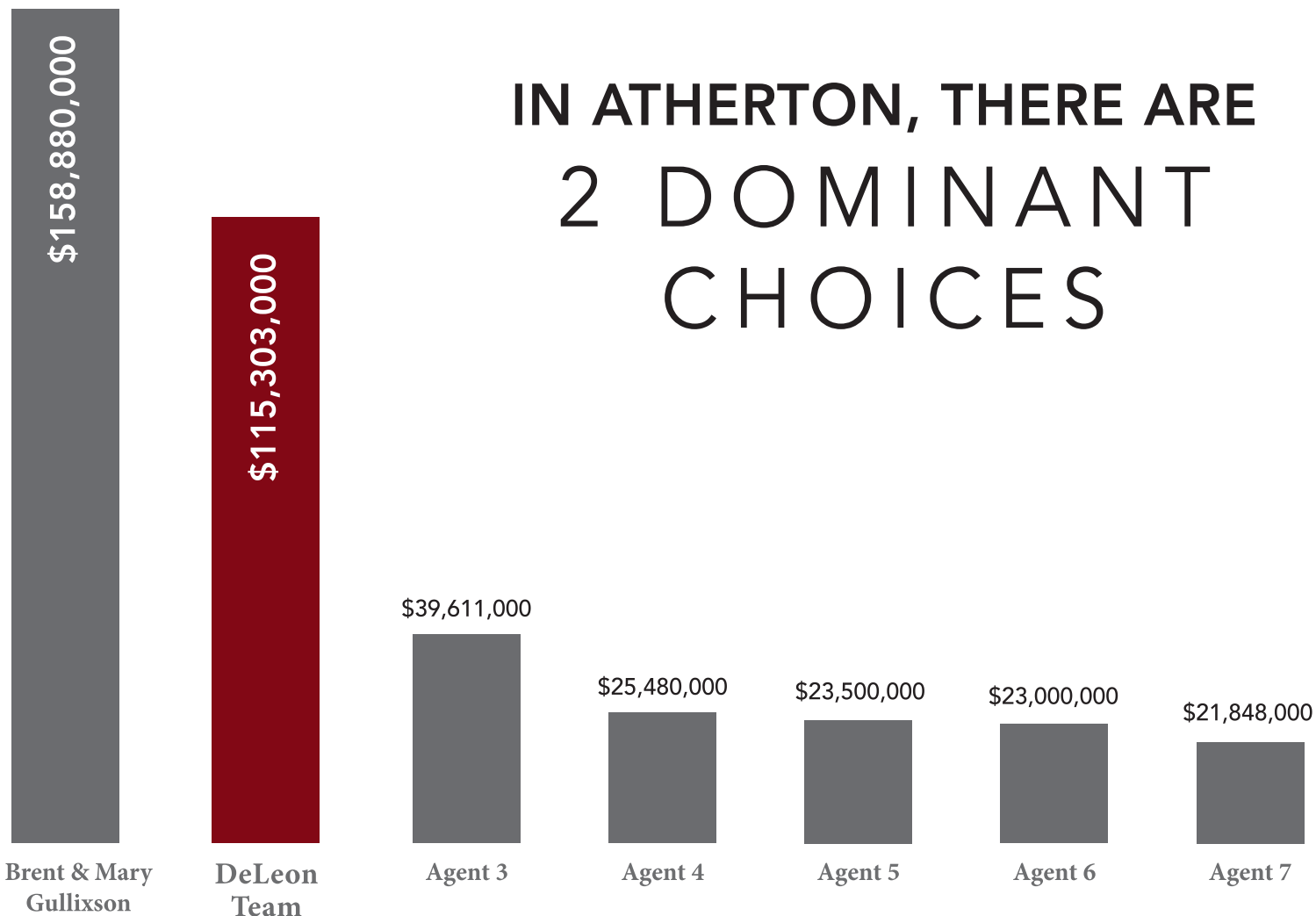
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Photo by Magali Gauthier

Abandoned Facebook bikes are a common sight in the marshes along Bayfront Expressway near Facebook, where people in homeless encampments burn quickly through bike parts while navigating sodden, bumpy trails. Facebook recently announced that it has “at no time” asked law enforcement to stop or detain people found to be unlawfully riding company bikes.

Should police protect Facebook’s bikes?

Baby-blue bike thefts trigger tough questions for Facebook and its neighbors

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

Local law enforcement officials have been stopping people riding Facebook bikes, questioning them, and in some instances, arresting them and confiscating the bikes if they find that the cyclists stopped don’t work for the giant social media company.

A group of about 50 people gathered at East Palo Alto’s City Hall on Feb. 7 to discuss the implications of this practice. The meeting’s organizers, who are mainly longtime East Palo Alto residents, said one of their biggest concerns is that young people of color seen riding Facebook bikes are being targeted by local law enforcement agencies, specifically the Menlo Park Police Department and the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office.

In introductory remarks presented before a community discussion at the gathering, the organizers summarized some of the perspectives on the matter that they’ve heard. On one hand, they said, people shouldn’t be taking bikes that don’t belong to them. That’s stealing.

On the other, they asserted, there hasn’t been clear outreach about the company’s

expectations for the bikes, and whether it is permissible for non-Facebook community members to use them. And given the ubiquity of the bikes around town, that it is generally a low-income area, that local teens need to travel to other towns to attend school, and that there is a strong precedent of adults in the community also using the bikes, some people argue that these are complicating factors that should be taken into account by law enforcement agencies as they address bike thefts from corporations.

The Menlo Park Police Department has an entire police unit funded by Facebook as the result of a development agreement approved in October 2017. When asked whether the source of the department’s funding affects how the department sets priorities, Police Chief Dave Bertini said, “Facebook is not getting any special treatment.”

As evidence, he said, Menlo Park police treat people found riding Google bikes the same way they have approached people on Facebook bikes: They ask riders if they are employees, and if they are not, detain them and confiscate the bikes. Both companies’ bikes, he explained, are

“extremely easy to recognize.” Police do not need “probable cause” of illegal activity to stop someone and ask whether he or she works for the company the bike belongs to, he noted, and it can be obvious if an underage person is seen in the community riding a Facebook or Google bike that the rider is not employed at one of those companies.

Facebook told The Almanac that it loses an average of 60 bikes per month, noting that many are eventually recovered.

Cases

At the meeting, East Palo Alto activist Kyra Brown described a Dec. 10 incident in which she drove past a cluster police and emergency response vehicles at the edge of Menlo Park near the Stanford Shopping Center. Curious, she turned around and approached the scene.

She said she saw that a young African-American man was handcuffed, questioned and asked for identification. The man told her he had been arrested for riding a Facebook bike. “It’s very hard to ‘verify’ who on a Facebook bike is actually

City Council splits on proposed law to help some displaced renters relocate

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

A proposed law to help renters forced out of their homes for no cause or because they cannot afford major rent increases received mixed responses from the Menlo Park City Council on Feb. 12.

Because the review of the proposal was at a study session, the council couldn’t vote on the policy. Councilwoman Betsy Nash and Vice Mayor Cecilia Taylor were in favor of an ordinance that would give broader support to displaced renters. Council members Drew Combs and Catherine Carlton opposed the draft ordinance as it was written. Mayor Ray Mueller fell somewhere in the middle.

Under the proposed ordinance, landlords can continue to set whatever rent the market will bear for their tenants. However, if a landlord evicts a renter for no reason, or if the landlord proposes a rent increase of more than 5 percent plus the annual increase in the consumer price index — an increase defined as “rent gouging” by the Turner Center for Housing Innovation at the University of California, Berkeley, he or she would be expected to pay the equivalent of three months’ “fair market” rent, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the area, with additional funding for some households.

As of last December, the consumer price index (CPI) was up 4.5 percent from the previous year, so that would mean a tenant would be eligible for rental relocation help if a landlord raised rent more than 9.5 percent in one year and the tenant opted to move out.

Landlords would be expected to pay three times the fair-market-rate rent and offer renters a 60-day rental service subscription. Displaced renter households with a person over 62 years old, a child under 18, or a person with disabilities would be eligible for four months’ worth of fair-market-rate rent.

For landlords who can demonstrate that they can’t afford to pay for the relocation help, the

city is considering a “hardship” exemption, which would likely take the form of a separate fund to aid displaced renters.

The requirement would apply only to renters who have lived in a unit for a year or more and who earn up to 150 percent of the area median income, or \$124,350 for a one-person household.

According to Clay Curtin, the city’s interim housing manager, the idea behind the policy is to reduce the short-term financial burden on households that are displaced and to reduce displacement of community members from the city’s neighborhoods and schools. People facing eviction often struggle to pay the first and last months’ rent as well as a security deposit needed to move somewhere new, he said.

By including a trigger based on major rent increases, the ordinance also aims to deter landlords from rent gouging, he added.

Support

“We have the opportunity with this policy to actually make a difference in the community,” Nash said. She explained that, while campaigning for her City Council seat last year, she asked residents in her district what they thought about this kind of policy. “I heard a groundswell of support from homeowners, apartment renters and other renters in District 4 as I was campaigning,” she said.

“Landlords have purchased property that is an asset rising along with rents. That’s something that must be taken into account,” she added, noting that the policy is intended to deter explosive rent increases, not normal business procedures.

“There’s a small portion of landlords this might even affect,” she said.

Taylor said that displacement has been a problem in Menlo Park, and an acute problem in her district, which includes the Belle Haven neighborhood, for well over a decade. Some developers and some landlords are acting unethically, she said, and

See **BIKES**, page 17

See **RELOCATION**, page 18

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NEWS

Man who helped catch slaying suspect arrested at victim's Menlo home

Daniel Baggett, 47, the former tenant of Menlo Park homicide victim and former Atherton town arborist Kathy Hughes Anderson, was arrested Jan. 27 after entering her house on the 900 block of Valparaiso Avenue and taking a potted plant, according to San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

He has been charged with two misdemeanor counts of trespassing in a residence without authorization, Wagstaffe said.

Baggett initially found the homicide suspect, 36-year-old Ohio resident Francis Wolke, after deciding to pay Anderson a visit the night of Dec. 12, he said. He found Wolke in her house covered in blood and held him at knifepoint until police arrived. Wolke faces first-degree murder charges.

On Dec. 13, Wagstaffe said, Baggett entered Anderson's home, a closed-off crime scene, through the second-story window. He told police then that he was in mourning, Wagstaffe said. At the time, police did not

pursue prosecution of Baggett for the incident.

On Jan. 27, Baggett again entered the house through the second story.

The house is on the market and the real estate agent had installed a video camera, which recorded the incident, Wagstaffe said. Baggett told police, Wagstaffe added, that he believed some of his personal property was still in the house, but when he saw it had been emptied, he took a potted plant.

Baggett pleaded not guilty to both charges on Jan. 30.

Meanwhile, Wolke's next court date has been rescheduled for March 15. On Feb. 14, Wolke's attorney indicated she wanted to review the autopsy report for Anderson before entering a plea, but the Coroner's Office hadn't completed it yet, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

Access the full story online at is.gd/plant632.

— By Kate Bradshaw

Atherton council examines restoring Caltrain service

The Atherton City Council will review a Rail Committee recommendation to expand Caltrain service in town at its Wednesday, Feb. 20, meeting.

The Rail Committee voted 4-3, with two abstentions and one absence, at a Feb. 5 meeting to recommend that Caltrain restore weekday train service in town. Caltrain suspended weekday stops in the town in 2005 due to low ridership. The train now stops at the Atherton station only on the weekends.

The town is examining the issue as Caltrain reviews and plans its service schedules in preparation of rail service electrification from around San Francisco down to San Jose. Caltrain has indicated that

rather than adding a stop in the overall train schedule, it might eliminate a stop in either Redwood City or Menlo Park to keep an Atherton stop, according to a staff report. Caltrain has the final say on the schedule.

At the Feb. 20, meeting, the council will review the committee's amendment to the town rail policy, provide direction and feedback on the station, and explore establishing a subcommittee to work with staff on rail policy, Atherton City Manager George Rodericks said in an email.

The meeting will be in the Town Council Chambers at 94 Ashfield Road.

— by Angela Swartz

Correction

A story in the Feb. 13 Almanac misspelled a regional spelling bee contestant's name based on a Scripps National Spelling Bee list. The student's name

is Riaan Shetty, of Encinal School. The story also left out a contestant's name. Her name is Penelope Scott from Woodland School.

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Woodside council chooses newcomers for key posts

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The Woodside Town Council ushered in something of a new era in local government on Feb. 12 when it decided which resident-volunteers to appoint to the Planning Commission and the Architectural and Site Review Board. The voting left two incumbent candidates without seats.

In one round of voting to fill three seats on the five-member review board, the council bypassed incumbent Thalia Lubin, an architect and board member since 2010, and appointed two newcomers — architect Christopher Matthew Green, and civil engineer and 2018 council candidate Frank Rosenblum — and incumbent Scott Larson, an executive at Stanford Children's Health.

In the review-board vote, with four votes needed for an appointment, Green and Larson received the votes of councilmen Sean Scott, Brian Dombkowski, Ned Fluet and Tom Livermore. Scott and Dombkowski also voted for Rosenblum, as did councilmen Chris Shaw and Dick Brown. Mayor Daniel Yost, Shaw and Brown voted for Larson and Lubin.

Lubin declined an interview request on the decision, and council members did not elaborate on their rationale for not reappointing Lubin at the meeting.

The council's appointments mean that there are currently

17 men on the three key governance bodies in the town and two women, according to Town Clerk Jennifer Li.

In appointing review board members, the rules say that the council "shall" appoint a licensed architect "if one is available." Of the two architects who applied for a seat — Lubin and Green — only Lubin is licensed.

"I was actually quite conflicted about this decision," Livermore told The Almanac. "I highly respect Thalia. She's been a wonderful contributor to the town for many, many years. We also had another architect, granted a practicing architect, and of course a civil engineer who was very qualified.

'It's better to have fresh blood. Let's put it that way.'

COUNCILMAN TOM LIVERMORE

"In Thalia's case, I'm a proponent of people not serving too long. Frankly, I'm a proponent of term limits," Livermore said. "It's better to have fresh blood. Let's put it that way."

Dombkowski, in an email, said he voted for Green in light of his breadth of experience — including his work with historical buildings, his negotiation skills and his outsider's viewpoint — that combined to give him "the relevant experience, and that his experience fulfilled

the intent of the Town's code."

Scott, also via email, noted the quality and diversity of the candidates and the fact of just three open seats. His decision was "challenging," he said, and reflected a combination of candidates that he believed "best aligned with the (town's) needs, direction and interests." Green, he said, "sufficiently met the intent /criteria for architecture experience."

Fluet could not be reached by press time to respond to a request for comment on the licensed-architect requirement.

With three seats also open on the seven-member Planning Commission, which is organized by town district, two candidates ran uncontested: newcomer and software developer Sani Elfishawy, who was elected by a unanimous vote to represent District 4, and incumbent Marilyn Voelke, an inactive attorney who was elected for District 2 on a 6-0-1 vote. Councilman Dick Brown abstained, but said he wanted "fresh thinking" on the commission.

Incumbent Elizabeth Hobson, who has represented District 6 since 2003, lost to newcomer Jim Bildner in a unanimous vote by the council. After 16 years on the commission, Hobson said that when she applied this time, she was unaware of Bildner's application, and that if she had been aware, she would not have applied.

"I would say 'Yes, take the new blood,' because I have been here a long time and I support the

idea of getting new blood," she said before the vote.

Voelke spoke in support of Hobson before the council voted.

"More than 50 percent of the world is women," she said. "I am a feminist. ... I would urge you in your appointments, when you have qualified women, of which there are few that appear before you, that you seriously and thoughtfully consider that because you now have no

women on the Town Council and, unless I heard wrong, no women on the (review board) and two on the Planning Commission. Please, gentlemen, be thoughtful."

Hobson's remarks did include a message for residents of the Glens neighborhood, who have been asking insistently for regulatory remedies to their plight of trying to develop parcels that are

See **WOODSIDE COUNCIL**, page 8

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

Capital Gains Taxes Can Keep Owners from Selling



Dear Monica: My husband and I are ready to move on from the home where we have lived for 30 years. The house is too large for us and we would like to find a smaller, newer property close to things we like to do. But the idea of paying capital gains taxes has us unable to make the move. What would you advise? Annemarie G.

Dear Annemarie: You are like many who have lived in the Bay Area a long time and have enjoyed substantial appreciation in the value of

their home. The rise in your home value has made you feel rich, but now that you want to sell, you feel less rich when you contemplate paying capital gains tax.

You should make the decision based on how and where you want your life to be. Paying capital gains tax is an unfortunate by-product of selling but it is worth doing if you can afford it and you want to enjoy your future life in a new place. Think about how you want to live, not about the tax you will pay.

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WOODSIDE COUNCIL

continued from page 7

too small to comply with zoning regulations designed for larger properties.

“We’re tackling a very difficult situation with the Glens specific plan,” Hobson said. “These are difficult issues. I would like to assure those residents that we are going to work through that and we are going to get solutions that satisfy, I hope, 90 percent, 99 percent, 100 percent of the residents there who want to improve their situations on their lots.”

Bildner served on a local government board in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts. He has a bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth College, a master’s degree in fine arts from Lesley University and a master’s in public administration from the Kennedy School at Harvard University. He also has a law degree from Case Western Reserve University and is the chief executive of the Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation, a “global venture philanthropy firm supporting early stage, high impact social enterprises” with offices in Menlo Park and Boston, according to the foundation website. Bildner has been a resident of Woodside

since June 2016.

New review board member Green is the director of retail design for Apple. He has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in architecture from Washington University in St. Louis and has lived in Woodside since May 2013.

Rosenblum is a professional engineer and president of Underwood & Rosenblum Inc., a civil engineering and survey firm in San Jose. He has a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and a certificate in land surveying. He has lived in Woodside since 2013 and chairs the town’s Circulation Committee.

A special place

Thalia Lubin was the last remaining member of a review board that had been regularly excoriated by some residents over what they said were the subjective qualities of their reviews of residential projects.

The board’s mission is to protect Woodside’s rural character by evaluating a project’s character, its site planning, its building design and its landscape elements, as well as its

consistency with the town’s residential design guidelines and sustainability-oriented directives in the general plan.

Former mayor Dave Burow, an impassioned review board critic, said to the council that while the two “worst offenders” were no longer members of the board, Lubin and Larson “voted in lockstep with those people consistently throughout that period.”

“There are good things being done,” Burow said, “but there are still people who are racking up tens of thousands of dollars in fees (to architects) and delays in terms of implementing their projects, missing the window for excavation, and it’s just not right. We should be trying to help our residents improve the housing stock in this town. Every town is only as good as its housing stock.”

The residential design guidelines, he said, are about matters such as siting buildings, fitting them “into the land” and downplaying elements that make them look massive.

“I’m all for the ASRB guiding

our applicants in that regard,” he said. “But it’s not about every window has to look exactly the same, or it would look a little bit better if this roofline was moved a little bit. ... We make people put tinted glass in their houses so the animals aren’t affected.”

“Why are we doing this to people? It doesn’t make any sense,” Burow said. “And most of them have to come back a second time (to the review board).”

Speaking on her own behalf, Lubin said she doesn’t care about such housing details. “It’s almost silly to be getting into shades of whatever, and I find that objectionable,” she said before the council voted. “I think there has been a lot of subjectivity in the past and I think we’ve all learned from that.” She recalled the applicability of maxims by architect and former council member Peter Mason: “Is it good design? Does it fit the site?”

In addressing problems applicants have with the review board, Lubin noted the benefit of an applicant starting with an understanding of what the board wants in a conceptual design.

“When you get a really good architect who understands what he’s doing, you can do it in three

pages,” she said. “Some of these plans ... they come in with 10 or 12 pages. If we turn them down, they get very upset. ... I know what that costs to bring that project to the board.”

Referring to conversations she said she’s had with Planning Director Jackie Young, Lubin noted that a lengthy conceptual design may reflect an applicant in a hurry or willing to gamble on the project’s sailing through the approval process. When it doesn’t, “that makes us look bad,” Lubin said.

“I see that (happening in) some of the more contentious projects,” she said. She recommended explaining the process for applicants on one page.

Council member Scott asked her whether Woodside should have a reputation for “being a hard place to build.”

“Woodside is a special place, and why is it special?” Lubin responded. “Because of the vigilance of everybody working together to keep it special. But there is the balance. That’s what we’re all searching for.”

“I don’t want the town to have that reputation, but I also run into architects ... who say, ‘You guys shouldn’t be so defensive. That’s why Woodside is so special and everybody wants to move there.’” ▣



Dave Burow



Thalia Lubin



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12:00 - 3:00 pm,
840 W Orange Ave., South San Francisco

Saturday, March 30, 2019,

2:30 - 4:30 pm San Carlos Public Library,
610 Elm Street

Saturday, April 27, 2019,

10:00 am - 12:00 pm South City Scavengers,
500 E Jamie Ct, South San Francisco

Burglary suspect arrested in Encinal School case

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton Police Department detectives arrested an 18-year-old San Jose man on Feb. 14 for allegedly stealing about \$14,000 worth of iPads and MacBooks from Encinal School in December, according to a police press release.

The suspect, Valdemar Gabriel DaRocha, was arrested in San Jose around 11:20 a.m. after a search warrant and other investigative work led officers to him, police said. People returned two iPads to police after they purchased them through DaRocha's Facebook account, and DaRocha sold all the other stolen items, police allege.

The search warrant was issued on Dec. 12 by Judge Mark Forum in San Mateo County Superior Court, Atherton police Sgt. Anthony Kockler said in an email.

"The Search Warrant was issued to search the Facebook account of DaRocha," Kockler said. "The information obtained showed photos of some of the stolen items for sale."

Sometime between Dec. 1 and 3, a window at the Atherton school was smashed, and six laptops and eight iPads were stolen from a classroom, according to police and the Menlo Park City School District.

The stolen electronics were replaced, school district spokeswoman Parke Treadway said in

a Dec. 11 email. "The district is insured for the loss, and teaching was able to continue uninterrupted," she said.

DaRocha is in San Mateo County jail and faces burglary and possession of stolen property charges, police said.

Atherton police also arrested a 50-year-old Gilroy man for alleged grand theft, forgery and mail theft in San Jose on Feb. 13, according to a police press release.

The suspect removed a personal check from an Atherton resident's mailbox, altered it and deposited it (via a mobile app) in his name for \$600 in November, police allege. He is suspected of possibly stealing a check from a resident in another city as well, Kockler said.

Investigators used Bank of America ATM videos to determine the suspect's identity, according to police.

Police do not believe either of the suspects were involved in the town's recent residential burglary spree.

Editor's note: The Almanac's policy is to withhold the names of those arrested for most crimes until the district attorney has determined there is sufficient evidence to file charges in the case. We are naming the suspect in the Encinal School burglary incident because sufficient evidence was presented in Superior Court to secure a search warrant in the case. ■

Superintendent retires

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

Las Lomas Elementary School District Superintendent Lisa Cesario will retire at the end of this school year.

Her retirement was announced in a Jan. 29 email to staff and parents from school President John Earnhardt.

"Lisa's true joy comes from visiting classrooms and seeing our students 'in action,'" Earnhardt said. "In her 32 years in education, Lisa has taught at most grade levels of elementary school and knows that the decisions she makes every day impact our children. She is a strong academic leader and that is why she was hired."

Cesario informed the school board about her retirement on Jan. 16. She announced the news to staff and teachers on Jan. 25.

She joined the district, which includes Las Lomas School (K-3) in Atherton and La Entrada (4-8) in Menlo Park, as superintendent in July 2012. Eric

Hartwig preceded Cesario as superintendent, serving from 2007 to 2012. He planned to retire, but ended up taking a role as Portola Valley School District's interim superintendent. He is leaving that position this June.

Before her job at Las Lomas, Cesario served as assistant superintendent of educational services in the Santa Clara Unified School District for six years. Before that, she was the district's director of educational services.

Earlier in her career she taught third-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students, and was an elementary school principal for six years. She also served a three-year stint as a K-12 coordinator of curriculum and instruction.

The school board plans to hire a search firm and hopes to have a new superintendent begin work on July 1, Earnhardt said. There will be an opportunity for staff, parents and the community to provide input about what they want in a new superintendent, he said. ■

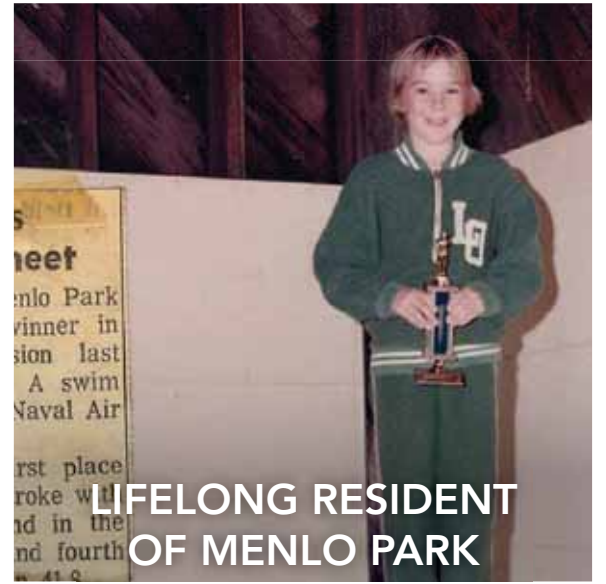
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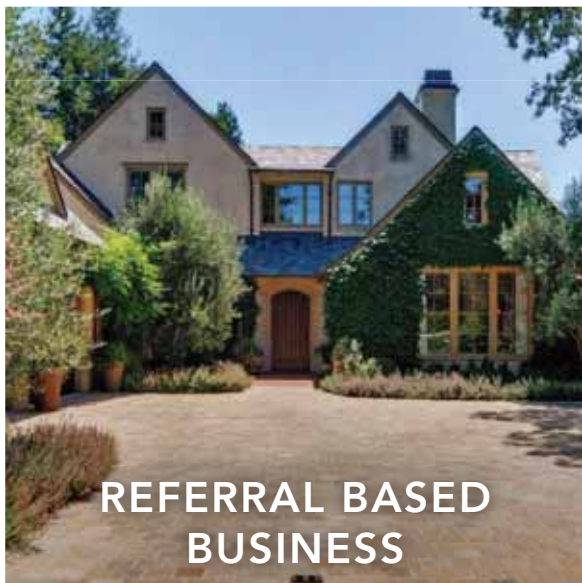
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2018 Menlo Park Top Real Estate Agents and Teams Ranking



For the first time
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#1 in Menlo Park

Name	Brokerage	Total Volume in Menlo Park*	Total Listing Volume in Menlo Park	Total Listing Volume Everywhere	SP/LP on All MLS Transactions**
DeLeon Team 	DeLeon Realty	\$121,824,000	\$75,004,000	\$494,965,500	108.5%
Keri Nicholas	The Parc Agency (Formerly with Alain Pinel)	\$98,461,000	\$70,336,000	\$107,980,500	99.9%
Judy Citron	Compass (Formerly with Alain Pinel)	\$64,371,050	\$32,530,000	\$84,833,000	100.0%
Elyse Barca	Pacific Union/Compass***	\$26,671,000	\$19,523,000	\$21,824,000	99.5%
Carol and Nicole Team	Alain Pinel Realtors	\$18,651,000	\$18,651,000	\$80,319,425	105.3%
Billy McNair	Compass (Formerly with Coldwell Banker)	\$23,700,000	\$18,620,000	\$32,825,000	102.6%
Annette Smith	Golden Gate Sotheby's	\$25,695,000	\$17,671,000	\$26,671,000	101.1%
Hossein Jalali	Coldwell Banker	\$22,478,000	\$16,758,000	\$22,158,000	96.6%
Elaine White	Coldwell Banker	\$18,681,000	\$14,175,000	\$22,457,100	105.7%
Jason Sewald	Pacific Union/Compass***	\$13,478,000	\$13,478,000	\$13,478,000	103.2%
Maya Sewald	Pacific Union/Compass***	\$13,478,000	\$13,478,000	\$13,478,000	103.2%
Mary & Brent Gullixson Team	Compass (Formerly with Alain Pinel)	\$16,535,000	\$12,535,000	\$175,740,000	93.2%

Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1st, 2018 - December 31st, 2018, Menlo Park, Residential Property: (Single Family Home, Condominium, Townhouse, Manufactured Home, Floating Home, Duet Home, Multiple on Lot, Farm/Ranch, Other Residential, Double Wide Mobile Home, Duplex)

* Total volume includes both the buyer and seller sides in Menlo Park **Sale price to List Price Ratio on all MLS Transactions in 2018

*** Compass acquired Pacific Union . These agents did not proactively leave Pacific Union.



Bird man

Woodside photographer stalks perfect avian shots

By Barbara Wood, Special to The Almanac

Marquis Kuhn listens intently as he scans the cloudless blue sky above Half Moon Bay's Wavecrest Open Space on one of those perfect spring-like January days that make the residents of the rest of the country hate Californians.

With both hands Kuhn grasps a 500mm camera lens that dwarfs the camera body attached to it. The lens, weighing in at more than 9 pounds and 16 inches in length, requires the support of a monopod to stabilize it. Slung over Kuhn's shoulder is a second camera with a smaller 70-to-200 mm zoom lens, in case he needs to grab a closer shot. Attached to his waist and filling his pockets are other necessities: a water bottle, a phone, a spare camera battery. He's wearing knee pads over jeans and a dapper brown fedora, while the camera lens wears its own camouflaged jacket.

Kuhn, a longtime Woodside resident, moves quietly and deliberately through a meadow of dead grasses and dormant vegetation, frequently stopping to share what draws his attention with his companions.

Movement catches his eye, and bird-song his ears.

"There's a white-tailed kite in the top of that pine," he says, pointing at a tree at least a hundred yards away. He remarks on the sounds of a hummingbird's wings moving almost too fast to see and the song of a golden-crowned sparrow.

"There's a red tail there, hear him?" he asks.

Periodically, Kuhn stills himself, focuses and shoots, then — moving nearly silently — edges closer to his subject and triggers another burst of camera shots.

Self-taught expert

He notes a harrier hawk flying toward a stand of trees on the meadow's boundary.

"The harriers are beautiful," he had observed earlier, upon glimpsing one from the car near the Wavecrest parking area. Harriers fly low and so silently that some call them "the gray ghost," Kuhn says. Like owls, their feathers are arranged to enhance their hearing so they can easily zero in on prey. The male is predominantly gray, and the female brown.

Kuhn sees a raven follow the female harrier, who has something captured in

her claws. "Ravens pair off," he says, "they mate for life." Crows hang out in families, he adds, noting that a group of those birds is called a "murder of crows." And that reminds him of what a group of another, much more eye-catching bird is called. "It's an ostentation of peacocks," he says.

Then he notices a phoebe, also called a flycatcher. "They grab flies right out of midair," he says.

Kuhn apologizes to his companions for what he says is a dearth of bird life that day, but the list of birds spotted (many in multiples) in less than half a day included: great egret, great blue heron, harrier, white-tailed kite, Anna's hummingbird, golden-crowned sparrow, house finch, kestrel, red-tailed hawk, raven, nuthatch, cormorant, phoebe, warbler, vulture, ferruginous hawk and sharp-shinned hawk.

Favorite spots

In addition to Wavecrest, some of Kuhn's other favorite local bird spots include Shoreline Lake Park and Adobe Creek Trail in Mountain View, Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, and the Elkhorn Slough Estuary in Moss Landing.





Images captured through Marquis Kuhn's lens are, clockwise from top: a female Allen's hummingbird feasting; a bald eagle sharing the sky with a crescent moon; a snowy egret, reflecting; a trio of northern shoveler drakes winging it; and an adult brown pelican in breeding plumage attracting attention at Pescadero Beach. Photos courtesy of Marquis Kuhn



Kuhn is not a naturalist by profession — he worked as a mason for many years — but he has become a bird expert by avocation. Now semi-retired, he spends as many as 30 hours a week photographing birds. Sometimes he hunkers down on a tiny portable stool, covers himself with a camouflaged poncho and waits hours and hours for the right shot.

"I've been out for 10 hours and come home with about 1,200 photos," he says. "Time just goes by so quickly" while he's in the field that he's content to sit for hours "listening and watching," he says. "I'll hear other birds moving about. I'll see mice. There's always something happening."

He's also seen foxes, coyotes, bobcats, lizards, butterflies and snakes while stalking the perfect shot.

"To capture that fraction of a second — it makes me happy," he says.

To appear less the predator behind the camera, "I'll put it right in front of my eyes and pull my hat down," he says. "We (humans) have predator eyes."

A book of birds

Many of Kuhn's trophy photos can be seen in his recently released book, "Stuff that Birds Do." The photos range from the sublime to the silly: a cedar waxwing, translucent wings fully opened as it hovers above a buffet of red berries, a red-tailed hawk resting on top of a "no trespassing" sign. A flock of Foster's terns sharing a twilight perch with a great blue heron, a snowy egret appearing to yawn as it fluffs up its wings and

settles in for a one-legged rest.

The book is available in hardcover or softcover on the Blub.com website and can be found by searching for Marquis Kuhn.

Kuhn also posts many of his bird photos on his Facebook page ([facebook.com/marquis.kuhn](https://www.facebook.com/marquis.kuhn)) and on the Birding California group Facebook page ([facebook.com/groups/BirdingCalifornia](https://www.facebook.com/groups/BirdingCalifornia)).

The photos often reflect the quiet, concentration and focus required to capture the images, and some see them as a perfect antidote to fast-paced lives and partisan politics.

Lifelong love

Kuhn says that growing up in Ohio he was very interested in art, with cartooning and sculpture capturing his attention along with photography.

"I've always loved photography," he says, adding that he got started by using his father's Brownie, a basic inexpensive box camera that was ubiquitous in its day.

Kuhn received grants to attend two art schools, but his parents couldn't afford the additional costs, so instead he joined the Navy. After a tour of duty that included being stationed in San Diego, Kuhn returned to Ohio. There he studied engineering, working as a mason to pay his expenses.

But the weather, and the fact that he made more money as a mason than he would as an engineer, sent Kuhn back to California without graduating. He lived in Los Gatos, starting his own masonry business before relocating to Woodside

in the early 1980s after getting a big job there. Kuhn later worked for 21 years as an estate manager for a local family as well as taking care of their properties in other locations, including Park City, Utah, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

"When I would get minutes, I would take the time to get out and get lost and find things to photograph," he says.

"The first time I really got interested in birds, I was up at Lake Superior and I saw a pair of balds — a mated pair of bald eagles," he says. He found out where they nested and returned the following year with a better camera lens. After photographing the fledgling eaglets leaving the nest, he was hooked.

Kuhn says he trained himself by reading, experimenting and watching YouTube videos.

He once asked a friend, a former commercial photographer who teaches photography at San Jose State University, to give him lessons. After looking at his photos, however, she told him to just keep doing what he had been doing, he says.

"I think I keep learning continuously," he says.

Putting together his book placed him on a big learning curve, Kuhn says. Suzanne Connolly at Picturia Press served as his book coach, but he still made three prototypes before publishing it.

Kuhn also does sports photography and has posted some of those photos on websites for the teams. In addition, he shoots family portraits and animal photos, including show horses and dogs.

Renaissance man

Kuhn's longtime good friend Karen Peterson says she's known him for nearly three decades, since he coached eighth-grade football at Woodside Elementary School, where she was a teacher and an administrator.

Kuhn is a Renaissance man, she says, and "is always learning" new things and doing research.

Birds are far from Kuhn's only interest, Peterson says. He's coached many youth sports teams, worked as a personal trainer, and played for decades in the Woodside Recreation softball league. He also plays the violin and sings.

Peterson says that he's also a great "problem solver and fix-it man," and that he volunteers or donates to many causes ranging from the Woodside High School Foundation to Angel Food and the Woodside Community Theatre (where this year he painted scenery, built sets and helped to install and tear them down). He also has done the artwork for Woodside High theater productions' program covers.

And, in what may seem an anomaly for someone so entranced by birds, Kuhn also loves cats. Along with his parents, he dedicates his bird book to his big Bengal, Calvin. ▣

On the cover: Marquis Kuhn of Woodside, shown in a field near Smith Field Ballpark in Half Moon Bay on a recent morning, spends as many as 30 hours weekly photographing birds. Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Progress on the Bay Trail

A critical trail segment between East Palo Alto and Menlo Park will make 80 miles of Bay Trail contiguous

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

Look at the plans for the Bay Trail and it's easy for a cynic to laugh it off as a pipe dream — 500 contiguous miles of trails cutting through 47 cities and nine counties in the Bay Area? Common-sense regional thinking prevailing?

But 30 years after the initiative began, the plan is now about 70 percent complete, with 356 of the 500 trail miles done, according to Bay Trail Project Manager Laura Thompson.

Construction on one of the trickiest pieces of that trail — a 0.6-mile segment between Menlo Park and East Palo Alto — is, after about 20 years of talks and planning, expected to begin in September.

That section will connect 80 miles of trails that will run north to Bedwell Bayfront Park, east to Fremont, and south to Santa Clara, she said.

This new trail segment will also play a critical role in improving the area's bicycle infrastructure. For instance, bike commuters headed toward the Dumbarton

Bridge from Mountain View or Santa Clara now can take the trail northward until they hit Bay Road in East Palo Alto, but then must ride alongside traffic to their destination.

The trail at the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve now hits a dead end farther north, near the former Dumbarton rail line. The proposed trail will run parallel to the Dumbarton rail line and connect to University Avenue, enabling people to stay on a path separated from traffic for a greater distance, Thompson explained.

As the project moves ahead, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) will be the lead agency in planning, designing and building the trail segment, according to agency spokesperson Leigh Ann Gessner.

"We're really excited that the adjacent community will have better access to that natural area," she said.

A complex project

Part of the project's complexity stems from the multiple jurisdictions and agencies that lay claim to some part of the trail and its environs: the cities of



Map courtesy MROSD/city of Menlo Park

The planned new trail segment connecting the Ravenswood Open Space to Menlo Park would close the missing link to connect 80 miles of bike and pedestrian paths on the Bay Trail.

Menlo Park and East Palo Alto; San Mateo County; MROSD, which owns the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve; SamTrans, which owns the Dumbarton rail right-of-way; the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which manages the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge; and the Bay Trail Project, which is helmed by the Metropolitan Transportation Committee and the Association of Bay Area Governments.

The project is funded by grants in the amounts of \$1.05 million from the California Natural

Resources Agency; \$1 million from San Mateo County Measure K funds; \$400,000 from Santa Clara County; \$40,000 from the Association of Bay Area Governments; and \$1.5 million in Measure AA open space bond funds, according to Gessner. Measure AA was a \$300 million general obligation bond passed by district voters in 2014 to protect and preserve open spaces and build new trails.

Moving forward

Most recently, the city of Menlo Park signed a joint permitting

agreement with the city of East Palo Alto and MROSD for the project, a step the City Council approved on Jan. 15.

If all goes according to plan, construction will start in September and be completed by the end of January. If there are delays, completion may be postponed until the next construction season can start, in September 2020, because work can take place only between September and January due to sensitive species in the area, according to Gessner.

Access the full story online at is.gd/trail1362. ▣

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BIKES

continued from page 5

a Facebook employee without resorting to racial profiling," Brown said in an email.

"These arrests are happening," she told the group. "Young people are the ones being arrested."

Police Chief Bertini, who did not attend the public meeting, said he was aware of that incident, but described it differently. He reported that Menlo Park police stopped a man riding a Facebook bike in downtown Menlo Park on El Camino Real. When asked if he worked for Facebook, he said no, and police detained him. He became uncooperative and was temporarily put in handcuffs. He was later cleared, then released, and the bicycle was taken and returned to Facebook, he explained.

"Technically, if you're riding a bike that's not yours, it's theft, or the misappropriation of a lost object," he said.

In another incident, which the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office on Jan. 29 publicized on Facebook under the headline, "Facebook bike leads to drug arrest," a deputy was reported to have been patrolling an unincorporated county area and stopped to talk to a man riding a Facebook bike.

"Turns out the man was not a Facebook employee and he also had needles that were loaded with (heroin) in his pockets," the Facebook post stated. The man was then given a citation and told about resources to help with drug addiction, the Sheriff's Office stated.

The Sheriff's Office did not respond to requests for comment about this incident or its bike policing practices by The Almanac's press deadline.

Response

Several Facebook employees attended the public meeting, and Ashley Quintana, a member of the community engagement team, told attendees that Facebook has "at no point" requested that law enforcement officials in Menlo Park or East Palo Alto stop, detain or arrest people or confiscate bikes from people riding the company's bikes. Facebook has not requested charges filed against people for stolen bikes.

"Our only goal for bike recovery is to ensure that our employees are not abandoning our bikes on sidewalks, or in public places outside of campus, creating a public nuisance," she wrote in a public Facebook post.

Facebook has set up an email account and hotline where people can report misplaced

company bikes, she added. It also has a dedicated staff to pick up bikes in the community. In addition, Facebook hosts bike workshops, has donated bikes to local nonprofits, and is working to provide local youth with bike access.

After Quintana's announcement, Bertini told The Almanac that the police department no longer plans to arrest people caught riding the bikes unlawfully.

"It's been an evolving issue," he said. "We have finally been given a pretty clear opinion by Facebook, which is that they do not want to prosecute anybody who illegally has (their) bikes."

"We will be operating under the premise we are not stopping anybody riding a Facebook bike 'just because,'" he said.

One caveat, he added, is that the police department may still stop people caught violating traffic rules while on Facebook bikes, whether that means riding at night without a headlight, going through a stoplight without stopping, riding the wrong way down the street, or, as a juvenile, riding without a helmet. In those situations, traffic law violators will still be warned or cited.

Moving forward, he said, he doesn't plan to use police resources to deal with who should or should not have Facebook bikes. For a police officer to have "probable cause" to make an arrest, there has to be a victim, he said. "If Facebook is not willing to be a victim, (we're) no longer able to do that."

But the bikes, he added, wind up all over the place, and in East Palo Alto, he said he understands that the biggest complaint is that bikes are being dumped on people's property.

"That's not very good stewardship," he said. The East Palo Alto Police Department doesn't have the resources to send people out to pick up abandoned company bikes, he said, adding that Facebook should take more responsibility to make sure

employees don't leave the bikes in adjacent neighborhoods.

Next steps

East Palo Alto residents planned to bring the matter before their City Council for discussion at a meeting set for Feb. 19.

East Palo Alto Mayor Lisa Gauthier, who attended the public meeting, acknowledged the complexity of the problem. On one hand, she said, "We can't condone young people taking bikes. We don't want them to think it's OK."

Yet, she added, there hasn't always been clear instruction from Facebook about what to do when people find company bikes in the community. Also, she's heard anecdotally that Facebook bikes have been found parked at Menlo-Atherton High School, and doesn't want teens overly penalized for using the bikes to get to school. She said she is hoping to get more data and information.

The meeting was also attended by Menlo Park City Council members Cecilia Taylor and Betsy Nash. Nash told The Almanac she planned to ask the Menlo Park Police Department for data about police stops of people riding Facebook bikes.

When The Almanac requested this information, Bertini said there is no way to parse out which police interactions have been triggered by Facebook bikes. Short of doing an incident-by-incident search of police records, he said, "we have no way to do that."

He added that people are invited to discuss that and other matters at a "Meet the Chief" event scheduled from 6 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 25, at the Belle Haven Neighborhood Service Center at 871 Hamilton Ave.

People who find abandoned Facebook bikes are encouraged to email lostbike@fb.com or call 650-542-0167.

Access the full story online at is.gd/bikes726. **A**



NOTICE INVITING BIDS TOWN OF ATHERTON, CA

The Town of Atherton will accept bids for construction of the following public work:

2019 SLURRY SEAL PROJECT

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

Plans & Specifications may be obtained at <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/bids.aspx> at no cost. The Contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the Town's website.

SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027, until 2:30 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on **Thursday, March 7, 2019**, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for **2019 SLURRY SEAL PROJECT**", along with date and time of bid opening.

AVENIDAS EVENTS



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**MAR
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Patricia Ann (Patsy) Batchelder

March 9, 1954 - February 9, 2019

Patricia Ann (Patsy) Batchelder of Old Snowmass, Colorado, passed away peacefully on February 9, 2019 after a 2 year bout with ALS (also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease) courageously making the best of every day. Patsy was born to William Batchelder and Jeanette Curry Batchelder on March 9, 1954 in San Francisco (Pacifica), California. In 1959, the family moved from Pacifica to Woodside where she competed in swimming and gymnastics, and graduated from Woodside High School in 1972. Thereafter, she attended UC Santa Barbara and graduated from UC Santa Cruz in 1976 with a degree in psychology. Summers were spent in Yosemite Valley hiking, climbing and working.

Upon graduation from college, Patsy spent 7 months traveling in Europe and Israel before moving to Ketchum, Idaho in 1977. In Ketchum, she worked for Sun Valley Magazine and Names & Numbers phone directory. She was also a very active volunteer in numerous conservation and environmental causes, including the Snake River Alliance and Idaho Conservation League. In 1993, she met her husband, Andy Wiessner, and moved to Denver, and then Vail and Snowmass, Colorado, where she worked in advertising sales and for the non-profit Sopris Foundation. During her Colorado years, she served on the non-profit Boards of Aspen Tree and the Sonoran Institute and did extensive volunteer work for the Aspen Valley Land Trust, Eagle County Citizens for Open Space, Eagle and Pitkin County Democrats, High Country News, and was also an advocate for Response. She was an avid outdoor enthusiast who particularly enjoyed backpacking, trail running, river trips, the ocean, swimming and skiing. Patsy will be remembered by many for her warmth, radiant smile, boundless energy and enthusiasm for hosting events to raise funds to protect the environment.

Patsy is survived by her sister, Mary Ruth Batchelder, her brother, Christian Batchelder, her step-mother, Bobbi Batchelder, and step-sister Joni Cropper all from here in the Bay Area, step-brother Harley Parson of Boise Idaho, her husband, Andy Wiessner of Snowmass Colorado and her two step children, Mia Wiessner Olney and Angus Wiessner of Denver Colorado.

In lieu of flowers or other gifts, Patsy has requested that donations be made to either the Idaho Conservation League of Boise, Idaho, or the Wilderness Workshop of Carbondale, Colorado.

PAID OBITUARY

RELOCATION

continued from page 5

people are being pushed into poverty and forced out of the community or onto the streets as a result.

She cited what's happened to Sandra Zamora, a Belle Haven renter who was active during earlier months of the city's public outreach process on this proposed policy.

Zamora's rent was increased \$800 per month after the apartment building she lived in was sold to a group of investors last year.

She and others in the building formed the Redwood Landing Tenants Union and publicly shared their experiences at several of the city's Housing Commission discussions on the matter, which began last July.

On Feb. 1, Zamora wrote the following to the City Council in an email: "It is unbelievable that nothing has (been) done

to support and implement the Tenant Relocation Assistance in Menlo Park. We (tenants) fought hard to bring some kind of attention to the problem ...

"I, and many of other (tenants) in Belle Haven Community are leaving our homes this month. This is because the rents are extremely high and there are NO PROTECTIONS for the hard working human. WE HAVE BEEN DISPLACED!!! And you have (no) idea of what this causes to people. It places people/me in the brink of being homeless. ... Please do not let Greedy Landlords/ Investors take over the community that once was Menlo Park."

Opposition

Other council members saw things differently. Calling in from Dubai, Carlton echoed many of the landlords who said they believe that the ordinance would be "functionally rent control." She also said landlords

should retain the right to ask tenants to leave because they don't like them, and speculated that adding any costs for landlords might lead to properties falling into disrepair.

Combs called the process "unwieldy," and said that a provision to extend eligibility for relocation assistance to households earning up to 150 percent of the area median income was "incredibly problematic." He suggested that the terms of relocation eligibility be narrowed to renters of old apartments so as to not risk any chance of conflict with the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act.

That law governs rent control policy in California and restricts what types of housing can be subjected to rent control. Under the Costa-Hawkins law, landlords of most properties — including single-family homes and any apartments built after 1995 — are entitled to impose whatever rent they want to.

The city of Menlo Park in August received a letter from a law firm representing Anton Menlo, a high-end apartment development in eastern Menlo Park, threatening litigation should the tenant relocation policy be enacted. In that letter, attorney Ofer Elitzur of Cox Castle & Nicholson LLP argued that the ordinance would be "hostile" to the Costa-Hawkins Act because it would penalize owners who choose "to exercise such rights."

However, legal experts, including assistant City Attorney Cara Silver, argued numerous times that a tenant relocation assistance ordinance is not rent control.

objected to the concept of the ordinance on principle.

"The market is just as hard on providers as it is on renters," said landlord Mike Haddock.

Some said they felt the policy would unfairly target landlords to pay to help fix the housing crisis, which they say has larger root causes.

"Rising rent is not caused by us," said Helen Chen, a small-scale landlord. "It's caused by Facebook, which pays (high) salaries to people."

'There's a small portion of landlords this might even affect.'

BETSY NASH

MENLO PARK COUNCILWOMAN

Richard Li blamed the city for not permitting more housing density near mass transit. Others blamed the city for enabling too many new jobs and too few new housing units.

Others noted that much of the rental housing stock in Menlo Park is old and sometimes requires landlords to incur unexpected maintenance and investment to keep it safe and habitable, which they sometimes have to pass onto renters.

Yet others said the city shouldn't try to interfere in the market. "I believe the free market should take care of this," said homeowner Bill Lamkin, urging the council to tackle other problems.

A number of landlords added that the introduction of new bureaucracy and regulations might push them to avoid the hassle and sell their properties and take their rental units off the market entirely.

Questions and next steps

Mueller recommended that Taylor and Nash develop a draft version of the policy they want, which would largely align with the Housing Commission's recommendations, while

staff lines up the Redwood City ordinance as a backup. He also said he wants to discuss setting up a landlord-tenant mediation board for alleged rent gouging cases and to look into using Measure K funds from San Mateo County to create a fund to aid displaced renters.

The council also agreed to consider putting city resources into a "hardship" fund to help renters in need find funds to relocate.

Taylor and Nash favor the Housing Commission's recommendations to make the law an "urgency ordinance," meaning it can be implemented faster if it receives support from four out of five council members; and to apply eligibility to renters in all kinds of housing, except for people who rent rooms, live in secondary units or rent affordable housing units already restricted to income-qualified tenants.

Redwood City's ordinance is more modest in its scope and restricts recipients of such assistance to renters earning 80 percent of the area median income, or about \$82,200 for a one-person household. Relocation assistance is triggered if a home is withdrawn from the rental housing market, demolished or converted into a condo.

One question is: How does Menlo Park's proposed policy compare with other cities' ordinances? A number of Menlo Park's neighbors have such policies, which vary substantially in the triggers, eligibility requirements, and required assistance levels.

Other cities have triggers based on rent increases, such as San Leandro, which requires relocation assistance after a renter is displaced following a 12 percent raise over the base rent in a year. In Portland, tenant relocation help is triggered when rent increases more than 10 percent in a year, and in Santa Cruz, it is triggered in scenarios when rent increases more than 5 percent in one year or cumulatively more than 7 percent in any two consecutive years.

The matter is expected to be brought back to the council at its Feb. 26 meeting. ▣

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'Mom and pop' landlords

Menlo Park landlords who gave public comment, many of whom introduced themselves as "mom and pop housing providers," presented a number of arguments opposing the ordinance. Many said they don't raise rent more than a couple of percentage points a year but



**NOTICE INVITING BIDS
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The Town of Atherton will accept bids for construction of the following public work:

2019 STREET MAINTENANCE PROJECT

Removal and replacement of 2 inches of asphalt concrete pavement on various streets. Crack sealing and grind and replace approximately 25,000 square feet of asphalt to a 6-inch depth of pavement failures and placement of thermoplastic/paint striping. Some hand work around utility access-hole covers will be necessary.

Plans & Specifications may be obtained at <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/bids.aspx> at no cost. The Contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the Town's website.

SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027, until **2:00 p.m.** Pacific Standard Time on **Thursday, March 7, 2019**, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for **2019 STREET MAINTENANCE PROJECT**", along with date and time of bid opening.

LEHUA GREENMAN



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License-plate cameras show some value in tracking criminals

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

With 12 months of images captured by the two pole-mounted license-plate-reading cameras located at the borders of Portola Valley, the results are in: Images from the town's cameras were searched 15 times in 2018, including 10 searches related to local property crimes such as theft and burglary, according to an audit prepared by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

In one case, a Portola Valley camera played a role in an ongoing investigation, Sheriff's Office Captain Christina Corpus told the Town Council on Feb. 13. "We are very, very close to an arrest," she said.

Corpus noted that the Sheriff's Office's camera in the unincorporated community of Ladera,

a camera linked to a system as yet unavailable to Portola Valley, revealed vehicles passing by that were stolen or fitted with stolen license plates.

The 15 searches of data from the Portola Valley cameras, listed in a staff report, represent a small portion of the 1,430 logins in 2018 to a collection of license-plate-camera resources by authorized Sheriff's Office users. The branches in that office authorized to use this collection include the patrol bureau, vehicle-theft task force, investigations unit, gang-intelligence unit and crime-suppression unit, the audit says.

In addition to the 10 property crime-related searches, the cameras were searched in one case of sexual assault, one of fraud and vandalism, and one involving a traffic collision, the report says.

A fourth search was done in

error, Corpus said, while the fifth involved "suspicious circumstances" in which a town resident reported being on a balcony and exchanging words with strangers below, who then drove away, a sergeant also present at the Feb. 13 meeting told the council. A subsequent search of camera images for suspicious vehicles was unproductive, the sergeant said.

There were 124 logins to the Portola Valley cameras from Town Hall, of which 65 were by Public Works Director Howard Young and 23 by Town Manager Jeremy Dennis. Both officials logged in to check on the system's operational status, not to search the database, the staff report says. Dennis logged in eight more times: seven for demonstration purposes and one connected to a Sheriff's Office review, the report says.

Vigilant Solutions, the Livermore company that stores the town's camera data, logged in 28 times "for various non-search tasks related to updates, staff inquiries and maintenance," the report says.

No hit list yet

Portola Valley owns its two cameras — located at the town's border with Woodside on Portola Road and on Arastradero Road near the intersection with Alpine Road — and had planned a third at the town's border with Ladera, but abandoned the idea after learning of Sheriff's Office plans to install a camera to capture Alpine Road traffic into and out of Ladera and, by default, Portola Valley.

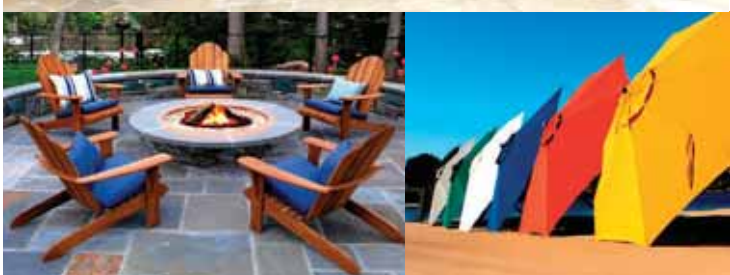
Over a recent six-month period, that camera acquired close to 14.68 million license plate images, Corpus said. Matching

plates to a "hit list" of plate numbers stored in law-enforcement databases revealed 368 vehicles carrying stolen plates, 126 vehicles that had been stolen, and two in which the vehicle was owned by someone wanted for a crime, she said.

Hit-list data is not yet available to check against the images from cameras in Portola Valley because, in the view of the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC), a division of the Department of Homeland Security, Portola Valley is not seen as a law enforcement agency, Dennis said.

"Moving forward," he said, "we want to make sure that that's not the case, and if the way to do that is to have some additional relationship with the Sheriff's Office, we will do that." ■

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

STELLAR SWIMMING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 280050

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Stellar Swimming, located at 3125 Jefferson Ave., Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
BARBARA LYNN LeBLANC
4618 Bianca Dr.
Fremont, Calif. 94538
This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on December 23, 2009.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 14, 2019.
(ALM Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2019)

METRO CLEANERS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 280111

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Metro Cleaners, located at 923 E. Hillsdale Blvd., Foster City, CA 94404, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ARYAHI TRINITY INC.
923 E. Hillsdale Blvd. Suite A-1
Foster City, CA 94404
CA
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/12/18.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 18, 2019.
(ALM Jan. 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20, 2019)

ORAL FILM TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 280037

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Oral Film Technologies, Inc., located at 360 1st. Ave., #123, San Mateo, CA 94401, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
RICHER WORLDWIDE ENTERPRISES, INC.
360 1st. Ave., #123
San Mateo, CA 94401
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 11, 2019.
(ALM Jan. 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20, 2019)

CC8 MANAGEMENT GROUP
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 280153

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
CC8 Management Group, located at 258 C Street, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
CHRISTOPHER CHUNG
258 C Street
Redwood City, CA 94063
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 24, 2019.
(ALM Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2019)

ART MY HEART
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 280316

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Art My Heart, located at 741 Manzanita Rd., Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
JEANNE A. GOLDMAN
741 Manzanita Rd.
Woodside, CA 94062
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 2/7/2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 7, 2019.
(ALM Feb. 13, 20, 27; Mar. 6, 2019)

FLORES GARDENING & LANDSCAPING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 280275

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Flores Gardening & Landscaping, located at 1180 Hilton St. Apt. 2, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ISIDRO FLORES RODRIGUEZ
1180 Hilton St. Apt. 2
Redwood City, CA 94063
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/18/2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 4, 2019.
(ALM Feb. 20, 27; Mar. 6, 13, 2019)

E-COMMERCHANT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 280390

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
E-Commerchant, located at 311 Sycamore St., San Carlos, CA 94070, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ERIC ALEJANDRO TEJEDA
311 Sycamore St.
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 N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 14, 2019.
(ALM Feb. 20, 27; Mar. 6, 13, 2019)

EVA BLUES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 280389

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Eva Blues, located at 214 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
EVANGELINA CLARK
214 Alameda De Las Pulgas
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 February 14, 2019.
(ALM Feb. 20, 27; Mar. 6, 13, 2019)

Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578 or email asantillan@paweekly.com for legal advertising.

CALENDAR

Visit AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more calendar listings

Film

'82 Names: Syria, Please Don't Forget Us,' a Documentary Film Screening The film traces the journey of Mansour Omari, a survivor of torture and imprisonment in Syria, as he seeks to rebuild his life in exile. Dinner at 5:30 p.m.; film at 6 p.m. RSVP requested. Feb. 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Stanford University, 450 Serra Mall, Building 200, Room 034, Stanford. events.stanford.edu/events/821/82144

Documentary Film at Portola Valley Library "All in This Tea" profiles David Lee Hoffman, who imports unusual varieties of tea to discerning drinkers in the United States. However, the majority of Hoffman's most

prized teas are grown by independent farmers in China, where the growth of industrialization is putting such planters out of business. Feb. 26, 5-7 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley.

Film and Filmmaker: 'Drawn Together'

Director Harleen Singh The film "Drawn Together: Comics, Diversity and Stereotypes" brings together three artists who confront stereotypes and racism in modern America. A talk by director Harleen Singh follows the screening. Feb. 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St, Menlo Park. menlopark.org. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve, corner of Skyline Boulevard

Theater

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' Stanford Shakespeare Company presents the comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Feb. 21-23, times vary. Free. Elliot Program Center, 589 Governor's Ave., Stanford. events.stanford.edu

Verdi's 'I due Foscari' West Bay Opera presents a fully staged production of Verdi's early

masterpiece "I due Foscari" featuring Venetian carnival ballet, period costumes, orchestra and chorus. Feb. 23, and 24, showtimes vary. \$35-\$85; senior, student and group discounts. Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. wbopera.org/Foscari

Fundraisers

Asian-Inspired Global Adventure Event Resale of diverse Asian-inspired collections of framed art, furniture, pottery, statuary, masks, clothing, books, jewelry and more. Feb. 22-23, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Feb. 24, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Discovery Shop, 748 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park.

Talks & Lectures

Dani Shapiro with Elizabeth Rosner Kepler's Literary Foundation presents a conversation between two Jewish-American authors, Dani Shapiro of novels "Hourglass" and "Devotion" and Elizabeth Rosner of "Survivor." Feb. 20, 7:30-9 p.m. \$10-\$40, discounts

for students. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.com

Jill Abramson: This is Now with Angie Coiro

Host Angie Coiro talks with former executive editor of the New York Times and Harvard University lecturer Jill Abramson about critical information battlegrounds: old media vs. new, documented veracity vs. clickbait. Feb. 27, 7:30-9 p.m. \$15-\$45. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.com

Story Is the Thing Kepler's Literary Foundation continues its quarterly reading series, Story is the Thing, in which emerging voices are heard alongside works from contemporary local literary masters. Feb. 21, 7-8:30 p.m. \$12. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.com

Family

Puppet Building Workshop Puppet Art Theater staff members lead students (ages 7-10) in the creation of custom puppets to take home. Feb. 23, 10:30-11:45 a.m. Free. Downstairs

Program Room, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Winning Strategies for Finding the Right School at the Right Price College expert Lynn O'Shaughnessy talks about strategies to increase admission chances, how to evaluate colleges and universities academically, and more. Feb. 26, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Woodside High School, 199 Churchill Ave., multi-use room, Woodside. woodsidehs.org, search for "Parent Education."

How to add events to calendar

Go to AlmanacNews.com and see the Community Calendar module at the top right side of the page. Click on "Add your event."

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- facebook.com/menloparkevents
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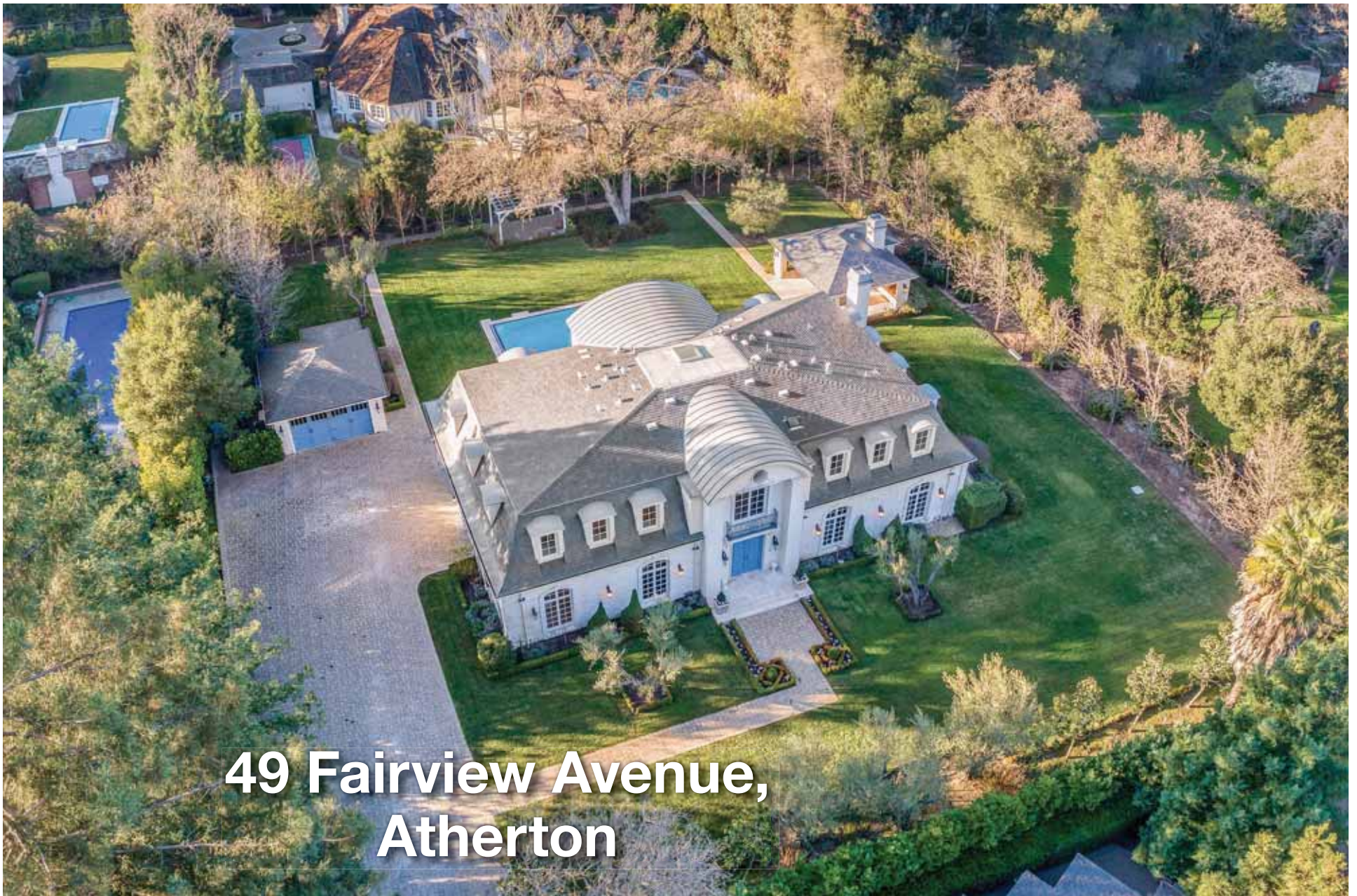
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