

The Almanac

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

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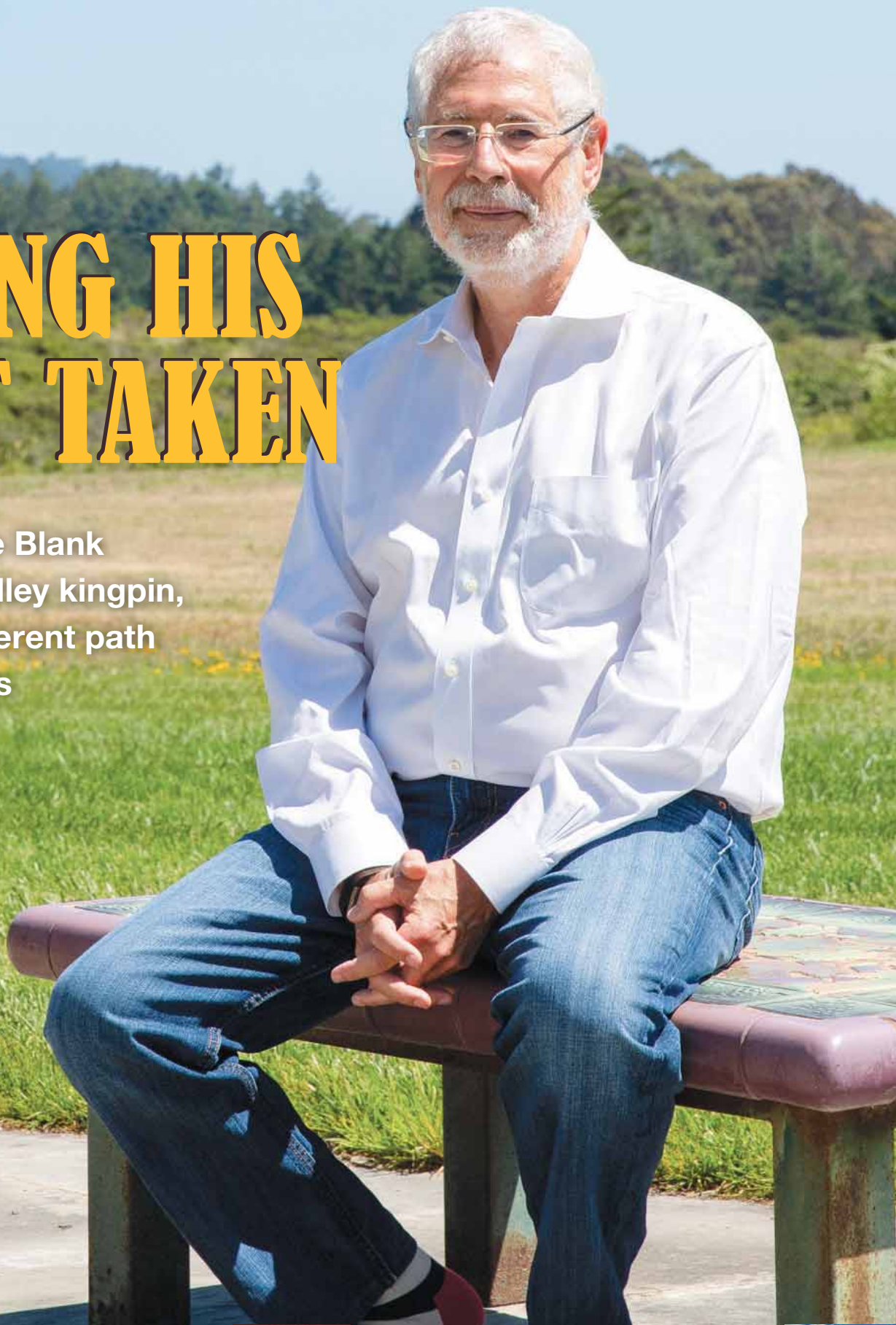


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FOLLOWING HIS ROAD NOT TAKEN

Entrepreneur Steve Blank
is known as a Silicon Valley kingpin,
but he chose a far different path
in his mid-40s

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Photo by Sadie Stinson/The Almanac

Better than fireworks

Six-year-old Ethan celebrates the Fourth of July last Thursday whizzing down a slide at an afternoon community party in Burgess Park. The park event included live music, carnival games, rock wall climbing and crafts. The city-sponsored event followed the traditional Fourth of July morning parade that began in downtown and made its way to the park. To see more photos, go to tinyurl.com/MP-07-04-19.

County homelessness is up 21 percent from 2017

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

The number of people experiencing homelessness in San Mateo County is up 21% from what it was two years ago, the results of a one-day count conducted in January show.

In the communities covered by The Almanac, however, the number of people experiencing homelessness decreased or changed little from the previous count. The county reported that 27 unsheltered people experiencing homelessness were reported in Menlo Park in 2019, compared with 47 in 2017, roughly a 42% decrease. One person was reported in Atherton, and none in Woodside or Portola Valley.

About 400 volunteers canvassed each street in each census tract in the county, by car and on foot, in the early morning hours of Jan 31. They counted a total of 1,512 people experiencing homelessness countywide, compared with 1,253 people counted in 2017. Previous reports have had higher numbers: In 2011, there were a total of 1,861

homeless people reported, and in 2013, the number spiked to 2,002 people.

The county reported that there was a 127% increase in the number of people living in RVs compared with 2017, and a 24% increase in the number of people sleeping on the streets. The count results also showed a 7% decrease in the number of people believed to be sleeping in cars and a 31% decrease in the number of people estimated to be sleeping in tents or encampments prior to the previous count.

Of the people counted as “unsheltered,” 55% or 494 people were counted living in RVs, with another 20% of people living in cars. People on the street represented another 17%, and people in tents or encampments totaled 7%.

Of those, the number of sheltered individuals dropped slightly, to 611 from 616 people.

The count is done every two years, and does have its limitations in capturing the full range of people for who live with housing insecurity. The point-in-time count is required by the

See **HOMELESSNESS**, page 19

Facebook housing program helps teachers stay local

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

When the Menlo Park City Council approved Facebook’s campus expansion in 2016, it required the company to help address some of the challenges associated with its presence in the city, such as the impact on housing costs.

One provision of these required mitigations was that the corporation would pay about \$430,000 annually to help subsidize housing for 22 teachers as part of a five-year pilot program, with priority given to teachers who work in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto.

Checking in on the program, it appears that access to affordable housing has made a significant difference in the quality of life for these teachers.

According to Facebook Strategic Initiatives Manager Maya Perkins, “Programs like this

allow teachers to live close to where they work. (They) mean that teachers are able to spend more time in the communities that they teach in.”

The program helps with teacher retention, said Perkins. “For teachers themselves, it means more time with their own families and more time for them to do the things that are important for them,” she said. That could include going back to school, pursuing hobbies or just having time for some self-care to be refreshed for a challenging job, she said.

Emily Laurance is a third and fourth grade teacher who comes from a family of educators: Her father is principal of Beechwood School in Belle Haven, and other relatives of hers are teachers as well.

She just completed her first full year of teaching at Beechwood, and is housed in one of the apartments Facebook is subsidizing. She said she believes

that the program has helped her focus on her teaching.

“I feel pretty fortunate to have been able to be part of this lottery system,” Laurance said.

‘I couldn’t be here and teach in this wonderful school I love. ... I would go as far as to say I would have to be in a different state.’

EMILY LAURANCE,
TEACHER, BEECHWOOD SCHOOL

Without subsidized housing, she said, and without the opportunity she had to live with her parents for a while to save up money for the rent she is paying now, “I couldn’t be here and teach in this wonderful school I love. ... I would go as far as to say I would have to be in a different state.”

While she said that there’s a

long way to go to solve the housing crisis, this program seems to be working on a small scale.

“When it comes down to it,” she said, “when teachers can feel good, healthy, happy and renewed every day because of where they live, it is a positive thing.”

Perkins said that the program has been costing about \$1 million a year, up from the anticipated \$430,000.

Lower-income renters

Facebook is also funding a relatively new effort by the Housing Industry Foundation to help lower-income renters save money, according to foundation Program Manager Inas Atawneh. The corporation’s grant helped with the administrative part of the program, which launched in the fall of 2018.

The program matches income-qualified candidates for below-market-rate housing

support with units and apartment owners in Santa Clara County and San Mateo County. The effort so far is aimed at providing this support on a 12-month basis. To be eligible, candidates should earn between 50% and 80% of the area median income, or between \$80,600 and \$129,150 for a family of four under San Mateo County’s requirements.

The program is different from federal housing assistance because it can be more flexible with supporting people at different income levels, Atawneh said.

So far, the program has placed about 15 applicants in the two counties, and has the potential to include about 45 households. It is privately funded and enables participating households to save roughly \$700 to \$1,400 a month, or up to \$8,000 to \$15,000 a year. Email Atawneh at inas@hifinfo.org for more information. ■

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School district warns major cuts are ahead if parcel tax isn't renewed

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

The Portola Valley School District's budget remains healthy, but the district will need to make over \$1 million in budget cuts unless a parcel tax is renewed, district staff wrote in a report.

The school board voted 5-0 to approve the district's 2019-20 budget on June 26, according to the district. It also discussed beginning the process to put renewal of the soon-to-expire Measure O on an upcoming ballot.

The Measure O parcel tax expires in June 2021. It generates about \$1.2 million annually for the district and goes toward advanced math, science and technology programs; reading and writing programs; art and music programs; reduced class sizes; and retaining qualified, experienced teachers, according to the district website.

The parcel tax "must be renewed" to support the programs, the report states.

The district will have to start talking to constituents about where cuts would have to be made — be it increasing class sizes or cutting music and art program — if Measure O is not renewed, said Chief Business Officer Connie Ngo. The money raised each year through the Measure O parcel tax pays for the equivalent of 12 teaching positions, she said.

At the June 26 meeting, the board began discussions about considering asking voters to renew the tax on the March 2020 primary ballot, the November 2020 general election, a special election, or on a stand-alone election, according to the staff report.

Passed in 2013, Measure O consolidated two expiring measures: Measure C (\$290 per parcel) and Measure D (\$168 per parcel) and increased the rate by \$123 per

parcel to \$581, Ngo said.

Meanwhile, the 2019-20 budget includes a projected surplus of \$469,249, according to the staff report. The district increased spending on salary and benefits, but decreased spending on materials and supplies, services and operating expenses, and special education, according to the budget.

There are forthcoming increases in pension costs, according to the staff report. Pension rates will continue to increase up to 19.1% for the California State Teachers' Retirement System in 2020-21 and 25% for California Public Employees' Retirement System in 2022-23, according to the report.

The district has not settled salary negotiations with its employee groups for the 2019-20 fiscal year, which begins July 1. Negotiations with the teachers union should begin in the fall, said John Davenport, Portola Valley Teachers Association president in an email.

The budget includes total expenditures of \$15.1 million, with 78.5% going to salaries and benefits. District employment remains flat, as enrollment is declining, Ngo said.

The budget projects total revenues of \$16.1 million, with 91.4% of revenues coming from property taxes, parcel taxes and donations from the Portola Valley Schools Foundation.

Board policy recommends holding at least 12% of total annual spending in reserves. The budget shows the district surpassing that minimum with 15.3% of its total annual spending in reserves.

The district also relies on Measure Z, a \$49.5 million facilities bond that passed last November, to pay for repairs, renovations and new buildings on the district's two campuses.

The full 2019-20 budget can be viewed at tinyurl.com/pvsbudget19. ■

Man shot multiple times

A man who was shot multiple times on July 2 in Menlo Park was still in the hospital on July 7 with injuries that are not considered life-threatening, according to Menlo Park Police Sgt. Jeff Cooley.

The shooting was reported at 11:31 p.m. in the 1200 block of Windermere Avenue, according to police. Officers responded to find a 26-year-old man suffering from multiple gunshot wounds.

The victim was taken to a hospital, where he was reported to be

in serious but stable condition.

"We think the victim knows who possibly did it," said Nicole Acker of the Menlo Park Police Department. "It wasn't a random act of violence, but no one is being cooperative."

There were no new leads in the case as of July 8, according to police.

Anyone with information on the shooting is asked to call police at (650) 330-6300. Those wishing to remain anonymous can call (650) 330-6395.

— By Rick Radin

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Experts sound the alarm on 2020 election-meddling

By Matthew Vollrath
Special to The Almanac

Will deception on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter be a major threat in the upcoming 2020 election? According to Ann Ravel, former chair of the Federal Elections Commission, the troubling answer is “Yes.”

Ravel spoke about the looming problem at a June 27 event at Menlo Park’s Hewlett Center titled “Digital Deception in the 2020 Election.” Now the director of the Digital Deception Project at the Berkeley nonprofit MapLight, Ravel was joined by Katie Joseff, a digital intelligence researcher at the Palo Alto nonprofit Institute for the Future.

The two speakers discussed what they said were organized online deception campaigns, from both foreign and domestic sources, that significantly affected the outcome of the 2016 election.

“A lot of people are unwilling to admit that these [campaigns] impacted the election,” Ravel said. “I’m here to tell you they did.”

Similar campaigns targeting the 2020 election are already appearing, the speakers said.

Ravel and Joseff identified several forms of election-related online deception. One is the deliberate spread of misinformation — spreading incorrect details about polling times and locations. For instance, Ravel said, one campaign in 2016 targeted African-Americans, telling them that the voting date had changed.

“We know it suppressed the vote, because the difference between [African-American voter turnout in] 2012 and 2016 was almost 8%,” she said.

Other tactics include the spread of “deep fakes,” fabricated photos or videos that aim to create a false scandal, and the use of fake accounts, through which paid operatives spread politicized messages by masquerading as regular Americans. With today’s AI technology, the speakers said, many of these are automated “bot” accounts, which can post independently and proliferate rapidly.

A major goal of these tactics, according to Joseff, is to undermine faith in democracy. The strategy of “disinformation” began in Soviet Russia as an attempt to “destabilize trust in democratic countries,” she said.

Joseff also discussed another alarming tactic: harassment campaigns. In the 2016 election, hate groups and “troll farms” targeted specific demographics such as African-Americans and immigrants, and threatened them online, she said.

“Targeted harassment campaigns play a role in silencing already niche communities,” Joseff said. This harassment, which sometimes involved death threats or sending law enforcement to the victim’s home, led to a significant decrease in voting turnout among these populations, she added.

What is the solution?

Addressing the problem of online deception and harassment, the speakers say, will require action on two fronts.

The first, Ravel asserted, is to pass federal legislation requiring greater transparency online. While at the FEC, Ravel said, she argued for such a law, and was vilified by one of her colleagues, who called her the “Chinese Censorship Board.” But, she noted, such a law is not without precedent. For political speech on radio, television, and in print, there are strict requirements for disclosing the identity of the groups and funding sources behind these messages.

‘A lot of people are unwilling to admit that these [digital deception campaigns] impacted the election. I’m here to tell you they did.’

ANN RAVEL, DIRECTOR OF THE DIGITAL DECEPTION PROJECT

“If you pay for [political] communications, you need to disclose who’s behind it,” Ravel said. Extending these requirements to the online realm only makes sense, she added.

The second is for social media companies themselves to take the initiative. Whether or not they are legally required to, Joseff and Ravel say, companies like Facebook should be making active efforts to detect fake and bot accounts, correct false information, and ensure that paid and political content is displayed transparently.

According to Brandi Barr, a

policy communicator at Facebook, the social media giant is taking a number of steps in these areas.

Facebook has blocked millions of accounts, said Barr, both of individuals suspected to have a fake account and of groups of accounts displaying “coordinated inauthentic behavior.” The company has also taken down 45,000 posts “attempting to mislead people about where and how to vote,” employs third-party fact-checkers to identify false content, and keeps a public archive of the ads it displays and the sources and targets behind them, she said.

Since 2016, said Barr, Facebook’s efforts have shifted from passive identification based on user reports to active detection of deceptive behavior using “a myriad of signals.”

Governments are also turning their focus to this problem as a threat to the integrity of elections, says Jim Irizarry, assistant chief elections officer for San Mateo County. “[We realized] you don’t have to get into the voting system if you can influence attitudes towards candidates and campaigns,” he said.

Combating online deception on the government level requires a “multi-level approach,” Irizarry said. San Mateo and other counties are working with the Cyber Security Division of the California Secretary of State’s Office to report election-related misinformation on social media, he explained. Anyone who encounters misinformation can now report it to the secretary’s office through a new online system at sos.ca.gov/elections.

On the local level, he said, San Mateo County is combating disinformation with strong voter education. “We’re very aggressive in the area of voter education and outreach,” Irizarry said. The county was not significantly impacted by disinformation and manipulation in 2016, he said, and he hopes continued outreach efforts will ensure the same for next year.

As a national issue, however, Ravel is not optimistic that the problem of online deception will be solved in time for the election. The reality is that repairing this situation will likely take many years, she said.

“I’m trying to sound the alarm that this is not an easy fix,” Ravel said. “We need to get much more information about exactly who they are targeting and why.” ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



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Menlo Park Fire District Public Education

Dogged by constant barking, Haven Avenue residents seek relief

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

The barking is constant, and has been since Jackie Comstock moved in to the Anton Menlo apartment complex on Haven Avenue in April 2017, she says.

Gruff growls, forlorn howls and sharp yips can be heard around the clock from Tyson Kennels, which is located next door at 3735 Haven Ave. in eastern Menlo Park, nearby residents say.

Comstock and her neighbors have called code enforcement; they've filed complaints through the city's "SeeClickFix" app, and called the kennel owner, Tiffany Tyson.

Comstock has even made public records requests trying to get to the bottom of how and why the dog kennel is allowed to generate so much noise so close to her home, day after day.

And still, she said, she finds herself and her family kept up at night, subject to incessant barking that, according to sound measurements she and her neighbors have collected, reaches typical volumes of 45 to 60 decibels, with regular spikes of around 80 decibels, and one reading of 103 decibels. For reference, a vacuum cleaner typically registers 70 decibels, while 100 decibels is equal to the volume of an approaching subway train.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, noise above 85 decibels over a prolonged period of time may start to damage one's hearing. The agency reports that people typically start to feel annoyed by the noise level beginning at 70 decibels.

The city's municipal code sets noise limits at 50 decibels at night and 60 during the day.

Comstock and her neighbors, Karin Sargis, Judith Howson and Annika Mortensen, recently asked the City Council for relief. The noise is worst, they said, in the apartment building nearest to the dog kennel.

"I've never opened my windows at that apartment, and I've lived there a year and seven months. It's an insult that we can't do something about it," Howson said at the June 18 council meeting.

"It's extremely uncomfortable to function," Sargis told the council, adding that the barking takes place 24/7, and that she works for a school district and needs good sleep for work.

"It is not a live, work, play (environment)," Comstock insisted. "It is a windows closed, don't go outside, can't-sleep environment, and it's not healthy."

On the other side of the tension is Tyson, who has been taking care of the dogs at the kennel



Photo by Kate Bradshaw

since she was a kid and her grandparents, Randy Tyson-Witmer and David Witmer, owned it.

During this reporter's recent visit to the kennel, Tyson greeted the dogs by name as she walked down the narrow walkway separating a series of dog runs from the fence that serves as the barrier between the apartments and the kennel — which did, in fact, get them barking excitedly.

Tyson said the kennel typically has about 60 dogs on the premises on weekdays, and roughly 20 to 30 dogs there on weekends, though the number varies.

The family has a long legacy of training dogs in the community, and also runs Witmer-Tyson Imports, which imports, breeds and trains German shepherds, some of which work with local police departments.

The kennel has been at the same location since the city granted its owners a conditional use permit in June 1972, Tyson said. At the time the permit was approved, the nearest occupied building was more than 400 feet away from the proposed kennel.

In recent years, two developments — Anton Menlo, completed in spring 2018, and Elan Menlo Park, completed in fall 2017 — have added a combined 540 apartments to the block. Hardest hit by the barking are the residents of Anton Menlo's Building C, which is nearest to the

kennel, according to the apartment dwellers who brought their concerns to the City Council.

So what happens when the industrial area where the kennel sits becomes a residential neighborhood and there are suddenly high-end apartments next door, where people are tearing their hair out from all the noise their canine neighbors make?

Responses

Records of submissions on the SeeClickFix app, which allows people to send in code complaints, show residents have been frustrated by the way the barking interferes with their daily lives.

One complaint stated: "The dogs at the kennel constantly bark with no reprieve. Can't have dinner without having to talk over it, can't put my toddler to bed without it waking her up, can't work from home because the noise is non stop."

The city's laws say that a conditional use permit, if approved by the Planning Commission, should ensure that a property's use isn't "detrimental to the health, safety, morals, comfort and general welfare of the persons residing or working in the neighborhood of such proposed use."

The residents have also called Tyson, who says that before the residents moved into the new apartments, the kennel never had problems with other nearby

High-end apartments on Haven Avenue sit right next to a longstanding dog kennel, and nearly two years in, residents say they are going crazy from the constant barking.

Zoning problems

So whose idea was it to put housing so close to a dog kennel? While he wasn't working with the city when properties on Haven Avenue were rezoned to permit housing, Community Development Director Mark Muenzer commented: "The city obviously continues to try to develop housing to address the situation we're in. ... The land along Haven (Avenue) was identified as a good location to try and address that situation."

Permitting the two uses side by side has created a unique situation in the city, he added.

Muenzer contrasted the problem of the dog kennel and the next-door apartments to another noise-related neighborhood tension playing out elsewhere in the city. In the Willows neighborhood, BootUp World — a tech company incubator at 68 Willow Road that also hosts parties and events for tech founders to mingle with venture capitalists — has attracted fierce opposition from neighbors, who say the business violates the city's noise ordinance with its late-night raucous parties.

Unlike BootUp World, which has not received permission to host such events and is in the process of applying for a new use permit, on Haven Avenue, both the apartment complex and the dog kennel are entitled to be there under city zoning laws, Muenzer said.

In an early staff report for the kennel's 1972 use permit, staff appeared to indicate some expectation that the dogs would stay indoors at night, but that was never a condition of the kennel's approval, Muenzer said. Tyson said it's not possible to keep the dogs indoors at night due to the sanitary problems that could be created by animal waste.

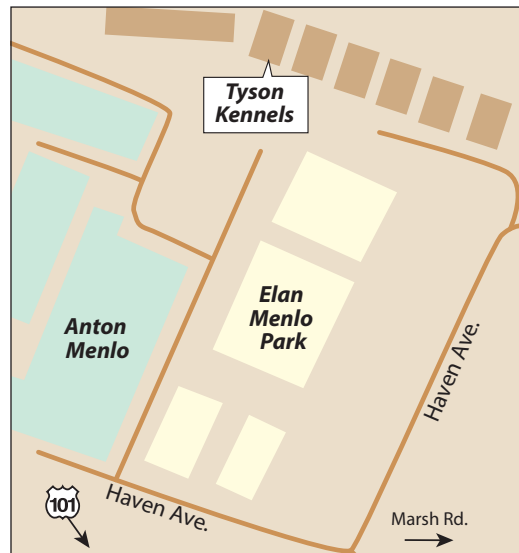
Enforcement problems

Figuring out how to enforce the noise ordinance when both parties are entitled to operate as they are under city zoning creates a challenge, Menlo Park Police Chief Dave Bertini told The Almanac.

He said the police department is handling the problem as it does with other neighborhood disputes: by supporting mediation with, rather than penalizing, the noise-making party. The police department does not typically get involved with issuing citations for noise complaints, he said.

"We don't cite people for having a barking dog," he said. "From our perspective, it doesn't do good."

It's also difficult for the police department to record a dog-barking-related noise violation,



The apartments

at Anton Menlo and Elan Menlo Park, two new high-end developments, neighbor a dog kennel that typically holds around 60 dogs a day on weekdays. The city's zoning code permits both the dog kennel and the apartments to be where they are.

businesses in the industrial area, and many people who work nearby bring their dogs to the kennel. "We totally get that the barking would be an annoyance (to the new residents). We're sympathetic to that," she said.

As the apartments were going up, she said, kennel operators met with the Anton Menlo owners, and they came up with a plan to try to be good neighbors. Tyson said she brought in a sound engineer to figure out what could be done. Sound-dampening material was installed above some of the dog kennels closest to the apartments, she said.

"We are still willing to do more if that's what they would like," she said, declining to comment on who would be expected to pay for additional soundproofing measures.

Important for her, she said, is to publicly challenge the assertion from nearby residents that the dogs are unhappy or in distress.

"The dogs are in no way in any harm or discomfort," she said. "We've been giving quality care for 50 years."

As an old-fashioned boarding facility, Tyson said, it's not an enclosed space, and noises from the apartment residents, especially at times when there are more residents out and about, can trigger further barking.

"We can't make everybody happy, but for a majority, we run a very happy, healthy dog kennel," she said.

She also commented that it's not feasible to train the dogs to be quiet, since the kennel has a different set of dogs pretty much every day. The number of dogs at the facility also fluctuates, which makes the noise levels unpredictable — and understandably even more frustrating to the neighbors, Tyson said.

At night, Tyson said, she makes an effort to move as many dogs as possible to an area of the kennel nearer to the Bay, but sometimes that area fills up and some dogs must remain near the apartments.

See **BARKING**, page 13

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COMPASS

Out of the classroom, into the community

Menlo School's end-of-year 'M-Term' aims to promote understanding, engagement

By Elisabeth Westermann
Special to The Almanac

Menlo School sophomores ended the school year in an unconventional setting: They sat in the church at San Quentin State Prison listening to four inmates, all convicted of violent crimes, with not a guard in sight.

The inmates shared stories of how they ended up in prison, their lives behind bars, and how the unique rehabilitation programs at San Quentin had helped them change.

In a striking anecdote, one of the inmates shared that he had been in the same middle school class and had shared friends with San Quentin's public information officer, who was leading the students' tour. The officer told the students that he may have found himself in prison had a teacher not intervened in middle school and convinced his parents to send him to a different high school.

Powerful testimonies like this illustrated for the students

various aspects of criminal justice, such as how childhood circumstances play a significant role in a young person's likelihood of being involved in criminal activity. "Hearing individual stories and personal accounts of these inmates really brought to life the issue[s] for me. ... I've learned to look at people in an equal light and to give everyone a chance," sophomore Leo Jergovic said afterwards.

The San Quentin visit was part of the private Atherton school's "M-Term," a two-week program Menlo has implemented during the last two years, designed to encourage its freshmen, sophomores, and juniors to be engaged in their local community and the problems it faces.

M-Term "lends itself to deep understanding of the way our society operates," Upper School Director John Schafer explained. "It's part of our job to make [students] better citizens and [enable them] to identify and solve some of the problems that are so vexing to society."

The program is Menlo's most



Photo courtesy of Cyrus Lowe

Menlo School sophomores, from left, Mack Ford, Ella Marks, Marisa Castagna, Gabby Kogler, and senior Walter Li construct a playhouse for Habitat for Humanity.

recent approach to developing students in areas beyond academics. "It changes and broadens our definition of education," Schafer said. The program, he said, emerged from a vision of "the kinds of students we want to put out into the world: not just students who are great at solving math problems or writing essays, but change makers."

Each Menlo class focused

on different areas of study for their M-Term. The freshmen were divided into four groups who explored: California's coast and waterways; the struggles of different groups in the Bay Area, including the homeless, LGBTQ+ and immigrant communities; California's agricultural and food industries; and California's land ecosystems.

A common goal was to "look

at issues that are interrelated," such as "the interaction between environmental systems and human systems," according to English teacher Whitney Newton, who planned the freshman program.

Another goal of the program was "getting the students out in the world to experience things

See **M-TERM**, page 12



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M-TERM

continued from page 10

that they can't experience during the school year," Newton said. The groups learning about California's waterways, for example, did a beach cleanup in Half Moon Bay, visited the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and participated in discussions with United States Forest Service volunteers at waterways such as Tuolumne River.

"They told us about how to recycle more, and elect government officials that care about the environment," freshman Alexandra Viret said. "I learned about the effect we have on the waterways and environment around us."

Another aspect of freshman M-Term focused on community engagement. "We were interested in ... introducing freshmen to causes or issues that they may know about, but exposing them to organizations and people that are working on those issues," Newton explained. She hoped that the freshmen would get ideas for ways they could contribute to the community in the future, she added.

The sophomores' activities centered on the local housing crisis and the criminal justice system, and how both tie in to the cycle of poverty. "They're both very topical and relevant local issues," said sophomore class adviser Wilson Taylor, who planned the sophomores' program. "I think being an educated and engaged citizen as an adult requires exposure and proximity and engagement with these issues. ... It's good to have a full awareness of the world outside."

To gain that awareness about the housing crisis, students heard from experts such as Randy Tsuda, the current president of the nonprofit Palo Alto Housing, one of Silicon Valley's main providers of below-market-rate housing.

They also participated in building projects with Habitat for Humanity, an organization that helps to build affordable housing, and visited local food banks.

To learn more about criminal justice, students visited Delancey Street, an organization dedicated to reintegrating ex-convicts and drug-addicts into society, and listened to the stories of several of the residents. These trips were supplemented by class discussions and documentary films such as Ava DuVernay's "13th," about mass incarceration.

Sophomore Elizabeth Woodside said that from these experiences she "concluded that it's not one opinion that can solve the problems of incarceration and homelessness and inequality. It's the debate of different solutions and different ideas that actually



Photo courtesy of Cyrus Lowe

Sophomore King Christian helps construct a playhouse. The playhouses were given to the children of active-duty soldiers.

leads to long-term solutions."

For many students, however, the visit to San Quentin had the most powerful impact. "I can't think of a more transformative experience for a 15- or 16-year-old than to go up there and meet these people who often made decisions when they were 15 or 16 that are still affecting them today," Taylor said.

Breaking from the freshman and sophomore models, juniors were each assigned to an elective course based on their interests. The courses ranged from electronic music, to archaeology, to forensics. Many of the courses were interdisciplinary, with teachers from different departments pairing up to teach them.

In addition to giving juniors the opportunity to learn about topics not included in the normal curriculum, teachers got to test classes that may eventually become semester-long courses in upcoming school years. Many juniors enjoyed having the ability to choose what they studied as well as the novelty of the courses. "I really liked the junior M-Term. I got to take a class that I was interested in. ... We got to code some really hard algorithms from scratch," said junior Ellen Cho, who chose a class in computer algorithms.

The junior elective classes, she added, "were fun and interesting and gave people new topics to explore, not just the usual topics we learn at Menlo."

Overall, many students felt that M-Term had accomplished its goals and that they had been able to pursue interesting topics while deepening their understanding of the issues their community faces through their field trips.

"I've liked that we've actually gotten to talk to people who are affected by the issues and the problems that we're talking about," sophomore Sadie Stinson said. "M-Term has inspired me to think more consciously about and learn to be more engaged in my community." ▣



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Town increases maximum defensible space grant

With the threat of wildfires increasing, Woodside is raising its maximum matching grant for clearing brush, pruning trees and other work from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

The Defensible Space Matching Fund, which pays for the grants, was created in 2010 to help homeowners make their properties more fire-safe.

In the first year, about \$7,000 worth of grants were awarded, a figure that has risen to about

\$201,000 this year as the program has become more well-known and fire threats have increased, according to a town staff report.

To qualify for a grant, homeowners must have the Woodside Fire Protection District perform a defensible space assessment and have the recommended work completed. The town provides the grant after the work is done and a proof of payment is submitted.

During the current fiscal year,

the smallest project was \$816, which received a \$408 matching grant, and the highest was \$27,000, which received a maximum \$2,000 grant, according to the report.

Fifty-nine projects cost more than \$4,000, 42 were less than \$4,000, and seven were valued at exactly \$4,000.

The number of awards has increased from 15 in 2013-14 to 108 in 2018-19.

The Town Council passed the grant increase unanimously at its June 25 meeting.

— By Rick Radin

BARKING

continued from page 8

he added. A dog has to either be barking for 30 minutes straight, or has to be barking at a high volume for five minutes straight.

"It's a pretty high bar for that to happen," he said.

He also responded to a concern from one of the apartment residents that the kennel has received special treatment from the police department because some officers board their police dogs at the kennel, and because Wittmer-Tyson Imports breeds and trains German shepherds for the city of Menlo Park.

"I think that's ridiculous," he said. "Many law enforcement (departments) in the region buy dogs from them."

He said the department helped set up several meetings with both parties and mediation support from the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center to collaborate and come up with solutions for sound mitigation.

"I see both sides," he added, noting that he doesn't think the police officers are the "right people to be making these decisions."

"We basically have told both parties this is a civil matter ... and that (they) need to work it out,"

he continued. "(They) may have to go to civil court to come to a solution."

In the meantime, Anton Menlo resident Comstock is still waiting for an explanation for why the dog kennel is allowed to make so much noise, despite the city's noise ordinance. She and her neighbors have asked for the matter to be brought to the City Council for review.

According to Mayor Ray Mueller, city staff is investigating the problem and will be preparing a report for the council. Staff is aiming to have the matter on the council's August agenda, he said. ■

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Summer fun and learning at local libraries

By Elisabeth Westermann

Special to The Almanac

This summer, local libraries are keeping their calendars full of free, drop-in summer events for all ages. Here are some of the highlights:

For children:

Happy Hollow, Belle Haven Branch Library, July 10, 4-5 p.m. Educators from Happy Hollow Park and Zoo and their “animal ambassadors” will be visiting the library. Attendees will learn about different ecosystems, from forests to the urban jungle, and get to meet some of the animals that inhabit them.

Marine Science Institute: Rocky Intertidal, July 23, 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Portola Valley Library, 4 p.m.

at Woodside Library The Marine Science Institute’s mobile aquarium will be visiting both the Portola Valley and Woodside libraries on July 23. Kids at both sites will learn about tidepool habitats and get to interact with the fish and invertebrates that inhabit those ecosystems.

NorCal Bats, Menlo Park Library, July 25, 7-7:30 p.m. The Menlo Park Library will be hosting NorCal Bats, an organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of bats, as well as educating the public about these creatures. Attendees will get to meet live bats and learn about bats’ important role in the ecosystem. **Improv, Atherton Library, Aug. 3, 2-3 p.m.** At this improv workshop geared for ages 7 to 10, students will learn the basic

techniques of comedy improv and then try their new skills out.

The Try-It Truck, Menlo Park Library, Aug. 20, 2-4 p.m. The Try-It Truck, an engineering lab on wheels from the Bay Area Discovery Museum, will be returning to the Menlo Park Library to teach the engineering design process and give kids access to both high- and low-tech tools. The event is designed for children in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Puppetry Festival, Belle Haven Branch, select Saturdays, 2-2:45 p.m. The Belle Haven Branch Library will be hosting puppet shows from a diverse set of performers throughout the summer. The shows are heartwarming and goofy (characters range from pirates to tight-rope-walking

flamingos) and will surely spark lots of laughter.

Summer STEAM Club, Woodside Library, 4-5 p.m. Drop in to these weekly workshops that combine art and science, such as making light-up jewelry or slime. The projects are designed for children in elementary and middle school.

Weekly Arts and Crafts, Atherton Library, Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. and Woodside Library, Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m. These weekly, drop-in craft sessions are perfect for any child in preschool or elementary school who is looking to get creative.

Story Time, Atherton, Woodside, Portola Valley libraries, times vary by library Story times are being held throughout the summer for babies, toddlers and preschool-age children. The events use music, movement and books to start building literacy. Check the libraries’ calendars for more details, times and information about special sessions, such as bilingual and musically inclusive story times, at smcl.org.

For adults: **E-Media Help, Portola Valley Library, July 11, July 18, July 25, 4-7 p.m.** Learn how to use e-books, e-audiobooks and e-magazines and how to access free content on your device in a 30-minute session with former NASA scientist Chris Atwood. Registration is required. Contact the library to sign up.

Film and Discussion: The Bystander Moment: Transforming Rape Culture at its Roots, Menlo Park Library, July 15, 6:30-8 p.m. “The Bystander Moment,” a documentary film, explores how friends, teammates, classmates and coworkers can contribute to gender violence. Following the film, a discussion will be led by the staff of Rape Trauma Services. This event is being held in tandem with the traveling exhibit, “Confronting Violence, Improving Women’s Lives” which is at the Menlo Park Library until Aug. 17. Through interactive exhibition panels, the exhibit recognizes

■ INFORMATION

■ Menlo Park Library:
800 Alma St., 650-330-2500 or ssreinhardt@menlopark.org

■ Belle Haven Library:
413 Ivy Drive, 650-330-2540 or ssreinhardt@menlopark.org

■ Atherton Library:
2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, 650-328-2422 or atherton@smcl.org

■ Portola Valley Library:
765 Portola Road, 650-851-0560 or portolavalley@smcl.org

■ Woodside Library:
3140 Woodside Road, 650-851-0147 or woodside@smcl.org

the nurses who, beginning in the late 1970s, worked toward the prevention of domestic violence.

Movie Screenings, Menlo Park Library, July 23, Aug. 7, Aug. 20, Aug. 28, 6:30 p.m. The library will be playing films for adults related to the theme of road trips. The lineup includes “Thelma and Louise,” “Do Doo-ni Chaar,” “The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert,” and “Rat Race.”

Winning the Vote: the Fight Continues, Menlo Park Library, Aug. 14, 7-8 p.m. The League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County, a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed participation in government, will discuss the U.S. women’s suffrage movement. The event is timed with the 99th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the legislation that enabled women in the U.S. to vote.

Indian Food from the Fiji Islands, Belle Haven Library, Aug. 17, 1-2:30 p.m. Chef and former restaurant owner Saras Rao will discuss the delicious food of Fiji and its Indian influences. She will also demonstrate how to make a pair of curries and chutney that attendees will get to try.

Michelle Pollace Latin Jazz Trio, Belle Haven Library, Aug. 31, 1-2 p.m. Enjoy live music at the Belle Haven Library with a performance from Bay Area Latin jazz musician Michelle Pollace.

In addition to these events, drop-in book club meetings, arts and crafts activities, game nights, discussion sessions and more are being offered at local libraries this summer. Check the libraries’ calendars for information about all events. ■

You’re Invited to a Community Open House

We invite you to attend a community open house to learn more about Stanford’s proposed housing project in Portola Valley and share your feedback.

Two open houses will be held:

Open House #1: Thursday, 7/25, 6pm–8pm

Open House #2: Saturday, 7/27, 10am–Noon

Location: Portola Valley Historic Schoolhouse, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley

Drop-in any time between open house hours to speak with Stanford staff and ask questions. No formal presentation will be made.

The Town of Portola Valley has shared its interest in developing multi-family housing at three locations identified in their Affiliated Housing Program: Stanford University, Woodside Priory School and Sequoias Senior Housing.

As part of that conversation, Stanford has begun to study how it might create much-needed faculty housing, and some affordable housing for the town, on Stanford’s property on Alpine Road.

For more information or questions, please please visit the project website at: <https://portolavalleyhousing.stanford.edu/> or email: communityrelations@stanford.edu.



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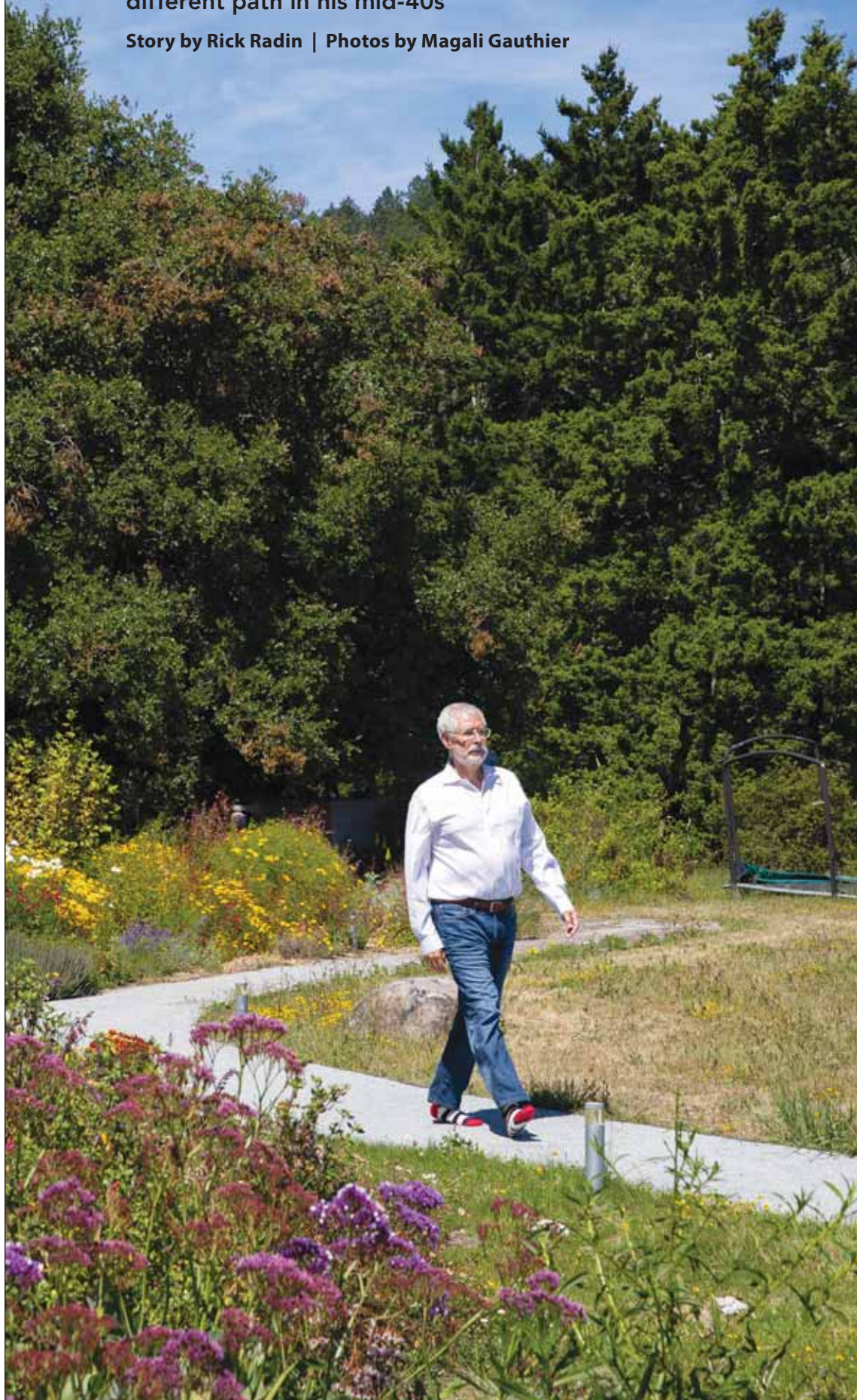
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Following his road not taken

Entrepreneur Steve Blank is known as a Silicon Valley kingpin, but he chose a far different path in his mid-40s

Story by Rick Radin | Photos by Magali Gauthier



Steve Blank takes a summertime stroll along a path on his property in Pescadero.

At age 45, Steve Blank retired from a career as a serial entrepreneur who co-founded three startups in Silicon Valley. Having passed through the stage of being a money-oriented “maker of things” at that point, he says, he began following a credo he learned from an old friend: Don’t forget the common good.

Blank, who now splits his time between homes in Menlo Park and Pescadero, looks back today at an old college pal, Michael Krzys, who went to law school and moved to the South to practice civil rights law with a nonprofit.

In contrast, Blank dropped out of college to join the Air Force during the Vietnam War when many of his peers were resisting the draft.

“(The military) sounded like an adventure to me,” Blank said. “I learned electronics in the middle of a war zone and found out that I operated well under chaos.”

During those years, he kept in touch with Krzys, who was leading a very different life.

“From the day I met him he had a commitment to public service that was deep, heartfelt, profound, unshakable and to me, mysterious and completely unfathomable,” Blank told graduating seniors in a recent commencement address at UC-Santa Cruz’s Rachel Carson College.

Blank says his evolution from entrepreneur to environmental watchdog came gradually during his days in Silicon Valley.

“I grew up in New York in a 600-square-foot apartment and never knew what living outside of a city was like until I went to Vietnam,” Blank said during an interview with *The Almanac*.

“When I moved west to work in Silicon Valley I spent my free time on the coast walking and hiking,” he added. “With big stretches of land over the hills I figured that somebody was going to develop them.”

Blank’s entrepreneurial background and environmental interests met head-on when he was named to the California Coastal Commission in 2006 by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who assumed that since he had been a Silicon Valley kingpin that he was on board with “being reasonable” about coastal development.

“Because I was retired, I was looking to give back through public service,” he explained. “Schwarzenegger thought I would be another vote for development. It took me a while to get educated.”

The first project Blank encountered that caused him to rethink his ideas was a proposal for a desalination plant in Carlsbad on the San Diego County coast.

Desalination seems like a good idea at first blush, he said. You pipe sea water in, eliminate the salt, and pipe fresh water out the other side, he said.

But the plants produce a byproduct, brine, that becomes a poison for fish and plant life when it is released into the ocean and the plant’s intake sterilizes all the eggs that could become fish.

“Desalination plants were really not about providing water

for the coast; they’re designed to sell that water to other areas to enable more growth,” Blank said. “You could bury the outflow pipes under the sea bed to make the release less toxic, but that would cost a lot more money.”

Blank was in the minority in voting against the project in a move that he said surprised the plant sponsors and his

colleagues on the commission.

“There was nothing wrong with it when you just look at it,” he said. “That was me when I started on the Coastal Commission, and then I went OH!”

Blank was also part of an 8-2 majority that turned thumbs down to a project to run a freeway through open space at San Onofre State Beach near San Clemente that contains a popular surfing spot called Trestles.

It was the largest hearing in the history of the Coastal Commission, attracting about 5,000 people at the local fairgrounds with half environmentalists and surfers and the other half construction workers hankering for local jobs, he said.

While the hearing was transpiring, Blank said, he was being badgered over the phone by Schwarzenegger’s chief of staff, Susan Kennedy.

“She was saying ‘The governor wants this and you’re going to vote against?’” Blank recalled. “I was not an elected official, and I was trying to represent the public interest.”

“If you are ‘reasonable’ about

‘If you are “reasonable” about coastal development, you have been captured by the people you are supposed to regulate.’

STEVE BLANK, FORMER MEMBER OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

See **STEVE BLANK**, page 18

STEVE BLANK

continued from page 17

coastal development, you have been captured by the people you are supposed to regulate,” he added.

Coming from a background in Silicon Valley, Blank’s main concern about the Coastal Commission and environmental regulators in general is that “they tend to make complicated things more complicated.”

“The environmental community will give you all the facts, but we’re confused about how human beings operate,” he said. “You start with the facts, but you have to learn how to communicate them.”

Blank gave the example of Rachel Carson, whose best-selling 1962 book “Silent Spring” caused a sensation when it exposed the dangers to the environment of the pesticide DDT.

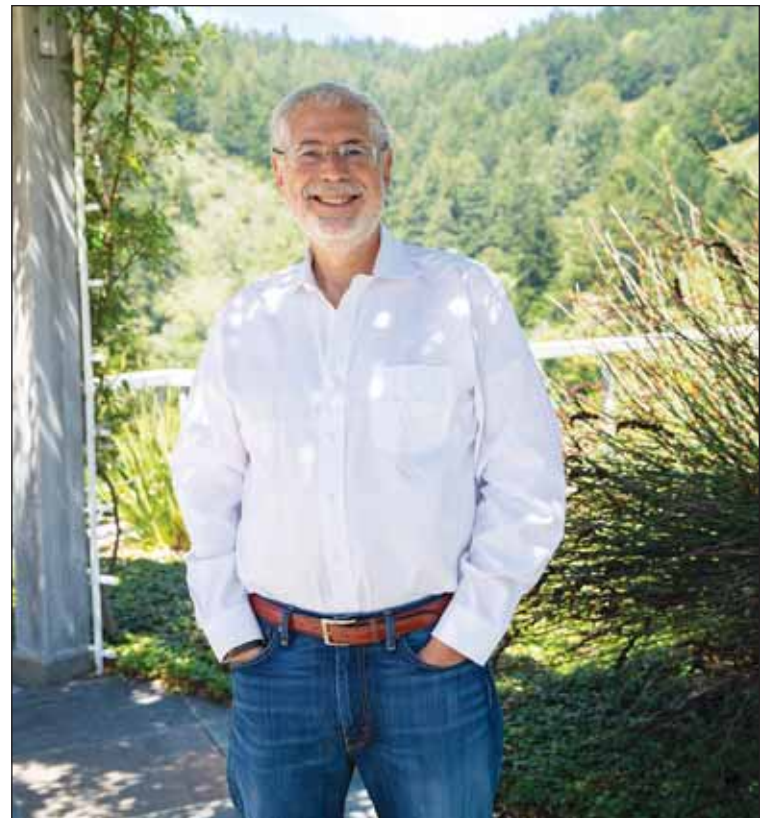
“She was about the 45th person to write about DDT, but the first to really get the message across in a major way by simplifying the issues,” he said.

Blank thinks that the California coast from Half Moon Bay south to Cambria in San Luis Obispo County is a treasure unlike anywhere on Earth, but wouldn’t have remained that way if not for the efforts of environmentalists.

Leaders in mid-20th century California had plans for nuclear power plants up and down the coast, one of which was to be built in Davenport, a few miles south of Blank’s Pescadero ranch.

With freeways and dense housing development, the coastline could have become “Sunnyvale by the Sea.”

“Look at Orange County, which is really the Tragedy of the Commons where people have overused a shared resource,” Blank said. “Without any regulation, the coast of San Mateo would have ended up like that, where there were no rules and



A resident of Menlo Park and Pescadero, Steve Blank has changed his life’s focus from entrepreneurial enterprises to environmental concerns.

wall-to-wall housing.”

Further inland, agencies and groups like the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, the Committee for Green Foothills, and the Peninsula Open Space Trust have preserved a green belt and prevented developers from paving over the Peninsula, Blank said.

“What happened on the Peninsula is incredibly unique, and it was a unique combination of agencies that did it,” he noted.

The open space district alone has preserved about 65,000 acres and extended its authority from San Francisco Bay to the Coastside, Blank said.

“We take for granted that the Bay Area looks like this, but it’s not the natural state of capitalism,” he said. “This is the most capitalist place on earth with the most socialist dream.”

Besides his work on the Coastal

Commission, Blank has been on the board of the Peninsula Open Space Trust and the California League of Conservation Voters, and is also a past board member for Audubon California and a past University of California-Santa Cruz trustee.

“It took me a long time, but as I got older, I realized that life was more than just about work, technical innovation and business,” Blank said.

“Michael (Krzys) and others worked to preserve and protect the values that make life worth living. They were the ones who were changing our society into a more just place to live.” ■

On the cover: Steve Blank enjoys a summer day outdoors on his Pescadero property. Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

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‘Gift of quiet time’ offered on moonlight labyrinth walk

Community members are invited to a moonlight labyrinth walk at Valley Presbyterian Church in Portola Valley on Monday, July 15, from 7 to 9 p.m.

“Give yourself the gift of quiet time with a candlelight meditation walk, under the moon and redwoods,” Darlene Batchelder, who is leading the walk, said in a press release.

Referring to the practice as a “moving meditation,” organizers note that “walking a labyrinth typically helps reduce stress and distractions, and promotes inner clarity, calm,

healing, and a sense of connection with the world around you.”

The walk is open to adults, high school students, and middle-schoolers with a parent. Participants are urged to wear sturdy walking shoes and to bring a jacket.

Organizers will offer an introduction to labyrinth walking from 7 to 7:15 p.m., and the labyrinth, located to the right of the sanctuary at Valley Presbyterian, will then be available for use until 9 p.m.

The church is at 945 Portola Road.

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HOMELESSNESS

continued from page 5

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and adheres to a specific definition of who should be considered homeless: someone who doesn't have a fixed, regular and adequate place of residence, or someone whose nighttime residence is a temporary shelter, an institution, or a place that's not designated or used as a living area. People who are at risk of homelessness due to unstable living conditions or are couch surfing, for instance, are not counted.

"We know that ending homelessness is more than a quick fix, especially because individuals experience homelessness for a variety of unique reasons," San Mateo County Supervisor Carole Groom said.

"With the count and surveys showing us what current factors are in play, we are better

equipped to take the right steps toward solutions," she said in a press statement.

Housing costs are a factor that contributes to people's risks of experiencing housing instability and homelessness, according to Nicole Pollack, director of San Mateo County's Human Services Agency. Between 2016 and 2019, the fair market rate for a studio apartment in San Mateo County increased by 47 percent, according to the statement.

"The count is a large endeavor and wouldn't be possible without the participation of hundreds of volunteers. We're grateful to our community members, community-based organizations and County and city staff who participated in the count," Pollack said in the press statement. "I'd also like to say thank you to the homeless service providers who work intensely every day to help people find and keep housing." ■



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The taste of summer

Organic berries of seven varieties are there for the picking at Webb Ranch

Photos by Sadie Stinson | Story by Elisabeth Westermann

For the 15th year, Webb Ranch in Portola Valley is welcoming visitors to its fields to take advantage of one of the many perks of summer: berry season.

From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, visitors can pick berries from the ranch's abundance, and an abundance it is. Webb Ranch offers seven varieties of berries: blackberries, raspberries, golden raspberries, olallieberries, loganberries, boysenberries and marionberries.

The picking season normally lasts from the beginning of June through July, but can sometimes start in May and extend to August, depending on the weather.

There is a \$4 entry fee (children under 5 and seniors are admitted free) and the berries cost \$5.50 per pound.

The season has been a success so far. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, between 200 and 300 berry-pickers visit the ranch, and

on Saturdays that number grows to around 500.

Visitors can appreciate the quality of the berries they pick, which are certified organic. "The community really enjoys coming out to our fields and being able to pick and eat right off the vine without worrying about pesticides or synthetic sprays," said Atlee Frechette, a

fourth-generation member of the Webb family and the current farm manager.

Berry-picking is an activity for all ages, and the ranch gets more than half of their traffic from families. "The entire family can come and enjoy the experience. From toddlers who are learning what berries taste like to seniors," Frechette noted. ▣



Visitors at Webb Ranch in Portola Valley on June 25 included (clockwise from top) Alicia Albo and her son Leo, 8-year-old Luke, and Lotta, 11.

From Bach to the movies

Music@Menlo spans the centuries

By Janet Silver Ghent

This year's Music@Menlo festival highlights seven "Incredible Decades," transporting audiences from the age of Bach through the romantic era to the Roaring '20s and the new millennium. While last summer's seven-city "Creative Capitals" journey featured music from seven European cities, this year's event crosses the ocean into the 20th century, as jazz and popular music coming out of the New World inspired composers worldwide.

Spanning centuries of chamber music, the 17th annual festival runs July 12 to Aug. 3 at the Center for Performing Arts at Menlo-Atherton High School and Menlo School, both in Atherton.

"Bach Ascending," the first concert program, opens in the 18th century, with the first "Brandenburg" Concerto as well as a suite from Handel's "Water Music." Pianist Wu Han and cellist David Finckel, the festival's co-founders and co-artistic directors, said they are particularly excited about performing those pieces at Menlo for the first time.

Moving through the ages, programs include "Beethoven Launched," which also includes Haydn and Mozart; "Classical Twilight," featuring Schubert's "Winterreise" song cycle, with Wu Han on piano; the "Romantic Revolution," with the music of Schumann, Chopin and Mendelssohn; and "Moscow to Montmartre," spanning such disparate composers as Rachmaninoff and Debussy.

"I've been drooling over that piece for a long time and finally feel I'm old enough to take the challenge," Wu Han said of "Winterreise." Based on 24 poems by Wilhelm Müller, the melancholy song cycle was composed in the year of Beethoven's death, and just a year before Schubert's own demise at age 31. Finckel translated the libretto from the German to help her get the feeling of the piece, which Russian baritone Nikolay Borchev will sing. "It's beautiful and heart-wrenching," she said.

The penultimate "Roaring Twenties" concert shatters classical boundaries, with George Gershwin's "Lullaby" for String Quartet, a Ravel sonata imbued with bluesy Gershwin influences, and a romantic piano quintet by Erich Wolfgang Korngold, who left troubled pre-war Vienna to score Hollywood movies.



Nina Ai-Artyan

Singer Nikolay Borchev will perform at Music@Menlo.

The Korngold piano quintet is rarely performed. Both Wu Han and Finckel say they are eager to introduce it to Menlo audiences.

"People don't know the name Korngold," said Finckel, but the quintet features "themes that show up later in 'The Adventures of Robin Hood,'" which Korngold scored. "This is where that music of Hollywood came from — immigrants from Vienna. Thank God we have them."

Finally, "Music at the Millennium" blurs classical distinctions with Mark O'Connor's playful "F.C.'s Jig" (short for "Fiddle Concerto") for violin and viola and John Adams' "Road Movies" for violin and piano. Calling his title "total whimsy," Adams points to the "swing mode" in the piano part as well as the "tricky cross-hand style" in the final movement.

Multimedia lectures with musicologists illuminate each of the seven key decades, showing historical and cultural influences on music, such as the upheavals and revolutions of the 19th century and the technological innovations of the last century, when radios, record players, and later, the computer, brought music of all genres into the home.

While all festivals have a theme, this year's Music@Menlo illustrates how "music is created in relation to history," Wu Han said during a phone interview from New York, where she and Finckel, called classical music's "power couple," are artistic directors of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Although the chamber repertoire is massive, "we're never at a loss to find interesting ways to present it," Finckel said, using an analogy to the Grand Canyon, which he and Wu Han visited recently. "Every time you turn a

corner, it looks different. There's no end to the variety of ways the Grand Canyon looks. The literature of chamber music is kind of like that."

By concentrating on seven specific decades, it's far easier to give audiences a clear picture of the evolution of classical music, Finckel observed. "It's not the whole pie, but it's seven very delicious slices, each one with its own flavor," he said. "I think these seven decades have contributed to the strength of that house of chamber music that we're building. Each of these decades has its own room. It just makes the structure itself stronger and more interesting and more enjoyable."

What sets Music@Menlo apart from other summer festivals is its education component, not only with a lecture series but with master classes, informal Cafe Conversations and a series of Carte Blanche concerts in which the artists curate their own programs.

In addition, the festival hosts a Chamber Music Institute and international program, training pre-professional musicians as well as talented children, offering them an opportunity to learn and perform with professionals. In the Aug. 2 Overture Concert, 11 students in the festival's international program will perform pieces by Beethoven, Brahms and Cesar Franck with the festival's main-stage artists.

Violinist Arnaud Sussmann, who is also associate director of Menlo's international program, emphasized the festival's educational component.

"I've been going there for 10 years and I can't tell you how many summers I've been blown away by what I've learned," he said. "Most festivals you go, perform and have a wonderful time. At Menlo you really go to learn something extra."

Sussmann also will fiddle in O'Connor's "Jig" and play viola,



Photo by Matt Dine

Violinist and violist Arnaud Sussman will perform at Music@Menlo.



Photo by Lisa-Marie Mazzucco

Music@Menlo Artistic Directors David Finckel and Wu Han have decided to focus this year's festival on seven specific decades of chamber music.

not his usual instrument, in a Mendelssohn string quartet. He will also play second violin in Korngold's piano quintet, a challenging piece with intricate rhythms he will be performing for the first time.

But beyond performing, he said, "teaching is another huge passion of mine." He sees his mission as mentoring talented young musicians just as he was mentored when he left France at age 15 to study at Juilliard with Itzhak Perlman, whom he refers to as "my teacher, Mr. Perlman."

These days, Sussmann is

passing those lessons on, not only at Menlo, but at Stony Brook University on Long Island. "One of the most beautiful things about what we do in this music world, or in the art world, is that the skills we learn cannot be just passed on through a book. You need a mentor. You need someone who is going to pass on the information that was passed on to them through their mentor."

"Teaching really helps your own playing, because you have to sit back and analyze things

See **MUSIC@MENLO**, page 22

PUBLIC NOTICE WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the preliminary budget of Woodside Fire Protection District, for the FY 2019-2020 has been adopted by the Directors of said District, and is available at the Woodside Fire Admin Bldg. in Portola Valley, for inspection during the week commencing Monday, June 24, 2019. That on **Monday, August 26, 2019 at 7 o'clock p.m. of said day at the, Woodside Fire Admin Bldg. in Portola Valley**, the Board of Directors will meet for the purpose of finalizing the final budget, and any person may appear and be heard regarding the increase, decrease, or omission of any item of the budget, or for the inclusion of any addition items.

Woodside Fire Protection District
by Fire Chief Robert A. Lindner

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Las Lomas Elementary School District of San Mateo County, California, hereby invites and will receive sealed proposals for the furnishing of all labor and materials for the following work:

La Entrada Stockpile Soil Off Haul

Project specifications will be distributed via: Mandatory Bid walk

Additional project specifications may be viewed at:

Las Lomas School District Main Office

1011 Altschul Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025

By appointment only / 48 hr. notice or Online via District document portal

Call 650-854-6311 ext 42 for appointment or directions to access online portal

Written bids must be submitted no later than

2:00 PM Thursday July 25, 2018

at the Las Lomas Elementary School District Main Office or via email.

Mandatory Pre-bid conference has been scheduled for

2:00 PM Thursday July 18, 2018

Attendance is mandatory at pre-bid conference. Attendees must be present for the entire meeting in order to be deemed a qualified bidder.

Meet at The following Site: La Entrada Middle School (Meet at main office)

2200 Sharon Rd, Menlo Park, CA 94025

In accordance with the provisions of California Business and Professions Code Section 7028.15 and Public Contract Code Section 3300, The District requires that the bidder possess the following classification of contractor's license at the time the bid is submitted:

**Class A General Engineering or
Class B General Contracting or
Class C-12 Earthwork and Paving
C-27 Landscaping
D-63 Construction Cleanup**

Any bidder not so licensed at the time of the bid opening will be rejected as non-responsive.

No bids will be accepted from, or a contract awarded to, any party or firm in arrears to the District or who is a defaulter as surety, contractor, or otherwise.

Each bid must be accompanied by certified check, cashier's check, or bidder's bond in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the tendered bid, made payable to the order of Las Lomas Elementary School District as a guarantee that the bidder will, after being notified of acceptance of his/her bid, enter into a contract with the Board in accordance therewith and file the necessary bonds as called for in the Specifications.

Rejection of Bids

The board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The Board also reserves the right to waive any informality in any bid received.

Selection of Lowest Bid

The successful bidder will be selected per the lowest base bid.

Per Public Contract Code Section 20103.8

Prevailing Wage Requirements

This Project is a "public work" to which general prevailing wage rates will apply in accordance with Labor Code Section 1770, et seq. The Prevailing wage rates are available on the DIR website at www.DIR.ca.gov.

The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall pay all workers on all work performed pursuant to this Contract not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the School District.

This project is subject to labor compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. The successful Bidder shall comply with all requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1, of the Labor Code. Contractor and all subcontractors shall submit certified payroll monthly via the eCPR system.

No contractor or subcontractors may be listed on the bid proposal unless registered with the DIR pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5.

Escrow Accounts

Pursuant to Section 22300 of the Public Contract Code, the Agreement will contain provisions permitting the successful bidder to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under the agreement or permitting payment of retentions earned directly into an escrow account.

Payment Bond

Before commencing any work under the contract, the Contractor shall file a Payment Bond with the Owner. It shall be a surety bond, shall be issued by corporations duly and legally licensed to transact business in the State of California and approve by the Owner. They shall be issued at the expense of the Contractor; and shall be maintained by him and at his expense during the entire life of the Contract. This bond shall be in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price and shall secure the payment of all claims for labor and materials used or consumed in the performance of this contract.

Disabled Veteran's Business Enterprise

In accordance with Education Code Section 17076.11, The Las Lomas Elementary School District has "a participation goal of at least 3% per year of the overall dollar amount expended each year by the school district for Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises." Thus, all contractors bidding on this project are required to make a good faith effort to achieve this 3% participation goal. Requirements for showing that this good faith effort has been made are included in the Project Manual

MUSIC@MENLO

continued from page 21

and listen from the outside," Sussmann said. "If you're a great teacher ... hopefully, you can apply (those lessons from listening) in your own playing."

Acquiring new audiences for classical concerts is a perennial concern. Sussmann, 34, uses social media to reach out. In addition, running the summer program for young musicians with pianist and educator Gilbert Kalish is heartening.

"Every time I go to Menlo, I feel better about the future of classical music, when you see the level the dedication (and) the artistry of the young musicians we see there," he said.

Both Wu Han and Finckel said education has been a central part of Menlo's mission from its inception — not simply through mentoring new generations but by opening audiences to music they may not know.

"If you look back on Music@Menlo on the internet, you would see 17 years of education-centric and performance-centric programs," said Wu Han. "We're not just looking at music that is pleasing but music that is meaningful." ■

Janet Silver Ghent is a freelance writer.

■ INFORMATION

What: Music@Menlo Chamber Music Festival and Institute.

Where: Center for Performing Arts at Menlo-Atherton, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton; and Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton.

When: Friday, July 12, to Saturday, Aug. 3.

Cost: \$34-\$84 per concert, \$15-\$35 for patrons under 30, with some free events.

Info: Go to Music@Menlo.org

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■ CALENDAR

Visit AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more calendar listings

Theater

‘The How & The Why’ Two evolutionary biologists — one a graduate student, the other an established leader in her field — meet for the first time. What follows is a smart, complex work about men and women, genetics and genius, and the overwhelming power of biological connection. July 13-Aug. 4; times vary. \$20. The Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. dragonproductions.net

‘Tommy’s Pirate Adventure’ In this theatrical puppet show, Tommy and his dog Fifi are enjoying living on Alligator Island, at least until the pirates show up. Mixed-up treasure leads to confusion and fun, as Tommy ends up playing pirates for real. July 14, 2-3 p.m. Free. Belle Haven Library, 413 Ivy Drive, Menlo Park. menlopark.org

‘Voices of the Earth: From Sophocles to Rachel Carson and Beyond’ Compiled by Rush Rehm and Charles Junkerman, “Voices of The Earth” deals with the troubled relationship between humans and the natural world. July 11-14; times vary. \$15; discount for

students, seniors. Stanford Nitery Theater, 514 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. stanfordreptheater.com

Concerts

Summer Concert Series Families can picnic, dance and visit with friends and neighbors while listening to a wide variety of music. Genres include rock, pop, blues, jazz, salsa, tribute bands and a variety of cover music. June 19-Aug. 7, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Fremont Park, Santa Cruz Avenue & University Drive, Menlo Park. business.menloparkchamber.com

Music

Asheba: Caribbean Music for Children Asheba, a musical storyteller who specializes in the musical and folkloric oral tradition of Trinidad, performs original lullabies, fast-tempo tunes and remakes of classics. July 17, 4-5 p.m. Free. Belle Haven Library, 413 Ivy Drive, Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Drumming Magic At this interactive musical event, music teacher, facilitator and performer Mika Scott leads attendees in a drumming circle. July 16, 2-2:45 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

‘Oh Glory!’ A Musical Journey for the Soul James Dargan is a singer, violinist, author and athlete who pursues social justice through the arts. He will pay homage to the struggles and accomplishments of black musicians; Paul

Robeson, Roland Hayes, Nina Simone, Billie Holiday and Robert McFerrin Sr. July 12, 7 p.m. Free. Christ Church Portola Valley, 815 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Talks & Lectures

Kalyn Josephson Kepler’s Books launches Kalyn Josephson’s debut novel, “The Storm Crow,” a fantasy that follows a fallen princess as she ignites a rebellion to bring back the magical elemental crows that were taken from her people. July 13, 3-5 p.m. Free. Kepler’s Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

‘Brave New Ocean: Ecosystem Health, Livelihoods and Food Security’ Cafe Scientifique presents “Brave New Ocean: Ecosystem Health, Livelihoods and Food Security,” facilitated by Fiorenza Micheli, a David and Lucile Packard professor of marine science and co-director of the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions. July 16, 6-7 p.m. Free. Stanford Blood Center, 3373 Hillview Ave., Palo Alto. business.menloparkchamber.com

Museums & Exhibits

Walking Tour: Folger Stable Tours cover the history of the main stable, carriage house, Chinese-built stone walls, the blacksmith barn and dairy house as well as the development of the Folger Coffee Company and more. Terrain

is ADA-accessible with some sloped areas and cobblestone walkways. July 14, 10-11 a.m. Free. Folger Stable, 4040 Woodside Road, Woodside. historysmc.org

Family

Roaring 20’s Night As part of its summer nights series, the Filoli Historic House and Garden presents Roaring 20’s Night, an evening filled with music and activities for the whole family. July 11, 5-8 p.m. \$22; discounts for seniors, students. Filoli Gardens, 86 Old Canada Road, Woodside. filoli.org

Lessons & Classes

Adults Build Terrariums Christie Inocencio of Christie’s Creative Cupboard is teaching an adults-only class on how to make self-contained plant environments to take home. July 13, 1-2:30 p.m. Free. Belle Haven Library, 413 Ivy Drive, Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Beginning Ceramics In this beginning class geared toward teens and adults, participants learn to navigate the ceramics studio. The basics of hand building and slab work will also be covered. Through Aug. 14, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. business.menloparkchamber.com

Design Thinking & Leadership Workshop for Girls During this workshop, girls ages 11-15 can bond, laugh and be silly, while also learning more about what really matters to

them. Each girl graduates from the workshop with their own personal mission statement for improving the world around them. July 14, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$40. Stanford d.school, 416 Escondido Mall, Stanford. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Film

‘Hadithi Za Kumekucha: Tunu’ Mashoto is a young man working in the fast-paced city when his mother dies. He returns to the village to learn the lessons of nature, of the earth and the roots that draw their nourishment from it. This film is part of the annual Stanford Global Studies Summer Film Festival. July 10, 6:30 p.m. Sapp Center Auditorium, Room 111, 376 Lomita Drive, Stanford. events.stanford.edu

‘The Bystander Moment: Transforming Rape Culture at its Roots’ This film explores the role of friends, teammates, classmates and coworkers in perpetuating sexual harassment, assault and other forms of gender violence. The screening will be followed by a discussion facilitated by the staff of Rape Trauma Services. July 15, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

‘LIKE’ “LIKE” is an IndieFlix original documentary that explores the impact of social media on people’s lives. July 12, 6:30 p.m. Free. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. computerhistory.org

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

INVITING SPACES BY KIM
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281492
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Inviting Spaces By Kim, located at 947 15th Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
KIMBERLY BEBER
947 15th Avenue
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 August 2008.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 6, 2019.
(ALM June 19, 26; July 3, 10, 2019)

LAW OFFICE OF ALISON MADDEN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281550
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Law Office of Alison Madden, located at 2995 Woodside Rd #200, Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County; Mailing address: PO Box 620650, Woodside, CA 94062
Registered owner(s):
ALISON MADDEN
1548 Maple #26
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 June 1, 2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 11, 2019.
(ALM June 26; July 3, 10, 17, 2019)

KATHERINE PETERSON, PH.D., L.E.P.
PETERSON LEARNING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281633
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1) Katherine Peterson PhD, L.E.P. 2) Peterson Learning, located at 5 Light Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
KATHERINE K. PETERSON
5 Light Way
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 June 15, 2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 18, 2019.
(Almanac June 26; July 3, 10, 17, 2019)

MENLO ACCOUNTING & CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281659
The following person (persons) is (are) doing

business as: Menlo Accounting & Consulting, located at 405 El Camino Real #504, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
PATRICIA LOPEZ-JARAMILLO
231 Robin Way
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 June 20, 2019.
(ALM June 26; July 3, 10, 17, 2019)

A & A BROTHERS LANDSCAPING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281688
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
A & A Brothers Landscaping, located at 2921 Westside Ave. #1, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
RUBY GALICIA
2921 Westside Ave. #1
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 June 24, 2019.
(ALM July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2019)

AGUAYOS GARDENING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281720
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Aguayos Gardening, located at 131 Oak Avenue #2, Redwood City, CA 94061, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
LUIS HERNANDEZ AGUAYO
131 Oak Avenue #2
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 1-1-19.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 25, 2019.
(ALM July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2019)

YELLA ACTIVEWEAR
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281580
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Yella Activewear, located at 1800 White Oak Dr., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
DANIELLA MIZRAHI
1800 White Oak Dr.
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 Feb. 2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 13, 2019.
(ALM July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2019)

BELLA SILK ART
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281723
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Bella Silk Art, located at 25 Jeter St., Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
JEAN STAGNARO
25 Jeter St.
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 6/25/19.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 25, 2019.
(ALM July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2019)

SAND HILL PR PARTNERS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281764
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Sand Hill PR Partners, located at 325 Sharon Park Dr. #219, Menlo Park CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
TERRI LEE ROBBINS
736 Fremont St. No. 1
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 July 1, 2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 1, 2019.
(ALM July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2019)

BLUE LABEL INVESTMENTS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281419
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Blue Label Investments, located at 3402 Devon Way, Redwood City, CA 94061, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
DANIEL ZAPATA
3402 Devon Way
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 May 31, 2019.
(ALM June 5, 12, 19, 26, 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.: 19CIV02917
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: LORENA EVORA and OMAR BLADIMIR EVORA filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: YARETZI DALEYZA EVORA to ALESSANDRA

DALEYZA EVORA.
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: July 17, 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: June 05, 2019
/s/ Jonathan E. Karesh
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(The Almanac June 19, 26; July 3, 10, 2019)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 19CIV02787
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: ALEXANDRA JANE JOHNSON-FREYD filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
ALEXANDRA JANE JOHNSON-FREYD to SASHA SHEN JOHFRE.
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: August 9, 2019, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: 20, Room: 8C 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: June 21, 2019
/s/ Jonathan E. Karesh
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2019)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 19CIV02786
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: CHING-HAN SHEN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

CHING-HAN SHEN to HANNAH JOHFRE SHEN.
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: August 9, 2019, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: 20, Room: 8C 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: June 21, 2019
/s/ Jonathan E. Karesh
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2019)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 19CIV03388
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: CORINNA CLIO MARKENSCOFF-ZYGOURAKIS filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
CORINNA CLIO MARKENSCOFF-ZYGOURAKIS to CORINNA CLIO ZYGOURAKIS.
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: August 1, 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: June 19, 2019
/s/ Jonathan E. Karesh
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2019)

Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578 or email asantillan@pawebly.com for assistance with your legal advertising needs. The deadline is Thursday at 5pm.

Landscapes, light at play in art show

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

The Portola Art Gallery in Menlo Park's Allied Arts Guild is showcasing the pastel and oil paintings of Mary K. Stahl in an exhibition titled "Local Color."

A reception will be held on Saturday, July 13, from 1 to 4 p.m., and the exhibition will be open through the end of the month.

According to a press statement, Stahl's works are known for their

calm and quiet atmosphere, and the artwork on display is inspired by the appearance of natural light on landscapes.

Stahl, a Palo Alto resident, has been a longstanding member of the local artistic education community. After she moved to the Bay Area in the 1970s, she taught art and craft classes to children at the Palo Alto Junior Museum and coordinated an art studio for students at Palo Alto's Fairview Elementary School. In addition, she's



Courtesy of Portola Art Gallery

worked in the tech field at SRI International, the NASA Ames Research Center and Nominum, and as a technical writer, editor, and graphic and website designer.

A member of the Pastel Society of the West Coast, Stahl has shown her work at museums in Stockton, Santa Clara and Youngstown, Ohio.

The gallery is at 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park; it's open Monday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ■

Menlo Park
Quarterly Market Report
April 1 - June 30, 2019

11 COSTLY HOME INSPECTIONS PITFALLS
Free Report reveals what you need to know before you list your home for sale.
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TOP 10 SALES			
1. \$9,700,000 777 Sharon Park Drive	2. \$7,600,000 1628 Stanford Avenue	3. \$7,548,000 888 Berkeley Avenue	4. \$7,075,000 1824 Doris Drive
5. \$6,850,000 1145 Rosefield Way	6. \$6,810,000 1210 Bay Laurel Drive	7. \$6,700,000 320 Olive Street	8. \$6,675,000 1440 Bay Laurel Drive
9. \$6,400,000 1760 Bay Laurel Drive	10. \$6,200,000 555 Oakfield Lane		

202 ACTIVE LISTINGS	\$1,325 AVERAGE SALES PRICE/SQ FT	\$2,896,292 AVERAGE SALES PRICE
132 PENDING LISTINGS	22 AVERAGE SOLD DAYS ON MARKET	2,229 AVERAGE APPROX SQ FT
140 SOLD LISTINGS	102.00% SALE/LIST PRICE	1.20 MONTH SUPPLY

*Source: MLS Listings for Single Family Properties | Townhomes | Condos

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