

The Almanac

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

NOVEMBER 13, 2019 | VOL. 55 NO. 10



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spawn a cappella
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the importance of
creativity

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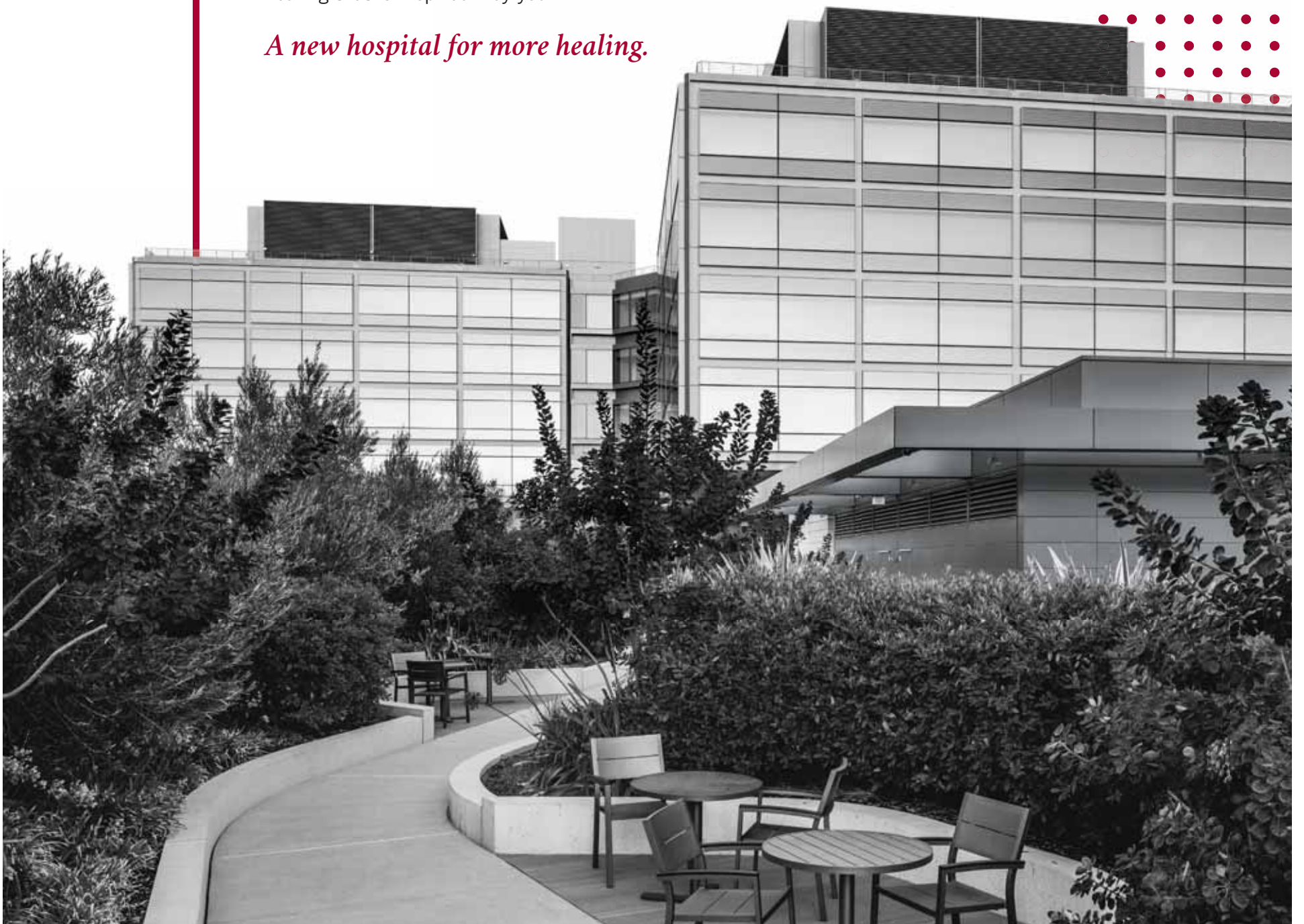
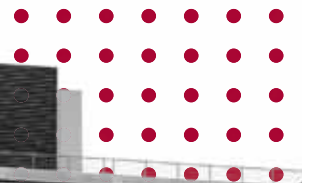


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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

A veteran offers his hand

Menlo Park resident Bob Williams, a 98-year-old World War II veteran, visited Menlo School on Nov. 6 to deliver a talk — and 200 small flags — to middle schoolers in advance of the Veterans Day federal holiday. After his presentation, he shook hands with the 200-plus students in attendance, including seventh grader Clifford Palmer, shown in the photo. For the story and more photos, see Page 19.

City Council considers enacting state renter protection law early

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Word of a new state law that restricts evictions and rent hikes, set to take effect Jan. 1, has triggered a number of major rent increases and evictions in Menlo Park as some landlords seek to make the most of the remaining months of a less-regulated rental market.

Assembly Bill 1482, passed Sept. 11 in the state Legislature and signed into law on Oct. 8, creates two policies aimed at protecting renters. Starting Jan. 1, California's landlords will not be permitted to evict renters without a reason, and under certain conditions may be required to provide evicted tenants financial assistance to relocate.

Landlords will also be prohibited from raising rents by more than 5% plus the percent of increase in the consumer price index — an indicator of the cost of living — or by more than 10%, whichever is lower. The 2019 annual consumer price index as established in April was 4%, so under the policy, rent will not be permitted to rise more than 9%.

City staff has noted that some renters have reported significant rent increases in advance of the new law's effective date. On Oct. 25, the city reported, a local teacher who has lived in her apartment for 20 years received notice of a \$500 per month rent increase, to \$3,000 from \$2,500. So far, at least four tenants that the city knows of have been served no-fault eviction notices. Two are seniors. One of the seniors recently underwent a leg amputation and has significant trouble with mobility, according to the city.

Concerned about the possible

displacement of more renters, the Menlo Park City Council decided at its Nov. 5 meeting to discuss on Tuesday, Nov. 12, the possibility of enacting an urgency ordinance that could put the provisions of AB 1482 into effect immediately. For the urgency ordinance to take immediate effect, it would need the support of four out of the five council members.

The meeting took place after The Almanac went to press. Check AlmanacNews.com for an update on the council's action.

The council was planning to meet earlier, on Nov. 7, but Councilwoman Catherine Carlton was unavailable due to a meeting with the South Bay Waste Management Association.

Stacy Townsend, an attorney at Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, is working with two senior clients who have received no-cause eviction notices in Menlo Park. She said that these are longtime residents who have rented in the community since at least 1991 and 2006.

"They were shocked and saddened to receive these no-cause eviction notices after living in their homes for decades," Townsend said in an interview with The Almanac. "They have no place to go. They wouldn't be able to afford to live in Menlo Park anymore if they were evicted from their homes."

It's likely, she added, that the legal services agency is learning about only a small number of the total eviction incidents happening in the area. That's because when someone is first served an eviction notice, he or she is often more likely to prioritize finding new housing than finding a lawyer, she explained.

Since AB 1482 passed, she noted, other Peninsula cities such as San Mateo, Daly City and Redwood City have proactively passed urgency ordinances to protect renters from no-cause evictions and major rent hikes.

She said she'd encourage Menlo Park to include language in the ordinance that makes it clear that the law can apply retroactively to tenants already served eviction

Neely Wine's tasting room plans meet further resistance by residents

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

A plan to permit a tasting room and event center at Neely Wine in the middle of Portola Valley met with further caution from the town's Planning Commission on Nov. 6, while more than a dozen speakers unanimously panned the idea.

The proposal to alter a conditional use permit granted in 2013 to allow the Neely family to develop a wine tasting and event center on the winery grounds at 555 Portola Road was publicly introduced in December.

Since then, the winery has reduced the numbers of visitors and events that would be allowed in its proposal in order to mollify neighbors concerned about noise, parking and other urban impacts in a pristine rural area.

The Neely family has maintained that a profitable winery is essential to maintaining its 230-acre property stretching from Portola Road west to Skyline Boulevard as open space, and that the family might be forced to sell the property for housing

development if a tasting room is not allowed.

Operators of a second major Portola Valley winery, Thomas Fogarty, have said that having a tasting room and a wine club that permits the winery to sell directly to the public is vital to the profitability of their enterprise.

Portola Valley Planning Director Laura Russell said that development of the site for housing is, indeed, a possibility.

"It would be possible to have housing there, although there are limitations because of proximity to the (San Andreas) Fault," Russell said.

The latest plan calls for a maximum of 18 events per year, including six promotional events that could include wine release parties with a limit of 120 visitors for the entire day, and 12 events for community or nonprofit groups, limited to 75 guests.

Wine tasting without reservations would be allowed for 24 hours a week between Friday and Sunday, and tasting by appointment daily would take place from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., limited to 60 visitors per day.

The Nov. 6 meeting was designed to determine whether the proposed project conforms to certain elements of the town's general plan, but speakers at the meeting made it clear that they didn't want it under any circumstances.

Portola Valley resident Sandy Patterson called the project "a slippery slope into commercialization."

"The proposal contains a (false) promise of tranquility," Patterson said. "We need to continue to protect this oasis."

Another Portola Valley resident, Ward Paine, objected to "retail sales in the middle of open space," and dismissed the need to make a profit, saying that a boutique winery is more of a hobby than a business.

"If you want to make a small fortune in wine, start with a large fortune and buy wine," Paine said.

Planning commissioners were less emphatic than the speakers, while remaining skeptical.

"The noise generated by events would be too much to be consistent with an agricultural use,"

See **NEELY WINE**, page 6

NEED HELP?

Reach Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto at (650) 326-6440 or clsepa.org; the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County at (650) 558-0915 or legalaidsmc.org; or a tenant rights hotline at (888) 495-8020.

See **RENTERS**, page 6



WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the District Board of the West Bay Sanitary District will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday evening, December 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Room located at 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park.

The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to consider a proposed increase in some of the customer rates for year 2020 effective January 1, 2020 for the collection of waste recyclable materials in the West Bay Sanitary District for 2020.

The need for this increase was discussed by the District Board at the October 9, 2019 Board meeting. The staff report for this matter is available at the District Office located at 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park or online at www.westbaysanitary.org.

WHAT ARE THE NEW RATES:

Approximately fifty-seven percent (57%) of residential service containers are a 32 gallon size. The new rate for 2020 for a 32 gallon container would increase from \$49.00 per month to \$51.00 per month, a \$2.00 per month increase. The new rate for the 20 gallon container would increase from \$39.00 per month to \$43.00 per month, a \$4.00 per month increase. 20 gallon containers have been grandfathered to current users but are no longer available to new customers or to customers wishing to migrate down to a 20 gallon container.

The District's proposed rates are designed to transition the "per can" rate to a full "cost of service" rate. For comparison purposes, the typical residential rates for 32 gallon containers for SBWMA Cities including Atherton, Burlingame, Belmont, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, and San Mateo, range from a low of \$23.64 (Foster City) to a high of \$50.00 (Atherton), based upon 2019 rates. 2020 rates are not yet available.

The following table shows the current rates and the proposed monthly rates for West Bay Sanitary District Franchised Customers to be effective beginning January 1, 2020.

Customer Service Level	Proposed Maximum Solid Waste Rates for 2020			QUARTERLY RATES		
	Current Monthly Rate	Proposed Monthly Rate	Monthly Increase (Decrease)	Current Quarterly Rate	Proposed Quarterly Rate	Quarterly Increase
Residential:						
20 gallon can	\$39.00	\$43.00	\$4.00	\$117.00	\$129.00	\$12.00
32 gallon can	\$49.00	\$51.00	\$2.00	\$147.00	\$153.00	\$6.00
64 gallon can	\$72.00	\$72.00	\$0.00	\$216.00	\$216.00	\$0.00
96 gallon can	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$0.00	\$315.00	\$315.00	\$0.00
*Commercial: (Per Pick Up)						
1 yard bin	\$195.32	\$185.55	(\$9.77)	n/a	n/a	n/a
2 yard bin	\$370.68	\$352.15	(\$18.53)	n/a	n/a	n/a
3 yard bin	\$412.78	\$392.14	(\$20.64)	n/a	n/a	n/a
4 yard bin	\$550.36	\$522.84	(\$27.52)	n/a	n/a	n/a
6 yard bin	\$682.28	\$648.17	(\$34.11)	n/a	n/a	n/a
32-Gallon Cart	\$49.00	\$51.00	\$2.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
64-Gallon Cart	\$72.00	\$72.00	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
96-Gallon Cart	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a

*Commercial bin rates reflect collection charge for one pick up per week; to calculate charge for more than one collection per week, multiply rate by number of collections per week. For example, 1-Cubic Yard Bin (at proposed rate) collected 3 times per week = \$556.65 (\$185.55 x 3 collections/wk)

At this hearing, the Board of Directors will consider public comment as well as written protests by ratepayers regarding the proposed increase in monthly collection rates. If you would like additional information on the proposed rates, please call the District at 650-321-0384.

Any person interested, including all solid waste/recycling collection customers of the West Bay Sanitary District, may appear at the public hearing and be heard on any matter related to the proposed increase in monthly rates.

West Bay Sanitary District Board of Directors
San Mateo County, California

/s/ Phil Scott
District Manager
Dated: October 9, 2019

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RENTERS

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notices, such as her clients.

The law

The new state law requires a landlord to have a valid reason to evict a tenant who has lived in a unit for a year or more. Valid reasons are failure to pay rent, violating a lease term or being a "nuisance."

The law still permits owners to evict a tenant if they or certain members of their family are planning to move into the unit, or if the unit is being withdrawn from the market. But in those situations, the owner must offer tenants one month's rent as relocation assistance, regardless of the tenant's income.

The law has fairly strict parameters as to which rental housing units are covered.

For instance, the just-cause eviction and rent cap policies don't apply to housing units that are newer than 16 years old; educational dorms; already-restricted affordable housing; or duplexes where the owner's main home is one of the units.

These policies also do not apply to single-family homes or condominiums unless the owner is a real estate investment trust, a corporation or a limited liability company, under specific circumstances. However, landlords are

Have you been impacted by a sudden eviction or rent hike since Oct. 8? Share your story with The Almanac by contacting Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.

still expected to alert tenants in these units that they are exempt from the rent cap and just-cause eviction policies.

In addition, the just-cause eviction policy doesn't apply to hotels, housing at hospitals, churches, extended and licensed care facilities, and other adult residential facilities. It also doesn't apply in situations where a renter shares a bathroom or kitchen facilities with the owner in the owner's home, or in homes where the owner lives there and rents no more than two units or bedrooms.

A group opposing the legislation filed a lawsuit against Gov. Gavin Newsom and the city of Long Beach on Oct. 15, claiming it is unconstitutional.

It's not yet clear how the law will be enforced, but city staffers say they anticipate enforcement through civil action. Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto and the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County can provide legal resources and referral services for renters, staff reports. ■

NEELY WINE

continued from page 5

said Commission Vice Chair Judith Hasko. "Turning a whole field into parking spaces is not going to work."

Commission Chair Jon Goulden said that he doesn't "want to create a new commercial sector" in town.

"I'd be tempted to say the events don't fit into the context (of the general plan)," Goulden said. On the other hand, he said, "I'd much rather have a vineyard than a housing development."

Commissioner Anne Kopf-Sill agreed with Goulden that an expanded winery use was better than single-family housing.

"The agriculture use fits with the general plan," she said. "It's better than getting developed into housing."

The Planning Commission will hold another meeting at an unconfirmed date to continue considering the issue of conformity with the general plan and zoning issues, Russell said.

Russell said the day after the meeting that she hadn't yet heard from the Neelys, but that she was assuming that they would continue to revise the proposal.

Lucy Neely, Neely Wine's sales and marketing director, did not return a call seeking comment.

Vines were planted at the property known as Spring Ridge Winery in 1980 before it was purchased by Kirk Neely, who is on the medical school staff at Stanford and at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, and his wife, Holly Myers, in 1995, according to the Neely Wine web site.

Spring Ridge received a conditional use permit in 2013 that allowed the Neelys to expand the grape-growing area from 13.5 to 19 acres.

A use permit granted in 2000 prohibited a tasting room and retail sales on the property, a stricture that remained unchanged when the 2013 use permit was granted, Russell said. ■

Correction

A story in the Oct. 30 issue of The Almanac incorrectly stated a restriction on entering a segment of the Center Trail in Woodside. The gate on Woodside Road leading to the site of a planned equestrian bridge on the trail is unlocked — no key needed.

Menlo Park council endorses ban on vaping device sales

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

Hours after the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors acted unanimously to ban the sale of e-cigarettes in unincorporated county areas, the Menlo Park City Council voted unanimously Tuesday, Nov. 5, to support a similar ban.

The county's action expands a previous ordinance passed in June that bans the sale of flavored tobacco products and prohibits pharmacies from selling tobacco products.

The Menlo Park ban, if passed, would copy the San Mateo County ordinance, prohibiting the sale of tobacco in pharmacies and smoke shops, and banning flavored tobacco products including menthol and mint-flavored tobacco products.

In addition, the council agreed to ask City Attorney Bill McClure to add wording in the city's public smoking policy to ban vaping in public places.

Both items are anticipated to come to the City Council for a first reading on Dec. 10 and a second reading the following week on Dec. 17.

Public health concerns

These actions, taken during a growing outbreak of lung injuries related to vaping, came with pronouncements emphasizing concerns about

the prevalence and skyrocketing rates of young people using such devices, and the health hazards of e-cigarettes and flavored tobacco.

Across the U.S., the county's ordinance states, between 2017 and 2018, usage of electronic smoking devices — also known as e-cigarettes, vapes, vape pens and e-hookahs — rose 78% among high school students, with about one in five now using them; among middle schoolers, one in 20 are using them.

In addition, usage rates among youth in San Mateo County are nearly double the statewide figures, with current e-cigarette use among high school students county-wide, as reported from 2017 to 2018, at 20.8%, compared with the statewide rate of 10.9%, according to the 2018 California Student Tobacco Survey.

It also has a financial impact: Tobacco use within San Mateo County is estimated to have caused \$575 million in direct health care expenses between 2006 and 2010.

In terms of health impacts, the surgeon general has stated that any use of e-cigarettes among young people is not safe. Use has been associated with increase risk of heart attack, according to the American Heart Association, as well as the possibility of irreversible lung damage and disease, according to the

American Lung Association.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that as of Nov. 5, there have been 2,051 cases of e-cigarette or vaping product use associated lung injury reported, with 39 deaths, three of which were in California. More incidents are under investigation.

The CDC announced on Nov. 8 it has identified vitamin E acetate, an additive in vaping products, as a potential chemical of concern in the outbreak. Previous research suggests that when it is inhaled, it may interfere with normal lung functioning, it reports.

While state law prohibits the sale of tobacco products to anyone under 21, about 60% of 10th grade respondents to a 2018 survey said it was easy to get vaping devices and e-liquids. A 2018 National Youth Tobacco survey found that middle and high school students reported purchasing vaping devices from vape shops, gas stations, convenience stores, or online.

Public support

A number of parents, students, school officials and health workers told the council at the Nov. 5 meeting that they supported the sales ban. Several criticized the marketing of vape devices, along with such business' lines of pleasant and

See **VAPING**, page 10

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Sellers Feel Stuck In Their Homes

Dear Monica: My wife and I love our home which we built 30 years ago but it's too large for us now that our children are grown. We are paralyzed though and can't move because we don't want to pay the capital gains taxes we will owe. What is your advice for this situation?
Bill T.

Dear Bill: There are many homeowners who are facing the same issue as you are. They want to move but are afraid of the capital gains they will have to pay when they sell. For some owners

the thought of paying this keeps them from selling. There are a few ideas you should think about however.

Paying the tax may not be as bad as you think especially if selling and moving allows you to live the next phase of your life in the place you want to be. Also your expenses in your large home are probably high and moving to a smaller place with lower costs could offset the tax you would pay. It is a shame to let a tax consideration keep you a prisoner in a home you have loved.

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Uber drivers, others protest outside investor's Atherton home

By **Angela Swartz**
Almanac Staff Writer

About 30 gig economy employees, mostly Uber drivers, on Nov. 6 protested outside the Atherton home of Bill Gurley, a venture capitalist and investor in the ride-hailing company.

Protesters gathered at 11 a.m. at the intersection of Prado Secoya Street and Elena Avenue, across the street from Sacred Heart Schools, before marching to Gurley's house on Prado Secoya Street, calling out chants including "Hey, hey, ho, ho, billionaires have got to go" while several Atherton police officers looked on.

Event organizers said the protest was aimed at improving working conditions and wages for gig economy workers, who are now treated as independent contractors, not employees. This treatment limits their ability to organize into unions or receive medical benefits through work, they said.

Gig economy labor is defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as a single project or task

for which a worker is hired, often through a digital marketplace, to work on demand.

"The gig economy is hyper-exploitative," said Vanessa Bain, a Menlo Park resident who delivers for Instacart and Uber Eats. "With plummeting (pay) rates, we work more for increasingly less. There is nothing flexible about working 60-plus hours a week and still not being able to make ends meet."

The protest, one of three statewide scheduled for that day by Gig Workers Rising and the Mobile Workers Alliance, coincided with the day that Uber investors could cash out on their investments in the company, which had its initial public offering in May, according to Business Insider.

The statewide day of action, called Deactivate Uber Billionaires, aimed to take a stand against Uber executives and investors who have made millions of dollars while drivers struggle to make ends meet, according to a write-up on the Facebook event page.

"November 6th is the day early Uber investors are free to

cash out for the first time since the company went public on the stock market in May," the post said. "These investors stand to make billions of dollars while drivers are working countless hours to put food on their table."

After marching to Gurley's home, protesting workers spoke about wanting better pay, benefits and more transparency from gig economy companies, then read and left behind an outsized letter written on poster board at the front driveway gate of the house. The letter stated: "Dear Bill Gurley, As you enjoy your mansion, drivers are sleeping in their cars. Congrats on getting rich off our poverty! Sincerely, Drivers."

"We're here to remind people of the true costs of profits," said Carlos Ramos, who lives in Bakersfield, but drives for Uber in the Bay Area. "(Ride-hailing) drivers are not protected by the same working rights (as employees), are working 70 hours a week and sleeping in their cars."

In October, gig economy companies Uber, Lyft, Doordash, Postmates and Instacart pledged



Photo by Sammy Dallal/The Almanac

Uber drivers and other gig economy workers protest outside the home of Uber investor Bill Gurley for better working conditions and compensation.

\$90 million for a ballot initiative to ensure they would be exempt from California Assembly Bill 5 and be able to list their workers as independent contractors, not employees. AB 5 aims would categorize independent contractors — such as ride-hailing service drivers and delivery service workers — as employees.

"This has enraged drivers, who worked hard to organize and ensure AB 5 passed so that they could be recognized as employees and receive a livable wage and benefits," stated a Nov. 5 press release from Deactivate Uber

Billionaires organizers.

The two other planned protests took place outside of Google Ventures' San Francisco office in the Embarcadero and outside of Uber chairman and co-founder Garrett Camp's Los Angeles home.

Gurley is a general partner at Benchmark, a venture capital firm in Menlo Park. Benchmark led an \$11 million investment round in 2011 for Uber, according to Business Insider. Gurley left his position on Uber's board of directors in 2017, but has continued to support Uber. ▣

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Commission recommends allowing additions to homes near faults

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

The Woodside Planning Commission on Nov. 6 unanimously recommended approval of new construction rules that would allow residents with homes in earthquake hazard areas to add on to their residences, a privilege that was previously banned.

The relaxation of a pair of municipal code sections would allow homeowners to add up to 400 square feet of space to houses that are within a 50-foot setback of a known fault, but not on the fault, or within 125 feet of an “inferred” fault, meaning a fault trace that is suspected but not proven to exist, according to the staff report on the proposed change.

The additions to the homes must be on the side not facing the fault and must be accompanied by seismic strengthening work as recommended by the planning department and the town geologist, according to the staff report.

Any addition must be single-story at ground level of the property, according to the report.

Additions to homes proven to be directly on a fault would continue to be banned.

The previous rules limited changes to homes to “maintenance activities only, that would require a building permit,” according to the report.

“(Town) staff finds that providing an avenue to making improvements in these existing buildings and structures will result in buildings and structures that are safer than they currently are,” the staff report says.

“Buildings and structures that are not on the fault trace are at less risk (but not at no risk) of severe damage ... therefore a modest addition to habitable space would be acceptable.”

Any application must be accompanied by a fault investigation report to define the exact location of fault traces on the property.

There are three known faults within the Woodside town limits,

including the San Andreas, the Pilarcitos and the Hermit; the latter two are branch faults from the San Andreas, according to Woodside Principal Planner Sage Shaan.

The San Andreas runs directly through the middle of Woodside, the Hermit is at the north end of town and the Pilarcitos runs through the hills near Skyline Boulevard, Shaan said.

All Woodside homeowners within the Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone, established by the state in 1972 to improve earthquake safety, were notified in advance of the hearing, he said.

The special studies zone act prohibits new construction of houses within these zones unless a comprehensive geologic investigation shows that the fault does not pose a hazard to the proposed structure.

“These homes all existed before people knew where the fault was,” Shaan said.

The Town Council will consider the rules change at a later date. ▣

VAPING

continued from page 7

benign-sounding flavors, like mango or strawberry cheesecake, as Big Tobacco taking advantage of kids’ lack of knowledge about the health impacts of vaping.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that about two-thirds of teens think their e-cigarette contains just flavoring, and notes that manufacturers don’t have to report e-cigarette ingredients.

Aniya Majors, president of the Black Student Union at Sequoia High School, urged the council to approve the ban. “The tobacco companies are targeting teens into using their new products with the flavors that are appealing to teens, and new vaping data shows that it has increased and will keep increasing if we don’t put a ban to it in such stores as gas stations, liquor stores, and a lot of other corner stores in the communities,” she said. “I have experienced students going into the bathroom to use their vape pens and then the fire alarms (go) off.”

Erik Burmeister,

superintendent of the Menlo Park City School District, expressed support for the ban, emphasizing that vaping isn’t just a problem in high schools. It’s affecting middle and even elementary schools as well.

“This is not only a national health crisis, but it’s also a local health crisis, and it’s something that does ... reach beyond the high schools and into the middle schools and elementary schools,” he told the council. “I believe it’s a wonderful opportunity for us as a community to make a statement that the health and well-being of our students matter and we’re not going to wait an entire generation for folks to realize that Big Tobacco is having a very detrimental impact on the lives of our kids.” ▣

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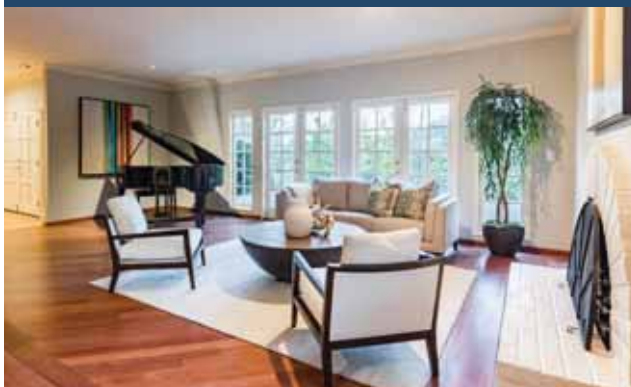
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A NOTEWORTHY PASSION

Story and photos by Magali Gauthier

Tech companies spawn a cappella groups that spotlight the importance of creativity

Last month, employees from some of the largest local tech companies gathered at the Fox Theatre in Redwood City. But they weren't there to hear a keynote speech for the unveiling of a new AI product.

They were there to sing a cappella.

On Oct. 20, the concert series and nonprofit Techapella hosted the first show of its seventh season featuring in-house a cappella groups from the tech industry. Google's Googapella and Alpha-beat, Facebook's The Vocal Network, LinkedIn's InTune, Apple's The Keynotes and the mixed-company group Internote belted out their versions of catchy tunes like "Where on Earth is Carmen Sandiego?" by Rockapella and Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk."

"I think there's a lot more overlap between tech and art than people see at the surface," said Divya Mouli, a member of Googapella since 2016 and a software engineer for Google Books since 2015. "Ultimately, a lot of tech is innovation and creativity."

Jameela Huq, a software engineer for LinkedIn's Germany

team and the musical director of InTune, said that her coworkers encourage her to merge the skills she uses at work and those as a leader of the singing group.

A total of 18 groups performed over the four performances this season — one on Oct. 20 and three on Nov. 10. Some of those groups include Pinterest's Pin-tunes, Dropbox's Syncopation, Twitter's The Songbirds, Airbnb's Airbnbeats, and 23andMe's Chromotones.

Lindsay Graham, the executive director of Techapella and a Googapella singer, helped found the nonprofit seven years ago when Googapella, then two years old, and the brand new The Vocal Network decided to host a holiday concert at the end of 2013.

Graham says they are expecting the network to increase to more than 30 groups next year. The expected growth in participation and ticket sales is what pushed Techapella to seek nonprofit status, which it reached this past September.

The organization was already donating 100 percent of proceeds to charity partners Music for



Top: Alphabeat's Paul Miller performs "Good Things Come to Those Who Wait" by Nathan Sykes. **Above:** Caroline Wu sings background with Facebook's The Vocal Network during a recent Techapella rehearsal in an alley behind the Fox Theatre. The Vocal Network and Googapella were the founding groups of Techapella. **On the cover:** Franz-Julius Chen belts out "Lay Me Down" by Sam Smith with Facebook's The Vocal Network during Techapella rehearsal at the Fox Theatre in Redwood City. Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac.

Minors and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, said Graham, and being a nonprofit allows it to do this more effectively.

“We want to donate to organizations that donate to the arts,” she said. “We are bringing arts to tech, so want to bring that to all lives.”

Sonja Wohlgemuth, the executive director of the Peninsula-based Music for Minors, estimates that after this season, Techapella will have donated about \$30,000 to \$40,000 to the nonprofit, which sponsors music lessons in elementary schools.

“Money is good, but music and music education is wonderful,” said Wohlgemuth. “Groups that are part of Techapella don’t just want to perform and have a good time, they actually want to serve communities.”

Two years ago, Graham reached

out to Wohlgemuth about deepening their organizations’ partnership. They sent members of Googapella out to a local school to teach songs to about 25 students. Googapella and the students then performed at Music for Minors’ annual gala.

Moving forward, Wohlgemuth would like to see students performing with in-house a cappella groups on tech campuses. Taking kids to tech companies would let them see themselves doing that kind of work, she said.

“We just want music to be a part of their lives and to benefit them,” she explained. “To have a relationship with a community adult in the same endeavor brings validity to what they are doing. They recognize that what we are doing is going to have an

See **TECHAPELLA**, page 16



Googapella’s Ricky Jacobson and Divya Mouli perform “Angel” by Shaggy at Techapella. “Work can be stressful and going to a cappella after a long day of work, it’s the perfect amount of relief,” Mouli said. “It’s calming and comforting. It’s working at a different frequency in the brain that leaves me refreshed. I’ve been able to flex different muscles.”



Dozens of mics on stage at Techapella at the Fox Theatre.



Members of Internote, a cross-company a cappella group, dressed in matching gold and black outfits during Techapella rehearsal.



Alphabeats’ Ruchi Jahagirdar sings a solo during a performance featuring all six Techapella groups during rehearsal.



Fernanda Amaya rehearses a mash-up of “Down” by Jay Sean and “Sweet But a Psycho” by Ava Max with Facebook’s The Vocal Network in an alley behind the Fox Theatre.

TECHAPELLA

continued from page 15

impact on them.”

Huq, who used to be a science teacher, said that she wants kids to be exposed to these companies so that they can see what opportunities they have in the area.

“Tech can seem like this sort of unattainable or secluded portion of society, and we do have a lot of influence,” Mouli said. “So the ability to use our platform to raise passion around the arts is important. None of us would be in tech without art. Some of the best folks in tech are creatives and innovators thinking outside the box.”

Graham says that Techapella is just starting to figure out what the next few years will bring. In the short term, it will continue to donate to music education. Further down the road, Graham would like to explore the possibility of developing community spaces for the arts.

Until then, Techapella encourages performance groups, such as choirs, improv teams and orchestras, across industries in the Bay Area to reach out to the organization to see how they can get involved.

“And if you’re looking to bring a creative hobby to your company, we want to talk to you and help you do that,” Graham said. ■



Rachel Zhang of The Vocal Network puts on some eyeliner, while Alphabeat’s Tirsia St. Fort and Ruchi Jahagirdar take a break before the start of Techapella at the Fox Theatre.



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Performers take a break before the start of Techapella at the Fox Theatre.

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8083	India Berber	4.1 x 5.11	Crème	\$1,005	\$250
9304	Pakistan Gabbbeh	3.5 x 5.9	Burgandy/Blue	\$2,105	\$450
7322	Pakistan Gabbbeh	4.1 x 6.2	Blue/Gold	\$2,085	\$450
7694	Afghan Balouch	3.10 x 5.10	Rust/Navy	\$705	\$250
10923	India Sultanabad	4 x 6	Brown/Red	\$1,805	\$450
9276	India Boro	4 x 6	Saffron	\$2,885	\$750
1316	Persian Gabbbeh Soumak	3.11 x 5.10	Red	\$3,005	\$650
9509	India Fine Tabriz	4.1 x 6.4	Ivory/Blue	\$2,845	\$750
9511	India Fine Tabriz	4 x 6.3	Green/Beige	\$2,755	\$750
2615	Pakistan Tabriz 16/16	4.0 x 6.1	Blue/ Ivory	\$2,445	\$650
9506	Fine India Tabriz	4.2 x 6	Beige	\$2,755	\$750
7697	Afghan Balouch	3.4 x 6.1	Red	\$702	\$250
9507	India Fine Tabriz	4.2 x 6	Ivory/Blue	\$2,845	\$650
6291	Iran Gabbbeh	4.5 x 6	Rust/Green	\$3,395	\$970
832	Pakistan Sultanabad	3.5 x 6.1	Beige	\$1,500	\$350
9273	India Boro	4.2 x 6	Blue	\$2,885	\$750
9280	India Boro	4.1 x 6.2	Blue	\$2,885	\$750
9271	India Haji Jalili Tabriz	4 x 6	Burgandy/Ivory	\$2,885	\$750
545	Pakistan Sultanabad	4.1 x 6.1	Red/Burgandy	\$1,685	\$350
8090	India Berber	4.2 x 5.11	Beige	\$865	\$295
1374	Tuffenkian Rag Weave	4 x 6	Grey/Gold	\$5,505	\$950
10940	India Sultanabad	4.1 x 6.3	Silver/Sand	\$1,915	\$550
10936	India Sultanabad	4 x 5.9	Navy/Red	\$1,725	\$450
1240	India Kazak	4.2 x 5.11	Ivory/Blue	\$1,715	\$750
950	Iran Gabbbeh	3.10 x 5.9	Gold/Red	\$4,185	\$750

5 x 7

10031	India Shiraz	5 x 6.9	Rust/Navy	\$3,355	\$950
8094	India Berber	5.10 x 6.10	Grey/Ivory	\$1,395	\$425
9030	Persian Gabbbeh	4.8 x 6.7	Red/Gold	\$2,505	\$950
8735	Persian Kashkuli	4.6 x 6.5	Ivory/Rust	\$5,005	\$1,850
851	Nepal Modern	5.2 x 7.2	Black/Gold	\$2,505	\$850
1402	India Kazak	4.6 x 6.8	Navy/Beige	\$2,505	\$950
7368	Turkish Konya	4.5 x 7.2	Blue/Rust	\$1,255	\$450
11733	Old Persian Malayer	4.11 x 6.6	Rust/Navy	\$1,005	\$450
10828	India Kazak	4.10 x 6.10	Green/Rust	\$2,505	\$950
1053	Nepal Modern w/Silk	5.1 x 7.2	Green/Rust	\$5,715	\$1,525
952	Iran Gabbbeh	5.2 x 7.7	Beige/Brown	\$4,755	\$950
9032	India Modern Jute	5.3 x 7.6	Gold/Brown	\$1,785	\$550
1115	Pakistan Sultanabad	5.7 x 7	Beige/Red	\$3,445	\$850
9951	India Ikat	4.9 x 7.10	Blue/Ivory	\$3,875	\$1,450
1785	Pakistan Chobi	5.7 x 7.9	Chocolate	\$4,675	\$1,250
9020	India Pebbles	5 x 7.10	Grey/Beige	\$2,505	\$850
2092	India Haji Jalili	5.3 x 7.1	Beige/Gold	\$3,275	\$1,250
9270	India Haji Jalili	5 x 7.9	Red/Burgandy	\$4,655	\$1,550
11730	Antique Persian Kurd	4.5 x 7.7	Rust/Navy	\$1,005	\$450
8232	Pakistan Chobi	5.1 x 6.8	Beige	\$3,745	\$1,250
8734	Persian Kashkuli	5.8 x 7.8	Ivory/Navy	\$8,505	\$1,850

6 x 9

Stock #	Description	Size	Color	Original Price	Sale Price
2246	Pakistan Chobi	5.1 x 9.4	Chocolate	\$3,495	\$750
2612	Pakistan Chobi	6 x 8.10	Red/Ivory	\$3,975	\$950
12421	India Isfahan	5.10 x 9	Pink/Ivory	\$1,755	\$850
8440	India Oushak	6 x 9	Red/Ivory	\$7,905	\$1,250
5847	Turkish Kazak	6.3 x 9.3	Gold/Red	\$5,005	\$450
6082	India Bidjar	6.1 x 8.9	Rust/Blue	\$2,970	\$950
7206	India Soumak	6.2 x 8.10	Blue/Ivory	\$1,775	\$550
4996	India Sultanabad	6 x 9	Beige/Brown	\$2,575	\$950
8015	Pakistan Antique wash	5.10 x 8.10	Beige/Peach	\$2,505	\$950
811	Iran Gabbbeh Soumak	5.7 x 7.10	Gold/Red	\$5,315	\$1,650
14532	Turkish Bidjar	6 x 9	Gold/Red	\$4,550	\$750
11734	Pakistan Chobi	6 x 9	Beige/Green	\$5,005	\$1,950
8228	India Oushak	6.8 x 8.7	Beige	\$7,445	\$1,950
9948	India Tabriz	5.10 x 8.10	Ivory/Brown	\$5,155	\$2,250
1126	Pakistan Chobi	6 x 9.4	Beige	\$3,805	\$950
1437	India Oushak	5.9 x 8.9	Beige/Rose	\$1,815	\$850
10693	India Kazak	6 x 9	Beige	\$4,415	\$1,250
1445	India Haji Jalili	6 x 9.1	Brown/Navy	\$6,685	\$1,950
294	Persian Kurd	5.3 x 9	Navy/Red	\$6,525	\$950
800	Pakistan Ghazani	6 x 8.8	Red/Burgandy	\$3,215	\$950
2180	India Herati	6.1 x 9.2	Navy/Red	\$4,745	\$950
2088	India Haji Jalili	7 x 9	Navy/Rust	\$6,300	\$1,950

8 x 10

9267	India Haji Jalili	7.10 x 10.2	Burgandy/Gold	\$9,565	\$2,675
9266	India Haji Jalili	7.10 x 10	Burgandy/Gray	\$9,405	\$2,575
2045	India Antique Look Kazak	7.8 x 9.9	Navy/Rust	\$6,775	\$1,950
9939	India Fine Tabriz	7.10 x 10.4	Rust \$8,905	\$1,950	
5078	India Esplande	7.11 x 10.4	Grey/Beige	\$5,595	\$1,650
11967	India William Morris Design	8 x 10	Rust/Beige	\$3,605	\$1,350
9830	Pakistan Bokhara	7.1 x 10.5	Taupe	\$6,005	\$990
6628	India Esplande	8 x 10.7	Beige/Gold	\$6,855	\$1,950
10554	India Kozen	7.10 x 9.10	Beige	\$8,405	\$1,990
1220	Rajasthan N	7.10 x 10	Buirgand/Brown	\$7,445	\$2,150
10059	Rajasthan K	8.3 x 10.1	Burgandy/Blue	\$7,505	\$990
12618	Afghan Elephant Foot	8.5 x 11	Burgandy	\$4,005	\$990
10896	India Rhapsody with Silk	7.9 x 10.3	Grey	\$8,965	\$1,550
10917	India Rathay with Silk	8 x 10	Beige/Blue	\$10,005	\$3,550
1101	Pakistan Aryana	8 x 9.7	Beige/Rust	\$7,220	\$1,950
7874	Pakistan Chobi	8.2 x 10.7	Rose/Ivory	\$4,500	\$990
12911	Rajasthan K	8 x 10.2	Rust/Beige	\$5,045	\$2,250
7225	India Ikat	7.8 x 9.9	Navy/Rust	\$6,305	\$1,350
10538	India Mulberry with Silk	8.3 x 10.4	Blue	\$15,345	\$4,550
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Stolen rainbow flag becomes part of lesson on activism

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

One morning last month, students at Trinity School gathered to participate in a discussion that centered on rainbow flags that have been stolen from the church that sits in front of their elementary school in Menlo Park. St. Bede's Episcopal Church, located at 2650 Sand Hill Road, has replaced three rainbow

flags, hung to support the LGBTQ community, since 2016, including two in August, according to the church.

Head of School Matt Allio decided to turn the incident into lesson plans on activism for about 30 fourth and fifth graders.

"The nature of the mystery struck me as one to discuss with our older, Grade Four and Grade Five students," wrote Allio, in

a Sept. 25 blog post. "As adults, we have a frame of reference for understanding the symbolism of the flag itself — a symbol of LGBTQ activism, a beacon of inclusion and peace, perhaps even a bit about its origin with Harvey Milk. Our students' understanding varies, but I wanted to frame my discussion with them using a rubric centered around activism."

Trinity students are encouraged to thoughtfully question the status quo and be leaders, Allio said. School officials encourage students to be capable of making social change, first by learning about a topic, then by acting and organizing others.

"It's not about being rebellious or reactive, it's just a good education," he said.

During a lesson in October, Allio reviewed the facts about the stolen rainbow flags. He also reviewed the history of the rainbow pride flag. He asked students if they think there is any action they can take regarding the missing flags.

Students proposed leaving The Almanac's previous article on the flag theft next to the current flag so the thief could understand the significance of his or her actions, and leaving a note politely asking the person to stop taking the flag.

Another wondered if whoever took the flags had a bad experience with someone in the LGBTQ community and acted in rage



Photo courtesy of Trinity School

Matt Allio, Trinity School's head of school, talks to students about rainbow flags that went missing in front of nearby St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Menlo Park.

against the community. One student suggested ascertaining whether there is a pattern regarding the time the flag is being stolen.

"I could sit there (by the flag) 24 hours a day and make my whole life about the flag, but that wouldn't be a good use of my time," Allio told the students.

He asked students to ponder what they could do beyond protecting the flag — perhaps figuring out ways to protect the rights of other people. Just being informed and knowing about other groups is a good first step, he said.

One student noted that she'd like to make it clear to people that even if they don't like the LGBTQ community, they shouldn't steal rainbow flags.

"We should let them know

that if they take the flag it won't bother us; we'll still be LGBTQ-friendly," said a student named Caroline.

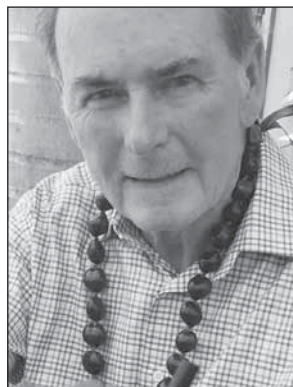
The flag has remained in place since the last theft in August, said St. Bede's Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin in a Nov. 2 email.

"The 'mystery' of the missing Rainbow Flag has not been solved," said Allio in his blog post. "I believe this singular example can serve to illuminate our responsibilities as educators — and partners with parents in the education of the children — to truly view education in the fullest sense. To make education a pathway to deeper analytical thought, to foster a sense of informed action, and for students, ultimately, to view their education as an activist, or changemaker, would." ■

John "Jack" Murphy

May 18, 1946 – November 1, 2019

John "Jack" Murphy was born in Wellesley, Massachusetts to John Patrick and Catherine Marie Murphy. "Little Jackie" was a bright boy who started kindergarten at age four and was known to take the bus around Boston by himself at a young age. At school, he sometimes caused trouble with the nuns for being "too clever". Jack loved telling stories and one of his favorites was the time his teacher nun put him in the corner with a dunce hat on. Jack went on to study at Tufts University in Boston, but left before graduating to join the workforce at Honeywell working in the stockroom until he got his first big break in sales.



Jack met the love of his life and wife of 50 years, Lee at the age of 22 when they met on a blind date and Lee was a stewardess for TWA. Jack loved to "check out" of work on a Friday and fly with Lee to tropical locations and was proud of his tan when he returned to snowy Boston on Monday for work. Jack went on to have a great career in sales at Wang Laboratories and eventually made his way to the West Coast. Jack joined Apple Computer in 1984 and knew that they were destined to change the world! After an almost 10 year run at Apple, Jack left and had several CEO jobs at Practical Peripherals, Prometheus, and Cohesion Systems. But perhaps his greatest career accomplishment was his business partnership with Lee as the CFO for Calla. Lee and Jack launched several very successful boutiques together including Calla in Menlo Park and Los Altos, Pink Wasabi in Carmel and Newport Beach, and Kicks in Menlo Park, where Lee runs the business today.

Jack loved spending time with his family above everything - at the dinner table, on vacation to Hawaii or Mexico (Jack loved the beach), conversation over a coffee or a cigar, or supporting his children's passions. Jack was a great story teller, advice giver, and listener. Jack is survived by a wonderful modern family: Wife, Lee. Brother Jeff and sister-in-law Mary, brothers-in-law and their wives, Jim and Carol Press and Jeff and Eileen Press. Oldest son Matt and his wife Laura and their three children, Sara, Nolan and Ben. Middle daughter Abby and her daughter Catie, Abby's partner Rick and his three children Kelsey, Taylor, and Rylee. Former son-in-law Trent Collins and his partner Cristina. Youngest son Ryan and his wife Tracy.

Jack was a man who lived life with joy and intensity. The last eight years were challenging as Jack managed through having Parkinson's disease. Jack's family is appreciative of the care he received during his last year of life at Villa Fontana. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a donation to the Parkinson's foundation or make a visit to say hello to Lee at Kicks in Menlo Park and share a funny story or fond memory about Jack.

PAID OBITUARY

A half-century ago, Menlo Park played key role in birth of internet

Celebrated as the "Anniversary of the Internet," Oct. 29 marked the 50th year since the first transmission on ARPANET, a precursor to today's internet. The transmission was between the University of California-Los Angeles and SRI, or the Stanford Research Institute, now SRI International, located in Menlo Park.

According to SRI International, it housed one of four original nodes of the network; the others

were at UCLA, University of California-Santa Barbara and the University of Utah.

In an archived UCLA report, Leonard Kleinrock, a computer scientist at the university's Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science, described the experience.

"All we wanted to do was to log in from our host computer at UCLA to the SRI host computer," said Kleinrock. "We needed to

transmit the letters 'log' to SRI, at which point the SRI host would add the letters 'in' to complete the word 'login.'"

However, only the first two letters, lo, went through before the host computer at SRI crashed.

"As a result, history now records how clever we were to send such a prophetic first message, namely 'lo,'" Kleinrock noted.

The resulting network was named after the Department of Defense's Advanced Research Project Agency, or ARPA, which started and funded the initiative.

— By Kate Bradshaw

Nov. 15 deadline for county transportation plan feedback

The San Mateo County Transportation Authority, which administers the two half-cent sales taxes that pay for transportation infrastructure projects countywide, has released a new five-year strategic plan for 2020 through 2024.

The strategic plan lays out

the agency's current plans for Measure A funds, and its new strategies for Measure W funds.

Measure W passed in 2018 and is expected to generate about \$80 million a year, with half going toward county public transportation and the other

half broken down into highway congestion-relief projects, regional projects, grade separations, bike and pedestrian projects and additional investments in local transportation.

Go to is.gd/smctaplan to comment on the proposed strategic plan. The deadline to respond is Friday, Nov. 15 at 5 p.m. The authority plans to take the final plan to its board for final adoption on Dec. 5.

Students gain skills to make change at 'action summit'

Menlo School hosts event for Bay Area students who want to make a difference in their world

By Elisabeth Westermann
Special to The Almanac

Over a hundred students from 12 different Bay Area schools, including Menlo-Atherton High, Castilleja in Palo Alto, and Eastside Prep in East Palo Alto, gathered at Menlo School in Atherton on Oct. 23 for the first-ever 1Bay Youth Action Summit. The students came to Menlo to form connections with other Bay Area youth activists and to brainstorm actions that students can take to address issues ranging from inequity in education to gun violence.

According to Chris Young, Menlo's community engagement director and the event's primary organizer, the goals for the day were twofold. He hoped that students attending the all-day summit would "find allies on issues [they] want to work on ... and create initial plans for action."

His idea for the summit came from "the observation that young people around the Bay Area have a lot of energy to be activists on issues that they really care about," Young explained. While 1Bay is the name of the summit held at Menlo only, it may become an "organization independent of Menlo" in the future, according to Young. There are no set plans, he noted, but similar summits under the name 1Bay could be held annually and hosted by different area schools.

Many of the attending students said they hoped that it would lead to real action. "I'm here to meet

people passionate about change, and to talk less and act more," said M-A senior Lena Kalotihos. Angel Tlachi, a junior at Arise High School in Oakland, echoed that sentiment, saying, "I'm hoping to create action. A lot of people talk without any action."

Young planned the day with that goal in mind. The students got to participate in an "activism fair" at lunch, which featured tables and representatives from

'Any change that is meaningful that has happened in our country, dare I say in the world, has happened because young people have been the engine for that change.'

PASTOR MICHAEL MCBRIDE

over 30 organizations, including We.org, Surfrider Foundation, Project We Hope, Second Harvest Food Bank, and People Acting in Community Together. It was designed to allow students to become involved in organizations helping to address the issues they are passionate about, Young said.

In addition, students attending the summit spent much of the afternoon planning action in small groups. Each group

focused on a different issue, ranging from health care to climate change to mental health. These groups created a poster outlining possible solutions that they later presented to the rest of the summit.

For junior Alix Borton, a member of Menlo's delegation, this was her favorite part of the day. "Hearing [other students attending the summit] speak allowed me to step back from the little bubble of my personal interests and learn about the issues my peers cared about, which made me care about them too," she said.

In terms of achieving its goals, the summit seems to have had success. Marina Hernandez, a teacher at KIPP King Collegiate High School in San Lorenzo who brought her students to the summit, was pleased with how it went. "I hoped my students would gain a collaborative experience and grow as critical thinkers, and seeing my students talking to other students, laughing and with serious faces, it seems like that's exactly what's happening," she said.

Some students have already begun to work together on issues they care about. "I am looking forward to collaborating with the guest students from other schools who share my enthusiasm for climate action," Borton said. "We made a group chat and everything, so we're ready to get the ball rolling!"

To help continue the momentum from the summit, Young is sending out a survey that will ask students about their interest in joining different committees that will work to address issues of



Photo by Grace Wilson/Special to The Almanac

Menlo Middle School students sign up to become involved in one of the organizations at the fair summit's "activism fair."

concern for the students. Young is planning to help students in the committees coordinate via group text and video chatting.

The central theme of the day was that youth have the power to create change. Both of the summit's speakers, Pastor Michael McBride, who is a leader in multiple organizations working toward preventing gun violence, and Dr. Clayborne Carson, director of The Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford, included this theme in their talks. They used examples such as the Freedom Riders, young people who rode buses across the South many decades ago to call attention to the segregation that persisted on interstate travel systems, to

demonstrate how young people can be catalysts for change.

McBride opened his speech with an inspiring message for students: "Any change that is meaningful that has happened in our country, dare I say in the world, has happened because young people have been the engine for that change. ... You are your ancestors' wildest dreams. Hundreds of years ago they were hoping, they were wishing for you to be sitting in this seat alive and to take what they had done, but not yet finished, and advance it even further than they had ever imagined." ■

Elisabeth Westermann is a Menlo School student and a former intern for The Almanac.

For Veterans Day, a lesson about service and gratitude

By Renee Batti
Almanac Editor

Bob Williams of Menlo Park clearly recalls "a special boyhood thrill" that profoundly moved him and inspired him into adulthood and to this day: meeting and shaking hands with a U.S. military veteran. A veteran, mind you, of the American Civil War.

Williams, a retired international life insurance executive who around Veterans Day every year offers to share with today's young people "The story of a little boy and his love of the American flag," is 98 years old.

More than 200 Menlo School students heard Williams' story during a Nov. 6 assembly at the school, where they were given small flags and, after the

presentation, lined up to shake the World War II veteran's hand.

In a prepared speech that he shared in writing with The Almanac, Williams explained to the assembled students that Veterans Day was originally known as Armistice Day, and celebrates the end of World War I on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. He recalled attending Armistice Day celebrations in the 1920s in Sausalito, where he was raised, with his father, a World War I veteran.

Barely out of his teens, Williams was in the United States Naval Academy when the U.S. became involved in World War II. As a Naval Academy midshipman, he held the highest



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

World War II veteran Bob Williams, 98, spoke to about 200 Menlo School students on Nov. 6 in a presentation in recognition of Veterans Day, celebrated Nov. 11.

See **VETERANS DAY**, page 20

Menlo Park
Quarterly Market Report
October 1 - October 31, 2019

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9. \$3,100,000 2242 Ivy Avenue	10. \$3,075,000 350 Linfield Drive		

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SOLD LISTING OCT 34 SEP 21 62%	SALE/LIST PRICE OCT 100.90% SEP 102.40% -1%	30 YEAR MORTGAGE RATE OCT 3.96% SEP 3.91% 1%

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Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Sixth grader Niko Madriz was one of the 200 Menlo School students who shook hands with Williams after listening to a presentation by the World War II veteran.

VETERANS DAY

continued from page 19

appointive rank, brigade commander, and the highest elective office, class president, he said in a prepared biography.

Graduation from the academy was accelerated by one year because of the war, and as a shipboard officer he fought in four Western Pacific campaigns, according to his biography.

In addition to explaining what the American flag represents to him, Williams emphasized in his talk to the students the value of developing a habit of gratitude in their daily lives — a lesson he learned, he

said, during nearly a century of living. He encouraged the students to be thankful for the people in their everyday lives, and to express their gratitude in speech and in writing to everyone from their parents and teachers to their bus driver.

The day after the event, Liz Bongiorno of Menlo School, who helped organize the assembly, wrote in an email to the guest speaker: “The students and faculty are still talking about your visit! What an impact you made on these students. Thank you for your time, and most of all, your service. I think everyone will look at our flag with a new light whenever we see it.”



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City explores starting youth advisory council

A proposal by two Menlo School students to start a youth advisory council in Menlo Park took a step forward on Nov. 5, when the City Council voted unanimously to refer the matter to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

As laid out in a draft proposal by the initiative's youth proponents, the Menlo Park Youth Advisory Committee would be made up of 10 to 18 high school students who live in the city. Meetings would be held the first Wednesday of each month.

City staff looked at 12 city youth advisory councils on the Peninsula to see which students are typically eligible to participate, how often they meet, and what their roles are. Many youth councils permit students as young as sixth graders, while others include only high school students. Most end at 12th grade, though South San Francisco's council, in a pilot phase, incorporates students ages 14 to 21 years old.

Committees vary in size, from five members in Millbrae to an unlimited number of members in San Mateo and Foster City. Meeting frequency varies; most are monthly, but the committees in Mountain View and Pacifica meet twice per month, and Palo Alto's youth council meets weekly. Most are aimed at offering youth a more powerful platform to engage in the political process and provide input in local government.

Charters governing such groups vary in how rigid their structures are, and some of them are even subject to the Brown Act, the law that sets transparency requirements for public meetings and conduct outside of meetings.

The committee is estimated to cost about \$17,415 annually, assuming an existing staff member works on the initiative about 20 hours per month and the city spends no more than \$3,000 in training, materials and supplies.

— By Kate Bradshaw

Vaping devices talk Nov. 20

An expert on vaping will share information that he believes parents and students need to know about electronic cigarettes and other vaping devices on Wednesday, Nov. 20, at Woodside High School.

In "What's All the Buzz With JUUL & Similar Vape Devices?" Richard Ceballos, co-director of the Stanford Tobacco Prevention Toolkit, will lead the presentation on an issue of growing concern among parents, teachers and health professionals as the number of young people vaping locally increases.

About 21% of teens in San Mateo and San Francisco counties vaped in 2018, up from 11.7% in 2017, according to San Mateo County health department data.

The Stanford toolkit is an online educational resource that can be adapted to fit the individual needs of educators and students in all types of settings, including elementary, middle and high schools, community-based organizations, and health-related agencies. Ceballos is also a professor in the adolescent division in Stanford School of Medicine's Pediatrics Department.

During the presentation, Ceballos will aim to answer the following questions:

- What is vaping?
- How much vaping occurs among tweens/teens compared with other drugs?
- What does vaping do to the young body and mind?
- How do you talk to your kids about vaping?

■ How can parents prevent vaping before it starts?

The event is free; there will be light refreshments. Simultaneous Spanish interpretation will be available.

The talk is part of the district's Parent Education Series in which experts in subjects like academic success and student well-being discuss their fields with district parents, staff and community members. Woodside Parent Education Series events are sponsored by Woodside PTSA, the Sequoia Healthcare District and the Sequoia Union High School District.

Contact Charlene Margot, founder and director of the Parent Education Series at cmargot@csconconsulting.net with any questions.

The event runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Woodside High School's Multi-Use Room, 199 Churchill Ave. in Woodside.

For more information on the event, go to tinyurl.com/buzzaboutvaping.

LEHUA GREENMAN



"Believe in yourself so strongly that the world can't help but believe in you, too."

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

THREE OAKS CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 282811
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Three Oaks Clinical Psychology, located at 199 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
HINDA G. SACK, PH. D.
199 Arlington 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 10/11/19.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 11, 2019.
(ALM Oct. 23, 30; Nov. 6, 13, 2019)

GOMEZ FARM
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 282930
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Gomez Farm, located at 585 Shell Parkway Apt. 5103, Redwood City, CA 94065, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
Oscar J. Gomez-Sacasa
585 Shell Parkway Apt. 5103
Redwood City, CA 94065
Myrian L. Gomez
585 Shell Parkway Apt. 5103
Redwood City, CA 94065
This business is conducted by: Married Couple.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 23, 2019.
(Almanac Oct 30; Nov 6, 13, 20, 2019)

WONG PROPERTIES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 282889
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Wong Properties, located at 751 Warrington Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
WONGFRATRIS LLC
751 Warrington Ave.
Redwood City, CA 94063
CALIFORNIA
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on Jan. 2, 2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 18, 2019.
(ALM Oct. 30; Nov. 6, 13, 20, 2019)

LA MICHOCANITA GRILL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 282980
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
La Michoacanita Grill, located at 1226 Jervis Ave., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
JAIME E. CABALLERO
1226 Jervis Ave.
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10-29-2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 29, 2019.
(ALM Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2019)

DINO FIXES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 282823
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Dino Fixes, located at 1041 Ruth Ct., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
BERNARDINO CARDENAS
1041 Ruth Ct.
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/15/2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 15, 2019.
(ALM Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2019)

THE CLEAN MASTER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 282972
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
The Clean Master, located at 3510 Hoover St., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
JAZMIN MARTINEZ
3510 Hoover St.
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 10/29/19.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 29, 2019.
(ALM Nov. 13, 20, 27; Dec. 4, 2019)

JR JANITORIAL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283020
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
JR Janitorial, located at 2224 Menalto Ave., East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MIGUEL MORENO MORENO
2224 Menalto Ave.
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/1/2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 4, 2019.
(ALM Nov. 13, 20, 27; Dec. 4, 2019)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. : 00000008515298 Title Order No.: 1110948 FHA/VA/PMI No.: ATTENTION RECORDER: THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE TO AN ATTACHED SUMMARY APPLIES ONLY TO COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR, NOT TO THIS RECORDED ORIGINAL NOTICE. NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED. YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 04/15/2004. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 04/28/2004 as Instrument No. 2004-083184 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of SAN MATEO County, State of CALIFORNIA. EXECUTED BY: WILLIAM COATS AND SHERRI COATS, HUSBAND AND WIFE, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by California Civil Code 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 12/04/2019 TIME OF SALE: 1:00 PM PLACE OF SALE: AT THE MARSHALL STREET ENTRANCE TO THE HALL OF JUSTICE AND RECORDS, 400 COUNTY CENTER, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061. STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 10 JOAQUIN ROAD, PORTOLA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 94028 APN#: 080-130-220 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$634,394.72. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 714-730-2727 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site www.servicelinkASAP.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 00000008515298. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: AGENCY SALES and POSTING 714-730-2727 www.servicelinkASAP.com BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP as Trustee 3990 E. Concourse Street, Suite 350 Ontario, CA 91764 (866) 795-1852 Dated: 10/29/2019 BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. A-4709057 11/13/2019, 11/20/2019, 11/27/2019

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

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

Showdown at Bear Gulch Road as redwoods face chainsaw

By Severo Ornstein

Have you heard of PG&E? In their wisdom, but without much evidence to support it, they have decided that removing power wires from many-hundred-year-old trees to string onto newly placed poles increases fire safety. Our little community has been attempting to monitor their plans as they prepared to do just that along a stretch of our road, especially as it appeared that doing so would require cutting down a significant number of vintage redwood trees in order to maintain safe (prescribed) clearances.

Upset about the prospect of losing these redwoods, over the last year we have

been urging PG&E to keep us informed about their plans, which they revised in recognition of our concerns. We were promised that we would be able to review their plans, offer suggestions, etc., before anything would actually be done.

But PG&E is an organization of many hands, and the left hand, which promised us some participation in planning, apparently has no connection

to the right hand, with its grip on the chainsaws. Suddenly on Monday, Nov. 4, we were confronted with a sign promising that cutting would commence Wednesday, Nov. 6.



Severo Ornstein, a pioneering computer scientist, has lived on Bear Gulch Road in Woodside since 1984.

GUEST OPINION

In response to this high-handed behavior, in the early morning of Nov. 7 a small group of us set out to block their entrance to our little road — until the promises we had been given were kept. We had warned them that this would happen, and so several sheriff's deputies' cars arrived to assure that things remained peaceful. And finally the PG&E folks who had made the plans showed up belatedly — while the tree-cutting crews parked nearby with saws at the ready. This was hardly the level of thoughtful participation we had anticipated. The word "railroading" comes to mind.

And so as I write the saws are working PG&E's will on our trees.

This is all a bit of theater of course. PG&E, having been badly burned by past misbehavior, is making a desperate show of doing something to increase safety.

But in the rush it's unclear whether their actions are fully rational. In particular, we wonder why no attention was ever paid to the alternative of undergrounding the wires as has been done in many other places. That alternative was apparently summarily dismissed. But the cost of placing new poles, removing trees, stringing wires, and the perpetual cost of maintaining exposed wiring is also substantial, and no comparison was ever done.

In summary, PG&E's panicky behavior in response to the tragedies their past misbehavior has produced, is, as always, flawed. Let this be a warning to other communities facing similarly stupid behavior: Stay on your toes, and early on force PG&E to consider all possible alternatives. They've proven that they aren't capable of it without citizen pressure.

Proposed garbage collection contract raises cart-size questions

By Richard Merk

While I believe that, over all, Green Waste Recovery has done a good job trying to meet the needs of SB 1383 — which is forcing it to change to a three-stream system (when its two-stream system is working near perfectly), there are some serious issues I have with the new proposal/contract

which our residents need to consider. These issues have to do with the proposed "cart" sizes.

First: When we negotiated the

first contract with GWR (many years ago) the company recommended against the use of 20-gallon carts due to their inherent tendency to tip over. Once filled, they are very top-heavy due to the poor, false-bottom design, with the wheels close together and a relatively small base upon which to rest. The likely result will be spilled garbage on our streets and in our yards in almost any space where they are left for pick-up if there is any slope to the ground surface.

Also, once animals such as raccoons discover their contents, tipping will occur anywhere. Since the lids do not latch in any way, tip-overs will likely be a common and messy affair for all of us who require only the 20-gallon service.

Second: The "one size only" requirement for recycling carts (blue, 96-gallon carts) is wasteful for most residents and problematic for many — especially the elderly and/or families with limited space to store such large carts. We have a 32-gallon cart for recyclables which we rarely fill. Not only do we not need a 96-gallon cart for our recyclables, we don't want one so large. They are hard to move around, overly bulky and difficult to store.

The town's consultant, SVM, described an "inventory issue" around providing other size carts for recycling, but this is

only an issue of proper ordering and acquisition. It's a pretty poor and flimsy excuse for something that will affect residents for years to come.

If the current proposal is accepted, I predict that a delayed backlash from many residents will occur well after the contract is signed and sealed. Only when residents have started using these new carts and are discovering the problems with their limitations will they fully understand what their Town Council has done "for" them.

Portola Valley residents who share these concerns should submit a written protest to the Town Council, which must identify the property owner (or tenant), identify their property (address or parcel number) and include a signature (e-signatures must be through a platform approved by the state) before the Nov. 13 council meeting.



Longtime Portola Valley resident Richard Merk is a past mayor, council member and planning commissioner.

GUEST OPINION

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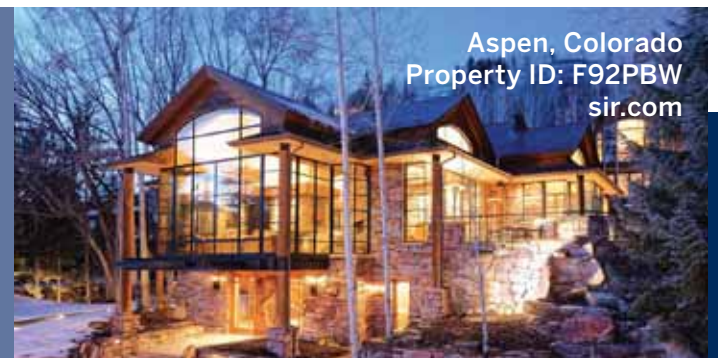
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