

# The Almanac

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

DECEMBER 11, 2019 | VOL. 55 NO. 14



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## A TREE FOR ALL SEASONS

*An unusual holiday tree captures the year-round beauty of Filoli's gardens*

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**Atherton's tax idea shelved for now** | Page 7  
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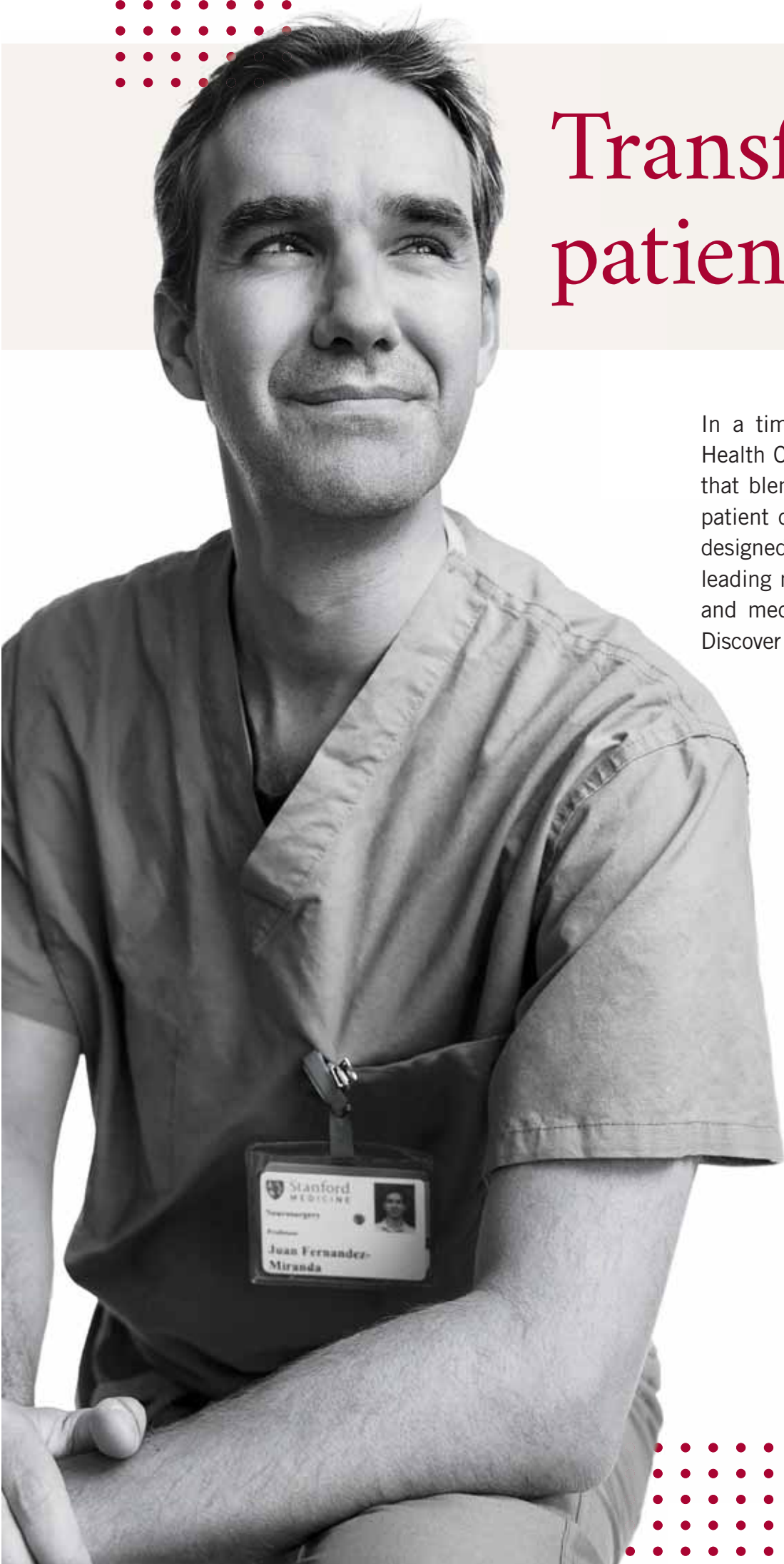
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Portola Valley



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Woodside



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Portola Valley



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Woodside



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9504	Pakistan Gabbeh	3.5 x 5.9	Burgandy/Blue	\$2,105	\$450
7322	Pakistan Gabbeh	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 Gabbeh 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 Gabbeh	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 Gabbeh	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 Gabbeh	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 Gabbeh	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	4.5x 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 Gabbeh 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	Burgandy/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 Rathey 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	Rajstan 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
4004	India Pur Silk Tabriz	8.2 x 9.11	Beige/Green	\$19,295	\$2,950

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## City attorney announces plans to retire in early 2020

By **Kate Bradshaw**  
Almanac Staff Writer

After a career spanning 41 years with the city of Menlo Park, City Attorney Bill McClure has announced plans to retire sometime in the first quarter of 2020.

He had planned to work just through the end of this year, he told *The Almanac*, but “as the year’s gone on, I haven’t had time to think or deal with it.”

McClure holds a unique position in the city: As someone with such a long tenure, and as its acting legal expert, he’s probably the person with the most institutional and legal knowledge about Menlo Park.

He’s been the city’s designated attorney for nearly 27 years, since March 1993, and before then, he spent eight years as assistant, then acting, city attorney. And prior to that, he worked under former City Attorney Jack Jorgenson, with the Menlo Park-based law firm now known as Jorgenson, Siegel, McClure & Flegel.

And he grew up in Menlo Park, graduated from the University of California at Davis in 1974, and received a law degree with honors at the University of Santa Clara in 1978.

As a freshly minted law school

graduate, he ran into Jorgenson at a wedding and explained that he was looking for a job, he said. Jorgenson told him to give him a call, he added, and he followed up.

As a law student, he’d been interested in politics, having worked for a state legislator at a district office, he said. The idea of being involved in politics not as a policymaker or staff person, but someone doing the legal work “kind of fit,” he explained. But he also liked working at a private practice for different clients, something he’s enjoyed in his career at the law firm.

Over his tenure with the city, he said, it has expanded significantly, with a huge amount of development and redevelopment, a significantly expanded staff and a somewhat larger population. He’s seen the closure of the city’s three movie theaters, and has seen it through the good and bad economic times. And he’s worked with a long list of City Council members.

Over the years, as the economy ebbs and flows, there has been a constant tension related to traffic and growth, he noted.

“We’ve had councils that have gone back and forth regarding their philosophy in terms of trying to limit growth,” he said. “Those are constant ebbs and



Photo by Magali Gauthier

**Menlo Park City Attorney Bill McClure** in his law office in Menlo Park. He plans to retire as city attorney but continue to work in private practice at the law firm Jorgenson, Siegel, McClure & Flegel LLP.

flows over the years.”

When asked whether he became frustrated by hearing many of the same topics — grade separations or the Dumbarton rail line, for instance — discussed and debated by different councils, decade after decade, his response was that he’s hasn’t been troubled by it. “That’s my personality style,” he said. “I don’t get uptight about things.”

As a longtime resident of the city where he works, doesn’t he ever develop opinions about what should be done in Menlo Park?

“I’m sure there have been some things I ... if I were a decision maker or policy maker, might have had a different policy position than where (the council) ended up,” he said. “The nice thing about being city attorney

is that I really don’t have opinions on those kinds of things.

“I’ve tried not to have opinions about issues,” he continued. “What I can do is tell (council members) the history of something that’s been done before, what happened the previous time an idea maybe came up ... so they’re aware of the pros and

See **BILL MCCLURE**, page 21

## Facebook wants to build on what may be a former indigenous village

By **Kate Bradshaw**  
Almanac Staff Writer

In November 2012, *The Almanac* published a short news item reporting that construction crews working in Menlo Park had unearthed two human skulls while ripping up concrete. The skulls were later determined to be Native American remains.

Where those remains were found, at the former Pacific Biosciences campus at 1005 Hamilton Ave., is exactly where Facebook is proposing to build its Willow Village project.

It turns out that those burials are just a small part of an ancient Native American village long buried beneath the earth in the area where Facebook’s planned new neighborhood and office campus would be — a project that would include 1.75 million square feet of office space, 1,735 housing units, retail space

including a grocery store, and a hotel.

Representatives of the Muwekma Ohlone tribe say that the site almost certainly contains Native American burials. They are confident there will be more remains found there if and when the developer starts digging.

Monica Arellano is vice chairwoman of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area and the tribe’s Historic Preservation officer. She is designated by the tribe as the member who responds when excavation work uncovers human remains determined to be of Native American origin, and acts as representative for the “most likely descendant” of the deceased.

In a written statement to *The Almanac*, Arellano said: “There is a high likelihood that the project will result in the disturbance of burials and the destruction of

cultural resources. We hope that Facebook will consult and work closely with the tribe as this project unfolds.”

She added that the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe “has recognized this area as one of extreme cultural sensitivity.”

The tribe’s archaeological resource company, Muwekma Ohlone Tribe Inc., has worked closely with developers on similar projects near the proposed development, she noted.

Michael Wilcox, archaeology professor at Stanford and unpaid consultant for the tribe, confirmed Arellano’s statement, telling *The Almanac*, “There will be burials there. There’s no doubt about it.”

In particular, he noted, a known archaeology site known as the Hiller mound appears to

See **FACEBOOK**, page 10

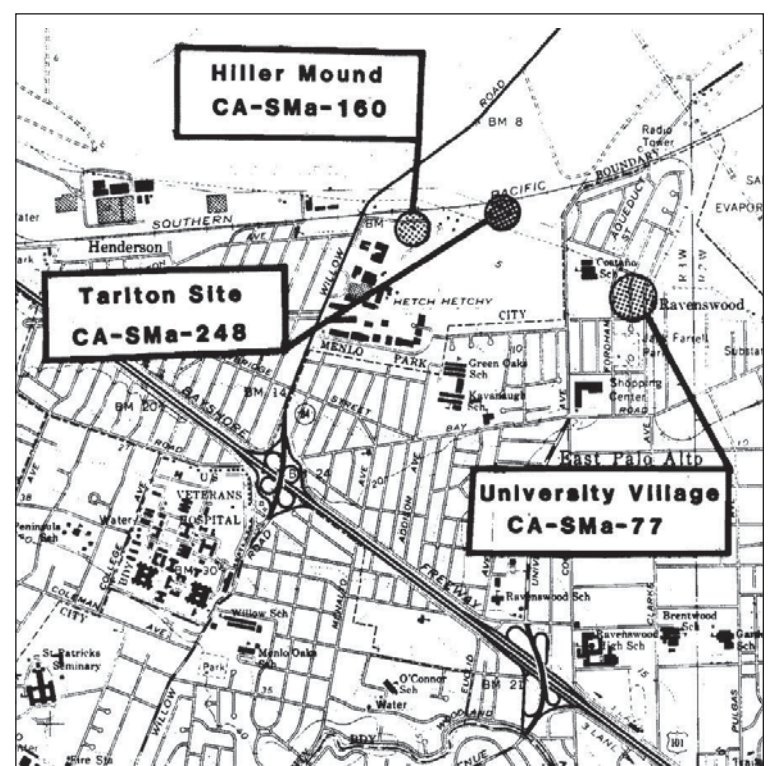


Image courtesy of Society for California Archaeology

**Three sites**, the Hiller mound, the Tarlton site and the University Village site, demonstrate the dense habitation of Native Americans in the area at different times along the southern bayshore of what’s now San Mateo County, according to a 1988 report from archaeologists Robert Cartier and Judy Carrico.

**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY**765 Portola Road  
Portola Valley, CA 94028

In recognition of the Holiday Season  
**Portola Valley Town Hall**  
 will be closed from  
**Wednesday, December 25, 2019**  
 through **Wednesday, January 1, 2020**

**TOWN OF WOODSIDE**  
**2955 WOODSIDE ROAD**  
**WOODSIDE, CA 94062**

**PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**December 18, 2019**

**6:00 PM**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

2. Doug and Caroline Fisher PCDR2019-0004; VARI2019-0007

587 Patrol Road Planner: Sage Schaan, Principal Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a proposal, requiring Planning Commission Design Review, for an addition to an existing single-family residence and an increase to existing plate heights within a required setback to incorporate the existing floor area of an existing storage room into the remodeled main residence. The project includes the review of a Variance to allow the increase in plate height within the required 50-foot side yard setback.

3. Linda Stroh PCDR2019-0003; VARI2019-0006

515 Moore Road Planner: Joseph Balatbat, Assistant Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a proposal, requiring Planning Commission Design Review, to construct a new detached garage and other site improvements. The project includes the review of a Variance to allow a portion of the new detached garage within the required 50-foot side yard setback.

4. David Gluss CUSE2019-0007; CEQA2019-0007

600 Old La Honda Road Planner: Sage Schaan, Principal Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a Conditional Use Permit for a proposal to construct a retaining wall to repair a slope within the Dennis Martin Creek, Town-Designated Stream Corridor. Prior to acting on the project, the Planning Commission will consider adoption of an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

5. Fiona Benson PCDR2019-0005; VARI2019-0003

35 Martin Lane Planner: Sage Schaan, Principal Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of Design Review of a swimming pool, shed, and associated site improvements. The project requires review of a Variance to allow the swimming pool and pool equipment within the required rear yard setback.

6. Bisher Kalaf CUSE2019-0008

17285 Skyline Boulevard (Mountain Terrace)

Planner: Sage Schaan, Principal Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of an amendment to an existing Conditional Use Permit (CUSE2015-0002) to allow a seasonal (October to April) temporary tent over the existing rear deck at Mountain Terrace.

7. Andy and Jamie Kerr CUSE2019-0005

17288 Skyline Boulevard (Alice's Restaurant)

Planner: Sarah Filipe, Associate Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of an amendment to an existing Conditional Use Permit (CUSE2013-0003) to allow seasonal (October to April) temporary tents over existing outdoor seating on the front and rear decks at Alice's Restaurant.

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

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**The Almanac**

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**Assistant Editor**

Julia Brown (223-6531)

**Staff Writers**

Kate Bradshaw (223-6588)

Rick Radin (223-6527)

Angela Swartz (223-6529)

**Contributors** Kate Daly, Maggie Mah,  
 Barbara Wood

**Special Sections Editor**

Linda Taaffe (223-6511)

**Chief Visual Journalist**

Magali Gauthier (223-6530)

**Staff Visual Journalist**

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Kristin Brown (223-6562)

**Designers** Linda Atilano, Amy Levine,

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**3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,  
 Menlo Park, CA 94025**

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 Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

■ **Email news** and photos with captions  
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# Wildfire preparedness, open space, housing on council agenda

By Rick Radin

Almanac Staff Writer

The Portola Valley Town Council will consider and create priorities around recently released recommendations from an ad hoc wildfire preparedness committee at its Wednesday, Dec. 11, meeting, according to Town Manager Jeremy Dennis.

The ad hoc committee was formed in April to find ways to reduce the threat of a wildfire and help the town be better prepared should a fire occur. It released its findings at the Town Council's Nov. 13 meeting.

"The most important finding is that there are opportunities to further strengthen the Town's efforts to mitigate the worst effects of a potential wildfire and that much of that mitigation work can start with improvements to one's home," Dennis wrote in an email.

Making homes more fire resistant, often called "home hardening," can be done by modifying building codes to require non-combustible deck, siding and materials, prohibiting wood shake roofs, and requiring ember-resistant vents and dual-pane tempered glass windows and skylights, according to the committee report.

Other suggestions included modifying design guidelines to require water penetrable walkway and patio material and fire-resistant green ground cover or succulents within 5 feet of structures, as well as rules to prevent construction near long or steep

canyons where wildfires can spread quickly.

The report also encouraged the council to begin a program that would provide grants to homeowners for spending on home hardening.

"The town can further reduce wildfire risk by continuing its efforts to manage the public right-of-way vegetation to reduce fuel and protect evacuation corridors," Dennis wrote. "Increased communication to residents on the town's efforts, plans, and what each resident can do to protect their family and property is key."

The council will also consider a report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Town-Owned Property about its efforts to find appropriate locations for affordable housing in town, Dennis wrote.

In addition, it will consider a recommendation from the Portola Valley Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee to formally declare property adjacent to the Frog Pond Open Space Preserve and Corte Madera School along Alpine Road as open space, he wrote.

The town-owned property committee investigated the property adjacent to the Frog Pond for affordable housing and concluded that Portola Valley should move ahead in tandem with the Portola Valley School District to create housing for teachers and only if there would be no damage to the Frog Pond.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the Community Hall at Town Center, 765 Portola Road. ▀

## Join us for a discussion

Almanac reporter Kate Bradshaw will be speaking with the League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County about her reporting series, "Uneven Ground," on Saturday, Dec. 14.

The event will be held at the Belle Haven Library, 413 Ivy Drive in Menlo Park, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The three-part series published last fall in The Almanac

discusses the environmental health challenges faced by the communities of East Palo Alto, Belle Haven and North Fair Oaks.

The project was supported by a fellowship with the USC Annenberg Center for Health Journalism and can be accessed at the following three links: [is.gd/unevenground1](https://is.gd/unevenground1), [is.gd/unevenground2](https://is.gd/unevenground2) and [is.gd/unevenground3](https://is.gd/unevenground3).

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Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

## Tower shines, Santa presides

Atherton's Dec. 5 "tree lighting" ceremony was unique not only because the town hadn't hosted such an event before, but also because there was no tree to light up. But that didn't stop about 40 revelers from gathering in Holbrook-Palmer Park for the town's holiday celebration, where town officials illuminated the park's water tower in lieu of a tree. The crowd eventually gathered in the park's Pavilion for a holiday party. In the photo, Joey Calder, 1, sits near Santa Claus, a.k.a. Michael McNamara, during the party.

# Atherton council puts development tax on hold for further study

By **Angela Swartz**  
Almanac Staff Writer

**A** construction and development tax — or similar types of taxes that town staff says could provide "substantial revenues" — is on hold in Atherton after being considered last week by the City Council.

The council put the idea on hold until officials have a better understanding of what the town's "fiscal reality will be" after the civic center project is complete, said City Manager George Rodericks.

The town is currently determining whether it will take on debt service or other financing for its long-awaited \$31.6 million new civic center.

During a Dec. 4 study session, council members discussed the pros and cons of implementing a tax that could be applied to all construction permits based on the valuation of the permit, according to a staff report. Discussions about a possible tax are in their "early stages," Rodericks noted during the meeting.

Had a development and construction tax been in place for the last few years, it could have generated anywhere from about \$800,000 to \$2.5 million annually, according to a staff analysis. Such a tax would generally

be imposed only on new construction, and would be based on the number of units, number of bedrooms or square footage.

Staff notes that because the amount of revenue derived from these taxes would fluctuate from year to year, it should not be used as a source of funding for ongoing operations.

Some, such as council member Mike Lempres, are skeptical about whether the town needs "a lot more" revenue sources.

"I don't think this (the development tax) is the right thing," he said on Dec. 4. "I commend staff for looking into this."

Resident Sandy Crittenden told the council during the public comment period that he staunchly opposes any new town taxes.

"It's (a development tax) not a very nice welcoming to Atherton," he said. "Figure out something a little softer to keep the budget within what you get now."

Council member Elizabeth Lewis said tax details would need to be more "fleshed out," and that funding from this kind of tax would not be ongoing.

"I'm not convinced this is the type of tax we want to try to impose on a small group of people that would just flow into the general fund," she said. "The numbers are just not

compelling enough."

Other council members, such as Mayor Bill Widmer, said that the town will need to bring in extra revenue to help cover increasing pension liabilities and countywide projects the town has to pay into. Council member Cary Wiest agreed that the town will need to generate more revenue to "tackle problems we just keep pushing off."

Major home development does monopolize code enforcement staff's time and pulls them away from other matters, so finding a way to acquire funds from this growing development would make sense, Widmer said.

Vice Mayor Rick DeGolia said that this might not be the right type of tax, but that the town needs some sort of funding to help with maintaining its streets and water drainage systems. He said he likes the idea of a tax on any development larger than 5,000 square feet to encourage people to build smaller houses. There are no commercial businesses in town, but development is one area that the town can tax, he said.

The council is still considering several financing options for the civic center project,

See **ATHERTON COUNCIL** page 8

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### Should I Allow Pets?

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Rick D.

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public hearing will be held before the Board of Directors of the West Bay Sanitary District at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, at the District Offices, located at 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California to consider the adoption of an ordinance amending Section 209 "Board Member Compensation" of the District's Code of General Regulations to increase the amount Board Members shall be compensated for attendance at meetings of the Board or for each day's service rendered as a Director by request of the Board from \$220.00 per day up to \$231.00 per day, not to exceed six days in any calendar month.

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By: /s/ Phil Scott  
Phil Scott  
District Manager

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# Menlo Park fire district eyeing all-electric truck for future

By Rick Radin  
Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District is looking into its future by checking out a new, all-electric fire engine that promises to cure a lot of ills that plague conventional diesel-powered fire trucks.

The vehicle, known as a Rosenbauer Concept Fire Truck, reduces exposure to diesel fumes, which are a known carcinogen; saves money by eliminating diesel fuel; virtually eliminates carbon emissions that cause climate change; and has fewer moving parts than conventional engines, resulting in lower maintenance costs, according to Menlo Park Fire Protection District Chief Harold Schapelhouman.

An actual purchase of an all-electric truck might be a couple of years away, though, he acknowledged. "This is a concept truck; it's not in production at this time," he said.

The fire is district is holding an open house featuring a Rosenbauer prototype engine on Thursday, Dec. 12, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Fire

Station 6, 700 Oak Grove Ave. in Menlo Park.

Range limits that make electric cars impractical for some drivers aren't a major deterrent to using electric firetrucks in urban fire districts such as Menlo Park because more than 90% of all responses by firefighters, such as medical incidents, last only a short time, Schapelhouman added.

As a backup, the all-electric engine has an extra battery system and a small booster motor for local fire calls and other incidents involving longer response times, he said.

The major drawback of the all-electric truck is that it would have limited use in the case of providing aid in out-of-town emergencies, such as wildfires, since the batteries need to be recharged at the fire station, according to Schapelhouman.

"We'd be using (one) locally for short-distance responses," he said.

Eliminating diesel fumes has a clear benefit to firefighters, since the fumes are a known carcinogen, Schapelhouman said,

adding, "We're trying to be a lot more careful about (diesel) exposures and what we could do to improve working conditions in acquiring new equipment."

The district is in its third and final year of replacing its entire fleet of eight diesel fire engines, which are used in "front-line" service for about 10 years, he said.

The agency keeps eight engines in front-line service at a time and four or five in reserve for use in emergencies, he said.

Rosenbauer is headquartered in Austria and has factories in South Dakota, Minnesota and Nebraska, according to the company's website. ▣



Photo courtesy of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District

The Rosenbauer Concept Fire Truck, a prototype for an all-electric vehicle the local fire district is scrutinizing, will be on display at a Dec. 12 open house.

## ATHERTON COUNCIL

*continued from page 7*

scheduled for completion in 2021. Funding options include a written commitment from Bob and Connie Lurie to donate \$500,000 in exchange for naming rights to the Cafe Terrace area, which will be located on the outdoor deck in front of the

town's new library.

At a Nov. 20 meeting, the council asked town staff to move forward with preliminary work on a "certificates of participation" financing mechanism (COPs) at about \$7 million over a 10-year term to finance part of the project's construction costs. Without an influx of cash, the town's

general fund is projected to be in the red by \$1.9 million by next October, according to staff.

The council began discussing options to bolster revenue for the town's general fund in 2014, the staff report noted. In 2017, it examined implementing a business license tax, but opted not to go forward with it. ▣

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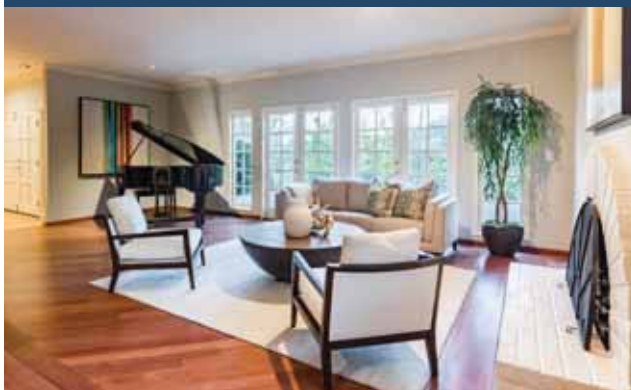




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**FACEBOOK**

*continued from page 5*

be exactly within the footprint of Facebook's Willow Village project. The mound is one of more than 425 shellmounds that once surrounded the San Francisco Bay, as recorded by University of California archaeologist N.C. Nelson in a 1909 report.

According to a recent KQED story about shellmounds, these mounds are man-made creations of earth and organic matter built up by the indigenous people of the San Francisco Bay Area over thousands of years. They were places for ceremonies, burials, trading and even signaling across the waters of the bay, or to communicate with other tribes, and were where food waste — specifically, lots of shellfish husks — was discarded.

The head of the firm Facebook is working with on the project, Signature Development Group, told The Almanac that the firm is aware of the Hiller mound and plans to study it in the environmental impact review process.

In a statement to The Almanac, Signature CEO Michael Ghielmetti said that “the project team has had preliminary outreach with the tribes. The Hiller mound is being studied as part of the Environmental Impact

Report. As studies and site surveys progress, more outreach and dialogue with the tribes in regard to the respectful treatment of the site will be initiated, in accordance with state law.”

**The Hiller mound**

Decades ago, local archaeologists identified the Hiller mound as a site of historic significance.

According to a 1988 report by archaeologists Robert Cartier and Judy Carrico published with the Society for California Archaeology, the Hiller mound is located just inland of the Dumbarton rail line, and a short distance southeast of Willow Road.

The site lies amid the parking lots and single-story office buildings of the former Prologis campus, and is roughly between where Facebook plans to build a visitor parking garage and where it's proposing to locate the northernmost of its office buildings, which would rise up to 85 feet tall.

The report compares findings from the Hiller site with those of two nearby archaeological sites, the Tarlton site — located about a half-mile east near the rail line — and the University Village site in East Palo Alto.

The Hiller site was excavated significantly during the 1950s,



Photo by Sammy Dallal

**A mural at Willow Oaks School** in Menlo Park acknowledges the existence centuries ago of a Native American village in the eastern portion of the city where Facebook wants to create a new neighborhood.

with up to 30 10-by-10-meter test sites exploring up to 4 feet underground, and appears to have been inhabited more recently than the University Village site.

A 1992 report in the same publication by Stanford archaeologist Barbara Bocek explains that the Hiller mound holds information about the Puichon tribal group that resided along the bayshore and along the lower stretches of

San Francisquito Creek. The site comprises at least 8,000 square meters — or about 86,000 square feet — though materials can be found throughout an area twice that size. Radiocarbon testing dated the age of artifacts to be between 687 and 1,687 years old.

Bocek writes, “Incomplete and contradictory records notwithstanding, there is ample evidence to suggest that at contact (with

Europeans), two or three tribets may have shared the San Francisquito area in the southern Peninsula.”

Findings from analyses of the site, she notes, “suggest that Hiller represents a major habitation site.”

Beyond the fact that the Hiller mound area was heavily

See **FACEBOOK**, page 11



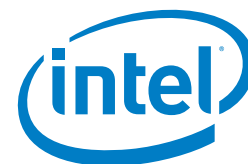
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# Menlo Park district assistant to superintendent resigns

By **Angela Swartz**  
Almanac Staff Writer

**M**enlo Park City School District Superintendent Erik Burmeister's executive assistant is leaving the district to take a role in the East Bay, to work for a former top leader in the district.

Lanita Villasenor announced last month that she accepted a

position in the Pleasanton Unified School District to serve as the administrative assistant to the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Ahmad Sheikholeslami, the Menlo Park district's former chief business and operations officer.

Villasenor, who joined the district in 2013, left the Menlo Park district on Dec. 6.

"Although I am looking

forward to making an impact and adding my value to PUSD, I am sad about leaving my friends, colleagues and the community partners I've worked with in Menlo Park," she said in an email. "I am grateful to have had the privilege of working with you, collaborating with you and supporting you. It has been an honor to serve the Menlo Park

City School District community for the last 7 years."

Sheikholeslami left the district at the end of October. Both Villasenor and Sheikholeslami noted that the Pleasanton district is closer to their homes.

The district will announce Christina Carrier as Villasenor's replacement at its Dec. 12 school board meeting, according to the meeting agenda. ■



**Lanita Villasenor**

## FACEBOOK

continued from page 10

inhabited by Native Americans, she adds, it may even be site of Ssiputca, a village assumed to be located at the mouth of the San Francisquito Creek that existed at the time European explorers first made contact with indigenous people of the area in the 1700s.

Research suggests "that the contact-period village of Ssiputca may be one of two destroyed mounds (possibly the Hiller Mound) near the bayshore in East Palo Alto," she writes. In addition, Cartier's report suggests that the mouth of the creek may have had a different alignment in the past and finds evidence indicating the "probable presence" of the creek near the Hiller mound at one time.

Archaeologist Randall Milliken in a 2007 report states that the Puichon people from the village were sent to Mission Dolores in San Francisco between 1781 and 1794 and to Mission Santa Clara in Santa Clara between 1781 and 1805. The village of Ssiputca is mentioned six times in the "Libro de Bautismos" or book of baptisms, at the San Francisco mission, he adds.

In an ethnohistory of the group, Milliken reports that the last of the descendants from the Puichon tribe, or that of the Lamchin tribe, which occupied the San Francisquito Creek farther upstream, was likely a member of the Evencio family, and the family's whereabouts were last known around the 1930s. There were no other West Bay Ohlone tribal groups that are believed to have survived into the late 20th

century, according to Milliken.

### The costs of construction

With all of the construction work happening on the Peninsula, there is great potential for archaeological discoveries to be made, but, Wilcox noted, there are often incentives for inspectors to not look too closely, or to look the other way and not halt development work if they come across potential artifacts or remains.

Under California law, whenever human remains are found during excavation work, the work must stop and the coroner's office must be contacted to ensure that the body found is not from contemporary times. If the coroner finds that the remains are of a Native American, then he or she must contact the Native

American Heritage Commission. Then, the "most likely descendant" of the person buried is contacted and can provide a recommendation about what to do with the remains. All of this, Wilcox said, can be expensive for the developer, who has to bear the costs of the additional research, and of rented excavation equipment not being put to use.

Still, despite its shortcomings, the existing system has yielded impressive discoveries in recent years, like that of the Transbay Man, a set of human remains found during excavation at the new \$4.5 billion Transbay Transit Center in San Francisco.

In 2014, a Bobcat operator found a human bone in the mud while doing excavation work.

It turned out to be the grave of a young man whose body was folded into the fetal position and found wrapped in woven matting and buried wooden tools. Carbon-14 dating would later determine that the man had lived about 7,500 years ago, and as such, is one of the oldest humans ever found in California. The remains were surprisingly well-preserved in dense, marshy soil, as described in the anthropology publication "Anthro Now."

The discovery, Wilcox noted, demonstrates how significant archaeological sites in the Bay Area are not necessarily identified in initial site surveys done before a development starts.

"What we see on the surface does not predict what is down below," he added.

### Environmental work starting

Menlo Park has entered into a \$1.11 million contract with consultants from ICF Jones & Stokes, Inc. to prepare an environmental impact report on the proposed Willow Village project. The city has collected comments in response to a notice of preparation, which asks people to weigh in on which areas they think should be analyzed during an environmental impact analysis.

A public meeting is scheduled Monday, Dec. 16, during which the City Council will be presented an overview about the comments already made and make suggestions on the scope of the environmental impact analysis. No additional comments will be accepted, according to city staff. ■



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Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$150,000 from more than 150 donors for the 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed on this page.

## Boys & Girls Clubs

Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, and mentoring for 1,800 low-income K-12 youth at nine locations across Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City.

## Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.

## Fair Oaks Community Center

This multi-service facility, serving the broader Redwood City community, provides assistance with child care, senior programs, citizenship and immigration, housing and employment, and crisis intervention. Programs are available in Spanish and English.

## LifeMoves

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

## Project Read

Provides free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. Trained volunteers work one-on-one to help adults improve reading, writing and English language skills so they can function more effectively at home, at work and in the community. Basic English classes, weekly conversation clubs and volunteer-led computer enrichment are also offered.

## Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinic in East Palo Alto. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

## St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded by voluntary contributions and community grants, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers take-home bags of food, as well as emergency food and clothing assistance.

## Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 52 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to more than 250,000 people each month through more than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

## StarVista

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

## Upward Scholars

Upward Scholars empowers low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education, get higher-paying jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.

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# HOLIDAY FUND 2019

## Sharing food is the most basic act of kindness

By Caitlin Kerk for Second Harvest

This holiday season Second Harvest of Silicon Valley is serving more people than ever before. That's because hunger is a hidden consequence of the housing crisis as families sacrifice nutritious food to pay for rent and other basic necessities. To ensure that everyone in our community can get the healthy food they need to thrive, Second Harvest has set a goal of raising \$19 million during its holiday campaign.

"Donating to Second Harvest offers a way for people to come together and join in the most basic act of kindness: sharing food," said Leslie Bacho, CEO for Second Harvest of Silicon Valley. "Even people who never thought they would need help before are finding they can't afford to buy healthy groceries, but we know they face barriers to accessing food. Some people have no idea where to go, or they can't make it to our distributions due to work schedules or limited transportation, while others don't seek help because of the stigma or shame. The community's support will help us break down these barriers so we can reach more people with nutritious food."

Last year, Second Harvest, which is one of 10 nonprofits supported by The Almanac's Holiday Fund, provided enough food for more



Photo by Heather Dito

**Second Harvest volunteer Clint Powell** directs clients filling shopping carts with food at a distribution location in Redwood City in 2017.

than 58 million meals, half of which was fresh produce. The food bank partners with 310 nonprofit organizations to distribute nutritious groceries in nearly every neighborhood in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties — a total of 1,000 sites. Second Harvest depends on donations because it is one of only a few food banks in the nation that does not charge its partners for the food it provides.

"We have to do more to make sure people get the help they need, and they don't feel afraid or ashamed to get it," Bacho said. "We are providing food at more places, and making sure those who need help feel welcome. But we need the community's support. You have the power to

change lives because nutritious food is so critical — we all need it to stay healthy and engaged.

Natasha is one local mom who is grateful for the help she received from Second Harvest. "Kids don't need expensive toys and entertainment to be happy," she said. "But they do need nutritious food. It's the one thing they can't live without."

You can help families like Natasha's by giving to Second Harvest of Silicon Valley. Every \$10 donated provides the equivalent of 20 nutritious meals.

Anyone who needs food should call Second Harvest's multilingual Food Connection hotline at 1-800-984-3663.

#### HOLIDAY FUND

Donations to The Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit the Second Harvest of Silicon Valley and nine other nonprofits serving the local community. To donate, use the coupon on Page 12 or go to [siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund](http://siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund).

## Nonprofit supports expanding programs in Menlo Park

By Mike Goodkind, a member of the Literacy Partners board.

Literacy Partners, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has supported adult literacy in Menlo Park since 2010, working closely with the Menlo

Park Library, where expanding literacy programs, including Project Read-Menlo Park, are offering new opportunities for English literacy learners.

"The library is such a natural fit for a broad scope of

literacy-related programs, and it is an even greater resource when we coordinate supplementary support provided through our nonprofit partners, such as Literacy Partners," said Library Director Sean Reinhart.

Linda Carlson, who will retire as Literacy Partners' president at the end of the year, said the nonprofit under new leadership will continue to seek partners to help support the city and other community literacy efforts beyond existing core programs — such as Project Read-Menlo Park's iconic one-on-one adult literacy tutoring program. Project Read is one of 10 local nonprofits that benefit from The Almanac's Holiday Fund.

As an example the partnership between Project Read and Literacy Partners, or LP, Carlson said LP is considering providing tablet computers to modernize Project Read's venerable computer lab. And the library has recently requested funding from LP for innovative prefabricated soundproof cubicles, which can be placed to offer privacy for

#### HOLIDAY FUND

Donations to The Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit Project Read-Menlo Park and nine other nonprofits serving the local community. To donate, use the coupon on Page 12 or go to [siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund](http://siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund).

learners and tutors and possibly for small groups of students who need to collaborate on homework.

"Many of our students rely on the library not only as a resource to help with their homework but in fact as a safe and stable place after school to concentrate and collaborate on learning," said librarian Katie Port, recently appointed to coordinate Project Read-Menlo Park's program and lead the library's new Homework Center, which serves kindergarten through high school students at the Belle Haven Branch Library.

For nearly 10 years since its founding, LP has directed



Photo courtesy of Project Read-Menlo Park

**Volunteer tutor Robin Cohen**, right, reviews material for a writing assignment for Joaquin Basulto, who came to the Bay Area 20 years ago with limited English. Through Project Read, Basulto has gained skills that have opened employment doors to him. In July, he achieved U.S. citizenship.

See **LITERACY**, page 16



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# A TREE FOR ALL SEASONS

*An unusual holiday tree captures the year-round beauty of Filoli's gardens*

**Nyna Dolby** places dried flowers, grown on the Filoli Historic House and Gardens estate, on a Christmas wreath adorning a door of the Woodside mansion.

By Sheryl Nonnenberg  
Photos by Ruth Ann Groves

Special to The Almanac

**F**loral decorating for the holiday season usually means being limited to holly, ivy,

pine and other seasonal evergreens. The staff and volunteers at Filoli Historic House and Garden in Woodside have found a way to bring the beauty of spring and summer flowers, grown on the estate, inside for their annual

Holidays at Filoli celebration, which continues until Dec. 30. It takes the form of a 9-foot-tall Christmas tree decorated with dried flowers and placed prominently in the entry foyer of the Georgian revival mansion.

Jim Salyards, head of horticulture at Filoli, explained that the idea originally came from a famous estate on the East Coast. "We were inspired by the tree done each year at Winterthur in Delaware," he said. But unlike Winterthur, which uses some purchased flowers, "all of the flowers we use are grown and dried here at Filoli," he added.

Volunteerism has always played a major role in the running of Filoli, and the dried flower tree project is no exception. Under Salyards' direction, volunteer Nyna Dolby led a five-person committee that worked on the tree. They coordinated with five other volunteers who worked in the garden and dried the flowers. This is the third year that the tree, and accompanying floral wreaths, have graced the foyer, and to hear Salyards and Dolby describe the process, it is a true collaborative effort.

With the help of Emily Saeger, one of Filoli's head gardeners, work begins in the spring as flowers are planted in the Cutting Garden. This is the area on the estate, not usually seen by visitors, where flowers for the elaborate house arrangements are grown. Dolby suggests flowers that could be used for the holiday decorations, based on color and durability. This past year,

**'It's a way of bringing back something that is fundamental to Filoli — bringing nature inside'**

JIM SALYARDS,  
HEAD OF HORTICULTURE AT FILOLI

The silica removes moisture from the petals but does not alter their color.

Salyards said that it can take three to seven days to dry a flower. Once dried, they are stored in large boxes in the attic, which also serves as a workspace later to create the tree and wreath decorations.

Participants in the project meet in late summer to assess what they have collected and come up with a plan for the decorations, based on the color theme that has been set by the house design manager. This

hydrangeas, roses, statice, nigella, camellias, rhododendrons and peonies were on the list.

Garden volunteers gather the flowers and take them to the greenhouse, where the blooms are immersed in silica crystals.

See **FLOWER TREE**, page 16



**Nyna Dolby, Marilyn Evans and Katy McCormick** decorate the Christmas tree in the entry foyer of the Filoli mansion using estate-grown flowers that have been dried.



**A bright array of flowers** grown on the Filoli estate are dried before being used to decorate the Woodside mansion's Christmas tree.

## FLOWER TREE

continued from page 15

year, the color is gold.

“The challenge — and mystery — every year,” Dolby said, “is what will work? What will be successful?”

The drying process is done somewhat by trial-and-error. “Asters looked so promising, but they completely fell apart,” Dolby said. Likewise, daffodils that were slightly too mature “broke like potato chips.” But, after requesting that the garden volunteers pick them just after blooming, they dried just fine.

Conversely, Queen Anne’s Lace, which looked like it might be too fragile, “dried perfectly and looked like a giant snowflake.” And roses, which grow in abundance at Filoli, attract a certain kind of house moth and must be used sparingly.

The actual work of creating the garlands, ornaments and flower-studded balls begins in September. Salyards calculates that it takes 1,500 person/project hours to create the dried flowers and another 150 to do the actual decorating. Since the Holidays at Filoli event lasts so long, using a real tree is not an option. “An artificial tree allows us more space in between branches to place, drape and hang ornaments,” Dolby explained.

The result is colorful and

impressive. “We stake our claim to the foyer and front door and try to keep it just flowers, not anything ‘cutesy,’” she said. It would be possible to spend hours admiring and identifying all the beautiful blooms, which, thanks to the drying method, have kept their natural color and shape. Long strands of deep blue statice are a natural for the garland, while the other blooms are either gathered in small bunches or placed in clear plastic balls and hung from branches.

Often there are surprises when sorting out the flowers. “We were really excited to use artichokes, camellias and tulips this year,” Dolby said. The delicate white flowers of the dogwood tree look lovely dried and threaded together in a chain. In addition to the floral elements, Dolby said she looked for ways to include some of the foliage native to the estate, including manzanita, madrone and buckthorn. But no holly — “too prickly!” she said.

“People can’t believe the flowers are real,” Salyards said.

Dolby added that the volunteers had scarcely completed their work before visitors were taking pictures of the tree and wreaths.

Following the holiday season, the flowers are carefully removed and placed back in boxes in the attic for possible use next year. The theme color for 2020 will be orange.

## IF YOU’RE INTERESTED

Filoli’s dried flower tree will be on display during Holidays at Filoli, which runs through Dec. 30 at the historic home, located at 86 Canada Road, Woodside.

Daytime admission (until 4 p.m.) is \$25 for adults; \$12 for children (ages 5-17); and free to children under 5. Evening admission (4 to 8 p.m.) is \$35 for adults; \$18 for children (ages 5-17); and free to children under 5.

For more information, call 650-364-8300 or visit [filoli.org](http://filoli.org).

Although the idea of the dried flower tree is relatively new to Filoli, bringing flowers into the house is a tradition that was carried on by both families (the Bourns and the Roths) who lived on the estate. “It’s a way of bringing back something that is fundamental to Filoli — bringing nature inside,” Salyards said.

“We could have placed the tree in any other room in the house, but to have it in the foyer when you walk in really sings to what Filoli has been about since the families were here. It is showing off Filoli at its best.”

*Sheryl Nonnenberg is a freelance writer.*

**On the cover:** Nyna Dolby and Pam Conner decorate a Christmas tree with dried flowers.



**Patty Carlson and Marty Ford** make colorful garlands out of dried flowers grown on the Filoli estate.

## LITERACY

continued from page 13

its support almost entirely to Project Read-Menlo Park, a core library program offering beginning adult English classes, an innovative drop-in English Conversation Club, and the more widely known one-on-one tutoring program that has matched more than 750 learners from nearly 60 different countries since its inception in 1985. Reinhart said in mid-November that 40 tutor-learner pairs are actively working, while an additional 28 learners are registered

and awaiting placement with a volunteer tutor. Project Read, with resources provided by LP and the city, provides training for new tutors and in-service support after that.

Besides the Homework Center, in 2019 the library established a “Read Play Learn” program that provides hands-on learning activities for children coupled with literacy skills training for their parents and guardians. In November, 30 kids and caregivers participated in this popular Families for Literacy program run by Project Read staff at the Belle Haven Branch Library.

Project Read tutor Robin Cohen, a Stanford Health Care administrator, said she appreciates the broad range of library services that enhance her one-on-one tutoring. For example, she may come to the library with the intention of working on English conversation to find that a movie scheduled on site would offer a welcome enhancement for her learner of more than three years, Joaquin Basulto.

More information about Project Read-Menlo Park can be found at [projectreadmenlo.org](http://projectreadmenlo.org), or by calling 650-330-2526.

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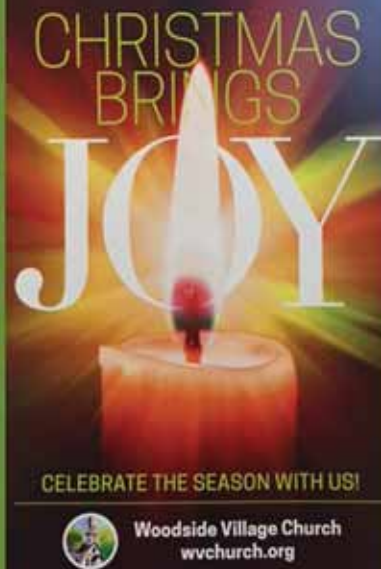
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# Local nonprofit welcomes new executive director

By **Angela Swartz**  
Almanac Staff Writer

With upcoming changes in leadership, financial woes and school consolidations in the Ravenswood City School District, a local nonprofit is working to provide a sense of stability to district students.

Over the next year, All Students Matter, whose 200 volunteers already tutor students in grades TK-5 in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park schools for a total of 270 hours a week, will expand programming and continue to support district teachers, families and students through the changes, said the nonprofit's new executive director, Angie Holman. Holman, a Menlo Park resident since 1997, took the reins at the nonprofit on Aug. 1.

"We're super happy to assist the district through this difficult transition," said Holman, 55. "It's difficult for teachers to have their jobs consolidated or have to change jobs. ... It's difficult for students and families in that it will be a different population of students and families at the remaining schools and it's a disruption to switch schools."

With a looming budget deficit, the Ravenswood district announced that it planned to close two of its five elementary schools next fall: Willow Oaks Elementary School in Menlo Park and Brentwood Academy in East Palo Alto. The district's superintendent, Gloria Hernandez-Goff, was forced to resign earlier this year, and her job is

being filled on an interim basis.

All Students Matter volunteers visit the same Ravenswood classrooms each week throughout the school year, free of charge. They tutor students in literacy skills and fostering social-emotional skills, according to the nonprofit. Founded in 2008, All Students Matter reaches over 1,500 Ravenswood students in 62 classrooms at five schools, according to its website.

Under Holman's leadership, the nonprofit will expand its fifth grade mentoring book club this year from four to 10 classrooms and from eight to 12 weeks in spring 2020. The book club aims to help students improve their reading comprehension and also empower them with a resiliency "toolbox" to handle personal challenges, according to the organization's leaders.

In the Ravenswood district, about 65% of the students are English language learners, more than 90% are low income, and over 40% are in unstable housing or considered homeless, All Students Matter reports.

"When they come to school it is much more difficult for them to learn in English," Holman said. "Some face trauma at home, there are parents working multiple jobs, (or) they're living with multiple families in one house. It's a much more challenging set of circumstances that make it really hard for them to perform their best in school."

Holman, a Michigan native who studied engineering and comes from a corporate background,

shifted her attention to volunteerism when she took time off to raise her kids. She started volunteering in their Menlo Park City School District schools, she said, but soon realized there was greater need at schools east of Highway 101.

"I got more and more passionate about trying to figure out how to make education more equitable and fair," she said. "My real belief is education needs to be more personal. Each student has unique needs, and some of those needs can only be met by one-on-one or small-group tutoring."

Holman noted that one-on-one work has proven to improve student success. For example, students performing below grade level in reading joined an intensive reading intervention program the nonprofit started last year and jumped ahead of their peers by 50% in their reading abilities, she said. The reading program includes one-on-one tutoring, five days a week for six weeks. She said it's much harder to measure the effects of the emotional support mentors have on students.

Eventually, Holman would like to grow the nonprofit's programs to include preschoolers and middle schoolers, she said.

Holman came into the executive director role after several years as a member of the All Students Matter leadership team. In fall 2018, she learned that the nonprofit's executive director at the time, Carolyn Blatman, planned to retire, and eagerly applied for the job. She was



Photo by Irene Searles

**Angie Holman** director of All Students Matter, reads to a Angela Diaz, a current second grader at Costaño Elementary School, on April 25.

offered the job in February and worked with Blatman to transition into the role in June before officially taking over, Holman said.

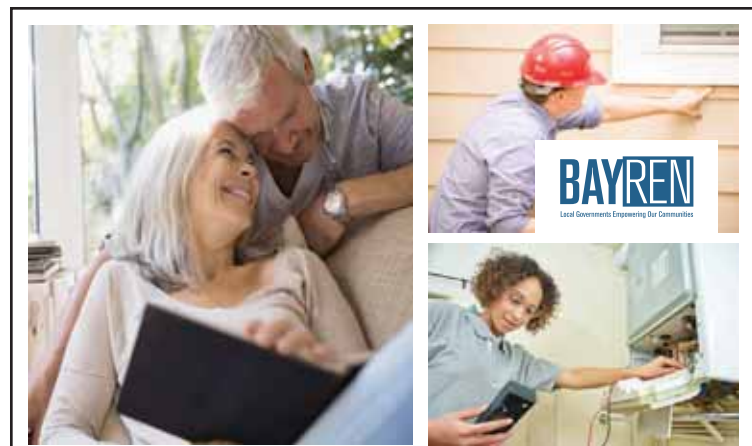
"Angie Holman has the perfect blend of business skills and passion for educational equity that will make her an inspiring and effective leader for All Students Matter," said Jeanette Kennedy, chairman of the nonprofit's board, in a prepared statement. "Ms. Holman's leadership, program management, relationship building, and strategic planning experience will serve ASM well. Already she's guided our organization deftly as we ramped up an expansion of our literacy intervention support program and our 5th grade mentoring book club, which we offer in addition to our in-classroom support. She's building strong relationships with the district, principals, and teachers and we

could not be more pleased with her leadership."

Before All Students Matter, Holman worked for nonprofits such as Upward Scholars, The Peninsula College Fund, Sacred Heart Schools Parent Teacher Organization, the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation, and the Adopt-a-Teacher program of the Ravenswood Education Foundation. Holman started to volunteer with All Students Matter in 2016 after three years of volunteering with the Ravenswood Education Foundation program.

"I really enjoyed the focus (of All Students Matter) on literacy and trying to improve the academics of students who don't get a lot of support at home," she said. "A lot of students needed help in improving their confidence and motivation for lifelong learning."

For more information on the nonprofit, go to [allstudentsmatter.org](http://allstudentsmatter.org). ■



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# Food & Drink



Bartender Nigel Siri makes and delivers a Duke's Vesper martini.

## RETRO CHIC

Swanky Selby's serves steakhouse classics to the monied set

Story by Monica Schreiber

Photos by Sammy Dallal

When I heard Selby's was touting "the coldest martinis on the West Coast," and preparing them tableside on retro cocktail carts, I had just one question: How soon could I get a reservation?

Selby's is the newest addition to the Bacchus Management Group's empire of upscale eateries, known for novel-length wine lists and ultra-fresh fare from Bacchus' private, organic farm in Woodside. The group's "properties" (as Bacchus describes its restaurants on its website) include Michelin-starred The Village Pub in Woodside and San Francisco's Spruce.

Selby's opened five months ago in the ivy-covered building at the Redwood City-Atherton border that had long been occupied by Chantilly, the local grand dame of continental cuisine until it closed in 2017. Where Chantilly was all feminine Frenchness, the retro-chic Selby's has a masculine, "Mad Men"-ish vibe. The 10,000-foot, two-story space was designed by former Ralph Lauren Home stylist Stephen Brady, who put his stamp on other Bacchus restaurants, including Spruce and The Saratoga.

His design for Selby's is swanky and country clubby with a dash of Jazz Age supper club. Soft light from art deco sconces illuminates bold, black walls. A corner fireplace casts a

### REVIEW

honeyed glow on the downstairs dining room, where Silicon Valley glitterati recline in leather chairs, below a geometric art-light fixture, talking digital disruption over dry-aged steaks, thousand-dollar bottles of wine and \$50 cheeseburgers (which we will get to).

Even the acoustics are a throwback to the gilded age of fine dining. There's plenty of buzz, but diners can still hear the classy background music — and each other.

This retro-luxe ambiance pretty much screams martini. And Selby's is building part of its glamorous brand on its signature drink (\$18), styling it after the unshaken, unstirred version made famous by Duke's Bar in London, said to have been author Ian Fleming's inspiration for James Bond's go-to libation.

The martini I enjoyed one evening at the Carrara marble-topped bar was indeed Arctic-cold and potent enough to knock Don Draper on his heels. The drink I received on a subsequent visit, from the much-anticipated cart, was a room temperature travesty, prepared in slapdash fashion by a server who looked annoyed and out of her element. When I noted my drink was far from the coldest in the West, there was no offer to remedy, just a strange comment about how it was hard to keep bottles cold when the restaurant

was so busy. Wait, what?

These disparate cocktail experiences mirrored my overall impression of Selby's: Some dishes were beautifully executed, while others inspired quizical expressions around our table. Service during one dinner was well-paced and nicely narrated. The martini travesty meal saw a number of missteps (forgotten items, awkward pacing) that might have been forgiven at a lower price point, but which were irksome when entrees average about \$50.

Executive Chef Mark Sullivan's menu is an homage to steakhouse classics, with some offerings so old school they feel fresh and fun again. To wit: the towering gruyere popovers that arrive pre-dinner, accompanied

(unnecessarily, but deliciously) by a terrine of beef fat-infused butter.

Excellent starters distracted my attention from the glass of vodka impersonating a martini. The sweetbreads piccata (\$24) featured decadently creamy morsels of calf thymus glands, sauteed and bathed in a lemony brown butter and caper sauce. A crisp Caesar salad (\$17) showcased a practiced hand with garlic and anchovies. The classic wedge salad (\$16) was elevated from the old standard with peeled, candy-sweet cherry tomatoes, a pungent blue cheese and a cylindrical base of crunchy iceberg lettuce.

I shared the dry-aged roast crown of duck for two (\$98), a complex, impressive-sounding dish, carved tableside, that looked fit for a royal banquet. Dry-aged duck takes on a milder, more delicate flavor. I actually enjoy duck's gamey taste and found this breast to be bland and slightly chewy, despite its 38 North provenance. That said, Calvados-glazed chestnuts and huckleberry jus, augmented by cumin, honey and lavender, made for a delicious, sweet-savory sauce.

While my tepid reaction to the duck could be attributed to personal preference for an earthier flavor to the meat, all of us at the table agreed that the 12-ounce, dry-aged New York strip (\$55) was a head-scratcher. Requested medium rare, the rare cut we received had little sear and no marbling. It was tough, tasteless and dry. Where dry aging should elicit a superior, nutty flavor and heightened levels of tenderness, none of these qualities was in evidence. I was again left wondering about the vagaries of the dry aging process.

I did find superior tenderness and flavor in the Country Captain chicken (\$34). This curried

chicken dish is often associated with the South, but likely has Anglo-Indian roots going back to the 1800s. Selby's version of this classic — both exotic and comforting — showcases a heady swirl of intoxicating spices, including Madras curry and paprika. Two generous pieces of chicken were served atop a bed of black rice.

Selby's has already received its share of (well-calculated) news coverage for its Black Label burger (\$50), among the most expensive hamburgers in the West, if I may riff off the restaurant's "coldest martini" marketing.

The massive, half-pound patty contains a mixture of dry-aged hanger steak, short rib and chuck. The seared meat is topped with Époisses, a pungent soft cow's milk cheese from Burgundy, and — the coup de grace — 5 ounces of chopped black truffles from Australia. There are a lot of intense, savory, woody flavors going on in this burger, and if you order it the recommended medium-rare, as I did, the result is an unctuous, umami experience that is a little overwhelming, but certainly more interesting than the similarly priced New York strip. Plus, it comes with crispy, hot shoestring fries.

Tackling Selby's wine list would require a separate review, but suffice to say Bacchus is aiming for another Wine Spectator Award to place alongside those already on the shelf for The Village Pub and Spruce. The approximately 100-page list boasts more than 4,000 labels. If ordering a truffle-topped burger does not sufficiently impress your date or the VCs around the table, consider the 2015 Domaine de la Romanée-Conti Montrachet (\$8,900), the most expensive bottle on the list. ■

Monica Schreiber is an Embarcadero Media restaurant reviewer.



Selby's Black Label Burger with Époisses and Australian black truffles is served with shoestring fries.

### INFORMATION

**Selby's**  
3001 El Camino Real,  
Redwood City  
650-546-7700  
selbysrestaurant.com

Hours: 5-10 p.m. nightly

Credit cards: Yes  
Reservations: Yes  
Catering: No  
Takeout: No  
Outdoor seating: No  
Parking: Valet or street  
Alcohol: Full bar  
Bathroom: Excellent  
Noise level: Moderate

**BILL MCCLURE**  
continued from page 5

cons of something.”

As for some examples of the work he’s most proud of, he mentioned a number of the city’s most legally complex challenges over the past decades: closing the landfill and converting it into Bedwell Bayfront Park, assembling the parcels and getting public benefits at the site where Kepler’s and Cafe Borrone are located, developing an agreement to have developer John Arrillaga help build new facilities at the city’s Civic Center campus, updating the housing element, and negotiating development agreements with the Bohannon Group and Facebook.

“It’s nice to have been a big part of those things,” he said.

He said he plans to continue working at his private practice with the law firm, spend more time with grandchildren and travel. And he’ll continue to offer legal and historical context to those who ask.

Is he worried about how councils will fare without his presence at every meeting to offer that context?

“I’m absolutely convinced they’ll do just fine,” he responded. “In my experience, people will reach out and ask questions ... I’m not moving away, just down the street.”

**Finding a successor**

The City Council met on Monday, Dec. 2, in a closed session to talk about recruitment for the next city attorney.

Resident Lynne Bramlett submitted a memo to the council urging it to consider an open search process, and to explore the possibility of moving the city attorney position in-house as opposed to contracting with a law firm as it currently does. The step might save the city money, she suggested, and she indicated a number of other cities in San Mateo County, or of a similar size to Menlo Park, that have in-house city attorneys, such as Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, San Bruno and Danville.

The city currently pays McClure a part-time salary of \$11,000 per month under an amended contract adopted last March. It also pays \$250 an hour

for legal services from McClure’s law firm, and \$125 an hour for work by paralegals, law clerks and legal assistants.

On development projects, applicants pay the firm \$400 an hour for services from an attorney and \$275 an hour for work done by paralegals, law clerks and legal assistants.

According to Mayor Ray Mueller, “The City Council is committed to an open and transparent process in the selection of a new city attorney and is presently weighing whether to proceed with legal services provided by a contract form or bring the city attorney position in house.”

If the council chooses to contract with a law firm, it will publish a request for proposals and obtain bids, and if it opts to bring an attorney in-house instead, the job opportunity will be published and go through a candidate selection process, he added. ■

# Una Mas shuttered in downtown Menlo Park

By Elena Kadvaný

After more than 20 years of serving Mexican food in downtown Menlo Park, the Una Mas Mexican Grill franchise at 683 Santa Cruz Ave. has closed.

The owner of Una Mas and the landlord gave conflicting explanations for the closure.

Mike DiPietro, president of Golden Bay Investment Group, Inc., which owns Una Mas Mexican Grill, said that after months of negotiation on a lease renewal, Bez Zahedi, the Menlo Park franchisee, was unable to secure an affordable rent. The landlord, he said,

wanted to increase the monthly rent to over \$13,500, “an unsurmountable amount for any fast-casual restaurant.”

Tricia Guidace, who owns the building, said that number is “vastly inaccurate” but wouldn’t comment on why they were unable to reach agreement on a new lease.

“We were looking forward to continuing the relationship and it just didn’t work out that way when it got down to it,” she said.

Una Mas has operated there since 1994, Guidace said. She declined to disclose how much rent Zahedi was paying before

the lease expired and DiPietro did not respond to that question via email.

Guidace also declined to state how much the space is being offered for now, though she said it’s “considerably lower” than the amount DiPietro quoted.

DiPietro said Una Mas has offered employment to some, though not all, of the Menlo Park employees. Locally, there are Una Mas locations nearby in Mountain View, Redwood City, Sunnyvale and Cupertino. ■

*Peninsula Foodist blogger Elena Kadvaný writes for the Palo Alto Weekly.*

## Public Notices

**995 Fictitious Name Statement**

EMBLT FINANCIAL GROUP  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 283035  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
EMBLT Financial Group, located at 80 Yale Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
SANFORD PRINGLE  
80 Yale Rd.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 5, 2019.  
(ALM Nov. 20, 27; Dec. 4, 11, 2019)

GO EZ MAINTENANCE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 283058  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Go EZ Maintenance, located at 618 Bay Road, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
FELIPE DAVID GOMEZ  
618 Bay Road  
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 November 12, 2019.  
(ALM Nov. 27; Dec. 4, 11, 18, 2019)

THE UPS STORE #5639  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 283171  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
The UPS Store #5639, located at 3130 Alpine Rd. Ste. 288, Portola Valley, CA 94028, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):

HAN GROUP, LLC  
3130 Alpine Rd. Ste. 288  
Portola Valley, CA 94028  
CA  
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/30/2018.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 20, 2019.  
(ALM Nov. 27; Dec. 4, 11, 18, 2019)

M&J TOWING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 283166  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
M&J Towing, located at 427 Macarthur Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
MIGUEL ANGEL SANDOVAL LARA  
2329 Menalto 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 N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 20, 2019.  
(ALM Nov. 27; Dec. 4, 11, 18, 2019)

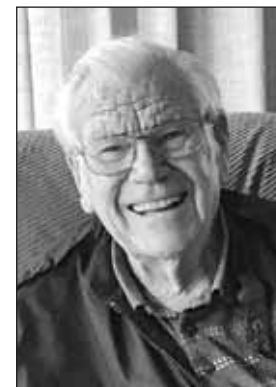
LINDSEY HUTCHINSON WELLNESS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 283186  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Lindsey Hutchinson Wellness, located at 1388 Elder Avenue, Menlo park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
LINDSEY WALKER HUTCHINSON  
1388 Elder Avenue  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 21, 2019.  
(ALM Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2019; Jan. 1, 2020)

**Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578 or email [asantillan@paweekly.com](mailto:asantillan@paweekly.com) for assistance with your legal advertising needs. The deadline is Friday at noon.**

## Claude Oscar “Bergie” Bergman

July 5, 1924 – November 18, 2019

An amazing father, “Papa”, brother and uncle. Claude was predeceased by the love of his life, Marion with whom he shared 72 years of blissful marriage. He is also predeceased by those he loved including his son-in-law, Russ Vanderhurst, his beloved great grandson, Quinn Rosenberg, and 6 of his siblings and three nephews.



Survived by his doted daughters, Claudette (Bob) Rosenberg, Judy (Dan) Freihammer and Lori Vanderhurst. His adored grandchildren, Janelle Freihammer, Shanan (Sarah) Rosenberg, Erin (Kevin) Gillett, and Coby Freihammer. And his cherished great grandchildren: Paedrin and Kingsley Gillett, Clyde, Walt and Gus Rosenberg. His sister, Enis Masetti. Plus numerous nieces and nephews.

Claude was born and raised in Redwood City. Orphaned at age 12, he was placed in foster homes for awhile, but eventually managed to support himself and graduate from Sequoia High School. He then enlisted in the US Army. His service in the army brought him to Normandy on D-Day. A true American hero to his family.

Claude founded and ran his own successful business, Bergie Plumbing Company, from 1955 to 1996. Over the years he employed and mentored many young people who went on to have their own businesses. He was fair, honest and above all, a gentleman with great personal integrity. He always had time for a good story and to tell a good joke!

He was a charter member of the Redwood City Elks Lodge #1991. He served as president of the PHCC of California. He initiated the safety codes for IAPMO that are still used locally and internationally. Claude was also a member of the Exchange Club where he worked tirelessly with PARCA and the Redwood City Parade Association

His warm and open heart and his beloved big smile will be missed by so many. Donations may be made in his honor to PARCA or Pets in Need.

Memorial 12/21 @ 11am, Crippen and Flynn, Woodside Road, Redwood City, California. Reception to follow.

PAID OBITUARY

The Almanac  
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[almanacnews.com/holiday\\_fund](http://almanacnews.com/holiday_fund)



Photo courtesy of Kitka

**Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble** will perform at Filoli's winter solstice celebration.

## Marking 'the marvels and mysteries' of winter

Local arts and entertainment highlights of the holiday season

by Karla Kane

I can't help but think there is almost something evolutionary about people singing together in winter time," **Kitka** Executive Artistic Director Shira Cion said while reflecting on the number of choral concerts that happen around the holidays. Kitka is a long-running women's harmony ensemble performing music from Eastern Europe, Eurasia and the Balkans, plus original compositions, representing a number of cultural and religious traditions.

"What's universal is what happens to the human soul at midwinter when the nights are long and dark and the temperature is colder and, in more traditional times, just merely surviving through the winter season was a very tangible challenge," she said. "It's an ancient human instinct for people to come together and sing."

Kitka has been performing its popular "Wintersongs" concerts around the Bay Area for nearly 20 years, and will be doing so locally again as part of **Filoli's** winter solstice celebration on Dec. 18 (between 5-8 p.m. at 86 Canada Road, Woodside).

"It's seasonal music that speaks to the marvels and mysteries of winter time," she said, adding that this year, inspired by concerns about climate change and its impact on the weather, including California's recent wildfires, the performances will have the theme of "Weathering the Storm," the first in a series of planned "Vocal Ecology" concerts with an environmental theme.

"About half of the program is selections that speak to winter weather and climate ... and we're balancing those more climate-themed pieces with ritual carols and sacred songs that sort of bring comfort and warmth and light and good cheer to the darkest, coldest, most difficult time of the year," she said.

Information on **Kitka**, including links to tickets, can be found at [kitka.org](http://kitka.org).

Filoli's winter solstice festival is part of **Holidays at Filoli**, running through Dec. 30, which also includes seasonal decorations and festively lit gardens, holiday teas, "decadence nights," Santa Claus Saturdays, artisan market weekends and live performances in the ballroom on evenings and weekends. Information is available at [filoli.org/events/holidays](http://filoli.org/events/holidays).

More **December holiday highlights** are presented below (event info is subject to change after press time).

### Menlowe Ballet

Each year, Menlowe Ballet offers locals its original holiday neo-classic, "It's a Wonderful Nutcracker," with its mix of elements from "It's a Wonderful Life" and "The Nutcracker." The show runs Dec. 13-15 and 21-22 at the Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Along with the standard performances, there will also be a sensory-friendly production on Dec. 15 and a special abridged version for families with children under 5 on Dec. 22. Go to [menloweballet.org/nutcracker/](http://menloweballet.org/nutcracker/).

### 'Miracle on 34th Street'

**What:** Los Altos Stage Company presents the classic Santa story performed in the style of a live 1940s era radio broadcast.  
**When:** Through Dec. 22.  
**Where:** 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos.  
**More information:** [losaltosstage.org/miracle-on-34th/](http://losaltosstage.org/miracle-on-34th/).

### BayLUG Holiday Show

**What:** The Bay Area LEGOÆ User Group and BayLTC, the Bay Area L-Gauge Train Club, will showcase their annual holiday

miniature scene, this year with a beach theme.

**Where:** Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto.  
**When:** Dec. 6- Jan 5, 2020 (Friday-Sunday each week, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.).  
**More information:** [moah.org](http://moah.org).

### Gamble Garden holiday events

**What:** Gamble Garden will host holiday activities including a holiday marketplace Dec. 11-13, a greens sale on Dec. 14 and "Reindeer Games" on Dec. 15.  
**Where:** 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto.  
**More information:** [gamblegarden.org/events](http://gamblegarden.org/events).

### 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'

**What:** Dancers Repertory Theatre presents the annual dance and theater production of the classic holiday poem.  
**Where:** Woodside Performing Arts Center, 199 Churchill Ave., Woodside.  
**When:** Dec. 14 at 3 p.m.; Dec. 15 at 1 and 4 p.m.  
**More information:** [twasthenight.org](http://twasthenight.org).

### 'Holiday Heist' with The Jazz Mafia

**What:** The Jazz Mafia sets up shop in the Bing Studio cabaret to ring in the holidays.  
**Where:** Bing Studio, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford.  
**When:** Through Dec. 14, times vary.  
**More information:** [live.stanford.edu/calendar/december-2019/holiday-heist](http://live.stanford.edu/calendar/december-2019/holiday-heist).

### 'A Chanticleer Christmas'

**What:** San Francisco's men's choir presents its annual holiday celebration.  
**Where:** Memorial Church, Stanford.  
**When:** Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
**More information:** [live.stanford.edu/calendar/december-2019/chanticleer-christmas](http://live.stanford.edu/calendar/december-2019/chanticleer-christmas).

### PWC Holiday Concert: 'Reinventing Love'

**What:** Peninsula Women's Chorus will perform holiday songs of love.  
**Where:** St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto.  
**When:** Dec. 14, 2:30 p.m.  
**More information:** [pwchorus.org](http://pwchorus.org).

### 'Christmas in the Americas'

**What:** The California Bach Society will celebrate holiday music written by composers from North, Central and South America.  
**Where:** Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto.  
**When:** Dec. 14, 8 p.m.  
**More information:** [calbach.org/season#secondConcert](http://calbach.org/season#secondConcert).

### Italian Christmas market

**What:** Mitchell Park Community Center

will host "Bay Area's Natale," an Italian Christmas market.

**Where:** Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.  
**When:** Dec. 14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**More information:** [bayareaitalianevents.com](http://bayareaitalianevents.com).

### Holiday organ recital: Robert Huw Morgan

**What:** Stanford University organist Dr. Robert Huw Morgan will present his annual holiday recital.  
**Where:** Memorial Church, 450 Serra St., Stanford.  
**When:** Dec. 15, 1:30 p.m.  
**More information:** [music.stanford.edu/events/holiday-organ-recital-dr-robert-huw-morgan](http://music.stanford.edu/events/holiday-organ-recital-dr-robert-huw-morgan).

### 'PACO Holiday Extravaganza'

**What:** The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra will be joined by special guests Squid, Inc. Quartet and dancers from Pacific Ballet Academy for its annual holiday performance.  
**Where:** Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Palo Alto.  
**When:** Dec. 15, 3 p.m.  
**More information:** [pacomusic.org/current-season](http://pacomusic.org/current-season).

### Silicon Valley Boychoir: 'Let It Snow!'

**What:** Silicon Valley Boychoir presents a concert celebrating snow and the holiday season.  
**Where:** Grace Lutheran Church, 3149 Waverley St., Palo Alto.  
**When:** Dec. 15, 3:30 p.m.  
**More information:** [svboychoir.org/pdf/Dec2019poster.pages.pdf](http://svboychoir.org/pdf/Dec2019poster.pages.pdf).

### Gryphon Carolers

**What:** The long running Gryphon Carolers and band will perform their annual concert of holiday songs from around the world, including unique arrangements and originals.  
**Where:** Woodside Village Church, 3154 Woodside Road, Woodside.  
**When:** Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m.  
**More information:** [gryphoncarollers.com](http://gryphoncarollers.com).

### 'Messiah Sing'

**What:** Schola Cantorum's annual sing-along (age 12 and up) of Handel's "Messiah" will be presented with Sinfonia Schola Cantorum.  
**Where:** Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View.  
**When:** Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.  
**More information:** [tickets.mvcpa.com](http://tickets.mvcpa.com).

Continued on next page



Photo by Sonia Dunning

**Menlowe Ballet's** annual production of "It's a Wonderful Nutcracker" will be performed Dec. 13-15 and Dec. 21-11.



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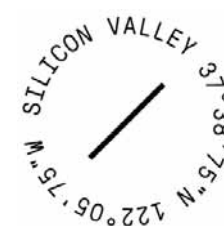


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