

The Almanac

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

MARCH 4, 2020 | VOL. 55 NO. 26



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A fond farewell

The clock is winding down
for Atherton's historic rail stop

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The Oriental Carpet

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"As I get closer to retirement, there will be more reductions – but less choice," said Good. "The best pieces will go quickly."

He's seen some customers come in and buy a rug for every room in the house, he said. All the rugs the store sells are hand-woven and knotted from traditional producers and cooperatives in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal. The store has pieces in every standard size and offers an array of designs including traditional, contemporary and "transitional" – rugs that can be formal or casual, depending on the furnishings they're paired with. The store offers rugs made from wool, silk and viscose, a material that looks and feels like silk but is more affordable.



Good says the majority of the rugs he sells are made of wool, which is the strongest and hardest material. Viscose offers the soft feeling of silk but is easier to clean.

"I personally really like it," he said. "You can put it into a family room without worrying about it."

The store's selection also includes a large number of antique rugs. Collectors appreciate how a rug's colors soften over the years, giving the piece a fine and distinctive patina.

The traditional handcrafted method makes the rugs both beautiful and durable, said Good.

The Oriental Carpet has been serving Peninsula residents for 46 years, helping homeowners and designers achieve the look and feel that a beautiful, high-quality carpet can bring to a room. Good said the handcrafted rugs last forever – but his sale won't. If you're looking for an attractive rug at an even more attractive price, now is the time to go shopping.

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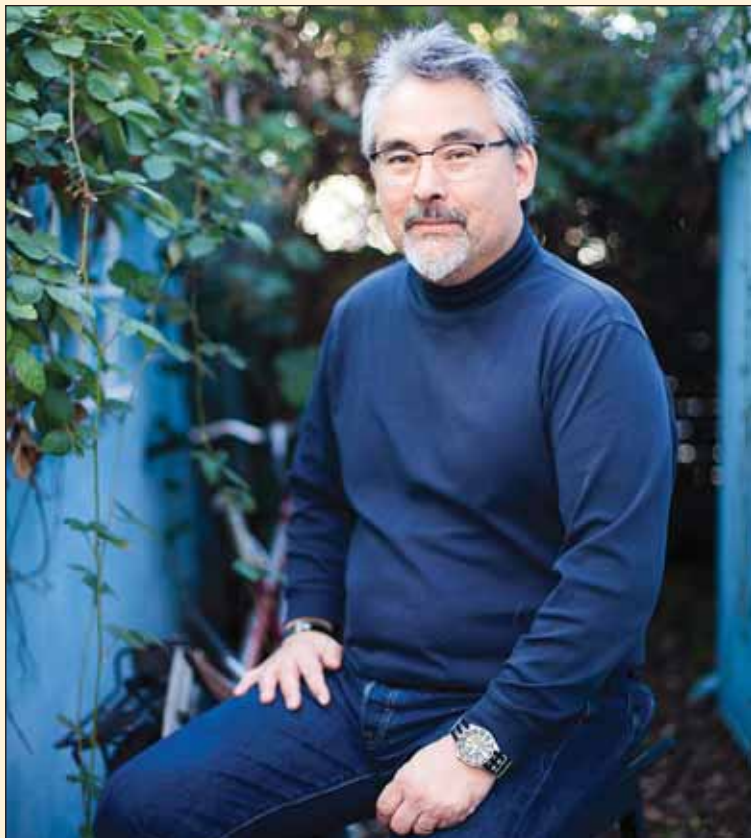
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Alex Pang poses at his Menlo Park home in December 2016, just before his previous book, “Rest,” was released.

Archive photo by Michelle Le

A shorter workweek? Local author makes the case

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

The concept that working fewer hours per week yet producing more work may seem counterintuitive to many Americans, but it’s the theme of Menlo Park resident Alex Soojung-Kim Pang’s latest book, which is scheduled for release on March 10.

In “Shorter: Redesign your Workday and Reinvent Your Life,” Pang examines companies around the world that are enacting five-hour days, four-day workweeks, and other reduced-hour schedules outside of the traditional 40-hour workweek. He found that many of these businesses see about the same, or in some cases increased, productivity and happier employees, even with fewer overall hours worked.

Among Pang’s examples: A surf company in San Diego increased its annual revenues from \$5 million to \$7.5 million when it switched to a five-hour work day. A restaurant owner in Edinburg cut the number of days a week his establishment was opened, increased vacation time and made renovations to the kitchen so the chefs could cook more efficiently. After a

year, he saw happier workers, who were working harder in four days than in five. He also could spend more time developing the menu and even found more time to open a second restaurant.

Employees are more focused, there are better divisions between work time and social time, there’s a lot of chatter in the office, and employees can squeeze in creativity-boosting activities outside of work that they normally wouldn’t have time for during a traditional workweek, Pang asserts. The companies also see declines in sick days since their workers have more time to take care of themselves and visit doctors for preventative care visits, he notes.

Pang is a futurist by profession, with a doctorate in the history of science from the University of Pennsylvania, whose background includes work as a research director at the Institute for the Future, a think tank in Palo Alto focused on forecasting practical future scenarios for governments and companies, and as a visiting scholar at Stanford University.

In an interview with The Almanac, he said he was surprised to find that there are

a number of businesses all over the world, across a variety of industries — software companies, restaurants, nursing homes, and even a rice mill company in Japan — that are already experimenting with shorter workweeks for their employees.

In researching material for his book, he interviewed leaders of companies that cut hours, but kept salaries consistent with what they were when the businesses operated under a 40-hour workweek.

“There’s a kind of culture change (at these companies) around the way people think about time,” he says. “As one (company) founder put it: ‘Anyone can sit in a chair for 12 hours a day; what impresses me is a person who can do work in six hours and get out of there.’ We use time as a proxy for productivity, and moving away from that is an important thing and a challenge.”

Pang spent about a year working on “Shorter,” interviewing founders and their employees from more than 100 companies across the globe. He found them through Google searches, sifting

See **WORKWEEK**, page 8

Lewis pushes back against possible fire district separation

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton Vice Mayor Elizabeth Lewis expressed her displeasure with a plan to pursue detaching from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District during a Feb. 19 City Council meeting, while other council members said they want to continue gathering feedback from residents on a 2016 fire services study showing that revenue paid to the district far exceeds the cost of emergency services provided by the district.

The council reviewed a draft of a four-page newsletter, which is being sent out to all residents, and will discuss it at a Wednesday, March 4, meeting. Council members directed staff to draft another version of the letter with any additional information it can gather on Atherton fire costs.

At last month’s meeting, Lewis said she doesn’t support separation from the fire district, and that she’d like the document to be redrafted with a more “neutral tone.” She said she would also like to have the fire district provide more recent data on costs to Atherton.

City Manager George Rodericks said the fire services subcommittee will review the draft newsletter and recommend changes.

The newsletter, drafted by Rodericks, explains that the town “met with the District in the hopes of identifying some equity solutions that would allow the District to invest directly in the Town by providing public safety infrastructure to improve congestion, emergency response routes, safe routes to school, etc. Ultimately, the District declined to work with the Town to address the issue. This forced the Town to move toward a detachment solution in the hopes of a reallocation of the basic tax amount amongst the current taxing entities.”

“We can rant and rave and say we’re going to detach, but I don’t think we should send this piece out to our residents the way it’s written,” Lewis said. “We should be friends (with fire district officials). We should be partners in our safety of the town. ... Neither the town nor the fire district have the ability to modify the basic tax

amount Atherton pays.”

The town would have to seek legislative relief with county and/or state legislators to change the tax allocation if it were to separate from the district. A change in the law would allow the reallocation of tax revenues, since the allocation to fire services is based on a state formula.

The property tax allocation formula was set soon after Proposition 13 was passed in 1978, and as the tax revenue generated increased in the areas the fire district serves — Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Atherton and nearby unincorporated areas — so did the fire district’s revenue. Based on the results of the 2016 study and subsequent conversations town officials had with the district and the San Mateo County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo), it is unlikely that special legislation to reallocated tax revenue would be supported, according to a Dec. 18 town staff report.

John Wurdinger, an Atherton firefighter and president of San Mateo County Firefighters IAFF Local 2400, a union that represents firefighters and paramedics countywide, said at the meeting that the 2016 study is not complete and that the council should conduct a comprehensive review that speaks to the “actual cost” of fire and emergency medical services to the town.

“As a public safety professional, as someone who has devoted his career to serving this very community, I strongly urge you as town council members to stand down from your proposal to leave behind the high-quality service you receive from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District,” Wurdinger said.

Council member Cary Wiest said the consulting firm the town hired to conduct the fire services review did its job and the council needs to “continue to move forward instead of backtracking.”

The town-commissioned review, released in 2018, found that Atherton property owners pay the district more than twice as much as fire services cost; the study puts the overpayment at about \$7 million annually. The

See **DISTRICT SEPARATION**, page 8

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Two coronavirus cases as of March 2 in San Mateo County

Disease was on agenda for monthly local school districts meeting

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

San Mateo County on March 2 reported the first case of a resident registering a "presumptive positive" for the coronavirus that's infected more than 80,000 people around the world. The diagnosis is pending a confirmation test from the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This came days after the county health department announced that the CDC had transferred someone who tested positive for the respiratory disease to a county hospital.

The most recent patient, who is described simply as an adult, has been hospitalized and is in isolation, according to a March 2 press release from San Mateo County Health, the county's health department. The patient has no known exposure to the virus through travel or through contact with a person confirmed to have the illness, named COVID-19, according to the department.

Symptoms of COVID-19 are like the flu, which include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear in as few as two days or up to 14 days after exposure, according to the county.

The other patient, also in isolation, was transferred to the county after returning from traveling abroad, and is in good condition, officials said in the March 2 press release. The health department has not released where in the county either patient is being treated or any other information the patients.

Dr. Scott Morrow, the chief health department officer, said in the press release that the department shares "the concerns of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that we all need to be prepared for COVID-19 to spread within the United States."

He added: "To prevent any illness, follow CDC guidelines including washing your hands frequently, covering your sneeze, and staying home when sick. Also, please dust off your personal emergency plans to make sure you have proper provisions at your home including water, medications, and food."

As of March 1, there were a total of 40 people found to have the virus in California, 24 of whom had returned home from

another country, according to the California Department of Public Health's website. The other 16 confirmed cases include nine that are travel-related, two due to person-to-person exposure from a close contact and three from unknown sources.

The outbreak prompted officials from San Mateo County's 23 school districts to meet with county health department officials on Feb. 28 to discuss the illness, which emerged in China late last year.

KRON 4 News reported on Feb. 27 that the districts were meeting with San Mateo County Health to "make a unified plan for how they will deal with coronavirus if it continues to spread and advance."

The county Office of Education issued an alert on its website on Feb. 26 that the "risk of exposure to this new coronavirus is increasing over time. Travelers from mainland China arriving in the United States since February 3, 2020, should be excluded from school for 14 days, beginning the day after they left China. SMCOE and San Mateo County Health are partnering to support school districts in mitigating health risks."

After the Feb. 28 meeting, County Superintendent of Schools Nancy Magee said in a phone interview that the Office of Education is still advising local districts to follow its typical guidance on cold and flu prevention practices since the risk of transmitting the virus remains low in the area.

Magee noted that the Office of Education, which plays a supporting role for local school districts, is reviewing its pandemic plans for school districts. The plan outlines different ways to deliver instructions if schools need to close because of the spread of an illness, she said. When the plan is revised it will be posted on the organization's website, an Office of Education spokesperson said.

"Unfortunately, (local) superintendents have lots of practice with school closure decisions based on (recent) smoke alerts and power outages," Magee said. "We usually work really hard to keep school open — it's a safe and supportive place for a child to be during the day, but in the case of an increasing health risk, or chance of further spread of the virus by keeping schools open, that wouldn't make any sense." She noted, though, that districts

See **CORONAVIRUS**, page 7

City allocates \$1M to continue services during Belle Haven center construction

By Tyler Callister
Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park City Council recently addressed a challenge coming early next year: Many of the city's senior, youth, and other recreation services will be temporarily disrupted during construction of a new three-story community center and library in the city's Belle Haven neighborhood.

The project, funded by a philanthropic donation from Menlo Park-based tech giant Facebook, could take up to two years to complete.

To cover the gap, the council has approved the use of \$1 million — to be appropriated from the Library Systems Improvement Fund — for the cost of interim services during the construction period. This would cover the continuation of key services now offered by the senior center, Onetta Harris Community Center, and the Belle Haven Youth Center.

The council approved the funding in a 4-0 vote at its Feb. 25 meeting. Council member Ray Mueller was absent.

The council accepted Facebook's offer for the community center project on Jan. 28. The center will be located on the site of the current facilities at 100 Terminal Ave., and groundbreaking is expected in early 2021.

During construction, some services will be either suspended or offered at a reduced level.

According to a city staff report, the following temporary

changes will take effect during construction:

■ Operations at the Belle Haven Pool, drop-in fitness classes at the Onetta Harris Community Center, and the senior community reading rooms will be suspended.

■ The senior center's recreation classes, special events, and game room will be offered at a reduced level.

Meanwhile, the Belle Haven Youth Center's after-school care and summer camp; the Kelly Field sports field group rentals; the Onetta Harris Community Center's Second Harvest Program; and the senior center's meals, transportation, health and counseling programs will all be offered at the same level.

Most services will be offered at alternative venues during construction, to be decided by the city at a later date.

The proposed new center has been billed by Facebook as a "Multi-generational Community Center and Library." It would house a new senior center, youth center and library, as well as a gym and multipurpose room, according to a letter addressed to the City Council in December 2019 from John Tenanes, Facebook's vice president of global facilities and real estate.

The facility, being designed by architectural firm Hart Howerton, would also include renovations to some amenities near the pools and improved pedestrian access and vehicle circulation at the site.

Seniors express concerns

At the City Council meeting,

at least two dozen community members associated with the senior center were present, and many spoke of how much they value the current senior center, emphasizing that they would like to see it either maintained or improved.

In a letter sent to the council and signed by 45 community members, representatives from the senior center wrote: "The Community and seniors think Facebook and the City would do us a favor if they leave the buildings the way they stand now. The community and seniors know that this is a dream that will not come true for us. Facebook and the City will never stop the new construction plans. The most important thing for the seniors is to be one hundred percent sure that we will be coming back to the new building as low-income seniors. In the new building, seniors need to have all the benefits and services we have at the present."

During the council's discussion, council member Catherine Carlton addressed the letter directly, saying that the council intends to create an improved senior center for the community.

"We're trying to provide better facilities for people in the long-term," she said. "We're also very worried about making sure that we provide as many services as possible in the same way ... to not impact people's lives unnecessarily in the process of providing something that hopefully will be really beautiful and provide fantastic services for decades to come." ■

towns on the list include Los Altos Hills, ranked No. 5, with an average annual household income of \$405,073; and Los Altos, ranked 24th, with an average annual household income of \$302,068.

Bloomberg evaluated household data for all U.S. towns with at least 2,000 households and ranked them based on average household income.

— By Angela Swartz

In America's richest town, a \$500K income is below average

For the fourth year in a row, Atherton has topped Bloomberg's list of wealthiest U.S. towns.

Atherton households earn an average of \$525,000 annually, according to the list, published on Feb. 20.

The town became the first,

and only, community to top the half-million-dollar mark since Bloomberg started compiling the index in 2017, according to the publication.

Nearby Hillsborough ranked No. 3 on the list, with an average yearly household income of \$430,681. Other Peninsula

minimize the spread of germs. They're also encouraging students and teachers to stay home when sick and frequently wash their hands with soap and water and avoid touching their nose, mouth and eyes with unwashed hands.

"The (Sequoia Union High School) District is working with county school and health officials to review protocols for schools in the event that coronavirus

spreads in San Mateo County," according to a Thursday email to Menlo-Atherton High School families from the school. "We will share more information as our preparations advance."

As of the afternoon of March 2, there were a total of nine cases of the illness in neighboring Santa Clara County.

For updates on cases of the virus in San Mateo County, go to smhealth.org/coronavirus. ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Sellers Should Listen to Buyers

Dear Monica: We are selling our home and have had some offers but none were high enough for us to accept. Our agent is telling us that the market has changed in the past months and that we would do well to listen to what these buyers are telling us. Do you agree with this?

Maureen D.

Dear Maureen:

Without knowing the details about your property and the offers you have received, I would say that in general, your agent is correct. If your house is older

or was remodeled more than 10 years ago, buyers won't pay as much for it as they would for new construction in the same location. Even if it still looks good to you, to buyers it is dated. The lower offers you have received may represent the true market value for your home.

It is too soon to tell how the current stock market volatility will affect real estate prices but it is unlikely to mean values will increase anytime soon. If you want to sell your home, you should reconsider the offers you rejected.

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CORONAVIRUS

continued from page 6

aren't considering closing schools at this point.

Schools in The Almanac's coverage area have put out advisories, through email and on their websites, that they are increasing cleanings of common areas such as bathrooms, water faucets, classrooms, doorknobs, playgrounds and cafeterias to

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Pastor placed on leave for ‘poor judgment’ to return to the pulpit

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

A Menlo Park megachurch pastor who recently returned from leave after he allowed a volunteer who admitted an “unwanted thought pattern of attraction to minors” to continue working with children for about a year and a half will resume preaching at the church early next month.

Menlo Church’s Elder Board decided to allow its senior pastor, John Ortberg, to return to the pulpit the weekend of March 7, according to a Feb. 27 email church officials sent to members. He was suspended in November after someone alerted church leaders that Ortberg had offered “prayers and referrals for counseling” to the volunteer, but

didn’t prevent the person from working with minors at the 950 Santa Cruz Ave. campus, church officials said in an earlier email to members.

“We recognize these past few months have been challenging,” said Beth Seabolt, the church’s Elder Board chair, in the Feb. 27 email. “Since our last update, John Ortberg has remained focused on his Restoration Plan and shown great progress. After thoroughly reviewing the input from all constituencies and considering the progressive nature of building trust, and after prayerfully seeking God’s guidance, the Board believes John is ready to move beyond his Restoration Plan and prepare for his return to the pulpit.”

The board met this week to

discuss letting Ortberg return to preaching, Seabolt said. Board members said in a Feb. 5 statement that they had adopted a “restoration plan” with Ortberg so he could “rebuild trust across Menlo Church, including with the congregation, staff, leadership and elders.”

Although Ortberg was reinstated on Jan. 24 after his Nov. 22 suspension, he has not given a sermon since mid-November, according to church emails.

Ortberg did not consult anyone else at Menlo Church — at which 6,000 people attend weekly services across the evangelical Presbyterian church’s six locations from South San Francisco down to Saratoga — about the situation, a January email states.

The board retained an

independent investigator, who did not find any misconduct in the Menlo Church community, according to the email.

On Feb. 2, Ortberg’s son, Daniel Lavery, a Slate.com columnist, posted a widely read tweet stating he was the person who alerted church officials to his father’s interactions with the volunteer on Nov. 21, which occurred in July 2018.

Lavery did not name the volunteer, but said that he or she shared with him on Nov. 15 that the volunteer had “experienced obsessive sexual feelings about young children” and was seeking out unsupervised volunteer positions with children to treat this obsession. In his tweet, Lavery said he confirmed with his father that his father had encouraged

the unsupervised work. Ortberg, Lavery wrote, asserted that the “most important thing was maintaining secrecy over the affair.”

The individual in question was a part-time volunteer at the church and has not volunteered at any church events since this issue was raised with the board, said Heather Holliday, the senior director of marketing and communications at Menlo Church.

The board will also consider changing Ortberg’s responsibilities to involve a greater focus on “teaching, discipleship and mentorship” while it “discerns alternative means to provide excellent day-to-day operational leadership for Menlo Church,” the board said in the Feb. 27 email.

Ortberg did not respond to a request for comment. ■

WORKWEEK

continued from page 5

through newspaper articles and industry magazines, and reading self-reported company case studies on their shorter workweeks.

Does he see this trend taking hold in the U.S. — even in Silicon Valley — anytime soon? Yes and no. Pang thinks the trend is growing, but some companies are often held back from making changes to their work schedules because of habit.

“Silicon Valley can disrupt absolutely everything except working hours,” he says. “The idea that success doesn’t come from 90-hour weeks and sleeping under desks is like medieval sorcery or something. We have a

culture that treats burnout as an occupational hazard.”

The shorter workweek can look “really counterintuitive” if you’ve spent your life competing over who can work the longest, and if you carry the assumption that there’s a correlation between working longer and getting more done, Pang says.

The reason that businesses such as restaurants or software firms are some of the first to try out these new schedules is that their industries often grapple with recruitment, retention and burnout challenges, he explains.

“People are leaving their fields, or worse, because of the intensity or pressure,” Pang says. “It’s about building companies that aren’t going to flame

out in a couple of years.”

A shorter workweek is also a “simple, elegant” solution to a handful of problems that are often handled through piecemeal, smaller-scale initiatives such as flexibility to work from home, he says. More flexible policies, he adds, can make coordination between employees difficult, or make employees fear that their flexible schedules signal they are less invested and committed to their careers.

Pang notes that he’s already seeing more companies implementing shorter workweeks since he finished the book.

“There are signs it’s a global movement that’s only beginning,” he says, adding that he’s seeing the idea being proposed on agendas

for government organizations, hospitals and law firms.

“Shorter” is a follow-up to Pang’s 2016 book, “Rest: Why You Get More Done When You Work Less,” which explores how rest refocuses the mind and re-energizes people to work more creatively and productively, providing insights on how some of the most creative and prolific people in history — such as Beethoven, Thomas Jefferson and C.S. Lewis — incorporated rest into their daily lives.

While promoting that book, he recalls, he was asked many times how people such as working mothers or professors could take lessons from the book and apply them in their own lives, which prompted him to

explore how some companies are creatively working to help their employees achieve a better work-life balance.

Pang also wrote “The Distraction Addiction: Getting the Information You Need and the Communication You Want, Without Enraging Your Family, Annoying Your Colleagues, and Destroying Your Soul” in 2013, which addresses technology’s capacity to degrade our ability to focus and our overall quality of life.

Last fall he founded a startup called Strategy and Rest, which builds on the research and insights from “Shorter” to help companies and organizations design shorter workweeks.

For more on the author and his work, go to askpang.com. ■

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DISTRICT SEPARATION

continued from page 5

study shows that in the 2015-16 fiscal year, Atherton, which has 8% of the residents in the fire district, provided 31.7% of the district’s total property tax revenues.

Council member Bill Widmer said that if district Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman has additional information on fire costs, that information can be taken into account. Widmer noted that it’s been a long process to study the costs.

Issues discussed in the newsletter, called the Athertonian, include the consultant’s conclusions about the tax revenue provided to the district by residents, the true cost of basic fire services, and the difference between the cost of service and the revenue provided, according to a staff report.

The publication will not address fire department salaries and benefits, district organization, fiscal

transparency and fiscal efficiencies, according to staff. It would take about five to seven days to print and then mail the newsletter after approval, said Rodericks in an email.

The council also tentatively scheduled community information meetings on the 2016 fire services review for the evenings of March 24 and April 1 in Holbrook-Palmer Park’s Main House.

In January, the council voted to initiate a two- to three-month process of gathering community input on the review after deciding in December to consider the following options:

■ Complete an application to LAFCo for detachment from the fire district. Should the town proceed with a detachment process through LAFCo, that process would include various public meetings and could ultimately include a public vote.

■ Discuss possible legislative relief with county and/or state legislators. ■



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Equestrian and town icon Al Schreck dies at age 89

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

Albert Schreck, a Portola Valley resident who helped incorporate the town in 1964, died on Feb. 6. A real estate executive, an equestrian enthusiast and a world traveler and adventurer, he was 89 at the time of his passing.



Albert Schreck

Born in Los Angeles, he grew up in Larchmont, New York, and attended Williams College in Massachusetts. He met his future wife, Jo Wells, while he was in college, and the two were married in 1952, according to his family.

After Schreck served a stint in the Air Force in Germany, the Schrecks moved to the Bay Area, where Al entered law school at Stanford University and Jo enrolled there as an undergraduate, according to the family.

They settled down in Ladera, but moved to Portola Valley in 1957, where they raised three

sons, Dan, Charlie and Tom, on the horse ranch they purchased, according to Tom Schreck.

Jo Schreck died in April of 2015.

His father, along with former Sunset Magazine co-owner Bill Lane and other town residents, helped to incorporate Portola Valley in 1964, Tom Schreck said. "They tried to convince Woodside to incorporate along with them, but were soundly rejected."

Portola Valley was "wild and woolly" when the family first moved there, and his parents were deeply involved in improving the town's trail system, and were well-known for their presence, on horseback, on the local trails, Tom Schreck said.

The family was active in the horseback riding community, riding in point-to-point races and participating in horse shows, Tom said.

"I remember as a young boy following my father on my pony, heading out on Portola Valley trails and, when I was 16, driving him to various ranches," he said.

Al and Jo Schreck were both enthusiastic world travelers, and loved going to Ireland for

horseback riding and hunting, Tom said.

The couple made a memorable equestrian trip to the African country of Botswana, and Tom Schreck recalled warning them about the danger of such a trip when they met up later in London.

"What if a lion or a bull elephant confronts you when you're on horseback?" I asked them," Tom said. "It took a huge amount of courage to do that in their mid-60s."

Al Schreck was a co-founder of the real estate investment firm of Kingsley, Schreck, Wells & Reichling, along with his brother-in-law Albert Wells, according to a biography written by his family.

The company was active in business for more than 50 years, and accumulated a substantial commercial real estate portfolio including the vintage Monadnock Building on Market Street in San Francisco that survived the 1906 earthquake, Tom Schreck said.

Al Schreck was also active in politics, serving as the finance manager for the campaign of former congressman Pete

McCloskey, who ran against former child actress Shirley Temple Black in 1967, according to the family.

He also served on the Portola Valley School District board while his sons attended elementary and middle school in the district, Tom Schreck said.

"McCloskey once said that if Al Schreck could win the Portola Valley school board election, he could beat Shirley Temple Black," Tom Schreck said.

Al Schreck was also a trustee for several organizations, including the San Francisco Museum

of Modern Art, UCSF's "That Man May See," and the Abelard Foundation. He was a coach and umpire for the Alpine Little League, and helped finance and build the first backstop at Ford Field in Portola Valley, according to the family.

Al's three sons survive him.

A memorial service in Portola Valley is planned for August, Tom Schreck said.

The family prefers that memorial donations in Al's name be made to UCSF's "That Man May See." Go to thatmanmaysee.com for information. ▣

Bob Dehn, former library commissioner, dies at 78

By Tyler Callister
Almanac Staff Writer

Robert "Bob" Dehn, a passionate Menlo Park community member known for his work with SRI International and as a volunteer on the Menlo Park Library Commission and St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room, died on Jan. 23 at age 78.

Born in November 1941 in Albany, California, he spent his childhood in Albany and Berkeley. He attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he graduated with a degree in chemistry.

His scientific interests brought him to the Stanford Research Institute in Menlo Park, which later became SRI International, where he worked as a pharmaceutical organic chemist.

It was there that he met his wife of 52 years, Fran Dehn (McGroary), now president of Menlo Park's Chamber of Commerce.

He eventually moved into marketing and business development for SRI's Life Sciences Division, where he worked until his retirement in 2007.

Dehn served on the Menlo Park Library Commission for 11 years. He played a key role in advocating for and seeing through the completion of a \$5 million expansion and remodel of the Menlo Park Main Library in 1992.

According to his wife, Dehn was a scientist at heart who brought his analytical mind to everything he did.



Bob Dehn worked for many years as a scientist at the Stanford Research Institute.

"He was extremely private, he didn't share his feelings with others, he only shared goals," she said. "He was a very focused individual, he was a very analytical person, he was a scientist. He would figure out what needed to be done then bring other people along with him, and he wouldn't give up until the project came to fruition."

In his retirement, Dehn brought that focus and tenacity to his volunteer work at St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room, which provides free meals to the hungry in the church on Middlefield Road.

According to Padua Dining Room Operations Manager Max Torres, Dehn volunteered extensively at the dining room, often putting in extra hours to make sure all business was taken care of. "The way he conducted himself was always very formal," Torres said of Dehn's style. "He was a very respectful person."

Dehn is survived by his wife Fran; daughter Elizabeth Dehn; son Peter Dehn; grandsons Oliver, Byron and Zac; and sister Marlene Dehn.

The family prefers that memorial donations be made to St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room at 3500 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025. ▣

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ACADEMICS

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headsup.org

Emerson: (650) 424-1267
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Harker Summer Programs

The Harker School's summer programs for children K - grade 12 offer the perfect balance of learning and fun! Programs are led by dedicated faculty and staff who are experts at combining summer fun and learning. Strong academics and inspiring enrichment programs are offered in full day, partial and morning only sessions.

harker.org/summer

(408) 553-5737

i2 Camp at Castilleja School

i2 Camp offers week-long immersion programs that engage middle school girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The fun and intimate hands-on activities of the courses strive to excite and inspire participants about STEM, creating enthusiasm that will hopefully spill over to their schoolwork and school choices in future years.

castilleja.org/i2camp

(650) 470-7833

STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research

EXPLORE biomedical science at Stanford. Stanford EXPLORE offers high school students the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science, including bioengineering, neurobiology, immunology and many others.

explore.stanford.edu

explore-series@stanford.edu

Summer@Stratford

Stratford infuses its STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) curriculum into an innovative and enriching summer camp experience. Younger campers learn, explore, and engage in hands-on learning projects, while Elementary-age students collaborate to tackle real-world problems by utilizing academic principles and concepts in a fun and engaging way. At the Middle School level, individual subject-based enrichment classes are offered and tailored for each grade level.

stratfordschools.com/summer

pa@stratfordschools.com

(650) 493-1141

ARTS, CULTURE, OTHER CAMPS

Art and Soul Camp

Art, cooking, tinkering, yoga and mindfulness. We celebrate multiple perspectives and recognize the many ways for our children to interpret their world. Summer Unplugged! is appropriate for ages 6-11 years. Located at Walter Hays School.

artandsoulpa.com

(650) 269-0423

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls Palo Alto

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls Palo Alto Casti Camp offers girls entering grades 2-6 a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, computers, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music classes each day along with weekly field trips. Leadership program available for girls entering grades 7-9.

castilleja.org/summercamp

(650) 470-7833

ARTS, CULTURE, OTHER CAMPS

Community School of Music

Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) Mountain View 50+ creative camps for grades K-12! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, Summer Music Workshops and more! One and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care from 8:30am-5:30pm. Financial aid offered.

arts4all.org

(650) 917-6800 ext. 0

Let's Go Crafting

Let's Go Crafting's Studio is where your child will have fun while learning many different fiber related arts. We teach sewing, knitting, crochet, weaving and jewelry making to children ages 8 to 15 years. AM or PM camps \$275/week. Full day camps \$550/week. 5 student minimum for all sessions; 10 student maximum.

letsgocrafting.org

(650) 814-4183

Oshman Family JCC Camps

Camps at the OFJCC introduce your child to new experiences while creating friendships in a fun and safe environment. We work to build confidence, stretch imaginations and teach new skills.

paloaltojcc.org/Camps

(650) 223-8622

Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC)

PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades 1st to 6th, a wide variety of engaging opportunities. We are excited to announce all of your returning favorites: Leaders in Training (L.I.T.), Camp YOUnique, F.A.M.E. (Fine Arts, Music and Entertainment), J.V. Sports, Operation: Chef and Chef Jr.! Periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the variety of offerings at PACCC Summer Camps. Open to campers from all communities. Register online.

paccc.org

(650) 493-2361

Stanford Jazz Workshop

World-renowned jazz camps at Stanford. Week-long jazz immersion programs for middle school musicians (July 6-10), high school (July 12-17 and July 19-24), and adults (July 26-31). All instruments and vocals. No jazz experience necessary!

stanfordjazz.org

(650) 736-0324

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley

Campers bring their plays to life, make new friends, and practice collaboration skills at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's PlayMakers Camp (grades K-5). TheatreWorks offers four sessions in Palo Alto and Atherton from June 8 - July 31. Campers learn acting, playwriting, movement, and stagecraft from professional teaching artists from the Tony Award-winning local company.

theatreworks.org/education

(650) 463-7146

ATHLETICS

Dance Connection Palo Alto

Share the joy of dance with us! Our studio is an extended family and a "home away from home" for our community of children and teens. At Dance Connection, we value the positive energy and atmosphere that we continuously strive to provide. Summer Dance Camps include all styles of dance for ages 4 and up and features our new "This is Me!" Empowerment Camp along with Teen Jazz and Hip Hop Camps. A Summer Session for ages 3 to adults will be offered from June 8 - July 31.

danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps

(650) 852-0418 or (650) 322-7032

Palo Alto

ATHLETICS

Kim Grant Tennis Summer Camps

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KimGrantTennis.com

Text: (650) 690-0678

Call: (650) 752-8061

Nike Tennis Camps

Junior Overnight and Day Camps for boys & girls, ages 9-18 offered throughout June, July and August. Adult Weekend Clinics (June & Aug). Camps directed by Head Men's Coach, Paul Goldstein, Head Women's Coach, Lele Forood, and Associate Men's and Women's Coaches, Brandon Coupe and Frankie Brennan. Come join the fun and get better this summer!

ussportscamps.com

(800) NIKE-CAMP

(800) 645-3226

Run for Fun Camps

Run for Fun's mission is to provide creative and engaging play for all youth by getting kids active in an inclusive community centered around outdoor fun! We pride ourselves on hiring an enthusiastic, highly trained staff who love what they do. Summer 2020 features four weeks of Adventure Day Camp and two weeks of Overnight Camp High Five. Adventure Day Camp is a new discovery every day filled with sports, crafts and nature, including explorations to Camp Jones Gulch, Capitola Beach, Foothills Park, Shoreline Lake and Great America. Camp High Five is six days and five nights of traditional overnight camp mixed with challenge-by-choice activities, campfires, friendships and lots of laughter.

runforuncamps.com/summer-camps-and-school-holiday-camps/camp-overview

(650) 823-5167

Stanford Athletics & Youth

We can't wait to have you join us this summer at Stanford! We hope you're ready for engaged and safety-focused staff, phenomenal facilities, and innovative programs. We'll have camps that challenge your camper's physical, mental, and social skills in age-appropriate activities. When your camper registers for Camp Cardinal, they are a Cardinal Kid for life. Our main camper program is for grades K-6 and then campers graduate to our Counselor-in-Training Program where they become camp leaders!

campcardinal.org

campcardinal@stanford.edu

Stanford Baseball Camps

At Sunken Diamond on the campus of Stanford University. A variety of camps are offered to benefit a wide range of age groups and skill sets. Campers will gain instruction in several baseball skills, fundamentals, team concepts, and game play.

stanfordbaseballcamp.com

(650) 725-2054

Stanford Water Polo Camps

New to water polo or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or full day options for boys and girls ages 7 and up. All camps provide fundamental skills, scrimmages and games.

stanfordwaterpolocamps.com

YMCA of Silicon Valley Summer Camps

At the Y, children and teens of all abilities acquire new skills, make friends, and feel that they belong. With hundreds of Summer Day Camps plus Overnight Camps, you will find a camp that's right for your family. Sign up today, camps are filling up! Financial assistance is available.

ymcasv.org/summercamp

(408) 351-6473



Spring Class Guide

Here comes the sun and a plethora of classes to take in Menlo Park. With more than 20 classes offered in the area, we've prepared a new guide to let you know what's out there, where to go and how to sign up. Take a language course, try to cook, or learn to ride a horse — whatever it is, there's so many ways to make sure this season doesn't go to waste.

DANCE

Captivating Dance by Nona
1923 Menalto Ave., Menlo Park
650-980-8555
captivatingdancebynona.com

Captivating Dance by Nona instructs youth of various ages and abilities in ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, hip-hop and other styles and skills. Classes take place at various times during the week. The studio also has competitive teams. Register online.

Dance Expressions

701 Laurel St., Menlo Park
650-450-3209

Dance instruction for students ages 3 and up, focusing on jazz technique at various experience and skill levels.

SPORTS & FITNESS

Fleet Feet Sports

859 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park
650-325-9432
fleetfeetmenlopark.com/training

Training programs throughout the year to bring camaraderie and skill building to runners and walkers of all levels. Registration for marathon training is now open.

Menlo Swim & Sport

Burgess Pool, 501 Laurel St., Menlo Park / Belle Haven Pool, 100 Terminal Ave., Menlo Park
650-781-5525 / menloswim.com

Youth, adult and community programs at Burgess and Belle Haven pools, including year-round swim lessons, youth swim teams, masters swimming, water polo and water

exercise, as well as cycling, running, fitness and tennis programs.

One Heart Yoga

Little House Activity Center, Fitness Room, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park / 650-649-3055
oneheartyyoga.com

Weekly classes in Kundalini yoga, aimed at helping students increase flexibility and strength, learn breathing techniques to calm and focus and reduce anxiety and depression. View class schedules online.

Kidz Love Soccer

Burgess Park Auxiliary Field 9, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park
kidzlovesoccer.com

Menlo Park Community Services and Kidz Love Soccer offer youth soccer classes for boys and girls of all abilities, beginning at age 2. Registration for classes starting in April is now open.

Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center

501 Laurel St., Menlo Park
650-330-2215
bit.ly/arrillagagymnastics

The City of Menlo Park offers a number of gymnastics classes for youth, with a focus on children under the age of 6. Parent-participation classes are also available for children with special needs.

Glenoaks Stables Riding School

3639 Alpine Road, Portola Valley
650-867-8201 / isolastables.com

Hands-on programs teaching riders to groom their horses, tack and provide riding instruction depending on individual riding level. Both private and small group lessons are offered.

Menlo Park Tennis

Nealon Park Tennis Courts, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park
650-814-6734
menloparktennis.com

Tennis classes for adults and children ages 5 and up and at all levels. Lessons include tips, strategy, drills and entertaining games. Find out more about group and solo classes online.

Spring Down Equestrian Center

725 Portola Road, Portola Valley
650-851-1114 / springdown.com

Spring Down Equestrian Center educates children (beginning at age 3) and adults on horses and horseback riding. Instruction in basic riding, jumping, dressage, Western riding and horsemanship is offered. Classes and camps held year-round. Registration for spring camp is open.

Webb Ranch Riding School

2720 Alpine Road, Portola Valley
650-854-7755
webbranchinc.com/home.htm

Instruction for beginning and intermediate riders in both group and private settings. Specialties include Western riding, dressage and hunt-seat riding. In addition, there are a number of weeklong camp sessions for children ages 7 to 18. Registration for spring and summer camps is now open.

LANGUAGE

German-American School of Palo Alto

German-American International School campus, 475 Pope St., Menlo Park
650-520-3646 / gaspa-ca.org

The German-American School of Palo Alto (GASPA) teaches immersive German language classes, which also cover culture and traditions, to students ages 2.5 to 18. No prior knowledge of German is required. Classes are offered Saturdays year-round and during summer camp from June through July. Register for classes and summer camp online.

Language Pacifica

1528 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo / 650-321-1840
languagepacific.com

Language Pacifica teaches English to non-native speakers in both full-time and part-time intensive courses. Classes are well-suited for TOEFL exam preparation and learning English for business or personal enrichment.

MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS

Draeger's Cooking School

1010 University Drive, Menlo Park
650-685-3704
cookingschool@draegers.com
draegerscookingschool.com

Draeger's Cooking School classes are taught by chefs and cover an array of regional cuisines, dishes and cooking skills. Arrangements for private classes are available year-around, with several tutorials offered on a monthly basis. Sign up online.

Music Together Menlo Park

75 Arbor Road, Suite N, Menlo Park
650-799-1624 / admin@mt-mp.com
mt-mp.com

Music Together holds classes exploring music and movement for children

from birth up to age 5 and their guardians at the Allied Arts Guild. Spring semester is from April 13-June 28 and now open for enrollment.

Old World Designs

727 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park
650-321-3494
info@oldworlddesigns.com
oldworlddesigns.com

In addition to stocking supplies and giving private lessons in stitching, Old World Designs organizes project classes and "stitch-ins." Classes and events start at 10 a.m. and are offered year-round.

EDUCATION

HeadsUp! Child Development Center

2800 W. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto
650-424-1221 / pacdc@headsup.org
headsup.org/headsup

HeadsUp! Child Development Center serves infants, toddlers and preschoolers (to age 6) with a full-day program, year-round. The Montessori curriculum focuses on building thinking skills and personal values. A bilingual Chinese-English preschool classroom is also available.

Littlest Angels Preschool

1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park
650-854-4973
preschool@bethany-mp.org
bethany-mp.org/preschool

At the preschool, children ages 2 to 5 follow a Christian curriculum that encourages creative, emotional, intellectual, physical and social development.

Lydian Academy

815 El Camino Real, Menlo Park
650-321-0550 / lydianacademy.com

Lydian Academy is a middle and high school offering individualized instruction that prepares students for the workforce and college. Lessons include a mix of one-on-one teaching and group sessions. It also provides tutoring, after-school and summer school programs. Registration for the summer program, which begins June 1, is now open online.

Phillips Brooks School

2245 Avey Ave., Menlo Park
650-854-4545
info@phillipsbrooks.org
phillipsbrooks.org

Phillips Brooks School is a coeducational day school teaching children in preschool through fifth grade and integrates social learning and individual instruction. In addition to core subjects, children can also study science, technology, music, art, library, physical education and Spanish. Learn more about the application process online.

Woodland School

360 La Cuesta Drive, Portola Valley / 650-854-9065
woodland-school.org

Woodland School is an innovative,

project-based school for students in early childhood through eighth grade that gives individualized attention, develops leadership skills and emphasizes the values of caring, respect and community. Apply online.

CAREER PREP

JobTrain

1200 O' Brien Drive, Menlo Park
650-330-6429
info@jobtrainworks.org
jobtrainworks.org

JobTrain has a variety of training programs for adults — providing instruction in the culinary arts, business administration, health care, web technology, construction and other fields — as well as programs specifically for youth, to help with GED preparation, job placement and vocational training. View currently available workshops online.

Sequoia District Adult School

3247 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park
650-306-8866 / seqsas.org

Sequoia District Adult Education holds classes in English as a second language and computer and business skills. Students can also earn a high school diploma or GED certificate. Counselors are available to help students transition to college programs.

SENIORS

Little House, Roslyn G. Morris Activity Center

800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park
650-326-0665
penvol.org/littlehouse

Little House Activity Center offers classes for adults of all ages on various topics and activities, including health and wellness for seniors; fitness exercises like line dancing and Pilates; ceramics, drawing and other arts; languages; history and culture; and computer skills. Register for classes online.

ENRICHMENT

The Riekes Center for Human Enhancement

3455 Edison Way, Menlo Park
650-364-2509 / riekes.org

A nonprofit organization, the Riekes Center provides a number of programs focused on self-enhancement for youth and adults: strength and speed fitness courses, adaptive sports, a class for musical bands, photography workshops and nature exploration, among other opportunities.

The Class Guide is published quarterly in the the Almanac. Descriptions of classes offered in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside are free, subject to editing and given priority.

To submit a listing for the next Class Guide, email Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee at llee@pawebweekly.com. To place a paid advertisement in the Class Guide, call 650-326-8210.

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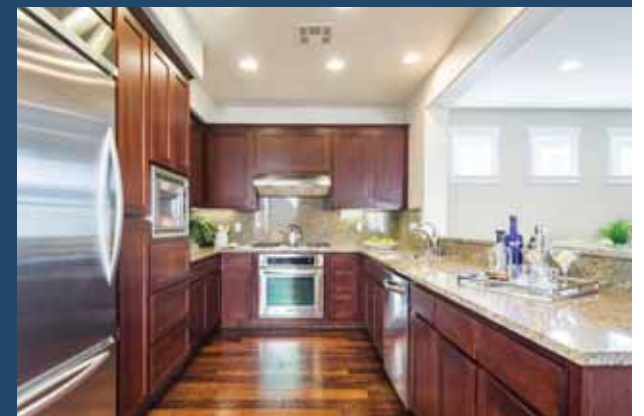
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A fond farewell

The clock is winding down for Atherton's historic rail stop



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

A southbound train pulls into the Atherton train station at about 4:40 p.m. on Feb. 22.

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

It wasn't uncommon to hear the blast of a train horn in Atherton's council chambers during meetings, until the town temporarily moved operations to Holbrook-Palmer Park last year. The move was made last year to accommodate the construction of a multimillion dollar new civic center — not the only change coming to this part of town.

In January, the Atherton City Council signed off on a Caltrain plan to permanently close the historic station as the rail agency prepares for electrification of its train service from San Francisco to San Jose. The decision was made after years of low ridership. In years gone by, beginning roughly a century ago, rail travel played a key role in the town.

In fact, the train depot at

Dinkelspiel Station Lane was central to life in Atherton since before the town was incorporated, during the days when it was just a sleepy community of summer homes.

Part-time residents rode in on horse-drawn carriages to catch the train back to their homes and everyday lives farther up the Peninsula — San Francisco in particular.

Later, as more people took up permanent residence in the town, Athertonians hopped on the train to commute to San Francisco for work. At a recent City Council meeting, Vice Mayor Elizabeth Lewis fondly recounted riding the train north with her father to accompany him to work.

Her memories of those rides in the early 1980s include children selling coffee and doughnuts to passengers for 25 cents apiece

as they waited for their trains or arrived at the station. She also recalled community members gathering for musical performances outside the train depot.

But times have changed. The train no longer stops in Atherton on weekdays, so the blaring horn during council meetings was the sound of the train passing quickly through town.

Now, the town is working with Caltrain to create a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with specifics for closing the station in the next few months. Town staff spoke with Caltrain in early February and rail service officials said they are working through "some internal timeline and processing issues," said City Manager George Rodericks in a Feb. 25 email.

"They were anxious to keep things moving and get underway with the internal studies that

needed to be done in advance of any closure," Rodericks said.

Caltrain has not announced a date for when the station will close, but Caltrain spokesperson Dan Lieberman said in a Feb. 28 email that train service is likely to cease "around the same time as the MOU is finalized."

In the meantime, The Almanac took a look back at the history of the station.

Train station is established

Atherton, and its train station, were known as Fair Oaks until the town was incorporated in 1923, according to the Atherton Heritage Association. The name Fair Oaks had already been assigned to a town near Sacramento. Atherton's namesake was the prominent San Mateo County early settler Faxon Dean

Atherton, according to The Almanac's archives.

In the 1860s, the Pacific and Atlantic Railroad opened the Fair Oaks flag stop, a designation meaning that the train stopped in town only when passengers waved a cloth at the station to indicate they wanted to be picked up, Heritage Association documents explain.

The name Fair Oaks derived from the "varied and beautiful oak trees of the area," according to the Heritage Association. The town's resident handbook notes that the station served the families of the large estates that were established in the latter half of the 19th century

Changes to the station

Over time, the Atherton station was updated and refurbished.



Photo courtesy of Atherton Heritage Association

The train station was rebuilt in 1990.



Photo courtesy of the Atherton Heritage Association

Four men wait for their ride to San Francisco from the Atherton train station in 1913.

In 1913, the railroad company erected a shelter depot to replace the existing structure, the Redwood City Democrat reported at the time. The former structure was simpler and smaller, without columns, photos of the original depot show.

“The new building is not any more pretentious than the old one but more artistic,” the publication noted.

Because of major changes to the station in the 1950s — the addition of new building features and changes in window placement — the station could not qualify for the National Register of Historic Places, according to a Heritage Association document from the 1990s that quotes John Snyder, a California State Department of Transportation historian.

During the 1950s, the depot was painted green. It was painted yellow and beige after a fire at the station during the 1990s, according to The Almanac’s archives.

In the late 1980s, officials installed metal bike lockers. Several years later, in the early 1990s, the station underwent a roughly \$200,000 refurbishment, according to a 1991 Almanac article. Work crews repaved the station’s parking lot, relocated bike racks to the center of the parking lot, repaved the depot area and completed landscaping work around the station.

More repairs to the station were needed after an April 2007 fire in an adjacent recycling bin spread to the station and a nearby mailbox, according to an Almanac news story.

In 2015, workers began “extensive remodeling work” to remove rotted wood from the depot, the Daily News reported.

Service cuts and future of the station

Caltrain’s announcement early this year that it wanted to permanently close the station was a reversal of its previous position that it would restore weekday service in town once electrification was complete.

The agency suspended weekday stops in the town in 2005 after finding that ridership was lower than 150 passengers daily. The train now stops at the Atherton station on the weekends.

Council members have expressed sadness about the historic train station’s closure, but said that sadness often accompanies progress.

“At the end of the day, we will benefit from the closure,” Mayor Rick DeGolia said during a January council meeting in which council members voted to give Caltrain the go-ahead to close the station. “The station was heavily used in the past, but not today. ... There’s a significant capital cost to keep the station.”



Photo courtesy of the Atherton Heritage Association

Former Atherton City Manager Dick Moore before restoration of the train station in February 1990.

The station is designated a “hold out station” because it has a center boarding platform only, meaning passengers can cross the tracks in multiple places to reach the platform, and the station can accommodate only one train at a time. To change this, Caltrain would have to build separate platforms for northbound and southbound passengers and a fence separating the tracks.

Town staff recently noted it would cost about \$30 million to upgrade the station to bring back full weekday service. Some Atherton residents explained during a January City Council meeting that they would be happy to travel to the train stations in Menlo Park or Redwood City so that a stop in Atherton doesn’t add to overall train travel times once electrification is finalized.

DeGolia said the town plans to preserve the train station depot building, much to the pleasure of Marion Oster, president of the Heritage Association.

“The Atherton Heritage Association is pleased with the plan to save the Train Station building,” Oster said in an email. “We had a train station before there was a Town and even though the building has been modified, it is historic. How wonderful that people could enjoy the new Civic Center sitting in the historic train station.”

To close the station, Caltrain said in its letter to the town, the agency will seek funding, between \$7 million and \$9 million, to construct a right-of-way

fence separating the current station from the town’s civic center, remove the existing station platform and track crossings, remove ticket vending machines and bike lockers, and put in place grade crossing safety improvements at Watkins Avenue.

Part of those funds would pay for a wrought iron fence along the tracks, landscaping, and moving the wall of the train station from the side of the building facing the civic center to the side of the building facing the railroad tracks, so the train station depot would remain intact, DeGolia explained.

“It would be able to become a part of the Atherton Town



Photo by Josh Knopp, courtesy of the Atherton Heritage Association

A boy sells doughnuts and coffee at a makeshift stand at the Atherton train station in 1980.

Center,” he said in a Feb. 26 email, referring to the town’s civic center, which is undergoing a \$31.6 million revamp slated to be completed in 2021. “My guess is that the ‘Atherton’ sign on top of the building would also be turned to the Town Center side. The station crossing (concrete, etc.) would be fully removed and people would not be able to access the tracks.”

But not everyone thinks the closure is the right move, including Malcolm Dudley, a former mayor and town Rail Committee member. He would like to see the town conduct a community survey to determine if the closure is what residents want.

“It’s one of the oldest (rail) stations throughout all of California; it has great history to it,” he said. “Something this important really deserves to be passed onto the community.”

With increasing traffic congestion on the Peninsula, more people will be forced to drive without a station in town, Dudley said. It doesn’t make sense to cut back on public transit that would help alleviate this problem, he noted. ▣

On the cover: A musical performance at the Atherton train station in 1980. Photo courtesy of the Atherton Heritage Association.



Photo courtesy of the Atherton Heritage Association

Mayme and Rena Roach in a wagon at the Atherton train station, known as the Fair Oaks train station at the time, in 1906. The train stop’s name was changed to Atherton when the town was incorporated in 1923.



TOWN OF ATHERTON

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

2020 OVERLAY PROJECT

Removal and replacement of 2 inches of asphalt concrete pavement on Polhemus Lane (between Selby Lane and Alameda de Las Pulgas). Crack sealing and grind and replace approximately 5,000 square feet of asphalt to a 4-inch depth of pavement failures and placement of thermoplastic/paint striping. Some hand work around utility access-hole covers will be necessary.

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

SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027, **until 2:00 p.m.** Pacific Standard Time on **Wednesday, March 25, 2020**, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for **2020 OVERLAY PROJECT**", along with date and time of bid opening.

Arline Leckrone Elliott

September 26, 1935 – February 23, 2020

Arline was born in Pittsburgh, PA on September 26, 1935, to Tanya and Roy Leckrone. After receiving her B.S. from Carnegie Mellon University, she immediately decamped for Palo Alto and the position of legal secretary for the director of the patent office at the Lockheed Missile and Space Co. She met her husband, David, over the bridge table at a Lockheed employees' event. In 1962, they were married at the Swedenborgian Chapel in San Francisco. Their daughter, Laurie, was born two years later.



The family resituated several times (Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Menlo Park, La Jolla and finally settled again in Menlo Park). While in Washington, Arline worked at Common Cause, and in her spare time she played competitive tennis for a club in Bethesda and later for Alpine Hills in the Bay Area. She enjoyed entertaining friends and family and had a reputation for cooking memorable dinners, having created notebooks with recipes of all nationalities.

Arline and David met many friends in the Bay Area through membership in New Comers and its follow-on group, Encore. In addition to wining and dining, one of her favorite activities with these groups was planning and leading walks that covered the history and architecture of many different parts of San Francisco, as well as organizing trips to special exhibits at museums in the City and on the Peninsula.

She loved an afternoon of bridge with friends or a walk at Shoreline in Mountain View and cherished the time spent with her grandchild during summer vacations, when the two of them explored the beaches of La Jolla Shores.

Always passionate about helping others, Arline volunteered for many years with Peninsula Family Service and provided families and older adults with support by fundraising and holding various positions within the organization. She is survived by her husband, David, her daughter, Dr. Lauren (Laurie) Croft, her son-in-law, Steve Croft, and her grandchild, Allison.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to Mission Hospice, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that provides very effective support to individuals and their family members at a difficult time. The contact information is: Mission Hospice & Home Care, 1670 South Amphlett Blvd., Suite 300, San Mateo, CA 94402.

PAID OBITUARY

Menlo Park district school board race begins

Francesca Segre is first to announce her intent to run in the race for two open seats

By **Angela Swartz**
Almanac Staff Writer

Francesca Segre, a Menlo Park City School District parent, who previously worked as a journalist and as a staffer for former state assemblyman Rich Gordon, has put her hat in the ring for the district's November school board race.

She is seeking to fill one of the two openings on the school board this fall. Board member David Ackerman is not running for reelection when his term finishes at the end of the year, he told The Almanac in a Feb. 26 email. Trustee Mark Box noted when he was appointed to his position last September that he would not run for election in November.

Segre, who works in communications at LinkedIn and serves on the site councils at Encinal Elementary School and Hillview Middle School, announced her candidacy in a Wednesday email to The

Almanac. She is the only person who has declared she is running so far.

Segre said her 20 years of experience as a journalist — for news organizations such as The New York Times, Thomson Reuters and KQED — made her an "expert listener" and a "very good communicator, who brings a sensitive ear to what people are concerned about."

As an education policy specialist for Gordon, she also got a sense of how different school districts operate statewide and understands education policy on the state level, she said.

"I currently live in the house my grandparents bought when they fled WWII Europe; they didn't have a lick of English," said Segre, whose two children attend district schools. "They did have this incredibly strong education background and fierce grit. I want to serve on this board so every child (in the district) has the education and life skills to create the life of their dreams for now and in



Photo by Mark Tuschman

Francesca Segre was in the running for appointment to an open seat last year.

the future."

On Segre's campaign website she lists what her main priorities as school board member would be. The first is sustainable long-term public and/or private partnerships and mechanisms to help fund the district.

She lists academic excellence through maintaining low class sizes, the district's parent education series, and prioritizing early childhood education programs as her second goal. Her third priority is school safety, which includes maintaining the district's emphasis on teaching students social and emotional skills to support themselves and each other, and ensuring students have safe routes to school campuses.

In a phone call with The Almanac, she noted that in the near term the Measure X parcel tax, which passed in 2017 with an initial annual rate of \$360 per parcel, will need to be renewed or replaced to keep the district financially solvent and maintain the district's educational quality and standards.

The board last year had preliminary discussions about putting a measure before voters to renew or replace Measure X at a higher taxation rate, in part, to help address deficit spending that could result from last year's teacher salary hike and rising pension costs.

Segre said that in the future, she'd like to see more innovative and long-term public and/or

See **SCHOOL BOARD**, page 19

Eva Olvera Casey

November 8, 1929 – February 21, 2020

Eva Casey passed away February 21, 2020, after battling with Alzheimer's for the past several years. Her husband, William George Casey, predeceased her in June 2006. She is survived by her two sons (William T. Casey, II, and Mark T. Casey), her daughter-in-law (Kimberly Casey), four grandchildren (Joshua Thomas, William Michael, Sara Elizabeth, and David Michael), her brother (David Acevedo) and many cousins scattered in Texas, which was Eva's birthplace.



Eva was raised in Mission, Texas with one sister (Emma), and four brothers (David, Larry, Ricky and Ralph). She moved to the Bay Area when she was a teenager and began working as a Teller at Crocker Citizen Bank. She and her husband Casey dated and eventually married in February of 1966. Eva had many roles in her life: a wife, mother, sister, friend, neighbor, Yard Duty, and babysitter.

She was a devout Catholic and was a tough and stubborn lady with high expectations of herself and those around her, and yet the love, laughter, and joy she shared was immeasurable. There are no words to express the tremendous hole Eva's passing will leave on all the lives she touched. The family finds comfort in knowing she is at peace and happy to be home with her lifetime love, Casey.

Eva will be cremated and a private Celebration of Life will take place in the coming weeks. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in her name to an Alzheimer's Research organization of your choice.

PAID OBITUARY

LEHUA GREENMAN



"The best way to predict the future is to create it."

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Wanna be rocked? Priory students can accommodate

'We Will Rock You' staged March 5 through 8 in Portola Valley

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

Woodside Priory School will bring "We Will Rock You: School Edition," featuring music from rock band Queen, to the school's stage this week.

The spring musical, adapted from the original Broadway production, includes all of Queen's greatest hits and is set 300 years in the future, according to the school's website. Priory Upper School students will perform songs such as "Somebody To Love," "We Are the Champions" and "Don't Stop Me Now."

The play follows the story of a boy called Galileo, a girl named Scaramouche, and a misfit rag-tag band of rebels known as The

Bohemians. The group aims to defeat Killer Queen, a self-aware video game that leapt into her programmer's body and now dictates the lives of everyone on the IPlanet. In this world, individuality is forbidden and rock music has been banned.

The show is directed by John Sugden, head of the Performing Arts Department, who says of the musical: "It's not bubble gum, it's a hammered nail of emotion and poetry that hits deeper and makes your body move. There's a joy, truth, passion, drive, wisdom and heart wrenching vulnerability that underlies lyrics, beats and riffs that stick in your soul long after the lights come down."

In an email, Sugden notes that one of the school's "core Benedictine values is Individuality and much of this musical

follows individuals breaking free from oppression, monotony and group-think to find their Individual voice. Along the way Community, Integrity, Hospitality and, through the transformational magic of Rock, even Spirituality, come into play.

Performances are at 7 p.m. on March 5 through 7; and 2 p.m. on March 8, at Rothrock Performance Hall, 302 Portola Road in Portola Valley. 📍

IF YOU GO

Tickets are \$5 for students and \$15 for adults and can be purchased at the door or at priory.ticketleap.com/we-will-rock-you. For more information, go to prioryca.org/arts/performing-arts.



Photo courtesy of Woodside Priory School

The musical's lead roles are performed by Aaron Lipp as Galileo and Carmen Alvarez as Scaramouche.

Author to discuss raising children in the 'Age of Fear' in Hillview program

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

Author Kim Brooks will discuss her book "Small Animals: Parenthood in the Age of Fear" at Hillview Middle School on Wednesday, March 4.

Brooks' talk will focus on how parenting has changed in the era of smartphones, social media and parent shaming; and the concern many parents feel about ensuring their children's success, according to a Menlo Park City School District press release.

"Small Animals" was named an NPR Best Book of 2018.

In 2018, Brooks wrote a widely read essay about intentionally leaving her 4-year-old son in her car for what she described as a few minutes while she was shopping at Target. A bystander recorded a video of him alone in the back seat and passed it to the

police, which led to a "two-year legal nightmare," according to the essay, published in Good Housekeeping.

"I've come to believe that the problems with children's mental and emotional health are caused not by any single change in kids' environment but by a fundamental shift in the way we view children and child-rearing, and the way this shift has transformed our schools, our neighborhoods and our relationships to one another and our communities," Brooks wrote in a recent New York Times opinion piece.

During the March 4 event, she will discuss reexamining the act of parenting to restore healthy relationships with children, families and communities, the press release states.

Brooks' writing has appeared in the New York Times, New York Magazine, Chicago Magazine, Salon.com, BuzzFeed and



Photo by Sarah Shatz

Kim Brooks wrote of the "nightmare" she experienced after leaving her child in a car while shopping, and having someone report the incident to the police.

other publications.

The talk is part of the district's Parent Education Speaker Series. The event is free and runs from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Hillview's Performing Arts Center, 1100 Elder Ave. in Menlo Park. There will be free child care, including dinner, for potty-trained children. 📍

IF YOU GO

Go to mpcsdspeakerseries.com for more information on the talk.

SCHOOL BOARD

continued from page 18

private partnerships and mechanisms to help fund the district. She'd like to see "more steady" funding so the district doesn't have to seek parcel tax funding as regularly.

In September, Segre interviewed for a seat left vacant by Caroline Lucas, who resigned in August. Board members chose former trustee Box to fill the role, but Segre said she would run for school board the next year.

Ackerman, San Mateo County Supervisor Dave Pine, Santa

Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian, San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools Nancy Magee, Gordon, and former Menlo Park Planning Commissioner Katie Ferrick have endorsed Segre for the seat, according to her website. 📍



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Food & Drink

A taste of the Levant

From knafeh to baklava, Menlo Park baker brings Middle Eastern sweets to the Peninsula

by Elena Kadvany
Photos by Sammy Dallal

More than the taste of knafeh, Maya Fezzani remembers the movement of her grandmother's hands making the traditional Middle Eastern dessert.

Growing up in Lebanon and Syria, she'd watch her grandmother fold kataifi, shredded phyllo dough, in butter.

"It definitely was not hands-on because she didn't allow anyone in the kitchen, but it was all about seeing, tasting and smelling when she was baking," Fezzani recalled. "I was all eyes on her."

Decades later and thousands of miles away, Fezzani channels her grandmother in a commercial kitchen in Menlo Park, where she preps and bakes all of the desserts for her Middle Eastern sweets company, Levant Dessert. Her hands fold unsalted butter into a tangle of frozen kataifi in a pan. She lines muffin tins with the mixture and layers each with cream or cheese and butter, then bakes them until they're golden and fill the kitchen with a toasty, sweet aroma.

Levant Dessert is Fezzani's first-ever food venture. She was born in Lebanon and lived in Syria as a young girl before her family left for England. She eventually met her husband there, whose work moved them to Hong Kong, Chicago, back to England and then Silicon Valley in 2008. She worked for her husband's solar startup and also in logistics at Nordstrom, but neither were fulfilling for her.

Fezzani, bubbly and earnest, said she would always bring her Middle Eastern desserts to dinner parties — homemade knafeh, baklava, pudding tinged with orange blossom, barazek — and friends often urged her to take her hobby to the next level. She started seriously considering it a few years ago, and was particularly inspired by the opening of Mademoiselle Colette in Menlo Park. Seeing the French bakery come to fruition helped her envision what it would

be like to start her own venture.

Fezzani started with special orders and events, then pop-ups at Nordstrom and Facebook. In 2019, she opened a storefront inside Sultana restaurant in Menlo Park after meeting the owner at a bridal shower she catered. Sultana diners can order from her menu, but customers can also come in to purchase her desserts directly.

Knafeh is Fezzani's calling card. She makes several versions, including one filled with cream and another with mozzarella and mascarpone cheeses. Knafeh is traditionally filled with akawi, a salty Middle Eastern cheese, but

'I believe in tasting all the flavors in a dessert.'

MAYA FEZZANI

Fezzani said she hasn't found a good-enough version in the Bay Area. After the knafeh are baked, she drizzles each one with homemade orange blossom syrup.

Her custom knafeh cakes — shaped into numbers and letters for birthday parties, pacifiers for baby showers and even female body parts for a bachelorette party (she declined a request for a male body part) — have become popular. At a recent birthday party, one satisfied customer declared, "knafeh is the new cake."

Fezzani also makes a series of seasonal milk and rice puddings with toppings such as nuts, orange blossom syrup, apricot paste or raspberry coulis. For winter, she has a caraway cinnamon pudding that's traditionally served when a woman gives birth, she said, either as a hot, creamy drink or put in the fridge to set for a chilled pudding. Fezzani also makes balooza, a Syrian rice pudding topped with orange curd. She thickens the puddings with salep, a flour made from orchid roots that's common in the Middle East, along with a gluten-free



version using cornstarch instead.

Because of frequent dietary restrictions and requests from customers, Fezzani has added gluten-free and vegan desserts to her lineup, including using vegan butter to make pistachio baklava and coconut oil in sfoof, a Lebanese turmeric cake (which she serves with English custard, a vestige of her years in England). She's also cognizant about how much sugar goes into her desserts, so they're all subtly, rather than sickly, sweet. She makes her own sugar-free stevia syrup and wants to experiment with monk fruit as a sweetener — not only for health reasons but also for flavor, she said.

"I believe in tasting all the flavors in a dessert," Fezzani said.

Soon, she plans to add savory items and a line of Middle Eastern-inspired chocolate desserts, such as ganache with dates and pistachio.

Fezzani isn't sure whether she wants to graduate to her own brick-and-mortar bakery. Like her grandmother, she likes being hands-on and in full control of the business she built from scratch. The hours she spends tweaking recipes and baking into the evening are a gift, she said, a way of doing something for herself after years of raising her children and working unsatisfying jobs.

"It's a story I'm writing myself," she said of the bakery. "I don't want anyone else to write it for me."

For more information, visit levantdessert.com. ■

Elena Kadvany is a staff writer for the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac's sister publication.



From top: Maya Fezzani arranges fresh Middle Eastern sweets in a case at Levant Dessert, which she operates out of Sultana restaurant in Menlo Park. In middle photo, Fezzani makes knafeh, a sugar-soaked pastry filled with cheese and topped with ground pistachios. The final product is shown in last photo.



Unique Building Opportunity in Portola Valley

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THE 34TH ANNUAL PALO ALTO WEEKLY

Short Story Contest

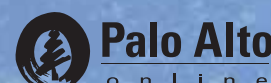
**Prizes for First, Second
and Third place winners** in each category:
Adult, Young Adult (15-17) and Teen (12-14)

FOR OFFICIAL RULES & ENTRY FORM, VISIT:
www.paloaltoonline.com/short_story

ALL stories
must be
2,500 words
or less

ENTRY DEADLINE:
March 27, 2020 at 5pm

Sponsored by:



Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Submitting items for the Calendar

Go to AlmanacNews.com and see the Community Calendar module at the top right side of the page. Click on "Add your event." If the event is of interest to a large number of people, also e-mail a press release to Editor@AlmanacNews.com.

Visit AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more calendar listings

Theater

'The Baltimore Waltz' Troy Johnson directs Paula Vogel's play about a woman in desperate search of a cure after she's diagnosed with a deadly disease. Through April 4; dates and times vary. \$15-\$39; discount for seniors and students. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway, Redwood City. dragonproductions.net

'Confession' Directed by Robyn Braverman, "Confession" is the story of two estranged brothers in the 1980s indelibly

connected by the memories of a traumatizing childhood and a desire to find redemption. Through April 5; times vary. \$30-\$175; discount for seniors and students. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway, Redwood City. dragonproductions.net

'The Little Mermaid' La Entrada presents Starting Arts' production of "The Little Mermaid," a tale of a young mermaid who longs to experience the world beyond her ocean home. March 7, 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. \$10-\$12. Hillview Performing Arts Center, 1100 Elder Ave., Menlo Park. eventbrite.com

'They Promised Her The Moon' Directed by Giovanna Sadelli, "They Promised Her the Moon" tells the true story of the world

record-holding female aviator, Jerri Cobb, and her pursuit to be an astronaut during the space race of the '60s. March 4-29; times vary. \$25-\$100; discount available. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org

'We Will Rock You' Music of the British rock band, Queen, backs this Woodside Priory School musical set 300 years into the future, where humanity is controlled by the Killer Queen and individuality is forbidden. March 5-8; times vary. \$5-\$15; discount for children and students. Rothrock Performance Hall, Woodside Priory School, 302 Portola Road, Portola Valley. priory.ticketleap.com

from Fear: Cinephobic Instances in Early Film Theory." March 5, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. Oshman Hall, McMurtry Building, 350 Roth Way, Stanford. arts.stanford.edu

Summer Camp Fair 2020 The City of Menlo Park holds a fair filled with games, pony rides, a petting zoo, pizza and more for parents and kids to learn about this summer's camp offerings. Families receive a 10% discount if they sign up at this event. March 6, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Museums & Exhibits

Terry McMahon Portola Art Gallery presents "Brilliant Color...Bold Design," an exhibition of acrylic paintings by Terry McMahon. Through March 31, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed Sundays. Free. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. portolaartgallery.com

Veronica Buxton, Richard Dweck and Guy Cohen Marcela's Village Gallery hosts an artist reception with painter Veronica Buxton, photographer Richard Dweck and sculptor Guy Clement Cohen. March 7, 5-8 p.m. Free. Marcela's Village Gallery, 883 Santa Cruz Ave. Suite 1, Menlo Park. marcelasvillage.com

Comedy

Silly Goose and Val Ventriloquist, musician, composer and author Valerie Leonhart Smalkin visits Menlo Park with her favorite goose for a comedic afternoon show. March 8, 2-3 p.m. Free. Belle Haven Branch Library, 413 Ivy Drive, Menlo Park. menlo-park.org

Home & Garden

Meet the Seed Library Menlo Park Library introduces its new seed library and answers questions about how to "check out" seeds, the best tips for growing and more. March 4, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Community Groups

'My Community' Menlo Park City Council hosts an award ceremony for young, local artists who contributed to the "My Community" youth poster exhibition. March 10, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

A.D.A.P.T. Disaster Preparedness Meeting In this month's meeting, the Atherton Disaster and Preparedness Team focuses

on the contents, locations and process of deployment of its Atherton emergency preparedness trailers. March 7, 9-10:30 a.m. Free. Jennings Pavilion, Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave., Atherton. getready-atherton.org

Belle Haven Mini-Grant Application Assistance The Belle Haven Community Development Fund provides assistance for applying to the 2020 Belle Haven Mini-Grant Program. March 6, 11 and 31; times vary. Free. Onetta Harris Community Center, 100 Terminal Ave., Menlo Park. sites.google.com

Police strategic plan community meeting With recent restructuring and more resources, the Menlo Park Police Department invites community members to be a part of the new strategic planning initiative and provide feedback. March 7, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Upper Laurel School, 275 Elliott Drive, Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Author Events

Anna-Marie McLemore and Elana K. Arnold Anna-Marie McLemore and Elana K. Arnold introduce their newest books, "Dark and Deepest Red, a modern story of passion and betrayal and "Red Hood," a dark, blood-drenched tale of the familiar threats to female power, respectively. March 8, 3-5 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

Comic Artist Panel: The Road to Publication A panel of artists led by Nidhi Chanani, author of "Pashmina," talk about their experience getting published and their paths to finding homes for their art, whether in print or online. March 9, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

'Facebook: The Inside Story' Tech journalist Steven Levy talks about his new book, "Facebook: The Inside Story," which is based on hundreds of interviews inside and outside the company and digs deep into the decisions and choices that made the social media company what it is today. March 4, 6-8:30 p.m. Free. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. computerhistory.org

'The Human Condition' Author and Stanford University professor discusses his new book, "The Human Condition: Reality, Science and History," a multidisciplinary study of mankind and a call to action for the future. March 4, 7 p.m. Free. Woodside Road United Methodist Church, 2000 Woodside Road, Redwood City. smcdfa.org

Food reporting you won't find anywhere else.



Sign up for the only food newsletter on the Peninsula at almanacnews.com/express

Concerts

The Indigo Rhythm Section The Indigo Rhythm Section is a San Francisco-based, five-piece jazz band that plays a variety of jazz styles, including swing, blues, Latin and funk, using both traditional and original interpretations. March 5, 7:30 p.m. \$24-\$35. Angelicas, 863 Main St., Redwood City. angelicaswm.tunestub.com

Michael Barenboim and West-Eastern Divan Ensemble The West-Eastern Divan Ensemble, led by violinist Michael Barenboim, draws upon select players of the acclaimed West-Eastern Divan Orchestra to share music's ability to heal and unite. March 4, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$16-\$84; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

'St. John Passion' Soli Deo Gloria presents Bach's St. John Passion with Jeff Barnett as the evangelist. March 8, 3:30 p.m. \$21-\$26; discount for students and seniors. Grace Lutheran Church, 3149 Waverley St., Palo Alto. brownpapertickets.com

Stanford Symphony Orchestra and Stanford Symphonic Chorus The Stanford Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Paul Phillips, and the Stanford Symphonic Chorus, directed by Stephen Sano, celebrate the 250th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven with his celebrated "Eroica" symphony. March 6-7, 7:30 p.m. \$13-\$23; discount for students and seniors. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

Talks & Lectures

Francesco Casetti Francesco Casetti, the Thomas E. Donnelley Professor of Humanities and Film and Media Studies at Yale University, presents his lecture, "Starting



COMMISSION VACANCIES RECRUITMENT

Developing leaders within the community

The City has openings on several commissions and committees. Help examine issues of community concern and provide guidance to the City Council.

CURRENT VACANCIES

- Complete Streets Commission - 3
- Environmental Quality Commission - 2
- Finance and Audit Committee - 2
- Housing Commission - 1
- Library Commission - 3
- Parks and Recreation Commission - 2
- Planning Commission - 2
- San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District - 1

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Apply by 5 pm, April 3, 2020
- Menlo Park resident
- Over 18 years of age
- Committed to attending scheduled meetings

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit menlopark.org/commissions
- Call 650-330-6620
- Email jaherren@menlopark.org

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

HATCH
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283818
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Hatch, located at 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Suite D, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
HATCH BABY, INC.
3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Suite D
Menlo Park, CA 94025

This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 30, 2020.
(ALM Feb. 12, 19, 26; Mar. 4, 2020)

DASH LIMOUSINE AND SEDAN SERVICE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283844
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Dash Limousine and Sedan Service, located at 550 Washington St. Ste. 104, Daly City, CA 94015, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MAD DASH TRANSPORTATION, INC.

550 Washington St. Ste. 104
Daly City, CA 94015
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 4/11/2012.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 4, 2020.
(ALM Feb. 12, 19, 26; Mar. 4, 2020)

LIGHT ARCHER STUDIO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 283884
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Light Archer Studio, located at 1075 Curtis Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
WILLIAM J. FRIMEL
189 Hawthorne Drive
Atherton, CA 94027
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 10, 2020.
(ALM Feb. 26; Mar. 4, 11, 18, 2020)

For legal advertising call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578.

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

LETTERS

Our readers write

Add spark to Menlo Park with Burning Man sculpture

Editor:

Is a Burning Man sculpture coming to Fremont Park? I certainly hope so!

I understand that the City Council meeting (at which the sculpture was to be discussed) adjourned before the council was able to consider options for locating the “Talking Heads” sculpture. So I am writing now to offer my \$.02 ...

I have read The Almanac article outlining some of the possible locations under consideration. To my view, there are really only two (maybe three) viable options, in order:

1) Fremont Park; 2) Somewhere near the corner of El Camino Real and Santa Cruz Avenue (city property, not Menlo Center property); and 3) Burgess Park (civic center).

Here’s why: Burning Man Playa art is, by design and per BM’s overarching principles, intended to be interacted with and experienced directly (i.e., there are no “spectators”). Placing Oleg Lobynkin’s magnificent and thought-provoking piece on the fringes of the city (i.e., Sand Hill Road or Marsh Road) dilutes its purpose and intent.

When I was growing up here (and I am a lifelong resident of 65-plus years), we used to describe Menlo Park as “Mellow” Park. Regrettably, to my view, not much has changed. Downtown is stagnant, continuing to experience business flight, and lacks any semblance of vitality.

Locating “Talking Heads” in the heart of the city may be just what we need to spark more community energy, interaction, collaborative discussion and participation.

*Tim Johnston, Burner
Creek Drive, Menlo Park*

Atherton’s own Robin Hood story — in reverse

Editor:

I’ve been watching the ongoing battle between the town of Atherton and the fire district for years. The issue seems to be *not* with the quality of service, which is considered excellent, but with the perceived amount of money residents pay in property taxes to the fire district vs. what is a wild guess by Atherton staff on what it costs to provide the service. What Atherton wants is some of

those taxes being used in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and the Fair Oaks area of San Mateo County to instead be redirected to them. You might call it “Reverse Robin Hood,” whereby the poor pay more to the rich.

To determine whether the Atherton City Council is the only one that wants this, they are proposing to send out to every home in the town of Atherton a newsletter explaining their case. The problem is, the newsletter is biased; in fact, you might say it is one-sided, leading the reader to a conclusion the City Council is pushing for. It’s like “leading the witness” or “talking to the choir.” The newsletter, called the Athertonian, is one-sided, misleading, and void of a single word from the fire district or others knowledgeable about the bigger picture.

It appears the town staff and City Council are trying to create an issue that realistically doesn’t exist. Call it another example of “fake news.” Brow beating the residents on a non-issue is inappropriate. Even if the town won, residents would continue to pay exactly what they are currently paying in property taxes. However, out of that, the county could redistribute the funds to other public agencies, but not one penny would be returned to the residents. This is an important thing to know.

Bottom line, the newsletter should share *both* sides of the story, allowing the fire district to share their thoughts. Better yet, the whole issue should go away, as it appears there is no practical way to accomplish this, even if Atherton miraculously got a groundswell of support to move forward. There is no moving forward, as the options before them appear to be unfeasible at the local, county, regional and state level. From what I’m hearing, limited city resources should be used to address more practical and urgent issues.

*Jim Lewis
Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park*

Church should apologize for lack of transparency

Editor:

Pastor John Ortberg failed to report a congregant (with tendencies toward pedophilia) who was volunteering and taking overnight trips with children — shocking, but Menlo Church’s response is almost worse. When a third party blew the whistle, the elder board kept the affair hidden. Eight weeks later, they told the congregation they had

an independent investigation done and no misconduct was found.

What do you call John’s actions, if not “misconduct”? How could the investigator have ruled out harm to children in such a short time frame and without speaking to parents? How long was the volunteer working with kids prior to the 2018 confession? Why would the church refuse to answer who did their investigation or what its scope was? Perhaps hiring a high-powered employment attorney to conduct a hush-hush inquiry is not considered “independent” or reassuring by most people?

What the church should have done — and still should do — is admit that this situation requires a professional who understands pedophilia and child abuse. They should apologize for trying to handle things quietly with a lawyer. Menlo Church can afford the best, so they should ask GRACE, the gold standard organization in the church abuse field, to help them find a qualified, independent team to investigate all aspects thoroughly.

I hope the church chooses transparency
*Ruth Hutchins, church member
Sunnyvale*

Openness needed in community college district

Editor:

It is unconscionable that the San Mateo County Community College District’s Board of Trustees, who are responsible for spending over \$200 million annually, don’t consider it fundamental to their mission to provide complete and timely disclosure of all public meetings.

We should urge the board to immediately record, live stream, store and readily make available to the public video coverage of all board meetings.

There is no rational constraint to providing video recordings that increase openness at SMCCCD. This form of transparency is common practice in even small, budget-constrained towns and is facilitated by relatively inexpensive technology and ubiquitous bandwidth and storage capacity. It even presents a great opportunity for student learning and job training in media arts.

The board discussed this item at a recent meeting, but took no action. Actually, I am not exactly sure what happened, because I could not be present at the meeting. No video documentation exists, so only those folks who

could take a couple hours out of their evening to physically be “in the room where it happened” actually know.

Any administration that avoids disclosure and transparency is likely to be hiding something. As we saw in the painfully slow disclosures that came to light in 2019 regarding former chancellor Ron Galatolo (which ultimately led to his dismissal), the board has demonstrated lethargic governance in the past. I am hopeful video coverage of board meetings will help SMCCCD recover to become the responsible, open organization that taxpayers, faculty, staff and students deserve.

*John Pimentel
East Creek Drive, Menlo Park*

What’s on your mind?

From City Hall politics and the schools to transportation and other pressing issues, the Almanac aims to keep readers informed about their community. But we also want to hear from you.

Tell us what’s on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

Questions? Email Renee Batti at rbatti@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6528.

The Department of Communication Presents:
The 2020 Rebele Symposium

Meet the Press: COVERING BATTLEGROUND STATES

The day after Super Tuesday, reporters from Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan and Florida will discuss how covering the 2020 election compares to past campaigns given the level of political polarization in the country and discuss the impact of misinformation and disinformation online on the vote and explore ways to restore respect and credible fact-based news in a digital era.



Amy Hollyfield
Senior deputy editor of news for the *Tampa Bay Times*.



Emily Lawler
Political reporter and editor for *MLive*.



Mica Soellner
Political reporter for the *Appleton Post Crescent* and the *USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin*.



Julia Terruso
Philadelphia Inquirer 2020 presidential election reporter.

Moderated by **Janine Zacharia**, Carlos Kelly McClatchy Lecturer

7pm Wednesday, March 4
Bechtel Conference Center,
Encina Hall



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OPEN HOUSE

Saturday 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Menlo Park.*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Menlo Park, All Residential Properties.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.565Olive.com

Michael Repka | DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com
www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

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Open House Fri 3/6 9:30am-1:00pm -- Sat 3/7 & Sun 3/8 from 1:00-5:00pm

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2 Bed 1 Bath 1,020 Sq Ft \$1,325,000

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Real Estate Professional

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COMPASS



Top Menlo Park Real Estate Agents & Teams by Sales Volume

Ranking	Agent/Team	Brokerage with which they are Affiliated	Total Listing Volume in Menlo Park	Total Volume in Menlo Park*	SP/OP on All MLS Listings**
1	DeLeon Team	DeLeon Realty	\$110,161,000	\$160,581,000	101.0%
2	Judy Citron	Compass	\$44,451,000	\$105,030,500	98.5%
3	Billy Mcnair	Compass	\$28,175,000	\$64,330,000	100.6%
4	Keri Nicholas	The Parc Agency	\$29,894,700	\$58,939,700	95.8%
5	Hossein Jalali	Coldwell Banker	\$23,425,000	\$45,483,000	99.2%
6	LeMieux Associates†	Compass	\$37,843,000	\$43,343,000	99.9%
7	Nancy Goldcamp	Coldwell Banker	\$15,625,000	\$18,825,000	98.3%
8	Liz Daschbach	Compass	\$13,507,000	\$17,707,000	100.4%
9	Jami Arami	Compass	\$12,725,000	\$16,323,000	98.2%
10	Mary & Brent Gullixson Team	Compass	\$13,330,000	\$13,330,000	88.5%

Our Menlo Park sellers work directly with Michael Repka, who is committed to you and the sale of your home. As the head of our listing team, Michael works with a talented group of in-house professionals, including an interior designer, licensed contractor, attorney, graphic artist, photographer, international marketing specialist, and many more. These full-time employees assist our clients at no additional charge.

No individual agent or team in Silicon Valley matches the DeLeon Team's complimentary services, marketing budget, experience, or sales volume. Additionally, Michael has a reach far outside of Menlo Park, giving your home additional exposure. Make an appointment with Michael today and see for yourself why so many in Menlo Park have trusted us to sell their home!

Search criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: February 1, 2019 - January 31, 2020, Menlo Park, Residential Property (Single Family Home, Condominium, Townhouse, Manufactured Home, Floating Home, Duet Home, Multiple on Lot, Farm/Ranch, Other Residential, Double Wide Mobile Home, Duplex)

* Total volume includes both the buyer and seller sides in Menlo Park (listing and selling) ** Sale price to Original Price (aka List Price) Ratio on all MLS Transactions from February 1, 2019 - January 31, 2020

† Tom LeMieux operates similarly to a team, but splits the team's sales amongst the members when reporting sales to the MLS. For accuracy, we combine the sales of the individual members of the LeMieux team

Michael Repka | Managing Broker | DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com
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MODERN, LUXURIOUS, AND AN UNBEATABLE LOCATION

164 Sand Hill Circle, Menlo Park

Offered at \$1,988,000

Luxurious living awaits in this chic and sophisticated townhome, where a bright, airy ambiance carries throughout a floorplan infused with modern style. Offering 2 bedrooms and 2.5 baths across 2,120 sq. ft. of living space (per county), this remodeled home features porcelain tile floors that extend through contemporary spaces, including an expansive living room, a dining room warmed by a linear fireplace, and a sparkling chef's kitchen with high-end appliances. Two bedroom suites provide comfort and convenience, while a flexible-use loft presents an ideal place for an office or fitness room. Enjoy indoor/outdoor living on the spacious deck, perfect for al fresco dining while enjoying views of the nearby Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club. Adding the finishing touch is a location that puts you close to the exciting amenities of Sharon Heights, near Venture Capital firms along Sand Hill Road, and just moments to Interstate 280 for Bay Area commuting.

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Menlo Park.*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Menlo Park, All Residential Properties.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.164SandHill.com

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Menlo Park | \$2,498,000
 This vibrant 3br/2ba ranch home has a charming studio cottage. The backyard invites casual entertaining with a patio, lawn and raised gardening beds.
 Douglas Andrew Gonzalez
 650.465.8930
 DGonzalez@cbnorcal.com
 CalRE #00895924



Carmel | \$2,395,000
 Carmel Point close to Mission Ranch & River School. Sunny patios, private backyard, Point Lobos views. Within city limits & underground utilities.
 Ben Heinrich
 831.915.7415
 ben@theheinrichteam.com
 CalRE #00584641



Mountain View | \$1,449,000
 Well-designed 3br/2.5ba end-unit townhome in the Elan Community. Features include a remodeled kitchen, private back patio, close to hi-tech companies.
 Dana Willson
 650.917.4256
 dwillson@cbnorcal.com
 CalRE #01292552



Palo Alto | \$1,600,000
 Two bedroom, one bathroom home with so many possibilities! Easy access to multiple commute routes!
 Terrie Masuda
 650.400.2918
 TMasuda@cbnorcal.com
 CalRE #00951976



Daly City | \$958,000
 Stunning 'Village in the Park' 2br +den/3ba, park-like complex, remodeled kitchen, deck w/views
 Doris Abouav
 650.740.2854
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