

Scenic Road house with a story sells for \$18.3M

■ \$5.75M in 2012, \$11.6M in 2014

By MARY SCHLEY

A HOME that was built more than two decades ago amid heated arguments over historic preservation in Carmel sold Nov. 25 for \$18,330,000 — slightly higher than its asking price — after less than a month on the market.



PHOTO/CARMEL REALTY

This Scenic Road home changed hands for the third time Nov. 25 for more than three times its original price 12 years ago.

According to Monterey County records, Carl and Judith Moore sold their 2,894-square-foot, three-bed, three-and-a-half-bath house, which is situated on a 9,700-square-foot lot fronting on Scenic and on San Antonio south of 11th, to Petaluma-based Britannia California Inc.

Built in 2001, the contemporary-style residence was designed by architect Gene Takigawa for Ron and Alexis Donati, who had purchased the property in 1997 and applied soon after to demolish the old house, which had been constructed by prolific Carmel builder M.J. Murphy decades earlier, and build a new one.

Roller coaster

Their efforts were not without controversy. After being told the house was not historic and receiving approval from the city’s planning commission, the Donatis’ project survived appeals to the city council filed by neighbors who objected to it. The couple also had to get a sign-off on its environmental review from the California Coastal Commission, as required at the time since the city did not yet have its state-approved Local Coastal Program.

On top of all that, it was the subject of a lawsuit filed in 1998 by preservation activists who argued Carmel officials had allowed a “non-stop demolition parade” of allegedly historic homes. But since

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PLAN TO SPEND MILLIONS TO ‘TRUMP-PROOF’ STATE

By CAITLIN CONRAD

CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS returned to Sacramento this week for a special session to cement the Golden State as the leader of the resistance against President-elect Donald Trump. The effort will cost taxpayers, though.

“If LGBTQ people come under attack, if hardworking

immigrants are targeted, if women’s reproductive freedom is threatened, we will fight back with everything we have,” said Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas, a Hollister Democrat, during the special session that convened Monday.

Gov. Gavin Newsom, also a Democrat, announced the special session just days after Trump was re-elected, calling legislators back to the Capitol early during the busy holiday season.

“We will work with the incoming administration and we want President Trump to succeed in serving all Americans, but when there is overreach, when lives are threatened, when rights and freedoms are targeted, we will take action,” said Newsom in a written statement.

In one of the first steps Monday, lawmakers introduced legislation to allocate millions of additional dollars for the California Department of Justice.

\$25M from taxpayers

Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, a Democrat from Encino, introduced a bill to provide for \$25 million worth of legal fees he said could be racked up by state government fighting the Trump administration on climate change, immigration, reproductive freedoms and civil rights policies.

San Francisco Democrat Scott Wiener, a state senator,

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Lawsuit accuses public defender of racism

By KELLY NIX

A SURPRISING new lawsuit claims that the public defender of Monterey County discriminated against a Black employee, made offensive race-based comments to workers, and has created a toxic work environment where Black people are passed up for promotions and paid less than others.

But Public Defender Susan Chapman told a Pine Cone reporter Wednesday that she went into law based on her belief “in equal justice for all, regardless of race, religion, social status, or economic means,” and that her office has become a more diverse workplace during her eight-year tenure.

Longtime county employee Latasha Ellis-Bowers, a Black woman and finance manager in the public defender’s

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New park takes shape



PHOTO/TATUM’S GARDEN FOUNDATION

In recent weeks, more than 600 volunteers brought to life the new Tatum’s Treehouse accessible playground in Carmel Valley Village. The playground is set to open Dec. 14. See page 30A

Montage names CEO to succeed Packer

By KELLY NIX

THE DIRECTOR of a Virginia hospital will become the new president and CEO of Montage Health — the parent company of Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula — when Dr. Steven Packer retires from the role in spring, officials announced this week.

The board of trustees for Montage Health has tapped Michael P. McDermott, 59, to lead Montage, which made the announcement Monday. Packer announced in June that would retire from the position after 25 years of working at the hospital.

M.D. and MBA

“We are thrilled to welcome Dr. McDermott as our new leader and look forward to the expertise and vision he will bring to our organization in the coming year,” hospital spokeswoman Monica Sciuto told The Pine Cone Tuesday.

McDermott, who is a diagnostic and interventional radiologist, has been CEO of nonprofit Mary Washington Healthcare in Fredericksburg, Va., since 2015. Montage said McDermott brings a “wealth of experience” and a “distinguished career,” to the job.

Packer said being able to serve the community has been

Sewer district proposes ‘Bridge to Everywhere’

■ Crossing Carmel River and making multiple connections

By MARY SCHLEY

A LONG-TERM lease of the city’s underused Rio Park and reconstruction of a nearly century-old utility bridge are critical elements in an ambitious plan by the Carmel Area Wastewater District to link several trail networks on the Monterey Peninsula, former Carmel Mayor Ken White and other advocates told the city council Tuesday night.

White, a member of the CAWD board, said the “Bridge to Everywhere” project would allow walkers and cyclists to explore trails in the city, at the mouth of the valley and down the coast on both sides of Highway 1.

“This is all one plan that we’d like to get you interested in supporting,” he said.

Laura Bowling, a member of the Bridge to Everywhere advisory committee who also has a seat on the Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve board, extolled the “strong connection between walking and well-being,” and said the ability to connect trails in and around Carmel-by-the-Sea with those on California State Parks land and in the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District’s territory would “literally improve our health.”

‘Unbelievable beauty’

And, she said, it can be done without purchasing any property, since the areas are already in public ownership.

“It will significantly enhance access to the unbelievable beauty we have in the Carmel area,” she said.

The plan identifies 10 “connections,” including Mission Trail park, Larson Field and the sewer district’s accessway and easement along the east edge of the baseball field, the 6.24-acre Rio Park property that the city uses as a makeshift corporation yard for woodchips and storage, the CAWD suspension bridge built in the 1930s that’s due for an overhaul, and an abandoned access road that was formerly used by the wastewater district and is mostly on state parks land.

“The access road was abandoned in the 1990s but is still intact and could be converted to a walking and biking trail,” another committee member explained. “It extends all the way to Highway 1,” with most of it on parkland near the Carmel River Lagoon and the beach that is not publicly accessible.

Other connections include the Scenic Road pathway

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the “honor” of his lifetime, and he expressed confidence in his successor.

“As I continue to lead Montage Health through this transition, I am confident in the talented team we have in place and excited to see Dr. McDermott continue advancing our mission of delivering extraordinary care and inspiring the pursuit of optimal health,” Packer said.

McDermott, who graduated from the University of Cincinnati medical school, was trained in diagnostic radiology and interventional radiology at the University of Maryland and has an MBA from the University of Virginia, said he’s “grateful to build upon” Packer’s legacy and join Montage Health, a healthcare system he said he’s



Michael McDermott

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