

**SHARON HEIGHTS:** Care and Rehab closes Friday after providing long-term care and rehabilitation for decades. Page 8

# The Almanac

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



**FAMILY ALMANAC:** Section 2

MAY 17, 2006

[www.AlmanacNews.com](http://www.AlmanacNews.com) | VOL. 41 NO. 37

## How's the water?

Two years after a new disinfectant was added to the water supply, some residents are still demanding more studies.

That may happen, thanks to Assemblyman Ira Ruskin. [Page 20]

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# Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

## FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

### More murals

Hillview middle schoolers paint a school wall facing Santa Cruz Avenue as part of the Menlo Park school's mural elective class. The students paint Pacific Island masks with the help of their teacher, Terry McMahon, third from left. The students are, from left: Courtney Durdle, Christopher Pontilo, Camille Zolopa, J.P. Nash, Vanessa Lane, Alden Mitchell, Keiko Wolff and Allison Felt.

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## CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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## On the cover

Denise Johnson-Kula of Menlo Park says there are more than 200 documented cases that show serious reactions to chloraminated water. Photo by Marjan Sadoughi. **Page 20**

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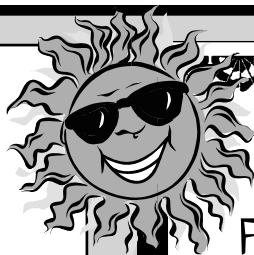
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## Wine's Antibacterial Effect

It seems that science has uncovered yet another health benefit that comes from drinking wine. In the wake of studies showing that drinking wine daily in moderate amounts reduces the risk of heart disease and lowers cholesterol, a new study shows that wine is superior in its ability to kill illness-causing bacteria in food. This conclusion is based on a study by researchers at West Virginia University in which a Portuguese table wine and a California Chardonnay, at full strength as well as several dilutions, were mixed with salmonella, shigella, or E. coli bacteria. These bacteria are common causes of food-related stomach ailments and diarrhea. In each case, the red and white wines killed the bacteria significantly faster than equivalent amounts of bismuth salicylate or tequila or grain alcohol diluted to wine-proof level. Since ancient times, it has been said that wine with dinner aids in digestion, and now scientists have uncovered the reason why.

In our wine and liquor department you'll find a wide selection of white wines such as Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, in a range of prices. We'll be happy to guide you in the purchase of wines for gifts or for your own use and help you estimate quantities for that dinner party. We are also well-known for the freshest and finest in produce and fruit, as well as great meats, poultry, seafood, etc. We are your one stop shop for everything one might need to prepare a great meal or special dinner.



*HINT: The bismuth salicylate in the study mentioned above did, indeed, kill the food-borne bacteria, but took 3 to 4 times as long as the wine to do so, while the tequila and grain alcohol took even longer.*



TOM — GROCERY

## WINE

### Warm Weather Whites

AT LAST! Warm weather has arrived. It's time to chill down the crisp, refreshing whites. Forget the fat, lush, high-alcohol chardonnays and reach for unoaked and snappy. Below are a few delicious suggestions to kick start your "summer."

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#### CHICKEN HOT ITALIAN WITH FENNEL

**\$4.98** lb.

#### CHICKEN MILD ITALIAN WITH FENNEL

**\$4.98** lb.

#### CHICKEN HOT SOUTHWEST TEQUILA SAUSAGE

**\$4.98** lb.



### Beggars can be winners

Tyler MacNiven, scion of Buck's restauranteur Jamis, may already have won \$1 million. Tyler and his teammate BJ finished in first place in the latest leg of the Amazing Race, a TV show that pits two-person teams against each other in a race around the world.

The final battle between the three remaining teams for the \$1 million prize will be revealed in the next two episodes.

So exactly what kind of travel skills does it take to make the top three? In recent episodes, BJ and Tyler have extorted money from teammates, panhandled in Australia, been left barefoot and half-naked when they lost their belongings, and gagged down enormous bowls of stir-fried grasshoppers.

The race, of course, is already over, but the participants are sworn to secrecy until the final episode airs.

The show airs at 8 p.m. Wednesday on CBS.

### Pain at the pump, gain at the train

It almost seems that those folks at Samtrans and Caltrain enjoy it when gas prices skyrocket.

A friendly reminder from the folks offering mass transit: the commute calculator, in which you can figure out exactly how much money you are throwing away traveling by car, as compared to bus or rail tickets, is available at Caltrain.com and Samtrans.com.

### Everybody loves Robert

Although Menlo Park City Council members Lee Duboc, Mickie Winkler and Kelly Fergusson don't always see eye-to-eye on city issues, they do have one thing in common — all of their husbands are named Robert.

Ms. Duboc pointed out the coincidence during the council's May 9 meeting.

Steve Schmidt and Richard Cline — who say they're running for council in November — should get worried if anyone files whose husband is a Robert.

# Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



**On your marks.** The 25-meter by 25-yard lap pool at Menlo Park's new Burgess Aquatics Center should be full of swimmers on Saturday, May 20, when the center officially opens to the public.

The Almanac/  
Marjan Sadoughi

## New aquatics center opens Saturday

■ Tim Sheeper ready to win over "the whole community."

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

Tim Sheeper knows not everyone in Menlo Park is happy with how he was handed the keys to the new Burgess Aquatics Center, but he says he's ready to win over the community.

Mr. Sheeper, founder and owner of the for-profit competitive sports program that signed a five-year contract with the city to operate the aquatics center, will open the three-pool facility Saturday, May 20, at noon. Admission is free.

The center boasts a 25-meter by 25-yard lap

pool, a 25-yard by 17-yard instructional pool, a shallow pool for kids and a locker room.

Mr. Sheeper picked up the keys to the center May 12, and he and his growing staff are moving to get people in the pools as soon as possible, he said.

The pools will open under the operation of Menlo Swim and Sport LLC, a new company created by Mr. Sheeper.

The competitive Team Sheeper swimming and triathlon programs Mr. Sheeper has operated for several years, and Mr. Sheeper's new programs he's created since taking over operation of the aquatics center, will all merge under the Menlo Swim

and Sport company name.

All of the programs will share the aquatics center, sparking public concern that Mr. Sheeper's long-standing groups, such as the Menlo Masters swim group, may oust or restrict others from using the pools.

"There were rumors circulating that we were an exclusive club," said Mr. Sheeper. "We never had that intention. We want to bring in the whole community."

### New programs

To draw people to the pool, Mr. Sheeper said the aquatics center and its programs

See **SWIM CENTER**, page 8

## New outreach program for day workers will start in July

By Marion Softky

Almanac Staff Writer

Starting July 5, San Mateo County will take a new, carrot-and-stick approach to the problem of workers who hang out along Fifth Avenue, near El Camino Real and Middlefield Road in North Fair Oaks, desperately hoping to catch a day job from employers driving by.

For the carrot, the Board of Supervisors March 9 unanimously approved a contract with the Multicultural Institute of Berkeley to provide an outreach

program that will work with day workers, merchants, the community, and employers to resolve problems. The \$288,000 contract will run from July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2008.

"It takes a community to make this work; it doesn't work to herd people in a room," said Madelyn Martin of the county's Human Services Agency. "We need to change the culture."

For the stick, the board unanimously adopted two ordinances to control problems posed by the day workers:

■ One forbids soliciting on

public roadways because of safety hazards as workers run into the street or employers stop to negotiate.

■ The other gives merchants added ability to control trespassing on their private property.

The problems of day workers hanging around on street corners waiting for jobs has been building for several years in the unincorporated area between Redwood City and Atherton. In April 2005, the Key Market closed, partly because the day workers made customers uncomfortable and hurt business.

In May 2005, the county opened

a Day Worker Center on Middlefield Road to try and lure the workers off the street. The center, run by El Concilio of San Mateo County, had attracted about a third of the day workers last September, when the county supervisors extended its contract until June 30. The rest still hung out on the street.

That center will close to make way for the new day worker program.

Meanwhile, a Chavez Supermarket will open in June at the site of the old Key Market on

See **DAY WORKERS**, page 31



# She May Be Small But She Plays a Big Role in Her Health Care.

Living most of her life with a rare kidney cancer, Madison has very real opinions about her health care. And good for her. At Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, our commitment to family-centered care creates an environment where patients, families and hospital staff work in partnership to make decisions that reflect the unique needs of every child. Listening to kids is what we do.

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LUCILE PACKARD  
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# Stanford sports legend dies at 93

By Jim Rutter

Special to the Almanac

A 55-year resident of Menlo Park, William Paul "Dutch" Fehring, a beloved, iconic figure in the Stanford athletics community, died at the Palo Alto Veterans Affairs hospital on April 13. He was 93.

A special service will be held at Stanford's Memorial Church at 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 23. Immediately following the service, a reception will be held at Dallmar Court in The Arrillaga Family Sports Center.

He was born on May 31, 1912, in Columbus, Indiana, where his parents Lynn and Ivy Rae Fehring owned a buggy business before acquiring Terre Haute Heavy Hardware (later renamed the Hardware Supply Co.).

He attended Lutheran schools with brothers Ray and Ted and became a star athlete for the Columbus (Central) High Bull Dogs, gaining all-state honors in football as a senior in 1930.

It was during his freshman year in high school, however, that he earned the nickname "Dutch," which may at first seem a bit odd for a young man of German descent. After he

returned a kick-off 60 yards for a touchdown, a local sportswriter tabbed him "The Flying Dutchman" and the nickname stuck.

In 1939 Mr. Fehring married Edna Rose Suverkrup, whom he had known since the first grade. Later, the couple would live together in the same house in Menlo Park from 1951 until Mrs. Fehring's death in March 2005.

Their 66-year marriage was blessed with three daughters (Susan Fehring Hanson, Ann Fehring Larkin and Carol Fehring Irvin), eight grandchildren (Mark Hanson, Michael Taylor, Kelly Lang, Kristen Larkin, Lauren Irvin, Matthew Larkin, Ashley Irvin and Daniel Irvin) and two great-grandchildren (Elizabeth Hull-Taylor and Colby Dutch Taylor). He is also survived by his brother, Ted Fehring of Carmel.

Mr. Fehring was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod (ELS).

He earned his bachelor's degree in 1934 and master's degree in 1936, both in physical education from Purdue University. He attended New York University, and in 1952 obtained a Ph.D. in education from Stanford University.

In the 1930s, Mr. Fehring was unquestionably one of the most accomplished collegiate athletes of the era. A three-sport star at Purdue, he excelled in football, baseball and basketball, gaining honorable mention All-

American honors in football in 1933.

He is one of only two athletes in Purdue history to letter nine times, a feat that ensured his induction as part of the inaugural class of the Purdue University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1994. Remarkably, he is a member of six additional athletic halls of fame including the Stanford University Athletic Hall of Fame, the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, and the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame.

A three-year starter at left tackle for Noble Kizer's Boilermaker football team from 1931

to 1933, he was the captain of the 1933 football team, and played on Big Ten title teams in 1931 and 1932. In baseball, the 6-foot, 195-pound Fehring was a three-year letterman as Purdue's switch-hitting starting catcher, hitting .297 for his career, always batting fifth in the line-up.

In basketball, Mr. Fehring helped lead the Boilermakers to two Big Ten titles. He was a teammate and travel roommate of Purdue's legendary Johnny Wooden and the two would enjoy a life-long close friendship. With sophomore Fehring at center and senior Wooden at guard, the Boilermakers won the 1932 national cham-

pionship, although they didn't know it at the time. Tournament play was not instituted until 1939 and it wasn't until 1943 that the team was "voted" the official 1932 national champion by the Helms Foundation.

The Great Depression was on, so in addition to sports, studies, and membership in the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, Mr. Fehring somehow found time to sell advertising for the football program and work in the athletic training room in order to meet the "steep" \$65 per semester tuition bill.

After captaining the 1933 Purdue football team and being named the Big Ten's baseball MVP in 1934 after hitting .317, the three-sport star was awarded the Big Ten "Medal of Honor" in 1934 "for combined athletic and scholastic prowess."

Declining several opportunities to play professional football, Mr. Fehring followed his favorite sport, baseball, and was signed

See **DUTCH FEHRING**, page 24

## ■ ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jim Rutter, Stanford 1986, is a Menlo Park native and co-founder of The Bootleg, an independent Web site and magazine on Stanford sports. He edits the magazine and is a docent at the Stanford Athletic Hall of Fame.



**Dutch Fehring** was head baseball coach at Stanford from 1956 to 1967.

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### How Long to Hold a Property

**Q: I need to buy a residential investment property and I will probably want to sell or trade it in a year or two. What is the best kind of property to buy in this situation?**

**A:** First of all, selling a property within one to two years of buying it means that you may not be able to recoup all of your costs when you sell. While we expect real estate values in this area to enjoy moderate appreciation for the foreseeable future, you cannot be sure that every property will go up in value in such a short time.

If interest rates continue to

rise, this too may limit appreciation. If at the end of 12-24 months you trade your property for another in the same market area, the new property will at least be affected by the same market forces. However there will be costs incurred during the trade that affect your overall gain.

The more conservative approach to owning single family or multi-family residential property is to plan to hold it for at least five to seven years, or more. If history is any guide, this approach gives you the best chance of realizing some meaningful gain when you sell.

For answers to any questions you may have on real estate, you may e-mail me at [mcorman@apr.com](mailto:mcorman@apr.com) or call 462-1111, Alain Pinel Realtors. I also offer a free market analysis of your property.

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## Here's the deal

Ken Ranella, superintendent of the Menlo Park City School District, conducts a tour of the Hillview Middle School campus in Menlo Park last week. Voters in the district face a decision June 6 about whether to approve \$91 million in school bonds to upgrade and expand school facilities on four campuses.

The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi



## Sharon Heights Care and Rehab to close Friday

Sharon Heights Care and Rehab will close this Friday, May 19, after serving hundreds of area residents for decades at its Menlo Park facility, located at 1185 Monte Rosa Drive and Sand Hill Road.

Administrator and director Leslie Finnell told the Almanac last week that the facility would close, but said she was not at liberty to provide details. She said she might have more information about the facility's future toward the end of the month.

Ms. Finnell said Sharon Heights has continued providing short-term, post-acute rehabilitation care for patients, but had stopped admitting patients for long-term care last fall.

The California Department

of Health Services and Tippy Irwin, director of Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County, confirmed the May 19 closing.

A spokesman from the state department's office of public affairs said yesterday that the department had received the written report required by law. There have been no long-term residents at the facility since April 24. Only two short-term patients were receiving rehabilitation services as of May 15, the spokesman said.

Ms. Irwin said she had received

a phone call from Ms. Finnell informing her of the closing date, but had not received the written notification required by law to inform the ombudsman about a facility's plan for closure.

"Transfer trauma is a big issue when a facility is transferring its frail elderly to another location," said Ms. Irwin. That's why notifying the ombudsman service and the California Department of Health Services about the facility's transfer plan for patients is so important, she said.

## Woodside resident among drug arrests

Federal and state law enforcement agents on May 4 announced the arrest of 15 people, including Woodside resident Natali Medina Cisneros, 31, in a roundup of suspected members of a methamphetamine and cocaine drug ring based in San Francisco and

San Mateo counties.

All the defendants are accused of conspiring to distribute the two drugs and various counts of distributing the drugs, said U.S. attorney Kevin Ryan. Sentences can range from 10 years to life in prison.

## Let Us Hear From You

Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome.

Mail your comments to The Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas Menlo Park, CA 95025 letters@AlmanacNews.com

The Almanac

### Corrections

■ The meeting to receive public input on Stanford's proposed recreational trail along Alpine Road in unincorporated San Mateo County will take place Tuesday, May 23, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Woodland School, 360 La Cuesta Drive, in Ladera. The start time reported in last week's Almanac is incorrect.

■ In the same issue of the

Almanac, a story on a trail proposed by Stanford University along Alpine Road in Portola Valley incorrectly implied that Councilman Ed Davis supported the trail design. Mr. Davis does not support the trail as proposed, but does support having the town's Trails & Paths Committee study Stanford's proposal to see if an agreeable compromise is possible.

### Swim programs at Burgess

|                   |                                                           |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Swim school       | \$65 per month for one lesson a week                      |
| Water running     | \$55 per month for three classes a week                   |
| SEAL training     | \$100 per month for three classes a week                  |
| Lap swim          | \$40 per month, unlimited access (\$45 for non-residents) |
| Recreational swim | \$5 per visit (\$3 for children, \$6 for non-residents)   |

## Aquatics center opens

### SWIM CENTER

continued from page 5

will be "unmatched."

Swimmers can sign up for programs online at MenloSwim.com, Mr. Sheeper said.

In addition to the triathlon and swimming programs previously offered under the Team Sheeper name, swimmers will have new choices. Among them: instructional classes for children as young as 6 months old, water running and water exercise classes, and a training program modeled after U.S. Navy SEAL boot camp.

Mr. Sheeper's company plans to host events at the aquatics center during the summer, such as outdoor movie screenings on Friday evenings and family-oriented activities on Sunday afternoons.

"We want the pool to be a place

for everyone of all ages," he said.

Lap swimmers can create accounts online, and will receive personal identification cards they can swipe when they enter the center. Swimmers will be billed directly to their account, Mr. Sheeper said.

Lap swim, recreational swim and lessons for children will be offered immediately; other programs will be up and running in coming weeks, he said.

"We're here to accommodate the community," he said. "We'll be evaluating what's working, and what isn't, and we'll be adjusting programs and schedules to the community's liking."

Some residents, including council members Andy Cohen and Kelly Fergusson, were troubled by the council's 3-2 decision to privatize the aquatics center, built with \$6.8 million in taxpayer funds.

"It's disappointing not all of the council members got behind us, especially because they're my boss now," Mr. Sheeper said. "But, this council, the next council and the whole community are going to see this is a great thing." ■

### ■ INFORMATION

For more information about the Burgess Aquatics Center, including programs, fees and hours of operation, go to MenloSwim.com.

# Child care privatization decision on a fast track?

■ Private operator could take over programs by January with new timeline.

By Rory Brown  
Almanac Staff Writer

A compromise vote on fee increases last week seemed to calm Menlo Park's child care debate somewhat, but it appears the City Council has another stormy meeting ahead after the release of a staff report that unexpectedly placed the process that could lead to privatization of child care programs on a fast track.

The new timeline, which could lead to privatization of the programs by next January, will be presented to the council at its May 16 meeting.

City staff had originally told the council that the process for studying proposals, conducting hearings and, potentially, negotiating an agreement putting the programs in private hands would take eight to 16 months—a scenario that would conclude after the November 7 election that could change the makeup of the council.

Although no decision has been made to privatize child care—toddler, preschool and school-age programs now operated by the city in the new Menlo Children's Center—the programs have been labeled too costly by some residents, including council members Mickie Winkler and Lee Duboc.

Ms. Winkler and Ms. Duboc, whose terms expire in December and who have not yet said whether they will run for re-election, have pushed to privatize the programs to cut the city's costs, but parents of children in the programs and union officials say a private operator will cut city staff's wages and benefits.

In April, the council voted to seek bids from private operators to run the programs. The city also will submit a bid.

Under the original timeline, the city would have called for bids no earlier than July. But the new timeline calls for the city to issue a request for proposals by June 14, and potentially enter negotiations with a private operator by September 21.

Under the timeline, the city would also create a subcommittee to draft the request for proposals and review the bids.

City Manager David Boesch said the programs could be transferred to a private operator by early 2007.

## 'Completely truncated'

Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson, the only council member to

vote against seeking bids from outside operators, was stunned to see the timeline for the request for proposals shortened.

"This is completely truncated," she said. "It's contrary to what we gave direction on."

When the council gave direction at a special meeting April 19, council members Winkler and Duboc said the city should be able to determine whether to privatize the child care programs in less than eight months, but Ms. Fergusson said that was not the consensus of the council.

"Why does staff address some

*'You're putting blinders on because you don't want this program around... This is all about privatization.'*

PARENT JEFF STAUDINGER.

council members' concerns, and not others?" Ms. Fergusson said. "I don't think staff should be buckling under this kind of pressure."

## Determining costs

Since the April decision to seek bids from private operators, staff has lowered the programs' projected net cost to the city by about \$90,000, prompting parents to ask the council to wait for the results of a cost-allocation study before deciding to raise fees or privatize the programs. The study, set to begin in July, will look at how efficiently the city's programs are operated.

The new estimated net cost is lower due to the ability to consolidate supervision of the programs in the new children's center, said Michael Taylor, the city's acting community services director.

He also noted that the city no longer has to pay the rental fees for the portable classrooms that housed the toddler and preschool programs until this month.

City staff initially pegged the programs' annual costs at about \$444,000, but Mr. Taylor said with the newly discovered savings, that figure should drop to about \$354,000.

With the fee increases approved by the council May 9, the annual net cost will drop to about \$229,000, as the school-age program will nearly recover its costs, and the preschool and

toddler programs are at "about 90 percent cost recovery," Mr. Taylor said.

Council members Winkler and Duboc said even if the city's child care programs are closer to cost-recovery than previously suggested, privatization should still be considered due to high employee costs.

## Parents react

Several parents at the May 9 council meeting challenged the council's approach to dealing with the child care issue.

"Now's the time to use common sense," said Mike Gardener, who has two children in the city's programs. "I'm not rich, but I don't want a subsidy. I want to pay my share ... but raising fees exponentially is not common sense."

Mr. Gardener noted that no council members attended the May 1 children's center ribbon-cutting ceremony, and with the exception of Ms. Fergusson, council members have yet to talk to parents about any changes to the programs.

"You're putting blinders on because you don't want this program around," said parent Jeff Staudinger. "Every [city] program has a subsidy ... this is all about privatization."

## Increased fees

The council voted last week to raise program fees by 10 percent for the city's toddler and preschool programs and 7.5 percent for the Burgess school-age after-school program. The new fees will go into effect July 1.

Councilman Andy Cohen opposed fee increases and Ms. Fergusson did not vote on the school-age program fee increases because she has a child in the program.

Council members Winkler and Duboc initially pushed for the staff-recommended 15 percent increase for the toddler and preschool programs. After Ms. Fergusson and Mr. Cohen said they would not support that increase, Mayor Nicholas Jellins said the council should reach consensus, and suggested a 10 percent increase.

All council members said the city should continue to fund child care programs in the predominantly low-income Belle Haven neighborhood without fee increases. ■

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# Political pandemonium in Menlo Park

■ Contentious topics, partisan fights and a divided council make for rowdy meetings.

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

In the tense atmosphere of the City Council chambers last week, residents argued whether or not a council member should get to remodel her home. A resident shrieked and pointed menacingly at council members.

And council members and residents alike fired criticism at one another.

Just another council meeting in Menlo Park.

A flood of controversial topics before the Menlo Park City Council, and the inevitable partisan fights prompted by those issues,

have made for some raucous theatrics in the council chambers in recent times.

Council members regularly exchange harsh words as Mayor Nicholas Jellins and council members Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler vote together on major issues.

Council members Andy Cohen and Kelly Fergusson publicly refer to their colleagues as "the majority."

But council members aren't

the only people firing criticism at meetings. Residents also aim scathing remarks at council members or what's perceived to be one of the city's two political sides.

While the city has always had its flash-point issues and partisan squabbles, the current political mood in town, as reflected by the behavior in the council chambers most weeks, may have soured to a degree not seen in recent times.

The situation was summed up by Matt Henry, a resident and

former planning commissioner, at a recent council meeting. After a particularly divisive discussion about privatizing the city's new aquatics center, Mr. Henry stepped to the podium and said, "Everyone needs to be a little cooler with each other."

## Fergusson appeal

The council spent almost two hours of its May 9 meeting on an unusual appeal of a recent Planning Commission decision. That decision was to grant Councilwoman Fergusson a variance to remodel her home.

The project, which will add a second story to Ms. Fergusson's home, required an exception to setback and roofline ordinances.

The appellant, Sue Kayton, lives more than 4 miles from Ms. Fergusson's home in the Willows neighborhood, but said the variance was approved by the Planning Commission because Ms. Fergusson is a council member.

Although all of Ms. Fergusson's neighbors who spoke at the commission meeting and the May 9 council meeting supported the project, Ms. Kayton said abiding by the city's zoning ordinance, not accommodating neighbors, should be an applicant's top priority.

But Ms. Kayton and others who spoke against Ms. Fergusson's project—including residents Sam Sinnott, Mary Gilles and Hank Lawrence—are political supporters of council members Jellins, Duboc and Winkler, prompting charges that the appeal was politically motivated.

"I am appalled at what I see here this evening," said resident Elias Blowie. "I detest the politics and the vendetta apparently being pursued here."

Harry Price, Ms. Fergusson's attorney, said, "The 800-pound gorilla in the room is the politics involved here." He noted that Ms. Kayton did not attend the Planning Commission's consideration of the project, and residents who opposed the project made no effort to talk to Ms. Fergusson.

The council voted 2-0-1 to deny the appeal. Ms. Duboc and Mr. Cohen voted to allow Ms. Fergusson to build her project, Mayor Jellins abstained, and Ms. Winkler could not vote because she lives within 700 feet of Ms. Fergusson.

After the meeting, Mayor Jellins said there was "merit to both positions," but "neither argument was sufficient to earn my vote."

## Harsh words

As the council has moved forward with very contentious issues—including developing Bayfront Park, making budget cuts, and privatizing city services—residents often use meetings' public comment periods to deliver scath-

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Continued on next page

# Distinguished schools: Why is Woodside off the list?

■ The K-8 school has other priorities now.

By David Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

As schools go in California, the word “distinguished” would seem a natural for the K-8 Woodside Elementary. The school has achieved a statewide academic performance rank of at least 9 on a scale of 10 in each year since 2000, when statewide rankings began.

In 1987, 1993 and 1997, the California School Recognition Program included Woodside Elementary on its Distinguished Schools list. (A school that wins can’t apply again for four years.)

In the years since 1997, Woodside name has been absent from the list, including in 2005 when Encinal and Las Lomitas elementary schools in Atherton and Ormondale Elementary in Portola Valley were so recognized.

Why?

*Continued from previous page*

ing criticism of council members and their decisions.

Particularly passionate comments were shouted by resident Jeff Staudinger at last week’s meeting.

After a dispute with Mayor Jellins about how much time he should be allotted to speak, Mr. Staudinger stormed the dais at the end of his speech. Holding the cordless microphone in one hand, he walked up to Ms. Duboc, pointed his hand in her face, and accused her of not caring about children currently enrolled in the city’s child care programs.

Ms. Duboc, an advocate of privatizing the city’s programs, said she was “physically afraid” of Mr. Staudinger, and hopes the city assigns a police officer to supervise future meetings.

She also noted that “people feel very strongly about programs,” and there is “a lot of emotion involved” in how people react to the decisions by individual council members.

## mp council watch

Offering not only scathing commentary but comic relief is a new, anonymous voice showering the City Council e-mail log with criticism of everything from council members’ votes to their mannerisms.

The e-mails are sent under the name mp\_council\_watch.

Whoever the council watcher is, he/she isn’t playing favorites. All of the council members have been targets of harsh criticism or unflattering literary allusions. ■

It’s a matter of weighing the use of time, said Woodside school board president Bettina Pike.

The application process is an ordeal. For example, Las Lomitas School’s application took a month to write and involved a team of 28, including staff, parents and teachers. Schools prepare a detailed report, then host an evaluation team.

“We’ve been really focused hard on (state) standards,” said

Assistant Principal Bob Sherman.

In aligning course content with state standards, teachers and school administrators have had to adjust to a more regimented curriculum. The state Board of Education adopted standards in 1997 and 1998 for English language, math, science and social science classes in grades K-12.

Also, Woodside doesn’t really need the “Distinguished School” recognition: Parents and teachers

know it’s exceptional.

“I think there’s a high level of confidence in the school,” said Mr. Sherman. “The validation ... would be nice, but it’s not required.”

Mr. Sherman noted he was on the team that evaluated Las Lomitas Elementary School for the Distinguished School award. “It’s a great program,” he said. “I enjoyed being part of it.”

Woodside Elementary may apply for the recognition in the

next year or two, he said. Nothing has been decided, but the subject may come up this summer, he said.

The state education department staggers the awards, with elementary schools evaluated one year and middle and high schools the next.

“My assumption is that if we tried for it, we would probably get it,” said Ms. Pike. “It’s just a matter of choosing to apply ourselves in that direction.” ■



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# Valparaiso delays, detours due to water main project

It's going to be a long summer for drivers who frequent Valparaiso Avenue.

Major repaving work — a joint project of Atherton and Menlo Park — is set to start later this summer.

This week, the California Water Service Co. will start replacing the water pipeline on Valparaiso Avenue between North Lemon Avenue and El Camino Real. That work is expected to last through June.

"If you can avoid the street, it would be smart," said Darren Duncan, Cal Water's district manager.

About 6,000 feet of a 6-inch-diameter cast-iron watermain that dates to the 1930s will be replaced with a 12-inch-diam-

eter pipeline, Mr. Duncan said.

The project includes relocating and replacing fire hydrants. When it's complete, the new pipeline will provide better fire protection because it will increase water flow capacity, and the hydrants will be spaced to the Menlo Park Fire Protection District's exact specifications, Mr. Duncan said.

During the project, two-way traffic controls and significant road closures will occur Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Mr. Duncan said the district is working with private schools along Valparaiso to make sure that work doesn't interfere with commencement exercises.

**Traffic controls and road closures will occur Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.**

# Big changes for Woodside's engineering department

By Andrea Gemmet  
Almanac Staff Writer

There's going to be an influx of new blood in the town of Woodside's engineering services division. Kent Dewell, the town engineer and assistant town manager, announced his plans to retire later this year.

Mr. Dewell has held his post with the town for the past 13 years. He said he plans to spend his retirement traveling and gardening.

Town Manager Susan George said at the Town Council's May 9 meeting that Mr. Dewell will stay on to train his successor in the town engineer position, once one is hired.

Mr. Dewell also agreed to continue to work with the town in a consulting capacity to oversee the construction and completion of Barkley Field and Park. Work on the park is set to begin this summer.

"Kent has a huge institutional memory. I think I'm going to start tape recording him when we talk," Ms. George said.

Councilwoman Carroll Ann Hodges said all of the town's trail riders are indebted to Mr. Dewell for his work maintaining and improving Woodside's trail system.

At the same meeting, Ms. George announced that the town has

hired Eunejune "EJ" Kim for the town's new position of development services engineer.

A consultant's report identified a number of issues in Woodside's engineering department that contribute to the long turn-around time in getting building plans reviewed and approved. A key recommendation is adding a third engineer to town's engineering division who will focus entirely on reviewing building plans and applications.

Mr. Kim, who is currently the engineering manager in the city of Brentwood's development division, has a June 19 start date, Ms. George said.

Mr. Kim holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from U.C. Davis and a master's degree from San Jose State University. Prior to working for Brentwood, he held engineering positions with cities of Santa Clara and San Rafael, and worked as a transportation engineer for Caltrans District 7 in Los Angeles.

"He is very anxious and excited to get started," Ms. George told the council. "His enthusiasm and outlook are contagious." ■



Kent Dewell

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"If you looked at what you see happening in town, probably 60 percent of the projects are new homes, 30 percent are adding a garage or doing landscaping, and 10 percent are specs," says Atherton Mayor Charles Marsala.

The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

# Atherton mayor wrestles with construction boom in town

The council may impose time limits on construction projects

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

## ■ Q&A ATHERTON

This is fourth and final article in a series of question-and-answer sessions with the mayors of the four towns covered by the Almanac. This interview was conducted on April 26 by Almanac Staff Writer Andrea Gemmet.

It's easy to see why Atherton Mayor Charles Marsala's backyard is such a popular spot for parties and fundraisers. There's a wide expanse of lawn, an ample patio, a swimming pool and a very large outdoor bar.

A guest cottage houses both his office and large game room equipped with a pool table and a foosball machine, among other things.

The affable bachelor, a New Orleans native, moved to Atherton eight years ago and almost immediately got involved in community activities.

He was narrowly defeated by Kathy McKeithen in his first bid for a council seat in 2000. By the time he was appointed to the City Council in 2002, he was a member of Atherton's Art Committee and Park and Recreation Commission, and had served on the Waste Reduction Committee. An active Republican, he's also involved in a number of political and nonprofit organizations.

Atherton real estate may be some of the priciest in the

nation, and its residents among the wealthiest, but the town itself operates on a small budget that relies heavily on an annual parcel tax.

While Atherton town government has been turmoil-free in recent years, there are still some big issues roiling the community. Atherton residents have turned to the council looking for relief from a myriad of complaints related to massive and long-lasting construction projects.

At its May 17 meeting, the City Council may impose time limits on construction projects. The regulations would put in place one-year, two-year and three-year maximums, depending on the size of the project. Fines for exceeding the time limits could go as high as \$250,000.

**Q:** *The City Council looks like it's definitely going to impose time limits on construction projects. Will this make a big impact on all of the construction-related annoyances?*

**A:** It seems like 95 percent of the homes are in compliance already, and we're looking at the 5 percent that aren't. There is a couple, like the one on Park (Lane), (and) there's one on Stockbridge, that have been going on for years.

In looking at that ordinance, what concerns me is we really need to target the houses (under construction) over three years, not necessarily the ones (that last) a year. If there's some rain in that year, we could really cause a burden on someone who has a smaller project.

(I'm) thinking why don't we just look at the three-year projects, and could we get it done with just having an ordinance that says you have three years to build a house under 4,000 square feet?

And also, to look at (its) impli-

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

cations on houses over 10,000 square feet, because there are a considerable number of those. People who have five acres or 10 acres of land, and if they are building a new house, they have parking (for construction vehicles) on site. So why don't we put something in place for the larger homes, instead of just saying you can apply to the Planning Commission for an exemption?

**Q:** *In terms of dealing with all the things that seem to be driving people crazy, are there other things coming online to help people feel less angst about living in a construction zone?*

**A:** Well, we're tightening down on the parking plan.

A month ago, I went down Park Lane and stopped at every site, and I was impressed to see that some of the contractors had posted (a sign) at the door (saying) we have been contacted by the city.

As we look at things, we're adjusting. Part of it has been we didn't have this size of construction going on in prior years, so we're having to adapt as we see these large projects go on, to make sure that the residents have a quality-of-life around those sites.

**Q:** *The sheer volume of projects is huge. The last estimate I saw said about 110 or 112 construction projects are going on at the moment. Is that all forms of construction, even remodels?*

**A:** When I went down Park (Lane), it was very representative of what I think is going on. There was one spec home, three of them were minor remodels — two of them were landscaping, one of them was a garage and a kitchen — and there were six new homes that were owner-occupied.

If you looked at what you see happening in town, probably 60 percent of the projects are new homes, 30 percent are adding a garage or doing landscaping, and 10 percent are specs.

**Q:** *From what I was hearing, it seems like the spec homes are the ones that finish up pretty quickly.*

**A:** The spec homes are shorter because when a person builds a spec home, he's not going to customize it. I know some homes where people have wanted to put in a special ceiling that they've brought from Europe, and maybe it's held up in customs right now. These people buy land in Atherton, and land in Atherton has a value because people can do those things.

## Charles Marsala: New Orleans native

Charles Marsala was raised in New Orleans and graduated from Tulane University with a degree in mechanical engineering.

He runs a business obtaining the rights to sell products nationally or regionally through the Internet. Current projects include ListaToolboxes.com, which sells custom industrial workstations and furnishings, and

InteractiveAR.com, which provides accounts receivable products.

He was appointed to the Atherton City Council in 2002, along with Alan Carlson and Bill Conwell, when council members opted to cancel the uncontested election. He served as Atherton's vice mayor last year, and was chosen by his council colleagues to serve as this year's mayor.

**Q:** *It seems that there's so much renewal of the housing stock in Atherton, it makes me wonder if it's going to be possible for Atherton to be able to retain historic buildings or historic artifacts when things are getting replaced so quickly?*

**A:** Well, we have several historic buildings, and there are two homes I can think of that people have renovated, where the homes are over 100 years old. They were built before we had height requirements.

People find those homes and they are gems, and they want to keep them because the home is taller than you could build today

The artifacts — we've had

*'As you know, we have a huge number of home building and remodeling projects in play.'*

people donate things to the town. One area we should try to work is how people put some of these things in their will.

**Q:** *I know there's a historic study that's been going on. What's the status of that?*

**A:** There were some letters that went out to residents recently to ask them if they had anything, and if they wanted to declare it and have it evaluated. That process right now is still gathering data on all the possible artifacts that we have in the town. We'll see it in the next few months.

**Q:** *And then you'll see what the residents think of it?*

**A:** Yes. It protects a lot of the artifacts and the culture, but at the same time I have concerns about private property rights. We have to balance that, I believe, when we work on something.

**Q:** *That's a very tough balance for communities to find.*

**A:** That's why I was thinking we could start promoting the idea that the town is

open to putting a plan in place that allows people to donate artifacts to the town. It's better if someone does something willingly, rather than if you force them.

**Q:** *Atherton's administrative offices have been looking like a trailer park for some time now. Where does building a bigger town hall and police station, bigger administrative offices, rank in terms of Atherton's priorities?*

**A:** (Mr. Marsala explained there is a restricted fund, generated from building permit fees, that can be used for office space for the building department.) I think we're over \$700,000. The department has been in the trailers for 10 years, so that money's been accumulating.

As you know, we have a huge amount of (home building and landscaping) projects in play. The more projects you have, the more permits and the more dollars in fees.

We're looking at donations (for town offices) as well. There are people who want to make specific donations, and we've seen that with the children's playground (at Holbrook-Palmer Park) that raised \$350,000 within a few months, and the Little League field did approximately the same.

There are people interested in the police department. We don't know the numbers yet, but we know there are some donors who would respond. As you can see what happened in Portola Valley, residents will step up and say, "I want to do something for the town."

We need to look and see what the potential is. We don't know how large it is yet; we know it's worth pursuing.

The other thing is we have to determine if we're going to remodel the buildings, expand the buildings or build new. We need to start evaluating our needs there.

**Q:** *But in terms of whether this should take priority over, say, roads, drainage or channel repairs, what do you think?*

See MARSALA, next page

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473.6543

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1010-1014 Alma St., Menlo Park  
328.0735

**Hardware Store**  
**Palo Alto Hardware**  
875 Alma St., Palo Alto  
327.7222

## Hotel

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## Intimate Dining

**The Village Pub**  
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851.9888

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Menlo Park  
322.2157

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**Hirzel**  
728 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park  
328.6030

## Mexican Restaurant

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3539 Alameda de las Pulgas,  
Menlo Park  
854.TACO (8226)

## Pizza

**Applewood**  
1001 El Camino Real, Menlo Park  
324.3486  
989 El Camino Real, 328.1556  
Los Altos, 941.9222

## Plumber

**Guy Plumbing & Heating**  
1265 El Camino Real, Menlo Park  
323.8421

## Produce

**Sigona's Farmer's  
Market**  
2345 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City  
368.6993  
Stanford Shopping Ctr. (next to Schaub's)  
Palo Alto  
329.1340

## Thai Restaurant

**Siam Garden**  
1143 Crane St., Menlo Park  
853.1143/853.0156

## Toy Store

**Cheeky Monkey**  
714 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park  
328.7975

# 'We would fare better than New Orleans'

MARSALA

continued from previous page

## Q&A ATHERTON

**A:** We've got, as you know, about a \$1.5 million (road project) going on Selby Lane right now. We're going to take Valparaiso (Avenue) on this year with Menlo Park. We've been taking care of roads now for several years.

We will not use any of our general funds for the (administrative offices) building. This isn't taking any of the dollars from roads or drainage. The building will be done solely on fundraisers.

**Q:** How urgent is it?

**A:** (The first Town Hall) building lasted for 30 years, and then in the late 1950s they built the new town hall.

When they built it, we didn't have women police officers, so they use the same locker rooms as the men.

The police station wasn't built for meeting today's needs, it's 50 years old. The restroom for a suspect is the same one the public uses.

So can you get by with expanding it, or do you start over?

We have a lot of concerns right now on public safety if there's an earthquake. If that building's not up to snuff, the residents may want us to spend the money to do that right.

**Q:** You're a New Orleans native, and you've been out there recently and seen firsthand all the devastation that a natural disaster can inflict on an unprepared community. So if a major quake were to strike tomorrow, how do you think Atherton would fare?

**A:** We would fare much better than New Orleans. Let me show you something. (Mr. Marsala pulls out a plastic bucket of emergency supplies which includes, among other things, a radio, an old telephone and a hand-crank flashlight and battery charger).

So we're going to be working on educating the residents more on what they're going to need.

We have an emergency operations coordinator, that's Sgt. (Eric) Grimm. So I saw where our generator is, what supplies they have, and we're putting in a well at Holbrook-Palmer Park so we will have water available.

We do have a manual that tells us how backup resources go. In a small emergency, you call in county resources, and if it

grows, you call in regional and state.

Whereas in New Orleans, there isn't much outside of New Orleans and Louisiana, so there wasn't a lot of places to call for backup.

Eric Grimm has, for five years now, been taking training classes on this, and that's an advantage we have with our own police department.

**Q:** Atherton has had a reputation of being a town of walled houses, where residents don't exactly hang out and barbecue on the street together — although that's not really true for some neighborhoods. You've probably single-handedly done a lot to encourage socializing in Atherton, from what I can tell.

**A:** (laughing) I've brought a New Orleans flavor to it.

**Q:** What else should the town do to foster a sense of community among its residents.

**A:** When I started out I was on the Arts Committee, the committee was putting on a lot of great events — concerts in the park. We have a wonderful park.

(Mr. Marsala noted that he played a role in persuading the staff of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to allow San Mateo County to put a proposal on the November ballot to adopt a 1/8 cent sales tax for county parks.)

I, being a moderate Republican, have access to moderate Republicans, and they were able to give me an audience with his staff.

That (tax would) allow us to get \$220,000 a year for Holbrook-Palmer Park.

I think it's important to maintain the park. There used to be a Day at the Park. I've been a big proponent of taking care of the tennis courts. People donated the courts, they donated money in the form of fees, upwards of \$200 a year for a tennis key. Those activities foster community.

If we redid the Pavilion to accommodate events so that Atherton residents might want to go there again, that's another way of building community.

We have two historic buildings in the park, the carriage house, which has a second-floor that's being used for storage, and the water tower. It's possible, down the road, if we had this \$220,000

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

coming in a year, we may want to finally address opening up the second floor of that carriage house and the water tower (for social events).

The kitchen tour that the (Atherton) Dames put on as a fundraiser for the park, it's at homes that have taken a while to build. People want to go into a home that's got a unique theme in it. You frequently will see 30-40 Atherton residents at someone's backyard party, and that's a way of mixing.

One thing I thought we should do is having mailboxes in town. We have a post office, but we don't have (post office boxes).

We have 200-something home-based businesses, and maybe they don't want to have their mail delivered to their house. If those businesses could register at an Atherton address, then we would be collecting sales tax revenue, and (it would) also foster community as more people see each other at the post office.

It's also a service for regular residents who just want to have a mailbox. So I see it as having community, service and financial benefits.

**Q: What are your top goals and priorities as mayor for the rest of this year?**

**A:** Working on this facility project (town offices) is definitely a high priority because we do have a window right now where we don't have to worry about the parcel tax, we have some great residents who have offered to help, and we have a seasoned council.

The administration building is going to be 50 years old. The trailers are a problem. The police facilities, we've outgrown them, they need to be modernized.

Another priority is emergency awareness. We have been working with the ACIL (Atherton

Civic Interest League). I'm looking at having an event here for all the principals of the schools and homeowner association presidents, and have Sgt. Eric Grimm here to talk.

There's a new principal at M-A. Years ago it was set up so that we could tune our radios to the M-A radio station to learn what roads are closed, what's going on here, and what we are doing.

As years go by, we lose that continuity. We need to go back, tidy up some of those things that were in place, and put up a system that allows for (continuity) as people change.

The final thing for me is Holbrook-Palmer Park. I want to get the tax measure passed for county parks. We critically need a park to build that community.

I'd like to see us bring back the staff appreciation dinner. We stopped that about four years ago. We should have an event where we recognize all the people who volunteer for the committees and commissions, and even the fundraising that goes on for the Dames and the ACIL. It wouldn't cost much, especially if you think of the amount of hours these people contribute.

When I'm at an event, I always have my ear bent for 10 or 15 minutes, whether it's about a construction issue or the flier about the (barking) dogs. Our staff does go out of its way to handle these quality-of-life issues, and so does the council.

**Q: If the council goes forward with a plan to hire some sort of code-enforcement officer, that is meant to handle these quality-of-life issues, isn't it?**

**A:** A third of the town is out of compliance, maybe more, on the codes.

**Q: With rocks in the road-side right-of-way?**

light, and a radio, said ACIL president Richard Moore.

"What we love about our town will most likely work against us in the case of emergency," says Mr. Moore. "Many of us don't know our neighbors, may live behind gated walls, and rely on technology for everyday activities."

The ACIL is collaborating with the Atherton Disaster Preparedness Committee and the town of Atherton with the goal of helping every Atherton family become self-sufficient for the first two to three days following a major disaster.

Holbrook-Palmer Park is located at 150 Watkins Ave. in Atherton.



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

Atherton Mayor Charles Marsala shows a home emergency kit to help residents cope with a disaster.

**A:** Rocks, bushes, a boat in the front yard. There are a lot of things that are in the codes.

One concern that I have ... we had the code where if you wanted to have a fundraiser at your house, you needed to get a permit 60 days in advance.

That was on the books for about five or six years, after Al Gore had come to town several times, and it had caused chaos. So it was on the books, and no one had applied for those permits. Maybe three people in six years, and I know there were a lot more events that went on in Atherton for political fundraising or charity fundraising.

The other thing about the

code-enforcement officer is, I'm very concerned about pension costs, so I want to see us do that without hiring an additional staff member.

I'm hearing approximately 10 years ago, the council backed off on some of these codes. Our staff has the interpretation that the council did (back off), so we got to where we are now.

**Q: So overall, do you think the town needs to spend more time on code enforcement?**

**A:** Yes, but before we do, we need to review the codes again and make sure they are practical. We might find, for

example, that we'd have to cut so much vegetation out of Lindenwood (right-of-ways) to get it into compliance that we would ruin the character of Lindenwood, and we don't want to do that.

So we also need to take a step back, just like we did with the special events ordinance, and say, "Does this make sense for us as a town in 2006?"

We want to work out something that is a solution that doesn't cause more problems.

That's what I think happened with the (special events permit) ordinance, because Al Gore came to town one too many times, and somebody said, "Let's put this in place." ■

## Program teaches disaster prep

Is your family prepared for an emergency, or disastrously unprepared?

Helping Atherton residents get themselves and their neighborhoods ready for the next big quake or other disaster is the theme of the annual Atherton Civic Interest League's meeting, set for 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday, May 18, in the Jennings Pavilion at Holbrook-Palmer Park.

At the meeting, a series of expert speakers are slated to talk about emergency training and planning strategies. Atherton families who attend will receive a free family survival kit worth \$80 that includes food, water, blankets, a first-aid kit, a flash-



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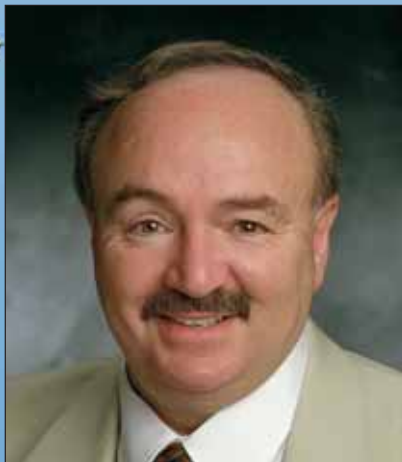
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# How's the water?

Two years after a new disinfectant was added to the water supply, some residents are still demanding more studies.

That may happen, thanks to Assemblyman Ira Ruskin.

By **RENEE BATTI** ■ Almanac News Editor

**D**enise Johnson-Kula of Menlo Park wasn't in the best of health on February 2, 2004. Yet, she had reason to be optimistic: Her multiple sclerosis had been "clinically stable" for several years, and a skin condition was being "well controlled" by ointments, her doctors said.

But on February 3 of that year, she says, she almost died — and it was the water streaming from her shower head that nearly killed her.

Within minutes of turning on the water, Ms. Johnson-Kula was stricken with symptoms mimicking a severe asthma attack, although she didn't have asthma. Unable to breathe and on the verge of passing out, she struggled to exit the shower and bathroom without falling to the floor.

Afterward, breathing was an effort, and for the next three days she had to sleep sitting up, she recalls.

What was behind this sudden assault on her respiratory system? The cause remained a mystery to her and her doctors until she discovered that on February 2, the day before her frightening ordeal, a new disinfectant was added to the water supply.

Known as chloramine, the additive is a combination of chlorine and ammonia, and is being used by more and more of the nation's cities as a substitute for straight chlorine, which was being used locally before 2004.

Chloramine is now in the water of all customers

receiving water from the Hetch Hetchy system, administered by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, or SFPUC. That includes all local residences and businesses, save for those on well water systems.

## Experts say it's safe

The change is a good thing, say SFPUC officials and public health experts throughout the state. "There's a body of evidence that goes back decades that chloramine is safe in water," says SFPUC spokesman Tony Winnicker.

*The water provider should 'sit up and take notice of this and to take this seriously. ... This is an important human health topic and we need to get to the bottom of it.'*

KELLY FERGUSON  
MENLO PARK CITY COUNCILWOMAN

The SFPUC relied on the advice and recommendations of public health agencies to determine that "chloramine disinfectant is the safest — and it keeps water safe for a longer period of time," he says.

And, he and others note, there is no hard "cause and effect" evidence that symptoms reported by Ms. Johnson-Kula and other local residents are a result

of chloramine.

But since learning about the addition of chloramine to the water, doing countless hours of research, and hearing from hundreds of others who have suffered a range of symptoms since being exposed to chloraminated water, Ms. Johnson-Kula is adamant in her belief that switching to chloramine was a serious misstep by the water provider.

She maintains that necessary studies haven't been done to prove that chloraminated water is safe for humans, and that "we are the guinea pigs." Inconclusive cancer studies have been abandoned, and no studies have focused on skin and respiratory effects of the additive, says Ms. Johnson-Kula, who has a background in biochemistry.

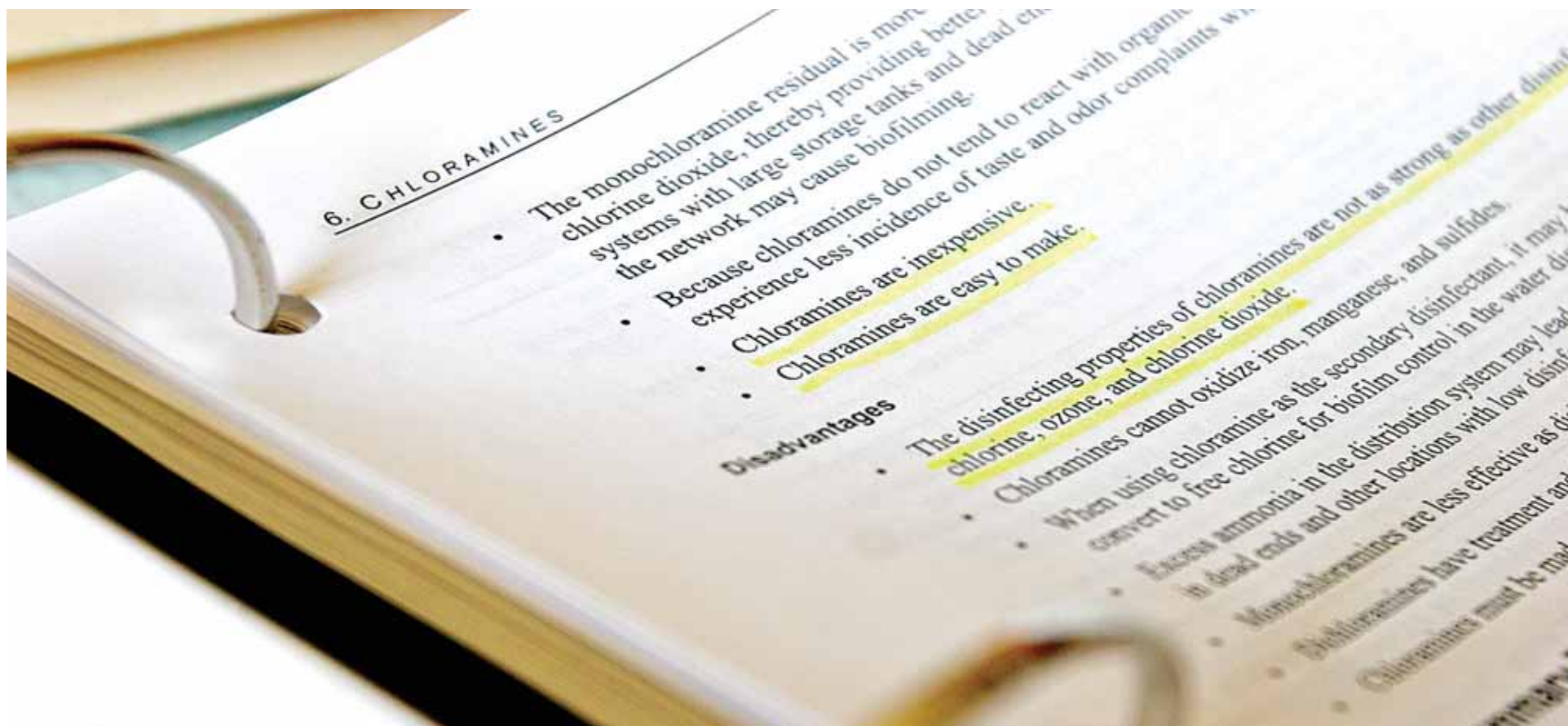
Two of her doctors at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation have written letters linking her problems to the additive.

In his letter, Dr. Robert Bocian in the department of allergy urged water officials to "make every effort to accommodate [Ms. Johnson-Kula] with an effective means of removing the chloramine from the water supplied to her dwelling. Doing so is hereby stated as a medical necessity for this patient."

Removing chloramine from water is a formidable task, though — and expensive. And because Ms. Johnson-Kula lives in an apartment, it is also impractical.

To challenge the SFPUC's decision to chloramine water, Ms. Johnson-Kula founded Citizens Concerned About Chloramine, or CCAC. Members advocate a halt to the additive's use until more research is done.

Their efforts attracted the attention of Assemblyman





The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

**Denise Johnson-Kula** displays a poster she carts along to community meetings held by her group, Citizens Concerned About Chloramine.

Ira Ruskin, D-Redwood City. Mr. Ruskin, chair of the Assembly's Environmental Safety Committee, introduced a bill in February that would lead to more research on chemical disinfectants added to the state's water supply.

#### Why the switch?

The SFPUC switched from chlorine to chloramine to meet the federal Environmental Protection Agency's mandate to reduce trihalomethanes (THMs) in the water supply; THMs are a byproduct of chlorine, and considered a possible carcinogen.

"Since we introduced chloramines, we've cut [THMs] by more than half," says Mr. Winnicker of the SFPUC.

He notes that the agency finds the use of chloramine as a disinfectant to be not only successful, but cost effective.

According to the SFPUC Web site, "All drinking water suppliers using surface water are required by (the EPA) to use disinfectants to eliminate micro-



**Assemblyman Ira Ruskin** wants the state to explore water disinfectant options.

organisms in drinking water supplies."

Mr. Winnicker says the SFPUC "consistently meets or exceeds standards" for water quality.

Prior to putting the additive in the water, the agency conducted numerous public meetings and waged an intensive public information campaign to notify customers. That included literature in pet stores to alert people with fish that they had to filter aquarium water in a different way.

It also included sending out notices in water bills. Ms. Johnson-Kula and many others who live in apartments didn't receive those notices because their landlords receive the water bills and, in many cases, didn't pass

along the information.

#### Citizens' group

In June 2004, Ms. Johnson-Kula convened the

*Continued on next page*



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

**Some area residents** have reported severe intestinal problems after drinking water treated with chloramine.

## Alphabet soup

**SFPUC:** The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, which manages water from the Hetch Hetchy system, delivering it to San Francisco and three Bay Area counties.

**BAWSCA:** Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, which represents 26 cities and water districts receiving water from the SFPUC.

**CCAC:** Citizens Concerned About Chloramine, leading the grassroots effort to remove chloramine from the water supply until more research is done to determine its short- and long-term health effects. Denise Johnson-Kula of Menlo Park is president.

# How's the water?

Continued from previous page

first CCAC meeting. In the nearly two years since, the group has documented more than 200 cases that Ms. Johnson-Kula says show “cause and effect” cases of serious reactions to chloraminated water, including people suffering from intestinal, respiratory and skin problems.

Many of these people now drink and cook with bottled water only, and some can't use their tap water for bathing and brushing their teeth in the way they could before. That includes Ms. Johnson-Kula, who now has to limit her showers to one a week, when she visits her mother in Morgan Hill. The water there is chloramine-free.

Members have also given community presentations, and attended meetings of public boards to voice their concerns.

The group's first victory was last fall, when the North Coast County Water District in Pacifica responded to a CCAC presentation by sending letters to the SFPUC and the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency pushing for more studies on the health effects of chloramine.

The board of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, or BAWSCA, is composed of representatives from all 26 cities or water districts receiving water from the Hetch Hetchy system. After receiving the Pacifica water agency's letter, BAWSCA's general manager Art Jensen wrote to several key public health agencies, asking about past, future and ongoing studies on the epidemiological, dermatological and respiratory effects on humans of chloraminated water.

The responses, he says, were not satisfactory and were, in some cases, “spurious.” After contacting several agencies by phone later, he concluded that the agencies were unable to cite studies he asked about.

Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson, who represents Menlo Park on the BAWSCA board, says that as a result of the health agencies' inability to produce the studies, she has come to view the CCAC's position in a different light.

“They're looking more and more credible,” she says. On the BAWSCA board since June 2005, she says board members “went from ... thinking that these (CCAC) speakers were crackpots to gradually thinking, you know, they have a point here.”

Now, she says, the board wants the SFPUC “to sit up and take notice of this and to take this seriously. ... This is an important human health topic and we need to get to the bottom of it.”

## The Ruskin bill

The BAWSCA board is also in full support of Assemblyman's Ruskin's bill, AB 2402, which has advanced to the Assembly's fiscal committee. The outcome of that committee's deliberations is expected to be known by the end of May, says Carroll Mortensen, chief consultant for the Environmental Safety Committee.

The bill authorizes studies to “identify potentially dangerous drinking water disinfection byproducts and their persistence in the environment,” and to identify and develop alternatives to chemical disinfectants.

It also would make data and analysis resulting from the studies available on the Internet “to create a one-stop shop for people to find pros and cons of all kinds of chemical disinfections,” Ms. Mortensen explains.

The studies, she notes would be costly. But even if the bill doesn't clear the fiscal committee, “The issue is still of great [importance] to Mr. Ruskin,” she adds. “Even if something bad happens to the bill, it doesn't mean he isn't going to continue studying the issue.”

Mr. Winnicker of the SFPUC says his agency

***‘Since we introduced chloramines, we've cut (a suspected carcinogen) by more than half.’***

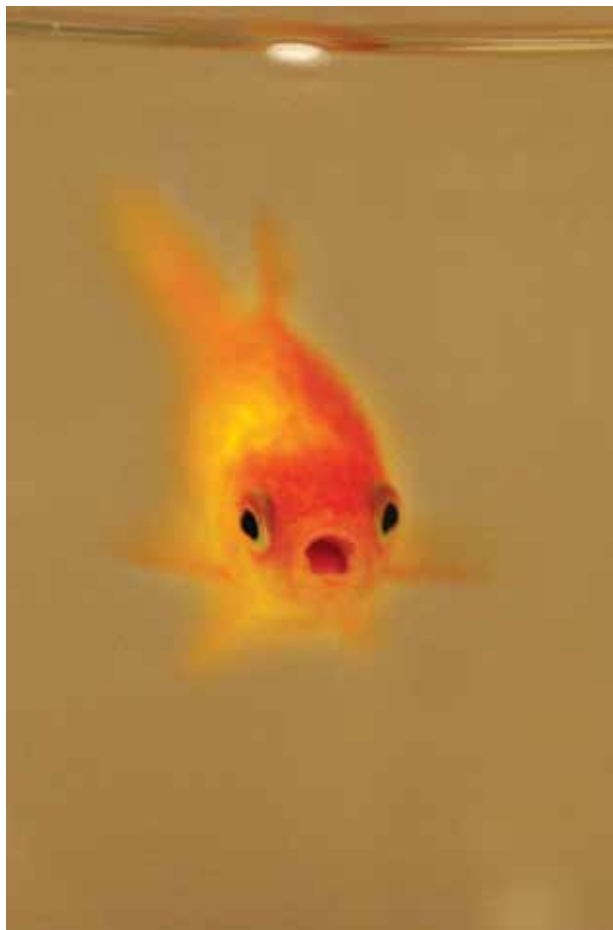
TONY WINNICKER, SFPUC SPOKESMAN



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

**The palms of** Denise Johnson-Kula's hands have recovered since she stopped using chloraminated water. She says she suffered from dry, bleeding hands after chloramine was first introduced into the water supply.

Continued on next page



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

**Some people have reported** adverse reactions from showering in chloraminated water. The chemical is deadly to fish and must be removed from aquarium water. And Ms. Johnson-Kula says her now-healthy maiden hair fern was ailing before she started using bottled water for it.

Continued from previous page

"absolutely supports the bill. We're always interested in the most recent and thorough information about water quality."

### Symptoms

Meanwhile, public officials urge people who think they are having reactions to chloramine to see their doctors and, if the doctor links the symptoms to the additive, send a report to the appropriate public health officials.

That list of people would include the 200-plus who have contacted CCAC to report their symptoms, such as Betty West of Portola Valley. A resident of The Sequoias senior community, Ms. West had a severe skin reaction after using a Jacuzzi around the time chloramine was added to the water.

Her doctor could find no apparent cause, and she's convinced that the welts and other skin conditions she developed in those days are the direct result of chloramine.

Now, she collects water in pails on her deck to wash her hair, and she uses bottled water for drinking and bathing. She's also given up eating rice and cereal cooked with chloraminated water and served in The Sequoias' dining hall.

She says she heads to her family home in San Jose more weekends than she otherwise would just to enjoy the chloramine-free water.

The list also includes Ken Russo, a tradesman from South San Francisco who says chloraminated water caused both respiratory and skin problems.

His is a grimy business, he says, and in the past he enjoyed his long hot showers to wash away the dirt and sweat. Now, "I've reduced my showers, and don't suffer as much from skin rashes and breathing problems." ■

## Water additive causing rise in plumbing problems

Tradesman Ken Russo, who says he suffers respiratory and skin problems resulting from chloramine in the water, points to another "cause and effect" of the chemical additive: a dramatic increase in plumbing problems.

Callers desperate for help with leaks, broken pipes and busted water heaters keep his phone ringing all hours of the day, he says.

Although he prefers to work on remodeling projects, "Lately, all I've been doing is a lot of plumbing."

Mr. Russo attends Citizens Concerned About Chloramine community presentations equipped with a 20-gallon water heater he uses to show the corrosive effects of chloramine.

The SFPUC acknowledges on its Web site that "the lead corrosion concern associated with chloramine is something new and unexpected both by the regulators and the industry." And chloraminated waters "are more aggressive" than chlorine in reacting with rubbers and their derivatives.

Mr. Russo says rubber fittings and polyurethane fixtures lose their elasticity and are "more prone to cracking" because of chloramine.

"Parts are corroding and failing at an accelerated rate," he says.

The SFPUC notes on its Web site that chloramine-resistant toilet flapper valves and washers can be purchased at hardware and plumbing supply stores. ■

—By Renee Batti

*'Lately, all I've been doing is a lot of plumbing.'*

TRADESMAN KEN RUSSO,  
ON THE EFFECTS OF CHLORAMINE  
ON HIS WORK LOAD



Tradesman Ken Russo hauls a water heater to CCAC presentations to show the corrosive effects of chloramine on plumbing parts.



## THE INFO'S ARE COMING

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# Stanford sports legend dies at 93

## DUTCH FEHRING

*continued from page 7*

by the Chicago White Sox after final exams in the spring of his senior year in 1934. His career in major league baseball consisted of just two and a half innings during a game played at Yankee Stadium on June 25, 1934, just two weeks after he joined the club. Entering as a substitute catcher in the seventh inning, he came up with a truly memorable moment,

tagging out famed New York Yankee Lou Gehrig at the plate as "the Iron Horse" unwisely attempted an inside-the-park home run.

As he applied the tag, he made a small but important mark in the baseball record book. When a batter is thrown out at the plate trying for a home run, he is still given credit for a triple. Gehrig's three-bagger meant that he had hit for the cycle that day, the first

and only time Gehring would accomplish that feat in his storied career.

Forsaking pro ball in favor of coaching, Mr. Fehring returned to West Lafayette, Indiana, where Purdue is based. He served as the Purdue baseball coach for seven years (1936-42) and worked as an assistant football coach at the same time.

During World War II, he entered the U.S. Navy, serving his country from 1943 to 1946 and coaching the U.S. Navy's Iowa Pre-Flight team among others. He was an admiral's staff officer in the 14th Naval District, eventually receiving an honorable discharge with the rank of senior grade lieutenant.

After the war, he coached the offensive line at the University of Oklahoma under Bud Wilkinson for two years and at UCLA for one year in 1948, when he famously recommended that the Bruin athletic director hire his old college buddy John Wooden for the head basketball coaching position. Wooden was offered the job and the rest is college basketball history.

The next year, in 1949, Mr. Fehring was brought up to Palo Alto by Stanford athletic director and head baseball coach Everett Dean. Mr. Dean, a native of Salem, Indiana, who had previously served as both baseball and basketball coach at Indiana University, hired Mr. Fehring as an assistant baseball coach. True to his multi-sport

roots, Mr. Fehring would do double duty as chief scout and key assistant to Stanford's head football coach at the time, former Notre Dame All-American Marchie Schwartz.

Mr. Fehring would eventually succeed Mr. Dean as head baseball coach in 1956, a position he would hold until 1967. Aided by his longtime assistant coach and friend William G. "Billy" Alhouse, he is credited with putting the Cardinal on the path to becoming a national baseball power, leading Stanford to 11 winning seasons during his 12-year tenure as head baseball coach.

He guided Stanford to the College World Series in 1967, setting school records for most wins in a season (36) and for highest season winning percentage (.849, 36-6-1). By the time he retired from coaching in 1967 (after guiding the 1967 squad to a third-place finish at the College World Series), Mr. Fehring had amassed 290 wins and was the winningest baseball coach in Stanford history.

His outstanding 1967 team, led by captain Dick Swan, Frank Duffy, Mike Schomaker, pitchers "Sandy" Vance, Don Rose, and Rod Poteete, and First Team All-American first baseman Mark Marquess (Stanford's head coach of the past three decades) finished the regular season ranked No. 1 in the country and lost a 4-3, 14-inning heartbreaker to Arizona State on a "freak" hit in the championship semi-final game of the College World Series.

The highly respected Stanford skipper was named NCAA,

## ■ SERVICE

A service will be held at Stanford's Memorial Church at 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 23. Immediately following the service, a reception will be held at Dallmar Court in The Arrilaga Family Sports Center.

Pacific 8, and District 8 Coach of the Year and received the "Lefty Gomez Silver Star Award" for contributions to amateur baseball in the United States.

Mr. Fehring holds the unique distinction of being the only person in Stanford history to coach a team in both the Rose Bowl and the College World Series.

His Stanford glory was not limited to the school's famed baseball field, Sunken Diamond. As an assistant football coach for 17 years from 1949 to 1966, he was on hand for some of the most memorable moments at the old Stanford Stadium as well. After an exciting 27-20 victory by undefeated Stanford over undefeated and favored USC in 1951, a contest considered by Stanford fans at the time to be "The Game of the Century," he and head coach Charles A. "Chuck" Taylor were carried off the field on the shoulders of their jubilant Stanford players, celebrating Stanford's right to the Rose Bowl, a once-in-a-lifetime moment described by one local sportswriter "as the alpha and the omega of grid thrills!"

He retired from coaching baseball after the 1967 season to move up to a position as Stanford's Director of Intramurals and Club Sports, eventually retiring from Stanford in 1977. He then became known to hundreds of Stanford fans through his work organizing sports travel tours with close friend and business partner Paul Cardoza.

One of the most dedicated and active advocates for amateur baseball, Mr. Fehring was a past president of the World Amateur Baseball Federation, the United States Baseball Federation, and the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA). A 49-year member of the ABCA, he is a member of the ABCA Hall of Fame and served on the organization's Veterans Committee for many years. The U.S. Baseball Federation annually awards "The W.P. 'Dutch' Fehring Award of Merit for outstanding service to baseball."

Mr. Fehring was also chairman of the U.S. Olympic Games Baseball Committee, helping select and coach the 1964 Tokyo Olympic exhibition

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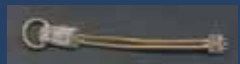
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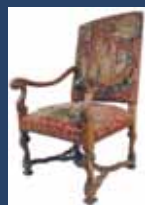
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*Continued on next page*

Continued from previous page

team, and was instrumental in helping field American teams at the 1967 Pan-American Games and at many other international events.

He also served on the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee. Locally, he served as Little League commissioner in Menlo Park, and on the board of the Little League of Palo Alto.

He was a member of the Rotary International.

The family prefers donations be made to Partners in Caring, Stanford Hospital & Clinics, 300 Pasteur Drive, Suite H0115, Stanford, CA 94305, The Dutch and Edna Fehring Family Scholarship, Attention: Athletic Development, Arrilaga Family Sports Center, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, 94305, and to the Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

## Pumas team seeks players

The Alpine Menlo Pumas under-13 girls soccer team is looking to add one or two impact players for fall. Girls born after August 1, 1992, are invited to tryouts at Rossotti's Field in Portola Valley during the team's regular Tuesday or Thursday practice sessions this spring.

Last fall, the Pumas were the Clovis Challenge Cup champions. The coaches are Cris Gilmore, former assistant women's coach and interim head coach at San Jose State University, and Christina Bell Gilmore, who spent three seasons with the CyberRays and led Sonoma State to the NCAA Division II final four her sophomore season.

For information, contact Nancy Ditz at 888-4833 or olympian88@earthlink.net. The Web site is pumasoccer.org.

### BRIEFS

#### Domenic Di Ricco ties school record

Cornell freshman outfielder Domenic Di Ricco of Portola Valley tied a school record with five hits in a recent 23-10 win over Penn. He reached base safely six times, going 5-for-6 with a double, three RBIs and three runs scored.

In four starts during the week, Di Ricco hit .529 (9-for-17), including two doubles, five RBIs and six runs scored. He finished the week with three straight multi-hit games and a slugging percentage of .647.

### INFO MENLO

coming september 13

## Local AYSO Region 109 invites players to register

The registration process is starting for new and returning soccer players in AYSO Region 109, serving the Menlo Park and Atherton areas.

All players born between August 1, 1987, and January 31, 2002, are invited to register for the 2006 season, which starts in September and runs through the fall.

The registration process begins online at mpsoccer.org. Update information (new players will need to enter their information), sign up for a volunteer job, print out the forms, and come to registration.

Parents who volunteered as coaches or referees in 2005 and plan to coach or officiate in 2006 can mail in their forms and checks after preregistering. No need to show up at

walk-in registration.

#### Walk-in registration

After preregistering online, parents must come to walk-in registration to hand in forms and pay fees of \$110 (\$75 for kinderleague players born between August 1, 2000, and January 31, 2002).

The parents of new players must bring proof of age, such as a passport or birth certificate, to registration.

The registration will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at Hillview Middle School library (Santa Cruz and Elder avenues in Menlo Park). Bring registration forms, fees (checks only), and proof of age for all new players.

For more information, go to mpsoccer.org.

## TOWN OF WOODSIDE INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR COMMITTEES

### BICYCLE COMMITTEE

Meets second Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m.; appointment for a one-year term.

The Committee advises and recommends to the Town Council on the policies for planning, developing, maintaining, and usage of Town's bikeways system and provides an open forum for bicycle issues.

### CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Meets fourth Monday of each month, 5:30 p.m.; appointment for a two-year term.

The Committee advises and assists the Town Council, Planning Commission, and staff on conservation, open space, noise, public services and facilities as pertaining to the elements of the Town's General Plan.

### OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m.; appointment for a one-year term.

The Committee advises and assists the Council and staff in implementing the policies and goals of the Open Space and Conservation Elements of the General Plan, specifically with respect to acquisition and maintenance of conservation easements and open space preservation.

### RECREATION COMMITTEE

Meets first Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.; appointments for three-year term and two-year terms.

The Committee guides the activities of the community recreation programs.

*Committees are volunteer positions and serve in an advisory capacity to the Town Council.*

*Interested residents may request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, on the web site at [www.woodsidetown.org](http://www.woodsidetown.org), or telephone (650) 851-6790. Deadline for applications is Friday, June 2, 2006, 5:00 p.m.*

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*Bertrand M. Palenaude, Ph.D.*

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# Lively voice for medicine

Health lecturer Dr. Margaret Deanesly will receive Lifetime of Achievement Award from Avenidas

By Marion Softky

Almanac Staff Writer

As laughter ripples across the spring flowers at Allied Arts, who would ever think the subject could be "Aging: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly?"

But laughter is what happens when Dr. Margaret Deanesly of Menlo Park gives one of her "Mornings with Margaret" lectures to 94 people interested in coming to terms with getting old.

"In the last analysis, your body is a whole bunch of tubes which allow you to absorb food and get rid of waste," Dr. Deanesly says cheerily. "Like a garden hose."

And like a garden hose, these tubes can stiffen, twist, tear and kink as they get older, Dr. Deanesly continues, to more laughter.

As she guides her enthusiastic audience through a description of their aging bodies, top-down "from scalp to toe," she includes suggestions to improve the quality and duration of living. In catchy phrases, she promotes exercise: "I'm very boring about exercise"; girth control: "Portion control, portion control, portion control"; and positive thinking: "It just happens to be true."

In lectures on the Peninsula and around the world, Dr. Deanesly tries to give people the medical information to under-

stand and champion their own health. "Be your own doctor first. You know your own body," she says. "The doctor wants to know about change. Acute change is a red flag; he wants to know right away."

Dr. Deanesly's inspirational lectures, plus 30 years as a physician at the Palo Alto Medical Clinic, have earned her one of the Lifetimes of Achievement Awards, to be given by Avenidas, the Palo Alto senior center, at a garden

at Kaiser in Redwood City. Now he's retired; he plays trombone and raises orchids.

Dr. Deanesly was just 31 when the roles of doctor and patient collided in her life. She experienced breast cancer "from both sides of the desk."

Ten days after the couple bought their home in Menlo Park in 1968, Dr. Ziegler was drafted, and they moved to North Carolina.

There "Mrs. Ziegler" went to her doctor to talk about getting pregnant. She mentioned a lump in her breast, and got the classic response: "There, there, dear. You're too young," she recalls.

So she went across the street to the hospital where she was a physician. As Mrs. Ziegler, she applied for a mammogram, which Dr. Deanesly authorized. "I ordered my own mammogram," she chuckles.

That night the phone rang; the next morning, Dr. Deanesly lost her breast. (She lost the second in 2001.)

"It was my own knowledge as a physician that saved my life," Dr. Deanesly reflects. "That's when I started teaching women about breast disease."

## Missionary zeal

That experience also shaped the rest of Dr. Deanesly's life. Back in Menlo Park, she followed three interlocking paths: as an

*'The doctor wants to know about change. Acute change is a red flag; he wants to know right away.'*

DR. MARGARET DEANESLY

reception on Sunday May 21.

Dr. Deanesly's award recognizes "a lifetime of providing medical treatment and empowering and inspiring the public to be champions of their own health and well-being."

## Breast cancer at 31

Growing up, Margaret Deanesly always wanted to be a doctor. She studied and earned her medical degree at McGill University in Montreal.

She continued to a residency in Chicago, where she met and married her boss, Dr. Paul Ziegler, who later became a pediatrician



File photo by Carol Ivie

**Dr. Margaret Deanesly** of Menlo Park will be honored by Avenidas for interpreting practical medicine to the public in informal, fact-filled, often funny, lectures.

active physician until she retired in 1995; as a motivational speaker on personal health; and as a mother of two adopted sons.

While she was practicing at the Palo Alto Medical Clinic, Dr. Deanesly served as medical director at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center from 1983 until 1995.

The Wellness Program that she developed at SLAC was declared "outstanding" by the federal "Tiger Team" that evaluated programs at the federal laboratory.

The wellness program included exercise, stress management, CPR and First Aid classes, weight control, and a variety of lectures and workshops. "We're like teachers. We're committed to teaching medicine to the public," Dr. Deanesly told the Almanac in a 1994 interview.

Her informal, down-to-earth style has endeared Dr. Deanesly to audiences around the world. She started speaking to cancer patients and mid-career nurses. Pretty soon she was speaking to local groups and on television, where she was a guest twice on Hugh Downs' "Over Easy."

She gave medical advice on "A.M. San Francisco" programs between 1979 and 1981. "Television is fickle," she comments.

Many of the guests at her Allied

Arts talk very likely first encountered Dr. Deanesly years earlier when she gave "Mornings with Margaret" talks in Menlo Park and Atherton. Prodded by Atherton neighbor Gerry Nelson, she gave a three-lecture series for mid-life women. "Women in the autumn of their life deserve Indian summer, not a winter of discontent," she told her audiences.

As her popularity grew, so did her range of subjects. Popular titles included "Breast Lumps and Hormone Replacement Scare Me"; "Forty-Niner Syndrome: The Emotional Hurdles of Mid-

See **DR. DEANESLY**, page 27

## ■ INFORMATION

■ Avenidas will honor seven Peninsula residents for "Lifetimes of Achievement" at a reception Sunday, May 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the home of Judy and George Marcus, 27900 Black Mountain Road in Los Altos Hills. Tickets at \$65 each may be ordered by calling Avenidas at 289-5435, or online at Avenidas.org.

■ Anyone interested in Alanon for Parents can come to meetings at 7 p.m. Wednesday evenings at Holy Trinity Church, 330 Ravenswood Ave. in Menlo Park. For information, call Sharon at 366-6156.

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# St. Joseph's School celebrates 100 years

St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart will celebrate a century of learning on Saturday, May 20, during a series of events for students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends on its campus in Atherton.

The first tuition-free elementary school for children in the village of Menlo Park opened its doors on October 20, 1906 with 74 boys.

The opening had been delayed because the "Great Quake" caused serious structural damage to the Sacred Heart Main Building. Its students and nuns had to drag their mattresses to St. Joseph's to live and continue their school year.

Emilie Bain Donohoe, an early resident of Menlo Park (now Atherton), was the new school's benefactress. An alumna of Sacred Heart in St. Louis with a strong belief in the religious order's educational mission, Mrs. Donohoe offered to fund the school if the nuns at Sacred Heart School Menlo would run it.

She gave the religious order

just over five acres of land for construction of the school, named after her late husband, Joseph A. Donohoe.

"We have come a long way in 100 years, and many of our unique traditions remain alive and well on campus," said Wendi Mangiantini, alumni relations coordinator and Sacred Heart Prep graduate. "We are still an intimate community with strong family times."

Among the school traditions are Prize Day, all-school liturgies, a strong athletic department, and arts and music programs.

The school's centennial celebration begins with a party for children at 11 a.m. Saturday on the football field, the showing of a 100 year historical movie in Foley Theater at noon, a picnic on Schimpf Field, and campus tours.

There will be class reunions by the decades at 1 p.m. in various classrooms, and school memories will be taped. Student concerts will be given in Robinson Courtyard at 2:30 p.m.



Archives/Sacred Heart Schools

Ready to graduate from St. Joseph's School were these boys in the eighth-grade class of 1915.

A highlight of the afternoon will be the centennial ceremony at 3:30 p.m. and the opening of the time capsule.

The event will close after a

celebratory Mass, conducted by homilist the Rev. William Muller, S.J., a graduate of St. Joseph's class of 1958. The Mass begins at 4:15 p.m. in Foley Theater.

Since 1906, St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart has grown to an enrollment of 520 children in classes from preschool through eighth grade.

## Hillview offers tips on parenting teens

"3 Steps to Parenting Teens," a series of three evening programs open to all parents, comes to Menlo Park's Hillview Middle School, starting on Tuesday, May 23.

The Hillview PTO and the middle school are sponsoring the series, presented by good-parents inc. of Santa Clara, to help parents strengthen relationships with their teens.

Parents of fifth-graders who will enter Hillview in August are invited to participate.

The programs will be held in the Hillview school library, 1100 Elder Ave., from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, May 23 and 30, and on Monday, June 5.

The "3 Steps" series aims to help parents better understand their teens, build trust, and learn effective communication

skills to help teens through difficult decisions.

Leading the discussions will be educator Joe Connolly, who in 2002 co-founded godparents inc., which conducts workshops and classes to help parents build strong relationships with their children.

For more information, contact Debbie Devoto, sixth- and eighth-grade counselor at Hillview, at 326-4341.

### DR. DEANESLY

continued from page 26

Life"; and "Managing Mother without Losing Your Mind."

From 1985 to 1998, Dr. Deanesly traveled the world speaking for YPO, the Young Presidents' Organization, a high-powered international network of young executives from some 75 countries. She lectured to eager audiences in India, Australia and Singapore. She also expanded her repertoire to include health subjects for men.

Perhaps the greatest testament to her skills came in Dubai, on the coast of Arabia. There, Dr. Deanesly, an American woman, addressed a mixed audience of about 40 men and women, on the subject of men's problems titled "Risky Parts: Prostates and Hearts." Some of the

women wore western dress, Dr. Deanesly recalls, but others were veiled. "It was a kick," she says.

### Still active

Nearing 70, Dr. Deanesly is still a missionary. This month, she's attending a Stanford Healthy Living Retreat for Women at Fallen Leaf Lake. Her topic: "What Is Really Important in Women's Health?" She may repeat her program on "Aging: The Good, the Bad and the

Ugly," next fall for the Women's Recovery Association.

If that isn't enough, Dr. Deanesly launched a new project in January at Holy Trinity Church in Menlo Park. Alanon for Parents helps parents deal with alcoholic children. It meets every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. at the church, 330 Ravenswood Ave.

"I've been there," Dr. Deanesly says. "You have no idea how many people are dealing with alcoholic children." ■



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# Stanford aims for dual NCAA titles

Menlo Park's Whitlinger coaches men's team; James Pade of Woodside is key player.

The NCAA Tennis Championships for both men and women are coming to Stanford's Taube Tennis Center from May 18-29, marking the first time in intercollegiate tennis history that both the men's and women's championships will be held at the same venue.

Coaching Stanford's men's team is John Whitlinger of Menlo Park, and one of the key players is James Pade of Woodside.

Since 1973, no school in the country has dominated intercollegiate tennis like Stanford, which has claimed a national-best 17 men's titles and 14 women's championships, including the last two.

This season, Stanford's men's and women's team are once again among the best in the country.

The Cardinal women have sim-

ply dominated the rest of the country. Stanford is ranked No. 1 in the nation with a perfect 27-0 record and the overwhelming favorite to claim the NCAA Championship. The Cardinal has won its last 82 matches overall and its last 102 at the Taube Tennis Center.

Last week at the NCAA Regionals, Stanford beat Quinnipiac and Arizona to advance to the Round of 16. The Cardinal will open their championship run against TCU on Thursday, May 18, at 6 p.m.

## Coach Whitlinger

On the men's side, head coach John Whitlinger, a Menlo Park resident, said he is very pleased with his team's success so far in 2006.

"We have competed well and battled through injuries this season," he said.

Whitlinger, named the Pac-10 Coach of the Year, has led his

**John Whitlinger is head coach of Stanford's men's team.**

David Gonzales/  
Stanford Athletics



**James Pade** of Woodside has chalked up a 27-7 singles record and was recently named Second-Team All-Pac-10.

Photo by David Gonzales/Stanford Athletics



team to a 17-3 overall record and a 6-1 mark in the conference and a share of the league title.

A two-time All-American as a player at Stanford in 1974 and 1975, Whitlinger was an assistant coach at Stanford for 18 years under Dick Gould before taking over as head coach in 2005.

The Cardinal took care of Quinnipiac and Cal last weekend at the NCAA Regionals and will play fourth-seeded Duke on

Saturday, May 20, at 3 p.m. in the NCAA Round of 16.

## James Pade

One of the reasons for Stanford's success in 2006 is the return of junior James Pade, a Woodside resident and graduate of the Menlo School. Pade played for the Cardinal as a freshman and sophomore in 2003 and 2004, but took the year off in 2005 and did not play for Stanford.

Pade has come back in 2006

to earn a spot at the top of the Cardinal lineup and play a major role in Stanford's run toward the national championship. He has chalked up a 27-7 singles record and was recently named Second-Team All-Pac-10.

"It was great to take some time off last season," he said. "It was always my plan to come back to the team this year. Tennis is a long season and you have to make sure you're peaking at the right time — and I think we are." ■



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**St. Raymond** Cardinal champions, from left, standing: Coach Robert McNamara, Luke Quinton, Willie DeWitt, Chase Schaaf, Ryan DeGregorio and Coach Les DeWitt; and, in front, Eric White, Matthew McNamara and Patrick Bruni.

## Way to go, Cardinals!

By Katie Blankenberg

6th-grader, St. Raymond School

The St. Raymond sixth-grade Cardinals recently won the North-South Peninsula Parochial School League basketball championship. Playing against Our Lady of Angels in Burlingame, the



Cardinals won the title game by a score of 46-34 on March 15.

Under coaches Robert McNamara and Les DeWitt, the team won 17 of its 18 games. Its

only loss was to Nativity School in Menlo Park during the regular season. Nativity won by 2 points in sudden death double overtime. During the South Championship, the Cardinals beat Nativity by 1 point.

On the day of the championship game against Our Lady of Angels, the boys had great support from family friends, and the sixth-grade girls who showed up and cheered them on.

The game was neck and neck in the first half; in the third quarter the Cardinals pulled ahead by 10 points and held that lead.

Coach McNamara said each player brought unique talents to the game, making them an effective team.

"Although we had consistently high performers, all the players contributed to the team effort throughout the season," said Coach McNamara.

The team also won the St. Charles Christmas Tournament, the Los Gatos Hillbrook School Tournament, the PPSL Division Championship and the PPSL North South Championship. ■

Katie Blankenberg, 12, lives in Portola Valley.

# Voting starts at special centers — prior to election

By Marion Softky

Almanac Staff Writer

As the June 6 primary election approaches, there's a flurry of activity around the county. Ballots are arriving in mailboxes, there are drives to register voters prior to the May 22 deadline, and people have actually started voting — not just by mail — but at special voting centers.

Nine Universal Voting Centers have been set up throughout the county to meet state and federal requirements for voting machines to serve people with disabilities.

## ■ INFORMATION

■ People can vote at three Universal Voting Centers in the South County: Elections Office, 40 Tower Road, San Mateo; Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder Office, 555 County Center (corner of Bradford and Hamilton streets), Redwood City; and Civic Center, 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto.

■ For more information, call 1-888-SMC-VOTE, or go to the county's election Web site: [shapethefuture.org](http://shapethefuture.org).

■ Two other Web sites carry election information: the California Secretary of State, at [ss.ca.gov/elections](http://ss.ca.gov/elections); and the League of Women Voters, at [smartvoter.org](http://smartvoter.org).

While the centers were set up primarily for disabled people, others can vote there, too.

Voters can drop off absentee ballots at the centers, or vote in person using eSlate electronic voting devices designed for voters with disabilities.

The county has leased 10 of the machines that qualify for use by disabled people, not enough for every voting location on election day June 6. Therefore, the county set up the nine voting centers in advance of the election as a compromise.

"We have adopted a proactive, phased plan to meet the spirit, if not the letter, of the law, to provide accessible voting opportunities for voters in San Mateo County," said County Elections Officer Warren Slocum.

The county's Sample Ballot and voter information pamphlet is available by request on audiotape for the visually impaired. "We intend to make voting as accessible as possible," Mr. Slocum said. "All election materials are available in English, Spanish and Chinese."

San Mateo — and other California counties — have been scrambling to select, certify, buy and install new voting equipment to satisfy new federal and state rules — including that the equipment provides a paper record of each vote.

Since San Mateo County has not been able to meet all the deadlines to

get new systems in place by June 6, it will use its existing voting machines in polling places throughout the county on election day.

Meanwhile, new voting equipment that complies with all regulations should be ready in time for the November election, Mr. Slocum said. The Board of Supervisors May 9 approved an agreement with the state to receive a federal grant of up to \$4.5 million to "purchase and deploy voting systems."

## Young voters

The Board of Supervisors and the League of Women Voters of San Mateo County are also winding up their drive to enlist first-time voters in high school

classes around the county.

Some 30 league volunteers have contacted more than 100 teachers in 34 public and private high schools from Daly City to East Palo Alto.

"We encourage teachers to make registration a classroom project," said Carole Dorshkind of Redwood City, who chairs the student voter registration drive for the league.

In the South County, League volunteers have contacted

Woodside, Menlo-Atherton and Sequoia high schools, as well as private schools, such as Sacred Heart, Menlo, Eastside Prep and Mid-Peninsula high schools.

Students who turn 18 in time for the November election, but after the registration deadline, can still register, and the county will hold the registration until their birthday, Ms. Dorshkind said. "I know it's an ambitious goal, but we're hoping to register over 5,000 high school seniors," she said. ■

*'I know it's an ambitious goal, but we're hoping to register over 5,000 high school seniors,'*

CAROLE DORSHKIND,  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## Menlo Park woman running for Assembly

Virginia Chang Kiraly of Menlo Park, president of the Las Lomas Elementary School PTA, is the Republican candidate for the 21st district state Assembly seat now held by Democrat Ira Ruskin.

Ms. Kiraly will run opposed in the June 6 election and face Mr. Ruskin in November.

She said she plans to take political risks, such as pressing for reform of public pension benefits that "allows our hard-working civil servants to receive reasonable benefits commensurate with model benefits in the private sector."

One way to deal with the state's fiscal problems, she said, is to encourage partnerships between nonprofit agencies and government. She noted that the city of Palo Alto has done this in working



Virginia Chang Kiraly says she will push for reform of the public pension system.

with the Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo "to create a stronger children's organization for the Peninsula community."

A first generation Chinese-

American, she worked for 15 years in the financial industry. She is president of the Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo, a board member of Cultural Initiatives Silicon Valley, and a past board member of the Tech Museum of Innovation and the Asia-America MultiTechnology Association.

In the area of education, she said she favors reducing the number of categorical programs and creating block grants that give school districts the freedom to address their needs.

She calls for a "using our innovative spirit to produce technologies that lower our dependency on fossil fuel" and encourage cities and counties to plan for higher density residential and employment uses along transportation corridors.

Police Chief Robert Brennan.

A first offense is \$91 for anyone 16 or older; the fine is \$340 and one "point count" on the driver's record if the unbelted passenger is a child under 16. Second offenses are \$193 and \$871, respectively.

## Atherton police to crack down on scofflaws

Police in Atherton over the next couple of weeks will be keeping a particularly sharp lookout for and issuing tickets to drivers and passengers not wearing seatbelts.

The campaign runs through Sunday, June 4, said Atherton

About 2.7 million people in California travel unbelted, according to the 2005 California Seat Belt Use Survey. And the California Driver Handbook notes that half of all traffic deaths occur within 25 miles of home.

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## Library Man

Former Belle Haven student helps boost school's library collection

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Heriberto Madrigal didn't know there was any such thing as a public library until he was in seventh grade. The library at his school had been demolished, and the boy — the child of immigrants and a student at Belle Haven School — wasn't aware that the city operated a library across town.

He was told about it when he had to research a seventh-grade science paper, and decided he'd check it out. Once at the Menlo

Park Civic Center, he discovered a spacious building rich with more books than he had ever dreamed could be his — at least for three weeks at a time.

A naturally curious boy, he explored shelves lined with volumes not only on science but on art, geography and other topics that helped him learn about the world. He was hooked. "I decided the library would be a good place to work," he recalls.

Now 21, Mr. Madrigal — affectionately known as Pollo by family and friends — is a regu-

**Heriberto Madrigal**, center right, shows off some of the nonliterary wares available for sale at the recent Belle Haven School book fair. His assistant, seventh-grader Jacqueline Buenrostro, stands beside him.

The Almanac/Kainaz Amaria



lar presence at the Belle Haven branch city-school library that in 1999 opened at the school he attended as a child. There, he works part-time with a handful of other staff members determined to help broaden the horizons of kids whose opportunities are often limited by poverty, language challenges and other factors.

In March, he organized a Scholastics Books fair that, because of extra efforts on his part, raised more money and put more books in the classrooms and on library shelves than any such event before.

"The book fair was completely his this year," says Judy Fagerholm, head librarian at the Belle Haven branch. His efforts, she adds, led to hundreds of dollars more in sales than past years.

The nearly \$985 in total sales came close to tripling that of last year's \$365, Mr. Madrigal says.

Plus, by placing large water-cooler jars in the library and in

several supportive businesses in the community for people to drop money into, he raised an additional \$200 to buy books.

Mr. Madrigal and his helpers created an easy way for parents to donate toward purchase of books on teachers' wish lists. And kids who couldn't afford to buy books were told to let the library staff know which books they wanted to read; those books will be purchased for the library collection with proceeds from the fair, which was set up in the library for an entire week.

### Going the extra step

A young man of seemingly endless energy, Mr. Madrigal manages to squeeze much into his schedule on top of his library work. Until recently, he was working 20 to 35 hours a week at the Starbucks on Marsh Road, and taking 12 units of courses at Foothill College, where he studies biology.

He's cut his Starbucks schedule

back to 10 to 15 hours to make more time for his studies, and hopes to transfer to San Francisco State University in the near future.

A heavy workload is something he's been used to for quite some time. When he graduated from Belle Haven School, he applied for a job as a page at the Menlo Park Library, and worked there for two years while attending Menlo-Atherton High School.

An avid learner who says "it's better to share learning with other people once you've got it," he began tutoring younger students when he was still in the eighth-grade, and continued doing so as a freshman at M-A.

Ms. Fagerholm hired him as a permanent staff member at Belle Haven in 2002.

He's a perfect fit for the small, hard-working staff at the branch library, which operates with

See **HERIBERTO**, next page

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**Girl Scout Silver Award** recipients shown are, from left, Melissa Hall, Cailin Todd, Molly Murphy, Eileen Johnson, Laura Jung, Kaitlin Fronberg, Mikalie Lai, Monika Decker, Nicole Scherm, Rachel Verity, Evie Pless, Kathleen Stahler, Mary Kirk.

## Sixteen receive Girl Scout Silver Award

Sixteen members of Girl Scout Troop 2708 in Menlo Park were recently honored at a Silver Award ceremony and reception at Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park.

The girls are all ninth graders who live in Menlo Park, Atherton, and Woodside.

The Silver Award, the second highest in Girl Scouts, typically takes two to three years to complete and culminates in a 30-hour community service project designed and implemented by Girl Scouts working alone or in small teams.

The girls honored were:

Monika Decker, Kaitlin Fronberg, Melissa Hall, Eileen Johnson, Morgan Jones, Laura Jung, Mary Kirk, Mikalie Lai, Molly Murphy, Nora Ng-Quinn, Alexandra Peers, Evie Pless, Nicole Scherm, Kathleen Stahler, Cailin Todd and Rachel Verity.

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# New Zonta club holds charter luncheon

A new Silicon Valley club of the service organization Zonta International will hold a charter presentation luncheon on Saturday, May 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at MacArthur Park restaurant, 27 University Ave. in Palo Alto. The luncheon will be served at 12:15 p.m.

Zonta International is a worldwide service organization of executives in business and the professions working together to advance the status of women.

Zonta members volunteer their time, talents and money to local and international service

programs, as well as scholarship and award programs, to further women's education, leadership and youth development.

Juliette Tulang, governor of Zonta International District 9, is the honorary guest at the charter luncheon. Wendy Merrill is president of the Zonta Club of Silicon Valley.

Established in 1919, Zonta has 33,000 members in 1,250 clubs in 68 countries. The word "Zonta" is derived from a Sioux Indian word meaning "honest and trustworthy."

For more information, go to zonta.org.

# West Bay stages 'Rake's Progress'

"The Rake's Progress," Igor Stravinsky's take on the Faustian legend, opens Saturday, May 27, on the West Bay Opera stage for a two-weekend run.

Mary Chun is music director and conductor of the production, staged in the Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto.

Tenor Gerald Seminatore sings the role of the Rake — Tom Rakewell — who makes a bargain with the shadowy Mick Shadow, performed by baritone Kirk Eichelberger.

The role of the Rake's wronged sweetie, Anne Trulove, is performed by soprano Rhoslyn Jones.

The cast also includes mezzo-



**Kirk Eichelberger** as Nick Shadow in "The Rake's Progress."

## ■ INFORMATION

Performances are at 8 p.m. opening night and Friday and Saturday, June 2 and 3; and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 28 and June 4.

Tickets are \$46 to \$50 general; half price for youth and students with identification.

For tickets, call 424-9999;

e-mail [boxoffice@wbopera.org](mailto:boxoffice@wbopera.org); or order online at [wbopera.org](http://wbopera.org).

soprano Carla Lopez-Speziale as Baba the Turk, and mezzo-soprano Ariela Morgenstern as Mother Goose.

## HERIBERTO

*continued from previous page*

funding from the city and the Ravenswood School District.

"We love him," Ms. Fagerholm says. "He always goes the extra step for patrons, for the kids and for us."

Still a Belle Haven resident, Mr. Madrigal says kids will approach him when he's out and

about in the community, and greet him: "Hi, Library Man!"

Mr. Madrigal says his goal is to return to the Belle Haven School classroom as a science teacher. But he also will work toward a doctorate in forensic pathology.

Such high aims are not surprising to his colleagues. "He's going to be able to do whatever he makes up his mind to do," Ms. Fagerholm predicts. ■

# PV meets on Town Center project

The Town Council of Portola Valley is planning a public study session at 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 16, in the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road to discuss methods for managing and completing the construction project that includes the build-

ing a new Town Hall, library and community hall at the Town Center.

The traditional method for a project of this size involves a single general contractor that hires and manages subcontractors such as plumbers and electricians.

The "multiple prime" alternative to be discussed at the council meeting would have the town bid separate contracts for each of the various trades and have a construction manager take an early and active role in coordinating the project.

# New outreach program for day workers

## DAY WORKERS

*continued from page 5*

Fifth Avenue by El Camino Real. There are already several Chavez markets in Redwood City, including one at 3282 Middlefield Road, near Garfield School and Saint Anthony's Padua Dining Room.

## New approach

Staff workers from the Multicultural Institute will work with day workers on the street, where they gather. Besides helping the workers organize and connect with jobs, they will mentor them and refer them to social services, such as training, education and health care. They will also work with employers, local businesses and neighbors.

"We are interested in serving the marginalized community," said Father Rigoberto Calocarivas, commonly called "Father Rigo," who founded the institute in 1991.

The Multicultural Institute, which operates a day worker program in Berkeley, was selected from three applicants to run the county's program.

The institute will work with the county and local businesses to designate sites where workers can gather safely for pickup, without disturbing businesses, residents, shoppers and traffic.

Institute workers will also work

directly with employers, according to the county staff report. Regular employers will be encouraged to hire workers through program staff by phone or e-mail, without coming to the hiring site.

The institute has a "Life Skills" program that it will bring to the local day workers, Father Rigo explained in a presentation to the board. Workers will get personal mentoring and help with job training, earning a GED in Spanish, or learning English.

Father Rigo promised to help organize the workers to hold out for a decent wage, and to educate employers that these people

cannot be exploited. "No one is going to work for \$5 or \$8," he said. "It is no longer acceptable to not pay them."

Father Rigo was brimming with other ideas. He is arranging for weekly soccer games for the workers at Saint Anthony's, and wants to help their families as well. "We treat the family as a unit," he said.

Once he helps the men who hang out looking for drive-by day jobs, Father Rigo would like to help the women, who also do day work cleaning houses and tending children. "They're totally invisible," he said.

Bill Murphy, chair of the board for the Multicultural Institute, told the supervisors, "Father Rigo's great strength is his ability to bring people together."

## And some teeth

Two civil-rights attorneys challenged the new ordinances to ban solicitation in public roadways, and help property owners in preventing trespassing. They cited a recent court case in Redondo Beach that overturned a similar ordinance.

The ordinances will restrict peaceful behavior and further marginalize vulnerable population, charged Severa Keith of the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County. She also noted that the

ordinances apply to all unincorporated areas, including the coast. "It applies to the entire county," she said.

County Counsel Tom Casey said the laws are narrowly crafted and he believes they will hold up. The case in Redondo Beach prohibited workers from gathering on sidewalks; this one applies only to public roadways, he said.

The board stood by the ordinances. "It's really about rights and responsibilities," said Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson. "Our intent is to ensure that everyone is respectful. Our residents expect a safe and secure and clean environment."

For more information, call the Multicultural Institute at 510-847-8714, or go to [mionline.org](http://mionline.org). ■

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■ OBITUARIES

**Leonard Salle**

*Ladera resident, co-founder of Commonweal Institute*

A memorial service is set for Saturday afternoon, May 27, for Leonard Myron Salle of Ladera, who with his wife founded the progressive think tank, the Commonweal Institute, in Menlo Park in 2001. Mr. Salle died unexpectedly May 5 — 10 days shy of his 70th birthday — after undergoing coronary bypass surgery.



Leonard Salle

Born and raised in Detroit, Mr. Salle graduated from Wayne State University with a degree in civil engineering. He moved to San Mateo in 1960, and worked in management for engineering design and construction firms.

He was working in the Environmental Resources Agency of Santa Clara County when he retired in 2000. While employed by the county, he was also president of the Santa Clara County Engineers and Architects Association, and was the primary organizer of the County Employee Labor Alliance.

Mr. Salle was a fellow in the American Society of Civil Engineers and a charter member of the Association of Environmental Professionals in California.

After he retired, Mr. Salle and his wife, Dr. Katherine Forrest, established the Commonweal Institute in hopes of providing a counterpoint to the power-

ful and influential voices of well-funded conservative think tanks in the country, such as the Heritage Foundation and the American Enterprise Institute.

Mr. Salle served as the Commonweal Institute's president.

The ideals of the institute reflected those of Mr. Salle, according to family members. They include a commitment to future generations, environmental protection, a balance between business and the whole of society, separation of church and state, personal choice and privacy.

Family members say he will be fondly remembered for his sense of justice, ethics and responsibility toward his community, irreverent sense of humor, skill as a classical pianist, and devotion to family.

In addition to his wife, Katherine, Mr. Salle is survived by his sons, William F. Salle and Stephen K. Salle; stepsons Eric John Finseth and Ian Frederick Finseth; his brother and sister-in-law Donald and Adele Salle; and six grandchildren.

The May 27 memorial service will be from 2 to 6 p.m. in the Taube Center at Notre Dame de Namur University, 1500 Ralston Ave. in Belmont.

The family requests that donations be made to the Leonard M. Salle Memorial Education Fund at the Commonweal Institute, 325 Sharon Park Drive, Suite 332, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

**Kate Constantz**

*Interior designer and family woman*

A public memorial service for longtime Portola Valley and Ladera resident Kate Constantz is planned for 10 a.m. Saturday, May 20, at Our Lady of the Wayside Church at 930 Portola Road in Portola Valley.

Ms. Constantz, a registered nurse with skills in the visual

**Open studio**

The oil and watercolor works of Menlo Park artists Alice Weil, Beverly Balanis and Marcia Enns will be on display during the Silicon Valley Open Studios weekend, May 20-21, at 856 Partridge Ave. in Menlo Park. Open studio hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days; there is no admission charge, and the public is welcome. Shown is Ms. Weil's oil on canvas, "Golden Hill." All three artists are members of the Menlo Art League; Ms. Balanis is the league's president. For a listing of all artists participating in the open studios weekend, and examples of their work, log on at svos.org.



arts, interior design and in creating welcoming homes for her family and extended family during 50 years of residence in Ladera and Portola Valley, died Tuesday, May 9, in the Kaiser Permanente hospital in Redwood City. She was 81.

A daughter of immigrants, she earned her nursing degree from the University of Pennsylvania and married Robert Constantz, a physician, in 1948.



Kate Constantz

The couple came to Ladera in 1955 as one of the early residents of the community following Robert's service in Germany with the U.S. Army, relatives said. A few years later, Dr. Constantz was a founding physician of Kaiser Permanente hospital in Redwood City and practiced there for 45 years, relatives said. The family moved to Portola Valley in 1967.

During her time here, she was a full-time mother and wife, a

painter of landscapes, and a loyal friend who built particularly strong relationships with her daughters-in-law, relatives said.

From 1966 to 1976, she served as the school nurse at Woodside High School, during which time she also actively opposed the Vietnam War, relatives said.

A career as an interior designer came together in about 1976 and she went on to design and furnish — often with no-limit budgets — homes and offices in Portola Valley, Woodside, Palo Alto, and along Sand Hill Road, relatives said.

Ms. Constantz is survived by her husband who now lives in Palo Alto; sister Phyllis Blum Quilter of Portola Valley; sons Robert of San Carlos, James of Portola Valley, Mark of Mountain View, and Brent of Portola Valley; and 11 grandchildren. Ryan Christopher Constantz, a grandson, died in 2000 while in the sixth grade at Corte Madera Middle School.

Contributions in Ms. Constantz's name may be made to Lucile Packard Children's

Hospital at Stanford.

Following the May 20 memorial service, a two-hour lunch and reception for friends and family is set for 11:30 a.m.

**Barbara McCulloch Visbal**

*St. Raymond Church volunteer*

Barbara McCulloch Visbal, who taught First Communion preparation classes at St. Raymond Church in Menlo Park from 1961 to 1989, died April 29 after suffering from Alzheimer's disease for 18 years. She was 75.

Ms. Visbal graduated from the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Menlo Park in 1949 and attended the San Francisco College for Women.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, J. Malcolm Visbal of San Carlos; children John Visbal of Lafayette and Erin Mara of San Francisco; and seven grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held at St. Raymond Church. The family prefers memorial donations be made to the Religious of the Sacred Heart Residence-Oakwood, 140 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton, CA 94027.

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**County offices to reopen on Fridays**

Folks who have been frustrated when they couldn't check their building permit or reach San Mateo County planners on Fridays can breathe a sigh of relief.

After five years of being closed Fridays, the San Mateo County Planning and Building Division will be open on Fridays once again

starting May 26. Returning to a five-day work week is one part of a major overhaul of its operations.

"This is an important component of our response to public concerns regarding the division," said Supervisor Rich Gordon. "Constituent services are at the core of planning and building; it's crucial that we pro-

vide every feasible opportunity and convenience for our public clients to meet with staff.

The Planning and Building Division is located on the second floor of the county office building at 455 County Center (corner of Bradford and Hamilton avenues) in Redwood City. The building was closed on Fridays in April 2001 because of the energy shortage at the time. Employees worked four 10-hour days instead of five eight-hour days.

While the Planning and Building Division will be open for business on Fridays, other agencies in the building, including parks and recreation, environmental health, and human resources, will remain closed on Fridays.



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# Classical strumming at library

Peter Fletcher, a classical guitarist bound for Carnegie Hall, will perform at the Atherton Library at 5 p.m. Sunday, May 21, with a reception at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Fletcher's performance at the library last year was so popular, it drew a standing-room only crowd. The free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Atherton Library. The library is located at 2 Dinkelspiel Lane. Call 348-2422 or go to [smcl.org](http://smcl.org) and click on Atherton.



# Fungus among us

Black-and-white photos of "Nature's Dynamic Form" by Atherton photographer Cindy Stokes highlight the structures and patterns found in nature. "Fungus," shown above, will be on display at her Silicon Valley Open Studio site at 123A Donohoe St. in Menlo Park from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21. The exhibit is free, and includes works by sculptor Francie Allen and John Cadigan, who makes intricate woodcut prints. For information, call 400-2809 or go to [cindystokes.com](http://cindystokes.com).



# ■ MENLO WATCH

## City to discuss zoning updates

Anyone who wants a say in changes to Menlo Park's zoning ordinance will get that chance Wednesday, May 24.

The city is hosting a workshop devoted to aligning the city's economic, community and land-use goals through changes to zoning and land-use regulations.

The City Council previously decided that updating the city's zoning ordinance was a priority for the 2005-06 fiscal year, but a staffing shortage delayed the project. The project is once again under way, and the Planning Commission and council are expected to consider proposed changes to the zoning ordinance this fall.

The workshop is scheduled for 7 to 9:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom at 800 Alma St.

For more information, e-mail Assistant Planner Thomas Rogers at [throggers@menlopark.org](mailto:throggers@menlopark.org).

## Commissioners reappointed

Two members of Menlo Park's Planning Commission — Henry Riggs and Melody Pagee — were reappointed unanimously by the City Council on May 10.

Ms. Pagee has already served a full four-year term, and Mr. Riggs

has served on the commission since January 2005, when he filled the seat of Kelly Fergusson, who had been elected to the council.

## Goats are back

To catch a glimpse of goats doing what goats do best — eat weeds — head to Sharon Hills Park off Valparaiso Avenue in Menlo Park.

Starting May 15, several hundred goats will be at different Menlo Park locations, ridding the city of weeds without the noise and pollution of mechanical equipment.

The goats are scheduled to be at Sharon Hills Park for about two weeks before moving to the undeveloped section of Sharon Park at Monte Rosa and Sharon Park drives.

## Medicine drop-off

The city of Menlo Park and the Walgreens drugstore at 643 Santa Cruz Ave. are scheduled to host a safe medicine day Thursday, May 18.

People are encouraged to take unwanted or expired medicine to the Walgreens store from noon to 7 p.m. so it can be disposed of properly.

Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove some medicines from waste water, resulting in contamination of the San Francisco Bay. For more information, go to [baywise.org](http://baywise.org).

# LETTERS

## LETTERS

continued from page 35

procedures, the Town Council charged the Architectural and Site Review Board (ASRB) with reviewing the current fence regulations and procedures.

In April a study team held an open and noticed meeting at town hall to hear comment from residents and interested parties. Subsequently a questionnaire on this matter was developed which can be downloaded from the town's Website and which is available at the town hall.

I would like to urge all Woodside residents to fill out the questionnaire and return it to town hall. The team and ASRB will do a better job of making recommendations to the council if we have good feedback.

I would like the questionnaires returned by the end of May so that they can be compiled and we can then make our recommendations to the council in a timely manner.

**Anne Kasten**  
ASRB member

## Understanding need for school upgrades

Editor:

Our children are now in college and beyond. When we first heard about Measure U, we were surprised to hear that the neighborhood schools our children attended and loved really needed the changes proposed.

But after talking with parents of younger children cur-

rently enrolled at Laurel, Encinal, Oak Knoll and Hillview, we now understand the vital importance of this school bond. We had no idea so many children from our area are currently being educated in temporary/portable classrooms, or that most of the multi purpose rooms are too small to accommodate the indoor sports, performances and assemblies that are such an important part of the early educational years.

Having the physical facilities that Measure U will fund—necessary permanent classrooms, larger multipurpose facilities and improved parking and playgrounds where they're needed—is absolutely essential for the children of our community.

**Marty and David Arcsott**  
Menlo Park

## District again asking for a blank check

Editor:

The Menlo Park City School District is once again asking for a blank check, this time for \$90 million.

I am concerned we are following in the steps of improvements done for the Sequoia Union High School District. The three bond measures, Measure V in 1996 for \$45 million, Measure A, \$88 million in 2001, and Measure H, \$70 million in 2004 (a total of \$203 million) have provided Menlo-Atherton, Woodside, Sequoia, and Carlmont high schools with some state of the art facilities, yet too many buildings are still in need of upgrades, repair or replacement.

During this same time, San Mateo High School was condemned and rebuilt, an elegant

building to last a century, with 56 new classrooms, 140,000 square feet of space, new labs, a \$2 million pool, a library with a fireplace and so forth, and the cost was quoted on opening at \$57 million.

Menlo School also came up with a plan, built a beautiful middle school and then followed with the high school. Approximately 15 years ago both Encinal and Hillview were middle schools. Have we looked at reopening Encinal as a middle school, using both Laurel and O'Connor (now leased to the German-American International School) schools for primary sites? This should relieve some of the capacity problem at Hillview.

Let us not forget that in times of declining student population in the 70's, the school district gave the Fremont School site to the city. No effort was made to re-acquire the Fremont School before it was demolished a few years ago.

Lastly, the wording of the bond proposal is not concise enough. If we need new schools, let us build new schools. Let us be creative, thoughtful and strategic in the process. Let us build schools in the model of the new San Mateo High School, and the new Menlo Middle and High School.

If \$57 million builds an entirely new San Mateo High School, let us spend the money we need and the time it takes to come up with a plan that provides the best new school facilities that will last another 50 years, and not have bond elections every 10 years to continually upgrade 50-year-old facilities.

**E. Hagman**  
Castle Way, Menlo Park



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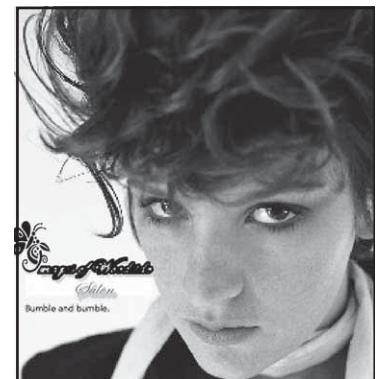
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## ■ WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the Almanac web site: [www.AlmanacNews.com](http://www.AlmanacNews.com)

**EMAIL** your views to [letters@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:letters@AlmanacNews.com). Indicate if it is a letter to be published.

**FAX** to Editor at 854-0677.

**MAIL** or deliver to: Editor at the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

**CALL** the Viewpoint desk at 854-2626, ext. 222.

## Shape up the libraries

Menlo Park's libraries are in trouble, hit hard by increasing employee costs and budget cutbacks that have combined to reduce service to levels not seen in many years.

The city's Library Commission called the situation a crisis in a March memo to the City Council, and Library Director Susan Holmer acknowledged that she didn't think the "... budget could get much lower without seeing detrimental effects."

If the city is serious about halting what is clearly the backsliding of a core service, it must do better than approve the \$1.8 million called for in the current budget. The council must address the need for a modest increase in employees, and additional funds must be found to

purchase materials that will draw patrons to the library, which is one of the crown jewels that define the city.

A report in last week's Almanac shows that the city's library staff is spread way too thin as it struggles to operate the two branches, downtown and at Belle Haven elementary school. Library officials say the lack of staff sometimes requires them to cut hours, and that often workers do not have enough time to restock the bookshelves.

With the equivalent of only 15.75 full-time employees to keep the main branch open seven days a week and Belle Haven five days, library workers have time for little more than checking out materials and answering questions. The main library is now closed on Tuesday mornings, and Belle Haven operates only Monday through Friday until 5 p.m., giving up on its goal to attract more parents to Project

Read, its literacy program, on the weekends or evenings.

But even as a survey shows that patron satisfaction has dropped, and despite the increased competition with online resources, the Menlo Park library is holding its own, with more than half a million items (577,170) circulated during 2002-03, the last year for which data is available.

This demand is a result of the library's expanded "beyond books" material, which includes videotapes, DVDs, books on tape, CDs and e-books, as well as services such as online information databases and public Internet terminals.

Even in prior years, the city's library has never been staffed at ultra high levels. The 17 full-time equivalents in 2002-03 is the highest on record, and while employee benefit costs have gone up, the city should consider bringing staff to at least that level for the next fiscal year.

The city should also ramp up its spending for new materials, which since 2001 has been reduced by \$57,000, to about \$430,000 — hardly enough when considering the library's size and traffic.

As the City Council takes up the new budget, it is considering a range of options, including fee increases, staff cuts and a new tax. During this process, the council has turned over the city's new swimming pools to a private contractor to save money, and has voted to seek proposals for a private contractor to operate the city's child care program.

But the library is a different story. It has no income, and privatization is not an option. The council cannot continue to starve the library of personnel and resources any longer. Both branches are stretched to the limit, and need help. It is time for the city to renew its commitment to the libraries.

## EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

## LETTERS

Our readers write

## Atherton cops patrolling in Menlo Park?

Editor:

May I reassure the Menlo Park poor, such as the Johnsons, whose letter appeared May 10, that the Atherton rich put their numerous cops on Menlo streets writing tickets.

One gave me an erroneous seat belt ticket on Menlo Avenue last year. My letters to the Atherton City Council asking why Atherton cops patrol in Menlo Park went without a reply.

Possibly the council was busy spreading fear of failure if the special tax failed. Soon after it passed, that same council faced the "problem" of surplus funds of about the same amount.

Thomas A. Croft  
Moulton Drive, Atherton

## Do we want design by neighbors?

Editor:

I have lived at the same address for 12 years now and have absolutely fabulous neighbors. But, how fabulous would my neighbors be if I should want to remodel or rebuild on my lot?

This is not an insignificant question and it's a question that touches every homeowner in Menlo Park. The power of neighbor input to

a remodel or rebuild project has become the rule by which we live. Recently, our city council member, Kelly Fergusson, requested variances on her residential remodel on a non-conforming lot.

The rules governing variances were just about ignored by the planning department and the planning commission (only two planning commissioners out of seven voted against approval of the variances). Why? Because her neighbors were fine with the project.

What if my neighbors were okay with me building a two-

story addition 10 feet into the front setback like council member Fergusson can now do? Does that mean all of us can build a two-story addition 10 feet into the front setback as long as our neighbors approve?

Is it now up to our neighbors to decide whether or not houses can be built into a setback? Then, what is the point of having setback rules? Someone please help me out here.

The dialogue needs to begin again on rules for home building. Council member Fergusson has once again become the focal

point of why our residential ordinance needs changing. Thank you, Ms. Fergusson, for reaching so far beyond the norm that it caught everyone's attention.

Mary Gilles  
Hermosa Way, Menlo Park

## Park supporter wants to preserve public resources

Editor:

Thank you for supporting the preservation of Bayfront Park.

I am concerned about privati-

See **LETTERS**, next page



Portola Valley Archives

## Our Regional Heritage

Four little girls named Gertrude, Vivian, Marie and Anne posed for the camera during recess at Portola School in the 1930s. Note the varied hats on the children in the background.

## LETTERS

Continued from previous page

zation of public resources.

**Gail Sredanovic**  
**Ashton Avenue, Menlo Park**

### Council member asked to show e-mails

Editor:

At the May 9 City Council meeting, council member Mickie Winkler repeated her assertion that she has “received hundreds of e-mails” in support of privatizing the Burgess child care programs.

Ms. Winkler once again appears to be playing fast and loose with numbers. One would expect that most people who contacted Ms. Winkler about this issue would also send a message to city.council@menlopark.org. But a review of the council e-mail log since the beginning of March does not reveal strong support for outsourcing child care.

In that time, council received approximately 55 e-mails about privatizing the children’s center. Of these, 16 supported privatization, 36 were opposed, and three were neutral. Given these numbers, it is hard to imagine that Winkler has actually received **hundreds** of letters supporting privatization. At the meeting, council member Andy Cohen challenged Ms. Winkler to back up her claim. I join him in this request. If she can produce the e-mails, I’ll gladly stand corrected. If she can’t, she has a lot of explaining to do.

**Heyward Robinson,**  
**White Oak Lane, Menlo Park**

### City could be liable with red-light camera

Editor:

I was surprised to read that the city of Menlo Park is considering the installation of automated red light cameras, for two reasons.

First, having lived in Menlo Park for several years, red light running simply isn’t a problem here. Indeed, drivers who refuse to move when the light turns green are more of a traffic problem.

There just aren’t many intersections in our town that have the volume of traffic, or allow a driver to build up enough speed, to make red light running a problem. Second, red light cameras just don’t reduce the amount of auto accidents.

Studies such as performed by newspapers (Washington Post, “D.C. Red-Light Cameras Fail to Reduce Accidents,” October 4, 2005, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/10/03/AR2005100301844.html>) and academics (“A Detailed Investigation of Crash Risk Reduction Resulting From Red Light Cameras

## Stanford offers its point of view

By Larry Horton

I was dismayed to see Stanford described in last week’s Almanac as essentially saying to Portola Valley: Here is a plan for your trail; take it or leave it.

Stanford’s offer to Portola Valley is not a take-it-or-leave-it offer to fund a specific trail design “or some very modest modifications of it.” Stanford has offered to pay up to \$2.8 million to Portola Valley for enhancements to the Alpine Road trail that Portola Valley chooses to make within a broad set of general guidelines.

One option for Portola Valley would be to implement a set of construction plans that Stanford commissioned from a highly respected engineering firm using the recommended widths set forth in those guidelines. Stanford’s offer letter to Portola Valley makes it clear that Portola Valley does **not** have to implement those plans. Portola Valley “may prefer to follow different plans” and still be eligible to receive funding.

Santa Clara County must concur that Stanford’s provision of money or resources is in accordance with the agreement between Stanford and Santa Clara County regarding the Alpine Road trail. Santa Clara County has already agreed that the

plans engineered to implement the recommended widths qualify for funding, but other plans proposed by Portola Valley are eligible to receive approval as well.

Stanford is **not** seeking to force any plan on Portola Valley; rather we have pledged to work with Portola Valley to reach agreement on plans and to assist Portola Valley in obtaining Santa Clara County’s concurrence with them. Stanford’s offer will also provide Portola Valley with funds to correct existing problems related to the trail’s proximity to the creek.

These same principles apply to the portion of the Alpine Road trail in unincorporated San Mateo County. Stanford is offering up to \$8.4 million to the county to implement safety, aesthetic, and functional improvements to the Alpine Road trail, including new protections for the creek. We are **not** dictating that the county must accept any specific plan in order to receive funding, but are committed to working with the county to achieve its objectives.

The Almanac article also repeats misinformed claims made during a five-year controversy that was finally resolved by a 4-1 vote by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors upholding Stanford’s posi-

tion on the general use permit condition on trails. The Almanac was wrong in saying that the 2000 general use permit “required Stanford to build two trails into the hills across Stanford lands” and in saying that Stanford will “avoid building trails on its lands.” The entire S-1 trail segment is on Stanford land. Some of the Alpine Road trail (C-1) is on Stanford land; the rest is on public rights of way designated for the trail, often next to Stanford lands — and Stanford will pay for improvements on all.

The issue now is whether and how to use the funds Stanford has offered. We believe the local jurisdictions can best make those judgments.

*Larry Horton is director of government and community relations at Stanford.*

### Almanac replies

Despite local opposition to its trail design, Stanford, with the blessing of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, “offered” San Mateo County \$8.4 million and the town of Portola Valley \$2.8 million to build a trail on its chosen alignment. If either the county or the town chooses another alignment or a design that does not meet the approval of Stanford or Santa Clara County, Stanford has said its money will be withdrawn and given to Santa Clara County.

**The Editor**

in Small Urban Areas, Mark L. Burkey and Kofi Obeng, Urban Transit Institute, <http://www.ncat.edu/~traninst/Burkey%20Obeng%20Final%20Report%202002.pdf>) show that accidents increase, rather than decrease, after red light cameras are installed.

That means that the city of Menlo Park will be financially liable for those accidents — a liability that may well exceed any revenue that may be obtained from them. Red light cameras are a bad solution to a problem that the city doesn’t even have.

**Brian Schar**  
**Laurel Avenue, Menlo Park**

### No need for city to lose small businesses

Editor:

Elizabeth Hawkins May 8 letter to the Menlo Park City Council indicates that she is losing her lease due to a rent increase on Gilbert Avenue for her Thermae Day Spa, and expects to move out of Menlo Park.

This is an unfortunate example of a small business forced to leave after making a significant investment to improve the building as a spa, but more importantly, showing faith in our community by investing in a business in a small corner of Menlo Park — the Menalto neighborhood retail cluster. To compound the problem, she is required to return the property to an office configuration.

I remember approving this project in 2001 when I served

on the Planning Commission. Hopefully for both Elizabeth and the city, this loss can be reversed. In the alternative, Thermae could be welcomed at the new Rosewood Hotel on Sand Hill Road.

At a time when the City Council has “commercial permit streamlining” on fast-track approval, this highlights the unintended negative consequences of that effort. The biggest concern of small businesses is not streamlining, but rent, and the premium paid for Menlo Park.

This is explicitly shown in the number of downtown vacancies, and recently was echoed by downtown Santa Cruz Avenue merchants in meetings with our Chamber of Commerce. Hopefully we will not streamline the departure of existing neighborhood-serving or revenue-producing businesses.

**Stu Soffer**  
**Linfield Drive, Menlo Park**

### Vote yes on measure to help MP schools

Editor:

I am the librarian at Encinal School and the parent of two children who attended Laurel, Encinal and Hillview schools.

When my children were younger, I was a very active volunteer in their schools. I am proud to live and work in the Menlo Park City School District because this is a community that consistently invests in its schools.

Today, our district is contending

with aging facilities and growing enrollment. The solution is Measure U, a bond that will fund modernization, traffic and safety improvements, the replacement of inadequate, temporary classrooms and the construction of new ones.

I have worked in the district for the past nine years and been amazed by this community’s commitment to education. Measure U is the next logical step, and I hope voters will continue to do what is necessary to give our students the quality opportunities that they all deserve.

**Gail Bradley**  
**Librarian, Encinal School**  
**Santa Margarita Avenue,**  
**Menlo Park**

### To charter or not to charter

Editor:

Does one choose that which serves all equally or does one opt for excellence for a few?

Obvious? Hardly. Since 1996 taxpayers in the Sequoia Union High School District have voted to provide school funding in the amount of \$203 million. This amounts to a considerable public debt, and what is there to show for this obligation?

Wonders of modern architecture and technology whose occupants are characterized by an indifference to education that ranks them amongst the lowest academic performers in the nation.

If the state standardized tests are a measure of achievement, the district’s mega schools are a testimony to the cascading failure of public

education. Is it the teachers who have failed? No. It is the students and their permissive “whatever” attitude that has brought a well-conceived system of education to its knees. While there are, unquestioningly, exceptional students, the general attitude towards learning is one of apathy.

Academic excellence has not succumbed to mediocrity in San Mateo County. Summit Preparatory High School, three years in operation, is an ethnically balanced charter school, and the only school in the county to score a perfect 10/10 on the state’s standardized STAR test.

Located in what was once a title company’s office, Summit has done more with less than any of the district’s five mega schools. The devotion of Summit’s staff to their students is palpable, and, impressively, this same loyalty is reciprocated by Summit’s student and parent community. The school’s charter has been presented to the Sequoia board for approval. For Summit to continue to build on its record of academic excellence, the board must accept the charter. Will they resist mediocrity?

**Stephen and Lois Wood**  
**Summit parents**

### Look out for fence rules in Woodside

Editor:

As a part of the process of to improve Woodside’s engineering and building-related

See **LETTERS**, page 33



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397 Fletcher Drive, Atherton  
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300 Escobar Road, Portola Valley  
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1271 Bellair Way, Menlo Park  
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