

**FAMILY FUN for the Fourth:** Little League baseball, parades, carnival, and rodeo, too. See Page 6.

# The Almanac

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

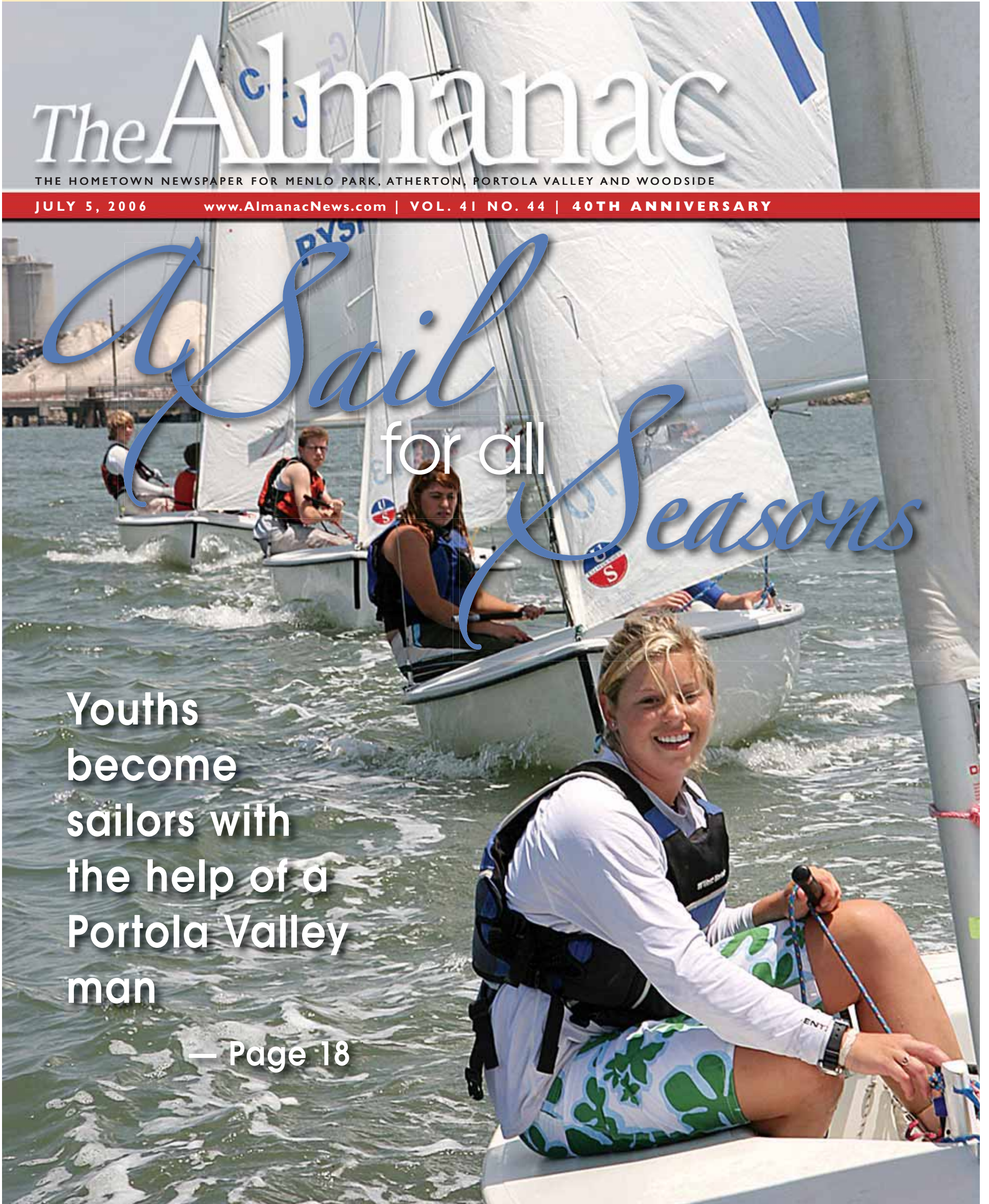
JULY 5, 2006

www.AlmanacNews.com | VOL. 41 NO. 44 | 40TH ANNIVERSARY

## *A Sail* for all *Seasons*

Youths  
become  
sailors with  
the help of a  
Portola Valley  
man

— Page 18





## Your Child's Health University

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### \* RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE TOUR

The first Friday of every month, join the staff at the Ronald McDonald House at 11:30 am for an informative tour and lunch. Learn about the caring environment families and children receiving treatment at Packard Children's Hospital depend on while they are away from home. Call (650) 470-6005 to reserve your spot.

- Friday, July 7 and August 4

### \* BECOMING GRANDPARENTS

Designed for new and expectant grandparents, this class examines the changes in labor and delivery practices, the latest recommendations for infant care and the unique role of grandparents in today's society.

- Thursday, July 13

### \* BABY SAFE PROGRAM

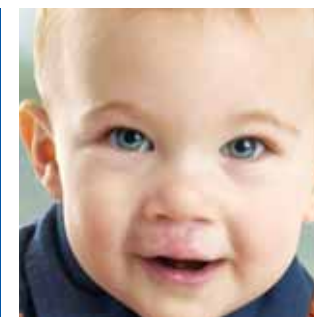
Parents and other childcare providers will learn the techniques of infant CPR and obtain essential information about environmental and transportation safety for newborns.

- Monday, July 17

### \* PEDIATRIC WEIGHT CONTROL PROGRAM

This family-based, behavioral and educational weight management program promotes healthy eating and exercise habits for overweight children and their families. More than 80% of children achieve long-term weight loss through this program — and parents lose weight too! The new session starts soon, so call (650) 725-4424 to pre-register. Spaces are limited.

Call (650) 723-4600 or visit [www.lpch.org](http://www.lpch.org) to register or obtain more information on the times, locations and fees for these and other courses.



CALL TODAY TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES (650) 723-4600

# Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

## FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/David Boyce

### How do you spell beloved?

After 30 years ferrying kids to and from Las Lomas Elementary School in Atherton — and getting to know their parents on a first-name basis — school bus driver Ron Ferrando gracefully acquiesced to a warm and festive June 13 retirement party attended by some of his most appreciative passengers, many of whom took a last ride with him afterward.

## Atherton

■ Probe of building department: Town to go after uncharged fees. **Page 9**

## Menlo Park

■ Retirement and health benefits weigh on city's budget. **Page 5**

## People

■ Mt. Olive church honors founding pastor Hattie Bostic. **Page 16**

## July Fourth

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## Artscene

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## On the cover

Sailing champ and instructor Ashley Simpson, foreground, leads a squadron of local kids as they practice sailing competitively in the Redwood City Yacht Harbor with the Peninsula Youth Sailing Foundation. Photo by David Boyce. Story begins on **Page 18**.

## CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

The Almanac offices are at **3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025**.

For Classified ads, call **854-0858**  
 For all other calls, phone **854-2626**  
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■ E-mail news to (no photos please):  
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**letters@AlmanacNews.com**

To request free delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call **854-2626**.

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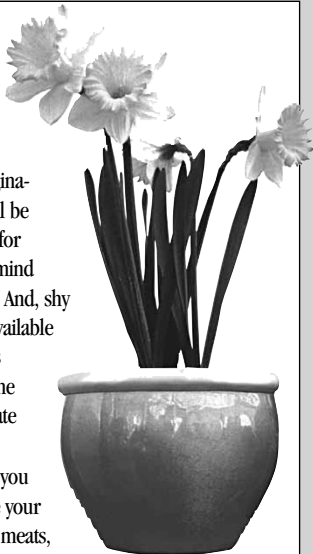
**CHERRIES** **\$3.99** lb.

### Contain Yourself!

Most people reach for a vase or a bowl to hold a bouquet of flowers, but a flower arrangement container need not be restricted to such a limited range. The fact is that a container can literally be anything that holds water. Those who stretch their imaginations looking for containers that test the limits of this definition will be rewarded with eye-catching displays. Good places to start looking for unusual containers are at antique shows or flea markets. Bear in mind that a container need not be expensive to be interesting to look at. And, shy away from containers that are far too large and too deep for the available flowers. Most arrangements require nothing more than containers with openings of six inches in diameter, or less. The exception is the shallow dish or bowl that can be used to float flower heads to create intimate arrangements for dinner parties.

Fresh cut flowers make a perfect gift for a hostess. Of course, if you are planning a special dinner party or meal they should also grace your table. Count on us also for the finest quality and freshest produce, meats, poultry, seafood, and everything else you might need for that special meal. If you are pressed for time check out our extensive selection of prepared and ready-to-eat entrees, homemade soups, and our great salad bar. Visit our unique market and enjoy a shopping experience.

*Hint: As long as it can be fitted with a glass or plastic bottle to hold water, a basket makes for a wonderful flower arrangement container.*



**DELI**

**Exciting New Cheeses!**

**Alta Langa Rochetta**  
A blend of cow, goat & sheep's milk which bring out a delicate & round flavor. . . . **\$21<sup>99</sup>** lb.

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**Mini Serra d'estrella**  
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**MIKE - GROCERY**

**WINE**

*More Summertime Wines*

When the weather is warm, time to drink wines that are lower in alcohol and not too oaky. Reds and whites that fall into this category tend to refresh, instead of fatigue. Also, high alcohol wines really don't taste good if they get too warm. So, here are a few fun and delicious suggestions:

**2005 Pomelo Sauvignon Blanc, California** . . . . . Reg. \$10.00 **Sale - \$8.99**  
As the name implies, this dry white smells and tastes of sweet grapefruit.

**2005 Chignin "Anne de la Biguerne," Vin de Savoie** Reg. \$13.00 **Sale - \$11.99**  
A crisp, vibrant, penetrating white with old-vine intensity and length.

**2004 Mastroberardino Sannio Falanghina, Campagna** Reg. \$20.00 **Sale - \$17.99**  
An interesting and sophisticated replacement for Pinot Grigio.

**2005 Cartledge & Browne Pinot Noir, California** . . . Reg. \$11.50 **Sale - \$9.99**  
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**2004 Zerbina Ceregio, Sangiovese di Romagna** . . . Reg. \$13.50 **Sale - \$11.99**  
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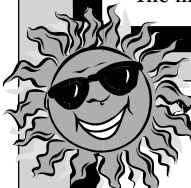
**THE SKINNY COW ICE CREAM SANDWICH** **\$3.69**  
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**7UP-A&W ROOT BEER-COUNTRY TIME LEMONADE** **\$2.29**  
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**LYSOL BATHROOM CLEANER** **\$2.69**  
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**NEW ZEALAND FREE RANGE RACK OF LAMB** **\$16.98** lb.

**PEELED & DEVEINED PRAWNS** **\$16.98** lb.



### Change your fuel, change your world

Twelve Dartmouth students, including one from Menlo Park, have taken to the road in a veggie oil-powered school bus that arrives in Menlo Park on Monday, July 10.

The bus may smell like yesterday's French fries, but it won't smell like diesel exhaust.

The group converted an old bus to run on used vegetable oil, painted it green and is taking it around the country to promote alternative fuels.

The students are happy to talk with anyone who is interested in the merits of driving on "grease."

Brian Hendrickson, a graduate of Menlo School, is on board. The bus schedule isn't firm, but it will include a visit to Brian's home on Ambar Way in Menlo Park.

While in the Bay Area, the Big Green Bus will be visiting some of its sponsors, including SunPower Corp. and Cypress Semiconductor, that provided the solar equipment powering the laptops and a small refrigerator in the bus.

For more information, check [www.thebiggreenbus.org](http://www.thebiggreenbus.org), or phone Lisa Hendrickson at 289-5440.

### Return to sender

While many enjoy reading the newsy and sometimes contentious e-mail messages from Menlo Park City Councilwoman Mickie Winkler, at least two people want to be removed from her distribution list.

Ms. Winkler sends occasional e-mails to a number of people, including her political supporters, providing updates on council decisions, and her perspective on city issues.

But Pauline Burke and Heyward Robinson have publicly stated that they don't want to receive the e-mails.

In a posting on the City Council e-mail log, Ms. Burke labels the e-mails "propaganda."

Mr. Robinson, a parks and recreation commissioner, said Ms. Winkler should be more clear her e-mails are not sent on behalf of the council or city.



Photo by Elisabeth Fall. Copyright 2006

### Enjoy the view

The Peninsula Open Space Trust in Menlo Park has completed construction of the "Council Circle" seating area next to Pigeon Point lighthouse on the San Mateo County coast. The benches, made of yellow granite on a concrete base, carry the names of major donors to POST's recently completed \$200 million "Saving the Endangered Coast" campaign. For a view of the coast from the benches, see Page 8.

## Employee benefits: A growing cost

### ■ Retirement and health benefits weigh on city's budget.

By **Rory Brown**  
Almanac Staff Writer

In a year when Menlo Park residents were asked how they would cut programs and/or raise fees and taxes to balance the city's budget, it has become evident that completely different costs — those associated with employee retirement and health benefits — present large long- and short-term budget woes.

The number of full-time-equivalent employees has dropped about 13 percent — from about 260 to 230 — over the past five years, but personnel costs have increased about 27 percent from about \$16.9

million to \$21.5 million.

A large portion of the budget is attributed to employee retirement and health benefits.

Of the \$32.5 million the city plans to spend in the fiscal year that started July 1, some \$2.8 mil-

lion — about 9 percent — will go to cover pension costs for city employees.

Plus, the city owes employees post-retirement health benefits that total about \$860,000 a year.

City Manager David Boesch said the costs associated with employee retirement and health benefits have "exacerbated" the city's budget, but the city is limited in what it can do to

*The number of full-time-equivalent jobs has dropped 13 percent in five years, but employee costs have still risen 27 percent.*

### ■ MENLO PARK

E-mail your comment on this story to [editor@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:editor@AlmanacNews.com). Note if it's for publication, and if so, include your full name; residence (street and town); and phone number. Your phone number will not be published.

reduce the growing costs.

"Over time we hope to ... moderate the costs," Mr. Boesch said. "We can't do that unilaterally and expect to attract and retain quality employees."

He noted that many Bay Area cities are trying to address rising pension costs, and Menlo Park aims to be an "average payer."

Employee retirement and health benefits weren't included in a recent community-outreach program that asked residents — through a survey and workshops — how to cut services and/or raise taxes and fees to balance the budget.

The public-input process prompted the council to approve eliminating five vacant positions, raise fees for city-operated programs such as child care and gymnastics, and explore the likelihood of getting a tax measure passed on the November ballot.

The savings that stemmed from the community-outreach process, plus other measure approved by the council, total an estimated \$1.54 million, leaving the city \$1.8 million short of covering its costs.

The city is projected to pull the difference from its \$21 million of unallocated reserves.

### ■ Police negotiations

Employee benefits are a component of current negotiations with the Menlo Park Police Officers Association and Police Managers Association — two of the city's four labor bargaining units.

But after 10 bargaining ses-

See **MP BUDGET**, page 8

# Community celebrates Independence Day with family activities

By Jane Knoerle  
Almanac Staff Writer

An old-fashioned Fourth of July, complete with parades, carnivals, Little League baseball, fireworks, a rodeo — even a summer symphony under the stars — is in store for local residents.

## Menlo Park events

Menlo Park will start the day with the annual match-up between the champions of the Menlo-Atherton and Alpine West Menlo Little Leagues. The Menlo-Atherton league's Draeger's team will take on Peak Performance of the Alpine League at 10 a.m. at Harrison Field in Burgess Park at the Civic Center.

The celebration continues with a small town parade in downtown Menlo Park, followed by music, games and contests at Burgess Park.

Kids and their families are invited to bring decorated tri-cycles and bikes, red wagons, antique cars, floats and pets to the Wells Fargo parking lot at 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, July 4, to assemble for the parade.

The parade starts at 11:30 a.m. at the corner of Santa Cruz Avenue and Chestnut Street and makes its way to Burgess Park.

The Burgess Park celebration will feature music by Nu Day — playing rhythm and blues, Motown, and swing music — plus carnival games, bounce houses, a rock climbing wall, crafts and contests from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A \$5 fee for a wrist band is required for activities.

Over at the Little House community center, at 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park, they're having an old-fashioned picnic at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday. The holiday menu will feature hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, potatoes, salad and cherry cobbler, all for \$10 for members and \$15 for others. Steve Edwards is providing the music. For information, call 326-2025.

## Woodside rodeo

The Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County stages its 56th annual Woodside Norcal Junior Rodeo on July Fourth at the Mounted Patrol Grounds in Woodside. There will be plenty of action with cowboys and cowgirls under 18 taking part in bull riding, steer and

calf riding, barrel racing and team roping.

Gates open at 7:30 a.m. with main events starting at noon. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$12 for youth under 15, and free for children under 8.

A barbecue and dance hosted by the Mounted Patrol will be open to the public on Monday, July 3, at the patrol grounds, beginning at 5 p.m. Tickets are available at the gate. Dinner is \$20 for adults and \$12 for kids under 15. Admission for dancing, without dinner, is \$15.

For more information, call Jerry Williams at 851-8300.

## Redwood City

Tyler MacNiven of Woodside and BJ Averell, winners from the hit CBS series "The Amazing Race," will be the grand marshals of the 67th annual Redwood City Independence Day parade. The parade starts at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the corner of Brewster Avenue and Winslow Street.

Miss Redwood City, Miss San Mateo County, and the newly crowned Miss California will be waving to the crowd. The bands will include the Stanford Marching Band, Cal Davis Marching Band and the Santa Clara Vanguard Band.

A downtown arts and crafts festival follows the parade. The Emily Lord Band will play on the entertainment stage at Hamilton and Bradford streets from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Marshall Law Band will entertain from 2 to 5 p.m.

There will be a battle of the bands between Stanford and UC Davis from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in front of the San Mateo Credit Union, between Jefferson Street and Middlefield Road.

This year's Redwood City fireworks display almost didn't happen. Last month the Peninsula Celebration Association, which has organized the Fourth of July fireworks show since the 1940s, said it would be called off because of crowd control and traffic concerns. After working with the Redwood City police and fire departments to deal with those concerns, and at the urging of city officials, the association

See JULY 4TH, next page



Kids get ready for downtown parade in Menlo Park at last year's July Fourth festivities.



## Little League classic: Menlo vs. Alpine

■ Draeger's will play Peak Performance in annual Fourth of July contest.

By Sean Howell  
Special to the Almanac

The Menlo-Atherton Little League's Draeger's team will take on Peak Performance of the Alpine West Menlo Little League at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July Fourth, in the annual match-up between the champions of each league. The game will be held at Harrison Field in Burgess Park.

Though it will not have any bearing on the teams' season, the meeting between the two major division teams is part of a long-standing tradition of about 30 years. It comes after both the regular season for each league and the district's Tournament of Champions playoff series, which featured eight teams from local leagues.

Draeger's comes into the game looking to cap a near-perfect season. It claimed its league title

with a 23-0 record, the first time in the history of the Menlo-Atherton Little League that a team has gone undefeated, said league president Robert Crowe.

In regular-season play, Draeger's never trailed in a game until the fifth inning of the last game of the season, though the team came back to win in the bottom of the sixth. It outscored its opponents by a combined score of 250-74.

Draeger's rolled through the double-elimination playoff series, defeating Morgan-Stanley 8-1 and Cashin twice, by scores of 13-3 and 13-5.

Its only loss came in the second game in the Tournament of Champions, 2-0 to HomeField of the Alpine League.

"It's been a fun ride for these kids," coach John Foster said. "This is a deep, talented team."

The club is also coached by Vince Sakowski.

## Peak Performance

Peak Performance won its title with a bit more dramat-

ics. It went 16-6 in the Alpine league and won the playoff round in a possible elimination game, beating HomeField 10-7 in the final contest on June 13. The team had lost to HomeField, 11-2, in an earlier playoff game.

HomeField took its revenge in the eight-team Tournament of Champions seven days later, beating a short-handed Peak team 13-0 in the final contest.

Luke Quinton leads Peak with seven home runs and 11 RBI. Dylan Cook and Marcus Prioste pace the club with batting averages of .463 and .462, respectively.

"They are a very good team, but we played against some pretty good teams in our league, too," said Gary Prioste, coach of Peak Performance. "I think the kids are going to be up to the challenge."

The game will be followed by a parade that begins in downtown Menlo Park at 11:30 and ends at Burgess Park.



Sophie Stoller, left, and Lauren Camarillo will go to UCLA this fall with four-year UCLA Regents Scholarships.

## M-A dance team co-captains awarded top scholarships

Menlo-Atherton High School's dance team co-captains Sophie Stoller and Lauren Camarillo, friends since kindergarten at Las Lomitas School, are each recipients of a four-year Regents Scholarship to UCLA.

The award is "the most prestigious scholarship for incoming U.C. freshmen and the highest honor the board of regents can bestow upon a student at the university," according to Chancellor Albert Carnesale.

Of the record 46,838 students who applied for admission to UCLA this fall, only 100 freshman Regents Scholarships were awarded.

The two are the only two Regents Scholars selected for acceptance in the Dance/World Arts and Cultures department at UCLA. They were judged on a combination of their dance audition, academic achievement and leadership ability. Their coach/choreographer at Menlo-Atherton was Nona Ybarra.

## Local vaulters go to world games

Three local girls will represent the United States in vaulting in the World Equestrian Games August 23-27 in Aachen, Germany. Three men, three women and one team have been selected to represent the U.S.

Elizabeth Osborn, 16, of

Menlo Park and Mary McCormick, 23, of Woodside have been selected for individual competition.

Rosalind Ross, 15, of Woodside will complete as a member of the FAME team, made up of vaulters from California and

New Jersey.

The athletes were selected based on the average of their three top scores at competitions held from March 1 to June 5, as well as at last year's U.S. Equestrian Federation championships for individuals.

### JULY 4TH

*continued from previous page*

decided to go on with the show.

The Redwood City fireworks display at the Port of Redwood City, located on Seaport Boulevard, east of Highway 101, begins at 9:30 p.m.

The Port of Redwood City fireworks show is the only location in Redwood City where the use of fireworks is permitted. Another Fourth of July fireworks show will be held in Foster City at the Leo Ryan Memorial Park.

Woodside Terrace A.M. Kiwanis Club will present its annual July Fourth carnival from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the corner of Veterans Boulevard

and Middlefield Road in the county government center parking lot. The carnival will feature a variety of rides for the entire family, from the Ferris Wheel to the Dragon Wagon.

### Stanford

Stanford Lively Arts will host its pre-Independence Day celebration at the Frost Amphitheater on Monday, July 3. Beginning at 7:30 p.m., the evening will include a performance by the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, followed by a fireworks display. Admission is \$38 for adults and \$19 for youths 15 and under. The gates will open for picnicking at 5:30 p.m. For information, call 725-2787. ■

## 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

The Almanac

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



### How to maximize sales action on your house.

**Q. I am afraid when we list our home for sale it will sit too long. We need to sell quickly for a lot of different reasons. What do you recommend to maximize our sales effort? -PH.**

**A.** It's no secret - the market is changing from a very strong sellers market to, at best, a balanced market. Depending on circumstances extraneous to the real estate market itself, this could easily slide toward a buyers market. It is more important than ever to take the steps necessary, even in a strong market, to assure yourself of getting the highest possible price in the shortest amount of time.

The majority of homes that sit on the market month after month have a common problem. It's simply that the price

is higher than homes which are similar in the same area. Homes that are priced to sell are still getting plenty of action. Some are receiving multiple offers.

Besides setting the right asking price, you must also consider the overall condition and appearance of the house. It is unrealistic to expect the best offers on a home needing a myriad of cleaning up and repairs. If your house is in great shape and priced right and still there is not sufficient activity, an aggressive marketing campaign may be required. You should make sure that you are listing with a real estate agent who has been through the buyer/seller markets before. It requires a different approach than what we have seen the last five years.

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

THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH COUNCIL  
*Summer Symphony*



*Peter Cetera*

"Make Me Smile"  
"The Next Time I Fall"  
"The Glory of Love"  
"You're The Inspiration"  
"Color My World"

**SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2006**  
Peter Cetera at the Summer Symphony to benefit Children's Health Council Frost Amphitheater, Stanford University

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**See's CANDIES** **Sand Hill Foundation** **GUIDANT FOUNDATION** **NETJETS**



Photo by Elisabeth Fall. Copyright 2006

## Here's the view

This is what it looks like from the new benches built by the Peninsula Open Space Trust on the San Mateo County coast next to Pigeon Point lighthouse. "This site honors members of our community who came together to protect this beautiful place," says Susan Ford Dempsey, chair of the POST's board of directors. "Now the public can enjoy the land just as it is for generations to come." See picture on Page 3.

## MP BUDGET

continued from page 5

sions, negotiations with the Police Officers Association, which represents the city's 37 line officers, have reached an impasse, and a state mediator has been called to assist negotiations.

The mediator asked both sides to refrain from publicly discussing the content of the negotiations.

Both parties met June 28, and have scheduled a second meeting for July 17.

"The problem isn't solved yet,

but there is willingness to get back together and talk," Mr. Boesch said.

Mayor Nicholas Jellins labeled the negotiations "a complex issue" and noted that the impasse cannot be solely attributed to pay and benefits.

But compensation is a fragile issue, as the city's 48 police officers make-up less than one-fourth of the city's workforce, but are the root of about half — \$1.42 million — of the city's pension costs, according to Glen Kramer, the city's personnel director.

Menlo Park officers receive the state's top pension rate, but the city's line-level officers receive salaries 4 percent below the county average, Mr. Kramer said.

The average line-level police officer in San Mateo County earns \$7,412 a month, and the equivalent position in Menlo Park is paid \$7,065. ■

## County to explore universal health care

Can universal health-care coverage be provided in San Mateo County? A blue ribbon committee created last week by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has the task of answering that question.

"As I think we are all so painfully aware, the health-care delivery system in this nation is broken and more specifically, and closer to home, the health-care delivery system for the indigent and uninsured in San Mateo County is a broken system that is unstable and unsupportable," said Supervisor Jerry Hill.

The San Mateo Medical Center, for example, faces a \$65 million deficit, said County Manager John Maltbie.

Since 2000, the general fund subsidy of the medical center has increased by 46 percent. Mr. Maltbie said if this trend continues, by

2014 the center will consume over 60 percent of the general fund property tax revenues, which help finance the county's criminal justice services, municipal services in unincorporated areas, child welfare services and other key county services.

At the urging of Mr. Hill, the supervisors unanimously approved the creation of a Blue Ribbon Committee for Adult Health Insurance Coverage Expansion. The decision was made during a public hearing on the county budget.

Over a one-year period the committee will work to determine if and how universal healthcare can be established in the county.

The supervisors set aside \$200,000 for consultants to help the committee.

"I believe it is this board's duty to take the lead in initiating this

ambitious effort," Mr. Hill said. "The results may mean a reallocation of resources and potential savings for both the county and other health-care providers."

The committee would be made up of leaders from the Health Plan of San Mateo, Hospital Consortium of San Mateo, Peninsula Interfaith Action, Health Department, Peninsula Health Care District, Sequoia Health Care District, Ravenswood Family Health Center, Kaiser Permanente and several county officials, according to a report drafted by Mr. Hill.

One of the committee's tools will be the county's WELL Pilot Study, which tracks the impacts health-care coverage eligibility and screening requirements have on residents at or below 400 percent of the Federal poverty level.

— Bay City News Service

YOUR SOURCE FOR  
LOCAL INFORMATION

The Almanac

# Atherton building probe: Town to go after uncharged fees

By Andrea Gemmet  
Almanac Staff Writer

## ■ ATHERTON

The town of Atherton's embattled building department is the subject of an internal audit that turned up problems in employees' collection of fees, town officials have revealed.

The audit is in addition to a month-long personnel investigation that wrapped up recently.

At a highly charged meeting of the Atherton Finance Committee on June 28, Finance Director John Johns reported on auditor Eric Spivak's findings, which focused on Atherton's new road impact fee for excavation projects.

Mr. Johns said that the week before the new fee was put into place, the building department issued excavation permits for seven applications that appeared to be incomplete or had other problems. By doing so, the applicants avoided "off-haul" fees of \$22 per cubic yard of earth.

The excavation fees went into effect May 16, 2005, adding thousands of dollars in fees to

construction projects, such as basements or swimming pools, that involved excavation work.

"It's only with this new ordinance that serious money is involved," said City Attorney Marc Hynes.

Of 25 excavation permits processed the week before the excavation surcharge went into effect, seven permits appeared to have "allowed the excavation surcharge to be circumvented," Mr. Johns said. Although he had yet to determine exactly how much money in excavation fees were not collected, it appeared to be more than \$50,000, he said.

He recommended additional research be done to find out whether building department employees acted "with intent" to process permits improperly, and to begin the process of recovering the uncharged fees.

### McKeithen displeased

Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen, a member of the finance

committee along with Councilman Jerry Carlson, criticized the town staff's handling of both building department probes.

"I asked months ago whether road impact fees were being collected," Ms. McKeithen said. "That's important because it's funding for other aspects of town."

All told, the building department collects about \$2 million annually in various fees, according to Mr. Johns.

The internal audit stemmed from a recommendation by the town's outside auditors, Caporicci & Larson, who said the fee calculation procedures in the building department were not adequately documented, Mr. Johns said.

He stressed that it was the finance department that made the decision to conduct the internal audit that more closely examined the building department.

Town staff tried to keep the discussion of the audit separate from discussion of investigator Lance Bayer's report on building department personnel, which has not been made public. City Attorney Hynes said that, as a personnel matter, the investigator's report is confidential and cannot be released to the council or the public.

"I was the one who initiated the investigation," Ms. McKeithen said.

She said she had received complaints from "at least three very involved Atherton citizens" that operations, rules and procedures were being violated in the building department. She protested that the investigation she had requested had somehow turned into a personnel investigation.

"This is not what I asked for, that's not what I expect. I'd like to know (what's going on) beyond reading it in the news," she said, waving a copy of the Almanac. "But if I don't see the report, I sure don't know what's going on. Our hands are being tied on this and I don't know why."

### Other issues

City Manager Jim Robinson rebuffed questions at the meeting from Atherton resident Jim Dobbie, who demanded to know if Building Official Mike Hood, who retired June 30, had been forced out, or given "a golden handshake" or other incentives to retire. Mr. Robinson said that Mr. Hood was retiring, not resigning, and had not been offered any additional compensation beyond his retirement

## Town hires interim head of building department

Atherton's building department will not be without a head for long. Embattled building official Mike Hood retired on June 30, leaving the busy department that handles permits, building inspections and other construction related matters after nearly 11 years.

City Manager Jim Robinson said that Gary Binger, the former deputy executive director and planning director of ABAG, the Association of Bay Area Governments, will be leading the Atherton Building Department on an interim basis. Mr. Binger will start work on Wednesday, July 5, Mr. Robinson said.

"I'm very pleased he's agreed to come and join us," he said. "He's coming to assist us with the transition with the retirement of Mike Hood. He'll be evaluating the needs of the department and I think he's more than capable to do that."

Mr. Hood's supporters bid him farewell at a private retirement party held June 29 at Mayor Charles Marsala's house. Among the well-wishers were several Atherton police officers, former council members Nan Chapman and Malcolm Dudley, Planning Commissioner Rose Hau, Atherton City Planner Neal Martin,

and an assortment of building professionals and residents who have worked with Mr. Hood over the years.

"He has been the most terrific help to me in our remodeling of the oldest house in Atherton," said Carole Bellis Carvell, a former owner of the Cartan house who is in the midst of another building project in Atherton. "He helped us all along. (Now) I'm terrified it's going to become another Woodside, with all the antagonism."

Atherton resident Frank Merrill, who said he's about seven-eighths of the way through a remodeling project, said he was very disappointed that Mr. Hood was retiring.

"Mike is a very easy guy to work with," he said. "Mike's a facilitator."

Mr. Marsala toasted Mr. Hood and thanked him for being generous with his time and for all the years he had given the town.

Custom homebuilder Bill Taylor said that Mr. Hood is the only building official he knows of who actually answers his phone.

"I worked all over and this is by far the best building department I've had to work with," he said.

See **BUILDING FEES**, next page

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# Atherton to go after uncharged building fees

## BUILDING FEES

continued from previous page

benefits.

“If that much money is flowing through (the building department), there’s an opportunity for game-playing and hanky-panky, or whatever you want to call it,” said Atherton resident John Sisson. “You’ve got to watch the store.”

Mr. Robinson and Mr. Johns defended the town’s management oversight of the building department, saying that Atherton had received unqualified audits from independent auditors for the past five years, meaning that the auditors had found no irregularities or causes for concern in the town’s finances.

“We have, over the years, done a number of limited reviews of

the building department. Prior to this, nothing has come to our attention that would cause us to question the manner in which fees were being collected,” Mr. Johns said. “We had every reason to believe the process had some integrity — had a high level of integrity.”

Other issues turned up in the internal audit report included 22 projects in a six-month period in which road impact fees were not correctly calculated. As a result, the builders were undercharged a combined total of \$6,000. Building department staff had apparently been using an older fee of 0.5 percent of the projects’ permitted value rather than a new fee of 0.71 percent.

The auditor’s report found that verbal instructions to building department employees to verify fee calculations were

not clearly communicated, or that the procedures themselves were ineffective.

Mr. Hynes said it appears that not only is the town owed money because of undercharges, but some builders are owed money by the town because of overcharges.

Mr. Johns’ report recommends putting fee verification and other procedures in place to improve building department documentation and internal controls. He also recommends that staff verify the value of construction projects through databases and executed contracts in cases where fees are determined by the value of the construction project.

“I think the whole process stinks,” Ms. McKeithen said. “If this is the work product we get from the building depart-



**Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen** said she received complaints that operations, rules and procedures were being violated in the building department.

ment, we need to increase fees and get a better level of service — because something stinks.”

Reached after the finance committee meeting, Mayor Charles Marsala said, “The council approved dramatic changes in fees for the staff to implement. If there were problems during the transition, we will address them.”

Mr. Marsala said he doesn’t want the situation get blown out of proportion.

“I am concerned that we do not repeat what happened seven years ago, when it was reported that staff had received pens in alligator cases and bought cowboy boots on expense accounts,” he said.

The pens in question turned out to be in cardboard boxes stamped with alligator patterns that were given to employees for their years of service, Mr. Marsala said. The cowboy boots turned out to be safety shoes used for inspecting construction sites, he said. ■

## 2006 Concert Schedule

MENLO PARK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

7/5 Emily Lord  
Country/Rock

7/12 Fun Moon Rude  
Rockin’ Blues

7/19 Hale Baskin  
Jazz

7/26 Tom Rigney  
with Rigomania  
Cajun Zydeco

8/2 Wanted  
Country

8/9 Primary Colors  
Featuring Nate Fruit  
Soul

8/16 Floorshakers  
Rock/Funk/Soul

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# Piano teacher sentenced for molesting Menlo girl

A piano teacher found guilty of molesting an 8-year-old Menlo Park girl during weekly piano lessons at her home was sentenced last week to 14 years in prison.

Boping Chen, 54, was sentenced June 30 in San Mateo County Superior Court.

In March, a jury found him guilty of 63 counts of committing lewd acts upon a minor under the age of 14. The crimes took place between March 2001

and August 2004, when Mr. Chen fondled the girl under her clothing, prosecutors said.

Mr. Chen, an immigrant from Shanghai in 2000, said he was teaching about 30 students during this three-year period.

Mr. Chen had earlier rejected a judge’s pretrial offer of 10 years in prison, said Melissa McKowan, a San Mateo County deputy district attorney.

— Bay City News

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Dear Friends:

There's been a whirlwind of changes at RFHC since last summer. In August 2005 Lucile Packard Children's Hospital donated their pediatric mobile clinic to continue offering services at school sites in our area for students, their parents and siblings. We also use it to reach the homeless population out on the streets. In April, our administrative staff moved out of the clinic into a nearby modular unit belonging to Free at Last. This allows us to build 2 additional exam rooms and an education room in the vacated space.

Through a very positive collaborative effort and planning process, Ravenswood Family Health Center will take over the management of the County's Belle Haven Clinic at the Onetta Harris

Community Center in September of 2006. This transfer will greatly strengthen RFHC and increase our ability to serve the Belle Haven community. We will add pediatrics and pre-natal care and expand into the evening and Saturday as we grow.

Aside from these major changes, we also continue to lay plans to build a permanent clinic and community resource center. Thanks to the decision of the City Council of East Palo Alto in April, our ground lease was renewed for another five years at just \$1 per year, giving us support and time enough time to find a permanent home for the clinic and community nonprofits. In exchange, RFHC has committed to becoming the medical provider for the City of East Palo Alto in the event of a community disaster.

We're fortunate to have a Board and Management team with a common vision. We are constantly striving to make improvements that will enhance our services, increase access to care and improve the lives of the people we serve.

Sincerely,  
Luisa Buada, CEO



Photo by Mark Tuschman



Providing access to affordable, primary and preventative health care services to all ages, regardless of ability to pay.

— Mission Statement



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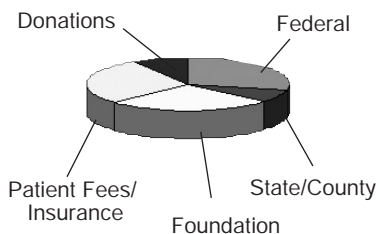
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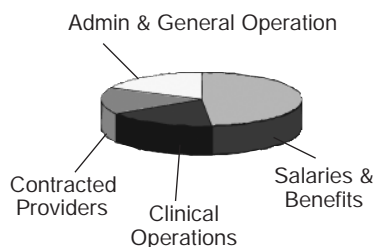
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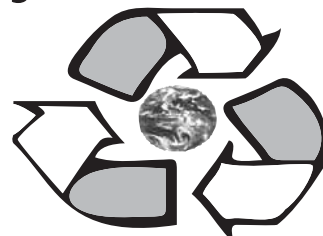


## Ravenswood Family Health Center is Going Green

*“Take care of your body. It’s the only place you have to live”. As a health center we fully support this wise advice, and have gone one step further: “Take care of our planet. It’s the only place we have to live.”*

At Ravenswood Family Health Center we are doing everything possible to ensure that we play our part in preserving precious resources and avoiding pollution. Our waste is reduced and our actions promote a better environment for people who live in our community. After all, the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat has a lot to do with staying healthy

Our “Green Team” has taken the lead in promoting sound environmental



practices at the clinic. Our first step was simple. We put paper recycling boxes under every desk and work station. That change took hold quickly. After six weeks we increased our recycling pick up from once to twice a week and reduced our trash container from 3 to 2 cubic yards.

The staff is proud to be a model for greater recycling efforts in the community. At the suggestion of staff

members, we’ve switched to recycled paper, to double-sided photocopies whenever possible, and to e-mail to avoid wasting paper. We also use biodegradable plates and utensils at staff potlucks. All bottles and cans go into recycling containers, and we collect batteries to recycle.

Our next step in going green will be to reduce utility bills and consumption of energy, and to encourage bicycling to work by providing safe bike lockers.

It is exciting to see how simple changes can be adopted quickly. And it is gratifying to know that we are playing our part in improving the environment and future health of our community.

- Margaret Allen

## Emergency Readiness

Every catastrophe is followed by a post-op report on where the lines of communication and coordination broke down. As the designated medical center in East Palo Alto in the event of a disaster, we’re preparing ourselves to respond. RFHC has a staff disaster team that meets monthly, headed by our Medical Director, Larry Bruguera, MD. We also meet with County, Menlo Fire and East Palo Alto officials regularly to plan our mutual support activities and methods of communicating.

One third of our staff has completed the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training offered free by the City of Menlo Park Fire Department.



In November of 2005, RFHC’s Emergency Readiness team participated in the State’s Golden Guardian exercise. We practiced a hazardous waste spill with staff putting on personal protection suits and treating “victims” in our decontamination tent. This spring RFHC staff attended the

Pandemic Flu Conference sponsored by San Mateo County to prepare for the Avian Flu. In June, 9 staff-- Spanish, Tongan and English speakers --went through CERT’s Train the Trainers course so they can provide free disaster preparedness training to community residents.

Dr. Bruguera warns, though, that citizens need to prepare for a disaster by storing enough water and food supplies for each family member to last at least 3 days-- better yet, a week.

For more information about emergency preparedness classes in the area and how you can participate, contact: Carol Parker at Menlo Park Fire Department: carolp@MenloFire.org

## Stanford’s Community Partnership Award

This year Ravenswood Family Health Center was one of three nonprofit recipients of the prestigious Community Partnership Award sponsored by Stanford’s Office of Public Affairs and the Haas Center for Public Service. Cynthia Haines, Senior Vice President of Strategy and Business Development for Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital presented the award to Luisa Buada, CEO. The award recognizes our significant partnership with Lucile Packard and with Stanford’s undergraduate volun-



teers. RFHC is also a site for pediatric clinical rotation for residents from Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital. Ann Banchoff, Program Director

of the Office of Community Health has been a key to coordinating our Patient Advocates program, recruiting a dedicated group of Stanford undergraduates who serve as Patient Advocates. She said, “The Ravenswood Family Health Center has been an incredibly valuable partner to Stanford. RFHC’s commitment to providing high quality health care to our most needy communities is an inspiration to our students, and the clinic has been instrumental in teaching them the core values of community health.”



## Who we are

**R**avenswood Family Health Center was established by a coalition of public and community partners and opened in December 2001. In the tradition of community health centers, our mission is to provide access to affordable, primary and preventive health care services to all ages, regardless of ability to pay.

## The Master Plan to Bring Diabetes Under Control

**T**here's a new wave in community medicine that is driven by a rise in the number of people with diabetes and the escalating costs of their care.

From coast to coast, this increase has caught as much media attention as the threat of avian flu. Associated Press reported "About 2 million U.S. children ages 12 to 19 have a pre-diabetic condition linked to obesity and inactivity that puts them at risk for full-blown diabetes." UCLA's Health Policy Brief reports that "Nearly 1.7 million California adults age 18 and over (6.6%) have been diagnosed with diabetes, up from 1.5 million in 2001.

RFHC is especially concerned because there is a higher incidence of diabetes in the population groups that we serve. In fact, it is the leading chronic disease with 517 patients diagnosed as diabetic in 2005.

### Who's in Control

**T**o improve the quality of chronic care, RFHC is participating in a federally

sponsored Health Disparities Collaborative that is piloting a new approach—a chronic care model that is being adopted by many in the medical community.

As the Physician Champion on RFHC's Health Disparities Chronic Care team, Dr. Jaime Chavarria says, "Not much happens if you



Dr. Jaime Chavarria

just tell a patient you need to exercise and watch your diet. The new approach in chronic disease care is to make the patient an equal partner on the team and empower them to take charge of their health and medical decisions. It is in partnering with the patients and listening to them that we can understand what challenges they face in improving diet or getting into a rou-

tine of exercise. We have to help them break down the barriers."

To adopt this model of care is a learning process that involves the entire team in reinforcing and helping the patient to attain their goals. The HDC team meets monthly to evaluate the effect on care and ways to improve. Any team member can initiate an improvement process that is then tested and adopted if it works. "We don't have it down quite yet, but we're evolving, and more staff members are participating in improving patient care."

RFHC can gauge chronic care outcomes by generating reports from PECS, a disease registry that tracks standard disease measurements. "It gives us a much more accurate picture of how well our diabetic population is doing." These measures are also compared with other clinics nationwide also participating in similar programs. Palo Alto Medical Foundation is providing their technical expertise in quality improvement and population management.

But in the end, in this model of care, it is the patients who make the improvements happen.

### Medical Services

- Pediatrics
- Adolescent Health
- Adult Medical Care
- Chronic Disease Management
- Immunizations & Screenings
- Family Planning

### Special Services

- Comprehensive Prenatal
- Dental Care (for uninsured)
- Health Education
- Laboratory Services
- Discounted Prescription Drugs
- Pharmacy Assistance Program

Eligibility services for Medi-Cal, Healthy Families or Healthy Kids insurance

Of the 14,600 patients registered, the majority are from East Palo Alto, Belle Haven in Menlo Park or North Fair Oaks. But over 5% are from Santa Clara County and 2% from the East Bay.

**97%** are African American, Latino, Pacific Islander, or Asian

**60%** have no health insurance

**90%** of adults have no dental coverage

**96%** live at or below 200% of federal poverty

**44%** are under the age of 12

No population in San Mateo County is more susceptible to health risks than the predominantly African American, Hispanic, and Pacific Islander population that RFHC serves. To get at the root causes, we work closely with community partners.

## The Rising Tide of Uninsured

**T**wo trends contribute to 46 million uninsured in our country. Approximately 80% of the uninsured are in households where at least one member of the family has a job. However, according to the Employee Benefit Research Institute, employer-based coverage has declined steadily for the past 18 years.

California is still the Golden State of opportunity. The East Bayshore

area is home to many recent arrivals from the Pacific Islands, Mexico and Central America. They take whatever work they can find, almost always without any benefits. Research shows that immigrants account for one-third of the increase in the uninsured between 1994-98, with a sharp increase between 1998-2003, accounting for 86% of the growth in uninsured. (*The Impact of Immigration on Health Insurance.*)

Thanks to the Bureau of Primary Health Care federal mandate for community health centers to provide medical care to anyone regardless of ability to pay, the uninsured are entitled to primary care. At least 60% of our patients are uninsured; many of them are first or second generation immigrants. Part of our commitment to them is to work with our partners to ensure that they get as good care as those with private insurance coverage.

## Spotlight on Staff: Quynh Tran

In this era of fast is first, big is better, and here today, gone tomorrow—the steady and the reliable become ever more valuable.

Quynh Tran is a mainstay at the clinic. She has been the Executive Assistant since the clinic opened in December 2001. Anyone who joins the clinic soon learns that she knows

where everything is, what's on the schedule, whose birthday it is, and when to order what by when.

Quynh is one of the “boat people” from Vietnam. At the age of sixteen, she and a friend, accompanied by a guardian who was Buddhist monk, boarded a forty-five foot fishing vessel, leaving behind her parents and family. They were at sea for five days. It was so crowded no one could lie down. The boat was taking in water when they were rescued by a Thai fishing vessel and taken to a



Quynh Tran

Malaysian refugee camp. There she waited for a full year before she received sponsorship support from the Buddhist temple in East Palo Alto.

She arrived in California in 1979.

Within four years she had learned English, attended a business college and in 1983 was hired as an assistant at the Easter Seal Society. There she was soon promoted to office manager. By 1986 she was a U.S. citizen. To sponsor her parents, a sister and two brothers, she saved all that she could. They arrived in 1991 and lived with Quynh and her husband for two years.

Quynh now looks after her aging parents. Every evening after

making dinner for her husband and two sons, she goes to their home to help her father who had a stroke over a year ago. She prompts him to exercise, massages his feet, and helps with his medications.

Taking care of others is second nature to her. “Try this,” she says to a staff member and gives a medicinal plant that is used in Vietnam or she brings a bag of kumquats from the tree in her backyard to share with staff. She is as generous as she is capable.

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Flora Family Foundation  
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Net Quality Improvement Initiative  
Lucile Packard Children's Hospital  
Nat'l Eye Institute  
Palo Alto Medical Foundation  
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## Spotlight on Founding Board Member: Charlesetta Fishman

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“I feel fortunate to have been included in the founding of the clinic,” says Charlesetta Fishman. Being a member of a community health center board is not a light responsibility. Board members have oversight of a system of care that must meet a host of expectations as a federally qualified health center. Those who join the Board learn and give a lot of time.



One of them, Charlesetta Fishman, has been at the table from the beginning, when the clinic was being planned by the Blue Ribbon Advisory. Since day one in November 2001, she has been a board member -- steady, consistent and willing to do whatever is needed. She's the chairman of the Fund Development Committee but she prefers a low profile and assigns credit to others.

One way or another she's been associated with medicine for most of her life. Her family moved to California because its med schools welcomed women. Her mother was one of the ones who broke the barrier for women in medicine--as a female and as an African American; she went on to a distinguished career as a surgical podiatrist. Charlesetta herself has worked to improve the health of others indirectly—in an administrative role at Stanford Medical School and as a community board member of the clinic.

Charlesetta has lived in East Palo Alto for 40 years. She knows the history and remembers when University Avenue was not a paved road. Her understanding of the struggle and politics of the community has made her a valuable diplomatic advocate for the clinic.

#### Laughter is the best medicine.

Charlesetta's friends--and there are many--know that humor is her signature. She makes good the saying, “Laughter is the best medicine.” Even going through her own physical trials this past year, she dismisses concern with a ready quip that makes you laugh. “There really isn't much use in complaining,” she says.

Sometimes she stops by the clinic to see how things are going. She talks with patients in the waiting room and asks them how they're doing. She tells them “We're here to help you however we can. You can always get in touch with me.”

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# Private operators show interest in child care

By **Rory Brown**  
Almanac Staff Writer

The idea of privatizing the city-run child care programs in Menlo Park has sparked considerable interest.

Nine child care operators attended a recent conference in Menlo Park to ask Assistant City Manager Audrey Seymour preliminary questions about the child care programs, and the process of putting them out to bid.

No bids have been submitted yet, but Ms. Seymour said 10 operators have shown interest in bidding to take over the city's preschool and school-age child care programs housed in the new \$3.4 million Menlo Children's Center.

The city last month issued a request for proposals to operate the city's programs after the City Council gave direction to staff to explore privatizing the program. The move was pushed by council members Mickie Winkler and Lee Duboc, who were supported by Mayor Nicholas Jellins.

Operators attending the conference included Family Services Agency of San Mateo County,

Learning Adventures of Redwood City, and Newton Center Inc. of Foster City.

Representatives of the city, which is also expected to submit a bid to prove it can compete with private operators, were among the operators at the bidder's conference, Ms. Seymour said.

The request for proposals was sent to 29 child care operators, she said.

The deadline for proposals is July 26.

### Committee's criteria

The city's Child Care RFP Committee, a nine-member task force of parents, appointed officials and child care specialists, will review the proposals, interview the finalists, and ultimately make a recommendation to the City Council regarding who should operate the programs.

The committee is expected to choose no more than five finalists at its August 23 meeting, and to interview finalists September 6.

Committee members on June 28 discussed what criteria will be used to rank the proposals — criteria that will pit proposals against one another rather than

a list of concrete requirements.

The committee will consider factors such as quality of staff, and company qualifications and tuition rates. But key variables — such as maximum tuition fees, and whether an operator would pay rent to use the city's new center — remain open-ended questions.

One variable that has been defined is transportation. The committee is requiring operators to provide a plan for transporting children from their schools to the children's center.

Ms. Seymour said the committee will also have a detailed breakdown of the city's current costs of running the programs — costs that have been largely undefined even as the council has discussed privatizing the programs.

The program costs have fueled arguments from both sides of the privatization debate.

Ms. Winkler, Ms. Duboc, and other members of the community have cited high costs, including pension costs for the city's child care employees, as reason to privatize the programs.

Council member Kelly Fergusson and others have stated that the city has yet to remove overhead costs — administrative costs that won't necessarily disappear after privatization — from the estimated net cost of the programs. ■

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# Mt. Olive church honors founding pastor Hattie Bostic

The church has become mother to some 24 other churches around the U.S. and even one in Kenya.

By Marion Softky  
Almanac Staff Writer

“Friend, mother, therapist, pastor, bricklayer, writer, politician, speaker, soul-saver, teacher, confidante, counselor.”

These words are from the 1992 nomination of Elder Hattie Bostic — founder and pastor of the Mt. Olive Apostolic Original Holy Church of God in Menlo Park — to the San Mateo County Women’s Hall of Fame in 1992.

Since 1963, when she founded a tiny church in her Belle Haven living room with five others, Elder Bostic has been a force both in the church and the community. And two doctor’s degrees later — one, a doctorate of divinity and the other in theology — she is now known as Dr. H.L. Bostic.

Under Dr. Bostic’s leadership, the Mt. Olive church grew in size and reach. From a storefront on Newbridge Avenue, it expanded to a new church on Hamilton Avenue, built by members. A still bigger church and community center in the same location was completed in 1992, with Dr. Bostic serving

as cheerleader, chief fundraiser, contractor and bricklayer.

Over the same period, Dr. Bostic and her flock of about 200 have tried to improve life in Belle Haven by tackling pervasive challenges of crime, education, affordable housing, homelessness, and substance abuse.

“I just can’t say too much about her,” says Matt Henry, president of the Belle Haven Homeowners Association and a former city planning commissioner. “With all the problems we have in the community, a lot of people will go to Mt. Olive to see if Elder Bostic can help.”

*‘With all the problems we have in the community, a lot of people will go to Mt. Olive to see if Elder Bostic can help.’*

MATT HENRY, PRESIDENT,  
BELLE HAVEN  
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

“She helps,” Mr. Henry continues. “She always does.”

The Mt. Olive AOH Church of God has also become mother to some 24 other churches

around the U.S. and even one in Kenya. Dr. Bostic increasingly travels around the country as a missionary to churches and fellowships in New York, Alabama, Florida and elsewhere.

“I’m not here a lot,” says Dr. Bostic during an interview in her large office in the church — the day before taking off for another week at a convention in



This week **Pastor Hattie Bostic** hosts the Pentecost National Convention in Menlo Park.

Mobile, Alabama.

This week, the church’s 15th annual Pentecost National Convention will bring several hundred people to Menlo Park from Friday, July 7, through Sunday, July 16. They will seek fellowship, fun, and inspiration at workshops, seminars, study groups, and twice-daily services at the Mt. Olive Church.

A special Founder’s Day program honoring Dr. Bostic will kick off “Pentecost 2006,” with a 7 p.m. service at the church.

**Faith and determination**

Growing up in Mobile, Alabama, Hattie lived with many of the problems she helps fight

now, including homelessness.

One of eight children in a broken home, raised by a sick and abused mother, Hattie went to work when she was 9. She chopped wood in a wood yard to support her family. “I’d go to school when I could, and chop wood when I could,” she says. “I made \$2 a week. At that time, \$2 would almost buy groceries.”

Part of the time, she says, she was homeless. “That’s one of the reasons I’ve started so many programs to help the homeless.”

As a rough and lonely teenager, Hattie meditated on how to get out of poverty, and began reading her Bible. Someone invited

her to a revival at a local church. “The rest is history,” she says.

Hattie journeyed to California twice as a teenager to join a couple of traveling evangelists. In 1958, she married their son, Leon Bostic, and settled in Menlo Park. “I started pastoring in 1960,” Dr. Bostic recalls.

They raised five sons; now she has 12 grandchildren, mostly in California.

**Mission in Menlo**

In person, Dr. Bostic is warm, dignified, accessible; on the pulpit, her fiery sermons with pulsing rhetoric draw troubled souls toward salvation.

Her two sides have combined to build a passionate church that has become a powerful force improving the Belle Haven neighborhood and reaching out to charities around the Peninsula.

At the time of the Los Angeles riots of 1968, she founded the Crime Prevention Narcotics and Drug Education Center. For years the center hosted a parade during Crime Prevention Week, which ends the first Saturday in May. “I got involved to try and

See **BOSTIC**, next page

**More information on Mt. Olive**

The Mt. Olive Apostolic Original Holy Church of God welcomes all comers to its services at 605 Hamilton Ave. in Menlo Park.

The church also seeks participants, volunteers and funds for its charity and outreach programs for youth, education, the homeless, and crime prevention.

Its future plans include acquiring a new building in Menlo Park for crime and education programs, and developing programs and facilities on about 20 acres of church property near Oroville.

People interested in the church may also tune in to its radio program which has been running for more than 30 years on Sunday nights at 10:30 p.m. on KFAQ (1100 on the AM dial); or a television program, “Time of Enlightenment,” which airs on some local channels.

For information on the programs for “Pentecost 2006,” or other church activities, call 853-0355; or go to mountolive.org.

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**BOSTIC**

*continued from previous page*

calm down the community,” Dr. Bostic recalls. “We built rapport with the police department.”

This year, Crime Prevention Week culminated in a carnival. “We gave out a lot of bicycles and televisions,” Dr. Bostic says. “Young people come all the way from Richmond. We have job fairs.”

Over the years, Dr. Bostic has had her ups and downs with the city of Menlo Park. She relishes the time — almost 40 years ago — she designed a storm drain system that was adopted by the city.

“I prayed about it. I asked God to get a plan; I stayed up until 2 a.m.,” Dr. Bostic recalls. The next morning she presented the plan to city officials over breakfast. “We walked the area. I showed them where to put catch basins and how to do the storm drain.”

By 1976, Dr. Bostic was so involved with the city she ran, unsuccessfully, for city council.

During the 1980s, Elder Bostic came to the rescue of the Draeger family, which had to relocate an eight-unit apartment in order to get city permission to expand their market.

After several false starts, the Draegers gave the apartment to the church, and had the building trundled across Bayshore to a new location beside the church.

There, Mt. Olive Arms, lovingly refurbished by the congregation, still provides reasonable-priced housing. It has also served women recovering from substance abuse. Along with the church, the apartment house sports a new coat of white paint for the upcoming celebration. Dr. Bostic herself painted the wrought iron fences a festive maroon and gold.

Over her career, Dr. Bostic has garnered many honors beside the Women’s Hall of Fame. In 1970, she received a special commendation from the FBI for pioneering work in crime prevention — including what may have been the first “Neighborhood Watch” program in the country. She received a Beautification Award from Menlo Park for the new church.

Dr. Bostic still plans for the future, however challenging. “We’re looking for a building in the area where we can expand education and crime prevention — a building where we can have a church environment and not be exposed to the street,” she says.

Looking back over her 43 years as pastor of the Mt. Olive AOH Church of God, Dr. Bostic reflects, “I’ve done some seemingly impossible things over the years.” ■

## Lorelei Manor wins new ‘zoning overlay’

It’s going to be easier to remodel homes in Menlo Park’s Lorelei Manor neighborhood.

The City Council, at its June 27 meeting, voted unanimously to approve a zoning overlay for the neighborhood, which is between Bay Road and U.S. 101, just south of Marsh Road.

With the approved overlay, the neighborhood’s homeowners can build first-story additions without a use permit or review by the Planning Commission.

Residents have sought zoning exceptions for more than two years, stating that many of the neighborhood’s lots are small or oddly configured, and small projects require a time-consuming review process — a use-permit and full hearing before the Planning Commission.

Henry Riggs, a resident of the neighborhood and a planning commissioner, said 71 of the neighborhood’s 89 residents signed a petition endorsing the overlay.

Councilwoman Mickie Winkler commended the work done by the neighbors in researching and proposing the overlay, and said she would “help any other neighborhood that wants to create an overlay as well.”

Councilwoman Kelly Ferguson questioned the neighbors’ claims that some of the regulations in the overlay will be “tighter” than the city’s guidelines, but still voted to approve the proposal.

**Correction**

The Almanac’s June 28 story titled “Council swiftly approves budget despite revenue gap” includes a chart erroneously showing that heritage tree removal permits have increased to \$160. The council increased the fee to \$125 for each of the first three trees, and adopted a new fee of \$75 for each additional tree removed at the same property.

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# A Sail for all Seasons

Kids become sailors with  
the help of a Portola Valley man

Story and photos by  
**DAVID BOYCE**

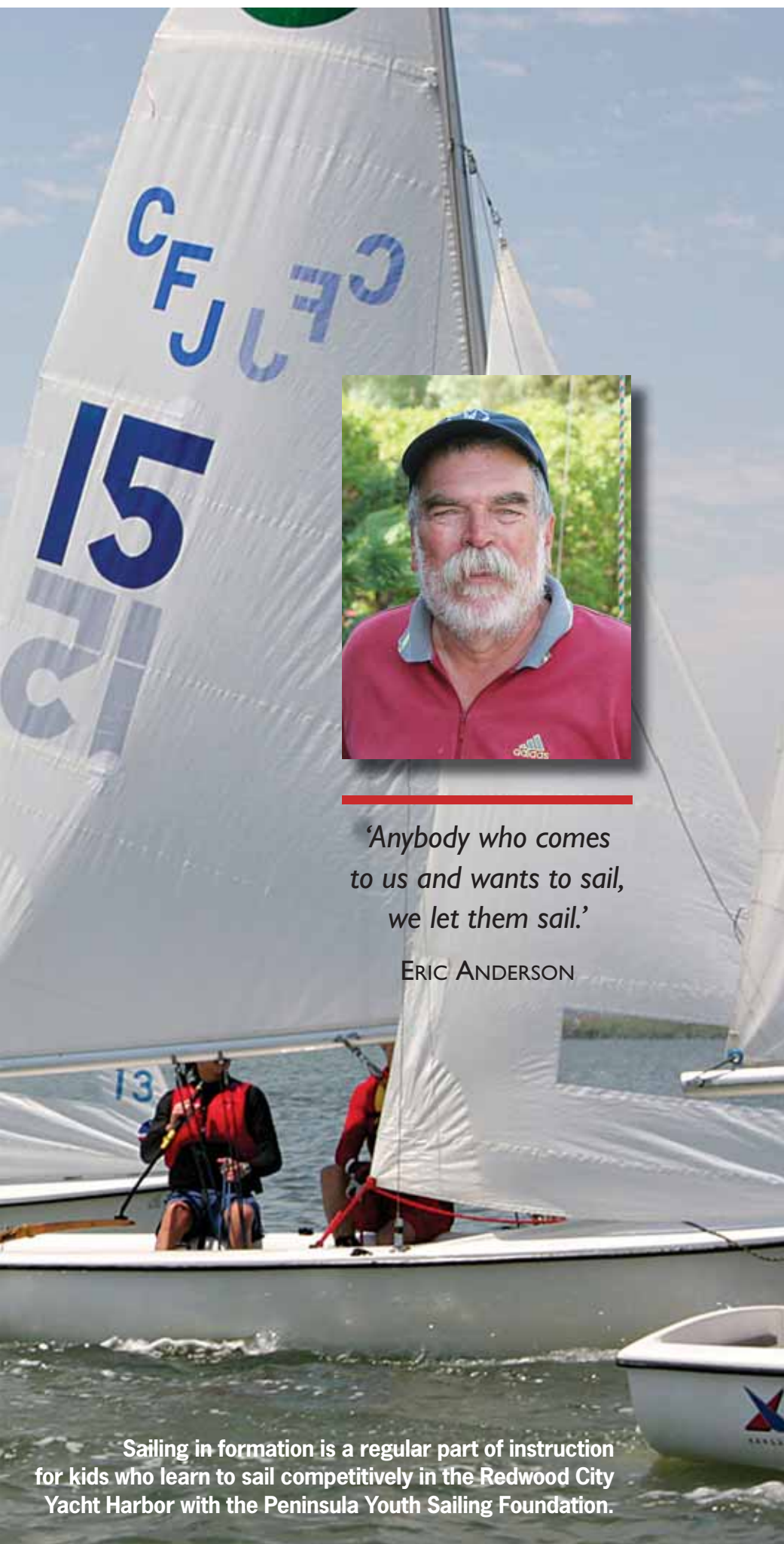
Almanac Staff Writer

**B**

*ack when ships had yardarms and young sailors  
thought nothing of scampering up a ratline to  
rig a topsail, mothers and wives sang mournfully  
of the siren sea that took their men away for  
months or years, and all too often kept them.*

Well, the mourning may be less frequent today but the allure of the sea has not gone away. There are kids — perhaps even one on your block — who hear the call of wind and water and spend their weekends, regardless of season, in or around the sailboats of the Peninsula Youth Sailing Foundation in the harbor at Redwood City.

The foundation, now in its fifth year, is the inspiration of Portola Valley resident and former sailor Eric Anderson. The foundation offers sailing instruction, including competitive sailing, for kids



Sailing in formation is a regular part of instruction for kids who learn to sail competitively in the Redwood City Yacht Harbor with the Peninsula Youth Sailing Foundation.

ages 7 and older in age-appropriate boats for a fee of \$450 per quarter, not including occasional regatta fees.

Four kids are enrolled on full scholarships, courtesy of a few “very, very generous parents” and the Sequoia Yacht Club, says Mr. Anderson, who adds: “Anybody who comes to us and wants to sail, we let them sail.”

Kids ages 7 to 18 are welcome. At the moment, 32 are enrolled in the program, says Mr. Anderson. A typical outing to a regatta includes about 24 to 30 kids for 12 to 15 two-person boats, he says, with one

skipper and one crew member per boat.

The boats are dinghies: the 7-foot, single-sail Optimist for young kids; and for older kids, the 13-foot Flying Junior, a pure racing craft that has a main and a jib sail and can be rigged with a spinnaker — the spectacular but high-maintenance balloon-like sail used for running downwind.

The foundation has one paid employee: the head coach Dan Brandt, an accomplished sailor and a former coach at the San Francisco Yacht Club. Mr. Brandt, 29,

See *SAIL*, page 20



**Top:** With the wind behind them, sailors sail “wing-and-wing,” with sails out on both sides.

**Middle:** A day’s sailing enjoying the wind, water, sun and the steady refinement of small-boat skills.

**Bottom:** The good-natured discipline of the coaching staff of the Peninsula Youth Sailing Foundation can include push-ups if you overshoot the starting line in a racing drill.

#### ■ INFORMATION

**Beginner and intermediate sailing classes** are starting through August 14 this summer at the Redwood City harbor. For more information on classes and on the Peninsula Youth Sailing Foundation, go to [pysf.us](http://pysf.us) or call Eric Anderson at **854-1048**.



**Instructor Ashley Simpson** sails for the University of California, Irvine, and won the 2005 Girls' Junior World Championship for the 29er class of high-performance skiff sailboat.

**The Flying Junior dinghy** is a pure racing craft. It's designed for a crew of two but can be single-handed by a skilled sailor.



**Learning to sail** means getting wet. The boy standing on the centerboard is going through the routine of righting a capsized boat by using his body weight to swing it upright.

## SAIL

*continued from page 19*

says he learned to sail small boats on Idaho lakes.

Mr. Brandt has raced small boats internationally, including in several world championships. After six months under his tutelage, most kids sail well enough to avoid running into other boats, he says.

Chris Huang, a resident of Menlo Park and a junior at Summit Preparatory High School, has found happiness; he's been enrolled in the foundation sailing program for two years.

"Even when you get good, you (refine) your own particular style that's built on everybody else's," Chris says. "I'll come here until they kick me out. ... I love sailing."

Chris says his dad owns four boats, including a 44-foot sailboat, and that the family has taken long trips along both coasts. He was home-schooled for a while.

Freshman Matt Van Rensselaer of Portola Valley has sailed and raced for three years in foundation boats. "I like sailing because it's not so much a physical sport," he says. "The biggest, strongest guy out there is not winning. It's the person who thinks the best."

Matt says he likes sailing because it's easy to make friends and because the travel to tournaments and the variety of people he meets there seem more interesting than would be the case in other sports.

"I just want to get better, to be a top sailor in the world, to be good enough to get paid for sailing," he says. That's not all he wants to do: he says he has serious career plans in the fields of engineering and architecture.

## A sailing family

Eric Anderson runs a real estate brokerage in

his day job, but he sailed for most of his life. He used to sail his 27-footer in San Francisco Bay with his wife as crew, but abandoned it after she complained about the constant battering winds that blow across the bay.

He sailed single-handed for a while, but says he didn't enjoy it. "It wasn't fun without her."

He sold his boat. Asked if it was a hard decision, he replied: "Divorce would have been harder."

One day his son, who hadn't experienced the family's sailing days, asked his dad if he'd ever heard of a "Laser," a popular single-sail 12-foot boat.

From his wife came the words "Oh no," Mr. Anderson recalls with a smile. His two sons are in now in the University of California and both sail for their schools, he says.

The Peninsula Youth Sailing Foundation came about as a result of five parents who wanted their kids to learn to sail, Mr. Anderson says.

With money the parents donated, he bought 10 Flying Junior sailboats, then hired a coach and started lessons. A donated portable building came later on land donated by the port of Redwood City in exchange for occasional sailing outings for kids at risk. ■

**Matt Van Rensselaer**, below, of Portola Valley and Chris Huang, right, of Menlo Park prepare for a day on the water by hoisting sails.



## Bank in Menlo Park robbed

Three men armed with guns robbed the Union Bank at 716 Santa Cruz Ave. at about 9:30 a.m. Friday, June 30, and got away with cash from the bank's teller stations, said Sgt. Matt Bacon of the Menlo Park Police Department.

Police said the robbers entered the bank and ordered everyone to get down on the floor. No one

was injured.

The men, all black and in their late teens or early 20s, were last seen getting into a black two-door vehicle, possibly an older Ford or Mercury, police said.

Police are asking anyone with information on the robbery to call Officer Louis Tommei at 854-6300.

## Evolution under the stars at Stanford

Stanford's "Science under the Stars" lectures will continue Thursday, July 6, at 7 p.m., when Matthew Scott, professor of developmental biology, genetics and bioengineering, discusses "Using Evolution to Understand Human Growth and Disease" on the grass outside the Cantor Center for the Visual Arts.

Visitors can combine the free

lecture with exploring the Cantor center. They may bring their own chairs and picnic, or indulge in an organic barbecue buffet at the Cool Cafe, from 5 to 8 p.m. Meat and vegetarian choices are available for \$12 cash. Lawn chairs will be available.

For information, call 723-2558, or go to Stanford.edu, and click on news.

### Correction

The Woodside Priory School graduate, pictured in the Almanac's graduation story last week, is Stephanie Stoll, not Hilary Helfrich. The Almanac regrets the mistaken identity and sends apologies and congratulations to both graduates.

### BIRTHS

#### Menlo Park

- Jenny and Todd Freiermuth, a daughter, June 21, at Sequoia Hospital.
- Fiona and David Walker, a son, June 24, at Sequoia Hospital.
- Maureen and Joshua Schiffman, a son, June 26, at Sequoia Hospital.

#### Portola Valley

- Laura and Robert Kavanaugh, a daughter, June 26, at Sequoia Hospital.



### In the service

Air Force Airman Danielle N. Gable, the daughter of Rickie Gable of Menlo Park, recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. She is a 2005 graduate of Alta Vista High School in Mountain View.

### OBITUARY

#### Kathleen Burson

Early childhood education leader

A memorial service, followed by a reception, will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 5, at Stanford Memorial Church for Kathleen Burson, a nine-year resident of Woodside who died June 22 of pancreatic cancer. She was 60.

Long known for her contributions to early childhood education, Ms. Burson served until recently as the dean of child development and education at DeAnza College in Cupertino.

Ms. Burson was born in Santa Rosa. She graduated from Sonoma State University and



Kathleen Burson

earned masters degrees at Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena and Stanford University. At the time of her illness, she had completed coursework toward her doctorate at Stanford.

She began her career as a kindergarten teacher, established the Learn Tree pre-school in the Willow Glen neighborhood of San Jose and developed De Anza's child development center into a model pre-school and training center for early childhood teachers.

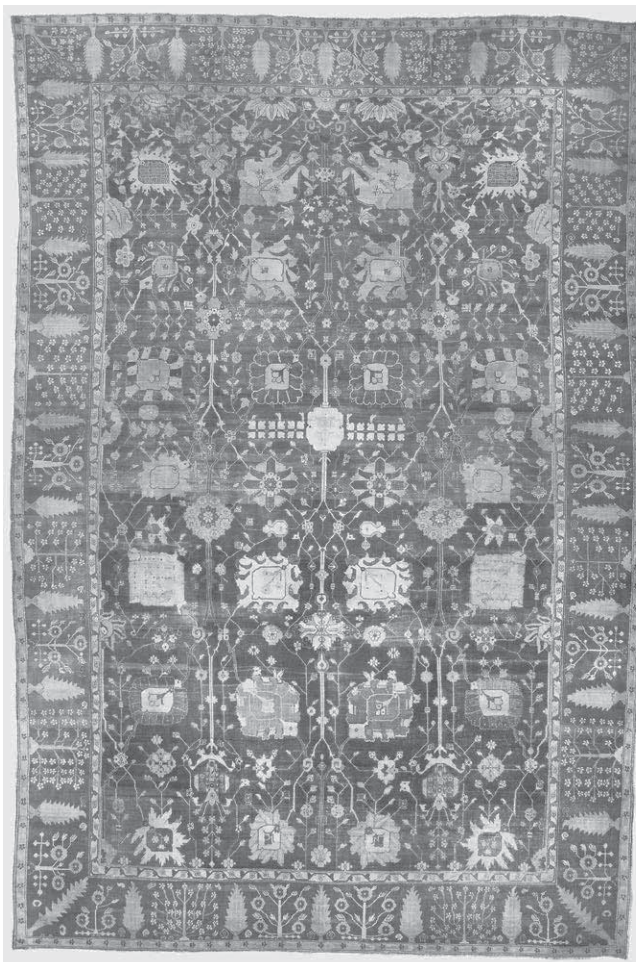
Not only an educator, she wrote poetry, composed for the piano, played guitar, was an avid gardener, and possessed a rare intellect, say family members.

She is survived by her daughters Anne and Erin Burson; mother Ardice Joy; and sister Arlene Young.

Donations may be made to the Stanford Comprehensive Cancer Center or to Pathways Hospice.

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### POLICE CALLS

*This information is from the Atherton and Menlo Park police departments and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.*

#### ATHERTON

##### Burglary reports:

■ Eric Peterson, 40, of San Leandro, and Lisa Dooly, 46, of Hayward, arrested on burglary charges, 200 block of Park Lane, June 23.

■ Tools stolen from unlocked garage, 100 block of Burns Avenue, June 27.

##### Suspicious circumstances reports:

■ Police looking for vehicle from which water balloons were thrown, Valparaiso Avenue and Alameda de las Pulgas, June 27.

■ Resident reported golf balls landing near residence windows and coming from direction of back yard, first block of Barry Lane, June 27.

#### MENLO PARK

##### Burglary reports:

■ Jewelry, computer and TV stolen from residence, 800 block of Woodland Avenue, June 23.

■ Jewelry, computer and DVD player stolen from residence, 1000 block of Blackburn Avenue, June 23.

■ Bike stolen from locked garage after lock cut, 1600 block of El Camino Real, June 25.

■ Evidence of tampering with door at business, 3500 block of Haven Avenue, June 27.

■ Attempted break-in at equipment room, Menlo-Atherton High School at 555 Middlefield Road, June 27.

■ Grand theft report: Laptop computer stolen, 1300 block of Willow Road, June 29.

##### Auto burglary reports:

■ Break-in, 1100 block of Madera Avenue, June 25.

■ Three dollars stolen from unlocked vehicle, 1400 block of Plumas Avenue, June 25.

■ Headphones stolen, 1100 block of Del Norte Avenue, June 25.

■ Loose change stolen from unlocked vehicle, 100 block of Terminal Avenue, June 25.

■ Cell phone stolen, 300 block of Ivy Drive, June 25.

■ Break-in to two vehicles, 200 block of Chester Street, June 26.

■ Cell phone stolen, 300 block of Sharon Park Drive, June 26.

■ Car stereo stolen from trunk, 600 block of Sharon Park Drive, June 28.

■ Fraud report: Check fraud, first block of Brent Court, June 28.

■ Child protective services report: Reported at police station, June 28.

#### WOODSIDE

■ Auto burglary report: Stereo stolen, Canada College at 4200 Farm Hill Boulevard, June 27.

##### Suspicious circumstances reports:

■ Loitering man asking passing women for their phone numbers, Robert's Market at 3015 Woodside Road, June 21.

■ Girl fled after being approached by two men in white pick-up truck who offered her money and ride home if she would help find their lost dog, 300 block of Woodside Road, June 22.

■ Mountain lion sighting report: Woman at night accompanied by barking dog visited her mailbox, shined flashlight across street and saw lion, 100 block of Hardwick Road, June 23.

#### WEST MENLO PARK

■ Assault report: Anthony Stabile of San Mateo arrested on charges of physically beating elderly man afflicted with dementia, 2000 block of Santa Cruz Avenue, June 26.

## Editor & Publisher

Tom Gibboney

## Editorial

**Managing Editor** Richard Hine

**News Editor** Renee Batti

**Lifestyles Editor** Jane Knoerle

**Senior Staff Writers**

Marion Softky, Marjorie Mader

**Staff Writers** Andrea Gemmet,

David Boyce, Rory Brown

**Contributors** Barbara Wood,

Bryan Wiggin, Kate Daly,

Bill Rayburn, Miles McMullin,

Katie Blankenberg

**Special Sections Editors**

Carol Blitzer, Sue Dremann

**Photographer** Marjan Sadoughi

## Design & Production

**Design Director** Raul Perez

**Assistant Design Director**

Katie Cvitkovich

**Designers** Linda Atilano

Gail Thoreson, Jessica Mumper,

Holly Peters, Michael Villalobos,

Elise Eisenman, Sara Rosenberg

## Advertising

**Advertising Manager** Neal Fine

**Display Advertising Sales**

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## Advertising Services

**Coordinator** M.J. Hayden

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**Circulation, Classified,**

**& Legal Advertising**

Bill Rayburn

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3525 Alameda de las Pulgas,

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(650) 854-2626

FAX (650) 854-0677

e-mail news (no photos please) to:

editor@AlmanacNews.com

e-mail photos with captions to:

photo@AlmanacNews.com

e-mail letters to:

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The Almanac, established in September 1965, is delivered each week to residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley, Woodside and adjacent unincorporated areas of southern San Mateo County. The Almanac is qualified by decrees of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature.

Decree No. 13500 continues the Menlo-Atherton Recorder (granted Oct. 24, 1927). Decree No. 147350, issued Nov. 9, 1969, covers The Almanac edition. Subscriptions are available at \$25 per year for delivery to ZIP codes 94025, 26, 27, 28 and 94062. For other ZIP codes, 1 year is \$40, and 2 years \$55.



## 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)

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**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.

# Is there a tax in Menlo's future?

The Menlo Park City Council may soon have to consider the "T" word, as in tax, as it struggles to make up what seems to be a fast-growing deficit in this year's budget.

Ever since last year, when the city launched the "Your City-Your Decision" budget exercise, it appeared that \$2.9 million

was needed to balance the books. Some \$2 million of that number was earmarked for

"infrastructure maintenance," a surprise amount that many

residents weren't initially aware of.

But the city has more costs to cover.

Last month, administrators said the city should begin setting aside about \$860,000 a year to pay for employee health care costs.

The city's workforce has decreased by about 13 percent, but employee costs are estimated to increase by 27 percent to more than \$21 million for the 2006-07 fiscal year.

The city is also expected to pay about \$2.8 million for employee pension costs.

This year, despite fee increases and cuts to city programs, the city is expected to fall \$1.8 million short of covering its costs.

Considering the long-term costs associated with employee retirement and health benefits, and the city's lean budgets in the last five years, it's clear the city needs to find a new source of revenue.

The council may be forced to consider putting a new tax on the November ballot, or taking more from the reserve fund.

In prior discussions, a utility tax was the center of discussion, but a parcel tax or increased business license fees aren't out of the question.

Consideration of what type of tax measure — if any — is put on the November ballot is scheduled for the council's July 18 meeting.

In this situation, a tax is certainly preferable to dipping into reserves to meet an ongoing budget obligation.

A recent study estimated that a 1 percent utility tax could raise about \$800,000 a year. Such a tax would cost a household with \$175 in monthly utility bills — for electricity, gas, cable TV, phone and water — an additional \$21 a year.

During the "Your Budget-Your Decision" workshop discussions, many participants indicated they would prefer a small tax increase to the painful program cuts that were on the table.

In one session at the Burgess Recreation Center, participants turned thumbs down on reducing police services and opted for a tax instead.

Due to the early August deadline to submit ballot items, it appears that the council must make a decision at the July 18 meeting.

If approved, a second reading of the ordinance could be held July 25, in time to make the county's deadline.

It is our guess that residents will react favorably to a utility tax, which would need a simple majority to pass.

In prior years, the city has been fortunate to be able to sustain services on sales tax and other revenues. But in today's economy that is not possible.

Menlo Park voters have given generous support to local schools in parcel tax and bond elections, most recently approving a \$91 million bond issue for the Menlo Park City School District.

We can't imagine that a reasonable request for a utility tax would not be approved by a similar wide margin.

The alternative is deficit spending or huge cuts in city staff and services.

## EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

## LETTERS

Our readers write

### How to test systems at Burgess Pools

Editor:

As an interested retired chemical engineer who worked with lethal and hazardous material processes for over 40 years, I have two fact-finding suggestions for the city of Menlo Park to carry out at the Burgess pools, following the recent mysterious leak.

1. Repeat the emergency shutdown with all interested contractor and city officials present (of course, no parents or children).

All emergency shutdowns depend on several design inputs from engineers, electricians, computer programmers, and so on, so we always tested the system before the process was used.

In the pool case you would put everything in operation and then just go over and pull the emergency stop. You may get a surprise after you start the system up again.

2. Check the Hazardous Materials Business Plan for the facility's use.

As dictated by federal, state, county and city law, any operation that uses or stores lethal

or hazardous materials above a certain threshold quantity must submit and have approved by the city hazardous materials officials a Hazardous Materials Business Plan.

Chlorine, if it is used, is lethal and hazardous and the thresh-

old-reporting amount is very small. The pool operation may be below the reporting threshold, but everyone must be informed that both the city officials and the operators of a business have a legal responsibility.

The business has to document

in the plan the chemicals and amounts, the emergency response plan, the emergency response personnel with telephone numbers, plus several other items. The city hazardous materials group has to

See **LETTERS**, next page



Woodside Library Collection

## Our Regional Heritage

This 1870 photo shows a small bridge on Huddart Farm Road, which is now known as Greer Road, in Woodside.

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# Sheeper a good fit at city's pools

By Dave Gildea

Sometimes a city government does something right. In spite of recent criticism, the Menlo Park-Tim Sheeper arrangement at the Burgess Pools seems to be one of those times.

In February this year, Menlo Park arranged with Mr. Sheeper, a local, long-time swim program manager, to operate its new swimming pools at Burgess Park. Mr. Sheeper is known and highly regarded in the local swimming community for his personal integrity and the swim and triathlon programs he runs. Several years ago, when coaching swimmers at the old Burgess pool, he was named the Pacific region masters swimming coach of the year.

Menlo Park built the new Burgess pools after voters approved the Measure T capital improvement funds several years ago. Then, in early 2005, an estimated budget deficit of \$2.9 million made it questionable whether the city could afford to operate the pools when they were completed.

The city staff estimated the pool operation to be a major portion of the total deficit. A survey of Menlo Park residents listed the pool operation as the number one thing to cut.

Some argued that funds to cover the deficit in pool operations should be taken out of reserves. Raising taxes was discussed. Not opening one or more of the pools or delaying the opening of all the pools was considered. If there was a consensus solution, it wasn't found during this discussion.

Then, in January 2006, Mr. Sheeper made an

offer to run the Burgess pools at no cost to the city. The city staff made several estimates of the annual savings that Mr. Sheeper was providing, the lowest being \$415,000. The offer seems to fit into that often claimed but seldom-achieved category of a win-win solution — a high-quality result with a cost savings at the same time.

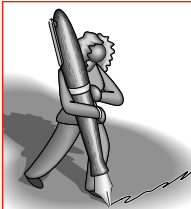
There has been criticism of the City Council for not knowing the exact amount of the savings that Mr. Sheeper was providing. One council member argued that the city should hire pool employees so it could measure the costs more exactly.

There has been criticism of the City Council for rushing to a decision. At the time of Mr. Sheeper's offer, the scheduled completion of the Burgess pools was May 2006, four months away. The equipment warranties started in May whether the pools were operating or not and no amount of discussion could delay the summer swim season.

This didn't leave much time for the city to make a decision. However, deadlines can be a wonderful thing. After several city meetings and a use permit, the Sheeper offer was finalized in April.

We should commend our city government for engaging the highly regarded Tim Sheeper, saving us an estimated \$415,000 even if we do not know the exact amount, and making a decision in a timely manner.

*Dave Gildea is a member of the Stanford masters swimming program and has been a competitive and exercise swimmer in the area for 40 years. He lives on Hermosa Way in Menlo Park.*



**GUEST OPINION**

## LETTERS

Continued from previous page

inspect the site and approve the plan before the operation can be placed in service.

If all parties understood and followed these laws the politics of who is responsible would not so muddled in the news media. This holds for hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and chemical releases.

**Daniel J. Brenzel**  
Hermosa Place, Menlo Park

### Portola Valley doesn't need utility tax now

Editor:

Your article last week, stating that Portola Valley was one of the cities that had been denied its fair share of property taxes since 1988, was of more than passing interest.

During the recent campaign to renew the city's utility tax, the council stated that, since Portola Valley did not get its fair share of the property taxes (due to some arcane deal that had been cut at the time of incorporation), they needed voters to approve the utility tax. Obviously not true.

At the time I thought this extremely unfair, that we should pay full property taxes and also a utility tax because of our "unique" status. Now that

Portola Valley will be receiving its legitimate share of property taxes, there should be no need for the utility tax.

Our elected officials and government administrators should focus their efforts on wisely using the

tax dollars they now receive and making sure they are getting the maximum distribution from the county, state and federal coffers.

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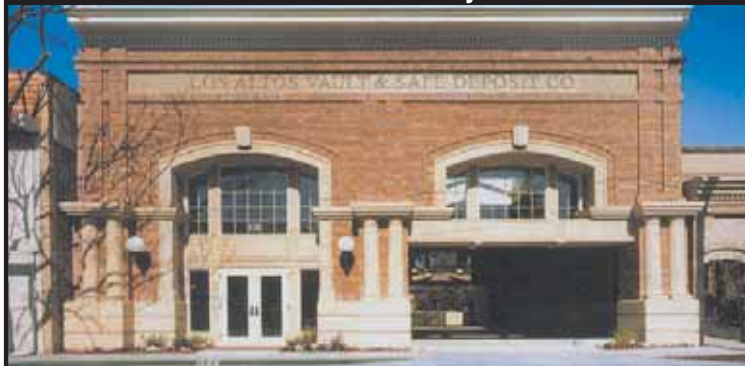
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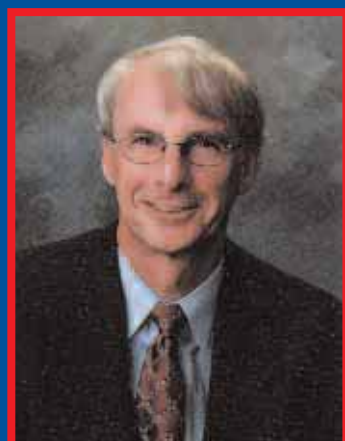


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