

FIRE BOARD member calls
pension costs 'unstainable.' Page 5

The Almanac

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

AUGUST 9, 2006

www.AlmanacNews.com | VOL. 41 NO. 49

Their feature presentation

Portola Valley product
Gardner Loulan comes home
to make a movie and gets
plenty of help from
local residents

[See Page 12]

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT

How it all started

This gate was erected at the entrance of a 1,700-acre farm in what is now Menlo Park by two Irish settlers from Menlough, Ireland. They called their farm Menlo Park as early as 1854, says Richard Angus, president of the Menlo Park Historical Association, which will hold a celebration on Saturday, August 12, of the founding of Menlo Park. Descendants of at least one of the settlers are expected at the event. (See story on Page 10.) The name



Menlo Park was painted on the arch of the gate — although it can't be seen here — and was shortened from "Menlough" to "Menlo," the legend goes, because the painter couldn't fit in the longer word. The gate was located on what is now El Camino Real, probably just south of Menlo Avenue, he says.

Atherton

■ City attorney agrees to release to the council an investigative report on the town's building department; Almanac seeks public release of the document. **Page 7**

Menlo Park

■ New report: City child care programs recover their costs, raising questions about whether privatization is necessary. **Page 5**

■ Council puts utility tax on ballot — barely. **Page 8**

Fire board

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Environment

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On the cover

Gardner Loulan, 24, on the set of his directorial debut, titled "Our Feature Presentation." Several of Mr. Loulan's former classmates at Sacred Heart worked on the production, which was filmed locally. Photo by Marcia Quackenbush. See **Page 12**.

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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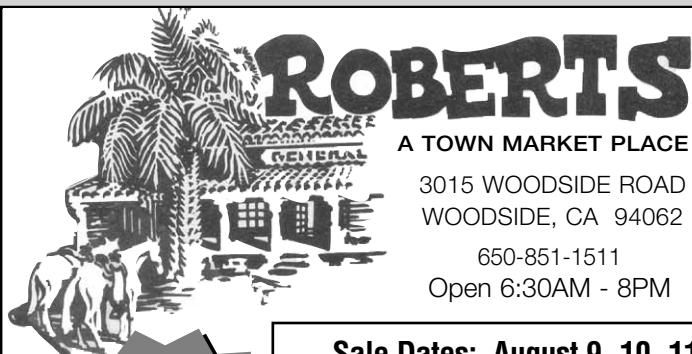
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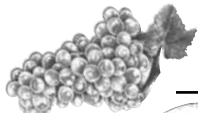
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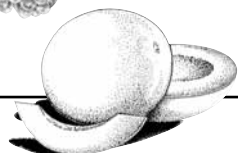
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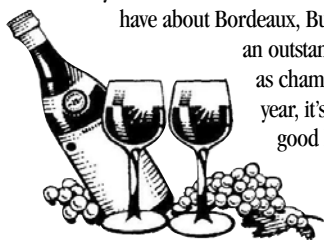
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Que Syrah, Syrah

The Syrah grape is known as the classic French variety responsible for the great Rhone wines, including Hermitage and Cote Rotie. It is also the chief component of Chateaufort-du-Pape. It has been exported widely around the world, most notably to Australia where the vine is called Shiraz. The origin of this grape variety is thought to be what is now the country of Iran, in the town of Shiraz. From there, ancient Greek seafarers are credited with bringing the grape westward to be grown in the vineyards of southern France before the Romans arrived. When Syrah remains unblended, as it does in the northern Rhone wines, it needs careful winemaking and benefits from aging in oak. The result can be a long-lived, complex wine that can rival the best red Bordeaux. In fact, until a century ago, Syrah was added to red Bordeaux to add color and flavor. Today, Australia continues this tradition by blending Syrah with Cabernet Sauvignon to create relatively soft, accessible wines.

Everyone here loves to talk about wine, so feel free to ask us any questions you may have about Bordeaux, Burgundy, Cabernet Sauvignon, or other wines. We carry an outstanding selection of California and imported wines, as well as champagne and beers. Keep in mind that every season of the year, it's always nice to sit with family and friends and toast to good health and happy times. Stop by and look us over.



Hint: In everyday wines, Syrah may be blended with undistinguished grapes to add spice and interest.

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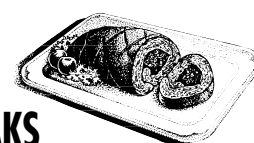
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Just ducky, thanks

Four little ducklings, trapped down a storm drain on Ridgeview Drive and in peril of drowning, were rescued by Matt and Daniel, a couple of stout-hearted construction workers from Steve and Anita Westly's property. Atherton Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen said she summoned help after a UPS driver told her about a mama mallard in deep distress. The men levered open the heavy grate and one jumped into the murky abyss to fish out the babies, she said. The reunited family then waddled away.

And now for something completely different

The Community Foundation Silicon Valley has merged with the Peninsula Community Foundation and is now ... (drum roll, please) the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

That's right, it's not the Community Foundation Silicon Valley, it's the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. Try to keep it straight.

Anyone who's seen Monty Python's "The Life of Brian" may be reminded of the scene in which hapless hero Brian tries to find a band of rebels.

His question, "Are you the Judean People's Front?" is met with expletives and outrage by a representative of the People's Front of Judea, who can't believe anyone could be stupid enough to confuse the two.

Let's hope the Silicon Valley Community Foundation handles any cases of mistaken identity more tolerantly.

All aboard WiFi

So much for downtime en route to the office. Caltrain is trumpeting a successful test of high-speed wireless Internet service on its high-speed Baby Bullet trains, ushering in a new era for multi-tasking commuters.

A Web surfing test using wireless broadband along 16 miles of track proved it could be done, making it the first rail line in the country to do so, Caltrain officials said.

Now, Caltrain is working on engineering to install the wireless access along the entire rail mainline, said spokeswoman Rita Haskin.

Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Carpenter: Pension costs 'unsustainable'

■ Fire board member Peter Carpenter calls on the public to comment on the growing problem of pension costs.

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

A Menlo Park Fire Protection District board member who wants to revamp the district's pension commitments to its future firefighters has successfully pushed to have such contract issues aired at a public board meeting, even as closed-door contract negotiations are in full swing.

Board member Peter Carpenter wants the public to have its say — before negotiations over new contracts with firefighters and district managers are completed — about whether the district should continue to fund pensions at the current level, which he says could lead to "mortgaging the future of the district."

Although specifics about the ongoing

negotiations can't be disclosed publicly, the August 15 board meeting agenda will include a period for the public to state their views on pension benefits, health care programs and wages, according to board President John Osmer.

District firefighters and higher-ranked staff receive the highest pension benefits allowed under the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS), as do a majority of fire and law enforcement workers in the state. That formula allows an employee with 30 years of service to retire as early as age 50 with 90 percent of his or her highest salary annually until death.

The formula was agreed to in the five-year contract that just expired. Prior to July 2002, firefighters with 30 years of service could retire at age 50 with 60 percent of his or her



Board member Peter Carpenter says funding pensions at the current level could lead to 'mortgaging the future of the district.'

highest salary.

The cost of pensions for the district has risen dramatically over the last few years. In fiscal year 2001-02, the cost was \$290,000. By 2005-06, that figure had risen to \$3.5 million — or about 18 percent of the district's \$19.3 million budget. The costs under the current plan are expected to continue rising.

Mr. Osmer noted that the public has always been free to comment on any topic,

See **PENSION COSTS**, page 8

Watch this space

The end came quickly for the old administration building at Woodside Elementary School on the morning of July 25.

School staff will use temporary quarters during the \$12 million campus renewal project, which is scheduled to begin in the fall and includes 13 new classrooms, a full size soccer field and a new administration building on the site of the old one.

The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi



New report: Child care programs recover their costs

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

Although Menlo Park is currently reviewing proposals to privatize its city-run child care programs under the assumption the programs now operate at a \$444,000 deficit, a recent report says the programs nearly cover their costs.

A report compiled by the city staff members who operate the existing child care programs says the programs recover nearly all of their costs — an argument previously made by parents with

children in the programs.

The city's child care staff is one of three parties that responded to a city-issued request for proposals to operate the preschool and school-age programs based in the new Menlo Children's Center.

The other bidders are Pacifica-based Building Kidz, and Redwood City-based Learning Adventures, a child care startup company that currently has no facility.

The city issued the request

for proposals after the council — led by Mickie Winkler and Lee Duboc and supported by Nicholas Jellins — directed staff to explore privatizing the programs.

Ms. Winkler and Ms. Duboc cited the city's subsidy of the programs — pegged at the time at \$444,000 a year by city staff — as motivation to consider turning their operation over to a private operator.

Estimated costs

But the programs' estimated cost has wavered for several months, and the city's finance

director and other staff members have been unable to publicly confirm what the city would save if the programs were privatized.

The city's report says the programs' tuition fees — which were raised in May — will cover all but about \$4,500 of the estimated cost for the current fiscal year.

Michael Taylor, the city's acting community services director, said the city is expected to pull about \$200,000 from the general fund for the child

See **CHILD CARE**, page 8



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City attorney agrees to release investigation report to council

■ Almanac asks for public disclosure of the report due to residents' allegations of misconduct.

By **Andrea Gemmet**

Almanac Staff Writer

The top-secret investigator's report on the Atherton Building Department got a slightly wider readership last week, as Atherton City Council members gained access to it for the first time.

A jubilant Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen, who campaigned fiercely for the council to be allowed to see the results of the investigation by attorney Lance Bayer, said the report was very well done.

Council members met in closed session with City Attorney Marc Hynes for five hours August 3 and reviewed the report. The meeting agenda said the session was held to confer about anticipated litigation and to conduct a performance evaluation of the city attorney himself.

In recent weeks, Ms. McKeithen and Councilman Jerry Carlson clashed publicly with Mr. Hynes and City Manager Jim Robinson over access to Mr. Bayer's report.

Ms. McKeithen said she requested an investigation after bringing residents' allegations of employee misconduct to the attention of Mr. Robinson in November. Mr. Hynes contended that the council was not entitled to see the report because it concerned personnel matters and would violate employees' expectations of privacy. He also cited attorney-client privilege.

An ongoing internal audit of the Building Department has turned up about \$145,000 in uncharged fees, most stemming from May 2005, when Atherton instituted an excavation surcharge on dirt trucked on or off construction sites. Finance Director John Johns said sloppy procedures and an antiquated record-keeping system were to blame for the uncollected money.

However, there has been wide-

spread speculation in town over what, if any, evidence of wrongdoing on the part of employees might have been found by Mr. Bayer's investigation.

The investigator's report has not been made public. The Almanac filed a public records request on August 4 seeking access to the report.

Comments from town officials, including Mr. Johns, have fueled the rumors. Mr. Johns told the council last month that the audit

City Attorney Marc Hynes said his about-face on releasing the report to the council was because the discipline of the town employees had been concluded.

turned up documents of an "evidentiary" nature, which he gave to the city attorney.

By releasing the report to the public, Atherton officials can demonstrate that the building department, which brings in about \$2 million a year in fees, is functioning reliably, and can remove the cloud of suspicion hanging over all building department employees, said Almanac News Editor Renee Batti. Atherton residents are entitled to know the extent of the problems, she said.

Ms. McKeithen said she agrees with Mr. Hynes that the report should not be made public, for the time being, at least. She added, however, that she is not entirely convinced by all of Mr. Hynes' reasons for keeping the report from the public.

"Ultimately, I think we're going to have to see how it all

■ ATHERTON

plays out," she said.

Mr. Hynes has told the Almanac that the investigation did not uncover any evidence of criminal wrongdoing, but that disciplinary measures were being taken against an unspecified number of employees.

Mr. Hynes said his about-face on releasing the investigator's report to the council was because the discipline of the town employees had been concluded.

He would not say if any employees had been fired, but said that the discipline imposed was not the kind that could be appealed to the City Council, according to the town's agreement with the union representing Building Department and other miscellaneous employees.

Atherton's memorandum of understanding with miscellaneous employees, represented by Teamsters Local 856, states that verbal or written reprimands are not subject to appeal, but that all other types of discipline may be appealed. Employees covered by the agreement include building inspectors, plan checkers, and support staff.

Ms. McKeithen said it felt good to have succeeded in seeing the report and, thus, being able to fulfill her fiduciary duty to Atherton residents. She said her focus was on how to resolve problems raised by the report, not on who was doing what.

When asked by a reporter if the investigator's report laid to rest her concerns about how the town was being managed, she said, "No comment."

However, she was full of praise for her fellow council members.

"It was a good night," Ms. McKeithen said of the August 3 meeting. "I've never seen the council be more cohesive. It felt like a retreat."

The council is set to meet again in closed session on August 16, she said. ■

Doctors evaluate antique dealer's mental competence

A judge suspended criminal proceedings and appointed two doctors to evaluate the mental competence of an 87-year-old Menlo Park antique dealer arrested on child molestation charges, a spokesman for the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office said.

Bela Joseph Demeter, owner of Demeter Antiques Ltd. at 721 Oak Grove Ave., is accused of cornering a 14-year-old girl who was shopping in his store, kissing her and touching her breasts over her protests, according to a report from the District Attorney's Office.

He was arrested a week later when he attempted to grope and kiss a youthful undercover officer whom the Menlo Park Police Department had sent in.

His attorney, Barry Rekoon, could not be reached for comment on Monday.

The doctors were appointed Friday, August 4, and

the case was put on hold until September 15 as the court awaits their report. Mr. Demeter was released August 3 on \$250,000 bail.

Trial date set in monastery mail theft

A trial date has been set for a woman charged with stealing mail from Dominican nuns last year while working as a receptionist at the Corpus Christi Monastery at 215 Oak Grove Ave. in Menlo Park.

Linda Chlubna, 59, pleaded not guilty to six counts of mail theft between June and November 2005. But according to San Mateo County Deputy District Attorney Aaron Fitzgerald, Ms. Chlubna also admitted to stealing five to eight letters a week at the monastery "out of curiosity, at first."

Ms. Chlubna was convicted of a felony in 2002 for phoning in a bomb threat to a Redwood City elementary school where she worked.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Low Interest-Only Mortgage Loans

Q: I have a very low interest-only fixed rate mortgage on my primary residence until 2009. I am worried that when the rate adjusts, interest rates may be very high and I won't be able to make the payments. Shouldn't I refinance this mortgage now, when the rates are relatively low?

A: Unless you are selling, there is no good reason to get rid of a very low rate loan if you have one. You would do well to keep the loan until it adjusts in 2009 so that your borrowing costs remain low. If you have the money to make higher payments, put that money to work so that it grows for your benefit. Invest

it in a low to very moderate risk investment and grow your portfolio. Use this time of relatively low mortgage payments to save as much as you can. There is no reason to pay off any of the principle during this fixed-rate period.

When it is time for a rate adjustment, you can take the money you have saved and invested and pay down principle at that time. With a lower principle balance, your loan payments will be lower than they would be if you had no principle reduction. This will likely be better for you financially than if you had refinanced the original principle balance at a higher rate.

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Council puts utility tax on ballot — barely

■ Council nearly rejects measure when Andy Cohen backs out, but colleagues persuade him to change vote.

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Although for a while a Menlo Park utility tax measure appeared doomed to a premature death at the City Council dais, the measure's fate will be decided, after all, by voters in November.

The council ultimately voted 5-0 at its August 1 meeting to put the measure on the ballot.

Council members are often divided on major issues, but have been uncharacteristically unanimous regarding the need for a tax measure to help balance the city's budget — until August 1.

The council had been set to give final approval to a two-tiered measure that, if passed by a majority of voters in November, would authorize the city to tax water, gas and electric bills up to 3.5 percent; and telephone, cell phone and cable bills up to 2.5 percent.

The council unanimously supported the measure at its July 25 meeting.

But Councilman Andy Cohen — who had adamantly supported a tax measure for several months — started off council discussion of the tax by withdrawing his support.

His decision surprised the other council members, all of whom stressed that although a tax measure needs only four council votes to be placed on the ballot, it is more likely to

■ MENLO PARK

be supported by voters if it is endorsed by the entire council.

Mayor Jellins and Councilwoman Mickie Winkler said they would withdraw their support for the tax if Mr. Cohen refused to back it.

"Anything less than unanimity dooms [the tax] for failure," said Mr. Jellins. "We don't have a campaign if we don't have unanimity."

Mr. Cohen said the decision to put an annual cap of \$12,000 for any single user of electricity, gas and water, makes the tax "regressive," as businesses would be spared from paying a proportionally equal share of the tax.

He also said that tax revenues would help cover employee retirement costs — rising costs the city needs to address without taxing residents and businesses.

He said his previous support for the tax measure was an attempt to "get along" with the rest of the council, but he decided he could not support it.

After more than an hour of criticism and pleas directed toward Mr. Cohen, he changed his stance when Mayor Jellins said the council would be forced to lay off employees and cut city services if a tax is not adopted.

"I'm going to go along with this because I'm not ready to make cuts now," Mr. Cohen said.

City staff estimates the tax would produce about \$2.5 million a year for the city.

If approved by voters, the tax would be reviewed every two years, when four council members would have to vote in favor of the tax to keep it active. ■



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

Work in progress

It's dirt now, but after September 2007 this patch of ground will be covered in asphalt and have cars parked on it if the \$10 million campus renovation at Phillips Brooks School proceeds as planned. The school, at 2245 Avy Ave., is building seven permanent classrooms, a library, a multi-use room, and an administration building and faculty lounge.

Public called to comment on pension costs

PENSION COSTS

continued from page 5

including employee compensation, during the "public comment" period of the board's regular meetings. But at Mr. Carpenter's request, the board agreed to put the specific matter on the agenda to try to make district residents aware of the current labor negotiations and encourage their input.

Mr. Carpenter said he hopes members of the public will discuss the criteria and priorities they want the board to consider in negotiating new contracts.

Labor contracts with firefighters and "line management" — battalion chiefs and higher-ranked officials — expired June 30, and ongoing negotiations between

■ INFORMATION

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District board meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 15, in the board room of the fire district headquarters, 300 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park. A copy of the five-year firefighter contract that expired in June can be found at menlofire.org; click on the "District Documents" link in the left-hand column. For information, call 688-8400.

the district and the two employee groups have been "constructive," Mr. Osmer said last week.

Mr. Carpenter said he pushed to have the discussion placed on the agenda because the new contracts "will be the single biggest financial commitment that this board will make over the next

few years."

Two-tier system

While campaigning for reelection last fall, Mr. Carpenter called the district's rising pension costs "unsustainable," and said he would work to reduce the pension rate for new hires.

In a recent interview with the Almanac, he said that he wants the district to honor its commitments to current employees, but believes a two-tiered system, which would offer reduced pension benefits for new employees, to be fair and necessary.

Labor unions have generally opposed two-tiered benefit packages as unfair, arguing that all employees are entitled to equal compensation packages for performing equal work. ■

CHILD CARE

continued from page 5

care programs, but that figure includes expenses for administrative overhead and general liability — costs that the city would still pay if the programs were privatized.

Finance Director Carol Augustine said she has yet to study the child care proposals in depth. She didn't confirm the accuracy of the new estimates, but acknowledged the majority of child care costs for the current fiscal year would remain if the programs were privatized.

She noted that health care costs

are expected to increase, potentially increasing long-term costs for maintaining city-run programs.

Minimal savings?

If the new estimate holds, savings associated with privatizing the child care programs would be substantially less than previously thought, calling into question the basis of privatizing the programs.

"This is what we've been fighting to say the whole time," said parent Mike Gardner. "We knew these programs didn't run at this enormous deficit, and we knew they're pretty darn close to cost-recovery. But certain council members wouldn't even

take that into consideration."

Mr. Gardner is also a member of the Child Care RFP Committee, a city-sponsored task force that will ultimately recommend to the council which bidder should operate the programs.

Council members Kelly Fergusson and Andy Cohen urged the council to halt the privatization process until child care costs were better defined, but council members Winkler, Duboc and Jellins reaffirmed that the city should explore privatization to cut the city's costs.

"I felt from the beginning that \$444,000 was not a credible figure to justify going out to bid and to

justify the privatization process," said Councilwoman Fergusson. "For all intents and purposes, these are nearly full-cost-recovery programs."

Other bidders

The Child Care RFP Committee is scheduled to discuss the three bids — the two from the private companies and the city's bid — at its August 23 meeting.

Vineeta Bhandari, administrator and president of Building Kidz, is proposing that her company pay Menlo Park \$9,000 a month to rent the children's center.

She said the tuition rates

would remain unchanged for at least three years, about half of the current staff members would be retained and her company could take over operation of the programs by January 1.

Teresa Brown, executive director and president of Learning Adventures, is proposing that her company take over the programs in October.

Ms. Brown said that because her business is a startup company, Learning Adventures would require some financial assistance from the city.

Her bid does not include plans to pay rent for use of the children's center. ■

Firestorm at Coyote Point Museum

■ Supporters rally to save museum amid reports it may be replaced by a 'global warming' center.

By Marion Softky

Almanac Staff Writer

The Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education needs help. The question that seems to be spinning out of control is: What kind of help?

Should the money-losing museum be scrapped and replaced by a world-class educational center focused on global warming and funded by Silicon Valley bucks? Museum trustees and some county officials are tempted by proposals from the secretive 11th Hour Project to create and fund a new climate center that could draw national recognition to Coyote Point.

Should the popular museum, which draws 100,000 visitors, including 20,000 school children, a year, be renovated and improved to better connect San Mateo County residents, particularly children, to their local environment and native wildlife?

Or, could the two concepts — the climate center and the museum — work together and complement each other?

Newspaper articles last week — and reports that the staff had been told the museum would close in September — drew the attention of museum loyalists going back 30 years and more.

On July 30, almost 70 people gathered at the Hillsborough home of Linda Lanier to rally in support of saving the museum. That night they established the Committee to Save Coyote Point Museum. Within three days, the campaign raised \$107,900; its goal is to raise \$300,000 by September 1 to support renovation and operation of the museum.

"We've got the community support. We can return the museum to financial health," said Ms. Lanier, who served on the board for 12 years until 1994 — when the museum was still solvent. She chaired the committee to plan the popular habitats for native animals, and then co-chaired the campaign that raised \$4.2 million to build it.

Linda Liebes of Atherton, who was executive director of the Coyote Point Museum for 20 years until 1996, is co-chair of the Committee to Save Coyote Point Museum.

On August 2, as campers swarmed through the museum, squealing over a microbe exhibit, and checking out river otters, banana slugs and turkey vultures, Rob Thomas, president of the board of trustees, held a press conference.

"There are no immediate plans to close the museum," Mr. Thomas

announced. "We have two exciting collaborations to explore, both consistent with our mission to provide comprehensive environmental education for the community."

Mr. Thomas warned that the museum has been running a deficit since 1998. This year it is projected to be \$790,000, before some money is added in from the museum's \$3.9 million endowment. "Our current model is not sustainable. We need a new operational model," he said. "Our time is running out."

Asked for more information about 11th Hour Project, Mr. Thomas declined to give specific information about the organization or its backers. It would be submitting a specific proposal later, he said. "It's early in the

'Our current model is not sustainable. We need a new operational model.'

ROB THOMAS,
COYOTE POINT BOARD PRESIDENT

planning process."

Mr. Thomas also suggested there might be ways that the two groups could work together. "We will explore both opportunities," he said. "I don't believe they are mutually exclusive."

11th Hour Project

People with the 11th Hour Project are not talking to the public or the press. A call to its phone number in San Francisco gained the response, "No comment."

The 11th-Hour Project's Web site says it "popularizes high-level, high-quality information about solutions to global warming." The site gives multiple links to other sources of information and lists some events.

Under "People," the site refers to just three: former vice president Al Gore, Silicon Valley venture capitalist Vinod Khosla, and Daniel Kammen, a professor of energy at the University of California, Berkeley.

Mr. Khosla and Mr. Kammen hosted a presentation on the 11th Hour Project at the Village Pub in Woodside on May 1.

Deep roots

The Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education has deep roots in San Mateo County. Since 1954 the museum has taught kids about their local environment.

The present museum was opened in 1981 on the knoll at Coyote Point Park. San Mateo County owns the land and build-

ing; the museum leases them for \$1 a year. The habitats for native animals opened in 1991, and on July 16, the museum opened its renovated exhibit on river otters.

But the museum is struggling. The displays need renovation, and the animal facility is very expensive. It has had eight executive directors in the 10 years since Ms. Liebes retired.

County Parks and Recreation Director Dave Holland said, "I'd like to see the ability to bring schoolchildren to the park expanded. But funding and management have to be expanded to meet bigger needs."

Ms. Lanier speaks for many when she says, "My absolute passion is that the museum — building and habitat and gardens — not be torn down."

After the press conference, Ms. Lanier noted that the program "Bay Area Back Roads" had recently listed the Coyote Point Museum right after the Exploratorium in a program on the 10 best museums for families in the Bay Area.

Collaboration?

Can the two museums exist together and build on each others' strengths? Or does the county have to choose between them?

11th Hour isn't talking to the public — yet.

Museum supporters are nervous about their role working with such a rich, powerful partner. "I love collaborations," Ms. Lanier said. "But so little has been shared with us that I really don't know."

The final decisions will be up to San Mateo County, where officials are dazzled by the 11th Hour Project, but recognize the value of the present museum.

"The county wants to be involved from now on," said Jerry Hill, president of the Board of Supervisors. He has been meeting with 11th Hour representatives for several months before the news hit the press.

Mr. Hill said he hopes the two could work together. He suggested the project could provide resources to the museum so it could continue its mission with a broadened theme of climate change. "There's a lot of land," he said. "It should be a win-win situation for everyone. Ideally there's room for both missions and both messages."

Ms. Lanier added: "This could be a fabulous resource for the community. But just don't tear us up in the process." ■

■ INFORMATION

For more information, go to coyoteptmuseum.org; 11thhour-project.org; and savecoyotepoint-museum.org.

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Doctor charged in suicide of Menlo Park student

A Colorado doctor who filled a prescription over the Internet to a 19-year-old Stanford student who later committed suicide may be heading to trial after a judge refused to dismiss criminal charges on Wednesday, August 2.

John McKay, a Menlo Park resident, died August 2, 2005, of carbon monoxide and alcohol poisoning, according to the San Mateo County Coroner's office. At the time of his death he had in his system the antidepressant drug fluoxetine, which he had obtained over the Internet, his parents said.

The drug can cause some people to have suicidal thoughts, according to National Institutes of Health.

The defense attorney for Colorado psychiatrist Christian Ellis Hageseth III, 65, plans to contest the charges, arguing that San Mateo County cannot legally prosecute an incident that took place in another state.

Dr. Hageseth has been charged with one felony count of practicing medicine without a valid license, a spokesman from the San Mateo County Superior Court said. At the time his license was restrict-

ed because of a relationship with a patient he later married.

John's parents, David and Sheila, filed a wrongful death lawsuit in federal court in February against Dr. Hageseth, the Internet company USAnetRX.com, and Mississippi-based Guich Pharmacy Shoppe, charging them with negligence in allowing their son to buy 90 capsules of fluoxetine. According to the suit, Dr. Hageseth signed off on the prescription without a consultation.

John had just finished his freshman year at Stanford and was a 2004 graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School, where he was president of the debate team for four years.

His parents have been quoted as saying that he did not show signs of depression and was not informed of the medication's potential side effects.

A preliminary hearing has not yet been set. ▀



John McKay

Descendants of founder expected at Menlo Park historical celebration

A community event — with ice cream, vintage fire equipment, and the dedication of a plaque — will be held Saturday, August 12, to commemorate the founding of Menlo Park in 1854 by two Irish settlers, Dennis T. Oliver and Daniel C. McGlynn.

Descendants of Mr. McGlynn are expected at the celebration, said Richard Angus, president of the historical association.

Organized by the Menlo Park Historical Association and the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce, the event will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the south parking lot of

See picture on Page 3

the Menlo Park train station.

The commemoration is being held in conjunction with San Mateo County's year-long sesquicentennial celebration, said Mr. Angus.

There will be tours of the West Bay Model Railroad Association facility and music by the South Bay Stompers.

A paperback edition of the Menlo Park historical book, "Beyond the Gates," will be available (it's already at Kepler's bookstore), as well as an updated brochure on historical places in Menlo Park.

Ice cream will be provided by the historical association as part of its annual Kavanaugh Ice Cream Social.

For more information, call the chamber at 325-2818.

Correction

In the August 2 issue, the Almanac incorrectly reported that the Menlo Park Historical Association was observing the 1893 founding of Menlo Park. The association recognizes 1854 as the founding year, said Richard Angus, president of the association. "The name Menlo Park was applied to the area as early as 1854," he said.

San Mateo County creates gang tip-line

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office has set up a tip-line that residents can use to report information about gangs, the office announced on Wednesday, August 2. The toll-free number is (888)400-GANG (4264).

The office welcomes mem-

bers of the community to call in if they have any information about graffiti, gang hangouts or serious violent crimes, according to Detective Sergeant Tom Gallagher. Callers are encouraged to leave contact information, but can also choose to

remain anonymous.

The tip-line was formed by the Sheriff's Gang Intelligence Unit, which provides information to the county's Gang Task Force, a field unit that fights criminal gang activity.

The Sheriff's Office emphasized that the tip-line should not be used for emergencies. ▀

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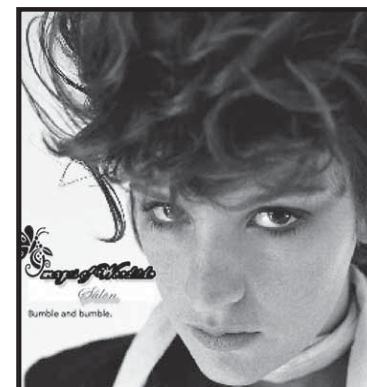
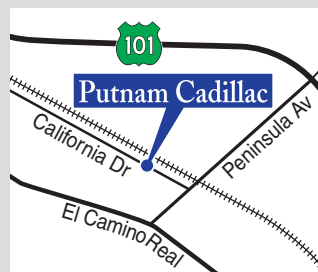


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THEIR FEATURE P

Portola Valley's Gardner Loulan comes home to make a movie
and gets plenty of help from local residents

GARDNER LOULAN'S FIRST FEATURE FILM, appropriately titled "Our Feature Presentation," is about a 22-year-old man who returns home to a small, wealthy town to make a movie, but loses control of the project when his tycoon mother refuses to fund it and the know-nothing townspeople clamor to be involved.

Fortunately for Mr. Loulan, 24, he didn't have the same experience that his protagonist did when he returned to his hometown of Portola Valley for his directing debut, which began production on June 15 and wrapped on July 15. Instead, he received plenty of support from family and friends who make up much of the cast and crew, several of them former classmates of Mr. Loulan at Sacred Heart Prep in Atherton.

JoAnn Loulan, who is producing the film, conceived the idea four years ago with her son in mind after taking a screenwriting class at Stanford. She didn't set out with the intention of making it until this year.

"I brought Gardner and some of his friends together at Thanksgiving and told them that I thought they should do this," Ms. Loulan said, adding that she knew this might be their last chance to make a film because many of them will head to graduate school soon.

Mr. Loulan, who graduated from Fordham University in New York City in 2004, took a break from his regular job as a video jockey and writer at MTV's college cable channel, mtvU, to direct the movie. He co-wrote it with Joseph Brady, a Santa Clara graduate, over a period of three months, then began pre-production.

He said that he was apprehensive when his mother approached him with the idea because it was based on his life, but that the story evolved into something else when he started to write it with Mr. Brady.

While the main character of "Our Feature Presentation" has to compromise his artistic vision for the demands of

the movie's backers, that wasn't a problem for Mr. Loulan. Kathie Maxwell, a family friend and former Woodside resident, trusted his artistic vision and agreed to fund the project.

Much of the cast and crew volunteered to work for free or took pay cuts, though Ms. Loulan declined to reveal the budget. She said it was the first movie that several had been involved in, though the filmmakers also enlisted a number of formally trained film students and professionals in the industry.

Actor Chad Eschman from Santa Clara University plays Cody Weever, who graduates from film school and returns home to live with his parents. After his mother refuses to provide financial backing for his movie, he turns to a local stage mom, who agrees to put up the cash — on the condition that her son gets to star.

When rumor spreads that a famous (if talentless) Hollywood actress is involved, the wealthy townspeople throw money at Weever in exchange for roles in the cast and crew and threaten to take over artistic control.

Mr. Loulan shot the movie in Portola Valley, Woodside and Los Altos, primarily using houses that belong to family friends, and said that people in those towns were very supportive of the project.

He returned to New York City two days after shooting wrapped to resume his job at MTV.

After the movie is edited in New York by Joe Dillingham, who grew up with Mr. Loulan in Portola Valley, the producers will submit it to several film festivals in an effort to find a distributor. They also plan to screen it on college campuses, banking on an audience of students that they hope will be familiar with Mr. Loulan's work at mtvU.

Other Portola Valley residents involved in the production include: producer Steve Dunne, set designer Katherine Tincher, set dresser Laurel Tincher, graphic designer Amber Ramies, and actors Craig Lewis and Rosemarie Luce. ■



From left: Make-up/hair artist Sylvie Simon, wardrobe coordinator Sydney Crawford, and producer JoAnn Loulan share a laugh. Ms. Loulan is the director's mother; Ms. Crawford is his grandmother.

Courtesy of Marcia Quackenbush

RESENTATION . . .

movie

Story by **Sean Howell**
Special to the Almanac



The Almanac/Marian Sadoughi

Assistant cameraman Chris Galdes, right, of Menlo Park checks the frame while director Gardner Loulan, second from left, talks with actors Liam Brady, first left, and Elissa Stebbins on location in Woodside.



Director Gardner Loulan, right, makes some last-minute changes to the screenplay on set with co-writer Joe Brady.

Courtesy of Marcia Quackenbush

Beltramo development approved

■ Council OKs 26,800-square-foot commercial building, 16 townhouses.

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

A proposal by John Beltramo to build a 26,800-square-foot commercial building and 16 two-story townhouses off El Camino Real in Menlo Park was approved 4-0 by the Menlo Park City Council August 1.

Councilman Andy Cohen did not vote on the proposal because

he owns property within 500 feet of the project site.

The two-story commercial building will be built near the intersection of El Camino Real and Valparaiso Avenue, at 1460 El Camino Real.

The townhouses, three of which will be below-market-rate homes, will front San Antonio Street.

Mr. Beltramo, the site's property owner and a principal

owner of the nearby Beltramo's Wines & Spirits, has been working with the city to develop the 1.5-acre site for about 10 years.

He has requested the right to decide at a later date whether offices or retail business will fill the commercial building — a request endorsed by the council and the Planning Commission.

The project includes a 90-space parking garage under the commercial property and 21 additional street-level parking spaces. ■



Rendering of townhouses planned for San Antonio Street near El Camino Real in Menlo Park.

Mortgage defaults rise 51%

In San Mateo County, 222 mortgage default notices were sent out during the April-June quarter, 51 percent more than the year-ago period, DataQuick Information Systems has reported.

The number of Californian homeowners defaulting on their mortgages — the first step in the process of foreclosing on a home — has hit a three-year high.

Lenders sent out almost 21,000 default notices to homeowners statewide during the second quarter.

Despite the second-quarter surge, defaults remain below historically normal levels, DataQuick reported.

"This is an important trend to watch, but doesn't strike us as ominous," said Marshall Prentice, DataQuick's president. "We would have to see defaults roughly double from today's level before they would begin to impact home values much."

Mr. Prentice said that some of the defaults may be due to rising payments on adjustable rate loans, but believes that slower price appreciation is chiefly to blame because it makes it harder for people who are behind on their mortgage to sell their homes and pay off the lender.

In May, DataQuick reported an increase in first-quarter foreclosures in the state, although in San Mateo County foreclosures actually dropped 1 percent.

Gypsy moths discovered in Portola Valley

■ An infestation can be a serious threat to trees, shrubs, officials say.

A San Mateo County Department of Agriculture pest detection specialist discovered three male gypsy moths recently near a residence on Minoca Road in Portola Valley.

Gypsy moths pose a serious threat to trees and shrubs, often times feeding on oak, pine, eucalyptus, manzanita and redwood trees, county officials reported.

A single gypsy moth caterpillar can defoliate up to a square foot of leaves in one day, according to officials. And, when present in large numbers, the caterpillars can defoliate thousands of acres of trees in one season.

Though gypsy moths are more commonly found in the eastern United States, they often "hitchhike" into California by way of vehicles, officials reported.

To monitor the presence of gypsy moths in San Mateo County, pest detection specialists will place survey traps around the residence where the moths were found on July 25.

Traps will continue to be monitored in Portola Valley through September, said Maria Mastrangelo, the county's deputy agricultural commissioner.

Portola Valley residents with questions about the gypsy moth are invited to contact the San Mateo County Department of Agriculture at 363-4700.

According to the county, if gypsy moth egg masses are found, a cooperative eradication program with the California

Department of Food and Agriculture will likely take place. Such an eradication program, though, would not take place until next year.

In 1999, three gypsy moths were found in Woodside and one was found in Montara. In 2000, a single gypsy moth was found in Woodside, officials reported.

The 1999 and 2000 Woodside finds were in the vicinity of Whiskey Hill Road and Mountain Home Road. Additional detection traps were placed and serviced from 1999 through 2001 and no additional gypsy moths were found.

The recent Portola Valley find is more than six miles from the Woodside sites and is not considered to be related.

— Bay City News

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New \$1.5 billion foundation names chief executive

Emmett Carson, CEO and president of the Minneapolis Foundation, has been chosen to head the new \$1.5 billion Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which will be headquartered in either Palo Alto or East Palo Alto.

The new foundation is the result of a merger between the 42-year-old Peninsula Community Foundation, based in San Mateo County, and the 52-year-old Community Foundation Silicon Valley, based in Santa Clara County.

Mr. Carson, 46, has also worked for the Ford Foundation and the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. He received his Ph.D. and master's degrees in public and international affairs from Princeton University.

In 2005, the Peninsula Community Foundation, located in San Mateo, distributed \$92 million in grants. Its Silicon Valley counterpart, headquartered in San Jose, made grants of \$101 million between July 2005 and June 2006. Both have consistently ranked among the top five community foundation nationally in new gifts and grant making.

The Peninsula Community

Foundation operates the second-largest donor-advised fund program of any community foundation in the country, working with 750 families, individuals and corporations.

Community Foundation Silicon Valley has the largest corporate-advised program of any community foundation nationally, accounting for 95 percent of its annual grants.

The two organizations cited several reasons for the merger, including greater competition for donor dollars and growing complexity of government regulations of nonprofits.

In addition, charitable-giving levels in the valley have stabilized and have not returned to "dot-com era" amounts, according to the charities.

Mr. Carson was chosen from a field of more than 100 candidates. He will start his job November 1. The merger is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

— Palo Alto Weekly



Emmett Carson

Winkler takes out papers; two others announce candidacy

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park Councilwoman Mickie Winkler, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Heyward Robinson and Linfield Oaks resident Vincent Bressler are the latest candidates to show signs of entering the City Council race.

Ms. Winkler and Mr. Bressler have taken out their council papers, and Mr. Robinson issued a press release to the Almanac that says he intends to run for the council.

Ms. Winkler is part of a three-person council majority that votes together on major issues, and whose members' seats are up for election.

She took out council papers August 1, and is the first incumbent to do so.

Ms. Winkler, who was elected in 2002 and served as mayor in 2005, said she has "one leg in" the council race, but isn't fully committed just yet. "I have one more personal decision to hurdle before I make my final



Incumbent Mickie Winkler, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Heyward Robinson and newcomer Vincent Bressler have taken out papers.



decision," she said.

Leading up to the 2002 election, Ms. Winkler shared campaign literature with council members Lee Duboc and Nicholas Jellins.

Ms. Duboc said she has yet to decide whether to run, and Mayor Jellins said he has decided not to seek another term.

The three council members garner more support from business and real estate interests than the other two council members — Andy Cohen and Kelly Fergusson.

Heyward Robinson

Mr. Robinson, a six-year Menlo Park resident and a senior research engineer at SRI International, is an outspoken and frequent critic of the council majority.

As a member of the parks commission, he has spoken against recent efforts to develop Bayfront Park, the 160-acre park off Marsh Road.

He said he opposes an advisory ballot measure backed by the council majority that will ask voters if they support spending \$15 million to \$17 million to build playing fields at the park.

"Putting fields at Bayfront Park would be a terrible use of taxpayers' dollars at a time when the city is trying to close the budget deficit," Mr. Robinson said in a press release.

Mr. Robinson helped author a report by parks commissioners that suggests sites outside of Bayfront Park for new or renovated playing fields.

He also notified city officials

■ MENLO ELECTION

in February 2005 that the city's child care task force was holding meetings without public notice — a violation of the Brown Act, California's public meeting law.

Vincent Bressler

Vincent Bressler is also a critic of the council majority.

Mr. Bressler took out council papers August 3, becoming the fourth candidate to do so: Transportation Commissioner John Boyle has filed papers, and Parks and Recreation Commissioner Richard Cline, along with Ms. Winkler, have taken out papers.

Mr. Bressler, a systems consultant who has lived in the Linfield Oaks neighborhood for about 11 years, said the current council majority has made decisions without listening to community input.

"We need a council that values the diverse voices of the community," said Mr. Bressler in a press release. "People who sign petitions, who speak up at council meetings, who write letters to the council, who care about this city, have been overlooked and marginalized."

Mr. Bressler and his wife, former Parks and Recreation Commissioner JoAnne Goldberg, circulated a petition against housing projects planned for the Linfield Oaks neighborhood.

Neighbors have been very outspoken against the high-density housing projects, arguing additional homes will increase traffic and overcrowd schools. ■

Menlo Park police contract approved

The Menlo Park City Council voted 5-0 on July 25 to approve a new two-year labor contract between the city and the Menlo Park Police Officers Association.

The agreement increases salaries and health insurance coverage for the 37 officers represented by the association. The

average line officer's monthly salary will rise 4 percent to \$6,835.

The agreement was reached July 17, about a month after the parties declared an impasse following 10 unsuccessful bargaining sessions, and called in a state mediator.

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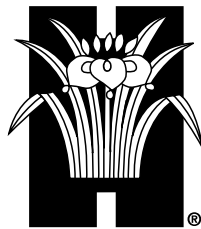
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Woodland School gets permit

Woodland School in Ladera seems to have resolved its long-running problems with neighbors over traffic and parking.

The San Mateo County Planning Commission on July 26 renewed the use permit for the private school, subject to several provisions.

Since 2004, the school has been working cooperatively with the Ladera Community Association, said association president Rob Decker. "Everybody is happy. We've got a very good agreement and a good relationship."

The new agreement calls for the school to promote carpool-

ing to reduce traffic bottlenecks and parking on nearby streets. The school will also provide monitors to protect kids and keep traffic under control. It has designated a liaison with the community association to work on problems before they escalate.

"Everybody is happy," echoed Vice Principal Rosemary Malouf. "We've made great strides."

Woodland, a private school serving about 240 pre-school through eighth-grade students, leases the former Ladera School on La Cuesta Drive from the Las Lomitas School District.

County may go to all-electronic voting

San Mateo County plans to install new electronic voting equipment at the polls for all voters in the November election, Chief Elections Officer Warren Slocum said last week.

If the Board of Supervisors approves, the county will purchase the Hart InterCivic electronic eSlate voting system to replace the current optical-scan system, he said.

The move is being made to comply with laws that require

voting equipment that can be used by disabled people. Instead of having two systems — one for disabled people and another for others — Mr. Slocum is proposing the electronic eSlate system for all voters. The new system has a "voter verifiable paper audit trail," he said.

Those uncomfortable with the new system would have the option of voting with a paper ballot at the polls or via the mail.

Three file for school board election

Three candidates have filed for the three open seats on the governing board of the Las Lomitas School District.

The three are current board members David Bailar and Leslie Airola-Murveit, and Jamie Schein, president of the Las Lomitas Education Foundation.

After two terms on the board of the K-8 school district, Trustee Libby Taylor-Tyree told the Almanac that she has no plans for another term.

The candidate filing period for the November election ends August 11, but for this school board election, it will be extended to 5 p.m. Wednesday, August 16, if one of the incumbents does not run.

The elections office is located at 40 Tower Road in San Mateo. For directions on the Web, go to shapethefuture.org and click on the link "How to Contact Us."

For more information, call 312-5222 or send an e-mail to registrar@smcare.org.

Problems solved; Woodland School gets permit

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The San Mateo County Plan-

SCHOOLS

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Panhellenic awards

The San Mateo Panhellenic Alumnae organization is giving

\$500 awards to 12 young women who will enter college this fall. They include the following local residents: Ashley Carlisle, Menlo School; Lindsay Denny, Menlo-Atherton High School; and Catherine Hagman, Notre Dame High School, Belmont. Panhellenic Alumnae is a women's organization composed of members of 28 national sororities.

Merit scholars

National merit scholarships have been awarded to two area students who graduated in June: Sacred Heart Prep graduate Dillon S. Chambers of Atherton, and Menlo School graduate John C. Rollins of Menlo Park.

Mr. Chambers' scholarship is from Boston College; Mr. Rollins won a scholarship from the University of Southern California, said Elaine Detweiler of the Illinois-based National Merit Scholarship Program.

Mr. Rollins and Mr. Chambers won college-sponsored scholarships for between \$500 and \$2,000. This category of scholarship is renewable for up to four years.

The program also awards scholarships for distinguished students on a state-by-state basis and corporate-sponsored scholarships.

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Betty DeBusk Evans 11-8-21 to 7-31-06

We sadly announce the peaceful passing of Betty Evans of Atherton, California, on July 31st, 2006. Beloved wife of Bruce Evans, devoted and cherished mother to daughters, Linda Fiedler, Leslie Evans, and to son in law, Roger Fiedler. Her sisters, Letha "Boots" Bewley of Greeneville, Tennessee and Amy Ford of Dyersburg, Tennessee, and numerous nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews also survive her.

Betty was born in Warrensburg, Greene County, Tennessee. She graduated from the University of Tennessee and was a sorority sister with Alpha Delta Pi. She was a life long Tennessee Volunteers fan.

Betty was an extremely loving and nurturing person. Her inspiring attitude and creativity will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

She was most proud of the twenty-five years she dedicated to the Children's Health Council in Palo Alto, California. Many of those years she volunteered in the classrooms as a substitute teacher. She also, taught cooking to all the different classes and

was known as "Cookin' Betty". She loved and adored each child she met there and many had later reached back out to her to let her know how they were doing. Betty served two years as President of the CHC Auxiliary, however the children and the school were her love. When she knew she had to retire at 80, she did so with great remorse. The Children's Health Council School was just as sad and threw her a grand surprise party, complete with the mayor of Palo Alto declaring November 8th, 2001 "Betty Evans Day" in Palo Alto.

Betty was an active member and altar guild member at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park.

Services will be held in Greeneville, Tennessee, August 11th, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. A celebration of her life will be held September 9th, 2006 at her family home in Atherton from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Any donations, in lieu of flowers, can be sent to the Children's Health Council Auxiliary, 650 Clark Way, Palo Alto, California, 94304.

PAID OBITUARY

'Brooklyn Boy' delivers poignant drama, laughs

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

The main character in Donald Margulies' "Brooklyn Boy" is Jewish. There's Jewish humor in the play, and many references to Jewish identity and religious traditions.

Yet, the themes of "Brooklyn Boy" can't be confined to the experiences of any one group of people. They're universal, and have to do with the desire for and consequences of success; unrec- onciled tension between parent and child; and the forces that drive some people to resist — or not resist — the "fate" dictated by the circumstances of their birth.

"Brooklyn Boy" is being given its Northern California premiere in Palo Alto's Lucie Stern Theatre by TheatreWorks, which has brought to the stage a cast of shimmering talent. Well directed by Joy Carlin, the play is a happy mix of dramatic story-telling and crackling humor.

The Brooklyn lad in question is Eric Weiss, whose new novel has just made the bestsellers' list. After having written two critically acclaimed novels that sold poorly, Eric is thrilled by his long-awaited success.

But this success isn't mirrored in his personal life: His father is dying and the woman he loves and is married to is divorcing him. It's his father's illness that brings Eric to the Brooklyn hospital where he was born, located near the home he grew up in before leaving Brooklyn behind as a young adult.

Victor Talmadge is a low-key but utterly convincing Eric. In his portrayal, the inner life of a man who quietly processes life's experiences and translates them into serious novels shines through. "Brooklyn Boy" plays out, very effectively, in a series of usually two-character ensemble pieces, the first taking place in his father's hospital room. It is there that we get a glimpse of the uneasy relationship between father and middle-aged son.

Ray Reinhardt plays the father, Manny, whose implicit rejection of his son's chosen path in life adds a healthy dash of salt to a scene that otherwise might have seemed written merely for laughs.

That scene is followed by an unexpected meeting with a boyhood friend; a meeting with his soon-to-be ex-wife; then several scenes in Southern California, where he travels to meet with a movie producer who wants to

turn his novel into a film.

An unexpected "perk" of his newfound success appears in the form of a college-age groupie he meets at a book-signing event. He takes young, vapid, exceedingly annoying Alison to his hotel room afterward, but ultimately sends her on her way. Kristin Stokes as Alison totters on the border between a believably immature-yet-cunning character and an over-the-top silly twit, ultimately tipping — alas — into the latter pit.

Amy Resnick gives a knockout performance as Melanie Fine, the movie producer. Her character, too, could tip over into the pit of gross stereotype, but Ms. Resnick's brilliant timing — her readjustments of tone, temperament and body language at just the right moments — prevent that from happening.

Some of the most poignant action takes place between Eric and his childhood friend, Ira Zimmer. They meet in the hospital where both Eric's father and Ira's mother are being treated. When the scene opens, Ira, well portrayed by David Kudler, seems nothing more than a loud-mouthed buffoon; that impression changes quickly, though, as the two men briefly sum up the course of their lives since boyhood.

Ira excitedly tells Eric that he saw him being interviewed on TV, but as the scene progresses, Ira's regret over never having ventured out of Brooklyn, as his successful friend has, dampens his initial exuberance. He is now running the same deli that his despised father owned and dropped dead in — and, he bemoans, he now even looks like his dad. (Displaying his arms, he exclaims, "What are *his* forearms doing on *my* body?")

It's Ira who comes to visit Eric after Manny Weiss dies, a scene in which Eric underscores how far, in heart and mind, he has traveled away from Brooklyn. And in the final scene, the ghost of his father shows up to have that talk Eric has for so long wanted to have. It's a fitting end — a reflection of the novelist's compulsion to invent stories, ending them exactly the way he chooses. ■

INFORMATION

"Brooklyn Boy," by Donald Margulies, continues through August 13 at the Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. Tickets: \$20-\$56. Call 903-6000; or visit theatreworks.org.



"Farmer John" Muller describes his experience reinventing farming to connect growers with the burgeoning population who love fresh food grown locally.

Harvest and hoedown at Pie Ranch Sunday

Think what fruit pies taste like with picked-today berries, and crusts made from grown-on-the premises wheat.

That's the kind of experience that Jered Lawson and his partners at the Pie Ranch, on the south coast near Año Nuevo, are trying to bring to visitors and young people who might expect milk to come from boxes and vegetables from shelves.

The Pie team is inviting the public to join in a harvest, potluck, and barn dance on Sunday, August 13, from 1:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the historic Green Oaks Ranch, adjacent to Pie Ranch. The Pie Ranch crew is now farming the 13-acre Green Oaks Ranch, a dairy farm started in the 1850s and purchased last February by the Peninsula Open

Space Trust (POST).

Guests can help harvest the wheat — that goes into the pie crust — with hand sickles. There will be a small combine to help, if necessary. There will be food and — of course — pies. Rumor has it that the Rolling Cultivators will be in town for an old-fashioned barn dance, the announcement says.

POST, a land trust based in Menlo Park, has granted the Pie Ranch owners a three-year option to raise \$2.5 million to purchase and improve the Green Oaks farm property for their educational farm.

The nonprofit ranch plans to promote sustainable farming and help students, many from inner-city San Francisco, to con-



The Almanac/Marion Softky

Strawberry pies wait at the Pie Ranch for hungry participants during a recent Committee for Green Foothills tour spotlighting new directions in farming on the San Mateo County Coastside.

nect with the land. It grows its own fruits and berries, and raises goats and chickens. It will open a roadside farm stand in the next month or two to sell fruit and jams, and eventually pies.

The owners are also establishing a nonprofit land trust, Green Oaks Agricultural Trust — yes, GOAT — for their capital campaign.

For information on the event and Pie Ranch, call 879-0971, or go to pieranch.org. ■

Kepler's restarts online book ordering

Kepler's bookstore in Menlo Park is selling books online for the first time since the store's abrupt closure a year ago, owner Clark Kepler has announced.

The landmark bookstore, which reopened last October after the community mobilized to save it, will ship online orders to home or office, or hold them for pickup at the store, located in Menlo Center on El Camino Real and Ravenswood Avenue.

Online book sales are conducted through Kepler's partnership with Booksense.com, Mr. Kepler said. As an introductory offer, free shipping is available, he said.

Kepler's has made other changes this summer, including redesigning the book shelves to make books more visible and the store more open and accessible, he said.

The Web site has been expanded to include books recommendations and features such as "Journey the World with Kepler's," "Mystery and Mayhem," and "Family Events." Kepler's Web address is www.Keplers.com.

At Kepler's

Barbara Sher Tinsley, author of "Irreverent Essay on Antiquity," will read from her essay collection at Kepler's on Tuesday, August 8, at 7:30 p.m. In the essays, Ms. Tinsley looks at ancient history with an ironic, playful eye. She will be joined by former Woodside High teacher Kerry Wood, the author of "Past Imperfect, Present Progressive," a memoir of stories and poems spanning a period from Mr. Wood's childhood during the latter part of the Depression to the present day.



OBITUARIES

Donald Allan

Journalist, editor

A memorial service will be held for Donald Aspinwall Allan at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, August 26, at Christ Church in Portola Valley.

Mr. Allan, a journalist and information director of international organizations, died of cancer on August 2 at his home in Woodside. He was 83.



Donald Allan

Mr. Allan was born in Washington, D.C. After graduation from Stanford University, he broke into journalism as a reporter for the Redwood City Tribune and San Francisco News. He served as a United Press correspondent in the Madrid and Paris news bureaus and was bureau chief in Brussels.

Later he was a city reporter for the New York Times, the Rome correspondent for Newsweek, and editor of the North American Newspaper Alliance. During these years, he published opinion pieces

under his own name or for organization leaders in the International Herald Tribune.

An obituary in the Washington Post reported that while Mr. Allan worked at the New York Times, he was recruited by the CIA. Quitting his job at the Times, he moved to Rome and worked by day as a journalist and by night as a CIA agent.

The Roman drama went beyond his double life, the Post reported. In 1956, Mr. Allan and a former wife attended a masked ball given by American Ambassador Clare Boothe Luce. They quarreled, and he went home. When his wife came home accompanied by an Italian journalist, Mr. Allan dashed out and stabbed the man repeatedly, according to the Post. He then spent 10 months in a Roman jail.

When he returned to the United States, he worked as managing editor of The Reporter Magazine, as foreign editor of the Saturday Evening Post and, as a sideline, a restaurant columnist for Gourmet Magazine. In 1971 he was appointed director of information for the Middle East Region of the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) in Beirut, and served in Geneva

and Nairobi.

In 1983 he was named director of information and education for the World Wide Fund for Nature International and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources based in Switzerland.

During World War II, Mr. Allan served as a 1st lieutenant in the 15th U.S. Air Force based in Italy. He was shot down over Budapest and spent 10 months as a prisoner of war in Germany. He escaped twice and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Purple Hearts, three Air Medals and the POW Medal.

Mr. Allan is survived by his widow, Dominika von Zahn Allan; six children, Eve Allan Baldwin of Half Moon Bay, Catherine Allan Grady of St. Paul, Minnesota, Scoville V. Allan of Bastrop, Texas, David M. Allan and Peter C. Allan of New York City, and Diana Allan Brown of Cambridge, Massachusetts; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Memorials in his name may be made to POST (Peninsula Open Space Trust), 3000 Sand Hill Road, Suite 155, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Mieke Dankers Gallo

Corporate recruiter

Mieke Dankers Gallo died at her home in Woodside of a brain tumor after a 10-year illness. She was 59.

Ms. Gallo was born in the Netherlands and came to the United States in 1954 with her family. She attended Carlmont High School and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley. In her early career, she taught elementary school in East Palo Alto and Redwood City. She left teaching to raise her two children. She later built a successful career as a corporate recruiter.

She was married to Marty Hull, with whom she had a son, Hans, and a daughter, Lia. She later married Luigi Gallo.

Ms. Gallo will be remembered for her enthusiasm, zest for life, generous spirit, and sense of humor, say family members. She loved California's natural beauty and spent many days walking in local parks and camping in the Sierra.

She enjoyed traveling abroad with her husband, time with her grandchildren, discussions

of politics, Zen meditation, and KQED public television, say family members.

She is survived by her husband, Luigi Gallo; children Hans Hull of Princeton, New Jersey, and Lia Hull of Santa Cruz; and six grandchildren.

John W. Sheffield Jr.

Orchard owner

Memorial services for John W. Sheffield Jr. will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, August 10, at Davis Memorial Chapel, 609 Main St. in Watsonville. Mr. Sheffield lived in Menlo Park for many years before moving to Watsonville in 2000.

He graduated from the University of the Pacific and served in the U.S. Marines. He owned and operated the Sheffield Orchards in Corralitos and served on the board of directors of the Agriculture History Project of Watsonville.

He is survived by his longtime companion, Luann Niebling of Watsonville; daughter Kimberly Anne Evans of Livermore; sons John Sheffield III of Menlo Park and Brennan Sheffield of Chico; and eight grandchildren.



Grand Prix award

Members of the Robinson family of Woodside, from left, Caerie, Bob and Nancy, will present the Grand Prix award this Saturday at the Menlo Charity Horse Show. Mr. Robinson has sponsored the \$40,000 San Jose British Motors Grand Prix since its inception. Menlo Charity Horse show runs this week through Sunday, August 13, at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton. For information, call 701-0543 or go to www.menlohorseshow.com.

MP merges police dispatch

Menlo Park and San Carlos will merge their police dispatch services after the Menlo Park City Council voted 5-0 to approve a five-year contract between the two cities at its August 1 meeting.

Four San Carlos dispatchers will become employees of Menlo Park, and all dispatchers will take calls from both cities.

Menlo Park will have three, instead of the current two, dispatchers on each 12-hour shift.

Menlo Park will receive \$574,713 a year from San Carlos. The payment will increase 5 percent annually over the five-year contract.

The San Carlos City Council voted 4-0 at its June 26 meeting to approve the contract.

Relay for Life in Burgess Park

The Relay for Life, which raises money for the American Cancer Society, will be held in Burgess Park, 701 Laurel St. in Menlo Park, from 9 a.m. on August 12 to 9:30 a.m. on August 13.

Teams of friends and family

camp out and take turns walking around a path for 24 hours, keeping at least one member of the team on the path at all times. For registration information, call (650)578-9902 or go to www.relayforlife.org.

Alpine Little League All-Stars win tourney

The Alpine/West Menlo Little League 12 year-old All-Stars' season should have ended when they lost to Palo Alto National in the District 52 All-Star Tournament.

But the team wanted to keep playing, so they entered the San Carlos postseason tournament and won it handily, emerging victorious in five games over four days.

Alpine won the championship game, 4-1, on July 30 against a San Carlos team largely made up of players that Alpine had faced in its 4-0 victory over San Carlos in the District 52 tournament.

Tucker Jorgensen broke a 1-1 tie in the bottom of the sixth with a walk-off, three-run home run. Travis McHugh and Sam Falkenhagen each pitched three innings for Alpine, combining to allow only three hits on 10 strikeouts.

In the tournament's five games, Alpine outscored its opponents, 62 to 7.

— *Alpine/West Menlo coach Dave Denier contributed to this report.*

Menlo Park runner second in marathon

Menlo Park resident Chloe Glare, 25, finished second among women in the San Francisco Marathon on July 30 with a time of 3:03:31. Former Stanford University track and field standout Julia Stamps won the race.

Glare graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School in 1999 and attended UC-Davis, where she competed on the cross-



Players from the Alpine/West Menlo Little League after their victory over San Carlos in the District 52 All-Star Tournament.

SPORTS

country team.

Over 15,000 runners participated in the event, which included shorter races in addition to the 26.2-mile marathon. It has raised \$250,000 for over 50 local charity organizations since 2003, according to a press release.

Marathon sponsored by Music@Menlo

The MIT Community Running Club will hold a marathon and several other free running events Sunday, August 13, at the Rancho San Antonio County Park in Cupertino. The event is sponsored in part by Music@Menlo, and planners expect the runners to come primarily

from Woodside, Portola Valley, Atherton and Menlo Park.

The races offered are a 5-kilometer, 10-kilometer, half marathon and full marathon. The park is located at Cristo Rey Drive, near the intersection of Foothill Boulevard and Highway 280 in Cupertino.

For more information, visit MITcrc.org.

Note

In a photo that ran in the July 26 issue of The Almanac, along with the article "Minors All-Star team reaches tournament title game," two players on the bottom right in the front row were not named in the caption. They are Andrew Dashbach and Kevin Walker.

Commission nixes 71-foot wireless antenna

The issue of whether Cingular Wireless can raise an antenna at a Menlo Park fire station by 11 feet may end up being decided by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

On a 4-1 vote, the San Mateo County Planning Commission on July 26 supported several neighbors who appealed a permit issued in April by the zoning hearing officer.

The permit would allow Cingular to extend an existing 59-foot, 8-inch communication tower and antennas to 71 feet at the fire station at 3322 Alameda de las Pulgas.

Neighbors questioned the need for the tower, its aesthetics, and their risks from the effects of radiation.

In casting the lone no vote, Commissioner Ralph Nobles

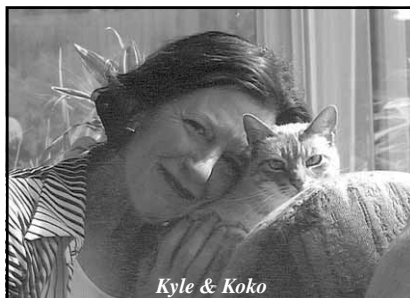
noted that the radiation would be 1.5 percent of the federal limit.

The commission will revisit the issue at its August 9 meeting,

after the staff compiles factual findings. Their decision then can be appealed to the Board of Supervisors.

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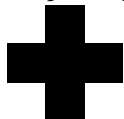


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WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

EMAIL your views to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Indicate if it is a letter to be published.

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Phantom savings in private child care

After months of trying to get firm numbers from Menlo Park city officials, the Almanac finally found out last week that the true cost to operate the city's child care programs is \$1.14 million, just \$4,500 more than income received from tuition. This is a shocking disclosure, given that the City Council majority of Nicholas Jellins, Mickie Winkler and Lee Duboc have repeatedly claimed that the programs cost the city \$444,000 more than they take in. As a result, the trio has pressed ahead with a request for proposals from private firms to operate the programs based on the premise that they are operating at a loss of nearly half a million dollars a year.

This discrepancy comes from an accounting sleight of hand, where the city assigns a portion of its permanent overhead costs, such as the salaries of the city manager, the assistant city manager and other administrative employees, to the programs. But obviously, those salaries cannot be applied to a private child care operation and will not go away if a private operator takes over.

Other reasons for reduced operation costs include the unfilled position of a staff supervisor and the fact that the city no longer has to pay rent on two portable classrooms. As a result, the city is virtually breaking even on child care, just as many parents contended at heated public hearings in April and May.

Tuition was raised 10 percent in May to help bring down costs to the city as the programs moved into the newly remodeled Menlo Children's Center.

Certainly a private operator could do the job for lower tuition, but at what cost? To keep expenses low and make a profit, the proposals on the table would likely substitute less qualified teachers for the present staff, who are familiar with the children and programs.

The public was told from the beginning that the object of privatization was to break even at the child care center. Now that a true account of the actual costs of the programs shows a gap of only \$4,500, it seems to us that the expensive staff time devoted to writing the request for proposals, forming a task force and performing all the other tasks involved in a bid process has made this a losing proposition from the start.

This child care fiasco is just another example of the city's rush to privatization without determining the true costs of the services it wants to replace. For example, the City Council, on a 3-2 vote, earlier this year quickly turned the city's new swimming pool complex over to a private operator before analyzing whether the city would be able to cover its costs running the aquatics program itself. Under the hurriedly drafted agreement, the city receives no rent for the pool complex it privatized.

What is to be gained by privatization if it doesn't really reduce costs and simply gives away assets paid for by the city's taxpayers?

Parents are due an explanation — and soon — about why the council moved so quickly to study privatizing these programs even though the center was within a few thousand dollars of breaking even.

In our view, the city should scrap its privatization plans, at least until the end of the school year next spring, which would avoid an unsettling change for the children in the middle of a school year. After that, the decision would be up to a new council.

Allied Arts, neighbors settle suit

After putting the nonprofit owners and operators of Allied Arts Guild through a costly legal wringer, a group of neighbors who live near the arts complex at 75 Arbor Road have thankfully settled a dispute over noise and traffic impact that could have closed the Menlo Park landmark for good.

The deal ends some three years of wrangling over how many weekend and nighttime events the Guild, which raises money for the Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford, could hold at its recently remodeled facility. Under the settlement, the Guild can host up to 32 evening events a year, 15 with a maximum of 150 guests. The remaining 17 are limited to 90 guests, and all evening events must stop by 9 p.m.

The agreement ends a long legal process that began after the Guild's owner, the Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary, spent more than \$8 million to remodel the aging complex that was established as an artists' colony in 1929. The neighbors lost their first challenge of the City Council's approval of the Guild's operating plan in Superior Court, but then won an Appeals Court ruling, which set the stage for last month's compromise.

We hope the Guild and the neighbors will live in peace now, so the beautiful gardens and artisan shops can remain a Menlo Park landmark for years to come. The Auxiliary has made many efforts to compromise with the neighbors, but were subjected to this lengthy, expensive process. The Auxiliary's offer to establish hotlines, off-site parking and other assurances that noise and traffic impact would not get out of control were never adequate to end the dispute.

The neighbors have said their main fear was sale of the Allied Arts property to a new owner who might not act in good faith, as the Auxiliary generally has, to minimize the impacts on the neighborhood of the Guild's larger events. Ironically, it was the neighbors' lawsuit that nearly caused that to happen.

EDITORIALS

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

No intention to impugn dedication of city staff

Editor:

My letter July 26 was ham-handedly critical of the city of Menlo Park for not having published minutes of any City Council meetings since March. City Manager David Boesch has taken issue with my comments (Letters, Aug. 2), pointing out that city staff is overworked, that citizens can attend council meetings or watch them at home on cable TV or on line, and that they can access tapes of past meetings at the library or on the city's Web site.

All of this is true. It is also true

See **LETTERS**, next page



Menlo Park Historical Association

Our Regional Heritage

This undated drawing shows the Fletcher House in downtown Menlo Park, across from the Southern Pacific Railroad line. Note the family playing croquet in the yard at left of the main house, which apparently accepted lodgers.

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

that I did do not intend to impugn the city staff's professionalism and dedication. However, the minutes are the only official written record of council deliberations and decisions available to the public. The city's own **Procedures Manual** calls for making the minutes available to the public.

Over the past several months, the City Council has engaged in decision-making on many controversial subjects, with council discussion and public comment typically spanning multiple meetings. Citizens who wish to follow the council's considerations and actions should not have to plow through 20 or so hours of videotape to track an item of interest versus spending 20 minutes reviewing the written minutes of four or five council meetings.

I appreciate the huge workload on the city staff, in particular the city clerk's office. Perhaps the city should engage temporary additional help to bring the minutes up to date.

Nancy Borgeson
Laurel Street, Menlo Park

No surprise about union stance on benefits

Editor:

I read with more than mild interest the article describing the League of Cities' recommendations for reforming public employee pensions.

I have no objection to correct excesses and abuses that are interwoven into the current system; it would seem to me that every public employee should welcome removing such a reputation-besmirching stain. The article described a planned contribution plan that encourages employee participation and more responsibility for one's own retirement, which makes sense and makes for a more aware working constituency. These two points, if embraced, might actually cut California's deficit and make our citizens more fiscally aware.

Anticipated of course was the SEIU's (Service Employees International Union) Sasha Eisner's knee jerk response to these proposals, which was to raise taxes. How socialist. How union.

Eisner's solution is not to correct the problems that give the public such a negative stereotype of public employees, not to empower the public employees he represents, and not to look at the big picture for California.

This is typical of the unions like the California teachers unions and SEIU, the latter to whom I am required to pay (dues that ultimately pay) for political propaganda of which I

Old rules clog up Woodside planning process

By David Fleishhacker

Having just staggered to the end of a three-month, very costly approval process in order to build a one-room addition above my carport, I can speak feelingly to the San Mateo County Grand Jury's comments about the Woodside Planning Department.

The problem, as I see it, is not in the staff of the planning department, who, for the most part, are simply doing what they have been told to do. The counter staff is especially customer-friendly, being stuck with the difficult task of explaining bewildering rules, regulations and fees.

The problem is the accumulation of endless and pointless regulations over time because each town council adds requirements but never eliminates any. The problem is that these councils have seen their job as preventing development of any kind instead of trying to facilitate good development. The problem is that the staff

is fearful of failing to document in detail every nit which town councils have forced them to pick.

A reasonable fast-track process would have a small project (however defined) require only one set of plans, checked in order by each department, instead of multiple plans, each submitted to a different planner.



A reasonable process would encourage staff to collect questions and then visit the site with owner/architect/contractor to get information instead of having each staff member write out often redundant questions requiring written responses. (In my own case, such questions related to types of trees not being touched, the location of a tree canopy visible in a submitted site photograph, property lines hundreds of feet from the site, and whether a hill was man-made or natural — obvious to the naked eye.)

A reasonable process would not require endless oversight unless there is some major

change in use, or damage to neighbors' views or the environment. There is no reason for the town to be involved in structural issues — current regulations require that engineering standards appropriate to a high-rise building be applied to a doghouse.

It's really easy for the town to fix this. Call a moratorium on any additional regulations, and then take time to examine every regulation put in place in the last 20 years. Set a goal of removing the least useful half of these, and then remove them. Then, for projects under a certain size or cost, remove as many more as possible.

Then we could go back to the way Woodside was when most of the houses were built here — houses that stand to this day.

Is this too simplistic? Almost certainly. But it is a lot better than the situation we have now. Otherwise, why is it that every homeowner, architect, or contractor with whom I have spoken just laughs when I mention Woodside?

David Fleishhacker lives on Albion Avenue in Woodside.

mostly disapprove.

Of course, if the very sensible voters of California approve defined contribution plans, they weaken the union's iron grip on a large source of revenue collected from willing and unwilling union members. If that occurs, Eisner may have to take a course in financial planning where he will have to learn about fiscal responsibility; the alternative is to bulldoze California into bankruptcy.

Lisa Cohen
Cloud Avenue, Menlo Park

City should review park before a vote

Editor:

I agree with the Menlo Park Parks and Recreation Commission that there is not enough information on which to base a decision about building playing fields at Bayfront Park.

Before you place Bayfront Park on the November ballot, the city should review and update the technical studies that were done when a golf course was first proposed there, about 15 to 20 years ago. At that time, a golf course and playing fields were deemed to be technically unfeasible, due to water issues, using fertilizers or herbicides on top of the landfill, and venting gas from the landfill.

I believe the old information is all current, with the possible exception of the quantity of gas emissions, as well as the drought, which was true then and will be true again, but is not true right now. Even if a majority of the citizens of Menlo Park are willing to undergo rationing in order to water this proposed

development, is irrigating over a landfill technically feasible?

Unless these issues have changed, there is no point in considering development. Do we want our children playing on the continuously settling surface of a landfill? Is the cost feasible in this time of austere budgeting?

Some citizens prize open space while others can't see open space without imagining some kind of development. The City Council's job is to balance the issues, bearing in mind that Menlo Park is under no obligation to provide playing fields or golf courses to anyone else.

Margaret Fruth
Peggy Lane, Menlo Park

Glad to see fields issue on ballot

Editor:

I respectfully disagree with last week's letter from Tate and Curtis Snyder about Bayfront Park.

I appreciate that the Menlo Park City Council is moving to put the referendum to the voters. I appreciate that they move quickly and do not study something do death.

I worked on the pool with many volunteers years ago. We went to countless meetings on what kind of pool to build and what would be the best use. No one ever thought it would be six years before the pool would be built and working, which we don't use now that our children are in college.

I manage four lacrosse teams for Menlo-Atherton High School and we need field space. Lee Duboc has worked tirelessly to find and build fields for the

voters in Menlo Park. This gets our children off the couch and they are not on the streets, having sex or using drugs.

Our lacrosse program has 96 students and we have one full-size field available at M-A for four teams to practice. If we had lights we could use the turf field but we don't and the track team uses it. We need fields. I appreciate that the City Council is moving quickly to get this going after years of looking for space.

M. Maria Flaherty, Menlo Park

Wind farm might work at Cargill site

Editor:

In your July 19 article on the future of the Cargill salt ponds, public input was discussed.

Here is a way in which commercial and environmental concerns could both be addressed: Create a wind farm on which power-generating wind turbines, widely spaced, would reside in the restored marshland. The result would be additional "green" electricity, which we badly need, and an improved natural environment.

However, aesthetics aside, I understand that birds are sometimes killed by flying into the windmill blades. I do not know how severe this problem is, but I would appreciate hearing from people knowledgeable in this field.

Derek Orme
Canyon Drive, Portola Valley

Atherton's scandal

Editor:

The lax and incompetent

management of Atherton, if not outright malfeasance, has been disclosed again, just as it was seven years ago. But this time it concerns the proven lack of adequate procedures and the apparent under-collection of fees by the Building Department.

The Atherton Audit Committee was prepared to initiate an internal audit of all departments two years ago when I was a member, but the project was postponed and never revived.

Fortunately, the outside auditing firm conducted an investigation of the Building Department in early 2006 which has been expanded into an ongoing detailed audit by the Atherton Finance Department. Initial results from a sample of permit files have shown a lack of adequate procedures, inequitable fee calculations and fee under-collection totaling approximately \$135,000. And the broader-focus audit covering many years has not been completed.

This disclosure (implies) a lack of adequate supervision and leadership by the city manager, by the Finance and Audit committees, and by the City Council. Six years ago the city manager and the chief of police were terminated and two City Council members chose not to run for re-election. Now, two full-term council members are running for re-election. Their competency in representing the residents of Atherton should be questioned.

Bob Jenkins
Irving Avenue,
Atherton

Property Showcase by HUGH CORNISH

WILLIS POLK'S CORYELL CARRIAGE HOUSE



48 LLOYDEN DRIVE · ATHERTON

3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths; guest cottage; studio apartment; patios and pool
Offered at \$4,495,000

PRIVATE PARADISE



393 ATHERTON AVENUE · ATHERTON

5 bedrooms, 8.5 baths; home theatre; pool; tennis court; Las Lomitas Schools
Offered at \$6,495,000

CIRCUS CLUB LOCATION



6 COWELL LANE · ATHERTON

5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths; patio and pool; cul-de-sac lot; Menlo Park Schools
Offered at \$5,799,000

WEST ATHERTON CUL-DE-SAC



CO-LISTED WITH NATALIE SPIEKER-COMARTIN

332 CAMINO AL LAGO · ATHERTON

3 bedrooms, 2 baths; updated kitchen; security gate; Las Lomitas Schools
Offered at \$1,249,000

Please go to my Web site www.hughcornish.com to read my Half-Year Reviews of market conditions in Atherton, Menlo Park, Woodside, Portola Valley and Palo Alto



Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.



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