

The Almanac

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

SEPTEMBER 13, 2006 www.AlmanacNews.com VOL. 42 NO. 2



The new Info Menlo, the indispensable guide to our towns, is inside home-delivered copies of this issue.

What's in the Cards for Menlo Park?



Two sides line up to compete for control of City Council

[Page 14]

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/David Boyce

On to victory

Steve Nicolopoulos, head varsity football coach at Woodside High, has never had a losing season in his eight years of coaching the Wildcats. See story on **Page 8**.

Atherton

- Building probe details spotty inspection records. **Page 5**
- Down and dirty: Town mulls basement, underground garage rules. **Page 8**

Menlo Park

- Tim Sheeper, SOLO due to settle dispute on pools this week. **Page 8**
- Lacey Burt takes police commander post. **Page 7**

Schools

- Foundation gives Woodside School \$1.6 million. **Page 5**

Community

- New life for Coyote Point: Board accepts plans to revive struggling museum. **Page 9**

Sports

- Dream comes true for M-A grad: Greg Camarillo of Menlo Park lands a spot on the San Diego Chargers. **Page 7**

People

- Dr. Thomas Fogarty of Portola Valley to be honored as "History Maker." **Page 11**

Business

- Cashin Company real estate brokerage opens new office in Ladera. **Page 6**

Also Inside

Calendar	34
Editorial	26
Letters	26
Obituaries	25
Police Calls	25
Regional Heritage	26

On the cover

In the November 7 election, six candidates will compete for three open seats on the Menlo Park City Council. They are, from left, John Boyle, Lee Duboc, Mickie Winkler, Vincent Bressler, Richard Cline and Heyward Robinson. Photo illustration by Marjan Sadoughi. Story begins on **Page 14**.

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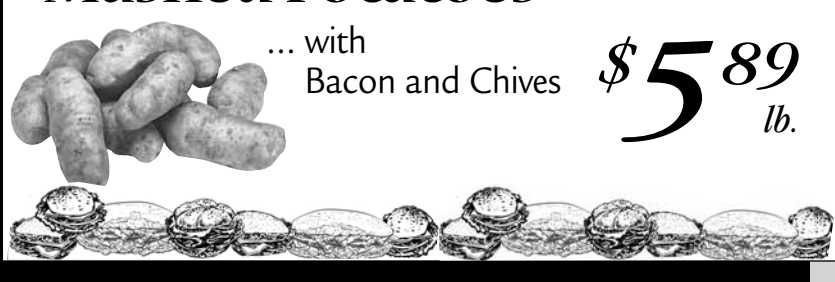
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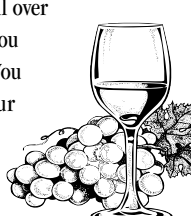
**CLAY - PRODUCE**

## Serving Order

It is very enjoyable to serve more than one wine during the courses of a meal, but in which order should they be served? As a rule, chilled wines should come before room-temperature wines, and younger wines should be served before older ones. It also makes sense to serve lighter wines before heavier ones, white wines before reds, and red wines before sweet wines (unless the sweet wine is to be served as a aperitif or with a first course). Wines from the same region should be served in reverse order of their vintage (even if the younger wine is a better growth), though there are exceptions. The idea is to save the heavier, more complex wines for last.

Whether you have a question about what wines to serve with a particular meal, and when, stop in and talk with us. We love to talk about wines and to answer any questions you may have. You'll find a wide selection of red and white wines from all over the world, and in a range of prices. Of course, we carry everything you might need to make that great meal with which to enjoy your wine. You can even bring home cut flowers to decorate your table. Drop into our unique market.

*Hint: While old wines can be decanted to remove sediment, young wines can be decanted to help accelerate their maturation.*



**WINE**

## DUCKHORN

DUCKHORN is an iconic Napa vintner that continues to produce benchmark Napa wines. Having just released their 2004 Merlot, the varietal that Duckhorn is synonymous with, I thought it appropriate to feature their wines.

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Building probe details spotty inspection records

■ The town had been giving records to contractors, and not keeping copies. It doesn't have information on problems and corrections, official says.

By Andrea Gemmet  
Almanac Staff Writer

There's been a lot of talk among Atherton officials about cleaning up sloppy procedures and poor record-keeping practices in the town's beleaguered building department.

But what exactly does that mean?

One example came to light at a recent Atherton City Council meeting, when some council members appeared astonished to learn that complete building inspection records had not been kept.

Building projects are subject to inspections at various points during construction, such as when a foundation is poured, when electrical work is done, and

when construction is complete.

Atherton had the practice of checking a project's inspection cards and then, once the project is "finaled," giving the inspection records to the contractor to keep, rather than retaining them in building department files.

Since the probe of the building department, that practice has changed and the town now does keep all inspection records, said interim building official Gary Binger, who was hired to replace former building official Mike Hood, who retired June 30.

### 'Unusual'

"I think it's unusual," said Leslie Lambert, Portola Valley's planning manager, when asked

### ■ ATHERTON

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for news updates

about Atherton's former practice of not keeping the records. "You wouldn't be able to tell a future owner what got signed off."

Portola Valley, like most jurisdictions, uses duplicate inspection cards, one of which is filled out at the job site with a copy that is kept at town hall, Ms. Lambert said.

Woodside keeps a computer database with detailed information from all building inspections, said Town Manager Susan George.

"When inspectors come in from the field with inspection notes, they are entered by project number into our access database, verbatim," Ms. George said. "I don't know what

ultimately happens with the job cards themselves, but we do have a permanent record."

Atherton does have some records of building inspections, said Mr. Binger, the town's interim building official.

"The unusual part is that the town has not kept a hard copy of the final job card after the project is finaled out," he said. "I can't explain to you or anybody why it wasn't done that way. Maybe it was just too many forms to keep."

As a result, Atherton project files have only minimal information about inspections, such as the date, but none of the background information about prob-

lems or corrections, he said.

When the Atherton council questioned town staff about the practice August 16, it appeared that the only person who could explain why inspection cards were not kept was Mr. Hood, who has moved out of the state and is uncommunicative.

At the meeting, Atherton Finance Director John Johns told the council that the latest internal audit of the building department might uncover an explanation for the practice.

"I don't know that there could be a good explanation," retorted Councilman Alan Carlson. ■

*'I can't explain to you or anybody why it wasn't done that way. Maybe it was just too many forms to keep.'*

GARY BINGER,  
INTERIM BUILDING OFFICIAL

## Remembering Michelle Mazzei

Oak Knoll second- and third-graders with principal David Ackerman and teacher Tony Yob look ahead to the school's Family Bike Ride, set for Sunday, September 17, in memory of fourth-grade teacher Michelle Mazzei, who lost her life in a bicycle-car accident last October. The ride is the culminating event in the Menlo Park K-5 school's Bike Safety Week. For more information, check [www.oakknollschool.org](http://www.oakknollschool.org).

The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi



## Foundation gives Woodside School \$1.6 million for current year

■ The gift represents 24 percent of district income.

By David Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

The budget for the 2006-07 fiscal year at Woodside Elementary School includes a gift from the Wood-

side School Foundation of \$1.6 million, about 24 percent of the district's total income and a new record.

The one-school K-8 district enrolling about 440 students expects to spend \$6.7 million

■ See chart on Page 6.

in the fiscal year that started July 1, and receive about the same amount in revenues. That represents a 9 percent increase in both spending and income. The budget anticipates

about \$15,500 will be added to reserves.

By law, school districts must retain a reserve of at least 3 percent of spending. Despite the dollar increase, on a percentage basis, the Woodside district's reserve is shown dropping slightly, from 19.4

■ Cooperation, easing traffic flow at Woodside School. Page 6

percent to 18 percent.

The foundation's gift represents a 6.5 percent jump over

See FOUNDATION, page 6

## Cooperation, busing ease traffic flow at school

Woodside Elementary School got off to a smooth start August 29 with a large number of students walking to school, riding their bikes, carpooling and taking the morning bus along Canada Road.

A major traffic jam was expected in the mornings

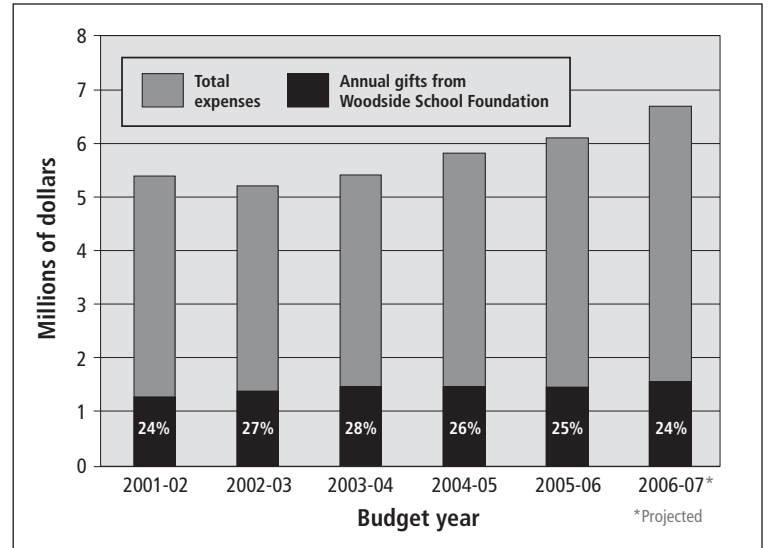
because of a campus construction project that has resulted in a loss of parking spaces, changes in drop-off areas and cordoned-off areas. But the problem never happened.

When a surprising 151 students signed up for the new, free bus service along Canada

Road to school, the district had to rush another 84-passenger bus in service.

"It was really amazing," said Superintendent/Principal Dan Vinson. "Everybody pulled together to make the traffic situation work. It's better than it's ever been."

Motorists along Woodside Road still need to use caution when driving near the K-8 school, especially during the 8 to 8:30 a.m. period when students are arriving at school.



Gifts from the Woodside School Foundation have covered a quarter or more of the K-8 school's budget for several years.

### FOUNDATION

*continued from page 5*

last year's gift. Property tax revenues, too, are projected to rise by 6.5 percent. The district is expected to spend about \$15,200 per student in 2006-07.

Teachers are scheduled to get 10 percent raises if the Board of Trustees approves them. The raises align Woodside salaries with those in the elementary districts in Portola Valley and Menlo Park, said Financial Services Officer

Tim Hanretty. "Woodside lagged behind a little bit," he said.

Other changes for 2006-07 include the elimination of one technology teaching position and the adding of one middle-school social studies period and two periods of middle-school English language.

Costs for special education are expected to rise by about \$32,000, and the school psychologist is to increase availability on campus to one and a half days a week from one day. ■

## Cashin Company opens new office in Ladera

■ Paul Skrabo of Portola Valley is manager.

Paul Skrabo, a Portola Valley resident who grew up in Menlo Park, has been named to run a new sales office of the Cashin Company real-estate brokerage at the Ladera shopping center at 3130 Alpine Road.

The Ladera office, set to open in mid-September, is the eighth Peninsula location for the company, including offices in Woodside and Menlo Park, said spokesman Chris Massetani.

Mr. Skrabo, 50, is a 28-year veteran in selling residential real estate on the Peninsula, including 10 years as manager of the

Portola Valley office of Cornish & Carey/Coldwell Banker, Mr. Massetani said.

For the past year, Mr. Skrabo co-managed Cashin's Palo Alto office. He is a 1977 graduate of Stanford University.

A family-owned brokerage with some 400 agents, Cashin Company was founded in 1995 by Emmet J. "Skip" Cashin III, who with his father, the late Emmet J. Cashin Jr., built Fox & Carskadon into a leading independent brokerage.

"We've carved our niche in the high-end Peninsula marketplace, and Portola Valley is a natural progression for us," said Mr. Cashin.

## Community Law Night on Sept. 14

Got a legal problem? Divorce? Immigration? Adoption? Real Estate? Whatever? Want to represent yourself in court?

The San Mateo County Superior Court and Board of Supervisors are sponsoring a free Community Law Night to help people sort out their tangles with the legal system on Thursday, September 14, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the South San Francisco Courthouse at 1050 Mission Road.

Community Law Night will

provide: talks on "Family Law" and "How to Represent Yourself in Court," with translation into Spanish and Tagalog; 15-minute mini-consultations with some 50 volunteer attorneys; and information on government and community resources.

Participation is on a first-come, first-served basis; free child care will be available. For information call the office of Presiding Judge George Miram at 363-4511.



## Your Child's Health University

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital offers classes and seminars designed to foster good health and enhance the lives of parents and children.

### \* INFANT MASSAGE

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– Thursdays in September

### \* PERFORMANCE SUCCESS FOR KIDS: IDEAS FROM SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY

Dr. Glenn Brassington, PhD, will present the latest mind-body methods for enhancing performance as well as practical tips for parents, coaches and teachers on supporting a child's optimal performance.

– Wednesday, September 27

### \* SIBLING PREPARATION

Designed for children two years of age and older, this class prepares siblings for the emotional and physical realities of the arrival of a newborn.

– Saturday, September 30

### \* NEW FAMILY PROGRAM

This series of classes is designed to help families throughout the first nine months after birth, offering something for everyone. Enrollment includes participation in Mother-Baby Mornings, Dads' Nights and Working Mothers' Groups.

– Ongoing Weekly and Monthly Sessions

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# Dream comes true for M-A grad

Greg Camarillo of Menlo Park lands a spot on the San Diego Chargers

By Marjorie Mader

Almanac Staff Writer

What are the chances of a scholar-athlete from Menlo-Atherton High School making the huge leap into the National Football League?

Greg Camarillo of Menlo Park, in another

chapter in his improbable football career, made the 53rd and final spot on the San Diego Chargers September 2, as a wide receiver and special teams member.

"Greg had been battling throughout camp for the fifth receiver position," said his dad Al Camarillo, an American history professor at Stanford.

But in the final decision, it was Camarillo's contributions on special teams, in addition to his role as a receiver that won him the roster spot, said Chargers coach Marty Schottenheimer.

"You look at him, he doesn't have the height and the weight and the speed and the numbers," coach Schottenheimer said in an interview with a staff writer on the San Diego Union-Tribune.

"(But) every time he's out he catches the ball, he makes plays, he runs down, he tackles people in the kicking game in coverage," said the coach.

Camarillo, who will wear 82 as a Charger, said: "I'm excited, thirsty. I'm going to show them they made the right choice."

After graduating in 2005 from Stanford University where he had made the varsity football team as a "walk-on," Camarillo was invited to try out with the Chargers. He made the development squad of eight players, who aren't officially on the roster, but practice and travel with the team.

Camarillo's dream of trying to make the NFL came true on the final day of training camp this month.

"Greg has always over-achieved," said his dad,

with a mixture of pride and amazement. He gives a lot of credit to Martin Billings, Camarillo's football coach at Menlo-Atherton, for launching and guiding his son in football and sportsmanship.

Camarillo's many achievements include being the first M-A student to receive the San Mateo County School-Athlete of the Year award in 1999, given by the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame.

As a senior at M-A, he captained the varsity football team, and was most valuable player, student body president, and an Advanced Placement Scholar.

He turned down Harvard and chose Stanford, where he showed up for football practice as a "walk-on." His perseverance, work-ethic and focus paid off on the field and in the classroom.

Camarillo red-shirted his first year in 2000 at Stanford and later was a wide receiver and played on the special teams. He earned Academic All-Pac 10 honors for three years, graduating with a major in engineering.

At Stanford, he received the Jim Reynolds Award, which recognizes

courage on the field and devotion to the game.

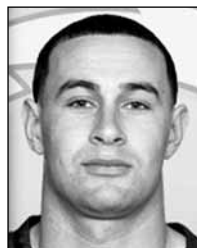
There's another Stanford link. Greg was discovered by the Chargers' wide receivers coach James Lofton, a former Stanford All-American and NFL Hall of Famer. Lofton's son, David, was one of Greg's teammates with the Cardinal.

Education has always been important in the Camarillo family. Al Camarillo is a professor of history and the Miriam and Peter Haas Centennial Professor in Public Service at Stanford. His wife Susan works as a counselor at Crocker Middle School in Hillsborough. Their son Jeff teaches American history at a middle school in Compton, where Al Camarillo grew up. Daughter Lauren will be a freshmen at UCLA, where her parents met as students. ■



San Diego Chargers

Stanford grad **Greg Camarillo** "makes the plays," says San Diego Chargers coach Marty Schottenheimer.



# Lacey Burt takes police commander post

The management staff at the Menlo Park Police Department grew by one on September 6 with the hiring of Lacey Burt as commander. She spent the past 23 years with the Palo Alto Police Department.

Ms. Burt, who spent the past 23 years with the Palo Alto Police Department, is one of two police commanders in Menlo Park, and both are women. They report directly to Chief Bruce Goitia.

She will share with Commander Terri Molakides the oversight of the department's patrol and investigative services for the next month or so, then take on patrol services herself,

**Commander Lacey Burt will run the patrol services division**

Menlo Park Police Department



said police department spokeswoman Nicole Acker.

Patrol services does street patrols, conducts preliminary investigations, and responds to emergencies. The department has been without a patrol services commander since June, following the promotion to chief of then Commander Goitia, who served briefly as patrol commander after Mark Boettger left in May.

Ms. Burt was one of two finalists out of 13 applicants for the job, Ms. Acker said. The department interviewed five applicants over five weeks.

Ms. Burt started in Palo Alto as an officer in 1983. In 1993, she advanced to sergeant and, in 2005, to lieutenant. Her career at Palo Alto includes leadership positions in a traffic unit, a patrol division, an investigations unit, and in officer training, Ms. Acker said.

Ms. Burt, 43, lives in San Carlos with her 11-year-old son, has a bachelor's degree in business management, and is working on a master's degree in emergency personnel management.

# REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



## Appeal Please

**Q. There is another house for sale in our neighborhood. How can we make our house more appealing?**

the house with its décor and the immediate impression it produces, should create an emotional appeal that potential buyers will find hard to resist.

**A.** An understanding of basic human nature will help you meet the challenges of being a successful home seller. Sales psychologists tell us virtually all buying is done to meet psychological needs, and buying decisions are emotional decisions. Over the years I've worked with many MBAs (sorry, I don't mean to pick on you but you know who you are!) who have attempted to analyze every property they see, color code charts and use a price per square inch method of pricing and when all is said and done, their buying decisions are usually made when they open the front door of a home. Therefore, to be a successful seller,

Aside from improper pricing of a house, the biggest drawback to a timely sale (for the highest price) is lack of buyer appeal. The more that can be done to enhance a property the better chance you'll have of attracting qualified buyers. And in spite of the fact that color is definitely in, it is best to keep your color scheme neutral, which will appeal to the broadest range of buyers. You may love pinks and purples, but it is not as likely to have the emotional appeal that you are after. If you need help with your décor, we have excellent stagers we could refer to you. While the market here is still strong, the best strategy is to do all you can to attract multiple offers. And it starts at the front door.

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

# Book Fair 2006

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9:30 - 4:00pm
- Sunday September 17  
9:30 - 3:00pm

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The Almanac



# Atherton mulls basement, underground garage rules

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

It's not on the agenda, but it's safe to say that the phrases "excavation surcharge," and "off-haul fee" are going to come up at the Atherton General Plan Committee meeting, which starts at 6 p.m. Wednesday, September 13, in the council chambers at 94 Ashfield Road.

Among the hot topics that the committee is set to discuss:

## ■ ATHERTON

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whether people should be allowed to build basements underneath guest houses; and if underground garages should be banned.

Anything that involves digging up dirt is bound to bring up Atherton's controversial surcharge on off-haul — a fee of \$22 per

cubic yard is imposed on dirt that is trucked on or off the construction site. The fee is intended to cover damage to the town's roads caused by the heavy trucks.

A group of Atherton residents, contractors and developers has organized around opposition to the excavation fee, which group members say is an illegally imposed tax.

The Atherton City Council is awaiting a legal review of the year-old excavation surcharge,

which should be ready in time for its September 20 meeting.

Atherton has issued 20 excavation permits since mid-May 2005 and collected a little over \$350,000 in fees, according to Gary Binger, the town's interim planning/building administrator. Because of questions about the legality of the fee, the town has entered into four standstill agreements, to allow excavation projects to go forward without paying the fee, he said. The standstill agreements

preserve Atherton's right to collect the fee later.

Also on the General Plan Committee agenda is a draft preservation ordinance for historic artifacts, and a discussion of building size rules for larger lots.

The General Plan Committee is an advisory body to the City Council. To view the agenda, go to [ci.Atherton.ca.us](http://ci.Atherton.ca.us) and click on "Agendas, minutes and reports"; or call 752-0500 for information. ■

## Sheeper, SOLO deal on use of pools expected this week

Tim Sheeper, operator of Menlo Park's Burgess Aquatics Center, said he expects an agreement will be reached this week with nonprofit SOLO Aquatics.

He said SOLO Chief Chris Hinshaw is reviewing a copy of the final contract, and SOLO swimmers are expected to start using the aquatics center this week.

SOLO is guaranteed access to the \$3.4 million publicly funded facility in the contract between the city and Mr. Sheeper's for-profit organization, Menlo Swim and Sport LLC.

Negotiations had previously stalled between the two groups, and Mr. Hinshaw had told the Almanac he may file a formal complaint to the city charging Mr. Sheeper with restricting access to the pools.

### Opposed to BevMo

Menlo Park alcohol retailers aren't the only businesses opposed to nationwide alcohol retailer Beverages and More (BevMo) opening a store in downtown Menlo Park, according to a recent letter.

A letter signed by 65 local businesses was mailed to Menlo Park residents last week, urging residents to oppose the issuance of a use permit for BevMo to move into the former Dal Baffo restaurant site at 878 Santa Cruz Ave.

The letter, which isn't credited to a specific group, echoes arguments made in a previous letter authored by the Menlo Park Purveyors of Wines and Spirits, a group of six local alcohol vendors including Beltramo's Wine and Spirits and Draeger's.

Beltramo's and Draeger's are also among the 65 businesses listed on the most-recent letter.

Many of the businesses opposed to BevMo's application are located in the downtown area, such as Carpaccio, Cafe Borrone and Kepler's Books and Magazines.

BevMo's application could go before the Planning Com-

## ■ MENLO WATCH

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mission later this month, said city staff. The City Council would consider the application if the commission's decision is appealed.

### Against Derry project

Menlo Park Tomorrow, a group of residents who have opposed past development projects, are calling on residents to oppose the Derry project, a condo-commercial project approved by the City Council August 29.

In an advertisement in this week's Almanac, the group says the project — which calls for 135 condominiums and 22,525 square feet of commercial space on a 3.5-acre site between El Camino Real and the Caltrain station — will lead to "the Manhattanization of Menlo Park."

The development, and other high-density residential projects, will increase traffic and overburden schools, says the group.

Resident Chuck Bernstein, who placed the advertisement, could not be reached for comment before the Almanac's deadline.

### Zoning meeting

A working group of residents, city officials and members of the business community are scheduled to discuss, on September 14, how to "clean up" Menlo Park's zoning laws.

The group will not discuss changing the city's general plan, but will focus on "cleaning up" smaller, procedural details associated with the city's zoning categories and regulations, according to Assistant Planner Thomas Rogers.

The meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. at the Burgess Recreation Center at 800 Alma St.



"We're surrogate fathers or uncles or big brothers," says Woodside High football coach Steve Nicolopoulos.

## Woodside High wins home opener

■ Wildcats seen as favorite in Bay Division.

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

In eight years of coaching football at Woodside High, Head Coach Steve Nicolopoulos hasn't had a losing season. In 2004, he led the team to a division championship after a 13-0 season.

The Wildcats are off to a winning start again this season. They opened Friday with a 14-10 victory over Gilroy. The next game is also at home, under the lights at Woodside High, starting at 8 p.m. against Riordan of San Francisco.

Nicolopoulos' approach to the 2006 season will be "the same as it is every year: one game at a time," he told the Almanac. "It sounds very cliché and very vanilla, as I've been told, but you play one game at a time."

There are differences, however. For the 2004 championship season, Woodside fielded a team rich with experienced seniors. Last year, the team had no

seniors but still had a 6-5 winning season. This year there are four seniors with varsity experience that they can now draw on, Nicolopoulos said.

Woodside appears to be a favorite to dethrone Aragon, which has a 22-game win streak, in the Bay Division of the Peninsula Athletic League, says sports writer Tim Goode of the San Mateo County Times, who covers the league for the paper.

Woodside is the most experienced team in the division, and has the addition of running back Lopeti Taufoou, a transfer from Serra, to make life easier for quarterback Matt Pelesasa, says Goode.

### Routines

Every week, Woodside players review video of the previous week's game, and each player reads a scouting report on the next opponent.

The routines also serve educational purposes, Nicolopoulos said, and elaborated with a few examples. Reading a scouting report challenges one's study

skills; carrying out a play is putting concepts into action; responding to audible adjustments to a play at the line of scrimmage teaches thinking on one's feet; and daily practice regimens of two and a half hours builds time-management skills, particularly for students who may have to help the household put food on the table in addition to doing their homework.

Pure academic skills on the team cover the spectrum, he said, with grade-point averages from a high of 4.4, to the minimum 2.0.

Football provides "another learning situation" that can cover lessons in morality, competition and gentlemanly behavior, he added.

A team, he said, can be like a family: "We're surrogate fathers or uncles or big brothers. We're there for the kids and the kids are there for each other. I think that's one of the things that has given us such success."

"I just appreciate them as individual human beings," he added. "It's fun to be around them." ■

## Info Menlo hot off the press

The new 2006-2007 edition of Info Menlo — a comprehensive guide to community resources in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside — is off the press, and will accompany home-delivered copies of this issue of the Almanac.

This 11th edition of Info Menlo has a new look and easier access to a wide array of community information, editor Sue Dremann said.

Info Menlo serves as a handy guide to local organizations, schools, kids' activities (including child care), recre-



The 11th edition of Info Menlo has a new look and easier access to community information.

ation, government agencies, public officials, and arts and entertainment.

There are maps of the four towns, information on public transportation, and historical and demographic data.

In addition to home-delivered copies in the four towns, copies may be purchased at the Almanac, 3625 Alameda de las Pulgas in Menlo Park. Call 854-2626 for more information.

To comment or make a suggestion about Info Menlo, e-mail [sdremann@paweekly.com](mailto:sdremann@paweekly.com) or editor@AlmanacNews.com.

## New life for Coyote Point Museum

■ Board accepts proposal to revive struggling museum in San Mateo.

By **Marion Softky**

Almanac Staff Writer

In a remarkable turnaround, the Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education in San Mateo, which seemed doomed to extinction a month ago, is now poised for a new future.

On September 5, the board of the struggling museum voted unanimously to accept a proposal from the Committee to Save Coyote Point Museum to fix the finances and make it into a world-class environmental learning center.

"The depth and breadth of community support for the museum is overwhelming," said Linda Lanier of Hillsborough, who co-chaired the campaign with former museum director Linda Liebes of Atherton.

The campaign took off July 31 after it was learned that the 11th Hour Project, a low-profile organization, wanted to take over the three-acre property to build a center focused on global warming. After the controversy broke out, the 11th Hour Project withdrew its proposal and said it would pursue its climate center elsewhere in the Bay Area.

In 30 days, the Campaign to Save Coyote Point Museum

raised \$540,247 in pledges from 776 donors to save the troubled museum and put it on its feet. Their goal had been to raise \$300,000 by August 31.

The Tomkat Foundation also pledged \$500,000 over four years, Ms. Liebes said.

As part of the new regime, a group of 17 new members will join the existing 15-member board to run the museum. Many new board members served on the board when the museum was healthy, before Ms. Liebes left in 1996. "Everybody is going to be working together," Ms. Liebes told the Almanac.

Among those taking seats on the new governing board are former congressman Pete McCloskey and Jacques Littlefield from Portola Valley; former Menlo Park planning commissioner Eric Richert; Tom Brown of Atherton; and Mary Anne Sayler of Woodside. Ms. Liebes will chair a new advisory council.

First off, the new board will establish an exhibit committee and a program committee, Lanier proposed. The exhibit committee will tackle immediate upgrades while it plans major renovations to the Environmental Hall.

Lanier dreams of creating a "dynamic, ever-changing des-

tinuation, using the best thinking in Silicon Valley and the best thinking in environmental exhibit design."

The program committee plans to work on expanding programs for school children, developing a speaker series with nationally recognized environmentalists, and holding outdoor education programs at a ranch near Pescadero.

The proposal, written by Ms. Liebes, tackles organizational problems that led to the museum's decline over the last 10 years as it went through eight executive directors. The board will hire an executive director with full authority over the museum's operation, and establish a definite division of responsibilities between the board and the executive director, Ms. Liebes said.

The board will also hire a new director of development for fundraising. The proposed budget calls for raising the endowment by \$1 million a year. "There's no mystery. It's just a matter of doing it," Ms. Liebes said.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for former vice president Al Gore responded to inquiries by the Almanac about Gore's relationship with the 11th Hour Project. "We do not have a statement, but Mr. Gore has no affiliation with this group," the spokesman said. ■

## Will Durst to perform at benefit dinner

Political comic Will Durst will highlight a charity dinner sponsored by the San Mateo County business group Samceda and Rebuilding Together Peninsula on Monday, September 18, at 5 p.m. at the Peninsula Golf and Country Club.

The event will benefit

Rebuilding Together's programs to rehabilitate homes and community facilities for low-income people, and Samceda's Economic Vitality Education and Research Foundation. Tickets at \$75 each may be obtained by calling 345-8300, or going to [samceda.org](http://samceda.org).

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Fri., Sept. 22: 7:30 pm

Sat., Sept. 23: 9:30 am

Junior Congregation: 9:45 am  
Tashlich walk, 4:00 pm at  
Byxbee Park, Palo Alto Baylands  
(go right  
at end of Embarcadero)

Sun., Sept. 24: 9:30 am

### Yom Kippur

Sun., Oct 1, Kol Nidrey: 7 pm  
Collection of nonperishable food  
for Ecumenical Hunger Project

Mon., Oct 2: 9:30 am

Junior Congregation: 9:45 am  
Workshops (2 sessions):  
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Mincha, Yizkor, Ne'ilah: 5:00 pm



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**Stephanie Ann  
CHANCELLOR**

Dec. 14, 1977  
Nov. 19, 2000

Stephanie Ann Chancellor, a native of Palo Alto, California, succumbed to Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma at the age of 22. She attended Palo Alto public schools (Class of 1996). She was diagnosed with Lymphoma in her junior year at Howard University in Washington, D.C., where she was studying Interior Design. She returned home for treatment at Stanford University Hospital, but after a valiant twenty-one month struggle, she lost her battle with the disease.

In the United States, every nine minutes, another child or adult dies from leukemia, lymphoma, or myeloma. Current Chemotherapy and radiation treatments have low rates of success, and often bone marrow transplantation is the only remaining treatment option. A shortage of bone marrow donors means that some patients are left without even that hope of recovery. There is a serious need for continued research and education about these diseases.

The Stephanie Ann Chancellor Foundation for Leukemia/Lymphoma Research was founded primarily to aid in the ongoing search for effective therapies and cures. Additionally, the Foundation hopes to educate the public about the importance of becoming a bone marrow donor. Through the generosity of supporters at all levels, the Foundation has been able to transfer one-hundred and ten thousand dollars (\$110,000) to the Stephanie Ann Chancellor Research Fund at Stanford University Hospital in its first four years. The Research Fund has contributed to significant research advances. You can be part of "Building a Bridge Between Hope and a Cure."

Advertising space donated by the Almanac.

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# Surgeon, inventor, vintner

Dr. Thomas Fogarty of Portola Valley to be honored as 'History Maker'

By Marion Softky

Almanac Staff Writer

Tom Fogarty invented a clutch for motorcycles and scooters — which is still the world standard — at 15, before he could get a driver's license. He invented the Fogarty embolectomy catheter — which launched a revolution in non-invasive surgery — when he was a scrub technician, before he was qualified to use it.

These inventions launched Dr. Fogarty on a legendary career as a cardiovascular surgeon, teacher, inventor, venture capitalist, and now winemaker. Dr. Fogarty's inventions have garnered more than 100 patents for medical devices. He has been involved with more than 33 business and research companies based on these devices.

So it is no surprise that the San Mateo County Historical Association has named Dr. Fogarty its History Maker for 2006. He will be honored at a banquet Thursday, September 21, at the Hotel Sofitel in Redwood City. He is also featured in the new entrepreneurs exhibit at the History Museum in the old courthouse in Redwood City.

"Dr. Fogarty was chosen as the 2006 History Maker due to his incredible contribution to medical technology and his business entrepreneurship in many areas, including the Thomas Fogarty Winery," says Mitch Postel, president of the historical association. "I don't know how many people have told me they have had their lives saved by his procedures."

Dr. Fogarty, who has lived in Portola Valley since 1968, has won numerous awards. In 2000 he won the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize, the world's largest prize for invention and innovation; in 2001 he was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

In awarding him the Lemelson award, economist Lester Thurow said, "Tom Fogarty epitomizes American ingenuity and has made a lasting and beneficial impact on society."

## Career

A born tinkerer, Tom Fogarty grew up in Cincinnati. His father died when he was 6, and he used to help his mother with repairs around the house. "When things broke, I tried to figure out how to fix them," he said in a 2002 interview. He also designed and built model airplanes.

Dr. Fogarty attended Xavier University, and earned his medical degree at the University of Cincinnati. He completed his residency at the University of Oregon, before coming to Portola Valley and Stanford in 1968, with his wife Rosalee

and their four children.

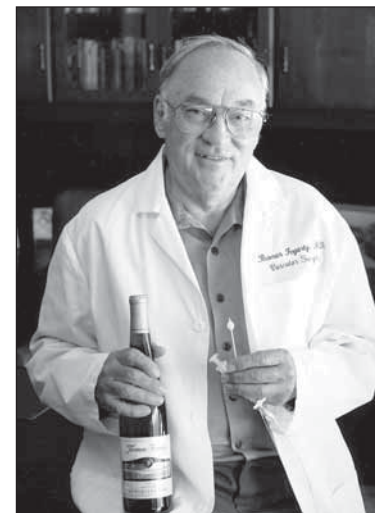
From 1968 to 1979, Dr. Fogarty taught cardiovascular surgery at Stanford and conducted a private practice. He was a member of the surgical team when Dr. Norman Shumway conducted the first heart transplant in this country. He was president of Stanford's medical staff from 1977 to 1979.

From 1980 to 1993, Dr. Fogarty was director of cardiovascular surgery at Sequoia Hospital in

Redwood City. He returned to Stanford in 1993 as a professor of surgery, and resigned in 2001. Now he spends most of his time creating new medical devices with Fogarty Engineering in the Ladera Professional Center.

He also spends time on his avocation, making fine wines in his beautiful winery and entertainment center at the top of

See **FOGARTY**, page 18



Dr. Thomas Fogarty of Portola Valley shows some of his special Gewurztraminer wine in his right hand and the Fogarty catheter, which launched a revolution in medical technology, in his left.



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That is what the recently approved Derry Project will eventually lead to in our downtown and El Camino corridor. Indeed, the approval of the General Plan amendment for Derry includes a change for a second project, the Cadillac dealership on El Camino. Once these 50 homes per acre (net) become the norm, it will only be a matter of time before a developer proposes 20-story residential towers like those being studied in East Palo Alto.

There are other, more pressing alternatives. We must preserve retail in order to maintain our sales tax revenue. We must solve our traffic and transportation problems before we can add the increased traffic Derry's own Environmental Impact Report says cannot be remediated in any way.

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Join the legion of residents who are determined to stop the Manhattanization of Menlo Park. Give us between four and eight hours of your time and we can save our city.

Please think about this carefully. The Derry Project, although downtown, will affect the quality of life of all of us in Menlo Park. This high density project can turn us into an ever more crowded urban city like San Francisco or Oakland. Once opened, this Pandora's box can never be closed.

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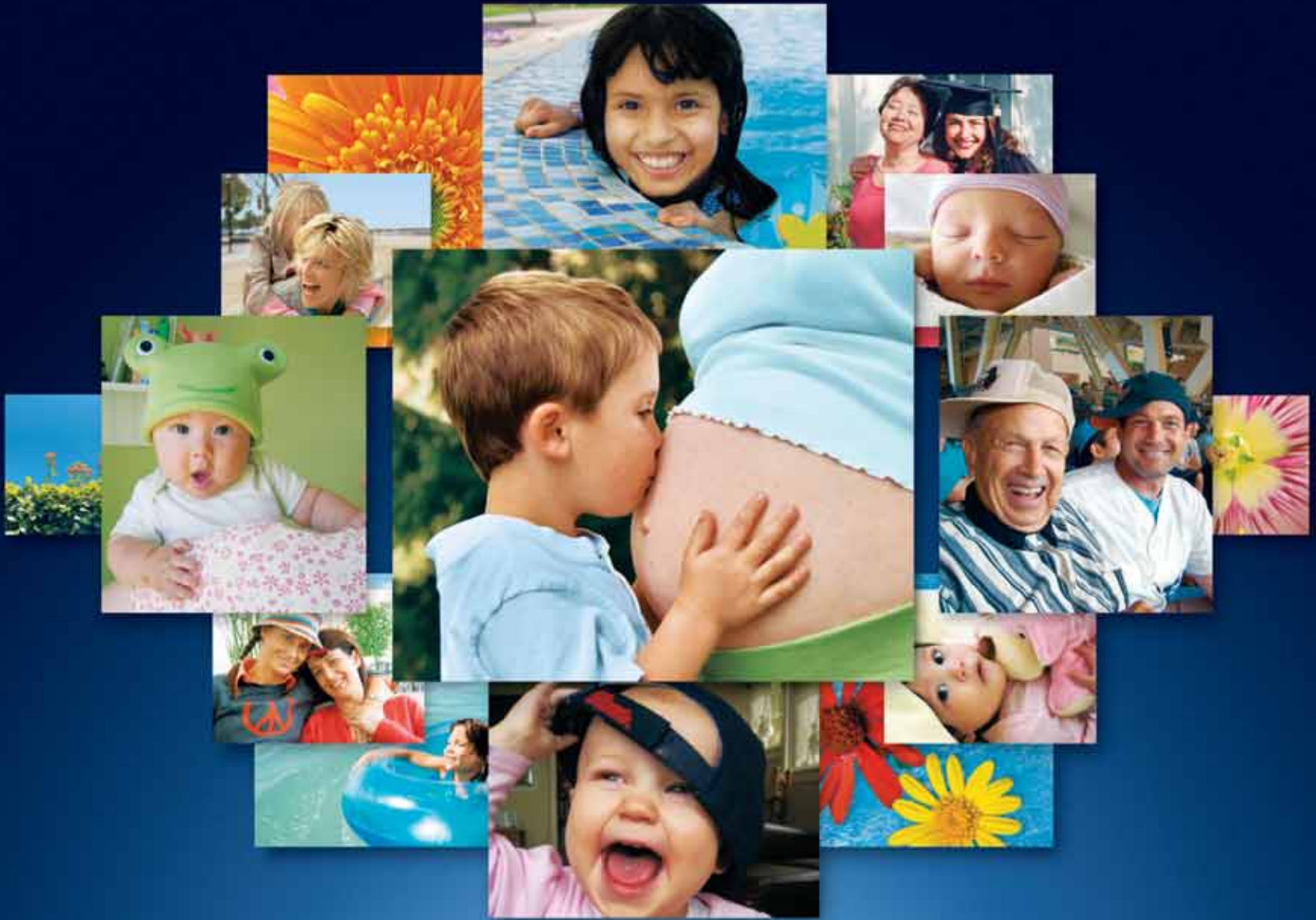
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# What's in the card

## Two sides line up to compete for control of the City Council

By Rory Brown  
Almanac Staff Writer

In the case of long-standing rivalries, people often wholeheartedly side with one camp or the other: the Yankees or the Red Sox; the Beatles or the Rolling Stones; Democrats or Republicans.

The Menlo Park political spectrum is also centered on a rivalry — a power struggle between those who support the current City Council majority and those who support a group of opponents.

These two camps — groups that don't have official titles, but essentially mobilize and act like political parties — often strongly disagree on major issues, and are competing to fill three open seats on the five-person council.

On November 7, all members of the council majority — Nicholas Jellins, Mickie Winkler and Lee Duboc — are up for election. Ms. Winkler and Ms. Duboc are running to hold on to their seats, and have sided with new candidate John Boyle to form a three-person slate.

Members of the current majority consistently vote together on major issues and garner more support from business and real estate interests than the other side.

With council members Kelly Fergusson and Andy Cohen often opposing the majority's actions, the Winkler-Duboc-Boyle slate will have to make a clean sweep of the election if the sometimes controversial agenda of the current majority is to be furthered after the new council is seated in December.

Since being elected, the majority has been the driving force behind some big and contentious decisions, including the privatization of the city's publicly funded aquatics center; calls for developing the 160-acre Bayfront Park with a golf course and playing fields; and efforts to privatize the Burgess child care programs.

Council members Fergusson and Cohen, elected in 2004, have opposed the council majority on these big issues. Both council members receive more support from environmentalists and residents who oppose traffic-producing developments.

### 'Separate camps'

Mayor Jellins announced in June that he would not seek another term.

A venture capitalist, candidate Boyle is a newcomer to local politics. He was recently appointed to the Transportation Commission

by the current council majority and has been involved with two city sponsored committees.

Mr. Boyle has joined forces with the incumbents because he shares their political views, but said he is "sure he won't vote hand and hand with [Ms. Duboc and Ms. Winkler]."

The three candidates share a Web site, and plan to share campaign literature, Ms. Duboc said. The three also support one another on their ballot statements.

"There really are only two separate camps in this city — people vote that way," she said. "The voters aren't fooled, so why be coy about it?"

The three candidates who oppose the current majority — Linfield Oaks resident Vincent Bressler, and parks and recreation commissioners Richard Cline and Heyward Robinson — say they are running independently, not as a

*'There really are only two separate camps in this city — people vote that way. The voters aren't fooled, so why be coy about it?'*

COUNCILWOMAN LEE DUBOC

slate of candidates. They note that they have different views on major issues.

"Hopefully this can be a loose coalition," said Mr. Robinson. "The only thing that really unites us is the opposition to the current majority."

porter of Ms. Winkler and Ms. Duboc, maintains that he is running independently.

"We have to break away from this slate mentality and these two sides," he said. "This style of politics isn't getting us anywhere."

Mr. Cline and Mr. Bressler

### When council camps collide

Two camps are fighting for three open seats on the Menlo Park City Council. Here's how the candidates line up.

#### Majority camp\*

John Boyle  
Lee Duboc  
Mickie Winkler

- Unified on major issues before council.
- Support studying privatization of some city services
- Support building fields at Bayfront Park
- Support high-density housing along and near El Camino Real

#### Opponents' camp

Vincent Bressler  
Richard Cline  
Heyward Robinson

- Divided on some key issues, including privatization, El Camino Real and housing issues
- United in criticism of current council majority's governing methods, specifically a perceived exclusion of public input on council decisions

\*Duboc and Winkler are council incumbents. Councilman Nicholas Jellins is not seeking re-election, but candidate John Boyle backs this camp.

When asked if she thought the opposing side was made up of three independent candidates, Ms. Duboc said, "In reality, no."

But Mr. Cline, a previous sup-

ported up for Mr. Robinson's September 3 campaign kick-off.

Mr. Cline acknowledged that attending Mr. Robinson's kick-off party gives the current majority "plenty of ammo" to characterize the three candidates as a slate, but added that he has invited all of the other five candidates to his kick-off event.

### 'Ultimately impossible'

But what happens when a candidate runs completely independent of the city's political camps, without asking for political and financial support from either side?

In the case of Eric Kinney, who ran for council in 2002, the results didn't bode well.

Mr. Kinney, son of then-Coun-



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

**Increased traffic** is a major issue in the election, raised by opponents to new developments. Traffic delays at this intersection, El Camino Real and Ravenswood Avenue, are expected to increase as new projects are built along El Camino Real.

# S for Menlo Park?

## The Candidates: Where they stand

This is a snapshot of where the six Menlo Park City Council candidates stand on five major issues. Candidates were asked to clearly answer “yes,” “no” or “undecided.”



JOHN BOYLE



VINCENT BRESSLER



RICHARD CLINE



LEE DUBOC



HEYWARD ROBINSON



MICKIE WINKLER

### The ISSUES

Do you support Measure K, the utility tax measure?

**YES**      **UNDECIDED**      **YES**      **YES**      **YES**      **YES**

Do you support Measure J, the Bayfront Park ballot measure?

**YES**      **NO**      **NO**      **YES**      **NO**      **YES**

Do you think the city should pursue building mixed-use developments, including high-density housing, along El Camino Real?

**YES**      **NO**      **NO**      **YES**      **YES**      **YES**

Do you agree with the process used to privatize the city's pools?

**YES**      **NO**      **NO**      **YES**      **NO**      **YES**

Should the city consider restructuring the post-employment benefit and pension system for city employees?

**YES**      **YES**      **YES**      **YES**      **UNDECIDED**      **YES**

**Measure K** is a utility tax measure that, if approved, 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.

**Measure J** is an advisory measure that asks voters if they support spending an estimated \$15 million to \$17 million to build four sports fields on 15 to 17 acres of Bayfront Park, the 160-acre park off Marsh Road.

cilman Chuck Kinney, received 6.4 percent of the vote — fewer than any of the six other candidates.

“It’s ultimately impossible to run a successful campaign as a truly independent council candidate,” said Mr. Kinney. “You don’t have the manpower to walk the streets. You don’t have the financial backing.”

When he declared his candidacy, he said, he was approached by each side to step out of the race so he wouldn’t take critical votes in an election where a few votes could mean everything. In 2002, as in this year, the pro-business camp had to win all three seats to take control of the council.

“What Eric Kinney did — that’s

not something I was willing to do,” said Mr. Bressler. “I wasn’t recruited to run for council, but I wasn’t going to go forward if I didn’t have support from certain groups.”

Mr. Kinney noted that although the council majority’s opponents say they are running independently, key political figures — includ-

ing his father and former mayor Gail Slocum — have been active in the candidates’ behalf.

Mr. Kinney said the city should explore having a seven-member council to get a “wider range of voices” on the ballot.

Ms. Fergusson said she plans to ask city staff to put the issue on a council agenda after the election.

### Political divide

Terry Christensen, a politics professor at San Jose State University and a specialist on local and state politics, said the clear polarized split in Menlo Park politics is “atypical and unusual” for communities on the Peninsula.

“All along the Peninsula, councils often vote unanimously, voter turnout is low ... and elections aren’t hotly contested,” he said. “You don’t have well-established factions.”

He added that the divide can be a good thing, as residents are presented two sides to important issues, but if consensus is rarely reached, the divide between party lines can lead to “gridlock.”

But in some cases, both sides have been unwilling to give, boosting the “majority rules” rationale.

The council’s debates have ranged from whether to privatize city services to which council member should serve as mayor, igniting public debate beyond



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

**New houses** are planned for this site at 175 Linfield Drive. Some residents, including City Council candidate Vincent Bressler, have opposed higher-density housing in the Linfield Oaks neighborhood.

Continued on next page





The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

**Stephanie Enriquez**, a teacher at the Menlo Children's Center, helps preschoolers (from left) Lester Kielstein, Sam Tillier, Michael Yu and Daeja Filice, water the garden. The city's child care programs have been a hot-button issue since council members Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler said the city should explore privatizing the programs to cut costs.

Continued from previous page

council meetings.

Residents have submitted letters to the council e-mail log and local newspapers questioning the

the current council majority point to process as a reason to oust the incumbents.

"The council has ignored its commissions and ignored public input," Mr. Bressler said. "This council majority is not resident-

*'Hopefully this can be a loose coalition. The only thing that really unites us is the opposition to the current majority.'*

CANDIDATE HEYWARD ROBINSON

decision-making process of a consistently split council.

Ms. Duboc said the council reaches consensus on some issues, and votes aren't always 3-2. She added that the characterization of the council as divided "makes for good drama" but that it isn't always the case.

The council has approved proposals for a hotel off Sand Hill Road, new homes in the Linfield Oaks neighborhood, high-density residences along El Camino Real and a 3.5 percent utility tax for the November ballot with one or none of the council members opposed.

Both Ms. Duboc and Mr. Boyle noted that some residents blame the decision-making process when they don't agree with the outcome of the council's discussion.

#### Major issues

All three candidates challenging

friendly."

"To make a change, you've got to have a compelling reason," said Mr. Robinson. "I think with the way this majority has handled things like the pool and child care ... there's plenty of compelling reasons for change."

The calls for a council that will listen to the public echo arguments made by the current majority in 2002, when they labeled members of the other political camp "blockheads."

Mr. Bressler has been critical of the council's willingness to amend the general plan and rezone various sites to build additional housing in the Linfield Oaks neighborhood and along El Camino Real. Ms. Fergusson joined the current majority in approving the rezoning of both sites.

The city should instead conduct a comprehensive review of

## Why these three?

Bressler, Cline, Robinson stem from same vetting process, support groups

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

The current Menlo Park City Council majority of Lee Duboc, Nicholas Jellins and Mickie Winkler has defined itself by the three council members' readiness to vote together on major issues.

The majority's political opponents have chosen to back three candidates to break that majority vote.

Candidates Vincent Bressler, Richard Cline and Heyward Robinson are united in their hope to oust the majority, but have divergent political views on major issues before the council, including the privatization of city services, the future of Bayfront Park and how El Camino Real should be developed.

The three candidates have emerged from an elaborate candidate vetting process, in which they won support from two groups — one that includes former mayors and current council members Kelly Ferguson and Andy Cohen; and one called Vision 2020, made up of residents who say the council is making decisions without considering long-term impacts.

The two groups interviewed potential candidates in invitation-only forums, and ranked candidates based on their answers.

Mike Gullard, a spokesperson for Vision 2020, said potential candidates were given feedback to help them gauge whether they wanted to pursue running or not.

#### Ousting candidates

But not everyone is happy with the three candidates who will appear on the ballot — especially would-be candidates who didn't win the groups' support.

Former mayor Steve Schmidt, who announced in March that he intended to run for council, called the process "a balancing act" of special interests. He said individual candidates were supported to satisfy specific inter-

ests and, in turn, garner more votes for all three candidates.

He decided after interviews with both groups that he would not run.

Mr. Schmidt sent a letter to the San Mateo County Democratic Party Endorsement Committee on August 30, critiquing the candidates who won the groups' support and are now on the ballot.

In the letter, Mr. Schmidt criticized the groups because they opted to support candidates who are not "progressive," like himself and Bayfront Park advocate Elizabeth Lasensky.

Ms. Lasensky said it was made clear to her that she would be labeled "a spoiler" if she were to run for council without the groups' support; she also changed her mind about running.

#### Three spots

With multiple residents interested in challenging the current majority, the risk of vote-splitting was on people's minds.

"No matter how good the candidates are, if we have more than three candidates, the votes split," Mr. Robinson said. "It's the reality of the math. If you're against the council majority, you're in the same boat."

Former mayor Gail Slocum, a member of the former mayors' group, said although the process may have sparked some controversy concerning who should run against the current majority, the route was more open than previous elections.

"This was more inclusive and participatory than ever," she said. "Usually this consists of people already involved urging others who are actively involved to run for council. We saw fresh faces, for once, getting involved in local politics."

"We have a lot of different interest groups who want to see change on the City Council," said Ms. Fergusson. "It's a broad but fragile coalition. I don't know if it will hold together at any other time." ■

the general plan and make sure that specific projects are consistent with the overall plan for the city, he said. That plan, he added, should include potential impacts on traffic and schools.

Ms. Winkler, in an e-mail, said mixed-use developments "bring vitality" to the city's downtown area, and are supported by various local and regional agencies.

Representatives from the Service Employees International Union Local 715, the union that represents the city's employees,

have also been critical of the council's process, questioning the push to privatize city services.

Ms. Winkler and Ms. Duboc, who sparked efforts to privatize the city's aquatics center and to put the city-operated Burgess child care programs out to bid, said they will not seek endorsements from the union.

Both council members said the city should consider privatizing its child care programs because high employee costs make the programs too costly to the city. ■



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## Coastal cleanup day Saturday

If you go out Saturday morning to pick up litter and mess from San Francisquito Creek, or Bair Island, or one of San Mateo County's beaches, you'll be in good company.

Thousands are expected to turn out to 700 waterside locations in California on Saturday, September 16, from 9 a.m. to noon, for the 22nd annual California Coastal Cleanup Day.

Volunteers pick up cigarette

butts, tires, plastic, and all the stuff that people chuck that can mess up the environment and hurt animals.

This year, San Mateo County's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program is sponsoring cleanup activities at 27 locations, including coastal beaches and Bayside streams, lagoons and islands.

On the Bayside, volunteers will meet at the corner of Man-

hattan Avenue and Woodland Road in East Palo Alto to clean San Francisquito Creek.

Teams will clean up Bair Island in Redwood City by canoe, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Volunteers will pay a fee (\$25 for members; \$35 for others) to Save the Bay, which is organizing the cleanup. To sign up, call Jocelyn Gretz at 510-452-9261.

For more information, call 363-4305; or go to [www.flowstobay.org](http://www.flowstobay.org), or [www.coastforyou.org](http://www.coastforyou.org).

## FOGARTY

*continued from page 11*

Portola Valley. "A glass of wine is the equivalent of an aspirin a day and tastes better," Dr. Fogarty said in a 2002 interview. "Wine is a health food in liquid form."

## Catheter

But Dr. Fogarty remains best known for the Fogarty catheter — the little balloon that can be inserted into a vein, inflated, and used to remove a blood clot or blockage without major surgery. This 1963 invention led to angioplasty and other less invasive techniques that have revolutionized surgery.

"Most of the technology I've been involved in is aimed at minimizing the intrusion on the patient and the length of stay in the hospital," he said during a 1996 interview.

Another widely used device originated by Dr. Fogarty is

## INFORMATION

Dr. Thomas Fogarty will be honored by the San Mateo County Historical Association at its History Makers dinner on Thursday, September 21, from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Hotel Sofitel, 223 Twin Dolphin Drive in Redwood City. Master of ceremonies will be Bob Sarlatte and the featured speaker is Bill Walsh, former head coach of the San Francisco 49ers. There will be a film presentation on "Thomas Fogarty, M.D.: A Healer for All Seasons." For tickets at \$150 each or information, call the history museum at 299-0104.

the AneuRx Stent Graft that replaces open-heart surgery for an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

Ten years ago, Dr. Fogarty reflected on his accomplishments and progress riding the tide of new medical technology. "It was really very exciting and very satisfying. Even now, looking back, I am amazed at how much we accomplished in a 35-year period." ■

## Simitian to hold 'town hall' meetings

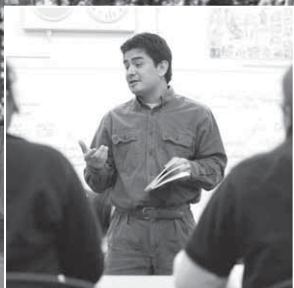
State Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, will hold "Town Hall" meetings in Palo Alto and Redwood City this month. He invites residents to bring questions, comments and concerns about state government.

Meeting times and places are:

Saturday, September 16, from 10 a.m. to noon, Palo Alto City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.; and Thursday, September 28, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Redwood City City Hall, 1017 Middlefield Road. For more information, call Simitian's district office at 688-6384.



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# Menlo Park school board seeks candidates for bond oversight committee

Trustees of the Menlo Park City School District are seeking candidates for a seven-member committee that will oversee the spending of \$91 million for school expansion and modernization.

An oversight committee is required under a state law governing school bond measures that can pass with voter approval of just 55 percent -- instead of the usual two-thirds.

On June 6, more than 70 percent of voters approved Measure

U, which authorizes the district to issue \$91 million in bonds for facility improvements at the district's four schools.

Among the tasks of the committee are to review the district's financial and performance audits; inspect school facilities and grounds affected by spending of bond proceeds; and review plans and records related to facility development.

Oversight committee members must live in the school district, be 18 or older, and

must not be associated with the district, such as employees and contractors.

The committee must include a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the district; a parent or guardian active in the Parent Teacher Organization or a school site council; and one representative each from the business community, a senior citizens' organization, and a bona fide taxpayers' organization.

Members are appointed to two-year terms, and cannot

serve more than two terms. They receive no compensation. Meetings are expected to be held quarterly.

Those interested in serving are asked to submit a letter of application. For more informa-

tion, contact Superintendent Ken Ranella or his assistant, Carol Metzler, at the school district office, 181 Encinal Ave. in Atherton. The phone is 321-7140, ext. 603; and the e-mail address is kranella@mpcsd.org.

## Correction: butterfly not a monarch

Rory Doolin of Woodside e-mailed the Almanac to tell us that the butterfly pictured on Page 15 of the August 30 issue is not a monarch butterfly.

The picture accompanies a story about a garden at the Little House activity center in Menlo Park that has been designated as a monarch butterfly way station.

The butterfly in the picture is a Gulf fritillary, Mr. Doolin said.

"Both are cool butterflies and are still numerous to make a comeback if people would go (only slightly) out of their way to cultivate the host plants," he said.

Thanks to Mr. Doolin for the correction.

## Arraignment reset in sexual assault

The man accused of an October 2005 sexual assault of a Menlo Park woman has had the date of his arraignment rescheduled to Thursday, September 14, said prosecuting attorney Gregory Devitt of the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

The charges against Quincy Powell, 41, include three counts of rape of a woman in her home in the Flood Triangle neighbor-

hood. The woman had attempted to help Mr. Powell with a car problem he said he was having, the prosecutor said.

### Correction

In the September 6 issue of the Almanac, a story on a proposed off-leash dog exercise area near Ford Field in Portola Valley incorrectly stated that the Trails & Paths Committee received petitions opposing and supporting the park.

The committee did receive dueling petitions, but they addressed the question of permitting dogs on hiking trails in the Portola Valley Ranch neighborhood.



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## Menlo College names eighth president

Menlo College, the four-year business management school in Atherton, has named its eighth president: Timothy Haight, the dean of the College of Business and Economics at California State University, Los Angeles.

He will take the presidency of the private college January

1, succeeding Carlos Lopez, who will become president emeritus, the college announced September 5.

"Dr. Haight's extensive practical and academic business experience made him a perfect choice to fulfill the Menlo promise to train the next generation of business leaders," board chair Russell Frankel said.



Timothy Haight

As a dean at Cal State Los Angeles since 1998, Haight has been praised for "the many exciting partnerships he forged with major corporations," Menlo College said in a press release.

Previously he was chair of the department of finance at Towson University in Maryland, and was a finance professor at the University of Baltimore.

In a statement, Haight said of Menlo College: "I believe that its size and proximity to the world's most entrepreneurial and inno-

vative companies will enable the college to develop graduates who will be socially responsible and make significant contributions to our global society."

### Carlos Lopez

Under the leadership of Carlos Lopez, Menlo College has made "impressive progress in enrollment, student retention, fundraising and alumni relations," the college said.

A prominent figure on the Menlo College campus since 1962 and a Menlo Park resident for almost 50 years, Dr. Lopez was

chairman of Menlo's Humanities Department, a faculty member, and director of athletics and a soccer coach before being named president in 2004.

His family roots go back to Faxon Atherton, his great grandfather who purchased more than 600 acres of land in the 1860s that is now the town of Atherton.

He has been a mentor to countless Menlo students, led study abroad programs to Europe and South America, and has been instrumental in developing educational exchange programs with universities in Chile and Mexico.

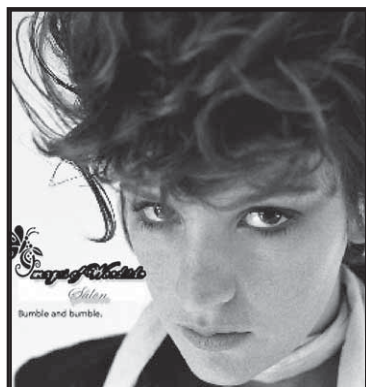
## Report on dogs on PV Ranch trails

A report on illegal use of Portola Valley hiking trails by dog-walkers is on the agenda for the Wednesday, September 13, Town Council meeting, which starts at 8 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse.

Lt. Ken Jones of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office will discuss the six-month experiment in which patrolling deputies looked for dogs on trails in the Portola Valley Ranch neighborhood.

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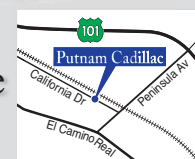


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## Bill on 'pretexting' awaits governor's signature

State Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, says that legislation he wrote would not only make "pretexting" illegal but would ban the buying and selling of personal phone records.

Pretexting has gained national attention after Palo Alto-based Hewlett-Packard revealed in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing that it hired private investigators to obtain the personal phone records of members of the company's board of directors during an investigation into media leaks.

Sen. Simitian has been working on his bill, SB 202, for more than a year. It passed the Legislature in August and is awaiting Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's signature.

"The issue came to my atten-

tion in the summer of 2005," Sen. Simitian said. "I couldn't believe there wasn't a law on the books that you couldn't buy or sell someone's phone records."

When he began investigating the practice of obtaining someone's personal phone records he found "literally scores of companies (on the Internet) where you could buy somebody's phone records for \$129.99."

The bill would ban pretexting, the obtaining of another person's phone records by impersonation or deceit, in addition to banning the buying and selling of personal phone records. First offenders could be fined as much as \$2,500 and be sentenced to a year in jail. If signed by Schwarzenegger, the law would take effect January 1.

— Bay City News

## Drivers and cell phones: governor may sign Joe Simitian's bill

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger hinted last week that he might sign a bill by state Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, that would prohibit hand-held cell phone use while driving.

During a stop in Palo Alto to sign another bill by Sen. Simitian, Gov. Schwarzenegger said, in response to a question about the bill: "We have to do something about the accident rate."

He said use of cell phones while driving has surpassed alcohol as a cause of accidents.

"It's the job of government to protect people," Gov. Schwarzenegger said, adding that he plans to enforce the proposed law within his own family. He said he has threatened his daughter with loss of her new car "if I ever catch her using a cell phone" while driving.

### Governor signs bill on reverse mortgages

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger swooped into Palo Alto September 5 to sign a bill by state Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, combating predatory practices in reverse mortgages.

A reverse mortgage draws on

### NEWS BRIEFS

Check [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com) for news updates

a home's equity to provide cash income for its owners. The new law will (1) require independent counseling for all reverse-mortgage transactions, (2) require that loan documents be in the same language in which the loan was negotiated, and (3) prohibit lenders from requiring borrowers to purchase an annuity as part of the loan package.

### Menlo man sentenced to life in prison

Two gang members were sentenced September 7 in San Mateo County Superior Court to life in prison after being found guilty of killing one man and wounding another during a 2004 drive-by shooting in East Palo Alto.

Judge Mark Forcum sentenced Ricardo Arana, 21, of Menlo Park, and Senetuli Penisoni, 26, of East Palo Alto, to life in prison without the possibility of parole for first-degree murder

with the special circumstance of a drive-by shooting from a car with the intent to kill.

According to the San Mateo County district attorney's office, Mr. Penisoni and Mr. Arana fatally shot 26-year-old Ortega Barnes and injured another man, Donald Prince.

### Court upholds coastal open space annexation

Two years after the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District annexed 140,000 acres of the San Mateo County Coastside, the last lawsuit challenging the validity of the annexation has been dismissed.

Judge Beth Labson Freeman ruled August 23 that San Mateo County LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) acted properly in the spring of 2004, when it approved the annexation without an election.

A group calling itself Citizens for Responsible Open Space had challenged the annexation on the basis of public notice, boundary description, and counting of protests submitted by registered voters.

## Campaign party for Assembly candidate

A campaign party for Virginia Chang Kiraly of Menlo Park, the Republican nominee for state assemblywoman in the 21st District, will be held at an Atherton home on Thurs-

day, September 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. The charge is \$100 per person. For more information and to RSVP, e-mail Jenniffer Rodriguez at [Jenniffer@VirginiaChangKiraly.com](mailto:Jenniffer@VirginiaChangKiraly.com).

City of Palo Alto Recreation Presents

## 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL PALO ALTO WEEKLY MOONLIGHT RUN & WALK FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2006

### TIME & PLACE

**PLEASE NOTE TIMES: 5K walk 7:30pm, 10K run 8:15pm, 5K run 8:45pm.** Run night registration 6:30 to 8:00pm at City of Palo Alto Baylands Athletic Center, Embarcadero & Geng Roads (just east of the Embarcadero Exit of Highway 101). **Parking** — go to [PaloAltoOnline.com](http://PaloAltoOnline.com) to check for specific parking locations.

### COURSE

5K and 10K loop courses over Palo Alto Baylands levee, through the marsh lands by the light of the Harvest Moon! Course is flat, USAT&F certified (10k run only) on levee and paved roads. Arrowhead Water at all stops. (Course map available at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com))

### REGISTRATIONS & ENTRY FEE

Preregistration fee is \$20 per entrant (**postmarked by September 29, 2006**) and includes a long-sleeve t-shirt. Late/run night registration is \$25 and includes a shirt only while supplies last. **A scantron card must be filled out at race night registration.** **Family package:** Children under 12 run free with a registered adult. A completed entry form for each child must be submitted with Adult registration. A limited number of adult small t-shirts may be available for \$10 through preregistration process. **Please indicate on form and include \$10. No confirmation of mail-in registration available. Registration also available online at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com). Refunds will not be issued for no-show registrations (and t-shirts will not be held).**

**TEAMS:** Preregistration opportunity for Sports Teams of 10 or more runners; contact **Amy at (650) 326-8210 ext. 285.**

**MINORS: 13-18** years of age.

If not pre-registered Minors **MUST** bring signed parental/waiver form (below) on race night to participate. **In addition scantron card must be completely filled out at race night registration.**

### DIVISIONS

Age divisions: 12 and under; 13-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69, and 70 & over with separate divisions for male and female runners in each age group. Race timing provided for 5K and 10K runs only; not 5K walk.

### COMPUTERIZED RESULTS by A Change of Pace

Race results will be posted on the Internet at [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com) 10am on 10/9. Registration forms must be filled out completely and correctly for results to be accurate. Neither Change of Pace nor Palo Alto Weekly are responsible for incorrect results caused by incomplete or incorrect registration forms.

### AWARDS/PRIZES/ENTERTAINMENT

Top three finishers in each division. Prize giveaways and refreshments. DJ, Efen Ayala. Pre-race warmup by Andre Bobo.

### BENEFICIARY

Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund. A holiday-giving fund to benefit Palo Alto area non-profits and charitable organizations. In April 2006, 43 organizations received a total of \$220,000.

### MORE INFORMATION

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# Woodside foundation gives \$1 million for research on children's brain tumor

By Don Kazak  
Palo Alto Online

The Center for Children's Brain Tumors at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford has received a \$1 million gift from Listwin Family Foundation of Woodside, the hospital has announced.

The funds will be used by research scientists to try to find the molecular origins of medulloblastoma, the most common central nervous system tumor that occurs in children. Those tumors most often occur in children under the age of 10, who have a survival rate of 60 percent to 80 percent.

## New juvenile hall open for tours

The public is invited to tour a new \$150 million facility in San Mateo for youths who run afoul of the law in San Mateo County. Public tours are scheduled for Friday, September 15, after a dedication and reception at 1:30 p.m.

The 300,000-square-foot Youth Services Center at 222 Paul Scannell Drive (formerly Tower Road) in San Mateo replaces the 58-year-old Hillcrest Juvenile Hall.

The new center has a 180-bed juvenile hall, a 30-bed individual-treatment center for girls, three group homes for kids with special needs, courtrooms, a health clinic, and a school that covers grades 9-12 and some middle school.

For more information, go to [www.co.sanmateo.ca.us](http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us) and click on the Youth Services Center link.

"We chose the Center for Children's Brain Tumors because it combines Packard Hospital's strong clinical experience with Stanford's groundbreaking basic science research," Don Listwin said. "Through this gift, we want to foster research that uses the newest biomedical technologies to identify and treat tumors in their earliest stages."

"We don't have a good under-

standing of brain tumors, especially the mechanisms by which they originate and grow," said Matthew Scott, Stanford professor of developmental biology and one of the leaders of the Center for Children's Brain Tumors research team.

More than 15 faculty members from a dozen Stanford departments will be part of the research effort. ■

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## Police chase, subdue man with stun gun

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Personal troubles seem to have caught up with a man in his early 20s who lacerated himself with scissors and led police on a vigorous 10-minute chase through an Atherton neighborhood on Thursday, September 8.

Police finally subdued him with a stun gun and took him to Stanford Hospital.

The chase on foot started at about 7:30 p.m. on Catalpa

Drive after family members called 911. The man climbed fences, jumped into a swimming pool, ran himself full-speed into a French door, and occasionally squared off to confront pursuing officers while smearing blood on his face, said Sgt. Chris Madsen of the Atherton Police Department.

The man, whose identity is being protected under federal medical privacy rules, was admitted to Stanford Hospital for his mental state and for treatment of lacerations, all of which were self-inflicted, said Sgt. Madsen. The man was in Atherton to attend a wake and has a history of mental illness, Sgt. Madsen said he was told by family members.

The man had thrown a plant stand at his sister and during the chase at one point, he yelled to pursuing officers, "Shoot me, shoot me," police said.

Officers eventually cornered

him in a yard in the first block of Greenoaks Drive and repeatedly requested that he calm down and let himself be helped, but to no avail, police said.

Because he was "extremely combative" and would not follow police orders, an Atherton officer used an electroshock stun gun, called a taser, to subdue him, police said.

After he went down, the man's sister, Maya Dinola, 28, of New Orleans, who along with other family members had been following police during the chase, attacked the officer who had used the stun gun on her brother, Sgt. Madsen said.

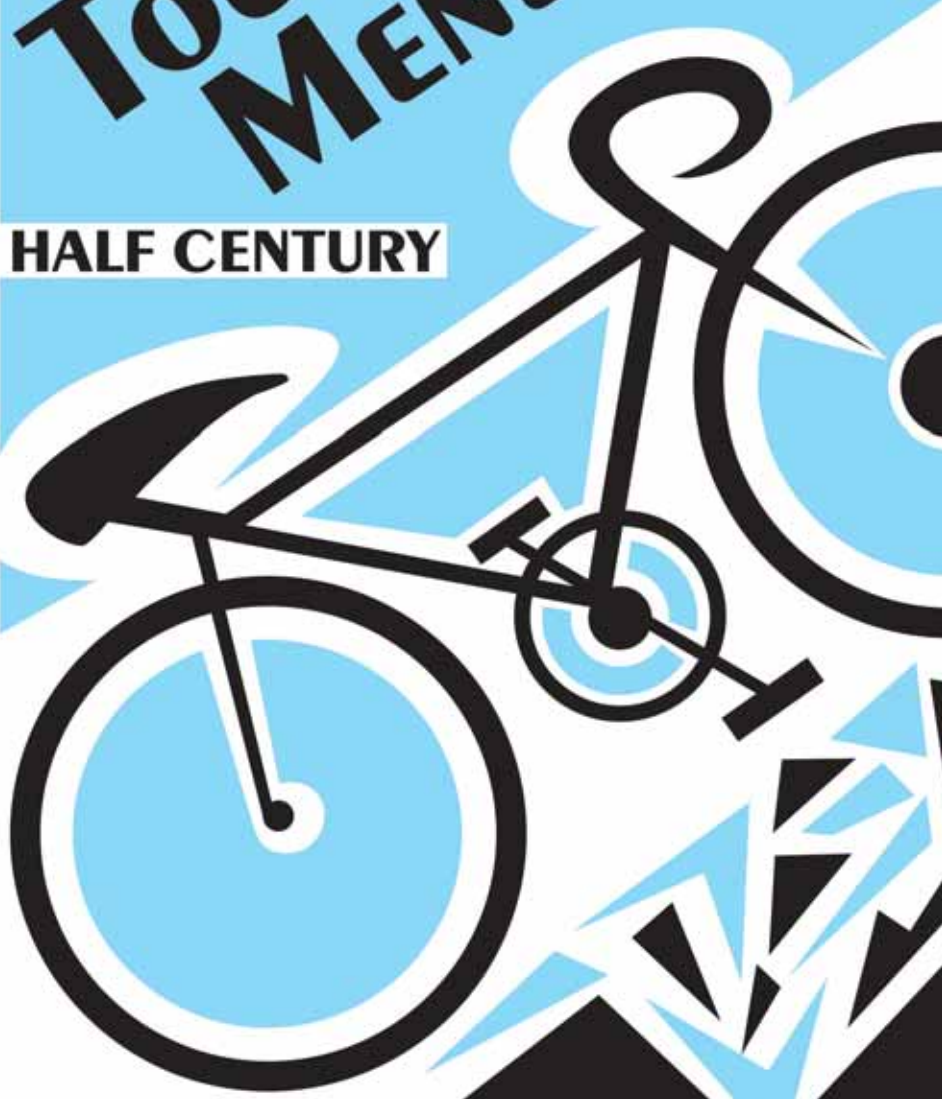
That officer suffered some scrapes and bruises, but no one else was injured, police said.

Ms. Dinola was arrested and jailed, then released on her own recognizance. The District Attorney's Office will decide whether to charge her, police said. ■

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■ OBITUARY

**Richard D. Sabin**

*Cartographer and tomato enthusiast*

Richard D. Sabin, a longtime resident of Menlo Park and U.S. Geological Survey employee, died suddenly at home on September 5. A memorial service followed by refreshments for friends and relations is scheduled for 1 p.m. Tues-

**M-A Vikings:  
Pop Warner report**

Young athletes wearing Menlo-Atherton Vikings purple cut a wide swath through Pop Warner football fields last weekend, traveling for road games from Morgan Hill to Pittsburg. Below is a wrapup of games played on Saturday and Sunday, September 9 and 10.

**Tiny Mites:** In a non-scoring contest, the Vikings found themselves up against tough opposition in an 8 a.m. Sunday game against the Delta Bay Buccaneers in Pittsburg. Although M-A gave up two scores, quarterback De'Maurier Jackson ran for a Vikings touchdown and contributed some eye-opening stops on defense. Will Perrone also enjoyed an outstanding defensive game for the pint-sized Purple warriors.

**Mitey Mites:** The Vikings offense was held in check by aggressive Oak Grove defenders as M-A dropped a 6-0 decision early Saturday in Morgan Hill. Cited for outstanding defensive play were cornerback Adam Greenlow, who also played the whole game at quarterback; punter Aaron Katzman; and tough-tackling David Teu.

**Junior PeeWees:** Khalil (Lil) James took over the game against the powerful Delta Bay Buccaneers on Sunday afternoon with strong second-half running that preserved Menlo-Atherton's perfect record and an 18-13 victory. Landon Baty's quarterback sneak gave the Vikings a 6-0 lead, but Delta Bay stormed back to take a 7-6 halftime advantage. With the game slipping away in the fourth quarter, James launched a 27-yard touchdown dash and combined with Isiah Nash on powerful runs to set up Baty's second touchdown plunge. Leading 18-7, the Vikings withstood a final Buccaneer score to preserve the victory. Defenders James, Baty, Devin Asiati and Campbell Roellig contributed critical plays.

**PeeWees:** Delta Bay topped the Vikings 20-0 in a Sunday afternoon contest in Pittsburg.

**Midgets:** Bouncing back from a disheartening loss the previous weekend, the Vikings took a hard-fought 9-6 decision over the host Delta Bay Bucs.

*Jim Gallagher is a member of the Vikings Boosters.*

day, September 12, at Spangler's Mortuary at 650 Live Oak Ave. in Menlo Park. Mr. Sabin was 78.

Mr. Sabin lived in Menlo Park for 48 years and was married for 53 years to his wife Irene, who has died, relatives said. For 43 years, Mr. Sabin worked as a land surveyor and cartographer for the USGS, which has offices in Menlo Park.

He "loved to grow tomatoes in his garden," relatives said.

Mr. Sabin is survived by two daughters: Carla of Sacramento and Teresa of Castro Valley. The family prefers donations to a charity of the donor's choice.

■ POLICE CALLS

**ATHERTON**

**Grand theft reports:**

- Gardening tools stolen from truck, first block of Fletcher Drive, September 1.
- Tools taken from locked box, first block of Mulberry Lane, September 5.

**MENLO PARK**

**Grand theft reports:**

- Miscellaneous construction tools stolen, 300 block of Claremont Way, September 5.
- Recyclables and raw materials stolen, 4000 block of Campbell Avenue, September 5.

**Burglary reports:**

- Computer equipment stolen, 1100 block of Marsh Road, September 1.
- Business entered, 4000 block of Campbell Avenue, September 5.
- Screen popped off basement window to kitchen. Laptop computer, camcorder and

man's watch stolen, 300 block of Encinal Avenue, September 6.

**Attempted robbery report:** Robbery attempt and fight between two juveniles, Ravenswood Avenue and Middlefield Road, August 31.

**Assault with deadly weapon report:** Vehicle struck with baseball bat, 1100 block of Carlton Avenue, September 3.

**Auto burglary reports:** Vehicles rummaged through, 200 and 300 blocks of Haight Street, September 4.

**Stolen vehicle report:** White 1991 Honda Civic, 200 block of Bay Road, September 2.

**Vandalism report:** Mailboxes pried open, 500 block of Oak Grove Avenue, September 4.

**Fraud reports:**

- Phone system hacked into and international calls made, 300 block of Middlefield Road, September 6.

■ Online seller of \$250 item found checking account fraudulently debited for \$2,500, 600 block of Harvard Avenue, September 2.

**Spousal abuse reports:**

- 300 block of Hamilton Avenue, September 1.
- 1300 block of Hollyburne Avenue, September 3.

**Child molestation report:** 300 block of Hamilton Avenue, September 2.

**WOODSIDE**

**Trespass report:** Registered sex offender said to have trespassed on campus of Woodside High School, 100 block of Churchill Avenue, August 30.

**Battery report:** Gang-related attack at Woodside High School, 100 block of Churchill Avenue, August 31.





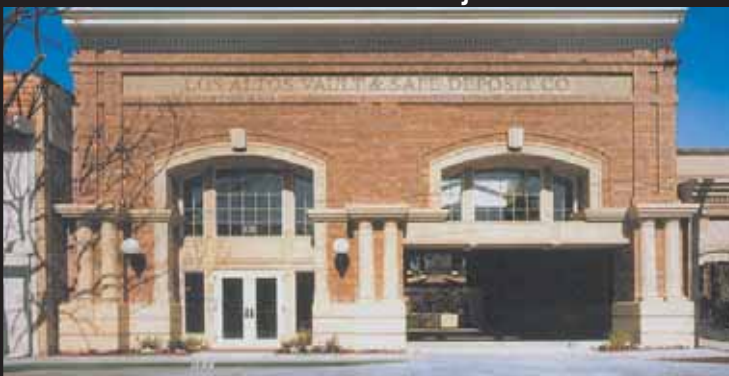
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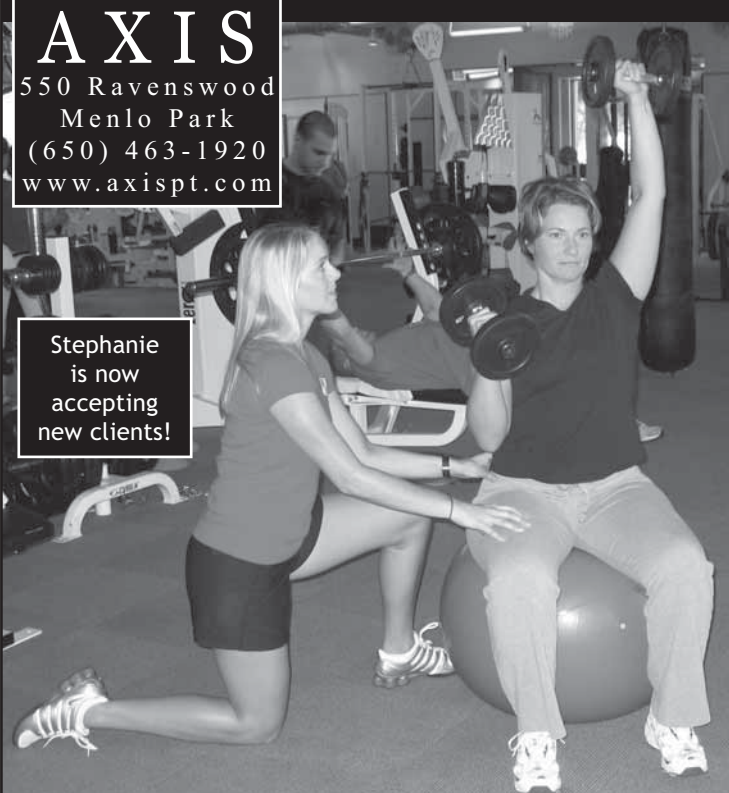
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## Failed effort on child care

The failure of City Council members Mickie Winkler and Lee Duboc to privatize the Menlo Children's Center is a textbook case of why such major changes in city policy cannot be forced on unwilling stakeholders.

The two council members, along with Mayor Nicholas Jellins, approved exploring privatizing the programs, even though it is unknown what would be saved through privatization. Initial estimates pegged savings at \$444,000, but the city later acknowledged that privatization would save only \$73,000 in direct costs, with the potential for additional savings through eliminating administrative costs and collecting rent from a private operator.

In retrospect, it was the council's failure to gain support from parents whose children attend the center that sank the proposal. Eight of nine members of the Child Care RFP Committee favored the city's proposal over Building Kidz, a private firm that withdrew its offer.

The company's administrator pointed to opposition from parents and city employees as the main reasons for withdrawing her bid to operate the programs.

The council members appeared to base many of their objections to the current program on the fact that all employees at the center are members of the Service Employees International Union, despite the fact that most workers are longtime center employees who are well-liked by the parents and children.

Anti-union statements by Ms. Winkler played heavily in the aftermath of the decision, made after Building Kidz's withdrawal, to continue with city workers operating the program. She blamed the SEIU for mounting an aggressive campaign against the bidder, and anonymous letters sent to the head of Building Kidz, as reasons for the operator's withdrawal.

Much of the conflict on the child care issue could have been avoided if the council majority of Ms. Winkler, Ms. Duboc and Mr. Jellins would have marshaled their facts before rushing to a decision to seek bidders. Clearly the city had not done the due diligence necessary to say with certainty what would be gained by privatization. And we didn't see any effort to compromise.

During the bidding process it was learned that Building Kidz was cited eight times over two years by the state agency that oversees child care providers, while the Menlo Children's Center has operated citation-free for two years. That information was provided by the union, not the city's own staff members, who could easily have checked with the state on the applicant's record.

But such infractions are apparently of no interest to Ms. Winkler, who saw nothing but projected savings and program improvements in the Building Kidz proposal. She has said she still believes strongly in privatization and will bring the issue up again after the November 7 election, even if the users and unions object.

We can only hope that the next council majority proceeds with caution if it wants to make a change. Right now, the city offers an outstanding child care program, in a newly remodeled building, and its direct costs are almost entirely supported by tuition. No wonder parents had no interest in privatization.

**EDITORIAL**

The opinion of The Almanac

**LETTERS**

Our readers write

**BevMo out of place on S. Cruz Avenue**

Editor:

I have been following the story about the application of BevMo (a large liquor store chain) for a use permit to occupy the space of the former Dal Baffo's restaurant on Santa Cruz Avenue.

This use clearly would not enhance the commercial composition or appeal of Menlo Park's main street. Any sized liquor store on Santa Cruz Avenue fails to meet the standards and expectations of the community for their city center.

The Planning Commission must review the propriety of such a use at this location. They have already heard from more than 65 city merchants who are opposed to having a BevMo as a neighboring business.

I think this strong negative reaction by numerous business people demonstrates their civic mindedness and concern for the future welfare of their city.

Now it is time for the citizenry to take a moment to convey to the Planning Commission and the City Council their disapproval of this out-of-character usage too.



Atherton Heritage Association

**Our Regional Heritage**

This group of Atherton women made up the first steering committee for the Atherton Dames, the fundraising organization that supports the Holbrook-Palmer Park Foundation. The group served the 1967-68 term, and are, from left, front row: Mrs. Thomas Jennings, Mrs. Edward Eyre, Mrs. Alexander H. Schilling, Mrs. Richard Lucas, and Mrs. Thomas Leps. Back row, from left, are: Mrs. Robert Lindenberger, Mrs. William Donohoe, Mrs. Howard Crittenden, Mrs. Clayton Del Secco, Mrs. Frank Merrill, Mrs. Frederick H. Long, Mrs. Robert S. Rogers, Mrs. David Ingram, Jr., Mrs. Richard C. Van Houten and Mrs. Philip Rice. The women's first names were not available to the Almanac.

See **LETTERS**, next page

## LETTERS

Continued from previous page

The merchants deserve support for their leadership and action in trying to retain the uniqueness and attractiveness of Santa Cruz Avenue.

**Charles Moody**  
Middle Court, Menlo Park

### Happy to be back at Menlo pool

*Editor:*

How do I express my opinion on Menlo Swim running Burgess Pool, a subject of heated debate in this paper, and do it briefly?

First, I would like to say hello to the other Burgess expatriates like myself who went over to Palo Alto's pool at Rinconada Park. Second, I'd like to say to those same swimmers, who I argued with, discussed and debated the merits of returning to Burgess, that I was wrong: Menlo Swim is not a Trojan Horse for Menlo Masters; a public facility has not been taken over by a private club.

Burgess, run by Menlo Swim, is fabulous. I know; I was completely surprised myself. You probably remember that I could get downright vitriolic when discussing Menlo Masters taking over the pool, but one Sunday I went to check it out, and I have never gone back to Rinconada.

The hours are fabulous at Burgess; there is always plenty of pool available; the staff members are all friendly, and the new pool is fantastic. And, not once have I been in conflict with Masters swimmers. So, to Arnold and all the other expats, I say come home. To Menlo Swim: sorry and thanks.

**Mary T. Dumont**  
Menlo Park

### Not a good idea to open up old landfill

*Editor:*

Bayfront Park was the local dump for years serving San Carlos, Redwood City, Woodside, Portola Valley and Menlo Park.

In those days we were not so aware of toxic waste so the dump was used for all kinds of waste, including substances now banned in dumps. The dump was covered to provide the surface that is now planted with grass and trees.

Underneath remains the contents of the old dump generating methane gas and leachate (toxic liquid waste). The proposal to put playing fields on part of Bayfront Park would mean disturbing the cover to install lights and other structures. To provide level surfaces for fields would mean the cover would need to be leveled and fill brought in.

Any changes to the cover raises the possibility of disturbing the underlying contents and expos-

# The good and bad of the Derry project

## Spot zoning not good for city

*Editor:*

Appalling is the only way to characterize the Menlo Park City Council's decision to approve the Derry Lane project at Oak Grove Avenue downtown.

First, the only thing worse than "spot zoning" is spot general planning. Creating an exception to the general plan every time the council wants to approve a project renders the general plan irrelevant. Menlo Park might as well not have a general plan. If a general plan is worth having, but needs revision, why not go through the proper process?

Moreover, the density is excessive. The general plan recognizes that concentrating housing in the vicinity of inter-urban transit systems to create an incentive for the use of such systems is worthwhile. But double the density that would have been allowable without the special approval?

Although the project has no El Camino frontage, the special allowable height of 50 feet to accommodate four-story structures will also apply to the adjacent project site that does front on El Camino. A precedent has, thus, been set for creating a Menlo Park Grand Canyon along El Camino.

Last, but by no means least, the prescribed parking is woefully inadequate. The result will be increasingly crowded parking in the surrounding areas. The developer should have been required to set aside a minimum



**The Derry Project**, which includes condos and commercial space, will replace existing businesses – including Foster's Freeze – along Oak Grove Avenue and Derry Lane.

of two parking spaces per unit for the exclusive use of the residents, or a total of 270. Folks may use public transit when it is convenient, but virtually everyone in California who can afford one owns a personal automobile, and even the occupants of the below-market-rate units in this development will be able to afford one.

**James R. Madison**  
Holly Avenue, Menlo Park

## A bounty of low-cost homes

*Editor:*

Perhaps lost in the article about the Derry Lane project are the 21 below-market-rate (BMR) condominium units that will be made available to qualified Menlo Park residents or people who work in the city.

There are currently about 500 households

on the waiting list for BMR units in Menlo Park. At the moment, Menlo Park has only 28 BMR units in its entire housing supply. The Derry Lane project will nearly double our inventory of BMR units, which will be good news for those people on the waiting list.

To be eligible for the BMR program, gross annual household income may not exceed certain limits. For example, for a single person wishing to purchase a one-bedroom unit, the current maximum salary is \$73,150. The maximum for a two-person household is \$83,600.

Derry Lane's market rate for a one-bedroom condominium of about 900 square feet is expected to be around \$650,000 — \$700,000 at today's prices. The BMR cost for the same unit will be around \$200,000.

The two-bedroom units of around 1,200 to 1,300 square feet are expected to sell for up to \$850,000. The BMR cost for a two-bedroom unit will be approximately \$218,000.

More information on Menlo Park's BMR program can be found at: <http://www.menlopark.org/departments/hsg/bmr.htm>

Clearly, the Derry Lane project will bring much-needed affordable housing to Menlo Park. If we are ever hopeful of meeting this demand in our community, it will require higher-density housing. And what better place to put that higher-density housing than along the El Camino corridor?

**Elizabeth Lasensky**  
Fremont Street, Menlo Park

ing the old waste. This is a bad idea, extremely expensive, and raises the possibility of unleashing environmental hazards as well as changing what is now open park space available to all. I recommend that everyone vote no on Measure J, Menlo Park's initiative directing the city to explore installing playing fields at Bayfront Park.

**Anne G. Moser**  
Spruce Avenue, Menlo Park

## Retain park use at Bayfront

*Editor:*

On November 7, there will be an important vote in Menlo Park.

Voters will be asked whether to allow the city to pursue building sports fields on 17 acres at Bayfront Park.

Sports fields for soccer and baseball are worthwhile, but so is preserving Bayfront Park.

Bayfront Park is a well-used, vital part of the community. I work on Bohannon Drive in Menlo Park and walk at the park every day during my lunchtime break. The park is always full of people, even in the worst of weather. There are kids in strollers and seniors on bicycles, and just about every age in between, engaging in myriad activities. To change this park to sports fields and eliminate the benefit it provides to so many people would be a sin.

Bayfront Park is just steps away from a major highway, yet provides a respite from the stresses of this

hectic and connected world. In order for this park to be turned into sports fields, along with concession stands and parking for 130 cars, the landfill site it sits on would need to be reopened, leveled and rebuilt. I can't imagine what untold horrors might emerge from those landfill depths.

If sports fields are built they would become a large consumer of our most precious natural resource — water. As well as using fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides right on the edge of our bay.

Considering what we'd be losing, and what we'd be gaining I urge your readers to vote no on Measure J on November 7.

**Jann Howie Hayes**  
Starview Drive, San Leandro

## Support Atherton's proposed heritage artifact ordinance

*Editor:*

Atherton has been my hometown for 52 of my 56 years.

I have been around long enough to have ridden horses with Mr. Palmer's visiting granddaughters when our park was still a private residence, and to have explored the creek in its natural state before the concrete was applied. So hopefully, I can claim the long view while expressing my concern for the recent accelerated change in Atherton's once rural residential character.

I am grateful that a publication about Atherton's history is currently in progress by the same

authors who have already produced excellent histories of Palo Alto and Portola Valley. I hope to remind everyone that behind the noise and dust of the "weapons of mass construction" we still have some remnants of our heritage and the obligation to protect them.

Many newcomers to our town can apparently take up to 10 years to settle in these days, but when you finally do, I can promise that you will eventually develop your own sense of nostalgia about this place and your own remembrance of the "good old days."

Please support the preservation ordinance for historic artifacts at the September 13 General Plan meeting so that we may all continue to enjoy feeling like we have the hometown we were all seeking whenever it was that we first arrived.

**Melinda Tevis**  
Tallwood Court, Atherton

## Wyman's novel cuts to 'heart of change'

*Editor:*

In response to Marion Softky's column on Willard G. Wyman's western novel:

Mr. Wyman's book "High Country" is much more than just a Western novel. This novel is a story of the West, and cuts to the heart of change.

Mr. Wyman is like a surgeon whose scalpel knives through the fat of fiction and gets to that

implacable heart. Those barely visible trails are now like clogged arteries, and the mule packer has to carry batteries in case a pacemaker fails, and when one of the men goes behind a big granite boulder he doesn't expect to find a Port-a-Potti there. The book's characters show these changes and their regrets are deep and heartfelt, and none should be eliminated.

CodyJo rode through deep snow and climbed through windows to get to her man. Someone who knew that joy and excitement wrote about that. The singer in the last part may not be twins, but that's a scene-stealer written by a writer who understands better than most writers that the heart of a book is evident when the fiction has been translated from reality.

Think of all the people today who, frazzled by life in California or New Jersey or South Carolina, are clamoring to move to this West — Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana — even if it doesn't really exist anymore. When they read "High Country," their heartbeats will slow down in anticipation of a life where, even if they don't climb those mountains, they will look up and see them, and know that the problems they ran away from aren't so big after all.

That's what Mr. Wyman does to readers. He gives them the West as it was and as it is and that's a splendid gift from a great writer.

**Pat Black**  
Portola Road, Portola Valley

# This Autumn, come home to Woodside.



**WOODSIDE LOT** - 6 lovely acres, close in, with views of Jasper Ridge. Major site work completed (clearing, grading, retaining walls, perc test, survey, topo map, soils report) plus approved site development permit, Planning Comm. approval for approx 6,000 sq ft home. Seller/builder will build custom home for buyer (cost of home not included) or build your own. Excellent Portola Valley Schools. **\$2,850,000**



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