

WOODSIDE: Palo Alto firm makes offer
on Steve Jobs' historic house. Page 13

The Almanac

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

OCTOBER 25, 2006

www.AlmanacNews.com | VOL. 42 NO. 8

Special report on private schools

[See Page 16]

Father Egon Javor, now 90, was one of the seven exiled Hungarian Benedictine monks who purchased land in Portola Valley 50 years ago and founded Woodside Priory School.

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

Get your kicks at recess

At Sacred Heart School in Atherton, adults and kids alike got a little fresh air and exercise at recess on Oct. 18. From left, P.E. teacher Christian Melberg, Athletic Director Jeff Reynolds, sixth-grader Ricky Galliani and Mike Taverna admire the ball-handling skills of religion teacher Mike Murphy.

Atherton

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Artscene

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On the cover

Father Egon Javor, a founder of Woodside Priory School in Portola Valley, will take part in the 50th anniversary celebration of the Priory at Founders Day on Nov. 11. The photograph is courtesy of Eva Soos. The Almanac's special report on private schools starts on **Page 16**.

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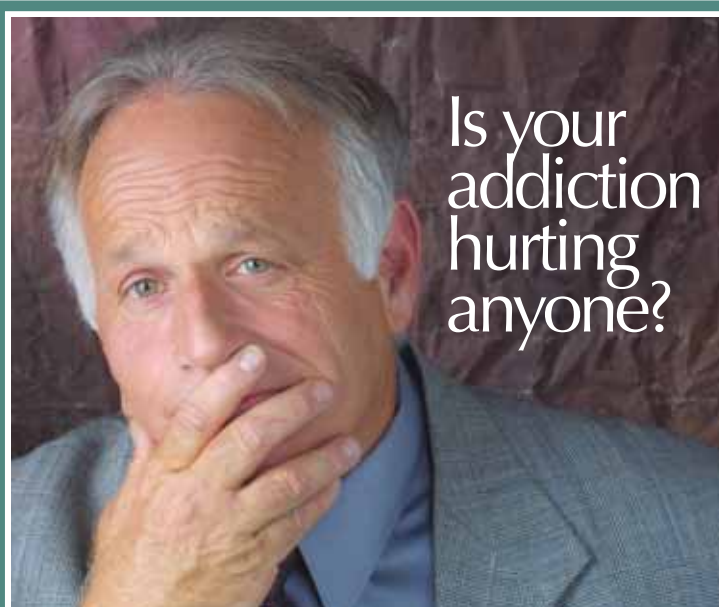
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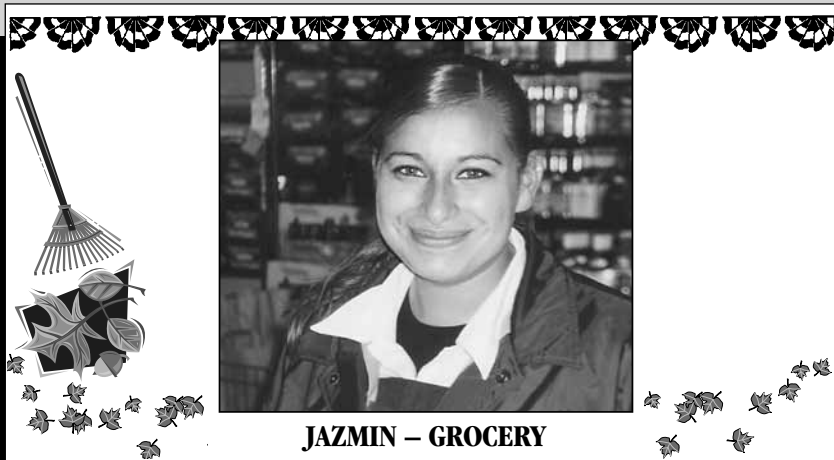


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Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

No stone left unturned?

An eagle-eyed Atherton resident says he spotted a delegation from the county civil grand jury departing Atherton's town offices with an armful of audit reports about the town's building department.

If the grand jury is indeed looking into the embattled building department, it should have no shortage of reading material. So far, three internal audits and a personnel investigation have been conducted by the town.

You really can find anything on eBay

The Atherton Public Works Department has been lobbying hard for money to buy a street sweeper. Currently, the town pays for a minimal amount of street sweeping from Allied Waste, but Public Works Director Duncan Jones says streets, storm drains and gutters could be cleaner, and his workers more efficient, if they had their own street sweeper.

Atherton resident Jim Dobbie suggested that instead of spending an estimated \$140,000 on a new one, town officials should check for used street sweepers on eBay. It sounded silly at the time, but if town staff took Mr. Dobbie's advice, they'd find three used street sweepers for sale on the online auction site.

The Atherton City Council held over a decision on buying a street sweeper until the November meeting.

Tip-a-Cop at Buck's

It's the one day a year you can slip a cop some money and not land in trouble. Members of the San Mateo Sheriff's Office, including Sheriff Don Horsley and Undersheriff Greg Munks of Portola Valley, will wait tables at Buck's, 3062 Woodside Road in Woodside on Thursday, Oct. 26, starting at 8 a.m.

Their tips will be donated to Special Olympics Northern California to provide year-round sports training and competition to children and adults with development disabilities.

Do residents still want a new gym?

■ Public asked to prioritize recreation spending.

By **Rory Brown**

Almanac Staff Writer

A selling point of Measure T, the \$38 million bond measure passed by Menlo Park voters in 2001, was the promise of a new Burgess Gym.

But a new gym is estimated to cost between \$7.2 million and \$8.4 million, and the next issuance of bonds from Measure T is expected to garner just \$7.1 million.

The consensus of parks and recreation commissioners is that the public should weigh in on the matter before pinpointing the cost of a new gym, and how it would be paid for if Measure T funds don't cover the entire cost.



Courtesy Menlo Park Department of Public Works

A new gym could be the next project funded by Measure T, the parks and recreation bond measure passed in 2001.

■ MENLO PARK

Post your opinions and comments in Town Square: www.AlmanacNews.com

At their Oct. 18 meeting, commissioners set a tentative

schedule of public workshops so residents can either confirm the need for a new gym, or tell commissioners that other recreation projects — such as building new playing fields or renovating the Burgess Recreation Center — are more pressing.

The workshops are scheduled for January.

The first issuance of Measure T bonds garnered about \$14.4 million, and was put toward building the new aquatics center, revamping Burgess Park,

See **GYM**, page 8

Maps show hazard zones for liquefaction, landslides

By **Marion Softky**

Almanac Staff Writer

Seventeen years after the Loma Prieta earthquake trashed the Marina District in San Francisco and the Cypress Freeway in Oakland, new regulations are kicking in that require communities to prepare better for earthquakes in such high-hazard zones.

On Oct. 16, the California Geological Survey in Menlo Park released three new Seismic Hazard Zone Maps for the Bay Area, including San Francisco and the Midpeninsula between Redwood City and Palo Alto.

The maps show zones where soft soils are likely to fail when shaken by an earthquake:

■ Green indicates where soils are prone to liquefaction. Soft earth, especially close to streams and the Bay, and saturated with water, can turn to liquid during an earthquake — as happened with the Marina District and Cypress Freeway.

■ Blue indicates areas at risk of landslides. Hillsides with loose soils and soft rock can let go in an earthquake, taking homes and roads with them. Damage can be even worse when the ground is wet.

The Palo Alto Quadrangle is one of the new maps. Its green liquefaction zone stretches along the Bayfront and up the creeks. Much of downtown Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, east Menlo Park, and downtown Redwood City are green. Blue landslide zones are scattered around the hills to the west.

Release of these maps on Oct. 18 triggered new rules for jurisdictions with blue or green hazard zones. These are designated "zones of required investigation" in the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act that was passed by the state after the Loma Prieta Earthquake.

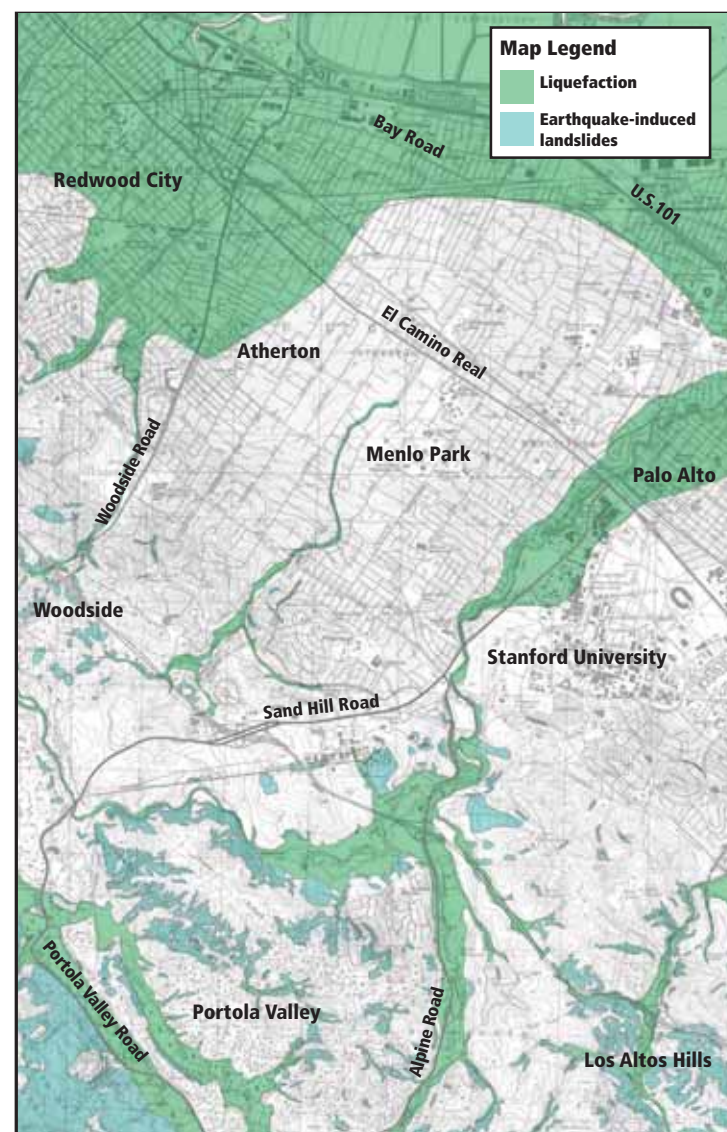
From now on, cities must take extra precautions in blue and green zones to make sure that new buildings are safe in a large earthquake. Publication of the maps also triggers disclosure requirements to assure that buyers are notified of earthquake risks.

"Cities and counties are required to start acting," said Keith Knudsen of the California Geological Survey.

Risks in South County

Locally, Menlo Park and Portola Valley are most affect-

See **HAZARD**, page 8



Release of Seismic Hazards Zone maps triggers new requirements for study and disclosure in zones that could be subject to liquefaction (green) or landslide (blue) during a major earthquake.



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Incumbent, newcomer vie for 21st Assembly District seat

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Freshman Assemblyman Ira Ruskin, D-Redwood City, faces Menlo Park community volunteer and Republican Virginia Chiang Kiraly in the 21st Assembly District election on Nov. 7.

Ms. Kiraly is a political newcomer. Mr. Ruskin, who served nine years on the Redwood City council, is completing his first two-year term in the state Legislature.

"I believe my record of achievement in my first two years is a superb one, and I'm proud to stand on that record," said Mr. Ruskin, who co-authored landmark global warming legislation signed into law by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in September.

"I've been told by the speaker, if I'm fortunate enough to be re-elected, I will be the chair of the budget subcommittee on environmental resources," he said.

From that post, he said, he will work on implementing the California Global Warming Solutions Act, which will use incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020.

"It will spur venture capital and entrepreneurial action to develop alternate technologies," Mr. Ruskin said. "There's the promise of jobs being created, and we need be sure that they stay in California, stay in the Bay Area, and stay in our district."

Both Mr. Ruskin and Ms. Kiraly place environmental issues at the top of their to-do list if elected to represent the 21st district, which includes Menlo Park, Atherton, Woodside and Portola Valley.

Ms. Kiraly said her concern about her children's future is what motivated her to run for office. She said advances in "green" technologies will help the state's economy, and that Silicon Valley should take a leader-



Assembly race: Incumbent Ira Ruskin and community volunteer Virginia Chiang Kiraly.

ship role in developing them.

Ms. Kiraly identifies herself as a moderate Republican, and says she has no ambition to become a "career politician." She is a former senior director at the NASDAQ stock market and is currently the president of the Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo and on the Las Lomas PTA's executive board. Past volunteer work includes four years on the board of the Tech Museum of Innovation and the Asian American MultiTechnology Association.

Mr. Ruskin is a communications consultant who was Redwood City mayor from 1999 to 2001. In his first term in the Assembly, he said, 22 of his bills were approved by the Legislature, and 14 of those were signed into law by the governor. One that was vetoed would require all new state buildings to use "green" building principles; if he is re-elected, he said, he will reintroduce the bill and seek a compromise with the governor.

Both candidates describe themselves as pro-choice and are opposed to Proposition 85 on the November ballot that would require teenage girls to notify their parents before getting abortions.

The two candidates also share similar positions on Proposition 90, saying that it goes far beyond just reforming eminent domain law.

"It threatens the ability of local governments to create healthy communities, and it is also a threat to the ability of the state to protect the envi-

■ INFORMATION

Information about the candidates can be found at the League of Women Voters site, SmartVoter.org.

ronment and endangered species," Mr. Ruskin said. "Eminent domain reform needs to be thought out, it should not be an anti-environmental proposition in disguise."

Ms. Kiraly said that she supports reforming eminent domain, citing an expensive battle over the forced sale of property in Redwood City's downtown redevelopment area, but that she won't be voting for Proposition 90.

"It restricts government's ability to help the common good," she said.

If elected, she said she would push for fiscal responsibility, particularly in tackling the high cost of public employee pensions and retiree health benefits. Educational funding comes with too many strings attached, and she would push for local control as well as more vocational education for students who don't plan to attend college.

"In speaking with some businesses, such as Caterpillar, they are looking at the workforce and saying they don't have enough skilled workers to run their machines," Ms. Kiraly said. "(Students) on the four-year college (track) don't have an interest in taking those kinds of jobs."

Mr. Ruskin said he would continue to work hard to eliminate the state's structural deficit, and said that he's proud that for the first time in years, the Legislature passed the state budget on time. The budget includes money for reserves, prepayment on the state's debt, and a significant reduction in the structural deficit.

The budget includes additional funding for arts, music and physical education for kindergarten through eighth grade, he said.

"There is also local control of some of those funds, which I pledged to bring about in my (2004) campaign.

Enrollment growth in higher education is fully funded, community college fees are lowered, and fees for University of California and California State University students were held constant, Mr. Ruskin said. ■

Ruskin, Kiraly at Rotary Club forum

Incumbent Democratic Assemblyman Ira Ruskin of Redwood City and his Republican opponent, Virginia Chang Kiraly of Menlo Park, will answer questions during a forum at the Menlo Park City Council Chambers at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1.

The public is invited to the

event, which is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Menlo Park. The candidates will make short opening statements and then answer questions prepared by the club and moderator Tom Gibboney, publisher of the Almanac. Admission is free for the program, which is scheduled to end at 1:45 p.m.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Direction of the Market

Q. Last week you wrote to someone that as long as there are no major defects with the house that this is still a good time to buy. Yet, every magazine or newspaper I pick up has some bad news about the housing market. What is going on? We really need to buy (we are paying a fortune in rent) but are still concerned about the direction of the market. Delores G.

A. It is, indeed, interesting times in our housing market. Not that many years ago, buyers would look to the stock market to move parallel with the housing market. It is 19 years ago this week that the market went down 500 points. Our phones didn't ring for two weeks while the dust settled. Then buyers perked up a bit as if to say "I've had it with the stock market and I'm putting my money (what's left of it) in to real estate." While it may not have been boom times, such as we

have just experienced, it was a well balanced market. Now the stock market has just gone through the 12,000 mark for the first time, interest rates are not that far from historic lows, jobless claims are down and energy costs are down. There are still a lot of buyers who were not able to purchase a house during the rapid market of the last few years who still have cash and are able to qualify for an attractive rate mortgage. While the Bay Area is not immune to a housing downturn, it remains one of the most desirable places to live with not much room to grow. Even in the 90's when places like L.A. experienced a 40% drop in some areas, the immediate Menlo Park, Palo Alto area dropped very little and rebounded quickly. While the rate of appreciation may, and probably will slow, if you bear in mind the fundamentals of buying a good property, it is a very good time to purchase.

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Atherton council OKs building department's overhaul plan

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

It's time to rebuild. The reconstruction of the troubled Atherton Building Department is underway, as the City Council authorized an array of changes, including staffing changes and new software.

At the October 18 meeting, council members asked City Manager Jim Robinson to immediately begin recruiting for a new building official to replace retired department head Mike Hood, and for a full-time permit technician, a new position in the small department.

The council also authorized staff to begin soliciting proposals for permit tracking software to replace its antiquated and problematic software system.

Gary Binger, who has been leading the building department on an interim basis since July, made a set of recommendations for restructuring the building department to improve its procedures, records-keeping and accountability, all problems that have been detailed in a series of internal audits over the past several months. Mr. Binger said he is leaving his post.

The council also reviewed Finance Director John Johns' report from the third and final audit of the building department.

In order for Atherton to maintain its reputation for quick turnaround times on building plan checks and inspections, the town will need to add a permit technician position to its small building department staff, as well as cultivate a stable of contract workers who can step in for vacationing staff, Mr. Binger said.

Most cities have permit technicians who can process minor permits and plan reviews over-the-counter, he said.

The limitations of the department's existing software have been thoroughly documented in the three audit reports. Problems include having multiple files for the same project, because only a limited amount of information can be included in each file, and no security system.

"It's essential to maintain good records-keeping; without that, you can't hold individuals in the department accountable for their actions," Mr. Johns said. "The records haven't kept up with what's going on in the field."

Atherton is not the only town feeling the need to upgrade its permit-tracking software — Woodside's Planning Department is about to spend an estimated

TOWN SQUARE

Post your opinions,
comments in Town Square:
www.AlmanacNews.com

\$200,000 to replace its software.

In response to questions being raised about whether a number of Atherton Building projects conform to the town's rules and regulations, Mr. Binger recommended an overhaul of the zoning code, which he characterized as a "hard-to-read document with a number of internal inconsistencies." This has caused a number of problems where buildings staff's interpretations of the code led them to approve building projects that appear to violate the intent of the codes, he said.

Disputes over the interpretation of the zoning code should go to the city manager, not the building official, Mr. Binger said.

Other organizational changes include more training for staff, transferring the town arborist from the Public Works Department to the building department, and getting an engineer, either from Public Works or a contract employee, to review building plans.

Several people at the meeting said that all of the negative publicity surrounding the building department would make it hard to recruit a new building official.

"Because a variety of things have not gone right, the perception is that everything has gone wrong," said Atherton resident Randy Lamb, a developer and member of the General Plan Committee. "You are going to have a heck of a time getting someone in here."

Councilman Alan Carlson said the image of a building department run amok was not accurate, as there was "no evidence that massive amounts of projects were approved" improperly.

"On the whole, the staff is very honest, they work very hard and they do a very good job," Mr. Carlson said. "They do not deserve to be tarred with innuendo."

Members of the Atherton Civic Interest League praised the City Council's efforts to investigate building department problems, but chided them for failing to nip the problems in the bud. Some residents complained about the thousands of dollars the town has spent auditing the building department.

"Just about any price is worth it, if we want to have a town that has credibility and respect," Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen said. ■



The Almanac/David Boyce

Green scene

Sharon Hills Park shows the effects of the recent rainstorm.

Maps show earthquake hazard zones

HAZARD

continued from page 5

ed by the new map. Atherton has very little blue or green, primarily a thin green stripe along the drainage canal. Very little of Woodside is located in the Palo Alto Quadrangle; but survey officials said it will likely be included in the next maps.

Menlo Park will be hardest hit by the new requirements. Most of the Bayfront northeast of Bay Road is in the green liquefaction zone; that includes Belle Haven, Tyco Electronics, and most of the city's industrial area. The green zone extends up San Francisquito Creek on both sides, reflecting the alluvial soil deposited during eons of flooding.

Community Development Director Arlinda Heineck hadn't seen the map. "We will be looking at it," she said.

Portola Valley may not have

much to do. It has been doing basically what the map requires for 30 years. It mapped the town for faults and landslides long ago; it requires geologic studies and engineering solutions for new building in hazard areas.

Portola Valley also requires disclosure of information when property is sold, said Town Planner George Mader. The real estate agent is required to get a Residential Data Report from the town to share with the buyer.

The new maps show more possible liquefaction areas than town maps, Mr. Mader noted. These lie primarily along Los Trancos Creek and on the Valley floor near the San Andreas Fault zone. While most of the hills are shown in blue, only a small area is included in the Palo Alto Quadrangle. The adjacent Mindogo Hill Quadrangle, which has already been mapped, includes

INFORMATION

■ On the 17th anniversary of the 6.9 Loma Prieta Earthquake, the U.S. Geological Survey released online comprehensive studies of the earthquake and its effects. The 162 papers totaling 3,000 pages can be viewed at earthquake.usgs.gov/1989.

■ At the same time, the California Geological Survey released three new Seismic Hazard Zone maps online. They include the Palo Alto Quadrangle, which covers most of Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley, and Redwood City. The maps and associated reports can be downloaded from conservation.ca.gov/cgs/shzp.

a lot of Portola Valley's western hills and is mostly blue.

"The town needs to look at the map and decide how it wants to implement the state requirements," Mr. Mader said. ■

GYM

continued from page 5

building the Menlo Children's Center and updating other parks and recreation facilities.

Acting Community Services Director Michael Taylor said Measure T was passed by voters "based on assumptions and guarantees" of a new gym, as gymnastics, basketball and volleyball participants were targeted to help pass the measure.

If plans for the gym move forward, construction could begin

as soon as June 2007, Mr. Taylor said.

Commissioners agreed that a new gym would remain the top priority unless the public wants to pursue a different project.

"There's a fair amount of expectation out there about Burgess Gym," said parks commissioner Heyward Robinson, also a candidate in the City Council election.

New structure

The new gym plans call for an entirely new structure to be

built between the existing gym and Burgess Park, Mr. Taylor said.

The new facility will house new basketball courts, and will connect to the existing gym, which will be gutted and refurbished for gymnastics and half-court basketball.

In March, after the public workshops, the parks commission is expected to give a recommendation to the City Council regarding how the next wave of Measure T funding should be spent. ■

Pool rally turns into shouting match

■ Accusations fly between political camps in Menlo Park council race.

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

A gathering that started as a rally in support of a private company's operation of Menlo Park's Burgess Aquatics Center quickly turned into a shouting match Oct. 19.

Finger-pointing and name-calling filled the area just outside the entrance to the three-pool aquatics center during a 30-minute shouting match between about 35 people, including both camps of City Council candidates.

Organized by supporters of council candidates John Boyle, Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler — who form the "majority" camp — the rally was sparked by a flier recently mailed to residents by the San Mateo County Central Labor Council.

The flier says incumbents Duboc and Winkler "went off the deep end" in voting to turn over operation of the \$6.8 million publicly-funded aquatics center to Tim Sheeper and his for-profit company, Menlo Swim and Sport LLC.

"We're here to condemn this vicious attack ... on [Ms. Duboc and Ms. Winkler]," said Mr. Boyle. "We used to spend \$415,000 a year on the pool, and we don't spend anything now."

Speakers also criticized the majority camp's opponents — Vincent Bressler, Richard Cline and Heyward Robinson. Candidates Cline and Robinson have been endorsed by the labor council and the Service Employees International Union Local 715.

"If elected, Heyward Robinson and Richard Cline will have to repay their debts to [the union]," said Sam Sinnott, a member of



Photo by Michael Mullady

Tempers flared at a political rally outside Burgess Aquatics Center. An unidentified man wearing a Boyle/Duboc/Winkler T-shirt, left, exchanged words with City Council candidate Heyward Robinson, as candidate Richard Cline tried to separate the two.

■ MENLO PARK

Post views, comments on Town Square: www.AlmanacNews.com

Mr. Sheeper's Menlo Masters program. He said the majority camp is the only set of candidates that supports Mr. Sheeper.

The three opponents and their supporters stood on the outskirts of the rally, but moved forward as criticism heightened.

Roxanne Rorapaugh, a frequent critic of incumbents Duboc and Winkler, and JoAnne Goldberg, Mr. Bressler's wife, scoffed at Mr. Sinnott's remarks and interrupted his speech.

The rest of the crowd joined in, yelling at the opponents as they moved toward the center of the group, and waving signs in support of the majority candidates in the faces of Ms. Rorapaugh and Ms. Goldberg.

"We all support Tim Sheeper," Mr. Bressler yelled over the bickering crowd. "We'll abide by the contract, period. You're afraid we're going to take the pool away, but that's not going to happen."

Mr. Bressler's comments garnered brief applause, but the shouting match resumed, earning wide-eyed stares from swimmers going in and out of the center.

Mr. Cline tried to address the group, but was silenced by Ms. Duboc, who pointed and yelled "You are endorsed; you are endorsed," referring to his union endorsements.

Realtor Dick Poe, among the

majority camp's supporters, waved a copy of the union's flier at candidates Cline and Robinson.

Mr. Robinson responded by questioning signs that read "Tim Sheeper saves the pool \$400,000," arguing that savings associated with privatization are still unclear.

After speaking, Mr. Robinson briefly stood chest to chest with a man wearing a "Boyle/Duboc/Winkler" T-shirt in a heated argument.

After about 30 minutes of debate, the arguing subsided, and rally participants and candidates broke off into several groups and held cordial discussions.

Mr. Cline reiterated that local unions' endorsements, like other endorsements, should not create a conflict of interest. He said he thought the rally was going to be exclusively in support of the pool, not against the union.

"I wouldn't have come to this event if I knew it was going to be this intense," he said.

"Once we get through the campaigning, then we can all go back to trying to unite the city," Mr. Boyle said after the rally.

The opponents have publicly criticized the council for approving a no-bid, rent-free contract with Mr. Sheeper in February, four weeks after he came forward with his proposal to operate the center.

Mr. Sheeper stood behind the center's fence at the start of the rally, but left once the two sides began to argue. ■

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Come in costume and participate in the annual parade from Burgess Recreation Center to Fremont Park.
Receive a free trick or treat bag.

Trick or Treat - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

After the parade, trick or treat in downtown Menlo Park stores that display trick or treat signs on their door.

Halloween Carnival - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

All children ages 12 and under are invited to participate in festive activities at the Burgess Recreation Center, 700 Alma Street.
\$3 for kids, adults free!
Hot dogs & beverages will be sold.

Halloween activities are sponsored by the City of Menlo Park Community Services and Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce.



TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE:

Free Shuttle Service from Onetta Harris Community Center, 100 Terminal Ave., to Burgess Recreation Center.

Departure times from OHCC: 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00
Departure times from Burgess Rec Center: 1:15, 1:45, 2:15, 2:45, 3:15, 3:45

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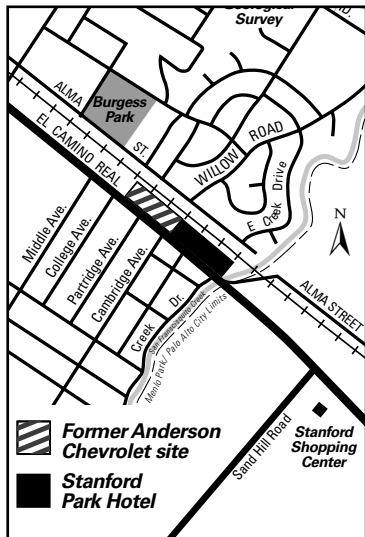
Deal close to expand Stanford Park Hotel

■ Plans to build conference room, and additional parking on former Anderson Chevrolet lot.

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Stanford Management Co. is close to a deal with Fort Lauderdale-based Auto Nation to buy out the remaining years of the auto conglomerate's lease of a Menlo Park site in order to expand the Stanford Park Hotel, a Stanford official said Oct. 20.

Auto Nation has six years left on its lease at 300 El Camino Real, the site of the former



The Stanford Park Hotel at 100 El Camino Real in Menlo Park may expand onto the adjacent site at 300 El Camino Real, formerly an auto dealership.



Rendering of proposed Stanford Park Hotel conference center.

■ **MENLO PARK**
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Anderson Chevrolet auto dealership, which closed in August 2005.

Stanford Management Co. officials are in talks to buy out the lease to make way for an 8,250-square-foot conference center and additional parking that would stretch onto about one acre of the 2.5-acre former Anderson Chevrolet site, said Steve Elliot, managing director

of development for Stanford Management Co.

He said Stanford has no immediate plans for the remaining 1.5 acres of the site.

Talks with Auto Nation have been "on and off" for about a year, Mr. Elliot said. He noted that an agreement is set, but not closed. Details of the agreement are not being released at this time, he said.

The hotel is adjacent to the abandoned auto lot.

"The motivation for the expansion was driven by an increase in

competition anticipated as a result of the Four Seasons Hotel in East Palo Alto and the new Rosewood Hotel now under construction on Sand Hill Road at I-280," said David Johnson, the city's business development manager in a press release.

Mr. Johnson said tax revenues the city would garner from the hotel expansion are unknown, but noted "transient occupancy tax revenue to the City is expected to increase as the average overnight occupancy rate is expected to increase substantially." ■

Decision time near on Menlo Park schools

By Marjorie Mader
Almanac Staff Writer

Recommendations for changing grade configurations for the Menlo Park City School District's elementary schools are scheduled to be presented Wednesday, Oct. 25, at a 7 p.m. special meeting in the multipurpose room at Encinal School, 195 Encinal Ave. in Atherton.

Superintendent Ken Ranella will present four recommendations and give an update on the district demographic study by

consultant Tom Williams.

His recommendations will include:

■ Grade levels and enrollment for each school.

■ How the schools will be reconfigured, beginning in 2008.

■ The location of a centralized Educational Resource Center to house support programs (such as specialists, technology, special education), currently housed in portable buildings at each of the campuses.

■ The use of the O'Connor

School campus at 275 Elliott Drive in Menlo Park that the district leases to the German American International School.

With a projected enrollment growth of more than 12 percent during the next five years, Mr. Ranella said there's a need to shift enrollment to Encinal School, beginning in the fall of 2008, to alleviate impacts on Laurel and Oak Knoll schools. The district needs to move forward expeditiously in planning for construction, he said.

Mr. Ranella said the board will *not* take action on specific boundaries for school attendance at the Oct. 25 meeting.

At the board's first study session on reconfiguration options on Sept. 27, two options emerged for further study. They were:

■ Make all three elementary schools K-5s.

■ Make Laurel School, now K-2, a K-3 school. Encinal School, now serving grades 3-5 for children living east of El Camino Real, would become a K-5 school. Students from Laurel would join Encinal students in an expanded program for grades 4-5 at Encinal. Oak Knoll would continue as K-5 school.

Hillview School will continue as a middle school for all the district's sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders. The decision on how to expand the Hillview site to house a projected enrollment that would grow from the present 658 students will be decided at a future meeting.

The next school board meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m. ■

Playing several roles in the "The Laramie Project" are Mark Goodman-Morris, shown as Jonas Slonaker, and Julie Green, as Zakie Salmon.



Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory photo

Staging 'Laramie Project'

By Marjorie Mader
Almanac Staff Writer

Facing a contemporary issue, the Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory in partnership with Valley Presbyterian Church will present "The Laramie Project," on two weekends — Nov. 3-5 and Nov. 10-12 — at the Portola Valley church.

The play is the true story of Matthew Shepard, a young man who was murdered in Laramie, Wyoming, in 1998, the victim of a hate crime perpetrated by two of his peers solely because he was gay. The news prompted a New York acting company to travel to Laramie and conduct some 200 interviews with the town's residents; that work led to the play.

At a time when mainline congregations are struggling with gender issues and the ordination of gay and lesbian ministers, the Rev. Cheryl Goodman-Morris, conservatory director and minister of worship and arts at Valley Presbyterian Church, suggested producing this play to the conservatory board and church leadership.

She said that four years ago she had seen "an amazing, moving, beautiful and powerful production" of the play that made a profound impression on her.

"The story, told through the eyes of the Laramie townspeople, is extremely moving, human and thought-provoking," she said. The play "does not try to sway a person one way or another about the gay issue, but it does call on us to examine how we treat those who live their lives differently than our own."

In the Portola Valley production, 20 actors from the community cover 69 roles.

The performances are at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday each weekend in Lane Family Hall at Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road.

The play is recommended for adults and students in eighth grade and up. Suggested donation is \$20 for adults and \$10 for youths. Call the church office at 851-8282, ext. 411, to purchase ticket.

Contributions from individuals and nonprofit organizations are underwriting the production costs, said Tom Kelley, who has been chair of the Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory since it was founded in 1993. Proceeds will benefit these nonprofits groups: Parents, Families, Friends of Lesbians and Gays; the National Association of Peer Programs; the United Religions Initiative; and the Portola Valley Children's Conservatory. ■

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Lee Duboc, John Boyle, and Mickie Winkler

Our Common Vision

We decided to campaign together because we share a common vision for the future of Menlo Park. We want to protect our quality of life and small town charm, but believe that in order to do so, we must allow it to evolve. The opposing slate of candidates were selected by special interest groups that are trying to stop our city's progress dead in its tracks.

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 - Fund project primarily with fees charged to residential developers NOT new taxes
 - Pursue project in the most safe and environmentally sound manner
- **Continuing to be fiscally responsible**
 - Grow our business tax base
 - Outsource non-public safety services when appropriate
 - Make timely tough decisions to manage expenses

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- **NEW - Expansion of Stanford Park Hotel**
- Attracted auto mall near Bayfront and Willow 101 that will generate millions in new sales tax revenues
- New office/hotel at Sand Hill and 280 that will generate up to \$1.9 million/year in occupancy taxes
- Six mixed residential, retail, and office projects along El Camino Real in various stages of development
- New stores opening on Santa Cruz including the return of Ace Hardware.

Improving Traffic Flow

- Removed "traffic calming" furniture from Santa Cruz
- Improved Sand Hill, Valparaiso, and Middle
- Added bike lanes as part of bike master plan
- Implemented Neighborhood Traffic Mgmt. Program
- Allocated additional \$2 million to road maintenance

Upgrading Parks and Community Centers

- Reopened Burgess Pool with commercial management that improves service and saves over \$400,000 / year
- Renovated Burgess, Lyle, Kelly, Nealon, and Stanford Hills Parks
- Upgraded childcare center at Burgess in a manner that saved over \$3 million
- Restored library funding

Keeping our Streets Safe

- Constructing new police station in Belle Haven
- Funding traffic cameras to enforce red light violations
- Increased police budget by 25%

Balancing the Budget

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Las Lomitas district may seek \$115 tax hike

■ Board president: "It's substantially less than we need."

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Voters in the Las Lomitas Elementary School District are likely to have an opportunity in March to decide whether or not to raise their \$196 school parcel tax by \$115.

It's not as much as the Board of Trustees wanted — at least a \$200 increase is needed to avoid program cuts in the two-school district — but a recent poll

■ SCHOOLS

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shows that the necessary two-thirds majority of voters won't tolerate that much of a jump.

"The big negative on (a \$115 increase) is it is substantially less money than we need to maintain the current program, so we would have to do cuts," said board president David Bailard.

The board's meeting schedule and election deadlines will require a resolution and ballot measure at the board's Nov. 15

meeting. The measure will likely also ask voters for a small annual parcel tax increase to cover inflation — either at cost-of-living or a flat rate — and an "evergreen" provision that would renew the tax automatically unless the board repeals it.

The current parcel tax is set to expire in 2008. A March election would renew it a year early as well as increase it.

Even a \$115 boost is likely to be an arduous campaign. The Sept. 19 survey by the San Ramon-based pollster, the Center for Community Opinion, showed that support falls below the two-thirds majority threshold with a

tax increase of \$98.

"We have a huge job for the campaign of educating the public," said Trustee Lee Anderson at the board's Oct. 18 meeting. Mr. Anderson served as a liaison to a subcommittee that, over the past few weeks, went over the survey results "very carefully" to arrive at \$115. "We have wrung as much water from this rock as you can," he said.

The board saw too much complexity in a second option from the subcommittee that could have raised the tax to \$394 by asking voters for a new \$198 parcel tax in March, with a campaign to renew the current \$196

tax in a 2008 election.

Gloria Principe, president of the Las Lomitas Education Foundation, wondered aloud whether a concerted effort to raise voters' consciousness of the district's needs could change the voters' tolerance for a higher tax.

The message from the polling data is that such a campaign would not work, Mr. Anderson replied.

Trustee Leslie Airola-Murveit agreed. A tax of \$311 "is already a stretch," she said.

Among the advantages of a smaller tax increase: it shows voters exactly what is at stake and makes it clear that the budget doesn't have "a lot of fat" in it, Mr. Bailard said. ■

Anti-Pombo reception in Ladera

Local forces trying to unseat Rep. Richard Pombo in the 11th Congressional District will converge at a reception on Sunday, Oct. 29, from 3 to 5 p.m. in Ladera.

Among those who plan to be there are Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Atherton, and former Republican congressman Pete McCloskey, who challenged Rep. Pombo unsuccessfully in the June Republican primary in the district, which sprawls from Morgan Hill across

the Central Valley to the Sierra foothills.

Jerry McNerney, the Democratic candidate for the seat, also plans to attend. Sponsors of the event include a who's who of prominent local residents, both Republican and Democrat.

For more information, or to make reservations, call former Portola Valley mayor Jon Silver at 851-7519 or e-mail jon3silver@yahoo.com.

A look behind microprocessor invention

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

It isn't every day that ordinary people get invited behind the curtain to listen to war stories from the movers and shakers in an era of great change. Even if you don't understand everything they're saying, hints of portent heard in unvarnished insider accounts can grab you.

"The Microprocessor Chronicles" is a new four-hour video documentary produced by Stanford University libraries and Atherton resident Rob Walker. The documentary is part of the Silicon Genesis series of taped interviews in which Mr. Walker elicits stories and anecdotes from high-tech pioneers. He also produced "The Fairchild Chronicles" about Fairchild Semiconductor, a seminal Silicon Valley company.

Talking to these men now is important, Mr. Walker says. "These guys are in their 70s and 80s and they're not going to be around forever."

Mr. Walker is a high-tech veteran himself with two patents to his name and some 30 technical papers. He is the author of the 1992 book, "Silicon Destiny," a history of application-specific integrated circuits and the companies that brought them to market.

In his latest work, Mr. Walker



Atherton resident
Rob Walker interviews key players in microprocessor history.

talks with 10 Silicon Valley pioneers about the invention of the first microprocessor at Intel Corp. in the early 1970s, how Intel came to dominate the field, and what may lie ahead for the industry.

For the uninitiated, a microprocessor is a functioning computer built on a chip, several of which can fit in the palm of your hand; the transistors and other components are invisible to the naked eye. Before microprocessors, a computer was a collection of circuit boards containing soldered components that you could see and touch.

Microprocessors don't yet control staplers or bicycles, but they control the processes that built them and just about anything else that runs on electricity: cell phones, microwave ovens, automotive fuel injection systems, and late-model washing machines all have sophisticated

control systems based on microprocessors.

"Today, nearly everyone owns dozens of these tiny computers whether they know it or not," Mr. Walker says. "Yet the microprocessor has only been around since 1971 and has been ubiquitous only in the last decade. This (video) provides the context for that phenomenal growth by examining in depth the technology, business and personal stories of the pioneers."

The interviews include early Intel technical collaborators Marcian "Ted" Hoff, Federico Faggin, Stan Mazor and Dave House, the man who came up with the tag line "Intel Inside," as the documentary explains in some detail.

Among the other topics addressed: the long-running feud between Intel and Advanced Micro Devices, the grueling teamwork behind Intel's rise to a position of dominance, and how Intel won the exclusive right for its microprocessors to be inside IBM personal computers. ■

■ INFORMATION

For more information or to buy the "The Microprocessor Chronicles" video for \$49.95, go to thesilicongenesiscollection.com.

Runners, walkers, and enthusiastic supporters of all ages and fitness levels are invited to the

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6th Annual Race Against PH 5K Run/Walk

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Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) is a debilitating disease which affects the heart and lungs of children and adults. Currently there exists no cure for PH. The Vera Moulton Wall Center for Pulmonary Vascular Disease at Stanford is pleased to sponsor this event to raise awareness and funds for the fight against PH. Proceeds benefit the Ewing Family Fund for PH Research and the Pulmonary Hypertension Association.

For more information or to register, please visit www.raceagainstph.org



Sentencing date set for monastery mail theft case

The woman charged with six counts of stealing mail from Menlo Park Dominican nuns last year has changed her plea from "not guilty" to "no contest."

In an apparent plea bargain, Linda Chlubna, 59, faces one count of second-degree burglary and one count of mail theft, a maximum sentence of six months in county jail and

no prison time, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

A sentencing hearing before Judge Craig Parsons is set for 9 a.m. Jan. 5 at San Mateo County Superior Court in Redwood City. Ms. Chlubna is free on \$25,000 bail.

The charges coincide with her work as a receptionist at the Corpus Christi Monastery

at 215 Oak Grove Ave. in Menlo Park. She was caught using a Target store gift card that had been sent to a nun, and she later admitted to stealing nuns' mail, at first to satisfy her curiosity, the report said.

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

Palo Alto firm makes offer on Steve Jobs' historic house

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

A new suitor is offering to take the massive, historic Jackling house off of Steve Jobs' hands.

Mr. Jobs wants to rid himself of the derelict 17,000-square-foot mansion, built in 1926 by celebrated architect George Washington Smith. Mr. Jobs' plan to demolish the enormous Spanish colonial revival-style home is in limbo due to a legal challenge brought by historic preservationists.

In the meantime, he is trying to give it away to anyone who will take it off of its Mountain Home Road site in Woodside and restore it elsewhere.

Gordon Smythe of Palo Alto-based Propel Properties has offered to take on the project, estimated to cost between \$4 million and \$6 million. In his proposal, he said that Mr. Jobs offered to pay \$150,000 for debris removal and \$350,000 in moving expenses to Propel.

"I sincerely hope it will lead to something," said Clotilde Luce, whose family owned the house in the 1960s. She heads Uphold

Our Heritage, the preservation group fighting to save the Jackling house.

"Our group always knew people wanted this house, and I hope we can go further with Mr. Smythe," Ms. Luce said. "Our members are reasonable people; they know you rarely get everything you want."

The group was surprised that Howard Ellman, Steve Jobs' attorney who is handling the relocation proposals, chose to release the Propel Properties proposal, Ms. Luce said. There have been several other serious proposals, including one made last year by Woodside resident Richard Pivnicka.

"The one thing that has been totally lacking, through no fault of Smythe or anyone trying to bid on this house, is some kind of transparency for reviewing all bids," she said.

Propel Properties said their team would dismantle and remove the house within six months, and rebuild it within five years at a location yet to be determined.

"It is our intention to preserve as much as possible of the original structure, but we reserve the



This aerial view of the Jackling house is from an undated real estate flier.

right to modify the additions in order to restore some of the original architectural integrity," the proposal states.

"What bothers me, personally, about this proposal is the vagueness about where the house would be relocated," said Barbara Wood, a Woodside resident who owns a historic house and is a columnist for the Almanac. "Their options include, among others, Milpitas, Livermore and

Gilroy, as well as Arizona, all of which seem rather inappropriate. If the house must be moved, I would prefer it remain within the community."

In January, a San Mateo County Superior Court judge upheld the preservation group's lawsuit and rejected the Woodside Town Council's decision to allow the Jackling house to be demolished if Mr. Jobs could not find a qualified proposal to

restore the house off-site. Mr. Jobs filed an appeal in February; the appeal is ongoing. In the meantime, Mr. Jobs' attorney has continued to accept and review proposals for removing the house.

WOODSIDE

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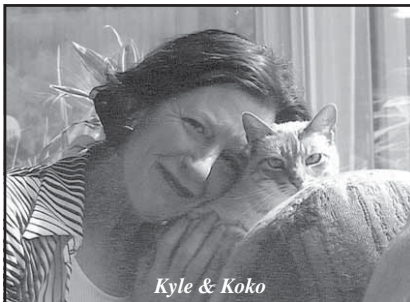
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PV man indicted on fraud charges

A Portola Valley man has been indicted on charges of bank fraud and money laundering in connection with a car business he helped to manage, federal prosecutors announced Oct. 20.

U.S. Attorney Kevin Ryan said Dennis Di Ricco, 56, the former chief financial officer of Fleetcars.com Inc., was indicted by a federal grand jury on July 20 on five counts of bank fraud and four counts of money laundering.

The indictment was issued under seal and was unsealed on Oct. 17.

Fleetcars bought large fleets of used cars from rental car companies and sold the cars in smaller lots to retail car dealers, Mr. Ryan said. Mr. Di Ricco is accused of defrauding Wells Fargo Bank by submitting false loan applications in 2001.

The indictment alleges that Mr. Di Ricco told the bank that arrangements had been put in place to sell certain cars that were being used to secure the loan. In fact, those car sales had already been used to secure earlier loans, according to the indictment.

Mr. Di Ricco is also accused of hiding car sales from Wells Fargo

NEWS BRIEFS

by depositing proceeds from sales financed by Wells Fargo into an account at a different bank.

Mr. Ryan said Mr. Di Ricco's next court appearance will be before U.S. District Judge William Alsop on Nov. 7 to set a trial date.

—*Bay City News Service*

Police arrest suspect on weapons charges

Menlo Park police pursued and arrested an East Palo Alto man Oct. 21 following an incident that began with gunshots from a vehicle near Terminal Avenue.

Cristian Amaya, 23, was arrested on multiple weapons charges and resisting arrest.

At about 1:45 a.m., police were advised that gunshots were being fired from a black SUV near the 300 block of Terminal Avenue.

Police units located the vehicle — a black LI 2000 Lincoln Navigator — and pursued it through the Belle Haven neighborhood.

Mr. Amaya and another sus-

Candidates admit errors at forum

Uncharacteristic of a Menlo Park City Council race that has two camps criticizing one another, both sides acknowledged, during an Oct. 17 candidates forum, they have made mistakes.

About 25 people gathered for the forum, which was hosted by parents with children in the Burgess child care programs.

Candidate Heyward Robinson, who is running with Vincent Bressler and Richard Cline in opposition to the current council majority, acknowledged that a campaign flier funded by a political action committee in favor of the three opponents is misleading.

He was responding to Nick Naderio, the campaign manager for the "majority camp" (incumbents Ms. Duboc and Ms. Winkler and newcomer John Boyle), who asked Mr. Robinson to justify the flier.

The flier says that sales tax rev-

enues have dropped 50 percent since Councilwomen Mickie Winkler and Lee Duboc were elected to the council in 2002, although the bulk of the revenue decrease took place from 2000 to 2002 — before the incumbents took office.

Resident Jeff Young asked the candidates to list examples of sports fields built atop Bay Area capped landfills, similar to the conceptual designs to build fields at the 160-acre Bayfront Park.

The candidates' Web site says there are "several parks on landfills in the Bay Area," to justify exploring building fields at Bayfront

MENLO ELECTION

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inside the vehicle. The East Palo Alto Police Department assisted in the search.

USGS talk on Parkfield earthquake

Geophysicist Andy Michael will talk about the lessons learned from

the 2004 earthquake in Parkfield, California, at the U.S. Geological Survey free monthly lecture on Thursday, Oct. 26, at 7 p.m. in Building 3 on the campus at 345 Middlefield Road, in Menlo Park.

For more information, call 329-5000; or go to online. wr.usgs.gov/calendar.

Park, which sits atop a closed landfill, but they could not answer Mr. Young's question.

Ms. Duboc said the information on the Web site pertaining to fields built atop Bay Area landfills would be changed.

Measure J

Five-minute presentations for and against Measure J, the advisory ballot measure that asks Menlo Park voters if the city should pursue building fields on no more than 17 acres of the 160-acre Bayfront Park, can be viewed online.

To view the presentations, go to SmartVoter.org/ca/sm, click on "Local Measures," select "Measure J," and click on "Watch a 5 minute presentation from each side of Measure J."

Quicktime Player and a high-speed Internet connection are required to view the videos.



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High school board OKs security cameras

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The Sequoia high school district's Board of Trustees has unanimously approved the installation of surveillance cameras in local public high schools, including Menlo-Atherton and Woodside.

The board acted Oct. 18 at the request of assistant superintendent Ed LaVigne, who had set aside about \$500,000 in bond money for the job a couple of years ago when school principals let him know that they wanted cameras on campus.

The recent violence in schools across the country "just reminded me that we have this request," Mr. LaVigne said in an interview.

Board president Gordon Lewin noted in an interview that he "wasn't about to second guess the principals' views on this matter."

The cameras may be up and running by March. Image data will be sent over school computer networks and be available to administration staff at their computers and stored on a digital

video recorder, Mr. LaVigne said. "We're not going to have anybody where they're paid to sit and watch," Mr. LaVigne said. "No body has that kind of time in a school setting."

Asked if surveillance cameras could create a culture of fear, Mr. LaVigne replied: "I don't think it's going to create a culture of fear because after a week, kids are going to stop paying attention and go about their business."

"I think what (cameras) will probably do is stop kids from committing a random act of violence," he said. "Probably it will prevent vandalism. Maybe it will help prevent bullying."

On the occasion of a fight between students, with images to examine, administrators may be able to get a better handle on

who started it, he said.

Mr. LaVigne said he has heard no complaints so far about the plans. "I think most parents will be really pleased," he said. "As a kid you make mistakes. That's part of being a kid. Our job is to help kids learn from their mistakes."

Not new at M-A

At M-A, four security cameras have been up but not exactly running for about seven or eight years, Mr. LaVigne said. The software was "bulky," Mr. LaVigne said, and the cameras require the use of a video tape recorder, which cannot share images across a network.

The project will go out to bid, giving the district an opportunity to compare proposals, have a test run, and figure out how to address security on campuses that tend to be 35 to 40 acres in size, he said.

"We don't want to rush into it and make a mistake," he added. ■

Nancy Lund to review history of Portola Valley School

The Portola Valley community said its formal goodbye to Portola Valley School at a blustery Oct. 12 ceremony on the lawn at Town Center, but for anyone who isn't ready to close the book on memories of the soon-to-be-demolished school, there will be another chance to reminisce this week.

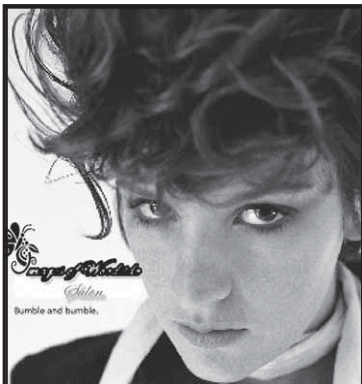
Town historian Nancy Lund is scheduled to give a presentation on the history of the school buildings at the Oct. 25 Town Council meeting, which begins at 7:30 p.m. in Hanson Hall at The Sequoias retirement community at 501 Portola Road.

Other presentations include an overview of emergency preparedness at The Sequoias and an update on Wireless Silicon Valley, the wireless Internet con-

nection project now under way in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and parts of Santa Cruz and Alameda counties.

The council will also recognize the 50th anniversary of Woodside Priory School, discuss and possibly take action on a committee report on uncovering Sausal Creek for the new Town Center project, and consider going on the record as opposing state Proposition 90. ■

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special report on private schools

Schools offer students more choices, innovative programs plus strong academics

Private schools didn't miss a beat as they quickly moved into the 2006-07 school year on campuses in Atherton, Menlo Park and Portola Valley.

Most private schools are fully enrolled again this year even as tuition continues to climb. More emphasis is being placed on giving students more choices and meeting their individual needs and interests.

Some innovative programs have surfaced to stretch students to think globally and look to the future. Menlo School, as an example, hosts a lunchtime speakers series, called "The Year 2025," for students, teachers and parents.

The series brings authors, scientists, business people and Stanford professors to campus to discuss some of the most pressing issues that the current generation of high school students will face in their adult lives, said Bridgett Longust, teacher and coordinator.

"California's Impending Water Crisis" will be the topic for the Friday, Nov. 3, meeting in Martin Family Hall.

Another new venture at Menlo is "Knight School." For one week in March, students and teachers from all grades will shift gears, set aside the regular schedule, and discover the joy of learning. They will work collaboratively, delve into areas of their interests, and have more time for creativity.

Another first is Menlo's offering Mandarin as part of its foreign language program with plans to provide additional levels in upcoming years.

Woodside Priory School has switched to a flexible, "bell-free" schedule this fall to "reduce student and faculty stress" by restructuring the flow of the day. Research indicates that a no-bells environment encourages students to think of their academic time as a single unit, not interrupted with fast dashes to lockers or to find friends, said Brian Schlaak, the Priory's academic dean.

Students at most schools will be involved in community service and service learning projects, linking their classroom studies to a real world experience.

While school construction projects have slowed down in recent years, green construction fences encircle Phillips Brooks School, located on the Las Lomas School District site in Menlo Park. The preschool-to-grade-5 school plans to spend \$10 million to improve the leased facility by demolishing 7,125 square feet of temporary building and adding seven permanent classrooms, a library, a multi-use room, administration building and faculty lounge, totaling 10,000 square feet.

Below and on the following pages is the Almanac's special report on private schools in our circulation area: Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley and Woodside. ■



Woodside Priory School has grown from its humble beginning with 14 boys as its first students to 352 students in grades 6-12 this year. Some are shown here as they change classes.

Report by Marjorie Mader / ALMANAC STAFF WRITER ■ Photos by Marjan Sadoughi / ALMANAC STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MENLO SCHOOL

50 Valparaiso Ave.
Atherton
Phone: 330-2000

Norman Colb, head of school
Barbara J. Brown, director of the middle school

Grades: 6-12

Tuition: \$27,500 for both high school and middle school. Menlo has awarded \$2.5 million in financial aid this year to 16 percent of the student body to attract talented students of varied socio-economic backgrounds. Families receiving financial aid for tuition also received additional support for books, supplies and certain activities.

Enrollment: With 750 new and returning students, Menlo School is at capacity: 532, high school; 218, middle school, grades 6-8.

Class size: Averages 18 students in the middle school for academic and fine arts classes and 16 students in the high school.

Middle School director: Barbara J. Brown brings her experience in a variety of teaching and administrative positions to Menlo as the new director of the middle school. She received a master's degree from Stanford University and a doctorate from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Former director

Nancy McPhaul has returned to teaching history in Menlo's high school.

Focus: Established in 1915, Menlo School offers a challenging academic curriculum, complemented by fine arts and athletic programs. The school's stated mission is to empower students to develop the skills necessary for success in college and become ethical, responsible and engaged members of ever wider communities.

Curriculum: Menlo School offers a curriculum designed to prepare students for the rigors of college study. The middle school offers an integrated interdisciplinary program, taught by teams of grade-level teachers. In the high school, 20 advanced placement courses are offered in various areas of English, literature, economics, history, mathematics, calculus, physics, biology, chemistry, art, music, computer science and foreign languages, including French and Spanish. This year Mandarin is being offered.

New faculty: Joining the upper school are the following teachers: Mingjung Chen, Mandarin; James Dann, physics; Tim James, history; John Jordan, Creative Arts Department; David Simon, math; Clay Thomas, English and frosh/soph football coach; Peter Zivkov, photography; Marsha Blair, academic support coordinator; Anu Alyer, intern

working in math and science. French teacher Martine Gullung-Miller joins the faculty at the middle school.

New staff members: Nazario Ayala and Eric DeStefano are new members of the Technology Department. Mr. Ayala has more than six years' experience as a support technician in private schools. Mr. DeStefano's experience includes 10 years in information technology as a network manager, specializing in operating systems and networking. Alison Hale, parent and volunteer at Menlo who previously worked in high-tech companies, is the new assistant to the academic dean. Joan Barada, school nurse, comes to Menlo after working, most recently, at La Entrada School.

Knight School: Menlo says the goal of its new Knight School is to help students discover the joy of learning, sometimes constrained by a focus on assessments and outcomes. For one week, March 12-16, external goals are set aside and risk-taking and the creative process of learning are encouraged. Students from all grades and teachers from all disciplines work together in new combinations and collaborate in the process of learning. The array of course offerings combined with an intensive allotment of time encourages students and teachers to discover

potential passions and delve deeply into unexplored areas of inquiry.

Outside of class: About 76 percent of the high school students participate in the athletic programs and 57 percent are involved in the fine arts program. The high school offers 11 boys' sports and 11 girls' sports programs, including cross country, football, water polo, golf, tennis, volleyball, soccer, basketball, baseball, swimming, lacrosse, softball and track. Middle school sports have teams in three divisions, ranging from coed cross-country, swimming, track and water polo to girls soccer and volleyball and boys flag football, basketball and baseball.

Community service: Students participate in class-wide community service days. The high school has a 20-hour per year community service requirement for graduation.

Child Development Center: This on-campus center offers fee-based, child-care for newborns to preschool-age children of Menlo employees.

Open houses: Prospective students and their parents are invited to the following open houses: high school, Thursday, Oct. 26, at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 19, at 1 p.m.; middle school, Wednesday, Nov. 8 at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 3, at 1 p.m. Call the admissions office at 330-2001, ext. 2600, for information.

Applications: Deadline to submit applications for the 2007-08 year is Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 4 p.m.

Menlo benefit: This year's annual benefit will be held March 30.

Web site: www.menloschool.org

SACRED HEART SCHOOLS ATHERTON

150 Valparaiso Ave.
Atherton
Phone: 322-1866

Dr. Joseph Ciancaglini, director of schools

Stated mission: The Roman Catholic, independent schools strive "to educate the whole child to be a leader who loves God and serves others." Each of the three schools — Sacred Heart Preparatory High School, St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart (grades 1-8), and the Montessori preschool and kindergarten — has its own principal. Dr. Joseph Ciancaglini, director of schools, oversees all three schools. The schools offer extra curricular activities and a faith-based curriculum. Sacred Heart says it's committed to keeping its schools and classes small while attracting and serving students, faculty and staff of diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.

Diversification: The Office of Equity, Justice, and Multicultural Education is now in its third year. Goals include sufficient financial aid to support each applicant on a “need blind acceptance basis” and sufficient support programs to help students achieve “a level playing field” in academics, social and extra-curricular activities.

Campus Ministry: Sister Christine Wilcox has joined SHS Campus Ministry to serve the spiritual and pastoral needs of the school community: students, families, faculty and staff as well as alumni. Dr. Sally Vance-Trembath is the new ethics program coordinator.

Learning Support Program: This program has been expanded at all three schools this year. SHS strives to create an atmosphere of support to help students thrive and succeed in a rigorous academic setting. This goal is supported by the Center for Student Success at Sacred Heart Prep and by the full-time learning specialist at St. Joseph’s School. All faculty members in the Montessori program and grades 1-8 have been trained in Mel Levine’s “Schools Attuned” program.

Annual auction: Plans are under way for the annual auction and dinner party on Saturday, March 31. The theme will be “Under the Tuscan Sun.”

Web site: www.shschools.org

Sacred Heart Preparatory

Richard Dioli, principal

Grades: 9-12

Tuition: \$25,265

Enrollment: Sacred Heart Prep has enrolled 499 students, the highest since the college preparatory school opened its doors to boys in 1984. The student body is divided almost equally between girls and boys.

Class size: averages 15 students.

New faculty: Joining the faculty are: Stephanie Bowe, English and journalism; John Escalera, instrumental music; Kelli Griffis, English; Ben Hunter, history; Will Skaff, choral music; Alan Simpson-Vlach, math. Jeremy Smart returns to teach math after a year’s absence doing graduate work.

New staff: Kristen Alexander, college counselor; Louise Paustenbach, personal

counselor.

New programs: This year Sacred Heart Prep is offering a new fine arts program, Freshman Art Explorations, that enables freshmen to take one-semester courses in the areas of dance, drama, visual arts, instrumental music and chorus. A new religious studies course, “Theology of the Creative Spirit,” is being offered.

Center for Student Success: Now in its second year, this program provides academic support for students. On-site tutors and learning resource specialists assist students through tutoring, study skills, time management and test-taking strategies. The center also coordinates accommodations for students with verified learning differences.

Outside the classroom: SHP offers 14 varsity and junior varsity sports: cross country, football, soccer, water polo, tennis, volleyball, basketball, soccer, baseball, softball, golf, lacrosse, swimming, track and field. The Sept. 23 senior fashion show, “Reality Runaway,” raised money for the Senior Legacy Scholarship Fund and the seniors’ “Grad Night” and prom.

Open house: The open house is Nov.19 at 1 p.m. For details, visit the Web site: www.shschools.org. Admission process for 2007-08 began the month.

Application deadline: The application deadline for the 2007-08 year is Jan. 3.

St. Joseph’s School of the Sacred Heart

50 Emilie Ave.

Atherton

Phone: 322-9931

Karen Eshoo, principal

Grades: 1-8

Tuition: \$18,740 for grades 1-5;

\$23,285 for grades 6-8

Enrollment: 400, in grades 1-8. Rolling admission for grades 1-5. Admission process for the middle school began this month. Application for grades 1-5 admission are being accepted through Feb. 5.

Class size: Student-teacher ratio is 12 to 1. **New faculty:** Joining the faculty are: Jennifer Houlton, third grade; Derek Waarich, fifth grade; Victoria Burns, math, sixth grade; Jessica Sperle, pre-algebra, sev-

Continued on next page



Photography courtesy of Eva Soos

Father Egon Javor, now 90, celebrated the first Mass on the future site of the Woodside Priory School in Portola Valley 50 years ago. He was one of the seven Hungarian monks who sought refuge in the United States from Communism and founded the Benedictine college preparatory school in Portola Valley.

‘An American Miracle’

Woodside Priory celebrates founding 50 years ago

By Marjorie Mader

Almanac Staff Writer

“AN AMERICAN MIRACLE” is what Father Egon Javor calls the success of Woodside Priory School, founded on land in Portola Valley, purchased 50 years ago by exiled Hungarian monks.

“We were refugees. We had no money. We were unknown and we succeeded,” Father Egon said in a 1998 interview.

He was one of the seven Benedictine monks who had fled Communist Hungary in the 1950s and sought refuge in the United States. The monks were determined to start a small college preparatory school for boys in California, based on the Benedictine tradition dating back to 529 and Roman times.

Father Egon, who became the first prior to head the religious community here, recalls Emmet Cashin of Fox and Carskadon driving him around the hills in 1956, searching for a site. They came upon a small ranch house on an 18-acre property on a barren hillside off Portola Road.

“Oh, Father it’s too far out,” warned Mr. Cashin. But the land and the rural setting appealed to Father Egon as the location for the future boys college preparatory school.

Besides, recalled Father Egon, it was the cheapest property. The price was \$80,000. The Hungarian monks, who had only \$18,000 among them, had to borrow \$5,000 for the down payment on the Gilson property.

“We were fortunate from the beginning,” Father Egon said, adding: “We prayed a lot.”

The monks lived their motto, “Ora et Labore,” pray and work, as they moved into the small ranch house and built the monastery and school from the ground up. The Priory’s first students — 14 boys — were due to arrive in September 1957, but as late as August there were no classrooms. Saved by the generosity of friends, the monks built a low-cost structure in a month.

Father Egon said he believed the Priory could not have developed the way it did in any country other than the United States. The freedom to pursue education was coupled with the generosity of local benefactors who not only contributed time and money, but also a new attitude. “We as teachers learned to be more American,” he said.

The rest is an eventful and colorful history that will be celebrated on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 5 pm. That’s when the entire Priory community, past and present, is invited to commemorate both Father Egon’s 90th birthday and the 50th anniversary of the new Benedictine community’s first Mass that Father Egon celebrated in the small ranch house on the newly acquired land.

The celebration will start with a special Mass in the Woodside Priory Chapel with a reception to follow in the school’s dining hall. As with a family reunion, fond memories and stories will be shared by friends, colleagues and some of the 1,200 graduates who now live all over the world.

From its beginnings in a single ranch house, the Priory, now coeducational, has grown to include a middle school, a boarding program and a full range of academic classrooms, athletic facilities, art, science and computer labs and a well-stocked library. A performing arts auditorium, an expanded library and technology center, and the school’s first student center are being added this school year.

“As I was thinking in the mid-1990s about how to face the challenge of aging facilities and the changing expectations of families, I would walk across the campus thinking about the monks in the early years, their risks and sacrifices,” said Tim Molak, head of school. “That actually is what gave us the courage to modernize for the decades ahead, hopefully the next 50 years.

“Father Egon never dwells on his personal contributions, preferring to tell the stories of all of the people who helped the school thrive. His eyes light up, and he really takes joy in that.” ■

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enth grade; Keith Peterson, algebra, eighth grade; Alison Epstein, Spanish in grades 1-3, 6-8; Isolina Martinez, Spanish, grades 4-8; Chris Kanelopoulos, service learning, grades 1-8, religion, sixth grade; Jennifer Lettieri, U.S. history; Joanne Takagi, music, grades 1-5 and chorus, grades 6-8.

New staff: Joining the staff in new positions are: Kari Couling, learning specialist; Chris Scott, dean of the lower school; Kyle Kalmbach, academic dean.

Life skills: All middle school students participate in a "Life Skills" program, which focuses on emotional intelligence, interpersonal skills, good decision-making and identity.

Choral, band choices: All students in grades 4-8 choose to take band (woodwinds, brass or percussion) or chorus, which are taught during the school day as an integral part of the school program.

Enrichment: The after-school enrichment program offers students from kindergarten through fourth grade a range of classes and activities. They may choose from a long list of offerings, such as chess, science adventures, tennis and swimming, cooking and baking, drama and clowning. Students in grades 4-8 may choose to participate in the athletic program, which includes six options per year for both boys and girls. All students in grades K-12 are invited to audition for the all-school musical, "Children of Eden." Middle school students will produce their own play. A science adventure class is available to middle school students before school.

"No cuts" policy: The school has a "no cuts" policy so that everyone trying out for sports or drama gets on the team or a part in a play. There will be more aquatic opportunities this year for students to participate in competitive swimming and water polo.

Open house: Sunday, Nov. 19, at 2 p.m. is the date for the middle school open house. RSVP is required. For information,

email admission@shschools.org.

Washington trip: Again this year, the eighth-graders' big field trip will be to Washington, D.C. Rep. Anna Eshoo, a former parent at St. Joseph's, welcomes and guides the students on a tour of the Capitol. Scholarships are available.

St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart

Preschool and kindergarten
50 Emilie Ave.

Atherton

Phone: 322-0176

Cee Salberg, principal

Grades: preschool and kindergarten

Tuition: \$15,750 for half-day preschool; \$17,190 for full day preschool and kindergarten.

Enrollment: 72 preschool students; 48 kindergartners. Admission process for the 2007-08 year has begun. For more information, contact jwildey@shschools.org.

Montessori method: Both the preschool and kindergarten use the Montessori method.

New preschool teacher: Lisa Galviz joins the faculty.

Admission: Admission process for the 2007-08 school year is under way. For information, contact jwildey@shschools.org.

WOODSIDE PRIORY SCHOOL

302 Portola Road

Portola Valley

Phone: 851-8221

Tim Molak, headmaster

Al Zappelli, director of admissions and financial aid

Grades: 6-12

Tuition: \$26,700 for day students, and \$34,932 for boarders, which includes lunch for day students and all meals for boarders. An additional fee of \$400 per student covers purchases of school supplies and clothes at school store, retreats and most academic field trips and activities. Board-



Barbara J. Brown, new director of Menlo's Middle School, brings to the Atherton campus her experience as a teacher and head of school in North Carolina and Eugene, Oregon. She earned degrees at University of California at Davis, Stanford and Harvard Graduate School of Education.

ing students also pay a \$600 fee for weekend activities.

Financial aid: About 20 percent of the students receive need-based financial aid from a pool of \$1.28 million. Special scholarships are made to promote diversity. A new scholarship fund assists graduates of Catholic schools.

Enrollment: 352, the Priory's maximum enrollment, with 256 in high school, 96 in grades 6-8. The student body is 52 percent male and 48 percent female. Forty-nine of the high school students — 22 girls and 27 boys — board at the school. Of the 24 Americans, most live within 50 miles of the Priory; 26 are international students from China, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Japan, South

Korea and Taiwan.

Classes: 14-18 students in the majority of classes. The full-time-equivalent teacher to student ratio is 1 to 9. The ratio of teachers and student support staff to students is 1 to 6.

Philosophy: An independent, Catholic college preparatory school in the Benedictine tradition, the Priory's mission is to assist students of promise in becoming lifelong learners who will productively serve the world. The school seeks to balance an academically challenging program with opportunity for individual exploration and discovery.

New courses: The Priory's course offerings include 19 advanced placement electives as well as 28 additional elective courses for students in grades

10-12. New courses include marine biology, oceanography, history of rock 'n roll, history of Islam, "Visions of Excess" (English literature), "Theology through Literature and Film," beginning computer programming, acting lab and "Writing for Performance."

Bell-free schedule: After a year of intense study, the campus now is working on a flexibly timed, bell-free schedule. The goal is to reduce student and faculty stress by restructuring the flow of the day to accommodate classes that need extra time for set-up and clean-up and a rotating sixth-period early dismissal for athletic events and student activities. Eliminating "break times" between classes "earns" enough minutes for students to sleep later on Wednesday, when classes begin at 9:40 a.m. instead of 8:30. Faculty and staff use that time for meetings.

Community service: Student volunteer experiences are being integrated into their course work, particularly social studies and theology curricula. This framework enables better preparation and reflection, giving service experiences more meaning and bringing to life some of the theoretical topics in course work. "Meaningful service" is a graduation requirement.

Activity period: During the last part of the school day, high school students have more than 35 choices for their activity period. New choices this year include Christian and Jewish study clubs and others that focus on gender issues, speech and debate, and rock climbing.

Athletics: Priory monks brought high school soccer to the mid-Peninsula when the school opened in 1957 and the boys' varsity soccer teams thrive. High school teams include baseball, softball, track and field, basketball, cross country, golf, sailing, tennis, volleyball and equestrian. The middle school fields teams in basketball, cross-country, flag football, soccer, swimming, volleyball, and tennis.

Facilities: Groundbreaking for a new 400-seat performing arts auditorium and three classrooms took place last summer with completion expected next

High School Grades 9-12
Middle School Grades 6-8
Boarding School Grades 9-12

Woodside Priory School OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, November 18, 2006 • 10 a.m.

Wednesday, November 29, 2006 • 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 10, 2006 • 1 p.m.

Take a student-led tour of the campus. **Experience** a bit of the Priory in our labs, classrooms and athletic facilities. **Talk** with our teachers about the curriculum and our students about everyday life.

We think you will be impressed.

We encourage interested students to spend a typical Woodside Priory school day with us. Contact our Admissions office to arrange a "shadow" visit.



Woodside Priory School • 302 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California 94028 • Admissions Office: (650) 851-8223

fall. The architectural firm MK Think of San Francisco has designed the facility with many "green" features, including a roof of living grass, creating a meadow instead of a hard surface.

Open houses: Prospective students and their families have three opportunities to visit the campus at open house programs: Saturday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m.; Wednesday, Nov. 29, 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 10, 1 p.m. At the weekend events, guests will tour the campus, sit in on a few classes and mingle informally with teachers, parents and students at a reception in the gym, where departments will set up exhibits. RSVP by calling the admissions office at 851-8221.

Applications: Due Jan. 9 for the 2007-08 year.

Web site: www.woodsidepriory.com

MID-PENINSULA HIGH SCHOOL

1340 Willow Road
Menlo Park

Phone: 321-1991

Douglas C. Thompson, head of school
Molly McAuliffe, director of admission

Grades: 9-12

Tuition: \$22,218; financial aid is available

Enrollment: 150

Class size: 12 students

Focus: Mid-Peninsula High School is designed for students with academic potential who can benefit from a smaller environment and a flexible, individually focused academic program.

Facilities: The high school, housed in a recently remodeled commercial building, has a technology-based learning center, wireless technology in classrooms, science labs, art studio and photography lab, student center, a full-size gymnasium, and a music practice room.

Program: The cornerstone of the education at this independent, coeducational school is the "CORE program." Students meet daily in small groups with their teachers to set and meet realistic goals and work toward academic growth. The goal is to personalize education for students and help them find individual paths to do their personal best. Students pursue a traditional sequence of college-prep classes and participate in community service and team sports. The school has a six-period day and offers a summer school.

Sports: Team sports are played at the varsity level, which means all students are eligible to participate. There's a "no-cut" policy, but playing time is determined by practice and game attendance, attitude, and performance. Mid-Pen is a Division V school within the Central Coast Section and also has participated in the Christian Private Schools Athletic League (CPSAL) for the past 15 years. Current and past team sports include soccer, volleyball, cross country, basketball, baseball, softball, and track and field.

Community service: Students are required to participate in two annual school-wide community service projects. College planning: Mid-Peninsula offers comprehensive and individualized college planning services for all students. Over 90 percent of Mid-Pen graduates attend a two- or four-year college.

Shadow Day: Prospective students can spend a day with a current Mid-Pen student attending classes and getting to know, teachers, administrators and students.

School tours: Contact the admissions

office to arrange a school tour, offered daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Open houses: Prospective students and their parents are invited to attend one of the open houses: Saturday, Nov. 4, at 10:30 a.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 7:30 p.m.

Applications: Priority filing date for applications for the 2007-08 year is Jan. 9. Late applications will be accepted.

Annual auction: The Parents Association's annual fundraiser is Saturday, March 3.

Web site: www.mid-pen.com

BEECHWOOD SCHOOL

50 Terminal Avenue
Menlo Park

Phone: 327-5052

Priscilla Taylor, principal

Grades: Kinderprep-8

Tuition: \$150 per month for all grades, including the year-round K-3 program and the nine-month schedule for grades 4-8. Scholarships are available.

Enrollment: 163. Beechwood is open to students who live within the boundaries of the Ravenswood City School District in East Palo Alto and in eastern Menlo Park.

Class size: averages 16-18.

Focus: Founded and funded by the California Family Foundation in 1985, Beechwood has an extended 215-day school for students in grades K-3.

New teachers: Joining the teaching staff are Joannetta Ho, special needs instructor, and Karla Gurley, intern for first and second grades.

Parent participation: Parents are required to participate in parent education classes and take part in school activities.

Web site: www.beechwoodschool.org

GERMAN AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

275 Elliott Drive

Menlo Park

Phone: 324-8617



Mid-Peninsula students Kendra Key, left, and Katy McGilynngilbert make a minute-by-minute observation of mouse behavior after designing a mouse lab during a biology lab class.

Peter Metzger, head of school

Grades: Preschool-8

Tuition: \$4,800 for a two-day, weekly preschool program; \$6,420 for three days; \$9,375 for five-days; \$10,500 for kindergarten-grade 5; \$12,500 for grades 6-8. Tuition is for a 10-month academic year. Discounts are offered for siblings.

Enrollment: 220

Class size: Averages 10 students. In addition to classroom teachers, there are specialists in art, music, physical education, and arts and crafts.

Focus: The school has an international and academic focus with an individualized approach to instruction. It strives to offer a learning environment that fosters the development of a creative and critical mind. About 70

percent of the classes in this coeducational school are in German. The German immersion program begins in preschool. Students should speak German by second grade. Established in 1988, the school is located on the O'Connor School site, leased from the Menlo Park City School District.

International Baccalaureate: The school is working toward full accreditation of the primary year program of the International Baccalaureate Organization, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Beyond intellectual rigor and high acca-

Continued on next page



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Menlo School

An independent coeducational college preparatory school
serving 750 students in grades six through twelve

Upper School Open Houses:

Oct. 26 at 6:30 p.m., Nov. 19 at 1 p.m.

Middle School Open Houses:

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www.girlsms.org



Sixth-graders at St. Joseph's School browse through a collage portraying the major events, places and people of the 1970s, displayed at the Art Corridor at Sacred Heart Prep. The students, from left, are Tinyen Shih, Marisa Pelowski, Lilyan Tay and Victoria Wallace. The collages, culled from sources such as Look and Life magazines, reflect American history, researched by Sheryl Nonnenberg and arranged by graphic artists.

Continued from previous page

demic standards, IB schools place strong emphasis on international literature, history and culture. The school also covers the California state standards.

Third language option: Spanish and French are options for students in

grades 6-8.

Extra curricular program: An extensive extra curricular program that covers sports, creative activities and languages is offered on a fee basis.

Open house: The first open house is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 20, at the

school. For information, call the school office at 324-8617 or e-mail info@germanamericanschool.org.

Web site: www.germanamericanschool.org

NATIVITY SCHOOL

1250 Laurel St.
Menlo Park
Phone: 325-7304
Carol Trelut, principal
Grades: K-8
Tuition: \$4,600
Enrollment: 280
Class size: Ranges from 27 students to 32.
Focus: Nativity's stated goal is to

educate and prepare the whole child within a nurturing environment, based on Catholic values and beliefs.

Teachers: All teachers have returned for another year.

Outreach program: Students are involved in a range of service projects throughout the year. They volunteer for the Special Olympics in Redwood City, help staff the soup kitchens at St. Vincent de Paul's centers, and join in the fall cleanup at Huddart Park.

Extended care: For an additional fee, Nativity's extended care is available for its students from 7 to 8 a.m. and from school dismissal until 5:45 p.m.

Golden Anniversary: Some 880 alumni, parents, children and faculty celebrated Nativity School's 50th anniversary on Oct. 1 with a Mass, celebrated by Archbishop George H. Niederauer, speeches, an open house and a dinner, hosted by the pastor, Monsignor Steven D. Otellini. A new multi-purpose room and gym to be built in the summer is the anniversary gift to the school.

Fundraiser: The Christmas tree lot on the school grounds will be open for tree sales Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 24. Proceeds will fund enrichment programs, including Spanish and music.

Save the date: The school's Lapathon, open to students and community members to run/walk laps and raise funds for the school, is April 27 from 9 a.m. to noon. Check Lapathon.org for more information.

To apply: Applications: for kindergarten enrollment for the 2007-08 year are available at the school office. For more information, check www.nativityschool.com

PENINSULA SCHOOL

Peninsula Way
Menlo Park
Phone: 325-1584
Katy Dalglish, director
Grades: Nursery-8
Tuition: \$11,950, full-day kindergarten through grade 8; \$9,140, nursery, ages 3 to 4, and half-day kindergarten.

Scholarships are available.

Enrollment: 250

Class size: range from 16 to 21 students.

Focus: Founded in 1925 as a nonprofit, parent-staff-owned school, Peninsula focuses on providing an environment where learning is exciting, children are challenged to learn by doing, and independence and group cooperation are valued and fostered. There is an emphasis on responsibility as well as freedom and choice. Children are offered a wide variety of experiences in art, science, math, creative writing, dramatics, ceramics, weaving, music, dance, physical education and camping.

Extended care: Before- and after-school child care is available for students enrolled at Peninsula. Hours are from 7:45 a.m. until school starts at 9 a.m. and from dismissal time to 5:30 p.m.

Open house: Saturday, Nov. 5, is the open house for parents and their prospective nursery school, kindergarten and first-grade children interested in attending Peninsula in the 2007-2008 school year. Hours are 10 to 11:30 a.m.

School tours: Parents may tour the school on five Thursdays, Nov. 9 and 16; Dec. 7; Jan 4 and 11. Meet at 10 a.m. at the "Big Building." No reservations needed.

Holiday Craft Fair: An annual tradition, the school's craft fair will be held Sunday, Dec. 4, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the school. Jewelry, handmade toys, ceramics and clothing will be on sale. There will be story telling, live music, a cafe and children's crafts and play area.

Application deadline: Feb. 1 for all new students. Parents interested in observing classes should contact Mary Lou Lacina, admissions director, at 325-1584, ext. 5, for an appointment to visit classes and learn more about the program.

PHILLIPS BROOKS SCHOOL

2245 Avy Ave.
Menlo Park
Phone: 854-4545
Kristi Kerins, head of school
Grades: Preschool-grade 5
Tuition: \$18,900, grades 1-5; \$18,000, kindergarten; \$13,800, preschool for 4-year-olds; \$11,000 for 3-year-olds.

Goals: The faculty is committed to child-centered learning through the use of "constructivist" principles in its teaching. Key goals include developing a community of learners that promotes equity and justice locally and globally, and building and strengthening school-family partnerships to better meet the needs of the students and community. This year the school has embarked on a Global Initiative, which ties already established program pieces such as communication, chapel, service-learning and world language, and frames this learning through a global lens.

Administration: New to the school's administration are Erin Dunn, school nurse; Nancy Errichetti, director of development; Sue Reyneri, director of finance; Alicia Falsetto, admission associate.

Teachers: Phillips Brooks welcomes one new teacher, Cristiana Freed, first grade. **Assistant teachers:** Every two years, the school welcomes a new group of assistant teachers. They are: Annette Wise, second grade; Carrie Wai, preschool; Sara Smith, fifth grade; Paula

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Photo by Tom Upton

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- Small class size
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- Specialized teachers: Art, Clay, Dance, Drama, Library, Math, Music, Science, Weaving and Woodshop

Nursery, Kindergarten and 1st Grade Open House
Saturday, Nov. 4, 10:00 - 11:30am. Children Welcome.


School tours - Thursdays at 10 am:
Oct. 19, Nov. 9 & 16, Dec. 7, Jan. 4 & 11
Parents only, please.

Application Deadline: **February 1, 2007**




Peninsula School

Nursery through 8th Grade--Founded in 1925
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Nursery - 8th Grade
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French-English or Chinese-English

<p>Chinese-English Information Night November 16 at 7 P.M.</p>	<p>French-English Information Night November 9 at 7 P.M.</p>
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Emma Henkens pauses a moment after applying colored glazed to her fish tank while Kyle Berka works on his mold to create a bowl during a ceramics elective class at Woodside Priory School.

Mitchell, fourth grade; Jadine Wong, third grade; Alison Hidalgo, first grade. Familiar faces: Meeta Gaitonde returns to fourth grade after a year's maternity leave. Abby Guinn, director of global education and communications, also comes back after a year's professional sabbatical, as does Kim DeMartini, art teacher.

Extended day program: Phillips Brooks is continuing its extended day program. Hours are from 7:30 a.m. until school starts and from dismissal to 6 p.m. The program also is available on conference and teacher workshop days. Students also have the opportunity to participate in after-school enrichment activities. Options this year include art and chess.

Annual family gathering: The Parents' Association will hold its fundraiser "Shanghai Moon" on Saturday, March 10, at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton. **School tours:** To schedule a school tour on Monday and Tuesday mornings from now through Jan. 9, call Catherine Lee, director of admissions at 854-4545, ext. 110.

Applications: Deadline is Jan. 5
Web site: www.phillipsbrooks.org

ST. RAYMOND SCHOOL

**1211 Arbor Road
Menlo Park
Phone: 322-2312**
Sister Ann Bernard, principal
Grades: K-8

Tuition: About \$6,210 for one child if families participate by volunteering 20 hours and make a commitment to buy \$5,000 in scrip.

Enrollment: 247

Class size: averages 30 students; maximum is 32.

Focus: St. Raymond's stated goal is to provide a quality Catholic education with a strong emphasis on the academic basics — reading, writing, math and technology. There are opportunities for enrichment in art, computer classes, science labs, music and physical education. After-school sports include volleyball, baseball, basketball and track.

Community service: Students take

part in extracurricular activities, such as projects that support the St. Francis Center, a small elementary school in Redwood City, where Spanish-speaking students learn English and gain academic skills needed to thrive in high school. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, they collect food for

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Hall on Middlefield Road near Menlo Park and the St. Francis Center.

Annual auction and dinner: St. Raymond Mothers' Club will stage its major fundraiser, the auction and dinner, on Saturday, Nov. 4, at the school's Kennedy Center. Chairperson



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Grades 6-12 • 350 Students**

2006 Open Houses

Saturday, October 14 10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
Saturday, November 11 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Sunday, December 10 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

PLEASE CALL TO SIGN UP

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650-342-4175 • www.csus.com



is Karen Greenlow. Funds raised will support the school's enrichment program and activities.

Open house: Families may tour the school during the open house, this year on Sunday, Jan. 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Applications for the 2007-08 year will be available at that time. For details, call the school office.

TRINITY SCHOOL

**2650 Sand Hill Road
Menlo Park
Phone: 854-0288**

Mary Menacho, head of school
Grades: Early childhood program,

starting at age 3, through grade 5
Tuition: \$18,300 for grades K-5; \$16,050, junior kindergarten; \$12,730 for early childhood programs for 3- and 4-year-olds

Enrollment: 145

Classes: average 18-20 students in grades K-5, with each of these classes having a lead teacher and "para-educator." Early childhood classes average 16 students with two teachers in each class.

New teachers: Joining the faculty this year are Kate Benson, fourth grade, and Kathleen Quinlan, kindergarten.

Focus: Trinity School fosters rigorous

Continued on next page

Upper Campus
Admissions

**OPEN HOUSE
— Saturday —
Nov. 11, 2006**

26800 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills



PINEWOOD SCHOOL

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Pinewood School, founded in 1959, is an independent, coeducational, nonsectarian college preparatory school serving grades **K-12**. With a total enrollment of 625, Pinewood offers a family-like atmosphere where each student is a respected and vital member of our community. Our students, who come from diverse cultural, religious, socio-economic, and ethnic backgrounds, thrive in our small classes where they take part in a rigorous academic curriculum and enjoy a variety of enrichment activities from sports to fine arts.

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To learn more about our school, please visit our website at www.pinewood.edu or call 650-941-1532.



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**Middle School
OPEN HOUSE:
Sunday, Nov. 19
at 2:00 p.m.**
*Please RSVP to
admission@shschools.org*

**High School
OPEN HOUSE:
Sunday, Nov. 19
at 1:00 p.m.**
RSVP not required

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...educating the whole child

Continued from previous page

academics grounded in child-centered content and the values and traditions of the Episcopal Church.

Curriculum: The school emphasizes a strong, balanced academic program. The rigorous curriculum emphasizes critical thinking rather than rote instruction and assessment. The program features specialist teachers for science, garden, library, advanced math, Spanish, music, art, physical education and religious studies.

Facilities: Trinity is one school with two campuses. The upper campus at 2650 Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park for grades K-5 includes seven class

rooms, chapel, a Great Hall, and a state-of-the-art library. Technology is integrated into the library and all classrooms with 80 computers and campus-wide Internet access. There's a series of learning and display spaces, including a greenhouse and garden, an outdoor stage, grass athletic field, and two ball courts. The early childhood program moved into a new building in 2005 at 330 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park. The new facility has two separate classrooms, designed for 3- and 4-year-olds, an art studio and an enclosed playground adjacent to the building.

Outreach: Students each year participate in several service learning projects. Last year they donated hygiene



Woodland School first-grader Hannah Nyland takes a high jump along with her classmates Kristin Shapiro, left, Lia Dopp, center, and Jenna Sveun during recess at the elementary school in Ladera.

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bags to victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, helped Habitat for Humanity throw a party for residents and volunteers, donated more than 2,500 cans of food to the Ecumenical Hunger Program. A major accomplishment for the students was creating a quilt, now featured on the UNICEF Web site

as a fundraising idea. Funds from the quilt raffle were donated to UNICEF to aid children affected by the East Asia earthquake.

School tours: Call the admission office at 854-0288, ext. 100, to schedule a school tour.

Applications: Deadline for students to

apply for the 2007-08 year is Jan. 26.

Web site: www.trinity-mp.org

WOODLAND SCHOOL

360 La Cuesta Drive

Portola Valley

Phone: 854-9065

Scott Bell, head of school

Grades: Preschool-8

Tuition: \$14,200 grades K-4; \$15,200 grades 5-8. Monthly preschool tuition: half-day, \$1,000; full day, \$1,050; extended day, \$1,100.

Enrollment: 240

Class size: averages 15 students.

Focus: Woodland School's stated goal is to focus on academics with a strong enrichment program of art, music, drama, computers, gymnastics and physical education. Science and technology are the cornerstone for the 5-8 program. Field trips expand classroom learning.

New teachers: Four new teachers have joined the faculty at Woodland. They are Olga Eidelman, computers; Molly Smith, first grade; Michelle Libersat, upper-grade math; Kristal Miles, lower-grade science.

Computer lab upgrade: The school has upgraded the computer lab and all teacher/staff computers with brand new Macs and I books.

Day care: For an additional fee, extended day care for students enrolled in the school is offered year-round from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

School tours: Dates for school tours are: Thursday, Oct. 26; Tuesday, Nov. 14; Thursday, Jan. 11; Wednesday, Jan. 24; Monday, Feb. 6. All begin at 9 a.m. Call the school office to sign up. Preschool tours are Jan. 8, Jan. 17, Feb. 14, March 7, and April 18. A kindergarten focus tour is Friday, Jan. 19.

Open house: Prospective and current students and their families are invited to an open house Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 6:30 p.m.

Application deadline: Feb. 15.

Web site: www.woodland-school.org

MERCY

BURLINGAME

A Catholic College Preparatory High School

Admissions Open House
Sunday, November 5, 2006
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Campus tours will begin at noon. Tours are approximately 1 1/2 hours in length; the last tour will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Contact: Ellen Williamson
 Director of Admission
ewilliamson@mercyhsb.com
 650.762.1114

www.mercyhsb.com

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Fall Tour Dates:

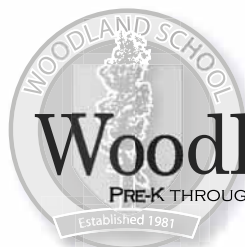
Middle Years December 13th

Kindergarten January 19th

All Years - November 14th

Preschool - November 8th

All tours begin at 9:00 AM



Woodland School

PRE-K THROUGH 8TH GRADE INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL

Established 1987

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650-854-9065

www.woodland-school.org

Admissions Director: Rosemary Malouf
 email rimalouf@woodland-school.org



BUILDING A LIFELONG JOY OF LEARNING

Atherton artists exhibit work at reception in the park

Atherton artists will be featured in the Atherton Arts Committee's second annual exhibit and reception from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27, at Jennings Pavilion in Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave. in Atherton.

Eighteen Atherton artists are taking part in the show, including Dr. Martha L. Berliner, 91, whose jewelry will be on display. After losing some very expensive jewelry, she saw the need for items that were beautiful, yet reasonably-priced, and began creating her own.

A mobile that Dr. Berliner designed from her extensive collection of beautiful shoes and another of her mobiles using baby shoes will be featured in the show.

Other Atherton residents taking part in the show include Samira Nawas-Plesman, who will display her one-of-a-kind



This necklace by Martha Berliner will be on display at the Atherton artists' reception.

handbags, and artists Jacqueline and Steve Osborn.

Menlo Park pianist in ensemble

The Picasso Ensemble will present an evening of chamber music on Saturday, Oct. 28, at 8 p.m., at the Palo Alto Art Center.



Josephine Gandolfi

The ensemble includes pianist Josephine Gandolfi of Menlo Park, violinist Susan C. Brown, flutist Lars Johannesson, and mezzo-soprano Wendy Hillhouse.

The musicians have performed and recorded together for over 10 years. They are all active performers in professional Bay Area ensembles.

The program will feature music for instrumental trio by Ibert, Doppler and Martinu, and songs by Schubert and Loeffler.

The Palo Alto Art Center is located at 1313 Newell Road at Embarcadero. Admission is \$14 general and \$12 for students and seniors. Tickets will be available at the door. For more information, call 463-4940.

'Life with Father' at Menlo Middle School

Students from Menlo Middle School this weekend will revive "Life with Father," the 1939 play that became the longest running non-musical play on Broadway.

The play opens Friday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m. in the Middle School Commons on the Menlo School campus at 50 Valparaiso Ave. in Atherton, with performances also Saturday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m. Tickets, at \$5

for students and \$7 for adults, are available at the school bookstore or at the door.

The vintage comedy depicts the life of the Day Family in New York City in the 1880s. The head of the family, Clarence Day, is an opinionated patriarch, who slowly comes to discover that he does not hold ultimate authority in his home.

This amusing look at family life is portrayed by a cast of Middle School students, including

eighth-graders Philip Anderson, Taylor Blackburn, Tim Coggins, Serena Gupta, Mary Nash, Michael Stern, Mycal Tucker and Nicole Wolf; seventh-graders Brett Caplan, Pete Foster, Andrew Sanford and Isabelle Stepien; and sixth-grader Shelley Hutchinson.

Directing the play is Nicole Hastings, Middle School's drama Intern, Menlo School graduate and veteran of many Menlo productions.

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- * INFANT AND CHILD CPR**

The new Family and Friends Infant CPR program is a two-hour interactive class conducted by a certified instructor. The information in this class is specific for babies up to one year of age and includes presentation, video, text, practice on infant models and a certificate of completion.

- Sunday, November 5
- * INFANT CARE**

Often touted as our "most fun" class, learn specifics of newborn care including bathing, temperature-taking, changing diapers, and feeding and soothing techniques. Infant doll models are used to allow for hands-on practice.

- Wednesday, November 15
- * FATHERS OF DAUGHTERS: THE JOYS & CHALLENGES OF ADOLESCENCE**

An evening for fathers of adolescent daughters to learn how to understand and communicate with their daughters as well as discuss issues specific to the father-daughter relationship in adolescence.

- Wednesday, November 15
- * CHILDBIRTH CLASS IN THE CITY**

Come learn about childbirth preparation in a retreat-like setting at the Hotel Monaco in San Francisco. This course includes breakfast and lunch for two at the hotel, as well as participation in breastfeeding and cesarean birth classes.

- Saturday, November 18

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

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Stanford wins court ruling in lawsuit over hiking trails

By Don Kazak
Palo Alto Weekly

Stanford University has prevailed, for a now, in a legal challenge over the placement of two future hiking trails, including one along Alpine Road in San Mateo County and Portola Valley.

The Palo Alto-based Committee for Green Foothills (CFG) filed suit against Stanford and Santa Clara County in June, arguing that there was inadequate environmental review of the two trails.

Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Leslie C. Nichols ruled in favor of the university and Santa Clara County Oct. 12. Judge Nichols ruled that the committee did not file its lawsuit challenging the county's Dec. 13, 2001, vote within the required 30 days. The lawsuit was filed in June.

CFG's Legislative Analyst Brian Schmidt said the committee is disappointed by the ruling and is considering filing an appeal.

Mr. Schmidt claims that 180 days, not 30 days, is the window

for filing such a lawsuit if the original decision is not reviewed environmentally, which is core of the committee's legal argument. If there is no review, a lawsuit can be filed up to 180 days after the original decision, and the committee's lawsuit was filed within that 180-day window, he said.

The university was required to construct two hiking trails into its foothills as a condition of approval of its 2000 general use permit by the county. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervi-

sors voted 4-1 to approve the placement of the two trails, called S1 and C1, on the north and south edges of its foothills. Supervisor Liz Kniss dissented in that vote.

Alpine Road

The committee and others argued strongly against the placement of the C1 trail along Alpine Road.

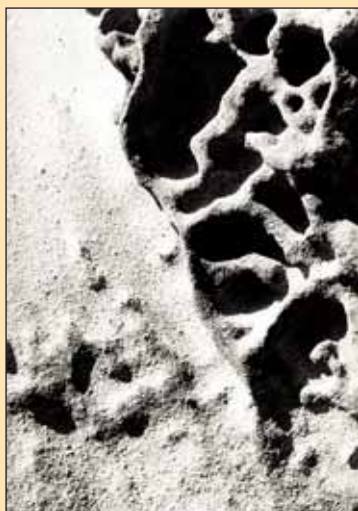
"(Stanford) pressured Santa Clara County to drop a trail requirement in return for an expanded sidewalk along Alpine

Road that provides no recreational value, is enormously expensive and would cause environmental damage to hillsides and a local creek," the committee argued.

"If the matter is appealed, it could take a year or so for it to be considered," said Larry Horton, Stanford's director of government and community relations. "The judge's opinion is very strong and we do not believe an appeal will be successful. It would simply continue to delay trail construction." ■

'Dynamic Form' art exhibit

Rockscape is part of an exhibit of black and white photographs by Cindy Stokes of Atherton on display through Dec. 30 at the Avalon Art and Yoga Center, 370 California Ave. in Palo Alto. A reception for Ms. Stokes will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28. This is her first exhibit since leaving her work as a bioengineer at Entelos Inc. to focus on her art. "Like my engineering work, my photographs reflect my attraction to general form and function rather than the literal identity of a subject," says Ms. Stokes.



Viking roar into playoffs

With a series of victories on the Menlo-Atherton High School field, the M-A Vikings wound up the regular football season on October 21-22, and prepare for next weekend's Pop Warner regional playoffs. Following is a summary of the results.

Tiny Mites: Big and aggressive Delta Bay North pounded the Vikings in a non-scoring contest, but several M-A players turned in good season-ending performances. Offensive sparkplugs Kai Winterling, Andrew Wyman and P.J. Lopez wound up the year on a high note. On defense, plaudits went to Floyd Gazaway, DeMaurier Jackson, Curtis Franklin and Stavro Papadakis.

Mitey Mites: With a 30-12 victory over South Valley (Santa Clara County), the

Vikings wound up a stellar season with six wins in seven games, and tuned up for next weekend's Mitey Mite Superbowl in Hollister against Delta Bay. The Gates boys, Malcolm and Lavelle, scored three touchdowns between them, and Adam Greenlow ran for another score. Jack Posthauer took a short pass from Cameron Kirkpatrick and motored 70 yards to the goal. Inspired play from Thomas Lopez, Dominic Duarte, Austin Wilson and Amal Duriseti ignited a live-wire Vikings offense. **Junior PeeWees:** Turning up the defensive heat, the Vikings shut out the Coastside Raiders 14-0 and earned a high seed in next weekend's regional playoffs. Plagued for the second straight week by untimely penalties, M-A broke through near the end of the first half on a 12-yard touchdown run by Khalil (Lil) James.

Behind determined blocks from Nathan Koeten, Neil Schott and Nicky Brandman, quarterback Landon Baty launched crisp passes to Bobby Roth and Ryan Blocker. After Campbell Roellig disrupted the Coastside offense with sharp tackling, Baty sneaked a yard for the clinching touchdown with 1:28 to play. Dominic Andrightto's kick nailed the final two points.

PeeWees: Shocked by an early Redwood City touchdown, the Vikings quickly righted themselves behind long-striding Keenan Gates to defeat the Junior 49ers 28-6. Gates scored three times on runs of 30 to 60 yards, and Marcus Prioste returned a kickoff 70 yards to paydirt. Prioste ran for an extra point and tossed a conversion pass to Dylan Kappeler. Talaisi (T) Teu contributed a two-point conversion kick. Chris Williams, Jack Heneghan and Alex Lopez helped M-A control the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball.

Midgets: Josiah Paye's conversion pass to Marquise Tolson with 2:45 to play earned the Vikings a heart-stopping 13-12 victory over the Coastside Seahawks and a berth in the upper half of next weekend's playoff pairings. Down 12-6, Paye and Tolson hooked up for a 45-yard pass play, and B.J. Prema caught Paye's 11-yarder for the tying score. M-A's first score came on a Paye-Prema 15-yarder, and Tavasa Pale sealed the deal for the Vikings with a critical sack in the dying seconds.

— Jim Gallagher, Vikings Booster

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OBITUARIES

H. Myrl Stearns

Former president of Varian Associates

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, at Ladera Community Church, 3300 Alpine Road in Portola Valley, for H. Myrl Stearns, who died Oct. 9 at Marin General Hospital, three months after the death of his wife of 67 years, Ruth Stearns. He was 90.

Mr. Stearns was one of the six men who founded Varian Associates and served as its president from 1957 to 1964. The Stearns were among the earliest residents of Ladera, where they lived from 1949 until they moved to Bolinas in 1995.

Mr. Stearns was born in rural Idaho and graduated from the University of Idaho with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. After graduating in 1937, he continued his studies while he was a teaching assistant at Stanford University.

He married his college sweetheart, Ruth Bevis, in 1939. Mary Ann Thompson of Portola Valley, a family friend, recalls that both the Stearns worked their way through college.

His first job was in the new medium of television. He worked on the first crew that televised the Rose Bowl Parade. Shirley Temple was grand marshal.

From 1941 to 1948 he worked in radar research and development with Sperry Gyroscope Co. of New York, one of the nation's leading defense contractors during World War II.

In 1948 he moved his fam-

ily to California and joined the founding team of Varian Associates in San Carlos. His badge number was No. 2 and he was named executive vice president and general manager. Because of his high security clearance, Mr. Stearns negotiated all the defense contracts for Varian in the early days, say family members.

In 1959 the Stearns family moved to Switzerland for a year while he scouted locations for Varian plants in Europe. Between 1948 and 1960, he logged more than 1 million miles on United Airlines, say family members.

Mr. Stearns became president of Varian from 1957, when the company moved its headquarters to Palo Alto, until 1964. He was a member of the board of directors until 1991.

Because their daughter, Sally, loved horses and needed a place to ride and stable her horse, Mr.

Stearns purchased and developed the property at 725 Portola Road in Portola Valley that is now Spring Down Equestrian Center.

Memorials may be made to the University of Idaho Foundation, attention: H. Myrl and Ruth Stearns Academic Excellence Endowment, P.O. Box 443150, Moscow, Idaho 83844.

Ruth Bevis Stearns

Expert in stitchery

Ruth Stearns died June 19 in Bolinas after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was 90.

Ms. Stearns was born in Spokane, Washington. When she was 9 years old, she contracted polio, and though she walked with a limp the rest of her life, she hiked everywhere with her family, say family members. She graduated from the University of Idaho and wrote for newspapers in Idaho and Los Angeles.

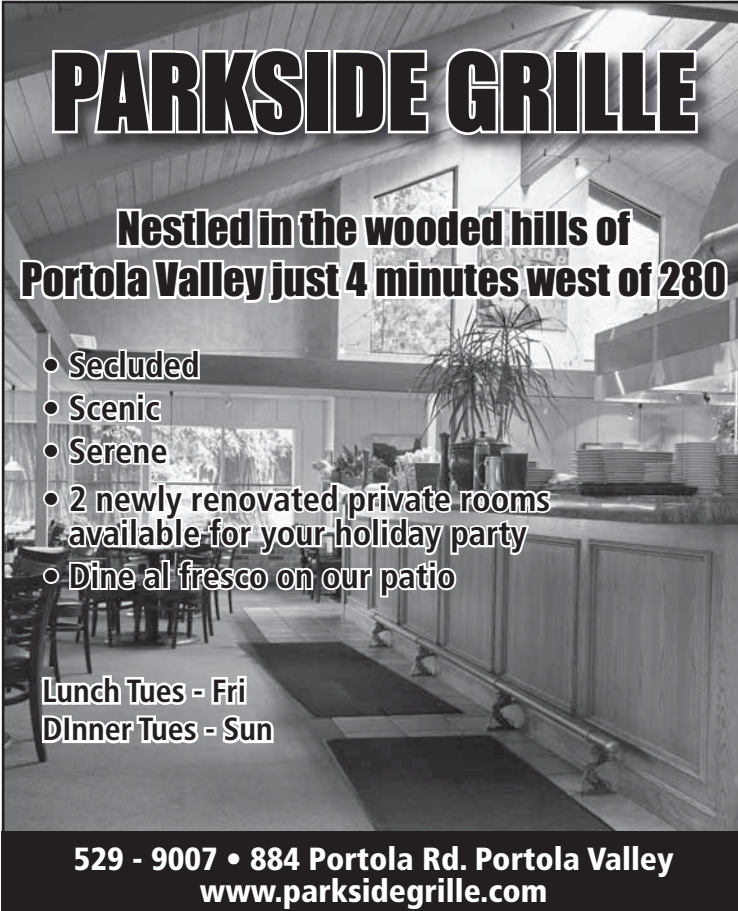
During the years she lived in Ladera, Ms. Stearns was involved in many community activities. With two close friends, Leah Chodorow and Nancy Hofstetter, she started the first school in the area for autistic children, Peninsula Children's Center, leasing an old building off Alpine Road from Stanford University for the school. The Peninsula Children's Center is now called Achievekids.

She was an expert in stitchery. She designed and worked with friends on the large wall hanging of St. Francis of Assisi that

is now displayed in the sanctuary of Ladera Community Church. Another of her projects, "Threads into Stained Glass," was displayed at her memorial service.

She will be remembered as quick-witted, funny and energetic, say family members.

The Stearns are survived by their children, Pamela Oxley of Punta Chivato, Mexico; Keith Stearns of Trinidad, California; Gordon Stearns of Ukiah; and Sally Peacock of Bolinas. Other survivors are 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



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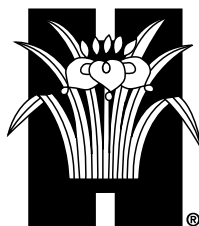
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OBITUARIES

Margaret M. Fisher

Prominent accountant

Margaret McKee Fisher, a longtime resident of Portola Valley died peacefully Oct. 6. She was 88.

Ms. Fisher was a familiar sight in Portola Valley as she walked regularly wearing a red jacket and carrying a walking stick. An animal lover, she carried treats for dogs in her left pocket and apples for horses in her right pocket, friends remember. "Every day, my dogs would wait for her," recalled Danna Breen, a close friend.

Margaret McKee was born in Santa Barbara in 1918, but lived most of her life in the Bay Area. She graduated from Palo Alto High School in 1935, and from San Jose State College in 1940 with a degree in accounting. She married the late Curt Fisher in 1940.

Ms. Fisher became a pioneer and role model for women in accounting. She started as an accountant with Coopers & Lybrand in 1940, and stayed for 44 years. In 1965, she became the first woman manager in the national accounting firm. "She pioneered for women in management," said nephew Carl Fisher of Saratoga.

Ms. Fisher also did the first audits for the Peninsula Open Space Trust, which has preserved more than 50,000 acres on the Peninsula, recalled Bob Augsburg, the first executive director of the Menlo Park-based land trust. "I was really grateful for her good work," he said.

After retiring and signing up with The Sequoias senior complex in Portola Valley, Ms. Fisher kept active. For 11 years she served on the Residents' Financial Advisory Committee, where she brought an experienced eye to the annual negotiations over resident fees, Mr. Augsburg, also a resident, added.

The Fishers were also adventurous travelers, friends remember. "They took freighters all over the world," said Ms. Breen.

Ms. Fisher is survived by Carl Fisher; her sister-in-law Roberta McKee of Palo Alto; and niece Greta MacLeod of Kenwood.

The family suggests donations to Pathways Home Health & Hospice, 585 N. Mary Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94085; or to Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), 3000 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Josie Bongio

Menlo Park resident for 77 years

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25, at St. Raymond Catholic Church, 1100 Santa Cruz Ave. in Menlo Park, for Josie I. Bongio, who died Oct. 18 at Sequoia Health Services in Redwood City. She was 98.

Ms. Bongio was born in Santa Cruz. She lived in Menlo Park for 77 years. She enjoyed her garden and San Francisco Giants baseball games.

Friends may call from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24, at the Menlo Park Chapel of Spangler Mortuaries, 650 Live Oak Ave. in Menlo Park.

Ms. Bongio is survived by her son, Ron Bongio; three grandsons; and six great-grandchildren. Her husband, Egidio Bongio, and daughter, Margaret Brassea, preceded her in death.

Contributions may be made to Sequoia Hospital Foundation, 170 Alameda de las Pulgas, Redwood City, CA 94062 in memory of Josie Bongio; or to Younglife, P.O. Box 20822, El Sobrante, CA 94820.

Lucille Balistreri

Former executive secretary

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27, at St. Raymond Church, 1100 Santa

See OBITUARIES, next page

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OBITUARIES

continued from previous page

Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, for Lucille Balistreri of Menlo Park. Ms. Balistreri died Oct. 22 at Stanford Medical Center. She was 90.

Ms. Balistreri was raised in Brooklyn, New York, and attended Lamb's Business School. In 1939, she married Salvatore Balistreri who died in 1955. Before moving to Indio, California, in 1974, Ms. Balistreri worked as a executive secretary on Wall Street and, later, for Bank Leumi of Israel.

After moving to California, she became an active volunteer, serving more than 1,000 hours as a pink lady for Indio Community Hospital. She also was a hospice volunteer for Eisenhower Medical Center, an Earthquake Relief volunteer for the Red Cross in Yucca Valley at age 75, and secretary of the Republican Party office in Indio until she was 79.

In 2002, she moved to a nursing home in Menlo Park. She will be remembered for her joie de vivre, New York spirit, and creativity, say family members. She was patriotic, loved dining out, dancing, good conversation, and anything to do with cats.

She is survived by her children: Annette Sanders of Keller, Texas, Salvatore Balistreri of Staten Island, and Mary Ann

Saunders of Menlo Park; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Donations in her memory may be sent to the Braille Institute, 70-241 Ramon Road, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270.

Maria Teresa Imperiale

Native of Italy

Maria Teresa Imperiale, a resident of Menlo Park for 53 years, died at home Oct. 9. She was 79.

Ms. Imperiale was a homemaker who enjoyed cooking, shopping and sewing.

She is survived by her daughter, Margaret Imperiale of Menlo Park, and son James Imperiale of Fremont. Her husband, Geromo Imperiale, preceded her in death.

Services were held at Spangler Mortuary. Entombment was at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Los Altos.

Janice Garber

Longtime Woodside resident

Private services have been held for Janice M. Garber of Woodside, who died in a solo vehicle automobile accident on Highway 84 west of La Honda on Oct. 8. She was 59.

Ms. Garber was born in Banner Elk, North Carolina, and was a resident of Woodside for 22 years.

She is survived by her mother, Marie McGuire of Mt. Holly, North Carolina; and brother, Frank McGuire of Charlotte, North Carolina. Her husband, Joseph R. Garber, preceded her in death.

Memorials may be made to the San Francisco Opera, 301 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102; Attention: Development in memory of Mrs. J.R. Garner.

Arrangements were under the direction of Crippen & Flynn Woodside Chapel.

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■ POLICE CALLS

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- Construction tool valued at \$5,000, first block of Hawthorne Drive, Oct. 13.
- Jewelry items stolen from residence, first block of Rosewood Drive, Oct. 16.
- Automatic check clearing done from bank account; bank notified, first block of Mosswood Way, Oct. 18.

MENLO PARK

Embezzlement report: Employee allegedly stole company vehicle, white 2001 Chevrolet Silverado, 3500 block of Haven Avenue, Oct. 13.

Fraud report: Unauthorized charges made to credit card, 100 block of Jef-

erson Drive, Oct. 18.

Burglary reports:

- Garage broken into and tool box taken, 2100 block of Santa Cruz Avenue, Oct. 13.
- Laptop and game missing from residence, 400 block of Laurel Street, Oct. 13.

Stolen vehicle reports:

- 1991 Toyota Camry stolen, 1200 block of Sevier Avenue, Oct. 14.
- Blue Toyota stolen, 200 block of Newbridge Street, Oct. 15.

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Domestic violence report: 300 block of Glenwood Avenue, Oct. 17.

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LETTERS

continued from page 31

ideas or accurate information.

Spencer Little
 Oakhurst Place, Menlo Park

Who is to blame for downtown blight?*Editor:*

I was disappointed in Mickie Winkler's September 12 e-mail to her constituents, which appeared to be little more than an effort to cover her track record.

Ms. Winkler asks us to resist signing any petitions that may support rescinding the recently approved Derry project on Oak Grove Avenue. I have no quibble with the Derry project. It is Ms. Winkler's complaint about "blight" and "vacant eyesores" on El Camino Real that seems so hypocritical.

She overlooks the fact that the root causes of the blight we currently enjoy on El Camino sits squarely within her legacy. She proudly associates herself with a slate of politically aligned council members who have watched the world go by.

And now that the vacant eyesores happened on their watch, they are particularly desperate to accept anything to make it seem as though they are turning it around. An eleventh-hour development project coupled with the touting of new stucco on McDonald's and chairs inside Peet's do not a growth plan make.

How is it, thanks to Ms. Winkler's service and that of her politically aligned council members, we now have:

■ A \$2 million structural deficit in their city government?

■ City sales tax revenues that are down 50 percent but up overall statewide?

■ A permanent loss of huge sales-tax producing sites, our car dealerships?

This does not appear to be the work of a council that understands nor can keep promises for healthy growth in Menlo Park.

John Nash
 Stanford Avenue, Menlo Park

Why attack Duboc, Winkler?*Editor:*

Local unions and their supporters continue to attack Menlo Park City Council incumbents Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler for helping make the dream of a wonderful community pool a reality.

Folks like me now realize the sad fact that the pool controversy is not about whether the pool is well run or whether the city decided correctly to contract out its operation; rather, the attack comes because Ms. Duboc and Ms. Winkler worry about taxpayers and dare to suggest that our city rein in the number of employees providing non-essential services, whose combined compensation packages account for 70-plus percent of the city's budget.

The facts as I understand them:

■ As the pool completion date arose earlier this year, Menlo Park faced a difficult choice because there was no money to operate the pool, and yet delaying the opening was not advisable because the builder's construction warranty began June 1.

■ Tim Sheeper approached the council members who worked with him to negotiate a deal that satisfied the council's two objectives; operating the pool at zero cost to the city and providing a high quality program. (Menlo Park does not receive rent from Mr. Sheeper because his firm pays for the pool's operating expenses, \$400,000-plus annually.)

■ The pool is run safely. In June, a patron inadvertently pushed an emergency button and a smell arose upon restart. No one was seriously injured and no investigating official has suggested that Mr. Sheeper's firm was responsible.

■ There were three public hearings, and both commissions approved the deal.

I urge voters to re-elect Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler.

Nicole Lance
 Laurel Avenue, Menlo Park

schools and children.

Laura and John Foster
 Prior Lane, Atherton

Has Robinson flip-flopped on fields?*Editor:*

Apparently, Menlo Park City Council candidate Heyward Robinson is getting concerned that his opposition to investigating sports fields at Bayfront Park (Measure J) is going to cost him votes.

Now he is speaking from both sides of his mouth. On his campaign Web site he states "if Measure J passes, I will listen to the voters and investigate thoroughly the possibility of locating fields at Bayfront Park," yet he is quoted (Almanac, August 9) as saying "putting fields at Bayfront Park would be a terrible use of taxpayers' dollars."

In addition, his Web site contains several links indicating strident opposition to the idea, yet he doesn't mention the city consultant's report that identified Bayfront Park as the preferred location for new sports fields.

Inspection of his list of endorsers reveals a cadre of the most vocal opponents of shared use at Bayfront Park. So, will he really listen to the voters, or is he just saying that to get votes?

Two existing Council members, Kelly Fergusson (for whom Robinson actively campaigned during her run for council) and Andy Cohen adamantly oppose fields at Bayfront Park. A three-some majority against fields at Bayfront will doom any chance of sharing the park with soccer, football, lacrosse and baseball players.

Only three of the council candidates, John Boyle, Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler have unambiguously committed to investigating playfields at Bayfront Park. They deserve our vote Nov. 7.

Mary Gilles
 Hermosa Way, Menlo Park

Alarmed by campaign mailer*Editor:*

I was alarmed by a recent postcard from the Menlo Park City Council candidates team of Mickie Winkler, Lee Duboc and John Boyle.

A clear attempt was made to convince residents that their slate is the only hope for creating playing fields for our city's children and that their opponents will block development of new fields. This could not be further from the truth.

Candidates Heyward Robinson, Vince Bressler and Rich Cline are all keenly aware of the need for

See **LETTERS**, next page**Meet Deborah.**

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**JAMES CHRISTIE OLSSON****DECEMBER 24, 1946 – OCTOBER 11, 2006**

Jim, a beloved husband, father and brother, passed away suddenly on October 11, 2006. He is survived by his loving wife, Mary; devoted daughters Christie and Monica; sisters Nancy and Joanne; aunt Marian Christie; nieces Jessica, Katie and Natalie; his second family, the employees of Pacific Coast Tariff Bureau; and a menagerie of pets.

Born in San Francisco, Jim grew up in San Mateo and graduated from St. Gregory's, Serra, USF and Santa Clara University. He treasured his memories of playing basketball for Serra and USF. Jim loved running, tennis and puzzling over Sudoku. He also

enjoyed music, playing his guitar and singing, especially with "The Group". He was President of Pacific Coast Tariff Bureau for 28 years.

Jim had a wonderful smile and will be remembered for his optimism and dreams, kindness, sense of humor and dedication to his family and business. A memorial mass was held.

The family would like to thank the Woodside Fire Protection District for the precious gift of the 10 extra days we were given with Jim, and asks that donations be sent to the Woodside AED Foundation, c/o Woodside Fire Protection District, 3111 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062.

PAID OBITUARY

LETTERS

continued from previous page

new fields. They are veteran youth coaches in Menlo Park and also have young children who participate in sports programs.

They have stated publicly that if elected, creating new fields will be a top priority. Moreover, Mr. Robinson and Mr. Cline, as Parks and Recreation commissioners, co-authored the city's task force report on sports fields. They know the facts, and you should too before voting in November.

The Winkler/Duboc/Boyle literature is purposefully vague about how they plan to pay for the proposed sports complex at Bayfront Park. However, their intention is clear: they will spend most, if not all, of the remaining Measure T bond money, thus depriving the community of the long-awaited Burgess Gym and Sports complex, a renovated Recreation Center, and planned improvements to existing parks. This is simply not fair to the parents and children in our gymnastics and basketball programs who have waited patiently for these facilities.

Approval and construction of a large sports complex at Bayfront will not address our field shortage in a timely manner but there are alternatives that will. These options include reconfiguring our existing field sites to accommodate larger and more flexible fields as well as considering other more centrally located sites for constructing new fields. The city should pursue these opportunities instead of Bayfront as they will be cheaper, could be built faster at lower risk, and will serve our community better than the proposed complex at Bayfront.

I support council members that will actually deliver on their promises to build new fields. I support Heyward Robinson, Rich Kline, and Vince Bressler.

Malcolm McGinnis
Oakdell Drive, Menlo Park

Who gets credit for city projects?

Editor:

I recently found on my doorstep a red, white and blue brochure from the Boyle, Duboc and Winkler Slate. I was surprised to see them trying to take credit for achievements that are not theirs to take.

Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler claim that their policies have "attracted" many new projects along El Camino. The fact is that applications for four of the six projects were submitted, and several approved, under the prior city council.

The flier claims that Winkler and Duboc were respon-

sible for the widening of the Sand Hill intersection. They had not, however, been elected to the City Council when the deal with Stanford was reached in 2002. This deal was negotiated and approved by the prior council, which negotiated with Stanford to put in a "standard" as opposed to a "sub-standard" intersection. The deal also made Stanford pay for all of the costs rather than cap them at \$12 million and have Menlo Park pick up the remainder.

Finally, the flier claims that Ms. Winkler and Ms. Duboc were the ones who removed the Santa Cruz Avenue traffic-calming devices. Again, they weren't on the council when the majority of these devices were removed in the spring of 2004. Some devices were kept on a six-month trial that extended into their term, but most were removed prior to their taking office.

The Boyle/Duboc/Winkler group are distorting the truth. Maybe its because they don't want to run on their track record of secretive government and badly negotiated development deals.

Bob and Joanna Martin
White Oak Court, Menlo Park

Creating fields on landfill not a slam dunk

By Nancy Borgeson

We are told over and over that the sports fields proposed for Bayfront Park are very common on former landfills in the Bay Area, and that numerous projects of a similar nature, including fields incorporating artificial turf, have been permitted by landfill regulators. This simply isn't true.

There are 38 closed landfills along the southern portion of San Francisco Bay from South San Francisco on the west to Albany on the east. Of these, only three (in Burlingame, Belmont and Piedmont) are the sites of sports fields. None of these three uses artificial turf. (SCS Engineers, Menlo Park's chosen consultant on the sports field issue, stated in its report, "We are unaware of any instances where championship-level artificial turf playing surface has been employed at a former landfill site.")

Two other sports complexes planned for closed landfills (one in San Jose, one in Union City) are on long-term hold due to high costs (\$18 million or more) and budget shortfalls. Of the remaining 33 closed landfills, 17 are now open space parks, and six support commercial developments or marinas. Five have been capped and left as is. Five host golf courses.

The three landfills currently housing sports fields are distinctly different in several important respects from Bayfront Park's underlying landfill. First, the two on our side of the Bay were leveled **before** capping so that field con-

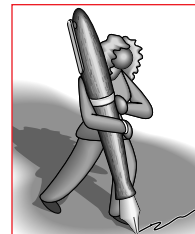
struction required neither expensive fill nor cutting into the cap. In fact, the newer landfill underneath Burlingame's Bayside Park was closed, leveled and capped with sports fields in mind.

In addition, unlike Bayfront Park, these three landfills do not have settlement or methane gas problems. Piedmont's single field is built on a dump containing mostly construction debris and almost zero organic waste. No significant decomposition takes place and little, if any, methane is generated. Belmont's sports complex is only eight to 10 feet above high tide level so differential settlement has never been an issue.

Golf courses on landfills are not a good proxy for sports fields. With golf courses, only tees and putting greens have to remain level. Interviews with management at Mountain View's Shoreline golf course and Santa Clara's Golf and Tennis Club yield colorful stories about "sinkage funds" and high annual outlays resulting from regular re-leveling of greens and tees, frequent irrigation pipe breakage, and ongoing seepage problems as those landfills continue to shift and settle unevenly.

So to state that there are numerous sports fields on closed landfills in our area is just wrong. To suggest that artificial turf would be suitable for Bayfront Park is nonsensical. And to ignore the real issues posed by Bayfront's contours, landfill depth, and ongoing settlement does a disservice to Menlo Park's residents.

Nancy Borgeson lives on Laurel Street in Menlo Park.

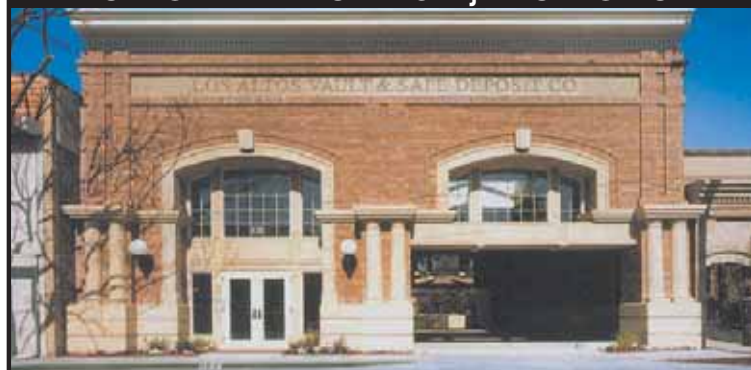


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An economic boost from GM

Suddenly, just before the election, major economic roses are blooming in Menlo Park.

First, General Motors announced that it is about to purchase 22 acres from Tyco Electronics at Willow Road and the Bayfront Expressway to house a number of new GM dealerships that would take 8.5 acres of the site. The remainder would be open for leases to other auto dealers or retailers.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

Menlo Park would win big with this deal, even with the City Council's willingness to split the city's sales tax revenue 50-50 with the company's dealerships for the next 15 years, or until GM receives \$10 million — whichever comes first.

Then, just last week, the city announced that Stanford Management Co. has begun talks with Auto Nation that could lead to the Stanford Park Hotel's taking over part of the former Anderson Chevrolet site for a new conference center and additional parking.

Together, the announcements add up to good news for the city, and the campaign slate of incumbent City Council candidates Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler, and newcomer John Boyle. That

slate is quick to point out that the development unfolded under the incumbents' watch. Certainly the current council is stressing economic development, but how much the council itself had to do with the GM and Stanford talks is not certain.

Much more likely is that the heavy lifting came from Dave Johnson, the city's business development manager, who has been working for months with GM and the Stanford Park Hotel.

We doubt if any of the City Council candidates would oppose developing a large commercial project on Tyco land, far from the city's central core. The same goes for the Rosewood Hotel planned for Sand Hill Road near Interstate 280, and the Stanford Park Hotel's addition of a conference center on El Camino, particularly if it helps the hotel produce more occupancy tax, a bonus for city coffers.

Where the council candidates split is on the high-density projects like those proposed by the Derry family and the O'Brien Group on Oak Grove Avenue, and Sand Hill Management Co. at 1300 El Camino Real downtown. Given the sharply contrasting positions of each slate of candidates on these projects, voters will have a clear choice Nov. 7 on how they want to see the city develop its downtown.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Fields and tax propositions at odds

Editor:

Measure J, if approved by voters and implemented by the next Menlo Park City Council, approves spending millions to develop sports fields on Bayfront Park, perhaps as much as \$17 million, according to Callander Associates, and maintenance costs will be higher than for other fields.

Measure K, on the other hand, tells voters that our city's budget is in trouble and we should implement a utility tax in order to stay in the black.

To quote Dickens, "Mr Micawber: Annual income 20 pounds, annual expenditure 19 pounds, 19 and six. Result happiness. Annual income 20 pounds, annual expenditure 20 pounds, 0 and six. Result misery."

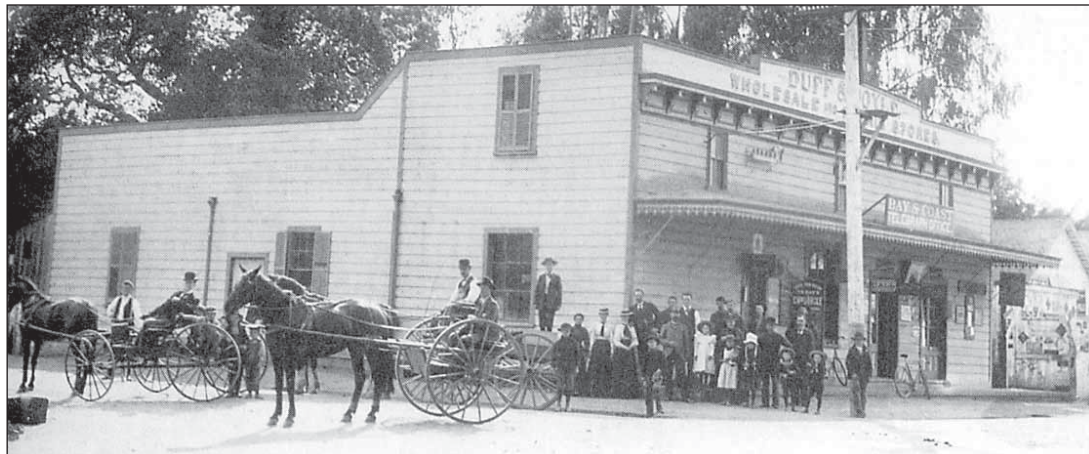
How hard is the math? Please vote No on J to ensure "result happiness."

Chris MacIntosh
Hermosa Way, Menlo Park

Is it concessions or extortion?

Editor:

Recently, the slate of Menlo Park City Council candidates opposed to incumbents Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler and newcomer John Boyle (Heyward Robinson, Rich Cline, and Vincent Bressler) has featured the Derry project referendum as an important plank in their campaign.



Menlo Park Historical Association

Our Regional Heritage

Duff & Doyle's general store in Menlo Park opened in 1874 when the town's population was less than 300.

TOWN SQUARE

These letters will also be posted in TownSquare (www.AlmanacNews.com), where you can comment on them and post your own views.

they have remained steadfastly on course and their efforts are paying off now with successful progress on the Rosewood Hotel at Interstate 280; the General Motors auto mall at Bayshore; and, eventually, the Derry project on Oak Grove Avenue. Note that none of this development is in residential areas.

Reg Rice
Tioga Drive, Menlo Park

Disguising issues: trick or treat?

Editor:

The backers of the Lee Duboc,

Mickie Winkler and John Boyle slate are cooking up a cynical brew this Halloween: lump together city employees, union endorsements, the local swim program, and the opposing candidates. Toss in large doses of hysteria and a measure of vitriol. Whip it all up to confuse voters and there you have it: an indigestible mess.

After misusing the sports leagues for political pandering, the slate's PR operation is now urging people to rally to the rescue of Burgess Pool, creating the misleading impression that it is in grave peril.

The pool is yet another example of a non-issue manufactured into a wedge issue by disingenuous people. The only relevant issue is that of sound governance: Menlo Park's interests are best served when competitive bidding occurs. Candidates Vince Bressler,

See **LETTERS**, next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

Heyward Robinson, and Rich Cline have repeatedly expressed admiration for the pool program. They do, however, reject the no-bid process the City Council majority engaged in which awarded operation of a new \$7 million taxpayer-funded facility without the benefit of open bidding.

In a press release, Ms. Duboc attacks labor unions (which opposed the private pool deal) and says: "The real issue is who the voters are going to trust to stand up to these powerful special interests ..." Who are those evildoer "special interests?" They represent our city employees, people we trust with the care of our public assets and even our children. Why the slate candidates are vilifying a city employees' union is mystifying. Ms. Duboc was herself endorsed by the very union she now reviles, along with candidate Mickie Winkler, when they first ran for council four years ago.

Notably, neither Mr. Robinson or Mr. Cline, whom the SEIU endorsed this time around, has received any money from the union.

Conversely, the Winkler-Duboc-Boyle slate is gleefully amassing enormous donations from property developers and the real estate community. At a time when Menlo Park is re-zoning land feverishly, the objectivity of candidates now accepting thousands of dollars from those who will most benefit from future council decisions about development is a legitimate concern. One must echo Ms. Duboc's prescient words: Who are the voters "going to trust to stand up to these powerful special interests?"

Catherine McMillan
San Mateo Drive, Menlo Park

Over-doing the campaign signs

Editor:

Successful incumbents don't need to over-advertise themselves.

I have worked for the city of Menlo Park and lived here for years. I'm embarrassed by the last four to five years of this City Council. The word "silly" comes to mind, closely followed by "sad." The council's pathetic pleas — in the form of lawn signs that fill the streets of Menlo Park — for residents to support continued failure should serve as a warning. He or she who has the most signs apparently cannot stand on their own records.

Civil society and intimidation

Editor:

Civil society in Menlo Park took an ugly turn for the worse recently, setting the city on a downward path that, if uncorrected, will leave all of us much the poorer.

The presenting issue was the recent petition drive regarding the Derry project. But the implications for Menlo Park far transcend this project.

To put it plainly: developers apparently hired squads of young men were used to intimidate and harass residents who were carrying the petitions, as well as the Menlo Park voters who were signing them. I myself abandoned efforts to collect signatures outside Trader Joes because I felt intimidated by their aggressive tactics. Other volunteers experienced the same or worse.

These petition opponents, alerted by a well-coordinated communications network, appeared in teams whenever and wherever petition-circulators began to talk with voters. Their aggressive, in-your-face tactics frankly scared the mainly older, often-female volunteers who were circulating the petitions. More often than not, these civic-minded citizens simply fled the scene out of fear.

The performance of the Menlo Park Police Department — seemingly backed by the city attorney's office — in the face of these assaults on civil liberties was inadequate. The police treated confrontations between lawful petitioners and their harassers more like domestic disturbances than what they were — violations of First Amendment rights that would have been obvious to any high school social studies student.



The police failed to enforce a sensible plan worked out by stores such as Safeway to give alternating blocks of time to the two sides. They failed to provide physical protection for petition circulators who felt threatened. They failed to respond to complaints of stalking-like behavior. They failed even to return citizens' phone calls.

The response from the developers might be that their mobile squads were merely exercising their own rights to free speech. Had they confined themselves to discussing their position and handing out rescind your signature postcards, this argument might hold water.

To their credit, stores with public spaces, like Safeway, made generous allowances

for the developers' representatives to present their views. But a civil and respectful expression of opposing viewpoints was not their goal. Their object was to disrupt the petition drive and prevent petition-circulators from being heard, not to spread enlightenment on the Derry project.

Political operatives have a name for what went on in Menlo Park during the petition drive: They call what we experienced "blocking tactics," a polite name for ugly behavior. We are told that such aggressive tactics are becoming the new norm, and that we should expect to see more of it in the future.

To avoid this grim future for civil discourse in Menlo Park, our city officials will have to fill the policy vacuum that so clearly exists, and provide strong guidance to our police regarding the difference between quelling a potential disturbance and protecting constitutionally guaranteed rights. Our police, in turn, will have to be much more energetic and effective in enforcing those rights.

And as for the developers who provoked this civic melt-down in Menlo Park? If a Derry referendum appears on the ballot, voters may not want to reward them for their role in creating an intolerant and abusive atmosphere in our once-civil society, and will vote accordingly.

Diane Hart lives on Arbor Road in Menlo Park

I cannot recall when this city has needed a more serious change in its direction and leadership. Let's be clear: It's not just a slate we're being offered, but rather a train that can only follow one track. Let's get off here.

Glenn Raggio
Ravenswood Avenue,
Menlo Park

Council's outsourcing a hot campaign issue

Editor:

Recent efforts by the Menlo Park City Council to explore alternative options to running city services have met acrimonious resistance.

Council candidates Heyward Robinson, Vince Bressler and Rich Cline are using two outsourcing efforts, Burgess Pool and child care, as a linchpin in their campaign, inaccurately claiming the process was not transparent and attacking the majority council members, who were taking responsible actions as stewards of our public funds.

The budget, for example, shows that Menlo Park's city-run gymnastic program is profitable, demonstrating a successful public recreation program. On the other hand, the city's child care and aquatics programs are heavily subsidized.

Neighboring cities do not use local taxes to subsidize child care and other city-run aquatic programs are also operated at a loss. This indicates it is wise for the council to consider alternatives to cut non-essential

expenses. Many city services are outsourced, such as soccer, tennis, and music programs, and many municipalities outsource services.

The outsourcing of the pool was reviewed in public council meetings and commissions where Heyward Robinson voiced support for the pool proposal and city staff reports recommended the pool proposal.

Yet, Mr. Robinson, who is endorsed by the SEIU, which represents most city employees and has stated they will not support any "privatization" (Almanac, April 26), changed his mind and now voices opposition to the outsourcing.

Menlo Park's city staff is excellent and the debate on outsourcing should not be interpreted as a question of their capability or a vote against the SEIU. The SEIU serves its members well as evidenced by the quality of service our citizens receive and the quality of the information they produce in staff reports and budgets.

Nonetheless, Menlo Park faces a \$1.8 million budget shortfall and exploring options in a constructive and open forum is critical to maintaining our current city staff and meeting the long-term needs of Menlo Park citizens. John Boyle, Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler represent a slate of candidates willing to explore and sometimes make tough choices that may require short-term change, but long-term benefit to citizens and staff.

Kathleen Liston
Crest Lane, Menlo Park

Cal Jones corrects the record

Editor:

This is in response to Dee Tolles Oct. 11 guest opinion.

I take exception to the reference to me as a part of a slow-growth majority — or to any other majority. I voted the issues as I saw them and as I thought best for Menlo Park.

Dee makes much of the success of Collier's (Barrone's and Kepler's) project, a project which I approved of during my second term on the City Council. But the city gave up public land to that developer for which they should have been compensated.

Any actions taken by the 1992-96 City Council in connection with the general plan couldn't have been too onerous, because the current council majority brought the Derry project to the approval stage before many citizens knew what was happening.

I spent my professional career, as president of JTA Engineers and Planners, representing developers. Among our projects was the 1,000-acre Harbor Bay Isle community in Alameda, now the site of 3,000 beautifully landscaped homes, colorful lagoons, a local shopping center and a business park. But my client had to give some to "git" some. Bargaining is part of the game.

This council majority tends to jump into projects without giving them adequate study.

Cal Jones, former mayor
City Council 1984-90, 1992-96

A superior slate at candidates' forum

Editor:

I have never been involved in city politics until now, and I will be voting for the first time in a City Council election. I attended last week's candidates' forum and concluded that the three allies (Lee Duboc, Mickie Winkler and John Boyle) were the superior candidates.

The three had facts, dates, statistics, all manner of important information ready to go for each question. They were eloquent, concise, and direct in their logic. The three non-allied candidates (Vincent Bressler, Richard Cline, Heyward Robinson) seemed confused and unprepared.

Richard Cline stated that cops should write more speeding tickets to raise money for the city despite the fact everyone knows money from speeding tickets goes to the county, not the city of Menlo Park. The non-allied candidates only gave vague statements on the bad conditions of our city, yet the three allies point to facts about our potential future such as the Derry project and possibly building playing fields at Bayfront Park.

The non-allied candidates did nothing but oppose them. The allies can agree, the non-allies can only disagree. I believe we should vote for people who can say yes, and agree as a group on a plan. We should not vote for a bunch of nay-sayers who do not present new

See **LETTERS**, page 28

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