

**Unions, developers** are players and payers  
in Menlo Park City Council race. Page 5

# The Almanac

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

NOVEMBER 1, 2006

[www.AlmanacNews.com](http://www.AlmanacNews.com)

VOL. 42 NO. 9

## Cooling it

Official Portola Valley is preparing to cut CO2 emissions. Is the specter of global warming on the radar yet in Atherton, Woodside and Menlo Park?

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REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990

Reading between the emotional line makes the difference between finding a house and a home.



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Secluded on a quiet cul-de-sac, this spacious and elegant 6bd/4.5ba traditional home feels miles away from it all. Offering a sleek architectural nod to Italianate styling, the clean-lined stucco façade features banks of unadorned windows, a low-pitched tiled roof with deep overhangs, and French doors to an inviting entry terrace with a fountain.

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# Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

## FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

### Draggin' his tail

Music specialist Richard Vaughan, in an extremely large dragon costume, directs the Hillview Middle School band as it leads the Menlo Park Halloween parade down Santa Cruz Avenue on Saturday, Oct. 28. Scores of costumed kids and their doting parents marched in the parade, collected candy from downtown merchants and played games at a city sponsored carnival at the Burgess Recreation Center. See more Halloween photos on **Page 24**.

## Atherton

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## On the cover

Scientists are sounding alarms about the rate that the ice caps at Greenland and Antarctica are melting. Portola Valley has gone on the record to support the idea of reducing CO2 emissions. The Almanac looks at Portola Valley's plans and asks whether such concerns are animating officials in Atherton, Menlo Park and Woodside? Photo illustration by Marjan Sadoughi. Story begins on **Page 16**.

### CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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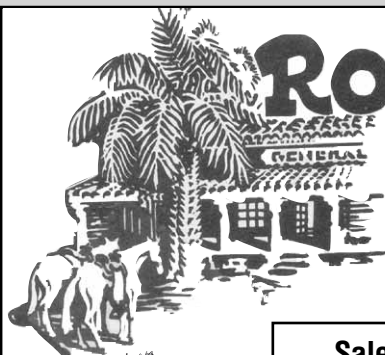
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### From the Land of Steak and Wine

Argentina is the world's eighth-largest country and fifth-largest wine producer. With topography that ranges from high mountain regions to deserts and everything in between, it hardly comes as a surprise that Argentina has wine-producing regions. The best of its wine products are composed of the Malbec grape, which was imported from the Bordeaux region of France over a century ago. Malbec produces big, soft, juicy, red wines that go so well with steak. This is hardly a coincidence since Argentina is one of the world's premier beef producers. As for whites, try Argentina's Chardonnays. Also popular is the Torrontes grape, which produces a light, spicy wine that goes well with garlic dishes.

Being a large beef producing country and a wine producing country have allowed Argentina to use the Malbec grape to make a perfect wine for steak. At ROBERTS MARKET, we feature imported wines from many countries, including Argentina. Our wine department is the most extensive in the area, more than most liquor stores. Don't forget fresh cut flowers from our floral department to grace your table.

*Hint: Argentina's wines are generally good values.*



## WINE

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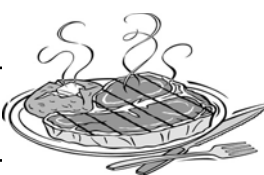
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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Can you be too rich?

There weren't too many complainers among those who responded to a recent survey of Atherton residents. Of the nearly 700 people queried, just three percent said they were dissatisfied with the quality of life in town.

Of that three percent, 6.8 percent complained that their neighborhood is getting too wealthy, and people are building houses that are just too darn large.

Proof that even affluence has its discontents. And malcontents.

## Not seeing eye to eye

"Can you please not flash that laser beam in my eye?" In the midst of the council's Oct. 24 meeting, Menlo Park Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson blurted out those words to Mayor Nicholas Jellins, whom she said was shining light from a laser pointer in her right eye.

Mayor Jellins continued to facilitate the meeting, but Ms. Fergusson, fed up and seeing red, left the dais to sit in the front row of audience.

Mr. Jellins eventually called a recess, spoke briefly with Ms. Fergusson, and the meeting resumed.

## Underprivileged in Atherton

Ever wonder about the minimum requirements for raising a family? Well, one Atherton resident expressed an opinion on exactly that topic on Oct. 18 when petitioning the City Council to change the zoning of her street to allow for larger homes to be built.

The tragically small lots on Parker Avenue, off of Stockbridge Avenue, limit house size to a maximum of 2,250 square feet, resulting in an extremely transient population, a couple of residents said. The standard lot size in Atherton is one acre. Typical lots in the neighborhood are less than a fifth of an acre.

"You can't raise a family in that (size house)," one woman declared with conviction.

Council members promised they would look into the matter.

Edited by Andrea Gemmet,  
agemmet@almanacnews.com.

# City employee union, developers are players, payers in council race

Union reports spending \$7,400 in election; it backs candidates Cline and Robinson

The San Mateo County Central Labor Council has spent about \$7,400 campaigning for and against Menlo Park council candidates, according to finance reports filed as of Friday, Oct. 27, with the California Secretary of State's office in Sacramento.

The labor council and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), which represents city employees other than police, have endorsed two candidates: Candidates Richard Cline and Heyward Robinson.

Mr. Cline and Mr. Robinson are opposing the "incumbent" slate of Lee Duboc, Mickie Winkler and John Boyle (a challenger endorsed by the incumbents).

The labor council has mailed two fliers to Menlo Park residents that urge voters to oppose incumbents Ms. Duboc and Ms. Winkler; one of those fliers endorses Mr. Cline and Mr. Robinson.

Spokespeople from SEIU said

the union would campaign against council members who support the privatization of city services.

Although no candidates said he or she is entirely opposed to privatization, Ms. Duboc and Ms. Winkler pushed the privatization of the city's aquatics center and child care programs as members of the council.

The incumbents and Mr. Boyle did not seek endorsement from the unions.

SEIU Local 715 did not make direct contributions to candidates' campaigns, but donated \$2,975 to the labor council, according to the reports.

Mr. Cline did receive \$1,000 from a Burlingame-based union, the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 467.

— Rory Brown,  
Almanac staff writer

Developers, real estate interests write checks for 'incumbent' slate: Duboc, Winkler, Boyle

Menlo Park voters aren't the only people invested in the race to fill three open seats on the City Council.

The second wave of campaign finance reports obtain Friday shows development and real estate interests — including a developer with a project set to go before the council next year — writing big checks to keep the current council majority in power.

This "incumbent" slate is made up of Lee Duboc, Mickie Winkler and John Boyle. Although Mr. Boyle is a newcomer, he is backed by the incumbents.

The three candidates are running as a slate, and have raised about \$78,500, combined, from Jan. 1 to Oct. 27, according to the reports.

Mr. Boyle leads all candi-

dates with \$29,740 in monetary donations, followed by Ms. Duboc with \$25,540 and Ms. Winkler with \$23,267.

About two-thirds of Mr. Boyle's donations are listed in the most recent report, which accounts for contributions from Oct. 1 to Oct. 27. He received \$19,050 during that time span, and Ms. Duboc and Ms. Winkler received \$12,875 and \$12,050, respectively.

The other three candidates — Vincent Bressler, Richard Cline and Heyward Robinson — say they are running independent campaigns, but are united in their opposition to the current council majority.

Of the opponents, Mr. Robinson raised the most, receiving \$22,400 in monetary donations, followed by Mr. Cline with \$13,885 and Mr. Bressler with \$10,919.

According to the reports,

See **DEVELOPERS**, page 8

## PAGE 8

■ David Bohannon: Menlo Park City Council is "bipolar."

■ Conflict of interest in developer, union contributions to candidates?

## Planning Commission OKs 33 Willow Road homes

By Rory Brown  
Almanac Staff Writer

A proposal to build 33 detached three- and four-bedroom homes in Menlo Park's Linfield Oaks neighborhood won the support of the Planning Commission on Oct. 23.

The commission voted 6-0 to recommend the City Council approve the demolition of a 40,000-square-foot office building at 75 Willow Road to make way for the home-

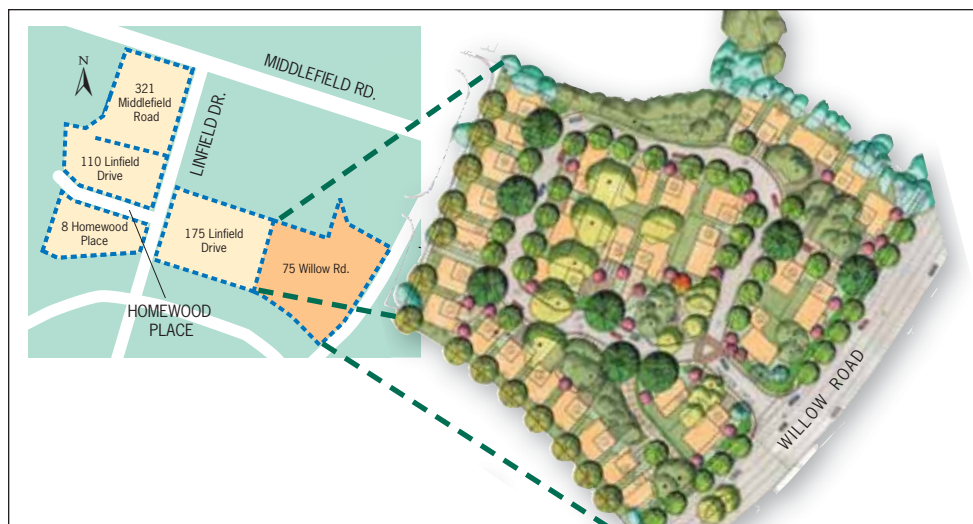
■ MENLO PARK

building on the 4.5-acre site adjacent to the Sunset magazine campus.

Commissioner Louis Deziel did not vote due to a conflict of interest.

The council is scheduled to consider the proposal at its Nov. 18 meeting. The plan requires a general plan amendment and a rezoning of the property from office use to "medium-density" residential.

The proposed homes range from 1,700 square feet to 2,400 square feet, and the estimated sale prices are between \$1 million to \$2 million, said Elaine Breeze, a senior vice president and managing director of the Palo Alto-based Summer Hill Homes, which is



Courtesy Summerhill Homes

**Thirty-three homes** are proposed for a 4.5-acre site at 75 Willow Road. Ground has already been project for a project to build 56 homes at 110 and 175 Linfield Drive. In addition, plans for medical offices at 321 Middlefield Road and 37 homes at 8 Homewood Place are in the works.

proposing the project.

Five of the homes would be below-market-rate units.

The city would receive a one-time payment of about \$1.06 million in park-in-lieu funds, and the Menlo Park City School District would receive about \$112,000 a year if the project is approved.

## Other projects

The project is the second major housing project proposed for the Linfield Oaks neighborhood this year.

In March, the council approved a 56-home project for 110 and 175 Linfield Drive.

Two more proposals for the neighbor-

See **WILLOW HOMES**, page 8



# What Every Parent Needs to Know About Eating Disorders

If Your Child:

- \* Severely limits or refuses food
- \* Fears gaining weight
- \* Is underweight
- \* Denies seriousness of low weight
- \* Exercises excessively
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# Mary Draeger, widow of Frank Draeger and mother of 10, dies

Mary Antonette Draeger of Hillsborough died Oct. 22 after a lengthy battle with lung cancer. She was 82.

For 56 years Ms. Draeger was married to Frank Draeger, founder of Menlo Park's popular Draeger's Supermarket, who died July 2, 2005. She shared her husband's love of fine food and cooking, creating many of the recipes used by Draeger's Supermarkets today.

Ms. Draeger was born in San Francisco to Dr. Anthony and Genevieve Diepenbrock. She was the eldest of nine children. She attended Notre Dame Elementary in Belmont and Convent of the Sacred Heart in San Francisco. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley. She married Francis Jean Draeger on September 18, 1948. They resided in Hillsborough for nearly 60 years.

Ms. Draeger was a remarkably strong and charitable woman, say family members. She often could be found serving food to the poor, traveling to Lourdes, France, with the sick, or organizing fundraising events, all the while raising a family of 10 children.

Regardless of her cancer diagnosis, she appeared invincible, say family members, surviving for nearly two years with late-stage lung cancer and continuing to meet all her social and



**Mary Antonette Draeger** shared her husband's love of fine food and cooking, creating many of the recipes used by Draeger's markets today.

charitable obligations until only the last few months of her life.

Ms. Draeger volunteered for, and otherwise supported many charitable organizations: St. Bartholomew Church in San Mateo, the St. Vincent de Paul Society of San Mateo County, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, and the Hillsborough Auxiliary of the Fine Arts

Museum of San Francisco. She was a member of the Confrerie de la Chaine des Rotisseurs, and an active alumna of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority.

She is survived by her 10 children: John of Los Altos Hills, Clotilde Lockwood of San Mateo, Anthony of Menlo Park, James of Belvedere, Richard of Woodside, Patrick of Sonoma, Peter of Portola Valley, Mary Claire DeSoto of Redwood City, Rebecca Peters of San Carlos, and Joany Draeger of Redwood City; and 22 grandchildren.

She is also survived by siblings Anthony B. Diepenbrock of San Mateo, Claire Diepenbrock of San Francisco, Florence Stronck of Union City, Michael Diepenbrock of Santa Rosa, and Patricia Hargarten of San Francisco. She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Draeger, and sister Rebecca Del Santo.

Donations in honor of Ms. Draeger honor may be sent to St. Barthomew Church, 300 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA 94402; the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Greater Bay Area Chapter, 49 Stevenson St., Suite 1200, San Francisco, CA 94105-2974; or to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 50 North B St., San Mateo, CA 94401. Please note that the gift is in Ms. Draeger's memory.

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### The Best Schools Begin with the Best School Board

In this column I usually answer questions pertaining to real estate issues based on my experience as both a real estate attorney and as a broker. Over the years I have learned that the quality of the local schools has more impact on real estate values than any other single issue. To maintain an excellent school district you need the creative vision and commitment of school board trustees, dedicated and qualified teachers and administrators, and supportive and involved parents. As a Menlo Park resident, former board member of the Menlo Park Atherton Education Foundation, and parent of children who attended Menlo Park District schools, I know how lucky we have been to have enjoyed all three elements continuously these past years.

Next Tuesday, November 7, we will elect three members of the board of the Menlo Park City School District and our luck continues. Candidates Laura Rich (incumbent), Jeff Child, and Deborah Fitz have superb credentials and experience. All three know how best to allocate the \$91 million raised by Measure U Bond in June 2006. All three are dedicated to providing an excellent educational experience for all children, including those who need more specialized instruction. All three are the best ones to attract and maintain highly qualified teachers and staff, and update long-term strategic plans.

To maintain Menlo Park's strong educational values, I urge you to vote for Laura Rich, Jeff Child and Deborah Fitz for Menlo Park City School District.

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



## Meet Krista.

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## Happy 105 to Florence Webb!

Florence Webb celebrates her 105th birthday at The Sequoias in Portola Valley, where she has lived for 29 years. Ms. Webb enjoyed not one or two, but three parties for her birthday. First her grandchildren and great-grandchildren joined her for Sunday dinner. Her friends at The Lodge celebrated her actual birthday with her Oct. 11. And on Oct. 12, she joined the other 21 Sequoians born in October for the monthly birthday dinner. Ms. Webb was born on the west coast of England in 1901. She came to the United States in 1925 to join her English-born fiancé, and married the day of her arrival. She has a daughter, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.



Photo by Genevieve Oxley

# David Bohannon: Menlo Park City Council is 'bipolar'

■ He donates \$2,000 to each of the six council candidates instead of backing one side.

By **Rory Brown**  
Almanac Staff Writer

Rather than siding with one of the two political camps vying to win a majority of seats on the Menlo Park City Council, influential developer David Bohannon is writing checks across the board.

Mr. Bohannon's company, the David D. Bohannon Organization, donated \$2,000 to all six council candidates, according to campaign finance reports filed last week.

Mr. Bohannon said he is backing all six candidates so he won't be "attached" to the actions of one of two sides of a "bipolar council."

In 2002, Mr. Bohannon supported then-candidates Lee Duboc, Nicholas Jellins and Mickie Winkler, who form the current council majority.

Although Mr. Bohannon's company donated to the current campaigns to re-elect incumbents Duboc and Winkler, he said his past involvement in politics

— particularly his support of the two councilwomen — was "a mistake."

"I've encouraged the majority to

be more inclusive in their behavior, and I don't think they've done that," Mr. Bohannon said. "There's a lot of frustration in the community, and what I didn't expect, is that frustration has become attached to me. I regret

having gotten so actively involved in supporting one [political] side or the other."

He added that his name has been linked to various decisions made by the current

majority — including a proposal to build a golf course at Bayfront Park — that he had nothing to do with.

Mr. Bohannon's company has proposed a new 125-room hotel and more than 500,000 square feet of office space on a total of 13.5 acres near Marsh Road and U.S. 101.

The council viewed the project plans in October 2005, but there has yet to be an announcement that the project is moving forward.

He said all six of the candidates requested to meet with him before the election, and after discussions with the candidates, he decided to contribute to all of their respective campaigns.

"I think any of these candidates will serve the community well; I just don't want to be aligned with one side," Mr. Bohannon said. "I want to help them all get their messages out and let the voters decide." ■



*'I think any of these candidates will serve the community well; I just don't want to be aligned with one side.'*

DAVID BOHANNON.

## DEVELOPERS

continued from page 5

\$7,862 of Mr. Robinson's donations were received from Oct. 1 to Oct. 27. Candidates Cline and Robinson received \$6,635 and \$4,830, respectively, during the same time period.

### Cadillac site developer

Among the contributions to the majority camp is \$4,000 to each of the three candidates from representatives of the San Mateo-based Sand Hill Property Management Co. -- the company behind plans to build 135 apartments and about 78,000 square feet of commercial space at the former Cadillac dealership at 1300 El Camino Real in Menlo Park.

The company's president, Peter Pau, and vice president, Jeff Warmoth, each gave \$2,000 to each of the candidates' campaigns.

The company's proposal is currently under review, and is scheduled to go before the council next year.

The proposed site is near Glenwood Avenue, adjacent to the proposed site for the Derry condo-commercial project.

Both projects could be delayed if a referendum of the Derry project moves forward. The council's approval of the Derry project included a partial rezoning of the Cadillac site that would allow for a high-density

residential project.

Other development interests also donated at least \$1,000 to each of the three majority candidates' campaigns, according to the reports.

Robert Gould, president of Menlo Management Co., a mortgage loan company, gave \$1,000 to each of the candidates; Walter Harrington, a Palo Alto-based commercial property owner, gave \$1,000; and Charles and Russell Collier, who work in real estate management, each gave \$500. The reports list Russell Collier under an Atherton address, and Charles under his business address in Menlo Park.

Howard Crittenden of Atherton, a real estate broker and owner of the Park Theatre building, also donated \$1,000 to each of the three candidates.

Mr. Crittenden, who previously donated \$1,000 to each of the three candidates, according to the first reports, has issued a proposal to the city to convert the theater into office space.

Other donations to the majority candidates include \$3,000 to Mr. Boyle from venture capitalist Ted Schlein; \$1,000 to each of the three candidates from John Goldman of Atherton; and \$150 from Pacific Gas and Electric to Ms. Duboc and Ms. Winkler.

— *Rory Brown,*  
*Almanac staff writer*

## Conflict of interest in developer, union contributions to candidates?

By **Rory Brown**  
Almanac Staff Writer

After criticizing their opponents for entering into a potential conflict of interest with local labor unions, Menlo Park City Council candidates John Boyle and incumbents Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler have their own explaining to do.

The three candidates, who form the "incumbent slate," have each accepted \$4,000 donations from a company scheduled to propose a major condo-commercial project to the council next year.

But the candidates say the donations shouldn't spark any questions about a potential conflict of interest — developers just want to present their projects to a receptive council.

"I don't think it's a conflict of interest," said Ms. Winkler. "These contributions from developers have been spurred by the Derry referendum. People are seeing their business interests in Menlo Park going down the tube."

Contributions of \$2,000 were submitted to each of the three candidates from both Peter Pau and Jeff Warmoth, president and vice president, respectively of the San Mateo-based Sand Hill Property Management Co., the company behind plans to build 135 apartments and about 78,000

square feet of commercial space at the former Cadillac dealership at 1300 El Camino Real.

The site is adjacent to the proposed site for the Derry condo-commercial project, and both projects could be delayed if a referendum on the Derry project — which includes a partial rezoning of the Cadillac site — moves forward.

The 1300 El Camino Real project is currently under review, and scheduled to go before the council next year.

"You have three candidates that support the referendum ... and you have three candidates supportive of ... the groups that go through a process to get their projects approved," said Mr. Boyle. "If you were a developer, who would you be helping out?"

There is nothing in the state election law or the city's Menlo Park municipal code that prohibits candidates from accepting donations from developers with pending projects, said City Attorney Bill McClure.

Also, he said it is not illegal for council members, who have received campaign donations from those proposing projects, to vote on such projects.

### Union donations

Also absent from state election

law and the city's municipal code is any language barring council members from voting on labor contracts after they've received union support as candidates.

The incumbent slate has criticized the willingness of candidates Richard Cline and Heyward Robinson to seek and accept endorsement from labor unions that the city negotiates with in closed session.

"The unions have endorsed me, and I'm happy to have their endorsement and support," said Mr. Robinson. "If I'm elected, it's by the voters of Menlo Park, and that's my number one responsibility."

The San Mateo County Central Labor Council has spent \$7,400 campaigning for candidates Cline and Robinson, and campaigning against the incumbents, according to campaign finance reports filed with the Secretary of State's office.

The Service Employees International Union Local 715, which represents city employees other than police, has also endorsed the two candidates, and has contributed \$2,975 to the labor council.

Mr. Robinson labeled the donations to the incumbent slate made by Sand Hill Management Co. "questionable contributions." ■

## WILLOW HOMES

continued from page 5

hood — converting offices at 321 Middlefield Road to medical offices and building 37 homes at 8 Homewood Place — have yet to go before the council.

Neighbors have opposed plans for development, arguing that the cumulative effects of the projects would increase traffic and overburden schools.

"The effects of this development are incremental," said Vincent Bressler, a council candidate and

Linfield Oaks resident. "No piece of it drastically changes the neighborhood, but combined, [the projects] are creating impacts that haven't been properly considered."

But supporters of the 75 Willow Road project say that the impacts aren't as severe as critics

make them out to be.

"This is not an intense use of this site — the density is actually quite low," said Henry Riggs, a planning commissioner. "An easy critique is increased traffic, but there's actually less traffic associated with this project than

re-leasing the office building."

Mr. Bressler and Richard Cline, another council candidate, have both opposed further development for the neighborhood. But if elected Nov. 7, the candidates likely won't have a say in the matter. They won't take office until Dec. 5. ■

# Menlo Park staff reports finding additional \$1.3 million in budget

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

It sure sounds like good news. In going over the books for the fiscal year that ended June 30, Menlo Park's staff identified an additional \$1.3 million in the general fund budget to add to reserves.

But what does it mean in light of Menlo Park's ongoing structural budget deficit? And what does it mean for Measure K, the utility users tax on the city's Nov. 7 ballot?

That depends who you ask. The city's finance director credits the surplus to "significant staff vacancies" in the police and community services departments, and unspecified revenues that were higher than expected.

Mayor Nicholas Jellins, in a press release on Oct. 26, credits "the outsourcing of Burgess Pool and other operating efficiencies," before mentioning the staff vacancies and higher revenues. Although his press release states that his aim is to let voters know that the city still needs Measure K money to make ends meet, both Mr. Jellins' timing and his casting of the issue is raising questions.

"I'm very concerned that our serious budget deficit is being glazed over for candidates to make political gains," said Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson. "This is an effort to put a happy face on our budget situation"

Incumbent council candidates Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler, along with slate partner John Boyle, have been touting the savings from outsourcing Burgess Pool operations in their campaign. Ms. Fergusson, along with Councilman Andy Cohen, have criticized the no-bid deal to turn over operation of the new aquatic center to Tim Sheeper.

During the Tuesday, Oct. 24, council meeting, Ms. Fergusson stressed that the city continues to have major budget problems. "It's easy to fool voters by playing a shell game," she said.

On Oct. 27, Vision 2020, a group of Menlo Park residents, fired off its own press release about both the million-dollar surplus and Mr. Jellins' press release. (Many members of the group back the three candidates—Vince Bressler, Richard Cline and Heyward Robinson—who oppose the incumbents.)

"Mr. Jellins chose to put a press release out on the eve of a hotly contested election where real questions about the leadership of incumbent candidates have been raised," said spokesman Mike Gullard. "We do not think smoke and mirrors press releases with a government imprimatur are the way to manage, nor proper vehicles to assist campaigns, nor the way to lead our city forward."

Mr. Gullard maintains that savings are based on outdated

budget numbers, and that calculations for outsourcing the pool were based on the cost of running the 30-year-old pool, not the new \$7 million aquatic complex that Mr. Sheeper is operating rent-free.

Finance Director Carol Augustine said that the estimated \$1.3 million surplus is likely a one-time occurrence.

"Many of the conditions leading to this surplus were either short-term in nature, or have already been taken into consideration in the 2006-07 budget, and therefore do not represent an ongoing improvement to the city's bottom line," said Ms. Augustine in a report to the council.

As for what's to become of the surplus \$1.3 million, city staff recommends it go toward a fund for the city's employee pension liability. Details on exactly where the money came from won't be available until December, according to Ms. Augustine.

At the Oct. 24 meeting, on a 3-2 vote, with Mr. Cohen and Ms. Fergusson opposed, the City Council postponed a decision on what to do with the money until early 2007, after the detailed analysis of the city's financial position in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is available. ■

Almanac staff writer Rory Brown contributed to this report

## SRI celebrates its 60th anniversary

SRI International will celebrate six decades of innovation on Monday, Nov. 6, at 7 pm. at the Computer Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd. in Mountain View.

Founded right after World War II as the Stanford Research Institute, the Menlo Park think tank has been at the core of technical innovation in Menlo Park and Silicon Valley ever since.

Current president and CEO Curtis Carlson will deliver the keynote address, followed by a panel discussion of SRI leaders moderated by Paul Saffo of the Institute for the Future, also in Menlo Park.

Panelists will include:

■ Paul Cook, founder of Raychem and Silicon Valley innovator.

■ Douglas Engelbart, inventor of the computer mouse and other foundations of personal computing.

■ Phil Green, major contributor to ultrasonic imaging and "robotic" surgery.

■ Don Nielson, who played a key role in developing computer communications.

There may be seats left to the free program. To register, go to [computerhistory.org/sri\\_guest](http://computerhistory.org/sri_guest). For information, call Marty Mallonee at 859-2198.

### Can good design reduce crime?

"Can Good Design Reduce Crime and Fear of Crime?" will be the topic of planner, urban designer and author Al Zelinka at the next Forum at Redwood City on Wednesday, Nov. 1, from 6 to 7:45 p.m. at the Little Fox Theatre at 2215 Broadway.

Mr. Zelinka, of RBF Consulting's Urban Design Studio in Irvine, will discuss trends in crime and fear of crime, and present ideas about how to plan and design environments that foster public safety and reduce fear of crime. He is co-author of "SafeScape: Creating Safer, More Livable Communities through Planning and Design."

No reservations are necessary. Fee is \$10 at the door. For infor-

mation, call Dan Zack of the City of Redwood City at 780-7363.

### History museum honors immigrants

San Mateo County History Museum will hold Immigrants Day from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4.

Herminia Albarran will give a talk about "Day of the Dead" at 1 p.m. and share traditional foods. Artist Mona Caron will give a talk at 2:30 p.m. about her mural of "Immigrants in San Mateo County." Tastes of food from Italy, Portugal, Mexico, Japan, China and the Philippines will be for sale.

Children's activities will include making an Italian marionette, a Portuguese flag, Mexican paper flowers, and Filipino stars. Cultural dance performances will be given throughout the day.

Admission is \$1.50 for adults. Seniors and children under 6 are admitted free. For information, call 299-0104.

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Photo by Tom Upton

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# Woodside OKs bigger retirement benefits

By Andrea Gemmet  
Almanac Staff Writer

The town of Woodside is jumping on the enriched-retirement bandwagon a bit late. At a time when many agencies in the state are wringing their hands about the high costs of employee pension benefits granted when the economy was booming, the Woodside Town Council just authorized an increase in the town's relatively modest retiree benefits.

At the Oct. 24 meeting, the council approved a "2.5 Percent at 55" retirement plan on a 6-0 vote, with Pete Sinclair absent.

The new plan means that town employees are eligible to retire at age 55 and receive benefits equal to 2.5 percent of their highest one-year salary for each year they've worked. For example, an employee earning \$50,000 a year could retire after 30 years and receive 75 percent of her salary, or \$37,500 a year, in benefits.

It will cost the town about \$31,500 annually in increased contributions to the retirement plan with CalPERS, the California Public Employees Retirement System.

Town Manager Susan George said the town's existing "2 percent at 55" retirement benefit has hampered its recruiting efforts. It took three rounds of recruiting before a development services engineer was found, and he left a job with much higher benefits, she said.

Woodside's next big hire is for a town engineer to replace Kent Dwell, who is retiring.

"We were woefully uncompetitive for years," said Ms. George. "We were at 2 percent at 60 until (fiscal year) 1999-2000, when we went up to 2 percent at 55 at a time when everyone else was going to 2.5 percent at 55."

Woodside runs a tight fiscal

ship — it avoided layoffs and cutbacks that many towns succumbed to following the dot.com bust, and recently used a cash windfall to pay off the town's entire \$1.9 million in debt.

"You would be hard-pressed to find a city or town in California in as good financial shape as we are," said Councilman Paul Goeld. "We've got no debts, which is pretty unusual. We're under-charging people for (building) permits and we are still in good shape.

Ms. George said she also investigated a "2.7 percent at 55" retirement plan, but didn't recommend it to the council because it because it was too expensive.

"For my money as a taxpayer, probably the most important part of the budget is having good, competent, qualified staff," said Councilman Ron Romines. ■

# Flu bug cuts short school field trip

Corte Madera School's annual fourth-grade field trip to the Gold Country was cut short Wednesday, Oct. 25, because a stomach flu bug "marched" through the group of students, teachers and parents.

Of the 83 fourth-graders on the trip, about 25 percent got sick, plus two of the four teachers, said Principal Joel Willen.

The group returned to Portola Valley a day and a half early on their planned five-day trip to the Regional Learning Center near Columbia in Sonora County.

Mr. Willen gave "tremendous thanks" to the Corte Madera staff and parent chaperones, and singled out teacher Anne Gronet for keeping watch in the infirmary throughout Tuesday night, taking care of the sick. She also kept the program going for the fortunate ones who did not get sick.

Fortunately, students and staff from another school that shared the facilities did not have any cases of flu.

Mr. Willen also expressed thanks to the district and Corte Madera office staffs for contacting all parents and alerting them when to come and pick up their children.

# Benefit for conflict resolution center

The Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a dinner honoring retiring executive director, Patricia Brown, on Thursday, Nov. 2, at 7 p.m., at the Westin San Francisco Airport Hotel, 1 Old Bayshore Highway, in Millbrae.

Since 1986, PCRC has provided mediation services and other programs on the Peninsula to resolve disputes and promote collaboration. Ms. Brown has been director since 1992.

The event starts with a no-host reception at 6 p.m.. Tickets are \$75 each. For reservations or information, call 513-0330 or go to [pcrcweb.org](http://pcrcweb.org).

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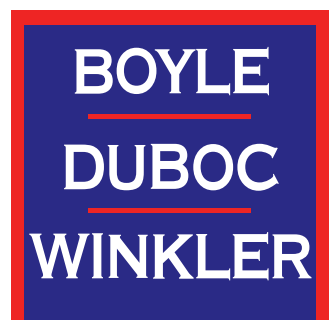
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# MP trustees change grade levels for Encinal, Laurel schools

■ Oak Knoll will continue as a K-5 with fewer students.

By Marjorie Mader  
Almanac Staff Writer

Trustees of the Menlo Park City School District decided unanimously Oct. 25 to change grade levels at two of its three elementary schools, Encinal and Laurel, beginning in the fall of 2008. Oak Knoll would continue as a K-5 school.

These changes are part of the district's plan to accommodate a projected enrollment growth at its four schools of 17.5 percent over the next 10 years. Consultant Tom Williams estimates that enrollment in the K-8 district will total 2,642 students by 2016. That's an increase of 394 students over the current enrollment.

The district's plan also involves shifting enrollment levels among the schools and building more and updated facilities.

Hillview Middle School will continue to serve all the district's sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders. Trustees will discuss plans for expanding and maybe rebuilding Hillview at future meetings, probably early next year.

Here are the changes:

■ Encinal, a grade 3-5 school on the district's largest site with the smallest enrollment of 394 students, would expand to a K-5 school. Its enrollment would peak at 696 students in 2011, according to the projections. Superintendent Ken Ranella has proposed adding a wing of classroom building to house

an expanded fourth- and fifth-grade program.

■ Laurel School, now crowded as a K-2 with 489 students, would add a third grade, but its enrollment is expected to decline to 391 students by 2011 because a portion of the K-3 students would attend the expanded Encinal. Laurel's third-grade graduates would go to Encinal for fourth and fifth grades.

■ Oak Knoll, with 707 students now, would continue as a K-5 school, but with a lower projected enrollment of 694 students (instead of 774 students) by 2011. On the drawing board are plans for a new building to house the fourth and fifth grades.

About 80 students in the Oak Knoll area would need to move to Encinal to lower Oak Knoll's enrollment. Students and families now at Oak Knoll most likely would remain there, according to trustees.

Trustees indicated some options that could be considered for lowering enrollment at Oak Knoll. For example, students entering the district and living in the Oak Knoll area could be shifted to Encinal. Students on intra-district transfer (mostly children of district teachers), and some of the Tinsley Voluntary Transfer students from the Ravenswood district also could move to Encinal. Another possibility is moving the special education class at Oak Knoll to Encinal, which would have an

expanded K-5 educational program.

How this shift would take place will be discussed at a later date as will the issue of possibly changing attendance boundaries.

The trustees' decisions on reconfiguring the elementary schools emerged after the three-hour Oct. 25 meeting, the second one on the topic.

Mr. Ranella gave a presentation on the program advantages, feasibility and cost comparison of the options. The architect, construction management consultant and the district's project manager provided more information.

Mr. Williams, the enrollment consultant, gave an update on the enrollment study he conducted for the district a year ago. He said his bases for the projections were still valid.

The biggest change in enrollment was having 311 kindergartners start school this fall, a new high. Last year there were 270 kindergartners.

Mr. Williams called this increase an "anomaly" that wouldn't likely occur again. Some of the parents disagreed, especially a mother who foresaw continued kindergarten enrollment growth, particularly in the Willows area.

"It's hard to project the size of the kindergarten class in 2016 when the parents haven't met, and the children haven't been born," said Trustee Nancy Serrurier.

About 10 of the 75 people in

## ■ INFORMATION

The board's next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15, in the district office, 181 Encinal Ave. in Atherton. For more information, check [www.mpcsd.org](http://www.mpcsd.org). In the menu on the left, click on "Facility Development" and under that, "Reconfiguration." An e-mail to [board@mpcsd.net](mailto:board@mpcsd.net) goes to all five board members and the superintendent.

on the Encinal campus. It will house the technology department and specialists who serve the schools, and provide storage space at a central location. The district now uses portable buildings for storage on each campus.

The district will be eligible for a \$1 million state grant by locating the facility on a school site and entering a joint venture agreement with the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation.

Trustees decided to reconsider in the future the use of the district's O'Connor site at 275 Elliott Drive in Menlo Park. The site is leased to the German American International School until 2011. The lease will generate in excess of \$1.6 million for the district in the next five years. ■

the audience raised more questions about facility issues -- such as parking, traffic and flexibility of buildings -- than about grade configurations.

## Resource center

The trustees decided that the proposed Teacher Education Resource Center will be located

## 8th-graders, parents invited to tour M-A

Eighth-graders thinking about attending Menlo-Atherton High School in Atherton next fall are invited, with their parents, to the annual Information Night open house from 6 to 8:40 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, at the M-A's J-Building, 555 Middlefield Road between Ringwood and Oak Grove Avenues.

Students and parents can meet Principal Denise Plante, other administrators, counselors, teachers, coaches and M-A students. Classroom tours will be available.

Tours of M-A's athletic facilities, led by students from the school's leadership class, are scheduled for 1 to 3 p.m. Sat-

urday, Nov. 4. These tours leave from the front of the school by the flagpoles.

For more information, contact Leslie Mayerson of the M-A PTA at [lwmayerson@yahoo.com](mailto:lwmayerson@yahoo.com).

## Laura Crowe studies in Scotland

Laura Bassell Crowe, a Dartmouth College student, class of 2008, is studying English in Glasgow, Scotland, during the fall 2006 term as part of the college's foreign study program. Laura is the daughter of Jeffrey and Amy Crowe of Atherton.

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# Menlo Park is base for national women's philanthropy

■ Latest effort would fund ad campaigns where 'clean elections' are in question.

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

A full-page ad in the local and national editions of the Oct. 30 New York Times has taken the lid off a quiet Menlo Park phenomenon: women of means are putting their heads and their resources together to support progressive causes.

The nonprofit Women Donors Network, founded in 2002, raises between \$2 million and \$2.5 million annually from about 150 women nationwide, including 10 or 15 from the Almanac's circulation area, who donate at least \$25,000 annually to a "progressive" charity, said president and chief executive officer Donna Hall.

The most recent campaign — to ensure integrity in the upcoming election — netted \$200,000 from members over three weeks to pay for advertisements telling voters where to turn for help if they suspect polling place shenanigans either before or after the Nov. 7 election, Ms. Hall said in an interview.

The group spent \$50,000 on the New York Times ad. About \$30,000 will get the word out in a typical voting district, she said.

Ad campaigns are planned for voting districts that include Ohio and Pennsylvania, Ms. Hall said. In the 2004 election in Ohio, complaints surfaced about irregularities in voting machine distribution and the purging of voter lists.

Also a factor was a recent study at Princeton University showing the vulnerability of voting machines to computer viruses, Ms. Hall said.

"There are not that many national organizations trying to put a spotlight on clean and fair elections," she said.

Ms. Hall grew up in Southern California and has an undergraduate degree and a master's degrees in business from Stanford University, and a master's in public health from the University of California, Berkeley. She is married and lives in Palo Alto. One of her three sons is now a Stanford student.

"I'm having a blast," she said of her role as president and CEO. "It's really been a small-business challenge, a start-up, which I've never done before."

The "nonpartisan" group includes women from both major

political parties as well as some who won't declare an affiliation, she said. But the tagline "Partners for Progressive Philanthropy" means what it implies. "If you were a Democrat or a Republican and you were not wildly pro-choice, you would not feel comfortable in this organization," she said.

Along with election integrity, the group's major other causes are \$1.5 million over three years to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and \$1 million toward reproductive justice — a reframing of the abortion debate to emphasize "access to services to help with important life decisions," Ms. Hall said.

Asked the differences between male and female philanthropy, Ms. Hall described women as "working a lot more collaboratively" and focusing more on intangibles such as social and environmental causes rather than on buildings, alma

maters and religion.

"(Women) are not so concerned about seeing their names in lights," she said.

The group will probably cap membership at 200, Ms. Hall said. Otherwise, she said, "we could lose the feeling of intimacy we have."

Among the group's stated goals are building a community of strong relationships and building members' capacities as "donors, thinkers, leaders and activists."

The group has members from about 30 states, Ms. Hall said, adding that she would not reveal the names of local members without their permission.

## ■ INFORMATION

The Women Donors Network is located at 1170 Hamilton Court, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Call 833-6750 or go to [www.womendonors.org](http://www.womendonors.org).

## ■ NOTES

### Foundation gives \$40,000 for housing

The San Mateo County Realtors Foundation has donated \$40,000 to the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust, or HEART. HEART is a partnership between the county, 17 cities and the pri-

vate sector, that raises funds to create more affordable housing.

### New online features for DMV services

Now California residents can avoid a trip to the local Depart-

ment of Motor Vehicles office and instead use the department's Web site to register a change of address or obtain a release of liability for a sold vehicle.

Anyone who sells a vehicle must notify the DMV within five days in order to avoid civil and/or

criminal liability for the parking, abandonment or operation of the vehicle.

Likewise, licensed drivers and anyone with a state-issued ID card has 10 days to inform the department of any change of address.

The new services join the list of what can already be done online, such as scheduling an office appointment, renewing a driver's license and ordering personalized license plates. For more information, go to [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov).



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Measure A would increase San Mateo County's sales tax by 1/8th of one cent for 25 years to provide dedicated revenue for county parks, city parks, and recreation and open space districts.

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Town of Colma  
City of Daly City  
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City of Foster City  
City of Half Moon Bay  
Town of Hillsborough

City of Menlo Park  
City of Millbrae  
City of Pacifica  
Town of Portola Valley  
City of Redwood City  
City of San Bruno  
City of San Carlos  
City of San Mateo  
Town of Woodside  
San Mateo County Community College Dist.  
Ladera Recreation District  
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

#### Organizations

California Native Plant Society – Yerba Buena  
California Native Plant Society – Santa Clara Valley  
Committee for Green Foothills  
Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve  
Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve  
Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks  
Greenbelt Alliance  
League of Women Voters  
Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST)  
San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce  
San Mateo County Association of Realtors

#### San Mateo County Parks and Recreation

Foundation  
San Mateo County School Boards Association  
Sempervirens Fund  
Sierra Club  
Trust for Public Land

#### Newspapers

The Almanac  
The Daily Journal  
The Daily News  
San Mateo County Times  
(partial list)

# Cooling it



**The official effort in Portola Valley to address global warming is heating up. What's happening in Atherton, Woodside and Menlo Park?**

**By David Boyce**  
Almanac Staff Writer

If there's any comfort in knowing that heat-retaining gases such as carbon dioxide are building up in the atmosphere and changing the climate of the planet, it may be in the common expectation that the really significant impacts are 50 or 100 years off.

The ice cap at the North Pole is shrinking, but scientists have said that higher sea levels won't be a serious issue as long as the deep and massive reservoirs of ice accumulated over millennia in Greenland and Antarctica remain intact.

Maybe it's time to worry. The polar ice is melting and it's moving.

In Portola Valley, with the urging of some 400 Sierra Club members who reside there, a unanimous Town Council recently joined some 320 U.S. municipalities large and small in signing the Mayors Agreement on Climate Change.

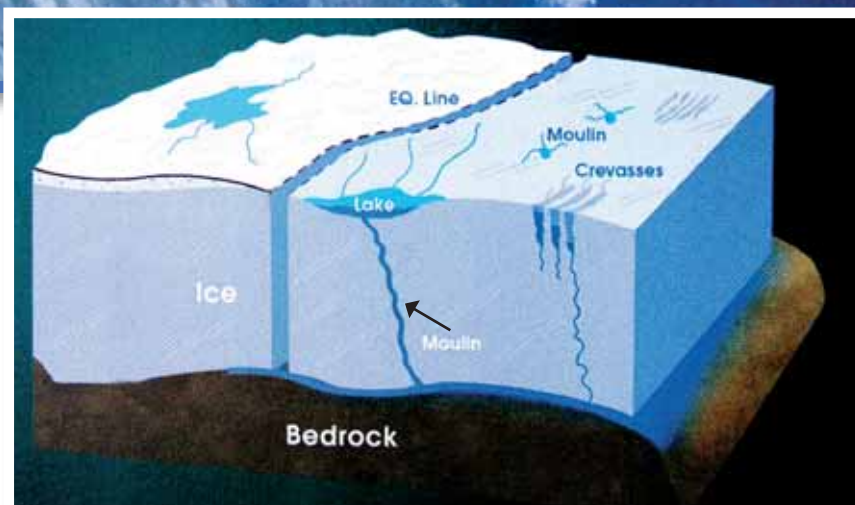
The agreement, which echoes the international treaty known as the Kyoto Protocol, commits the council and staff to a plan to lower greenhouse gas emissions from town operations to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. Residents and local businesses will be encouraged to participate.

Mayors in Menlo Park and Woodside have told the Almanac that they will seriously consider the agreement. The mayor of Atherton says he was unfamiliar with the agreement, but senses a concern in the community over global warming.

## Discomforting realities

Midway through Al Gore's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," are before-and-after satellite images of the San Francisco Bay Area showing the effect if sea

Photo and illustration courtesy of NASA and Roger J. Braithwaite of the University of Manchester, UK.



**This 2002 photo** shows a torrent of fresh meltwater plunging into a moulin, a channel extending from the top of the Greenland ice sheet to the bedrock 3,600 feet below. Recent satellite data shows the ice sheet to be melting at an accelerating rate and moving toward the coast. Meltwater on bedrock may be abetting this movement.



# Lowering CO2 emissions bit-by-bit is easy

Cutting them way back requires a serious approach

By David Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Getting started in lowering your greenhouse gas emissions around the home is easy. As can be discovered in the tip library at [idealbite.com](http://idealbite.com), you can use compact fluorescent light bulbs, install instant hot water heaters and buy more efficient appliances.

To get really serious about it, to begin to approach a significant emissions reduction, requires a commitment to think about overall use of fossil fuels at home.

A solar array is effective at lowering CO2 emissions because it reduces or eliminates the need for electricity from power plants, which burn fuel just to funnel the electricity through power lines.

(In Portola Valley and Ladera, a group of residents is seeking homeowners willing to buy home solar arrays at a big discount before the end of the year. Write to [edgy@sbc-global.net](mailto:edgy@sbc-global.net).)

## Local energy consumption averages per household

Location	Avg. size <sup>1</sup> (square feet)	Electricity usage <sup>2</sup> (kilowatt-hours)	Natural gas usage <sup>2</sup> (therms)
Atherton	7,500	19,693	1,660
Portola Valley	6,000	12,906	1,225
Woodside	4,200	17,984	1,512
Menlo Park	3,200	5,904	592
United States	2,400*	10,656**	724**

Sources: (1) 2006, local figures from building and planning officials, (2) 2004, local figures from PG&E Statistical Research Unit, (\*) 2005, National Home Builders Association, (\*\*) 2001, U.S. Energy Information Administration. National averages reflect heating and air conditioning needs in climates less moderate than California's.

Another serious step is buying "carbon credits" to pay for clean energy projects such as windmills. By buying enough credits — available through sites such as [green-e.org](http://green-e.org) — you can offset the impact of CO2-heavy fossil fuels you use every day.

An apparently unpopular step is living in a smaller home.

The floor area of the average U.S. home reached an all-time high of 2,434 square feet in 2005, according to the National Association of Home Builders. A quick survey of recent planning data from Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley and Woodside shows new homes that are much larger than the national average.

"For the most part these days, everyone builds out to the maximum permissible" for the zoning district, says Thomas Rogers, an associate planner for the city of Menlo Park.

Being reminded of this trend can irritate Richard Merk, a Portola Valley councilman and retired builder who lives in a 915-square-foot home with a solar array on his roof.

"If you build a 7,000-square-foot house, there is no way that you (can avoid) being bad for the environment," he says, noting the higher emissions involved in building such a house, particularly if it has a large concrete basement. "The best way to save the environment is to use less." ■

levels rose 18 to 20 feet. The water advances well inland in the vicinity of Menlo Park and Atherton.

Water could rise to that level if half the ice on Greenland and Antarctica were to melt, Mr. Gore says.

Is that likely? In Antarctica, scientists expected a century to pass before the melting of the Larsen-B ice shelf — a 4,500-square-mile, 700-foot-thick mass estimated at 12,000 years old. The Larsen-B is now history, Mr. Gore says. It collapsed and disappeared over 35 days in 2002.

Meanwhile in Greenland, ice is melting at an accelerating rate and the massive ice sheet there is getting restless.

### Concern in Portola Valley

Portola Valley's Mayor Steve Toben says he signed the climate change agreement because the scientific opinion "is increasingly settled." Although the town already uses green practices, Mayor Toben says he "really wanted to extend the town's commitment to environmental protection."

Indeed, another green commitment is hardly novel. The new Town Center complex incorporates so many green-building practices that it may meet the top green-design standard. Town Hall also has a purchasing policy favoring green products.

This year, the town's Architectural and Site Control Commission began requiring residents with remodeling or rebuilding plans to answer a detailed checklist on how they might make their projects greener.

What else can a town of 4,600 do? Ideas may come from the town's new Climate Protection Task Force, a brainstorming group hosted by Mayor Toben

and composed, so far, of about 25 residents who met twice in October. Former Planning Commissioner Craig Breon is a member, as is Shelley Sweeney, who initiated the town's bike-to-school day.

Ms. Sweeney says she hopes to expand bike-to-school to a monthly routine to get parents used to the idea and out of their cars.

In a Sept. 5 memo to the council, Planning Manager Leslie Lambert suggested running some town vehicles on bio-diesel, a so-called zero-emission fuel. The recycled vegetable oil used to make it emits CO2 absorbed by recently living plants, unlike the ancient CO2 released in fossil fuel combustion.

Residents might also think about buying more green products, making bulk purchases, carpooling and switching to hybrid cars, Ms. Lambert says.

To measure progress, the town may enlist the Toronto-based International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. For a \$600 yearly fee, ICLEI offers to any city or town with a population of less than 50,000 an energy audit of the community and long-term guidance.

Will Portola Valley's progress involve inconvenience, the theme of Al Gore's movie? Mayor Toben called the climate-change agreement secondary to matters such as street repaving and field maintenance.

"I will unequivocally state that people will see no cost to other programs in the town as a result of this," he says. "I would say that this issue is kind of woven into the fabric of the community in ways that don't interrupt the business

See **COOLING IT**, page 18

## cover story

## Warming in Greenland

The Greenland ice cap has been in the news lately as scientists monitor melting believed to be a result of a warming atmosphere.

■ Scientists have found "torrents of fresh meltwater" tunneling to the bottom of glaciers, where it can lubricate their slide toward the sea. (Al Gore, "An Inconvenient Truth")

■ Climate scientists from the University of Texas claim that in the past 2 1/2 years, the melt rate of Greenland ice has tripled. (Science Magazine, Sept. 29, 2006)

■ Ice quakes in Greenland have been on the rise, signaling what may be "a massive destabilization." (Al Gore, New York University, Sept. 18, 2006)

Increasing house size generally leads to greater greenhouse gas emissions.



The Almanac/Katie Cvitkovich

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## COOLING IT

continued from page 17

of the day."

Asked whether push lawnmowers might be used on town property, Mayor Toben says they would not. "The point here is not to go to some immediate extreme measures," he says. "I say, give this a platform and let (residents) see where they can take it."

### What residents think

Mayor Toben says he's heard "a couple of (critical) voices here and there." Among them is Bernie Bayuk.

"I think that Portola Valley has no place getting involved with what the Berkeleyites would do and have done," Mr. Bayuk says. "Let's stop pumping oil, let's stop driving cars. Everybody stay home; the planet's warming.' ... There was no vote, no poll. For (the council) to take a position for Portola Valley is really off the track."

Ed Wells, noting the governor's Sept. 27 approval of a greenhouse gas reduction law, says he was "very happy to have any Town Council of mine support (Gov.) Arnold Schwarzenegger in an attempt to get people to pay attention to global warming."

Steve Dunne sees the council's action as consistent with its green emphasis on the new Town Center complex: "They're thinking globally and acting locally."

### Other signers?

The Berkeley council has indeed signed the climate change agreement, as have councils in Palo Alto, Los Altos Hills and Fremont, according to a list kept on the Web.

In Palo Alto, the seven-month-old Green Ribbon Task Force has divided its 30 members into six subgroups with missions that include outreach, transportation and waste reduction. The task force will report to the Palo Alto City Council on Monday, Dec.

18, says member David Coale.

The outreach group has categorized target audiences, including businesses, neighborhoods and faith communities, says Debbie Mytels, an associate director with the Palo Alto environmental group Acterra.

Will Menlo Park take up the effort? Mayor Nicholas Jellins, who says he was aware of the Mayors Agreement, has asked the city manager to put it on the City Council's agenda. It could be discussed by December, he says.

"Our city is actively pursuing any number of environmental efforts," he adds. "With that said, we can do more."

One step already taken is a new "cool roof" atop the senior center at the Onetta Harris Community Center, says Public Works Director Kent Steffens. The roofing material reflects sunlight to reduce the air conditioning load. PG&E is currently offering rebates for putting a cool roof on a home.

Menlo Park may also seek garbage haulers that use bio-diesel in their trucks, Mr. Steffens adds.

Woodside, too, may be moving on the climate agreement. "It certainly has been on my mind to look that up," says Mayor Deborah Gordon. "I certainly see (global warming) as something that we need to address now. We do have a responsibility to set an example to the emerging countries."

Ms. Gordon sits on the county's Utilities & Sustainability Task Force, originally formed to plan for the energy needs of San Mateo County but now focusing on lowering CO2 emissions, she says.

The group is still getting organized, says task force member Jill Boone, the county's Resource Conservation Program Manager. While it will not have binding authority, it is likely to sponsor joint emission-lowering efforts among cities and towns and offer incentives, she says.

Asked for her views on global warming, Ms. Boone comment-

ed that the pleasant Northern California climate makes it easy to ignore ominous events elsewhere on the planet.

"There's a lot to be worried about," she says. "We are reaching a point at which it will be very difficult to turn back. Certainly when you understand what's going on in Greenland and some other arctic ice floes, and see the melting that goes on there, and the feedback loops ... if you really grasp that, it's a little depressing."

Feedback loops are self-reinforcing cycles. Permanently frozen land above the Arctic Circle, when it thaws, sends stored CO2 into the atmosphere, which raises temperatures and thaws still more land. A similar effect is occurring at the North Pole as the white ice cap melts and becomes dark water, which absorbs heat and melts more ice.

Governments at all levels need to act, Ms. Boone says.

In Atherton, Mayor Charles Marsala has taken steps. He renamed the Waste Reduction Committee the Environmental Programs Committee to give it a wider charter.

Six residents have offered to join, he says. "There is a big interest in town to promote environmentally friendly programs," Mayor Marsala says.

He says he also tried to lower to \$0 the town's fee for advice on installing solar panels, but was outvoted on the council.

When informed of the emissions-lowering guidance available from ICLEI, Mayor Marsala says it could be a possible next step.

Asked to comment on Atherton's large, energy-consuming homes, he says residents use them in ways "that benefit the world," including "creativity in their businesses" and entertaining Silicon Valley entrepreneurs.

"My vision of Atherton is that we should allow those types of activities to happen in homes," he says. ■

## Portola Valley couple hope to influence green building movement

Portola Valley native Linda Yates and her husband Paul Holland are grappling with how to build a home "bigger than 2,500 square feet" that continues to serve as "a gathering place for the community" while being as inoffensive as possible in terms of CO2 emissions.

If their efforts serve as a lesson in how to build green — really, really green — so much the better.

The couples' plans, three years in the making, include creating rooms that serve multiple uses, such as a home office/bedroom; gauging the probable energy needs of each room; locating trees

for best shade; using the home's ability to hold and release heat; and buying carbon credits, Ms. Yates tells the Almanac.

It doesn't stop there. After learning that a neighbor had finished with a temporary gravel driveway, they are seeking the town's permission to have the gravel trucked to their site, thus conserving the energy needed to haul used gravel out of town and later haul new gravel into town for their driveway.

"We want to basically create a role model in the whole area of sustainability," she says. "If these towns are serious about wanting to have more sustainable build-

ings, they're going to have to be more knowledgeable (so as to) to educate the public."

The couple have an ambitious education scheme of their own. They hope to influence mainstream building practices by hiring high-end construction and design professionals not known for building green and team them with colleagues proficient in green practices.

"Our decision was to get the best in the business and put the green experts around them. Then we will have the best leverage," she says.

— By David Boyce

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## Transportation agencies support Props 1A and 1B

The three agencies that manage transportation for San Mateo County support Propositions 1A and 1B on the Nov. 7 ballot.

The board of SamTrans, which runs buses; Caltrain, which operates the Peninsula rail passenger service; and the Transit Authority, which allocates sales tax revenue, have all voted unanimously for the two transportation measures put on the ballot by the Legislature.

Proposition 1A would further protect gas tax funding from being diverted away from transportation to other uses. While Proposition 42, passed in 2002, theoretically dedicated gas tax funds to transportation, it allowed exceptions for fiscal emergency. Since 2002, the state has twice suspended the transfer of part or all of the \$2 billion a year raised by the gas tax.

Proposition 1B would issue

\$19.9 billion in bonds for transportation projects in California, including air pollution and port security.

If the bond passes, SamTrans and Caltrain are estimated to receive \$47 million and \$40 million respectively. The funds would go to capital projects that modernize the infrastructure for bus and rail systems.

County projects that would be eligible for funding — subject to the state's elaborate allocation process — include:

- Improvement of the Highway 101/Woodside Road interchange.
- Integration of the Dumbarton rail corridor with the present Caltrain line.
- Funding for electrification of the Caltrain corridor.
- Acquisition of new rail cars for Caltrain.
- Rebuilding aging rail bridges.
- Synchronization of traffic lights on El Camino Real.



## PV sounds alarm on Proposition 90

All five members of the Portola Valley Town Council fear that Proposition 90, if it passes, threatens the ability of the Town Council to protect the community and carry out the wishes of its residents.

Meeting at The Sequoias on Oct. 25, the council unanimously voted for a strongly worded resolution giving residents eight reasons to vote against the measure.

The first of eight “whereases” argues that Proposition 90 “purports to be about eminent domain reform, but would cost state and local governments billions, and undermine Portola Valley’s ability to plan for and protect the community.”

Proposition 90 is an initiative that would amend the California constitution to change the rules governing acquisition and regulation of private property. It would reduce the circumstances when government could acquire private property by eminent domain.

More far-reaching, the measure also requires governments to pay property owners for “substantial losses” to their property resulting

**■ PORTOLA VALLEY**

Post your opinions, comments in Town Square: [www.AlmanacNews.com](http://www.AlmanacNews.com)

from new laws and rules. “Proposition 90 is the most dangerous proposition that cities and towns have ever faced in California,” Portola Valley Mayor Steve Toben told The Almanac. “It would stop the town’s ability to limit density in

*‘We’re trying to protect the principle of zoning. We want to make sure no one puts a pig farm next door.’*

PORTOLA VALLEY MAYOR  
STEVE TOBEN

Portola Valley.” The council’s resolution argues that Proposition 90 restricts the ability of voters and government agencies to preserve open space and farmland, protect air and water quality, eliminate blight,

protect consumers, and build affordable housing. The reason: governments would have to pay anyone who feels he has suffered “a substantial economic loss.”

“We’re trying to protect the principle of zoning,” Mr. Toben said. “We want to make sure no one puts a pig farm next door.”

Mr. Toben noted that a similar law passed in Oregon two years ago has already led to 2,200 claims against cities and counties totaling more than \$5 billion. These claims are made “by landowners demanding compensation for the loss of economic value caused by local regulations,” he said.

Proposition 90 is strongly opposed by the League of California Cities and the California Redevelopment Association, the resolution noted; they consider it misleading to claim the measure resolves concerns about eminent domain, when it goes far beyond eminent domain.

“It will enact constitutional amendments that will cost taxpayers billions in added costs, harm the environment, and hurt California cities’ ability to protect neighborhoods,” the resolution says.



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The Almanac

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Paid for by Laura Rich, Jeff Child & Deborah Fitz

# Atherton's finest feel the love in town survey

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

It's like being voted Most Popular and making the honor roll. The Atherton Police Department earned high marks from a recent survey of residents, 97 percent of whom said they are happy with the job officers are doing.

Godbe Research mailed out surveys to every household in town, and got 587 back. Pollsters also conducted 200 phone surveys with residents. The surveys gauged opinions on the town's police services, quality of life, and whether officials should look into outsourcing its police services.

The results were resoundingly in favor of the Atherton Police Department. Ninety-four percent of people responding opposed eliminating the Atherton

Police Department and outsourcing law enforcement duties.

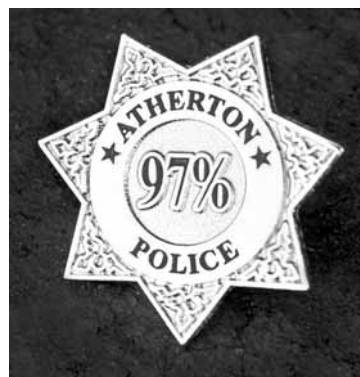
"We're very proud of these results and we are not at all surprised at the 97 percent, but we're still going to work for 100 percent (satisfaction)," said Lt. Glenn Nielsen.

Lt. Nielsen said that he, along with everyone else in the department, is sporting a special commemorative pin shaped like a miniature Atherton police badge with "97%" emblazoned in the middle.

Ninety-seven was also the magic number for a question about the quality of life in Atherton, with only three percent of residents saying they were dissatisfied. Those dissatisfied cited problems with the town's abundance of construction sites, noise and traffic.



For a small town with a relatively low crime rate, the survey showed that Atherton residents have an unusually high rate of contact with the police — 80



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

Atherton communications and records officer **John Mattes** is sporting a discrete new pin (closeup above) celebrating the police department's 97 percent approval rating from residents.

percent of people surveyed said they had had an interaction with the Atherton police officer.

"I was very surprised that roughly three quarters of the people actually had contact with the police department," said Councilman Alan Carlson at the Oct. 18 council meeting where the results were discussed. "This is not based on perceptions, but experience. This survey is an overwhelming validation of the services

(the police) department is providing to the community."

Police Chief Bob Brennan, who is out of town, admitted feeling some trepidation about the survey at the outset.

"We have all worked very hard over the last six years to bring back the police department's service levels and (the) positive interaction with the community that it has always been known for," Chief Brennan said in a letter to the City Council. "We were nervous of the big test that was about to take place."

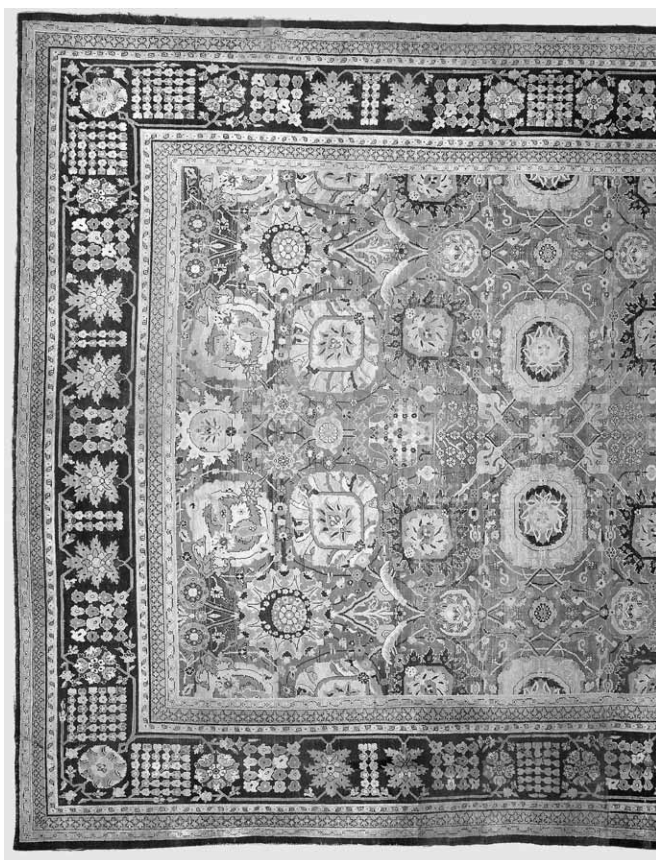
Chief Brennan said the department has always stressed customer service and its unofficial motto of "No Call Too Small."

The survey's glowing results don't mean that there weren't any complaints, however. The police department could improve the number of officers available to investigate technology crime; do more code enforcement of noise, lighting and construction violations; and do a better job of disseminating information about the town's disaster response efforts, according to survey results.

"Ninety-seven is a phenomenal score," said Mayor Charles Marsala. "Breaking 90 percent is virtually unheard of." ■

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# Sudden Oak Death disease spreads along Skyline area

Open space district fights back: 'We can't stand there and let the trees die.'

By Marion Softky

Almanac Staff Writer

During a recent walk through the forest of upper Windy Hill, two colors jumped out from the green background: red and dead.

The spots of red were happy; they showed the only native California plant that turns autumn red in our local wildlands: poison oak.

The dead came as a shock. Along Hamm's Gulch trail alone, a dozen or more young tanoaks stand with their leaves hanging brown and totally dead. Sudden Oak Death is here.

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) has already killed more than a million oak and tanoak trees in Northern California and Oregon over the last decade, including hundreds of trees in preserves of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

The open space district is fighting back. It will spend \$30,000 a year over the next decade to look for ways to stop the losses. "We can't just stand there and watch the trees die," said Cindy Roessler, resource management specialist for the district. "We need to do something about it."

The district, which manages over 50,000 acres of open space in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, will combine its research efforts with those from California Oak Mortality Task Force and Conservation Committee, the U.S. Forest Service, the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of California, Davis.

Last spring's warm rains have increased the production of *Phytophthora ramorum*, the sudden oak death pathogen that is threatening coastal forests. "We



The Almanac/Marion Softky

**This dead tanoak** is one of many on Windy Hill that have succumbed to Sudden Oak Death. The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is participating in research efforts to analyze the disease.

believe it must be spread by moist winds. We can't do anything

about that," Ms. Roessler said.

Hardest hit have been preserves along the southern portion of Skyline Boulevard, including Long Ridge, Skyline Ridge and Russian Ridge, Ms. Roessler said. "But we're seeing symptoms of the disease spread to other preserves, including Windy Hill, El Corte de Madera Creek, La Honda Creek, and Los Trancos."

"There is not a cure right now," Ms. Roessler noted. So district staff is trying to slow the spread of the disease while participating in research to find a cure.

Already staff and volunteers have collected 2,500 acorns from tanoak trees. The hope is that by growing the acorns, they can find tanoak trees that resist SOD.

The district will also be working with Oregon State University to study how the disease spreads within the tree.

has spread to private property adjacent to preserves, Ms. Roessler warned. "It doesn't stop at boundaries," she said.

To help slow the spread of sudden oak death, Ms. Roessler advised people traveling on preserves where there may be infection to clean shoes and boots before leaving. "Don't track out big clods of mud on your boots, hooves or tires," she said.

The best way to recognize sudden oak death is to watch for tanoaks where all the leaves are dead and hanging. "In our area tanoaks are dying the most," she said.

The infected trees are largely in rural areas, Ms. Roessler added. If the dying tree is in Redwood City or Menlo Park, "it's probably something else." ■

## ■ INFORMATION

For more information, call the San Mateo County agriculture department at 363-4700, or go to [suddenoakdeath.org](http://suddenoakdeath.org).



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# SLAC breaks ground on laser to probe ultra-small, ultra-fast

By Marion Softky

Almanac Staff Writer

After earning a Nobel Prize for research done on its super X-ray machine, the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) has started building a still more powerful source of X-rays to study matter on an even smaller scale and at faster speeds.

Almost 1,000 people rode buses to the middle of SLAC's 430-acre campus Oct. 20 to attend the groundbreaking for the Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS), the world's first free-electron laser. The siX-shovel event was highlighted by a zany performance of the freshly liberated Stanford Band.

"We'll probe time scales never seen before; we'll see proteins one atom at a time," said Assistant Secretary of Energy Raymond L. Orbach under a huge tent backed by piles of fresh dirt. "We really do not know what we'll find."

The LCLS is big. Scheduled to be completed in 2009, the \$379 million project funded by the Department of Energy will

move 180,000 cubic yards of dirt in the middle of the SLAC campus, located in the foothills south of Sand Hill Road. "It's the largest scientific facility under construction in the U.S. today," said Stanford Provost John Etchemendy.

The LCLS is the fourth generation of machines pioneered at SLAC in the 1970s that use the radiation emitted by electrons traveling at nearly the speed of light, when they are bent out of a straight line.

The first machine started at SLAC in 1974, using the X-rays emitted by electrons spinning around an oval racecourse. Just last month, X-ray analysis done at SSRL helped win the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for Professor Roger Kornberg, who described how the molecule RNA copies the genetic information coded in DNA to build the proteins that power living systems.

The LCLS is a major step beyond the SSRL. Its pulses will be faster, shorter, and a billion times brighter than any light source on earth, according to

the SLAC press release. They will also be coherent; all the waves line up.

Unlike a storage ring, the LCLS will produce X-rays using the final one-third of SLAC's existing linear accelerator (called "linac"), which runs from Sand Hill Road near Whiskey Hill Road, for two miles toward the Stanford campus.

Electrons will be diverted and passed through "undulators," a string of magnets that wiggle the electrons so that they emit X-rays at every wiggle. Because these wiggles produce intense pulses of radiation lasting a billionth of a second, the LCLS will work like a camera flash; they can stop motion so that scientists can take images of atoms in action and examine the processes of chemistry and life.

Secretary Orbach predicted they would be able to analyze electron clouds or freeze chemical reactions "like dancers in a stroboscopic light."

"There will be surprises — conventional wisdom turned on its head," he said. ▀



The Almanac/Marion Softky

**Weed master** Paul Heiple of Ladera shows how the latest noxious weed, stinkwort, is spreading out of control at the corner of Sand Hill Road and Lawler Ranch Road.

## Another mean weed spreads along streets, roads and trails

By Marion Softky

Almanac Staff Writer

It's sticky and stinky, with tiny leaves and yellow flowers that can spread 30,000 seeds per plant.

Meet *Dittrichia graveolens*, a.k.a. stinkwort.

This latest foreign weed, a

European aster, is spreading like wildfire along streets and roads and trails and yards — anywhere the ground has been disturbed, warns local weed wizard Paul Heiple of Ladera.

"I don't know how it got to California, but it's spreading rapidly," he said, sniffing a cluster of the light green weeds at the corner of Sand Hill and Lawler Ranch roads.

Mr. Heiple warned people to watch for stinkwort, which is spreading onto private property as well as along roads and trails. It can grow upright to three feet high and look like a small Christmas tree. Just touch it and sniff it, and you'll know. "It grows very rapidly; it smells like camphor and pine; it's sticky; and it can cause dermatitis," Mr. Heiple warned.

Portola Valley has controlled it by mowing twice, Mr. Heiple said.

But homeowners should look out for it. "Pull it out; cut it off; don't let it go to seed," he charged. "A pound of prevention is worth 20 pounds of cure." ▀



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### EYE CARE NEWS

**Presented by  
Mark Schmidt  
Licensed Optician**

**KINDS OF CONTACTS**

For people who experience difficulty seeing both near and far away, contact lenses provide several options. Bifocal contacts have two corrections, one for near vision and one for far. The more successful designs having the near correction in the center of the lens with the distance correction on the outside. There are also progressive contact lenses, which have seamlessly connected sections for seeing not only close up and far away, but also middle distances. One bifocal lens alternates five concentric rings for near and far

vision. Your eye sees it and your brain sorts it out. Finally, monovision pairs two different lenses, one for near vision and one for distance. Usually within a few weeks, people who adjust to monovision no longer notice they are wearing unmatched lenses.

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**P.S. If you wear bi-focal contacts, have a pair of bi-focal eyeglasses on hand for back-up and to occasionally rest your eyes from contact lenses.**

Mark Schmidt is an American Board of Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners Certified Optician licensed by the Medical Board of California. He can be easily reached at Menlo Optical, 1166 University Drive, Menlo Park. 650-322-3900



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# Sports

NEWS OF LOCAL ATHLETES AND TEAM SPORTS

## M-A Bears alone in first place

■ M-A beats Terra Nova; Woodside falls to Aragon.

By Keith Peters

Palo Alto Weekly

Facing the possibility of actually missing the Central Coast Section playoffs had they dropped their final three games, the Menlo-Atherton Bears (5-0, 8-0) clinched one of the three automatic CCS berths in the PAL Bay Division with a 19-9 triumph over Terra Nova at Sequoia High on Friday night.

Helping make that possible was Aragon (5-1, 6-2), which handed previously unbeaten Woodside (4-1, 6-2) a loss on Friday, leaving Menlo-Atherton in sole possession of first place.

The Bears will visit Aragon next Saturday at 2 p.m., then play host to Woodside on Nov. 11 to wrap up the regular season.

Menlo-Atherton eliminated Terra Nova (3-2, 4-4) from automatic playoff contention, earning the tiebreaker should the teams finish with two league losses. That likely won't happen, since Terra Nova faces Woodside next Friday and the Wildcats will be heavily favored.

The Bears knew they had to win Friday, with Aragon and Woodside looming the next two weeks.

Trailing at halftime, the Bears got a huge break when defensive

### ■ SPORTS

Post sports scores, details in Town Square: [www.AlmanacNews.com](http://www.AlmanacNews.com)

end Latani Moimoi hit Terra Nova's quarterback Jack Forbes while his arm was going forward and the ball popped loose. Referees ruled the fumble a lateral after M-A's Greg Kalin picked up and ran 82 yards for a game-changing touchdown.

"This is football, so things are going to go wrong," said M-A coach Bob Sykes. "And when things do go wrong, this team keeps its head up and doesn't worry about the last play."

The Bears did lead early when Saia Haatoa ran four yards with 4:48 left in the first quarter, capping a 10-play, 62-yard drive. Haatoa finished with 63 yards on 15 carries while teammate

Maurice Hanks had a game-high 18 carries for 71 yards.

Terra Nova, however, blocked M-A's PAT attempt.

The Tigers took the lead on a 28-yard field goal midway through the second quarter and then a two-yard touchdown pass, leaving the Bears trailing by 9-6 at halftime.

Neither team could move the ball to open the third quarter, but the Bears muffed a punt and Terra Nova took over at the M-A 30-yard line. That's when the Bears came up with Moimoi's big hit and Kalin's big return.

Kalin said he didn't know if it was a fumble or pass, so he just picked up the loose ball and ran.

Haatoa provided the finishing touches with a one-yard run with time running out in the fourth quarter.

For Kalin, the victory was redemption. He played on the JV team last season that lost only one game, to Terra Nova. ■

## Vikings sweep first round

By Jim Gallagher

Vikings Boosters

One season-ending triumph and three first-round playoff victories marked Menlo-Atherton Pop Warner football action on Oct. 28 and 29 as the Vikings advanced to next weekend's regional challenges. Following is a summary of the results.

**Mitey Mites:** Climaxing one of the best small-player campaigns in Menlo-Atherton annals, the Vikings topped Delta Bay 18-12 on Oct. 28 in Hollister to capture the annual Mitey Mite Superbowl. Elusive Malcolm Gates broke loose for three long scoring runs, while Cameron Kirkpatrick and Aaron Katzman also starred on offense. Stoppers Charlie Roth, Anthony Gabb, Adam Greenlow and Matt Odell bedeviled the Brentwood team throughout the contest, which earned the Vikings a 7-1-1 season record.

**Junior PeeWees:** The Vikings' offense, slumbering for the past two weeks, came alive with a vengeance Oct. 28 in Sunnyvale in a 34-6 first-round playoff victory over the Sunnyvale Knights. Khalil (Lil) James and Landon Baty sprinted for two touchdowns apiece,

and Campbell Roellig burst 35 yards up the middle for a fifth score. Dominic Andrighetto kicked a pair of two-point conversions. Wiry Devin Asiasi ran effectively and tackled well, and ball-hawking Stephen Chu intercepted three passes and made a series of open-field stops on Sunnyvale runners in the secondary.

**PeeWees:** Shaking off a second-half charge by the Pacifica Tigersharks, the Vikings hung on for a 26-19 win on Oct. 28 at Harvey West Stadium in Santa Cruz. Keenan Gates ripped off a pair of 50-yard touchdown runs, and Alex Lopez bolted 30 yards for another tally. Chris Williams scored the M-A clincher, grabbing a five-yard pass from Marcus Prioste. Wayman Boyd played havoc with the Pacifica offense, aided by Marcus Franklin, Talaiasi (T) Teu, Jake Britschgi and Taulupe Tau.

**Midgets:** Tavasa Pale stormed the middle and Josiah Paye lit up the airways on Oct. 29 as the Vikings defeated the host Gilroy Browns 41-20 in a first-round playoff contest. Pale twice uncorked 50-yard scoring runs, and Paye launched touchdown passes to Brandon Gibson, B.J. Prema and Marquise Tolson as M-A countered each Gilroy scoring foray. Paye's 35-yard bomb to David Mapa in the waning moments put an end to any lingering comeback hopes by the Browns. ■

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The Almanac



Amanda, left, and Sarah Foster sample Halloween treats at Fremont Park.



Maya Bodnick, 2, casts a wary eye at dad Marc Bodnick's Guy Fawkes mask while giving him a kiss on the nose.



Wee little witch Jasmin Zimmerman, 2, contemplates the empty innards of her jack-o'-lantern treat bucket.

# Halloween Hoopla

## enchants downtown Menlo Park

Photos by  
**MARJAN SADOUGHI**  
The Almanac

**D**owntown Menlo Park was overrun with tiny Tiggers, winged fairies, diminutive Darth Vaders, jellyfish trailing tentacles, sweating tots in furry animal suits, and a couple of coven's worth of witches on Saturday morning, Oct. 28, as the annual children's Halloween parade commandeered Santa Cruz Avenue.

Led by the Hillview Middle School band, beaming parents escorted kids in fancy dress from the Burgess Recreation Center to Fremont Park.

Downtown shops handed out Halloween candy, as trick-or-treaters headed back to Burgess for a city-sponsored Halloween Hoopla carnival.

Costumes ranged from the homemade, like the fine feathered family that left a trail of plumage everywhere they went, to an abundance of Disney princesses proudly promenading in store-bought satin gowns.

—Andrea Gemmet, Almanac staff writer



Mitali Srinath of Menlo Park peeks out of her stroller after taking a petite nap during the Halloween parade.



Menlo Park resident Matthew Pearce's false mustache appears poised to plummet into his pizza pie.

**Costumed clarinetists** with the Hillview Middle School band parade down Santa Cruz Avenue. At far right, **Doreen Lahmann** and 4-month-old daughter **Dana** trick-or-treat at A Cotton Tale clothing store



# UPS Store opens in Ladera Local forum on community philanthropy

The UPS Store in Ladera Shopping Center, 3130 Alpine Road, is having a grand opening celebration from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9. The public is invited to stop by for snacks, drinks, and entertainment by a jazz band, says owner Nirmal Kakkar.

He has invited local dignitaries to be on hand for a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The UPS Store provides mailing and shipping services,

including 24-hour access mail boxes, stamps and metered mail, bulk mailing, overnight document and package delivery, UPS pick-up services, and copy and print services. It's also the place to find a notary or have a passport photo taken.

Mr. Kakkar has a UPS Store in Fremont and is opening another in Hayward. For information on UPS Store services, go to [www.upsportola.com](http://www.upsportola.com).

The Rotary Club of Woodside/Portola Valley will present a panel discussion on "Community Philanthropy: Make a difference locally and around the world" on Sunday, Nov. 5, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Community Hall of the Woodside Village Church, 3154 Woodside Road, in Woodside.

Panelists will be Vera Bennett, acting president of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation; Mort Fleishhacker, board mem-

ber of the San Francisco Foundation; Audrey Rust, president of the Peninsula Open Space Trust; and Brian McLeran, Rotary District Governor Elect for 35 Rotary clubs.

Instead of admission, participants are asked to donate to the George Calderon Music Scholarship Fund. Nine-year-old George, who is passionate about the piano, will play several pieces from his repertoire, including his favorite, Beethoven's "Ode to

Joy." George lived much of his life with his family in a garage in East Palo Alto.

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NOV 4	Native planting	El Palo Alto Park, PA
DEC 2	Native planting	Woodside Elementary

For locations and directions: see [www.SanFrancisquito.org/Events](http://www.SanFrancisquito.org/Events)

This project is sponsored in part by the Dept of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration Program, the NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program (NOAA-CRP), the Institute for Fisheries Resources—NOAA CRP Partnership, and the San Mateo Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program — a program of C/CAG

Volunteers are also needed at the Native Plant Nursery — [Nursery@Acterra.org](mailto:Nursery@Acterra.org) Ryan Navratil  
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## We support Heyward Robinson for Menlo Park City Council.



### Menlo Park Elected Officials

Mary Jo Borak, Former Mayor  
 Andrew Cohen, Councilmember  
 Paul Colacchi, Former Mayor  
 Kelly Fergusson, Vice Mayor  
 Cal Jones, Former Mayor  
 Chuck Kinney, Former Mayor  
 Kay Paar, Former Councilmember  
 Gail Slocum, Former Mayor

### Local Business Leaders

Dorothy Fadiman, Concentric Media  
 Valerie Frederickson, Valerie Frederickson & Co.  
 Eric Hassett, Palo Alto Hardware  
 Penelope Huang, Broker, Taylor & Huang Properties  
 Clark Kepler, Kepler's Bookstore  
 Eric Kinney, First Horizon Home Loans  
 Ingo Lange, IL Mechanical  
 George Lynch, Menlo Vacuum & Fix-It  
 Malcolm McGinnis, Atria Genetics  
 Mitzi Moynihan, Realtor  
 E. Gary Smith, Menalto Cleaners  
 Stu Soffer, Ipriori, Inc.  
 — among others

### Menlo Park Commissioners (current & former)

Frank Carney, Environmental  
 Katie Ferrick, Budget Advisory  
 John Fox, Bicycle  
 Patti Fry, Planning, Budget Advisory  
 Mary Kenney, Environmental  
 Elizabeth Lasensky, Housing  
 Melodie Page, Planning  
 David Roise, Bicycle  
 Stu Soffer, Planning  
 Nancy Travers, Parks and Rec.  
 Pat Watkins, Parks and Rec.  
 Karen Zak, Housing, Planning

### Other Community Leaders

Beverly Balanis, Menlo Art League  
 John Carcione, Former President, West Bay Sanitary District  
 John Davey, Chairman, Atherton Parks and Recreation Commission  
 Mary Davey, Director, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
 Peter Dreke, Director, Palo Alto  
 Larry Hassett, Director, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
 Arthur Keller, Planning Commissioner, Palo Alto  
 M.F. Chester Palesoo, Ravenswood School Board  
 Lennie Roberts, Committee for Green Foothills\*  
 Ira Ruskin, California Assembly Member  
 Stephen H. Schneider, Center for Environmental Science and Policy, Stanford\*  
 Steve Westly, State Controller  
 \* Affiliation listed for identification purposes

### Menlo Park Residents & Neighbors

Jane Aaron  
 Rhoda Alexander  
 Bev & Lee Altschuler  
 Eric Arons  
 Charles Bacon  
 Doug & Sheri Baer  
 Philip Bailey  
 Lynore Banchoff  
 Don & Nancy Barnby  
 Margaret Beeler  
 Dorothy Bender  
 Adam Bernstein  
 Nancy Hoffman  
 Elizabeth Houck  
 Lara Hoyer  
 Georgina Hum  
 Charles Irby  
 Donnasue Jacobi  
 Mary Jones  
 Marion Joseph  
 Beth & Tom Keelin  
 Brenda & Omar Kinaan  
 Amy Klein  
 Amy & Matthew Kohrman  
 Srinu Krishnamurthy  
 Alexander Kugushev  
 Liz & Steve Laderman  
 Harriet Lee  
 Craig & Shannon Lewis  
 James Madison  
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— a partial list

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**Every performance** will be different as Menlo School's "Knights of Improvisation" stage "Improvalot." Troupers are: Anne Hawkins, center, below; from left in next row, Jessi McDade, Jenny Jaffe, Patrick Costello and Matin Movassate; standing, Kevin Greene, Taylor Warren and Kiran Malladi.

Menlo School photo

## Menlo School students present 'Improvalot!'

Menlo School's Drama Department celebrates high-risk creativity in the arts with its upcoming, unscripted "Improvalot!" productions Nov. 16-19 at the school's Florence Moore Auditorium at 50 Valparaiso Ave. in Atherton.

The public is invited as the Menlo "Knights of Improvisation," a group of Menlo thespians, discover the pure joy of creativity in high-risk, high-stakes entertainment.

The performances will be preceded by improvised jazz, dance and visual art.

There are two alternating casts, and each of the six performances will be completely original, says

drama teacher Elizabeth Orr, who is overseeing the production.

"Working improvisationally strengthens a connection to core creativity," she says. "You become more trusting of your choices and your ability to be spontaneous. It builds tremendous self-confidence and willingness to go into unknown territory."

Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, Nov. 16-19; and for 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 18 and 19.

The alternating casts are called the "Noble Steeds" and the "Errant Rogues."

The Steeds perform Thurs-

day and Saturday nights and at the Sunday afternoon matinee. They are Faiz Abbasi, David Castor, Hillary Clark, Jill Hagey, Ryan Halprin, Natalie Johnson, Michael Kvamme, Jared Silver and Niki Vanyo.

The Rogues take over Friday and Sunday nights and at the Saturday afternoon matinee. They are Patrick Costello, Kevin Greene, Anne Hawkins, Jenny Jaffe, Kiran Malladi, Jessi McDade, Matin Movassate and Taylor Warren.

Tickets, at \$5 for students and \$9 for adults, are available at the Menlo Box office by calling 330-2001, ext. 2333.

## 'Incumbent slate' mailers cause stir

### MP ELECTION

Phil Angelides for governor. Ira Ruskin for state assembly. John Boyle, Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler for Menlo Park City Council.

Those were some of the choices recommended on a "Voter Information Guide for Democrats" flier mailed to Menlo Park voters last week.

The flier was not sent on behalf of the Democratic Party, and opponents of the three listed candidates labeled it misleading.

Ms. Duboc and Mr. Boyle are registered Republicans, and the fine print of the mailer notes that the three candidates are represented on the flier — as well as a recommended "Yes on Measure J" vote — because someone paid for them to be on it.

The listing was paid for by Menlo Park Matters, a political action committee that supports the "incumbent slate" of incum-

bents Duboc and Winkler and newcomer Mr. Boyle.

Dick Poe, a spokesperson for Menlo Park Matters, said the group paid for the three candidates to be listed on several mailers, including one for Democrats; one for Republicans; and one for absentee voters.

Ms. Winkler said the strategy of targeting different political groups through paid mailers "is nothing new." She noted that former council member Paul Collacchi used a paid mailer when he ran for council.

Candidate Heyward Robinson, who along with candidate Richard Cline is endorsed by the San Mateo Democratic Party, labeled the "Voter Information Guide for Democrats" mailer "deceptive."

## Courtney Charney joins Alain Pinel

### BRIEFS

Courtney Carter Charney has joined the Menlo Park office of Alain Pinel Realtors as a real estate agent.

Ms. Charney, who grew up in Menlo Park and Atherton, is a former editorial director at Gentry Magazine. She also helped launch Gentry's second edition, Gentry South Bay, in January 2005.

She is a graduate of Phillips Brooks School in Menlo Park, Castilleja School in Palo

Alto and Stanford University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in political science and art history. She is a member of the Junior League of Palo Alto/Mid Peninsula.

The Menlo Park office is at 620 Santa Cruz Ave.



Charney

## New officers for iScience Interventional

A Menlo Park company medical technology company, iScience Interventional, recently named two new members to its management team: Ernie Edwards, vice president of marketing, and Mark Hayward, vice president of sales.

The privately held company, founded in 1999, develops high-resolution imaging systems that complement existing glaucoma and retinal surgical techniques.

Mr. Edwards has 21 years of ophthalmic and cardiovascular device marketing experience. He was formerly director of global marketing for refractive and accommodating intraocular lenses at Advanced Medical Optics.

Mr. Hayward joined iScience after serving as director of sales for the Guidant Corp. He has 23 years of sales experience in the healthcare industry.

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### 'July on Encinal'

The title of this oil painting, "July on Encinal" refers to a Victorian home on Encinal Avenue in Alameda, not Menlo Park. The painting by Julia Seelos is part of her "Visual Heritage" series, which includes images of California historical sites, including old colonial Monterey, Alameda Victorians, California missions and Allied Arts. The paintings will be on display Nov. 1-29 in the Portola Art Gallery at Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park. A reception for the artist will be held from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5.

## Hundreds of books on sale in Woodside

If you like bargains, the upcoming Woodside Library book sale is the place for you.

On Saturday, Nov. 4, hundreds of gently used books, CDs, DVDs, video and audio tapes will be on sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine.

Paperback books will be priced at 25 cents, with most hardbacks and other materials going for \$1 each. Some special collections will sell for more such as ency-

clopedias sets.

Friends of the Library Board member Susan Flint has been watching the piles of books grow as they have been donated by patrons over the last six months.

She says there are three boxes of Archie and Veronica comic books available, plus lots of Civil War and Colonial American history books, a personal library of Robinson Jeffers books, and

a good number of foreign language books, particularly German, Spanish and French.

These books are in addition to the regular wide selection of bestsellers, travel, self-help, cookbooks, and children's books.

All proceeds go toward the Friends to support speakers, children's programs, and new book acquisitions at the library.

Woodside Library is located at 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside.

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Commission

**BIRTHS**

**Menlo Park**

- Nancy and Jason Rosenthal, a daughter, Oct. 8, at Sequoia Hospital.

- Holly and David Trampling, a son, Oct. 9, at Sequoia Hospital.
- Henrietta and Christian Donica, a son, Oct. 10, at Sequoia Hospital.

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OBITUARIES

**Robert Groetzinger**

*Co-founder of Woodside Vineyards*

Robert S. Groetzinger, a former resident of Woodside, died Thursday, Oct. 26, at his home in Bonita Springs, Florida. He was 79.

Mr. Groetzinger and his wife, Beverly, lived on the old La Questa vineyard property in Woodside from 1957 to 1971. In 1961, he and Robert Mullen co-founded Woodside Vineyards.

"He was one of the early wine-makers in Woodside. Around here he was known as a 'wine guy,'" says Mr. Mullen.

A former resident of San Francisco, Mr. Mullen was a graduate of UCLA, the University of California at Santa Barbara, and received his master's degree from Stanford University.

He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the U.S. Air Force as a lieutenant. During

World War II, he served in the Merchant Marines.

Mr. Mullen's career was in international business development. For 30 years he lived overseas, first in London for 15 years, then in Lugnorre, Switzerland. The Groetzingers also maintained a home in Florida.

Mr. Groetzinger is survived by his wife of 54 years, Beverly L. Groetzinger of Bonita Springs, Florida. Private services have been held and his remains will be scattered in the Pacific Ocean.

**Mary Katherine 'Bunny' Welling**

*Member of Peninsula Volunteers*

A celebration of the life of Mary Katherine "Bunny" Welling will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at Rosener House, 500 Arbor Road in Menlo Park.

Ms. Welling, an Atherton resident for 47 years, died Oct. 26 after a short illness. She was 82.

Ms. Welling was a member of the Peninsula Volunteers and other charities.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Conrad Welling; children Conrad G. Welling, Bonnie Welling and Patricia Leugers; and two grandchildren.

Memorials in her name may be made to Peninsula Volunteers, 800 Middle Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

**Jay Shiveley**

*Business executive and cyclist*

Jay W. Shiveley of Atherton, who worked for 27 years in technology sales, died suddenly at home Oct. 20. He was 50.

Mr. Shiveley was a native of Augsburg, Germany. He was a graduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato. During his business career he worked at Oracle, Forte, Vitria, and, most recently, as CEO of OQO, the manufacturer of a sub-notebook

computer.

He also worked in venture capital at Atlas Venture, Sprout Group and Vantage Point Venture Partners.

Mr. Shiveley was an avid cyclist, riding regularly with Team Lombardi, occasionally alongside U.S. Postal Service pro racing team and Discovery Channel team.

He was a devoted father who cherished his family. He played actively with his children and taught them the importance of kindness and excellence, say family members.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa Shiveley; children Aaron, 17, Keaton, 9, and Leighton, 5; his parents, Jake and Karen Shiveley; brother Timothy Shiveley; and sisters Lee Ann Shiveley and Sabrena Resman.



Jay Shiveley

Donations may be made in his honor to the Peninsula Habitat for Humanity, attention: Jennifer Fagerstrom, 690 Broadway, Redwood City, CA 94063.

POLICE CALLS

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

**ATHERTON**

**Grand theft report:** Watch stolen, first block of Almondal Avenue, Oct. 24.

**MENLO PARK**

**Fraud reports:**

■ Social Security number and personal information stolen and resident received false credit report, 400 block of Encinal Avenue, Oct. 19.

■ Fraudulent credit card used at Menlo Park business, 200 block of El Camino Real, Oct. 24.

**Grand theft report:** Over 50 CDs and CD case stolen from vehicle, 900 block of Millie Avenue, Oct. 19.

**Robbery reports:**

■ Pedestrian on Carlton Avenue punched in face and robbed of passport and \$500 in cash, 1197 Willow Road, Oct. 19.

■ Assist to East Palo Alto police, Willow Road at Newbridge Street, Oct. 21.

**Assault with deadly weapon**

**report:** Fist fight evolved into retaliation with shovel and hammer, 1200 block of Hollyburne Avenue, Oct. 25.

**Spousal abuse report:** 800 block of Coleman Avenue, Oct. 20.

**Battery reports:**

■ Car with open door hit resident on back and buttocks and fled, 1000 block of Berkeley Avenue, Oct. 20.

■ Verbal argument turned physical and police found and arrested fleeing suspect, 1100 block of Carlton Avenue, Oct. 21.

**WOODSIDE**

**Theft report:** About \$2,250 stolen after victim gave personal and business information to sham organization over phone, 2000 block of Wesley Road, Oct. 19.

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**ELECTION LETTERS**

*continued from page 31*

park advertised a full-sized soccer field, what was actually built is barely big enough for the 12- and 13-year-old age group.

If a full-sized field had been constructed at Burgess, there would be less pressure for building a new one now. Given the Measure T outcome, I question the ability of the current council incumbents to deliver adequate playing fields at Bayfront, even if the city can afford the expense.

**Ted Wobber**  
Santa Monica Avenue,  
Menlo Park

**Bowen for California Secretary of State**

*Editor:*

The office of Secretary of State is of enormous importance and we need to elect Debra Bowen.

The right to vote is key to democracy. But numerous irregularities in the U.S. and in California make it clear that the security of electronic voting is at present not just broken, it is virtually nonexistent.

The warnings of computer scientists have been largely ignored and our current California Secretary of State has shown no interest in learning about the problems. I have observed him in action and was appalled.

Debra Bowen has been on top of this issue. She has held hearings which she actually attended and where she asked well-informed questions of the experts. She has already proposed constructive legislation in the state Senate.

Although there has not been much in the media about this, the testimony of computer experts is overwhelming: democracy is in crisis. We need a serious, diligent Secretary of State. We need Debra Bowen.

**Gail Sredanovic**  
Ashton Avenue, Menlo Park

**Cyclist feels burned on Old La Honda TT**

*Editor:*

I have been involved with some bicycle time trials going up Old La Honda Road in Woodside.

I have learned a number of things watching some of the Old La Honda residents in action. Information is manipulated in order to favor their point of view.

During a time trial last year, we had 30 riders (well below the 50 maximum). The residents were out in force on multiple corners taking photos of our riders. I am guessing that they were trying to make a case against the series.

We respected their 50 maximum number, though they had no respect for our riders or efforts to work with them in a quiet civilized fashion. When

the last rider completed the effort, which was at 8:30 a.m., she rode down the hill to inform residents she was the last rider.

An hour later, when we had wrapped up our activities, I drove up Old La Honda just because a voice in the back of my head told me to. They (the residents) were still out there taking photos, counting bikes. I stopped at all but one, which was hidden in the woods, to inform residents the time trail had been done for over an hour.

It did not matter. From what I was told by people going up the hill later in the morning, the residents were still there. Obviously, this count was completely inaccurate.

The thing about time trials that is so cool, and is something the residents should realize is good, is the riders go up in singles, one off each minute. They are experienced riders, they stay to the right and do not talk (another complaint of residents is the noise created by people talking). There is no talking, people are breathing hard and focused on their time.

If nothing else, residents should welcome such events. It is a very safe and quite event for the road. Cooperation works in both directions.

**Patt Baenen-Tapscott**  
Los Trancos Road,  
Portola Valley

**Trouble getting absentee ballots**

*Editor:*

When we returned from vacation, last week, I read in a local paper that absentee ballots had been mailed out by San Mateo County on Oct. 8. We hadn't received ours, and thinking a call would be easier than the Web site, I phoned the county Mail Registration and Elections Division. The division's number in the phone book (312-5200) was incorrect.

So I called 312-5222, (from the cover of the Sample Ballot and Voter Information pamphlet). It was busy for an hour. When the call went through, it was automatically answered, forwarded to the assessor's office and put on indefinite hold.

Then I faxed another number from the same pamphlet (312-5348). It rang 25 times, then disconnected. I called the Elections Office Satellite, (363-4917 in the pamphlet), and was told it was not an election office by a county respondent who hung up without further discussion. Getting creative, I called the county

supervisors' office, 363-4653. The person who answered forwarded my call to the financial officer for the County Clerk Recorder.

He was great. He gave me the name and the direct number of the top manager for the election department, who was most courteous and very helpful. Turns out, the last ballots were mailed on the 21st.

What will others do, I wonder, when they want to vote, and turn to the Voter Information Pamphlet for help?

Will they keep at it for the two hours I did? Would you like to hazard a guess as to whether the Web site is easier?

**Anne Hillman**  
Alamos Road,  
Portola Valley



**Parks tax pays for mismanagement**

*Editor:*

November's election presents yet another opportunity for San Mateo County voters to tax themselves for years to come to compensate for our elected officials' failure to do their jobs properly.

What is presented as a one-eighth-cent sales tax designed to generate approximately \$16 million annually for local and county parks is really a measure to bail out elected and appointed managers of taxpayer dollars from their inability to balance the books.

The sales tax dollars, according to San Mateo County officials, will be used to pay for "park maintenance and recreation activities" in both city and county parks. This overly vague expenditure plan of millions of taxpayer dollars is simply a means to levy a new tax to pay for work and programs that should already be funded through existing tax revenues — what we already pay for.

In my view, the \$16 million annual price tag will provide little benefit to individual parks and communities when divided among 24 jurisdictions and then distributed among numerous facilities and programs within those 24 jurisdictions.

But what this scheme will do is raise San Mateo County's sales tax above that of most of our neighbors in the Bay Area to a rate of 8.375 percent for all taxable purchases. That means would-be consumers of durable goods may look elsewhere to make their purchases, undermining the sales tax base for many of our communities who depend upon such sales tax revenue to support quality services

such as police and fire services.

Why San Mateo County officials wish to pursue this folly is clear — they are unable to restrain themselves from spending on items that have little to do with the core mission of local government.

Fortunately, this wasteful tax will require approval by two-thirds of the voters. It is incumbent on San Mateo County to stop rewarding mismanagement and send a clear message to county officials by rejecting this new tax.

**Tom Dempsey, president**  
San Mateo County  
Taxpayers Association  
Westridge Drive, Portola Valley

**Parks a quality of life measure**

*Editor:*

I am encouraging support for Measure A, which calls for a one-eighth-cent sales tax to support parks in the county.

Perhaps you are like me and grew up near a local park and open space area of your hometown. Your first soccer game may have been at the local playground where your coach taught you how to "kick the corner kick" correctly. There was a small urban forest near our home where my friends and I would discover new plants and animals.

My children and grandchildren have grown up using city and county parks. Unfortunately, over the years, the condition of the public park spaces has deteriorated, maintenance has declined and repairs have been deferred. This is caused by a lack of dedicated funding, not any misuse of limited available funds.

A great quality of life is a big reason many of us live in San Mateo County; parks and recreation programs are important to our health and well-being.

Measure A will create a dedicated source of funding for parks and recreation programs in every city and recreation district in the county. Measure A will cost the average person only about \$1.50 per month; less than one large soda.

Our parks provide a place for residents of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy nature, exercise, relax and discover the many natural settings that San Mateo County has to offer. Our local parks deserve a dedicated source of funding to prevent further and future budget cuts.

For more information go to [www.ParksfortheFuture.com](http://www.ParksfortheFuture.com). Please join me in voting yes on Measure A and supporting parks for the future.

**Mike Stallings**  
Burlingame

**Referendum another chance for Derry project**

*Editor:*

There is some talk that the success of the referendum to halt the Derry project to build 135 condominiums and approximately 22,000 square feet of commercial space means that the Derry project is "dead" and that those who supported the referendum want to stop any and all development at this site. This could not be further from the truth and we would like to set the record straight.

Passage of the Derry referendum gives Menlo Park another chance to get the developer back to the bargaining table and get a fair deal for Menlo Park. The referendum was the only remaining recourse after four members of the City Council caved in to the developer at the last minute and failed to get anything from a long list of public benefits that even their own subcommittee recommended.

Surely Menlo Park has some negotiating power when the more than two-fold density increase (from 18.5 units per acre to 40 units per acre) given the developer will provide them with an additional \$35 million to \$50 million. What Menlo Park needs now are competent negotiators to get this project back on the right track. It is time for a change on the council to assure that Menlo Park gets what it deserves.

**Pam and Oscar Salvatierra**  
Stanford Avenue, Menlo Park

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**WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?**

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the Almanac Web site, www.AlmanacNews.com, and occasionally on the Almanac's Town Square forum.

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

## Can Menlo Park avoid the smear?

The negative political campaigning that is blanketing our state and nation is casting a pall over the public process that has turned many voters off and very likely is responsible for poor election turnouts at all levels of government.

Recent reports show that millions of dollars have been spent on negative election ads in the state, most on the propositions, but also on the various statewide races, from governor to controller.

Even in Menlo Park, negative campaign literature has surfaced and we're sure more is on the way. This was virtually preordained when

**EDITORIAL**  
*The opinion of The Almanac*

moves to privatize city services, and delete union jobs, became a key strategy of Mickie Winkler, Lee Duboc and Mayor Nicholas Jellins. This move was not taken

lightly by city employees who are rank and file members of the SEIU, which vowed to work for the defeat of the council majority's slate (Mayor Jellins has been replaced by candidate John

Boyle). The battle lines were drawn.

On the other side, a series of misleading campaign mailers hit local mailboxes last week that endorse the incumbent council slate and Measure J (sports fields at Bayfront Park). One identifies itself as being a "Voter Information Guide for Democrats," and indicates that the endorsements were paid for by the Menlo Park candidates. (Only Ms. Winkler is a registered Democrat; Ms. Duboc and Mr. Boyle are Republicans.) It was mailed from Sherman Oaks, a Southern California city far from Menlo Park.

Could there be more of these "hit pieces" on the way as the city's campaign moves into the final week? Unfortunately, that is the likely scenario. There is plenty of time to churn out a nasty campaign mailer and get it delivered by Nov. 6, the day before the election.

We hope that forecast does not come true. All candidates would be better served by emphasizing the positive aspects of their agenda. In the accompanying box, we have provided Menlo Park's "Code of Campaign Ethics." Although it has the ring of typical government boilerplate, it hits the right notes. All six City Council candidates signed it and, we hope, took it to heart. There is still time for all candidates to stop the negative campaigning, and emphasize the positive. The voters would love it.



### Menlo Park's Code of Campaign Ethics

Every candidate for public office in the City of Menlo Park has a moral obligation to exemplify principles of honesty, respect, and fairness so that citizens may exercise their constitutional right to free political choice. Negative campaign practices fuel cynicism toward the democratic process and undermine the contributions of public servants who preserve and promote the common good.

Therefore:

- 1) I shall conduct my campaign openly, discuss issues as I understand them, present my record and policies with sincerity, and criticize the record and policies of opponents which merit criticism.
- 2) I shall not use or permit the use of character defamation, whispering campaigns, libel, slander, or scurrilous attacks on any candidate or his/her family.
- 3) I shall not use or permit an appeal to negative prejudice based on race, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, physical health, or age.
- 4) I shall not use or permit any practice that corrupts our system of free elections or hampers the full expression of the voters will, including acts intended to hinder an eligible person from registering to vote, enrolling to vote, or voting.
- 5) I shall not coerce campaign support or contributions for myself or any candidate from my employers.
- 6) I shall immediately and publicly repudiate support from any individual or group that resorts, on behalf of my candidacy or in opposition to my opponent's candidacy, to any unethical method or tactic mentioned in this code. I shall take immediate and firm action against any subordinate who violates this code, campaign law, or campaign regulations.
- 7) I shall defend and uphold the right of every qualified voter to full and equal participation in the electoral process.
- 8) I owe nothing, other than what is due all citizens, to any individual or group that contributes to my campaign.
- 9) I shall speak to my positions on issues often and refrain from making promises.
- 10) I shall not misrepresent facts nor deceive any citizen.
- 11) I accept full responsibility for the proper content, completion and submission of all campaign documentation and literature.
- 12) I shall not level charges against my opponent at a point when he/she does not have adequate time to respond before the election.
- 13) I shall act in good faith.

I, the undersigned candidate for election to office in Menlo Park voluntarily endorse and subscribe to the spirit and the letter of the above principles and practices. I solemnly pledge that I will instruct those working on my campaign of this code, and do everything in my power to have them honor it.

Signed by John Boyle, Vince Bressler, Rich Cline, Lee Duboc, Heyward Robinson and Mickie Winkler.

## Endorsements: The Almanac recommends

Anna Eshoo for Congress

Leland Yee for State Senate

Ira Ruskin for State Assembly

Robinson, Cline, Boyle for Menlo Park City Council

Slippery slope on Measure J (sports fields at Bayfront Park). Vote no

Yes on Measure K, Menlo Park utility tax

Rich, Child, Fitz for Menlo Park school board

Yes on fire district Measure O (appropriation limit)

Yes on Portola Valley tax cut (Measure F)

Measure A sales tax will benefit county parks

Oblak, Faro, Horsley for hospital board

No on Proposition 90

# Barrage of letters as election day nears

## Keep Bayfront Park as open space

*Editor:*

Having worked with children as a teacher for the Menlo Park City School District for 30 years, I am keenly aware of how essential sports are to a child's well-being. I am also acutely cognizant of the importance environmental education plays in their lives, and, in fact, in all our lives. That is why I am in favor of access to sport fields, but completely against putting those fields in Bayfront Park.

This park, adjacent to a wildlife refuge housing several endangered species and home to a salt marsh, is inconsistent with sports fields in its midst. As much as playing fields for children and adults are needed in our communities, one of society's most pressing needs is a commitment to education and protection of our environment.

It is difficult for me to understand why consideration would be given to changing one enormously successful environment originally intended for passive use into a completely different one with many questions as to its future success and at high financial costs to a city in debt. Instead, "Why not expand on the park's present potential?"

Bayfront Park is used by people of all ages, whether it's families out for a leisurely stroll, birders, joggers, or those just seeking tranquility and peace away from hectic lives. Let's keep it that way. Please join me Nov. 7 to vote no to Measure J.

**Carol Taggart**

**Valparaiso Avenue, Menlo Park**

## Majority preserved neighborhood peace

*Editor:*

Menlo Park residents who dread a repeat of the traffic calming conflicts in the Willows (early 1990s) and Santa Cruz Ave (2002) should consider the role played by the current City Council majority in preserving neighborhood peace and sanity in recent years.

In 2004 the council approved a neighborhood traffic management program which reduces the excessive influence previously held by the handful of activists who promoted wasteful and unwanted projects in the past. The device employed by Menlo Park's plan is simply a requirement that residents wanting traffic calming devices must demonstrate acceptance by a majority of the neighbors affected before any devices may be installed.

It creates a process for traffic calming while requiring activists to calibrate their "vision" to the needs of the community.

This elegant solution was passed by the current majority over the opposition of their opponents on the council. In the draft stage, it was opposed ferociously by activists in the Willows and other neighborhoods, who are the base of the opposition slate. They have not forgotten their goal of a Willows "maze," rejected by the neighborhood in 1995.

A change in the council majority could result in a new plan tailored to the demands

of traffic activists. The result could be neighborhood conflicts lasting months or years, as in the Willows, Santa Cruz Avenue and Palo Alto Downtown North.

To preserve tranquility and democratic traffic management in Menlo Park neighborhoods, elect Boyle, Duboc and Winkler. All three must be elected to keep the current plan in place.

**Eric Doyle**

**Laurel Avenue, Menlo Park**

## Traffic, a forgotten item at Bayfront Park

*Editor:*

In following the various Bayfront Park proposals, and now the sudden zeal to build fields that could cost \$17 million, I've been surprised that one aspect of the proposal — traffic to and from the park — gets no public discussion.

Proponents of the sports complex express an urgent need for playing fields for our children. These programs schedule practices most heavily in the late afternoons, from 4 to 6 p.m. after school. The proposed site, which is located on the busiest approach to the Dumbarton Bridge, is a traffic-congested nightmare for these high-use times.

Yet as far as I know, no one on the council majority said anything about this, or consulted the transportation or bicycle commissions about traffic issues — simply getting to and from the park.

I certainly wouldn't want to fight commuter traffic in both directions on the Bayfront Expressway, and I'd guess commuters wouldn't appreciate adding extra playing field traffic to the congested mix. The traffic is expected to get even worse in future years with greater development in the area.

I think it would be far more desirable to improve our existing neighborhood fields, and develop the options that are much closer to home. And it would be much better for the players, the coaches, the parents and the neighbors to have local games and fields, and encourage those who might want to bike or walk to their practices and games.

**John Fox**

**Elder Avenue, Menlo Park**

## Best bet for council is Winkler, Duboc

*Editor:*

Stewardship of the city as a council member is a demanding job.

To achieve anything takes tenacity, a thorough understanding of approval processes, and time. The last four years have included a long list of innovations that are the result of commitment, creativity and an amazing amount of time from the incumbents' private lives.

From the public design charrette for master planning the downtown to the all-inclusive citywide budget meetings, incumbents Mickie Winkler and Lee Duboc measure

### ■ EMPHASIZE THE POSITIVE

This week's Almanac is the last before Election Day, Nov. 7. As in prior years, most letters were chosen from writers who had good things to say about their candidate or cause, since there is no time to respond to negative attacks. We refer writers whose letters do not fit this category to **Town Square** at [www.AlmanacNews.com](http://www.AlmanacNews.com), where you can post your letter for all to see.

real public opinion and consider it in all their decisions. Ms. Winkler's regular e-mail messages are another new way to keep the people informed. The incumbents' latest effort is Measure J, which seeks to accurately gauge the interests of the citizens of Menlo Park as a basis for action or inaction at Bayfront Park.

The incumbents have four years of experience that should not be wasted. Along with candidate John Boyle, both are free of job conflicts that can interfere with giving the City Council the dedication it deserves.

Maintain the momentum, balance and energy on the council by reelecting Mickie Winkler and Lee Duboc.

**Kevin Burns**

**Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park**

## Unite Menlo Park's City Council

*Editor:*

As a concerned Menlo Park resident, I am ashamed at the entire City Council for not working together to bring consensus to decisions that will have profound impacts here for years to come.

We need council members who will work together to create cost-effective solutions for the best quality services that the city can provide.

Who is doing benchmarking to see how our services measure up to other cities in the area? Who is responsible for making sure the concerns of the residents are being heard? Who will work to bring the city together with a common vision?

Who is making sure that large developments will be brought forward with adequate investigation of impacts and mitigation to those impacts that are still attractive to developers? (Developers, as we all know, tend to be more concerned about profits than a project's potential negative impacts.)

Menlo Park is not alone in dealing with a reduction of services while increasing the demands on those services by increased housing. Where is the city manager's guidance or is he a lame duck?

I don't know if Heyward Robinson, Rich Cline, and Vince Bressler would be any better than the current majority, but I do know they are committed to work-

### ■ TOWN SQUARE

Post your views and comments on TownSquare: [www.AlmanacNews.com](http://www.AlmanacNews.com)

ing to make Menlo Park the great city it can be for all of its diverse residents. More importantly, they are independent thinkers who all care about vision, open governance, and a renewed Menlo Park.

Whoever is elected, the voters of Menlo Park need to insist on higher standards and open process from all its leaders. Let's move the city forward, responsibly, efficiently, and honestly.

**Elizabeth Houck**  
**Downtown, Menlo Park**

## Where's the money for Measure J?

*Editor:*

A year ago, majority members of the Menlo Park City Council abruptly raised a cry that the city would soon have no funds to maintain Bayfront Park, an expense of about \$187,000 a year.

Just as suddenly, that cry of alarm faded to silence, replaced and buried by a cry for a sports complex that would inflate the very same maintenance expenses, incur development costs of perhaps \$17 million or more, and fail to identify a single realistic funding source.

Will Menlo Park voters swing with the pendulum or lock it down by voting No on J?

**Shirley Harris**  
**12th Avenue, Menlo Park**

## Three excellent school board candidates

*Editor:*

As a former board member of the Menlo Park City School District, I am always more than interested in school board elections.

I am very pleased this year that there are three exceptionally well-qualified candidates who have decided to run for the board — Laura Rich, Jeff Childs and Deborah Fitz.

I served on the board with Laura and so I know personally how caring and thoughtful she is when difficult decisions need to be made; I am sure that she will continue to discuss issues openly, listen to the community and make a reasoned decision.

Although I don't know Jeff or Deborah as well, I watched both of them during the 2003 parcel tax election, which Jeff headed, and the latest bond issue election, which Deborah co-chaired.

Their willingness to take on those difficult jobs will serve them well on the school board because they had to bring the community together to raise money, which is one of the more difficult jobs that any volunteer can do.

I urge everyone to vote Nov. 7 for Laura, Jeff and Deborah.

**Karen Canty**  
**Atherton**

## Unhappy with Burgess soccer field

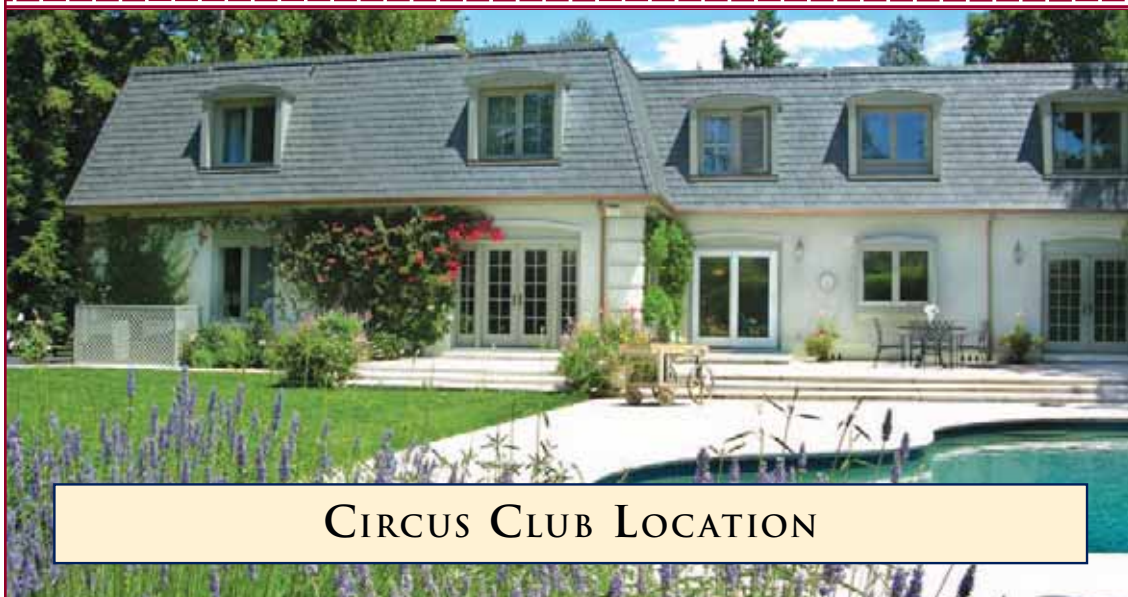
*Editor:*

As a long-time youth soccer referee in Menlo Park, I am distressed with how the Measure T improvements turned out at Burgess Park.

Prior to the improvements, the field (although somewhat short) was adequate for most youth soccer. Even though the published and posted plans for the new

See **ELECTION LETTERS**, page 29

# Property Showcase by HUGH CORNISH



CIRCUS CLUB LOCATION

*Open Sunday*

6 COWELL LANE  
ATHERTON

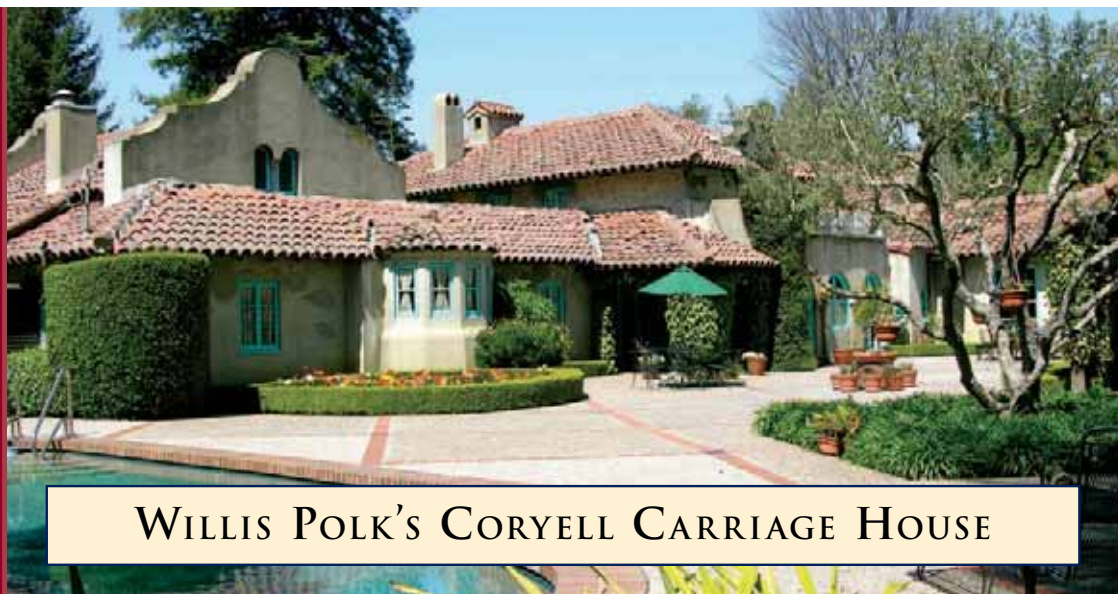
5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths; patio and pool;  
cul-de-sac lot; Menlo Park Schools

**New Price** Offered at \$5,299,000

48 LLOYDEN DRIVE  
ATHERTON

3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths; guest cottage;  
studio apartment; patios and pool

*Offered at \$3,995,000*



WILLIS POLK'S CORYELL CARRIAGE HOUSE

*Open Sunday*

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