

HEALTH & FITNESS: Tips on how to avoid weight gain, unhealthful eating during season of excess. Cover, Section 2

The Almanac



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

DECEMBER 13, 2006

www.AlmanacNews.com

VOL. 42 NO. 15

STILL ROLLIN'

DAVID "CADILLAC" WORMLEY
IS HOMELESS, BUT HE SAYS
HIS NEW BICYCLE BUSINESS
COULD CHANGE THAT

Page 16



REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990

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



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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

Pardon their dust

Phase one of an 11-phase remodel of the Menlo Park Safeway store at El Camino Real and Middle Avenue is under way. The parking lot, shown here, is the first portion of the site to be dug up. Safeway says the new store is expected to open by fall 2007.

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New for December
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Every 44 minutes the sun provides enough energy to satisfy the entire world's energy requirements for a year.



Atherton

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Health & Fitness

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On the cover

David Wormley tweaks his bicycle outside Draeger's in Menlo Park. Mr. Wormley has been homeless for 10 years, but has a plan to make a name for himself by starting his own bicycle repair service company. Photo by Marjan Sadoughi. The story begins on **Page 16**.

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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Dark Chocolate's Health Benefits

While it's true that plenty of food that is healthy also tastes good, such as raspberries and strawberries, what about really yummy foods such as chocolate bars? Yes! Recent studies suggest that dark chocolate, not white or milk chocolate, can actually be good for you and lower your blood pressure. Why? Dark chocolate contains plant phenols that act as antioxidants, which remove toxins from the body. Interestingly, a recent Italian study found that the health benefits of dark chocolate are negated if you consume a glass of milk with the chocolate. Your best bet is to eat the dark chocolate without any high-fat additions, such as marshmallow, and to enjoy it without milk.

At ROBERTS MARKET, we are the local culinary experts. We feature the finest produce, meats, poultry, and seafood available in the area, and we have a great selection of marinades which help change the taste of your favorite meats. But when it comes to chocolate, we love to hear about new founded benefits. Dark chocolate are not only delicious, but apparently it's healthy! Come see us today for all your food needs, including chocolate!

P.S. Don't replace healthy foods with dark chocolate. Instead, replace some of the sweets you currently enjoy with dark chocolate.

GROCERY

STOUFFER'S LASAGNA WITH MEAT SAUCE **\$2.99**
 21 oz. - Also Stuffed Green Peppers ... 15 oz.

STAR EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL **\$7.99**
 25 oz. - Also Extra Light

CROWN PRINCE SMOKED OYSTERS **\$1.49**
 3 oz. - Also Fillet Anchovies 2 oz.

BUITONI THREE CHEESE TORTELLONI **\$2.99**
 9 oz. - Also Cheese Ravioli - Assorted Sauces

7 UP - SUNKIST ORANGE - CANADA DRY GINGER ALE **\$2.29**
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DELI

MAIN DISHES

DIESTEL RANCH ALL-NATURAL FREE-RANGE TURKEYS ~ *The Diestel turkeys are pre-roasted and will need approximately 2 hours to reheat at 300° in your oven ~*

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PRIME RIB ~ *Seasoned and Roasted to Medium Rare ~*

Whole Serves 16 to 20 **\$180.00**
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CARANDO SPIRAL SLICED HAM ~ *Baked with a honey mustard glaze ~*
 Serves 8 to 10 **\$55.00**

SIDE DISHES

POTATO AU GRATIN - *baked with cheese, garlic, spices and cream ~*
 Serves 12 to 16 **\$28.00**

SAUTÉED BRUSSELS SPROUTS - *with pine nuts and pancetta ~*
 Pint \$5.50 Quart **\$11.00**

CLASSIC WHIPPED POTATOES - *traditional potatoes with butter and cream ~*
 Pint \$5.00 Quart **\$10.00**

TRADITIONAL STUFFING - *with mushrooms, celery, onions, and water chestnuts ~*
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DESSERTS

UPPER CRUST BAKERY ~ **8" Pies:** *Apple, Apple Streusel, Berry Supreme, Pumpkin, Pumpkin Amaretto, Cranapple and Pecan* Serves 6 to 8 **\$14.99**

RUBICON BAKERY ~ **8" Tarts:** *Apple Almond, Apple Cranberry, Caramel Nut, Lemon* Serves 6 **\$14.99**

6" Cakes: *Pumpkin Cheesecake, Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Turtle, Carrot Spice Cake* Serves 6 **\$14.99**

Buche De Noël: *Chocolate Log Cake with Mocha Butter Cream Filling* Serves 6 to 8 **\$15.99**

Happy Holidays from Roberts Market

WINE

Wine Spectator's Top 100

Every year the Wine Spectator publishes a list of their picks for the top 100 wines tasted / reviewed during that year. Here are some Top 100 wines we have in stock from the 2006 list, as well as some past years.

2006

2004 Clos des Papes, Chateauf-neuf-du-Papes - #11, 96pts **\$79.99**
2001 Siro Pacenti, Brunellodi Montalcino - #12, 97pts **\$84.99**
2001 Fanti, Brunellodi Montalcino - #23, 96pts **\$89.99**

2005

2003 Clos des Papes, Chateauf-neuf-du-Papes - #2, 97pts **\$89.99**

2004

2001 Fontodi Flaccianello, Toscana - #10, 97pts **\$99.99**

Honorable Mention

2001 Valdicave Brunellodi Montalcino - #?, 98pts **\$114.99**

MEAT / SEAFOOD

PRIME RIB WITH BONE **\$11.98 lb.**

B-B-BACK RIBS **\$4.98 lb.**

PETRALE SOLE **\$12.98 lb.**

KOBE TRI-TIP **\$18.98 lb.**



Park it here and relax

When parked in downtown Menlo Park, don't fret about time limits — the city is relaxing parking restrictions as it does each year during the holiday shopping season.

Through Monday, Jan. 2, police won't ticket cars that are parked downtown beyond the one or two-hour limits. All other parking restrictions will be enforced.

Big bird meets bad end

Drunk hooligans provoke an angry ostrich on Halloween night — is there any doubt that this story doesn't end well? Two men are charged with killing an ostrich at a Coastside ranch after the bird attacked and injured them, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office. The alcohol-fueled assailants allegedly returned with a shotgun and a rifle and terminated the bird with extreme prejudice.

The two accused men may be interested in the county court system's newest customer outreach program — an online survey seeking public input on how the courts can better serve the community. Check it out at SanMateoCourt.org/survey.

Stream, baby stream

If the Webcasts of Menlo Park City Council meetings don't quench your thirst for civic discussion, Planning Commission meetings are also available — albeit just the audio recordings — for online streaming.

To listen to the recordings, go to MenloPark.org, click "Watch Council Meetings" and choose from the available meetings for each commission.

The gift of giving

George, a local 9-year-old whose family has been "adopted" by the Rotary Club of Woodside/Portola Valley, got a chance to do a little giving of his own, according to his mentor, Joan Fuetsch. She reports that George selected \$300-worth of toys for homeless children to donate to the Woodside fire district's Toys for Tots drive. All but \$50 of George's shopping spree was funded by Rotary members.

Local News

MENLO PARK | A THERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Cyclist injures Portola Valley pedestrian

■ Thrown water bottle hits woman in face, knocks her down.

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Pedestrians are vulnerable, not having a car body to protect them from foreign objects, as Portola Valley resident Nancy Baglietto can attest.

While on a Nov. 16 morning walk with friends along Portola Road near Willowbrook Drive, Ms. Baglietto said she heard bicyclists approaching, then "a heated exchange," and then she was hit hard in the face with a bottle of water thrown by a cyclist.

"It hit with such force," Ms.

Baglietto, 62, told the Almanac. "My eye was swollen shut. I couldn't eat for a couple of days. I had to eat with a straw."

The force of the blow knocked her down and she hit her head on the path, she said. Her injuries included a black-and-blue area on her face, a chipped tooth, a loose tooth, and three days of lost time at work, she said.

The cyclist who threw the bottle kept going but called later to apologize, Ms. Baglietto said. He was part of a pack of cyclists on the "morning ride" that passes through Woodside and Portola

Valley on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He had meant the bottle to hit a car, Ms. Baglietto said she was told.

Some cyclists stopped — after Ms. Baglietto's friend hailed them, she said. One rode to the Woodside Fire Protection District to report the incident, and medics arrived and took Ms. Baglietto to Sequoia Hospital, said Capt. Jeff Scott of the fire district.

Brian Peterson, president of the Alto Velo cycling club of Palo Alto, said, in a letter to the Almanac, that he witnessed the incident and stopped with several club members. His letter did not elaborate on whether he

was hailed before he stopped, and he had not responded to the Almanac's inquiries by press time.

Mr. Peterson said in the letter that the man who threw the bottle was not an Alto Velo club member.

Asked if her morning walk routine has changed, Ms. Baglietto said she no longer walks along Portola Road. "I do not want to have bicyclists come up on me," she said. "I just think that when they travel in herds... they just do things that they shouldn't be doing."

"I'm not against the sport," she added. "I just think people need some manners all the way around." ■



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

A penny saved

About 2.7 million donated pennies, representing the number of Africans who were diagnosed with AIDS in 2005, cover the floor of a O'Brien Drive donation facility in Menlo Park on Dec. 2. Volunteers gathered to help fight the AIDS epidemic in Africa by raising money and awareness, and assembled some 8,000 caregiver kits for AIDS patients in Africa. They heard firsthand about the situation in Africa from Bwalya Melu of the Christian charity World Vision USA, which will benefit from the \$27,000 in pennies gathered by GotCents.org.

Brainstorming: telling Menlo Park council where to go

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Anne Moser wants the Menlo Park City Council to do three things: fix up El Camino Real, add affordable hous-

ing, and preserve Bayfront Park as open space.

Ms. Moser, a housing commissioner, and about 60 other residents — many involved in community groups and city politics — joined in the three-hour

brainstorming session Saturday at the Burgess Recreation Center in Menlo Park.

The session was called by council members Kelly Fergusson and Andy Cohen as an effort to reach out to the public following the

election of three new council members.

Among other topics raised at the gathering: global warming, safer streets for bicyclists and pedestri-

See **BRAINSTORMING**, 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
- * Engages in binge eating and/or purging
- * Uses diet pills, laxatives or other medications to assist with weight control
- * Is significantly overweight
- * Has feelings of depression, despair, loss of control or social isolation

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital is here to help. With two decades of experience, the eating disorders program at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital is the only comprehensive program in Northern California offering both inpatient and outpatient treatment for anorexia, bulimia and other eating problems. It's also the only one with a dedicated space designed particularly for the adolescents it serves.

Visit www.lpch.org or call (650) 498-4468 to obtain more information on these services provided by Packard Children's



LUCILE PACKARD
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL





The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

The Queen is shown receiving the Sword of State from Sir Michael Oliver, lord mayor of London, in this portrait by Alexander Rice.

A brush with royalty

An artist who has painted portraits of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh pays a visit to Atherton

By **Jane Knoerle**
Almanac Lifestyles Editor

Alexander Talbot Rice of Britain hasn't seen the film, "The Queen." When he does, he'll be able to judge the accuracy of Helen Mirren's portrayal of Queen Elizabeth better than most us.

The reason? He has not only met Queen Elizabeth, he has painted her portrait, been a weekend guest at Windsor Castle, and dined informally with her and the Duke of Edinburgh. That is, as informally as dinner served by footmen can be.

Mr. Rice was in Atherton recently visiting his aunt and uncle, Penny Dellaporta and Dr. Angelos Dellaporta. The Dellaportas have commissioned him to paint individual portraits of their five grandchildren. After working on the paintings in his studio in Edinburgh, he is returning to Atherton for final sittings.

Mr. Rice's trip to the U.S. included a visit to Washington, D.C., where he made preparations for an exhibit opening April 27, 2007, at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, which will include his portraits of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. The exhibition, "Through Brush and Lens: Great British Portraiture," will also feature 60 of the finest painted portraits and photographs of the most significant British figures over the past 500 years.

The exhibit coincides with the state visit by

Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh planned for next spring to mark the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, Virginia, the first English settlement in America.

Mr. Rice's royal connection came about when he won a commission to paint a portrait of the Lord Bishop of London, Richard Charters. The work caught the eye of the Council of St. George's House at Windsor Castle, which asked Mr. Rice to do a portrait of the Duke of Edinburgh, wearing the robes of the ancient Order of the Garter.

The duke was so taken with the picture that, in 2003, he asked Mr. Rice to paint him at the reins of his four-in-hand (a team of four horses driven by one person).

Mr. Rice spent a weekend at Windsor Castle working on the painting. For a touch of drama, he asked the duke to drive the horses through a puddle of water. "He got wet. And I asked him to repeat this four times," says Mr. Rice. When the two of them rode back to the stable, the duke had his revenge. He drove the four-in-hand for a final splash through the water and got the two of them soaking wet.

Is the duke as crusty as people say? "He was incredibly kind to me," says Mr. Rice. "I think he's great. He says what he thinks."

That night Mr. Rice dined with the royal couple and a few of their friends. "I was seated next to the queen, who said they were serving caviar to remind me of Russia," where he had studied, Mr. Rice says.

Although the royal couple treated Mr. Rice as

'Queen Elizabeth has the most wonderful smile. It's almost girlish.'

ALEXANDER TALBOT RICE

See **ROYALTY**, page 26

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Helping Your Children Buy A First Home

Q: I own a duplex and I want to sell half of the property to my son so that he can own property and deduct interest on a mortgage. Any thoughts on how I might do this?

A: If you sell half of your property to your son, he can obtain a mortgage from a conventional lender or from you in order to deduct any interest. If you are the lender the IRS rules require that you and he intend that the loan be repaid. There must be a real debtor-creditor relationship between you. If he is going to use his portion of the property as his primary residence, the amount of interest he can deduct is limited to approximately \$1.1 million of the mortgage loan. You must record the loan as security for its repayment.

If he cannot qualify for the mortgage loan on his own and you must act as guarantor, consult with your tax advisor to understand how this might affect your son's ability to deduct the interest, if it does affect it. You can avoid having to be guarantor if you act as the lender. You should also check with the county assessor in the county in which the property is located to confirm whether there will be any change in the property taxes since the transfer is within the family.

Many parents want to help their children buy their first home and you are in a position to be able to do this by selling a portion of the duplex. You should consult with your legal and tax advisors in structuring this sale.

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



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Election: Willows boosts Robinson, Cline, Measure K

■ Support from Sharon Heights, Belle Haven not enough for incumbents.

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

■ **MENLO ELECTION**

Residents of Menlo Park's Willows neighborhood often tout their area's political clout, and this year's election results show the neighborhood living up to the hype.

City Council candidates Heyward Robinson and Richard Cline — the top two vote-getters in the Nov. 7 election — received a lot of support from the vote-rich area, garnering 1,172 and 1,130 votes, respectively, according to precinct totals released last week by San Mateo County elections officials.

The Willows also threw support behind Vincent Bressler, who won 1,001 votes from the neighborhood. Overall, Mr. Bressler finished with 4,839 total votes, just 113 votes behind John Boyle, who won the third open seat on the council.

Mr. Boyle received 644 votes from the Willows area, and incumbents Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler received 587

and 531 votes, respectively.

The neighborhood also played a key role in approving Measure K, the utility tax that passed by just 65 votes. According to the precinct reports, 1,015 of the area's voters endorsed the tax, and 784 voted "no."

A majority of voters in the Sharon Heights, Belle Haven and downtown neighborhoods voted against the tax.

Council breakdown

Although candidates Robinson, Cline and Bressler may have dominated the Willows area, Mr. Boyle and incumbents Duboc and Winkler — who ran as a slate — won support from the Sharon Heights and Belle Haven neighborhoods.

About 64 percent of votes cast in Belle Haven were for candidates Boyle, Duboc and Winkler, but the neighborhood's two precincts each reported that less than 41

How neighborhoods voted in MP council election

	Robinson ✓	Cline ✓	Boyle ✓	Bressler	Duboc	Winkler
Total Votes	5,959	5,744	4,952	4,839	4,432	3,980
<i>Votes in selected areas:</i>						
Belle Haven	141	140	248	96	232	187
Central Menlo Park*	1,281	1,206	1,329	1,025	1,134	996
Downtown	623	595	382	471	339	312
Sharon Heights**	753	702	1,002	580	922	855
The Willows	1,172	1,130	644	1,001	587	531

*Contains part of the Allied Arts neighborhood

**Contains the Stanford Hills neighborhood

Source: San Mateo County Elections Office

✓ = winner

The precinct results from the Nov. 7 election were reported Dec. 5 by the San Mateo County Elections Office. The area results do not cover the entire city of Menlo Park.

percent of registered voters turned in a ballot. This compares with a 62.6 percent turnout city-wide.

Belle Haven was also the only area to back Measure J, the advisory measure that called for further study of building sports fields at Bayfront Park.

Mr. Boyle and incumbents Duboc and Winkler pushed support of the measure in their

campaign, and it was defeated in 28 of the city's 31 precincts.

Mr. Boyle was the top vote-getter in Belle Haven and Sharon Heights. In Belle Haven, he gained 248 votes — 152 more than Mr. Bressler, who finished last in the neighborhood with 96 votes.

Mr. Boyle also won the most votes in central Menlo Park, garnering 1,329 votes from the area.

Measure K (utility tax)

	Yes ✓	No
Total votes	5,418	5,353
<i>Selected areas:</i>		
Belle Haven	181	235
Central MP*	1,188	1,180
Downtown	523	541
Sharon Heights**	797	931
The Willows	1,015	784

Mr. Robinson and Mr. Cline were the next two top vote-getters in that area, receiving 1,281 and 1,260 votes, respectively. ■

BRAINSTORMING

continued from page 5

ans, and figuring out a plan to develop empty lots along El Camino Real and Santa Cruz Avenue.

"We need to focus on [fixing] downtown, not El Camino Real," said Louis Deziel, a planning commissioner. "By the time we're ready for growth on El Camino Real, we may realize our downtown area has gone through the floor. ... We don't want to neglect our core."

Others emphasized that Menlo Park should join other cities along the Peninsula in addressing global warming.

Former council member Gail Slocum said the council should create a task force to address climate change, and resident Craig Lewis, who is working with the Sierra Club on the "Cool Cities" campaign, said he hopes the council will pledge to do its part in solving global warming.

Other ideas included a call by resident John Butcher for the council to expand to seven members, and a request by Elizabeth Lasensky to preserve Bayfront Park as open space, and consider what type of development is appropriate on land adjacent to the Bay.

The five council members mostly listened, but occasionally weighed in. "We need really effective mass transit — we've got to get people out of their cars," said Heyward Robinson, one of three new council members.

Councilman Cohen said he hopes the council will discuss campaign finance reform, specifically limiting campaign contributions.

Council members Cohen and Fergusson thanked people for attending, but noted that the city's youth, Spanish-speaking population, and Belle Haven residents were not represented at the meeting.



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

Reduced to rubble

An Atherton neighborhood landmark of sorts came tumbling down on Friday, Dec. 8. The grand old house at 133 Atherton Ave., on the corner of Elena Avenue, was lovely on the outside, but its interior had been extensively remodeled and its foundation was in bad shape, said an Atherton building department official, who walked through it looking for historic fixtures to salvage. Atherton has regulations in place protecting historic artifacts, but no protections for historic houses, said Marion Oster of the Atherton Heritage Association. The new owner is an Atherton resident who wanted to ensure that the large lot was not subdivided, she said.

New mayor: 'Let's end squabbling'

■ Kelly Fergusson calls for comprehensive plan for El Camino corridor.

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

New Menlo Park mayor Kelly Fergusson has made it clear she wants the city to come together and discuss some complicated issues, the most complicated of which may be erasing a very politicized past.

Since picking up the gavel on Dec. 5, Ms. Fergusson has repeatedly called for ending the "us versus them" politics that have divided councils into two political camps.

"No longer can we afford such squabbling," Ms. Fergusson said during a speech she made shortly after taking the mayoral chair previously held by Nicholas Jellins, who ended his council tenure that night after eight years. "To get the best possible outcome, we need to hear all voices," she said.

Ms. Fergusson labeled the new council "a fresh start" and said she and her colleagues should work toward developing a "comprehensive plan" for building along El Camino Real, improving communication with the



Photo by Michael Mullady

New mayor Kelly Fergusson will be at Menlo Center, outside Kepler's Books and Magazines, on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., to talk to members of the public.

Belle Haven neighborhood, and addressing global warming, violence and terrorism, and natural disasters, at a local level.

Although the mayor holds

a largely ceremonial role, the naming of Ms. Fergusson to the position represents a major change in the political composition of the council.

The previous two years featured a series of contentious council meetings with Mr. Jellins, Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler voting together on major issues, often against Ms. Fergusson and Councilman Andy Cohen.

Incumbents Duboc and Winkler lost their bids for re-election, and Mr. Jellins did not seek another term.

After new council members John Boyle, Richard Cline and Heyward Robinson were sworn in and joined Ms. Fergusson and Mr. Cohen on the council, all five council members voted for Ms. Fergusson as mayor.

Unity and togetherness were also evoked at the Dec. 5 meeting by many people who spoke — including outgoing council members Jellins and Winkler — receiving applause from some 150 people packed in the council chambers.

"It has been a tough couple of years," said Mr. Jellins, to Mr. Cohen and Ms. Fergusson. "You've learned a lot, I'm certain, and you are ready to move forward to represent our council in the tradition that I took the mantle of."

"I'm looking forward to it not being 'us versus them' anymore," said Transportation Commissioner Reg Rice, a supporter of the outgoing council members. Mr. Rice noted he was one of several local political figures that Ms. Fergusson personally called to invite to the meeting.

Although most people were all smiles, opponents of the outgoing council members briefly made their presence known: They saved their biggest applause for when the Duboc, Jellins and Winkler nameplates were removed from the wall behind the council dais.

The council unanimously named Mr. Cohen the city's "mayor pro tem," or vice mayor. ■

now the vice mayor and about to start his 14th year on the Town Council, is likely to be chosen by the council as the mayor for 2007. The mayor's tasks include chairing council meetings and setting agendas.

The council may also award bids for demolition of the current Town Center complex.

Final council conflict avoided

One last squabble between council members Nicholas Jellins and Andy Cohen was averted at the Dec. 5 City Council meeting, after Mr. Cohen decided to pull an unusual item off the agenda.

Mr. Cohen had asked that the council be given a chance to reconsider — immediately after the three new council members were seated — some decisions backed by the outgoing council members at the Nov. 28 council meeting. The decisions included the approval of a medical office project and a separate housing project planned for

the Linfield Oaks neighborhood.

But then-mayor Jellins rejected the request, instead scheduling the reconsideration of the items before, rather than after, the swearing-in of new council members.

Although Mr. Cohen seemed poised to challenge Mr. Jellins' decision, he instead asked that the item be pulled from the agenda altogether after he was advised by the acting city attorney that he can bring up his request at the council's Dec. 12 meeting, and has already submitted a written request to do so.

— *Rory Brown*

PV council opens trail-use discussion

Portola Valley's Town Council plans to discuss at its Dec. 13 meeting ways to encourage a community conversation on whether dogs should be allowed on the trail system in the Portola Valley Ranch neighborhood.

Also at the Wednesday meeting, Councilman Steve Toben's year-long term as mayor of Portola Valley comes to an end. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road.

Councilman Ted Driscoll,

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Summit Prep, high school district square off over charter renewal

■ A tense relationship shows no sign of easing.

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The tension just won't go away between Summit Preparatory Charter High School, which is set to graduate its first class of seniors in June, and the school's new sponsor, the Sequoia Union High School District.

With Sequoia's May 2006 sponsorship of Summit, state law now requires the district to take over from the state and provide Summit with \$6,200 per student, or \$2.3 million for 375 students.

The district's Board of Trustees denied Summit a five-year charter, granting instead a two-year term to allow for "due diligence" in evaluat-

ing the school, said Gordon Lewin, president of the Sequoia board.

That deal included the cancellation of a popular program that reserved seats at the high-performing school in exchange for 30 hours of volunteer work by students' parents.

The district then changed its mind on relocating Summit from

its former bank office to Redwood High School after Redwood students and faculty objected. Instead, the district installed Summit in temporary buildings on the tennis courts at Sequoia High School in Redwood City.

Now, just six months into its new charter, Summit has petitioned for a renewal — an automatic five-year charter — the district has said no, and attorneys are getting involved.

In a Dec. 6 letter, Summit attorney Paul C. Minney charged the Sequoia district with violating the education code when superintendent Pat Gemma sent back Summit's Oct. 30 petition. The Board of Trustees should have taken action, Mr. Minney said.

Under the law, a school board must hold a public hearing within 30 days of receiving a charter petition and either grant or deny it within 60 days, with a 30-day extension if both parties agree, he said. The Sequoia board needs to act on this petition before Dec. 30, he said.

In returning Summit's petition, Mr. Gemma, in a letter, asked the school to resubmit it in August 2007. That would allow Sequoia to evaluate Summit for the 2006-07 school year, particularly the academic performance of students with significant learning challenges. Mr. Gemma promised a

45-day turn-around.

But if Sequoia rejects the petition in the fall of 2007, it wouldn't leave enough time to appeal the decision and/or seek a charter from the county or the state, said Summit Executive Director Dianne Tavenner. Summit's current charter expires in May 2008.

The state Department of Education recommends that charter schools with doubts about being renewed obtain a decision from the sponsor before the current charter's last fiscal year begins — July 2007, in this case.

"The entire Summit community would like to have peace of mind about the school's future," she added.

An appeal "probably won't be needed," said board president Lewin. Summit's concern about rejection is "surprisingly negative thinking," he said. "They obviously have a program that's strong."

Summit students have performed well on standardized tests, with cumulative scores in the past two school years of 862 and 851 — above the state's target of 800.

The district is also looking for a permanent home for Summit, Mr. Lewin added. "We're moving ahead, full speed ahead," he said. "We would not be allocating bond money

See **CHARTER RENEWAL**, page 14

Registration for Courses began Monday, November 27

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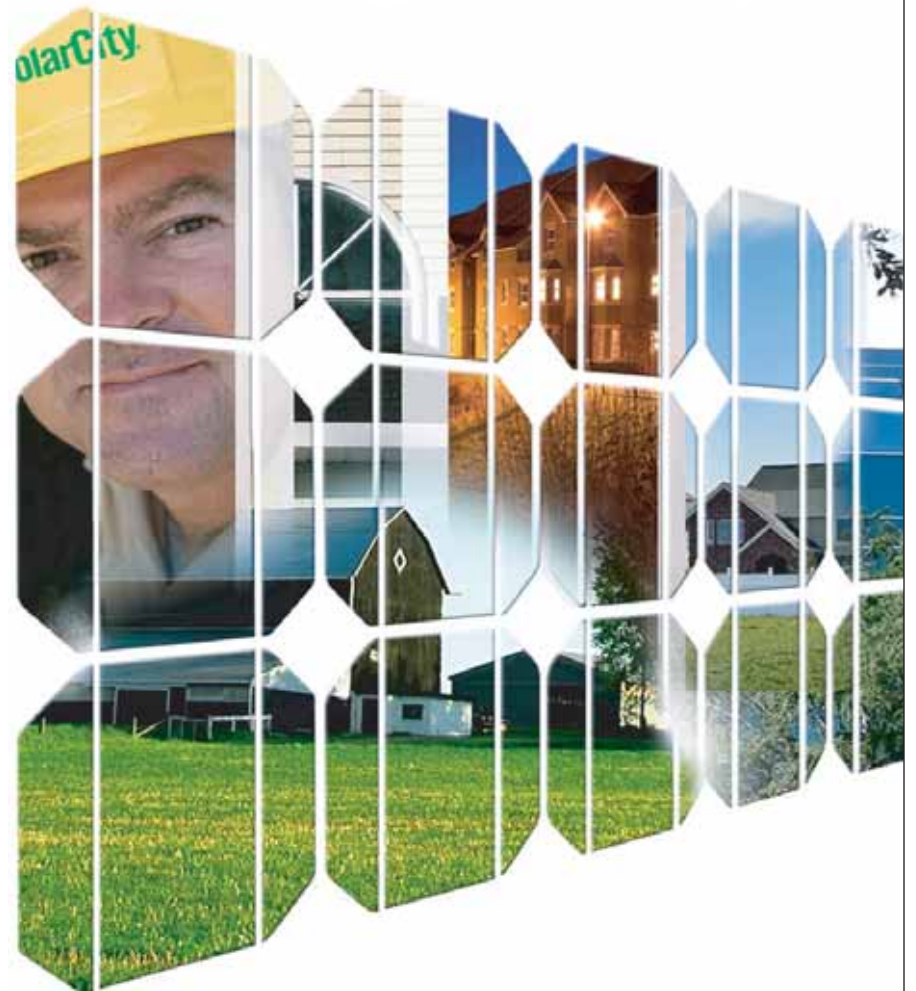
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Hillview school expansion moves from discussion to design stage

■ Architect will present several options at Jan. 30 board meeting.

By Marjorie Mader
Almanac Staff Writer

Discussion of development at Hillview Middle School to meet the challenge of a 38 percent increase in enrollment by 2014 is shifting to the design phase.

After a three-hour meeting in the Hillview school library Dec. 6, trustees of the Menlo Park City School District approved 13 design criteria as guides for providing additional facilities on the 9.5-acre site. Enrollment is projected to grow from 659 students to a peak of 911 in 2014. (See sidebar on criteria)

Many of the 50-some neighbors and parents in the audience voiced their ideas and concerns.

Heading the list are: Increased traffic; inadequate parking; cars speeding on neighborhood streets and jeopardizing young children's safety; overcrowding the site; and the possible building of two-story classroom structures close to their property boundaries.

Hillview Principal Mike Moore presented the staff's assessment of what they believe is "good for middle school kids," what qualities and characteristics they value, and what challenges are ahead as the school grows.

All this information is now in the hands of Erwin Lee, the district's architect. His job: Come up with architectural options for the Hillview's future expansion that fit design criteria and accom-

modate the enrollment growth.

The budget also is a consideration because funds for additional facilities at the district's four schools will come from the \$91-million bond measure, passed by voters last June.

Mr. Lee, principal architect with Deems Lewis McKinley of San Francisco, who attended the meeting, is scheduled to present preliminary design options at the board's special meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 30. This meeting, starting at 7 p.m. in the Hillview library, will be another opportunity for the public to comment.

Options

"I'd like to see the most creative scenario for the (Hillview) addi-

Board sets design criteria

Trustees of the Menlo Park City School District have approved design criteria for additional facilities at Hillview Middle School. Among the criteria are:

■ Accommodate enrollment growth with flexibility in case actual enrollment varies from current projections.

■ Demonstrate the intended use of the campus for at least 30 years.

■ Maximize the use of the

small campus, while ensuring open space.

■ Address traffic issues and improve parking.

■ Reasonably mitigate impacts on neighbors, and school-operation impacts during construction.

■ Reflect modern environmental standards.

■ Address the developmental needs of middle school students, promoting a strong sense of community and inclusion.

tion," said Trustee Terry Thygesen toward the end of the meeting. She suggested Mr. Lee look at the basic options that have been discussed — rebuilding the campus, or adding to existing facilities — and recommend the best way to do those two and an "in between" option.

Trustee Bruce Ives said the board has heard "loud and clear" the neighbors' concerns, including over traffic, and will do what it can to mitigate the impact on neighbors.

Two of the newly elected Menlo Park council members — John Boyle and Heyward Robinson — were in the audience. They expressed interest in the city cooperating with the district to alleviate traffic problems. Mr. Robinson suggested encouraging student involvement in the design process. ■

■ INFORMATION

For more information, go to www.mpcsd.org and click on "Facility Development."

Gun threat: Boy returns to school

A seventh-grader, who threatened Oct. 12 to bring a gun to Hillview Middle School and hurt students, is back in school on a "behavioral contract."

Trustees of the Menlo Park City School District in closed session Dec. 6 reaffirmed an earlier decision by an administrative panel to suspend the expulsion of the 12-year-old boy and allow him to return. "We're hopeful that he will be successful," said Superintendent Ken Ranella.

The contract sets forth expectations for the student concerning behavior and participation, said Mr. Ranella. The school will provide additional help for the student. During his suspension, the district provided home schooling.

Hillview Principal Mike Moore said, "If I believed the student presented an ongoing safety risk to other students, I would not have approved the suspended expulsion."

The school board's decision mirrors an earlier court decision to place the student under probation after the student admitted making threats. The length of probation will be determined by the probation officer.

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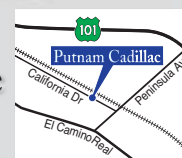


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Tension over charter school

CHARTER RENEWAL
continued from page 10

for a permanent site if we were going to shut this school down.”

Contending demographics

In granting the two-year charter, Sequoia trustees asked that Summit’s enrollment reflect the district’s demographics.

Summit’s high performance has trustees questioning whether the student body represents the district’s range of academic abili-

ties, particularly with respect to special-education needs and fluency in the English language.

For the 2005-06 school year, the difference is stark in English fluency: at M-A and Woodside, about 19 percent of students are not fluent versus 1 percent at Summit.

About 52 percent of Summit students are white compared to about 41 percent at M-A and Woodside, according to state data.

Demographics are a non-issue, said Mr. Minney, Summit’s attorney. The renewal petition “does

not say, nor does the law require, that we have to serve the same percentage of the students that exist in the district.”

A sore point

In its petition, Summit retains the legacy families program that reserves seats at Summit in exchange for 30 hours of volunteer work by students’ parents.

The program was allowed by Summit’s first sponsor, the Summerville Union High School District in Tuolumne County, but cancelled by Sequoia trustees because of its perceived unfair-

ness, Mr. Gemma said.

Some 70 percent of the legacy families live in Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley and Woodside, and more than 100 of the 200 new seats available in the 2007-08 and 2008-09 school years had been set aside for legacy family students, he said.

Asked to comment, Ms. Tavenner noted that about 30 percent of eligible legacy children typically attended Summit.

The program’s cancellation is highly irritating to participating families, according to two parents who did not want their names used.

Charter school law requires a lottery for admission if a school is oversubscribed, and Summit is popular: for the 2005-06 school year, there were 300 applicants for 100 seats.

Mr. Minney said in his letter the legacy program should be reinstated because programs like it have “been recognized at local, state and federal levels as a legal preference in charter school admission.”

Asked if Summit intends to sue the district over the legacy families program, Ms. Tavenner said there were no such plans. ■

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Complain, complain — Atherton tackles code enforcement

By **Andrea Gemmet**
Almanac Staff Writer

Rest easy, residents of Atherton. The boulder police will not be knocking on your doors and demanding you remove impediments from your homes' roadside rights-of-way.

The town of Atherton's experiment in code enforcement will continue through the end of the year, but only on a complaint basis.

Per the City Council's instructions, there will be no roving code-enforcement officer checking for mailbox compliance or demanding that rocks and logs — popular parking deterrents employed by Atherton homeowners — be removed. At least, not unless someone calls in a complaint about it.

Robert Cushing of CSG consultants, who is running Atherton's code-enforcement pilot program, said he's been getting as many as 10 new cases a week. Many of the calls have to do with construction parking violations, he told the council at its Nov. 15 meeting.

"I attribute (the increase) to the publicity we've received by walking around the neighborhoods," Mr. Cushing said.

He suggested town officials consider creating an online complaint form where residents worried about anonymity can request action without divulging their identity to the code-enforcement officer. City Manager Jim Robinson didn't appear to believe anonymity was a big concern.

"It's been my experience that most people are not shy about it, and want to know what we're doing about (complaints)," he said.

On a 3-1 vote with Jerry Carlson opposed and Kathy McKeith absent, the council authorized spending an additional \$5,500 to engage CSG through Dec. 31. Town staff is set to propose a defined code-enforcement program at this week's

council meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 13.

Councilman Alan Carlson complained the town's code-

enforcement program was ill-defined because the council had yet to decide whether it wanted a proactive or a reac-

tive approach. "I've had calls on code violations and I've gotten seven, eight or nine from the same person about the same

neighbor," Mr. Carlson said.

"I don't want to see code enforcement via 'the squeaky wheel gets the grease,'" he said. ■



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■ BIRTHS

ATHERTON

■ Sarah and Robert Mustarde, a son, November 2, at Sequoia Hospital.

LA HONDA

■ Jennifer Lee and Mieczyslaw Steglinski, a daughter, Nov. 25, at Sequoia Hospital.

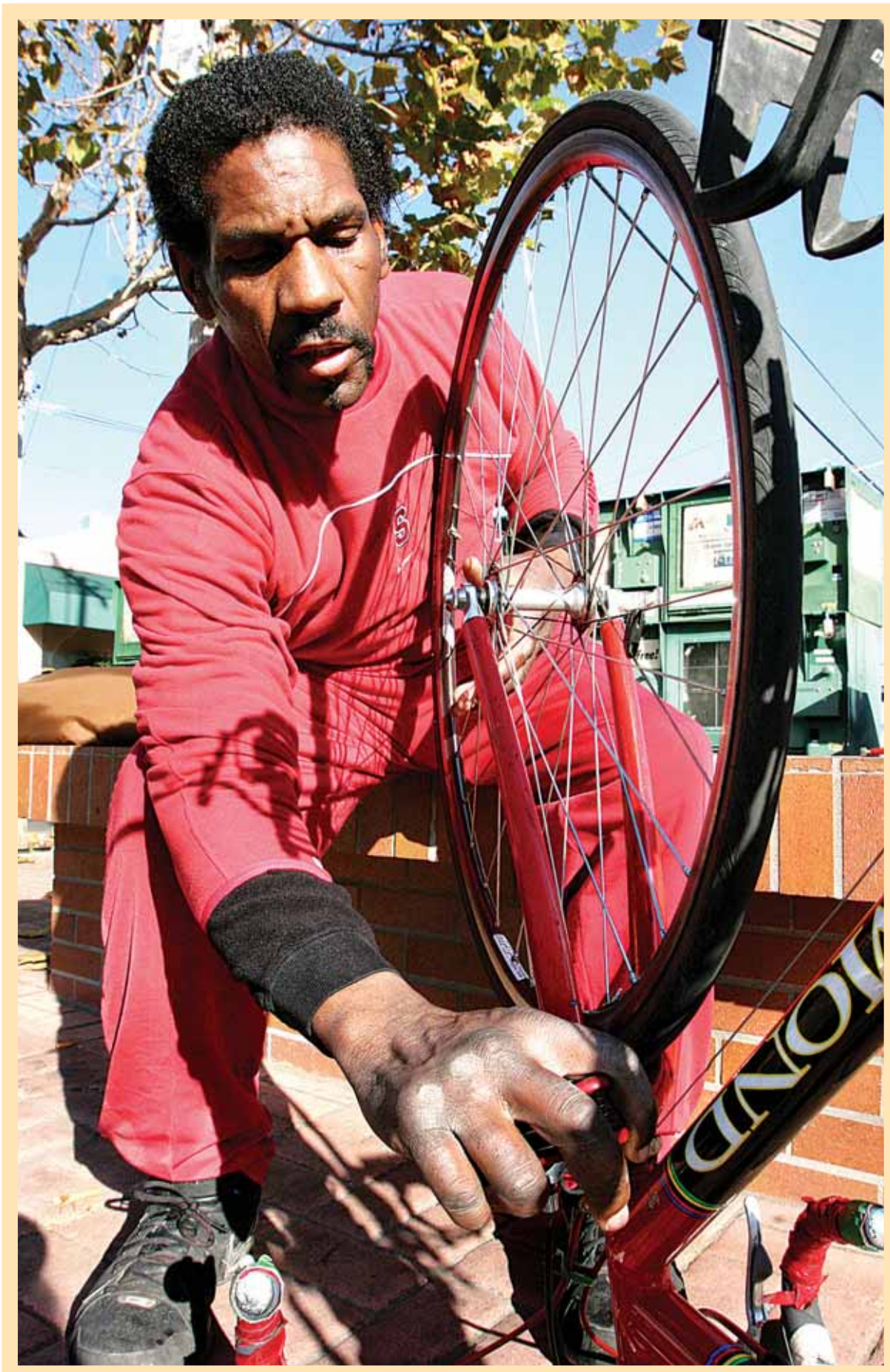
MENLO PARK

■ Paula and Glen Davis, a son, Nov. 17, at Sequoia Hospital.

■ Reiko Miura-Ko and Albert Ko, a daughter, Nov. 25, at Sequoia Hospital.

STILL ROLLIN'

David "Cadillac" Wormley is homeless, but he says his new bicycle business could change that



Story by **Rory Brown**

Photos by **Marjan Sadoughi**

People regularly tell David Wormley that he doesn't look homeless. And it's hard to blame them: he's educated, motivated, articulate, physically fit, has no problems with drugs or alcohol, rides a bicycle worth \$2,000, and even owns a cell phone.

But despite his bubbly attitude and good vocabulary, Mr. Wormley, known by friends as "Cadillac," but known by most residents as one of the guys who sits outside Draeger's in Menlo Park, has been homeless for 10 years.

A Palo Alto native, but a regular to Menlo Park, Mr. Wormley, 50, spends his days seeking spare change, and his nights curled up in his truck.

Mr. Wormley may be homeless, but he still has a plan to make a name for himself.

A self-proclaimed entrepreneur, he says he is on the brink of launching "Cadillac Bicycle Services," a mobile bicycle repair service out of the back of his truck.

"In the very near future, look for CBS — Cadillac Bicycle Services," says Mr. Wormley, examining his own bicycle outside Draeger's. "People call me Cadillac because I'm always rollin'; whether it's on my bike or in my truck, I'm always rollin', and soon my business will be up and rollin' around town."

He plans on providing tune-ups, repairs, custom bikes and road-side service to local bikers as soon as mid-January.

Mr. Wormley acknowledged getting his business going has been no easy feat, especially for someone who works landscaping and construction jobs when they pop up, and whose only con-

COVER STORY

David "Cadillac" Wormley, known by most Menlo Park residents as one of the homeless guys who sits outside Draeger's, is a bicycle whiz, and says he is on the brink of launching "Cadillac Bicycle Services," his own bicycle repair service.

sistent income is \$12 to \$25 a day worth of donations from Draeger's shoppers.

But bicycles are what he knows and loves, and the prospect of running his own business drives him to the point that he banks the money he can and stays homeless to make CBS a reality. He said several people a week ask him to tune-up or repair their bicycles.

"When you're homeless, you have to get up, look in the mirror — if you even have a mirror — and say to yourself, 'What are you going to do?'" he says. "Now, what you want to do — the goal you've set, the plan you've laid out — it may be hard to do, but you've got to be patient and keep reminding yourself, 'This is what I want to do, and I'm going to do it.'"

And mechanics are clearly Mr. Wormley's forte, as he can barely hold a conversation in the Draeger's parking lot without his eyes drifting to something on wheels — whether it's a passing child's bike or a parked Porsche — and talking about how it works.

Of course, no set of wheels sparks a longer conversation than his own bicycle — a Lemond model that he has customized and upgraded bit by bit for eight years.

Mr. Wormley calls it a Lemond "RT" — as in a Lemond "right there" — because he doesn't let it out of his sight. When he does leave it locked, he uses a thick metal chain better suited to restrain medieval prisoners than a bicycle.

"My bike has my name on it, and I want it to be the best it can be," he says. "I want to have the same pride and joy in my business."

BEING HOMELESS

He's educated and he's motivated, so why doesn't Mr. Wormley get a job?

Much easier said than done, he says.

"People walk by me, see my sign, and say 'Get a job,' 'Don't be lazy' or 'Go somewhere else' — I hear that all the time," he said. "But when you're homeless, there are stereotypes against you, and there aren't a lot of people who want to hire you or speak on your behalf.

Mr. Wormley says his last steady job was a five-year stint as a truck driver, driving 18-wheel trucks around the country from 1990 to 1995.

He quit and moved back to Palo Alto when his divorced mother and father both fell ill, and died, within six months of each other.

"Driving trucks required total concentration, and I was good at that," he says. "But when my parents died, I lost all of that concentration, and suddenly I didn't have a place to go."

Being homeless has taken its toll on Mr. Wormley. He has arthritis in his left knee, tendonitis in his right knee, and says that even if he puts on two shirts, two jackets and three pairs of pants, he still gets cold at night.

But he also



Tightening and tweaking the gears of his 1998 Lemond bicycle is important to keep the bike in top shape, says Mr. Wormley. He estimates that the bike, after his custom upgrades, is worth \$2,000.



The helping hand of Paul Soby, a member of the Peninsula Covenant Church in Redwood City, holds a Bible for Mr. Wormley at the Menlo Park train station. The church provides meals, and the option of prayer for homeless people on Tuesday and Thursday nights.



Outside Draeger's Mr. Wormley waits for shoppers to donate spare change. He says he makes anywhere from \$12 to \$25 a day in donations — his only consistent source of income.

says that some days, being homeless has a certain straightforwardness to it.

"I know what I want to do, it's just a matter of getting it done," he says. "Not having money is tough — it's real tough. But I've got all my limbs, and I know right from wrong, and that's worth more than money sometimes."

NOT GIVING UP

Mr. Wormley has a lot riding on his business venture, and he says that giving it up isn't an option.

"Some people look at us (homeless people) and figure we've given up, but that isn't always true. Yeah, I'm homeless, but I can still want something for myself. I know what I'm going to do."

The next goal on Mr. Wormley's list is getting his truck up and running. The truck is currently parked in what he calls "basically a junkyard" on property

owned by his brother in East Palo Alto.

Without vehicle registration and insurance, he says he isn't willing to drive it beyond a nearby gas station to occasionally start the truck to keep him warm.

Waiting for his registration and still saving for insurance, Mr. Wormley continues to bicycle everywhere, including from East Palo Alto to

Draeger's and back again everyday.

"I'm not happy with where I live right now, or the areas I bike through, but transportation and communication — that's all I need to make things work," he says, pointing to his cell phone and his bicycle simultaneously.

The cell phone does garner stares, he says, but noted that he uses it to keep in touch with family and people who regularly are looking for people to do construction and landscaping work. He says the bill is about \$50 a month.

Mr. Wormley's dreams of getting his business off the ground keeps him motivated, but outside help gets him through the day.

"People are generous in Menlo Park," he says. "There are people here that are willing to give, and are willing to just sit down and talk."

He said some of his biggest supporters are members of the Peninsula Covenant Church in Redwood City. The church sponsors a free meal every Tuesday and Thursday evening at the Menlo Park train station, and songs and prayer for people who want to partake.

"This stuff helps a lot," said he says, slipping tortilla chips into his mouth outside the meal. "Without patience and faith, you'd go crazy being homeless, so any help we get means a lot."

Patience and faith have also come in handy for Mr. Wormley when listening to his favorite football team, the struggling Oakland Raiders, on his hand-crank radio.

"This is not [the Raiders'] year, but I'll be a Raider fan until there's six feet of dirt on me," he says with a dead serious face. "When that day comes, my cascket will be silver and black," he adds with a smile. ■

■ INFORMATION

David "Cadillac" Wormley and other local homeless people are often notified of work opportunities or receive donations through the Palo Alto-based Opportunity Center of the Midpeninsula, one of the beneficiaries of the Almanac's Holiday Fund.

To contact Mr. Wormley for bicycle services, call Gina Matthews at the Opportunity Center at 853-8672.

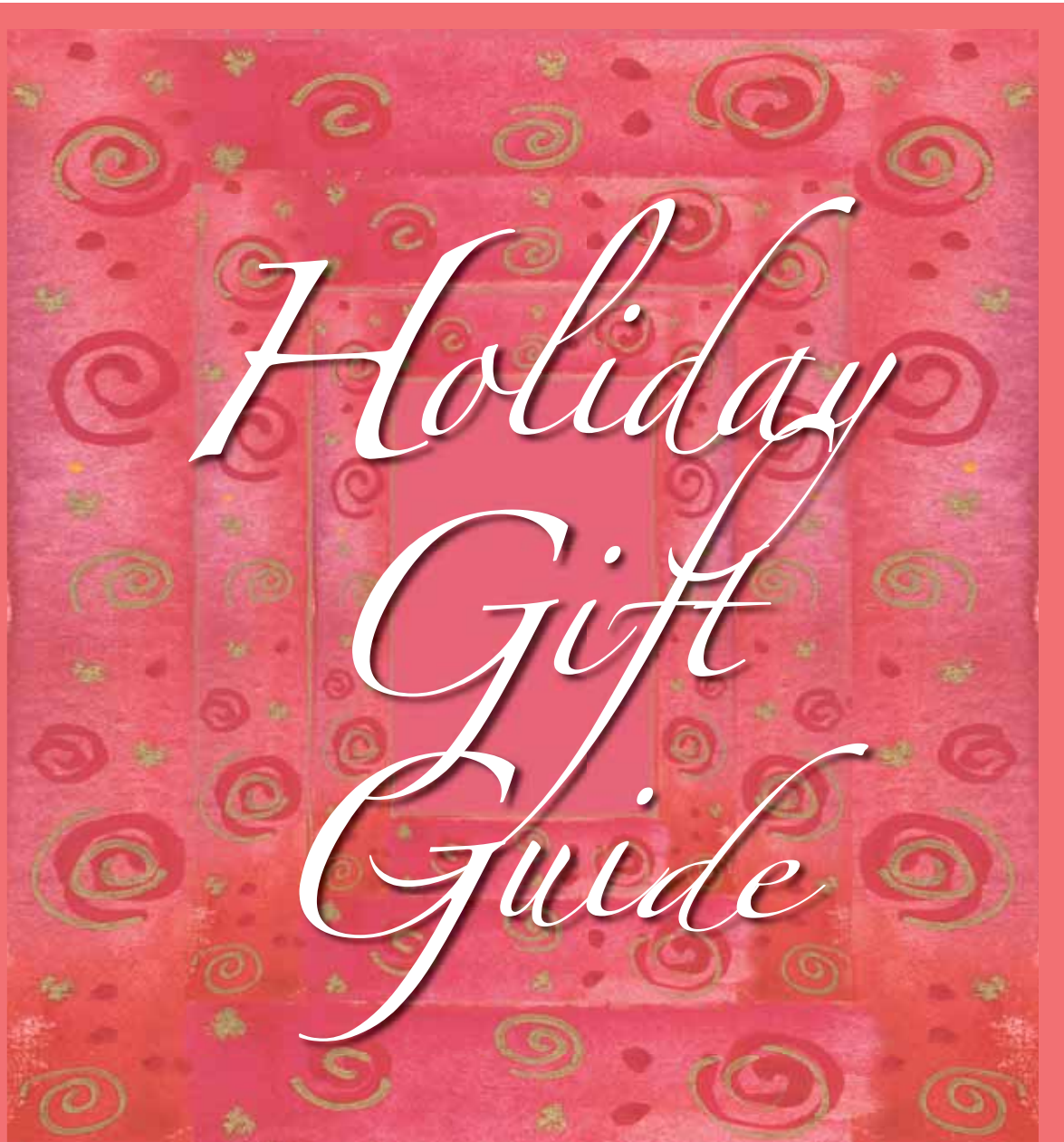
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HOLIDAY EVENTS

"Merry Art at Main"

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Holiday Horsemanship Camps

Dec. 18-22 and Dec. 26-29, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Riders grouped according to experience; no experience necessary to attend. \$350 per week/\$70 per day. Spring Down Equestrian Center, 725 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 851-1114 ext. 0. www.springdown.com

"The Christmas Letter"

An original Christmas drama featuring traditional Christmas music. Childcare available for children under 10. A free reception follows the event. Dec. 16-17, 7-9 p.m. Free. Los Altos Union Presbyterian Church, 858 University Ave., Los Altos. Call 948-4361. www.unionpc.org

Festival of Trees Holiday Stroll

Lytton welcomes the community to stroll through a display of decorated trees. Musical performances; ornament making in Santa's workshop. Dec. 16, 4-7 p.m. Free. Lytton Gardens Senior Communities, 437 Webster St., Palo Alto. Call 328-3300. www.lyttongardens.org

"A Chanticleer Christmas"

Chanticleer, a capella ensemble performs a yuletide concert. Features renditions of Gregorian chant, medieval and Renaissance music, contemporary classics and carols. Dec. 12-13, 8 p.m. \$44/\$40. Memorial Church, 459 Serra Mall, Stanford. Call 725-2787. www.livelyarts.stanford.edu

"Holiday Fanfare"

The 60-voice Aurora Singers will present international Christmas, Chanukah and seasonal favorites. With a repertoire that runs from traditional to jazz, the group will perform "Carol of the Bells"; "A Holly Jolly Christmas" and "Santa Claus is Just a Good Ol' Boy." Sing-along and reception. Dec. 16, 7-8 p.m. \$7/\$9. Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto. www.aurorasingers.net

Cantabile Chorale Christmas Concert

Presented by Cantabile Chorale and pianist T. Paul Rosas. Dec. 15, 8-10 p.m. \$25/\$20 seniors/\$6 students. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 424-1410. <http://cantabile.org/index.html>

El Camino Youth Symphony Holiday Concert

Holiday selections and performances by the ECYS Percussion Ensemble and ECYS Concerto Competition winners Timothy Yu, violin, Stephanie Tsai, cello, Lily Tsai, piano, and Saranya Sethuraman, trombone. Dec. 17, 2:30 p.m. \$10 general/\$5 student/seniors. Spangenberg Theatre, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Call 327-2611. www.ECYS.org

Festival of Lessons and Carol

Music from America, Sweden, France, and Hungary with the First Lutheran Choir accompanied on the 26-rank Casavant Freres and the Bond continuo organs, directed by Jacques Desjardins. Dec. 17, 7 p.m. First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. www.flcpa.org

See HOLIDAY EVENTS, page 20

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HOLIDAY EVENTS

continued from page 19

From Darkness to Light

"Christmas and the Winter Solstice." Music from the world's Christian, Jewish and Pagan traditions. San Francisco Choral Artists, Magen Solomon Artistic Director. Dec. 16, 8-10 p.m. \$18-\$25. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call (415) 759-5779. www.sfca.org

Gunn High School Winter Choral Concert

Featuring the Treble Choir, the Concert Choir and the Chamber Singers under the direction of William Liberatore. Thu., Dec. 14, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$5/\$3 students. Spangenberg Theater, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Call 269-4194. www.gunn.pausd.org

Opera Bravura Presents "Classic Christmas"

With holiday vocal favorites. Featuring soprano, Sharon Maxwell-Yamamoto and tenor, Joe Kinyon. Opera Bravura is a group of professional singers and advanced voice students from Tenor Carl Franzen's Studio. Dec. 16, 7-9:30 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. First Congregational Church, 2323 Euclid Ave., Redwood City. Call (408) 288-8519. www.carlfranz.com

"Snowflake Ball"

Thu., Dec. 14, 7 p.m. Music by Mike Johnson and the Sound Wizards. Formal attire. Tickets at the door. \$7. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 326-2025. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

"A Christmas Carol"

Charles Dickens's classic presented by Peninsula Youth Theatre. By PYT Artistic Director Dexter Fidler. Dec. 15, 9:30 and 11 a.m.; Dec. 16, 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. \$5-\$7. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.pyt.net.org

Children's Holiday Tea

Ages 6 and up accompanied by an adult. Entertainment includes the "Merry, Merry Christmas" show. Dec. 20, 1-2:30 p.m. \$15. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call 329-1356 ext. 0. http://gamble-garden.org/

Acterra Family Movie Night

"A Charlie Brown Christmas"; "Rugrats' Babies in Toyland" and "Rugrats: Chanukah." Small snack will be provided. Dec. 15, 6:30-9 p.m. Free; donations accepted. Peninsula Conservation Center, 3921 East Bayshore Road., Palo Alto. Call 962-9876 ext. 306. www.acterra.org

"WinterSong"

Presented by The Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus. Featuring Mark Reise's "Christmas Trilogy"; Robert Seeley's "Over the Skies of Yisrael"; and children's classics including, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Dec. 15-16, 8 p.m. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 903-6000. www.svgmc.org

"Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge"

A parody by satirist Christopher Durang. Wednesdays-Sundays, through Dec. 16, 8-10 p.m. \$22-\$32 Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 941-0551. www.busbarn.org

Christmas Tree Lane Opening

Dec. 16, 5-5:30 p.m. The Music In Motion Singers from Devenneck and Escondido Elementary Schools will perform. Free. 1881 Fulton St., Palo Alto.



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Pecan puffs

(The Harried Hostess Cookbook)

- 1 cup butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups finely chopped pecans

Combine all ingredients and mix well. Roll dough into 1-inch balls and place on cookie sheets. Bake a 300 degrees for 15-20 minutes. Roll in powdered sugar while warm. Makes 4 dozen.

Gift coffee cake

(The Harried Hostess Cookbook)

- 1 pkg. yellow cake mix
- 1/4 cup butter (cold)
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup chopped walnuts
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups sour cream

Topping

Process 2/3 cup of cake mix with the cold butter until crumbly. Mix in sugar and walnuts by hand. Set aside.

Cake

In another bowl, beat eggs. Stir in sour cream. Blend in remaining cake mix.

Pour half of the cake batter into 2 greased and floured loaf pans. Sprinkle with half the topping. Repeat. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes. Makes 2 coffee cakes. Freezes well.

Toffee bars

- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups sifted flour
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate bits
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

Cream butter, sugar, egg and vanilla. Add flour, mix well. Stir in chocolate bits and nuts. Pat into ungreased 9-inch by 12-inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 18 to 20 minutes. Cut into bars while warm. Cool.

No-fail mocha nut fudge

- 1 jar (7-1/2 ounce) marshmallow creme
- 1 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup evaporated milk
- 1/2 stick butter
- 3 tablespoons instant coffee powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 package (12 ounce) semisweet chocolate bits
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

Combine marshmallow creme, sugar, evaporated milk, butter, coffee powder and salt in medium-size saucepan. Bring to a full boil. Boil five minutes over medium heat, stirring constantly. Remove from heat.

Add chocolate bits, stirring until chocolate is melted and smooth. Stir in 1/2 cup nuts. Pour into foil-lined 9-inch square baking pan. Top with remaining nuts.

Chill for at least two hours or until firm. Cut into squares. Cover tightly and store in refrigerator.

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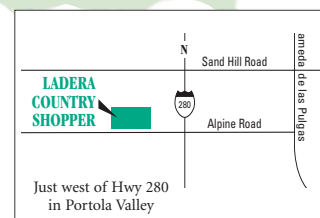
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Big disruptions appear likely when huge water project starts in 2009

By Marion Softky
Almanac Staff Writer

Between 2009 and 2014, San Mateo County drivers — and some residents — will suffer fairly major disruptions as San Francisco starts construction on 16 major projects to beef up the aging system that delivers 90 percent of our water.

The Board of Supervisors got a preview Dec. 5 of the county's share of the \$4.3 billion project to rebuild the massive water system that brings 2.4 million gallons a day from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir in Yosemite National Park, across three major earthquake faults, to 2.4 million people in four Bay Area counties.

"Many components were built more than 70 years ago," Julie Labonte, manager of the Water System Improvement Program (WSIP), told the supervisors.

Of some 70 projects to make the entire water system reliable through a future earthquake, 39 will directly benefit San Mateo County, Ms. Labonte said; 16 projects costing more than \$1 billion will strengthen pipes, dams and the water treatment plant in the county.

The biggest and most challenging local project will personally affect South County residents living beside or near the Hetch Hetchy right-of-way that slashes through East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and North Fair Oaks. Called the "Bay Division Pipeline Reliability Upgrade," this \$451-million project will add new pipes and a tunnel to carry water for 21 miles from Fremont, under the Bay, and up the Peninsula to the Pulgas Water Temple and Crystal Springs reservoir. A five-mile tunnel, 10 feet in diameter, will run under the Bay between Newark and Ravenswood in East Palo Alto; it will replace two existing pipelines.

Several hundred homeowners who border the right-of-way in South San Mateo County will feel the greatest impact. Many have driveways, fences, storage or gardens extending into the 60- to 80-foot open swath that crosses their neighborhoods.

These may have to go, when construction crews trench down

the right-of-way to add a new 60-inch water pipe to the two pipes that are already there. Construction for the new pipeline will cross major highways, from University Avenue to Bayshore Freeway, Marsh Road, and El Camino Real. It will also traverse parking lots, Flood Park in Menlo Park, and landscaping near Bay Road.

"This is definitely our most challenging project," Ms. Labonte said. "Encroachments will need to be removed."

The San Francisco Water Department is trying to ease the process for homeowners. It is adopting a new policy to simplify regulations over encroachments into the right-of-way.

Residents, the media, and neighborhood groups should receive this week a notice of the revised policy. It will be considered by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (PUC) at its meeting Jan. 9, 2007.

The new policy will clarify the former regulations and make them more concise and straightforward, said Maureen Barry, communications coordinator for the PUC. "We'll still be able to enter into agreements with neighbors. But we have to have access to the pipelines."

The draft environmental impact report (EIR) on the pipeline project should be issued next spring, with construction scheduled for early 2010, said Project Manager Joe Ortiz. "Each case will be dealt with individually."

Other projects

New water lines will have major impacts in Central and North San Mateo County; some intersect El Camino Real near Burlingame and Hillsborough.

The lower Crystal Springs Dam,

See **WATER**, next page



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Norma Lundholm Djerassi, writer, poet, world traveler

Norma Lundholm Djerassi, writer, poet, world traveler and friend to many, died Dec. 8 at her Portola Valley home, where she has lived for the past 46 years. She was 89.

Word of Ms. Djerassi's death from an apparent heart attack traveled from friend to friend all over the world in a matter of hours, according to her son, Dale Djerassi. "I am amazed at the outpouring of feelings and sentiments and the profound impact my mother had on so many lives," he said.

"My mother was always true to herself," said her son. She had a remarkable gift of connecting with people from all walks of life, ages and all parts of the world, he said.

Ms. Djerassi and her former husband, Dr. Carl Djerassi, found a lot in the Westridge area of Portola Valley in 1959, chose an architect, and hired a Scandinavian construction firm to build their contemporary-style home while they were living in Mexico City in anticipation of relocating near Stanford. Dr. Djerassi is widely known as the "father of the birth-control pill."

Her son noted that Ms. Djerassi had encountered tragedy in her life, including the suicide of her daughter Pamela, but she figured out how to get through tragedy and have a life-affirming impact on others.

She helped found the Djerassi Resident Artists Program in memory of her daughter on the family ranch off Skyline.

Norma Lundholm was born in

OBITUARY

Norma Lundholm Djerassi died at her Portola Valley home.



Saugus, Massachusetts. As a child, she loved books and enjoyed writing thank-you notes for gifts, and the passion for reading and writing continued throughout her life.

She was the first person in her family to go to college. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College with a bachelor's degree, then received a master's degree from Boston College.

Before she was married in 1950, she taught English in high school. After her divorce

in 1976, she returned to teaching, this time at Canada Community College, helping Latino students in "English as a Second Language" classes. She spoke Spanish, Italian and Japanese.

Ms. Djerassi wrote her first book, "Glimpses of China from a Galloping Horse," in 1974 after traveling with her husband, Dr. Djerassi, at the invitation of the Chinese government, shortly after President Nixon opened U.S. relations with China.

She journeyed through the world. After her divorce, she traveled to the "rooftop of the world" - Nepal, Burma and Korea; studied Italian and absorbed the country's culture and history on several trips to Italy; visited Japan, East Africa and glaciers in Alaska; and went to Sweden to search for her roots.

She wrote the story of her unusual life as a collection of let-

ters, written to family members and friends, important people in her life who were no longer living.

Her book "Heart Notes," published in 2000, is dedicated to Dale and grandson Alexander, "with unconditional love and in loving memory of Pami, 1950-1978." The letters reflect on people, memories and events, and record a personal history.

"In her book, Norma allows readers to participate in events since her birth that have marked her and formed her strong opinions of justice and truth," said Robin Toews, a close friend since the Djerassi family moved to Portola Valley.

Ms. Djerassi was a voracious reader of books of all kinds, often reading three or four at the same time. Lately, she was reading a lot of books about politics because she was concerned about the state of the country and world,

her son said. "She was actively engaged in the political life of this country," he added.

She also wrote innumerable letters to the editor and politicians about social and political causes for which she had strong convictions.

For many years, a group of women met once a month to read and share poetry and a potluck dinner in her home.

She is survived by her son Dale, a filmmaker who lives on the family ranch in Woodside; grandson Alexander Djerassi, who graduated from Princeton University in June and is now working in London; and close relatives in Massachusetts.

A gathering to celebrate the life of Norma Djerassi is being planned for January, probably in Portola Valley or at the family ranch off Skyline.

—Marjorie Mader

Jensen Hauser

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WATER

continued from previous page

which survived the 1906 and 1989 earthquakes, will have its spillway re-engineered so the water level of Crystal Springs Lake can be raised six feet to its historic level. This project will meet safety concerns of the state and bring the storage capacity of the lake back to 2.6 billion gallons.

Before the dam can be rebuilt, the county must rebuild the road bridge across it. These projects are waiting on finding a location in the watershed to relocate some endangered frogs and snakes who have taken up residence there.

Another project in the South County would provide some additional connections between Bay pipelines in Atherton, at the California Water Service facility near the end of Reservoir Road. ■

INFORMATION

For information, call 415-554-3289, or go to sfwater.org (under the "Water" category click on "Water System Improvement Program.")

Holiday Fund

Family Connections helps preschoolers, parents grow

Programs at three sites for low-income families

By Marjorie Mader

Almanac Staff Writer

Mom or dad, or sometimes grandma, comes to the Family Connections' preschools with their youngsters each morning and to special family events during the year at two locations in Menlo Park and one site in East Palo Alto.

"Always, a parent stays with their child," says Debbie Denton, community liaison for Family Connections, which provides free preschools for children from low-income families living in Belle Haven, East Palo Alto and parts of Redwood City.

"This is not a drop-off center," says Ms. Denton. It's a parent-participation preschool that combines parent involvement and leadership with access for some 150 children, infants to 5-year olds, to early education and school readiness each year. These preschools are under the umbrella of the Sequoia Adult School, which helps fund salaries of the teachers who have parent-education credentials.

During a visit to the Family Connections preschool on the VA hospital campus in Menlo Park, children joined in circle time, listening to a story and singing songs with their teacher. Children's art decorates the walls. There are areas for blocks and toys, puzzles, and dress-up play. Children choose books from an eye-catching array of titles and their parents read to them. Outdoors is a sunny play area, a place to ride wheeled toys, climb on the play structure, and



Gifts to the Almanac's Holiday Fund help Family Connections provide free preschool programs for low-income families. For more information, call 369-6467, go to www.familyconnections.org, or e-mail director@familyconnections.org.

play in the sand.

"The children love it," says mom Julia San Bartolome. "Every day, they ask, are we going to preschool today?"

Veronica Marin started coming to the Family Connections school four years ago with her first daughter, Valery. "I found a family here," she said. That made a huge difference because she and her husband were new to the area and had no family nearby.

"My daughter started to get to know other children and adults and blossom. She had no struggles from preschool to kindergarten," said Ms. Marin, participating now with daughter Victoria.

Family Connections started in 1993 when parents from "Little Hands," a parent-articipation cop in Belmont, opened a preschool in an apartment in East Palo Alto, serving five families. The preschool expanded and moved into



The Almanac / Marjorie Mader

Luis San Bartolome reads to his daughter Sarah during a morning session of Family Connections' preschool, located at the Clara-Mateo Alliance Shelter at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Menlo Park.

a portable building on the Belle Haven School campus in 1997.

Two more preschool sites opened in 2002 at Clara Mateo Alliance Shelter on the VA campus in Menlo Park and at the Girls Club of the Mid-Peninsula in East Palo Alto.

The philosophy of Family Connections is: "Children learn best when their parents are involved in their education."

Parents, many of whom are new to the country, take an active role in the classroom, learning and growing along with their

children. Parent-education sessions are held every other week with speakers talking about timely topics such as discipline, self-esteem and conflict resolution. There also are leadership-training opportunities.

Family Connections operates on a \$350,000 annual budget. Most of the money comes from the nonprofit's fundraising activities, including the annual "Children's Authors Night," some foundation grants, and contributions from a long list of supporters.

The nonprofit has joined forces

with several partnerships, including the Peninsula Community Foundation and the David D. Bohannon Organization and community members, to provide services and resources to transform Belle Haven School into a "Community School" model.

Family Connections' preschool at Belle Haven, which now also has with a Saturday morning class, helps preschoolers make a smooth transition to kindergarten and helps parents get their children ready for academic school years. ■

Second Harvest bags food for the hungry

By Stephanie Cadora

Special to the Almanac

Second Harvest Food Bank estimates that in the seemingly affluent county of San Mateo, about 15,000 people suffer from chronic hunger, and another 43,000 struggle to find enough food to eat.

From Daly City to Gilroy, from the coast to the Bay, the food bank helps meet the food needs of low-income people, relying on a variety of funding sources and programs, says Lynn Crocker, communications manager of Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.

But Second Harvest is only one-fourth of the way to raising

enough money and food to meet the goals of its current food drive, which runs from October through January.

Second Harvest, which benefits from gifts to the Almanac Holiday Fund, partners with 142 nonprofit agencies in San Mateo County. The agencies shop at the San Carlos location every month, where they are allocated food based on the number of clients they serve. In turn, agencies allow clients to shop at their food pantries once or twice a month, with limits such as two cans of tuna per visit.

Other programs include a brown bag for seniors once a week, a family harvest for families once a month, and "partners in need" — where people can

volunteer as often as every day in exchange for a bag of groceries.

Second Harvest distributes about 7.5 million pounds of food per year to 45,000 people a month in San Mateo County.

"Every year (the number of needy people) goes up," says Ms. Crocker. "But donation needs are consistent throughout the year. More than anything, we need money because we can buy food in bulk."

Second Harvest needs high-protein, non-perishable items like meals in a can — such as stews and soups. Other items on the wish list include tuna, canned meat, peanut butter, canned foods with pop-top lids, low-sugar cereals, 100 percent fruit juices in single-serving



Gifts to the Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank. For information on Second Harvest, call the donor hotline at 1-408-266-8866 or go to www.2ndharvest.net. Second Harvest has introduced a Virtual Food Drive in 2006; go to fooddrive.shfoodbank.com to make a donation.

boxes, canned fruit packed in juice, and low-sodium canned vegetables.

The food bank began in 1974 and has a sustainable base

of funding. Forty-five percent of money donations are from individuals, 15 percent from corporations, 22 percent from foundations, and the remainder from other sources. Second Harvest is the second largest source of food to low-income San Mateo County residents after the federal Food Stamp Program.

The next food drive will be in May, and is called the letter carriers' food drive because people leave bags of food by their mailboxes for letter carriers to pick up on a particular Saturday.

Ms. Crocker went to work for Second Harvest because "I wanted to work for a human services agency instead of an ad agency," she says. "Our mission statement is: Providing food for people in need in our community." ■

Holiday Fund donors

As of Dec. 7, 2006

Anonymous (14 gifts) \$5,695
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 the Wonder Dog

TOTALS: As of Dec. 7, 2006, 53 donors have given \$38,855 to the Almanac's Holiday Fund.

* The asterisk designates that the donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.

Shelter Network helps homeless families move into homes

By Marion Softky
 Almanac Staff Writer

Who is most likely to become homeless in San Mateo County?

It's not the stereotypes you think about. It's families; it's children, says Michelle Jackson, executive director of Shelter Network, San Mateo County's principal provider of housing and support for the homeless and near-homeless.

"Our typical client is a single mom with two children," she says.

Since 1987, Shelter Network has been helping such families, not just with shelter, but with counseling and child care, and support to help them get back on their feet and into their own homes.

Last year Shelter Network helped more than 3,100 people in half a dozen programs, from Haven Family House in Menlo Park to Family Crossroads in Daly City, Ms. Jackson says. These people included 808 families, with 1,446 children, as well as 577 single people, who stayed in the Maple Street Shelter in Redwood City.

"Last year 87 percent of our program graduates returned to permanent housing. We're very proud of that," says Ms. Jackson.

Shelter Network's newest program, called "Housing First," gives working families financial help with the costs of moving



Gifts to the Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit Shelter Network. It's located at 1450 Chapin Ave. in Burlingame. The phone is 685-5880. Shelter Network's three main locations in South San Mateo County are: Haven Family House, 260 Van Buren St., Menlo Park; Redwood Family House, 1160 Locust St., Redwood City; and Maple Street Shelter, 1580A Maple St., Redwood City. For more information, go to shelternetwork.org.

into homes or apartments and beginning rent — until they can become self-sufficient, "so they won't become homeless again," she says.

Many of these families don't have the savings to pay the security deposit or first and last month rent in order to move in, Ms. Jackson explains. Many have encountered one-time problems that left them with no place to live: a health emergency; loss of a job; an eviction notice; or a family breakup.

See **SHELTER NETWORK**, next page

Giving to the Holiday Fund

Your gift helps children and others in need



Contributions to the Holiday Fund will go directly to the programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers contributed more than \$100,000, and with available matching grants, over \$150,000 was raised for 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be

matched to the extent possible by generous community corporations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies.

This year, the following agencies will be supported by the Almanac's Holiday Fund:

- **Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula**
 Provides after-school academic support and activities for 2,600 young people, 6 to 18, at clubhouses in Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood, East Palo Alto and Redwood City and offers programs at Flood and Belle Haven schools in Menlo Park and McNair School in East Palo Alto.
- **Ecumenical Hunger Program**
 Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.
- **Family Connections**
 Provides free pre-school programs for children from low-income families in Belle Haven, parts of Redwood City and East Palo Alto. Parents must be involved in the education program, which operates on the Belle Haven School campus and the Clara-Mateo Homeless Shelter in Menlo Park Monday-Saturday mornings.
- **Ravenswood Family Health Center**
 Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinics in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto. It also operates a mobile clinic at school sites. Of the 16,500 registered patients, most are low income and uninsured from the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks area.
- **InnVision Peninsula Programs**
 Works with homeless and at-risk families and individuals to reach self-sufficient living. Services reach 6,000 via Opportunity Center of the Midpeninsula, Palo Alto Food Closet, Hotel de Zink Rotating Church Shelter, Breaking Bread Hot Meals, Clara-Mateo Alliance Shelter, and Elsa Segovia Center.
- **St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room**
 Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. St. Anthony's, funded entirely by voluntary contributions, is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers emergency food and clothing assistance.
- **Second Harvest Food Bank**
 The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 30 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to some 162,000 people each month through more than 700 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.
- **Shelter Network**
 Provides short-term shelter and transitional housing and services to more than 3,100 homeless people and children each year. Offers five programs for families and individuals to become self-sufficient and return to permanent housing.
- **Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition**
 Provides educational programs for youth and adults to help teens make healthy choices that will result in lower rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Its "Teen Talk" program last year served 3,650 youth at 23 public school sites in the county.
- **Youth and Family Enrichment Services**
 Provides over 20 programs to help people who struggle with substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health, relationship and communications issues. The mission of YFES is to strengthen communities by empowering youth, families, and individuals to overcome challenges through counseling, education, and residential services.

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The foundations and companies named below provide major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.

Community Foundation Silicon Valley

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The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Rotary Club of Menlo Park

For more information about the Peninsula Community Foundation go to www.pcf.org. The Almanac will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2006, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.



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The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

Alexander Rice shares a moment in the garden with his aunt, Penny Dellaporta of Atherton.

A brush with royalty

ROYALTY

continued from page 7

a guest in their home, "I never forgot who they were," he says.

Within the year, Mr. Rice received a commission from the city of London to paint the queen to commemorate her Golden Jubilee.

A portrait of the queen

Queen Elizabeth was painted by Mr. Rice in the coronation coach built for George III.

The three sittings took place in the winter in the unsprung, uncomfortable coach located in the Royal Mews behind Buckingham Palace. The painting

took a year to complete, partly because of the difficulty of scheduling sittings.

The picture shows the queen with an animated smile. Mr. Rice says Queen Elizabeth "has the most wonderful smile. It's almost girlish."

In no way does Alexander Rice fit the image of the starving artist. He's young (37) and successful. He wears a suit instead of a smock while painting. "Somehow I never manage to get paint on me," he says.

Early show of talent

Mr. Rice won a prize for one of his paintings when he was 6 years old. He was educated at

Stowe School and Durham University in England. He studied at the Charles Cecil School of Art in Florence for three years, attended the Academy of Florence for two years and studied for two more years at the Repin Academy in St. Petersburg.

"I've always wanted to do portraits," he says, "but it's dangerous. If you mess up, everybody knows."

His portraits are flattering. "I believe in seeing a person in the best possible light," he says.

Mr. Rice has big plans for the future. He would like to build an art school for students, ages 13 to 18, in the United States.

"People are more receptive here. You're leading the world in just about everything. Why not fine arts?" he says. ■

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SHELTER NETWORK

continued from previous page

"It's really hard to be a single parent and maintain a home," Ms. Jackson says. "This is an expensive place to live. Rents are rising, wages are not keeping up, and people are living on the edge."

So far, Housing First has helped 40 families move into their own homes; there are 65 families waiting, Ms. Jackson says. "If we get more support for Housing First, we can move more people."

Nick and Lupe Hefa live in a neat two-bedroom apartment

in East Palo Alto with two of their children, thanks to Shelter Network's Housing First. Their story illustrates how complicated family situations can become.

The Tongan family was living in Seattle when Ms. Hefa, who worked as a caregiver, became ill and moved to this area for better climate and medical help. For a while she worked as a caregiver; now she's got a night job with Shutterfly. Mr. Hefa joined her with two children, now students at Flood School and Menlo-Atherton High School. He has

a construction job with a company that does waterproofing.

They didn't have enough money to set up housing and were referred to Shelter Network. After an extensive interview, the Hefas lived for a month last spring at Haven Family House, where the programs helped them adjust and feel at home, while they looked for their own home. "The atmosphere was really like a home," says Ms. Hefa. "They gave us time to shop for an apartment, even a house."

Now in their own apartment, the Hefas are still getting a temporary "shallow rent" subsidy while they build up their finances. They still work with a case manager to settle problems, and have access to the food bank.

Above all, they are grateful. "I can't say enough," Ms. Hefa says. "Haven House really, really helped us, both mentally and physically, particularly mentally." ■

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OBITUARIES

Alan C. Walker

Former Ladera resident

Alan C. Walker, who lived in Ladera for 35 years until 1990, died Nov. 30 in Gilroy after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. He was 82.

Mr. Walker was born in Oahu, Hawaii, the son of a Scottish bookkeeper and an American school teacher. While he was attending the University of Hawaii, Pearl Harbor was attacked. He and other students assisted in clearing battle rubble from Ford Island.

In 1944 he graduated from the University of Hawaii with a degree in physics and was married to Patience Miller in October of that year. He was called to military service and was sent by the Army to receive further education at the University of Maine.

When the war ended, he returned to Hawaii and was employed by the Hawaiian Telephone Co.

He moved to California in 1955 and continued his career as a telecommunications engineer. He was employed by Lenkurt Electric, Farion Electric, and Harris Corp. After retiring, he continued as a private consultant, specializing in FCC regulations.

His interests included cameras, cars and electronic equipment. He also enjoyed camping and sailing with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Patience Walker of Gilroy; son Michael Walker of Boulder, Colorado; daughter Deborah Schwarz of Gilroy; sons Christopher Walker of Gilroy and Andrew Walker of San Jose; seven grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at the Gilroy United Methodist Church in Gilroy. Donations in his memory made be made to Hospice of the Valley or the Gilroy Methodist Church.

Marion Bellamy

Retired Realtor

Marion K. Bellamy, who worked as a real estate agent with Cornish and Carey in Menlo Park for 15 years, died Dec. 1 after a brief battle with cancer. She was 82.

Ms. Bellamy was born in Middletown, Connecticut, and

grew up in Norfolk, Virginia. She attended William and Mary College. After college she married John B. Bellamy Jr. and moved to the Bay Area.

During the late 1950s and 1960s, she coordinated fashion shows for

charities, restaurants and hotels, including the opening of the San Francisco Hilton and Jack Tar Hotel. She was a guest auctioneer for KQED for six years during the 1960s. She was a member of the Peninsula Volunteers.

Ms. Bellamy is survived by her son, Paul Scott Bellamy of Bartlett, Tennessee; stepson Rob Taylor of Gaithersburg, Maryland; four grandchildren and three step-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Norman

Taylor, and sons John B. Bellamy III and Robert K. Bellamy.

A memorial service will be held in January. Memorials may be sent to Peninsula Volunteers, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025; or KQED, San Francisco.

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Correction

In the Dec. 6 issue of The Almanac, the woman pictured on page 35 was Jeanne DuPrau, not Elsa Hooper as stated in the caption. The Almanac regrets the error.



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Accident leads to drunken driving charge

Lucas Michael Yancey, 20, of Woodside has been charged with felony drunken driving after a Nov. 26 accident on Miramontes Road in Woodside.

Mr. Yancey was driving home from a party with five passengers in a 2000 Cadillac Escalade when he "took a turn too fast," rolled the vehicle, and landed in a pasture, said Lt. Ken Jones of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

No one was wearing a seat belt, Lt. Jones said. The accident caused various injuries, includ-

NEWS BRIEFS

ing severe shoulder pain, lacerations and bumps; Mr. Yancey was in a neck brace when deputies interviewed him at Sequoia Hospital, Lt. Jones said.

The injured people had been taken to the hospital in a vehicle driven by Mr. Yancey's brother Nicholas, who had been at the party but returned home in a separate vehicle, Lt. Jones said. When his brother didn't show up, Nicholas went out looking for him, discovered the accident, and drove everyone to the hospital, Lt. Jones said.

Sheriff's deputies learned of the accident when hospital staff called at 2:58 a.m. to report a group of people with injuries consistent with a vehicle accident, Lt. Jones said.

Mr. Yancey was cited and allowed to go home. The case has been turned over to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office to determine

whether prosecution is warranted, Lt. Jones said.

Truck skids off freeway

The driver of a delivery truck apparently lost control of his vehicle on southbound Interstate 280, north of the Farm Hill Boulevard exit in Woodside, just before 9 a.m. Monday, Dec. 11.

The truck turned over on its side and skidded down the freeway embankment toward Runnymede Road, which parallels I-280 on the west side, said Capt. Walter Black of the Woodside Fire Protection District.

A California Department of Forestry fire truck was first on the scene and provided first aid to the driver. He had no major injuries and was not taken to the hospital, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Woodside district fire officials checked for toxic leaks. There was a blow-off of transmission steam from the radiator but no smoke or fuel leak, said Capt. Black.

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

Fraud report: Unauthorized use of credit card, first block of Watkins Avenue, Dec. 5.

MENLO PARK

Stolen vehicle reports:

- Blue four door 2002 Toyota Camry, first block of Greenwood Place, Dec. 3.
- Dark gray 2003 BMW 525i stolen, 300 block of Concord Avenue, Dec. 7.

Auto burglary reports:

- Nissan vehicle manuals stolen, 1000 block of Sonoma Avenue, Dec. 7.
- Registration card, insurance card and 12 DVDs stolen, 50 block of Callie Lane, Dec. 7.
- CDs, CD case and \$185 stolen, 100 block of Laurel Avenue, Dec. 7.

Theft reports:

- Camera stolen from unlocked car, 500 block of Concord Drive, Dec. 3.
- MP3 music player stolen from unlocked vehicle, 300 block of Hedge Road, Dec. 3.
- Stereo stolen from unlocked vehicle,

500 block of Concord Drive, Dec. 4.

Grand theft report: William Thomas Ayres, 35, of South San Francisco arrested on theft charges when found absconding with copper pipe and other property, 2400 block of Sand Hill Road, Dec. 7.

Assault with deadly weapon report: Man threatened couple with knife then fled, El Camino Real at Santa Cruz Avenue, Dec. 3.

Burglary reports:

- Tools stolen from house under construction, 1000 block of Lemon Street, Dec. 4.
 - Electronic equipment stolen from residence, 200 block of Willow Road, Dec. 5.
 - Laptop computer stolen, 900 block of Laurel Avenue, Dec. 7.
- Fraud reports:**
- Counterfeit bills received, 1300 block of Willow Road and 500 block of El Camino Real, Dec. 4 and 5.
 - Possible forgery, 400 block of Laurel Avenue, Dec. 6.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Arrest report: Richard David Castello arrested and booked into San Mateo County jail for charges including making threats and resisting arrest, 100 block of Hillbrook Drive, Dec. 3.

SOMETHING GOT YOUR GOAT?



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EYE CARE NEWS



Presented by
Mark Schmidt
Licensed Optician



A DRIVING FORCE

The ability to drive an automobile is one of the primary factors that govern personal independence. As much as some view driving to be their right, we all owe driving safely to one another. Accordingly, mature adults should consider the fact that everyone experiences at least some vision changes due to normal aging, including difficulty focusing on near tasks and trouble distinguishing colors and contrast. Moreover, as people are living longer, increasing numbers are affected by more severe vision problems due to conditions such as cataracts, glaucoma, and

macular degeneration. Thus, all older drivers are strongly encouraged to have regular checkups to ensure that their ability to drive has not been compromised by undetected vision loss.

Whether you drive only to and from work or drive across the state or country on vacations, you know that seeing clearly is important for your safety as well as that of other drivers on the road. Prescriptions change over time. Bring your new prescription to MENLO OPTICAL at 1166 University Drive, on the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and University Drive. Locally owned and operated, we emphasize personalized service and carry a wide selection of well-crafted eyewear at competitive prices. Call us at 322-3900.

P.S. Glaucoma, cataract, macular degeneration, and diabetic retinopathy are more common among people aged 65 years and older.

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.

LETTERS

continued from page 31

erty damage at intersections equipped with cameras.

Red-light cameras violate civil rights and create lawsuits. In Minneapolis, all pending red-light camera tickets are on hold after the city lost a suit by the ACLU. Wisconsin has outlawed ticket cameras altogether after lawsuits mounted. San Diego itself has lost several lawsuits after it was shown the contractor had shortened the yellow lights to increase the number of tickets. Scottsdale's cameras were deactivated in October. Girard and Steubenville, both in Ohio, shut down their programs after losing class action lawsuits. In almost every court around the country, red-light camera programs have been found to violate due process and to be unconstitutional.

Red-light cameras make money. RedFlex Traffic Systems, the contractor selected by Menlo Park, is an Australian company whose U.S. headquarters are in Scottsdale. Ninety percent of its estimated \$6.7 million in profits come from 660 red-light cameras installed in the United States. RedFlex is one of the major lobbyists promoting the use of red-light cameras, and it is telling that the company will install the cameras in Menlo Park at no cost to the city. This is about their profits.

Red-light cameras turn police officers into modern-day revenue generators. Police Chief Bruce Goitia acknowledged in your article that Menlo Park would make as much as \$500,000 a year from the program. Additional police staff will be hired to collect the money. There is something very perverse about a program where the police (department) benefits from increased bad public behavior. This is the exact opposite of what police work is all about.

Running a red light is a terrible thing to do. Beyond being a violation, it puts drivers, pedestrians and bystanders in physical danger. There are many studies and statistics showing that simply increasing yellow light times by a second or two reduces violations and accidents. A simple engi-

neering solution will address the vast majority of the problems. In more difficult situations, better coordination of traffic lights, larger and brighter lights, and removal of visual obstacles can further reduce violations and accidents.

I sincerely hope the Menlo Park City Council will reconsider its terrible decision before accidents increase and lawsuits get filed. The council should do something constructive about public safety and apply sound engineering principles to reduce accidents, not set up a system where the city benefits financially from increased violations.

Claude Leglise
Golden Oak Drive,
Portola Valley

Embarrassed by Atherton lawsuit

Editor:

The following letter was addressed to Atherton Mayor Charles Marsala:

I am a longtime, second-generation Atherton resident and my children are second-generation Menlo-Atherton High School students. I attended the informational meeting held recently at the M-A library.

I wanted you to know that I totally agree with the young woman (and Atherton resident) who told you she was embarrassed by your decision to file a lawsuit to stop construction of the new theater at M-A unless the Sequoia Union High School District and Menlo Park agree to abide by Atherton's restrictions over its use.

Perhaps if Atherton's restrictions were just a little bit more reasonable, you wouldn't be in this pickle.

To try to dictate to Menlo Park (our neighbors and the town where all we Athertonians shop) that they can't plan an event that would go beyond 9 p.m. on a weekend is ridiculous. When

was the last time you went to the theater for an evening and left before 9? How reasonable is that?

And by the way, how are you and the Town Council paying for this lawsuit? What fund are you using to pay the attorneys' fees?

It seems to me we have far more important things to spend our ever-shrinking dollars on than frivolous lawsuits. Like maybe repairing the long-standing (and now very expensive to fix) problem with drainage in front of the high school.

It seems to me that there must have been a more fiscally responsible way to work out the problems you all saw with the school district and Menlo Park.

I know you have been pressured by some of those Atherton residents who live adjacent to the high school near the sports fields, not the proposed theater. The residents who live closest to the theater are in Menlo Park! I am sure it will be hard for them to deal with the noise on the weekends.

Actually, that is why I, for one, would never consider buying a home near a school. Schools and noise pretty much go hand in hand. And M-A has been here since the 1950s. Those residents cannot exactly say they have been blindsided by the location of the high school in their backyards.

At any rate, I am sure if you and the Town Council tried being reasonable with the district and Menlo Park you would be able to reach an agreement. The legal precedents are not on your side, you are wasting our money, and last, but not least, you are setting a really bad example for all of the students in this area who will be hearing about this lawsuit.

Our kids need to believe that we as a community support their success in school and in life (after all, we will all benefit), and this lawsuit of yours simply does not send that message.

Please withdraw the lawsuit!
Anne Peterson
Encino Road, Atherton



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M-A LAWSUIT

continued from page 31

you whenever changes to the town are proposed).

The greatest cities in the world — New York, Paris, Rome, Tokyo — are considered to be so because people want to be there. They want to congregate. So, there is a little more traffic on a Friday night when there is a play, or the jazz

band is performing. Is this really such a problem?

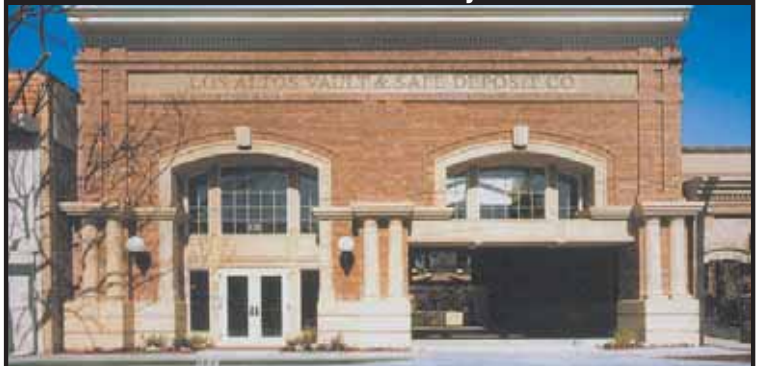
The arts center could bring in lecturers, guest speakers, and even perhaps professionally produced theater and music. I would say that would be worth waiting for one extra red light cycle once in a while as you are driving down Middlefield or Ravenswood.

I'd like to leave you with one parting thought. Remember the

now almost folkloric story about the way to get to Carnegie Hall being through practice? Well Atherton, I guess what I am saying is this: Please. Be the modern-day version of an Andrew Carnegie. Give your kids a place to practice!

Jessica Canty is a 1997 graduate of M-A, and received a bachelor's degree in theater arts at UCLA in 2001.

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A fresh start in Menlo Park

Fresh from an election that sent a clear message to the City Council that voters want more cooperation and less vituperation, incoming Menlo Park Mayor Kelly Fergusson pledged to reach out and listen to all members of the community (One Menlo Park) during her first night at the council helm.

With an audience of 150 or so looking on last Tuesday, Ms. Fergusson read from prepared remarks that ranged from Menlo Park to Darfur and global warming, but ended with a pledge to end the bickering and dissension that has divided the city's

political factions over the years. Everyone in the room had to have gotten the message that the new council — led by Ms. Fergusson and newly minted

Vice Mayor Andy Cohen, and including the just-elected Heyward Robinson, Rich Cline and John Boyle — will put a lot more effort than the prior regime into hearing from all sides before making major policy decisions.

It was a noble pledge, and not surprising for any new council as it swings into action. But the proof will be in the ability of all interests in the community to take up the art of compromise as the critical issues of the day come before the city. It seems to us that it was the unwillingness of the prior council to listen to and incorporate opposing views that landed them in the loser's column on Nov. 7.

And as the new council steps into the fray, they will come to understand that there are no easy answers out there. For example:

■ Right off the bat, in about two weeks, the new council will have to set the rate for the new utility tax, which could produce up to \$2.5 million a year, but could be set at a lower rate, with a lower return. Already, several writers have posted concerns on the Almanac's Town Square Web site suggesting that the full levy may not be necessary.

■ And then there are the labor negotiations that have already

reached impasse, which could dramatically raise the city's personnel expense, depending on the outcome. These talks are even more ticklish due to the rising costs of health care and retirees' pensions. The fact that incoming council members Cline and Robinson were endorsed by the union that represents many of the city's employees will also be closely watched.

■ And finally, there is the elephant in the room — downtown development. First will come the Derry project, which is likely to either go to a referendum vote or come back in compromise form to the Planning Commission and then the council. But the bigger question is whether a more comprehensive study is needed of the entire El Camino Real corridor, or even a rewrite of some aspects of the city's general plan before projects planned for the area move forward. Most incoming council members say a new comprehensive plan is needed, and since the city's two political factions rarely see eye to eye on this one, disagreement may be inevitable.

There will be more critical decisions ahead, but at least there are a few that have been put to rest by the election. For starters, it looks as if Bayfront Park will be spared as a site for playing fields or golf courses. And it would be safe to say that there will likely be no moves by this council to privatize the city's child care programs. And so far, we have heard nothing about any changes in the operation of the Burgess pool complex, which was privatized earlier this year.

Mayor Fergusson has personally reached out to her opponents and asked them to join in her effort to end the discord in Menlo Park. At least one supporter of the prior council majority, Reg Rice, has said he is ready to join the effort.

A good outcome can happen only if all sides — the Chamber of Commerce, residentialists, strong neighborhood voices like Linfield Oaks, the municipal unions and developers — can put aside old differences and move forward on a nonpartisan basis. It will not be easy, but the reward will be worth working for.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

**Not all cyclists
deserve 'bad' label**

Editor:

I read with dismay the account of Ms. Nancy Baglietto last week in which she describes being struck by a cyclist's water bottle. Dismay certainly because the inexcusable actions of the cyclist caused her physical harm, but even more so because she has the bigotry to go on to attack an entire class of people — cyclists — calling them marauders and stating that she doesn't want them in Portola Valley, her hometown.

She levels such seemingly unrelated charges against them as slowing down the speed of motor traffic. Let me explain something.

See **LETTERS**, next page

TOWN SQUARE

Post your views and
comments on TownSquare:
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Portola Valley Archives

Our Regional Heritage

This living room of the Conolley residence, known as "Timbercrest," reflects the rustic elegance of Portola Valley estates in the early years of the 20th Century. The home still stands on the lower reaches of Windy Hill.

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

The problem with cyclists is this: many motorists fail to recognize cyclists as legitimate users of the road. These motorists patiently waste hours of their time at a standstill in gridlock because the number of cars in front of them has overwhelmed the capacity of the freeway, yet they can't spare 30 seconds when caught behind one or more cyclists on a stretch of road that is too narrow to allow them to pass safely.

Every cyclist faces a dilemma; stand up for your rights to use the road or stop cycling. Luckily, many are able to do the former. They ignore the motorists who honk at them or yell obscenities or pass by so closely that the cyclists have to swerve out of the way or be hit. Some get angry enough to yell back, or flip the bird or even throw a water bottle, actions which only lower them to the level of the motorists.

So it is fundamentally the motorists who need to change. But if you don't believe me, I'll prove it to you: ride your bike. Ride it to work. Ride it for recreation. Ride it on all the roads you've got a legal right to use. Observe all the rules of the road and be as courteous to motorists as you can. It still won't take long before a motorist tries to intimidate you by intentionally threatening your safety. Then maybe you'll understand the root of the problem.

John Higgins

Marmona Drive, Menlo Park

More facts emerge in cycling incident

Club says bottle thrower not an Alto Velo rider

By Brian Peterson

I am extremely sorry that (Nancy) Baglietto was recently injured by the irresponsible act of a cyclist in Portola Valley, as described in last week's Almanac.

I want to correct several of the claims made by Ms. Baglietto about the incident. It is also important to note that after the incident, Ms. Baglietto contacted the Alto Velo cycling club and we informed her of the correct facts, including all of the following:

1. The "morning ride" is not a ride sponsored or promoted by the Alto Velo cycling club. It is an informal group that meets early in the morning in Palo Alto.

2. It is true that the cyclist who threw the bottle kept going, unaware that Ms. Baglietto had been hit. However, it is not true that the individual was a member of the Alto Velo cycling club. He was not.

I was there at the time and witnessed the incident. I was one of the first people to stop to offer assistance to Ms. Baglietto. I am the president of the Alto Velo cycling club, and I was wearing club clothing. Several other members of the club stopped to assist her as well.

When Ms. Baglietto later claimed that the Alto Velo cycling club was at fault, we made clear to her that our club was not responsible. We stopped to help her. She mistakenly thought that we were at fault because we stopped to assist her.

3. The individual who did throw the bottle has since contacted Ms. Baglietto and apologized to her. He also told her that he is not a member of or affiliated with the Alto Velo cycling club. He has never been a member of Alto Velo.

4. Ms. Baglietto also claimed that the water bottle that hit her was an Alto Velo bottle. I don't think that it was. It is possible that the Alto Velo bottle was left by someone who stopped to aid Ms. Baglietto. Ms. Baglietto should also be aware that about 500 Alto Velo water bottles were distributed to cyclists of all clubs during the Pescadero Road Race held earlier this year, and it is entirely possible and highly likely that the bottle in question did not belong to an Alto Velo rider.

Alto Velo strives to promote responsible riding among its members. We take being good citizens on the road very seriously. We certainly do not condone the actions that caused Ms. Baglietto's injury, but it is not fair for her and the Almanac to wrongly blame our club for something that we did not do and something that was caused by a bike rider with no affiliation to the Alto Velo cycling club.

I believe that Ms. Baglietto and the Almanac owe Alto Velo and its sponsors an apology.

Brian Peterson is president of the Alto Velo Cycling Club.



I never said the "morning ride" is sponsored or promoted by Alto Velo, nor did I say the culprit that threw the bottle was a member of your club. You must know who threw the bottle because you are quick to say he was not a member.

If you witnessed the accident, why didn't you stop the person who did the deed? Yes, a couple of riders at the back of the pack did stop only after my friend hailed them down. One even asked "what happened?" Obviously he did not see the bottle-throwing. Why did I have to confront a group of cyclists on the following Tuesday? Obviously the riders knew who threw the bottle and with a bit of peer pressure he came forward. I am sure the sight of my face was a bit overwhelming.

The bottle that hit me did indeed say Alto Velo on it. Since there was but one bottle on the trail, it was not one left behind by someone else. Maybe you might want to be more selective who receives your bottles.

You did receive the first letter I had emailed after the accident, yet you waited until my rewritten letter was in print before you responded. Why?

I am only stating what happened. There is nothing erroneous in my letter.

I think this dialogue is good because it puts all cyclists (good and bad) on notice that throwing bottles or anything can be dangerous. If we are all to share the same roads it is necessary that everyone behaves properly. Don't you agree?

Nancy Baglietto lives in Portola Valley and is the pedestrian hit recently by a water bottle thrown at a passing car.

Valley needs a cozy cafe meeting spot

Editor:

The one thing that is missing from Portola Valley Mayor Steve Toben's recent assessment of the town's strengths is the kind of daily meeting place that a cafe

or general store provides.

Since the loss of the pharmacy and John's Market, we now have both the need and the opportunity to install some kind of retail establishment that would provide a useful and appealing place for people to meet and gather. A cozy cafe that serves

coffee and lunch, that includes a post office and perhaps an old-fashioned country store, would be perfect for the space formerly occupied by John's.

Some small office spaces, perhaps rented on a short-term basis, might work there too. The new Town Center is a great idea

for gathering for special events, but a cafe is where people will meet daily to read the paper, sit in the sun, stop on a bike ride, or rest after a hike. This kind of venue is sorely missing from our town.

Susan Kritzik
Possum Lane, Portola Valley

The real reason behind red-light camera

Editor:

The decision by the Menlo Park City Council to install red-light cameras is motivated by greed, not public safety.

I was recently falsely accused by the San Diego Police Department of running a red light in their fair city. Even though I was not in the car they alleged had run the red light, proving my innocence turned out to be complex and lengthy. This incident led me to learn more about red-light cameras and their negative effects.

Red-light cameras create accidents. Bakersfield, Middletown, Ohio, and numerous other cities have found that red-light cameras increase accidents and injuries at the intersections where they are installed due to increased rear-end collisions.

In a comprehensive study covering an eight-year period, Regina, Sask., found a 12 percent increase in accidents, 8 percent increase in injuries, and 14 percent increase in prop-

M-A alum confused over lawsuit

By Jessica Canty

The following letter was addressed to the city of Atherton:

I was sorry to hear that you are suing your local high school over the performing arts center that is to begin construction in 2007.

I don't know if you remember me because I haven't lived there for a while, but I am a graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School and grew up on Ringwood Avenue, just across the street from the Atherton border.

I was also involved in a lot of the drama programs when I attended M-A and we had to go down the street to use the theater at a local park in (shhh!) Menlo Park. I know we haven't talked for a while, but I thought I would take the time to write you a letter because I am a little confused as to why you

are suing the high school district and M-A.

Due to my confusion over the lawsuit and the position it puts you in, I have a few questions for you. First, why wouldn't you be proud to contribute to the proliferation of the arts in your own town? According to the most recent U.S. Census, Atherton is lucky to boast a mean income of over \$200,000 per year for its citizens. Web sites that describe Atherton

also note the following:

"The town has a large middle class. Atherton finds a smaller share of its people living in poverty than most places in the state. To its credit, the people in the town value education and a large proportion are college graduates."

You obviously believe in education and are lucky enough to be in a position to provide resources to your student population, so why aren't you embracing this? In 1889

Andrew Carnegie published an essay called the Gospel of Wealth.

This essay outlined the philanthropic duties of the growing population of self-made rich at the time. The central idea in the essay was that it was this group's responsibility to re-circulate their wealth back into society for the greater good. Among Carnegie's many projects that came out of this was the music center that was later renamed Carnegie Hall. But I digress.

Why would you be trying to afford your students fewer opportunities to learn and excel when you can obviously afford to do so? Why are you so afraid of "increased police calls" due to this new building? Are you implying that your very own students wouldn't be responsible enough to treat the new performing arts center with respect? What is the big deal about traffic? (Frankly, I have never understood this argument from

See **M-A LAWSUIT**, page 29

GUEST OPINION

See **LETTERS**, page 29



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