

**PORTOLA VALLEY: Residents win discounts in bulk purchases of solar power. Page 6**

# The Almanac

**NEIGHBORHOODS  
inside this issue**

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

DECEMBER 27, 2006

www.AlmanacNews.com | VOL. 42 NO. 17



# EXTRA! EXTRA!

## Top Stories of 2006!

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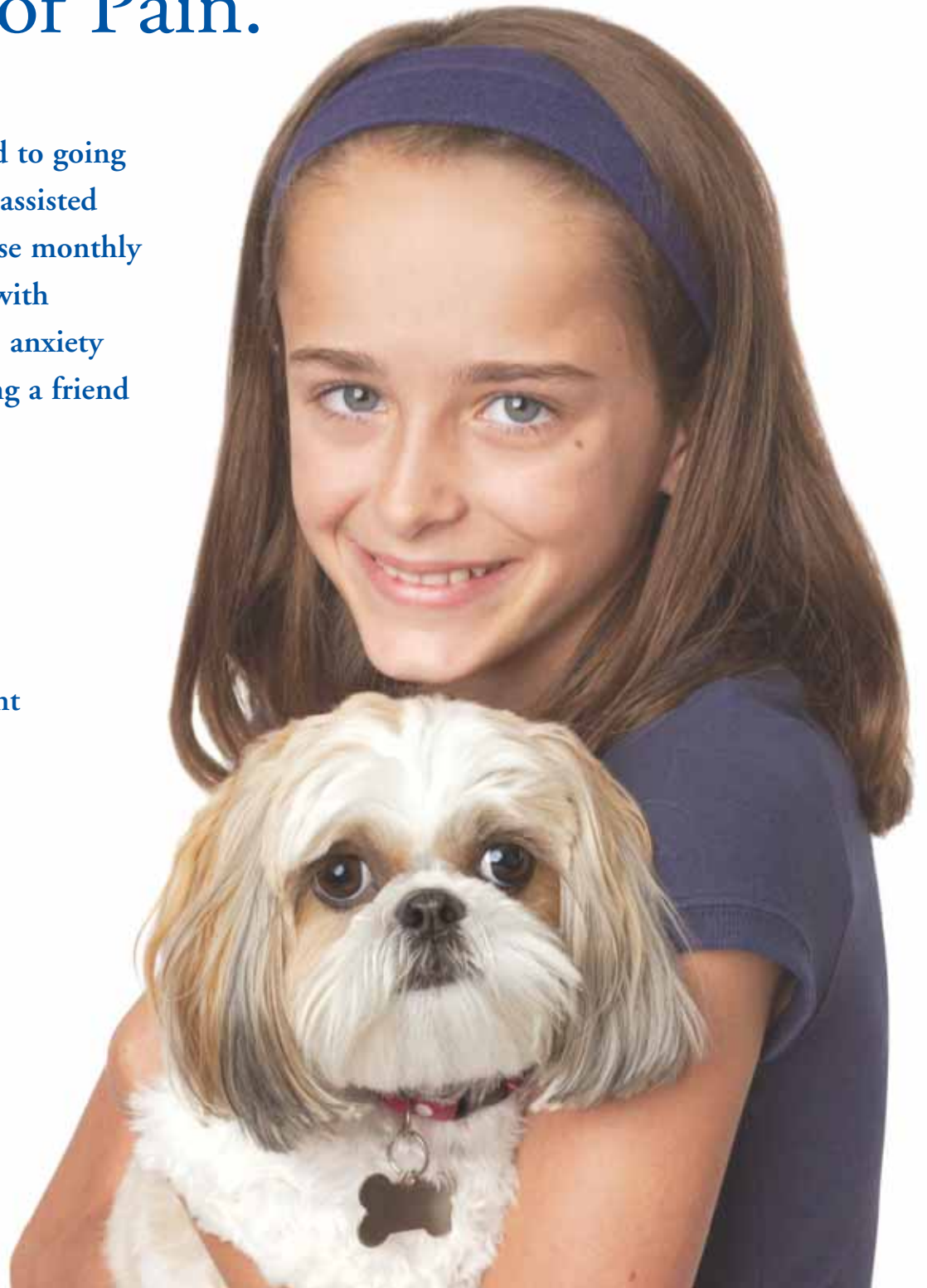


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# Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

## FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

### Dance to the music

Jillian Baile (center) dances to the rhythm of a song her dance teacher, Jane Kellam, chose during a "pre-kinder" dance class at the Menlo Children's Center in the Menlo Park Civic Center.

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**THE ALMANAC** (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-4455. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, the Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. Voluntary subscriptions for \$30 per year or \$50 per 2 years are welcome from residents of the above circulation area. Subscription rates for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year and \$80 for two years. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, P.O. Box 7008, Menlo Park, CA 94026-7008. Copyright ©2006 by Embarcadero Publishing Co., All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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If you enjoy the "fireworks" experienced by some when they enjoy a fine glass of Champagne, you need to come to the local wine experts at ROBERTS MARKET. We pride ourselves on serving our local community with the finest of wines and champagnes. We also are happy to help you have all your holiday gatherings go off without a hitch. If you find yourself pressed for time visit our "heat and eat it" department for wonderful gourmet prepared foods. You can find prepared foods such as home-made hot soups, sandwiches, salads, and gourmet food stuffs.

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Tax set at highest rate without public discussion

■ New utility tax will be at full rate for at least three months.

By Rory Brown  
Almanac Staff Writer

Without any public input or discussion by the City Council, Menlo Park's utility tax has been set at the maximum rate, and residents and businesses will be hit with the tax starting April 1.

In November, voters narrowly passed — by 65 votes — the two-tiered tax,

### ■ MENLO PARK

greenlighting a tax rate up to 3.5 percent on utilities (water, gas, and electric bills) and 2.5 percent on communications (landline telephone, cell phone, cable TV and Internet bills).

There has been no public discussion of whether the full tax rates should be implemented immediately, or when exactly the tax would start, but the rates have been set as the default amount because council members have not suggested otherwise, said Finance Director Carol Augustine. She

said the maximum tax rates, unless the council decides otherwise, will stick until at least June 30 — the end of the current fiscal year.

This spring, the council is scheduled to decide what the rates should be for the following fiscal year, Ms. Augustine said.

### Public input

But the process laid out by Ms. Augustine doesn't work for Councilman John Boyle, who said the council should hold off implementing the tax at the maximum rates — even if the rates will stay in effect for just three months — until

the public has a say, and it's clear how much revenue the city needs.

"It's silly to set a tax at the highest rate when we don't even know the numbers for the current fiscal year — we don't even have a mid-year update on where our budget stands," he said. "Let's face it — when you set the tax at the highest rate, even for just three months, it can get addictive."

Talk of the tax was limited to an information item presented after 1 a.m. at the council's Dec. 19 meeting, when Mr. Boyle said the council and the public should

See TAXES, page 8

## EXTRA! EXTRA!

The Almanac's top five news stories of 2006

By Andrea Gemmet  
Almanac Staff Writer

### ■ COVER STORY

These are the stories that got people talking and kept reporters hopping. The events and decisions that signaled a new era, caused upheaval and consternation, and kept the Letters to the Editor column full.

Newsroom staff chose these five as the top stories in 2006: An election that promises to change the direction of Menlo Park politics; investigations, turmoil and staff changes in Atherton's busy building department; an outpouring of donations for the new Town Center in Portola Valley; an escalating cold war between bicyclists and residents in Woodside; and a huge school bond that will change the shape of public school campuses in the Menlo Park City School District.

As they say in Tinsel Town, these stories have legs.

### ■ Battling over bicycles in Woodside

Love 'em or hate 'em, bicycles were big news in Woodside this year. The year started with intense debate between equestrians and mountain biking enthusiasts over opening a trail to bike use in Huddart Park.

The county ultimately tossed that hot potato on the back burner when the Board of Supervisors approved a draft master plan for the future of the park that keeps the existing prohibition against bicycles on

park trails. The county plans to have an environmental impact report on the master plan prepared in 2007.

In June, the Woodside Town Council came under fire for refusing to grant a permit to a charity bike ride. The public hearing tapped a wellspring of frustration and resentment from some residents who said they felt besieged by the droves of recreational cyclists who ride through town. Bicyclists said they felt equally besieged by hostile motorists, and a fundraising ride for Woodside High School faced a boycott by some cyclists.

In October, Town Attorney Jean Savaree said that Woodside's limit on bike rides and other special events was unconstitutional and should be stricken. It remains to be seen how Woodside will handle the strained relations between two-wheelers and four-wheelers in the new year, when warmer weather lures more bikers through town.

### ■ Building blues in Atherton

There were a few rumblings, but no one expected the amount of turmoil that would erupt when longtime Building Official Mike Hood suddenly retired in June, shortly after Atherton officials admitted to hiring an investigator to look into allegations of impropriety in the department. The town's



The Almanac/David Boyce

**Bike wars** — between cyclists and motorists — in Woodside was one of the top stories of 2006. Woodside is a favorite spot for regular group rides, such as this "noon ride."

small building department does a huge amount of business — about \$2 million annually in fees — as the pace of additions, remodels and rebuilds continues unabated.

In the months that followed, the building department's practices were scrutinized in three internal audits, a series of procedural reforms were initiated, and the department's

permit technician, Lois English, was reassigned. A group of Atherton residents and builders, upset over the changes, formed Atherton Residents for Responsible Governance, and threatened to recall City Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen.

Another contentious issue was the controversial excavation fee, a \$22-per-cubic-yard surcharge to pay for road damage caused

by dirt-laden trucks. After collecting approximately \$350,000 in the fees and facing threats of legal action by affected builders, the City Council reversed itself in September and voted to overturn the fee and refund the money, with interest.

The town's choice of a new building official, expected to

See TOP STORIES, page 8

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## Residents win discount in buying solar panels

■ Thirty-eight homeowners in Portola Valley and Ladera sign up.

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The 30 percent discount is on for the owners of at least 38 homes in Portola Valley and Ladera who participated in a bulk purchase of solar panels.

Photovoltaic system vendor SolarCity of Foster City has obtained orders from residents in the two communities that total at least 175 kilowatts, the threshold needed to make it economically feasible for SolarCity to offer the discounted price, said company spokesman Tim Gnatek.

The deal includes purchase, installation and Internet monitoring of the systems.

When all systems are installed, they will raise the percentage of solar power generated in the two communities by 50 percent and will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 3.5 million pounds over the next 20 years, Mr. Gnatek said.

The idea of a bulk purchase came to a group of residents who

then proposed it to SolarCity, resulting in the plan to solicit interested residents. Driving the six-week community canvassing effort was a looming end-of-year reduction in the solar-panel rebate from the state.

"The interest has exceeded my expectations," said SolarCity president Lyndon Rive. "With Portola Valley successfully underway, we can now turn to other communities and encourage similar solar cities throughout the state."

"Solar power is a terrific source of community pride," said Armand Neukermans, president of the Portola Valley Ranch homeowners association and someone who already uses solar energy at home. "Our community came together to address energy independence and make a difference."

### Two customers

Portola Valley residents Sally Phillips and her husband are building a new house on Portola

Road that will have a 10 kilowatt system on the roof that they hope will cover 100 percent of their electrical needs, Ms. Phillips told the Almanac.

She said she had two bids in hand for a 7 kilowatt system when she heard about the SolarCity program, which allowed the couple to boost the wattage by 30 percent for the same \$61,000 price tag — after a state rebate and a federal tax credit.

With a new and larger house, the Phillips had no history of electricity use and had estimated their needs. They plan to look into a solar water-heating system, as well, she said.

John Barman and his family are moving to Ladera from Redwood City and have signed up for a 3 kilowatt SolarCity system for \$15,000, after the rebate and tax credit.

"It's always something that I've wanted to do," Mr. Barman said. "I certainly believe that we need to take better care of the environment. It also sets a good example for my two kids. ... I think it's the wave of the future. It's a free source of energy."

The discount program expires Wednesday, Dec. 27. For more information, go to [solarcity.com/cpp](http://solarcity.com/cpp) or call 888-765-2489. ■

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# SRI: 60 years of innovation

SRI has been an engine of innovation in Menlo Park and Silicon Valley since 1946

By Marion Softky  
Almanac Staff Writer

What do these have in common? Automatic check processing; computer mouse; feasibility of Disneyland; miracle drugs; HDTV; robotic surgery; first message on the ARPANET; automated speech translation; computerized airline reservations and baggage check-in?

These and many more innovations — both exotic and part of daily life — have emerged from SRI International in the 60 years since it was founded in 1946 as Stanford Research Institute to do research on contract for government and industry.

Over the past year, SRI has been celebrating past accomplishments and dedicating itself to an ambitious future in a fast-changing world.

“We take on the biggest, most important challenges in the world today,” says Curtis Carlson, who has just completed his eighth year as CEO. “Last year was a record year.” Dr. Carlson, who lives in Portola Valley Ranch with his wife, Dudley, ticks off some of the big challenges SRI is taking on: saving kids from malaria in Third World countries; creating clean energy; helping children learn math and science. And more.

Over those 60 years, SRI has racked up some impressive statistics. It has completed 50,000 projects and spun off more than 130 companies to commercialize its inventions. It employs some 2,100 people; 1,400 are based in Menlo Park. The rest are at SRI’s Sarnoff subsidiary in Princeton, and at offices around the world. Eighty percent of its research is done for government agencies, 53 percent for the Defense Department.

Ever buoyant, Dr. Carlson has a passion for organizing innovation in a systematic way, using multidisciplinary teams that focus on creating value for the customer. His 2006 book, “Innovation: Five Disciplines for Creating What Customers Want,” was just named one of the 10 best business books of the year by Business Week.

Paul Cook of Menlo Park, who was SRI’s employee No. 48 in 1948, has high praise for Dr. Carlson. Mr. Cook



“We’re focused not only on doing great research, but making sure that what we develop gets into the marketplace,” says SRI International CEO Curtis Carlson, who lives in Portola Valley Ranch.

left SRI in 1957 to found Raychem (now Tyco Electronics) and returned in 1993 to help turn it around after it hit some doldrums.

“Carlson has done an absolutely magnificent job of pulling together all the laboratories, and bringing in some outside money and expertise,” Mr. Cook says. “Today, SRI is vigorous, growing, well-directed, and financially sound. Not so in 1990.”

## Sixty years

SRI has come a long way since it was housed in temporary barracks from the Army’s Dibble Hospital after World War II.

An institute where companies could share the expense of research — long a dream at Stanford — took shape after the wartime technology boom. Driven by Standard Oil giant Atholl McBean, Bay Area industrialists rallied to create SRI. “They loved the idea they could come to a central facility,” says Mr. Cook.

By the end of the 1950s, SRI had created an automated banking and check processing system for Bank of America, hosted the first big conference on air pollution, done feasibility studies for Disneyland, invented a shock-absorbing coupler for railroad cars, and won an Academy Award for a Tech-

nicolor electronic printing timer.

Most famous in the 1960s and 1970s was the work by Douglas Engelbart of Ather-ton and his team that created the computer mouse and the basic structure of personal computing. SRI was one of the first four nodes of ARPAnet, predecessor to the Internet; SRI received the very first message in 1969.

Through all these years of innovation, SRI and its workers have enlivened our local communities. SRI scientists Hew Crane, Carl Bennion, and robotics guru Charlie Rosen founded Ridge Winery. Built in 1961, the landmark “Big Dish” radio telescope still talks to satellites and spacecraft.

These years have included controversy and tumult. After anti-war demonstrations of the 1960s, SRI divorced from Stanford in 1970. “Stanford faculty and students objected to the war research” at SRI, Mr. Cook said. SRI became an independent nonprofit institute, renamed SRI International.

In 1987, SRI gained its Sarnoff Laboratories, home of research into high definition television (HDTV), as a gift from GE, which didn’t want the laboratories when it bought RCA. “Jack Welch wanted the tax credit,” Mr. Cook says. “GE kept the patents and license income.”

By 1990, SRI was slowing down. Its business model, often likened to a farmer’s market, wasn’t keeping up with the times. It was a series of independent laboratories and research projects, each trying to raise its own money, Mr. Cook says. “It wasn’t coordinated from the top very well. They were in trouble.”

In 1993, Mr. Cook came back as chairman of the board, and helped engineer SRI’s revitalization. Mr. Carlson, who was second at Sarnoff and had guided its Emmy-winning HDTV program, took over as CEO in December 1998.

Since then, SRI has systematically pursued innovation. Its revenues in 2004 were \$374 million, including Sarnoff.

“SRI’s business model needed to change because

See SRI, page 9

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### End of the Year To-Do List

Just a few days remain in 2006 but there are a few things you might want to do before January 1 arrives. First, you may wish to pay both installments of your property taxes because they are deductible on your Federal tax return. Check with your accountant before doing this because you might fall under the Alternative Minimum Tax rules in which case you do not need the deduction. But if you would benefit from taking it in this calendar year, you still have time to do so.

If you are in the process of selling a property that you have owned for one year or less, you may want to wait until you have owned it more than one year so that you will be taxed at the Federal capital gains

rate instead of the rate for ordinary income.

There are important maintenance items to do at this time of year. If your trees need pruning, November through January are the best months to do this. Clean your gutters so that rain water can flow freely away. It’s not the best time to paint your house but if your house really needs it, arrange to have the most critical places painted during a warmer, dry spell during this period. You don’t want your house be damaged by the rain.

Finally, if you are thinking of selling your house in 2007, contact your realtor and plan your timing and strategy. This will help you achieve the greatest success. Happy New Year.

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



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# EXTRA! EXTRA! Top news stories of 2006

## TOP STORIES

continued from page 5

be made early in the new year, is being anxiously anticipated by building department regulars, who hope that speedy, customer-friendly service will continue to be a priority in Atherton.

### ■ Voters oust Menlo Park council majority

Voters in November dumped incumbents Mickie Winkler and Lee Duboc, who were part of a majority that controlled the council for four years, and elected three political newcomers. Although the election's outcome shocked some, in other ways it was a typically contentious Menlo Park campaign season.

The election signaled a change in the city's direction, as residentialist-leaning council members now have a four-to-one majority for the next two years.

Independent but like-minded opposition candidates Heyward Robinson and Rich Cline were top voter-getters, joining Kelly Fergusson and Andy Cohen on the council. Ms. Winkler and Ms. Duboc finished last and next-to-last, respectively, though their running mate John Boyle edged out opposition candidate Vincent Bressler for the third seat.

The third member of the former council's majority, Nicholas Jellins, didn't run for re-election.

The vote-rich Willows neighborhood once again proved a political powerhouse, putting two of the three opposition candidates over the top, according to

## ■ COVER STORY

the Almanac's analysis of precinct returns.

The Menlo Park political scene was rife with controversial issues in 2006, including: council approval of a major condo and commercial project on Derry Lane; proposals to develop Bayfront Park; disputes over the process to privatize operation of the city's new aquatics center; attempts to privatize the city-run Menlo Children's Center; and city budget shortfalls brought on by dwindling sales taxes.

### ■ New Town Center for Portola Valley

Digging deep, private donors raised the kitty for a new Town Center in Portola Valley from \$1.5 million to \$13.1 million in 2006, thanks to contributions made in a quiet campaign. The fundraising campaign also introduced a Noah's Ark of donor categories, ranging from the moneyed Mountain Lion to the lowly Stellar's Jay, thus giving the animal kingdom financial rankings.

Town officials settled on a three-building design — a Town Hall, library and community hall — by Siegel & Strain Architects and Goring and Straja Architects, both of Emeryville.

The project was prompted by the 2002 discovery of an earthquake fault trace running under some of the Town Center complex that forced town officials to consider rebuilding on safer ground. This fall, the old Town Center buildings were taken down, and materials salvaged for use in the new buildings.



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

The murals at Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park may vanish if the school board opts to tear down existing facilities and rebuild the campus.

A second, more public phase of the fundraising campaign is under way to raise the additional \$6.9 million the project will need. The project schedule has the new Town Center's grand opening occurring sometime in 2008.

### ■ Bonds to transform Menlo Park schools

A major transformation of campuses in the Menlo Park City School District is on the horizon, thanks to a \$91 million bond package approved by voters in June.

Anticipating a big leap in enrollment over the next 10 years, the district will use the money to replace portable classrooms at Laurel, Encinal, Oak Knoll and Hillview schools with permanent classrooms, and build 20 additional classrooms.

Also on tap are new multi-purpose rooms at Encinal and Oak Knoll to give students and teachers more room for assemblies, performances and indoor sports, Superintendent Ken Ranella said. Funds will also go toward relieving parking and traffic problems around schools with redesigned parking and carpool lines.

Mural-covered Hillview Middle School is poised for the biggest metamorphosis: The campus — crowded with portables and new buildings from a 1995 bond measure — is facing a 38 percent jump in students by 2014. In March, the school board is expected

to decide whether to raze most of the existing buildings and rebuild Hillview as a two-story school, which would allow the district to maximize playing field space. Among building options is to add new facilities and keep some existing ones.

### Mural-covered Hillview Middle School is poised for the biggest metamorphosis.

Another big change in the district came in October, when the board voted to alter grade configurations at the district's three elementary schools. Encinal, now a grade 3-5 school, will become a K-5. Laurel will add a third grade and become a K-3 school. Oak Knoll will continue as a K-5 school. ■

## Special holiday hours, schedules

Local town offices have scheduled the following holiday closures:

■ **Atherton.** The town's administrative offices and branch post office will be closed Monday, Jan. 1. Call 752-0500.

■ **Menlo Park.** City business offices in the Civic Center and Onetta Harris Community Center will be closed from Dec. 22 through Jan. 1. For holiday hours of other city facilities, go to [MenloPark.org](http://MenloPark.org). The City Council will not meet Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

■ **Portola Valley.** Town offices will close the week of Dec. 25, and reopen Tuesday, Jan. 2.

■ **Woodside.** Town Hall will be closed the week of Dec. 25 and will reopen Jan. 2. Call 851-6790.

### Relaxed parking

Menlo Park has relaxed parking restrictions for the downtown area. Through Monday, Jan. 2, police won't ticket cars that are parked downtown beyond the one- and two-hour limits. All other parking restrictions will be enforced, police say.

### Caltrain holiday schedule

Caltrain will operate on a Sunday schedule on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. On New Year's Eve, Caltrain will offer free rides after 11 p.m. to encourage partygoers to use the train as their designated driver. It will also add three post-midnight southbound trains to its regular holiday schedule. The trains will leave San Francisco at 12:45 a.m., 1:30 a.m. and 2 a.m., making all local weekend stops. For more information, go to [www.caltrain.com](http://www.caltrain.com).

## TAXES

continued from page 5

more thoroughly consider what residents and businesses should be taxed from April through June, and put the topic on the agenda of a future meeting.

Although the other four council members have made calls for increasing public input on council decisions, none of them supported Mr. Boyle's request.

"We need to implement the full tax, and get a real idea of what it can produce," Councilman Richard Cline said after the meeting. "It may be a very rough idea of the revenue [the tax] will bring in, but at least it's an idea."

Mayor Kelly Fergusson said the city should implement the full rates for three months as a "data-gathering period," and noted the council can change the rate at any time.

But Ms. Augustine said that because the council will likely review the tax as soon as May, there won't be a lot of data available regarding how much it is adding to the city's coffers.

Mr. Boyle said financial uncertainties, and the fact the tax measure passed by such a slim margin, should prompt the council to start slowly, and consider reducing the tax rates, rather than implementing the maximum amounts.

"Let's have this discussion now, because once we get used to a certain tax rate, it could be hard for us to give up revenue and lower it," Mr. Boyle said after the meeting.

Mayor Fergusson said aspects of the tax rate could be discussed at the council's goal-setting session on Saturday, Jan. 6.

The tax also includes a provision that no single user can pay more than \$12,000 in taxes on utility bills. ■

## Menlo Park police seek victims in charity fraud; woman arrested

A Menlo Park woman arrested on Dec. 16 has pleaded not guilty to charges of embezzlement and theft — crimes that police say defrauded a number of victims of more than \$250,000 through a series of charity fraud schemes during the last three years.

Police said they believe Audrey Everson Leonard, 50, defrauded more than 70 people of more than \$1.4 million since 1999. But the statute of limitations for fraud crimes is three years from the date of the fraudulent transaction, according to Menlo Park police Sgt. Jim Simpson.

Police are looking for more victims from the past three years, and is asking anyone who has information about the suspect or fraudulent activity to call Detective



Police say they believe **Audrey Everson Leonard**, 50, defrauded more than 70 people of more than \$1.4 million since 1999.

tive Jeff Keegan at 330-6360.

Ms. Leonard is charged with three counts of embezzlement

over \$400 — the felony limit — by an employee, and one count of theft from an elder or dependent person, said Menlo Park Police Detective Jeff Keegan.

She was released on her own recognizance on Dec. 19 after surrendering her passport, he said.

Detective Keegan said a four-month investigation, which is still ongoing, revealed that Ms. Leonard used local acquaintances to find potential donors to charities, then met with them to seek the donations.

The charities included a now-defunct nonprofit once directed by Ms. Leonard but closed down by the state long ago, police said. One nonprofit organization Ms. Leonard allegedly defrauded has filed a lawsuit against her, according to police.

## MP gunshot victims may be linked to killing

Two men found suffering from gunshot wounds in Menlo Park on Dec. 20 are believed to be connected with a homicide that took place at an East Palo Alto restaurant earlier that evening, Menlo Park police say.

Menlo Park police Sgt. Steve Shaw said that East Palo Alto police are investigating the killing that took place at a restaurant on University Avenue, just east of U.S. 101, at around 9 p.m. Dec. 20.

Sgt. Shaw said that at around 11 p.m. four men in a white Chevy Monte Carlo, which was stopped with a flat tire on El Camino Real and Middle Avenue in Menlo Park, flagged down police patrol officers.

“Two of the men in the car were suffering from gunshot wounds,” Sgt. Shaw said. “The Monte Carlo they were driving was also pretty well shot up.”

According to Sgt. Shaw, the four men were headed to

Stanford Medical Center so the two wounded men could be treated for their injuries.

Emergency units were called to take the two wounded men to Stanford Medical Center. The two other men were detained for questioning.

It is unclear what led to the shooting, but Sgt. Shaw said the incident is likely related to the East Palo Alto killing.

— Bay City News Service

### SRI

continued from page 7

the world has changed. Broad collaboration across fields is absolutely essential,” says Dr. Carlson. “We’re focused not only on doing great research, but making sure that what we develop gets into the marketplace. We are spinning off one or two companies a year.”

Among the companies using SRI technology are Intuitive Surgical, which does robotic surgery; Nuance Communications, which produces voice

recognition software; and PacketHop, which allows emergency communication between personnel with different systems.

Mr. Cook concurs. “SRI has resumed rapid growth and profitability,” he says.

### Challenges ahead

Dr. Carlson has boundless enthusiasm for tackling the challenges ahead, ranging from world health and better science education, to clean energy and global warming.

SRI is developing a fuel cell that burns coal cleanly and can

be adapted to various scales, from buildings to cities, Dr. Carlson says. “We need to develop cheap, clean energy.”

Looking ahead, he says:

“The only solution to global warming and the environment is innovation.

“It doesn’t matter what we do in America if China burns dirty coal. They are going to burn that dirty coal unless the world develops a cheap way to provide energy for them.

“It’s got to be a solution that works around the world. That’s what we’re working on.” ■

## Correction

Bill Wallau’s last name was misspelled in a story in the Dec. 20 issue of the Almanac.

Mr. Wallau, a Menlo Park resident, has been playing Santa Claus for 40 years, bringing gifts to kids incarcerated at the Santa Clara County Juvenile

Hall. He also has donned his Santa suit at about 10 other locations over the years, including Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford.

His middle son, Mike Wallau, owns Mike’s Cafe in Menlo Park, Ladera and Palo Alto. Bill Wallau hosts at the Palo Alto location.

Bill Wallau has been a soccer referee for 38 years, for high school, CYSA, and adult men’s and women’s teams. He says he referees five games a week.

He has been married for 54 years to Rose Mary Wallau, and has six children, including John, who participates as a Santa at juvenile hall.



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# New council won't halt housing, medical offices in Linfield Oaks

■ Council gives up on undoing approval of projects.

By **Rory Brown**  
Almanac Staff Writer

Although neighbors and members of the City Council oppose two projects planned for Menlo Park's Linfield Oaks neighborhood, the

projects will still be built.

The council on Dec. 19 decided to drop efforts to derail two projects approved for the neighborhood by the previous council — the construction of 33 homes at 75 Willow Road, and the conversion of an office building at 321 Middlefield Road to medical offices.

With three new council members taking office Dec. 5, Linfield Oaks residents had called for the new council to kill the two projects on the basis that they will overcrowd the neighborhood and add too much traffic.

The two projects were given final approval Nov. 28, during the seven-hour final meeting of the previous council.

All members of the new council agreed that the neighborhood has been overloaded with development, and some members labeled the previous council's approval of the projects bad decisions.

But City Attorney Bill McClure said the city does not have legal grounds to revoke the 321 Middlefield Road project approval, and council members opted against derailing the 75 Willow Road project in fear of entering a futile legal battle with the project developer.

"The residents are clearly suffering from development fatigue," Mayor Kelly Fergusson said at the meeting. She noted,

## ■ MENLO PARK

however, that she would not support overturning the projects because undoing decisions made by the previous council would "perpetuate an 'us versus them' mentality," and further draw out "old business."

### Cohen's last stand

Councilman Andy Cohen, who called for the council to reconsider the two projects, remained adamant that the council do whatever it can to kill the projects — an argument supported at the meeting by Linfield Oaks residents.


"Here, again, we have the residents being dumped on by out-of-towners," said Don Brawner, who lives adjacent to the 75 Willow Road property.

"Stop, take a breath, and reconsider what's going on in this part of the city," said Nancy Hosay, who lives next to the 321 Middlefield Road property.


In a flurry of speeches — including one just before 1 a.m. in which he referenced a Bob Dylan song, Charles Dickens' "Bleak House" and Herman Melville's "Moby Dick" — Mr. Cohen said council members should avoid accommodating projects that require amending the city's general plan.

"If you're not willing to say no to [the 75 Willow Road project],

See **LINFIELD**, next page



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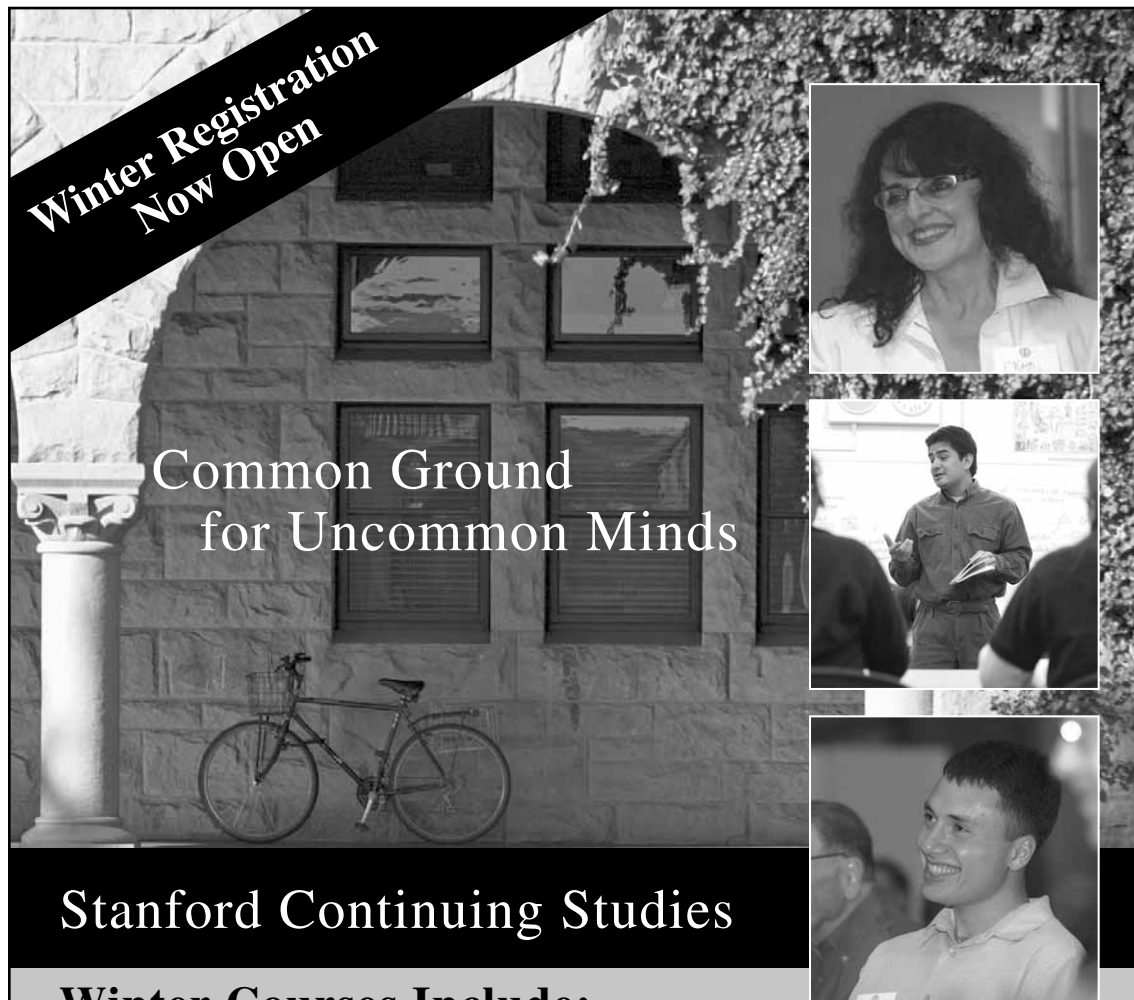


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The Almanac/David Boyce

This church on Fifth Avenue in Redwood City is on a site purchased by the Sequoia Union High School District for a future home of Summit Preparatory Charter High School.

## New home for Summit Preparatory

■ Sequoia districts buys church site for \$5.9 million.

By David Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Summit Preparatory Charter High School, temporarily located in 17 portable buildings on the campus of Sequoia High School, will have a new and permanent home in Redwood City when its doors open for the 2008-09 school year.

**LINFIELD**  
continued from previous page

then I don't know what you're going to say the next time [a general plan amendment goes before the council]," he said.

### Council votes

The council took two votes at the meeting regarding the projects. First, Mr. Cohen asked the council to support a moratorium — a suspension — on development projects planned for the Linfield Oaks neighborhood, but the motion was defeated 3-2 with Mayor Ferguson and council members Boyle and Robinson opposed.

Then, Richard Cline requested the council rescind the 75 Willow Road project, and try to rezone the site before the developer takes out building permits to start constructing homes. Only Mr. Cohen supported the motion, as the other council members said the city would lose that particular race.

Despite Mr. McClure's legal advice, Mr. Cohen said he would still vote against the 321 Middlefield Road project, but a vote was never taken. ■

Summit's sponsor, the Sequoia Union High School District, completed the \$5.9 million purchase of 66,000 square feet of land owned by the Redwood City Baptist Church in a residential neighborhood at 435 Fifth Ave. and 414 Fourth Ave., said district Trustee Gordon Lewin.

The one-story church meets state building code standards for schools and could be remodeled as a one- or two-story school, given its high ceiling, Mr. Lewin said. The other buildings on the site will have to be torn down, he added.

The district could also choose to clear the site, build foundations and re-install the 17 portable buildings Summit is now using, said assistant superintendent Ed LaVigne, the district's financial officer.

"What we heard from Summit was that they wanted a permanent site and a site by themselves. We did it," he said. The

alternatives were in industrial areas, he added. "This was the first one that really had a soft feel about it."

The action, which Mr. Lewin said was approved unanimously on Dec. 20, had not been discussed in public. It was one of several items on the Board of Trustees' consent calendar, which the board approves with a single vote unless a trustee or member of the public asks to remove one or more items for separate consideration. No one did, Mr. Lewin said.

The money for the purchase is being drawn from bond measure funds, including, Mr. Lewin said, about \$3 million originally earmarked for the Sequoia Adult School, which is a block and a half away on Middlefield Road. The Summit site could have room enough for a new child care center affiliated with the adult school, he said. ■



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10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Choir and Casavant Organ

**December 24, Christmas Eve**

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10:00 p.m. Pre-Service Music: Charpentier's *Midnight Mass*  
10:30 p.m. Choral Eucharist

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## City postpones action on child care worker

With members of Menlo Park's Belle Haven community protesting the removal of program assistant Vanessa Carlisle from the neighborhood's child care

program, the city has postponed the move of Ms. Carlisle to the Burgess child care program on the other side of town. City Manager David Boesch

said that although he would not rule out the eventual transfer of Ms. Carlisle to the Burgess program, he is "interested in exploring mediation services" to help settle the dispute between the city and members of the lower-income and largely minority Belle Haven community, who have labeled Ms. Carlisle the "heart and soul" of the child care program.

Initial plans called for Ms. Carlisle to be transferred to the Burgess programs Jan. 2, but the city has "slowed down" those plans, Mr. Boesch said at the Dec. 19 City Council meeting.

At that meeting, Marcia Dore-Perez, a parent with a child in the Belle Haven program, spoke on behalf of parents who don't want Ms. Carlisle to be transferred.

"Why can't we keep someone that is so valuable to us?" said Ms. Dore-Perez, an East Palo Alto resident. "Does our community count?"

### NOTES

#### Lucy Neely of PV studies in Ecuador

Lucy E. Neely of Portola Valley is participating in the "junior semester abroad" program of Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. A junior economics major, Ms. Neely is studying in Quito, Ecuador, through the University of Minnesota. She is the daughter of Edward Kirk Neely and Holly Myers of Portola Valley. Ms. Neely is a 2004 graduate of Crystal Springs Uplands School in Hillsborough.

#### Video excellence awards

Four locally produced programs were recently named winners of video excellence awards, given by the Western Regional Conference of the Alliance for Community Media.

The winning programs and their producers are: "Painting with Class," produced by Mariellen Baker; "Community Chat with the Chief," produced by Jeanne Cuffey, Jesse Norfleet, and Richard Tatum; "Other Voices: Surviving Katrina," produced by Nancy Brown and Paul George; and "Four Directions: Oil Consumption," produced by Jenny Benorden and Zara Zimbaro.

All of the programs can be seen on the Comcast cable channels 27, 28 and 30 in Atherton and Menlo Park. For more information, call the Midpeninsula Community Media Center at 494-8686.

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# Local group continues fight against chloramine in water

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

It's been a year of ups and downs for the plucky members of the Menlo Park-based group that's fighting to have the disinfectant chloramine removed from the Bay Area's water.

And although the year is ending on a down note for them, anyone familiar with the group's leader, Denise Johnson-Kula of Menlo Park, will not be surprised to learn that she's nowhere close to throwing in the towel.

Her group, Concerned Citizens About Chloramine (CCAC), reached an important milestone in July in its efforts to convince key water officials that critical studies on the health effects of chloramine hadn't been done before the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) decided to add the substance to the water supply it oversees.

Chloramine — a combination of chlorine and ammonia used as a disinfectant — was added in February 2004 to the water of all customers receiving their supply from the Hetch Hetchy system, and since then, Ms. Johnson-Kula says, hundreds of people

have reported reactions ranging from respiratory and intestinal distress to severe skin ailments.

At the July SFPUC meeting, group members and other Bay Area residents testified about a range of ailments — some of them severe and disabling — that they believed were caused

Sklar directed the staff to seek out such studies — or determine if they even exist — and report back to the commission.

CCAC members were ecstatic.

But on Nov. 14, the SFPUC heard the staff's report, and unanimously agreed that chloramine should remain in the water,



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

*Denise Johnson-Kula of Menlo Park was not only disappointed by the decision, she was angry, calling the entire process a "snow job."*

by chloramine. And they insisted that some key studies on the health effects of chloramine have never been done, even though the disinfectant is used in numerous water supplies across the country and elsewhere in the world.

After hearing the testimony, commission President Richard

although staff was directed to continue monitoring all new information about the additive and its possible side effects.

Ms. Johnson-Kula was not only disappointed by the decision, she was angry, calling the entire process a "snow job."

"The purpose of the meeting was

supposed to be to report on the (staff's research) of health studies done on respiratory, dermal and digestive issues, and to find out if cancer studies were ever finished," she said after the meeting.

"They spent three months looking, didn't find any, and decided to turn this into a review of chloramine concerns, where they gave us pretty much the same old rehash of information. They didn't find the studies ... and they tried to cover that up with a big presentation on why it's great anyway."

The group's position on the lack of health studies focusing on those four areas has been bolstered by at least two other public water agencies: the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, which represents the 26 cities and water districts receiving Hetch Hetchy water; and the North Coast County Water District in Pacifica. Both agencies sought studies over the past year, and both say were unable to find any.

Soon after the November meeting, Ms. Johnson-Kula dashed off a letter asking the SFPUC to schedule another hearing to specifically address the issue of whether adequate chloramine health studies have

been done. She protested the one-minute time limit imposed on speakers at the Nov. 14 meeting, and asked that CCAC members and others be given more time to present information gathered over the last two years through their own research.

But it appears that hearing won't take place.

"It wouldn't be productive or a good use of anyone's time to meet again about the exact same issues and exact same thing when there's no new information on either side," said SFPUC spokesman Tony Winnicker.

The staff will follow the direction of the commission and "keep paying attention to the latest developments" related to chloramine, and will update the commission in a year, he said.

Meanwhile, Ms. Johnson-Kula says the contacts to her group from people in other states and other countries continue to grow in number as chloramine is added to more and more water supplies and people experience adverse effects. They learn about the group through its Web site, chloramine.org, and in some cases establish their own activist groups against the water additive. ■

## NOTES

### Vets sought for tour of Italian battle sites

Veterans of the Fifth Army and the Italian campaign of World War II are invited, along with friends and family, to a May 2007 tour of Italian battle sites and American military cemeteries there.

The tour will stop at Rome, Pisa, Florence, Bologna and Venice, along with Anzio, Cassino, Nettuno and Futa Pass.

The tour begins May 7 and ends May 18. For more information, call Sy Canton at (561) 865-8495 or write to Mr. Canton at 5121 B Nesting Way, Delray Beach, FL 33484.

### Remodeling of county planning offices

The San Mateo County Planning and Building Division and the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) moved their offices this year to a temporary location at 411 Middlefield Road in Redwood City, pending the remodeling of their regular offices on the second floor of the county office building at 455 County Center.

The remodeling — which includes new work stations and changes to make the offices more accessible for people with

disabilities — is expected to be finished by February.

During the remodeling, parking is available at the county's parking garage and in a small lot in front of the Middlefield Road building.

Hours, phone numbers, e-mail, and mailing addresses for the two departments and their

staffs are unchanged.

The planning, building and public works counters are open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Phone numbers are: planning counter, 363-1825; building counter, 599-7311; public works counter, 363-4161; and to schedule automated inspections, 306-8415.

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**The Almanac Weekly Mountain View VOICE**

# Gullixson ranks No. 2 in nation in real estate sales

Mary Gullixson, a real estate agent with the Menlo Park office of Alain Pinel Realtors, was the second highest ranked agent for sales volume in the United States in 2005, according to Real Trends Inc. The rankings were published recently in the Wall Street Journal.



Mary Gullixson

million. In 2005 Ms. Gullixson's sales volume was \$208 million. In her more than 20 years in residential real estate on the Peninsula, she has sold more than \$1 billion in real estate, Alain Pinel reports.

The No. 1 agent was Harald Grant of Sotheby's International in Southampton, New York, with sales of \$245

As of November, her sales vol-

ume in 2006 has exceeded \$230 million, the company said.

Ms. Gullixson, a resident of Palo Alto, has lived on the Peninsula for 30 years. After graduating from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in pharmacy, she moved to the Bay Area.

She has been a local real estate agent since 1981 and an Alain Pinel agent since 1993. In 2005, her son, Brent Gullixson, joined her in her

business.

Alain Pinel Realtors has released the names of all its agents in the top 200 list. Jim Byrnes of the Menlo Park office ranked 181st with \$44.9 million in sales.

Among Alain Pinel's agent teams, Carol Carnevale, Nicole Aron and Rosemary Squires of Menlo Park were ranked 91st in the nation. Randolph Eyler and Pat Briscoe of Menlo Park ranked 127th. Gloria and

Caitlin Darke, also of Menlo Park, were recognized as the 199th top-producing team.

## Coldwell Banker agents

Tom LeMieux of the Menlo Park Santa Cruz Avenue office of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage was incorrectly not listed by Real Trends, but would have ranked 19th in the nation with \$120 million in sales, according to Kacie Rickner, Coldwell Banker's director of marketing.

Hugh Cornish of Coldwell Banker ranked No. 45 with \$78 million in sales.

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**This photograph**, taken by Almanac photographer Marjan Sadoughi, earned her a place at the recent NPAA Women in Photojournalism Conference. In the photo, Lillian Seabrook of Surrey county, England, reacts to her club's victory over the Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club at a competition in March at the bowling green, 474 Embarcadero Road.

## Almanac photographer selected for photojournalism conference

Almanac staff photographer Marjan Sadoughi was selected to participate in the 2006 National Press Photographers Association (NPAA) Women in Photojournalism Conference, held in St. Louis.

Ms. Sadoughi was chosen for a photograph she submitted that features the Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club squaring off against a team from Britain. It was taken on March 8 while she was interning for the Palo Alto Weekly, the Almanac's sister paper.

Ms. Sadoughi followed a circuitous route to the Peninsula. She was born in Montreal, moved to Iran with her family at the age of 2, returned to Canada in 1993 and relocated to California

with her husband and two sons in 1998.

She began an internship with the Palo Alto Weekly in January of this year, and became the Almanac's staff photographer in late April.

Her interest in documentary photography began in 1979 when she was growing up during the revolution in Iran, standing on a chair in her backyard and taking photographs of the goings-on outside her house.

She graduated with a bache-



Marjan Sadoughi

lor's degree in photography from the University of Tehran, and has shown her work at group exhibitions in Tehran, Toronto and Beijing, China.

## County collects unwanted medicines

People can drop off expired or unused pharmaceutical at the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office in the Hall of Justice at 400 County Center (corner of Bradford and Hamilton) in Redwood City, and at police stations in San Bruno, Daly City and Pacifica.

The program aims to help seniors avoid medication errors; reduce or prevent recreational use of household drugs; and reduce pollution caused by medicines being flushed down toilets and drains.

All medicines intended for disposal, especially liquids, should remain in their containers, but labels with private information on them should be removed.

The program does not accept illegal substances such as ecstasy or methamphetamines. Other-

wise, it accepts "everything from cough medicine to powerful prescriptions," said Bill Chiang, aide to Supervisor Adrienne Tisler. "But no syringes. That's very important."

For more information, call Mr. Chiang at 363-4042 or the Sheriff's Office at 363-4000.

In Mountain View

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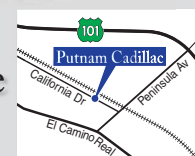


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Plump piles of pastel frosting-topped cupcakes peek over the top of a box decorated to look like a parade float towed by a town of Woodside truck. In the background, George Barajas tends to the oysters at the seafood bar.

# Turning 50, Woodside-style

By **Andrea Gemmet**  
Almanac Staff Writer

It was a casual, leave-your-coat-on affair when Woodside recently celebrated 50 years of being a town with an event that was half-birthday party and half-reunion. Ex-staffers and town volunteers, whether they've served on the council, Planning Commission or numerous town committees, were invited to mingle and nosh



Virginia Gill Andersen and Bob Mullen peruse a glossy new copy of "Woodside: Making of a Town."

on Nov. 16, the very day Woodside became incorporated 50 years ago.

Woodside prides themselves on the unpretentious — yet classy — rural good life they enjoy, and that was certainly reflected in their celebration. Decadent finger-food included oysters from the seafood bar, carved roast beef sandwiches and an ocean of shrimp. Wine flowed freely as people gathered in animated knots, chatting, reminiscing and gossiping.

The contingent from the Woodside Fire Protection District was led by the new chief, Armando Muela. Councilwoman Sue Boynton's husband Rob talked about plans for their son's summer wedding at a family home in France, and Councilman Dave Tanner revealed that some neighborhoods have nicknames you don't see on real estate brochures. The area where he lives, east of Canada Road, is known as the "Ozarks," he said.

Guests also toured the Woodside Community Museum's exhibit chronicling the divisive fight to incorporate and the narrowly won vote.

Speeches were blessedly brief. Guests were tantalized with promises of a surprise gift to



Susan George, Woodside's town manager, kept the speechifying to a minimum and ended her remarks by exhorting the crowd to "Party hearty!"

take home. "Organic compost?" guessed one wag.

In fact, it was a commemorative coffee table book, "Woodside — Making of a Town," written especially for the occasion by Patsy Kahl and Marcia Bondurant, with photographic help from Jim Milton.

As the evening wound down, people headed to their cars with books under their arms and cupcake icing on their lips. ■

Julie Harris, left, and other Woodside staffers hand out coffee table books about Woodside's history to party guests.



Photos by Michael Mullady

# Holiday Fund donors

As of Dec. 21, 2006

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 & Wayne Dalton  
 Kathy & Doug Stevens for  
 Nancy Stevens  
 Shirley & John Reiter for the  
 loyal volunteers at the Palo Alto  
 Food Closet  
 Adam Creeger for his teachers  
 at La Entrada Middle School

**In memory of:**

Anonymous for Jerry Crowley  
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 Carolyn & Colon Gulledge for  
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 Valerie & Keith Van Sickle for E. Jerry  
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 Abby Wilder for Robert Homans  
 & Fessenden Wilder  
 Eli Yasek & Mike Fleice for Rufus,  
 the Wonder Dog  
 Audrie Nevin for Jeremy Nevin  
 Barbara & Martin Seaney for  
 Ruth Nardi

**TOTALS: As of Dec. 21, 2006,  
 116 donors have given  
 \$55,675 to the Almanac's  
 Holiday Fund.**

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

# 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.



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The William and Flora  
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Rotary Club  
 of Menlo Park

For more information about the Peninsula Community Foundation go to [www.pcf.org](http://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.



## Self reflection

A toddler takes his time discovering his reflection on the glass at the Belle Haven Family Connections daycare program. Family Connections is among the organizations that benefit from gifts to the Almanac's Holiday Fund.

The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

# Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

## Submitting your information

Information for Calendar listings must be submitted online. Please go to [www.PaloAltoOnline.com](http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com), click on "Master Community Calendar," and then click on "Submit a listing." If you have questions, call Renee Meil at the Almanac, 854-2626. After hours, press zero and leave a message for Renee. **For more Calendar listings, go to [PaloAltoOnline.com](http://PaloAltoOnline.com), and click on "Master Community Calendar."**

## Art Galleries

**"Beaches" Pastels by Waif Mullins.** Features new works on paper of his travels to exotic islands in the South Pacific, Caribbean and Mexico. Through Dec. 31. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. [www.portolaartgallery.com](http://www.portolaartgallery.com)

**"Flowers, Fruit and Fungi, Trees and Travel."** Photographs by Dawn Ishimaru Frazier on display through Jan. 13. Free. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 326-2025. [www.peninsulavolunteers.org](http://www.peninsulavolunteers.org)

**"Serigraphs and Drawings."** Presented by artist Susan Trubow. Landscapes of the Mendocino coast. Thu.-Sun., through Dec. 31. Free. 1870 Art Center Gallery, 1870 Ralston Ave., Belmont. Call 261-1086. [www.1870artcenter.org](http://www.1870artcenter.org)

**Allegro Fine Art.** Jil Coolidge, watercolor artist and teacher displays work through Dec. 31. Hours: Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Allegro Gallery, 3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley. Call 851-4300. [www.allegroframing.com](http://www.allegroframing.com)

## Auditions

**"David Copperfield."** Auditions for LAYT's winter drama directed by Charles

Ascello. Jan. 8-9. Ages 12-20. Prepare a drama one minute monologue. Los Altos Youth Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 947-2796. [www.ci.los-altos.ca.us/recreation/layt](http://www.ci.los-altos.ca.us/recreation/layt)

**"Thoroughly Modern Millie."** PYT needs youths ages 8-20 to audition for the musical. Jan. 6, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Jan. 7, 2 and 6 p.m. Prepare song and one-minute prose monologue. Bring sheet music, instrumental tape or CD. Dress to dance. \$160 participation fee. Peninsula Youth Theatre, 2500 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View. [www.pyt.net.org](http://www.pyt.net.org)

**Peninsula Pops Orchestra Openings.** For advanced players of all instruments. Rehearsals Tuesdays, through Dec. 31, 7-10 p.m. Call for appointment. Gunn High School, 780 Arastradero Road Room M1, Palo Alto. Call 856-8432. [www.peninsulapops.org](http://www.peninsulapops.org)

## Classes/ Workshops

**Holiday Horsemanship Camps.** Dec. 27-29, 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](http://www.springdown.com)

## Community Events

**"Noon" Years Eve Party.** A countdown to noon, Dec. 31, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Includes games, face painters, magicians, a balloon drop, entertainment and activities for kids. \$9 adults/\$6 youth ages 5-17/kids under 4 free. Hiller Aviation Museum, 601 Skyway Road, San Carlos. Call 654-0200. [www.hiller.org](http://www.hiller.org)

## Concerts

**14th Annual New Year's Eve Concert "B-A-C-H."** Organist James Welch performs organ music of J. S. Bach, all in the keys of B, A, C, and H. Toccatas, fugues, preludes and concertos. Dec. 31, 8-9 p.m. \$10 at the door. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. [www.welchorganist.com](http://www.welchorganist.com)

**San Francisco Chamber Orchestra.** Schubert's fifth Symphony, paired with Dmitri Shostakovich's first piano Concerto and Handel's trumpet concerto. Jan. 1, 3-4:30 p.m. Free. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call (415) 307-5187. [www.sfchamberorchestra.org](http://www.sfchamberorchestra.org)

## Dance

**Thursday Night Dance.** Ballroom dancing to live music. Thursdays, 7-10 p.m. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 326-2025. [www.peninsulavolunteers.org](http://www.peninsulavolunteers.org)

## Outdoors

**Auld Lang Syne.** Docent Paul Billig a 7 miles hike. Rain will not cancel, but the route may change depending on trail conditions. Bring a lunch. Dec. 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve. [www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org)

**Discovering Winter Birds.** With docents Debbi Brusco and Kay Partelow. Learn how the wetlands have changed over the years while on a leisurely paced 2-3 mile hike. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Dec. 30, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area. [www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org)

**Ecosystem Transitions.** With docents David Milburn and Judy Boore. A moderate to strenuously-paced hike with an elevation change close to 2,000 feet over 7 miles.



## Portraits of peace

Budding artists at Portola Valley's Ormondale School created this holiday poster with their self-portraits and wishes for peace. It was on display at the annual winter concert Dec. 13 in the multi-use room where students in kindergarten through third grade sang carols and songs to hearty applause from admiring parents.

The Almanac/  
Marjorie Mader

Older children with hiking experience welcome. Bring lunch and be prepared to climb and descend. Rain cancels. Meet at the Higgins-Purissima entrance. Jan. 1, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Purissima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve. [www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org)

**Pre-Prandial Perambulation.** A vigorous 10-mile, four preserve hike with docents Judy and Dave Boore. Bring a lunch. Rain, snow, or serious mud will cancel. Meet at Monte Bello Preserve. Dec. 31, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Monte Bello Open Space Preserve. [www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org)

Learn the history of toys and the story behind their inventions. Fridays-Sundays, through Jan. 28, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 321-1004. [www.moah.org](http://www.moah.org)

**"Mystery of Venice."** An atmospheric view of La Serenissima during Carnavale. Photography by D. Cichon showing through Jan. 13. Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Keeble & Shuchat Photography, 290 California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 327-8996. [www.kspphoto.com](http://www.kspphoto.com)

**Art Exhibition.** "Reflections" contemporary figurative paintings by local artist, Laura Varich. Paintings are rendered using the "alla prima" technique. Through Feb. 2. Mike's Cafe, 150 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park. Call 321-3520.

**Art for Life presents "Shadows and Fog".** Art for Life, a quarterly exhibition celebrating the gift of life blood donors

## Exhibits

**"Classic and Timeless Toys."** Palo Alto Sport Shop and Toy world and the Museum of American Heritage present "Classic and Timeless Toys," an exhibit featuring over 75 classic toys of the 20th cen-

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provide others in our community. Through Jan. 2. "Shadows and Fog," done by a community of San Francisco Bay Area artists. Stanford Blood Center, 3373 Hillview Ave., Palo Alto. Call 723-8270. <http://bloodcenter.stanford.edu>

**Art in Action Library Show.** Art in Action opens a 6-month long art show series featuring artwork from local students grades K-8. Through May 5. For a list of participating schools see website. Free. Art in Action, 3925 Bohannon Dr., Menlo Park. Call 566-8339. [www.artinaction.org](http://www.artinaction.org)

**Multimedia Student Art Show.** Original works of digital paintings, imaging and photography will on display through Jan. 20 by students. Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Canada College Main Theater Foyer, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City. Call 306-3330. [www.canadacollege.net/multimedia/](http://www.canadacollege.net/multimedia/)

**Paintings and Collage.** Oil Paintings by Bohdanna Kesala; watercolors by Amy Da-Peng King, and collage by Mellissa Shields. Through Feb 8. Free. Stanford Art Spaces, 420 Via Palou, Stanford. Call 725-3622. <http://cis.stanford.edu/~marigros>

**Repetitious Antics.** Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. through March 23. Photographs and collages by Jessica Walker and Cyane Tornatzky, blending gender issues and technology to blur the edges of the natural and the artificial. Free. Serra House, 589 Capistrano Way, Stanford. Call 723-1994. <http://gender.stanford.edu>

**The Mondavi Family Gallery Reinstalled.** New installation presents the Center's 19th-century European and American collection. Through Dec. 31. Hours: Wed.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thu., 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; closed Mondays and Tuesdays. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Dr., Stanford. Call 723-4177.

**Visions of Dharma: Thai Contemporary Art.** Exhibition highlights the work of two of Thailand's artists. Works are contemporary and explore a wide range of subjects and styles. Hours: Wed.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thu., 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Through March 4. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Dr., Stanford. Call 723-3469. <http://museum.stanford.edu>

## Kids & Families

**Cookies and Coloring.** With the Kepler's staff Sundays, through Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 324-4321. [www.keplers.com](http://www.keplers.com)

**Final Friday Flicks.** Atherton Library presents a movie night for the family. Refreshments included. Call the library for monthly film title. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 328-2422. [www.smcl.org](http://www.smcl.org)

## Health

**Walking Group.** Meets Thursdays, 9 a.m. December meet at Little House. Explore local streets. Walk about 3-4 miles. Call Hal Makin 948-2310 for weekly location. Free. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 326-2025. [www.peninsulavolunteers.org](http://www.peninsulavolunteers.org)

## On Stage

**"Keep the Yuletide Gay."** Presented by Theatre Q. Christmas comedy by Dale Albright. Through Dec. 30. Thu.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. \$10 previews/\$25 opening night/\$20 regular/\$15 seniors. Dragon Theatre, 535 Alma St., Palo Alto. [www.theatreq.org](http://www.theatreq.org)

## Volunteers

**Huddart Park Docents.** Huddart Park's Friends program is in need of docents to lead young children on short hikes within Huddart Park a few weekday mornings during Fall and Spring. Training is provided. Through May 15. Huddart Park, 1100 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside. Call 529-0305.

**Volunteer Guide Opportunity.** Volunteers needed to introduce children to nature, farm animals, and an organic garden. No experience needed. Training provided. Ongoing. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 949-8655. [www.hiddenvilla.org](http://www.hiddenvilla.org)

**YES Reading.** Tutor volunteers needed for students who are reading below grade level at under-served schools. Tutors are needed at Belle Haven School in Menlo Park and Selby Lane School in Atherton. Mondays-Thursdays through June 30. E-mail [info@yesreading.org](mailto:info@yesreading.org) for more information.

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## TOWN OF WOODSIDE

### INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING COMMISSION

Districts 2 and 6

The Planning Commission participates in the administration of the planning laws and policies of the Town. It is responsible for recommending ordinances and resolutions necessary to implement the General Plan to the Town Council. The Commission also conducts necessary public hearings to administer the planning laws and policies of the Town and acts upon applications for zoning amendments, conditional use permits, variances, subdivisions and other related functions as may be assigned by the Council.

The Commission makes recommendations to the Town Council regarding land use, reviews proposed development projects, and advises as to the overall development and maintenance of the General Plan of the Town.

The Planning Commission meets on the first and third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.; Commissioners are appointed for a four-year term.

**District 2** includes Cedar Acres, the area west of Albion Avenue to south of Olive Hill Lane, the Bear Gulch area, and the Kings Mountain Road area.

**District 6** includes Greenways, Woodside Heights, Quail Meadows, and the area east of Cañada Road to beyond Dean Road, and east of Mountain Home/Manzanita Roads.

*Interested residents may check residency requirements and request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon and 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, or by telephone at (650) 851-6790. Applications can be obtained from the Town's web site at [www.woodsidesidtown.org](http://www.woodsidesidtown.org). Deadline for applications is Friday, January 12, 2007, 5:00 p.m.*

## TOWN OF WOODSIDE INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR COMMITTEES

### BICYCLE COMMITTEE

Meets third Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises and recommends to the Town Council on the policies for planning, developing, maintaining, and usage of Town's bikeways system.

### CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Monday of each month, 5:30 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises and assists the Town Council, Planning Commission, and staff on conservation, open space, noise, public services and facilities as pertaining to the elements of the Town's General Plan.

### LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Wednesday of each month; 5:30 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises the Planning Director on applications for commercial stable permits, dog kennel permits, and exception requests to the private stable regulations.

### OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Thursday of each month, 4:30 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises and assists the Town Council, Planning Commission and staff in implementing the policies and goals of the Open Space and Conservation elements of the General Plan, specifically with respect to acquisition and maintenance of conservation easements and open space preservation.

### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meets on call of Chair; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises the Town Council and staff on issues of community public safety, including police and fire services provided within the Town.

### RECREATION COMMITTEE

Meets first Thursday of each month, 7:30 pm; appointed for three-year term.

The Committee guides the activities of the community recreation programs.

### TRAILS COMMITTEE

Meets second Thursday of each month, 3:00 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee reviews land divisions, subdivisions and conditional use permits for locations for equestrian, pedestrian and bicycle trails and makes recommendations to the staff and to the Planning Commission.

### WOODSIDE HISTORY COMMITTEE

Meets first Thursday of each month, 9:30 a.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises the Town Council and staff regarding actions, policies and plans relating to historic preservation.

*Committees are volunteer positions and serve in an advisory capacity to the Town Council.*

*Interested residents may request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, or telephone (650) 851-6790, or through the Town's web site at [www.woodsidesidtown.org](http://www.woodsidesidtown.org). Deadline for applications is Friday, January 12, 2007, 5:00 p.m.*

# After-school program expands to two more schools

The Center for a New Generation after-school academic enrichment program has expanded to two more schools in the Ravenswood City School District — Belle Haven Community School in Menlo Park and Edison McNair Academy in East Palo Alto.

The program was founded in 1991 by philanthropist Susan Ford Dorsey of Woodside, former Las Lomas School District Superintendent Charla Rolland,

and Condoleezza Rice, who was then Stanford University's provost and is now secretary of state in the Bush administration.

The program, housed at James Flood Magnet School in Menlo Park, has been operated at the school by the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula since 1996.

The program's goal is to increase the Ravenswood district's high school graduation rate by helping middle school students prepare for high school.

More than 50 percent of the district's students do not complete high school, said Chris Canter, spokesperson of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula.

Until recently the Center for a New Generation could only serve 130 students a year. Now it serves more than 300 students and has a waiting list, Mr. Canter said. In recent years, 100 percent of its graduating eighth-graders have been accepted at private high schools, including St. Francis, Sacred Heart Prep and Eastside College Prep, or other college track programs, he added.

The curriculum at the center has recently been improved after the Boys & Girls Clubs introduced a new literacy curriculum developed by BELL (Building Educated Leaders for Life), an



Center for a New Generation graduates, from left, Demetrius Hill, Martell Winn, and Hugo Lopez are shown with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on a visit to her office last summer in Washington, D.C.

organization started by Hispanic and African-American students from Harvard Law School in New York, Maryland, Massachusetts and Washington, D.C.

Secretary of State Rice recently hosted several graduates from the

Center for a New Generation last summer at her office in Washington, D.C. She plans to visit the new sites on her next trip to the Bay Area, according to Peter Fortenbaugh, executive director of the Boys & Girls Clubs.

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## Doug Koo joins Leader Ventures

Doug Koo has joined Leader Ventures, 3000 Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park, as one of its four managing directors. Leader Ventures is a private investment firm providing debt and equity financing to private and public companies.

Mr. Koo, a resident of Menlo Park, most recently served as

chief financial officer at Blaze Entertainment, a mobile games publisher in San Mateo. Prior to joining Blaze Entertainment,



Doug Koo

## BUSINESS

he was senior vice president and chief financial officer for Everypath, a mobile software company in Santa Clara.

Mr. Koo is a graduate of UC San Diego. He has an MBA degree from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He and his wife, Kathy, live in Menlo Park with their four children.

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## New sales associate at Coldwell Banker

Donna Pimm is the newest sales associate in the Menlo Park Santa Cruz office of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

Ms. Pimm began selling real estate in Marin County in 1979. She has been a loan officer, founder of a mortgage company, a graphic artist, and an actress, playing a "Bond girl" in the 1964 movie "Goldfinger."

She has appeared in British films and television and continues appearing in local theater and playing bit parts in U.S. television and films.

**Winter Swimming!!**

The Burgess Park pools are busy all winter with kids teams, lessons, Aqua Fit, laps, Masters swim, polo, triathlon, and even kids triathlon — winter session on now!

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

**EYE CARE NEWS**

Presented by  
**Mark Schmidt**  
Licensed Optician  
**A FISH STORY**

As researchers learn more about diet's impact upon vision, increasing emphasis is being placed upon the importance of docosahexanoic acid (DHA), which is found primarily in fish oil. It has been reported that unless a premature infant is fed breast milk (which naturally contains DHA) or formula fortified with DHA, the child's visual acuity is likely to be compromised. And a recent study indicates that full-term infants also benefit visually from DHA. Those who were breast-fed for 4 months were more likely to achieve a high degree of stereoscopic vision at age 3 1/2 than children who were not breast-fed.

Children of mothers who ate fatty fish during pregnancy also developed better stereoscopic vision than those whose mothers did not.

Clear vision is important for all aspects of your life. Paying attention to your diet as well as having your eyes examined on a regular basis helps maintain good vision. You can rely on Menlo Optical for consistently high-quality eyewear products and service. We like to ask questions about your lifestyle and how you will normally wear your glasses. Then we can show you a wide range of styles and frames and make recommendations based on your lifestyle and facial appearance. Call us at 322-3900, or visit us at 1166 University Drive, on the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and University Drive.

**P.S. Two to three servings of cold-water fish (mackerel, salmon, bass, tuna, etc.) a week can maintain adequate levels of DHA in an adult. Pregnant women who do not eat fish may take a DHA supplement.**

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

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## It's the real thing

This photo of a monarch butterfly was recently taken in the Little House activity center garden in Menlo Park by Karel Sykora, facilities manager at Little House. The garden has been certified as a way station for monarchs during their fall migration. In August, the Almanac ran a photo of a butterfly that reader Roy Doolin informed us was actually a Gulf fritillary. Little House director Janice Pierce forwarded this photo of the real thing.

Photo by Karel Sykora



## OBITUARIES

### Marie Alexander

Longtime Atherton resident

Marie Alexander of Atherton died at the age of 93 on Dec. 19.

Ms. Alexander was born and raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She was educated at the Girls Preparatory School, and graduated from Maryville College in Tennessee.

She was the widow of child psychology professor and author Theron Alexander, whom she met at Maryville College. They were married 68 years when Mr. Alexander died in 2004.

She assisted her husband in writing five books and texts on child psychology, and traveled with him on teaching tours throughout Europe, Russia and Brazil.

Ms. Alexander was a remarkable homemaker, fabulous cook and seamstress extraordinaire, say family members. She was active in the American Association of University Women and PEO, and served as president of the local chapters of both organizations. She was an active member of Valley Presbyterian Church in Portola Valley for 20 years.

She is survived by daughter Mary E. Alexander, son Thomas Alexander, one grandchild, and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Dec. 22 at Valley Presbyterian Church. Those wishing to make a contribution in her honor may send it to: Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028.

### Eugene Leichtle

Longtime Menlo Park resident

Eugene Leichtle, a resident of Menlo Park since 1967, died Dec. 18 at Sequoia Hospital. He was 90.

Mr. Leichtle was born near

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and moved to California with his family in 1952. They first lived in Burbank, then moved to the Bay Area two years later.

He was the former owner and operator of Lytell Screw Products in Belmont. Mr. Leichtle sold the business and retired when he was in his early 60s. For several years, he acted as a consultant to the company.

After he and his wife retired, they enjoyed traveling around the world. They visited the Middle East, including Egypt, Iran and Iraq; as well as Africa, Asia and Europe.

The couple also took frequent fishing trips to Baja. Avid ballroom dancers, they went dancing once a week, according to their son Tom Leichtle of Menlo Park.

In addition to his son Tom, Mr. Leichtle is survived by a daughter, Linda Hazelton of San Carlos; and three grandchildren. His wife, Henrietta Leichtle, died in 1999.

Private services will be held at a later date. Arrangements were under the direction of Menlo Colonial Chapel.

## 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

**Stolen vehicle report:** 1992 green Mercedes Benz 190e, Menlo-Atherton High School at 555 Middlefield Road, Dec. 15.

### MENLO PARK

**Stolen vehicle report:** 2000 silver Toyota Corolla, 600 block of Woodland Avenue, Dec. 16.

**Burglary report:** Residences broken into, 100 block of Laurel Avenue and 200 block of Ivy Drive, Dec. 15 and 19.

**Spousal abuse report:** 1200 block of Sevier Avenue, Dec. 15.

### Auto burglary reports:

■ Hood and radiator cap stolen, 100 block of Constitution Drive, Dec. 16.

■ Computer equipment stolen from trunk, 1500 block of Santa Cruz Avenue, Dec. 19.

### Fraud reports:

■ Unauthorized uses of credit card, Brady Place and 500 block of Willow Road, Dec. 18 and 21.

■ Unauthorized ATM withdrawals, Shasta Lane, Dec. 21.

■ Arrest made after fraudulent purchase attempt, 1400 block of Willow Road, Dec. 20.

### WEST MENLO PARK

**Theft report:** "Bismarck" palm tree in plastic bucket stolen, 1000 block of Altschul Avenue, Dec. 15.

### Auto burglary reports:

■ Driver's license, credit cards, \$50 cash and \$100 check stolen, 100 block of Arbol Grande Court, Dec. 19.

■ MP3 music player stolen, 100 block of Arbol Grande Court, Dec. 19.

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## TOWN OF WOODSIDE

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND SITE REVIEW BOARD

The Architectural and Site Review Board reviews and makes recommendations to the Planning Director on residential, site design and commercial applications.

Meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month, 4:30 p.m. Appointments are for a four-year term.

Interested residents may request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, by telephone at (650) 851-6790, or through the Town's web site at [www.woodsidesidetown.org](http://www.woodsidesidetown.org). Deadline for applications is Friday, January 12, 2007, 5:00 p.m.

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Published every Wednesday at

3525 Alameda de las Pulgas,

Menlo Park, CA 94025

(650) 854-2626

FAX (650) 854-0677

e-mail news (no photos please) to:

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e-mail photos with captions to:

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The Almanac, established in September, 1965,

is delivered each week to residents of Menlo

Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside

and adjacent unincorporated areas of southern

San Mateo County. The Almanac is qualified by

decree of the Superior Court of

San Mateo County to publish public

notices of a governmental and legal

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147530, issued November 9, 1969.

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or residents outside the area are \$50

for one year and \$80 for two years.



**WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?**

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

**TOWN SQUARE FORUM**

POST your views on the Town Square forum at www.AlmanacNews.com

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

**MAIL** or deliver to: Editor at the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

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

## Tax policy deserves discussion

So much for being more inclusive and seeking more public involvement in Menlo Park's more critical decisions. At last week's meeting, the new City Council, led by Mayor Kelly Fergusson, brushed aside requests to further discuss implementation of the new utility tax, which passed by just 65 votes in last month's election.

Instead, and despite a major "feel good" inaugural just two weeks prior when she promised to reach out to supporters of the former council majority, Ms. Fergusson and three other council members took a hard stance, and denied a proposal to publicly discuss, at a future meeting, the size of the tax rate when it is first implemented.

Council member John Boyle tried in vain to get his colleagues to at least discuss how much tax revenue is needed, and perhaps delay the implementation until after budget discussions are complete in June.

But the other council members steadfastly refused to budge, meaning the maximum rates — a 3.5 percent levy on gas, water and electric bills and up to 2.5 percent on telephone, cell phone, cable TV and

Internet bills — will automatically be implemented April 1.

Ms. Fergusson said she wanted to get the tax on the books for a "data-gathering period," noting that the council can change the rate any time. But as Mr. Boyle noted, the city will have very little information about tax revenues by the time the council must make its budget decisions, in June at the latest.

During the run-up to the City Council election, most candidates focused their attention on whether to build playing fields at Bayfront Park and the viability of slate politics. The utility tax was seldom mentioned.

Nevertheless, as one of the measure's prime supporters, Ms. Fergusson should know that the city came very close to losing the tax vote, which would have precipitated another year of extreme budget stress. That is all the more reason for council members to endorse a frank council discussion of the tax's implications, and hear comments from the public about the first utility tax in the city's history.

It is not too late. The council should put a discussion of the tax on the agenda as soon as possible, and at least give members of the public an opportunity to state their views, even if they know the council is likely to approve the maximum tax levy.

**EDITORIAL**  
The opinion of The Almanac

**LETTERS**  
Our readers write

### Why does M-A need a theater, anyway?

Editor:

The controversy between the Sequoia high school district and the Atherton City Council over the proposed Menlo-Atherton High School performing arts center, in my view, should be a non-issue.

Why does M-A need a theater?

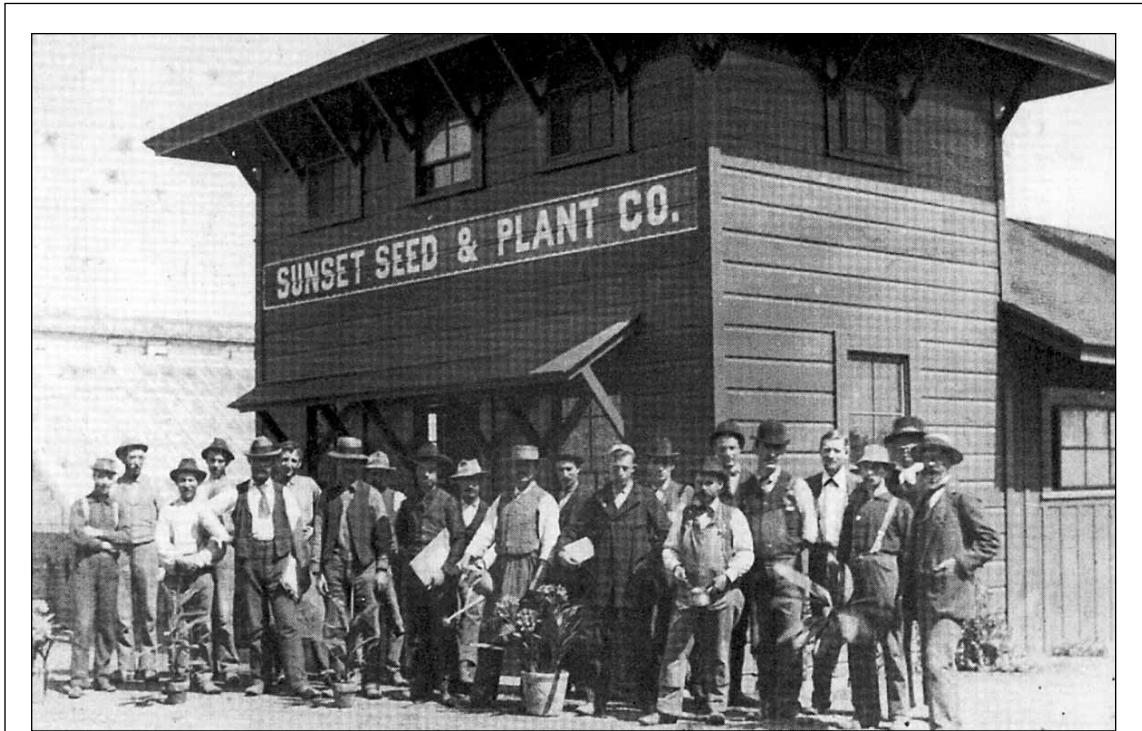
Woodside High has just completed a state of the art performing arts theater at great cost, matching any commercial theater in the Bay Area. Is it not reasonable that the Sequoia district halt its attempts to construct elaborate ancillary para-academic edifices in their high schools, at increased taxpayer expense? And at the same time calling for more monies for educational expenses, such as lower class sizes, increased teacher compensation, special classes and so on. All the district's theatrical enterprises could be performed at the Woodside High School facility without the necessity for each high school to have its own.

Addendum: I found the comments of Atherton Mayor Alan Carlson and council members

Charles Marsala and Kathy McKeithen on the issue (Almanac, Dec. 20) totally beside the fundamental issue elaborated above.

Donald W. Smith, M.D.  
Greenoaks Drive, Atherton

**TOWN SQUARE**  
Post your views and comments on TownSquare: www.AlmanacNews.com



Menlo Park Historical Association

### Our Regional Heritage

During the 1890s, the Sherwood Hall estate of Timothy Hopkins between El Camino Real and Middlefield Road was home to Sunset Seed & Plant Co., which cultivated 250 varieties of chrysanthemums for sale in San Francisco. Irish gardener Michael Lynch supervised a staff of 43 assistants at the seed company and was said to grow a chrysanthemum bloom 20 inches in diameter.

letter go unanswered. Mr. Smith uses the unfortunate Portola Road "water bottle incident" as an excuse to suggest that bicyclists should be banned from Woodside roads "if they can't behave themselves." Using this logic, we should also ban cars from Woodside Road in Redwood City, because a car driver there drifted into the bicycle lane, striking and killing a beloved

Menlo Park school teacher. See Almanac, Oct. 5, 2005.

In addition, we should ban cars from Skyline Boulevard in Skyllonda because a car driver there passed a Portola Valley bicyclist on a curve, striking and killing him. See Almanac, July 26, 2006.

Furthermore, we should ban cars from Old Page Mill Road

Further, we should ban cars from Old Page Mill Road

Further, we should ban cars from Old Page Mill Road

Further, we should ban cars from Old Page Mill Road

Further, we should ban cars from Old Page Mill Road

Further, we should ban cars from Old Page Mill Road

See **LETTERS**, next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

in Palo Alto, because a drunk driver there struck and killed a bicyclist on a training ride. See San Jose Mercury News, Sept. 9, 2006.

Clearly these are extreme and tragic examples, but aggressive and dangerous behavior by car drivers is a daily fact of life for those of us who choose to ride bicycles, whether for our own health, for the health of our local and global environment, or just for the fun of it. Bad behavior on our roads is certainly not limited to bicyclists.

What can we do about the increasingly contentious interactions on our local roads?

First, we can acknowledge that cars and bicycles have equal rights to the use of our roads, and equal responsibility to abide by our traffic laws.

Second, we can try to improve our own personal behavior as we use the roads together. For bicyclists, that means obeying stop signs and stop lights, respecting the right of way of others at intersections, and not unnecessarily impeding the flow of traffic.

For car drivers, that means obeying the speed limit, waiting behind bicyclists until there is sufficient room to pass safely, and realizing that bicycles are entitled to the use of a full traffic lane if a road is narrow or there is another reason that riding on the edge of the roadway is not safe. It also means not being distracted by using cell phones or other gadgets while we drive.

Finally, we can all put pressure on our local authorities to provide resources to our police officers, so that they can effectively enforce our existing traffic laws against those who disobey them. Such enforcement should apply equally to cars and bicycles.

This is the season of sharing, so let's all share the road, safely and respectfully.

**David Roise**  
Creek Drive, Menlo Park

**District can use demographic guideline**

Editor:

You state in your Dec. 20 editorial that the Sequoia high school district's responsibility in renewing the charter of Summit High School "does not include the right to demand that Summit's student population echo the district's demographics, any more than the district would demand the right to approve what teachers are hired."

I refer you to the California Education Code, sections 47605-47608, which states clearly that, "The governing board of the school district shall not deny a petition for the establishment of a charter school unless it makes written factual findings, specific to the particular petition, setting forth specific facts to support one or more of the following findings..."

5) The petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all of the following...

(G) The means by which the school will achieve a racial and ethnic balance among its pupils that is reflective of the general population residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the school district to which the charter petition is submitted."

Contrary to what you suggest, the Sequoia district is upholding California law by ensuring that Summit's student body is representative of the entire Sequoia school district and not just Woodside and Portola Valley.

**Nancy P. Stork**  
Crescent Avenue, Portola Valley

**District should consider charter immediately**

Editor:

Summit Preparatory charter high school continues to struggle for recognition and support in the community it serves.

A charter school faces many obstacles, and, in Summit's case, the Sequoia high school district has added to the difficulty, first by issuing only a two-year charter (instead of the usual five), and now by trying to delay even considering the school's much-needed charter renewal until August 2007.

Several side issues have been raised, particularly about the legacy program. However, the real issue is whether Summit is meeting the state law's requirements. It is — with extraordinary distinction. As much as Summit would benefit from Sequoia's unqualified support, all that Summit needs is for the district to consider the charter immediately, as state law requires.

There's no reason for the district to delay or to take action other than granting the five-year charter, as virtually all school districts in California do with qualified charter schools.

**Peter Mangione**  
Menlo Park

**Atherton council making a false promise**

Editor:

The people of Atherton should be warned that the members of our City Council are threatening to stop the building of the performing arts center at Menlo-Atherton High School.

Sure, the council says they are not. They said so at the last council meeting. We heard Mayor Alan Carlson and Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen say, "Trust us, trust us, we want the PAC to be built, we support it." But it's like trusting a used car salesman — it doesn't ring true.

Immediately after the public comments, Sequoia high school district superintendent Pat Gemma told the crowd out-

**Sally Stewart responds to board's snub**

*Editor's Note: At the Dec. 6 meeting of the Sequoia high school district board of trustees, longtime member Sally Stewart was in line to become board president, but was passed over in a 4-1 vote. Here are her remarks from that meeting.*

By Sally Stewart

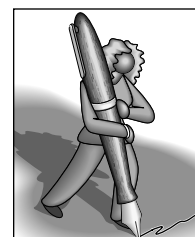
I had the expectation after serving as clerk and vice president that I would be elected president of the board as normally happens on this board.

I have experience and history of serving as president of boards and organizations at the elementary and high school districts and other boards and committees in both districts, at the county and state level; specifically CSBA (California School Board Association) and its committees and CTC (Commission on Teacher Credentialing). I have a track record of moving organizations forward, such as instituting the first strategic plan for CSBA.

I am disappointed as I looked forward to working with the superintendent and facilitating the work of the board. I enjoy leading and collaborating with teams for success.

However, what is most important is that we continue to address the needs of our students. I will continue to work with the board, work for and with the kids in our district, work to provide a generative outlook for our district and work to continue to help build the district governance team.

I strongly believe that in working with our differences and understanding and exploring those differences, we will continue to provide the best education for our kids and that in building our governance team we can look toward to providing the best education for students in this 21st century. I look forward to working with this board this coming year.



GUEST OPINION

side Town Hall that Atherton has been adding new demands at every meeting. They seem to think of new concerns each week, he said.

It appears that the town is not working toward a resolution, but is doing just the opposite. Why? How many citizens is the city representing in this fight? Why are we not settling this and moving on?

The council should get over the fact that there is going to be some disruptions because of the construction. How many of us pass construction on our streets today? The council needs to look at the PAC as it really is — a replacement structure. It will replace the J Building with a state of the art performance venue.

The environment will not be impacted any more than it already is. Drainage was recently added to the list. Is this PAC really expected to solve the city's drainage issues?

The city also has to get over

the idea that Menlo Park is going to use the PAC. Menlo Park is contributing \$2.6 million to the project, compared to zero for Atherton. This is a good-neighbor gesture and it should be respected with support and gratitude. Atherton is behaving like a paranoid, selfish neighbor.

But this is what we have come to expect from the town. Be it Pop Warner football, or Little League baseball in our only park, the town does not support its children and exhibits a "not in my back yard" elitism. The town should revoke its fight against the PAC and embrace the good that will come from it. We should be welcoming this addition to our community. It just seems so obvious that sharing makes good neighbors — and being good neighbors is what a community is all about. That is a town attitude that I can be proud of.

**Nancy Sterling**  
Lupin Lane, Atherton

**Clarification**

An editorial last week said the Sequoia high school district does not have the right to demand that Summit Prep charter school echo the district's demographics. In fact, the state education code permits school districts, when considering a charter, to require an applying school to state "The means by which the school will achieve a racial

and ethnic balance among its pupils that is reflective of the general population residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the school district to which the charter petition is submitted."

Summit Prep's racial and ethnic balance is not far from the district's. About 52 percent of Summit students are white versus about 41 percent district-wide.

A notable difference between

Summit and the Sequoia district, and one that does not appear to be addressed in state law, is a charter school's responsibility to echo the **academic abilities** of the school district's students. For example, Summit and the Sequoia district differ in the number of students lacking fluency in English: In the district, about 21 percent of students are not fluent, versus 1 percent at Summit.

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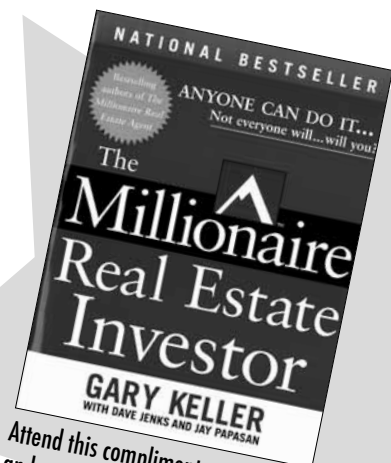
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WONDERFUL NANNY AVAILABLE

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217578

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MONKEY LABS RADIO, 1026 Middle Avenue, #B, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

This business is conducted by an Individual: ERIK BARCELO, 1026 Middle Avenue, #B, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on December 7, 2006.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California December 8, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Madeleine Bruley, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 27, 2006, January 3, 10, 17, 2007.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217585

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: (1) J.V. & ASSOCIATES, INC. (2) JVA.COM, (3) JVLUNDERONEROOF.COM, (4) BUYFOR.COM, (5) TEAMJV.COM, (6) J.V. & ASSOCIATES, INC., (7) J.V. & ASSOC, (8) JVA, 50 Edgewood Road, Redwood City, CA 94062.

This business is conducted by a Corporation: J.V. & ASSOCIATES, INC., 50 Edgewood Road, Redwood City, CA 94062.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on April 9, 1998.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California December 11, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Madeleine Bruley, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 27, 2006, January 3, 10, 17, 2007.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217599

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SIMPSON FAMILY BARBER SHOP, 1181 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

This business is conducted by an Individual: LAURA HAPHUNG, 3275 Sagewood Lane, San Jose, CA 95132.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California December 11, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Madeleine Bruley, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 27, 2006, January 3, 10, 17, 2007.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217484

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ALPIA GRANITE AND MARBLE, 454 So. Airport Blvd., South San Francisco CA 94080, 1145 Palomar Drive, Redwood City CA 94062.

This business is conducted by an Individual: EMILE KISHEK, 1145 Palomar Drive, Redwood City, CA 94062.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California December 5, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Madeleine Bruley, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 27, 2006, January 3, 10, 17, 2007.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217553

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: UMBEL DESIGN, 1028 Marcussen Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

This business is conducted by an Individual: JANICELLIOTT, 1028 Marcussen Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on November 28, 2006.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California December 8, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Madeleine Bruley, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 27, 2006, January 3, 10, 17, 2007.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217731

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: E.L. GOLDBERG & ASSOCIATES, 950 Siskiyou Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

This business is conducted by an Individual: EDITH GOLDBERG, 950 Siskiyou Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on December 12, 2001.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California December 20, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Madeleine Bruley, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 27, 2006, January 3, 10, 17, 2007.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217367

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CYRESS INVESTMENTS, 3000 Sand Hill Road, Building 1, Suite 250, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

This business is conducted by a Corporation: DAVID BIDER, INC., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 10, 2000.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the

County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California November 28, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Patricia Fischbach, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 20, 27, 2006, January 3, 10, 2007.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217293

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MILLBRAE TERRACE, 496 Richmond Drive, Millbrae, CA 94030.

This business is conducted by an Individual: SHOLY MALEKSALEHI TRUT, 11910 Walbrook Drive, Saratoga, CA 95070.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California November 21, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Patricia Fischbach, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 20, 27, 2006, January 3, 10, 2007.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217402

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MICROLINE, 270 Redwood Shores Parkway, #118, Redwood City, CA 94065.

This business is conducted by an Individual: KEN WONG, 26 Dockside Circle, Redwood City, CA 94065.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California November 29, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Patricia Fischbach, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 13, 20, 27, 2006, January 3, 2007.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217311

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CLUB MAOZ, 24 Santa Elena Avenue, Daly City, CA 94015; P.O. Box 2181 Daly City, CA 94017.

This business is conducted by Individuals - Husband & Wife: (1) ALEKSANDRA FLIEGLER, 24 Santa Elena Avenue, Daly City, CA 94015-4035; (2) ROBERT FLIEGLER, 24 Santa Elena Avenue, Daly City, CA 94015-4035.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California November 22, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Patricia Fischbach, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2006.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217373

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: (1) VINO FAIRE; (2) PHOTOGRAPHIC ESCAPES; (3) MAAS RIVER; (4) U.S. TERROR WATCH, 2995 Woodside Road, Suite 400, Woodside, CA 94062.

This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company: (1) MARGARET A. MARAIST, 2100 Stockbridge Avenue, Woodside, CA 94062; (2) JAMES E. VANDERMAAS, 2100 Stockbridge Avenue, Woodside, CA 94062.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California November 28, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Madeleine Bruley, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2006.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217452

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: AUTO PRIDE CAR WASH, 195 El Camino Real, San Carlos, CA 94070.

This business is conducted by a Corporation: AUTO PRIDE CAR WASH, 909 Woodside Road, Redwood City, CA 94061.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California December 1, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Madeleine Bruley, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2006.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217453

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: AUTO PRIDE CAR WASH, 1095 Carolan Avenue, Burlingame, CA 94010.

This business is conducted by a Corporation: AUTO PRIDE CAR WASH, 909 Woodside Road, Redwood City, CA 94061.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California December 1, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Madeleine Bruley, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2006.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217034

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: NOEL OAKS APARTMENTS, 1010 Noel Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025; 4370 Alpine Road, Suite 201, Portola Valley, CA

94028.

This business is conducted by Co-Partners: (1) GREGORY H. BLAINE, 3444 Scott Street, San Francisco, CA 94123; (2) CHERYL L. BLAINE, 3444 Scott Street, San Francisco, CA 94123; (3) MARGARET H. BLAINE, 2285 Tioga Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025; (4) HARTNELL TERRENCE BLAINE, 2285 Tioga Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on October 28, 2004.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California November 2, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Madeleine Bruley, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2006.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217038

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: MENLO POINTE APARTMENTS, 950-970 Crane Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025; 4370 Alpine Road, Suite 201, Portola Valley, CA 94028.

This business is conducted by Individuals - Husband & Wife: (1) CONSTANCE AHERN, 35 Tripp Court, Woodside, CA 94062; (2) GARY AHERN, 35 Tripp Court, Woodside, CA 94062.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on September 15, 2001.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California November 2, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Madeleine Bruley, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2006.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217082

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: A TALE OF TWO TRUFFLES, 2101 Carlmont Drive, Suite 311, Belmont, CA 94002.

This business is conducted by Individuals - Husband & Wife: (1) NICOLA MAGLODI, 2101 Carlmont Drive, Suite 311, Belmont, CA 94002; (2) MATYAS MAGLODI, 2101 Carlmont Drive, Suite 311, Belmont, CA 94002.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California November 6, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Patricia Fischbach, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2006.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217351

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: HERITAGE OAK QUILTING, 333 Leland Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6159.

This business is conducted by an Individual: JULIA M. CURRY, 333 Leland Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6159.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California November 27, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Madeleine Bruley, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2006.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217372

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DALE L. FOUCH-FIXIT & REPAIR, 477 E. Hillsdale Blvd., #117, San Mateo, CA 94403.

This business is conducted by an Individual: DALE LEE FOUCH, 477 E. Hillsdale Blvd., #117, San Mateo, CA 94403.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California November 28, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Madeleine Bruley, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2006.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217260

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BLUM REALTY, 677 Valparaiso Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

This business is conducted by an

Individual: SCOTT BLUM, 677 Valparaiso Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California November 20, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Patricia Fischbach, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2006.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217064

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: RED HOUSE, 449 Santa Margarita, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

This business is conducted by an Individual: JONATHAN PROPP, 449 Santa Margarita, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on October 1, 2006.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California November 6, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Patricia Fischbach, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2006.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 216925

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SIX DFRIES DESIGN, 45 Hallmark Circle, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

This business is conducted by an Individual: KEVIN KRAMER, 45 Hallmark Circle, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on October 20, 2006.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California October 30, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Patricia Fischbach, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2006.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217378

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: APLUS COMPUTER AID, P.O. Box 7851, Menlo Park, CA 94026; 331 Grove Drive, Portola Valley, CA 94028.

This business is conducted by an Individual: PAUL R. ECKSTROM, 331 Grove Drive, Portola Valley, CA 94028.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California November 28, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Madeleine Bruley, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2006.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217376

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BAG TO BASICS, P.O. Box 1041 Menlo Park, CA 94026.

This business is conducted by an Individual: SAMIRA NAWAS, 46 Greenoaks Drive, Atherton, CA 94027.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on October 27, 2006.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California November 28, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Madeleine Bruley, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2006.

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 217420

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: STAR CUTTING HORSES, 711 Southdale Way, Woodside, CA 94062.

This business is conducted by an Individual: JAMES GORDON MILNE, 711 Southdale Way, Woodside, CA 94062.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

(ENDORSED) FILED In the Office of the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County California November 29, 2006. WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk by Besz DeLaVega, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2006.

## ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME HARSHAL DAYAL SHARMA CASE NUMBER CIV 459099 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: SHALINI A. LAL has filed a petition on behalf of minor child with this court for a decree changing names as follows: HARSHAL DAYAL SHARMA to HARSHAL DAYAL LAL.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted on January 17, 2007 at 9:00a.m., Dept. 28, Room: 2F, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in The Almanac, a newspaper of general circulation printed in the County of San Mateo.

Dated: November 22, 2006 George A. Miram Judge of the Superior Court

ENDORSED FILED In San Mateo County on November 28, 2006. Clerk of the Superior Court By E. Boffi, Deputy Clerk.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2006.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. GM-93206-C Loan No. 0713184780 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 9/13/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash,

cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by the duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to satisfy the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. TRUSTOR: KILISIMASI SAILI, A SINGLE MAN Recorded 9/28/2005 as Instrument No. 2005-169216 in Book , page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California, Date of Sale: 1/10/2007 at 1:00 PM Place of Sale: AT THE MARSHALL STREET ENTRANCE TO THE HALL OF JUSTICE AND RECORDS, 400 COUNTY CENTER, REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA Property Address is purported to be: 14 BUCHANAN COURT EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94303-0000 APN #: 063-295-020-6 The total amount secured by said instrument as of the time of initial publication of this notice is \$673,071.30, which includes the total amount of the unpaid balance (including accrued and unpaid interest) and reasonable estimated costs, expenses, and advances at the time of initial publication of this notice. Date: December 14, 2006 EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE SERVICES, LLC FKA EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE SERVICES, INC. 15455 SAN FERNANDO MISSION BLVD SUITE #208 MISSION HILLS, CA 91345 818-361-6998 DIANNA SANDOVAL TRUSTEE SALE OFFICER ASAP# 810130 12/20/2006, 12/27/2006, 01/03/2007

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 20, 27, 2006, January 3, 2007.



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2007

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Menlo Park, California, is scheduled to review the following items:

### The following items require a Notice of Public Meeting or Public Hearing:

**Use Permit/William Harris/511 Grace Drive:** Request for a use permit to demolish an existing single-story, single-family residence and construct a new two-story, single-family residence on a substandard lot with regard to lot depth in the R-1-S (Single Family Suburban) zoning district, and for excavation into a required side yard setback for a light well associated with a basement.

**Use Permit/Andrew and Noel Young/503 Concord Drive:** Request for a use permit to demolish an existing single-story, single-family residence and construct a new two-story, single-family residence on a substandard lot in regard to lot width located in the R-1-U (Single Family Urban) zoning district.

**Use Permit/Stamley F. Nielsen/442 Gilbert Avenue:** Request for a use permit to construct a new two-story, single-family residence on a substandard lot with regard to lot width in the R-1-U (Single Family Urban) zoning district.

**Use Permit/Stamley F. Nielsen/444 Gilbert Avenue:** Request for a use permit to construct a new two-story, single-family residence on a substandard lot with regard to lot width in the R-1-U (Single Family Urban) zoning district.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on these items in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on Monday, January 8, 2007, 7:00 p.m. or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge these items in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Documents related to these items may be inspected by the public on weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, with alternate Fridays closed, at the Department of Community Development, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park. Please note that the items listed are only the agenda items that require a public hearing. Please call the Planning Division if there are any questions and/or for complete agenda information (650) 330-6702.

DATED: December 20, 2006 Justin Murphy, Development Services Manager Menlo Park Planning Commission

# Your donation to vital community youth programs will be quadrupled, if you act now.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We need your help. The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula has been awarded three generous challenge grants - totaling \$165,000. The donating foundations acted in support of our initiatives to improve academic standards and technology skills of the young people we reach.

While we are thrilled, the grants are indeed challenging. In order to receive these much-needed funds, the foundations have said that we must first raise an equal amount - from new donors or those who have not given recently.

Many people in the community have supported our organization over the years. If you have not done so recently, this is a great opportunity. Your gift today would be quadrupled.\*

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula has been serving the community for nearly 50 years. Today, the organization has six sites and reaches over 3,000 young people annually. Almost 900 kids and teens attend our clubs every day. Our staff and volunteers inspire and guide them to develop the attitudes and life skills they need to succeed. Our programs are focused on improving literacy, increasing the 50% high school graduation rate and providing a positive alternative to gangs. We make a real difference.

Please donate today. The young people of our communities are depending on us. Gifts may be mailed to Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula, 401 Pierce Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025, or made online at [www.bgcp.org](http://www.bgcp.org). If you have questions or would like more information, please call us at (650) 322-8065 ext. 102.

Thank you and best wishes for 2007.

Sincerely,



Peter Fortenbaugh  
Executive Director



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF THE PENINSULA

This space made possible  
with generous support from  **Robert Half International**

\*The challenge grants have been provided by The Grove Foundation, the Morgan Family Foundation and the Louis R. Lurie Foundation. To qualify for the maximum matching amount (\$3:\$1) gifts must be received by 1/31/2007, and amount to \$25 or more from new donors or those who have not given in three or more years.