

BICYCLIST INJURED: Menlo Park bicyclist severely injured, dragged under truck; driver arrested for felony drunken driving. Page 6

The Almanac

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

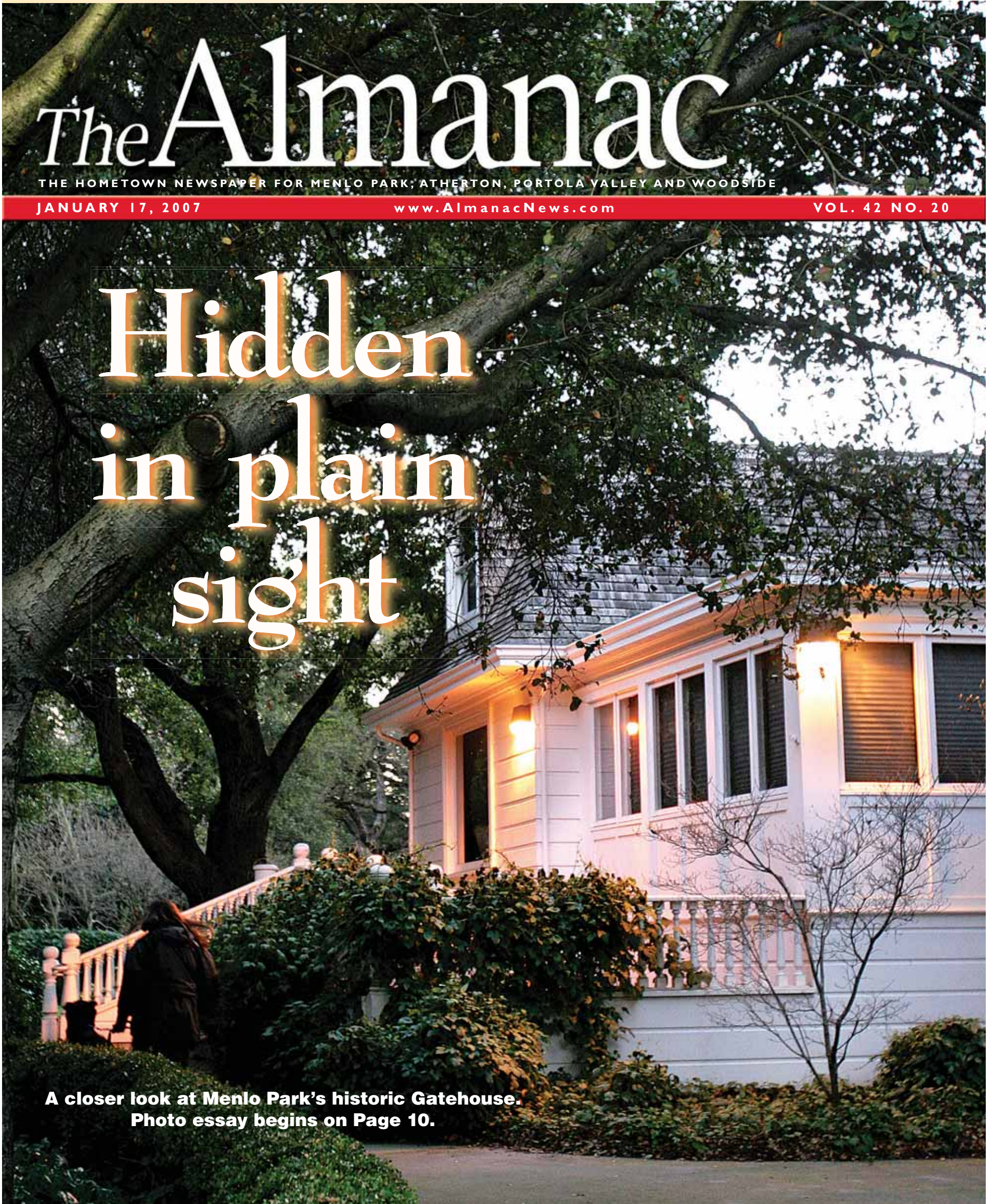
JANUARY 17, 2007

www.AlmanacNews.com

VOL. 42 NO. 20

Hidden in plain sight

**A closer look at Menlo Park's historic Gatehouse.
Photo essay begins on Page 10.**



REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990

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



PORTOLA VALLEY

Sensational 5bd/ 4.5ba, 6220+/-sf estate. Newly remodeled slab granite kitchen and master bathroom, wood-paneled library with marble fireplace, possible 6-car covered parking. Located on 2.6+/- acres with gated private setting with extensive lawns and tennis court.

\$4,995,000



PALO ALTO

Wonderful light-filled 4bd/2ba home with sliding doors to the backyard, updated eat-in kitchen, breakfast bar, family room or dining area adjacent to the kitchen with sliding doors to a patio.

\$1,120,000



MENLO PARK

Designed and built by Pacific Peninsula Group, this beautiful, 3bd/ 2.5ba two-story townhouse is close to downtown Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Stanford University and Shopping, and moments to Willow Oaks Park. Easy commute access to Hwy 101.

\$814,000



Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

Meeting some bunny for coffee

This coffee klatch outside the Starbucks in West Menlo Park had an unusual guest — Mateen Mortazavi's month-old rabbit, Tokey (at left). The bitty bunny stayed snug against Mateen's chest as the Menlo-Atherton junior chatted with classmates Alex Guy (at right) and Bowen Kinsch (outside picture) on Jan. 8.

Atherton

■ Lindenwood group opposes residents moving historic urns. **Page 14**

Menlo Park

■ Woman cyclist seriously injured by pickup truck driver, who is arrested for felony drunken driving. **Page 6**

■ David Boesch could be next county manager. **Page 5**

■ Residents sue city over Willow Road homes project. **Page 15**

Portola Valley

■ New members take seats on architecture review panel. **Page 13**

Also Inside

Births	17
Calendar	27
Editorial.....	18
Letters	18
Obituaries.....	16
Police Calls	17

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

The Almanac offices are at **3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.**

For Classified ads, call **854-0858**
For all other calls, phone **854-2626**
News: **Ext. 213**
Display advertising: **Ext. 233**
Fax: **854-0677**

■ E-mail news to (no photos please):
editor@AlmanacNews.com
■ E-mail news photos with captions to:
photo@AlmanacNews.com
■ E-mail letters to the editor to:
letters@AlmanacNews.com

To request free delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call **854-2626**.

Woodside

■ Appeals court rules against Steve Jobs on demolition of historic house. **Page 5**

Schools

■ School bus transportation tops agenda of Menlo Park district board. **Page 6**

People

■ Menlo Park woman climbs Kilimanjaro, raises money for human rights group. **Page 7**

Family Almanac

■ Teen prepares to take on global warming. **Cover, Section 2**

On the cover

Though its location is hardly hidden, it's easy to overlook the quaint Gatehouse, a throwback to the 1860s that occupies a quiet corner of Menlo Park's Civic Center on bustling Ravenswood Avenue. Almanac photographer Marjan Sadoughi's camera exposes some hidden gems at this historic hideaway. Her photo essay begins on **Page 10**.

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.

Timothy Fidge & Co.
custom jewelers
642 Santa Cruz Avenue ~ Menlo Park
(650) 323-4653

Woodside Deli
Italian Delicacies

Gourmet Italian Foods

OPEN 7 DAYS
Mon-Sat 8am-6pm • Sun 8am-4pm
(650) 369-4235

WEEKLY SPECIALS

Beemster Premium Gourmet Dutch Cheese \$9⁹⁹ lb. Exp. 1/30/07	Woodside Deli Baked Ham \$7⁹⁹ lb. Exp. 1/30/07	Sagra Extra Virgin Olive Oil \$9⁹⁹ 1 liter Exp. 1/30/07
---	--	--

1453 Woodside Road, Redwood City (across from Woodside Plaza)

Is your addiction hurting anyone?

THE SEQUOIA CENTER helps families recover the balance in their lives from the effects of abusing alcohol and other drugs. Our services are offered in a warm and caring environment by trained staff dedicated to helping individuals gain control over their lives.

The Sequoia Center is licensed through the State of California to deliver:

- Medical Detoxification
- Outpatient Treatment (Day & Evening)
- Residential Treatment
- Integrated Behavioral Health Programs /Partial Hospitalization /Day Treatment

—Call today 1-800-997-5504 to schedule a free, confidential assessment with one of our Specialists.

THE sequoia CENTER

CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TREATMENT SERVICES
650 Main Street, Redwood City
2660 Solace Place, Suite A, Mountain View
800-997-5504 • www.sequoiacenter.com



HEALTH • HOPE • RECOVERY



ROBERTS

A TOWN MARKET PLACE

3015 WOODSIDE ROAD
WOODSIDE, CA 94062

650-851-1511

Open 6:30AM - 8PM

Happy
New Year!!!

NOW at Roberts
SUSHI
Made Fresh Daily

Sale Dates: January 17, 18, 19, 20

www.robertsmarket.com

PRODUCE

Minneola

TANGELOS



99¢ lb.

Large

FUJI APPLES



99¢ lb.

#1

GARNET YAMS



79¢ lb.

Medium Size

ARTICHOKES



59¢ ea.

Using Ham Leftovers



Now that the busy holiday season has come to a close, we can all start getting back to our normal routines. Perhaps your New Year's resolution is to jazz up your repertoire of meals. Why not find some new and tasty ways to use the ham left over from holiday dinners? Of course there's always the trusty ham sandwich, but dress it up with some fancy cheese, such as brie or gruyere in place of your old stand-by. Or, toss some ham into scrambled eggs, omelets, or a macaroni-and-cheese casserole. Add pizzazz to a pasta dish by adding bits of ham with green onions and alfredo sauce. You can even add ham to a corn pudding or casserole.

After the holidays a lot of people find themselves with leftovers, including ham. At ROBERTS MARKET, we can give you a plethora of great ideas that you can use to spice up your dining experience. Turn that left over ham into a wonderful soup, or use it for that next omelet. We feature the finest produce, meats, poultry, and seafood available in the area, and we have a great selection of marinades which help change the taste of your favorite meats.

Don't forget fresh cut flowers from our floral department to grace your table.

P.S. In the 1600s, early American settlers started curing pork through the winter, making ham a tradition on the Easter table.

GROCERY

ALPINE BONELESS SMOKED HAM

2 lb.

\$5.99

**EARTH & VINE BLACKBERRY PEPPERCORN
ZINFANDEL VINAIGRETTE**

12 oz. — Also Raspberry Cranberry — Passion Fruit — Honey Pear; Reg. \$6.99

\$5.49

GABRO EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL

1 liter — Regular Price \$17.99

\$15.99

C&W EDAMAME IN PODS

16 oz. — Also Corn & Blackbean Salad

\$1.69

HANSEN'S NATURAL SODAS

12 oz. 6 pack cans — Plus Calif. Redeem Value

\$1.99

PUFFS PLUS LOTION FACIAL TISSUE

60 count cube

\$1.19

DELI

~ Roberts Specials ~

Slow Braised Short Ribs ...



\$10⁹⁹ per lb.

**Roasted Garlic
Mashed Potatoes ...**

\$5⁹⁹ per lb.

WINE



JOHN — GROCERY



Specials

2003 Le Clos du Caillou, Bouquet des Garrigues Blanc (Half Price!!) —

An unfiltered Roussanne/Grenache Blanc with mineral complexity and toasty/leesy richness. Reg. \$23.99 Sale **\$11.99**

2001 Collier Falls Zinfandel, Dry Creek Valley — Reg. \$23.99 Sale **\$17.99**

A bright, juicy, vibrant red with ripe red fruits, earthy complexity and a snappy finish.

2003 Swanson Merlot, Napa Valley — Reg. \$28.99 Sale **\$24.99**

An Oakville classic, both smooth and full-bodied.

2004 Dom La Milliere Chateauneuf-du-Pape, V.V. — . . . Reg. \$36.99 Sale **\$29.99**

Packed with white and black pepper, cedar and spice. A deep, penetrating red great on cold nights.

2001 Laird Cabernet Sauvignon Estate, Napa Valley — . . . Reg. \$35.99 Sale **\$29.99**

A classic Napa Cab from a classic vintage. An intense, lingering red that can improve with aging.

SEAFOOD / MEAT

Roberts January Specials

BLACK JACK TRI-TIP



\$11.11 lb.

BONELESS SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST

\$5.98 lb.

CHICKEN BREAST W/BONE

\$2.98 lb.

CHICKEN LEGS & THIGHS



\$1.29 lb.

Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Appeals court rules against Steve Jobs on demolition

By **Andrea Gemmet**
Almanac Staff Writer

■ WOODSIDE

Steve Jobs' quest to demolish a rambling historic house on his Woodside property has suffered a setback.

The Woodside Town Council acted improperly when it granted Mr. Jobs a demolition permit, according to the decision by the California Court of Appeal issued on Jan. 10.

Mr. Jobs, the CEO of Apple Inc., has been battling a group of preservationists over the fate of the Jackling house, a massive Spanish Colonial revival-style mansion built in 1926.

The preservationist group, called Uphold Our Heritage, filed a lawsuit to halt the demolition, and won a trial court decision.

"It's an important case," said attorney Doug Carstens, who represented Uphold Our Heritage. "It really is a confirmation of California law."

The appeals court decision effectively voids the demolition permit, Mr. Carstens said.

The town of Woodside has no

rules of its own regarding historic structures, so the fate of a historically significant structure like the Jackling house is governed by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

In order to justify granting Mr. Jobs a demolition permit, town officials needed to show proof that there were no feasible alternatives to tearing the house down. According to a trial court judge, and the state Court of Appeal, Woodside officials failed to show such proof.

Mr. Jobs has said that he plans to build a much smaller family home on the site, and referred to the Jackling house, where he lived for 10 years, as an architectural "abomination." In recent years, the Jackling house has been uninhabited and allowed to fall into disrepair.

Several calls to Mr. Jobs' attorney, Howard Ellman, were not returned.

The Town Council failed to show substantial evidence that

the alternatives to tearing down the Jackling house studied in an environmental impact report — such as remodeling the house, relocating it or restoring it — were infeasible, according to the appellate court decision. Since Mr. Jobs declined to provide information about the house he wishes to replace the mansion with, there was no basis for a comparison of the costs and a determination of infeasibility.

The court's decision also points out that the council should have known better.

"Disregarding multiple staff recommendations to the contrary, the Town of Woodside issued a permit to Steve Jobs authorizing the demolition of a mansion of historic significance to permit the construction of a smaller single family residence," it says.

The court said it sympathized with the town's attempt to balance competing interests, but said that the town failed to support its decision with "substantial evidence."

"Financial infeasibility seems to not be a very good argument,"



File photo by Danielle Stolman

Steve Jobs speaking to the Woodside Town Council in 2004.

said Clotilde Luce of Uphold Our Heritage. Ms. Luce's family owned the Jackling house in the 1960s.

The Jackling mansion was built for Daniel C. Jackling, a key figure in the American copper industry, and included unique copper fixtures in tribute to his work. It was designed by George Washington Smith, a leading architect in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. He is best known for his work in the Santa Barbara area.

At more than 17,000 square feet, the Jackling house is roughly twice as large as anything that could

be built under current Woodside regulations. An unusual condition of the demolition permit, requiring Mr. Jobs to try to give away the house to someone who would relocate and restore it off-site, garnered national attention and at least several serious offers. Ms. Luce said she would like to see the relocation efforts go forward, but with some transparency to the proposal evaluation process, which thus far has had "no oversight."

Keeping the Jackling house in Woodside would be ideal, she said. ■

David Boesch could be next county manager

■ Menlo Park city manager says opportunity, not election, prompted his resignation.

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

Audrey Seymour named interim city manager. Page 8

City Manager David Boesch is leaving Menlo Park to become San Mateo County's assistant county manager, but he's eyeing an even higher position — county manager.

Mr. Boesch, who is slated to leave Menlo Park's top staff post in late February, said he hopes to be considered for the county's top position once County Manager John Maltbie retires within the next two years.

"My objective now is to focus on being assistant county manager, and the duties and responsibilities that entails, but I hope I am ultimately considered for the county manager position," Mr. Boesch said.

He noted that a "considerable factor" in the search to

fill the assistant county manager position was the thought that whoever got the job would likely be a candidate to become county manager.

Mr. Boesch said he had been looking to move into county management for about a year, and had been talking with managers of Bay Area counties — including Mr. Maltbie — about potential job opportunities.

When San Mateo County began its search, in September, to fill the assistant county manager position, Mr. Boesch said Mr. Maltbie contacted him, and asked him to apply for the position.

A big draw of the job was the opportunity to continue to live in Menlo Park, Mr.



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

"I hope I am ultimately considered for the county manager position," David Boesch says.

See **BOESCH**, page 8

Menlo Park cyclist severely injured

■ Woman was dragged under truck; driver arrested for felony drunken driving.

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park resident MaryAnn Levenson, a 48-year-old bicycle racer and mother of three, is slowly recovering from the severe injuries she suffered two days before Christmas when an allegedly drunken driver in a red pickup truck struck her as she was riding on Sand Hill Road, dragging her about 35 feet.

Ms. Levenson was returning from a training ride at about 3:40 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, and heading east on Sand Hill, just east of Interstate 280, when a truck driven by Hillsborough resident Walter Sorenson crossed into the bike lane and "ran up and over" Ms. Levenson and her bicycle, said Sgt. Ron Prickett of the Menlo Park Police Department.

She and her bike were dragged about 35 feet, said her husband Scott Levenson, a gastroenterologist at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City who said he talked with some of the five witnesses to the incident.

Ms. Levenson rolled free of the truck when it jumped the curb and opened up space underneath, her husband said.

The 76-year-old driver tried to drive away with the bicycle still under his truck, but someone in a sport utility vehicle blocked his way, witnesses told Mr. Levenson.

With extensive injuries to her head, neck, spine, ribs, airway, pelvis, arms, legs, and feet, she was rushed to Stanford Hospital, where a team of 10 surgeons operated on her for nine hours, her husband said.

Her neck has been immobilized because of broken vertebrae and she has had a breathing tube inserted through her shattered larynx, he said. Part of her right foot had to be reattached. Her bike helmet was crushed and worn in places where it had been dragged, Mr. Levenson added.

Menlo Park police arrested Mr. Sorenson at the scene for felony drunken driving.

The police department's incident log entry for Dec. 23 notes Mr. Sorenson's arrest on drunken driving charges and describes

Menlo Park bicyclist MaryAnn Levenson



his truck, but says nothing about the accident or the bicyclist.

The speed limit on Sand Hill Road where the accident happened is 45 mph, Sgt. Prickett said.

San Mateo County Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said Mr. Sorenson is scheduled for arraignment at San Mateo County Superior Court on Tuesday, Jan. 30, but that his office has not yet decided on the charges.

Ms. Levenson, a dietitian, is the mother of three boys — 7-year-old twins and a 10-year-old. She is a category 2 racer — just below professional — for the Bay Area-based MetroMint Cycling team, her husband said.

With her jaw wired shut, Ms. Levenson spoke briefly over the phone with the Almanac. "I am thankful to be alive," she said, adding that she plans to "get back on (her) bike" when she recovers. ■

School bus transportation tops board's agenda Tuesday

By Marjorie Mader

Almanac Staff Writer

A long-awaited feasibility report on providing bus transportation for students in the Menlo Park City School District tops a long agenda at the school board's meeting Tuesday, Jan. 16.

The board will also consider action on a new education resource center and summer projects in preparation for expanding facilities. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the boardroom of the district office at 181 Encinal Ave. in Atherton.

The bus transportation study for the four schools in the district makes no final conclusions or recommendations, said Superintendent Ken Ranella, but provides information necessary to structure a home-to-school transportation program. It includes:

■ Cost information on contracting for the bus service versus having the district provide it. Contracting would appear to be less costly. The district would have to buy buses, hire employees, acquire a parking area for

the buses, and fund the cost of operating the service.

■ Projections of the number of students who would use the system, and fees per student that would be necessary to make the service self-sufficient.

The report reinforces an earlier district survey that shows ridership dropping dramatically when the annual per-student cost to parents rises above \$1,000.

Superintendent Ranella suggested the board consider these options:

■ Meet with staff or representatives of the Menlo Park and Atherton city councils to discuss a more cooperative approach to reducing traffic and congestion in the district.

■ Direct the superintendent to develop a transportation program with specific costs, potential routes and necessary fees, in order to survey parents on their level of interest and commitment.

■ Ask the superintendent to assess the operational issues of a student transportation program, such as the need to change school beginning and ending times.

The complete report may be viewed online at www.mpcsd.org. Click on "Agenda Online" for the Jan. 16 meeting and bring up "Feasibility Study of School Transportation Program."

Resource center

Another major decision for the board at the Tuesday meeting is to authorize the district to move ahead to the design-development phase for the Teacher Education Resource Center, which would be built next to the district office on the Encinal School site.

The center would house district resource staff — in such areas as technology, special education, and curriculum — in one building.

Summer projects

Trustees also will discuss and most likely authorize the summer projects that are critical to moving ahead on the facilities bond projects. Summer projects include preliminary site work at Encinal and Laurel schools, in preparation for expanding facilities at the schools.

Encinal will become a K-5 school with the addition of kindergarten and grades 1 and 2. Laurel will add third grade and be a K-3 school. More classrooms will be needed at both sites, as well as a larger multi-use room and expanded field at Encinal.

Ahmad Sheikoleslami, the district's bond program manager, will present to the board his report on the summer projects. ■

So, you want to be a news hound?

If you like seeking out news and finding facts, and you have good writing skills, you could be a candidate for a news reporting internship at the Almanac, the hometown newspaper of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside.

Get first-hand experience working for an award-winning community newspaper with seasoned writers and editors. Learn the basics of news-gathering and news-writing. There are also opportunities to write feature stories on a broad range of topics.

Internships run 13 weeks at 20 hours a week, with flexible hours. In addition to a small stipend, interns are paid for stories they write.

To apply, e-mail cover letter and resume to: rbatti@AlmanacNews.com, or fax this information to Renee Batti at (650) 854-0677.

The Almanac

It's Your Home Why Settle For Less?

Let Your Comfort Be Our Priority

- Reduce Energy Cost
- 2-Stage Heating
- Variable Speed & Closed Combustion for Safety & Extreme Quiet Operation

TRANE XV90
With Utility Rebates Up To **\$350.00**

A REVOLUTION IN CLEAN AIR TECHNOLOGY

Our Hard CleanAir™ removes up to 99% of the finest allergens.

WE SELL ENERGY STAR

Financing Available 6 months • SAC • OAC

HVAC Specialist for over 20 years

REBHOLTZ MECHANICAL, INC.
Heating • Air Conditioning
650.368-3456

Ca Lic. #706791

Visit our fully functioning showroom at
751 Warrington Ave., Redwood City, 94061

www.rebholtz.com
www.trane.com

TRANE
It's Hard To Stop A Trane®



Betty Ann Boeving cheers at the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro

Menlo woman climbs Kilimanjaro, raises money for human rights group

By Stephanie Cadora

Special to the Almanac

Betty Ann Boeving of Menlo Park climbed Mount Kilimanjaro last summer and in the process raised \$36,000 for the International Justice Mission, a Christian faith-based human rights organization that provides legal services to victims of sex trafficking, police brutality and illegal detention around the world.

Ms. Boeving, who is development director for the organization with responsibility for the West Coast of the U.S., glows as she talks about her experience — at the same time she minimizes the difficulty of the climb. “Almost anyone can do it physically,” she says, “but you have to be ready to deal with the cold and altitude.”

“We all have Kilimanjaros in our lives,” she says, “Mine just happened to be the mountain itself.”

It took three and a half days to ascend from 6,000 feet to the top — an elevation of 19,340 feet — and then one and a half days to get down. She and her small team of climbers started at the Marangu Gate, the entrance to the mountain in Tanzania.

Ms. Boeving says she got the idea for the climb when she met a climber at San Francisco’s Bay to Breakers race. She gathered a couple of friends, accomplished her fundraising and physical training, and headed to Africa.

While she was there, she met one of the recipients of aid from the International Justice Mission, a 7-year-old child who was forced into prostitution.

Based in Washington, D.C., the human rights organization works in 12 countries with 14

offices. It’s made up primarily of lawyers, law enforcement officers and social workers.

“We go to [countries] where there are laws on the books and work cases using them,” she says. “Our goal is to be an injection of justice where laws are not being enforced at the local level.”

“IJM is in India, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Rwanda, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Bolivia, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines,” she says. “We try to indigenize the offices within two to five years.”

There are many issues to work on, says Ms. Boeving. “Sex trafficking, forced prostitution, undocumented sexual assault, widow land seizure, police brutality, ... torture, and illegal detention are examples.”

“The social workers have complex issues to work with,” she adds. “Individual casework is the core of IJM’s model for fighting social injustice.”

Ms. Boeving is also known locally as the voice of Stanford women’s basketball. She’s a public-address announcer at their games.

“I turn the game into an overall experience for the fans — like a verbal cheerleader for the team,” she says.

A basketball player herself when she was in college, she still plays for charity basketball games. “It’s the one time of year when I can be involved in something where there are incredible fans,” she says.

“The rest of the year,” she says, “I travel between Seattle and San Diego, mostly talking (for IJM).”

She says her motto — and IJM’s — is to “Help pay for the rescue that the poor cannot afford.” ■

‘We all have Kilimanjaros in our lives. Mine just happened to be the mountain itself.’

BETTY ANN BOEVING



TRY THE SURF IN
TOWNSQUARE.
The Almanac’s Online
Gathering Place
Be a citizen journalist.
www.almanacnews.com
The Almanac
MENLO PARK • ATHERTON • PORTOLA VALLEY • WOODSIDE
Online

Together, we can save a life
American Red Cross
Your contributions to the
Palo Alto Area American Red Cross
can help people in your community.
We still need your help.
Call 650-688-0415 to support your local chapter.
www.paarc.org
This space is donated as a community service by the Palo Alto Weekly.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Effective Pricing Strategies

Q. My house has been listed for 4 months and we have not had an offer.

The listing agent has the house on her Web site and occasionally holds a weekend open house. What can we do to get our house sold so we can buy?

Kendra S.

A. Kendra,

The primary reason a house doesn’t sell is it is overpriced. If your home has been listed for sale more than 4 months, something is seriously wrong.

In spite of the dreary reports about the real estate market, our local area has remained strong with multiple offers not being uncommon. Clearly, something is off with your house having not sold after all of this time.

Ask the listing agent to prepare a new CMA, that shows recent sales prices of similar nearby homes, the asking

prices of competitive neighborhood homes, and the asking prices of recently expired comparable listings. The CMA should also show your listing agent’s recommended asking price.

If your home is overpriced, it’s time to face reality and reduce the asking price. Also, check your home’s listing at www.Realtor.com where more than 75 percent of today’s home buyers begin their search.

Lastly, ask the listing agent if she recommends “staging” your home to show at its best, such as by removing old-fashioned furniture and sprucing up the interior to make it appear more attractive.

Right next to pricing and a component of it, is how the property is presented. Does it show well? Is it clean? Uncluttered? Painted? You should have no problem selling your property with the spring market coming up if you do what is required.

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

Menlo Park Firefighters’ Association



District 10 of Local 2400, I.A.F.F

P.O. Box 534 Menlo Park, CA 94026-0534

(650) 266-8235

To members of the community,

It is well known that The United States Marine Corps has an excellent Toy Campaign. This Campaign is known as Toys for Tots and is a registered trademark of the United States Marine Corps Reserves. It is in this program that the Menlo Park Firefighter Associations’ Annual Toy and Food Drive has its roots.

In 1979 two of our members became very involved in the Toys for Tots Campaign; these members were Fire Captains Brad Steiger (USMC) and John Rohrer (USN). Within five years the Association’s Toy Drive was founded. Eventually Captains Rohrer and Steiger retired and passed the torch to Firefighter Ray Abel (USMC). It is important to recognize that the Toy Drive is an effort of all Association Members and has the full support of the Fire District, which has enabled it to operate in four decades.

This year the Association collected toys, books, stuffed animals, food and monetary donations. The contributions were gathered in seventy-five barrels, positioned in fifty-eight locations, throughout the community. The holiday charity was distributed to over two thousand children in need throughout our community. Saint Anthony’s Church, Stanford Hospital, the Menlo Park VA Hospital, and the Ronald McDonald House were all used as distribution points.

Menlo Park Firefighters would like to offer special recognition to the following businesses for their direct support in this years toy drive...

- | | |
|---|---|
| Allied Waste of San Mateo County | Martha’s Bakery of Menlo Park |
| Allstate Insurance of Menlo Park | Masonic Lodge of Menlo Park |
| Atherton City Hall | Master Styling Salon of Menlo Park |
| Bank of the West of Menlo Park | Mayfield Corporation of Menlo Park |
| Bank of America of Menlo Park | Menlo College |
| Bingham McCutchen of East Palo Alto | Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce |
| Burgess Gym of Menlo Park | Menlo Park Children’s Center |
| California Savings and Loan of Menlo Park | Menlo Park Personnel |
| Carnegie Foundation of Palo Alto | Menlo Park Police Department |
| Cashin Company of Menlo Park | Menlo Park Public Library |
| Garden Oaks Apartments of Menlo Park | Menlo Park Rec Center |
| Comerica Bank of Palo Alto | Morgan & Stanley of Menlo Park |
| Comerica Bank of Menlo Park | Oak Creek Apartments of Palo Alto |
| Dr. Fred Dentistry of Menlo Park | O’Melveny & Myers LLP of East Palo Alto |
| Dr. Scott Kaloust Dentistry of Menlo Park | Planet Kids of Menlo Park |
| ELO Touchsistence of Menlo Park | Robinson & Company of Menlo Park |
| Exponent of Menlo Park | Sharon Green of Menlo Park |
| Fidelity National Title of Redwood City | Shepard Land Company of Menlo Park |
| Fitness 101 of Menlo Park | Sherman & Sterling of Menlo Park |
| Ford land Co of Menlo Park | Sunset Magazine of Menlo Park |
| Heffernan Insurance of Palo Alto | TA Associates of Menlo Park |
| Hillview School of Menlo Park | The Menlo Park Almanac |
| Holy Trinity Episcopal Church of Menlo Park | Tyco Credit Union of Menlo Park |
| I Science Surgical of Menlo Park | University Child Center of Menlo Park |
| La Entrada School | |

Without the full support of local business and program participants like you, the Association’s Annual toy and Food drive would not be possible. On behalf of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District and the Menlo Park Firefighters’ Association we thank you for making this year a success.

Thank You,

John J. Wurdinger
MPFA Toy Drive Administrator
Menlo Park Firefighter
Formally of Echo 2/23 4th MAR DIV

David Bragg
MPFA Toy Drive Administrator
Menlo Park Firefighter
Formally of Echo 2/23 4th MAR DIV

Short takes



Everybody loves crapemyrtle trees

At least, the National Arbor Day Foundation thinks they do. Every Californian who joins the foundation this month will be given five free crapemyrtle trees.

"These small flowering trees boast perfect, six-petaled flowers of pink and red, with leaves that change from summer green to autumn red, orange, and yellow," said President John Rosenow.

The trees will be shipped this spring, and will be replaced if they don't grow, he said.

Anyone interested may send a \$10 membership contribution by Jan. 31 to: Five Crape-myrtles, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave, Nebraska City, NE 68410.

What? No Taylors?

San Mateo County recently issued its Top 10 list of the most popular baby names of 2006. Not featured on this list are the names Hunter, Madison, Taylor, Tyler, Sierra, Neveah or Stevedore.

However, the kindergarten class of 2011 is likely to have quite a few Alexanders and Isabellas. Of the 5,065 babies born in the county in 2006, 32 were named Isabella and 37 were named Alexander, making them the No. 1 names for girls and boys, respectively. Their parents might want to start thinking of unique nicknames now, to save future confusion at recess.

A reason to live

A group discussion is about to begin in Portola Valley on the question of whether dogs on leashes should be allowed to walk with their owners on a set of rural trails where they have always been forbidden but can occasionally be seen anyway.

In applying for membership in the group, resident Phyllis Quilter told Councilman Steve Toben that she doesn't have a dog and doesn't live near the rural trails.

Mr. Toben asked Ms. Quilter, who is elderly, what was driving her to join. "To be truthful, it will keep me alive for another six weeks," he said she told him.

Audrey Seymour named interim city manager

■ Assistant city manager will take over once David Boesch steps down.

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

Audrey Seymour, Menlo Park's assistant city manager since 2001, will fill the role of interim city manager when David Boesch steps down from the city's top post Feb. 20.

Ms. Seymour was unanimously appointed to the position by the City Council during a Jan. 9 closed session — a decision Mayor Kelly Fergusson announced Friday, Jan. 12.

"[Ms. Seymour] is dedicated and extremely capable. She works well with the council, staff and community and

will keep the city on track," Mayor Fergusson said in a press release.

"I am excited about the opportunity to serve the Menlo Park community and organization in this new capacity," Ms. Seymour said in the release. "I feel my experience with the city has prepared me well to handle the responsibilities of this important position."

Ms. Seymour has been the assistant city manager since 2001, and has selected Public Works Director Kent Steffens to be acting assistant city manager.



Audrey Seymour has been Menlo Park's assistant city manager since 2001.

Mr. Steffens has been the head of public works since 2002. Prior to their respective moves

to Menlo Park, Ms. Seymour and Mr. Steffens were city employees in Palo Alto. Ms. Seymour was assistant to the city manager, and Mr. Steffens was assistant public works director.

Ms. Seymour and Mr. Steffens will fill their interim roles until the council completes its search for a new city manager. The process could take about six months, according to City Attorney Bill McClure.

Last spring, Ms. Seymour's weekly hours were reduced to cut costs, but she is once again working full time, according to Personnel Director Glen Kramer.

He said her annual salary of \$152,652 will increase 10 percent for the period she serves as interim city manager. ■

David Boesch could be next county manager

BOESCH

continued from page 5

Boesch said.

"I have a son at [Menlo Atherton High School] and my wife has a career here — we love living where we are," he said. "This opportunity doesn't necessitate a move."

At the county level, Mr. Boesch's responsibilities will focus on criminal justice and human and health services.

He said he will help coordinate "interdepartmental projects" such as preventing substance abuse and childhood obesity.

Mr. Boesch's annual salary will be \$200,000 — a healthy increase from the \$163,233 he earned in Menlo Park's top post.

Not election-related

Although Mr. Boesch's resignation comes just one month after a drastic political shift on the City Council, he said the recent election results had nothing to do with his departure.

A major attraction of the county job was the opportunity to continue to live in Menlo Park, David Boesch says.



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

"I've had good working relationships and had solid support from each of the four councils that have served during my tenure," he said. "I can understand why some people may think my leaving is related to the election, but it's purely a coincidence. I've been present-

ed a new, unique opportunity to pursue."

Four of the current council members have been critical of information provided by Mr. Boesch's staff, and have called for changes to the city's decision-making processes — a major shift from the previous

council who a majority of members strongly backed the city manager.

But Mr. Boesch said that to an extent, the political divisiveness has been good for the city.

"We're fortunate, in Menlo Park, to have a very engaged community," he said. "While that diversity makes setting priorities ... a more difficult task, and may spark some level of acrimony or debate, it's the sign of a healthy democracy."

New manager

The council is wasting no time figuring out how to replace Mr. Boesch.

Council members voted unanimously Jan. 9 to form a subcommittee that includes council members John Boyle and Andy Cohen and members of city staff to compile a short list of recruitment firms the council could use to find Mr. Boesch's replacement.

Within several weeks, the council may select a recruitment firm, and begin the search for a new manager — a process that could take about six months, according to City Attorney Bill McClure. ■

Armed sidewalk robber may avoid prison

By **David Boyce**
Almanac Staff Writer

Prison may not be ahead for a man accused of robbing, at gunpoint, one pedestrian in Menlo Park and three in Redwood City on a Friday evening last May.

Kimani Goodwin, 26, pleaded "no contest" to one robbery charge and is scheduled for sentencing at 8:45 a.m. Friday, Jan. 19.

Because of the seriousness of the offense, the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office is oppos-

ing the defense attorney's proposal that Mr. Goodwin not be sent to state prison, said Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe. Superior Court Judge Stephen Hall is considering the proposal.

Also accused in the incidents is Ezell Banks, 19, who was unarmed and considered a lesser partner in the robberies, Mr. Wagstaffe said. Mr. Banks pleaded "no contest" to petty theft on the condition, agreed to by the district attorney, that he not be sent to prison. He is

scheduled for sentencing on Friday, Feb. 2, at 8:45 a.m.

Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Banks and a third unnamed person who is at large are accused of taking money and wallets from the pedestrians on May 19. Police later found the suspects in The Hanky Panky, a strip club in Redwood City, and arrested them, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Both men remain in jail — on bail of \$700,000 for Mr. Goodwin, and \$450,000 for Mr. Banks. ■

Correction

Recent road construction on Camino Al Lago in Atherton was road work and not related to plans at Las Lomas Elementary School to modify the campus in preparation for portable buildings, as was stated in a photo caption in the Jan. 10 issue of the Almanac.

Changing of guard: new roles, few new faces in county posts

By Marion Softky
Almanac Staff Writer

With an honor guard marching up the steps of the historic courthouse, the ceremony swearing in Undersheriff Greg Munks as the county's new sheriff Jan. 8 was much the best show as San Mateo County greeted 2007.

Retired sheriff Don Horsley administered the oath to Mr. Munks on the steps of the newly restored courthouse and history museum before several hundred uniformed deputies, retired sheriff Earl Whitmore, the new sheriff's extended family, and a crowd of county officials and supporters.

Sheriff Munks also introduced his new undersheriff, Carlos Bolanos, who has been police chief in Redwood City for 12 years.

Sgt. Joe Sheridan, in uniform shirt and family kilt, closed the ceremony with bagpipes.

The advent of 2007 marked the appointment of new officers to high county positions, and the departure of several stalwarts. In sum, there were more new officers than new faces.

South County Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson took the gavel as president of the Board of Supervisors from outgoing President Jerry Hill.

She will look at the coming year in her "state of the county" address Thursday, Jan. 25, at 6 p.m. in the board chambers at 400 County Center (corner of Bradford and Hamilton avenues) in Redwood City. A reception will follow.

Marking the ascendancy of women — at least this year — freshman Supervisor Adrienne Tissier of Daly City — was unanimously elected vice president of the three-man, two-woman board.

Extending San Mateo County's reach into Sacramento and state affairs, Supervisor Rich Gordon of Menlo Park has been elected first vice president of the statewide California State Association of Counties (CSAC). Presumably he's in line to be president in 2008.

Appointments; retirements

The year 2007 also brings two major new appointments to the county staff and three retirements.

The only new face will be Menlo Park City Manager David Boesch, who will become assistant county manager in February, succeeding Paul Scannell,



Greg Munks of Portola Valley is sworn in as sheriff at the historic courthouse building in Redwood City. The Almanac/Marion Softky

who held the job for many years before retiring.

Mr. Boesch will back up County Manager John Maltbie in supervising government with 5,500 employees and a budget of \$1.6 billion. He will be responsible for coordinating the county's diverse services with emphasis on criminal justice, health and human services.

Mr. Maltbie also appointed 19-year county employee Peggy Jensen to a newly created position of deputy county manager for community services.

Ms. Jensen most recently directed the child support services department for the county, including in 1999 when it was named California's outstanding child support program. The department's mission is to ensure parents fulfill financial obligations to their children; it is responsible for 15,000 child support cases.

In her new position, which was created in last year's county-wide reorganization, Ms. Jensen will coordinate the departments

of Public Works, Planning and Building, Parks and Recreation, Housing, and several others.

The county has also bid farewell to three senior managers:

■ Sheriff Don Horsley has retired after 35 years with the Sheriff's Office, 12 as sheriff. He has not left public service. He was elected last year to the board of the Sequoia Healthcare District.

■ Public Works Director Neil Cullen, who retired after 40 years with San Mateo County, has been spotted helping out around the department in spite of officially being off the payroll. He started as a junior highway engineer in 1966, and has been director of the department since 1994.

■ Glenn H. Brooks Jr. retired as director of the county's Human Services Agency after a 38-year career in social services, mostly with the state. He has been with San Mateo County since 2000; his position is being temporarily filled by Beverly Beasley-Johnson. ■

Jensen  Hauser

CUSTOM UPHOLSTERING

Swiss Craftsmanship Since 1950

98 5th Ave. • (650) 365-5027 • Redwood City

IF IT'S NOT IN THIS VAULT, IT'S NOT SAFE.



LOS ALTOS VAULT & SAFE DEPOSIT CO.

A private depository

Safe deposit boxes of all sizes

Strict and total confidentiality

Secured and ample parking

For your own sake we should have your business.

Visit our facilities and judge for yourself.

Data bank for important and confidential records.

**WE ARE #1!
There Is No #2
BELIEVE IT!**

121 First Street, Los Altos, CA 94022

Tel: 650-949-5891 www.losaltosvault.com



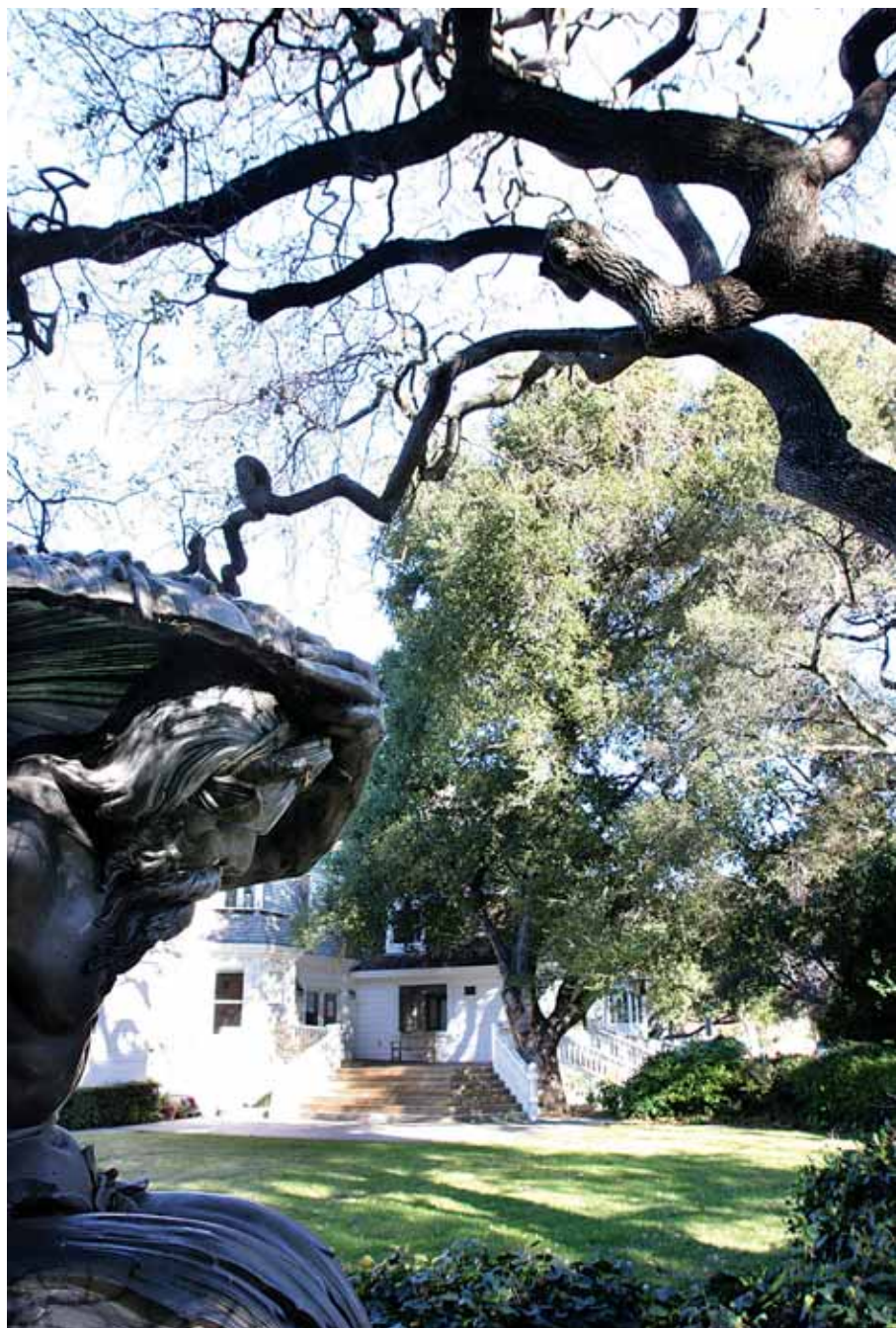
Start the New Year right with over 4,000 sample colors to choose from!

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR 20 YEARS

Gray's Paint & Wallpaper

1411 Woodside Rd., Redwood City
(Across from Woodside Plaza)

(650) 365-6222



Hidden

Photo essay by Marjan Sadoughi

A closer look at Menlo Park's historic Gatehouse

Just steps away from busy Ravenswood Avenue, the Gatehouse seems to exist in a separate time and place. Occupying a corner of Menlo Park's Civic Center complex, the quaint building gleams with white paint amidst a deeply shady thicket of oak trees and shrubs.

While it gets regular use as the headquarters of the Junior League of Palo Alto-Midpeninsula, it's easy to overlook this unassuming throwback to the 1860s. On an unseasonably cold January morning, water burbles from a French fountain adorned with burly mermen, drowning out the traffic noises. Only the occasional shriek from an indignant toddler at the

nearby daycare center pierces the reverie that surrounds the place.

Once upon a time, the Gatehouse was the point of entry for a grand, 280-acre estate owned by William Eustace Barron. It changed hands several times after he lost his fortune in 1875, and by World War II, the estate was gone, all its buildings demolished except for the Gatehouse and its gate. It was pressed into service as officers' quarters during the war, and eventually purchased by the city of Menlo Park.

Remnants of that bygone era of great estates reveal themselves in surprising details — a leaded glass window that appears covered in a delicate lace of frost, the turned wood of white-washed railing. The rough scales of the shingle roof evoke the curved tails of the fountain's fish. In the garden, a single blossom holds the promise of spring on its pollen-sprinkled stamen, in defiance of the winter chill.

—Andrea Gemmet, *Almanac* staff writer



in plain sight



HAVE YOU
EVER WONDERED
HOW WISE OLD
ELEPHANTS GET
TO BE THAT WAY?



There's no magic to it really. Live smart. Be kind. And learn from the world around you. Three things the helpful staff at elephant pharm really take to heart. We have hundreds of free classes each month on yoga, cooking, meditation and more to teach and stimulate the mind and body. We also have a huge selection of vitamins and supplements as well as both prescription and herbal pharmacies to help you feel good and stay healthy. There's even a natural grocery with everything you need for healthy meals and natural snacks. So do the wise thing, do the elephant thing. Come see us today. 4470 El Camino Real near San Antonio Rd. in Los Altos

\$25 Switch your
prescription to
GIFT CARD elephant pharm



Good through 1/31/07. Not valid with other offers.
Valid for first time switch only. Limit one per customer.

Almanac

City sets public workshops on recreation spending

■ MENLO WATCH

Starting this week, the Menlo Park Parks and Recreation Commission is holding public workshops to help determine how the city should spend the next wave of Measure T funds.

The \$38 million bond measure was approved in 2001, and the first group of projects funded by the bond — totaling \$14.2 million — include the city's new aquatic center, the new Menlo Children's Center, and various park and sports field renovations.

Commissioners and Community Services Director Barbara Santos George have acknowledged that the next bond sale — expected to yield \$6.5 million to \$7.5 million — is likely to go toward the construction of a new Burgess Gym, but the city wants to hear from the public before moving forward.

"The common assumption is that a new gym will be the next Measure T project, but there aren't serious, laid-out phases for how the [bond] money is spent," Ms. Santos George said. "At the same time, a lot of people want the gym to be redone, and it certainly needs to be done. We just want to find out if the community's priorities have changed."

The workshops will be held on the following dates:

■ Jan. 17, 6 p.m., at the Burgess Recreation Center, 700 Alma St.

■ Jan. 20, 2 p.m., at the Little

House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave.

■ Jan. 25, 5:30 p.m., at the Onetta Harris Community Center, 100 Terminal Ave.

A light dinner will be provided at the evening meetings.

Safer routes to Laurel School

The Menlo Park City Council unanimously approved a contract with a transportation consultant to design a plan that makes it safer for students to walk and bike to Laurel Elementary School.

The K-2 school is located in Atherton near the intersection of Ringwood Avenue and Edge Road, but about 80 percent of the students live in Menlo Park.

Parents have repeatedly called for slower traffic on roads near the school, and restricting parking in bicycle lanes frequently used by children.

The study will cost the city \$58,840, according to Rene Baile, a transportation engineer, in a staff report.

Canceled meeting

The Menlo Park City Council will not hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 16. Meetings are scheduled to resume Jan. 23.

James MacDonald Farrier Services
Wishes you all the best for 2007



Putting our best hoof forward for you and your horses in the New Year.



650-867-9037

james@jmmetalart.com



WANT TO MAKE
WAVES?

TRY THE SURF IN
TOWNSQUARE.
The Almanac's Online
Gathering Place

Be a citizen journalist.
www.almanacnews.com

The Almanac
MENLO PARK • ATHERTON • FORTOLA VALLEY • WOODSIDE
Online

New members take seats on architecture review panel

■ New commissioners indicate a preference for green designs.

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The appointment, by an agreeable Town Council, of two new commissioners to Portola Valley's architecture review board is likely to extend the board's tradition of encouraging homes that fit the lay of the land and account for neighboring life forms, human and otherwise.

It's a balancing act in a town where the median price for a home is \$1.8 million, but Jeff Clark and Alexandra Von Feldt — the only applicants for two open seats on the Architecture and Site Control Commission — say they are up for the bi-weekly night meetings and the back-and-forth with architects and homeowners not unaccustomed to having their way.

How would he handle a difficult hom-

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

owner, Councilman Ed Davis asked Mr. Clark, a residential architect, at the council's Jan. 10 meeting. A willingness to compromise is essential on both sides at ASCC meetings, he replied.

Asked for his take on Portola Valley's environmental values, Mr. Clark said the ASCC should burnish its reputation for preferring green designs so as to encourage homeowners to build green elements into their original plans.

He said his own hierarchy of green values, in ascending order, are the choice of interior and exterior finishes, the height of a home, and its scale: the smaller the footprint, the more it says Portola Valley, he said.

"I look forward to helping the town

and trying to apply the values that the town expresses," he added. "I hope to be a champion of those values."

Ms. Von Feldt, who comes to the ASCC from the town's influential Conservation Committee, noted the confluence of her interests in green design with those of the town, which requires home owners doing

a remodel or rebuild to fill out a 75-point checklist outlining green-design suggestions.

"I really am happy that we have this (checklist) because it's sort of a framework to help evaluate the home," she said. "It can give us yet another tool that can help reframe peoples' thinking."

Asked to comment on design elements in town that did not please her, she singled out perimeter hedges and vegetative screens that block views of rolling hills and open spaces. "It's really ruining the

sightlines," she said.

The council appointed Ms. Von Feldt and Mr. Clark on a 4-0 vote, with Councilman Richard Merk absent, after one or two questions from each council member and reminders to the candidates on the importance of the ASCC to the town's culture.

"The ASCC is really the front line that makes this town what it is," said Mayor Ted Driscoll. "It's a very important role here."

Mr. Clark and Ms. Von Feldt are taking the seats held by long-time commissioners Laura Chase and Mike Schilling, who left the commission when their terms expired in December.

Councilwoman Maryann Moise Derwin, concerned about possible conflicts of interest, wanted to know how often Mr. Clark, whose office is in Redwood City, took architectural work in Portola Valley. Less than one project a year, he replied, which, he added, is how he likes it. ■

Hearing on new policies for Hetch Hetchy right-of-way

By Marion Softky
Almanac Staff Writer

People living beside or near the right-of-way containing pipes that carry water from Yosemite through East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and North Fair Oaks, may be interested in a hearing in San Francisco next week.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) will consider revised policies for uses of and encroachments into the right-of-way at a hearing Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 1:30 p.m. at San Francisco City Hall, on Van Ness Avenue between McAllister and Grove streets, in Room 400.

The pipes under the 10- to 60-foot right-of-way carry water from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir in Yosemite National Park to Crystal Springs Lakes. They are a key part of the water system on which 2.4 million people in the Bay Area depend. The pipes will be dug up and replaced starting around 2010 as part of the \$4.2 billion project to update and strengthen the water system to withstand earthquakes and other disasters.

The right-of-way policy spells out how the SFPUC can protect and maintain the pipes, and control the driveways, hedges,

sheds, trees, parks, and gardens that frequently creep into the right-of-way from hundreds of neighbors.

"The refinement of the Right of Way Policy will enable SFPUC to better secure its pipelines while making the policy more transparent to property owners, community groups, and municipalities," General Manager Susan Leal said.

The revised policy will continue to allow permits for certain uses, including on properties that are bisected by the right-of-way. "The revised language is much more straightforward," Ms. Leal said. "It would outline specifically how we would handle encroachments that impair access to our transmission."

Letters have been sent to property owners along the right-of-way inviting them to attend the hearing or send written comments before Jan. 23.

The public may offer comments in writing to SFPUC, 1155 Market St., 11th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102, Attn: ROW Policy; or by e-mail to feedback@sflower.org. For more information, call 415-554-3297, or go to sflower.org. ■

Portola Valley open space fund grows

Another \$66,761 will soon be deposited in the account for the purchase of open space in Portola Valley. That was the net profit of the annual Blues-and-Barbecue open-space fundraising event last fall, after expenses.

The September 2006 festival had expenses of \$32,553 on revenues of \$99,314, said

fundraising co-chairs Toni Bray and Diana Raines at the Jan. 10 meeting of the Town Council.

The new total for the open-space account is \$1.36 million, said Stacie Nerdahl, the town's administrative services officer.

The 2005 Blues-and-Barbecue festival raised about \$80,000.

PV couple repeat wedding vows in Bali

By Jane Knoerle
Almanac Lifestyles Editor

Sue and Don Bennett of Portola Valley wanted to do something special for their 40th wedding anniversary, so they repeated their wedding vows in a traditional Balinese wedding ceremony in their favorite place: Bali.

The Sept. 17 ceremony was held 40 years from the day they were married in Burlingame. With friends from Menlo Park, Sacramento, Japan and Bali in attendance, they said their vows before a Protestant minister on the grounds of the Royal Palace in Ubud, Bali.

Ubud is the cultural center of Bali and is known for its fine arts, dance and music, says Ms. Bennett.

The couple wore ceremonial Bali dress. Their celebration featured dancers, music and native cuisine. They were helped with arrangements by a wedding planner from the Royal Palace Hotel in Ubud, whose claim to fame was planning Mick Jagger's wedding to Jerry Hall 18 years earlier.

The Bennett wedding raised more than \$1,000 for a school project sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ubud. "Instead of gifts, we asked the guests to make a donation," says Ms. Bennett. The Bennetts became interested in the Rotary project through their friend Mari-



Sue and Don Bennett wear native dress for ceremony in Bali. They are shown with young Balinese dancers.

lyn Carson, who has homes in Palo Alto and in Bali.

The Bennetts paid their first visit to Bali in the 1970s and have been back many times since. They are even building a vacation home there. "It's the most beautiful spot on earth," says Ms. Bennett.

Back home in Portola Valley, Ms. Bennett is a real estate agent with Merrill Properties and Mr. Bennett is a retired high-tech executive. They have two children, Keith Bennett of Portola Valley and Elisa Martin of Madrid, Spain; and one grandchild. ■

Major Additions and Whole House Remodels

"The presentation was very professional. Lots of great information!"
-Workshop Attendee

Thursday, January 25, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
1954 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View, CA 94043

Dispel the myths of remodeling and learn the facts and how-to's of the process in an interactive workshop designed specifically for homeowners.

Whether you are undecided about remodeling or ready to go, the class will cover all the details, decisions, and questions homeowners have—including how to live through a remodel.

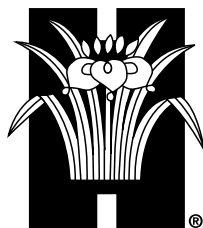
Topics will include:

- Pre-planning • Choosing an architect, designer and/or contractor • The design process • Budgeting
- Materials • Floor plans • Code requirements • Scheduling • Building permits • Inspections and more!

Harrell Remodeling, one of the San Francisco Peninsula's premier remodeling contractors, will lead this workshop and take you step by step through the design and construction process so you can go into your major remodel confidently and intelligently. Your home is an important part of your life—make it reflect who you are by giving it your very best!

Harrell Remodeling. We never forget it's your home.®

For more information or to pre-register for the workshop, call (650) 230-2900. No credit cards accepted. Class fee is \$20.00 for pre-registration, or \$25.00 at the door. Refreshments will be provided.



Harrell Remodeling
Design + Build
www.harrell-remodeling.com
License: B479799

Lindenwood group opposes moving historic urns

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

■ ATHERTON

Randy and Lisa Lamb's plan to move two large, historic urns from their old house on Laburnam Road to a new home on Park Lane in Atherton has run afoul of their Lindenwood neighbors.

The Atherton City Council is set to take up the issue at its Wednesday, Jan. 17, meeting.

A recently passed ordinance restricts alterations to a number of historic objects in Atherton, including the urns, street lamps and statuary that dot the Lindenwood neighborhood and echo back to the subdivision's past as the Linden Towers estate. Atherton's historic preservation ordinance is unusual in that it protects only historic "artifacts," not buildings.

The Lambs received permission from the Atherton Planning Commission to take their urns with them on a 2-1 vote at the Dec. 6 meeting. A week later, Phil Lively, president of the Lindenwood Homes Asso-

ciation, filed an appeal to keep the urns in the neighborhood and overturn the Planning Commission's decision. The town also received 13 letters from residents, all opposing the urns' removal.

Town staff, including historical consultant Laura Jones, who helped draft the historic artifact ordinance, are recommending that the council give the Lambs conditional permission to move the two urns. Staff recommends that the Lambs be required to allow a historic inventory to be conducted for the urns, as well as for a historic street lamp that is not proposed for removal from the Laburnam Road property.

The Atherton City Council meets in the Town Council Chambers, 94 Ashfield Road. The staff report is available at the town's administrative offices, 91 Ashfield Road, or by going to www.ci.Atherton.ca.us and following the links to the City Council agenda packet for Jan. 17. ■

Ex-Woodside coach sentenced for molestation of teenager

A former Woodside High School girls' basketball coach who pleaded no contest to charges of child molestation was sentenced Jan. 10 in San Mateo County Superior Court to three years in prison.

On Aug. 29, Guy Hayman, 43, agreed to plead no contest to one felony count of committing lewd acts upon a minor age 14 or 15 and one misdemeanor count of annoying or molesting a child under age 18 in connection with incidents of fondling and masturbating in front of one of the daughters of a San Mateo County woman with whom he had been living, according to Deputy District Attorney Greg Devitt.

Mr. Hayman was originally charged in incidents beginning in November 2003, according to the district attorney's office.

In court Jan. 10, the victim's mother read a statement from her daughter describing the shame and trauma she experienced and continues to endure.

"I hope that this nightmare will stop following me," she read.

Judge Craig Parsons refused probation for Mr. Hayman, instead opting for the maximum sentence under the plea agreement, especially considering early incidents of "deviant sexual behavior," he said.

In June 1991, Mr. Hayman pleaded no contest to one count of peeping, according to the district attorney's office. He was placed on supervised probation for 18 months following that incident.

Mr. Hayman also was convicted of peeping in 1999, according to Mr. Devitt.

While the current case was still pending and he was out on bail, Mr. Hayman was arrested in May for allegedly masturbating near a pool at a Mountain View apartment complex.

Of the current charges, Judge Parsons told Mr. Hayman as he pronounced the sentence, "You managed to apparently destroy that family," adding that "your behavior is escalating."

— Bay City News Service

STANFORD LIVELY ARTS

2006 2007

PRESENTING THE BEST IN

LIVE PERFORMANCE

UTE LEMPER

January 20, 2007
8:00 PM

Memorial Auditorium, Stanford University

Smoldering and theatrical cabaret reminiscent of pre-war Berlin and the bustling backstreets of Paris

RICHARD ALSTON DANCE COMPANY

January 26-27, 2007
8:00 PM

Memorial Auditorium, Stanford University

Britain's illustrious contemporary dance company moves with richly sculpted and musically inspired grace



GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY! Call 650-725-ARTS or visit <http://livelyarts.stanford.edu>.

WANT TO MAKE WAVES?

TRY THE SURF IN TOWNSQUARE.
The Almanac's Online Gathering Place

Be a citizen journalist.
www.almanacnews.com

The Almanac
MENLO PARK • ATHERTON • PORTOLA VALLEY • WOODSIDE
Online

Residents sue city over homes

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

■ **MENLO PARK**

Residents of Menlo Park's Linfield Oaks neighborhood have adamantly opposed plans for 33 new homes in their neighborhood, and now that the project has been approved, neighbors are suing the city to stop it.

Resident Don Brawner and the Linfield Oaks Neighborhood Association filed a lawsuit on the basis that the City Council's Nov. 14 approval of the project violated the city's general plan, zoning regulations and California Environmental Quality Act, said Mr. Brawner.

He said the goal of the lawsuit is to kill the project.

"The project itself violates just about every building regulation we have in Menlo Park," Mr. Brawner said. "Projects like this aren't in the residents' best interests — they're all about maximizing profit."

Palo Alto-based Summer Hill Homes plans to demolish a 40,000 square-foot office building at 75 Willow Road, adjacent to the Sunset magazine campus, to make way for building the

homes at the 4.5-acre site. The homes are expected to sell for \$1 million to \$2 million.

Elaine Breeze, senior vice president and managing director for Summer Hill Homes, did not comment on the lawsuit before the Almanac's deadline.

Councilman Heyward Robinson said the council was made aware of the lawsuit within the past week, but he had no comment on the issue.

Mr. Brawner said the lawsuit was filed in San Mateo County Superior Court Dec. 29. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for May 8.

Neighbors have argued that replacing the existing office building with housing will increase traffic and overcrowd schools.

Mr. Brawner would not say who is subsidizing the lawsuit, but said it's "more than just neighbors."

The project was originally approved 3-2 by the previous council, supported by the then-majority of council members Lee Duboc, Nicholas Jellins and Mickie Winkler.

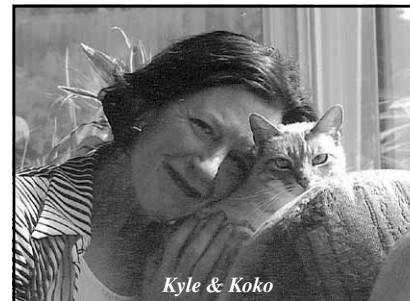
After the new council took office Dec. 5, several council

members said they opposed the project and wanted to discuss reversing the previous council's decision. But City Attorney Bill McClure said that the city would likely enter into a legal battle with the developer, and efforts to kill the project never materialized.

Councilman John Boyle said he wasn't familiar with the specifics of the lawsuit, but said "there are other things the city ought to move forward on — this [project] has been decided." ■

Low Cost Divorce/Living Trust

DOCUMENT PREPARATION SERVICE



INCLUDES:

- Divorce \$449
- Living Trusts \$399/\$499
- Incorporations/LLC \$399
- Non-Profit
- Probate (Free Quote)
- And much more!



We The People® 800-579-0009

Form and Service Center since 1985. We are not attorneys. We provide only self-help services at your specific discretion. LDA#72 Santa Clara County

Community college tuition cut

By **Marjorie Mader**
Almanac Staff Writer

Students at Canada, San Mateo and Skyline colleges in the San Mateo County Community College District get a break in tuition this year.

Instead of paying \$26 per semester unit, they will pay \$20 when they begin classes Tuesday, Jan. 16, on the campuses in Woodside, San Mateo and San Bruno.

Legislation signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last summer lowers tuition 23 percent for students attending community colleges, effective Jan. 1.

"While \$6 may not seem like a lot to the average person, a \$6 [per unit] cut in tuition is enough to make the difference in a student deciding to go back to school or attend college," said Ron Galatolo, chancellor-superintendent of the San Mateo County Community College District.

"When tuition decreases, typically we see an increase in our enrollment," said the chancellor. "It's a different story when there's a tuition increase. There's a drop in enrollment right away."

The state's decision to cut tuition won't adversely hurt the district's budget because the state will back-fill the difference through state apportionment funds, he said.

About 20,000 full-time-equiv-

alent students attend the district's three community colleges. The "head count" is in excess of 40,000 students, he said.

"We should have a handle on enrollment by Jan. 16," said Barbara Christensen, the district's director of community and government relations. Students last week were still registering for classes, adding and dropping classes. New students were also filing applications.

The average class load for district students is nine to 10 units a semester. Students in the college degree program usually take 12 to 15 units. A large number of students at the district's community colleges have jobs and take fewer units, she said. ■

TOWNSQUARE The Almanac's Online Gathering Place

- Discuss community issues.
- Announce an event.
- Ask for advice.
- Rate a movie.
- Review a restaurant.
- Report a sports score and more.
- Be a citizen journalist.

www.almanacnews.com



L U C I L E P A C K A R D



C H I L D R E N ' S H O S P I T A L

Your Child's Health University

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

* MOTHER AND BABY YOGA

This postpartum Yoga class for new mothers and their infants presents a gentle return to pre-birth fitness with an emphasis on toning and strengthening. This class is appropriate for mothers with babies from 5 weeks up to crawling.

- Thursdays, February 1 – 22

* INFANT CARE

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

- Saturday, February 3

* CESAREAN BIRTH CLASS

This two-hour class is taught by a labor and delivery nurse childbirth educator who helps prepare families for cesarean delivery. Information about vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC) will also be provided to go over questions and expectations.

- Wednesday, February 7

* INFANT AND CHILD CPR

Conducted by a certified instructor, this interactive class is geared for parents, grandparents and other caregivers of newborns to school-aged children. The course includes presentation, video, text, practice on infant models and a certificate of completion.

- Sunday, February 11

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



LUCILE PACKARD
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

CALL TODAY TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES (650) 723-4600

OBITUARIES

Joseph 'Joe' Gomes*Lifetime Portola Valley resident*

Joseph "Joe" Gomes, a lifelong Portola Valley resident and a third generation of one of the first families to settle in the valley, died Jan. 12 at age 86.

Mr. Gomes was born July 24, 1920, to Manuel and Rose Gomes in the family home on Georgia Lane, where he lived his entire life. His parents and their home came through the 1906 earthquake that shook the town violently and ruptured the ground.

In his early years, Mr. Gomes went to the one-room Portola Valley schoolhouse along with children of other early settlers, the Jelich, Mangini, Duzanica, Nahmens, Skrabo and Ramies families.

Mr. Gomes owned and operated the Union 76 gas station at Alpine and Portola roads in Portola Valley for 17 years, from 1963 to 1980, when the business was transferred to Ron Ramies.

"Friends were extremely important to my father," said his daughter Joanne Crothers. "He would do anything for a friend. He loved the town and going to extended family reunions." He was a member and co-chair of Portola Valley's public works committee.

An ardent ham radio operator, Mr. Gomes' interest in the use of ham radio led him to develop an emergency radio communication system, enabling town officials to communicate with each other during an emergency. He served as a volunteer on the emergency preparedness committee.

He married Eugenia, who was called "Mary" by everyone, on Jan.

11, 1943. She died last March.

Mr. Gomes originally owned six acres of land on the left side of Georgia Lane from its intersection with Grove Drive to Iroquois Trail. This part of Georgia Lane, while privately owned, has been a favorite route of children going to Ormondale School.

His friends and relatives continued to visit him while he was recently at Vera Manor in Redwood City, where he received excellent care, said his daughter.

He is survived by his two daughters, Joanne Crothers of Red Bluff and Melinda Gomes of Mountain View; two grandsons; and one great-grandson.

Graveside services will be held at noon Thursday, Jan. 18, at Alta Mesa Cemetery, in Palo Alto.

Robert E. Wallace

Robert E. Wallace, who helped found the U.S. Geological Survey's earthquake research program in Menlo Park in 1964, died Jan. 8 in Reno, Nevada. He was 90.

A complete obituary for Mr. Wallace, a former chief scientist for USGS, will appear in the Jan. 24 issue of *The Almanac*.

Harold Benson*Insurance agent*

Harold Benson, who first moved to Menlo Park with his family in 1953, died Dec. 29 at the age of 88.

Mr. Benson was born in Crockett and grew up in the Sacramento area. He graduated

**Harold Benson**

from UC Berkeley in the class of 1940, majoring in business education. In college he played the French horn with the university symphony orchestra and worked on the *Daily Cal* publication.

He met his future wife, Barbara, at the San Francisco Opera House, and they were married in 1942. He worked as an agent with New York Life Insurance in San Francisco.

After the family moved to Menlo Park, he became a fire and casualty agent, owning his own business. He retired in 1986. He served as president of Bayshore Rotary in 1967-68.

One of his primary interests was woodworking, say family members. He created many decorative objects for his home and built furniture for both St. Bede's and Holy Trinity Episcopal churches in Menlo Park. He was also interested in the arts, attending the ballet and opera and visiting art museums. He and his wife traveled to Europe, Central America and Hong Kong.

In addition to Barbara, his wife of 64 years, Mr. Benson is survived by daughters Janet of Menlo Park and Joanne Benson Malone, who resides in the Seattle area.

Memorials in his name may be made to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Menlo Park.

Elizabeth Jensen*Longtime Menlo Park resident*

Memorial services for Elizabeth (Betty) Dolby Jensen will

be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, at Ladera Community Church in Portola Valley. Ms. Jensen died at home on Jan. 5. She was 88.

Ms. Jensen was born in Elgin, Illinois. She and her husband, Evan, and children moved to California in 1947, first living in San Carlos, then Menlo Park, where she lived for 41 years.

She was an avid reader, writer, symphony and opera fan, traveler and sailor. Her spiritual and contemplative nature was nurtured and shared through her church and meditation groups, say family members.

She is survived by her children, Polly Jensen of Chicago, Paul Jensen of Boulder Creek, Colorado, and Cindy Saporta of Tampa, Florida; brother Peter Dolby of Brunswick, Ohio; sister Jackie McKinley of Danville; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Her husband, Evan Jensen, preceded her in death.

Memorials may be made to: Ladera Community Church Endowment Fund, 3300 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, 94028, in honor of Elizabeth Jensen.

William Brosgé*Geologist*

William P. Brosgé, a well-known geologist and longtime Woodside resident, died Oct. 29, in Massachusetts.

Mr. Brosgé was born in New York City and graduated from Columbia University as a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi.

After graduation he joined

the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Washington, D.C. He began his career making topographic maps from air photos of important areas for the military throughout the world. He worked in the Alaska branch of USGS for his entire career, first in Washington, and beginning in 1959, in Menlo Park.

His work in Alaska began in 1949, when he went to the North Slope to map the Naval Petroleum Reserve. The next year he began mapping in the Brooks Range, a task that would occupy most of his career.

He defined and mapped the Prudhoe Bay stratigraphic section in its classic exposures in the northeastern Brooks Range and was the co-leader of the first appraisal of the oil and gas potential of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in 1980.

In 2001 he received the prestigious Dibblee Medal for his achievements in geologic mapping in Alaska. Mr. Brosgé retired from USGS in 1984, but continued as an emeritus scientist through 2001.

He is survived by a niece, Wendy Meigs of Salem, Massachusetts, and a nephew, Bradford Meigs of Hingham, Massachusetts. His wife, Mary Meigs Brosgé, preceded him in death.

Ruth S. Porter*Jasper Ridge docent*

Ruth S. Porter died Dec. 7 of cancer at her home in the Kings Mountain community of Woodside. She was 72.

Ms. Porter resided in Portola Valley from 1972 until 1998, when she and her husband moved to Woodside.

Born on Long Island, New York, Ms. Porter was a graduate of William Smith College in Geneva, New York, in the class of 1956. She moved to California with her family in 1971.

She had been a member of the Westridge Garden Club, the Palo Alto Garden Club, and the Kings Mountain Garden Club. She was also actively involved with the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, where she was a docent. Her dominant interest was in California native plants, say family members.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, David Y. Porter; son David M. Porter of San Jose; daughter Christine James of Sammamish, Washington; sister Cornelia Craine of Florida; and three grandchildren.

Private family services will be held at a future date.

LOIS JEAN WALKER O'BRIEN

AUGUST 31, 1919 - DECEMBER 1, 2006



Lois Jean had beautiful hands. They were clever, gifted hands with nimble fingers that could paint, quilt, embroider, unravel the most difficult knots, hybridize irises, make baked beans. They expressed the creative spirit and lively intellect of a remarkable woman who loved Fred and Ginger movies, beachcombing, the color green, Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald operettas, peanut butter, the Land of Oz, puns, flowers, creative writing, Walt Kelly's Pogo comic strip, puzzles of all kinds, *South Wind* by Norman Douglas, and tuna fish salad.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Lois Jean was the daughter of Georgia Emily Compton and John Urquhart Walker of Indiana. Her family lived a peripatetic life, spending spring and fall in Cleveland, winters in New Smyrna Beach, Fla. and summers at Christiana Lake, Michigan. She began her art studies at the Cleveland Museum of Art at age 7. She won art prizes in school and junior college, and received a BA in Graphic Arts from Stanford University in 1941, followed by graduate work at the Art Center School in Los Angeles. Throughout her adult life she studied with noted watercolor artists, traveling the world to paint.

Her first week at Stanford in 1939, Lois met her future husband, John Daniel O'Brien. They were married in 1942 in Los Angeles. After WWII they moved back to the San Francisco Bay Area and lived in Palo Alto and Portola Valley while they raised three children. After 50 years on the Peninsula, Lois and Dan moved to Sonoma County to start O'Brien Iris Garden in Sebastopol where Lois demonstrated and taught iris hybridizing.

She was an artist, a gardener, a wife, a mother, an author, a PEO sister, a

teacher and mentor, a leader. She accomplished many things in her 87 years. She was a signature member of the Society of Western Artists, co-owner of the Valley Art Gallery in Portola Valley, President and Honorary Life Member of the Palo Alto Garden Club, Show Chair for the Santa Rosa Iris Society, Secretary of Region 14 of the American Iris Society, Retired Master Judge for American Iris Society, creator of 11 registered bearded iris varieties, author and illustrator of a children's book, *The Dark Mirror of Oz*, President of PEO Chapter DD on the Peninsula, Secretary and Chaplain of PEO Chapter AJ in Sebastopol.

She is survived by her husband of 64 years, John Daniel O'Brien of Sebastopol and their children, Dana James of Los Altos, David M. and Marsha O'Brien of Gulfport, Fla., Patti Jean O'Brien of Sebastopol; her brother and sister-in-law John C. and Joanne M. Walker of Pompano Beach, Fla.; her grandchildren Matt O'Brien of Gulfport, Fla., Tom James of Mtn. View, Mike and Juliet James and great granddaughter Lois Claire James of Petaluma; nieces Lizzie Compton of Deer Isle, Maine, Regina Nelson of Sacramento, Calif. and nephew John M. Walker of Cedarville, Mich.

Friends are invited to join the family on Saturday, January 20 at 11:00 a.m. - Inurnment at Pleasant Hills Memorial Park, 1700 Pleasant Hill Road, Sebastopol (707-823-5042). Memorial Service at 1:00 pm at the Church of the Roses, 2500 Patio Court, Santa Rosa (707-542-4272). Reception in the Church Hall immediately following the service.

For those wishing to make a memorial donation, the following organizations were dear to Lois' heart: The American Iris Society - Region 14, in memory of Lois Walker O'Brien, c/o Lynn Williams, Regional VP, 25415 Salmon Place, Willits, CA 95490; The Gamble Garden, in memory of Lois Walker O'Brien, 1431 Waverley Street, Palo Alto, CA 94319; The Lois Walker O'Brien P.E.O. Scholarship Fund, c/o California State Chapter, P.E.O., P.O. Box 1099, Alhambra, CA 91802-1099.

PAID OBITUARY

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.

MENLO PARK

Burglary reports:

■ Window broken and items stolen, 1200 block of Hollyburne Avenue, Jan. 8.

■ Jewelry stolen from residence, 700 block of Hamilton Avenue, Jan. 9.

■ Assault report: Driver used vehicle to strike rear of another vehicle twice, El Camino Real and Middle Avenue, Jan. 5.

Grand theft reports:

■ Cash and credit cards stolen from purse, 1200 block of Mills Street, Jan. 10.

■ Two people detained at Draeger's for shoplifting were cited by police and released, 1010 University Drive, Jan. 10.

Stolen vehicle reports:

■ 1989 blue Toyota Camry, driver arrested, U.S. 101 at Marsh Road, Jan. 6.

■ 2007 white Yamaha motorcycle, model YZF 450, 3500 block of Haven Avenue, Jan. 6.

■ 1993 red Honda Civic, 400 block of Pope Street, Jan. 9.

■ Spousal abuse report: 1100 block of Hollyburne Avenue, Jan. 5.

■ Fraud report: Credit card used for unauthorized purchases of \$2,000, 700 block of Coleman Avenue, Jan. 9.

Accident reports:

■ Three-vehicle accident resulted in one person needing surgery for fractured ankle, Marsh Road and Bohannon Drive, Jan. 5.

■ Motorcyclist lost control, Chilco Street at railroad tracks, Jan. 9. Taken to Stanford.

WOODSIDE

■ Statutory rape report: Canada College at 4200 Farm Hill Boulevard, Jan. 7.

■ Fraud report: Credit card used for unauthorized purchases of about \$10,000, 800 block of West California Way, Jan. 3.

PORTOLA VALLEY

■ Burglary report: Furniture and other items estimated at \$10,000 stolen from residence after entry through bathroom window, 200 block of Cervantes Drive, Jan. 3.

WEST MENLO PARK

■ Theft report: Unattended purse stolen and credit card used for unauthorized purchases, Starbucks in 3000 block of Alameda de las Pulgas, Jan. 7.

■ Fraud report: Credit card used for unauthorized purchases, 2000 block of Ashton Avenue, Jan. 3.

LADERA

■ Auto burglary: Digital camcorder stolen from unlocked vehicle, 200 block of Dedalera Drive, Jan. 9.

Clarification/Correction

A Jan. 10 profile of Menlo Park Shakespeare scholar Michael P. Jensen in the Almanac reported that he has co-taught two courses in the Stanford Continuing Studies program. To clarify, Mr. Jensen was not officially a teacher in the program, but was invited by two program teachers to give lectures in their classes.

Also, the story said the collection of "Shakespeareana" he

donated to Southern Oregon University's Hannon Library includes a bobble-head Bard. Not so, he said, "but I'll gladly drive to anyone's house to pick one up, if a reader is kind enough to donate one." Mr. Jensen seeks donations of Shakespeare-related trinkets, toys, comics and other items for the library collection. He can be reached at mikejensen16@hotmail.com.

Open space board elects Nitz president

Ken Nitz was elected president of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's board of directors by his colleagues Jan. 10.

Mr. Nitz, who lives in Redwood City, represents the District's Ward 7, which includes Redwood City, San Carlos, Woodside and

Half Moon Bay.

He said a goal of his for the coming year will be to remove non-native grasses from the district's 55,000 acres of open space preserves in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

— Don Kazak, Palo Alto Weekly



Photo/St. Raymond School

Open house

Science starts in kindergarten at St. Raymond School, the K-8 Catholic school in Menlo Park. Kindergartners, from left, Allie Doyle and Jack Moultrup perform an experiment. The school holds its annual open house on Sunday, Jan. 21, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1211 Arbor Road. For information about the school and registration for the 2007-08 year, call the school at 322-2312.

BIRTHS

Menlo Park

■ Kathleen and Gregory Waite, a daughter, December 11, at Sequoia Hospital.

Portola Valley

■ Susan and Markus Fierl,

a daughter, December 28, at Sequoia Hospital.

Emerald Hills

■ Jill Hannemann and Robin Shaffer, a daughter, December 15, at Sequoia Hospital.

BARBARA BOHANNON CARLETON

Passed away peacefully at home on December 29, 2006. Daughter of the late David D. Bohannon and Ophelia E. Bohannon of Woodside, CA, she was born on October 18, 1926 in Berkeley. She lived most of her life on the Peninsula, graduating from Park School, San Mateo, and in 1944, from Sequoia High School in Redwood City. She attended Mills College in Oakland, then married and lived in Southern California for 14 years. She then returned to the Peninsula and has lived in Woodside since 1980.

She was a member of Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club since 1963. Flower arranging and gardening were lifelong interests and she was an honorary member of the Woodside Hills Garden Club. The Club and its members brought her much joy. She also served as a docent at the Filoli Center and gardens for four years before retiring to travel, far and wide.

She was named a Trustee of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco in 1996 and the Museums became the main focus of her life. Having served the maximum three terms, she retired from the Board in April 2005. Despite

a serious heart condition, she was happy to achieve her wish to live to see the opening of the new M. H. de Young Museum.

Throughout her life, she was exceptionally generous to friends and family, particularly supporting educational goals. Believing firmly that an opportunity to help another is a gift, she took great pleasure in contributing to many philanthropic causes.

She is survived by a daughter, Alida Latham, and husband, Christopher Latham, of Seattle. Another daughter, Gabrielle Mandahl, died in 1982, at the age of 31, in a climbing accident in France. She is also survived by her sister, Frances Nelson; brother, David E. Bohannon; nieces, Patricia Nelson Atassi, Linda Nelson Davis, Lisa Bohannon and Ophelia Bohannon; nephews, David D. Bohannon II, Scott Bohannon, Jeremiah Bohannon and Robert Bohannon.

There will be no service. Contributions in her memory can be made to Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco or Second Harvest Food Bank of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

PAID OBITUARY

FERNANDA GIOVANNA BASS

February 5, 1922 – January 11, 2007



With the deepest sense of loss, her devoted family announces her passing, January 11, 2007 in San Mateo, CA. Fernanda Bass passed away peacefully after a long and joyful life. She was surrounded by family and friends.

Deeply beloved wife for 53 years to the late Edmund P. Bass, she will be dearly missed by her daughter, Eva J. Bass (Omaha, NE), her three sons, Edward Z. (Danville, CA), Robert L. (La Quinta, CA) and Steven H. Bass and daughter-in law, Merrie Alice (Hillsborough, CA). She is survived by her three grandchildren, Kevin, Jeffrey and Erica Bass, her sisters Augusta and Olga and brother Arnaldo.

She was born Fernanda Giovanna Baldessari in Bressanone, Italy into a family of six children, Aldo, Rita, Olga, Augusta and Arnaldo. She met Edmund in Torino, Italy, while snow skiing and married in 1950. In 1951 they immigrated to the United States

eventually settling in Nebraska to raise their four children. In 1982, they retired to Menlo Park, CA.

Fernanda devoted her life to her family and was dedicated to her faith. She raised four children, tutoring her children in school assignments, organizing birthday parties, holiday activities, summer lakeside vacations and winter ski trips. She lived life to the fullest enjoying European vacations to visit her relatives, traveling with her family, creating gourmet meals and skiing. Her hobbies included oil and watercolor painting, gardening, knitting, and traveling. She also volunteered to help to feed the homeless and with children at the Ronald McDonald house in Palo Alto.

The great love she had for her husband, Edmund, the boundless energy she spent with her family, and her passion for helping others serves as her lasting legacy.

Services were held at St. Matthews Catholic Church in San Mateo on Saturday, January 13, 2007.

PAID OBITUARY



TRY THE SURF IN
TOWNSQUARE.
The Almanac's Online
Gathering Place
Be a citizen journalist.
www.almanacnews.com
The Almanac
MENLO PARK • ATHERTON • PORTOLA VALLEY • WOODSIDE
Online

Editor & Publisher

Tom Gibboney

Editorial

Managing Editor Richard Hine

News Editor Renee Batti

Lifestyles Editor Jane Knoerle

Senior Staff Writers

Marion Softky, Marjorie Mader

Staff Writers Andrea Gemmet,

David Boyce, Rory Brown

Editorial Intern Stephanie Cadora

Contributors Barbara Wood,

Bryan Wiggan, Kate Daly,

Bill Rayburn, Miles McMullin,

Katie Blankenberg

Special Sections Editors

Carol Blitzer, Sue Dremann

Photographer Marjan Sadoughi

Design & Production

Design Director Raul Perez

Assistant Design Director

Katie Cvitkovich

Designers Linda Atilano,

Gail Thoreson, Elise Eisenman,

Eric Kinnaird, Nancy Hwang,

Tanya A. Ortega

Advertising

Advertising Manager Neal Fine

Display Advertising Sales

Roxanne Bates

Real Estate Account

Representative Donna Berryhill

Real Estate Assistant

Monica Asbornio

Advertising Services

Coordinator M.J. Hayden

Receptionist Renee Meil

Circulation, Classified,

& Legal Advertising Bill Rayburn

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:

editor@AlmanacNews.com

e-mail photos with captions to:

photo@AlmanacNews.com

e-mail letters to:

letters@AlmanacNews.com

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

nature, as stated in Decree No.

147530, issued November 9, 1969.

Voluntary subscriptions are available

for delivery to homes in Menlo

Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and

Woodside at \$30 per year or \$50 for

2 years. Subscriptions by businesses

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.

The public's right to know

In the coming weeks and months the newly minted majority of the Menlo Park City Council will have a golden opportunity to reach out to all its constituents in a very basic way — by establishing some simple guidelines to make most, if not all, government actions open to the public.

By doing so, the council could firmly support an important building block in all democracies: the public's right to know.

The latest buzzword in this arena is transparency, which when

applied to local government

means that the public can see

and know what its elected rep-

resentatives and employees are

doing at all times.

Such a decision would sweep

away many of the obstacles to open government that were put in

place by outgoing City Manager David Boesch and many mem-

bers of his City Hall staff.

For example, during last year's run-up to the privatization

of Menlo Park's Burgess pool complex and during the effort to

privatize the city's child care operation, the Almanac and, we

presume, other media representatives, rarely could obtain clear

answers about how much revenue would be saved if the opera-

tions were taken over by a private contractor. Members of the

public who were trying to ascertain relevant figures also com-

plained that they were unsuccessful.

At times, it seemed that city staff members were working in con-

cert with the members of the council's majority at the time, who

were rushing the pool privatization to a vote. Instead of providing

clear, impartial analysis of the child care privatization effort, the

city staff issued only partial records that later proved inaccurate.

Mr. Boesch's own resignation was intentionally kept quiet,

apparently at his own request, even though Mayor Kelly Fergus-

son and perhaps other council members were aware for weeks

that Mr. Boesch was leaving. The outgoing city manager issued

a brief e-mail to his staff just before city offices closed on Thursday, Jan. 4. With City Hall closed the next day and through the weekend, this maneuver effectively cut off contact with the media until Monday, Jan. 8. And even then, Mr. Boesch refused to discuss his resignation with the Almanac.

It was not until Wednesday, Jan. 10, that the city issued a press

release from Mayor Ferguson, two weeks or more after she and

perhaps other council members learned of the decision. This

is hardly transparent conduct by a city government that serves

more than 30,000 residents. The city should have issued a press

release the same day it received the news of the resignation,

regardless of Mr. Boesch's effort to keep it secret so that his new

employer, San Mateo County, could make the first announce-

ment of his new job.

As the search for a new city manager begins, we hope one of

the key qualifications council members will look for in appli-

cants is an understanding that the best public relations flow

from clear and open communications with residents and the

media. And we also hope that the search process can be as open

as possible, providing the public an opportunity to check the

records of the final candidates.

Menlo Park residents deserve better. Council members should

pass a resolution affirming that all city business, with few excep-

tions, should be conducted in the open, away from closed doors and

secret meetings. All department heads, including the police chief,

should be available to the public and the press to answer questions

about breaking news or other events involving their department.

Over time, some municipal employees begin to act like the

public's business is their business, and that they can withhold

sometimes distasteful information if it suits their purpose. That

is when elected officials must step in and clear the air. After all,

it is the public who pays the bills for all city employees, and the

public has the right to know how and why their money is being

spent. Menlo Park residents should demand nothing less.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Why was budget surplus news withheld?

Editor:

I was shocked to read the announcement last week that Menlo Park had a \$3.7 million budget surplus for the fiscal year that ended June 2006. All through the election cycle I kept hearing about deficits and the need for a new tax — the Utility User Tax known as Measure K — whose passage was promoted by now-Mayor Kelly Fergusson and other members of the City Council.

So, the tax passes (by only 60 votes) and now we find out that there was, in fact, a huge surplus. This looks suspicious. The surplus was for the fiscal year that ended four months before the election but it's not announced until two months after the vote on the utility tax.

On top of this, four coun-

See **LETTERS**, next page



Almanac Photo Archives

Our Regional Heritage

A majestic oak tree frames the historic Woodside General Store after a snowstorm in 1976. The photo was taken by Menlo Park resident Alex Nodopak in February or March of that year. The store is located at the corner of Tripp and Kings Mountain roads in Woodside.

Cape Cod racer weighs in on cycle rage

Editor:

I have been following the news regarding tensions between cyclists and motorists and residents of Portola Valley with an eye for news coming from Old La Honda Road residents of Woodside.

I am a resident of another tourist destination, Cape Cod, MA. Being a computer geek, I decided to Google "Woodside" and "cycling," and to my surprise (and dismay) came across the seemingly never-ending controversy between cyclists and motorists in Portola Valley. I started to feel sorry for Woodside Town Hall.

I was very saddened by the death of the teacher who was killed by a motorist in 2005. I was saddened by the news that a charity ride for ALS was voted down in Woodside. And, I am very saddened that a cyclist would chuck a 22-oz. water bottle at a car and miss, instead striking a 62-year-old innocent bystander in the face. These are all very, very unfortunate events. I will not say unfortunate "accidents," because all of these incidents could have easily been avoided.

I have a solution to the problem, and it's easy.

First, as a physician who treats brain injury (concussion) on a regular basis,

I can tell you that most cyclist-motorist interactions result in injury to the cyclist. As an accident reconstructionist, I can tell you that the motorist is often at fault in these interactions, although before the judicial system intervenes, the motorist is very willing to blame the cyclist.

The solution here is to let motorists know that when driving, especially on roads that are popular cycling routes, they must **expect** a cyclist or group of cyclists at every turn. Then there should be no surprises. The worst thing for a motorist would be to strike and injure, possibly even kill, a cyclist, due to simple lack of attention.

How many times have we given thanks for not hitting a cyclist or pedestrian even though they "came out of nowhere?" Too often. Motorists must obey the rules of the road. Motorists do not have any more rights to the road than does a cyclist or group of cyclists.

Second, and I say this as a physician who has treated many injured cyclists over the years, cyclists must be prepared for the motorist who isn't paying attention at every turn. I think most cyclists already are. Cyclists must ride

single file whenever possible, especially on narrow roads and roads without a clear passing lane, or on roads with many turns or intersections. No pelotons. It's against the law.

In reading Bruce Campbell's Jan. 3 letter (Pack cyclists disregard vehicle code), I appreciate his concern for dangerous pack riding. However, Mr. Campbell is sadly mistaken about a few things, and his conspiracy theory comments are amusing in their ignorance of one of the most popular sports in the world.

When a group of riders rides in a line that is drafting, it is called a "paceline." Riding in a paceline is one of the things that will solve the problem of group riding in Portola Valley. Racing is not a crime. Racing on public roads is not a crime. Going fast is not a crime. However, going over the speed limit and peloton racing are both crimes on public roads.

Cyclists who race and belong to USA Cycling-sanctioned racing teams are not "trying to emulate the Tour de France race." That's an idea that shows a true misunderstanding of our sport. Cyclists who ride in a peloton aren't

trying to emulate anything. It's simply what we do. Non-cycling fans and non-cyclists may see it as emulation, but road cyclists do not. It's a skill that is learned and taught in bicycle racing classes all over the United States and the world. The problem is that when groups ride in a peloton rather than a paceline on public roads, with motorists present, the cyclists are asking for trouble, and they are creating a hazard. There is simply no need to ride fast in a peloton, when a paceline would suffice.

But to say we shouldn't race, go as fast as we can (within the speed limits) or that wearing spandex is suspicious, and limiting us to "transport" or "exercise" is absurd. That's like saying Paris-Roubaix should be raced on asphalt instead of cobbles. It isn't going to happen. Our national security is not threatened by a Tour de France yellow-jersey look-a-like. From what I've read, Old La Honda Road is known as the Alpe d'Huez of Portola Valley. We'd better get used to cyclists riding fast there. They aren't going away. But for the good of everybody, they should be riding in pacelines, not pelotons.

Dr. Greg Wright
Brewster, MA



LETTERS

Continued from previous page

cil members (the new majority) wouldn't even allow council debate or solicitation of input from the public on setting the new tax rate. Rather, they opted to charge ahead with the full maximum rate allowed, which becomes effective April 1, 2007.

I think there should be some sort of investigation with respect to why the accounting went from a deficit of \$900,000 in June 2006 to a surplus of \$1.2 million in October to an even bigger surplus of \$3.7 million two months after the election.

Were the voters being deliberately manipulated into voting for the tax? If we had a surplus, why should we tax ourselves? Why is the council even implementing the tax? Should the new tax be recalled? Someone needs to explain this.

Mary Gilles
Hermosa Way, Menlo Park

Cheers for the Lanes' conservation easement

Editor:

I want to express my sincere appreciation to Bill and Jean Lane for their decision to place a conservation easement on their Portola Valley property, and to

the Almanac for publicizing it.

I sometimes feel that people who make an effort to protect the environment and the landscape don't get enough credit. We need to make families like this the ones to be emulated.

I find it so depressing to see the oversized residences that now line Mountain Home Road in Woodside. This is an incredibly beautiful area and it is a shame to ruin it with these monstrous homes built to look like French chateaus and Mediterranean villas.

There are so many large residences being built that have absolutely no sensitivity to the landscape of California.

Denise Ellestad
Los Trancos Woods,
Portola Valley

Plan now for senior housing needs

Editor:

It may or may not come as news, but the big work force of the future will be retired baby boomers.

Many of us will work far into those years when we thought we'd be living a life of leisure and comfort. Some of us will choose to work in new fields,

stay in our current jobs or volunteer for nonprofits. For many of us, our lives will likely outlive our savings, and we will continue down the path of a nation of many poor seniors.

As we baby boomers begin to retire, we will swamp all existing services and redefine the word "retirement." Those lucky enough to retire in comfort will have many options for housing, medical care and life style. Sadly, for far too many boomers, life will not be so kind.

In an area as expensive to live as the Bay Area, it is time that our cities, counties, nonprofits and employers work jointly to create the affordable senior housing that will be so desperately needed in just a few short years. Affordable housing is one part of an equation to a healthy and vibrant senior work force, one that benefits the community as a whole.

Cities like Palo Alto have begun to deal with the bulging retirement population. When will others step up to the plate?

It is in everyone's best interests to plan now for this huge housing need that we know is coming.

Elizabeth Lasensky
Fremont Street, Menlo Park



NEED A NEW WORKOUT?



Free Body Evaluation

Fun, unique, challenging, motivating and rewarding fitness programs

- **Tone and Condition**
- **Improve Your Strength**
- **Balance, Overall Fitness**
- **Elevate Your Game**
- **Lower your 10k Time**
- **Tai Chi and Yoga Classes**
- **Nutritional Counseling**

All ages and sports.

Change lives - starting with your own!!



650-365-6000

880 Hurlingame, Suite D, Redwood City, CA 94063

LIVE LIFE TO THE MAX!

2006

... Another Great Year for
Hugh's
CLIENTS!

Over \$95,000,000 sold

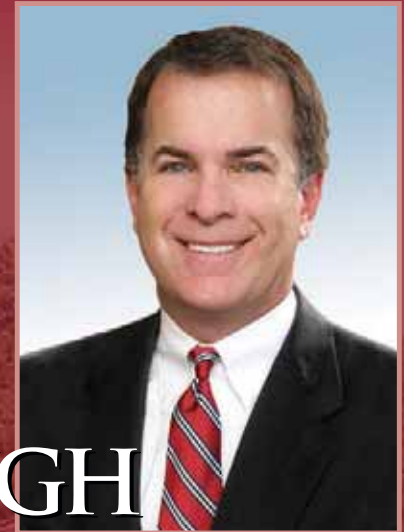


#1 Agent

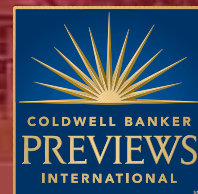
in Menlo Park –
El Camino Office
2000, 2001, 2002,
2003, 2004 & 2006

International President's Elite

Top 1% of all
Coldwell Banker Agents



HUGH CORNISH



650-566-5353

hcornish@cbnorcal.com

www.hcornish.com



CORNISH CONCIERGE SERVICE

PROVIDING A NETWORK OF REPUTABLE
HOME-IMPROVEMENT PROFESSIONALS,
INCLUDING CONTRACTORS, PAINTERS,
LANDSCAPERS, INTERIOR DESIGNERS,
HANDYMAN AND CLEANING SERVICES.

PUT HUGH'S EXPERIENCE TO WORK FOR YOU!

SERVING:

ATHERTON • WOODSIDE • PORTOLA VALLEY • MENLO PARK



Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.