

STUDENTS, parents, teachers rally to win
tenure for middle school teacher. Page 10

The Almanac

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

MARCH 14, 2007

www.AlmanacNews.com | VOL. 42 NO. 28

Old World style

Local jeweler practices
ancient, time-demanding
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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Gung Hay Fat Choy

First-graders at Oak Knoll School welcome the "Year of the Boar" as six long, colorful dragons, powered by children's feet, wind their way to the school blacktop to start the annual Chinese New Year parade Feb. 24. Music, short readings, more dragons, songs and a lantern dance were part of the festivities that entertained a crowd of parents and older students.

Menlo Park

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On the cover

Davide Bigazzi of Portola Valley learned the uncommon metalworking skills of chasing and repoussé as an apprentice to a sculptor and jeweler in his native Florence, Italy. He now practices and teaches the techniques in his studio at Allied Arts Guild. Photo by Veronica Weber. See story, **Page 14**

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Car hits Almanac staffer

The police log got personal for the Almanac as our colleague, Lifestyles Editor Jane Knoerle, was involved in a vehicle vs. pedestrian accident in downtown Menlo Park this weekend. Jane is expected to make a full recovery after tangling with a car that was backing up.

Jane produces the Food & Drink section and writes many of the features and Around the Town items you see in the Almanac each week. She also has what must be the cleanest desk in the history of journalism. She's going to be sorely missed while she is off work recovering.

Seeing signs

For the second-straight year, Menlo Park Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson urged council members to consider putting signs on city boundaries that let people know when they've entered the city.

"A lot of people don't know where our boundaries are," she said, at the council's March 6 priority-setting session. "We have a great name to our city... It has very positive connotations."

Cities with not-so-positive connotations may include: Hurricane, AL; Stinking Bay, AR; and Breakneck, CT.

Stay home, Smokey

Planning to enjoy the great outdoors? Better leave the cancer-sticks at home, if your plans include a visit to San Mateo County parks, beaches or trails. Beginning March 15, smoking is prohibited. Local county recreational areas that will enforce the smoking ban include Huddart and Wunderlich parks in Woodside, the historic Woodside store, and Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve.

And don't even think about sucking down a few puffs before you get out of the car. The county's ban extends to smoking in cars, boats, tents and RVs. In fact, the definition of smoking, according to the ordinance, includes inhaling, exhaling, burning or "carrying any lighted cigar, pipe, cigarette, tobacco product or plant."

Green light for Hillview school rebuild

■ Parents urge speeding up the project.

By Marjorie Mader

Almanac Staff Writer

Plans to design and rebuild Hillview Middle School as a two-story complex on its existing field will move full speed ahead now that trustees of the Menlo Park City School District unanimously approved the project at their March 6 special meeting.

Many of the 100-some-parents and community members in the audience expressed support for this option, and urged trustees to move as quickly as possible to build the new school.

Hillview, now with 659 students in grades 6-8, will grow to about 913 students in seven years, a nearly 40 percent increase, according to district projections.

"Other than using eminent domain or paying \$2 million per lot, there's no way this property is getting any bigger," said parent Roy Sardina before the

board voted. "I'm begging you to build it" on the field, he said. "We've discussed it to death."

"The kids already are here at Laurel and Oak Knoll (as kindergartners and first-graders), and they are going to come to the new Hillview," said parent Shari Conrad. "The (Hillview) plans just keep getting better and better."

Timeline

Completion of the project could be 48-57 months away, based on the proposed timeline. It includes the planning phase, environmental review, completion of construction documents, review by the state architect's office, bidding and awarding of contracts, construction, demolition and development of the playfield area.

"It could be two years before we could begin construction," said Trustee Bruce Ives.

"There are two opposing views," said Trustee Terry Thygesen. "Take all the time to get it right or do it as expeditiously as possible." She noted

that construction costs, and student enrollment, are rising.

"The faster we get there, more of the \$91.1 million bond money will be used for new facilities for the students," said Ms. Thygesen. Shortening the construction time would be of mutual benefit to the school community and the neighbors, she said.

Plan modified

District architect Erwin Lee of Deems Lewis McKinley presented some modifications to the plan discussed at a Jan. 30 board meeting. The modifications include moving the eight basketball courts from the campus interior closer to Santa Cruz Avenue; using a green surface on the basketball courts, similar to that used on tennis courts, for aesthetic reasons; and extending the running track around the perimeter of the field.

The staff parking area, located near the side property line toward Hillview Drive, was realigned with an exit on Santa Cruz Avenue.

See new plan for campus design on Page 8.

Mr. Lee said the proposed two-story buildings will be located beyond an 80-foot buffer between the school property and the neighbors' property. The shadow pattern of these buildings would not exceed the buffer area, he said.

Ms. Thygesen emphasized that the conceptual design to rebuild Hillview on the field is "very, very preliminary." More detailed work needs to be done by the design team. A Hillview site committee also will be organized to give input and review plans.

Option rejected

Another option to build facilities where the buildings are now and house students in portables on the field during construction was dismissed for a number of reasons, including the cost. Setting up portable facilities would add \$4.5

See HILLVIEW, page 8

Saving historic stable

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

The campaign to rescue the historic Folger Stable in Woodside after years of benign neglect is gathering momentum.

Almost \$3 million has been raised toward a \$5.2 million restoration project to shore up the stable and several of its out-buildings, all located at Wunderlich County Park, said Susan Lang, spokeswoman for the Folger Estate Stable Campaign Committee.

The restored stable complex will house a small museum, run educational programs for county schoolchildren and conduct architectural and history tours, as well as continue operating as a public boarding stable, Ms. Lang said.

The Palo Alto-based firm of Cody Anderson Wasney Architects has been chosen to oversee the restoration project,



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

A horse named Uptown peers out of its stall at the historic Folger Stable at Wunderlich Park in Woodside.

she said.

Built in 1905 by San Francisco architectural firm Schulze & Brown for James Folger II, the distinctive-looking stable is the centerpiece of the new Folger Estate Stable Historic District. It became part of the San Mateo

County parks system when the estate was donated in 1974.

The stable committee, an offshoot of the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Park, was formed to raise the money for repairs, earthquake retrofitting and other sorely needed resto-

ration work. Members offered to take on the project after worrying that years of neglect would effectively destroy a stable that had once been an opulent showpiece.

See FOLGER, page 8

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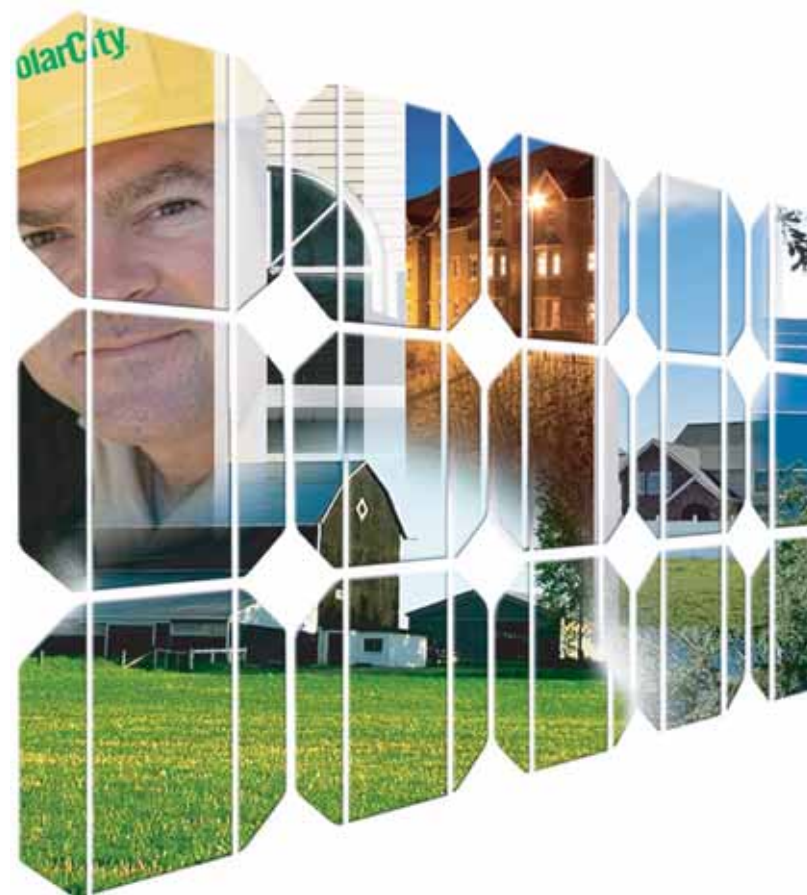
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Parcel tax increase wins big

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Sometimes it pays to stick your neck out.

A recent community survey in parts of Menlo Park, Atherton, Woodside and nearby unincorporated areas had shown support in the Las Lomitas Elementary School District falling below the required two-thirds majority for any parcel tax increase of more than \$98.

Trustees in the two-school K-8 district knew about these statistics — they commissioned the survey — but they took a chance and asked voters to raise the annual tax by \$115.

On Tuesday, March 6, voters said yes, and in sufficient numbers — 75 percent in favor to 25 percent opposed — to easily meet California's two-thirds-approval requirement for a tax increase. The new tax rate, which goes into effect July 1, boosts the district's parcel tax revenues from the current \$774,500 to \$1.2 million.

"I'm delighted," said Board of Trustees president Lee Anderson in an interview. "This is certainly the result we were hoping for because it received the level of support we had in past parcel tax and bond elections. I feel gratified that we made a good case to the voters."

The district will still have to tighten its belt even with the tax increase. Expenses grew in 2006-07 with increases in special education and support services costs, and the modest enrollment growth expected for the next few years.

The higher costs have cut into the district's reserves. A once healthy reserve of \$1.36 million, or 11 percent of expenses for the 2005-06 school year, has dropped to about \$284,000, or 2 percent of expected expenses of \$14.5 million for the current school year.

(The district also has about



The Almanac/David Boyce

Carolyn Wells, right, was caught in the act of going to the polls at La Entrada Middle School. Poll workers are, from left, Stan Doten, Sue Bishop and Steve Chin.

\$900,000 set aside, part of which is a mandatory reserve for economic uncertainties.)

With reserves so tight, departing staff may not be replaced, but the passage of Measure P has made outright layoffs unlikely, Mr. Anderson said.

Measure P overlaps and supersedes the current parcel tax of \$196, which expires in July 2008. The new \$311 tax is permanent; only a vote by the trustees can cancel it.

Earning each vote

The survey results put the kibosh on the trustees' original idea last fall for a tax increase of about \$200 per parcel. With Measure P winning 75 percent approval for a \$115 raise, could the trustees have asked for more?

"I believe a comfortable margin is an endorsement of what we are doing, not an indication that we should have asked for more," Mr. Anderson said, adding that he

was not surprised by the result.

The get-out-the-vote campaign had over 100 volunteers helping in mailings, phone banks and precinct walks, and it has been effective, he said. It wasn't an entirely uphill battle. The survey did show support for a \$98 increase. And in 1995, 81 percent of voters approved a \$98 tax; voters then doubled the tax in 2001 with 76 percent approval.

Still, he said, "you have to go for every 'yes' vote. ... We didn't want to take that support for granted. You want to earn it each time."

A still-unofficial total of 2,798 votes were cast from a pool of 7,710 registered voters in the district, a turnout of 36 percent, according to numbers provided by the San Mateo County Elections Office. Of the vote tally, 71 percent — 1,978 votes — were absentee, said Elections Manager David Tom.

"Small elections tend to have a much higher percentage of absentee voting than large elections," Mr. Tom said.

A low turnout is also typical for a special election in the Las Lomitas district. The general election in the November 2004 presidential election drew 6,198 registered voters from the district, but the March primary attracted only 3,916, said Mary Wright, a parent who handled statistics for the Measure P campaign.

This special election had the added distinction of not having larger matters, such as candidates for major state or federal offices, to draw voters' attention.

The Elections Office received 2,801 ballots for Measure P, three more than the vote tally. Some voters may have decided to vote neither yes nor no, Mr. Tom said.

Still to be counted are 72 provisional ballots and 223 absentee ballots handed in on election day, Mr. Tom said. ■

Voting machine receives raves and rants

■ Some find it simple; others are perplexed.

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The days of using a pen or a pencil to vote in San Mateo County are not gone yet — you can vote absentee on paper or request a paper ballot at the polls — but many voters will be spinning dials and pressing buttons on the eSlate voting machine in November.

"It's simple, very simple. It was pretty self-instructive," said Menlo Park resident and mother

Maureen Goode of the eSlate machine. "It's really easy," added her daughter Erin.

The Almanac spoke with voters on March 6 as they emerged from Menlo Park polling places at Bethany Lutheran Church and La Entrada Middle School after voting on Measure P, a parcel tax increase for the Las Lomitas Elementary School District.

Cecelia Pinto, mother of two, said she "figured it out standing there." "It's easier than an ATM," she added.

Not everyone agreed.

"It's very complicated and I'm pretty computer savvy," said

Sarah Van Praag, who is retired from a career in banking. "I'm not going to send my husband because he's not going to understand it. ... I think elderly people will have a tough time with it."

"It took 10 seconds to get used to the (dial). It's really sort of not intuitive," said Stan Brodsky, a physicist in his 60s. "Once you get used to it, it works," he added.

The machine's resemblance to a touch-screen system and the paper receipt posed problems for computer veteran Neil

See **VOTING**, page 12



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Board gives green light to Hillview Middle School rebuild

HILLVIEW

continued from page 5

million to the estimated \$35 million cost of the Hillview rebuild, according to Superintendent Ken Ranella. This option also raised operational concerns during construction and demolition.

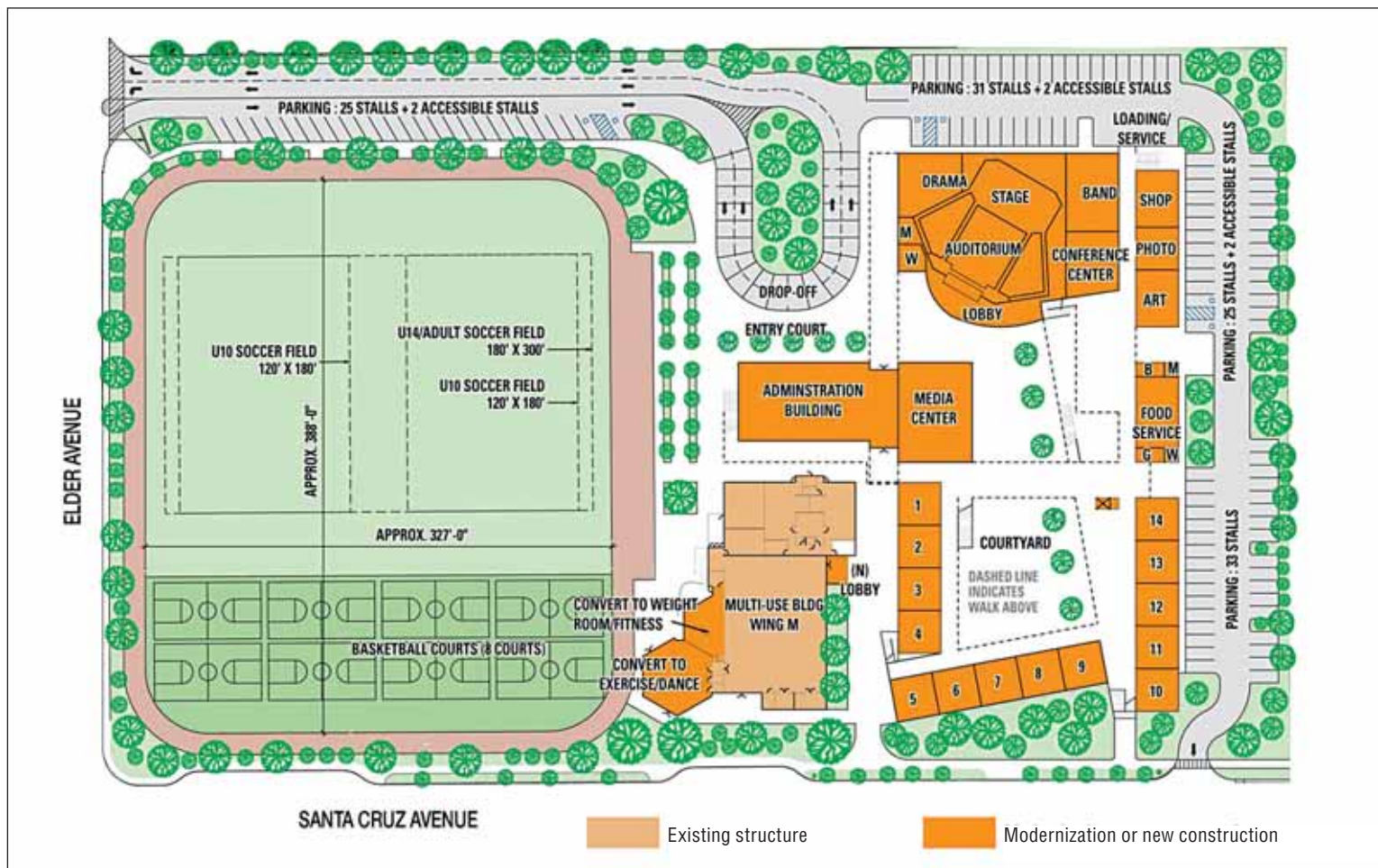
Neighbors concerns

Some neighbors of the school reiterated their concerns about increased traffic, congestion, parking, and students on the small site, and the impact of construction and the new buildings on the livability of their properties.

Charles Bourne, speaking as a Hillview neighbor and not as a new member of Menlo Park's Transportation Commission, said the district was taking a "minimalist approach" in notifying neighbors of the meetings dealing with Hillview and did not provide background information prior to the meetings.

Hillview Drive resident Dave Montague told trustees that they had chosen "the wrong plan" for the district middle school. "The right plan would be a five-campus plan with two middle schools, grade 5-8, on the district's largest sites, Encinal and Hillview," he said. His model would re-open the O'Connor School site, now leased to the German American international School, as a K-4 school.

His comments drew a reaction from parents who emphasized that Hillview must continue as a middle school, serving all students in the district. A quality middle school program depends on advantages of scale that enable choices of electives, appropriate class sizes, a range of programs, and use of specialists to meet stu-



Conceptual architectural plan/Deems Lewis McKinley

Under a plan approved by the school board, new Hillview Middle School facilities would be built on the right, where the playground is now. Two-story classroom buildings would face an interior courtyard. An auditorium complex would have space for band, drama and conference rooms. Another building along the perimeter would house art, photography and shop programs. On the left, soccer fields and eight basketball courts, encircled by a running track, would be built where school buildings are now. The entrance to the school would be via a loop road from Elder Avenue to the drop-off area in back.

dent needs, they said. "Hillview is the crown jewel of Menlo Park schools," said parent Kim Young.

Parent Michael Stoner urged the board to move forward and continue the "open public process," adding that "time is critical."

A Hillview Court neighbor suggested the district form "brainstorming" or "focus" groups for neighbors to discuss issues with

district representatives and speed up the process.

Trustees unanimously adopted Superintendent Ranella's recommendations to authorize building facilities on the existing field, continuing the development of design specifications to meet specific educational goals, and beginning the preliminary environmental study to be conducted by a con-

sultant.

"I really appreciate the board taking action to move ahead on the project," said Superintendent Ranella. "Personally, I'm highly excited at the process of developing, designing and constructing a 21st century school to meet the needs of middle school students well into the future." ■

■ INFORMATION

For more information, check the Menlo Park district's Web site, www.mpcsd.org. To send comments or questions to trustees, e-mail board@mpcsd.org. Each e-mail goes to all five trustees and the superintendent.

FOLGER

continued from page 5

"This is a beautiful stable," said Bill Lane, pointing to the venerable building's woodwork and design. "The effort that the Folgers put into the design was not typical of these big estates' stables."

Mr. Lane and his wife, Jean, Portola Valley residents and frequent supporters of open space and equestrian projects, are among the major donors to the Folger stable project and recently gave \$150,000 toward its \$1 million endowment fund.

Other donors who gave major gifts during the quiet phase of the fund-raising campaign include: Bob Bachler and family; Susie and Riley Bechtel; the Blue Oak Foundation; Sonja and Bill Davidow; Rob and Susan Flint; the Fleishhacker Foundation; the Hurlbut-Johnson Fund; Ms. Lang and Robert Lev-

enson; Joyce Wunderlich Pearson; Barbara and David Roux; Jo and Albert Schreck; Kathleen Scutchfield; David and Karie Thomson; Cynthia Wunderlich; and Akiko Yamazaki and Jerry Yang.

"This recent half-way financial milestone is wonderful news, but the hardest work of the campaign begins now," said Ms. Lang. "We will need the support of the entire community to reach our goal."

Without the community's support, the stable is destined for demolition by neglect, Ms. Lang said. ■

■ INFORMATION

Information about the Folger stable project is available online at www.parksupport.org by clicking on "Preservation," or by calling 851-2660. Wunderlich Park is located at 4040 Woodside Road, near the Portola Road intersection.

Local rainfall far less than last year

Menlo Park's rainfall total, at 6.35 inches on Feb. 26, is less than half the 12.85 inches recorded last year at this time, said resident Bill Russ, who tracks local precipitation with a rain gauge at his Cotton Street home.

The California Department of Water Resources reported in February that the statewide snow pack in the Sierra Nevada mountains is at about two-thirds of the average for this time of year. Above-average precipitation in February offset "a very dry January," said Arthur Hinojosa, a hydrologist with the department.

■ BRIEFS

Reservoir storage is above normal statewide, but slightly below the February 2006 level at the Lower Crystal Springs reservoir near San Bruno, according to state data.

Civil grand jury seeks members

Are you at least 18 years old, of ordinary intelligence and a resident of San Mateo County? Then you could be eligible to join the civil grand jury.

The civil grand jury investigates government agencies and issues reports and recommendations — it does not deal in criminal matters. Applications for service on the 2007-2008 grand jury are being accepted

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Online

BevMo spokesman: We'll be back

■ Alcohol retailer withdraws proposal for Santa Cruz Avenue store, but still wants Menlo Park location.

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Nationwide alcohol retailer Beverages & More (BevMo) has given up on plans to set up shop in downtown Menlo Park, but the franchise hasn't given up on building a full-scale store in the city.

BevMo's previous plans called for a smaller-scale shop of 5,000 square feet with a wine tasting bar in the former Dal Baffo restaurant site on Santa Cruz Avenue — a proposal local alcohol merchants and small businesses vehemently opposed, claiming the alcohol retailer would hurt local businesses and change the character of the city's downtown area.

BevMo co-founder Steve McLaren said high costs associated with trying to change the design of the store to city staff's liking, not opposition from local businesses, led BevMo to withdraw the proposal. He said BevMo still plans to find a new Menlo Park location to build a full-scale store, similar to the store in Redwood City.

"The economics of it just didn't work out for us once we started changing the frontage of the building," Mr. McLaren said. "The opposition didn't bother us, and had nothing to do with

our decision. We liked working with [city staff], and we're still coming to Menlo Park."

David Johnson, the city's business development manager, said BevMo likely is in the market for an 8,000- to 10,000-square-foot building for its full-size store, but there aren't any available sites of that size in Menlo Park.

He said the vacant auto dealerships along El Camino Real are a potential location, but noted that BevMo probably is looking to occupy an existing building, not build a new structure.

Opposition

Local businesses, headed by Beltramo's Wines and Spirits, campaigned against the new BevMo store once the nationwide alcohol retailer's plans were made public in July.

John and Dan Beltramo could not be reached for comment.

Sophie Lo, who owns the former Dal Baffo site, said potential competitors painted BevMo as "an enemy" to small businesses. BevMo would have increased business activity in the city's downtown area, she said.

"Local competitors went out of their way to work against BevMo and blow this whole situation out of proportion, and it

was just becoming too costly for [BevMo] to do this," she said. "I don't know what I'm going to do with this building now."

Six alcohol vendors — including Beltramo's and Draeger's — formed a group called the Menlo Park Purveyors of Wines and Spirits in August, and wrote a letter to the Planning Commission, urging commissioners to reject the issuance of a use permit for BevMo to move into the Dal Baffo site.

Several weeks later, a similar letter signed by 65 businesses opposed to the BevMo proposal was mailed to Menlo Park residents.

'Free market system'

Some City Council members acknowledged concerns that a BevMo store — of any size — could impact local businesses, but ultimately, they thought, more businesses are good for the city.

"From a completely capitalistic point of view, businesses have the right to go into competing markets," said Councilman Richard Cline. "I'm wary to get in the way of a free market system."

"Menlo Park benefits by having more retail business," said Councilman Andy Cohen. "I'm sensitive to the concerns, but I need to think about what's best for Menlo Park." ■

Menlo Park auto mall closer to reality

■ General Motors set to acquire 22-acre site this week.

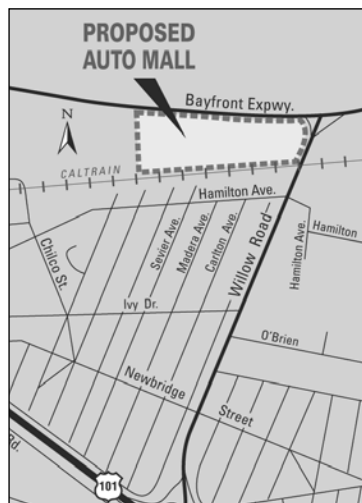
By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

If all goes according to plan, General Motors will own a 22-acre site in east Menlo Park by March 16, and move ahead with a proposal to build an auto mall there.

GM is buying the site, located at the intersection of Willow Road and Bayfront Expressway, from Tyco Electronics.

The sale should be a done deal by March 16, said David Johnson, the city's business development manager.

Once GM owns the property,



General Motors plans to buy this site from Tyco Electronics.

the automaker can move forward with an environmental impact

report and traffic studies associated with plans to build the auto mall.

Under the proposal, GM dealerships would be up and running by late-2008, and would occupy 8.5 acres of the site. GM is trying to attract other auto dealerships or retail uses to fill the remaining 13.5 acres — a process that should be easier once the automaker owns the site, Mr. Johnson said.

The city and GM have agreed to evenly split — between GM and the city — the city's sales tax revenue generated from GM auto sales at the proposed site. The split would last 15 years or until GM gets \$10 million. The city would not share sales tax revenue with non-GM dealerships and other retailers. ■

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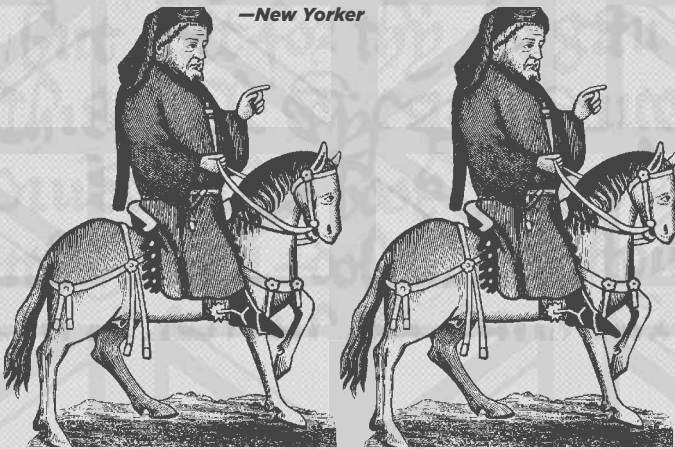
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Students, parents rally to win tenure for teacher

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

La Entrada Middle School's Latin and seventh-grade teacher Michael Dumbra now knows who his friends are. Upon learning on March 6 that Mr. Dumbra might not be rehired for the 2007-08 school year, his students, former students, their parents and his teaching colleagues rallied, on the Web and in person, to keep him at the school.



Michael Dumbra

On Friday, March 9, they got their wish: An overflow crowd in the school library whooped and hollered and clapped for joy when Board of Trustees President Lee Anderson announced a unanimous decision to grant tenure to Mr. Dumbra, and to deny the recommendation against tenure.

Neither of La Entrada's administrators would comment on why Mr. Dumbra, a certified teacher who has a master's degree in Greek and Latin from Stanford University, was not recommended for tenure, citing state law that forbids disclosure of personnel information.

A teacher denied tenure can't continue teaching at the same school the following school year, and the denial is entered in the teacher's record, said Wally Powell, the teachers' union representative at La Entrada.

"I'm really happy that it turned out the way that it did, and Mr.

Dumbra definitely deserves to keep his job," Audrey Proulx, a La Entrada alumna now attending Pinewood School in Los Altos, told the Almanac.

She spoke in Mr. Dumbra's defense Friday at the crowded school board meeting, which was convened, in part, to rule on tenure recommendations.

"Mr. Dumbra is the best teacher I have ever had," she told the crowd. "He is that rare teacher (who) can inspire not only the smart kids, but the kids that need extra help. ... Mr. Dumbra should be winning teaching awards, not being fired."

The trustees acted after listening to an hour and a half of undiluted public praise for Mr. Dumbra from one speaker after another.

"It would be foolish to get rid of a great teacher," said parent Ron Espeseth as he held back tears.

"(Firing) a good teacher is what I'd like to call stabbing yourself in the foot, or shooting



La Entrada sixth-graders Becca Milman, left, and Ashley Song speak to an overflow crowd at the school library in support of teacher Michael Dumbra.

The Almanac/David Boyce

yourself in the foot, or whatever kind of self-inflicting pain you want to pick," said seventh-grader Timothy Coleman.

"Mike Dumbra makes me proud of my profession," said Spanish teacher Dorian Dunne. "He's just phenomenal and this district is phenomenal and, to me, that's a good match."

Why?

Mr. Dumbra learned of the recommendation against his

tenure on Tuesday, March 6, said a parent close to the La Entrada community.

Tenure is typically granted to encourage academic freedom and to protect a teacher from being fired without cause.

At La Entrada, after a two-year probationary period, a teacher's supervisor makes a recommendation on tenure to the superintendent of the Las Lomitas Elementary School District, who makes a recommendation to the trustees, whose decision is final, the teachers' union representative said.

Why would a teacher so widely admired not be recommended for tenure? "That's a great question and it's simply one that I cannot answer," said Principal Dee Brummett said, citing laws requiring confidentiality in personnel matters. Asked if she was

happy that Mr. Dumbra had received tenure, she replied "Yes, I am."

Confidentiality also prevented Assistant Principal Pattie Dullea from discussing the recommendation for tenure denial with the Almanac.

Mr. Dumbra would not comment, nor would other teachers and staff.

Who is this guy?

In addition to his degree from Stanford, Mr. Dumbra, 34, taught in graduate school there before coming to La Entrada, where he teaches Latin to sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders, and seventh-grade core classes of English and social studies.

He's done other things, too. "I've had every other job on



Superintendent Shirley Martin with board president Lee Anderson at the meeting where students, parents and teachers lavished praise on teacher Michael Dumbra.

The Almanac/David Boyce

See **TENURE**, page 24

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YOGA FOR EVERYONE						
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10 Weeks - Bring exercise mat and wear comfortable clothing	Tues.	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM		Wdse. Village Church Guild Hall	\$150	March 20
10 Weeks	Thurs.	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM		Wdse. Village Church Guild Hall	\$150	March 22
10 Weeks	Fri.	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM		Independence Hall	\$150	March 23
LOW IMPACT AEROBICS & JOYFLEX BODY TONING						
13 Weeks No class May 28 & June 1	Mon.	7:45 AM - 9:00 AM	Joy Lopez	Independence Hall	\$384	April 2
Healthy Back, Cardio, Inner-Core Strengthening	Fri.	7:45 AM - 9:00 AM		Independence Hall	\$21 drop in	April 6
MUSIC TOGETHER						
10 Weeks No Class May 26	Tues.	8:30 AM - 9:15 AM	Sean Mendelson	Wdse. Library	\$140	April 10
Ages 0-4 Years	Tues.	9:15 AM - 10:00 AM		Wdse. Library	\$140	April 10
Creative Classes	Tues.	10:15 AM - 11:00 AM		Wdse. Library	\$140	April 10
For Children	Fri.	1:00 PM - 1:45 PM		Independence Hall	\$140	April 6
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What should happen to the Cadillac site in Menlo Park?

■ Derry opponents say council should halt project, focus on improving all of El Camino Real.

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

With the fate of the Derry condo-commercial project still unknown, the Menlo Park City Council will turn its attention to plans to build a similar project at an adjacent site, home of the former Cadillac dealership.

At its March 13 meeting, the council is scheduled to hold a study session on a proposal to build 134 apartments and 81,000 square feet of commercial space at the former car dealership, a 3.45-acre site at 1300 El Camino Real. No council action is required, but the council may give direction on some aspects of the project.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets.

Morris Brown, head of the residents' group Menlo Park Tomorrow, said the proposal for the Cadillac site — like the Derry project before it — calls

for too many homes per acre; buildings that are too tall; and is a project that would significantly increase traffic. He said the council should create a comprehensive plan for all of El Camino Real before approving any major projects.

"[Menlo Park Tomorrow] has a lot of concerns — the same concerns we have with Derry," Mr. Brown said. "This project really needs to be put off until a plan for all of El Camino Real is in place."

Mr. Brown's group led a successful referendum campaign against the 135-condominium Derry project last fall. The residents' group and the developer have been in negotiations for four months to reach a compromise project, but have yet to reach an agreement.

Wait on Derry?

Councilman Andy Cohen said the council should wait on moving forward with the Cadillac

proposal until the Derry negotiations are resolved.

The Derry project is planned for a 3.4-acre site adjacent to the former Cadillac site.

"I can't imagine [the project] going anywhere until the differences with Derry are worked out," Mr. Cohen said. Some of Mr. Cohen's key political supporters, including Mr. Brown, are members of Menlo Park Tomorrow.

Councilman John Boyle said the council can still opt to move

ahead with the Cadillac site proposal before the Derry negotiations are resolved.

"They're different projects with different issues," he said. "We can review [the Cadillac site proposal] with the absence of a Derry decision — they're separate projects."

Jeff Warmoth, vice president of Sand Hill Property Co., the developer that owns the Cadillac site, said he hopes the project moves forward as planned, and

if all goes well, construction could start as early as October.

"We want to build a project that people buy into," Mr. Warmoth said. "Our specialty is getting high-quality projects built quickly. ... We think this is going to be a great place to live."

The project includes 23 below-market-rate homes. All of the apartments would be one- and two-bedroom units, and would range from 800 square feet to 1,100 square feet, Mr. Warmoth said. ■

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Voting machine receives raves and rants

VOTING

continued from page 7

Wilhelm. The receipt "is too small for someone with slightly degraded vision to see," he said. "I'm glad it prints paper. The purely electronic ones are the devil's playground."

"If he hadn't stood there, I'm not sure I would have figured it out," said Mr. Wilhelm's wife Laura Hill, who works at Sun Microsystems.

"Those are all problems that we're very well aware of," said county elections manager David Tom. No machine is perfect but eSlate, developed by Hart Inter-civic of Austin, Texas, is notable for its integrity and accuracy, he said.

"At some point, you have to make a decision based on what's available," Mr. Tom said. "Ease of use is something that has to do with more familiarity."

The eSlate stores a vote four ways: as a printed receipt, and



Photo courtesy of Fort Bend County, Texas.

The eSlate electronic voting machine, now in use for San Mateo County elections, has the outer dimensions of an 8-1/2 by 11-inch sheet of paper.

electronically in three different locations at the polls, said an Elections Office official. It has been evaluated in an independent lab, Mr. Tom said.

Among its features, the eSlate is operable by people with disabilities, the voter can go back and change a vote, and the voter can cross-check his or her choices with the printed receipt before casting the vote.

Getting to know you

In San Mateo County, voters who go to the polls to vote will become quite familiar with the eSlate machine over the next 12 months.

Elections are scheduled for May and November, and the governor may sign a bill, now in the state Legislature, to move up California's presidential primary from June to February.

In August 2006, the county Board of Supervisors approved spending \$10.4 million — offset by federal and state grants of \$9.1 million — for 2,100 eSlate devices. The decision reflected a year and a half of comparison shopping, Mr. Tom said. ■

Post news and views on Town Square

www.AlmanacNews.com

New rector at Trinity Church

The Rev. Michael Spillane will lead holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park as the 16th rector in the church's 123-year history.

He is set to preside over all four Sunday services on March 18, said a Trinity spokeswoman.

The Rev. Spillane, his wife, and their two children, have been living in Idaho, where he led a suburban Boise parish, the Church of Holy Nativity. Since September, Holy Trinity has been led by an interim rector, the Rev. Anne Jensen.

Holy Trinity is located at 330 Ravenswood Ave in Menlo Park. For information about services, Sunday school and activities, call 326-2083 or go to Trinity-MenloPark.org.



Michael Spillane

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Preschool decision headed back to council

The Menlo Park City Council is scheduled to make a final decision whether Casa dei Bambini preschool should be allowed to set up shop east of U.S. 101, in the industrial part of the city.

The decision is listed as a regular business item on the council's March 13 meeting, which is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between laurel and Alma streets.

The Montessori school would serve up to 72 children ages 2 to 6 in the city's industrial zone, at 1215 O'Brien Drive. But some members of the community — including nearby business owners and landlords — say putting small children in an industrial zone will create health concerns, and spark new safety regulations.

The Planning Commission unanimously opposed the project, but the council voted 4-1 (with John Boyle opposed) to overturn that decision at its Feb. 6 meeting. The council held

■ MENLO WATCH

off on giving the school final approval after attorneys representing the school and nearby businesses said they wanted to work out a new project that would be more accepting to the business community.

The two groups did not reach an agreement, said Thomas Rogers, an associate planner with the city.

Climate task force to meet March 14

Menlo Park Mayor Kelly Fergusson is encouraging all people interested in joining her global warming task force to attend the group's first meeting on Wednesday, March 14.

The meeting will be held in the basement of the Menlo Park Library at 800 Alma St., from 4 to 6 p.m. Although the task force is not a council-appointed body, Ms. Fergusson said all task force meetings will be open to the public.

City sets timeline for manager search

The Menlo Park City Council unanimously approved on March 6 a timeline for finding a new city manager. The city will accept applications through April 30, under the plan laid out by consulting firm Bob Murray and Associates. The consultant will review resumes and interview candidates in May, and council members will interview finalists in June.

Citizen journalist events in Palo Alto

Citizen journalism, video blogging and other Internet-driven media trends are highlighted at two upcoming salons at the Media Center in Palo Alto.

On Wednesday, March 21, at 7:30 p.m., former San Jose Mercury News columnist and author Dan Gillmor will discuss "citizen journalism" with J.D. Lasica, cofounder of ourmedia.org, a YouTube forerunner.

On Wednesday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m., pioneering video bloggers Jay Dedman and Ryanne Hodson offer instruction for creating and distributing video on the Internet.

The cost is \$8 for each salon. The Media Center is located at 900 San Antonio Road in Palo Alto; for information call 856-4363.

Think Globally, Post Locally

Daughter-in-law serves in Afghanistan

Chief Master Sgt. Roni Harlan, the daughter-in-law of Vivian Harlan of central Menlo Park, has redeployed to southwest Asia as part of the U. S. Air Force's 379th Air Expeditionary Wing to support U. S. forces engaged in the war in Afghanistan.

Ms. Harlan was most recently assigned to the Air Education and Training Command at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, an Air Force spokesperson said. Her new unit has the task of assisting in the fueling and aerial refueling of U.S. and NATO aircraft.

Ms. Harlan is married and is a mission support group chief with 22 years of military service.

■ PEOPLE

Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia.

Hiller Museum names new CEO

Jeffrey Bass is the new CEO of the Hiller Aviation Institute and Museum, according to announcement by the institute's chairman Steve Hiller. Mr. Bass replaces Dan Putman.

Mr. Bass, who grew up in San Jose, spent 18 years as director of planetarium and astronomy programs for the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He then became vice president of education, public programs and IMAX at the Milwaukee Public Museum. He has a private pilot's license.

The Hiller Museum is located at the San Carlos Airport, 601 Skyway Road in San Carlos, near U.S. 101. It is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.


Officer commissioned

Dejha E. Harris, daughter of Bruce E. Harris, a resident of the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Menlo Park, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Signal Corps of the U.S. Army after graduating from



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- * INFANT MASSAGE**

Learn the techniques of infant massage to relax and soothe a baby, to relieve the temporary discomforts of gas and soreness of vaccination sites, and to stimulate a baby as he or she grows into an active child.

 - Thursdays in March
 - Saturday, March 17 (One-Day Intro Class)
- * 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.

 - Saturday, March 24
- * PRENATAL YOGA**

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 - Saturday, April 14

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Davide Bigazzi reaches for a hand-made punch while working on a piece of metal in his Allied Arts studio. On opposite page, examples of Mr. Bigazzi's handiwork: a hollowware vase, a gold necklace, and an uncomplete silver necklace.

Old World style

Local jeweler practices ancient, time-demanding metalworking techniques taught by a master

Davide Bigazzi sits at a workbench in his small, warmly lit studio, the master of his space.

On the wall behind him are rows of hammers he crafted himself. A few feet in front of him, there's a long, metal-covered showcase displaying dazzling silver and gold necklaces, bracelets, rings and other pieces of wearable

art — also his handiwork.

On the workbench are tools and pieces of metal he is working on this rainy morning in February, calling upon the uncommon skills he learned as an apprentice to a renowned sculptor and jeweler in

the city of his birth — which also happens to be the birthplace of the Renaissance and home to noted Old World artists past and present.

"Sometimes I feel strange here," Mr. Bigazzi says, his accent reflecting his origins in Florence, Italy.

Story by Renee Batti

COVER STORY



Here, on the quiet grounds of Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park, the 37-year-old Portola Valley resident is immersed in a world in which everything he does requires intensive time and focus. Yet, he notes, he finds himself practicing his slow, Old World art in the heart of the New World of high-tech, high-speed innovation. The irony is not lost on him.

“We’re in the future here,” he says. “To me, it’s a game to be in the most (technologically) advanced place in the world, and do everything by hand.”

And he does mean everything. Not only does he make his own metalworking tools, he also works from gold and silver ingots to create for himself the metal sheets he ultimately sculpts and shapes into jewelry and hollowware, such as plates and vases.

But what lifts Mr. Bigazzi’s Old World practices from metal craft to art is his use of centuries-old techniques known as chasing and repoussé, which he calls “the purest and most expressive forms of metal-smithing.”

They are metal-sculpting techniques that require a solid investment of time and attention to detail, but that produce results of ornamentation that cannot be duplicated

using other, faster methods, he says.

A proper space

Mr. Bigazzi and his American wife, Elisa, have occupied the shop at Allied Arts Guild since October, around the time they moved to Portola Valley from San Diego. The space is a fitting one for the enterprise: Allied Arts was established in the 1920s as an arts and crafts colony, and in the early days, metalworkers — as well as woodworkers, potters and other craftsmen — practiced their art there.

While Mr. Bigazzi designs and creates his metal artwork, his wife takes care of the business end of the couple’s venture, which includes not only local sales but exhibits in art fairs and galleries all over the country, and teaching metalwork and jewelry making workshops both at the local studio and in Italy.

In addition to promoting her husband’s work to gallery owners and other outlets, Ms. Bigazzi is eager to educate the public about the art of chasing and repoussé, and her husband’s reputation in the world of metal-smithing. “He’s one of the best in the world in these techniques,” she states.

The techniques date from antiquity, and examples of the use of

repoussé can be seen in 4,000-year-old Greek armor and other artifacts of war and decor.

Mr. Bigazzi describes repoussé as the process of forming the contours of a design from the back of a metal sheet, using a blunt tool called a punch, which is struck with a hammer. Chasing refers to the detailing of a design from the front of the metal sheet, using smaller, specially shaped punches, he says.

‘A little paradise’

Davide Bigazzi was only 14 when he began helping out in a Florentine foundry for sculpture, “just for fun.” Soon after, he met artist Bino Bini, a well known Florentine sculptor and jewelry maker, who asked the boy if he wanted to apprentice for him.

Mr. Bini, who died earlier this year, had a studio close to the Bigazzi family home, and the young Davide signed on as his apprentice.

“For me, it was a little paradise,” he says. “I grew up near the center of Florence, and art (and design) was the environment that you breathed every day.”

Mr. Bigazzi apprenticed with his mentor for five years, and at age 19, he became an instructor at the International School of Metal Arts in Florence. His early career then

ranged from work as a bench jeweler and model maker to designer, and once he began working as a freelancer, his designs ended up in collections of prestigious Italian companies and fashion houses, including Gucci.

After winning the International Artisans Award competition in 1995, he decided to quit his design career and return to handcrafting work.

During some of those years, he also took a break from jewelry and hollowware design to build a house just outside Florence. “I was absorbed by the work, but needed to stop (for a while). It was time to take a break and make something bigger than jewelry.”

He set up a metalworking studio in his newly built house, which he still owns.

Coming to the New World

With Mr. Bigazzi’s work gaining increasing popularity in the United States, the couple moved in 2002 to California, where they had met.

“When we came here, I came with the decision to do things (in his work) as they must be done,” Mr. Bigazzi says.

Having learned from a master — and having developed the skills and

Continued on page 16

**WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 1608 (2007)**

**RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX
CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY
SANITARY DISTRICT
ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE**

Lands of Buchsbaum, Tidmarsh and Moulds

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR"), which was adopted by the District Board on August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.

B. The District has received an application to annex parcels of real property (the "Parcels") to the District's On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the "Zone"). The Parcels are described in Exhibits "A, 1-4" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibits "B, 1-2" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference.

C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes "real property" for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:

All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or

Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit "B" and are incorporated by reference.

D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.

2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: April 23, 2007

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices

500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i.).

4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.

5. The District Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

Passed and adopted by the District Board of the West Bay Sanitary District at a regular meeting thereof held on the 26th day of February, 2007 by the following vote:

AYES: Shepherd, Walker, Knight, Lomax, Harrison

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

/s/ Ronald Shepherd

President of the District Board of the
West Bay Sanitary District of San Mateo
County, State of California

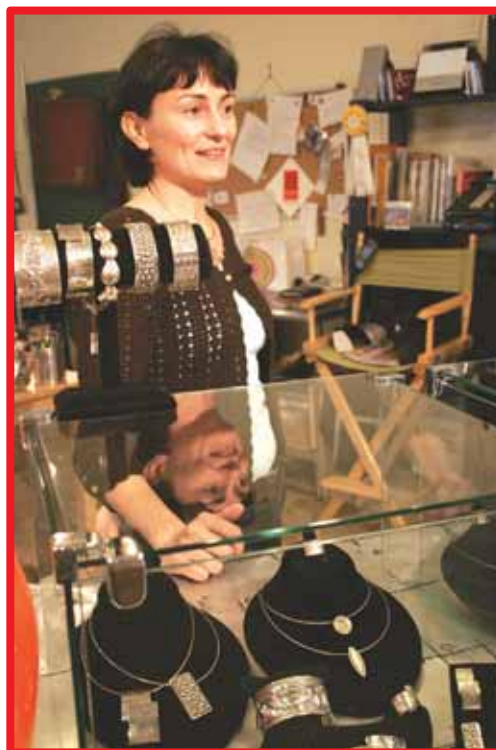
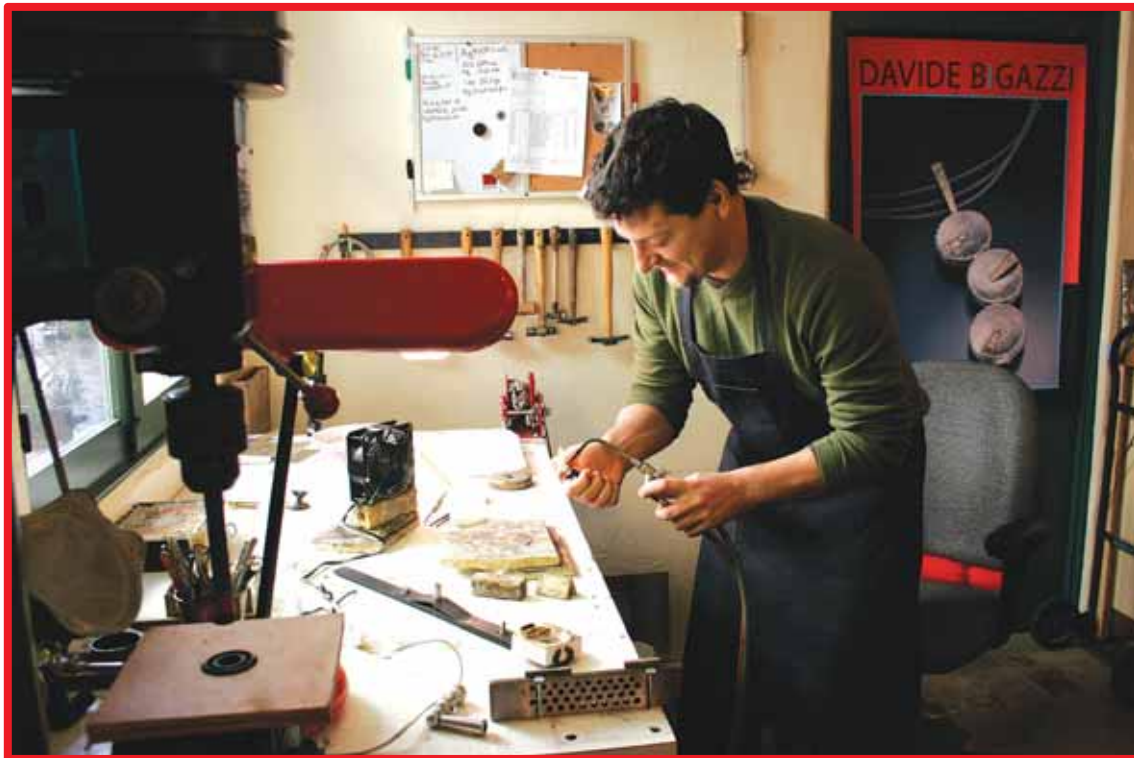
Attest:

/s/ David Walker

Secretary of the District Board of the
West Bay Sanitary District of San Mateo
County, State of California

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on March 7, 14, 2007.

COVER STORY



Top photo: **Soldering tools** are critical for Mr. Bigazzi's metalworking.

At left: **Elisa Bigazzi**, who takes care of the business end of the couple's enterprise.

So they made the move, setting up shop right next to the Edith Schneider Jewelry & Accessories store.

The location works well for the Bigazzis. They enjoy having visitors to the shop, but it's not so busy that Mr. Bigazzi can't get any work done.

"Unfortunately, I like to talk," he admits. "On a busy street, he'd never get anything done, because he loves to talk," his wife confirms.

Yet, interacting with others "gives me energy sometimes," he adds. "I'm more creative when I have somebody to talk to."

Workshops allow him that interaction and the means to help keep the chasing and repoussé metalwork techniques alive, but he's not planning to crank up the speed of his life by opening a school. "Everything must remain slow," he insists.

He feels lucky, he says, that he is able to be in the fast-paced Silicon Valley and still maintain that slow pace, but at times he also feels "like somebody in a zoo — like someone who grows chickens in the middle of New York."

His studio workshops are held about once a month, with the next one set for April 21-22. In June, he's conducting a chasing and repoussé workshop in his Tuscan studio just outside Florence. Information on the workshops can be found at dbcollection.net. ■

OLD WORLD

continued from page 15

sense of design of a master himself — he felt a responsibility to continue practicing and teaching the Old World techniques that few people are taking up in modern times.

On a trip to San Francisco for an art show, they visited a friend, fellow jewelry maker Edith Schneider, who has a studio at Allied Arts Guild. "We had no intention of moving here, but we loved the environment," Ms. Bigazzi says.

THE STUDIO

Davide Bigazzi Studio is at 75 Arbor Road, Suite K, at Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park. The Bigazzis will be away from the studio until Wednesday, March 21, when they return from a show. For information, call 323-1923, or log on at dbcollection.net.

Community

NEWS OF LOCAL PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Woodside show celebrates seniors

By Barbara Wood
Special to the Almanac

Every year Woodside High School's seniors get up on stage to strut their stuff and raise money for the school's athletic programs in what is called a "fashion show," but is really a celebration of the talent, energy and creativity of the senior class.

This year's production, titled "07 Wonders of the World" is on Saturday, March 31, in the school's Performing Arts Center. Shows are at 1 p.m., with a buffet lunch, and at 5 p.m. The show involves 90 students, more than 50 parents, and school staff, teachers and coaches. Parents Diane Carr of Woodside and Chris Mantani of Redwood City are co-chairs of the event, working together for the third year.

"The fashion show's going to be amazing," says senior Nick Mantani, who along with his twin sister and three other sets

of twins and two of a set of triplets will model clothes from the Gap during the show. Nick maintains that part of the reason this year's show will shine is because many of the seniors had older siblings who they feel honor bound to outdo.

The students are each assigned to a store that has volunteered to lend clothes to the event. They then choreograph their own "runway" appearance, including music, skits and props — or "have fun with it and play," as Nick says.

Rosie Breen, a lacrosse player from Portola Valley, says her

classmates feel it is important to raise money for the school's athletic program because so many of them took advantage of it.

"We are an athletic class," Rosie says. Lots of stores that sell athletic gear are involved in the show, making it even more fun for the students to model, she adds.

Diane Carr says having the fashion show in the Performing Arts Center instead of the school's multi-purpose room has made it better than ever. "It was a huge, huge success," she says of last year's first show in the PAC.

See FASHION, page 18



Photo by David Larsen

In last year's show, seniors Jorge Sosa, left, and Jeremy Johnson strut down the runway while others cheer.



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Sun, March 25 (1 - 3 pm)

Meeting location: 735 Homer Ave, Palo Alto

RSVP: Katie Pilat (650-961-1035 x305,
katie@sanfranciscuito.org)

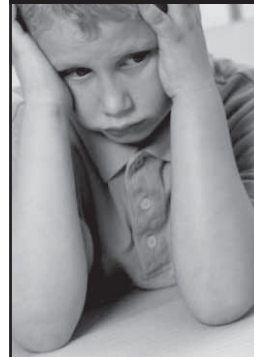
More info at www.sanfranciscuito.org/runoff



Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part through an Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) pursuant to the Costa-Machado Water Act of 2000 (Proposition 13) and any amendments thereto for the implementation of California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program.

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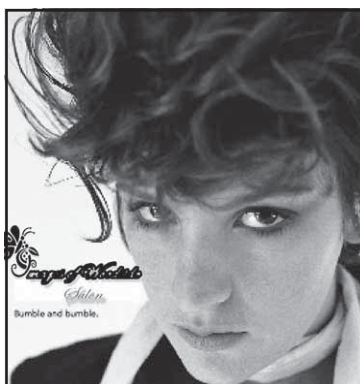
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**CITY OF MENLO PARK
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

ENGINEERING DIVISION

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR
SAND HILL ROAD: SANTA CRUZ AVE TO 280 HIGHWAY ENTRANCE
RESURFACING PROJECT- STP 2005-06
FEDERAL PROJECT NO. STPL 5273 (016)
CITY PROJECT NO. 20-016**

1. **BID OPENING.** The bidder shall complete and submit the blue copy of the Proposal to the City Council form that is inserted in the Contract Documents. No other copy of the Proposal Section will be accepted. Sealed bids, containing said blue copies of the completed Proposal Section, and subject to the conditions named herein and in the specifications **SAND HILL ROAD: SANTA CRUZ AVE TO 280 HIGHWAY ENTRANCE RESURFACING PROJECT-STP 2005-06**, addressed to the City of Menlo Park will be received at the office of the Engineering Division up to **2:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 28, 2007**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

2. **WORK DESCRIPTION.** The work to be done consists of repair of failed pavement sections and asphalt concrete resurfacing of Sand Hill Road at various blocks bounded between Santa Cruz Avenue towards 280 Freeway entrance, including area grind, installation of striping and pavement markings; and doing all appurtenant work in place and ready for use, all as shown on the plans and described in the specifications with the title indicated in paragraph 1 above, and on file in the Office of the Director of Engineering Services. Reference to said plans and specifications is hereby made for further particulars.

3. **WORKING DAYS.** The work under this Contract is to be completed in **fifty (50)** working days.

4. **CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE.** A Class "A" Contractor's License is required for this work. No bid will be accepted from a Contractor who has not been licensed in accordance with Chapter 9, Division 3 of the Business and Professional Code.

5. **BID DEPOSIT.** A Bid Deposit equals to at least ten percent (10%) of the total amount of the bid shall be placed in the sealed proposal. The Bid Deposit shall be in one of the following forms: cash, cashier's check or certified check payable to the City, or bidder's bond in favor of the City executed by an authorized surety company.

6. **PERFORMANCE BONDS.** Performance guaranty bonds as set forth in Section 4-3 of the Special Provisions will be required from the successful bidder.

7. **CITY'S RIGHT TO REJECT BIDS.** The right is reserved, as the interest of the City may require, to reject any or all bids, or to waive any informality or minor irregularity in the bids.

8. **GENERAL PREVAILING WAGE RATES.** Pursuant to Section 1773 of the Labor Code, the general prevailing wage rates in the county, or counties, in which the work is to be done have been determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations. These wages are set forth in the General Prevailing Wage Rates for this project, available at City of Menlo Park, 701 Laurel Street, CA 94025 and available from the California Department of Industrial Relations' Internet web site at <http://www.dir.ca.gov>.

9. The Federal minimum wage rates for this project as predetermined by the United States Secretary of Labor are set forth in the books issued for bidding purposes entitled "Proposal and Contract," and in copies of this book that may be examined at the offices described above where project plans, special provisions, and proposal forms may be seen. Addenda to modify the Federal minimum wage rates, if necessary, will be issued to holders of "Proposal and Contract" books. Future effective general prevailing wage rates, which have been predetermined and are on file with the California Department of Industrial Relations are referenced but not printed in the general prevailing wage rates.

Attention is directed to the Federal minimum wage rate requirements in the books entitled "Proposal and Contract." If there is a difference between the minimum wage rates predetermined by the Secretary of Labor and the general prevailing wage rates determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations for similar classifications of labor, the Contractor and subcontractors shall pay not less than the higher wage rate. The Department will not accept lower State wage rates not specifically included in the Federal minimum wage determinations. This includes "helper" (or other classifications based on hours of experience) or any other classification not appearing in the Federal wage determinations. Where Federal wage determinations do not contain the State wage rate determination otherwise available for use by the Contractor and subcontractors, the Contractor and subcontractors shall pay not less than the Federal minimum wage rate which most closely approximates the duties of the employees in question.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) provides a toll-free "hotline" service to report bid rigging activities. Bid rigging activities can be reported Mondays through Fridays, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., eastern time, Telephone No. 1-800-424-9071. Anyone with knowledge of possible bid rigging, bidder collusion, or other fraudulent activities should use the "hotline" to report these activities. The "hotline" is part of the DOT's continuing effort to identify and investigate highway construction contract fraud and abuse and is operated under the direction of the DOT Inspector General. All information will be treated confidentially and caller anonymity will be respected.

10. **OBTAINING THE PROJECT PLANS AND CONTRACT BOOK.** The project plans and the Contract Documents may be purchased at the Engineering Division upon payment of \$40.00 for each set. Project plans and the Contract Book will be mailed to prospective bidders upon payment of \$40.00 plus \$10.00 for postage and handling.

11. **OBTAINING THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SPECIFICATIONS.** The State of California Department of Transportation Standard Specifications and Standard Plans may be purchased at the State of California Department of Transportation Publication Distribution Unit, 1900 Royal Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA 95819; Telephone: (916) 445-3520; Fax: (916) 324-8997.

12. **WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSALS.** Any bid may be withdrawn at any time prior to the time fixed in the public notice for the opening of bids only by written request for the withdrawal of the bid filed with the Director of Engineering Services. The request shall be executed by the bidder or his/her duly authorized representative. The withdrawal of a bid does not prejudice the right of the bidder to file a new bid. Whether or not bids are opened exactly at the time fixed in the public notice for opening bids, a bid will not be received after that time nor may any bid be withdrawn after the time fixed in the public notice for opening of bids.

13. **RELIEF OF BIDDERS.** As stated in Public Contract Code Sections 5100 to 5108, inclusive (State Contract Act) concerning relief of bidders and in particular to the requirement therein, that if the bidder claims a mistake was made in his/her bid, the bidder shall give the Director of Engineering Services written notice within five (5) days after the opening of the bids of the alleged mistake, specifying in the notice in detail how the mistake occurred.

14. **DISQUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS.** More than one proposal from an individual, firm, partnership, corporation, or combination thereof under the same or different names will not be considered. Reasonable grounds for believing that any individual, firm, partnership, corporation or combination thereof is interested in more than one proposal for the work contemplated may cause the rejection of all proposals in which such individual, firm, partnership, corporation or combination thereof is interested. If there is reason for believing that collusion exists among the bidders, any or all proposals may be rejected. Proposals in which the prices obviously are unbalanced may be rejected.

15. **PREVIOUS DISQUALIFICATION, REMOVAL OR OTHER PREVENTION OF BIDDING.** A bid may be rejected on the basis of a bidder, any officer of such bidder, or any employee of such bidder who has a proprietary interest in such bidder, having been disqualified, removed, or otherwise prevented from bidding on, or completing a federal, state, or local project because of a violation of law or a safety regulation.

16. **RESPONSIBILITY FOR VERIFYING CONTRACT ADDENDA.** All bidders shall verify if any addenda for this project have been issued by the City of Menlo Park. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that all requirements of Contract addenda are included in the bidder's proposal.

17. **ESCROW FOR SECURITY DEPOSIT IN OF RETENTION.** Pursuant to Public Contract Code Section 22300, for monies earned by the Contractor and withheld by the City to ensure the performance of the Contract, the Contractor, may, at its option, choose to substitute securities meeting the requirements of said Public Contract Code Section 22300.

18. **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION.** Each prime and subcontract bidder will be required to comply with the City of Menlo Park Affirmative Action Program as set forth in Council Resolution No. 2340. Guidelines and report forms are provided with the Contract Documents and shall be considered part of any Contract made pursuant thereto.

19. **MINORITY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.** Prime Contractors must submit their Minority Employment Program (MEP) to the Director of Engineering Services with their bids. Subcontractors must submit their MEP reports within six (6) calendar days after the bid opening.

20. **DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (DBE). Bidders are advised that, as required by federal law, the State has established a statewide overall DBE goal.** This Agency federal-aid contract is considered to be part of the statewide overall DBE goal. The City of Menlo Park is required to report to Caltrans on DBE participation for all Federal-aid contracts each year so that attainment efforts may be evaluated. The City of Menlo Park hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability in consideration for an award. Bidders need not achieve the percentage stated in any DBE Availability Advisory as a condition of award. This project has an Availability Advisory of 9% percent disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) participation.

21. **BUY AMERICA PROVISIONS.** This project is subjected to the "BUY AMERICA" provisions of the Surface Assistance Act of 1982 as amended by the intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act Of 1991

Dated: March 5, 2007
Silvia Vonderlinden, City Clerk
Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on March 7, 14, 2007.

Advocates for Children hold benefit concert

■ AROUND TOWN

"Music for Our Children," a benefit concert and auction sponsored by Advocates for Children, will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, March 24, in the Woodside High School Performing Arts Center in Woodside.

The evening of jazz, blues and Latin sounds will feature trumpeter John L. Worley Jr. and his band, "Worlview," and musicians Jim and Morning Nichols and Kat Parra. Mr. Worley and his band made a recent appearance at the Monterey Jazz Festival.

Masters of ceremonies will be Fred Berry, director of the Stanford Jazz Orchestra, and KCSM radio program host Jayne Sanchez.

Advocates for Children is a nonprofit organization that recruits, trains and supports advocates who work one-on-one with children placed under the protection of the court because of abuse and neglect. More than 100 advocates serve 125 children, but there are 120 children on the waiting list, the organization says.

The benefit evening will include a silent and live auction and refreshments. Tickets are \$75 each. For more information, or to buy tickets, call Yvonne Kerno at 212-4423, or log on at AdvocatesFC.org.

Masters' domino tourney in Atherton

The Children's Health Council Auxiliary is sponsoring its 45th annual masters' domino tournament on Saturday, March 24, at the Menlo Circus Club, 190 Park Lane in Atherton. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

The tournament is dedicated to the memory of the late Arthur Nelson Inman, a magazine publisher who donated hundreds of publications as tournament prizes, according to chairman Nancy Schumacher.

FASHION

continued from page 17

Barry Woodruff, Woodside High drama teacher, will be the master of ceremonies, and stage sets from the recent school production of "Seussical" will be incorporated into the show, Ms. Carr says.

Money raised will go to the Athletic Boosters Club, which gives funds for uniforms and safety gear, an athletic trainer, and busing student athletes. The goal is to raise \$16,000 through tickets and ads in the show's program.

Among this year's prizes will be trips to Puerto Vallarta, Squaw Valley and Florence, Italy.

The tournament fee — \$140 for an advanced player, \$70 for a novice player — includes a continental breakfast, buffet lunch, tournament play, and departure gifts. For tickets, call chairman Nancy Schumacher at 854-5599, or the Children's Health Council voice mail, 617-3816.

Panhellenic holds benefit luncheon

The San Mateo County Alumnae Panhellenic organization will hold a luncheon benefit at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 28, at Dominic's Poplar Creek restaurant at 1700 Coyote Point in San Mateo.

The luncheon raises funds for Panhellenic's annual awards of \$500 each, which are presented to eight graduating seniors. Gift baskets donated by sorority alumnae will be up for auction. Cost of the event is \$30 per person. For reservations, call 342-7085.

Spend a day with a youngster

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula are looking for professional women who will volunteer to spend a day with a youngster at the Mervin G. Morris Clubhouse in Redwood City from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 31.

Girls ages 9 to 11 will be paired one-on-one with a buddy for activities such as career workshops, problem-solving, games and prizes, and "light-hearted" competition. Food and healthful snacks will be served.

For more information, call Leila Ganz at 322-8065, ext. 114, or e-mail lganz@bgcp.org.

Woodside High's jazz band, directed by Rob Baker, will play before each show. The show has four talent segments, including one with senior Janet Girardot and her father Peter, a professional opera singer. Other segments include fathers and daughters, mothers and sons, and mothers and daughters.

Tickets are \$20 for the lunch show, all seats; and \$15 for the evening show except students and seniors, who are \$10. Tickets may be purchased by calling 367-9750, ext. 4851. Seats are assigned and may sell out. ■

Council backs \$7.7 million in new Menlo Park projects

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

Repaving Menlo Park's streets, considering a bike tunnel under the Caltrain tracks, and figuring out what to do with El Camino Real are among the City Council's top priorities for next fiscal year.

The council on March 6 endorsed 26 new projects for the fiscal year that starts July 1. Although council members didn't take an official vote, they directed staff to incorporate the projects in the next budget, which will go before the council in June.

The bulk of the expenses would be devoted to updating and improving the city's infrastructure, including resurfacing city streets at a cost of about \$4.6 million, sidewalk repairs costing \$300,000, and storm drain improvements costing \$150,000.

Council members noted that many infrastructure repairs and improvements are long overdue, as city streets and sidewalks have eroded over time.

"I'm glad to see us taking a longer-term view on our infrastructure," said Councilman Heyward Robinson.

Bike tunnel

The council also decided to re-examine the controversial idea of building a bike tunnel under the Caltrain tracks.

Mayor Kelly Fergusson and Mr. Robinson said the council should go ahead with a \$55,000 study to determine where a bike tunnel could be built between Ravenswood Avenue and the southern end of the city.

Ms. Fergusson said the tunnel would improve safety for children, especially those who walk and bike to Hillview School.

"We've waited too long as a community to make a statement that our children should be able to walk and bike safely to school," she said.

Although the council agreed to endorse the study, Councilman John Boyle said the high cost of building the tunnel should keep any work on the project from being a top priority. "I don't hear a lot of people in the community clamoring for [a bike tunnel]," he said.

Mr. Robinson said the tunnel would be in a different location from the project pushed by Councilman Steve Schmidt in 2002. That tunnel — proposed to pass under the railroad tracks at Cambridge Avenue and Willow Road — caused an outcry from neighbors worried that it would harbor homeless people, vandals

and garbage.

Other projects endorsed by the council include creating a comprehensive land-use plan for properties along El Camino Real; planning the new Burgess Gym; and studying how to make the University Drive-Menlo Avenue and Linfield Drive-Middlefield Road intersections safer for pedestrians. ■



Next stop, Kepler's

The C-SPAN Book TV bus will roll into Menlo Park on March 15, courtesy of Kepler's bookstore. The bus travels the country, stopping at local libraries, bookstores and festivals, to promote Book TV's nonfiction programming and enhance its local coverage of authors. It will be parked next to the British Bankers Club, on the corner of El Camino Real and Santa Cruz Avenue, from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m., when the public can take a free tour.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Amending City of Menlo Park Master Fee Schedule

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park, California, will hold a Public Hearing to consider amending the City's Master Fee Schedule concerning proposed changes in fees for the following departments: Community Services, Library, Police, Community Development and Public Works. The amounts of the proposed fees are based on information which will be available to the public at least 10 days in advance of this Public Hearing at the Finance Department.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park will hold this Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 20, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., or as near as possible thereafter, in the City Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, Civic Center - 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that "if you challenge this matter in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the Public Hearing".

DATED: February 28, 2007
/s/ SILVIA M. VONDERLINDEN, City Clerk
Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on March 7, 14, 2007.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF MARCH 26, 2007

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

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

Use Permit/John Bannister/645 Olive Street: Request for a use permit for first and second story additions to an existing single-story, nonconforming residence that would exceed 50 percent of the replacement cost of the existing structure in a 12-month period in the R-1-S (Single-Family Suburban) zoning district.

Use Permit/Guillermo Prado/100 Green St: Request for a use permit to determine the Floor Area Limit (FAL) of a lot with less than 5,000 square feet of area, associated with the construction of an addition to an existing single-story, single-family residence in the R-1-U (Single-Family Urban) zoning district.

Use Permit/Tom Spaulding/300 Constitution Drive: Request for a use permit install three new wireless telecommunications antennas on an existing building and associated equipment in the M-2 (General Industrial) zoning district.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on these items in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on Monday, March 26, 2007, 7:00 p.m. or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge these items in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing.

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

DATED: March 8, 2007
Deanna Chow, Senior Planner
Menlo Park Planning Commission
PUBLISHED: March 14, 2007

Visit our Web site for Planning Commission public hearing, agenda, and staff report information: www.menlopark.org
Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on March 14, 2007.



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Joining forces

Police chiefs Greg Rothaus of San Carlos, left, and Bruce Goitia of Menlo Park in the Menlo Park Police Department's dispatch center, which has handled calls from both towns for three months. The dispatch center typically has three cross-trained dispatchers on duty around the clock. Over the five-year term of the contract, San Carlos will pay Menlo Park about \$575,000 a year for the service.



Photo courtesy of Menlo Park Police Department Joining forces

Local students honored for their triumph over adversity

This story was posted at AlmanacNews.com in the "Schools & Kids" category of Town Square by Katharine Chouteau, a spokesperson for Family Service Agency.

Two local students were honored March 1 at the Family Service Agency of San Mateo County

and Oracle's 12th Annual Winners Breakfast, held at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport and co-hosted by CBS-5 TV's Sydnie Kohara and ABC-7 TV's Don Sanchez.

The breakfast honored Matthew Boyd of Menlo-Atherton

High School and Nadia Nothelfer of Woodside High School, along with 23 other local students, for overcoming extreme adversity to graduate. The special honor comes with a \$500 award for the students.

Matthew Boyd

As recipient of the Borel Private Bank and Trust Co. Award, Matthew's honor came on the heels of facing severe family issues growing up, including his mother's drug problems. She frequently left him alone as a young boy and eventually abandoned him.

His father remarried and finally gained custody of Matthew in court. Matthew's self-esteem was adversely impacted by his upbringing and he frequently felt like an outsider among his school peers. But he made significant strides by sharing his issues with others, and has succeeded academically despite a challenging course-load.

His favorite subject is math and his career interests include law and psychology. Matthew's greatest inspiration is his father, who has overcome a troubled past to become a reliable parent. One of Matthew's greatest wishes is to help in the fight to eradicate AIDS.

Nadia Nothelfer

For her part, Nadia — an Oracle Award recipient — has triumphed over cultural barriers and extensive family obligations since moving to the U.S. from Uruguay at age 13.

Her parents do not speak English, limiting their job prospects and forcing Nadia to serve as a translator with their work. Her efforts never wavering, she excelled in an ESL Program, and moved into mainstream English this year to earn an A in that course.

Her teachers at Woodside High School report that she has improved her study skills, is outgo-



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See WINNERS, page 21



Caroline Kopp Photography

Debs night out

Debutantes of the 2007 Peninsula Ball put on their party clothes recently for a reception at Tiffany & Co. at Stanford Shopping Center. The debutantes and their fathers were invited to view the newest Tiffany jewels. Shown, from left, are Katie Riddle of Atherton, Elizabeth Winchell of Portola Valley, Laura Michelson of Atherton, and Melissa Seipp of Portola Valley.

Menlo College names chairman

The Board of Trustees of Atherton's Menlo College has named trustee Mark Maloney as chairman, effective July 1.

Mr. Maloney, a 1968 graduate of the business administration school at Menlo College, held senior management positions in corporate taxation at IBM and Intel Corp., from which he recently retired.

Lane Maloney, Mark's wife, served with him as co-chair of the Menlo Parents Club from 1995 to 1998, and he is a member of the President's Club at Menlo College, a business school founded in 1927. Their son Kirk is a 1995 graduate of the college.

WINNERS

continued from page 20

ing, and is always on the lookout to help other students.

After graduating, Nadia plans to attend community college and eventually study pediatric nursing or medicine at San Francisco State University. Her greatest inspiration is her mother, who cut short her own education to raise a family. Nadia would like to become a singer and a nurse.

Supported by partner sponsor Oracle, Family Service hosts the "Winners Breakfast" annually, in addition to providing many services aimed at helping struggling people in the community improve their lives.

The nonprofit serves more than 18,000 children, families and seniors each year. To donate to Family Service in honor of Matthew Boyd or Nadia Nothelfer, call 403-4300 or go to www.familyserviceagency.org.

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Don DeFranco named Coldwell Banker manager

■ BUSINESS

Don DeFranco, a 23-year real estate veteran, has rejoined Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage as manager of the Woodside and Portola Valley offices. He will oversee a sales team of more than 70 agents.



Don DeFranco

Mr. DeFranco was most recently with Pacific Union GMAC. After moving from New York to the Bay Area in 2001, he was an agent with Coldwell Banker for four years. In New York he was vice president of the Madison Avenue real estate firms of Brown Harris Stevens, and Stribling & Associates Ltd.

Mr. DeFranco is a horseman from his childhood days as a 4H Club member near Lexington, Kentucky. He rides at the Portola Valley Training Center, is a member of the Horse Park at Woodside, and owns a farm where he keeps his four horses.

Mr. DeFranco will be working out of the Coldwell Banker office in Woodside, located at 2969 Woodside Road.

Coldwell Banker names new regional president

Rick Turley has been named president of Coldwell Banker's newly formed San Francisco-Peninsula Region. He will oversee 13 offices with more than 850 sales associates in the region from San Francisco to Palo Alto.



Rick Turley

Mr. Turley entered real estate in 1986. He was among the top 1 percent of Coldwell

Banker agents internationally for seven consecutive years. He is the former manager of the company's San Francisco Lakeside office.

Mr. Turley is a former professional ice skater who competed in pairs figure skating and toured professionally with the Ice Follies. He also coached competitive figure skating in Sacramento for 10 years before entering real estate.

Steve Westly joins Tesla Motors board

Atherton resident Steve Westly, the former state controller, has joined the board of directors of local electric car company Tesla Motors.

Tesla, based in San Carlos, is a manufacturer of high performance electric cars.

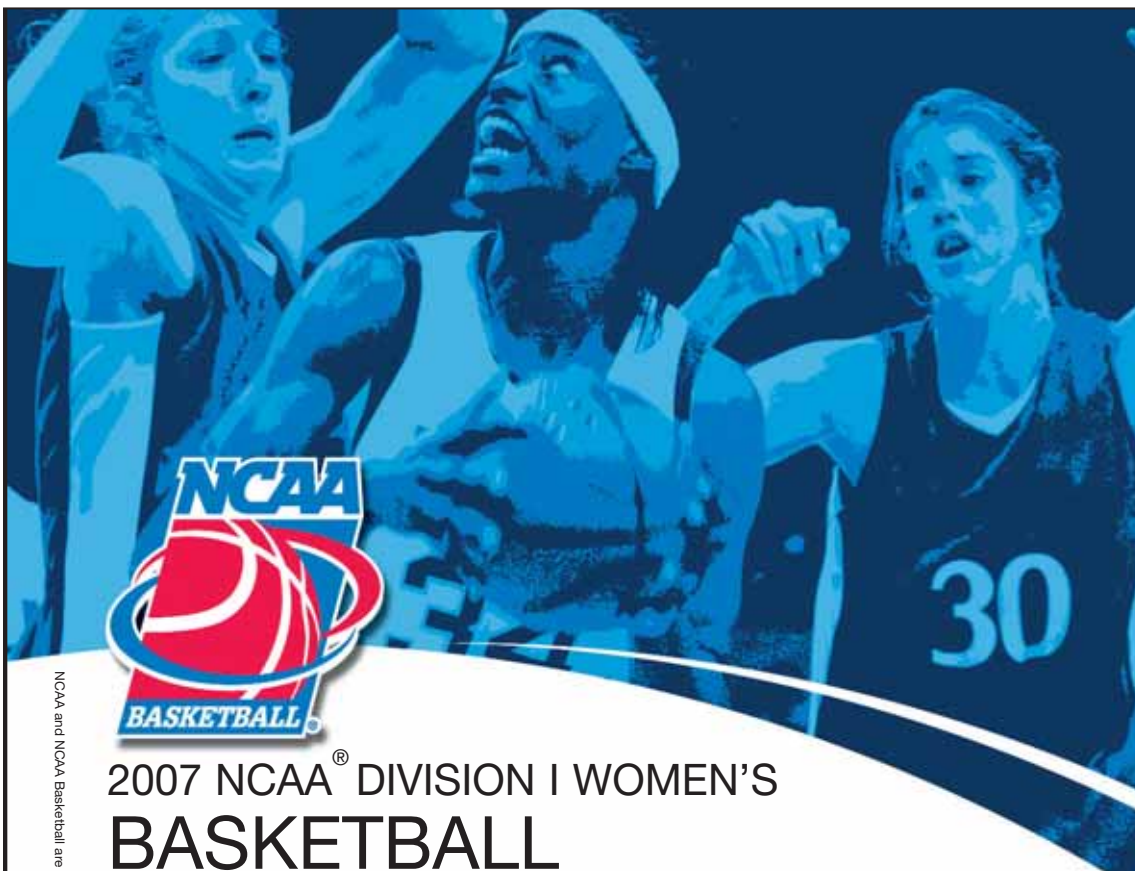
"Steve is a seasoned Silicon Valley executive with experience building great teams and taking companies public," said Martin Eberhard, Tesla's CEO.

Mr. Westly's term as California controller recently ended. In the private sector, Mr. Westly guided the online auction company eBay as a founding member of the executive team and then as a senior vice president.

Tesla Motors was founded in 2003 by Mr. Eberhard and Marc Tarpennig, with the stated aim of creating efficient electric cars for people who love to drive. The company has taken 325 reservations for its first car, the Tesla Roadster, a two-seat model that should ship to customers this fall, a company spokesman said.



Steve Westly



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Seasons end for M-A, Priory boys

■ Both team beaten in Northern California semi-finals.

By Craig Wentz

Palo Alto Weekly

Two local high school basketball teams took to the court on Saturday night with hopes of advancing to Northern California championship games. Both left the court with those hopes dashed.

Menlo-Atherton and Woodside Priory boys were beaten in their respective NorCal semifinal games.

Sixth-seeded Menlo-Atherton (23-11) saw its fine season end in a one-sided 82-46 NorCal Division II semifinal loss to host ant No. 2 Mitty (28-5) on Saturday night in a rematch of their Central Coast Section finale, also won by Mitty.

The Bears, who were coming off a big upset win over No. 3

Richmond on Thursday night, had no answer for Mitty's 6-9 Drew Gordon, 6-6 Collin Chiverton and 6-5 John Adams. That trio shut off the inside while the Monarchs' guards swarmed on the perimeter.

Menlo-Atherton trailed by 19-7 after one quarter and 43-19 at halftime. By that time, the game was effectively over. The hard-nose Bears could not effectively press because when they did, the Monarchs usually wound up with a dunk off a fastbreak.

Gordon had 16 points, Adams scored 15 and Chiverton added 14. They were simply too big and too athletic for M-A to handle.

M-A's 6-6 senior guard Stephen Call, who was guarded by Mitty's 6-8 Greg Justice, had no points in the first half and suffered a slight

left knee injury with 47 seconds remaining. He returned in the second half, making three free throws after being fouled on a three-pointer with 5:03 left in the third quarter.

Call did not score again. In fact, he got off only three shots the entire game and missed all three. It was that kind of night for the Bears.

Mitty led by more than 20 points throughout the third quarter, got to 30 at 62-32 and pushed it to 39 (77-38) with its third string in the game in the fourth quarter.

Woodside Priory

In Division V semifinal action, No. 6 Woodside Priory (26-5) had its magical season come to a close in Modesto after being beaten 73-45 by No. 2 Modesto Christian (29-4). ■

Menlo College hosts Special Olympics

Young athletes will participate in Special Olympics basketball games at Menlo College's Haynes-Prim Pavilion on Tuesday, March 13, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free.

This is the fourth year that the Atherton private college has hosted the Special Olympics, said college spokeswoman Cathy McDermott. Members of Menlo's baseball and basketball teams will volunteer at the event. The community is invited to come and cheer on the youngsters, she said.

The Special Olympics helps people with disabilities become engaged in physical activities. For information, call Lynsey Jemmett at 543-3897 or e-mail Ljemmett@menlo.edu.

SPORTS

These items were posted in the Sports category of Town Square at www.AlmanacNews.com:

Women's soccer league

Beginning and intermediate level teams play refereed games 1-2 times per week for fitness and friendship. Women 23 years and older with all level of skill are invited. March 13-May 31. \$75 for spring season. Burgess Park, Menlo Park. Call 387-7027 or go to <http://www.maasl.com>.

M-A High boys golf

Submitted by Linda Sako at request of M-A High golf coach Buff Giurlani: Feb. 20, 2007: Pre-season: Menlo-Atherton 203, Aragon 239, at Sharon Heights Golf Course (par 36). M-A record 2-0. M-A individual scores: Nick Sako, 40; Jake Hall Toy, 44; Greg Sako, 40; Elliot Hume, 40; Ben Jackson, 39.

SLAC director to step down

Jonathon Dorfan, the director of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) for nearly eight years, has announced he will step down this fall.

The university will conduct an international search for his successor.

Mr. Dorfan became SLAC's director in September 1999 following five years as its associate director and director of its B-Factory project. He intends to stay at SLAC.

SLAC's 2-mile-long linear accelerator opened in 1962 and has been conducting research in particle physics, particle astrophysics and photon science, serving more than 3,000 scientists worldwide. Six scientists have won Nobel Prizes for work conducted at SLAC.

"Jonathon Dorfan's tenure at SLAC has been characterized by exceptional scientific vision and foresight," Stanford President John Hennessy said. "He deserves our thanks -- and those of the greater scientific community -- for leading SLAC during a remarkable transition as it moved from being a single-purpose particle physics research center to a multi-program laboratory serving scientists worldwide."

Dorfan became a research associate at SLAC in 1976 and a staff physicist in 1978.

— Don Kazak, Palo Alto Weekly

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OBITUARIES

Paul B. Martin

Luxury homebuilder

Paul B. Martin, a general contractor specializing in luxury homes, died Feb. 28 at his Atherton home, following a long illness.

Born in 1922 in the Chicago suburb of Batavia, he attended Batavia High School and Marmion Military Academy. He attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where he played baseball, basketball and foot-

ball, and graduated with the class of 1948.

During World War II, Mr. Martin flew Corsairs as a carrier pilot in the U.S. Navy.

After the war, Mr. Martin and his brother Robert moved to Miami, Florida, and founded Martin Brothers Construction Co., specializing in luxury homes. He was a past president of the Florida National Associa-



Paul B. Martin

tion of Home Builders.

In 1967, Mr. Martin moved to California and formed Paul B. Martin & Associates, General Contractors.

Mr. Martin was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon, and a member of both the Palo Alto Club and the Menlo Circus Club.

He is survived by his wife, Marjorie; his children Paul H. Martin of San Diego, Daryl Barrett of Atlanta, Lisa Marsh of Menlo Park, Leslie Dezendorf of Durango, Colorado, Jonathan Hunter of Hawaii, and Amy Hunter of New York City; 12 grandchildren; and his siblings Helen and Robert.

A private family service was held March 2 at Skylawn Memorial Park, according to Mr. Martin's wishes. He wanted no mourning, only a celebration of how wonderful his life had been, family members said.

The family prefers that memo-

rial donations be made to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLCenter.org), 400 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104; or the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ.org), 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004.

Henry M. Suckle

Retired neurosurgeon

Henry Martin Suckle, retired neurosurgeon, died Feb. 19 at his Woodside home.

Born in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, he attended the University of Pennsylvania and its medical school, where he graduated with honors and was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha honorary society. Dr. Suckle received specialty training at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He based his practice in Madison, where family members say he was the premier neurological surgeon in the state.

Dr. Suckle served as chief of staff at the former Madison General Hospital, and treated patients throughout Wisconsin. He was a member of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and the Harvey Cushing Society (now the American Association of Neurological Surgeons).

In 1975, Dr. Suckle and his family moved to Woodside. He practiced in San Jose, where he was on the staff of O'Connor Hospital and served as chief of staff at San Jose Hospital.

In his free time, he was an avid golfer and played year-round at the Stanford Golf Club.

Dr. Suckle is survived by his wife, Esther Sweet Suckle of Woodside; daughters Helaine Kotler of Encino and Sally Anne Kramer of Solana Beach, California; and four grandchildren. The family expresses its deep appreciation to caregiver Sini-olovao Langi.

Burial services were private.

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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

Robbery report: Pedestrian punched and robbed of \$122 in cash by two men, Newbridge Street and Madera Avenue, March 2.

Accident report: Cyclist received light abrasion on elbow in collision with vehicle, Chilco Street and Bayfront Expressway, March 3.

Burglary report: Jewelry and miscellaneous items stolen from residence, 500 block of Bay Road, March 8.

Auto burglary report: Stereo stolen from truck, 100 block of Commonwealth Drive, March 6.

Grand theft report: Bike stolen from apartment complex, 1500 block of San Antonio Avenue, March 8.

Stolen vehicle report: 1995 four-door gold Saturn stolen, 1100 block of O'Brien Drive, March 6.

Spousal abuse report: Arrest made, 700 block of Fremont Street, March 4.

Fraud reports:

- Unauthorized withdrawal of \$1,000 from victim's online bank account, 1100 block of Sevier Avenue, March 6.
- Identity theft, 100 block of Willow Road, March 8.

WOODSIDE

Assault and battery report: Student booked into Hillcrest juvenile detention center after incident involving staff member, Woodside High School at 199 Churchill Ave., Feb. 28.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Embezzlement report: Over 30-month period, financial adviser suspected of making \$10,000 in unauthorized withdrawals from client's bank account, 200 block of Portola Road, March 1.

WEST MENLO PARK

Burglary report: Resident, 93, victim of scam in which one man from "Bay Area Roofing" held victim's attention while another stole small portable safe containing paperwork and jewelry, March 1.

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TENURE
continued from page 10

the planet," he said in an interview, including work in construction, a grocery store, and as a janitor and a dish washer.

His philosophy of teaching "is the same thing that any teacher would say: be an example for kids." His work in the classroom and out of it reflects his own values, he said, including an appreciation for objectivity and critical thinking.

"It's not that I want to teach kids what to think," he said. "It's that I want to teach them how to think" and how to use their heads every day. Some kids soak it up, but some are resistant. "If you can get to them, that's where it really pays off. That's the goal." ■

Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events

"Peter Pan." March 16-18, 23-25. Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Event is sold out but free performances (with donations welcomed) are scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, March 13-15, on a first-come, first-served basis. Proceeds benefit Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula and the Outreach Program of our Children's Theatre Conservatory. \$20 adults/\$10 youth 12 and under. Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory, 945 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 851-8282 ext. 411. www.pvtc-ca.org

POST Presents Author Richard Louv. 14th Annual Wallace Stegner Lecture Series, sponsored by Ambassador Bill and Mrs. Jean Lane. March 22, 8-9:30 p.m. \$22. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 854-7696. www.openspacetrust.org

Auditions

"Disney's High School Musical." Auditions presented by Palo Alto Children's Theatre. Open to ages 13 through high school. March 20-21, 3:45-5:30 p.m. Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 463-4930.

Kate Hawley's "Cinderella." PYT invites youths ages 8-20 to audition for this madcap musical. Prepare song and one-minute prose monologue. Bring sheet music or instrumental tape or CD. March 17, 10 a.m. or 2 p.m.; March 18, 2 p.m. \$160. Peninsula Youth Theatre, 2500 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View. www.pyt.net

Benefits

"Music for Our Children" Benefit Concert and Auction. An evening of Latin and world Jazz and Blues led by Bay Area trumpeter John L. Worley Jr. and Jim and Morning Nichold, Kat Parra. Tickets available online. March 24, 6-10 p.m. \$75/\$50 tax deductible. Woodside High Performing Arts Center, 199 Churchill Ave., Woodside. Call -212-4423. www.advocatesfc.org

"Spring Fling." Presented by The Athlons. A bridge/fashion show luncheon Thu., March 15, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse of San Mateo County. Models will feature clothing by Jud Green of San Mateo. \$60 donation. The University Club, 3277 Miranda Ave., Palo Alto.

Community Breast Health Project. "Fit For Life Goes to the Tropics" March 17, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Event will raise funds and community awareness to support CBHP in its mission of providing personalized information and free support to all affected by breast cancer. \$250. Sofitel, 223 Twin Dolphin Dr., Redwood City. Call 326-6299 ext.17. www.cbhp.org

Classes/ Workshops

Blueberries and Raspberries. Learn how to select, plant, and maintain blueberries and raspberries for home growing of more than 30 varieties. Included in the instruction will be soil preparations. Call to register. March 17, 2-4 p.m. \$24. Common Ground Organic Garden Supply, 559 College Ave., Palo Alto. Call 493-6072. www.commongroundinpaloalto.org

Family Fun with Flowers. Recommended for children ages 5-12. Participants make their own arrangement to take home. March 17, 10:30 a.m.-noon \$55 members/\$70 non-members. Filoli, 86 Canada Road, Woodside. www.filoli.org

The Tropical Paradise Garden: Bulbs for the Summer Garden. Slide presentation on how to integrate summer bulbs with annuals, perennials, ground covers, trees and shrubs to create your own patio planter, window box, living sculpture or jungle. March 20, 3:30-4:30 p.m. \$15 members/\$20 non-members. Filoli, 86 Canada Road, Woodside. www.filoli.org

Clubs/Meetings

Menlo Art League. Artist Martha Castillo will demonstrate clay monotype printmaking.

ing. March 14, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 322-6867.

Concerts

23rd Annual Bach Celebration. Presented by Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra. A series of three Sunday concerts through March 25, 7:30-9 p.m. Focusing on the music of Johann Sebastian Bach and featuring an array of guest performers. \$12/\$10 seniors and students. Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 856-3848. www.pacomusic.org

Duke University Chorale and Stanford Chamber Chorale. Fri., March 16, 8 p.m. Director Rodney Wynkoop presents the Chorale to Stanford for a collaboration with Chamber Chorale. Lauridsen's Ave Maria and Whitaker's "A Boy and a Girl" anchor the program. Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Call 723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu>

Exhibits

Art in Action Library Show. Art show series featuring artwork from local students grades K-8. Through May 5. For a list of participating schools see website. Free. Art in Action, 3925 Bohannon Dr., Menlo Park. Call 566-8339. www.artinaction.org

Seasons at Filoli. Exhibition will highlight Filoli's special events through a collection of photographs by members of the Friends of Filoli and other local artists. Through March 25, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Free with paid \$12 admission. Filoli, 86 Canada Road, Woodside. www.filoli.org

Kids & Families

Babies and Books Musical Storytime. Wednesdays, through April 25, 10 a.m. For ages 0-24 months. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 851-0147.

Penguin Story Time. Presented by Master Collage artist Bob Barner. Sun., March 18, 11:30 a.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 324-4321. www.keplers.com

Teddy Bear Brunch. Sat., March 24, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. For children ages 4-8. Sponsored by Friends of Allied Arts. Pre-registration required. Mail check for FAA to Susan Lamin, 1055 Tehama, M.P. 94025. \$20. Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. Call 324-2304. alliedartsguild.org

Toddler Storytime. Wednesdays, 11 a.m. For ages 18-36 months. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 851-0147.

Film

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. March 15, 7-10 p.m. A collection of environmental, and adventure films. \$13-\$16. Eagle Theater, 201 Almond Ave., Los Altos. Call (925) 455-5816. www.snowlands.org

A dance in time

Elvy Yost is Thomasina and Michael Austin is Septimus Hodge in the Pear Avenue Theatre's production of Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia," which runs through March 18 in Mountain View. In typical Stoppard fashion, "Arcadia" shines with brilliant wordplay, witty and complex characters, and a compelling story that time-travels between two centuries. The theater is at 1220 Pear Ave., Unit K, in Mountain View. For performance dates and ticket information, call 254-1148, or log on at thepear.org.



Photo by Shannon Stowe

Submitting information to the Calendar

Information for Calendar listings must be submitted online. Please go to www.AlmanacNews.com, page down to "Master Community Calendar" on the left, and click on the link, "Post an Event." For all Calendar listings, click on the link, "Search Entire Calendar."

sent by Peninsula Youth Theatre. Musical about a small-town girl determined to take a bite out of the Big Apple in the Roaring Twenties. March 16-17, 7:30 p.m.; March 18, 2 p.m. Discounted weekday matinees March 15-16, 9:30 a.m. \$7-\$18. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.pyt.net

Et Alia

Little House Walkers. We meet at Little House March 15, 29; Avenidas March 22, 9 a.m. to explore various neighborhoods. Call Hal Mankin 948-2310 for weekly meeting locations. Free. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 326-2025. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

Eighth Annual Symposium for Mothers. "The Shelter of Each Other: Mothers and Community." Keynote speaker and best-selling author, Dr. Mary Pipher will discuss the important role mothers and communities play in rebuilding and strengthening families. March 17, 8:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$20. Kresge Auditorium, 555 Nathan Abbott Way Stanford Law School, Stanford. Call 329-8041.

Spring Tea. Sat., March 17, noon. Formal tea includes sandwiches, fruit, scones and

French pastry with steaming pots of hot tea. \$25, reservations required. Yerba Buena Nursery, 19500 Skyline Blvd., Woodside. Call 851-1668. www.yerbabuenanursery.com

Stanford Grounds and Plants. University Grounds Manager Herb Fong will talk about the campus grounds, trees, animals, natural habitat, and how the campus has evolved over the years. March 14, 5-6:30 p.m. Free. Oak West Lounge, Tresidder Union, 459 Lagunita Dr., Stanford. Call 725-3332. <http://histsoc.stanford.edu>

Child Advocates Orientation Session. Child Advocates of Silicon Valley. Looking for adults to become Court Appointed Special Advocates. Trained volunteers will mentor and speak up for children who are victims of abuse and neglect. March 20. Free. Cooley Godward LLP, 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call (408) 573-5611. www.cadvocates.org

Relay For Life of Menlo Park. Volunteers needed to plan the annual "Relay for Life" of Menlo Park, a fundraiser that is community based and volunteer driven. Volunteers needed first Thursdays, monthly through Aug. 12, 7-8 p.m. Free. Burgess Park, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. Call (408) 892-3643. www.relayforlife.org

TOWN OF WOODSIDE INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR COMMITTEES

BICYCLE COMMITTEE

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

The Committee advises and recommends to the Town Council on the policies for planning, developing, maintaining, and usage of Town's bikeways system and provides an open forum for bicycle issues.

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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

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

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Meets first Thursday of each month, 7:30 pm; appointments for three-year, two-year and one-year terms.

The Committee guides the activities of the community recreation programs.

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

Interested residents may request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, on the web site at www.woodsidesidetown.org, or telephone (650) 851-6790. Deadline for applications is Friday, March 30, 2007, 5:00 p.m.

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The Almanac, established in September, 1965, is delivered each week to residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside and adjacent unincorporated areas of southern San Mateo County. The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal 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.

Real issues in Atherton dispute

Amid the war of words between Atherton Mayor Alan Carlson and Menlo Park Fire Protection District board member Peter Carpenter over fire safety in Atherton are some real issues that may impact certain residents of the small community.

The most important question, initially raised by a civil grand jury, is whether housing plans approved during the tenure of Mike Hood, the town's former building official, met all fire code requirements as interpreted by the fire district. Mr. Carpenter, who lives in Atherton, claims that some plan sets approved during Mr. Hood's now-maligned regime without fire district review may not meet code standards.

Atherton says its building officials were well within their rights to sign off on house plans without fire district approval, while Mr. Carpenter and Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman say that fire safety review is best left to the experts at the fire district.

But now, despite the rhetoric, enough questions have been raised that Atherton and the fire district must find a way to revisit the house plans in question so that residents can be assured that their homes meet all applicable fire codes.

In a letter on the next page, Mayor Carlson expresses hope that the issue can be resolved at a meeting of the City Council and the fire board. At that time, we hope the two jurisdictions can find a way to share responsibility for making sure that all Atherton

homes meet the fire code.

A sidelight of this brouhaha includes charges that Menlo Park does not submit single-family home plans to the district either. If true, the city should promptly reconsider its procedures before questions are raised about the safety of new Menlo Park homes.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

Derry talks move to mediation

The announcement last week that the citizens group Menlo Park Tomorrow and the developers of the Derry condominium development in downtown Menlo Park will enter a mediation phase keeps alive the hope that the two sides will come to a compromise and avoid a referendum.

After Derry was approved by the prior City Council, the MPT group led a successful petition drive to force a referendum vote. But rather than setting an election, the council agreed to give the two sides a chance to negotiate a compromise, and although talks have continued for several months, no settlement has been reached.

Whatever happens in the mediation, Morris Brown of MPT and the O'Brien Group, developers of the project, deserve credit for continuing to negotiate. But even a compromise is not guaranteed to win council approval. Mayor Kelly Ferguson voted to approve the original Derry proposal last year, but she also supported the referendum drive. Andy Cohen opposed it, and new members Rich Cline, Heyward Robinson and John Boyle have said they might approve a scaled down project, but nothing is certain.

TOWN SQUARE

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

LETTERS

Our readers write

'Cow tipper' says he's not COW CEO

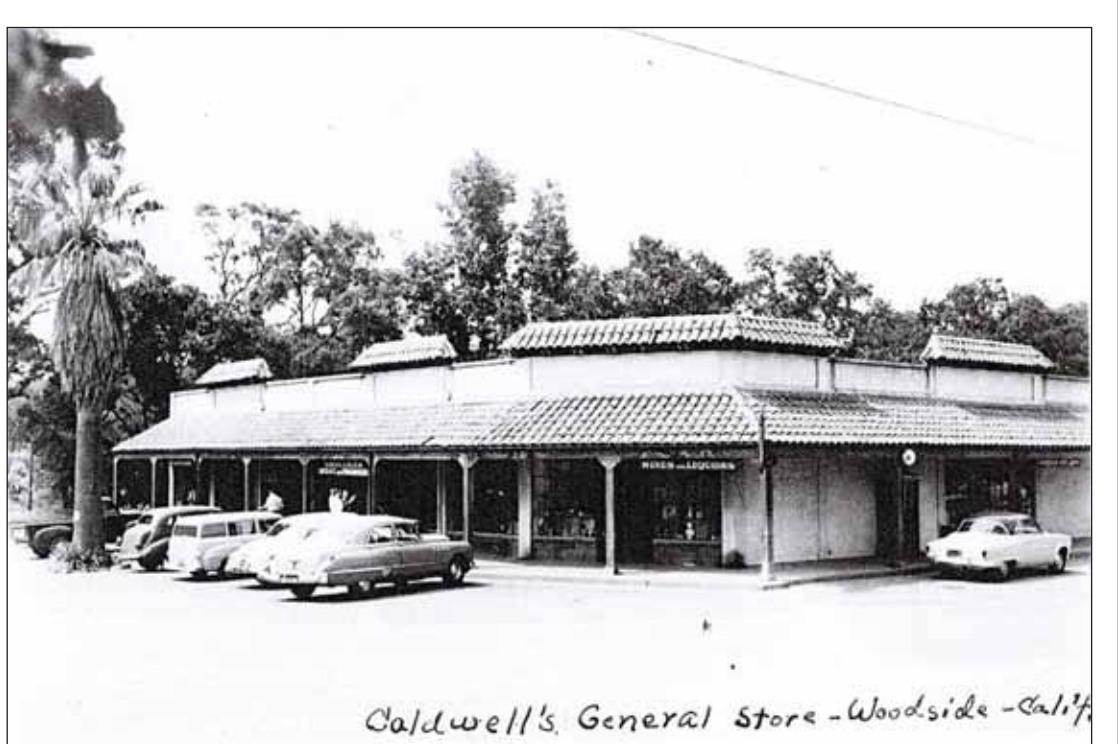
Editor:

I was surprised and amused when I returned late last night from the East Coast and my kids informed me that the Almanac had mentioned me as the CEO of Citizens of Woodside (COW).

While I have been CEO of several private and public companies, I can assure you that I am not the CEO of COW. I did go cow tipping one spring break in college (but that's another story).

The fact that I don't return reporters' telephone calls should not give them free rein to misstate facts.

(P.S.: I just looked up the Web site of COW and I do applaud their efforts to improve local government through more transparency and open communication. The Town Council should honor and embrace



Jac Audiffred's Woodside Collection

Our Regional Heritage

This 1956 photo shows Caldwell's General Store, the forerunner of Roberts, at the corner of Woodside and Mountain Home roads in the center of Woodside.

COW's efforts for better government.)

**Andrew Gessow
Non-CEO and
reformed COW tipper
Albion Avenue, Woodside**

Editor's note: Andrew J. Gessow of Albion Avenue in Woodside is listed as the CEO, CFO, secretary and director of Citizens of Woodside, Inc., on a form filed with the California

Secretary of State on May 19, 2006. Also, COW's address as stated on the form is identical to Mr. Gessow's home address.

See **LETTERS**, next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

Mr. Gessow's name is the only name listed on COW's "statement of information" provided to the Almanac by the Secretary of State's office. The document lists COW's type of business as "ownership and operation of an informational Web site."

Mayor ready to discuss fire code dispute

Editor:

Peter Carpenter, a Menlo Park Fire Protection District board member, continues to assert that Atherton has improperly approved building plans without district approval. He has now broadened his criticism to include Menlo Park, which like Atherton, has not delegated this authority to the district.

Here are facts Mr. Carpenter fails to dispute: The Atherton City Council must delegate this responsibility to the district. It has not. And neither Mr. Carpenter nor the district has ever requested this authority from the council.

Mr. Carpenter asserts "personal knowledge" of Atherton "basements remodeled without permits" that are "absolute fire traps," but chooses not to report them, because "you don't want to fink on your friends." This is a curious position for a public official. As I have observed, there is little "the town can do unless it's reported."

It is noteworthy that no other fire district board member has publicly supported Mr. Carpenter's assertions. Board meeting minutes for the last year show no discussion of Mr. Carpenter's claims. They do state he has been designated "liaison" to Atherton, but I've not seen him before the council since 2004. Apparently, his preferred means of communication with Atherton is now the Almanac.

Is there anything constructive in this barrage of words? I think so.

I have proposed and the council adopted a resolution that the staffs of the town and district jointly compile an agenda of issues, without any restrictions, to be followed by a meeting between the council and district board to resolve those issues. Including what, if any, delegation of building plan review should be made to the district.

The staffs are now establishing this agenda. And I anticipate the board will accept Atherton's invitation for a meeting at which I will look forward to the constructive participation of Mr. Carpenter.

Alan Carlson
Mayor of Atherton

We were hoodwinked on tax

By Dee Tolles

In the summer of 2006, I was invited to endorse Menlo Park's Measure K — the Utility User Tax.

The decision I made to endorse this tax and appear on fliers was based on the information I was given that stated the city was running a deficit and that drastic cuts were going to have to be made unless this tax was enacted.

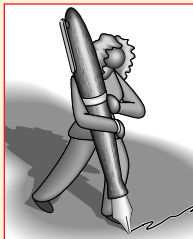
The endorsers of Measure K were told that the city's beloved institutions, such as the public safety providers, the library, and our street maintenance programs, were at risk of drastic, destabilizing budget cuts. All this because our city was running an \$800,000 deficit and, we were told, would continue to run deficits unless

the UUT was passed.

In January 2007, it was announced to the public that the city ran a \$3.7 million surplus in fiscal 2005-06, not the forecast deficit of \$800,000.

In fact, we have not run a significant deficit for the past four years, and no further cuts to vital services were contemplated. In fact, on Oct. 6, 2006, one month before the election, the city manager and finance director had the auditor's report in hand that revealed the \$3.7 million mistake. Why didn't we hear about it then?

Would I have endorsed Measure K had I known these facts? No! Would the City Council have endorsed this tax? At least three former council members say no. Would the residents of Menlo Park



GUEST
OPINION

have voted for this tax had they known these facts? I doubt it. The tax passed by only 65 votes.

This tax allows the city to collect from each of us 3.5 percent of our ever-increasing water, electric and gas bills and 2.5 percent of our cable, cell phone, DSL and telephone bills. It will cost many homeowners several hundred dollars a year.

I submit that the City Council should rescind the UUT because we all were deceived. Any argument or spin with regard to the current or future need for this tax is irrelevant. Measure K would not have passed if we knew we had a surplus.

I put my good name and reputation out there to support what I thought was the right thing based on information that was completely false. If the current City Council does not rescind the UUT, the residents of Menlo Park should get organized and petition the council.

Dee Tolles is a former mayor of Menlo Park.

Woodside's phantom Web blogger

By Jane Estep

When the residents of Woodside read the mailed fliers and other articles by COW, the self-appointed watchdog blog about Woodside's citizen-led government, do they wonder if COW (Citizens of Woodside.com) is really committed to strengthening the democratic process through reform?

I do! I doubt their commitment and integrity. The COW site does not speak for me. The people who speak for me and conduct my business in Woodside are known to me by name. I know their positions and they know me by my name and address.

My citizen-led government people attend meetings, study pertinent material, ask questions and listen. They give up time with family, friends, work and recreation to do the business for the real citizens of Woodside. Active involvement by all citizens is promoted by staff, officials and volunteers of the town.

Town Hall is reachable by phone, e-mail,

appointment, open meetings or by just dropping in. Sometimes the person I wish to see will come from a meeting or from

behind a closed door to see me. We may not agree on every point but we have a dialogue. I am responsible for maintaining the credibility of my voice in town matters.

I do not know anyone who is a member of COW. No one has ever identified themselves as a member of COW to me. Is COW a secret membership club? Is COW a political special interest group?

The COW site gave a generous gift of \$31,045 in a different way. Why? The gift was from unknown sources and delivered by courier to Town Hall, like a deed from a dime-store novel. One wonders if the money was meant to be a bribe, or maybe a threat.

Why video tape town meetings? Anyone can use hand-held electronic devices to record meetings. Public comments are taken during meetings. Decisions are

made during meetings. Decisions are made after consideration of numerous sources of comment. All decisions are subject to review. Viewing a video after a meeting is of little value unless someone wishes to intimidate both citizens and staff "with a skeptical eye."

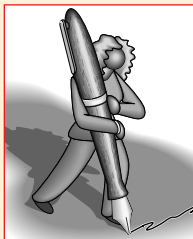
Donations are public business. Even given anonymously, they are given in a public manner.

As a citizen-led town with salaried employees, we seek to do the business of Woodside in an open and timely manner. When our process is perceived otherwise, we seek to refine, adjust and improve our process and effort.

Does COW wish to be a voice for change? If a person or group of people wishes to be a watch-dog seeking to illuminate and improve town government then COW needs to identify its members, express its concerns and proposals in a positive message, and be above reproach in the method of its presentations.

Then, others may decide if COW is a valid voice in our town business. For now, COW is a rude, deceptive, destructive invalid voice to me.

Janet Estep lives on Raymundo Drive in Woodside.



GUEST
OPINION

Immediate action requested on fire safety matter

Editor:

As citizens of Atherton we call upon the Town Council and the fire board to take immediate action to address the issues presented in the San Mateo County Grand Jury's Interim Report on the Atherton Building Department.

Specifically we ask that:

1. The Town Council adopt an ordinance on an emergency basis which requires fire district to review and approve building plans before any building permit can be issued by the town.

2. The fire district review all plans for buildings permitted without fire district review over the last 10 years to identify those specific buildings that may not meet the fire code and which therefore may represent a threat to their occupants and any emergency responders.

3. The fire district and the town begin on-site inspection of those buildings identified by this review to determine their as-built compliance with the fire code and to determine what is necessary to bring those structures into compliance.

4. The fire district and the town also conduct on site

inspection of other properties having large storage spaces that were built under valid permits to confirm that those storage spaces have not been in whole or in part converted to occupied space which does not meet the fire code.

5. The fire district and the town establish a voluntary inspection program available at cost to both existing owners and prospective buyers to verify that their property meets the fire code.

Bob Jenkins
Irving Avenue, Atherton
Peter Carpenter
Larch Drive, Atherton

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New Listing – classic Woodside from Ed Kahl.

NEW LISTING



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ONE AND A HALF ACRES shaded with heritage oaks and featuring a sprawling orchard of mature citrus and fruit trees, rose gardens, tranquil pool and veranda. Classic 3-BR home exudes charm and serenity with winding brick paths & guest quarters. Property is on sewers and has potential for building a 5k sq.ft. home. Excellent schools. **\$2,650,000**



Tuscan Estate in central Woodside

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6 Acres

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