

Heist nets \$17,000 in materials from
Portola Valley Town Center. Page 9

The Almanac

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

AUGUST 15, 2007

www.AlmanacNews.com

VOL. 42 NO. 50



Family Almanac:
Crazy for cupcakes.
Cover, Section 2

THINKING GREEN



Menlo Park startups
try to turn their
alternative
energy theories
into successful
businesses

See page 12...

REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990

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



PORTOLA VALLEY

Unique 3bd/4.5ba custom-built home in Portola Valley Ranch with spectacular views of the Bay and mountains. Dramatic sky lit entrance salon, decks on two levels, sumptuous master suite. Portola Valley schools.

\$4,100,000



REDWOOD CITY

Formerly 1520 Edgewood Rd, 5br/5.5ba, all new construction, many amenities, gourmet kitchen, formal living and dining rooms, beautiful hardwood floors, three car garage, fabulous master suite..

\$2,950,000



MENLO PARK

Appealing Craftsman style home in prime Menlo Park location. Bright, open floorplan includes 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, and a lovely family room that opens out to the private garden and patio.

\$1,350,000

Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Take care out there

Bicyclist Will Von Kaenel of Los Gatos talks with officers from the California Highway Patrol and San Mateo County Sheriff's Office near Lawler Ranch and Sand Hill roads on Monday, Aug. 13. The officers distributed fliers summarizing bicycle traffic laws in light of recent serious accidents involving cyclists and cars on the popular Sand Hill loop.

Menlo Park

- No deal yet on funds to restore former movie theater. **Page 5**
- New city manager: Hiring more police officers a top priority. **Page 8**
- Key meeting on proposed 58,000-square-foot grocery store. **Page 10**

Portola Valley

- Heist nets \$17,000 in materials from Town Center. **Page 9**
- Dump truck plunges into deep ravine in Los Trancos Woods. **Page 8**
- Insufficient evidence to hold arson suspect for grass fires. **Page 5**

Also Inside

Calendar	31
Editorial	22
Letters	22
Obituaries	21
Police Calls	21
Town Square	23

Woodside

- Uncontested election for Woodside council seats? **Page 14**

Election 2007

- Election security: County's eSlate machines OK. **Page 10**
- Two election contests certain, another likely, for November. **Page 11**

Community

- Menlo Park to hold another block party; local jazz singer Hale Baskin to perform. **Page 31**

On the cover

Startups are moving to Menlo Park and other Silicon Valley towns with the goal of turning alternative energy theories into successful businesses. They are attracted by venture capital cash and Silicon Valley's tradition of innovation. Photo illustration by Veronica Weber. See story, **Page 12**.

The good life is having a Ball!

Ball Watch Since 1891
ACCURACY UNDER ADVERSE CONDITIONS

Erin MacGeraghty
Unique Fine Jewelry

www.erinsfinejewelry.com • 325 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park • 650-854-4740

10 reasons why Burgess Park pools are the center of Menlo Park's active community

1. Open & Lap Swim
2. Masters Swim
3. Masters Water Polo
4. Youth Swim Teams
5. Triathlon Teams
6. Swim School
7. Summer Aquatics Camps
8. Adult Aqua Fitness
9. Snack Bar and Pro Shop
10. Family Picnics and Parties

Menlo Swim and Sport
501 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025
Burgess Park Pools • 650-328-SWIM (7946)

Information and registration
www.menloswim.com

When excellence is the expectation, Regal® is the definitive choice.

Benjamin Moore
The Leader in Paint & Color™

Gray's Paint

717 Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park
(Across from the Fire Station) 650-322-2238

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC


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

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

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

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

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




ROBERTS


A TOWN MARKET PLACE
 3015 WOODSIDE ROAD
 WOODSIDE, CA 94062
 650-851-1511
 Open 6:30AM - 8PM


Sale Dates: August 15, 16, 17, 18
www.robertsmarket.com


SUSHI NOW at Roberts

PRODUCE

Lake County
BARTLETT PEARS  **99¢ lb.**

Thompson and Flame
SEEDLESS GRAPES  **\$1.99 lb.**

Fresh
BASIL  **99¢ a bunch**

Red and Green
LEAF LETTUCE  **99¢ ea.**

Sancerre(ly) Yours

If you are a wine drinker who truly appreciates the herbal notes and smoky flavor of Sauvignon Blanc wine, you owe it to yourself to sample Sancerre. This white wine from France's eastern Loire Valley is made from grapes that are cultivated in flinty, limestone soil. These origins give rise to light-bodied wines with grassy flavors and hints of minerals that are considered to be the most elegant wines made from the Sauvignon Blanc grape. The French prefer to drink their semi-dry, fresh, fruity Sancerre with goat cheese. It also goes quite well with most appetizers, as well as with oysters and fish. If you are fond of Sauvignon Blanc, treat yourself to the best—Sancerre.



If you find yourself a fan of Sauvignon Blanc wine, than you definitely have to try Sancerre. At ROBERTS MARKET, our expertise allows us to recommend a wine to you based on wines you already like. Our personal service is what sets us apart from any competition. We feature the finest produce, meats, poultry, and seafood available in the area, and we have a great selection of merenades which help change the taste of your favorite meats.

HINT: Sancerre is one wine that goes well with asparagus.

GROCERY

COPPOLA ORGANIC POMODORO-BASILICO SAUCE **\$3.99**
 26 oz. — Also Arrabiatta

DA VINCI ORGANIC PENNE PASTA **\$1.19**
 16 oz. — Also Linguine

FLORIDA'S NATURAL HOME SQUEEZE OJ **\$2.99**
 64 oz. — Also Calcium

STOUFFERS MACARONI & CHEESE **\$1.69**
 12 oz. — Also Spinach Souffle


S&W KIDNEY BEANS **69¢**
 15 oz. — Also Garbanzo Beans

PEDIGREE CHUNKY CHICKEN DOG FOOD **69¢**
 15 oz. — Also Lamb & Vegetable-Beef-Combo

DELI

Stuffed Portabella **\$10⁹⁹ lb.**
 with Spinach, Pesto, red onion, Tomato and Provalone Cheese

Try a Panini Sandwich made Fresh daily and pressed to order.




VIBS — DELI

WINE

Summertime Whites

2006 Cicchitti Torrontes, Argentina **\$11.99**
 Torrontes is best known in Madeira wines. The dry, table wine Torrontes is crisp with a Sauvignon Blanc/Viognier character.

2006 Martin Códax Albariño, Rias Baixas, Spain **\$12.49**
 Albariño is Spain's most prestigious white wine grape producing racy, zippy whites with citrus and mineral complexity.

2006 Cheseboro Vermentino, Arroyo Seco **\$12.49**
 Vermentino is native to southern Italy and pairs beautifully with seafood and light Mediterranean cuisine.

2005 Brooks "Amycas", Oregon **\$14.99**
 A lively, fresh, fragrant blend of Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Riesling, Gewurztraminer and Muscat. Delicious!!!

2005 Jean-Claude Roux Quincy **\$17.99**
 This is classic Sauvignon Blanc from France's Loire Valley. Crisp and refreshing.

2006 Daedalus Gruner Veltliner, Willamette Valley **\$21.99**
 Gruner Veltliner is Austria's native white wine grape, producing flavorful wines that are a hypothetical cross of Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling.

The above wines assort for a 10% case discount.

MEAT/SEAFOOD

— *Special This Week at Roberts* —

BEEF RIB-EYE STEAKS  **\$10.98 lb.**

HAWIIAN STYLE PORK CHOPS  **\$6.98 lb.**

AHI YELLOW FIN TUNA FROM HAWAII **\$22.98 lb.**

FRESH SEA SCALLOPS  **\$23.98 lb.**

Local News

MENLO PARK | A THERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

No deal yet on funds to restore theater

■ Resident seeks \$500,000 city grant or loan to restore Park Theatre; Menlo council delays decision.

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

During a hastily convened special meeting Monday afternoon, the Menlo Park City Council postponed a decision on a request by Andy Duncan of Menlo Park to give him a \$500,000 grant or no-interest loan to help him fund the restoration of the now abandoned Park Theatre on El Camino Real.

The delay may effectively kill Mr. Duncan's plan to restore the building for use as a private dance studio.

Mr. Duncan, who in January

announced his plans to buy and restore the theater building and convert it into facilities to house the Menlo Park Academy of Dance, sent a letter to the City Council on Aug. 8, requesting the funds.

A public notice of the Aug. 13 special meeting wasn't sent out until Thursday, Aug. 9, although Mr. Duncan referred to the meeting in his letter dated the day before.

Mr. Duncan said his tentative contract to purchase the theater expires on Aug. 17. He said if the council doesn't approve the half-million-dollar grant or loan before

then, his plans to restore the theater are likely to fall through.

The main question before council members is whether the city should donate or loan public funds to a private business.

From the start of Monday's meeting, Mayor Kelly Ferguson appeared to support the proposal, but other council members weren't so eager. Councilmen Andy Cohen and John Boyle expressed concerns not only with the idea of public funding for a private enterprise, but with the process the council was

engaged in to discuss and decide on the proposal.

"I oppose this whole lack of process," Mr. Boyle said. "It's inappropriate that we're pursuing this."

In a staff report, Assistant City Manager Audrey Seymour says the city has no history of giving or loaning city funds to restore a historic building.

Ultimately, the council decided to bring the issue back at a regular meeting to get more public comment.

Mr. Duncan said he wants to restore the exterior of the the-

■ MENLO PARK

ater, including the neon sign, but restoration costs have increased dramatically, and the total costs of buying and fixing up the abandoned theater is an estimated \$4.27 million.

"My goal has always been to do the right thing and restore the theater," Mr. Duncan told the Almanac. "We're sincerely trying our best, and we need some help."

Members of the public have complained about the worn-down look of the theater since owner Howard Crittenden closed the movie house, located on El Camino Real between Oak Grove and Valparaiso avenues, in 2002. ■

Without the city's money, the restoration plan will likely fall through, says Andy Duncan.

Paralyzed man settles suit for \$1.6 million

■ Dutch Goose restaurant in West Menlo Park is among the defendants.

By **Andrea Gemmet**
Almanac Staff Writer

The accident that left Richie Kieninger paralyzed is memorialized in a video taken with a camera phone.

In January 2006, a teenage drinking party on Gordon Avenue in West Menlo Park ended abruptly when Mr. Kieninger, then 19, suffered a broken vertebrae in his neck during a wrestling match with a friend.

Now 21, he is confined to an electric wheelchair and paralyzed from the chest down, with limited use of his hands, said Boris Efron, his Portola Valley-based lawyer.

While Mr. Kieninger takes responsibility for his own actions, he's not the only one to blame for his devastating injury, according to Mr. Efron.

There was plenty of blame to go around, judging by the \$1.6 million out-of-court settlement Mr. Kieninger just won as a result of his lawsuit against the Dutch Goose restaurant, his wrestling opponent, David Vallarino, and the Wood family, at whose home he was injured.

"Our theme was responsibility for everybody," Mr. Efron said. "Richie admitted what he did wrong, and he wanted the defendants to admit what they did wrong — serving an

obviously intoxicated teenager, not controlling a party house. The Vallarinos should have controlled their teenage son. He shouldn't have been out drinking and wrestling either."

Mr. Efron and his co-counsel Timothy Hamilton of San Francisco recovered the entire amount of insurance coverage available to all three defendants — \$1 million from the Dutch Goose Inc., \$300,000 from the Vallarino Family and \$301,000 from Jody Wood.

"It was an incident of innocent horseplay; neither side intended or anticipated any injury to the other," said Lee Danforth, Mr. Vallarino's

See **DUTCH**, page 8

Portola Valley arson suspect released

■ Insufficient evidence to charge him, prosecutor says.

A man arrested after a series of grass fires in Portola Valley on Aug. 4 was released from custody Aug. 7 after prosecutors found insufficient evidence to charge him with arson, San Mateo County Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said.

Donald Ray Williams, 45, of East Palo Alto, had been held in county jail in Redwood City on \$200,000 bail and was to be charged with four felony counts of arson. "At this point, the evidence did not warrant the filing of criminal charges and the investigation

will be ongoing," Mr. Wagstaffe said.

San Mateo County Sheriff's deputies arrested Mr. Williams on the afternoon of Saturday, Aug. 4, after he was seen running near one of the small fires near the Portola Valley-Palo Alto border.

The fires were found burning at about 1:30 p.m. near Arastradero and Alpine roads.

Mr. Williams was picked up running along Arastradero Road, within a half-mile of one of the fires, according to Woodside Fire Protection District Battalion

Chief Dan Ghiorso.

The fires were controlled by 3 p.m. and only burned about an acre of grassland in total, Mr. Ghiorso said.

More than 50 firefighters from six fire agencies, as well as officers from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and the Palo Alto Police Department, responded to the fires, which are still considered to have been intentionally set.

"The investigation does indicate that we have an arson, it's just a matter of proving who is responsible for it," Mr. Wagstaffe said.

— Bay City News Service



Almanac photo by Veronica Weber

Remembering a giant

Former 49er quarterback Joe Montana helped celebrate the life of legendary 49er and Stanford football coach Bill Walsh at a public memorial at Monster Park in San Francisco. Mr. Walsh, 75, died at his Woodside home July 30 from complications of leukemia. For more information and pictures, see www.AlmanacNews.com.

Summer SALE



Menlo Park

870 Santa Cruz Ave.

650.326.9661

San Ramon

300 Market Place

925.806.0430

San Rafael

1654 Second Street

415.454.0502

www.flegels.com

Flegels

Fine Furniture & Interior Design

Portola Valley's Bill and Jean Lane honored for their philanthropy

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Though Bill and Jean Lane of Portola Valley sometimes try to remain anonymous in matters concerning philanthropy, it won't work this time.

In recognition of the Lanes' decades of giving in the areas of "community, conservation, American history, government and education," the Silicon Valley chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals has awarded the couple the Glenn George "Heart of Philanthropy" Award.

A ceremony is scheduled for Nov. 16 at the Marriott Hotel in Santa Clara, said Bev Lenihan, a senior consultant at Essex and Drake, a San Jose-based fundraising consulting firm.

"We are extremely pleased that Bill and Jean have been awarded this prestigious honor," said Essex and Drake president Sharon Svensson. "They certainly deserve it for their countless acts of philanthropy over the years. We are so fortunate to have them in our lives. They are a wonderful example for us all."

The award recognizes the couple's monetary gifts, but also their donations of time over the years. Mr. Lane has served on boards or advisory committees for Colonial Williamsburg, the National Park Foundation, the Yosemite Fund, the California State Park Foundation and the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

His public service ranges from the local — as Portola Valley's first mayor in 1964 — to the international, as ambassador-at-large and commissioner general of Japan in 1975, and ambassador to Australia and Nauru from 1985 to 1989.

Ms. Lane has served on boards for the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, the Filoli garden estate in Woodside and the National Tropical Botanical Garden. She has also vol-



Fundraising professionals from Silicon Valley will honor Portola Valley residents Bill and Jean Lane in November for the couple's decades of philanthropic activities.

unteered at Stanford's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve and the Children's Health Council.

Recent local gifts from the Lanes include \$1 million to the Peninsula Open Space Trust and some \$2.5 million for a new Town Center complex in Portola Valley.

Philanthropy with a focus

Recovery from earthquake and wildland fires has been high on the list of priorities in the Lanes' local giving. Portola Valley straddles the San Andreas fault, and its grassy open spaces and many deciduous trees can become tinder-dry in the summer.

Their gifts to the Town Center project includes \$200,000 for the town's emergency response center — a seismically fortified element of the new Town Hall meant to survive a devastating quake — and two unrestricted \$25,000 grants.

One grant is for the Woodside Fire Protection District and the other for the Citizens Emergency Response and Preparedness Program, a group of volunteers in and

around Portola Valley and Woodside who organize themselves to deal with local disasters.

The grants might go toward the purchase of more firefighting devices, such as shovels, spades and equipment, Mr. Lane said in an interview.

The Lanes' gift was rewarded, in a way, on Monday, July 9, when a fire came within shouting distance of the couple's Westridge Drive home after workmen unwittingly ignited some dry grass with an acetylene torch they were using to cut bolts from an old fire hydrant.

Firefighters, alert to the potential for the fire to spread through the dry vegetation, brought in six engines, two aircraft and a bulldozer and quickly contained the blaze. It helped, Mr. Lane said, that both property owners had hired the crew he had also employed to trim the vegetation.

Mr. Lane said the disaster-oriented focus of their recent gifts to the Town Center left him feeling like a "canary in a coal mine." ■

Family health center celebrates fifth anniversary

The Ravenswood Family Health Center, which includes the Belle Haven Clinic in Menlo Park, is hosting a fifth anniversary celebration from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, at its main clinic at 1798 Bay Road in East Palo Alto, and the community is invited.

The free event will offer ethnic dishes, a magic show for kids, and a number of performers, including: the Talons, a local professional jazz group; traditional Aztec dancers from Mexico City; and young men from Menlo-Atherton High

School, who will perform a Maori war dance called the Haka.

San Mateo County Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson will be recognized for her efforts to address health disparities.

The health center has grown rapidly in its first five years, enrolling some 19,500 patients. In addition to the main clinic and the Belle Haven Clinic, it has a mobile health van donated by Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Why Giving Home Buyers Early Occupancy Can Cause Major Problems

Q: The sale of our home will be delayed a couple of months until the buyers' home sells. Since we have a place to move, the buyer is asking for early occupancy. Is this a good idea or not?

and when is it due? What kind of penalty will the buyers incur if the rent is late? Who will pay the utilities after you move out? Will the buyer be covered by adequate insurance while occupying your property?

— Carol D.

A: Dear Carol,

Giving early occupancy is rarely a good idea because too many things could go wrong. For instance, what if your buyers' home doesn't sell on schedule or — worse yet — what if it doesn't sell at all?

However, if you must give early occupancy make certain that your contact covers critical items. First, how much rent will be charged

What recourse will you have if the buyer's sale falls through and they cannot buy your house? What if they don't want to leave?

The buyer's "walk through" inspection should be done before occupancy, just in case something happens to the property after they move in. Even if you can satisfactorily answer these questions, this would be one area of real estate I would stick with "never"!

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



August 25 & 26, 2007

University Avenue • 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

- ⊗ Three Hundred Fine Art and Contemporary Craft Displays
- ⊗ Italian Street Painting Expo
- ⊗ Gourmet Food, Wine & Microbrews
- ⊗ Kids' Art Studio presented by Lucile Packard Children's Hospital
- ⊗ Entertainment on Three Stages
- ⊗ Free Bike Parking

Thanks to Our Media Partners



SPONSORED BY THE PALO ALTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Information: 650-324-3121 • www.mlproductions.com • TravInfo: 817-1717

Post news and views on
TOWNSQUARE

www.AlmanacNews.com

Dump truck plunges into deep ravine in Los Trancos Woods

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Earning a paycheck by operating a piece of heavy construction equipment may have its rewards — living out a childhood fantasy, for example — but for one man heading down a steep and winding road in the Los Trancos Woods community last week, an ordinary trip in a 10-wheel dump truck became the stuff of nightmares.

The northbound truck reportedly lost its brakes around the 200 block of Ramona Road at 10:45 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 9, and plunged several hundred feet down into a wooded ravine off the north edge of the road, said officers from the California Highway Patrol and firefighters from the Woodside Fire Protection District.

The San Mateo County Hazardous Materials Team also responded to the incident after diesel fuel was found to have leaked out of the truck and contaminated the ground in a dry creek bed where it came to rest.

The driver was taken to the hospital after climbing up and out of the ravine under his own power, said Woodside Fire's Chief Armando Muela. The slope was so severe that firefighters had to resort to ropes and climbing gear to rappel down to where the truck came to rest.

On its way over the edge, the runaway truck pushed before it two unoccupied vehicles — a

small pick-up truck and a sports utility vehicle. Firefighters said they did not know whether the truck was loaded when it crashed, but found the bed to be empty. The CHP estimated the truck's empty weight at 30,000 pounds to 35,000 pounds.

Firefighters pointed to a 20-foot to 30-foot scar of what appeared to be freshly plowed earth along an embankment just before the point where the truck left the road. The driver may have tried to use the embankment in an effort to scrub off speed.

As the truck rolled down into the ravine, diesel fuel spilled from its twin 48-gallon tanks, with one tank completely ruptured and the other punctured and leaking, a CHP officer said at the scene.

The soil contaminated by the diesel fuel will be dug up, put into canisters and hauled off to a hazardous materials dump by the company that owns the truck, said Brian Molver, the hazardous materials duty officer that day and a member of San Mateo County's Office of Emergency Services. The step is intended, in part, to prevent the fuel from contaminating Los Trancos Creek, Mr. Molver said.

Tow trucks gathered at the scene, including at least one with a boom that could handle a weight of 100,000 pounds, a driver said. In mid-afternoon the wreckage, a functioning dump truck earlier that day but now barely recognizable, was hauled up and out of the ravine. ■

DUTCH

continued from page 5

attorney. "There really is no legal or moral responsibility my client David has to the injured boy."

Mr. Danforth said the settlement was a purely economic decision by the family.

The settlement money is going into a special needs trust to help cover Mr. Kieninger's future care, said Mr. Efron.

Mr. Kieninger, through his attorney, declined to be interviewed.

His wish list includes a more comfortable bed, a better electric wheelchair, and future surgery that could improve use of his hands enough for him to work at the Wood Barn with his father, Tom Kieninger, who owns the furniture restoration business at Allied Arts.

Despite his condition, Mr. Kieninger has stayed optimistic and hopes that breakthroughs in stem cell research and medical science

will allow him to walk again someday, said Mr. Efron.

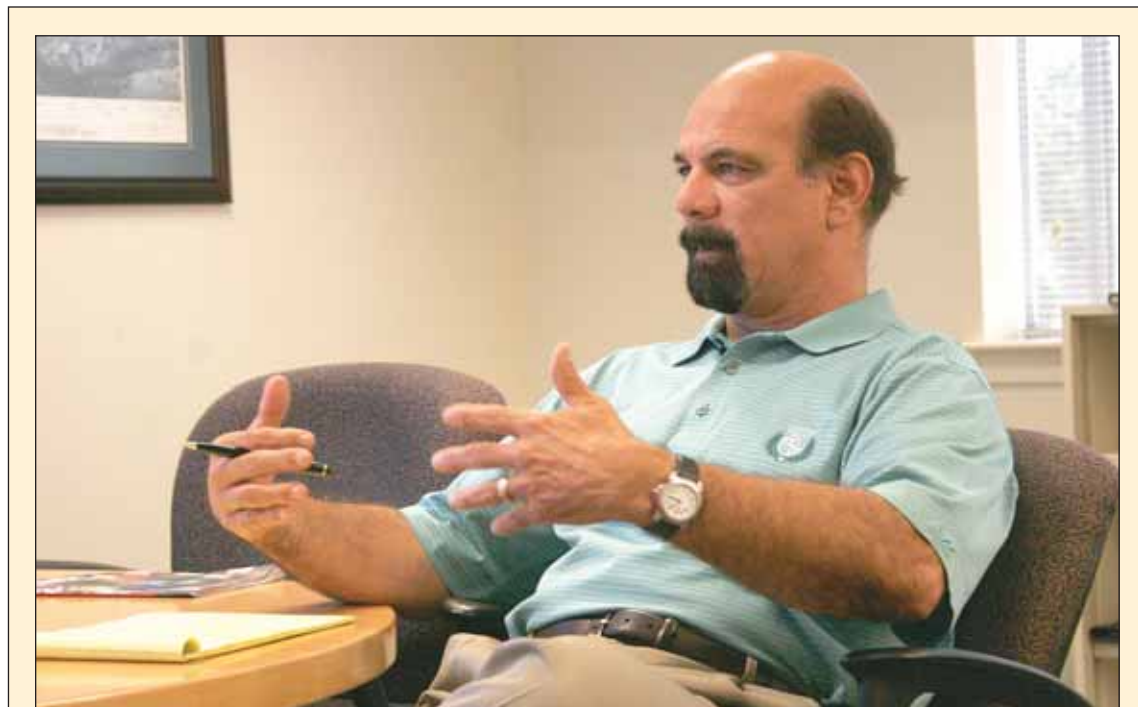
"He's probably the most optimistic catastrophically injured client I've ever had the pleasure to represent," he said.

Mr. Kieninger's case hinged on whether the bartender at the Dutch Goose sold beers to an obviously intoxicated Mr. Kieninger. California law holds an establishment responsible only if alcohol is sold to intoxicated minors. If a teenager gets drunk on the premises but doesn't actually buy the alcohol, the bar or restaurant is not liable, said Mr. Efron.

Dutch Goose

The owner of the Dutch Goose denied any wrongdoing and said the West Menlo restaurant is careful to prevent underage drinking.

Greg Stern, who took over the Dutch Goose two months before Mr. Kieninger's accident, said his lawyer advised him not to com-



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Glen Rojas, Menlo Park's new city manager, said he plans to make a point of reaching out to the Belle Haven community.

New MP manager: Hiring more police officers a top priority

■ Revamping downtown, reaching out to Belle Haven also atop Glen Rojas' to-do list.

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

Glen Rojas has been Menlo Park's city manager for less than two weeks, but he said he's ready to take on one of the city's biggest challenges — figuring out how to keep police officers from leaving Menlo Park.

In a sit-down interview with the Almanac, Mr. Rojas cast a vote of confidence in Police Chief Bruce Goitia, and said he's already met with the chief to start laying out a plan to recruit and retain more officers for the short-handed force.

"Recruiting police personnel is extremely difficult statewide," said Mr. Rojas, who said he dealt with a police shortage at his previous job as city manager of Chino, a city of 76,000 near Pomona. "The reality is, we're competing against other entities for the same pool of officers."

At least 12 sworn officers have resigned since 2005. Three dispatchers — who were supposed to join the Menlo Park force in

an arrangement to operate a joint dispatch center with San Carlos — have also left within the past year. In addition, three former officers are suing a sergeant and the city for racial discrimination.

Mr. Rojas said that, after talking with the chief, he thinks morale is fine and the shortage will be solved.

"I'm convinced the working conditions in our police department are good, and Chief Goitia is doing a great job managing the department," Mr. Rojas said. "The council has also shown it really wants to help fix the vacancy problems, so now it's just a matter of us working together to figure out a solution."

Other priorities

Mr. Rojas said revamping properties along El Camino Real and the city's downtown are also a top priority.

"Revitalizing the downtown area is very similar to a general plan update," he said. "It's going to take time and a lot of effort from the community, and I think we just need to get it started."

He also noted that he plans to include residents of the Belle Haven neighborhood in more city events and decisions.

"[City government] is here to serve [Belle Haven residents] just as much as we're here to serve residents of the downtown area, the Willows, and other areas," he said. "My goal is to get out in the community — the whole community — and do as much as I can."

Political divide

Although Mr. Rojas has 10 years of experience under his belt as city manager of Chino, Menlo Park is its own city with its own set of issues.

"I understand you can't just take what I did in Chino and plop it down in Menlo Park — that's not what I'm here to do," he said. "The bottom line is the city needs to do whatever is in the best interests to Menlo Park residents."

Mr. Rojas is leasing a condo near the Civic Center until he and his wife buy a new home. Once he gets caught up on his new job, he hopes to put aside some time for his hobbies — hiking and biking. ■

ment on the settlement until it is finalized next week. He said he sympathized with Mr. Kieninger's plight, but asserted that the Dutch Goose was not responsible.

"I feel awful for him. I wouldn't wish that on my worst enemy," Mr. Stern said.

Under his ownership, the Dutch

Goose has been inspected three times by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and has a clean record, Mr. Stern said.

"If anything good has come out of it, as a new owner, it's that we've really stepped up our game as far as how we monitor underage drink-

ing," Mr. Stern said.

The Dutch Goose employees scan all IDs and there are 16 cameras to monitor the restaurant, he said. "If we sell a pitcher with five glasses, we check all five IDs," he said.

An attorney for Ms. Wood did not return a phone call seeking comment on the settlement. ■

Heist nets \$17,000 in materials from Portola Valley Town Center

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

When night falls in Portola Valley, the darkness tends to be deeper than in nearby towns. The active encouragement of minimal light levels is one of many steps the town takes to maintain a rural character and to avoid an urban or suburban tone.

Now the town may be stepping toward a suburban tone of lighting at Town Center, at least for the next 12 to 15 months during the construction of a new library, Town Hall and community hall.

A reliable darkness could have been instrumental over the weekend of Aug. 4 and 5, when a thief or thieves stole an estimated \$17,000 in materials from a locked equipment container at the construction site, said Sgt. Gary Brown of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

The heist netted a jack ham-

mer, several power tools, and a plethora of copper and brass fittings still in their boxes, Sgt. Brown said, noting that copper is a hot commodity on the black market.

While there are several equipment containers on the site, only the one with the fittings was broken into — the earmarks of an inside job, Sgt. Brown said, adding that inside knowledge could result in the fittings' being stolen again once they're replaced.

Given that possibility, the site's apparent vulnerability at night and the length of the project — a grand opening isn't expected until winter 2008 — something needs to be done, the Town Council concluded at its Aug. 8 meeting.

"This is not going to get better; it's going to get worse," Mayor Ted Driscoll said. "We're out here in the middle of nowhere. I think we do need to take more action."

The council looked at the cost of hiring a private patrol to visit

the site, and discussed asking managers of Town Hall's institutional next-door neighbor, The Sequoias retirement community, if they might make their night watchman available for a nightly turn or two around the site.

Ahead may be infrared cameras, posted surveillance notices, and lights, even lights controlled by motion detectors — an idea discouraged in the town's design guidelines.

A Web camera is already mounted out there to record construction activities for a documentary film project. Bright lights could turn the camera into a security device.

"I think we should be aggressive about this," Councilman Steve Toben said. "Let's hit it real hard."

The Sheriff's Office will be on higher alert during deputies' patrols as well, Sgt. Brown said. "Nobody likes to lose \$17,000 worth of merchandise on their watch." ■

Mildred Whitaker helped Portola Valley get started; held senior staff position

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

OBITUARY

An intimate eye witness to the early years of Portola Valley as a town has died. Former town clerk Mildred L. Whitaker, who organized and documented the town's official business for its first 12 years, died May 21 in Sun City, Arizona. She was 84.

Mildred, as she was known, "was very direct, she was very efficient, she was very organized, and she was very low-key," said Linda Craig, whose term as the next town clerk overlapped with Ms. Whitaker's for about two weeks in 1976.

"Mildred was a real (Rock) of Gibraltar," said resident Bill Lane, who was instrumental in persuading residents to vote for town incorporation in 1964 and who served on the first Town Council.

The vote to incorporate passed with an 80 percent majority, but the town had to avoid missteps in dealing with powerful landowners in the 20 percent minority who objected to incorporation and efforts to prevent zoning for subdivisions, Mr. Lane said.

Ms. Whitaker came to her job having worked as a legal secretary and legal assistant in closing real estate deals, her son Chuck

Lundeen said. As town clerk, it was her responsibility to keep official records, conduct elections, and ensure that legal actions were executed properly.

"She had to deal with a lot of pressure," Mr. Lane said. "Twenty percent can cause some trouble, particularly when they were backed by a large real estate firm, a respected real estate firm in the area. ... She was wonderful in dealing with the public."

In the early years, the mayor was chief executive and the town clerk the senior member on a four-person staff, Ms. Craig said. Many staff functions were done by unpaid volunteers.

Mr. Lundeen recalled his mother's telling him that during her work with the town, in the months before it officially incorporated, she handled the job "with one hand tied behind her back," but that after incorporation she was "running around like a chicken with its head cut off."

Ever helpful, Mr. Lundeen recalled, he suggested: "Mom, why



Mildred Whitaker

don't you use your other hand?"

After the Town Hall moved to the former Portola School — a building complex built over a trace of the San Andreas Fault — Ms. Whitaker's son said he remembered his mother asking a town official: "You know, the school was closed because of the fault and my office is right there. Why?"

The answer, her son said, was that, unlike the students, she had a choice of staying or going.

Ministers aplenty

Ms. Whitaker's first husband, Vernon Lundeen, died at their home in Minnesota, at which point Mildred moved to Menlo Park and later Los Altos after marrying George Whitaker, a retired wing commander from the Canadian Air Force.

The couple owned a yacht docked at Coyote Point and raced it in the maritime equivalent of road rallies on San Francisco Bay, though Ms. Whitaker tended to get seasick, her son said.

After retiring to Sun City, Ms. Whitaker enjoyed quilting and working with stained glass, her son said.

In 2002, she journeyed to Michigan to preview the newly designed Ford Thunderbird. A lifelong fan of the car — she owned one in

See WHITAKER, page 10



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY 765 Portola Road Portola Valley, CA 94028 NOTICE OF OPTIONS REGARDING ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that because the number of persons running for Town Council does not exceed the number of offices to be filled at the general election scheduled for November 6, 2007, and there is no other matter on the ballot, the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley pursuant to California Elections Code §10229 has the option at a regular or special meeting before the election to adopt one of the following courses of action: (1) appoint to the office the person who has been nominated; (2) appoint to the office any eligible elector if no one has been nominated; or (3) hold the election.

The Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will consider these courses of action during the regularly scheduled August 22, 2007, Town Council meeting and will either make the appointment(s) or direct the election to be held. If appointed, the person(s) appointed shall qualify and take office and serve exactly as if elected at a municipal election.

Angela Howard, Clerk of the Town of Portola Valley
Dated: August 7, 2007

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on August 15, 2007.



Pacific National Bank

The deal just got better!

A limited time only special rate for your Home Equity Line of Credit*

5.99%
Intro APR*
Fixed for
12 months

And thereafter, 0.75% under prime for the life of the loan currently at

7.50%
Home Equity
Line of Credit

One Time Offer Ends 8/31/07!

NO application fee

NO closing costs

NO annual fee

NO appraisal

For a limited time, apply today at
(877) PNB-4082
or stop in your favorite neighborhood location

Menlo Park

701 Santa Cruz Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 322-8494

Mountain View

820 East El Camino Real
Mountain View, A 94040
(650) 964-0640

Burlingame

1423 Burlingame Avenue
Burlingame, CA 94010
(650) 348-8411



*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is based on the Prime Rate published in The Wall Street Journal. APR is subject to change monthly. For lines of credit with a maximum combined loan to value of 80% or less, the rate will be prime minus .75%. For lines of credit with a maximum combined loan to value of 80.1% to 90%, the rate will be prime plus .25%. As of June 13, 2007, the Prime Rate is 8.25% and the following rates would apply: 7.50% APR for credit lines of 80% or less maximum combined loan to value and 8.50% APR for credit lines 80.1% to 90% maximum combined loan to value. The maximum APR is 18%. The minimum line amount is \$5,000. There is no annual fee. An early termination charge of \$495 is assessed if paid off and closed within 24 months of loan date. Subject to credit approval and property valuation. Program terms and conditions are subject to change any time without notice. Property insurance is required and flood insurance may be required. Available to owner occupied 1-4 family residential or condominium properties. Offer is for new HELOC customers of Pacific National Bank.

Key meeting on grocery store

Members of the public will get a chance next week to comment on plans to build a 50,850-square-foot grocery store and 58,000 square feet of offices at the former site of a Cadillac dealership at 1300 El Camino Real near Valparaiso Avenue in Menlo Park.

The “scoping session” — designed to determine the scope of an environmental impact study of the proposed project — is

scheduled for the Planning Commission meeting of Monday, Aug. 20, starting at 7 p.m. in the council chambers in the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets.

San Mateo-based Sand Hill Property Co., the developer that built a Whole Foods store in Los Altos last year, is behind the project. The company has not said whether Whole Foods is the prospective grocery store tenant.

The building for the grocery

store would front El Camino Real, and could have offices or a fitness center on the second story. A two-story office building is planned behind the store.

The Planning Commission will be the deciding body on the project, as it does not require the city to rezone the 3.4-acre site. Comments regarding the scope of the environmental review can also be e-mailed to mefisher@menlopark.org.

Vote security: County's eSlate machines OK

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

After about a year and a half of comparison shopping, San Mateo County officials decided last August to spend \$10.4 million on 2,100 electronic voting machines. Their efforts at due diligence appear to have paid off.

The county's choice, the eSlate manufactured by Texas-based Hart InterCivic, is the one voting machine that the California Secretary of State's office recently deemed eligible for widespread use, starting with the February 2008 presidential primary election, said David Tom, San Mateo County's elections manager.

In upgrading old voting machines to meet the requirements of the 2002 Help America Vote Act (HAVA), counties have mixed and matched brands but only San Mateo County and one other of the state's 58 counties went exclusively with eSlate.

Congress passed HAVA in the wake of the 2000 presidential election, in which Florida's punch-card voting machines became notorious for failing to clearly indicate how some had voted. The act provides funding to states to overhaul election practices, including replacing punch-card systems and enabling people with physical disabilities to vote independently and confidentially.

The secretary of state, acting on conclusions of investigative teams of computer scientists organized by the University of California, decertified the eSlate machine effective Feb. 5, 2008, citing issues that include machine security and election auditing procedures. The state then recertified it for general use provided counties take 36 remedial steps over the next few months.

“We think everything (on the list) is doable,” Mr. Tom said. “They don't seem to be reasons that we can't get over the hurdle.”

Two other manufacturers — Ohio-based Diebold Election Systems and Oakland-based Sequoia Voting Systems — fared less well. Their software architecture made the machines “much more susceptible to tampering and virus infection,” Evan Gold-

berg of the secretary of state's office told the Almanac.

The state decertified then recertified the Diebold and Sequoia systems, but with a harsher restriction: the counties that bought them — including Santa Clara and Alameda — can use just one machine per polling place and must conduct a 100 percent manual recount of all electronically cast ballots.

“In many ways, I think voters and counties are the victims of a federal certification process that hasn't done an adequate job of ensuring that the systems made available to them are secure, accurate, reliable and accessible,” said Secretary of State Debra Bowen in a statement. “Congress enacted (HAVA), which pushed many counties into buying electronic systems that — as we've seen for some time and we saw again in the independent UC review — were not properly reviewed or tested to ensure that they protected the integrity of the vote.”

Diebold and Sequoia dispute the findings, complaining that testing by computer experts in a lab ignores the normal security of polling places.

Local views of eSlate

In March 2007, a majority of voters in the Las Lomitas Elementary School District approved a new parcel tax, but opinions varied on eSlate. Some found it easy to use, but others were confused.

The Almanac spoke with poll workers and voters at the time.

“It's simple, very simple. It was pretty self-instructive,” said Menlo Park resident and mother Maureen Goode.


Cecelia Pinto, mother of two, said she “figured it out standing there” and that “it's easier than an ATM.”

Others disagreed.

The paper receipt “is too small for someone with slightly degraded vision to see,” said computer veteran Neil Wilhelm.

“If (my husband) 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,” Mr. Tom said at the time. ■



LUCILE PACKARD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH UNIVERSITY
Provided by Lucile Packard Children's Hospital

Your Child's Health University

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

- ✱ **PEDIATRIC WEIGHT CONTROL PROGRAM**

This family-based, behavioral and educational weight management program promotes healthy eating and exercise habits for overweight children and their families. More than 80 percent of children achieve long-term weight loss through this program — and parents lose weight too! The new session starts soon, so call (650) 725-4424 to preregister. Spaces are limited.
- ✱ **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, September 6-27
- ✱ **REFRESHER CHILDBIRTH CLASS**

This is an excellent refresher course on labor and delivery techniques, including how subsequent labors differ from the first, as well as sibling and family adjustments.

- Saturday, September 8
- ✱ **IS MEDIA THE OTHER PARENT?**

Tom Robinson, MD, from the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Center for Healthy Weight and Rebecca Randall from Common Sense Media discuss the effects of media on the health of our children and practical ways parents can guide their children towards a better understanding of media messages and productive lifestyle. Please call (650) 724-3783 to register for this free event.

- Tuesday, October 2

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



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

WHITAKER

continued from page 9

1964 — she bought a new one.

Ms. Whitaker was a lifelong member of Community of Christ (RLDS) and the granddaughter, daughter, wife, mother and grandmother of ordained min-

isters in that church.

Her second husband, George C. Whitaker, also preceded her in death.

She is survived by her son, Charles V. Lundeen of Sun City; brother David Thomas of Lamoni, Iowa; sister Ruth Smith of Mesa, Arizona; and 3 grandsons. ■

Two election contests certain, another likely, for November

Local elections in which there are more candidates than open seats will be held in the Menlo Park Fire Protection District and the Los Trancos County Water District.

Each district has three candidates running for two seats, according to the San Mateo County Registrar of Voters.

A contest is likely as well for two seats on the school board in Portola Valley, with three residents taking out candidate papers. By the Almanac's press time Monday, Aug. 13, only two candidates had filed.

The filing period closed Friday for races in which all the incumbents chose to run for re-election. For races in which an incumbent bowed out, the deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15.

Woodside

An uncontested election appears likely for four seats on the Woodside Town Council this year. (See related story.)

In the Woodside Elementary School District, a contested election could happen if other candidates file for two seats on the school board. Incumbent Trustee Ellen Ablow has filed; incumbent Kimberly McMorrow is not seeking re-election. Virginia Bamford, a parent involved with the school's PTA and site council, has said she will run for a board seat. The filing deadline is extended to Aug. 15 for this race.

With just two candidates running for two seats on the governing board of the Woodside Fire Protection District, incumbents John Gardner of Portola Valley and Patrick Cain of Ladera will be reappointed.

Portola Valley

Deadlines have been extended

ELECTION 2007

to Wednesday for races in Portola Valley and Ladera because at least one incumbent is not running for re-election.

Judith Ann Mendelsohn and Brad Turner are running for two seats on the board of the Portola Valley Elementary School District. Steven Humphreys has taken out papers.

For two seats on the Portola Valley Town Council, the candidates so far include incumbent Councilman Steve Toben, who has filed his papers at Town Hall, and Planning Commission Chair Ann Wengert, who said she is planning to run but had not yet filed by the Almanac's press deadline on Monday, according to Assistant Town Clerk Sharon Hanlon.

In Ladera, where two seats are open for the board of the recreation district, high school teacher and resident Peter Caryotakis and resident Karen Fryling have filed.

Menlo fire board

The race is on in the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, with three candidates vying for two open seats.

Incumbents Bart Spencer and John Osmer filed candidate papers early on, but Peter Ohtaki, who works for a nonprofit focused on security issues, filed papers on the last possible day, Aug. 10.

Mr. Ohtaki, 46, grew up in Menlo Park, attending local schools. He returned to town only recently after living in San Francisco and Belmont for a number of years. He was appointed to the Mid-Peninsula Water District (Belmont) board of directors in 2006, but recently resigned his seat after moving from that district.

He hasn't attended fire district

board meetings, but has been trained in the district's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, he said.

He's the Bay Area regional director of Business Executives for National Security, a national organization made up of business leaders focusing on national security issues.

Bart Spencer, who has had a long career in emergency services, including as a firefighter/paramedic, is running for his third four-year term on the board. He works with the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services, and is a Menlo Park resident.

Mr. Osmer is running for his second term on the board. A Menlo Park resident, he is employed by Solectron Corp., a global electronics manufacturing and services company. His career has included a stint as a congressional aide in Washington, D.C.

Other races

In the Los Trancos County Water District, an election is on for three candidates from the unincorporated Los Trancos neighborhood who are running for the two open seats on the board.

Incumbent Charles Krenz is running for re-election. The other candidates are Richard Swan, listed by the registrar's office as a founder of a software company, and Mike Ward, who is listed as a community volunteer.

Registration for several races closed Friday, Aug. 10, in which the candidates will be appointed—an election will not be held—because the number of candidates matches the number of expiring terms.

On the board of the Sequoia Union High School District, incumbents Olivia Martinez, Don Gibson

See **ELECTION**, page 14

Woodside Deli
Italian Delicacies

Gourmet Italian Foods

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

WEEKLY SPECIALS

Fromager D'Affinois \$9 ⁹⁹ lb. Exp. 8/21/07	Stella Fontinella \$6 ⁹⁹ lb. Exp. 8/21/07	Columbus Pepper Salami \$8 ⁹⁹ lb. Exp. 8/21/07
---	---	--

1453 Woodside Road, Redwood City (Next to Gray's Paint)

If you can imagine it...




- Home Theater
- Whole House Audio & High Definition Video Distribution
- Home Automation
- Automation Systems Programming
- Phone & Computer Network Wiring & Distribution
- Lighting Control
- Security & Surveillance Cameras
- ISF Calibrations

we can do it.

SP SOUND PERFECTION
Design • Integration • Installation

www.soundperfection.com
700 El Camino Real, Menlo Park 94025 • 650-323-1000
Open Tue - Fri 10-6pm • Sat 11-5pm • Closed Sun & Mon
CA CONTRACTORS LICENSE #805780

DR. RENEE'S PIANO

Enjoy the FUN of PLAYING THE PIANO! Lessons for ADULTS and CHILDREN

DR. RENEE CHEVALIER
(650) 854-0543
www.DrReneesPiano.com

The Duck Club Restaurant at the Stanford Park Hotel invites you to enjoy the best brunch on the Peninsula.

Adults \$29.95
Children 4-12, \$17.00
Children under 4, free

650-330-2790


STANFORD PARK HOTEL

100 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, CA
www.stanfordparkhotel.com

Sunday Brunch
\$29.95 PER PERSON



Menlo Park startups try to turn their alternative energy theories into successful businesses



ZeaChem Inc., a company trying to convert wood chips into ethanol, is one of several alternative-energy companies to move to Menlo Park. Engineer Gal Mariansky, above right, works in the ZeaChem lab.



Thinking g

■ **Story by Rory Brown** / Almanac Staff Writer

The green revolution is touching the lives of many local residents. It's rare to travel Santa Cruz Avenue without seeing at least one Toyota Prius; more solar panels are being installed on local roofs; and many people eagerly await the arrival of a Tesla Motors showroom in Menlo Park, where they can check out the new Tesla Roadster electric car.

■ **Photos by Veronica Weber** / Almanac Staff Photographer

But as residents figure out how they can be greener, businesses are sprouting up in Menlo Park with the goal of redefining the way we think about fuel and energy.

These startups — also known as green-tech or clean-tech companies — are renting lab and office space in eastern Menlo Park with the goal of figuring out how to produce more energy for a growing population while decreasing the wear and tear on the planet.

"These people are scientists (who) have left Stanford, or left other companies with ideas — big ideas — they want to try out," said John Tarlton, head of Tarlton Properties, which leases office and lab space in Menlo Business Park east of U.S. 101. "Some of these companies are funded by venture capital money; others are funded by credit cards and second mortgages."

'Location, location, location'

It's not a coincidence that green startups are setting up shop in Menlo Park.

The promise of venture capital cash and a talent-rich pool of Silicon Valley innovators and researchers are luring companies to the Bay Area.

"Look at what Menlo Park has to offer: proximity to Stanford, proximity to venture capital, and proximity to a lot of [high quality] housing," Mr. Tarlton said. "The most important thing is location, location, location, and Menlo Park's got it."

"A lot of companies are taking on different aspects of alternative energy, and this certainly seems like the place to do it," said Dan Verser, president and CEO of ZeaChem, a company that moved to Menlo Park six months ago from Colorado. "Folks in the areas of biotech, energy, agriculture, and chemical engineering are interested in this, and a lot of them are based in Silicon Valley."

ZeaChem has set out to mass-produce fuel from "organic waste," such as tree bark left unused by paper companies in

Task force pushing Menlo Park to **GO GREEN**

As Menlo Park startups try to break to the forefront of alternative energy technology, the Green Ribbon Citizens Committee, a task force of residents focused on addressing global warming at the local level, is trying to get everyone else to catch green fever.

The volunteer committee, about 50 members strong, has already convinced the City Council to endorse a handful of projects to make the city greener, including planting more trees, improving city landscaping to conserve water, and making it easier for residents to bike around town.

Now, the group is set to take on more controversial topics, such as whether the city should support high-density housing, the Dumbarton Rail

passenger train, or high-speed rail — projects that could curb greenhouse gas emissions, but

'We're asking the City Council to put front and center some very large goals for reducing this city's carbon footprint.'

MITCH SLOMIAK
COMMITTEE MEMBER

could also have major impacts on residents' everyday lives.

"We're asking the City Council to put front and center some very large goals for reducing this city's carbon

footprint," said Mitch Słomiak, a member of the committee and the chief financial officer for Kepler's. "We need to think big. If we only focus on the short-term goals, we're going to miss the big picture."

Before making any specific recommendations to the council — such as whether the city should build more high-density housing — the committee plans to present concepts to the public in town hall meetings this fall.

"The idea is, [the committee] tackles an issue, and then we present it to the public," said Chris Bui, who is on the task force. "If the committee is behind it, and the community is behind it, it'll be that much easier to sell to the council."

INFORMATION

■ **The Green Ribbon Citizens Committee** meetings are open to the public, and the group is actively seeking more people to get involved in local efforts to curb global warming. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 15, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets. At the meeting, Steve Schneider, a Stanford professor and a lead author of the report issued by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, will give a presentation and answer questions.



Dan Verser, president and CEO of ZeaChem, outside the company's headquarters in east Menlo Park.



Courtesy Unidym

Unidym is looking to mass-produce a film that can absorb light and turn it into energy. Unidym officials say the film can increase the efficiency of solar cells (above right).

green

their production process.

Through chemistry and fermentation, ZeaChem hopes to turn different types of tree bark into ethanol, which can be used for fuel.

If successful, Mr. Verser said, ZeaChem's operation would take the demand off corn — the source of most of today's ethanol production.

"Right now, when the demand for corn goes up, it affects the price of bacon and eggs," Mr. Verser said. "Ethanol producers are competing with the demands of the food industry, including the demand for corn-based animal feed. We're looking to get ethanol from a neutral source."

Two blocks down the road from the ZeaChem lab and offices, another startup, Unidym, is researching a different branch of the alternative energy industry, focusing on the efficiency of solar cells.

Unidym moved to Menlo Park six months ago, and is looking to mass-produce a film that, depending on how it's

used, can absorb light and turn it into energy, or bank electricity and turn that energy into light.

The company hopes to work with solar cell companies to make solar power a cheaper and more efficient source of energy, said George Gruner, Unidym's chief science officer and a cofounder of the company.

"Silicon electronics changed the world," Mr. Gruner said. "Now, we're trying to introduce a product that will make another major change, and very slowly it's coming to fruition."

An inconvenient truth?

Although businesses like Unidym and ZeaChem boost Menlo Park's image as a green, environmentally conscious city, the tax revenue from green-tech businesses garnered by the city is minimal.

For now, the companies are based in small labs and offices, and if they grow, they'll likely move out of Menlo Park,

Mr. Tarlton said.

"When it comes to green-tech, pretty much of all of these tenants are short term," he said. "It's well-nigh impossible to acquire and afford significant quantities of land ... and people won't want an ethanol plant in Menlo Park, so these companies have to move their operations once they get to the point of manufacturing anything."

Mr. Verser said ZeaChem is likely to keep research and development space in Menlo Park, but acknowledged that when the company reaches the point of mass-producing ethanol from wood chips, it will move the bulk of its operations closer to the source — likely the forests of the Pacific Northwest.

Existing businesses

David Johnson, the city's business

development manager, said green-tech companies are bound to come and go, and the city should focus on making existing businesses more energy efficient and environmentally friendly.

"There's all kinds of sustainable building techniques and recycling methods I'd like to see our existing businesses take on," he said. "You have companies that are green in what they manufacture, but there's room for any business in Menlo Park to be green. Restaurants, stores, auto repair shops, you name it — these businesses can draw customers by making changes and being green."

Mr. Johnson noted that Monterey County has a program in which businesses are eligible to become "certified green businesses," and said he'd like to see San Mateo County establish a similar program. ■

Holiday Parties • Cruises • Weddings • Birthdays • Anniversaries • Holiday Parties • Cruises

**Life is a dance ...
...if you know the steps!**

- Ballroom
- Latin
- Swing

Certified Instructors
Join the Fun at Arthur Murray...
Call today!

**1ST LESSON COMPLIMENTARY
NEW STUDENTS ONLY**

Arthur Murray
Franchised Dance Studios
650.216.7501 2065 Broadway, Redwood City
www.arthurmurrayredwoodcity.com

Holiday Parties • Cruises • Weddings • Birthdays • Anniversaries • Holiday Parties • Cruises

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



LOS ALTOS VAULT & SAFE DEPOSIT CO.

ATTENTION! GENERAL PUBLIC BEWARE

THE LAW REQUIRES BANKS & OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO NOTIFY THE STATE OF ANY ASSETS THAT APPEAR TO HAVE NO ACTIVITY OR HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN BY THE OWNER.

THIS INCLUDES THE CONTENT IN SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES
THE PROPERTY IS THEN SEIZED BY THE STATE, SHOULD YOU MAINTAIN A SAFE DEPOSIT BOX IN A BANK OR ANY OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.

CLOSE YOUR BOX AND COME TO US, AND WHAT YOU HAVE READ ABOVE WILL NEVER HAPPEN TO YOU.

INFORMATION REGARDING THIS MATTER WILL BE MAILED TO YOU UPON REQUEST.

121 First Street, Los Altos, CA 94022
Tel: 650-949-5891 www.losaltosvault.com



Reverse mortgages from Countrywide

For homeowners with high-value homes, a Countrywide SimpleEquitySM reverse mortgage can provide:

- Larger loan amount than a traditional reverse mortgage
- No origination fee option available depending on initial loan draw amount
- No mortgage insurance premium
- Lower monthly servicing fees

Call me for your free benefit analysis today.

Harold Lott

Reverse Mortgage, ASM
(408) 687-0677
Harold_Lott@Countrywide.com



Countrywide Bank[®]

Reverse mortgages from Countrywide are funded and administered by Countrywide Bank, FSB.

Countrywide Bank, FSB is an Equal Housing Lender. ©2007 Countrywide Financial Corporation. Trade/servicemarks are the of Countrywide Financial Corporation and/or its subsidiaries. RM50702

Countrywide
CANSM

Handy hunters

Halston Schrage, in white, holds a friend's horse while behind her, Jenny Karazissis sits astride Oracle and plots her course before competing in the "Handy Hunter" class at the Menlo Charity Horse Show at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton on Aug. 9. The annual horse show raises money for the Vista Center for Blind and Visually Impaired in Palo Alto.

The Almanac/Veronica Weber



Uncontested election for Woodside council seats?

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Unless a brave soul with a well-developed sense of civic duty steps forward this week, it appears Woodside may have an uncontested Town Council election in November.

There are four candidates for the four seats up for election on the seven-member council, but there's still time for a challenger to step forward in two of the races, thanks to the extended candidate deadline of Aug. 15.

Incumbents Ron Romines in District 1 and Sue Boynton in District 3 are running for re-election, and both have returned their nomination papers and had them verified, said Woodside Town Clerk Janet Koelsch. No challengers have stepped forward to run for either of those seats, and those seats are now closed to all but write-in candidates.

The two other incumbents, Paul Goeld in District 5 and Pete Sinclair in District 7, are not running for election, triggering a five-day extension in the candidate filing period.

District 5

Dave Burow says he's ready to represent his Woodside Hills neighborhood on the Woodside Town Council.

As of the Almanac's press time on Monday, Mr. Burow, 54, was the only declared candidate for the council's District 5 seat.

Mr. Burow said that Councilman

ELECTION 2007

Goeld and several other people active in the Woodside community encouraged him to run. He was one of several prospective candidates sounded out by

Mr. Goeld, he said. "I was the only one ready to step and (run) at this time," Mr. Burow said.

He is the CEO of Catalytic Inc., a Palo Alto-based company that makes signal processing design tools. Before joining Catalytic in January 2006, he was executive chairman of Arithmatica, an intellectual property and electronic design automation firm.

He holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from Purdue University and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Chicago.

Mr. Burow has been a Woodside resident since 1984, and he's serving his second year on the Woodside Hills Homeowners Association Architectural Review Board, he said. He and his wife recently lived in Emerald Hills for about a year while their home was being remodeled, but have since returned to Woodside Hills, he said.

He said he might be willing to step aside if another good candidate chooses to run for the council seat, but so far, no one has.

"I mostly just want to make



Dave Burow

sure that (Woodside Hills) is represented by someone with good sense," he said.

District 7

Old La Honda Road resident Peter Mason, 57, grew up in the Bay Area and lived in Palo Alto before moving to Woodside five and a half years ago. He's been a member of the Woodside Architectural and Site Review Board since February 2004, and is currently its chair. He filed his candidate papers on Aug. 10, said Ms. Koelsch.

"I enjoy serving the town and trying to maintain what we have as a rural environment," Mr. Mason said.

He is a vice president at the newly renamed architectural firm HKS/Hill Glazier Studio, specializing in high-end hotels and resorts. The firm's projects include the Ritz-Carlton at Half Moon Bay and the Four Seasons Hotel in East Palo Alto.

He received his bachelor's degree in architecture from Cal Poly and has worked as a licensed architect since the mid-1970s, Mr. Mason said.

In Woodside, he's worked on a few small residential building projects, including his own property and those of a few friends, but he's been careful to steer clear of any conflicts of interest while on the ASRB, Mr. Mason said. "I'm not trying to make money out of it," he said.

Besides serving on the ASRB, he helped the Folger Stable committee find an architect for its historic restoration project, Mr. Mason said.

He has one child and is married to Virginia Dare, the chair of the Woodside Open Space Committee. ■

ELECTION

continued from page 11

and Lorraine Rumley will be re-appointed for four-year terms.

On the board of the West Bay Sanitary District, incumbents

John B. Lomax, Ronald W. Shepherd and David Alexander Walker, all from Menlo Park, will be re-appointed.

Incumbents Dave Mandelkern of Burlingame and Karen Schwarz and Patricia Miljanich, both of Redwood City, will be

re-appointed to the board of the San Mateo County Community College District.

For the Skyline County Water District, incumbent John A. Jahraus will be re-appointed to the board and heavy equipment operator Dan Cissell appointed.

Community

NEWS OF LOCAL PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Joseph Goularte: Colorful career spans nine decades

By Marion Softky

Almanac Staff Writer

Joseph Candeias Goularte, son of Portuguese immigrants, grew up helping in their Woodside orchard, and went on to a colorful career that stretched from Auschwitz to Saudi Arabia to Salinas. He died peacefully in San Pedro on March 17. He was 90.

Mr. Goularte's 90 years reflect the classic American immigrant story — second generation.

After a rural childhood in Woodside, Joe Goularte (pronounced Goo-lart) completed San Jose State, and went to work. He sold advertising for the Redwood City Tribune and pumped gas at the Union Station at El Camino Real and Broadway in Redwood City.

World War II launched him on a 24-year military career that earned him a knighthood from the Belgian Crown as Chevalier de l'Ordre de Leopold for service in Belgium and Luxembourg. At different times he was also a commercial fisherman and executive director of the Old-town Salinas Association.

"Joe knew everybody in town," says Nita Spangler of Redwood City, who remembers working with him on the Tribune. "He was a good salesman. He had a really nice personality and enjoyed meeting people."

Joe Goularte's immigrant story started when his father, Antone S. (Pico) Goularte, from the Azores, jumped his whaling ship in Half Moon Bay to build a new life in California.

Joe Goularte Jr. of Carmel, Joe's son and Pico's grandson, reminisced about their lives during an interview on Ms. Spangler's sunny porch.

For a while, Pico Goularte ran a schooner carrying milk and cream from the South Coast dairy ranches, up the coast to San Francisco. With no refrigeration, "it was uphill all the way from Monterey Bay," says Joe Goularte Jr. "A good trip was milk and fresh cream to San Francisco; a bad trip was cheese."

Pico bought land and engaged in dairy ranching before he married and moved to Woodside. There he planted an orchard on Woodside Road in the area just east of Kings Mountain Road, where Martin Lane is now. Joe Goularte was born there in 1916.

Woodside old-timer Jac Audif-

MEMORIAL

fred was Joe's neighbor and best friend as they were growing up. They graduated together from the old one-room Woodside School in 1930. Only two are left now from that graduating class of seven, he says.

Mr. Audiffred recalls sleeping over, picking apples and prunes, and playing games like football and kick the can. Most exciting was roller skating down the Canada Road hill toward Woodside Road, Mr. Audiffred recalls. While one kid watched for traffic, "we'd start at the top of Canada Road and see how far we could skate," he says. "We never knew what a helmet was."

Later, Joe attended Sequoia High School and then San Jose State, where he played baseball and football, Joe Jr. notes. At one time he played football for the Salinas Packers for \$17 a game. In 1940 he married Virginia Wagner of Lodi.

Ms. Spangler remembers Joe Goularte used to talk about taking off as a teenager, and walking to the coast with a Folger and a Schilling boy for companions. They camped out for days, shooting rabbits and catching abalone. "When they got back, his mother just about strung him up," she chuckles.

At the beginning of World War II, Mr. Goularte joined the Army. He worked with a group of European Jews who spirited people from behind enemy lines, Joe Jr. says. "He was with the first platoon into Auschwitz. He used to wake up screaming."

In 1945, Mr. Goularte returned to the Redwood City Tribune,

but went back into the service with the Korean War.

At one point he was sent to the Monterey language school to learn Arabic. He ended up in Saudi Arabia on a mission involving air defense missiles, and met King Faisal Ibn Al Saud. Joe Jr. remembers his father said the king "was the best poker player he ever knew."

Mr. Goularte retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel in 1965, and took up another career with the Army Corps of Engineers in Chicago. He came back to California in 1972 and went to work as head of Olde

Town in Salinas. He also went back to fishing.

The Goulartes sold the Woodside farm in 1958 — "three years too soon," says Joe Jr. "In the early 60s Woodside became the thing. Before that, you could drink water out of the creek."

After Virginia died in 1994, Mr. Goularte moved to Reno, Palm Springs and Las Vegas. He last moved in with his son Richard in San Pedro.

Mr. Goularte was also past commander of Disabled American Veterans Post 101 in Salinas,



Courtesy, Goularte family

Army Lt. Joseph Goularte, taken during World War II.

See GOULARTE, page 16

"When you don't want just anybody working on your car!"

• TIRES • ALIGNMENTS
• SHOCKS • BRAKES

FIVE POINTS TIRE IMPORTS

2115 El Camino Real
Redwood City

650.365.0280

A TASTE OF THE PENINSULA

A cornucopia of restaurants and cafes providing the finest dining from brunch to dessert.

Coffee & Tea Connoisseur Coffee Co.

2801 Middlefield Road Redwood City (650) 369-5250
9am-5:30pm, Mon. - Sat. ■ Coffee roasting & fine teas, espresso bar, retail & wholesale.



Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Vive Sol-Cocina Mexicana

2020 W. El Camino Real, Mtn. View (650) 938-2020.
Specializing in the Cuisine of Puebla.
Open daily for lunch and dinner.



To Advertise in "A Taste of the Peninsula" call The Almanac 650-854-2626.

Join with us for the Jewish High Holy Days. . .
Stay with us all year.

Congregation Beth Am, a Reform Community

- ✧ Warm, inclusive, and welcoming
- ✧ Uplifting and meaningful worship
- ✧ Innovative and engaging lifelong learning



The High Holy Days begin with Selichot on Sat., Sept. 16
7:00 pm - Movie Viewing and Discussion; 9:30 pm - Service
Selichot is free of charge and held at Beth Am

High Holy Day tickets are \$250 each, including all services, held at Flint Center, Cupertino

Congregation Beth Am

www.betham.org
26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
(650) 493-4661

Cook's SEAFOOD
Restaurant & Fresh Fish Market

BEST FRESH FISH • BEST SEAFOOD

Cook's Seafood Restaurant & Market
"A GREAT PLACE TO EAT LUNCH OR DINNER"

Seafood Dinners from \$5⁹⁵ to \$9⁹⁵
Clam Chowder - Seafood Salads
Our Award Winning Fish & Chips
Prepared from the finest Alaskan halibut.

Also featuring a full service fresh fish market.
Restaurant: Mon-Sat 11-8:30 pm, Fri 'til 9 pm
Market: Mon - Sat 9 - 7, Closed Sunday

751 El Camino Real Menlo Park, CA 94025
Call in Orders Welcome
Phone 650 325-0604 or 322-2231

Raise your GPA for College!

- UC-approved HIGH SCHOOL classes
- Private & semi-private instruction
- Open year round

Call **650-321-0550** to register



LYDIAN ACADEMY

815 El Camino Real, Menlo Park
650-321-0550 • www.lydianacademy.com

ALLIED ARTS GUILD



Open for
ELEGANT SHOPPING
— ~ —
LOVELY EVENTS

Mon-Sat, 10:00 – 5:00
75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park
– at Cambridge –

www.alliedartsguild.org

Woodside: Vintage Affaire wine auction raises \$420,000 for Vista Center

The 25th Annual Vintage Affaire, a wine auction held July 21 at a Woodside private estate, netted \$420,000 for the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, according to Vintage Affaire spokeswoman Anne Vitullo. "This was one of our biggest events in 25 years," she said.

The top auction item was a tour of Ridge Vineyard's Upper Winery in the Santa Cruz Mountains with Ridge CEO Paul Draper and Presi-

dent Donn Reisen. Two tours were auctioned at \$15,000 each.

A \$15,000 bid also won a "Great Gatsby" party for 100 in a private garden in Atherton, including wine tasting, dinner and musical entertainment by the Magnolia Jazz Band.

Other big-ticket items were: a week-long trip for two to Paris (winning bid, \$11,000); a gourmet dinner for 12 prepared by chefs Ken Coleman and Bruce Fielding (\$9,000); and a dinner and "pajama party" for eight at the Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley (\$8,000).

Approximately 500 people attended Vintage Affaire, with another 100 volunteering. In honor of the event's 25th anniversary, nine people were honored for their involvement with Vintage Affaire since it started.

Among them were Suzanne Legallet of Atherton, who has chaired the event twice and continues to volunteer each year; and Bob Hockey of Menlo Park, who worked with the first chair to gather wine donations and underwriters.

For more information, go to www.vintageaffaire.org.

GOULARTE

continued from page 15

and a member of the Native Sons of California, the Lions Club and the Elks.

He is survived by sons Joseph of Carmel and Richard of San Pedro; a daughter Judith of Ordway, Colorado; eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

The family suggests donations to Disabled American Veterans, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301, or online at DAV.org. ■

Fitness camp at Little House

A summer fitness academy, "Camp Avenidas," will be held at the Little House activity center; 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park, Aug. 20-24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

The program, sponsored jointly by Little House and Avenidas, includes hands-on

fitness, health and nutrition seminars, exercises classes and lunch.

The fee is \$85 for Little House and Avenidas members and \$105 for others. Registration is limited. Call 289-5400 to reserve a spot or 289-5436 for more information.



join us for a...
swing in the park

Sunday, September 9, 2007
2pm till dusk
Holbrook-Palmer Park

Holbrook-Palmer Park Fall Fundraiser

Fabulous B-B-Q, desserts & wine
Games and activities for children and adults
Silent Auction and Live music

Live auction of one-of-a-kind swings
and Lexus vehicle

Table seating: \$75 per person
(Tables of 10: \$700)

Lawn and blanket seating: \$35 per person
Children: \$10, Under 2: Free

Proceeds benefit Holbrook-Palmer Park

For reservations, contact 650.752.0536

Sponsored by



Putnam Lexus

FALL ClassGuide

Academic

MID-PENINSULA HIGH SCHOOL

1340 Willow Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 321-1991 x120
www.mid-pen.com

Since 1979, Mid-Pen has provided a unique college prep education that adapts to individual learning styles. Our students thrive in small class sizes (7-15 students) and are encouraged by a caring faculty and staff. We are able to accommodate students who have learning differences, as well as students who have struggled in a large public school setting. Mid-Pen also offers varsity sports, community service, and an excellent arts program. Our new campus was renovated in 2001 to provide a warm, open building that is very student-centric. We offer year-round admissions. Current enrollment is 125

Adult School

SEQUOIA ADULT SCHOOL

(650) 306-8866
www.adultschool.seq.org
Sequoia District Adult School-

Fall Classes Sept. 16 - Dec. 12, 2007
Classes meet in Belmont, Menlo Park and RWC. For class information, schedules & fees or to register online, please visit www.adultschool.seq.org or call 650.306.8866, ext. 7.
ARTS & CRAFTS: Crochet, Drawing, Digital Photography Basics, Ikebana Floral Design, Jewelry Design, Painting (Monoprinting, Silk, Watercolor), Quilting, Stained Glass.
CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION: Certified Nurse Asst. (CNA), Clinical Medical Asst. (CMA), Intro to Crime Scene Investigation (CSI), Culinary Arts, Job Preparation Skills, Notary Public Training, Office/Computer Skills, Pharmacy Technician Training, Vocational Nurse Training (coming 2008-call school for more info), Voice-Over Training.
COMPUTERS: Mac & PC Basics & Interm., Personalized 1-1 PC/Mac training, Managing Your Computer and Printer, Typing Test Certificate.
FINANCIAL/INVESTING: Investing for Retirement, Real Estate Investment Tips
FOOD & WINE: Intro to Wine Tasting, Food & Wine Pairing
HEALTH & WELLNESS: Gym Fitness, Exercise for Seniors, Golf, Mindfulness Meditation, Prevent & Manage Diabetes, Self Defense for Women, Stress Reduction for Pets & People, Tai Chi, Yoga
LANGUAGE ARTS: Intro to American Sign Language (ASL), Conversation for Non-English Speakers.
Languages: Chinese

(Mandarin), ESL, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish
MUSIC & DANCE: Afro Latin Dance (Salsa, Merengue, Samba), Belly Dance, Guitar, Latin Core Workouts, Social Ballroom Dance (Rhythm & Smooth), Swing Dance
ADULT HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS: GED Prep, GED Testing, Pre-GED/Basic Academic Skills

Dance

ANITA LUSEBRINK BRAZILIAN DANCE

BRAZILIAN DANCE with Anita Lusebrink Starts September 13, 2007
Thursdays @ 6:30 - 7:30pm 14-week session for \$150
Lucie Stern Community Center Ballroom, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto Call (650) 463-4940 or go to Web: www.CityofPaloAlto.org/ enjoy Try the first class without obligation and bring a friend! (16+years)

DANCE MODE STUDIO

767 Industrial Road
San Carlos, CA 94070
(650) 598-0644
www.dancemodestudio.com

Join our family-friendly dance school for a quality dance education. We offer

Continued on next page

COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ARTS FINN CENTER
230 San Antonio Circle
Mountain View, CA 94040

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!

ART + MUSIC

ALL AGES | ALL LEVELS

- Pre-School Classes Begin Sept. 5
- Music, Visual & Digital Arts Classes Begin Sept. 17
- Tuition Assistance Offered





650.917.6800 www.arts4all.org

SHE AMAZES ME EVERY DAY

I just don't understand it. A few weeks ago, she'd take her teddy bear or her plush puppy with her when it was time to go to bed. Now, and I'm not kidding, she sleeps with her alphabet book. Since she began preschool at Challenger, she has become genuinely excited about letters and sounds and learning to read—and she's only four! To her it's a fun new game. I'm so glad I chose Challenger for my little girl.



CHALLENGER
SCHOOL

see all our locations at www.challengerschool.com

Because You Know the Value of Education



©2007, Challenger Schools



DANCE CONNECTION

JAZZ • TAP • BALLET • POINTE
HIP HOP • LYRICAL • BOYS

- ★ ADULTS
- ★ TEENS
- ★ CHILDREN (ages 3 and older)
- ★ PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES
- ★ PRODUCTION COMPANY
 - Graded Classes
 - Beginners to advanced

Classes Begin September 5th

Cubberley Community Center
4000 Middlefield Road, L5
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Cindy Ginanni,
Director
650/322-7032

www.danceconnectionpaloalto.com

Continued from previous page

classes for all ages in various styles including Pre-School, Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Lyrical and more. The dance season begins on September 10. Visit our website for a complete schedule.

MENLO PARK ACADEMY OF DANCE

1163 El Camino Real
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 323-5292
www.mpaod.com

A tradition of Dance Excellence in Menlo Park for 60 years. Experienced and highly qualified faculty. Nation-

ally recognized dance competition team. Award-winning choreographers and guest teachers. Ages 2 through adults. Ballet, Pointe, Jazz, Lyrical Tap, Hip Hop, Pre Dance, Pilates, Ballroom, Mommy & Me. Ballet students prepared for annual exams - Royal Academy of Dance, London. Performance opportunities. Home of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'. Call 650-323-5292 or go to www.MPAOD.com for schedule and information. Classes begin September 4.

Health & Fitness

PALO ALTO MEDICAL FOUNDATION EDUCATIONAL DIVISION

795 El Camino Real
Palo Alto, CA 94301
(650) 853-2960

On-going educational classes include: Early Pregnancy classes, Breast-feeding, Lamaze, Refresher Lamaze, Childbirth without Medication, Diabetes classes, Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction Program,

Weight Management, Learning About Heart Failure, & Supermarket Tour, Cholesterol Management, Blood Pressure Management. Please call for fees and registration.

Language

A-1 LANGUAGES UNLIMITED

671 Oak Grove Ave., Ste. H
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 328-2085

We offer Foreign Languages & ESL Learning-Your Way-All Ages-Individual & Small Group Lessons Available-Any Day-Any Time. Please Call for More Information & Registration.

Music & Arts

COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ARTS (CSMA)

at Finn Center
230 San Antonio Circle

Raise your GPA for College!

- UC-approved HIGH SCHOOL classes
- Private & semi-private instruction
- Open year round

Call **650-321-0550** to register

LYDIAN ACADEMY



815 El Camino Real, Menlo Park
650-321-0550 • www.lydianacademy.com

California's Benedictine College Preparatory School

60 Acre Campus
3 miles West of I-280 Freeway
Neighboring Stanford University

WOODSIDE PRIORY FIFTY SCHOOL
ORA UT LABORA

"Being Benedictine 1957-2007"





Middle School Grades 6 - 8
High School Grades 9 - 12

Coeducational

10 to 1 Student - Teacher Ratio

Community Service Program

18 Advance Placement Courses

Electives and Honors Courses

Interscholastic Sports Program

Choir, Performing Arts and Orchestra

Admissions Open Houses
Saturday, November 18, 2007 at 10:00 am
Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at 7:00 pm
Sunday, December 8, 2007 at 10:00 am

Call Admissions at **650.851.8223** to RSVP or visit the website at www.woodsdepriory.com

Spirituality • Hospitality • Integrity • Individuality • Community

"We believe these values are made real in a community in which every student is known and loved."

302 Portola Road - Portola Valley, CA 94028



The legacy of a Trinity education is a curious mind and a discerning heart.

Elementary School
Junior Kindergarten through Grade Five

Early Childhood Program
Classes for Three and Four year olds

Tours of both campuses begin in October

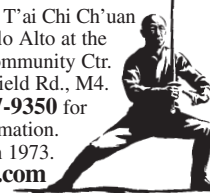
Elementary Open House October 25

2650 Sand Hill Road Menlo Park
650.854.0288 x. 100 www.trinity-mp.org



TAIQUAN TUTELAGE OF PALO ALTO

Our classes in T'ai Chi Ch'uan are held in Palo Alto at the Cubberley Community Ctr. 4000 Middlefield Rd., M4. Call **650-327-9350** for detailed information. Established in 1973. www.ttopa.com



TOWNSQUARE

The Almanac's Online Gathering Place
Be a citizen journalist.

www.almanacnews.com

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

Mountain View, CA 94040
(650) 917-6800

www.arts4all.org

SEMESTER BEGINS SEP. 5. Register by Aug. 21 and receive \$15 discount. PRESCHOOL MUSIC & ART CLASSES: Hands-on art & music activities taught by experienced pre-school faculty. Ages 18 mos.- 4 yrs. TEEN & ADULT VISUAL ARTS CLASSES: Painting, drawing, ceramics, collage, more! Small classes; individualized attention for beg & intern levels. MUSIC CLASSES, PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS, DIGITAL ARTS CLASSES: All ages, beg. to adv. levels. FALL COURSE CATALOG: Available on-line. ARTS FOR ALL! www.arts4all.org

Personal Growth

ANANDA SANGHA

2171 El Camino Real (at College)
Palo Alto, CA 94306
(650) 323-3363

www.anandapaloalto.org

Learn to meditate for health and peace of mind. Quality meditation instruction for 30 years. 4-week series begins 1st Thursday each month. Cost: \$40. Call for free 24-page class guide.

Private School

THE GIRLS' MIDDLE SCHOOL

180 N. Rengstorff Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94043
(650) 968-8338 ext. 115

www.girlsms.org
admissions@girlsms.org

Dedicated to nurturing and empowering young women, The Girls' Middle School offers an innovative, hands-on, project-based approach to its rich academic curriculum. With attention to girls' emotional and social needs,

See **FALL CLASS GUIDE**, page 20

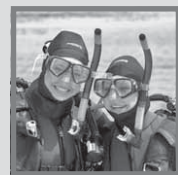
Palo Alto Prep

TEACHING. LEARNING. CARING



Empowerment through Accountability with a small student population, we:

- provide 8 to 1 student-teacher ratio
- deliver innovative and creative programs that develop academic
- offer challenging academic opportunities
- enhance the self-esteem of our students through outdoor activities and programs
- create a supportive environment and safe community
- make college a reality



650.493.7071

4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

www.paloaltoprep.com

Sing with Cantabile!

Now Enrolling for Fall 2007
Auditions Saturday, August 25th

Cantabile Youth Singers, under the artistic leadership of Elena Sharkova, boast high quality music education and performance opportunities for peninsula and south bay youth through weekly classes, performances, guest appearances, festivals and tours.

Debuting in Carnegie Hall, summer 2005, Cantabile performs regularly with Opera San Jose, West Bay Opera, Symphony Silicon Valley and other prestigious Bay Area performance organizations.

Join our growing numbers and be part of an extraordinary choral ensemble. Call today for an audition appointment.

info@cantabile.org • www.cantabile.org • 650-424-1410

University of East-West Medicine

Become a licensed Acupuncturist!

FALL SEMESTER STARTING SEPT. 4TH

EARN AN ACCREDITED MASTER'S DEGREE IN TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE

- Requires Only 60 Semester College Units
- Full or Part-time/Day or Evening
- Federal Financial Aid Available
- International Students Accepted (I-20 Issued)
- Low Tuition/Flexible Payments

UNIVERSITY OF EAST-WEST MEDICINE
970 W. EL CAMINO REAL, SUNNYVALE
call 408-733-1878 or visit www.uewm.edu

For the future...

Photo by Tom Upton

We cherish and hold the present.

- Experiential Learning
- Independence & group cooperation highly valued
- Small class size
- Varied teacher student ratio 1:4 through 1:10
- Specialized teachers: Art, Clay, Dance, Drama, Library, Math, Music, Science, Weaving and Woodshop

Nursery and Kindergarten Open House
Saturday, Oct. 3, 10:00 - 11:00am. Children Welcome.

School tours - Thursdays at 10 am:
Oct. 18, Nov. 8 & 15, Dec. 6, Jan. 10
Parents only, please.

For an appointment, please call 650.325.1584 x5
Application Deadline: **February 1, 2008**

Peninsula School

Nursery through 8th Grade--Founded in 1925
920 Peninsula Way, Menlo Park
650.325.1584, www.peninsulaschool.org
Nondiscriminatory admission and hiring policy

Mid-Peninsula Values

Community

Open Houses: Sat. Nov. 3, 10:30 AM - 12 PM,
Tues. Dec. 4, 7 PM - 8:30 PM,
Thurs. Jan. 10, 7 PM - 8:30 PM

Choose a small, caring, innovative high school.

Year-Round Admissions!

Mid-Peninsula High School

1340 Willow Road · Menlo Park, CA 94025
650-321-1991, ext. 108 · www.mid-pen.com

PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION FOR OVER 25 YEARS

Woodside road rage leads to pepper spraying and arrest

By David Boyce and Natalie Jabbar

In the right hands, a can of pepper spray can come in handy.

A 40-year-old Redwood City man on Monday evening, Aug. 6, used pepper spray in response to a road-rage and tailgating incident in Woodside, thereby enabling the arrest of a Palo Alto man alleged to be his assailant, said Lt. Ken Jones of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office arrested Patrick Michael Burleson, 21, on charges of assault, false imprisonment, vandalism and following a vehicle too closely, Lt. Jones said. Mr. Burleson is out of jail on a \$25,000 bond.

The incident, as Lt. Jones related

it, began on Sand Hill Road west of Interstate 280 shortly before 5 p.m. when John Tharp, heading west with his wife Alice in their Acura coupe, noticed a Dodge pickup truck tailgating them. The truck was "real high off the ground," Lt. Jones said.

Mr. Tharp pulled over and stopped, but the truck, with Mr. Burleson driving and a male passenger inside, pulled up and stopped behind him, Lt. Jones said. Mr. Burleson reportedly left his truck, walked over to Mr. Tharp's car and began making hostile comments, finally kicking the vehicle on the passenger side.

Mr. Tharp drove away and stopped further along on Sand Hill Road to get out and assess the damage to his car, Lt. Jones said. Meanwhile, Mr. Burleson drove up and stopped just ahead of Mr.

Tharp's car.

Fearful for his safety and that of his wife, Mr. Tharp drove on and turned right on Portola Road and parked in a driveway near the intersection with Mountain Home Road, Lt. Jones said.

Mr. Tharp, who wasn't carrying a cell phone, got out of his car and asked two pedestrians to call 911 but they reportedly refused, saying they didn't want to get involved, Lt. Jones said.

Mr. Burleson pulled up and got out of his truck. He began shouting, bumping his chest into Mr. Tharp's chest, and challenging him to a fight, Lt. Jones said. When Mr. Tharp tried to get back into his vehicle, Mr. Burleson reportedly blocked the door with his body.

At this point, Mr. Tharp pulled out pepper spray from a fanny

pack and sprayed Mr. Burleson, Lt. Jones said. Mr. Burleson, stumbling and shouting, punched out the Acura's rear window before falling to the ground.

"His hand was all cut up," Lt. Jones said.

Mr. Burleson's passenger, who had been watching events unfold, then got out of the truck and began shouting at and approaching Mr. Tharp, who responded by spraying him as well.

A passing motorist had called 911 to report a traffic accident.

The call went through the California Highway Patrol to the Sheriff's Office and deputies arrived at about 5:05 p.m.

Deputies treated the men for their pepper spray injuries and arrested Mr. Burleson. No other charges or arrests were made.

Asked what triggered the tailgating, Lt. Jones could only speculate. "Road rage sometimes happens," he said. "They followed right on his bumper. They were just looking for trouble, I guess." ■

Little House to host woodshop series

Little House activity center in Menlo Park will host a woodshop on Mondays from 9 a.m. to noon. Tools will be provided, and instructor Richard Springer will help participants make

boxes, lamps, book cases and other projects. The free is \$10 for members and \$15 for others. Little House is at 800 Middle Ave. Call 326-2925 for more information.

NATURAL MEDICINE

Become an Herbalist & Acupuncturist in 3-4 years!

Open House: Sept. 30 from 1-4pm

- Join the ranks of the fastest growing primary health care profession!
- Great Income, Flexible Schedule, LOVE Your Job!
- Night & Weekend Program available
- Financial Aid & Scholarship

Make your passion for natural medicine your profession

FIVE BRANCHES UNIVERSITY
Graduate School of Traditional Chinese Medicine

Santana Row Campus 3031 Tisch Way 14PW, San Jose
1-877-838-6789 • www.fivebranches.edu

FALL ClassGuide

FALL CLASS GUIDE
continued from page 19

an experienced and energetic staff welcomes girls of all cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds. Grades 6-8. Tuition: \$18,000. Financial aid available. Class size 15.

Skating
WINTER LODGE
3009 Middlefield Road
Palo Alto, CA 94306
(650) 493-4566

www.winterlodge.com

Winter Lodge in Palo Alto offers ice skating lessons for all ages and abilities. Lesson sign ups begin Sept. 11th from 10-2:00pm. Fall classes will run 8 weeks from 9/24-11/18. Including rental skates, free practice time & 2 extra practice passes. The cost is \$128. Please call for more info or to register. 493-4566 or visit www.winterlodge.com.



Tutoring
HART & ASSOCIATES
Susan Hart
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 323-4891
susanhart2@yahoo.com

Summer Refresher Private Tutoring Polish your math skills, spruce up your writing and grammar, and get personalized help on any skill or subject you may need this summer. I'm a credentialed teacher (Elementary through college) with 20+ years of school teaching and tutoring. I offer one-on-one help in all grade levels in these subject areas: Math; Writing; Languages (French, Spanish); Language Arts: grammar; Reading Comprehension; Study Skills; Sciences; Spelling; Test Preparation.

I offer an individualized program, using my teaching materials and/or yours. Availability: Monday through Friday and Saturdays. Schedule: by appointment. Call: Susan Hart & Associates (650) 323-4891 susanhart2@yahoo.com

LEARNING STRATEGIES
www.creative-learning-strategies.com
victoriaskinner@creative-learning-strategies.com
phone/fax (650) 747-9651

Plan ahead! Book your private tutoring sessions now with one of Learning Strategies highly trained tutors. We come to your home, work around your family's schedule, and help students (grades K-12) with all levels of courses including test prep (ISEE, SSAT, SAT, AP's, etc.), writing skills, study skills, applications and essays for all school levels plus college. We are committed to excellence in education. Call now for a phone consultation with Director, Victoria Skinner.

BOWMAN

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

The Bowman program builds confidence, creativity and academic excellence.

- Lower School - Grades K - 5
- Middle School - Grades 6 - 8
- Individualized, self-directed program
- Rich international & cultural studies
- Proven, Montessori approach
- State-of-the-art facility
- Low student-teacher ratio

www.bowmanschool.org
4000 Terman Drive | Palo Alto, CA | Tel: 650-813-9131

Fall Tour Dates:

Kindergarten - October 25th
Preschool - November 15th
All Years - December 6th
All tours begin at 9:00 AM

Woodland School
PRE-K THROUGH 8TH GRADE INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL
Established 1981

360 La Cuesta Drive
Portola Valley
CA 94028

650-854-9065
www.woodland-school.org
Admissions Director: Rosemary Malouf
email: info@woodland.school.org

BUILDING A LIFELONG JOY OF LEARNING

■ OBITUARIES

**Harold Gordon
'Gordy' Kretchmar**

Former Ladera resident, dentist

Harold Gordon "Gordy" Kretchmar died in Lincoln, California, on Sunday, Aug. 5, following a brief illness. He was 84.

Mr. Kretchmar built a house in Ladera in the 1950s and lived there for about 20 years before moving to Palo Alto, and later to Cupertino.

He practiced as a pediatric dentist in Palo Alto until 1988. Also, he was a charter member of Palo Alto Hills Gold and Country Club.

Mr. Kretchmar served as a B-24 bomber pilot during World War II.

He is survived by his wife, Roberta of Lincoln; daughters Vicki Willis of Salem, Oregon, Laurie Rydell of Grants Pass, Oregon, Amy Vanderstoel of Dixon, California, and Molly Kretchmar-Hendricks of Spokane, Washington; step-daughters Renee Kruger of Phoenix, Arizona, Ruanne Lohman of Cupertino, and Roxene Rice of Meadow Vista, California; and nine grandchildren.

Services were held in Lincoln on Aug. 10.

Photographer, artist show works

The work of two distinctly different Woodside artists is on display at the Woodside Library this month.

Longtime photographer Jim Mil-

ton is showcasing about 18 color photographs he has taken of artistic images found in nature, whereas Stanford student Collin Cronkite-

Ratcliff's collection includes a dozen of his detailed drawings of buildings and places.

Both artists will be on hand at a reception on Saturday, Aug. 18, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the library.

Refreshments will be served.

For more information on Mr. Milton, go to www.jamesmilton-photography.com. To contact the Mr. Cronkite-Ratcliff, e-mail colincr@stanford.edu.

**Begin your day with a happy
and healthy smile**



ChauLong Nguyen, DDS

Superior Care ■ Gentle Professionals ■ Advanced Technologies

- Laser gum treatment
- Laser cavity removal for white fillings
- CAD-CAM crowns completed in one visit
 - No temporary — No impression
- Implants
 - One visit — Affordable
- Esthetic smile design
- Dentures:

Call Dr. Nguyen if you have wanted:

1. To look good and eat comfortably with your dentures
2. Teeth look natural and whiter
3. To laugh and Smile without worry
4. To stabilize wobbly or loose dentures
5. To eliminate sore spots on gums

- Comprehensive dental care:
- 24 Hr Emergency Service



Call for your appointment and more details:

650.838.0260

724 OAK GROVE AVENUE, SUITE 120, MENLO PARK
(cross street: Crane)

We welcome new patients and accept most insurance

■ 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

Drunken driving report: Martin Salto, 42, of Modesto, arrested on charges of felony drunken driving associated with hit-and-run collision that caused injury, intersection of Marsh Road and U.S. 101, Aug. 5.

Theft reports:

■ Sign stolen, Royal Express Cleaners at 1016 Alma St., Aug 8.

■ Laptop computer stolen from trunk of vehicle, intersection of Merrill St. and Santa Cruz Ave., Aug 9.

Burglary reports:

■ Jewelry stolen from house, 1300 block of Willow Road, Aug. 4.

■ Tools stolen, 4000 block of Bohannon Drive, Aug. 7.

Fraud reports:

■ Unauthorized account opened, 700 block of University Drive, Aug. 6.

■ Report taken, 1100 block of Willow Road, Aug. 8.

Child Protective Services reports:

■ 1900 block of Menalto Ave., Aug 8.

■ 200 block of Van Buren Road, Aug. 8.

Assault report: 1200 block of Sevier Ave., Aug. 3.

WOODSIDE

Fraud reports:

■ Unauthorized charges on FedEx account, 900 block of High Road, Aug. 1.

■ Unauthorized credit card use, 100 block of Glenwood Ave., Aug. 3.

Editor & Publisher

Tom Gibboney

Editorial

Managing Editor Richard Hine

News Editor Renee Batti

Lifestyles Editor Jane Knoerle

Senior Staff Writers

Marion Softky, Marjorie Mader

Staff Writers Andrea Gemmet,

David Boyce, Rory Brown

Editorial Intern Natalie Jabbar

Contributors Barbara Wood,

Bryan Wiggan, Kate Daly,

Bill Rayburn, Miles McMullin,

Katie Blankenberg

Special Sections Editors

Carol Blitzer, Sue Dremann

Photographer Veronica Weber

Design & Production

Design Director Raul Perez

Designers Linda Atilano,

Gail Thoreson, Eric Kinnaird,

Nancy Hwang, Joanne Lee,

Laura Don

Advertising

Advertising Manager Neal Fine

Display Advertising Sales

Sandra Valdiosera

Real Estate Account

Representative Donna Berryhill

Advertising Services

Receptionist Renee Meil,

Liz Reiter

Circulation, Classified,

& Legal Advertising Bill Rayburn

Published every Wednesday at

3525 Alameda de las Pulgas,

Menlo Park, CA 94025

(650) 854-2626

FAX (650) 854-0677

e-mail news (no photos please) to:

editor@AlmanacNews.com

e-mail photos with captions to:

photo@AlmanacNews.com

e-mail letters to:

letters@AlmanacNews.com

The Almanac, established in September, 1965, is delivered each week to residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside and adjacent unincorporated areas of southern San Mateo County. The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued November 9, 1969. Voluntary subscriptions are available for delivery to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside at \$30 per year or \$50 for 2 years. Subscriptions by businesses or residents outside the area are \$50 for one year and \$80 for two years.



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

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

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

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

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

A bus line worth saving

The No. 22 bus line that stops at Menlo Park's Caltrain station could be history in a couple of weeks unless the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority withdraws its plans to save money by ending the route in Palo Alto.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

The 22 starts at the Eastridge Mall in San Jose and now runs all the way to the Menlo Park station, and then back, which gives many local residents a perfect link to Stanford University, Stanford Hospital and various other stops in Santa Clara County.

The VTA says it is ending the Menlo Park service due to low ridership. Some 400 passengers a day board the bus in Menlo Park — a respectable number but much less than buses on other VTA routes.

So far, little has been done to waylay the plans, although the City Council has authorized Mayor Kelly Ferguson to write a letter to the VTA to urge officials to continue 22 service to Menlo Park. Residents have also called upon Assemblyman Ira Ruskin, D-Redwood City, to make an effort to save local bus service.

But there are plenty of other reasons for the VTA to keep the wheels turning on the 22 line. For example:

■ Reciprocity. Under the current schedules, there are many San Mateo Transit District (SamTrans) buses that regularly stop

in many areas of Santa Clara County. These routes are important and used by residents of both counties to get to or from work, shopping or get-togethers with friends.

■ The VTA should not abandon the border cities of Palo Alto and Menlo Park, which have a long history of cross ridership and interest. Palo Alto residents undoubtedly feel much more inclined to visit Menlo Park's downtown than, say, Santa Clara or San Jose.

■ The VTA should put great importance on the green impact of providing mass transit service to as wide an audience as possible. Surely the major industries in Silicon Valley would urge the VTA to broaden, rather than reduce, mass transit service,

especially now that there is even more urgency to get people out of their cars. Caltrain, and even BART, cannot do the job single-handedly. Good regional and local bus service is essential if Santa Clara and San Mateo counties are to meet their goals to address global warming.

Without the No. 22 line, Menlo Park riders will have to take a SamTrans bus to Palo Alto, and wait for an unplanned

connection to Stanford or other destinations. It will still be possible to get there from here, but at a much greater loss of time and convenience. While public transit may not boast huge ridership in Menlo Park, there continue to be many residents who depend on reliable bus service. The VTA should do its share and continue the 22 bus line to Menlo Park. ■



LETTERS

Our readers write

Don't let NIMBY turn into BANANA

Editor:

In his op-ed piece last week, resident Martin Engel says he is proud to be a NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) and encourages other city residents to be NIMBYs too.

But everywhere in the city is in somebody's backyard. If our city succumbs to NIMBYism, then nothing can ever be built or expanded. Instead of being NIMBYs, we'd be BANANAs (Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anybody).

Our city needs new construction, new businesses and new residents to stay vital and fiscally sound, instead of going BANANAs.

Sue Kayton
Doris Drive, Menlo Park

Memorial for cyclist perfectly appropriate

Editor:

I have never before written a letter to any editor, but I was so appalled by the coldness of Mr. Hessel's letter last week regard-

ing the small memorial flowers on Sand Hill Road that I could not help but respond.

How dare anyone judge someone else's expression of profound grief? Who are you to

decide what is appropriate and what is not? "More than two months has elapsed," he writes. Two months is nothing. For anyone who has ever lost a loved one, no matter what the circum-

stances, the emotions involved do not simply disappear after a designated amount of time.

If it gives Mrs. Smith some

See **LETTERS**, next page



Menlo Park Historical Association

Our Regional Heritage

Known as the Sharon mansion, this 32-room "cottage" was merely the forerunner of the big house that was never built for Frederick W. Sharon and his wife, Louise. The couple spent most of their time in France, and when Mr. Sharon died in 1915, the "cottage" was closed and Louise Sharon returned to France. The estate eventually became the site of what is now Sharon Heights.

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

small comfort to tend to some flowers in the area where her husband died, how can you not feel some human compassion for her?

Mr. Hessel, if you would like to erect a small memorial on Sand Hill Road to someone you once lost, go right ahead. In the meantime, please keep your eyes on the road and straight in front of you, where they belong. Your risk of being offended will lessen dramatically.

Kris Moriarty
Portola Valley

Allied Arts neighbor sees NIMBY angle

Editor:

Too bad that Jo Killen didn't get to read Martin Engel's guest opinion last week, "Not in my Menlo Park," before she wrote her ill-informed letter about the Allied Arts Guild in the same issue.

Mr. Engel wrote, "I think most people use the term NIMBY against someone because they disagree with his or her position but haven't done their homework to discuss the issue on its factual substance or merits."

Had Ms. Killen done her home-

work, she would have known that the Allied Arts neighbors repeatedly reached out to the owners of the Allied Arts Guild for over four years with proven ideas about how to keep the Guild both a vibrant part of the neighborhood and a significant contributor to the Children's Hospital (something it has not been for years, by the way), only to be rebuffed time after time.

And if Ms. Killen had done her homework, she could easily have discovered by reading the postings of the past several months on the Town Square section of the Almanac's own Web site that

the current sad state of affairs at the Guild (no restaurant, no weddings, virtually no retail business) actually is due to the mismanagement of the property by its owners rather than by any actions on the part of the neighbors. Most neighbors, like myself, would love to see the Allied Arts Guild continue to flourish as a vital and contributing member of the neighborhood that bears its name.

Kathy Parker
Arbor Road, Menlo Park

told an engineer at City Hall about a pothole and cracks in Middlefield Road in front of Mike's Cafe. The pavement had broken some weeks ago and could endanger a cyclist.

That afternoon there was a message on our telephone answering machine saying that the pavement had been patched. They (City Hall) hear citizens' concerns.

Pentti Kanerva
Santa Margarita Avenue,
Menlo Park

Quick work by Menlo's public works department

Editor:

I want to compliment Menlo Park officials for their prompt response to a problem report last week.

On Wednesday morning I

Post news and views on



www.AlmanacNews.com

Join the child care debate online

Below are recent comments from the Town Square community forum on the Almanac's Web site. To participate in this or any other discussion — or to begin your own topic for discussion — go to www.AlmanacNews.com

TownSquare

Education Resource Center at Encinal, a nice, expensive two-story building to house books, tables, thoughts, ideas, coffee,

lounges ... but not to meet this need for care in our community. They did not get teacher input for that building. It's going to be an enormous closet for teachers who have no idea why it's even going in there. It's Ken Ranella's little jewel. He likes to build, even if the buildings have no purpose. Felton Gables neighbors are opposed to the TERC and want it used for After School Care. Unfortunately, no one has really put their foot down and redirected this vision of Ranella's.

Comment posted by a resident of Linfield Oaks neighborhood

The TERC will enable the district to relocate some functions, such as technology, science kit distribution, and so on from existing classrooms at Laurel, Oak Knoll, Encinal and Hillview to make room for needed classrooms at each campus. This will enable the district to maintain low class sizes and provide essential support functions.

Comment posted by a resident of the Willows neighborhood

Actually, there is a petition being circulated attempting to block the building of the ridiculous TERC center which could have been built (like the district office) anywhere but on the valuable school property.

The board says they chose to build at Encinal so they could get federal funding but they could have just as easily built at the German American campus, which is owned by the district and for some reason is leased out. Unfortunately the petition has been passed to the city which is really a separate baliwick.

Also, at this late stage of the game it is most unlikely that the plans will switch. I agree that these administrative functions should be carried out elsewhere so that child specific services, like after-school childcare, can operate on campus.

No one has mentioned that on-site childcare also alleviates much of the traffic associated with multiple pick ups. We are spending a lot of time and money trying to address the traffic issue and make sure surrounding neighbors have the least impact possible. I wonder why the board hasn't incorporated, at the very least, partial care from 12:30 p.m. into the solution for addressing the traffic issue?

Posted by a resident of the Suburban Park/Lorelei Manor neighborhood

Imagine my surprise when I saw my daughter's picture in the Menlo Park activity guide under the page marked "School Age Child Care."

The TRUTH is that there currently is NO after-school care available in Menlo Park. If you don't believe me, try enrolling your kindergartener — anywhere. Burgess had three openings for fall which were given to the two brave fathers who camped overnight to secure their spots. My daughter in the picture is number two on the wait list. I arrived at 5 a.m. Last year there were no cancellations.

I have been one of the most outspoken critics of the Menlo Park School District's hands-off policy with respect to on-site after-school care and have spent the last six months and literally hundreds of hours in dialog with the superintendent, the City Council and concerned parents trying to understand how Menlo Park can continue to ignore a problem which has existed for years (and which is documented by their own surveys).

Consider these facts: Menlo Park is the only district on the Peninsula not offering on-site, after-school childcare. Currently on-site care is offered (and has been for years) at: Las Lomas, Redwood City, Palo Alto, Ravenswood, Los Altos, Belmont Shores, Portola Valley, and Burlingame.

Three years ago 43 percent of surveyed parents (not including incoming kinders who were not polled for some unknown reason) said they would use on-site childcare if available (196 families) and yet the district maintains they need to spend valuable resources exploring whether or not their is a need. We all know enrollment is up. What is to explore?

Comment posted by a resident of Felton Gables neighborhood

Are you familiar with the remodels at Encinal and Hillview? Since there is only one field left at each school and Laurel can't take more buildings, there is no place to build.

The new TERC building at Encinal is the only viable place. The board voted to build a Teacher

Earn 8-10%* Interest

A Mortgage Fund Investment

Stonecrest

MANAGERS

For more info call:
888-621-5107

*Anticipated Return

YTD
9.4%

ALL ARCHITECTURAL STYLES - ALL GEOGRAPHIES



IMAGINE A VILLA IN CENTRAL MENLO



72 Politzer Drive, Menlo Park
\$2,395,000 - NEW PRICE!!!

For more information, please visit www.72politzer.com
Virtual Tour Available at www.jimbyrneshomes.com

VACATION EVERY NIGHT



17001 Skyline Boulevard, Woodside
\$1,985,000

For more information, please visit www.17001skyline.com
Virtual Tour Available at www.jimbyrneshomes.com

THREE LIFETIME OPPORTUNITIES



519 Arlberg Road, Hickman
\$1,995,000

For more information, please visit www.519arlbergroad.com

- 4300 Sf Craftsman home
- 18 level acres, horse or agriculture
- Revenue generating event venue

TRANQUIL & SUNNY RETREAT



330 Ridge Road, Woodside
\$948,000

For more information, please visit www.330ridge.com
Virtual Tour Available at www.jimbyrneshomes.com



Jim Byrnes, M.B.A., SRES
650.464.4848
www.jimbyrneshomes.com

YOUR BEST REAL ESTATE DECISION

