

Rep. Eshoo arranges meeting between EPA and local opponents of chloramine in drinking water. Page 11

The Almanac

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

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AUGUST 29, 2007 www.AlmanacNews.com

| VOL. 42 NO. 52

Readers' Choice 2007

Our readers pick their
favorite local gems

Cover, Section 2

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Almanac photo by Veronica Weber

Get on the bus

Meg Minto was one of a handful of protestors who stood in front of Kepler's bookstore on El Camino Real to spread the word about the Valley Transportation Authority's plans to cancel Route 22 bus service to Menlo Park. See story on **Page 8**.

Atherton

- Tasers, train service thwart suicidal woman. **Page 9**
- Atherton to hold "Swing in the Park" fundraiser for Holbrook-Palmer Park. **Page 38**

Menlo Park

- Andy Duncan says dance studio at Park Theatre is back on the table. **Page 8**

Portola Valley

- Rare banjo's recovery method likely legal, says detective. **Page 5**

Woodside

- Town to go ahead with council election. **Page 13**

Also Inside

- Calendar42
- Editorial.....18
- Letters18
- Obituaries17
- Police Calls16

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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

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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**.

Schools

- District to present revised plan for Oak Knoll School. **Page 5**

Regional

- Rep. Eshoo arranges meeting between EPA and local opponents of chloramine in drinking water. **Page 11**

People

- Roz Savage "bound and determined" to resume her row across Pacific. **Page 9**

Around Town

- Kings Mountain Art Fair celebrates its 44th year. **Page 38**

On the cover

Pieces of fine jewelry designed by Oscar Heyman are some of the things that make Hirzel Fine Jewelers one of our readers' choices. Cover images from the Oscar Heyman Company's Web site. For other Readers' Choice 2007 winners, see **Section 2**.

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 Community Services Department

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Menlo Park's Fall Activity Guide has arrived with classes and events for all ages. This is the perfect opportunity to schedule your fall fun. Register for classes by fax, mail, or drop-in.

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Download the online Activity Guide at www.menlopark.org

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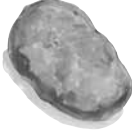

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Warm Weather Merits Cool Wines

Hot weather calls for cool wines that are fresh, light, and thirst-quenching. The white wines of France's Alsace region fit this description admirably. They are dry, aromatic, crisp, and quite assertive. The most notable of this group is Riesling, which is equal to the task of standing up to smoked fish or grilled white meats. As for Gewurztraminer, it is rich, dry, bold, and sufficiently spicy to be paired with Asian cuisine. Next on the list is Muscat, whose dry, fruity (think peaches, orange peel, and tangerine) character makes it a favorite aperitif. Pinot Gris possesses grassy, smoky flavors that lend it to pairing with grilled pork, and Pinot Blanc's simplicity goes well with just about anything.

At ROBERTS MARKET, we are experts at matching wines to occasions, as well as food, but did you know that we could also match wines perfectly to the weather? Although it may seem like common sense to say that hot weather merits cool wines, we can help you decide on which wine to cool. In addition to wine, and wine knowledge we offer a wide variety of foods from all over the world. We are your source for specialty foods, including Indian, Asian, European, and other specialties.

HINT: Alsatian wines are named for their grape variety, not their geographic origin.



DELI

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	B.B.Q. Baby Back Ribs	\$9⁹⁹ lb.
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	Pesto Linguine	\$6⁹⁹ lb.



JAZMIN - GROCERY

WINE

A B C Whites

"Anything But Chardonnay." Vast numbers of wine enthusiasts are shying away from heavily oaked, high alcohol Chardonnays and discovering a whole new world of white wines. The possibilities are seemingly endless, but here are a few recommendations to get you started on the ABC path.



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<u>2006 Graham Beck Sauvignon Blanc, South Africa</u>	Reg. \$10.99	Sale \$9.99
<u>2006 Berger Gruner Veltliner, Austria, 1.0L</u>	Reg. \$12.49	Sale \$10.99
<u>2006 Cicchitti Torrontes, Argentina</u>	Reg. \$11.99	Sale \$10.99
<u>2006 Martin Códax Albariño, Rias Baixas</u>	Reg. \$12.49	Sale \$10.99
<u>2006 Mormoraia Vernaccia di San Gimignano</u>	Reg. \$13.49	Sale \$11.99
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<u>2006 Hendry Pinto Gris, Napa Valley</u>	Reg. \$18.99	Sale \$16.99
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The grass is greener for NCEFT

If you see a U.S. Marine Color Guard heading to Woodside next month, fear not. The troops are there to celebrate the grand opening of the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy at its new digs on Runnymede Road in Woodside.

NCEFT provides physical therapy on horseback for children and adults with neuromuscular disorders, and has recently started a program for veterans with brain injuries.

The organization's new home is the former Charter Oak Farms that was bought by Tom and Stacy Siebel in 2002 for their private use. A mutually beneficial deal between the Siebels and the center led to a property swap, triggering NCEFT's move from its Portola Road site.

Rita Almon, the executive director of NCEFT, is ecstatic about the new, nearly 12-acre property, which includes a restored 1920 dairy barn and has far more paved, flat areas than their former hilly home across town.

Athertonians are big solar fans

Is everything bigger in Atherton? Big homes, big jewelry and now ... big solar energy arrays. A recently completed solar power drive by SolarCity targeting homes in Atherton and Menlo Park was successful, with 42 households signing up for 221 kilowatts-worth of electricity-generating photovoltaic systems.

Thirty of those households are in Menlo Park, where the average size of the system is 3.7 kW. In Atherton, 12 houses signed up, but the systems average a whopping 9.3 kW, reports Atherton Councilman Charles Marsala.

Somebody buy that man a steak

Congratulations to Woodside resident Dick Tagg, who made his 500th blood donation last week, setting a record for individual donations at the Stanford Blood Center.

Insert your own obligatory "Giving 'til it hurts" joke here.

Short Takes is edited
by Andrea Gemmet

Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Banjo's recovery method likely legal, says detective

■ Attorney and "bounty hunter" not focus of investigation, he says.

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Detectives from the Folsom Police Department are continuing their investigation into the circumstances surrounding the recovery and return of a rare banjo stolen in June from Portola Valley developer Jim Pollock.

No arrests have been made, said Folsom police Detective Jon Lasater. A "bounty hunter" and an attorney — the two men who received a \$10,000 reward from Mr. Pollock in exchange for the return of his banjo — are not the focus of the investigation, Mr. Lasater said.

A rare 1931 Vega Vox III banjo that Mr. Pollock had played before six U.S. presidents happened to be inside his GMC Denali when it was stolen during a trip to the Sacramento area.

The transfer of the banjo to Mr. Pollock occurred without police involvement, Mr. Lasater said, adding that while it is advisable to get police participation in the return of stolen property, it is not required.

The transaction also appears to be legal, he said, noting that the district attorney, when all the facts are in, will have to decide. Possession of stolen property can become illegal, but "you have to kind of show some intent (to deprive) and continue to deprive the owner" of the property, he said. "Possession of (stolen) property with the intention

of returning it to the owner is not a violation of the law."

So far, Mr. Lasater said, any intent to deprive Mr. Pollock of the prompt return of his banjo appears improbable. Claiming a reward in a straightforward manner, if a reward has been offered publicly, is not an instance of depriving an owner of property, Mr. Lasater said.

The banjo surfaced when the bounty hunter learned of its whereabouts and contacted an attorney to arrange its return, Mr. Lasater said, adding that he has no idea as to how the bounty hunter found it.

"I think the only issue at question is why didn't they call the police when they knew it was stolen," he said. "It's shady, how it went down, but was it a criminal violation? Probably not."

EDITOR'S NOTE: After further reporting, we learned that information in an Almanac story on the recovery of the banjo, which ran in the Almanac's print edition of Aug. 22, is incorrect, including the reference to a police sting operation and a planned arrest of an unnamed attorney and a private investigator. The Almanac regrets these errors.

In an e-mail to the Almanac, the attorney involved in the banjo's return said that he and his partner "never conditioned the return of Mr. Pollock's Banjo, nor did they withhold the item. It was transferred immediately and in excellent condition. The only reason it came to us was to facilitate its safe and professional return to Mr. Pollock."

The award, the attorney said, "was not a condition precedent to the return of his property." ■



Courtesy of Menlo Park City School District/DLM Architects

Architect's rendering shows the new multipurpose building on the left and the new classroom building on the right.

District to present revised plan for Oak Knoll School

■ Community meeting set for Wednesday, Aug. 29.

By Marjorie Mader

Almanac Staff Writer

A revised site plan for Oak Knoll School will be presented at a parent and community meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 29, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the school library, 1895 Oak Knoll Lane in Menlo Park.

Community members will have an opportunity to review the new site plan and building configuration, raise questions, and share thoughts or ideas with district planners before they make a recommendation to the school board at its next meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 11.

The revised plan was designed to meet the needs of the K-5 school while addressing concerns expressed by neighbors and com-

munity members at three previous public meetings.

Key features of the new plan include:

- Separate the classroom and multipurpose buildings to reduce the mass of the previously proposed combined building. The two buildings would face a central courtyard and be connected by a second-story bridge. Added would be 10 new classrooms for fourth- and fifth-graders; spaces for art, music and a kitchen; and a new multipurpose building with a stage. The buildings would face the interior of the existing school to reduce the impact from the building mass on neighboring residences.

- Retain the heritage oak tree to enhance the buildings and

the site.

- Improve drop-off and pick-up circulation, increase field space, provide additional parking.

- Maintain the current easement along Vine Street.

"All the input we have received from the Oak Knoll site committee, parents and neighbors has resulted in a better plan for the neighbors and the school," said Superintendent Ken Ranella.

People may provide comments by sending an e-mail to the district's facility and project manager Ahmad Sheikholeslami at ahmad@mpcsd.org.

Neighbors have objected primarily to the massiveness of the combined multipurpose and two-story classroom building near neighboring residences; the relocation of the play area

See site map on Page 8.

for younger children; increased traffic; and fewer parking spaces. They also wanted to maximize the field and playground area at the southern part of the campus.

The revised Oak Knoll plan is part of the district's strategic planning process to expand facilities at all four schools to meet the needs of a growing enrollment. Funding comes from the \$91.1 million bond measure, supported by voters in June 2006.

Oak Knoll School is at 1895 Oak Knoll Lane in Menlo Park.

For more information, check the district's Web site: http://mpcsd.org/bond_primaries.html. ■

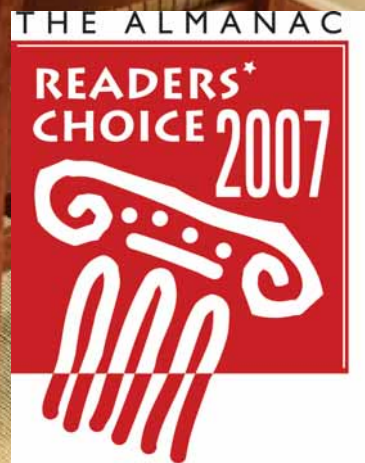
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Leaving a legacy

Principal Eva Gal guided Ormondale through transition to a stellar K-3 school



The Almanac/Marjorie Mader

Eva Gal has enjoyed reading with children in the Ormondale library.

By Marjorie Mader

Almanac Staff Writer

After 22 years of joining kids and their teachers as they return to campus every new school year, Eva Gal won't be going back to school this month in Portola Valley.

The outgoing Ormondale School principal has retired after a remarkable career in education during which she touched the lives of thousands of children and their parents.

As Ormondale's principal for the last 20 years, she has guided the school through a series of transitions. When she arrived at Ormondale, it was a K-5 school with a seasoned staff. Under district reorganization, Ormondale shifted its focus to the youngest learners in changing to a K-3 school.

Ms. Gal then weathered the disruption and other challenges of modernization and construction at Ormondale with a hard hat and good spirits.

"I loved my job and the community, but it's the right time for a change," says Ms. Gal. "Ormondale is at a point where it's positioned to be able to move forward in the coming years" with initiatives that involve and excite students, she says.

Her constant willingness to learn and grow, based on sound educational research, is what made Ms. Gal such an effective principal, say teachers who worked with her.

Ms. Gal was hired by former Superintendent Del Alberti in 1985 as dean of students at Corte Madera. Two years later, then-Superintendent Michele Garside asked her to move to Ormondale, which she called "an incredible gem of a school." During Ms. Gal's years in Portola Valley, she has worked under five superintendents.

Under Ms. Gal's leadership, Ormondale teachers initiated a recycling program for the school, planted a garden, paired students with "buddies" in other classes, and explored the latest venture, called "investigative learning" or "project-based learning." That's when students get involved in projects that pique their interest, their curiosity propelling them to seek more information and explore new areas.

During Ms. Gal's tenure, Ormondale won

recognition as a California Distinguished School four times. Students continue to perform among the top schools on state tests.

Ms. Gal also has made a remarkable personal journey. She was born in Budapest, Hungary, and her aunt sponsored her whole family to come to the United States in 1956 to escape the revolution and make a better life.

"Eva came to this country not speaking a word of English and entered seventh grade. Can you imagine how daunting this must have been?" Ormondale teacher Daphna Woolfe said in her tribute to Ms. Gal at a gathering in her honor.

Ms. Gal remembers working long problems in algebra and geometry and listening in her other classes. Within six months, communication was not a problem.

After graduating from high school in Brooklyn, she moved on to Mt. Holyoke and earned a degree in political science and international relations. She went on to get her first master's degree in education from Boston University. Her second master's degree was in counseling from San Jose State University.

Ms. Gal began her teaching career in a Boston high school. She has experience as a guidance specialist, counselor and teacher in elementary and secondary schools in San Carlos, Saratoga, Daly City, and Reading, Massachusetts. She was assistant principal of a middle school in the Jefferson School District in northern San Mateo County before coming to Portola Valley.

What's ahead for Eva Gal? Traveling with George, her husband of 41 years; spending time with their son, Rob, a doctor in New York, his wife and four children; and lending a helping hand to daughter Andrea, a third-grade teacher, by volunteering in her classroom at Foster City Elementary School.

"I'll give myself six months and then I'll decide what's next," says Ms. Gal.

Looking back at her years in Portola Valley, she reflects, "I have always felt grateful to be in a community that allowed and encouraged this pursuit of excellence and provided us with the means to build schools that viewed teaching and learning as a total community endeavor." ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Beginnings

Q: Dear Gloria, I know you have talked about this before but just this week there are hurricanes, floods, housing prices down all over the U.S., major disruptions in the credit markets and a thousand point drop in the stock market. Are we out of our minds to consider buying a house now? Can we get a loan?

— Marlene G.

A: Dear Marlene,

Just yesterday, I saw one of the "money" talk programs and they were discussing just such concerns. After the doom and gloom consensus of the panelists, the commentator said "and now we go to one of the exceptions to the trend — here is so and so in Silicon Valley" This person then referred to our area as an "air pocket" in an otherwise troubled housing market. I don't think it is just because we haven't had floods, hurricanes and

100-degree temperatures for a good part of the summer. It is simply a supply and demand issue. Since I first started in this business 30 years ago, people were saying that prices couldn't go much higher. Well, indeed they have gone much higher and because there is very little land to be developed in the immediate area, prices will continue to rise.

This may, in fact, be a good time to buy just because there are people who share your concern. While there are still multiple offers, going in to the fall season and accompanied by the bad news, there may be fewer buyers competing. We also anticipate more inventory coming on just after Labor Day.

The major lending institutions still are making loans and interest rates have not skyrocketed. Your credit needs to be good and your income will need to support the amount of the loan you are applying.

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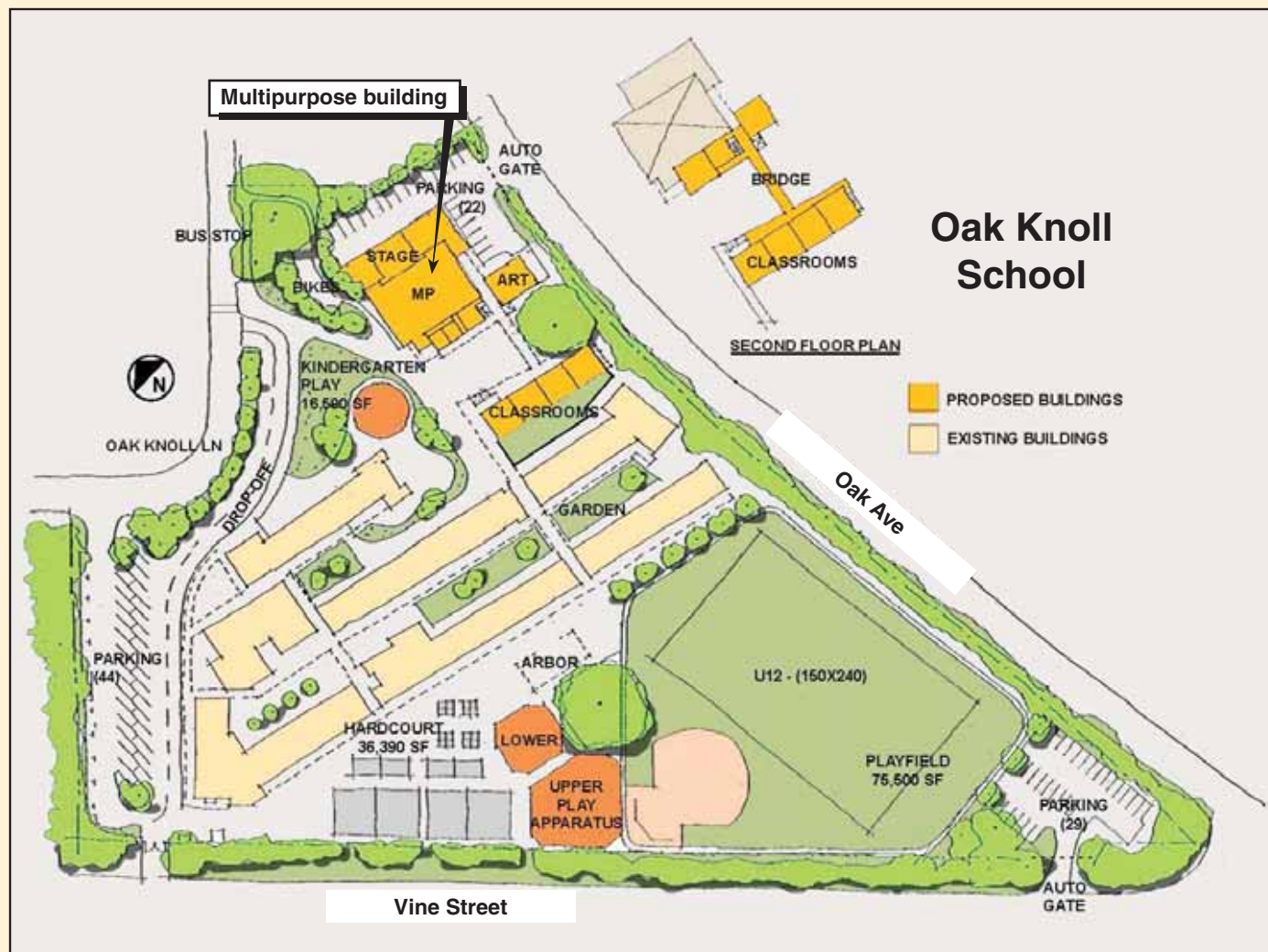
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Revised site map for Oak Knoll School

A revised site plan for Menlo Park's Oak Knoll School shows how the new multipurpose building (at the top of the map) would be separated from the new classroom building. New building areas are in orange; existing buildings are in yellow. Existing buildings would be modernized and the playfield expanded as part of the district's \$91.1 million facility bond program. **See story on Page 5.**



Duncan says dance studio is back on the table

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park resident Andy Duncan said Monday his plan to restore the Park Theatre and convert it into a dance studio is back on the table and he plans to hold a community meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 12, to explain it to the public.

Mayor Kelly Fergusson, who has expressed support for the idea, confirmed that the meeting will be held at the Burgess Recreation Center, 700 Alma St., starting at 7 p.m.

The idea is controversial because it includes a proposal that the city invest \$500,000 in the project, either as a grant or

a no-interest loan to be paid back when Mr. Duncan sells the theater.

Mr. Duncan's plan to convert the deteriorating 60-year-old theater into a dance studio for the Menlo Park Academy of Dance appeared dead after his contract with the theater's owner expired. But on Monday, he said his contract has been extended, and the idea is still alive.

Mr. Duncan said he is \$500,000 short of covering the \$4.27 million total costs associated with buying and fixing up the theater.

The council considered Mr. Duncan's request two weeks ago, but took no action. Council members will discuss the issue again sometime in September, Mayor Fergusson said. ■

Residents fight to keep bus route

■ VTA set to decide Aug. 30 whether to cut off Route 22 service

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Valley Transportation Authority officials look poised to eliminate VTA bus service between Menlo Park and the Santa Clara Valley, but some of the Menlo Park residents who rely on Route 22 service to get across county lines aren't going down without a fight.

Eight Menlo Park residents took to the streets Aug. 24 to protest the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's proposal to cut Route 22 bus service to and from Menlo Park starting next year.

The 22 route loops from Eastridge Mall in San Jose to the Menlo Park train station, but VTA officials, as part of system-wide changes to the bus network, are proposing that the route go no farther north than the

Palo Alto Caltrain station.

The VTA board is expected to vote on the changes, including cutting Menlo Park service, on Aug. 30. The meeting is set to start at 5:30 p.m. at the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Chambers at 70 W. Hedding St. in San Jose.

VTA staff said some 400 people a day board the bus in Menlo Park compared with thousands of riders at other stops, and Menlo Park riders can still take San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) buses to the Palo Alto train station and then hop aboard the 22 bus.

But riders say the two transportation districts don't synchronize their schedules, making transferring a tricky, and often time-consuming process.

"Anyone with a car is just going

See photo on Page 3

to say forget it, and start driving to work instead of taking public transportation," said Mal Schoen of Menlo Park, a frequent rider holding a "Save the 22" sign at the protest. "We need to do everything we can to get people out of their cars, and cutting bus service does the opposite."

Mr. Schoen added that he does not drive, leaving him without a direct connection to various places across county lines.

Mayor Kelly Fergusson, with the unanimous support of the City Council, sent a letter urging VTA officials to maintain Route 22 service to Menlo Park. She has not received any response, she said. ■

Trial on car-bike accident in Menlo Park that injured MaryAnn Levenson is postponed

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

The trial of Walter Sorenson, the Hillsborough resident accused of driving drunk and running over Menlo Park cyclist MaryAnn Levenson and dragging her some 35 feet, has been

postponed.

Mr. Sorenson, 76, was set to go on trial Sept. 4, but the trial date has been moved to Oct. 15. He is currently free on a \$50,000 bail bond.

He is charged with felony drunken driving with bodily injury, and attempting to leave the scene of the accident.

Ms. Levenson, a 48-year-old bicycle racer and mother of three, was riding east on Sand Hill Road just east of Interstate 280 on Dec. 23, when Mr. Sorenson crossed into the bike lane and "ran up and over" her, according to police reports.

She sustained extensive injuries,

including a fractured pelvis, broken vertebrae and shattered larynx.

Still recovering, Ms. Levenson is back racing, and earlier this year was appointed to the Bicycle Commission. She is scheduled to talk about bike safety at Oak Knoll School next week. ■

Roz Savage 'bound and determined' to resume her row across Pacific

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

Roz Savage, the British woman attempting to row across the Pacific Ocean by herself, halted her voyage Thursday, less than two weeks into it, due to rough seas and equipment failure. But by Friday, her spokeswoman, Nicole Bilodeau, said the rower is in good spirits and intends to resume her trip this week.

"She is absolutely bound and determined to continue on," Ms. Bilodeau said.

Ms. Savage, 39, who made her home in Woodside this summer, was back on dry land after being airlifted off her boat by the U.S. Coast Guard on Thursday night, Aug. 23.

Rough seas, several capsizes and the failure of key pieces of equipment crippled her prospects just 11 days into her journey, according to reports on her RozSavage.com Web site. She was about 90 miles off shore, in the seas off Humboldt Bay.

Now she's in a race against time to recover her boat before someone else does, and to resume her voyage so she can arrive in Hawaii before the winter storms hit. On Tuesday, Aug. 28, Ms. Savage plans to head out from San Francisco on a 150-foot boat equipped with a crane, haul her boat onboard to make repairs, and then continue



Almanac photo by Veronica Weber

Roz Savage, the British woman who won't abandon her plans to row solo across the Pacific to promote ocean conservation, took her boat out for a test run on the San Francisco Bay in July.

her journey, said Ms. Bilodeau.

'Lying on the ceiling'

Ms. Savage left from San Francisco on Aug. 12 on the first leg of a three-stage trip that will end in Australia. Ten days after she departed, she faced high winds and fierce waves. Her boat capsized twice overnight on Aug. 22, an experience she describes in a podcast as "spending a night in a washing machine."

"There's just this huge shock wave through the boat, and you're bouncing off the wall and all the objects in the cabin that aren't tied

down are flying around you," Ms. Savage said. "Eventually the boat comes to rest, and you're lying on the ceiling."

Venturing out of her custom rowboat's hatch after capsizing, she said in her podcast, "It's dark, and the waves look big and steep and angry, and it's just a feeling of total awe in the face of nature. You realize that nature isn't trying to kill you, it's just totally indifferent as to whether you survive or not."

Her boat's GPS system was knocked out, and she lost her sea anchor, according to a post online by her mother, Rita Savage.

Wet, bruised and cold, Ms. Savage still wanted to carry on with her voyage, her mother said.

Early Thursday, Aug. 23, the Coast Guard was advised of the situation and contacted her. After hours of communication, she agreed to leave her vessel.

Ms. Savage isn't one to give up easily. Last year, she finished a grueling solo row across the Atlantic as part of a race, making her one of a handful of women to accomplish the feat. For her next challenge, she set out to become the first woman to row solo across the Pacific Ocean, and is collaborating with Blue Frontier Campaign to take documentary footage of her travels to promote ocean conservation. ■

Bay City News Service contributed to this report.

Tasers, train service thwart suicidal woman

Atherton officials' insistence on keeping train service at the town's historic station — along with police officers' decision to use Tasers, not guns — may have saved a woman's life.

A 45-year-old Menlo Park woman drove her car to the Atherton station and stepped in front of a train on Sunday, Aug. 19, at around 7:40 p.m., two witnesses told Atherton police. If it had been a weekday, when trains zoom through the station without stopping, she might have succeeded in committing suicide.

"She didn't realize that trains stop here on the weekend," said Sgt. Tim Lynch of the Atherton Police Department. "(The engineer) applied the emergency

brake, and because the train was slowing at the station, it was able to stop and not strike her."

Atherton's train station lost weekday Caltrain service in 2005, but heavy lobbying by town officials managed to preserve weekend train service.

Two witnesses who were waiting for the train alerted officers at the nearby police station to the woman's suicide attempt, Sgt. Lynch said.

Officers located her walking down the tracks just south of the train station, near the town's building department trailer. The woman had her hands behind her back and told the officers that she had a weapon, so they drew their guns to protect

themselves, Sgt. Lynch said.

"She claimed to have a gun, and said 'Shoot me,'" Sgt. Lynch said.

The officers opted to use their Tasers instead, stunning the woman long enough to handcuff her and keep her under control until paramedics arrived, he said. She did not have a gun, he said.

Tasers fire barbs at subjects, delivering a mild electrical charge that affects the nervous system, temporarily disabling them, Sgt. Lynch said.

The woman was taken to the hospital for a 72-hour psychiatric evaluation, Sgt. Lynch said. Atherton police are treating the incident as a medical call, and will not be releasing further information, he said.

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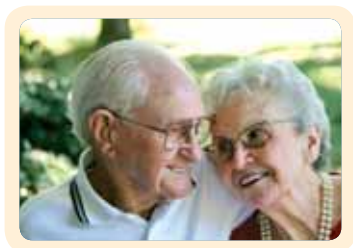
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Delgado ordered jailed for Menlo Park crash that killed Tongan royals

A 19-year-old woman convicted of causing the deaths of three people, including two members of the Tongan royal family, in a 2006 Menlo Park highway crash was sentenced Aug. 24 in San Mateo County Superior Court to two years in county jail.

Edith Delgado of Redwood City will surrender to the women's jail in Redwood City this week, but with credits for the time she has already served, will likely only have to spend four to five months in jail, according to Deputy District Attorney Aaron Fitzgerald.

Though Ms. Delgado was originally charged with three counts of felony vehicular manslaughter, a jury in June found her guilty only of a misdemeanor for the July 5, 2006, nighttime crash that occurred when Ms. Delgado's white Mustang changed lanes on U.S. 101 in Menlo Park and side-swiped a Ford

Explorer carrying Tonga's Prince Tu'ipelehake, 54; Princess Kaimana Tu'ipelehake, 45; and their driver, Vinisia Hefa, 36.

All three were killed when the Explorer lost control and flipped on the highway.

On Aug. 24 Judge John Runde agreed with Mr. Fitzgerald's request that she be sentenced consecutively for each of the three victims, but gave her substantial credits for jail time already served.

Judge Runde noted a probation officer's report that Ms. Delgado has expressed remorse "sincerely," and that the crash, though it caused "very serious harm," was due to "bad judgment" by a young woman with no previous criminal history.

"I believe (the decision) was reasonable given the fact that we had three victims in this case," Mr. Fitzgerald said after the verdict. "I was pleased with the decision and felt it entirely appropriate given the circumstances."

"My heart goes out to the family members who are the true victims in this case," Mr. Fitzgerald added. "I'm glad the victims' families will have at least a small amount of closure."

Tearful relatives of the Tongan royal family also spoke during the sentencing hearing, describing

the impact on their family and the entire Tongan community.

"She loved her people, she loved her family," Amelia Tupou Tonga spoke of Princess Tu'ipelehake, her first cousin. "Still our family suffers, our country suffers ... but we are a forgiving people, and all we want today is justice."

A weeping Ms. Delgado agreed to surrender at the women's jail in Redwood City on Sept. 1.

She was also ordered to pay restitution to the families of the victims, and according to defense attorney Randy Moore, her driver's license has been revoked by the Department of Motor Vehicles for three years.

"I don't know when that time will come when she will want to drive again," Mr. Moore said.

'I believe (the decision) was reasonable given the fact that we had three victims in this case.'

AARON FITZGERALD,
DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Outside the courtroom, Mr. Moore said he respected Judge Runde's decision but was not pleased that his young client would be returned to jail.

"It doesn't serve anybody's interest at all that she has to go back there," Mr. Moore said.

Ms. Delgado, who was uninjured in the crash, pulled over to the side of the highway after the crash and was later arrested and served about 11 months in county jail.

Prosecutors claimed Ms. Delgado had been speeding in excess of 80 mph and was dangerously weaving in and out of traffic as she raced another vehicle, thought to have been a black Cadillac Escalade, before the crash.

Mr. Moore had argued that Delgado used poor judgment in her lane change, but was not grossly negligent and had not been racing.

Though eyewitnesses to the crash testified during the nearly three-week trial that they had seen the Mustang speed past them, changing lanes quickly as it appeared to be racing another vehicle, jurors were not convinced that Ms. Delgado had been grossly negligent.

That the Escalade and its driver were never found also played into the jury's decision that the evidence of racing was not compelling enough.

— Bay City News Service

Anna Eshoo takes up chloramine question

■ Menlo Park-based group's three-year effort challenging water additive gains force; meeting with EPA ahead.

By Daniel DeBolt

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo has arranged a meeting in early September between local opponents of the water additive chloramine and the federal Environmental Protection Agency — a major victory for the Menlo Park-based group representing hundreds of Bay Area residents who say they've suffered from skin, respiratory and intestinal ailments since the substance was added to the water in 2004.

"Constituents have raised their serious concerns about chloramine," said Rep. Eshoo, D-Menlo Park. "I think it's important for the EPA and the Public Utility Commission to hear directly from them and I am facilitating this. The use of chloramine as a disinfectant in public water should be guided by sound science showing that it is both safe and effective."

Chloramine replaced chlorine as the disinfectant for Hetch Hetchy tap water in February 2004. The switch had been rec-

ommended by the EPA to reduce the carcinogenic byproducts of chlorine.

Since then, however, more than 400 Bay Area residents have reported suffering effects from the chloramine that mimic allergic reactions, including skin rashes, respiratory problems and inflamed digestive tracts, according to the Menlo Park-based Citizens Concerned About Chloramine.

That group's president, Denise Johnson-Kula, said the goal of the meeting, scheduled for Sept. 5 in San Francisco, is to start a discussion with the EPA about providing a "waiver" to local water agencies allowing them to go back to chlorine use — despite whatever effects that may have on byproducts in the tap water.

On the Peninsula, this could put responsibility for the problem back into the hands of the local water provider, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, which has said

its switch to chloramine — a combination of chlorine and ammonia — was prompted by EPA recommendations.

The group has joined forces with others from as far away as Vermont to build a national movement to stem the disinfectant's use until studies can be done on its health effects. The renewed effort came after a California bill to study chloraminated tap water, authored by local Assemblyman Ira Ruskin, failed to pass for the second year in a row this summer.

The groups celebrated one of their first victories two weeks ago, when a handful of residents in Pennsylvania were able to delay a switch to chloramine by the Pennsylvania-based American Water Co. Opponents said proper studies of its health effects had not been conducted.

One-third of the country has already converted to the disinfectant, said Ms. Johnson-Kula. Water agencies, meanwhile, say some places have used chloramine since the early 1900s with no problems.

The EPA recommended that water agencies switch to chloramine to reduce trihalometh-

anes, a carcinogenic byproduct of chlorine disinfection. But the byproducts of chloramine are even more dangerous, according to Dr. Michael Plewa, professor of genetics at the University of Illinois, who recently published a study on tap water disinfection byproducts.

In an e-mail to the Mountain View Voice (the Almanac's sister paper), Mr. Plewa stated that the byproducts of chloramine are "much more toxic" than chlorine's — and that these byproducts are found in California water supplies. He recommends that water agencies switch back to chlorine.

Whether chloramine itself can be linked to people's health problems has yet to be studied. Dr. David Ozonoff, a professor of public health at Boston University, says that question is definitely worth looking into.

"A close temporal relationship between the treatment change and the complaints of water users strongly suggests that one is the cause of the other," he wrote in a letter to Vermont-based People Concerned About Chloramine.

"Without a more detailed

study of the matter it is not possible to say this definitively, but it is plausible that something about the treatment change has caused this. Water chemistry is complicated and sometimes produces unexpected and untoward results. The complaints are notice to look into the matter."

Such chemistry may have affected water supplies in Los Altos, where lead content is regularly tested. Following the introduction of chloramine, water in several homes was found to contain lead levels over the public safety limit, possibly due to the way chloraminated tap water reacts with the lead-soldered plumbing in older homes.

Greg Hosfeldt, business manager of the Mountain View Public Works Department, said 24 random water samples were taken from Mountain View homes and wells after the switch to chloramine in 2004. Lead levels were not found to be over the maximum level, he said. The city is slated to test its water again in September.

More information can be found at www.chloramine.org.

Daniel DeBolt writes for the Mountain View Voice, the Almanac's sister paper.

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TOWN OF ATHERTON STATE OF CALIFORNIA

HOLBROOK-PALMER WALKING PATH PROJECT PROJECT NO. 07-001

Notice is hereby given that SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027, until 3:00 p.m. September 13, 2007, at which time they will be publicly opened and read, for performing the following work:

Installation of a new 6 foot wide walking path that consists of a pavement section of 2" AC with 4" baserock for 475 foot in length on the southeast corner of Holbrook-Palmer Park. This will connect to and complete an existing walking path network located within the park.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for HOLBROOK-PALMER WALKING PATH PROJECT, Project No. 07-001", along with date and time of bid opening.

Plans and specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton Public Works Department, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton CA 94027, for a non-refundable fee of \$30.00. Additional important information is contained in Town of Atherton Standard Specifications, which are available for an additional \$20.00. If shipping is requested, there will be an additional charge of \$20.00.

Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash, a cashier's or certified check or bid bond for not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid, as a guarantee that the bidder, if awarded the Contract, will fulfill the terms of the bid. The Town of Atherton reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and/or to waive any irregularities therein.

Bidders are hereby notified that, pursuant to California Civil Code Sections 3247 and 3248 and Standard Specifications Section 3.02, the successful bidder will be required to provide payment and performance bonds in the amounts stated in Section 3.02 of the Standard Specifications.

Bidders are hereby notified that provisions of California Labor Code regarding prevailing wages are applicable to the work to be performed under this contract. Pursuant to Section 1773 et seq. the general prevailing wage rates have been determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations and appear in the California Prevailing Wage Rates. Copies are on file at the office of the City Engineer and are available to interested parties upon request. The successful bidder shall post a copy of the wage rates at the job site.

The Contractor may elect to receive 100 percent of payments due under the contract, without retention of any portion of the payment by the Town of Atherton, by depositing securities of equivalent value to the retention amount in accordance with the provisions of Section 22300 of the California Public Contracts Code.

The successful bidder must be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9, Division 3, of the California Business and Professions Code to do the type of work contemplated in the project at the time the contract is awarded and shall be skilled and regularly engaged in the general class or type of work called for under the Contract. Failure of the bidder to obtain proper and adequate licensing for an award of the contract shall constitute a failure to execute the contract and result in the forfeiture of the bidder's bid security.

Each bidder shall submit with this bid a statement setting forth his/her/its experience and qualifications. The statement shall be made on the forms provided by the Town and must accompany each bid. The three lowest bidders will be required to submit subcontractor's experience and qualifications statements within 48 hours of the bid opening, on forms provided by the Town.

By submitting a bid in response to this advertisement for bids, the bidder shall be conclusively deemed to have read, understood and agreed with all of the information and materials contained in the bid documents, including but not limited to the construction contract, the standard specifications, the special provisions, the required nature and amount of insurance and the documentation evidencing said insurance.

Any questions regarding the project should be directed to the City Engineer, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA 94027, telephone (650) 752-0532, preferably no later than five days before bid opening. Requests for Information may be faxed to (650) 688-6539. Plan holder's lists may be obtained by calling (650) 752-0570.

By: _____
Duncan L. Jones, P.E., City Engineer

Date: _____

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on August 29, September 5, 2007.

Menlo Park shuttle program aims to boost ridership

Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park may lose one form of public transportation as transportation officials are set to cancel local Route 22 bus service, but the city is launching a campaign to get more residents to use the city's midday shuttle service.

The free shuttle provides round-trip service from the Onetta Harris Community Center in the Belle Haven neighborhood to Stanford Hospital, making stops at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, both of Menlo Park's libraries, the city's downtown area, the Menlo Park Caltrain station, Stanford Shopping Center, and other locations along the way.

The 20-seat shuttles also make stops at the Glenwood Inn and Little House to accommodate seniors.

"A lot of seniors depend on the shuttle service, but it's open to the general public," said Debbie Helming, the city's transportation systems manager. "We have a lot of different people that use it and depend on it, and these days, when there's a big goal to get more cars off the road, that's a good thing."

To make things easier, shuttle drivers will also pick up people that simply flag down the shuttle along the route, Ms. Helming said. She noted shuttles can also accommodate wheelchairs.

The shuttles run on weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For a complete schedule, a list of shuttle stops, and a map of the shuttle route, check the insert included with this week's Almanac, or go online to MenloPark.org, click on "Getting Around" and scroll down to the section on the midday shuttle. ■

Energy expert to speak in Menlo Park

■ MENLO WATCH

Stanford professor James Sweeney, an expert on how energy economic policies affect the environment, and an economic advisor to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, will speak at a special meeting of the Menlo Park Green Ribbon Citizens Committee on Aug. 29.

Mr. Sweeney, who is also a member of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, will start his talk at 6 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets.

Nominees sought for environment awards

The deadline for nominations for Menlo Park's "Environmental Quality Awards" is Oct. 8.

Nominations are sought by the Environmental Quality Commission, which awards individuals, businesses, groups and organizations for environ-

mentally conscious projects, practices and activities.

Nomination forms, which include descriptions of the award categories, can be downloaded online. Go to MenloPark.org, and under "News Releases" click on "Environmental Quality Commission Environmental Quality Award 2007 Nomination Form."

E-mail completed nomination forms to ddryer@menlopark.org, or print out a form, mark it for Diane Dryer, and drop it off in the administration building at the Civic Center, at 701 Laurel Street.

Meeting canceled

The Menlo Park City Council will not meet on Sept. 4. Regular meetings will resume Sept. 11.

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Woodside to go ahead with council election

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

■ ELECTION 2007

It may not be much of a contest, but there will be a Town Council election in Woodside this November.

There is a single candidate for each of the four seats up for election on the seven-member council. They are: incumbent Ron Romines in District 1; incumbent Sue Boynton in District 3; Dave Burow in District 5; and Peter Mason in District 7.

Town officials could have chosen to save the estimated \$5,000 it will cost to hold the election by simply appointing the candidates to the council.

"Saving money is one thing, but saving our freedoms is another, and voting is a sacred freedom," said Councilman Dave Tanner at a special Aug. 22 meeting held in Independence Hall.

By holding the election, there's still a chance for opposition in the form of write-in candidates, council members said. The vote was 4-0 to have an election, with Carroll Ann Hodges, Ron Romines and Pete Sinclair absent.

Mr. Burow, one of the unopposed candidates, said he would prefer to be elected rather than appointed.

Councilman Paul Goeld, who was originally appointed to the council, and then re-elected, said that elected council members have better standing among their constituents than those who have been appointed. He also pointed out that, with the 1997 election of John Blake, Woodside is one of the few communities that has had a successful write-in candidate in recent memory. ■

FDA recalls Trader Joe's baby carrots

The Food and Drug Administration has announced a recall on "Trader Joe's Genuine Sweet Baby Carrots," sold in 7 ounce flexible plastic bags with a sell-by date up to and including Aug. 8, 2007, printed on the back of the packages.

The FDA says the product may be contaminated with the bacteria shigella. According to the FDA, shigella infection can cause diarrhea, fever, nausea and vomiting and it can be passed from person to person.

If you have any packages with the specified code dates, the FDA and Trader Joe's recommend that you return the product, full or empty, to the store for a full refund.

Community Foundation moves its offices

The Community Foundation of Silicon Valley has moved to new central quarters in Moun-

■ NEWS BRIEFS

tain View.

Formed last year by merging the Peninsula Community Foundation with the Community Foundation Silicon Valley, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation now serves both San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

The new foundation is the fourth largest community foundation in the nation with more than \$1.9 billion in assets and 1,400 philanthropic funds, according to the Web site, siliconvalleycf.org.

The foundation will maintain existing conference space in San Mateo and San Jose.

The new address is 2440 West El Camino Real, Suite 300, Mountain View, CA 94040. The foundation can be reached by telephone at 650-450-5400, by fax at 650-450-5401, and by e-mail at news@siliconvalleycf.org. ■



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TOWN OF ATHERTON STATE OF CALIFORNIA

2007 PAVEMENT PATCHING PROJECT PROJECT NO. 07-005

Notice is hereby given that SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027, until 3:00 p.m. September 12, 2007, at which time they will be publicly opened and read, for performing the following work:

Grind and replace approximately 8615 square feet of asphalt to a six-inch depth. This work to include all necessary traffic control and will involve grinding, sweeping, tack coating, replacing asphalt to appropriate depth in an appropriate number of lifts and finish rolling per town of Atherton Standard specifications (see below) and special provisions included in this document.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for 2007 PAVEMENT PATCHING PROJECT, Project No. 07-005", along with date and time of bid opening.

Plans and specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton Public Works Department, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton CA 94027, for a non-refundable fee of \$10.00. Additional important information is contained in Town of Atherton Standard Specifications, which are available for an additional \$20.00. If shipping is requested, there will be an additional charge of \$20.00.

Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash, a cashier's or certified check or bid bond for not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid, as a guarantee that the bidder, if awarded the Contract, will fulfill the terms of the bid. The Town of Atherton reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and/or to waive any irregularities therein.

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The Contractor may elect to receive 100 percent of payments due under the contract, without retention of any portion of the payment by the Town of Atherton, by depositing securities of equivalent value to the retention amount in accordance with the provisions of Section 22300 of the California Public Contracts Code.

The successful bidder must be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9, Division 3, of the California Business and Professions Code to do the type of work contemplated in the project at the time the contract is awarded and shall be skilled and regularly engaged in the general class or type of work called for under the Contract. Failure of the bidder to obtain proper and adequate licensing for an award of the contract shall constitute a failure to execute the contract and result in the forfeiture of the bidder's bid security.

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By: _____
Duncan L. Jones, P.E., City Engineer

Date: _____

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on August 29, September 5, 2007.

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Habitat lands proposed for threatened butterfly

Federal wildlife officials have proposed nearly 20,000 acres of Peninsula and South Bay land be named critical habitat for a threatened butterfly native to the Bay Area.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Aug. 22 its plan for a 19,746-acre critical habitat for the Bay checkerspot butterfly, listed as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The colorful checkerspot butterfly, its 2-inch wingspan speckled with red, orange and white spots, was once seen fluttering in areas from San Francisco's Twin Peaks down to southern Santa Clara County and parts of the East Bay, but now exists in only sparse numbers in a few park areas of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, according to wildlife officials.

The butterfly requires areas with nutrient-poor serpentine soil that supports certain plants upon which the butterfly relies, but habitat loss, pollution, pesticides, invasive species, fire and extreme weather have diminished its population in recent years, according to

the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Though designation of critical habitat does little to directly protect species, conservation efforts — such as the reintroduction of the butterfly by scientists and parks officials to Edgewood Park near Redwood City in April — are key to its recovery, according to Fish and Wildlife Service spokesman Al Donner.

The designation “helps to bring (public) attention to the plight of the species,” Mr. Donner said, in addition to requiring that federal agencies consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service before beginning projects in critical habitat areas that could cause the species harm.

Approximately 90 percent of the 12 locations of proposed habitat are in Santa Clara County, mostly in an area east of the Coyote Valley, Mr. Donner said. About 1,700 acres are in San Mateo County, including Edgewood Park.

U.S. Department of the Interior officials are scheduled to make a final decision on the proposal by Aug. 14, 2008.

— Bay City News Service

Campaign helps Habitat for Humanity

The Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Community Foundation is launching its ninth annual Habitat for Humanity fundraising campaign, called “Hearts and Hammers.”

This year, the foundation aims to raise \$500,000 for the nonprofit housing ministry that works to build houses for low-income families.


The campaign will run through Sept. 7 at all Coldwell Banker

offices in Northern California. Tickets are \$2 each and the public is invited to participate. Proceeds will be donated to local Habitat for Humanity chapters.

Ticket holders are eligible for 36 raffle prizes, such as a \$5,000 cash grand prize, roundtrip airfare for two, and weekend use of a BMW Z-4.

For more information, call 925-275-3085.

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- ✱ **INFANT MASSAGE**

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

- Thursdays, 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.

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Shall we dance?

Pauline and Ernest Monken of Palo Alto dance the waltz at the Little House Roslyn G. Morris Activity Center in Menlo Park. Every week, the center hosts ballroom dancing to a live band.

Almanac photo by Veronica Weber

Run, walk event remembers Olivia Kemist

Saturday, Sept. 8, will mark the third running of "Olivia's Miles" — a one-mile and 5-K run and walk that celebrates Olivia Kemist, who died in 2005 at age 2 from a rare degenerative disorder known as Krabbe disease.

Olivia's parents, Adam and Micheline Kemist, owners of the Runner's High in Menlo Park, organized the race to remember their daughter and raise money for the Spark Foundation, a nonprofit that supports research for enzyme disorders such as Krabbe's and provides education and financial assistance to families of children with life-threatening conditions.

Olivia's Miles, one-mile and 5K runs, will be held in Menlo Park, starting at Fremont Park, located at the intersection of University Drive and Santa Cruz Ave.

The runs will be held on a flat course through tree-lined streets in Menlo Park. The 1-mile race for competitive runners begins at 8 a.m. and the 5K race, open to both runners and walkers, begins at 8:30 a.m.

A run for children under 12 starts at 9:15 a.m. in Fremont Park.

The event is free for children under 12 taking part in either run with a parent, but an entry form for each child must be submitted with the adult's registration. Registration is not required for the kids' race.

To register in person, go to the Runners High in Menlo Park, 859 Santa Cruz Ave, or, to register online, go to www.active.com. Registration is \$25 in person and \$27 online. For more information, e-mail OliviasMiles@gmail.com.

Virginia Kiraly named parents club president

Virginia Chang Kiraly of Menlo Park, a Republican candidate for the state Assembly District 21 seat last year, has been appointed the 2007-08 president of the Parents Club of Palo Alto and Menlo Park.



Virginia Kiraly

The nonprofit, volunteer-led organization provides education, support and social activities to families with young children, she said.

A club member since 2001, Ms. Kiraly is a former Las Lomitas

PEOPLE

Elementary School PTA president and former president of the Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo.

She serves on various boards, including that of the Las Lomitas Education Foundation, and was recently appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to serve on the California Commission for Economic Development.

She has been an active member of the Junior League of Palo Alto-Mid-Peninsula since 1996.

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

Broker graduates from institute

Penelope Huang, broker-owner of Taylor & Huang Properties in Menlo Park, has graduated from the Realtors Institute, a comprehensive training program conducted by the California Association of Realtors.

The program includes 14 courses on topics such as marketing and negotiating, technology and legal aspects of real estate.

Taylor & Huang is located at 108 Gilbert Ave. in the Willows neighborhood of Menlo Park. For more information, go to www.taylorandhuang.com.

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Paye's Place Championship Team. Top row, from left: Coach King Christian, Zac Thomas, Zach Lindsey, James Shaw, Cole McConnell, Miles Wong and Richard Harris; and lower row, from left: Josiah Paye, Matthew McNamara, Miles Weiss and David Mapa.

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Local boys win big in Vegas

Posted in the Sports category of Town Square by Georg Lindsey.

Teams from all across the USA and several foreign countries faced tough competition in the 2007 Main Event Las Vegas, a five-day basketball tournament with more than 5,000 athletes competing July 22-26.

The event attracts college coaches and recruiters from across the coun-

try to look at high school players.

Paye's Place — a club team of 13-year-olds with players from Menlo Park, Atherton, Woodside and Palo Alto — won the Bronze Bracket Championship by defeating the Texas Heat, 64-60, in overtime.

To reach the championship, the team defeated Team Groundhog (New York), Westsiders (California), and Team Flight (Texas).

Rebuilding Together: free home repairs

Rebuilding Together Peninsula, the group that organizes volunteers to repair and renovate homes and community facilities, is accepting applications from homeowners and community agencies.

To qualify, homeowners must be low income, elderly and/or disabled.

The volunteers, who do most the renovation work on the annual “National Rebuild Day” (the next

one is April 28, 2008), do general cleanup, landscaping, roof repairs, plumbing, electrical work, painting and handicap modifications.

Homeowners chosen are expected to work alongside volunteers if they are able.

The application deadline is Oct. 15. To apply, call the Rebuilding Together Peninsula office at 366-6597 or go to rebuildingtogether-peninsula.org.

■ 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.

- Vehicle ransacked overnight, 400 block of Santa Rita Ave., Aug. 21.
- Items stolen, 1200 block of Santa Cruz Ave., Aug. 21.
- Radio stolen, 800 block of Coleman Ave., Aug. 21.

MENLO PARK

Grand theft reports:

- Laptop computer stolen, 1600 block of Willow Road, Aug. 17.
- Cash stolen from unlocked vehicle, 200 block of Van Buren Ave., Aug. 21.
- Tools and painting supplies stolen from car and Iliana Anaya, 21, and Camilo Salazar, 23, both of Menlo Park, arrested on theft charges, 1200 block of El Camino Real, Aug. 22.

Stolen vehicle report: Red 1994 Honda Civic, Coleman Place, Aug. 19.

Burglary report: Items missing from house, 1100 block of Henderson Ave., Aug. 18.

Auto burglary reports:

- Three burglaries reported between 7:45 and 8:30 a.m. with stolen items including global positioning unit, guitar amplifier and laptop computer (later recovered), 900 block of Florence Lane, Aug. 22.

Fraud reports:

- Report taken, 300 block of Sharon Park Drive, Aug. 23.
 - Alberto Palacio, 22, arrested on charges that include burglary and fraud, 800 block of Willow Road, Aug. 23.
- Spousal abuse reports:**
- Arrest made, 800 block of Coleman Ave., Aug. 17.
 - Arrest made, 1100 block of Hollyburne Ave., Aug. 18.
 - Report taken, 1100 block of Henderson Ave., Aug. 20.

WOODSIDE

Lion sighting report: Mountain lion sighting, near intersection of Mountain Home Road and Portola Road, Aug. 15.

WEST MENLO PARK

Burglary report: Jeffrey James Watt of Redwood City arrested on theft charges, Blockbuster Video at 3532 Alameda de las Pulgas, Aug. 17.

OBITUARIES

Frank Wesley Knowles

Longtime Menlo Park resident

Menlo Park resident Frank Wesley Knowles died in Redwood City on Monday, Aug. 20, after a lengthy illness. He was 88.

Mr. Knowles was born in Los Gatos to Olive Warren Knowles and Frank Wesley Knowles, one of the first physicians in Los Gatos. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University in 1940, he worked for 44 years for Del Monte Corp. in San Francisco.

A resident of Menlo Park for more than 60 years, Mr. Knowles was an avid supporter of Stanford football and a fan of Dixieland jazz. Family members also say he was an enthusiastic golfer, traveler and reader.

His first wife, Marian Chandler Knowles, died in 1983. He is survived by his second wife, Joan of Menlo Park; son Barry Chandler Knowles of Paradise; daughter Karen Knowles True of Sebastopol; four step-daughters; one granddaughter; and eight step-grandchildren.

The family prefers that memorial donations be made to Pathways Hospice, 585 North Mary Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94085; or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Lynn Seaman

Authority in shock wave physics

Lynn Seaman, a longtime resident of the Menlo Park area and a leading authority at SRI International in the field of shock wave physics, died Aug. 19 of brain cancer.

A memorial celebration will be held Friday, Sept. 21, at 5 pm at SRI. For more information, call 650-852-0492.

He was born in Arkansas in 1933 and grew up and lived in California most of his life. He studied civil engineering at UC Berkeley, where as top student in his class he was awarded the University Medal in 1959, family members said.

After earning a Ph.D. from the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he returned to California and joined SRI in 1961. There he developed computational models for predicting outcomes of impact and explosive loads on materials and structures.

An authority in the mechanics and physics of fracture, Mr. Seaman published more than 100 technical articles, regularly reviewed articles for professional journals, and delivered lectures and courses at universities in the U.S., Europe and China.

Outside work, Mr. Seaman was continually engaged in the pursuit of knowledge, with interests ranging from drumming to wood sculpture to the stock market, family members said.

He was skilled with carpentry and construction, and undertook numerous renovation projects at home and in rental properties, including (with his family) the construction of a house in Portola Valley.

Mr. Seaman enjoyed studying languages and learned to converse in German, Spanish, French and Russian. He also contributed generously to human rights and environmental organizations, the family said.

Although officially retired since 1998, Mr. Seaman continued biking to SRI essentially every day and working about half time — between trips to Mariposa, where he was renovating his deceased father's house and teaching local men building skills on the job. He also made weekly visits to his nephew Buck in the East Bay. There he delighted in the attention of Buck's kids while teaching them Spanish and woodcarving.

Mr. Seaman is survived by his wife, Renate Cords; his four children, Peggy Wonder, Ellen Womack, Mark Seaman and Tanya Seaman; his first wife, Elisabeth Seaman; two grandchildren; his niece, Donna Rutan; and his nephew Buck Cunningham and his family.

Memorial donations may be made to human rights or environmental causes.

LUCILE PRIOR
1918-2007



Lucile Prior, a long-time Atherton resident, passed away August 16, 2007 in Reno, Nevada after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. She was 88.

Lucile was born in Weleetka, Oklahoma, a road-stop farming town with a population in the low double digits on October 10, 1918 to Beulah Mae Rickman and Luther White. She graduated from East Central State

College in Ada, Oklahoma where she majored in tennis and Education, receiving her teaching credential in 1939. She taught Latin and business courses and held administrative positions before becoming a full-time wife, mother and homemaker.

In 1947, she married Leland Stanford Prior, Jr., a former pilot and naval Commander, and the couple built their Atherton dream home in 1957 on land that had been in the Prior family since 1865. She will rejoin Leland, the love of her life and husband of forty-two years, who passed in 1989.

Lucile lived life vibrantly, enjoying all of its facets and challenges. She was active in social work, an avid reader,

and loved golf and gardening, puzzles of all types and was a recovering Bridge player. Above all, she will be remembered as a loving and dedicated mother and grandmother and a very special friend to all who knew her.

She was active in DAR and spent many years passionately digging through dusty records in courthouses throughout the country researching her family's history. She published detailed volumes of engaging genealogical facts, references and narrative. In a remarkable study in contrasts, she found that one Jesse James was perhaps a distant family member, and that another, Alan Rickman, was placed in charge of the Union hospitals during the Civil War, with his orders signed by John Hancock.

All those who came in contact with Lucile found themselves blessed by her grace, humor, and selfless caring. She possessed the ability to always offer a kind word, a compliment, or brighten another's day with her unshakable sense of humor.

Lucile is survived by her son James McFarlin, of Palm Desert, California; her sister Barbara Dronkers of Eugene, Oregon, and three granddaughters, Shannon McFarlin of Seattle, Washington; Heather McFarlin of San Rafael, California; and Lara McFarlin of San Diego, California.

Memorial services were held on August 23rd at the Roller Hapgood & Tinney funeral home in Palo Alto.

The family requests that any memorial donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

PAID OBITUARY

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the District Board of the West Bay Sanitary District shall conduct a Public Meeting to Consider a Regulation Amending the General Code of Regulations, at the regular District Board meeting of September 12, 2007, at 7:00pm. The meeting shall take place at the District Offices, 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, Ca.

The Proposed amendment to the Code of General Regulations is as follows:

A REGULATION AMENDING GENERAL REGULATION NO. 58 "A GENERAL REGULATION ADOPTING CODE OF GENERAL REGULATIONS"

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE District Board of West Bay Sanitary District that General Regulation No. 58, "A General Regulation Adopting Code of General Regulations", passed and approved on November 27, 1982, as heretofore amended, is further amended as follows:

SECTION 901 (03) Amount of Connection Fee

The connection fees shown below shall be assessed each new applicant for wastewater service. In the event that a parcel will have combined residential and non-residential uses, the residential connection fee shall be applied to each living unit and the non-residential connection fee shall be applied to the non-residential uses. In no event shall a connection fee be less than the residential connection. A separate meter serving the non-residential premises shall be required for annual user charge assessments.

	Connection Fee Dollars			
	District	Authority		Total
Residential Unit	\$2549.00	\$2750.00	\$583.00	\$5299.00 \$3132.00
Supplementary Connection Fee	\$347.70	\$375.00	\$79.50	\$722.70 \$427.20
Non-Residential Use Equal or Less than 325 mg/l BOD and/or SS	\$11.59/gpd +\$347.70	<u>\$12.50/gpd</u> \$2.65/gpd <u>+\$375.00</u> +\$79.50		<u>\$24.09/gpd</u> \$14.24/gpd <u>+\$722.70</u> +\$427.20
Greater than 325 mg/l BOD and/or SS	\$11.59/gpd	Ratio(a)		Total(b)

(a) The connection fee for Authority expansion costs is calculated by multiplying \$12.50 ~~\$2.65~~/gpd times the average daily flow in gpd, times the ratio of the highest of the BOD and SS concentrations to 325 mg/l subject to a minimum connection fee of \$12.50 ~~\$2.65~~/gpd plus \$375.00 ~~\$79.50~~ connection.

(b) The total connection fee is the sum of the District and Authority connection fees subject to a minimum connection fee of \$24.09 ~~\$14.24~~/gpd plus \$722.70 ~~\$427.20~~ connection.

(c) The connection fee for a supplementary connection(s) to the same building shall be \$722.70 ~~\$427.20~~ per connection.

/s/Timothy Clayton
District Manager, West Bay Sanitary District
Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on August 29, September 5, 2007.

Obituary policy

The Almanac publishes obituaries about people who lived in Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley and Woodside, or played a prominent role in these communities. These obituaries are news stories, written by Almanac staff writers, based on information provided by mortuaries and family members. There is no charge. Due to space limits and other reasons, these stories may not include all the information a family wishes. Some families choose to write their own memorial announcements, and purchase space to publish them in the Almanac. For information about that, e-mail Blanca Yoc in the Advertising Department at byoc@pawebly.com or call 326-8210, ext. 221.

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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.

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

Fire districts not a good fit

No one wants the government to waste money. That makes the idea of consolidation, or doing away with unnecessary overhead, a popular one.

More often than not, the target of the consolidations are fire districts.

The latest merger idea comes from LAFCo, the San Mateo County Local Agency Formation Commission, a government body charged with periodically reviewing local government agencies for efficiency, organization and jurisdictional boundaries. This time around,

the potential partners are the Woodside and Menlo Park fire protection districts. The districts are relatively close in size (31 square miles for Woodside and 27 for Menlo Park), although that is where just about any similarity ends.

For example, Menlo Park answers about 7,000 or more calls a year in Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto and nearby unincorporated areas, while Woodside attends to fewer than 2,000 calls in Woodside, Portola Valley, Ladera, Los Trancos Woods, and surrounding areas. Menlo Park serves about 95,000 residents, while Woodside's sparsely populated hillsides are home to fewer than 14,000 people.

The budgets of the two districts are not even in the same league. Woodside expects to spend less than \$12 million in the 2007-08 budget year. The lion's share of that, almost \$10 million, is for salaries and benefits. Menlo Park, a much larger department, will spend \$28 million, of which \$20 million will go to salary and benefits.

All of this might suggest that the Menlo district could absorb Woodside with little more than a hiccup, at least when you look at the two on paper. Certainly Menlo has experience managing more firefighters. And the LAFCo report says some high-level

positions, such as one chief, a financial or administrative officer and support staff, and possibly a battalion chief, could be eliminated if the districts merged. In addition, such a district would be able to eliminate one board of directors and the associated costs.

But on the minus side, the Woodside fire officials already are less than enthusiastic about a merger. Longtime board member Peter Berger told the Almanac, "I don't see a significant savings and I do see a degradation of service."

In addition, he said that the two districts already practice an economy of scale by collaborating with other fire agencies on training, equipment maintenance and emergency medical service.

And countywide, fire agencies share dispatching services, enabling "dropped boundaries," which means that the nearest fire engine will respond to a call, regardless of what town it is in.

Perhaps the biggest drawback to a merger is the likely centralization of administrative services at the Menlo Park headquarters, far away from Woodside and Portola Valley. Under the current system, residents get to know the firefighters and the board members, who are local residents. Such connections are important, especially in rural districts with difficult terrain.

In addition, engine crews in Woodside have years of experience in the sprawling district's dry and hilly expanse. We wonder if a consolidated fire district would be able to keep such experienced personnel in their old district.

Menlo Park Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman said he is open to studying a possible merger. At least at this time, it is on the table, although it's unlikely to go far without Woodside's cooperation.

Given Woodside's already lean operation — only 3 percent of its budget goes to administration, compared with 13 percent for Menlo Park — it doesn't seem worth the effort to consolidate these two very different districts. In this case, a merger just doesn't fit.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Why cyclists may, or may not, ride the white line

Editor:

Bruce Campbell makes some good points in his letter to the Almanac last week, but I think he misinterprets the answers to his question on why cyclists ride on the white line.

First, he should realize that there are no bike lanes in Portola Valley. Never have been. In some places the "bike lane" marked by the shoulder stripe is substandard in width. This is presumably why Portola Valley has never had bike lanes.

Second, most cyclists know that if you ride closer to the edge of the pavement you will encounter more debris, broken glass, puncture weed thorns, and so on, and the vehicle code allows cyclists to avoid such hazards. In some local cities, parking is allowed in the bike lanes, forcing cyclists to ride on the bike lane stripe, or even to the left of the

See **LETTERS**, next page



Portola Valley Archives

Our Regional Heritage

In what appears to be their wedding photo, bride and groom Laura and Joe Cardosa, bottom, and Anton and Florinda Alves, top, pose for a Portola Valley photographer. The two couples were natives of Portugal, as were many other early settlers of Portola Valley. The photo is undated.

LETTERS

continued from previous page

stripe in order to avoid the door zone of the parked cars.

I agree with Mr. Campbell, in general, that cars should not “share” the bike lane. I really wish that the two out of three cars that drift into the bike lane on Alameda de las Pulgas as they approach Atherton Avenue would not do so.

I wonder if Mr. Campbell is aware that the vehicle code requires lane sharing in some circumstances. Just two examples: bicycles must leave the bicycle lane to make a left turn, and cars must enter the bicycle lane prior to making a right turn. Few motorists seem to know this.

Robert Cronin
Marmona Drive, Menlo Park

Fair maiden’s blemish may soon be gone

Editor:

I was pleased to see your editorial bringing us up to date on the Park Theater. We are heartened now to anticipate resolution of the eyesore.

We have long considered Menlo Park to be the “fair maiden” of the peninsula. True, she has a few blemishes, but they are being addressed (though slowly).

However, for the past few years, our fair maiden has had a large black hairy wart on the end of her nose: the Park Theater. It will take more than lipstick to doll up this pig (as it has become). Extreme makeover is the only remedy; obviously, the sooner the better.

We share your hope that the city, and the Park’s owner, Howard Crittenden, may now jointly undertake the necessary planning and execution to achieve a pridelful result of form and function. It would have been ideal to retain the Park’s connection to the arts.

Dean Holman
Winchester Drive, Atherton

Why should taxpayers subsidize child care?

Editor:

The open letter in last week’s

Almanac addressed to officials of the Menlo Park City School District by Courtney

Ashley describing her request for onsite after-school care in Menlo Park was a real eye-opener.

Where is it written that the taxpayers of California must subsidize Courtney’s lifestyle by providing after-school care so her family can raise three children in a “recently remodeled” home in Menlo Park? Most adults make their own choices in life regarding children and where they live, and they take responsibility for their choices. They don’t expect other hardworking families with similar, or more difficult, circumstances to come to their financial aid.

Perhaps if Courtney had researched feasible child care options before giving birth to three children and remodeling her home, her problem would not have been so daunting. Her final statement that “... perhaps you will consider the costs you put on one of the hundreds of families who have brought this same issue to you before” sums her up.

Robert Carr
Tuscaloosa Avenue, Atherton

Writer takes offense at attack on character

Editor:

I am indebted to Kris Moriarty for her response last week to my letter raising the issue of permanent use of public land for private use. She has given me a far taller “soapbox” from which to speak.

Ms. Moriarty’s response not only was completely “off point” (she either didn’t read my letter very carefully or she didn’t understand what I was trying to say) but was essentially no more than a personal attack on me.

These two rhetorical tactics seem to have taken over the political process in this country to the detriment of all. When unleashed, they instantly sidetrack issues and preclude further civilized discussion.

As tactics, they are not new, but that doesn’t make them

any less destructive to political discourse and resolving issues. When the “Rovean” approach of getting our own way regardless of the merits of our position becomes the “be all and end all,” it does not stand our community in good stead. The “my way or the highway,” “win at all costs,” “the ends justify the means,” or simply, “I want it and therefore I should be allowed to have it,” approach that seems to have taken over the political process pretty well ensures stalemate, ill-will, and failure.

At this time in history, we

desperately need to be able to discuss and disagree on a wide range of critical issues facing our nation and civilization (some of them even more important than the unilateral use of public land for private memorials in the town of Portola Valley). If we are to succeed, we need to settle on some basic ground rules. At the top of the list, I propose that we agree (1) to stay on point and (2) refrain from ad hominem attacks in our discussions.

This is not to say that we should not vigorously espouse and defend our positions and

points of view, but only that we maintain certain standards and rules in the process. To demonize me as a heartless curmudgeon may or may not be accurate. (There seems to be some disagreement on this point among those who have known me over my more than 70 years.) However, my character has nothing to do with the issue I raised and demonizing me adds nothing to producing a satisfactory outcome for the community.

John Hessel
Santa Maria Avenue,
Portola Valley

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