

**Menlo Park** Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson may run for supervisor's seat held by Rose Jacobs Gibson. Page 9

# The Almanac

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



**DINING  
GUIDE  
IN THIS  
ISSUE**

OCTOBER 03, 2007

[www.TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com) | VOL. 43 NO. 5



## NO HORSEING AROUND

Woodsiders work to keep town a haven for horses  
**PAGE 12**

REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990

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



### ATHERTON

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# Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

## FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/David Boyce

### One for the book

The Guinness book of world records, that is. Sydney Hessel, 17, a resident of Portola Valley and a senior at Menlo School, folded 100 origami cranes from 100 three-inch squares of paper in an unofficial time of 1 hour, 5 minutes and 4 seconds. If Guinness confirms her time, Sydney would take over the top spot from a Japanese girl who did it in 1 hour and 38 minutes, said Maryann Moise Derwin, a Portola Valley councilwoman and a witness to the event.

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## On the cover

Riders check a trail map at Woodside's Day of the Horse celebration. Local residents are serious about preserving the town's unique system of equestrian trails, and pitching in to ensure the equine-centric lifestyle thrives in Woodside. Photo by Peri Soygenec. Story begins on **Page 12**.

## CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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

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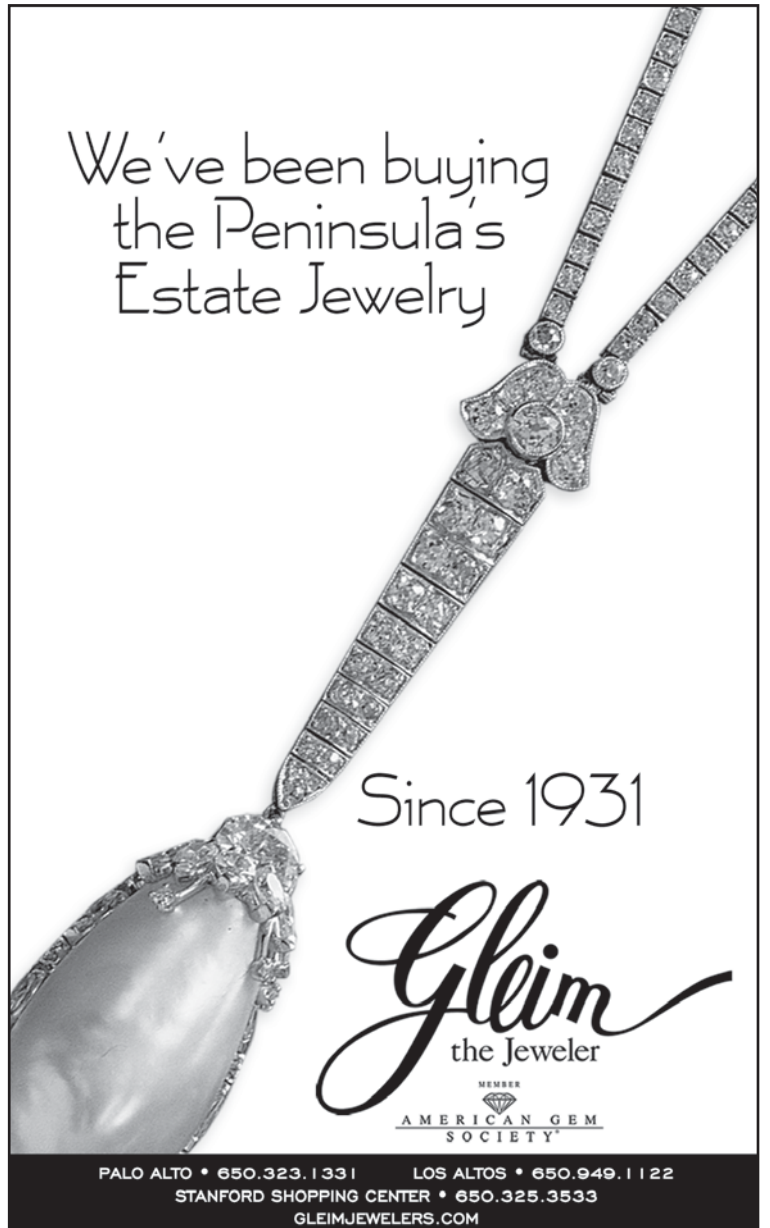
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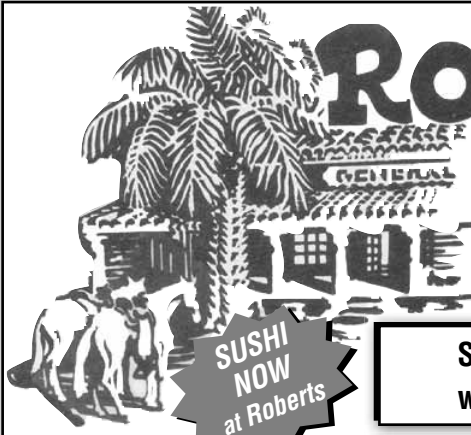
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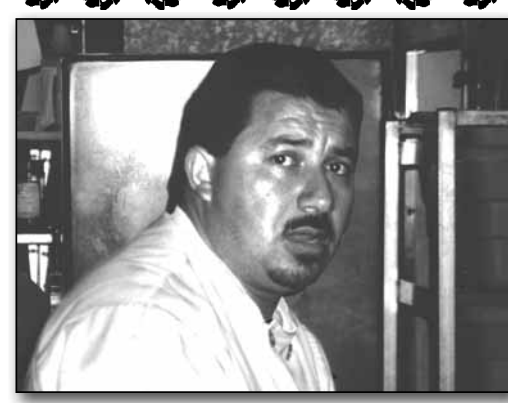
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**ANDREAS - KITCHEN**

### Cozy Brunches

The fall and winter months call for lazy weekend mornings spent lingering over comfort food and coffee. Brunch is a great way to entertain, as much of the preparation can be done the day before. Quiches, muffins, egg casseroles, and coffecakes are delicious foods that are easy to prepare ahead of time. When hosting a brunch, take care of as many details as possible the night before so you can enjoy your guests when they arrive. Set the table. Mix the ingredients for the main baked dish and refrigerate overnight. Measure the coffee, but draw the water in the morning to ensure the freshest taste. Prepare any juices, and assemble all ingredients for Bloody Marys and other specialty drinks.



At ROBERTS MARKET, we are your source for specialty foods, including Indian, Asian, European, and other specialties. We are also your source for comfort food and coffee! If you are planning a lazy weekend this fall, and want to have all the ingredients on hand for a fantastic and delicious brunch come in and see us. Not only do we have all the food, wine and flower products you need we have the expertise and knowledge to help you prepare for anything.

*HINT: Greet your guests with the aroma of cinnamon by baking your breakfast bread or muffins in the morning.*

## WINE

### Chateau Rayas, Chateauf-neuf-de-Pape

Bordeaux has Lafite-Rothschild, Burgundy Dom. Romanec-Conti, and the southern Rhone Chateau Rayas, Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape. Historically, no other wines of the region can match Rayas for quality, expression, or improvement in value. The wine is produced almost entirely from Grenache, the most important grape of the southern Rhone, as are the stable mates of the great Rayas. In 2004, Rayas produced classic wines and the best wines in many years.

|   |       |          |
|---|-------|----------|
| 2004 La Pialade   | ..... | \$24.99  |
| <i>This truly is Rayas light. A phenomenal value.</i>     |       |          |
| 2004 Fonsalette   | ..... | \$63.99  |
| <i>A beefier, more rustic example.</i>                    |       |          |
| 2004 Pignan   | ..... | \$89.99  |
| <i>Just a tiny notch below Rayas itself.</i>              |       |          |
| 2004 Ch. Rayas (94 IWC, 93WS, 92 WA)                      | ..... | \$149.99 |
| <i>The epitome and pinnacle of Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape.</i> |       |          |

*NOTE: The above wines assort for a 10% case discount*

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|  |               |
|--|---------------|
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## MEAT/SEAFOOD

— *Special This Week at Roberts* —

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|--|---|-------------------|
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| <b>FLANK STEAK</b>                       |  | <b>\$8.98</b> lb. |
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| <b>FRESH BAY SHRIMP MEAT</b>             |  | <b>\$9.98</b> lb. |

# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Phillips Brooks School: No plans for new campus

■ School official calls site purchase a “fortuitous opportunity.”

By David Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Moving Phillips Brooks School from its current site on Avy Avenue in Menlo Park to 10 acres the school recently bought near Portola Valley “is not even on our planning horizon,” Scott Ryles, chair of the school’s Board of Trustees, told the Almanac last week.

The \$5 million purchase of the undeveloped creekside property in unincorporated Santa Clara County — across Los Trancos Creek from the Alpine Inn in Portola Valley — was “just a

fortuitous opportunity,” he said in a Sept. 26 interview with the Almanac.

“We don’t think we’ll be preparing a plan for many years,” he added. “We may decide not to propose a plan.”

Mr. Ryles noted, for example, that the school is about to amend its strategic plan and that the new site will not be addressed in that plan.

In an Aug. 30 letter to parents, Mr. Ryles and school director Kristi Kerins called the site a potential “permanent home” for the preschool-through-grade-5 school and said it might entail a campaign of 10 to 15 years to

raise the \$30 million needed to build it.

### Meeting

Mr. Ryles and Ms. Kerins met last week with Portola Valley Mayor Ted Driscoll and Councilman Steve Toben, who has expressed concerns about how a new school on the site would affect Portola Valley.

“They have what they regard as an advantage of patience and time,” Mr. Toben said at the council’s Sept. 26 meeting. “They have an aspiration that is quite clear to settle on this site. It’s just absolutely essential that we coordinate

and work very well together (with Santa Clara County planning officials). We have to work in close harmony over a very long period of time. We are embarked upon a marathon.”

Mr. Driscoll, in an interview, said he is reserving judgment about the merits of a new school on the site since there are as yet no plans and he has “no idea”

what Phillips Brooks might propose, but the onus would be on the school to make its case.

“That’s not a slam the door and nail it shut, but I cannot imagine a circumstance where

they could mitigate all the problems with this,” he said.

Deputy Town Planner Tom Vlasic has said school would intensify traffic through Portola Valley and, if current trends continued, would probably not enroll enough local students to satisfy Santa Clara County zoning laws for “rural” schools. He also described the site as too hilly for a school, too inaccessible, and too close to a tavern and a creek vulnerable to rainwater runoff.

“Phillips Brooks currently has an enrollment of 275,” Mr. Toben said in an e-mail. “In the Woodside proposal, they sought a school for 290 students and 40 faculty in a 34,000-square-foot

See **CAMPUS**, page 8

## New look at Nativity: multi-purpose building, kindergarten being built

By Jane Knoerle  
Almanac Lifestyles Editor

There’s a lot going on at Nativity School in Menlo Park. Inside the main building, the elementary school is in session. Outside, surrounded by green netting fences, construction is under way for a new multi-use facility and a separate kindergarten on the property located at the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and Laurel Street.

Work started last June, the week after the Nativity carnival. It’s due to be completed in June 2008, just in time for next year’s Nativity carnival.

“We have to be finished in time for the carnival,” says Russ Castle, building and facilities manager and Nativity parent. “It’s a big money-maker and is helping pay for this project. It makes in excess of \$100,000 a year.”

That’s not exactly peanuts, but it’s only a small amount of the \$6,960,000 needed to complete the construction. The projected cost of the multi-purpose pavilion is \$4.18 million, and the kindergarten, \$580,000. Site work is projected at \$2.2 million.

Money raised to date includes a number of large gifts from individuals, families and foundations, including a matching fund pledge from the Spieker

Family Foundation.

The building program came about because of the need for a new kindergarten. The existing kindergarten, located in a portable building, is more than 20 years old. It soon will be in violation of the city’s ordinance on temporary structures.

According to Mr. Castle, the school’s building committee decided that as long as Nativity had to build the kindergarten, why not go ahead with a new multi-purpose facility?

The project is part of an ambitious six-year renovation effort for the 135-year-old school and church, where Msgr. Steven Otellini is pastor.

At present, Nativity is the only Catholic elementary school on the Peninsula without a gym. That means the school has to spend more than \$10,000 a year to rent facilities, such as Red Morton Gym in Redwood City.

For years, a 100-year-old building has served as the school’s meeting hall, gym and kitchen. The hall accommodates 120 people. The school community numbers 330 (students, teachers and staff). The new building will hold 500 people.

The handsome new facility will be constructed of split-face textured, taupe-color cinder block. The main part of the building



Rendering by Keller & Daseking Architects

This rendering shows a view of the new multi-purpose building from Oak Grove Avenue in Menlo Park. The architect is Bill Gutsell, a parent at the school.

will house the gym, with smaller one-story additions on each side that will contain a kitchen, storage rooms, and bathrooms. The gym will also boast a platform that can be used for the school’s annual Christmas performance, with enough portable bleachers to seat the entire student body. A dining patio will be located on the Laurel Street side of the building.

Carol Trelut, principal at Nativity for the past six years, is excited about the new kindergarten, which will house 35 children, the same number now squeezed in a wide trailer. “It’s going to be a separate mini-school for little kids,” she says.

The redwood frame building will have a large classroom, sinks for art projects, carpeted space for story time, and small fry bathrooms. It will have its own play area and be fenced separately

from the rest of the school. “It will be state-of-the-art with all the newest equipment,” she says.

The Nativity kindergarten is an all-day program from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., with extended care available if needed. The children have class in the morning. After a one-hour lunch and play period, they nap at 1:15 p.m. Afternoons are devoted to music, Spanish and computer time.

Mr. Castle, who was also in charge of renovating the historic Church of the Nativity in 1997, has only good things to say about the project’s building team.

“They are very accommodating. They will do whatever we want,” he says.

They are also right on schedule. General contractor is SC Builders of Santa Clara. The project manager is Steve Dunne, a past graduate of the school.

The architect, Bill Gutsell, of Keller and Daseking Architects in Menlo Park, is a Nativity parent. Mr. Castle is both a Nativity parent and a graduate of the school.

Founded in 1956, Nativity School, located at Oak Grove Avenue and Laurel Street in Menlo Park, serves 300 children in grades K-8. There are no plans to increase enrollment.

A majority of the children do not live in the parish. Principal Trelut is proud of the fact that 48 percent of the school’s population comes from culturally diverse backgrounds and approximately 15 percent receives financial aid.

“We want our eighth-graders to know it’s a world of diversification,” says Ms. Trelut. “We want our girls to know there’s more to life than designer necklaces and handbags.” ■

## Children's section of Menlo Park Library set for overhaul

Over her two years as youth services manager of the Menlo Park Library, Michelle Barrese has compiled a wish list of needs for

the children's section of the library, including computers for kids to do their homework, more picture books, and more bookshelves.

Thanks to a joint effort by the city and the Menlo Park Library Foundation, some of those wishes may start coming true.

The foundation, set up in 2005 to create a private endowment for the main and Belle Haven libraries, is in the midst of a fundraising

campaign to improve the children's section of the main library. The city, meanwhile, is also doing its part, increasing funding for the library department to revamp the children's section.

"It's very nice to be supported," said Ms. Barrese. "It looks like we're going to get to add some things that we've wanted for some time."

Library Director Susan Holmer said the city is counting on about \$300,000 in total funds from the foundation and the city to make a series of improvements in 2008. Among the changes:

- Ten new computers equipped with Internet access and literacy programs (there are currently no computers in the children's room).

- More books and bookshelves for children and teens.

- A new stage and sound system for city-sponsored story times and author events co-sponsored by the city and Kepler's.

### Welcome relief

Ms. Holmer said the push by the foundation and the city for more funds couldn't come at a better time, as the library is still recovering from major budget cuts from 2001 to 2005.

"It's so nice to be able to do something with growth potential rather than reduction potential," Ms. Holmer said. "It's a baby step, but a good baby step ... This is the foundation's first chance to do something on a fairly large scale."

The city's libraries have long depended on the Friends of the Library, a nonprofit group formed in the 1950s that has raised \$1 million for the city's libraries over the last 25 years.

The foundation hopes to be just as helpful.

"We want to set up an endowment for the library in the long run, and establish money for the library to draw from," said Aldora Lee, the foundation's vice president. ■

— Rory Brown



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7-year-old Joseph loves to play ball, but suffers from juvenile arthritis. Only a year ago, he was so sore and lethargic that he could barely walk. Today, under the care of pediatric immunologists at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, Joseph is back to playing second base on his little league team.

By making a gift to Packard Children's through your estate plan, you help children like Joseph receive specialized care not found at most hospitals. Your gift can create tax savings for your estate or help fulfill your financial goals — all while improving the health of children.

Contact our planned giving office to learn more: visit [www.lpfch.org/plannedgiving](http://www.lpfch.org/plannedgiving) or call **650-736-1211**.

### ■ MENLO PARK

For more information about the Menlo Park Library Foundation, go to [FoundationMPL.org](http://FoundationMPL.org).

## Hawaii comes to Little House

Put on your grass skirt or lava-lava and come to the Hawaiian luau at the Peninsula Volunteers Little House from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4.

There will be entertainment by performing parrots and prizes for the best Hawaiian costumes. Cost of the dinner is \$11 for members and \$14 for others. Tickets must be purchased by Friday, Sept. 28. For more information, call 326-2025.



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# Menlo Park Chamber honors four local community leaders

■ Former educator Mary Ann Somerville is among honorees.

By Marjorie Mader  
Almanac Staff Writer

Mary Ann Somerville, former Las Lomas School District superintendent and Rotarian, will be among four community leaders to receive Golden Acorn awards from the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce's at its 35th annual awards banquet Wednesday, Oct. 17.

The event, held again this year at the Stanford Park Hotel in Menlo Park, begins with Jeff Taylor, jazz saxophonist and chamber member, playing during the cocktail hour that starts at 5:30 p.m. before dinner and the awards presentation.

The Golden Acorn awards recognize individuals, organizations and businesses that make significant and positive contributions to Menlo Park and surrounding communities, said Fran Dehn, chamber president and CEO.

Ron Derenzi, a chamber board member and recently retired Bank of the West executive, is chairman of this year's banquet.

Award winners are chosen by a committee of chamber board members and past award recipients. In addition to Ms. Somerville, who won the public service award, the winners are:

■ Richard Acquaviva, vice-president/group publisher for Gentry Magazine, who won the Gary T. and Elissa Williams Memorial Award for Community Service. His involvement with the Menlo Park chamber can be traced back to his hard work and dedication to the Connoisseur's Marketplace since 1989.



Mary Ann Somerville is being honored for 41 years of service to education.

■ The National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy, which won the nonprofit organization award. Located in Woodside, this organization provides "therapy on horseback" to help children and adults with special needs gain increased functional independence. Executive Director Rita Almon will accept the award.

■ The Stanford Park Hotel, which won the Albert J. Giannotti Award for Business Excellence. The hotel has supported, and been the site of, many community events. Jonathan Farrington, the hotel's general manager, will accept the award.

### Mary Ann Somerville

Ms. Somerville is being recognized for her commitment to students and public education for 41 years. She came out of retirement last April to serve as interim superintendent of the Las Lomas School District, where she was superintendent

from 1996 to 2006.

Under her leadership, both Las Lomas School (K-3), La Entrada School (grades 4-8), and district facilities were renovated, remodeled and expanded. She hired 75 percent of the current staff.

Student performance on the annual STAR test ranks in the top 1 percent of schools in the state. Both schools received California Distinguished School Awards, and Las Lomas was recognized as a national Blue Ribbon School.

A former trustee says Ms. Somerville, in her friendly, collegial and quiet way, was a highly capable instructional leader who attracted a wonderful staff.

She began her career in the Palo Alto Unified School District as a teacher, then served as an assistant principal of a middle school and a high school, and principal of Jane Lathrop Middle School. Before coming to Las Lomas, she was assistant superintendent for instructional services in the Morgan Hill Unified School District for eight years.

Ms. Somerville has served as Rotarian for 19 years, following in her father's and grandfather's footsteps.

For more information, call the chamber office at 325-2818.

### ■ INFORMATION

The 35th annual Golden Acorn Awards banquet, sponsored by the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce, starts at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17, with a cocktail hour, then dinner and awards presentation at the Stanford Park Hotel, 100 El Camino Real in Menlo Park. Tickets are \$75 each. For reservations, call the chamber office at 325-2818 by Oct. 8.

## New officer for Woodside, Portola Valley

A new sheriff's deputy has arrived in town.

Lt. John Courtney took over from Lt. Ken Jones on Sept. 24 as headquarters patrol lieutenant, a position that oversees all patrols in San Mateo County on the eastern side of the Coast Range.

His area of responsibility includes the towns of Woodside and Portola Valley and unincorporated communities in San Mateo County such as Ladera, Los Trancos Woods

and Vista Verde.

Lt. Jones transferred to Moss Beach and will be the new Coastside patrol lieutenant.

By contract, the county sheriff's office provides full police services to the towns of Woodside and Portola Valley. Deputies also provide crime-fighting services in the unincorporated communities, while traffic patrol in these areas is the responsibility of the California Highway Patrol.



Lt. John Courtney

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### Lot Line Dispute

**Q:** My lot used to be part of the adjacent lot but was subdivided with a straight line between the two parcels. When I bought my house I signed a parcel map that depicted the adjacent lot as jutting into my lot around a guest house used by this neighbor. This parcel map has never been recorded. Who owns the land the guest house is on?

**A:** First, does the recorded legal description of the property say anything about this extra piece of land? If not, then is there a recorded easement allowing the neighbor to use this piece of your lot for a guest house? You said you signed a parcel map depicting the neighbor's lot as jutting around the guest house into your lot but did you ever sign a written agreement allowing the neighbor use of this extra land? If not, then you are probably the legal owner of the land on which the guest house stands, regardless of the parcel map you signed.

You should consult a real estate attorney to confirm what your current ownership status is and to advise you about whether your signature on an unrecorded parcel map puts you in any jeopardy of a lot line dispute. I would urge you to do this right away to eliminate any ambiguity as to what you own.

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

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# Communities plan 'conversation' on global warming Thursday

■ All four Almanac communities are involved in the event.

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

You've heard of everyone in a community reading the same book at the same time. How about many communities discussing the same issue on the same day?

A "national conversation" on the matter of global warming and climate change is set for Thursday, Oct. 4. Among the local communities directly participating are Atherton and Portola Valley, according to the Web site [www.climate-conversation.org](http://www.climate-conversation.org).

Menlo Park and Woodside will not be left out, however, said Atherton Councilman Charles Marsala. Delegations from these towns are expected to convene with Atherton at a public meeting at the pavilion in Holbrook-Palmer Park between 7 and 9 p.m., Mr. Marsala said.

Meanwhile in Portola Valley, the Town Council is planning a special 8 p.m. public meeting at the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road that will include members of the town's environmental task force.

The meetings are intended to raise public awareness of global warming's causes and impacts, and provide options for individuals and groups to mitigate climate change locally.

A show-and-tell element of the Atherton, Menlo Park and Woodside meeting will include a garbage truck that runs on bio-diesel — fuel derived from vegetable oil — a hybrid electric vehicle from Pacific Gas & Electric Corp., and a 20-minute presentation from a venture capitalist who specializes

in "clean" technology, Mr. Marsala said.

The venture capitalists who provided funding for the Tesla all-electric sports car may also be on hand, Mr. Marsala said. The socializing after the presentations might also be a chance for community residents to exchange best practices, he added.

"We want to maintain the enthusiasm in the community toward continuing progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions," Mr. Marsala said, adding that he hopes to attract "200 to 250 people" to the event.

In an e-mail message, Portola Valley Councilman Steve Toben asked members of the town's climate protection task force to "bring all friends of a cool planet" to the Thursday meeting. "My hope is that we can accelerate the normal pace" of climate change mitigation, he said.

To that end, he said some fundamental questions may come up at the meeting, including whether this issue is meaningful to the community at large.

"What we need to do now is find the right levers to pull," he added.

*'We want to maintain the enthusiasm in the community toward continuing progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.'*

ATHERTON COUNCILMAN CHARLES MARSALA

## How national a conversation?

The [www.climateconversation.org](http://www.climateconversation.org) Web site listed, as of Oct. 1, some 65 communities planning to participate in this conversation, including six in California.

Connecticut trounces California with 15 participating towns, perhaps a consequence of one of the event's three sponsors being in New Haven: Yale University's School of Forestry & Environmental Studies.

The other two sponsors are the Toronto-based Local Governments for Sustainability U.S.A. Inc., also known as ICLEI, and the Association of Science-Technology Centers, based in Washington, D.C. ■

## CAMPUS

continued from page 5

facility. It is unfathomable that such a facility could be located on this small, fragile site next to Los Trancos Creek. I am sympathetic to (the school's) need to find a permanent home, but I am unalterably opposed to their selection of this location."

Viable school-sites are rare in this neighborhood, Phillips Brooks chairman Ryles said. "They're just aren't any. We're well aware of these risks associated with building a school here. These are issues but none of them, singularly, are insurmountable."

Buildings can be built into hills, he said. A tavern across the creek is not a problem with the school closing around 3 p.m., well before the Alpine Inn's nightlife gets going, he said.

## Marathon renters

Phillips Brooks has been paying rent to the Las Lomas Elementary School District for nearly 30 years. The school is just completing a \$15 million, 10,000-square-foot expansion at the 4.5-acre

campus. "It is a gift to the state," Mr. Ryles said lightly.

With a lease that runs to 2017, and one extension to 2022, students and staff are likely to be around to enjoy the new facilities, said Ms. Kerins, the head of the school. "If you have a child in preschool, they're going to graduate from this (site)," she told the Almanac.

Despite the upgrades, the school will continue without a gym, with stiff limits on night and weekend use, and without its own playing fields. Not that they're complaining; it's not a high school. "It's just another thing you have to think about," Ms. Kerins said.

A permanent home could give Phillips Brooks better odds of surviving. Private schools that rent tend to fail after about 50 years, Ms. Kerins said.

## Rumors and such

Portola Valley Georgia Benicas, who owns land next to the school's site, told the Almanac that Phillips Brooks had been attempting to surreptitiously buy her land so as to gain access to Arastradero Road.

Asked to respond, board chairman Ryles replied: "We've never made an approach, either direct or indirect, about buying her land. We don't think we have to buy property to make the school accessible."

Town officials have complained that Phillips Brooks was secretive about its plans. "They didn't come to the town; they didn't come to the neighbors," Mr. Toben said.

In a Sept. 4 e-mail to Mr. Toben, deputy planner Vlasic said he had been informed of the school's interest, but that news of the land purchase "was more in the nature of a rumor."

"We didn't hide it from anybody that this was going to be a school site," Mr. Ryles said, adding that the school is the title holder. "When people buy pieces of land, they tend to buy pieces of land. They don't put out press releases."

In explaining the school's silence in response to the Almanac's repeated requests for comment, Ms. Kerins said the timing was unfortunate. "Quiet is not a great thing," she said, "but I had to get the school open." ■



Almanac photo by David Boyce

Firefighters put out hidden fires under the shingles by soaking and pulling down suspect wood rafters.

## Two-alarm fire destroys home in Atherton

Firefighters controlled a two-alarm blaze at a ranch-style home in Atherton Sept. 25, but not before flames destroyed it.

A passerby saw flames shooting from the home at 1 Odell Place and stopped at a nearby store to report the fire at 12:57 p.m., Menlo Park Fire Protection District Chief Herald Schapelhouman said. Fire crews arrived three minutes later and the fire was controlled at 1:45 p.m.

The owner was away at the time of the fire and has since been notified, Chief Schapelhouman said.

Firefighters from Menlo Park, Woodside and Redwood City fought the blaze that engulfed the 3,200-square-foot, 1920s-style home. Thick smoke from the fire blanketed the grounds and obscured traffic at El Camino Real and

Atherton Avenue, which was temporarily closed.

The fire required services of 10 engines, four battalion chiefs, two ladder trucks, a breathing support unit, and three fire investigators, Chief Schapelhouman said.

The home's roof was made of heavy wood shingles, an inch in thickness, which produces "quite a fuel load."

"This style of home wouldn't be built today because of the fire danger," he said. "Fire runs through the hidden spaces above the rooms and causes a lot of problems." Preliminary damage estimates indicate a 100 percent loss. "There's significant interior damage," he said.

Chief Shapelhouman said

*'This style of home wouldn't be built today because of the fire danger.'*

CHIEF HAROLD SCHAPELHOUMAN

— Report by David Boyce of the Almanac and Bay City News Service.

# Phone lines to carry TV in PV

Alternative to cable is a result of 2006 state legislation.

By David Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Ordinary telephone wires will soon have a new capability in Portola Valley: as conduits for video-on-demand and up to 300 television channels, with features that include picture-in-picture, high-definition video, and a Web site to set up program recording from anywhere.

The technology is a consequence of California legislation in 2006 that revised TV franchising rules to promote competition in video services. Ten other states have adopted similar

legislation, according to AT&T.

AT&T is making a \$1 billion investment in California to bring high-speed fiber-optic cables within reach of homes where the video service is to be offered, according to a company statement.

Portola Valley was chosen as one of the first California sites for the video service known as AT&T's "Lightspeed" initiative, or U-verse, said Planning Manager Leslie Lambert in an Aug. 8 staff report to the Planning Commission.

Portola Valley residents will have a choice of five TV packages and three Internet packages that run from \$44 to \$129 monthly, the company statement said.

AT&T has encroachment permits in Portola Valley to install seven graffiti-resistant equip-

ment cabinets at intersections in town where similar hardware is located, Ms. Lambert said.

Two more cabinets in unincorporated San Mateo County may be serving the area near Skyline Drive and the Vista Verde/Los Trancos Woods neighborhoods, Ms. Lambert said.

The above-ground cabinets will be light green or beige and will likely measure 4-feet high by 5-feet across by 2-feet deep, Ms. Lambert said. A somewhat taller and narrower cabinet may also be used.

AT&T, in its statement, says that it will work with town staff in planting vegetation to screen the traffic side of the cabinets from view when property owners request it.

For more information, go to [uverse.att.com](http://uverse.att.com). ■

# Fergusson may run for supervisor's seat

By Rory Brown  
Almanac Staff Writer

"Kelly Fergusson for San Mateo County Board of Supervisors."

That could be a campaign slogan next spring, as Ms. Fergusson, Menlo Park's mayor, is mulling a run for the District 4 county supervisor seat, now held by Rose Jacobs Gibson of East Palo Alto and up for election on June 3, 2008.

"I have been discussing the idea of running for county supervisor with my family and closest advisers," Ms. Fergusson told the Almanac on Oct. 1. "But this is purely exploratory. ... I still have both feet here in Menlo Park."

She said she still has "many aspects of the decision to consider," including whether she wants to run for re-election to the Menlo Park City Council.

The Board of Supervisors' Dis-

trict 4 includes Menlo Park, Redwood City, East Palo Alto and the unincorporated area of North Fair Oaks.



Kelly Fergusson

Ms. Jacobs Gibson was appointed to the District 4 seat in 1999, ran unopposed in 2000, and was elected to another four-year term in 2004. According to a spokesperson from Ms. Jacobs Gibson's office she intends to run for re-election in 2008.

Ms. Fergusson said the board is due for a change.

"No incumbent has been significantly challenged, let alone beaten, in the last 20 years," she said. "The voters deserve a choice."

She also said that San Mateo County's election system is "begging for reform," as supervisors

are elected by a county-wide vote, rather than by district. In most counties in the state, voters are only allowed to vote for supervisors in their particular district.

Elected to the Menlo Park City Council in 2004, Ms. Fergusson has been active on regional boards and committees, and been involved in issues such as climate change and the vulnerability of the Hetch Hetchy water system.

The filing deadline for the June 3 election is March 7.

If Ms. Fergusson ran for supervisor and was not elected, she could still run for re-election to the Menlo Park City Council in November 2008, said San Mateo County Elections Manager David Toms.

Menlo Park Councilman Andy Cohen is also up for re-election in November 2008, and he has not publicly announced whether he plans to seek another term on the council. ■

# Online posters complain about police department

By Rory Brown  
Almanac Staff Writer

Last week's cover story, "Waiting for Backup," about the overworked and understaffed Menlo Park police department, has ignited an outburst of complaints, accusations and tirades from people, many claiming to be current or former cops, on the Almanac's Web site, [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com).

According to a slew of anonymous posts, problems in the department run deeper than long hours and lengthy commutes. Many posters have suggested bad management and favoritism are to blame for the exodus of officers from Menlo Park

since 2004.

City Manager Glen Rojas said he and a task force of city officials and police officers have discussed the complaints, but noted he and other city officials are trying to figure out how to recruit and retain more officers, not investigate past problems in the department.

"We've had really candid discussions with officers, and they've talked about some of their concerns," Mr. Rojas said. "But what I've heard is that these officers and dispatchers really like coming to work and they enjoy the camaraderie, but there's this issue of too much work. We're working on solving that."

Although Mr. Rojas said he

doesn't think an investigation of the department is necessary, resident JoAnne Goldberg suggested the City Council take a deeper look at the city's police personnel issues.

"Current and former Menlo Park police officers as well as concerned residents have been talking about longstanding problems within the department, including allegations of racism, favoritism and corruption," Ms. Goldberg said in an e-mail to council members. "I encourage you to conduct a full investigation into the department's culture and operations and to take steps to address the bigger picture problems." ■

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Steve Lewis is President of Lewis & Mathews Investment Management, Inc., which is a personal financial advisory firm in Menlo Park. He teaches investment courses for various colleges and institutions in the area. He is a financial author and has appeared on national radio and television. He is a past officer and has served as a board member of the S. C. International Association of Financial Planners. He has served on the National Academy Advisory Board of IAFP and is a member of the Palo Alto Financial Planning Forum. Among others, he has written for *Money Magazine* and *Dow Jones' Barron's*.

Other instructors include Deborah Peri and Jim Curran. The instructors have taught over 30,000 Northern Californians their money managing techniques.

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## Judgment day on Park Theatre proposals

■ Council set to decide on Oct. 2 whether to grant Andy Duncan public funds to restore theater.

By **Rory Brown**  
Almanac Staff Writer

Lots of people have had their say whether it's right for the Menlo Park City Council to use taxpayer dollars to restore the Park Theatre. On Oct. 2, council members plan to make a firm decision on the matter.

Menlo Park resident Andy Duncan is asking the council to adopt one of two options to help him restore the 60-year-old former movie theater and turn it into a dance studio for the Menlo Park Academy of Dance.

Under one option, the city would loan Mr. Duncan \$500,000 at a 5 percent interest rate so he can buy the building from current owner Howard Crittenden of Atherton, and convert it to a studio for the dance academy, co-owned by

Mr. Duncan's mother and now housed a block away. Mr. Duncan would pay the city nothing for 25 years, and then pay off the

*Mayor Kelly Fergusson says restoration of the theater is reason enough to consider spending public funds.*

loan and accumulated interest.

Under Mr. Duncan's second proposal, the city would buy the theater and land for \$2.2 million, and lease it to him for 55 years. Mr. Duncan would pay the city \$800,000 upfront, but would make no further payments to the city until year 26 of the lease. At that point, he would pay the city \$70,000 a year until the lease expires.

Both proposals include plans to restore historic elements of the former theater, including the exterior, the neon sign, and the lobby. Mayor Kelly Fergusson has cited the restoration of the theater as reason enough to consider Mr. Duncan's requests for public funds, but other council members have yet to support the idea.

Without a clear indication from council members that they will approve public funds, Mr. Duncan said he will drop his plans to restore the theater because the \$4.27 million price tag to buy the land and restore the building is too expensive.

### ■ MENLO PARK

The council meeting is set to start at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets. For a news update on the Park Theatre decision, check [www.AlmanacNews.com](http://www.AlmanacNews.com).

Post news and views on **TOWNSQUARE**  
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The Almanac/Veronica Weber

**Top right:** A rider approaches Folger Stable. **Above:** Logan Barnes pets an NCEFT horse, with a boost from volunteer Jerome Vahai.

# N HORSE AROUND

Woodsideers work to keep

STORIES BY A

**I**n Woodside, the hitching posts aren't merely decorative. In a town that's become best known for its billionaire CEOs and hotshot venture capitalists, there's a grassroots movement afoot to preserve a rustic, horse-centric way of life that's in danger of extinction.

There's been a lot to worry about in recent years. One of Woodside's greatest assets to the equestrian community is its network of horse trails crisscrossing the town. It's still possible to saddle up and head across town, and maybe even throw in a stop at the bank or the bakery, but over the years, it's gotten harder.

## Horses and health come together at NCEFT

**T**he covered riding ring at 880 Runnymede Road is home to what must be the most bucolic setting for physical therapy imaginable. A little boy wearing a blue helmet tugs on his mother's arm as he races past the old white dairy barn toward the ring. Once inside the shady enclosure, he's helped onto the broad back of a patient horse and surrounded by an entourage — a therapist and volunteers with the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy (NCEFT).

Hippotherapy uses the natural movements of horses to help patients with neuromuscular disorders improve their strength, balance and coordination. It may sound unusual, but it's clearly a lot more fun than traditional occupational or physical therapy sessions.

This summer, the NCEFT moved from its rustic sloping property on Portola Road in Woodside to a much more

elegant spread at the former Charter Oaks boarding stable, in a property swap with Tom and Stacey Siebel. The Siebels gave up the freshly renovated riding facility they'd renamed Dearborn Stables and threw in a \$2 million endowment, in exchange for the NCEFT's property on Portola Road that just happens to be adjacent to their own.

"We have 11.64 acres, and every square inch of it is devoted to health and healing," enthuses Rita Almon, the center's executive director.

From her office in the barn's loft, Ms. Almon has a sweeping view of the tree-lined property and the surrounding hillsides. Out the back door, there are pastures and turn-outs for the horses, and a trio of Nubian goats charged with clearing poison oak and brush from the property.

With the extra elbow-room afforded by the large, mostly

flat parcel, NCEFT is expanding its programs and sharing space with several other equine organizations. Besides Ms. Almon's office, the renovated 1920s barn houses a therapy room, stalls for the center's 20 or so horses, a spacious new accessible bathroom, and a full-time caretaker's quarters.

Horses from B.O.K. Ranch share the main barn with NCEFT horses, and B.O.K. uses the facility for its adaptive riding programs for disabled riders, she said.

Veterinarian Wayne Browning of Bayhill Equine Inc. is renting a portion of the property for his EquiSport equestrian therapy and rehab center, and eight horses from the Mounted Search and Rescue Unit of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office are stabled on the property. Dr. Browning also provides care for NCEFT's horses.

See **NCEFT**, page 14

## Ponying up to save the historic Folger Stable

If work on the historic Folger Stable begins next spring, as anticipated, it will be the culmination of years of labor.

A volunteer group, the Friends of Folger Stable, has been working to rescue the once-opulent stable at Wunderlich Park by raising money, building community support and collaborating with San Mateo County officials.

The group has just reached its \$3.3 million goal for the much-needed restoration work with help from three local equestrian groups — the San Mateo County Mounted

Patrol, the Woodside Trail Club and WHOA (Woodside-area Horse Owners' Association) — and Spring Down Equestrian Center in Portola Valley, said Susan Lang, a member of the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks who has spearheaded the efforts. The combined contributions pledged by the four total \$100,000, Ms. Lang said.

"It's just amazing how these local horse groups have risen to the occasion," she said.

Built in 1905 by San Francisco architectural firm Schulze

& Brown for James Folger II, the distinctive-looking stable is the centerpiece of the Folger Estate Stable Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

It became part of the San Mateo County parks system when the estate was donated in 1974.

The Friends of Folger Stable, an offshoot of the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Park, formed to raise the money for repairs, earthquake retrofitting and other sorely needed renovations. Members offered to take on the project after worrying that years of neglect would destroy a historic stable that is still being used as a public boarding facility.

Unsurprisingly, when volunteers offered to raise all the money and coordinate all the work, county officials didn't say no.

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

Saving Folger Stable was one of the first ideas that WHOA members floated, said Fentress Hall.

"Launching the Folger Stable project was one of WHOA's early babies, so now we're delighted to be part of a fundraising grassroots effort by local equestrian groups," Ms. Hall said. "Even though it's a huge number of (dollars) to raise, every little bit helps. If all the equestrian groups get together and raise money, we can make a difference."

That sentiment is shared by Lisa Bailey, who organized Spring Down Equestrian Center's fundraising efforts. Spring Down owner Carol Goodstein has seen other Peninsula towns lose their horses and trails over the years, and she doesn't want the same thing to happen to Woodside and Portola Valley, Ms. Bailey said.

So, families who board horses or take riding lessons at Spring Down pitched in, selling raffle tickets and donating items for an auction held at last month's anniversary party, and raised a total of \$27,000 for Folger Stable, Ms. Bailey said.

"It shows that when everyone puts their mind to something and works together, it really helps," Ms. Bailey said.

There's still more fundraising work to be done, Ms. Lang said. Thanks to a lead gift from Portola Valley's Bill Lane, the group has \$210,000 toward a \$1 million endowment needed to underwrite educational programs at both Huddart and Wunderlich parks, said Ms. Lang.

Wunderlich Park is located at 4040 Woodside Road, near the Portola Road intersection. ■

# OSING OND

town a haven for horses

NDREA GEMMET

Because the trails are a hodgepodge of public and private easements, permissive trails are in danger of closure when property changes hands. On top of that, public boarding stables have been steadily disappearing, making it tough to keep a horse in town if your own backyard can't accommodate a barn.

Rather than bemoan each loss of a horse property to new owners who replace stables with tennis courts or swimming pools, groups of residents have been working hard to preserve equestrian facilities and expand the ranks of horse owners.

The stories here highlight a few of the organizations that are striving to keep Woodside a haven for the horsey set.



Photo by Peri Soyugenc of WHOA

### DAY OF THE HORSE

**Dana Capiello** of Portola Valley enjoys a trail ride at Woodside's Day of the Horse. This year's event is set for Saturday, Oct. 13. The horse fair runs from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in and around Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road. The progressive trail ride starts at 11 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. and meets at the Mounted Patrol grounds at 521 Kings Mountain Road. To register for the ride, go to [www.Whoa94062.org](http://www.Whoa94062.org).

## Trail rides and pony rides at Day of the Horse in Woodside

If you like horses, Saturday, Oct. 13, is an especially good day to be in Woodside. The third annual Day of the Horse event is designed to appeal to people who have horses and people who dream of having horses.

More than 200 people are expected to bring their horses to a progressive ride through the town's trails, while the horse-less can roam the exhibits and activities at the horse fair located in and around Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road.

Volunteers with WHOA, the Woodside-area Horse Owners' Association, created the Day of the Horse event, now in its third year, as a way to bring the equestrian community together and to lure new and future horse

owners into the fold.

"Our thinking is, all the little kids will go home and ask their parents for a pony," says Donna Poy of WHOA. She and fellow WHOA member Fentress Hall are the event's founding organizers.

Besides an equine petting zoo, the fair offers rides in Wells Fargo's horse-drawn stagecoach, blacksmithing demonstrations, a puppet show, and hands-on activities, such as leatherworking and decorating horse cookies. WHOA is sponsoring pony rides this year, Ms. Poy said.

The fair is open from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and has free admission.

This year's trail ride, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., wends

through town and has a 007 theme, with trivia questions about James Bond movies. Riders may stop at barns and local landmarks, collecting treats along the way. Last year, nearly 260 riders registered, said Ms. Poy.

"People from other communities get the opportunity to see Woodside the way it should be seen — from the back of a horse," Ms. Poy said. "It's nice to have other riders share the experience of riding on our trails."

Proceeds from the \$30 registration fee go toward trail maintenance and the historic Folger Stable renovation project. To register for the ride, go to [www.Whoa94062.org](http://www.Whoa94062.org). ■

In Mountain View

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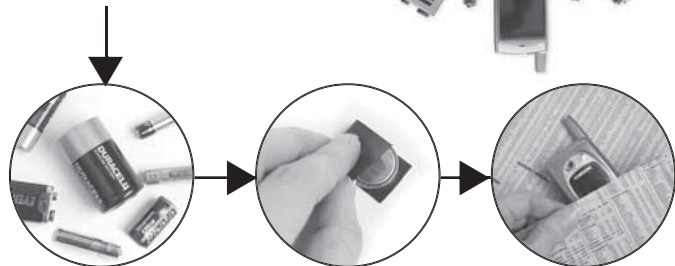
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## Happy trails, thanks to Howard Boone

Horse trails don't take care of themselves. While Woodside helps fund maintenance projects, the town also relies on a dedicated group of volunteers to help maintain and expand its trails.

Members of the private Woodside Trail Club and the town's Trails Committee have raised money and donated countless hours to building trail bridges, repairing washed-out trail sections, and sweet-talking property owners into opening up their yards to riders.



Howard Boone and his horse Smokey.

The Almanac/Veronia Weber

Howard Boone, a longtime member of both the club and the committee (as well as virtually every other equestrian group in town), has racked up a saddle-bag full of awards and commendations for his 45 years of work on behalf of the trails. Over the years, Mr. Boone developed relationships with property owners to gain access to private properties, helping preserve the town's interlinking network of private and public equestrian trails.

So it seemed only fitting to name a town trail after him. The "Howard Boone Trail" is one he rode frequently with his friend Harry Williams, and it leads up to the Mountain Terrace restaurant at Four Corners, said Rick DeBenedetti of the Woodside Trails Committee.

"The trail that comes off of Roberta Drive was dedicated to Harry Williams and it only seemed appropriate to name the trail that goes off the Harry Williams Trail the Howard Boone Trail," said Mr. DeBenedetti. "The two of them worked hand in hand to keep the trail system alive and what (it is) today. They are true ambassadors of the trails." ■



Veronica Weber

A U.S. Marine honor guard adds to the pomp and ceremony at NCEFT's grand opening celebration.

### NCEFT

continued from page 12

A new wheelchair lift was donated by the Semper Fi Fund to NCEFT for its innovative new program for brain-injured veterans from the polytrauma unit of the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System. The program is entirely funded by private donations, at no cost to the VA or the soldiers, said

Ms. Almon, and the program may expand to include visually impaired veterans.

While NCEFT doesn't offer public boarding stables, equestrians should one day be able to ride through the western end of the property. The center's board of directors just voted in favor of giving a dedicated trail easement to the town of Woodside, Ms. Almon said. "It will be called the trail of hope and healing," and it will link to two existing trails, she said. ■



The Almanac/David Boyce

**Mary Smith** receives a proclamation honoring her late husband Rodney (below) from Mayor Ted Driscoll. In back is Councilwoman Maryann Moise Derwin.

### Council remembers Rodney Smith

A moment of sweet sadness initiated proceedings at the Sept. 26 Portola Valley Town Council meeting when Mayor Ted Driscoll presented resident Mary Smith with a proclamation honoring the memory of her late husband Rodney.

Mr. Smith, the former chief executive of San Jose-based Altera Corp. and a native of Oldham, England, died May 25, 2007, in a bicycling accident on Sand Hill Road.

The proclamation noted the Smiths' gifts of good spirits, time and money, including assistance in organizing and conducting town cleanup days twice a year for five years, and a major gift to the town for the purchase of open space.

Other beneficiaries of the

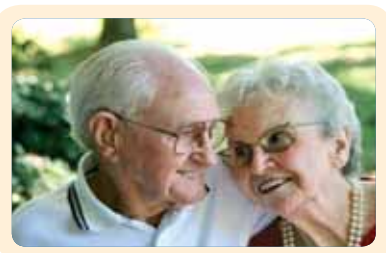


**Rodney Smith**

Smiths' philanthropy include the Hidden Villa farm and wilderness preserve in Los Altos, the Alzheimer's Association, the Peninsula Open Space Trust, and Habitat for Humanity.

The proclamation also recalled Mr. Smith's passion for collecting and racing vintage race cars and "often finishing in first place." He raced locally — at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca in Monterey and Infineon Raceway in Sonoma — and in Europe.

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# SLAC's 'Pief' Panofsky dies at 88

This obituary was provided by SLAC.

Wolfgang K. H. "Pief" Panofsky, professor of physics at Stanford University and director emeritus of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) near Menlo Park, died of a heart attack at his home in Los Altos on Sept. 24. He was 88 years.

Mr. Panofsky was a renowned particle physics researcher, an accelerator builder and an administrator of basic research. In parallel with his science career, he pursued two other interests of interrelated historical significance: nuclear arms control and international peace and security.

"Pief Panofsky's contributions to SLAC and the field of physics have certainly earned him a place in Stanford's pantheon of scholars," said Stanford Provost John Etchemendy. "But it is equally important to note that his work on nuclear arms control earned him a reputation not just as a scientist but as a patriot whose life will continue to influence and inspire us for generations to come."

Mr. Panofsky was awarded the National Medal of Science in 1969 and the U.S. Department of Energy's Enrico Fermi Award in 1979.

Born in Berlin on April 24, 1919, the son of famed art historian Erwin Panofsky, he arrived in the United States in 1934 and became a naturalized citizen in 1942.

He graduated from Princeton University in 1938, received his Ph.D. in physics from the California Institute of Tech-

nology in 1942 and served as consultant to the Manhattan Project, helping build the first atomic bomb during World War II.

In 1945 Mr. Panofsky began work as a staff physicist at the Radiation Laboratory at the University of California-Berkeley and was named associate professor of physics in 1948.

In 1951 he joined Stanford as a full professor, directing its



Wolfgang Panofsky

binding atomic nuclei. While at Stanford, he led a series of experiments that used high-energy electrons and photons to examine the structure and behavior of the proton.

Mr. Panofsky was a member of the President's Science Advisory Committee in the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson administrations. He advised the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Energy on their nuclear weapons and arms control programs.

In the 1980s, he was an outspoken critic of the "Star Wars" anti-missile program. After his retirement, he was an active member of the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on International Security and Arms Control, serving as its chairman from 1985 to 1993.

Mr. Panofsky was a fellow of the American Physical Society and served as its president in 1974. He was also a member of the National Academy of Sciences as well as a foreign member of the Chinese, French, Italian and Russian scientific academies.

"The world has lost a truly great man," added Persis Drell, acting director of SLAC. "Pief's impact on particle physics was enormous, but, in addition, everyone will remember him for his unflinching integrity, personal warmth and desire to fight for the principles he believed in."

Mr. Panofsky is survived by his wife, Adele, and five children: Richard, Margaret, Edward, Carol and Steven. Memorial service plans are pending.

*'... it is equally important to note that his work on nuclear arms control earned him a reputation not just as a scientist but as a patriot. ...'*

STANFORD PROVOST  
JOHN ETCEMENDY

High-Energy Physics Laboratory until 1961. When a major new project to build a 2-mile linear electron accelerator began in 1961, Mr. Panofsky assumed its leadership and became the first director of SLAC, a post he held until retiring in 1984.

At Berkeley, Mr. Panofsky and physicist Jack Steinberger were the first to isolate the neutral pi meson, one of the subatomic particles predicted by theorists to account for the strong force



Photo by Jennifer Doettling

## Think peace

Oliver Bley and other students at the German-American International School in Menlo Park joined schools around the world in commemorating the United Nations-declared International Day of Peace on Sept. 21. Face-painting, peace-focused songs, readings, art projects and a moment of silence at noon were among the ways they observed the day.

## MP woman charged with embezzlement

Audrey Leonard, a Menlo Park woman arrested twice in the past nine months on separate charges of grand theft and embezzlement, is scheduled to be arraigned Oct. 23.

Ms. Leonard was arrested in September on a \$100,000 warrant in Menlo Park on suspicion of two counts of attempting to commit grand theft, according to Menlo Park Police Detective Jeff Keegan.

Ms. Leonard is already facing up to 10 years in prison on charges of grand theft and embezzle-

ment following an alleged fundraising scam that prosecutors say defrauded her family and friends of roughly \$250,000. Those charges led to her arrest in late December. An Oct. 9 pretrial conference has been set.

Police said they believe Ms. Leonard, 51, has defrauded more than 70 people of more than \$1.4 million since 1999, but the statute of limitations for fraud crimes is three years, preventing prosecution of much of Ms. Leonard's alleged actions.

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**MARK LUKACH**



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# City seeks public outreach proposals

One baby step down, a lot more work to go — that's where the Menlo Park City Council is on its quest to revamp properties along El Camino Real.

Council members voted unanimously on Sept. 25 to choose five firms that will vie for the job of leading the public outreach campaign to improve El Camino Real.

The firms have until Oct. 24 to submit their most creative proposals of how, exactly, they plan to get the public involved in deciding what should replace abandoned auto lots on El Camino Real.

A subcommittee of council members, city staff and commissioners is slated to interview the finalists, view the proposals, and make a recommendation to the council by early November.

If all goes according to plan, the city will start a series of public meetings regarding the future of El

## ■ MENLO WATCH

Camino Real starting in January.

### Hotel shakeup

Jonathan Farrington, general manager of Menlo Park's Stanford Park Hotel for the past four years, is leaving to become general manager of the Ventana Inn and Spa in Big Sur.

"It's a great opportunity for me," said Mr. Farrington. "I was born and raised on the Monterey peninsula, and I grew up in Carmel, so this is a return home for me."

Mr. Farrington's last day in Menlo Park will be Oct. 19, he said.

### Recycle phones, batteries

In an attempt to make it easier

for south San Mateo County residents to recycle cell phones and old batteries, the South Bayside Waste Management Authority is now accepting curbside collection of those items.

Residents can now set out batteries and cell phones in clear plastic bags on top of their mixed paper recycling bins, and the items will be picked up, according to waste management officials.

Cell phones should be wrapped in paper before being placed in the plastic bags.

Previously, residents had to drop off batteries and cell phones at hazardous material collection sites in order to recycle them.

The new recycling program started Oct. 1.

# Supes OK \$1.73 billion county budget

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors gave final approval Tuesday to a \$1.73 billion county budget for fiscal year 2007-2008.

The plan calls for employing 5,805 county employees and spending \$76 million more

than what was projected in July. Under the budget, county spending is expected to increase by 4.6 percent over the 2006-07 fiscal year, according to the county manager's office.

— Bay City News Service

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- November 15, 2007 7:00 pm
- December 11, 2007 7:00 pm
- January 12, 2008 10:00 am

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## Courting Disaster

The Fight for Oil, Water and a Healthy Planet

**Saturday, October 13, 2007**  
**9:15 - 11 a.m. DOORS OPEN AT 8 A.M.**  
**Maples Pavilion, Stanford University**  
**Tickets available at: [www.stanford.edu/roundtable](http://www.stanford.edu/roundtable)**  
 Open to the public and held in collaboration with Stanford Reunion Homecoming



Global population increases, surging economic growth in new economies, and an unabated appetite for fossil fuels all are driving huge demand and competition for the world's natural resources. At the same time, climate change is upon us.

Add to that instability across the Middle East and the growth of extremism and international terrorism. The complexities of today's world are confounding and frightening.

Still, groundbreaking research on alternatives to fossil fuels, breakthroughs in energy efficiency and progress in addressing threats to ocean and fresh water offer reasons for hope.

Join us for a provocative roundtable discussion exploring the complex interconnections among these issues and what we can do as individuals and as a nation to address them.

Hosted by Stanford President John L. Hennessy and moderated by Carlos Watson, former CNN political analyst and host of "Conversations with Carlos Watson."

### PANELISTS

John E. Bryson  
 Chairman, President CEO  
 Edison International

The Hon. Stephen Breyer  
 Supreme Court Justice

John L. Hennessy  
 Stanford University President

General John Abizaid  
 Retired U.S. Army, Hoover visiting fellow

Thomas L. Friedman  
 New York Times columnist

Pamela Matson  
 Dean, School of Earth Sciences

## 'Farewell to falls' talk in MP

### AROUND TOWN

Chess Federation and are funded by the Atherton Police Activities League.

How to prevent falls will be the topic when Ellen Corman, injury prevention coordinator for the trauma service at Stanford University Medical Center, speaks at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at the Menlo Park Library. Ms. Corman, an occupational therapist, will look at the causes of falls and discuss prevention strategies.

In 2005, Ms. Corman started a fall prevention program for older adults, called "Farewell to Falls," at Stanford's trauma service. An estimated one-third of older adults (65 and over) in the United States fall each year, including more than one million older adults in California.

The Menlo Park Library is located at 800 Alma St. Free van service is available for Menlo Park seniors and those with disabilities. For more information or to schedule van service, call 330-2512.

### Chess for fun

Chess for Fun begins Wednesday, Oct. 3, for its eighth season at the Atherton Library. The free sessions for children are presented by Dennis Myers of the U.S.

Knowledge of basic chess moves is required for enrollment. The sessions are aimed at children in second grade or above. Classes meet one Wednesday each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Scheduled dates for 2007 are Oct. 3, Nov. 7, and Dec. 5. To enroll in the program, call Marlene Lee, library assistant, at 328-2422, or visit the library during the scheduled times.

### Talks at Little House

Musicologist Thomas May will discuss the opera "Appomattox" on Tuesday, Oct. 2, at the Little House activity center, 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park.

The program, by the South Peninsula Chapter of the San Francisco Opera Guild, will run from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is \$8 for Little House members and \$10 for others.

Other Little House events:

■ Oct. 2: Kay Payne, San Francisco Fine Arts Museum, talks about "American Women with

Continued on next page

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Almanac photo by Marion Softky

**Menlo Park** environmental programs coordinator Dianne Dryer and Evan Boyd, general manager of Allied Waste in San Mateo County, were on hand to celebrate the rollout of the waste company's first 12 biodiesel-powered garbage trucks.

## Allied Waste rolls out biodiesel-fueled trucks

By Marion Softky

More and more of the bright blue garbage trucks rumbling through local neighborhoods will be carrying the cheery "biodiesel" logo that shows they are powered by "biodiesel," containing 20 percent used cooking oil. See if you can smell the french fries.

On Sept. 20, Allied Waste Services launched the conversion of the trucks that serve 103,000 customers in 13 cities in San Mateo County. The entire fleet of 225 trucks should be converted by the end of January.

At the launch party, Assemblyman Ira Ruskin congratulated Allied Waste for setting an

example of "good citizenship and good business. We're in a race against time to fight global warming," he said.

By switching to biodiesel, Allied Waste estimates it will cut its emissions of carbon dioxide by 3.3 million pounds per year, the equivalent of taking 315 cars off the road or providing energy for more than 650 homes per year. Company trucks burn 80,000 gallons of fuel each month.

The biodiesel fuel comes from Energy Alternative Solutions Inc. (bioeasi.com) of Watsonville. It is made from waste cooking oil from Bay Area and Monterey Bay area restaurants, according to CEO Richard Gillis. ■

Continued from previous page

Needle and Thread" — 350 years of quilts, samplers and embroidered images. \$1 members, \$2 others. Auditorium. 2-3 p.m.

■ Oct. 3: Frank Welte of the Vista Center answers questions about

choices for living with vision loss. Free. Garden Room. 11 a.m.

■ Oct. 9: Professor Noble Stockton, University of Wisconsin, gives an overview of world religions. Free. Auditorium. 2-3 p.m.

For more information, call 326-2025.

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### Community Health Resource Center Open House

Meet with the staff and volunteers who can assist you with finding the health-related information you need for any stage of life. Tuesday, October 16, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Community Health Resource Center, 795 El Camino Real, Level 2.

### Events & Lectures

**"Cardiac Ablation and Device Therapy"**  
Tuesday, October 9, 7 – 8:30 p.m.  
*Sung Chun, M.D., and Girish Narayan, M.D., PAMF Cardiology*

Join us to hear a presentation of the latest in the treatment of cardiac rhythm disturbances including exciting new developments in the field of atrial fibrillation ablation. Learn about new options in implantable defibrillators and cardiac resynchronization therapy.

Hearst Center for Health Education, Level 3, Jamplis Building, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, 795 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. RSVP to (650) 853-4873.

**"Advanced and Experimental Treatment of Heart Failure"**  
Monday, October 22, 3:30 – 5 p.m.  
*Lynette Lissin, M.D., PAMF Cardiology*

Dr. Lissin will discuss what other options are considered when traditional medical treatment of heart failure becomes ineffective, and what is still in the experimental phase as possible future treatments.

### Classes

**"Learning About Heart Failure,"** Tuesday, October 2, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

This class, taught by a cardiology nurse practitioner, discusses medications used in treatment, dietary requirements, weight monitoring, self-care, activity guidelines, and symptom recognition and reporting, and more.

**"Supermarket Wise,"** Tuesday, October 23, 2 – 4 p.m.

Learn techniques for making healthier food choices in a local supermarket with dietitian Karen Ross, M.S., R.D.

**"What You Need to Know About Warfarin,"** Wednesday, October 24, 2 – 4 p.m.

A PAMF pharmacist will discuss what warfarin is, why you are taking it and how you can help yourself.

### Support Groups

Cancer (1st & 3rd Tuesdays) • Diabetes (1st Wednesday) • Multiple Sclerosis (2nd & 4th Mondays) • Sleep Apnea (1st Thursday) • Alcohol and Drug Education (Every Tuesday) • Healing Imagery for Cancer Patients (October 3, 17 & 31)

For information on class fees and to register, call the Education Division at (650) 853-2960.

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### Elizabeth 'Betty' Hook

Longtime Menlo Park resident

Elizabeth L. "Betty" Hook, a resident of Sharon Heights since the early 1960s, died Sept. 22, after a long illness, surrounded by her family. She was 77.

Ms. Hook was born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1930. She graduated from St. Luke's College of Nursing in Kansas City.

In 1951, she met her future husband, Oliver Hook, and they were married a year later. The couple moved to California in 1958, living in Hillsdale before moving to Menlo Park.

Ms. Hook was a homemaker and involved in school activities when her two sons, Steve and John, attended Las Lomas district schools and Woodside



Elizabeth Hook

### OBITUARIES

High School.

She served as a volunteer in several charities and as a "Pink Lady" at Stanford Hospital for many years.

While her children were growing up, the family belonged to Ladera Oaks Swim and Tennis Club. She was later a member of the Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club.

Ms. Hook was passionate about the arts and an accomplished vocalist, singing in the Palo Alto Methodist Church Choir for many years, family members said.

She loved to laugh and often extended herself to total strangers. Her greatest joy in life was being a devoted wife and mother, said the family.

Ms. Hook is survived by her husband of 55 years, Oliver; sons Steve Hook of Salt Lake City and John Hook of Scottsdale, Arizona; sisters Janet Smith of Savannah, Georgia, and Helen Shores of Kansas City,

Missouri; and four grandchildren.

A graveside ceremony is planned in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

### Helen Carlson

Former Menlo Park and Atherton resident

Friends are invited to attend a memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at Classic Residence by Hyatt for Helen Alair Carlson, who died in Palo Alto on Sept. 19. She was 86.

Ms. Carlson was a native of Spokane, Washington. She graduated from UCLA in 1943 with a bachelor's degree in economics.

A homemaker for more than 25 years, she was active in the Parent Teachers Association in her children's schools, and a member of the Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

She was a longtime member of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, where she served as a deacon.

Ms. Carlson is survived by her three daughters, Kristen Woods of Los Altos, Ann Johnson of Palo Alto, and Libby Vincent of Folsom; and seven grandchildren. She was the sister of Gene Alair of Sterling, Virginia. Her husband, Lowell Carlson, died in 2000.

The Classic Residence by Hyatt is located at 620 Sand Hill Road in Palo Alto. The family prefers donations to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

### BIRTHS

#### Atherton

■ Patricia and Eric Copeland, a son, Sept. 18, at Sequoia Hospital.

#### Emerald Hills

■ Laura Metz and Paul Chapuis, a son, Sept. 21, at Sequoia Hospital.



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## MP council to review goals

Menlo Park City Council members will review their goals for the city at a special meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 3.

At the meeting, the council is expected to evaluate how effectively they are addressing issues that were designated top priorities in January, such as building more playing fields, addressing global warming at the local level, and developing a plan to revamp properties along El Camino Real.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 3 p.m. in the Burgess Recreation Center, at 700 Alma St.

**■ POLICE CALLS**

*This information is from the Atherton and Menlo Park police departments and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.*

**ATHERTON**

**Indecent exposure report:** Menlo-Atherton High School at 555 Middlefield Road, Sept. 9.

**Petty theft report:** Purse stolen from vehicle, Las Lomas Elementary School at 299 Alameda de las Pulgas, Sept. 14.

**Robbery report:** Man approached pedestrian from behind and demanded wallet and then punched victim in face and left, Menlo College at 1000 El Camino Real, Sept. 27.

**Burglary reports:**

■ Car stereo stolen, Menlo-Atherton High School at 555 Middlefield Road, Sept. 17.

■ Silver Dodge Durango, Menlo-Atherton High School at 555 Middlefield Road, Sept. 27.

**Grand theft report:** Wallet stolen from purse likely by man seen leaving resident's driveway, 300 block of Selby Lane, Sept. 22.

**Fraud report:** Identity theft; 200 block of Atherton Ave., Sept. 24.

**MENLO PARK**

**Grand theft reports:**

■ Two gold bangle-type bracelets worth \$2,000 each stolen, 100 block of Oak Court, Sept. 7.

■ Jewelry stolen from residence, 1100 block of Marcussen Drive, Sept. 17.

**Fraud reports:**

■ Identity thefts, 2100 block of Santa Cruz Ave. and 1000 block of Trinity Drive, Sept. 13 and 21.

■ Credit card fraud, 800 block of Live Oak Ave., Sept. 14.

■ Check fraud, 600 block of Santa Cruz Ave., Sept. 15.

■ Check and credit card fraud by personal assistant, 900 block of Santa Cruz Ave., Sept. 18.

■ Check stolen and cashed, 2100 block of Santa Cruz Ave., Sept. 26.

■ Dementia victim's address and Social Security number allegedly used by niece to set up false account, 1300 block of Hollyburne Ave., Sept. 19.

**Burglary reports:**

■ Two laptop computers stolen, 2800 block of Sand Hill Road, Sept. 8.

■ 36-inch TV stolen after front door kicked in, 1300 block of Willow Road, Sept. 13.

■ Battery stolen from vehicle, 700 block of Pierce Road, Sept. 10.

■ Front windows of business smashed in attempted burglary, 300 block of El Camino Real, Sept. 23.

■ Gardening equipment and tires stolen, 2000 block of Willow Road, Sept. 18.

■ Vehicles broken into, 500 block of Cotton St. and 1000 block of Willow Road, Sept. 25 and 20.

■ Tools stolen from vehicle, 300 block of Barton Way, Sept. 19.

■ Two laptop computer missing, 100 block of Jefferson Drive, Sept. 26.

■ Business broken into, 1000 block of Alma St., Sept. 27.

**Child abuse report:** Arrest made, 600 block of Pierce Road, Sept. 7.

**Spousal abuse reports:**

■ Arrest made, 1400 block of Almanor Ave., Sept. 10.

■ Arrest made, 1200 block of Hollyburne Ave., Sept. 26.

**Stolen vehicle reports:**

■ Black Honda Civic stolen, Willow Road and Ivy Drive, Sept. 11.

■ 200 block of El Camino Real, Sept. 14.

■ Motorcycle stolen, 500 block of Hamilton Ave., Sept. 24.

**WOODSIDE**

**Incident report:** Resident found three unspent rifle shells in mailbox, 100 block of Newman Lane, Sept. 15.

**Theft report:** Tiffany diamond stud earrings and silver ring stolen from jewelry box between June 16 and Aug. 15, 100 block of Quail Court, Sept. 12.

**PORTOLA VALLEY**

**Theft report:** Credit cards, debit card, wallet and \$3 in cash stolen from teacher's purse in classroom, Corte Madera Middle School at 4575 Alpine Road, Sept. 14.

**Charity Horse Show raises \$470,000**

The annual Menlo Charity Horse Show, held Aug. 7-12 at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton, raised \$470,000 for the Palo Alto-based Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, according to Betsy Glikbarg, founder and co-chairman of the show.

The sum tops last year's total by \$30,000, she said.

"We are so very grateful to the community and to our incredible sponsors for their ongoing, enthu-

siastic support," Ms. Glikbarg said. "Without them, this event might be possible, but certainly not as profitable."

Competitive bidders for luxury items at the Friday night auction contributed \$97,000, she said.

Next year's horse show is scheduled for Aug. 5-10. "The committee has already had an evaluation meeting during which we discussed how we could improve upon this year's event," she said.

**Dems hold straw poll for president**

San Mateo County Democrats will say who they want nominated for president at a "presidential straw poll" Oct. 21.

The event will include presentations on the Democratic candidates, including a speech about U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton by former state senator Jackie Speier, and a talk on U.S. Sen. Barack Obama by former state controller Steve Westly.

Participants will vote, and results will be unveiled at the end of the event.

Sponsored by the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee, the event will run from 2 to 5 p.m. at the San Mateo County Event Center, 2495 S. Delaware St. in San Mateo. Price of admission is a \$25 donation to the committee; participants under 18 can attend for free.

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**San Mateo County Shared Vision 2025**  
 Community Forum Schedule

**Foster City, Tuesday, October 9, 7 to 9 pm**  
 City Hall, Council Chambers, 610 Foster City Blvd

**Daly City, Thursday, October 11, 7 to 9 pm**  
 City Hall, Council Chambers, 333 90th Street

**Millbrae, Wednesday, October 10, 7 to 9 pm**  
 City Hall, Council Chambers, 621 Magnolia

**Half Moon Bay, Monday, October 22, 7 to 9 pm**  
 I.D.E.S. Hall, 735 Main Street

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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 web site, www.TheAlmanacOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

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

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Editor at the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

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854-2626, ext. 222.

## It is time to test chloramine

Amid the recent turmoil over dangerous chemicals in our food and toys, it's amazing to observe the federal government's somewhat lackadaisical reaction to concerns over chloramine, the chemical additive used to treat our tap water.

Perhaps because only a small minority — a few hundred among the Bay Area's millions — have reported serious reactions, the Environmental Protection Agency last month all but shrugged off pleas for more testing, despite valid reports of horrible reactions to the additive.

Chloramine came into our pristine Hetch Hetchy water supply in 2004 when the EPA decided that chlorine, the disinfectant that had protected municipal water for many years, wasn't good enough anymore. The agency called on water districts to ramp up disinfection efforts, and many districts found chloramine, a chemical combination of chlorine and ammonia, to be cheap and effective at killing bacteria without producing certain harmful byproducts.

The San Francisco Public Utility Commission ordered the switch three years ago, and that's when people who receive treated water, including residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside, began showing symptoms such as skin rashes, painful digestive tract inflammation, and asthma-like respiratory problems.

Eventually these residents formed an organization, headed by Menlo Park resident Denise Johnson-Kula, called Citizens Concerned About Chloramine, which is seeking to convince the SFPUC and EPA to test chloramine to make sure it is safe.

Actions by this group have brought about two revelations that we find alarming:

1. Apparently, the EPA recommended chloramine without fully testing its potential impact on the population, instead saying that chloramine had a long record of safe use in other areas of the U.S.

2. After Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, requested that the EPA meet with local residents on Sept. 5, the agency claimed it cannot take any action until health concerns are reported by the Centers for Disease Control or the medical community.

Bruce Macler of the EPA's San Francisco office told a reporter for the Voice, the Almanac's sister paper in Mountain View: "As far as we know there is no evidence there is a problem with public health. When we talk about what's safe, we talk about generally safe. It is possible people are affected. Medical folks have to start saying this is an issue."

This may happen in Vermont, where enough residents reported problems to cause the state legislature there to hold two days of hearings and to prompt the CDC to take a closer look. Back in the Bay Area, the citizens group has identified about 400 people who report symptoms that, in some cases, mimic allergic reactions when exposed to chloramine.

Meanwhile, evidence is mounting that the byproducts of chloramine are much more toxic than those of chlorine. Dr. Michael Plewa, a professor of genetics at the University of Illinois who coauthored a study of tap water disinfection byproducts, said that byproducts from chloramine are the most toxic he has ever seen. He recommends a switch back to chlorine.

At the very least, the EPA and SFPUC should be bending over backward to look into claims of adverse reactions, and our elected officials should push to make sure that happens. More testing should begin immediately to sort out just how toxic this substance is.

What if those affected are just the canaries in the coal mine? Those of us not affected today could still show symptoms in the future.

Without question, a full range of tests should have been conducted before chloramine was put into our drinking water. It is unconscionable that the government agencies charged with protecting public health are instead putting up roadblocks in what appears to be a very legitimate concern.

**EDITORIAL**

The opinion of The Almanac

**LETTERS**

Our readers write

**Editor:**

I am very much opposed to Phillips Brooks building their school near the intersection of Alpine and Arastradero Roads, as described in the Sept. 12 Almanac.

Since 90 percent of the students attending Phillips Brooks are from outside of Portola Valley, it is likely that these children will be driven to school.

This school will not be accessible by public transportation and it is not within walking distance of any neighborhoods. As someone who tries to ride a bicycle to work, this will make my commute even more dangerous than it already is.

I also resent the implication in the letter to the Almanac last week claiming that people who oppose this project are not supportive of children or of education. If this gentleman were to send his children to their local public school, I am sure he would be actively involved in

See **LETTERS**, next page



Woodside Library Collection

### Our Regional Heritage

Mrs. Henry Bootger and her daughter Lucy, stand outside the Tole House in 1868. The Bottgers lived in the home at what is now the corner of Kings Mountain and Greer roads. The family collected fees from the companies who used the Tole Road to haul their lumber down from the summit.

**LETTERS**

*continued from previous page*

improving the quality of education there, which would benefit not only his own children, but many more. Instead he is pulling his resources out of the public schools and selfishly acting for his own benefit.

I would like to offer my full support to Ms. Bennicas. We are very fortunate to have her opposed to this project.

**Denise Ellestad**  
Foxwood Road, Los Trancos  
Woods/Portola Valley

**Parking over play areas at Oak Knoll**

*Editor:*

Do you know that the plans for Oak Knoll School, approved by the board two weeks ago, provide for 95 parking spaces when the 85 spaces are sufficient for full and part time staff needs, according to Menlo Park City School District superintendent Ken Ranella?

Do you know that this proposal fulfills nearly 100 percent of the parking spaces for a campus 25 percent larger, but preserves less than 50 percent of the play area recommended by the state for campuses serving approximately 700 elementary students?

Do you know that the new parking lot designated to accommodate the extra parking spaces comes at the expense of removing a large heritage oak tree on Oak Avenue?

Do you know that the new parking lot reduces the land available for classrooms and will thus require a two-story structure to squeeze on a smaller building footprint? Do you know that two-story construction is more expensive than one-story construction and will necessitate installation of an elevator at additional expense?

Do you know that a simple solution exists? The existing parking lots can be restructured to accommodate at least 85 parking spaces at considerably less expense.

**Kristin Duriseti**

**Mayor takes up parking challenges**

**By Kelly Fergusson**

*Mayor, City of Menlo Park*

**D**ear Mr. Walton: I appreciate your recent letter to the Almanac about parking issues in Menlo Park. A number of your points resonated with me. As mayor, I take very seriously your feeling that you were "fined" for patronizing Menlo Park's downtown.

My hope is that as the city takes action to make parking more user-friendly, you will give Menlo Park's downtown a chance to win back your business.

Your main point is that you did not appreciate how you were treated by the parking officer that issued you the ticket for exceeding the two-hour limit. Also implied in your letter is a frustration with the two-hour parking limit itself.

I can say that Menlo Park values good customer service and expects all city staff members

to exhibit courtesy in both word and deed to residents, businesses, and visitors. I have passed your letter on to our city manager and the police chief for further review.

On the issue of the two-hour limit itself, you are not the first person to write to the city council to complain about parking. One suggestion has been to change the duration to a three-hour limit. This benefits some merchants like hair salons, but hurts others that depend on higher turnover in the parking. In your case, the lot wasn't full, but clearly parking rules must be designed to function at peak times as well as off-peak.

I agree that downtown parking should be more user-friendly. Recently, the city has acted to lay the groundwork toward this end by:

**LETTERS**

*Our readers write*

■ Participating in a regionally sponsored study to assess current usage patterns and parking demand.

■ Considering formation of a public-private partnership to build a downtown parking garage.

■ Undertaking a comprehensive downtown visioning and planning process, of which parking will be a part.

In addition, city staff, council members, downtown merchants, and others have been studying the principles in "The High Cost of Free Parking," an economics text by Professor Donald Shoup of UCLA, to educate themselves regarding modern case studies and theory regarding successful downtown parking arrangements.

On Oct. 3, the City Council is meeting to review our goals and objectives with our new city manager. I will be sure to raise your concerns, which I share, and ask my colleagues to consider a downtown parking action plan as we move forward in serving Menlo Park's residents, businesses, and visitors.

**Kelly Fergusson is mayor of Menlo Park.**

**Other views from our readers**

**Menlo has parking tickets, but no meters!**

Welcome to the Bay Area, Mr. Walton! (Guest Opinion, Sept. 26.)

You are complaining about getting a parking ticket in a "half-empty" parking lot. Would you have written the same comment if the parking lot was full that day?

In case you don't know, Menlo Park is one of the few cities around here without parking meters. In my hometown, Redwood City, you have to feed a parking meter downtown.

I can tell there is a lot of frustration in your ranting about your ticket, but I think retaliating by boycotting and blackmailing Menlo Park is not appropriate.

I once got a ticket in Redwood City for

parking my car within 20 feet of a railroad track. (I was there six minutes, to purchase a burrito.)

I once had a ticket for making a U-turn on a completely desolate stretch of Highway 101 in Southern California.

I did not put a single person in danger by either maneuver, but there was one person there, who was "just doing his job."

Oh, and if it is any consolation: In downtown San Francisco, one first has to spend 30 minutes trying to find a parking-space, then pay something like a quarter per minute. And probably a \$35 fine if you are late two minutes.

Sebastapol is a nice little town, perhaps without meters, and no meter-maids, but I encourage you to come back to Menlo Park.

**Dieter Hurni**  
Eighth Avenue, Redwood City

**Menlo's parking limits are anti-business**

I must concur with Jim Walton (last week's Guest Opinion). Parking regulations in Menlo Park are anti-visitor and anti-business.

As a retired educator, I relish having lunch with friends. We frequently chat for two hours over our meal. Afterwards, we'd like to shop a bit, but no, we must move our cars. Oh well, let's go on home, giving no business to local stores. Better yet, in the future we will enjoy lunch in Redwood City or Palo Alto, where we will find three-hour parking zones to accommodate our habits.

Overly strict parking regulations surely have a deleterious effect on the community.

**Nancy Barnby**  
Spruce Avenue, Menlo Park

**Oak Knoll Lane, Menlo Park**

**World Animal Week coming up Oct. 4**

*Editor:*

From Oct. 4-10 those concerned about the health and safety of ani-

mals will take part in World Animal Week, which aims to raise the profile of animal welfare around the world.

The fact that many animals can and do suffer highlights our responsibility to protect animals from abuse, neglect and any other form of mistreatment. Consideration of

animal welfare becomes even more important when we recognize that better animal welfare can lead to better human welfare.

World Animal Week is a time for us to make that extra effort to join forces and help animals everywhere. By working together we can reduce

animal suffering worldwide and bring the end of animal cruelty just a little bit closer.

For more information about how to take steps that will help animals, visit [www.wspa-usa.org](http://www.wspa-usa.org).

**Connie Mills**  
College Avenue, Menlo Park

**Why officers are leaving Menlo Park PD**

**Here's what people are saying in Town Square:**

*Posted by a former officer, a resident of a Menlo Park neighborhood.*

The problem of favoritism is so prevalent in the department that it should be looked at as the cause of why experienced officers are leaving. Officers with tenure generally stay at departments because there is the ability to promote through the ranks and because when you leave departments, you start over with no seniority. Why would someone leave that seniority behind?

Because they realize that they are in a no win situation where they cannot get promote.

Some officers even gave up and did not

apply because if an officer applied that was not one of the favorites, they became scrutinized and the subject of attack. No one goes against the system. It is career suicide.

It is infuriating that the city's response to all of this is to blame it on factors that have existed for years. But it is not surprising. The city has done nothing but cover up their dirty little secret.

**Chloramine fight hits snag**

*Posted by Denise Johnson-Kula, a resident of the Central Menlo Park neighborhood.* Thank you Daniel DeBolt and the Alma-

**TownSquare**  
Join the conversation on [www.TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com). Click on links under the TownSquare banner.

nac for your great article on chloramine. I have lived in Menlo Park for 25 years and always enjoyed the wonderful water here until Feb. 2004, when chloramine replaced chlorine as the water disinfectant.

Suddenly I started having immediate and serious reactions to tap water. I had not been informed of the change and had never even heard of chloramine. After only a few minutes of showering in chloraminated water, my sinuses and lungs became so congested that I began to sneeze, cough, choke and wheeze. The wheezing increased until I could no longer breathe. If a friend had not been there at the time I could have died.

Once I was out of the shower I was able to breathe better but the congestion and the wheezing persisted for another 48 hours.

This happened every time I tried to shower, and to a lesser degree when running water in a sink or boiling the water on the stove. I also had red burning skin from contact with the water.

When I called the SFPUC I was told that chloramine had been added to the water on Feb. 2, 2004, that it could not be the cause of my symptoms and that it would not have been in my water distribution area until Feb.3, 2004 since Menlo Park was a day away from the treatment plant. I informed them that I first experienced symptoms when showering at 4 p.m. on Feb. 3, as verified by my medical records and that my doctor and I would investigate the coincidence.

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There's an office, a theater/game room, and family room. A one-bedroom guest cottage sits in an oak grove nearby. The quality of construction and location in this exclusive enclave promise a luxurious and very private lifestyle.



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