

PORTOLA VALLEY: \$1.4 million gift caps fundraising effort for new Town Center. Page 5

The Almanac

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



Home & Garden Design:
inside
this issue

APRIL 16, 2008

www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

| VOL. 43 NO. 33

Nasty, brutish ... *and cute*



ATHERTON PHOTOGRAPHER
TRAINS HIS LENS ON
IMPERILED POLAR BEARS

[Page 12]

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

Electrifying science

Second-grader Katie Mishra and her dad Allan demonstrate her science fair project at Oak Knoll Elementary School in Menlo Park on April 10. Katie's project investigates the static electricity formed by different types of animal fur. The science fair, open to students in grades 2-5, was a first for Oak Knoll.

Atherton

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Menlo Park

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Going Green

■ Menlo Park couple awarded for their green dream home. **Cover, Section 2**

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On the cover

A pair of perambulating polar bears are captured in this photo by Larry Calof of Atherton. The threat of global warming and dwindling Arctic ice makes the future appear bleak for these mighty carnivores, who form the heart of Mr. Calof's photography exhibit. "Arctic Stroll" photo by Larry Calof. Story begins on **Page 12**.

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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- Apple Blueberry




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From South America
COMICE PEARS  **\$1.29 lb.**

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PORTOBELLO MUSHROOMS  **\$2.99 lb.**



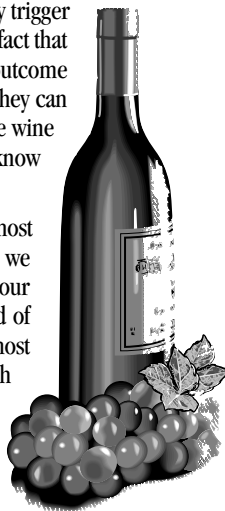
STACY - DELI

Do Pricier Wines Taste Better?

It may come as little surprise to consumers that researchers have found that the more a wine costs, the more people enjoy it. While this may seem to be a matter of rationalization on the part of consumers, there's actually more to it than that. In fact, researchers found that expectations of quality trigger activity in the area of the brain that registers pleasure despite the fact that the part of the brain that interprets taste is not affected. The outcome that wine consumers should take away from this finding is that they can derive great benefit from proper guidance from a knowledgeable wine expert. There are many wine bargains to be had if you just know where to look.

At ROBERTS MARKET, we can give you tips on how to get the most enjoyment from your wine. We have wines in all price ranges and we are certain we can find one to meet your needs. Come and see our selection or stop by if you would just like to chat about the world of wine, we look forward to seeing you. Our wine department is the most extensive in the area, more than most liquor stores. Don't forget fresh cut flowers from our floral department to grace your table.

Hint: By developing a relationship with a wine salesperson, you can help yourself make wine selections that are most appropriate to your tastes and budget.



WINE

2003 Rosso di Montalcino

The 2003 Montalcino reds have proved to be quite exceptional. The dry, hot conditions have produced Brunellos and Rossos of uncommon richness and complexity, without sacrificing purity, freshness, or typicality. The added dimension of the Rossos really makes them seem like true Brunello. Don't miss these outstanding wines.

2003 La Torre Rosso di Montalcino..... Reg \$21.99 **\$18.99**

2003 Tenuta Friggiali Rosso di Montalcino..... Reg \$24.99 **\$21.99**

2003 Canalicchio di Sopra Rosso di Montalcino.. Reg \$25.99 **\$22.99**

GROCERY

CLOVER ORGANIC LOW FAT YOGURT **69¢**
 6 oz.

GREEN GIANT BROCCOLI AND CHEESE SAUCE **\$1.19**
 10 oz. — Also Baby Sweet Peas — Nibblits Corn — Creamed Spinach

SAFFOLA MAYONNAISE **\$1.99**
 24 oz.

QUAKER QUAKES CARMEL CORN RICE SNACKS **\$1.49**
 3 oz. — Also Nacho — Cheddar Cheese

HANSEN'S NATURAL SODAS **\$1.89**
 12 oz. 6 Pack Cans — Plus Calif. Redeem Value

WINDEX ORIGINAL GLASS CLEANER **\$2.79**
 26 oz. Spray Trigger

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Special This Week at Roberts

NEW YORK STEAK  **\$14.98 lb.**

B-B-BACK RIBS  **\$6.98 lb.**

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AHI (YELLOW FIN TUNA)  **\$23.98 lb.**



The wrong kind of recycling

A Felton Gables resident recently discovered scavengers going through her recycling — but they weren't looking to trade in bottles and cans for cash. Instead, she says, they were rummaging through the paper recycling bins in her Menlo Park neighborhood.

"It was clear that the intent was to find financial information to use for their gain — and our loss!" she said.

So, a reminder for people who don't want their identities recycled by thieves: shred sensitive documents before kicking them to the curb.

A duckling's dilemma

Sharon Heights resident Gussie Tarmann has praise for an unnamed firefighter from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

Ms. Tarmann was on her daily walk around Sharon Lake recently when she saw a mother duck in distress. A very small duckling had fallen through the metal grate covering the lake's pump apparatus. The duckling, stuck on a ledge, was emitting pitiful peeps, she says.

She made a call and in a few minutes, a fire truck arrived. A firefighter pulled open the grate and rescued the duckling, which promptly sailed off to join his mother and feathered siblings.

Fade to a happy ending.

Nothing lasts forever

In amending Portola Valley's policy on memorial benches and other structures, the Town Council recommended a few amendments to language proposed by Councilman Steve Toben.

The council agreed that memorials should be made of biodegradable materials with a preference for trees and other kinds of vegetation.

The council also shortened the phrases "permanent memorial" and "perpetual maintenance" to memorial and maintenance.

"He's really gotten into the spirit of the funeral home language," Mayor Maryann Moise Derwin remarked.

For the record, "permanent" and "perpetual" were carried over from the existing memorial policy. Mr. Toben was not present, but said in his memo that he welcomed revisions.

Gift caps fundraising effort for new Town Center

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

A recent gift of \$1.4 million from Portola Valley residents Larry and Sherry Cagan brings the fundraising total to \$17 million for the \$20 million complex at Town Center, said campaign spokeswoman SallyAnn Reiss.

The Cagans' gift is in stock to be redeemed, Ms. Reiss said. With the \$3 million contributed several years ago from the town's general fund, the town has reached its target of \$20 million.

The complex will include a new library, Town Hall and community hall, plus a new base-

ball diamond, tennis courts, probably a basketball court, a lawn for outdoor performances, and — a recent addition that is still in need of donations — an "open to the air" section of Sausal Creek.

"We are proud to support a project that will provide so many excellent facilities to our community, including those that facilitate sports and active living for all ages," Mr. Cagan said in a statement from the fundraising campaign. "These facilities and fields are an incredible asset to our town, not to mention a great place for gatherings. Sherry and I are very happy to

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

be members of the Portola Valley community."

Mr. Cagan, who played varsity soccer at Stanford University, is managing director and co-founder of the Cupertino-based private equity firm Cagan McAfee Capital Partners LLC.

Sherry Cagan is an equestrian who competed at the national level in the sport of cutting, in which the rider and horse separate a calf from a herd and keep it from rejoining the herd for a certain period of time.

The Cagans live in Portola Valley with their two children, Kyla and Kiana. ■



Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

Arborists say that this aged live oak overhanging the home-team dugout at Ford Field is a high risk for injuring someone from falling branches or a toppling of the tree itself. The Town Council decided to save the tree and close the dugout so players can't use it.

Town gives reprieve to 'resurrection' tree

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The oak tree that leans out over the home-team dugout at Portola Valley's Ford Field is old. It's weak. Disease has hollowed it out and left it ready to topple onto anyone who happens to be under it, according to recent independent analyses by several arborists.

It's also tough. Its soundness has been questioned in the past and its end predicted at least once, but its resurgence and vitality after a severe trimming led to its being called "the resurrection tree," Councilman Richard Merk said.

The end seemed near once again, but the Town Council on Wednesday, April 9, bought the tree more time. It will remain out standing in its field, but with a smaller crown, fewer limbs and no more little hands caressing its bark on a summer's day.

The council voted 4-0, with Councilman Steve Toben absent, to close the dugout (stop it from being used) under the tree immediately and fence the tree off, which should make its mid-day shade inaccessible to all but the birds and squirrels.

For most of the discussion on what to do, given the arborists' unanimous view of the tree as a safety risk, a majority on the council seemed resolved to cut it down.

But Councilman Ted Driscoll, with support from former mayor Jon Silver, convinced his colleagues to close the dugout, isolate and bolster the tree, and leave it to the forces of nature. The council may decide to relocate the dugout, perhaps as part of a plan for new backstop fencing.

"Let's help it to its next stage," Mr. Driscoll said. "I'm a little hesitant to be its arbitrary executioner," he added, noting the tree's past success at disproving rumors of its imminent demise.

"Ted's bringing me over to his side," Mr. Merk reflected after Mr. Driscoll spoke.

"Me too," Mayor Maryann Derwin said. "I came prepared to kill that tree."

In advocating for the tree's removal — notwithstanding its beauty — Councilwoman Ann Wengert cited the arborists' unanimity of opinion as to what should be done, but came around to Mr. Driscoll's proposals to fence the tree off, install a supporting post, and trim the tree's canopy to make it less top heavy on its leaning side. ■

Election sign-nabber strikes town

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton resident Alicia Seebold has a "Dobbie for Council" sign up in her front yard, but it's no thanks to a sign-nabbing woman who made off with its predecessor on Wednesday morning, April 9.

City Council elections, when they happen at all, are typically low-key affairs in Atherton. Jim Dobbie and Elizabeth Lewis are the two candidates for the special June 3 City Council election to fill

'I'm going to see this person again some time in town, and it's going to be a little embarrassing for her.'

ATHERTON RESIDENT ALICIA SEEBOLD

the remainder of former council member Alan Carlson's term, which expires in November 2010.

This past week, signs for Mr. Dobbie have popped up around town, but some of them have been disappearing.

Ms. Seebold said she was standing at her kitchen window when she saw a white car pull up. A young woman hopped out, grabbed the sign and jumped back into the car, she said. She didn't see the license plate number, but she filed a police report about the stolen sign, she said.

"I'd be able to identify her if I saw her again," Ms. Seebold said. "I'm going to see this person again some

See SIGN, on next page

STANFORD PAN-ASIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

2008

APRIL 20 - MAY 4

JINDONG CAI, Artistic Director

Butterfly Dream:

A Contemporary Kunqu Opera

Taiwan's Contemporary Legend
Theater and Stanford New Ensemble

with Chinese opera stars
Wu Hsing-Kuo & Qian Yi

Sunday, April 20, 8 p.m.

Dinkelspiel Auditorium

Tickets: \$20/\$10 Students



Masters and Masterpieces:

**Classics of Chinese
Instrumental Music**

Featuring Wang

Guo-tong, *Erhu* Master

Thursday, April 24, 8 p.m.

Dinkelspiel Auditorium

Tickets: \$10/\$5 Students



Postcards from China

Featuring the Stanford Philharmonia –
Jindong Cai conducts *The Butterfly*

Lovers Violin Concerto
with Chen Xi, violin

Friday, April 25, 8 p.m.

Dinkelspiel Auditorium

Tickets: \$10/\$5 Students



Jin Xing Dance Theatre

Featuring the Stanford
Symphony Orchestra and
Symphonic Chorus –

Jindong Cai, conductor

Saturday, April 26, 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 27, 2:30 p.m.

Memorial Auditorium

Tickets: \$12–\$50



China on Stage 中國大舞台

Pacific Rim of Wire:

An Online Concert with China

Stanford Laptop Orchestra –
Ge Wang, Director

Tuesday, April 29, 8 p.m.

Dinkelspiel Auditorium

Tickets: \$10/\$5 Students



Harmonies from China

Shanghai Jiaotong

University Chorus

Thursday, May 1, 8 p.m.

Dinkelspiel Auditorium

Tickets: \$10/\$5 Students



Xianghua Buddhist Ceremonial

**Music: *Receiving Buddha*
and *The Lotus Pool***

Saturday, May 3, 8 p.m.

Memorial Church

Tickets: \$10/\$5 Students



Cui Jian and

Chinese Rock 'n' Roll

Sunday, May 4, 8 p.m.

Dinkelspiel Auditorium

Tickets: \$30/\$10 Students

Cui Jian also appears Saturday, May 3,
7:30 p.m. at South Hall, San Jose
Convention Center. For more info, visit
www.usastarimage.com.



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For tickets to all events, call the
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or visit the festival website.

PV's Anne Campbell named superintendent of the year

By Marjorie Mader

Almanac Staff Writer

Anne Campbell, superintendent of the Portola Valley School District for almost five years, has been named by the Association of California Administrators superintendent of the year for San Mateo and San Francisco counties.

Ms. Campbell will be honored by the Region V chapter of the association at its annual recognition dinner on Monday, April 28, at the Best Western Grosvenor Hotel in South San Francisco.

Jean Holbrook, San Mateo County superintendent of schools, nominated Ms. Campbell for the award. She described her as an exemplary leader and outstanding educator who has "high expectations for each and every student" and who "walks the talk."

Ms. Holbrook singled out the superintendent's leadership in developing the Portola Valley district's strategic plan geared toward educating the "global student." The plan was developed in partnership with teachers, support staff, parents and community members.

Portola Valley trustees joined in honoring Ms. Campbell by adopting their own resolution. It extolled her leadership through principal searches, budget development and strategic planning, and her commitment to students. She has "worked tirelessly to ensure that all students, no matter where they may be on the academic spectrum, receive an excellent education," noted the resolution.



Photo by Marjorie Mader/The Almanac

Anne Campbell has been superintendent of Portola Valley schools for almost five years.

Even Corte Madera students got into the congratulatory mode. All 370-some fourth- through eighth-graders penned their messages — "awesome" "you deserve it" and "thank you" — on a large, colorful banner presented to the superintendent.

In their resolution, trustees also cited some of her personal qualities: maintaining a cheerful and collegial working atmosphere, remaining professional at all times, and being an outstanding listener available to staff, parents, students and the larger community.

They also noted how she used her diplomatic skills to work on "convoluted funding issues for special education in the county and the state."

Before coming to the Portola Valley district, Ms. Campbell was superintendent of the Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary School District for seven years, and prior to that was principal of Ralston Middle School in Belmont. ■

SIGN

continued from previous page

time in town, and it's going to be a little embarrassing for her."

Mr. Dobbie said an election sign in his front yard was also taken that day.

"It's kind of amazing that it happened in broad daylight," he said. "We have 50 to 60 signs out at the moment, and we are going to keep

an eye on them. We'll see if we can detect a pattern, and if we can, the police will be involved."

On Friday, April 11, Lindenwood resident Phil Lively said his yard "Dobbie for Council" sign disappeared, as did a couple of other ones in his neighborhood.

"It's an unfortunate thing to be happening, because those doggone things have gone up in price," Mr. Lively said. ■

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ASSOCIATION

SILICON VALLEY
AIYUE CHORUS

MS. FLORENCE
FANG



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

Students awarded scholarships by the Rotary Club of Menlo Park are, from left, front row: Julia Cabral, Molly Dickinson, Menon Pallavi, Syddney Hessel and Annamaria Prati. Second row: Ramika Evans, Elibet Jimenez, Jessica Zigterman, Alexandra Allegra and Michael Greenberg. Back row: Oscar Coaquira, Alp Kutlu, Alexandre Popp and Eric Heimark. Also receiving scholarships were Elise Delagnes, Cynthia Gonzalez, Marcos Lopez, Daniel Rozenfeld and Gilberto Soria Mendoza.

Rotary awards \$67,000 in scholarships

Nineteen local high school students received a total of \$67,000 in scholarships from the Rotary Club of Menlo Park at an awards ceremony April 7 in the SRI auditorium in Menlo Park.

Elibet Jimenez of Eastside College Preparatory won the \$10,000 John D. Russell Scholarship.

The other winners—from Menlo-Atherton, Eastside Preparatory, East Palo Alto High School, Menlo School and Sacred Heart Preparatory—received either a \$5,000 or a \$2,000 scholarship.

More than 100 other high school students received scholastic achievement awards.

The featured speaker for the evening was Latoya Haywood, a sophomore at Menlo College, who shared her tips on surviving the early college years.

Narrowing the field of 52 applicants was a difficult task, said Rotarian Harlow Johnson, who headed the six-member scholarship committee. Each student submitted a lengthy application, and the top 30 candidates were interviewed.

Syddney Hessel of Menlo School, the winner of the \$2,000 Drue Kataoka Arts Scholarship, was chosen by a separate committee that included Ms. Kataoka.

Many applicants shared stories about the challenges they have faced. Below are some details about Elibet and two of the \$5,000 scholarship winners.

■ Elibet Jimenez is the daughter of Ignacio and Rita Jimenez of Menlo Park. She is graduating from Eastside College Preparatory and is visiting Stanford, Williams, Brown, and Yale in the next several weeks to make a decision about which college to attend. Elibet has been co-editor of her school newspaper, "The Eastside Panther." She has completed an impressive number of

advanced placement courses and is interested in majoring in humanities or English.

■ Molly Dickinson is the winner of the \$5,000 Robert Paroli Scholarship. She lives in Portola Valley with her parents, Jack and Suzy Dickinson, and is graduating from Sacred Heart Preparatory. At Sacred Heart, she has been active in varsity rowing/crew, (requiring 15 hours a week for 46 weeks). She works in community service and enjoys photography.

■ Oscar Coaquira is the winner of the \$5,000 Arthur Flegel Scholarship. The son of Vilma Castro and Oscar Coaquira, Oscar commutes from Tracy to attend Menlo-Atherton High School. He intends to attend either UCLA or Cornell. A native of Peru, Oscar is studying to become tri-lingual. He plays the clarinet and is first chair in the school's symphonic band.

Other winners of \$5,000 scholarships are: Michael Greenberg, Menlo School, Rotary Foundation Scholarship; Cynthia Gonzalez, Menlo-Atherton High School, Rotary Foundation Scholarship; Ramika Evans, Eastside College Preparatory, the Tsui/Tang Family Scholarship; Marcos Lopez, East Palo Alto Academy, Business Professional Scholarship; and Gilberto Soria Mendoza, East Palo Alto Academy, Doris and Ormand Rector Scholarship.

Winners of \$2,000 Rotary Honor Scholarships are: Eric Heimark, Menlo School; Alp Kutlu, Menlo-Atherton High School; Pallavi Menon, Sacred Heart Preparatory; Alexandra Allegra, Sacred Heart Preparatory; Alexandre Popp, Menlo-Atherton High School; Annamaria Prati, Menlo School; Daniel Rozenfeld, Menlo School; Elise Delagnes, Menlo-Atherton High School; and Julia Cabral, Menlo-Atherton High School.

PV school board election: candidates forum Tuesday

The two candidates for a seat on the Portola Valley school board plan to participate in a candidates' forum at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, at Hansen Hall at The Sequoias retirement community, 501 Portola Road in Portola Valley. The public is invited.

The candidates are Dr. David Morris, a physician, and Bill Youstra, a business consultant.

The forum will follow the League of Women Voters' format, with opening statements by the candidates, questions from the audience, and closing remarks, said Onnolee Trapp of The Sequoias.

Voters in this all-mail election are urged to mail their

ballots by April 29 so they arrive by the deadline: 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 6.

For more information about candidates' night, call The Sequoias at 851-1507.

To get information from the candidates, e-mail Dr. Morris at david.g.morris@sbcglobal.net or go to Mr. Youstra's Web site, <http://www.youstra.com/pvsvd>.

To learn more about the candidates, check the story in the March 26 issue of The Almanac. You can find the story online by entering this in Google: Portola candidates Almanac March 26.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Home Equity Loans In Jeopardy

Q: We just got a notice from the lender with whom we have an equity line of credit canceling the loan. We were planning to use this line of credit to remodel the kitchen and now will have to put our plans on hold. Should we try to find another lender?

A: Many lenders are canceling home equity loans for several reasons. Tight credit markets have hurt lenders' access to capital and this has reduced the number of loans of all types being done. Home equity loans usually carry more risk and lenders are trying to reduce risk as

much as possible. In some areas house prices have declined and homeowners have less equity to tap into than they used to have. Lenders are canceling equity lines because they are afraid borrowers will withdraw funds that then cannot be secured by the home's value.

You should definitely try other lenders. Once an appraisal is done you will know what the current market value is and if there is enough equity in the property, some lenders may be willing to extend a line of credit. If not, you may have to wait to remodel your kitchen until the market improves, unless you have other sources of cash to pay for it.

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



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF VACANCIES

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Atherton encourages residents to apply for a position on the Transportation/Traffic Sub-Committee to fill an unexpired term of a Committee Member as noted below. Additionally, there is a position available on the Audit Committee. The positions have been vacated.

TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC SUB-COMMITTEE

Robert Huber appointed 04/03 vacated 03/13/08

The Transportation/Traffic Sub-Committee advises the City Council on matters regarding traffic and transportation issues within the Town. The Committee consists of two Council Members and three resident advisors who are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the City Council. Currently, terms are for one year; however, Committees/Commissions are under review by the City Council and terms are subject to change. Regular meetings are scheduled quarterly on the second Tuesday, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at 94 Ashfield Road.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Robert Oster appointed 07/07 vacated 01/02/08

The Audit Committee provides oversight of the annual audit, makes recommendations to the City Council on matters related to the annual audit, and provides guidance to Town staff on financial controls throughout the year. Currently, terms are for one year; however, Committees/Commissions are under review by the City Council and terms are subject to change. Meetings are held quarterly.

Applications are available on the Town website at www.ci.atherton.ca.us under "Town News" and will be accepted in the Town Administrative Offices, 91 Ashfield Road, until the positions are filled.

Dated: April 4, 2008

/s/ Kathi Hamilton
Kathi Hamilton
Acting City Clerk

Published in THE ALMANAC on April 16, 2008.

Parking lot approved on Skyline Blvd. to serve open space preserve

By Marion Softky
Almanac Staff Writer

In the summer of 2009 — if the stars line up correctly — a new parking lot will be constructed on Skyline Boulevard, across from Bear Gulch Road and the entrance to Wunderlich Park, that will serve visitors to El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve.

On April 9, the board of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District gave tentative approval for construction of a paved parking lot for 65 cars and four horse trailers to serve visitors to the district's third most popular preserve.

El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve covers 2,817 acres west of Skyline Boulevard above Woodside. It has three gates, but no official parking, along its 2.2 miles fronting Skyline Boulevard. It is also one of the favorite Peninsula destinations for mountain bicyclists, who love its steep trails and challenging terrain.

While most visitors use the Caltrans vista point at Skeggs Point — and cross Highway 35 to get into the preserve — many still park on turnouts and shoulders of the heavily traveled highway, according to a district staff report.

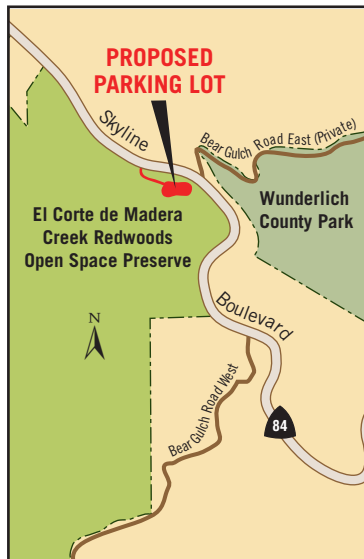
"We're positive that adding a parking lot is a much safer alternative," said Matt Freeman, planning manager for the district.

The board's decision follows close to 10 years of debate, controversy, and study about providing parking for visitors to the rugged preserve. Half a dozen alternative locations have been studied.

The lot will not displace forest or natural land. It is planned for a flat, two-acre site, covered with invasive French broom, where Alan Hosking used to store equipment and stage logging operations. "It's a very large, flat area that has been heavily disturbed," Mr. Freeman said.

A driveway will be constructed to meet Skyline Boulevard where the line of sight meets Caltrans standards. The district board also asked the staff to come up with a safe way for visitors to cross Skyline coming to and from Wunderlich Park.

The proposed parking lot will



Courtesy, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

A 65-car parking lot is planned on Skyline Boulevard, across from the entrance to Wunderlich County Park and Bear Gulch Road, to serve El Corte de Madera Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve.

include restrooms, educational materials, and access to several of the preserve's 34 miles of trails. It will serve as a staging area for a new link in the Bay Area Ridge Trail that will head south and eventually connect with the La Honda Open Space Preserve, Mr. Freeman said.

About 16 people attended the April 9 hearing, Mr. Freeman said. About a dozen bicyclists, equestrians and Ridge Trail advocates supported the parking lot. Four neighbors opposed it. They worried about accidents on the dangerous, winding road known for speeding cars and motorcycles.

"We share their concern about traffic," Mr. Freeman said. "We feel the project will improve visitors' safety."

What next?

The new parking lot is far from built. It still needs environmental review, funding, and approvals by a host of agencies, including the district board, San Mateo County, Caltrans, and possibly state agencies overseeing fish and game, and water quality.

The district hopes to attract outside funding to help cover the \$250,000 cost of the parking lot. "We hope to offset the cost through grant funding," Mr. Freeman said. "It will be summer 2009 at the earliest." ■

'We're positive that adding a parking lot is a much safer alternative.'

MATT FREEMAN,
DISTRICT'S PLANNING MANAGER



Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

A fire that did no damage and a kid with a new red hat were all in a day's work for firefighters of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District. Firefighters on April 9 doused a burning log in an apartment fireplace that was spewing smoke.

Closed fireplace vent draws firefighters

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

One point to remember when starting a fire in a fireplace: Make sure the vent is open so the smoke goes up the chimney.

A resident of an apartment at 402 Oak Grove Ave. near Laurel Street apparently forgot to do this shortly before 4 p.m. on April 9, and left her apartment after it filled with smoke from a Durafire log burning in her fireplace, said Capt. Mike Sweeney of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

The apartment complex manager called 911 after seeing smoke, Capt. Sweeney said.

Over a period of 10 minutes, firefighters doused the log with water, opened the chimney vent,

checked the attic, and cleared the apartment of smoke using fire department fans, Capt. Sweeney said. No one was injured and there was no damage to the apartment, he added.

Before she left her apartment, the "young lady" who lived there took the time to open the windows and remove the batteries from the smoke detectors, Capt. Sweeney said.

She didn't know what to do, he said. "Instead of leaving, she should just have called us." There was no danger of smoke inhalation because she had had "enough sense to open the windows," he added.

Handling this fire were three units from the Menlo Park district, one from the Palo Alto Fire Department and a battalion commander, Capt. Sweeney said.

Menlo Park holds its 20th Kite Day event on April 27

Menlo Park's 20th Kite Day will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 27, at Bayfront Park, located at Marsh Road and the Bayfront Expressway.

Cost is \$5 for a kite, hot dog and a soda. The event is sponsored by Menlo Park's Community Services Department and the Menlo Park Kiwanis Club. For more information, call 330-2200.

Council endorses parks tax

Menlo Park City Council members voted 5-0 at their April 8 meeting to endorse Measure O, the "Parks for the Future" measure on the June 3 ballot.

The countywide measure, which needs approval by two-thirds of the voters to pass, would raise the sales tax rate in San Mateo County by one-eighth cent to 8.375 cents. The income generated — estimated at \$16 million a year — would

■ MENLO WATCH

go to local parks and recreation programs.

An estimated \$325,000 would go to Menlo Park parks and recreation programs, said Julia Bott, president of the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation. These additional funds would be distributed at the city's discretion.

The tax increase, which would stay in effect for 25 years, would cost the average person less than \$2 a month, Ms. Bott said.

A similar tax measure was on the November 2006 ballot, but it received approval of just 55 percent of the voters — short of the two-thirds needed to pass.

Menlo Park releases summer Activity Guide

Menlo Park's summer Activity Guide, with details on recre-

ational and educational classes for adults and children, has been mailed to Menlo Park residents.

The guide includes registration information for the classes, which range from sports to arts and crafts, and dance. Classes run from June to August. The registration period opens April 14 for Menlo Park residents and April 24 for others.

The guide and registration forms are also available at the city's libraries, city offices, and online by clicking on "Activity Guide" at MenloPark.org.

For more information, call the Community Services Department at 330-2200.

No meeting

The Menlo Park City Council will not hold its regular meeting on April 15. Regular meetings are scheduled to resume April 22.

Woodside Town Council at peace with new design for housing at Canada College

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The impasse is apparently at an end between the Woodside Town Council and Canada College over plans for on-campus faculty and staff housing that, located on a hilltop, would look down on parts of Woodside.

With Mayor Ron Romines and Councilman Dave Burow absent, the council reached a consensus at its April 8 meeting on a redesign of the 56 to 60 apartments that would reduce the scale of the two apartment buildings.

The college's 131-acre campus straddles Redwood City and Woodside, with most of it located in Woodside, including the 3.8-acre site proposed for the apartments.

The college cannot proceed with construction until the Woodside council agrees to de-annex the site and redraw the town boundary to put the site in Redwood City, where zoning laws allow multi-family buildings.

The new design emerged from "three good meetings" between a council subcommittee — made up of Mayor Romines and councilmen Peter Mason and

Dave Tanner — and a design team representing the college, Mr. Tanner said.

"If Woodside was to get into high-density housing, I think this is what Woodside would build," Mr. Tanner said. "I think this has come a long way and it's a very nice job."

At least one building footprint was rotated so that, from a downhill vantage point, a viewer sees more of the hill and less of the building, Mr. Tanner said.

The proposed interruption of that view was a major irritant to downhill residents of Redwood City's Woodhill Estates community, who had registered their complaints with the Woodside council. A Woodhill spokeswoman said at the April 8 meeting that the community no longer opposes the design.

Under the new plan, setbacks from roadways are larger and landscaping is more plentiful, as is attached garage space, college spokeswoman Barbara Christiansen told the council. Although the two buildings will be mostly three-story, the sections of the buildings most visible from Farm Hill Boulevard and Interstate 280 will be two-story only, she added.

The council plans to reconvene for a special meeting in late April to complete necessary details in coordination with the Redwood City council. ■



2006 Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

"Pelotons" — platoons of cyclists who tend to take over local roadways — are among the bicycling issues facing Woodside.

Woodside struggles to find bike committee members

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

It's easy to find bicyclists in Woodside. They're everywhere on the winding forested roads of this town that prizes its rural equestrian atmosphere and shares borders with two county parks and a state fish-and-game refuge.

What's not easy to find are residents willing to serve on the committee that advises the Town Council on issues such as bicycle safety, bicycle events and bicycle policies. Residents and cyclists, many of whom don't live in Woodside, have a history of contentious relations.

"We're having a very hard time recruiting new members," resident and Bicycle Committee chair Millo Fenzi told the council at its April 8 meeting, where he persuaded the council to reduce the committee's membership requirement to six from the current seven so as to make it easier to reach a quorum

and conduct business.

In four of the committee's last 12 meetings, the Bicycle Committee could not assemble a quorum, Mr. Fenzi said.

Adding to the problem is a council habit of not responding to Bicycle Committee reports and proposals, he said.

His list of more-or-less unanswered proposals included safe bike routes to school and Barkley Fields, a map of potholes and other areas dangerous to cyclists, and a courtesy initiative that would encourage drivers, residents and cyclists to consider points of view other than their own.

Anne Kasten, of the Architectural and Site Review Board, urged the council to leave the membership requirement alone and raise community awareness instead. "I think there are people out there who would care," she said.

The council voted 5-0 in favor of the reduction, with Mayor

Ron Romines and Councilman Dave Burow absent.

Unwelcoming community

Committee recruitment is being done in an atmosphere of hostility toward cyclists, Mr. Fenzi said, noting that at dinner parties, people step back from him when he mentions his involvement.

"I feel that vilification, (too)," said Councilwoman Deborah Gordon, the council's liaison to the Bicycle Committee for the past several years. She concurred with Mr. Fenzi's dinner-party recollections. "It is like you have some very catchy disease," she said.

One thorny issue is the "peloton" — the platoon of cyclists who tend to take over roadways in Woodside and Portola Valley on weekdays for the "noon ride."

If 50 cyclists violate a stop sign and a deputy wants to issue citations all around, it can't be done without the assistance of all the Sheriff's Office deputies and a truck to transport the impounded bikes, Mr. Fenzi said. "It's logistically impossible."

The best approach, he said, is getting to know the peloton's leaders and sometimes riding along.

With a smaller committee, the members could begin moving toward "a broader, more attractive charter," perhaps one that could also address pedestrian concerns, Mr. Fenzi said.

A new charter and more council attention could attract interest, he said, adding: "It's not a fun committee to be on. Things don't happen."

"Let's figure out a way to solve this problem," Councilman Peter Mason said before the vote. "I go to parties and that's all I hear about, is bikes." ■

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TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING ON COMMUNITY FIRE MAPPING

This is to notify you that the Town Council and Planning Commission will be conducting a Joint Meeting on Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, Historic Schoolhouse, Portola Valley Town Center, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA.

The Town Council and Planning Commission will be receiving a presentation on and discussing the Community Fire Mapping for the Town of Portola Valley. The presentation and discussion will include the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) DRAFT Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Map and work currently being undertaken on behalf of the Town on evaluation and mapping of local fire conditions. Representatives of the Woodside Fire Protection District will be participating in this meeting.

You are Invited to attend this public meeting, to learn the status of the mapping process and provide your input to the Town Council and Planning Commission.

Information pertaining to this matter will be available for review on Friday, April 18th. You may view information at Town Hall Building & Planning Department, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

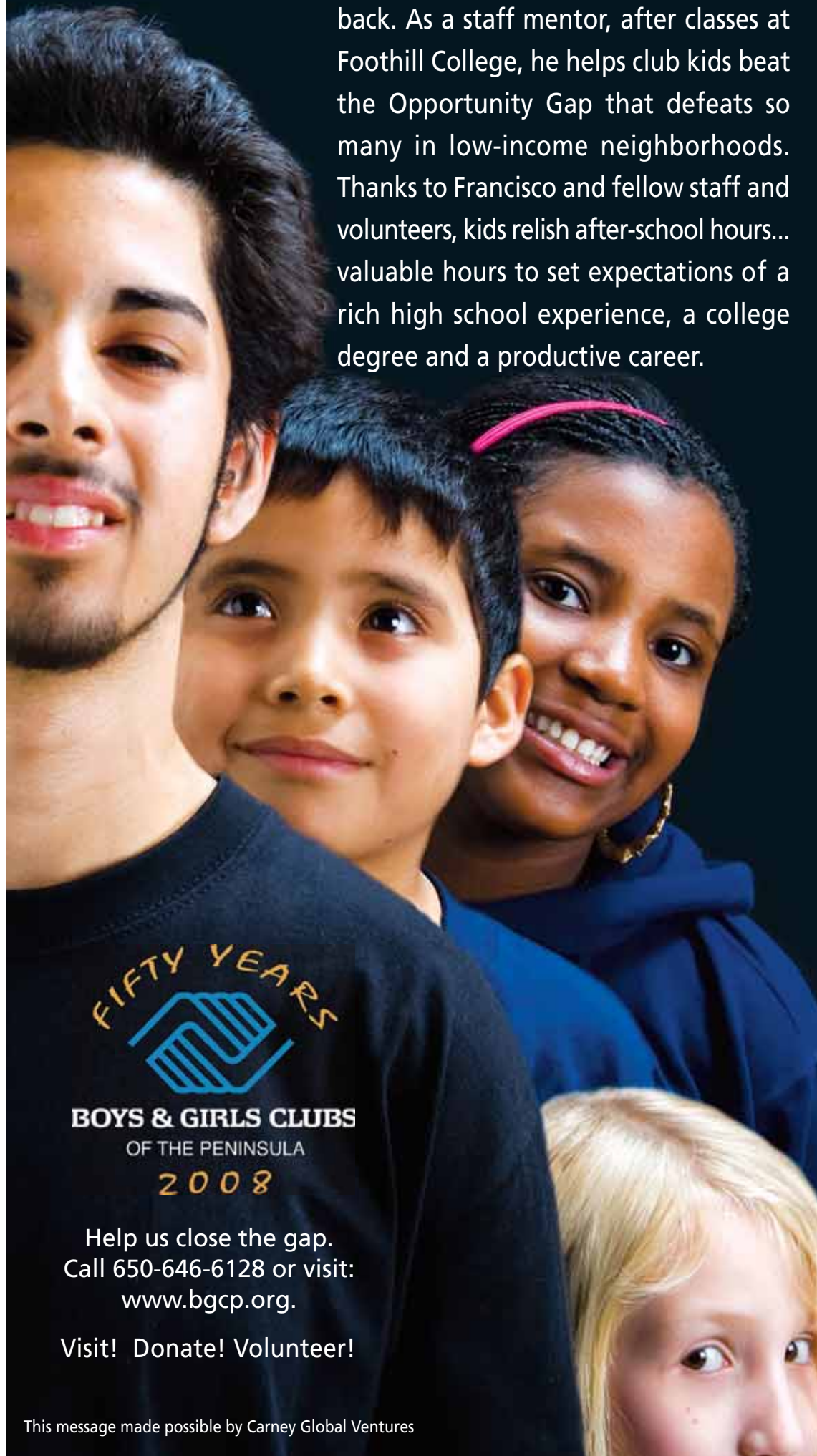
Dated: April 3, 2008

Leslie A. Lambert
Planning Manager

Published in THE ALMANAC on April 16, 2008.

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Grand jury says 'strident' remarks hurt Atherton

By Andrea Gemmet
 Almanac Staff Writer

Tumultuous recent events were not handled very well by Atherton's public officials — but you probably didn't need a report from the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury to tell you that.

The grand jury released Thursday a slim, five-page report on "Governmental Effectiveness in the town of Atherton," its third report in the past two years about problems in Atherton's town government.

The report chides Atherton's City Council and top officials for making "strident public statements" that exacerbated problems stemming from a controversial series of audit reports and person-

nel investigations that ultimately led to the dismissal of the town's finance director last October. The report doesn't name names or offer specific examples, however.

something they are expressly constrained from doing in the town's ordinances. Mayor Jim Janz and Councilman Jerry Carlson declined to comment, other than through City Attorney Marc Hynes. Mr. Hynes called the report "pretty generic," but said the council's recent retreat covered discussion of the City Council's and city manager's functions, two issues raised by the grand jury. A formal response to the report will come up at a future council meeting, but it won't be on the April 16 agenda, Mr. Hynes said.

The grand jury's last report, issued in July 2007, blamed former City Manager Jim Robinson for not preventing the problems in the town's building department

'The grand jury's interviews with staff and council members revealed considerable rancor, tension, antagonism and lack of collegiality among individuals.'

GRAND JURY REPORT

nel investigations that ultimately led to the dismissal of the town's finance director last October. The report doesn't name names or offer specific examples, however.

"The furor about the reports and investigations took up a great deal of staff's time and energy, impeding government efficiency," the grand jury said in its report. "The (grand jury) believes that no matter how controversial a report or personnel action might be, open discourse can and should be exercised in a civil manner better than that observed in Atherton."

All cities must be open to continual public review, the report said. However, public pronouncements by members of the City Council, its audit committee and town staff "exacerbated animosity," according to the report.

"The grand jury's interviews with staff and council members revealed considerable rancor, tension, antagonism and lack of collegiality among individuals," the report said.

The report also accuses council members of interfering with the city manager's day-to-day duties,

that triggered audit reports in 2005 and 2006. The report also took Mr. Robinson to task for not intervening in a case of serious employee misconduct, and charged him with failing to keep council members informed of significant matters.

In today's report, the grand jury's recommendations to the City Council include: safeguarding the independence of the town's management team; and encouraging officials to "carefully consider the ramifications of their public pronouncements when sensitive town matters are being investigated."

The civil grand jury is a watchdog group that investigates city and county governments, issues reports and makes recommendations. Although it's an arm of the courts, a civil grand jury cannot hand down criminal indictments, although it can recommend that a criminal grand jury do so.

Civil grand juries work in secret. Anyone who has been interviewed by a grand jury is not allowed to discuss it, and the reports are the only publicly available information that result from their investigations. ■

Marilyn Franklin's book is off the press

A children's book co-authored by the late Marilyn Franklin, who devoted her 42-year career in education to the Menlo Park City School District, is off the press and for sale.

"Oh No! Not Again, Your Shoe is Untied" is an illustrated whimsical story for children of all ages.

Chaz Franklin, co-author with his mother, said the pre-publica-

tion price is \$10, including tax and shipping, through April 30. Orders may be mailed to "Fnergles," in care of Chaz Franklin, 523 Sloc St., Colusa, CA 95932. Make out checks to Chaz Franklin.

Mr. Franklin said his mother learned the book had a publisher shortly before she died Jan. 14 in Sacramento. For information e-mail: webebugs@colusanet.com.

Council OKs pay increase of 25 percent over 3 years for MP police officers

■ Council members say that new contract will stop officers from leaving for other cities.

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

For the first time in several years, things are looking up in the Menlo Park Police Department.

City Council members voted 5-0 on April 8 to approve a new contract that will increase the city's police salaries 25 percent over the next three years.

The contract covers the department's 39 line-level officers—those below sergeant rank—and will cost the city an estimated \$1.72 million over the three-year period.

The starting salary for a Menlo Park line-level officer will jump from the current \$71,604 a year to \$89,676 by January 2011, according to updated information from Personnel Director Glen Kramer. More experienced patrol officers will earn up to \$119,904 a year after the pay raise, Mr. Kramer said.

Council members acknowledged the cost of the pay increases, but said raising salaries will lessen the high turnover rate that has plagued the department. Thirty officers have resigned over the last three years, 17 of whom have left to join other law enforcement agencies. The department has 50 sworn officers when fully staffed.

The high turnover rate has resulted in an understaffed and inexperienced department, and it costs the city at least \$80,000 to recruit and train each new officer who joins the force.

"The [turnover] situation over the past few years has been untenable," said Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson. "This is a very big step toward making this a destination department."

"The City Council realized they had a huge problem, with 30 out of 50 officers leaving in three years," said Burke Bruttig, a longtime patrol officer. "[This contract] will make Menlo Park stable."

The new contract is a major shift from the city's previous standard of setting salaries at around the average among 11 cities Menlo Park uses as a comparison base. After the salary increases, the city will be the third- or fourth-highest payer among those cities, Mr. Kramer said.

More "hard work"

Council members commended the city's police force when approving the contract, and about 20 officers seated in the audience applauded the unanimous approval of the contract.

But council members said the city still has to figure out how to retain officers without putting too much stress on the budget.

"We do have a lot of hard work ahead still," Councilman John Boyle said. "We can't continue to raise the rates along this scale forever."

Pension levels will not change from the current "3 percent at 50" model, according to the contract, but higher salaries mean officers will be able to receive more under the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS).

Under the current formula, officers can retire as early as age 50 with lifetime pensions of up to 90 percent of their annual salary.

"I just think you haven't done the job of finding the dollars to make this work," said Chuck Bernstein, the only resident to voice concerns about the contract at the meeting.

See SALARY RAISE, page 15

Open house at equine therapy center

Horses have more local options for recovery from injury, as equestrians can discover at an open house on Sunday, April 20, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Bayhill EquiSport Therapy & Rehabilitation Center at 880 Runnymede Road in Woodside.

Veterinarian Wayne Browning says that the new equipment and treatments, including an underwater treadmill, makes it possible for horses to "recover from injury, maintain fitness after surgery, or improve flexibility."

One goal in treating injured horses is to prevent the formation of scar tissue, Dr. Browning said in an e-mail. Treatments at Bayhill include joint therapy using Interleukin-1 blockers and tendon repair with platelet-rich plasma injections and stem-cell therapy.

Some of these technologies are "pretty cutting edge," he said. "The risks are minimal as the horse does not have to go under general anesthesia for the procedure."

Also available: a hot walker, a cold-and-compression system, acupuncture, shock-wave therapy, digital X-ray, digital ultrasound and chiropractic services, he said.

The facility is co-located with the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy Center (NCEFT).



Photo by Veronica Weber

Susan Kennedy, manager of the Bayhill EquiSport Therapy & Rehabilitation Center in Woodside, comforts "Ginny," a racehorse with a hairline fracture undergoing treatment on an underwater treadmill to strengthen her legs.

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Nasty, brutish ... *and* cute

Imperiled polar bears at rest and play form the heart of Atherton photographer Larry Calof's exhibit at the Atherton Fine Art Gallery in Menlo Park. He hopes his images will draw attention to the bears' plight. Above, "Pensive Bear" at left, and "Family Portrait."

Atherton
photographer
trains his lens
on imperiled
polar bears

By **ANDREA GEMMET**
Almanac Staff Writer

Photos courtesy of **LARRY CALOF**

Polar bears are awfully cute. Right up until one of the enormous beasts comes up to the side of your tundra buggy and starts sniffing around hungrily.

"You don't want to be outside, because they haven't eaten in a long time, and you'd be tasty," says Larry Calof.

The Atherton resident, a retired mergers-and-acquisitions lawyer whose hobby is growing into a second career as a wildlife photographer, parlayed his recent trip to the polar bear haven of Churchill, Canada, into a solo show at the Atherton Gallery in Menlo Park. The arresting photos in "Images on Ice" range from cuddly cubs to pensive adults and fierce, sparring males.

Led by a National Geographic photographer, Mr. Calof and a small group of fellow shutterbugs spent almost a week near Hudson Bay, venturing out daily in

massive vehicles called tundra buggies to photograph the polar bears that gather every fall, waiting for the bay to freeze over so they can go out and hunt.

Polar bears have become the animal kingdom's unsuspecting poster child for the perils of global warming. As the arctic sea ice disappears, the future for these mighty carnivores is bleak, scientists say. The Bush administration has quashed efforts to put them on the endangered species list, leaving polar bears out in the cold, so to speak.

"These guys are in desperate shape," Mr. Calof says. "There's a debate — Is there global warming, or isn't there? — but you can measure the sea ice, and you can see it's disappearing. As the Arctic ice disappears, (polar bears) can't hunt, and they will starve or drown."

Mr. Calof says he is donating profits from his show to Polar Bears International.

"The more people see this issue, the more progress gets made, and hopefully that will make a difference," he says.

Drawn to digital

Mr. Calof's life-long interest in photography took off when he retired in 2004 from Los Angeles-based law firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. The timing was serendipitous, he says, because digital photography had really come into its own as a replacement for film. Learning how to use the new technology provided an intellectual challenge that helped him



transition out of practicing law, he says.

“I had a Brownie camera as a kid, and I played around with it. Then, along came Polaroid, and you could see what you shot in 60 seconds — incredible!” he says with a boyish grin. “They weren’t good pictures, but you could see what you shot.”

Although he has a darkroom at his home, he bought a small digital camera and signed up for a digital photography workshop when he retired. He claims he was “almost hopeless” when he first tried to learn Adobe Photoshop, the leading software program for manipulating photographic images.

Continued on next page

“**The Referee,**” above, took top prize in a magazine photo competition.

Larger photo, above: “**Oxbow Bend**” shows a dramatic panorama.



“**Bear Hug,**” at far left, shows the gentler side of sparring polar bears.

A trio of wolves get close in “**Friends.**”

Jensen Hauser

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"Hidden Lake Sunset" has a dreamy aspect.

Nasty, brutish and cute

Continued from previous page

He's had a steep learning curve, as is apparent as he points to the arresting image of "Hidden Lake Sunset" and discusses how he manipulated it to achieve the scene he envisioned.

"What I want to do is produce what I visualized, which may or may not be what was there," he says.

Most of his other photos have a minimal meddling after they've been taken, he says.

Although he says he loves the fascination of developing prints in his darkroom, "I sure don't miss standing around smelling bad chemicals," he adds. "There's a lot more you can do in a digital darkroom than you could do in a wet darkroom."

He happily made the switch to digital in part because he loves being able to know instantly whether or not he has captured the image he wanted, he says.

"It all goes back to the Polaroid," he says. "Instant gratification is a wonderful thing."

Animal magnetism

Polar bears aren't the only animals that captured Mr. Calof's attention. His photo of a trio of elk he dubbed "The Referee" won top honors in a 2007 photo competition in *Cowboys & Indians* Magazine. An intimate photo of three nuzzling wolves he named "Friends" was a finalist in the previous year's competition, he says.



Veronica Weber/The Almanac

Larry Calof trained his long lens on polar bears in Churchill, Canada; the result is the photographs displayed behind him at the Atherton Fine Art Gallery.

"I started out as a landscape photographer, but I seem to have some talent for capturing emotion in animals," he says. "Maybe that's because I get to

interact with another living being."

Three of Mr. Calof's photographs are part of the current "Native California" exhibit at Filoli in Woodside. Two are landscapes and one, called "Smile," is of a pair of elephant seals at Ano Nuevo State Reserve.

Mr. Calof smiles himself as he confesses a tendency to anthropomorphize wildlife in his photo captions.

Animal shots might be a little tougher to find as he heads out on his next major photography trip later this year, to Machu Picchu and the Galapagos Islands. The ancient Incan city lends itself more to spiritual and architectural images, he says. And the Galapagos Islands are largely inhabited by reptiles that presumably will make less-than-cuddly subjects.

His goal is to take one major trip a year, indulging both his love of the outdoors and his passion for photography.

"There are so many beautiful places in the world, I'll never run out," he says. ■

INFORMATION

Larry Calof's photographs are on exhibit at his solo show at the Atherton Gallery and as part of a group show at Filoli in Woodside.

■ "Images on Ice" runs through the first week of May at the Atherton Fine Art Gallery, 700 El Camino Real, Suite 165, Menlo Park. Phone: 324-4278.

■ "Native California" runs through May 4 at Filoli, Canada Road, 1.25 miles north of Edgewood Road, Woodside. www.Filoli.org.

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Laurel named a 'distinguished school' Public invited to discuss new fire maps for PV

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Laurel Elementary School in Atherton made the list of California Distinguished Schools for 2008.

It was one of 10 schools in San Mateo County to receive the honor, said Jean Holbrook, county superintendent, in an April 10 announcement.

State reviewers gave Laurel School a composite score of 7.8 out of a maximum of 8.0, said Ken Ranella, superintendent of

the Menlo Park City School District. "It's a great distinction," said Laurel Principal Nancy Hendry.

State reviewers seemed especially impressed by the faculty's commitment to "responsive teaching," an approach that aims to fit instruction to each student's learning style and level, Ms. Hendry said.

"We've been working on it for the past six years on a formal level, as a staff," she said. "(We ask), is this working for this child, and if not, how can we make it work?"

The state sent out a team of five people in March to tour the school and make a recommendation. Ms. Hendry said she'd never been through that kind of review.

"We didn't do anything differently the day they were here, but it was fun for us to hear back from them summarizing what they saw and their thoughts on who we are," she said. "It truly was validating."

She'll head to Anaheim in May to collect Laurel's distinguished school plaque and banner from state superintendent Jack O'Connell, she said. It's the first time the grade K-2 school has been named a distinguished school, and the second time Laurel school applied for it, she said.

While the Laurel community waits for its official distinguished school banner, students are going to make a couple of homemade banners for the school, Ms. Hendry said.

Kings Mountain Elementary School also was named a distinguished school by the state. Throughout the state, 343 schools received the award, which is granted to elementary and secondary schools on alternating years. ■

Public invited to discuss new fire maps for PV

Wildfires and their hazard potential for Portola Valley neighborhoods will be the topic of a special Town Council and Planning Commission meeting in the Historic Schoolhouse at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, with participation in the discussion by representatives from the Woodside Fire Protection District.

The public meeting will include a presentation by consulting arborist and fire ecologist Ray Moritz, who has prepared and will have with him a fire-hazard map specific to Portola Valley, said Planning Manager Leslie Lambert.

Materials for the meeting will include a draft map, prepared

by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, of fire hazard areas local to Portola Valley.

In general, areas deemed a "very high" fire hazard will require new homes to include Class-A roofs, sprinklers inside, special siding and window glazing, a vegetation plan designed for fire resistance, and compliance with water and access regulations set by the Woodside Fire Protection District, Ms. Lambert said.

More information on the potential fire hazards will be available weekdays at Town Hall, starting Friday, April 18. Town Hall is open from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m.

St. Raymond holds jogging fundraiser

St. Raymond School is holding its 11th annual "iCan Jog.a.thon" fundraiser at its campus on Santa Cruz Avenue on Friday, April 18.

More than 200 students are expected to participate and raise some \$25,000 from sponsors for the K-8 private school's computer and technology facilities, said event spokesperson Cat Westover.

Each mile is sponsored by family members, friends and business people in the community, such as the orthodontist,

Dr. Scott Kaloust, Ms. Westover said in a press release. Students compete for prizes for most money raised and fastest laps.

Sister Ann Bernard, St. Raymond's principal, thanked the "generous support by small businesses" for the success of the event. Co-chairs are Christine Pimlott and Janet Owen.

St. Raymond School, which observed its 50th anniversary in 2005, has more than 200 students enrolled. For more information, go to straymond.org.

SALARY RAISE

continued from page 11

Looking better

Police Chief Bruce Goitia said the department is already on its way to getting back to normal, and is "fully staffed on paper" with several new officers set to join the ranks after graduating from the academy.

The city has also managed to

recruit a lateral officer and several dispatchers, he said.

"We presented a problem of recruiting and retaining officers," Chief Goitia said after the meeting. "I think we've come out of this with a solution that will go a long way toward solving that problem. ... I feel a lot more confident in our ability to meet the needs of the community." ■

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Elizabeth Lewis



Elizabeth's Priorities

On the Atherton City Council, Elizabeth's priorities will include:

Fiscal Accountability and Responsibility. Elizabeth sees the need to stop spending taxpayers' money on ill-advised lawsuits. She understands when and how to mediate solutions before spending money on legal bills.

Strategic Financial Planning. Elizabeth will bring her business experience to the City Council to plan for future financial needs and conserve existing funds.

Safe Streets. Elizabeth knows the importance of safe neighborhood streets. Her goal is to fast-track needed road repairs, make dangerous intersections more safe, and address traffic congestion.

Community Relations. Elizabeth recognizes the talent in our community. She will strive to cultivate a "good neighbor" mentality to seek the common ground for the greatest good, including support for youth sports activities and field usage.

Environment. Elizabeth wants to continue to raise awareness about conservation, including developing Green Building standards for Atherton.

Infrastructure. Atherton's public works system related to drainage and flooding is aging. Elizabeth understands the critical need to maintain and replace out-dated infrastructure for the long-term.

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Patty & Mark Davis
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Community

NEWS OF LOCAL PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Portola Valley woman heads Chickens' Ball

By Jane Knoerle

Almanac Lifestyles Editor

Jerrie Welch of Portola Valley is chair of this year's Chickens' Ball, a San Carlos hometown production that runs for the next two weekends in the Central Middle School auditorium, 828

Chestnut St. in San Carlos.

Ms. Welch heads this year's "Star Spangled Spectacular" because she was principal of Central Middle School before retiring last year. She's been part of the Chickens' Ball since the 1980s, when she wrote her first skit for the show as an English teacher at Central.

The Chickens' Ball is the oldest PTA-sponsored fundraiser in the United States, says Ms. Welch. It was started in 1940 to raise money for the school milk fund.

The show consists of three melodramas and three variety performances, plus "entre acts" of singing and dancing, all performed by members of the community.

The theme always relates to San Francisco's Barbary Coast between 1890 to 1918. The name evolved from the 1935 movie "Barbary Coast," where women who were called chickens because of their feather boas and hats competed on stage for "pokes of gold."

Today, participants in the melodramas and varieties still compete for "pokes of gold," which are turned over to the school district. Past balls have raised between \$50,000 and \$75,000 each.

Another beloved tradition is the "Gayway," where the audience goes outside at intermission to buy coffee, soft drinks, cider and cookies at booths.

Ms. Welch hopes her Portola Valley neighbors and other locals will come up to San Carlos to attend the Chickens' Ball. The fundraiser happens once every two years only, and the whole community gets into the act, she says.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights on April 18, 19, 25 and 26, with 2 p.m. matinees on Sunday, April 20, and Saturday, April 26. Attendance is restricted to people 16 or older. Tickets are \$35, \$25 and \$20, and all seats are reserved. To purchase tickets, call 569-3509. ■

Book, plant sale at Woodside Library

By Kate Daly

Special to The Almanac

Antique book and plant lovers alike may find treasures at the Woodside Library on Saturday, April 26.

Four volumes of a set of books from 1884 entitled, "Battles and Leaders of the Civil War," will be part of a silent auction held in front of the library building during the Friends of the Woodside Library's book sale, which runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Meanwhile, behind the library in the native garden maintained by the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club, volunteers will be selling plants they've propagated. That event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The volunteers will be selling a wide selection of plants, such as roses, azaleas, salvias and grasses, plus some trees, vines, native plants and garden-related gift items.

Proceeds support the library's garden.

The book sale happens twice a year, and features boxes and boxes of used books that are divided into categories, such as large print books, Californiana, mysteries, travel, self-help and fiction.

Some higher priced items will be for sale, but most hardbacks, CDs, and videos go for \$1, and paperbacks and audiotapes go for 25 cents.

Proceeds from the book sale support Friends' programs and collections at the library, located at 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. ■

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- Thursday, April 24

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- Saturday, May 3

* INFANT AND CHILD CPR

Parents and other childcare providers will learn the techniques of infant and child CPR and how to avoid choking hazards. Mannequins are used to provide hands-on training.

- Saturday, May 10

* NEW FAMILY PROGRAM

This program features a selection of support groups designed to help families throughout the first nine months after birth, offering something for everyone. Enrollment includes participation in Mother & Baby Mornings and Couples Coffee.

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Neighborhood garden tour April 25, 26

“Neighborhood Gardens of Old Palo Alto,” the 23rd annual spring tour sponsored by Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden, takes place Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26. In addition to a tour of five private gardens, there will be a plant sale, boutique, luncheon and self-guided tour of Gamble Gardens.

Each of the five gardens has a different theme:

■ “1925 Italian Villa.” The garden has been redesigned as a peaceful retreat with lots of room for family gatherings or soaking in a spa.

■ “English Tudor.” The home, built in 1924, was remodeled several years ago. The property has been re-landscaped to include a quiet garden, pool treatments, herb garden, and family entertainment areas.

■ “European Classic.” There are classic “rooms” in the garden that feature iron and stone furnishings, statuary, a knot garden and a cloister garden.

■ “Cityscape.” This historic home by Birge Clark has been renovated by several previous owners. The new owners have restored the garden with flowers, herbs, a shade garden, and a water element to soften sound. An outside fireplace



This quiet garden setting is featured on the Gamble Garden tour of five “Neighborhood Gardens of Old Palo Alto.”

AROUND TOWN

has been added.

■ “New Family Manor.” The two-story colonial manor is built on a small city lot, but the garden has a large entertainment area for both children and adults. The backyard features stonework and decking.

Lunch will be served al fresco on the Gamble Garden grounds from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day of the tour. The cost of lunch is \$15, with advance reservations required. Complimentary iced tea and homemade cookies will be served at Gamble Garden by the Garden Club of Palo Alto.

The tour starts at Gamble Gardens, 1431 Waverley St. in Palo Alto, or any of the five homes. Tickets are \$35 in advance, and \$40 the day of the tour. For information and tickets, call 329-1356.

Spring concert

The city-sponsored Menlo Park Chorus will present a spring concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 25, at Burgess Recreation Center. The program will range from 1980s pop to classical music. The chorus performs with director April McNeely and accompanist John Iosefa.

The program features two original arrangements by Mr. Iosefa, including a Billy Joel ballad. Refreshments will be served after the performance. Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$8 for seniors and students, and free for children under 12. They will be available at the door.

Spring Sounds Gala in Menlo Park

Adolescent Counseling Services will hold its annual Spring Sounds Gala on Saturday, May 3, from 6:30 to 11 p.m. at Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club in Menlo

Park. The fundraiser will be an evening of dinner and dancing, with entertainment provided by the Gunn High School jazz band and the Caribbean/Calypso band, Pan Exstasy.

Guests may bid on silent and live auction items, including weekend getaways, themed dinners and rare bottles of wine. For the second year, honorary

Continued on next page



EYE CARE NEWS

Presented by Mark Schmidt Licensed Optician

THINNER AND LIGHTER

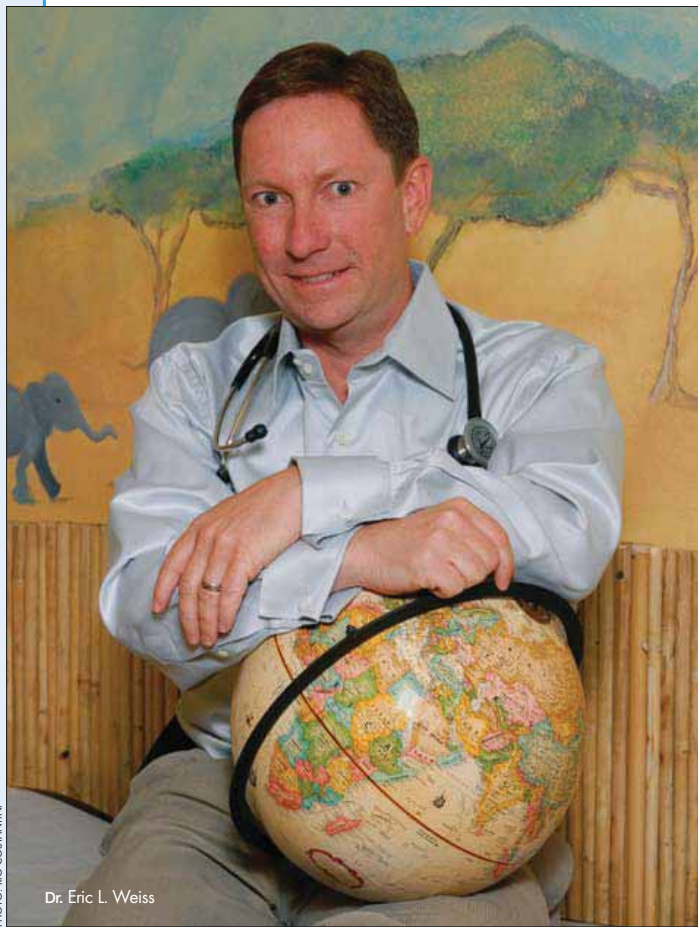
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Mark Schmidt is an American Board of Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners Certified Optician licensed by the Medical Board of California. He can be easily reached at Menlo Optical, 1166 University Drive, Menlo Park. 650-322-3900.



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Parenting preschoolers: discipline dilemma

Parenting psychologist Annye Rothenberg will present a program for parents of preschoolers on Tuesday, April 22, at Ladera Community Church Preschool.

The program, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., is free and open to the public.

Dr. Rothenberg's talk is entitled "Solving the Dilemma of Discipline: Raising Young Children with High Self-Esteem, but Without Over-Indulgence."

A former longtime Portola Valley resident and an

adjunct assistant professor of pediatrics at the Stanford University School of Medicine, Dr. Rothenberg is author of "Mommy and Daddy Are Always Supposed to Say Yes ... Aren't They?" The two-section book is a storybook for preschoolers and a manual for parents. It will be available for sale at the event.

The program will be held in Peabody Hall at the church at 3300 Alpine Road in Portola Valley.

Parents interested in attending should reserve a seat by calling Sandi Snider at 854-0295.

Continued from previous page

chairs Hal and Iris Korol are hosting the event at Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club.

Tickets are \$200 a person. For ticket and event information, call 424-0852.

Writing workshop for children

Kerry Madden, author of the

Maggie Valley Trilogy ("Gentle's Holler," "Louisiana's Song" and "Jessie's Mountain") will conduct a writing workshop for children, ages 9 and up, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 29, at the Menlo Park Library.

The library is at 800 Alma St. in the Menlo Park Civic Center. For more information, call the library's youth services manager Michelle Barrese at 330-2530.

Peninsulaires concert

"You Wanna Do What?" is the title of the annual spring performance of the Peninsulaires Barbershop Harmony Society to be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at the Performing Arts Center at Woodside High School, 1900 Churchill Ave. in Woodside.

The concert is a light-hearted look at planning a barbershop production. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students under 21. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 408-379-3056, or go to www.barbershop-harmony.org.

Filoli Flower Show

It's not too early to make your reservations for the 20th annual Filoli Flower Show. Set for May 8-11, the show, "Country Elegance," will honor the original vision Mr. and Mrs. William Bourn had for the country estate they built.

More than 100 designers, horticultural societies, exhibitors and garden clubs will take part in the show. Featured throughout will be historical displays showing the Bourn era and the contributions of Filoli's original designers: horticulturist Bella Worn, architect Arthur Brown, and garden designer Bruce Porter.

The opening-night reception will take place from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 8. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Vintage jewelry and period-style costumes will be displayed in the house, and antique cars will be shown in the front courtyard. Tickets are \$75 for members and \$85 for others; they must be purchased in advance.

Flower show teas will be held at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10. The cost is \$55 for members, \$65 for other adults, and \$15 for children 17 and under; the cost includes general admission.

A Mother's Day champagne brunch will be held at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 11. The noon brunch is already sold out. Tickets are \$75 for members, \$85 for other adults, and \$40 for

See **AROUND TOWN**, next page

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The Almanac

'Dogs are the new children for home buyers'

Owners look for dog-friendly neighborhoods when searching for a home

By Djuna Woods

Coldwell Banker Realtor

As Jennifer Weintraub and her husband, Michael Yen, look for a new home, not only are they interested in neighborhoods with top-rated schools, friendly neighbors and good values. They also look for homes near dog parks and areas where they can take their dog to play.

With 39 percent of U.S. households owning at least one dog and annual spending on pets expected to exceed \$40 billion, dogs have become the new children.

Dogs now have play dates, day care, hair appointments, spa treatments, personal dog walkers, chauffeurs and clothing boutiques. It's only natural that they have become an important consideration when it comes to buying a home.

As a "dog friendly" Realtor, I focus on meeting the needs of the entire family including the four-footed ones. When you have a dog, your real estate priorities change.

There are safety concerns, too. Finding a home on a quiet street or cul-de-sac is important if a dog has a tendency to escape. Having a securely fenced back yard with grass is also a priority for many dog owners.

There are interior design considerations as well. If there is an

■ BUSINESS



About the author: Djuna Woods lives in Menlo Park with her Cavalier King Charles spaniel, Bucky. She works at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage at 800 El Camino Real, Suite 300, in Menlo Park.

elderly dog, a two-story home might be a challenge. Many dog owners prefer hardwood floors to carpet for easy cleanup.

I encourage my clients to look for homes where there is an area near an entry where the dog can be contained and wiped down upon entry into the home.

I also suggest that my clients

walk in the neighborhood with their dogs before making an offer on a home. It is important that they see the reaction of neighbors and if there are any aggressive neighborhood dogs.

These little things may seem silly to non-dog owners. However, to dog owners these are major quality-of-life issues.

I recently launched Peninsula House Hound, which is focused on meeting the real estate needs of dogs and their owners. The Web site, www.peninsulahousehound.com, offers a search tool that enables users to map homes on the market near dog parks.

The site also lists local dog resources such as vets, doggie day care, groomers and pet boutiques, so buyers know what services are in the vicinity of their potential new home.

I created a blog, www.househoundblog.com, where I review local dog parks, announce community dog events, address dog-related real estate questions, and highlight dog-friendly new listings. I also moderate the Peninsula Dog Owners Yahoo group, where Peninsula dog owners can share information about vets, dog walkers, dog parks and dog friendly neighborhoods. The Web link is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/peninsuladogs>. ■

Bill to protect school journalism advisers

The state Senate Judiciary Committee has approved a bill, authored by Sen. Leland Yee, to protect high school and college teachers and other school employees from being dismissed, suspended or reassigned for defending student free speech.

The senator's office cited a number of cases from around the state of disciplinary action against journalism teachers and student newspaper advisers because of what student newspapers published.

Senate Bill 1370 will now go the full Senate for consideration, said Adam Keigwin, a spokesman for Sen. Yee, whose district includes Woodside and Portola Valley.

Sen. Yee is also the author of a 2006 law that protects college stu-

dents from retaliation by administrators over free speech issues.

AROUND TOWN

continued from previous page

children 17 and under; the cost includes general admission.

Box lunches will be available Friday through Sunday for \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. The price does not include general admission. Lunches must be ordered in advance.

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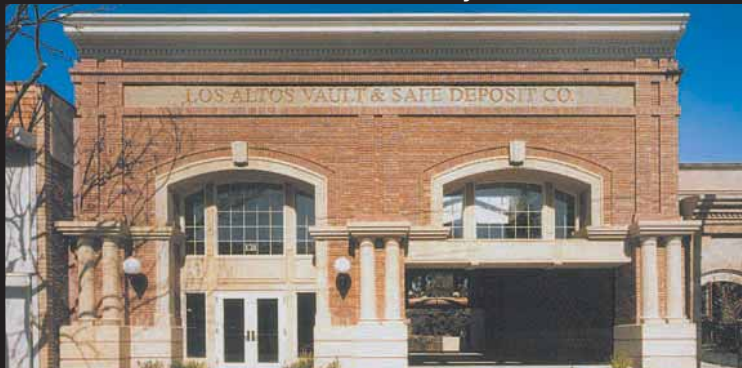


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OBITUARIES

Marguerette Shepard Paponis

Longtime Atherton resident,
community volunteer

Marguerette Shepard Paponis, a 60-year resident of Atherton, died at her home on April 10 at the age of 80. She had battled colon cancer for the past two and a half years, her family said.

Born in 1928, Ms. Paponis lived in Atherton until her marriage to Louis S. Paponis in 1963. She graduated from Sequoia High School and earned an associate of arts degree at San Mateo City College. The couple returned to Atherton in 1983 to her family's property and built their home next to the main residence, Mr. Paponis said.

Ms. Paponis was active with Allied Arts Guild as a member of the Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary, which raises funds for the Lucile Packard children's hospital at Stanford, and she served as the volunteer director of the Allied Arts Guild for two years.

While chair of the Atherton Arts Committee, she organized its highly successful jazz concert in Holbrook-Palmer Park in 2004. As a member of the Menlo Park Historical Association, she drew upon her many years of witnessing changes in the community, her family said. The Paponises were one of several families who filed a lawsuit to halt the destruction of historic Douglass Hall on the Menlo School campus, Mr. Paponis said.

"She had a wealth of information in terms of maintaining (Atherton's) integrity and heritage as we grow," said Councilman Charles Marsala.

Ms. Paponis was a member of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church.

She is survived by Lou Paponis, her husband of 45 years; her daughter, Dena Paponis Dahilig of Northridge; her siblings, Dorothy Cooper of Lake Oswego, Oregon, Barbara Cleveland of South San Francisco, and Jeanette March of Eugene, Oregon; and two step-grandchildren.

A memorial celebration of her life will be held on Saturday, May 17, at Stent Family Hall (formerly Douglass Hall) at Menlo School in Atherton; the time is yet to be announced. The family prefers that memorial donations be made to an animal shelter or the donor's favorite charity. Funeral arrangements were by the Dugan Welch Family.

Thomas J. Moncreiff

Former Menlo Park resident

A celebration of the life of Thomas J. Moncreiff will be held at noon Tuesday, April 22, at the Villages Golf and Country Club in San Jose. Mr. Moncreiff, who was a longtime resident of Sharon Heights in Menlo Park, died April 1 in San Jose. He was 84.

Mr. Moncreiff moved to Sharon Heights from Chicago in 1969 as part of the sale of the Harding-Williams Co. to the food service conglomerate, Saga Foods, on Sand Hill Road. He remained as executive vice president while the companies were integrated.

Later, he opened two restaurants on the Alameda de las Pulgas in Menlo Park, the Pizza Pub and Chicken N' Spice. He also opened a boat dealership in San Jose, but finished his career as an insurance agent serving Menlo Park, Atherton and Portola Valley.

Born in Illinois, Mr. Moncreiff grew up in Detroit, worked at Ford Motor Co. as a young man, and served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in World War II.

After graduating from Michigan State University in 1949, he began his career with Harding-Williams. He rose to become president of the company, with 6,000 employees.

The Moncreiffs were members of Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club from 1969 to 1999, where he served on the board of directors and spent many happy days on the tennis court, say family members. They moved to The Villages in San Jose in 1999.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Jackie; their three sons, Scott, Craig and Thomas; and two grandsons.

Larry Jordan

Newspaperman, avid golfer

Larry T. Jordan, 76, for five decades one the most popular newspapermen on the Peninsula, died March 24 after a brief illness.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, he left home and joined the British Merchant Service in the 1950s, serving on freighters and tankers during turbulent times in Cyprus and the Suez Canal. He immigrated to New York in 1960 and took a bus to Southern California, moving to Palo Alto three years later.

He joined the Palo Alto Times as an advertising salesman in 1963 and worked his way up to advertising director of the Peninsula Times-Tribune.

In 1981 he joined the Palo Alto Weekly as director of advertising. Later he went on to a career in print production with Star Graphic Arts of Palo Alto, Brisbane and Foster City.

He was the author of two books of short stories about people in the nation of his birth. "Larry could sell used paint. He could sell a dog to a cat," said David Burgin, former editor of the Peninsula Times-Tribune. "He was so delightfully entertaining that customers were happy to see him coming."

"Larry loved family, golf and newspapers," Palo Alto Weekly publisher Bill Johnson said. "He knew his priorities. He was mentor to all who worked for him. And he knew that all newspapers were accountable first to the communities they served."

He was an avid golfer and for many years was a member of the board of directors of the Crystal Springs Golf Club in Burlingame. As editor of the club newsletter, the Crystal Bawl, he won several Northern California Golf Association awards.

He wrote freelance golf and travel stories; was co-founder in 1985 of California Golf magazine; editor of Golf Divas, a magazine dedicated to empowering women through golf; and a lifetime member of the Golf

See **OBITUARIES**, page 21

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Map: Up! Commission

Service Tuesday for man killed by train

A service for Stephen Lehane, the Menlo Park resident killed by a train last week, is scheduled for 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, at the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Lehane, 66, was struck by a train April 7, and his death has been ruled a suicide, said San Mateo County coroner Robert Foucault.

Mr. Lehane "dedicated his life to making the world a better place for children," and worked for various childhood development nonprofits, according to a paid obituary that ran in the Sunday editions of the San Francisco Chronicle and San Jose

Mercury News.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Puglisi; his three children, Christopher, Erik, and Erin Lehane; and five grandchildren. He previously served as director of the Avant! Foundation, according to the obituary.

Mr. Lehane reportedly stepped out of a grove of trees onto the train tracks between Encinal and Glenwood avenues in Menlo Park at about 8:38 a.m., said Lt. J. David Triolo of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office's transit police bureau.

He was struck and killed by

southbound Caltrain Baby Bullet train No. 322, said Caltrain spokeswoman Christine Dunn. There is no pedestrian crossing in the area, she said.

It was the fourth fatality on the Caltrain tracks this year, Ms. Dunn reported.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Stephen F. Lehane Memorial Fund, 3184 Washington Street, San Francisco, CA, 94115.

The fund was created to honor Mr. Lehane's support of disadvantaged children, according to the obituary.

Public hearing on horse center

The Portola Valley Planning Commission will consider amendments to, and conduct a public hearing on, a conditional user permit for the Spring Down Equestrian Center. The commission meets at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, at the Historic Schoolhouse.

In a year or so, the equestrian center is scheduled to move to the rear of the property at 725 Portola Road. The use-permit amendments would address operational matters such as frequency of use, types of facilities available, and hours of operation for the center in its new home, according to a background memo prepared by Deputy Town Planner Tom Vlasic.

TOWN SQUARE

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

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

Grand theft report: Gucci purse valued at \$1,200 stolen from dorm room while resident was in shower, Menlo College at 1000 El Camino Real, April 9.

Fraud report: Two unauthorized accounts opened in resident's name, first block of Park Lane, April 9.

Burglary report: Vehicle window smashed, Menlo-Atherton High School at Middlefield Road, April 9.

MENLO PARK

Grand theft report: Bike stolen from residence, 900 block of College Ave., April 8.

Burglary report:allet stolen after vehicle window smashed, 100 block of Green St., April 9.

Fraud reports:

■ Possible identity theft, 1100 block of Hollyburne Ave., April 9.

■ Fraud case, 200 block of Oakhurst Place, April 10.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Found property report: Park ranger found ammunition can hidden in shrubbery and containing shotgun shells, bullets and tools, Ra or ack Trail at Indy Hill Open Space off Skyline oulevard, April 9.

LADERA

Theft report: Mail stolen from curbside mailbox, 800 block of La Mesa Drive, April 9.

Correction

In the Almanac's April 9 cover story "Robot Revolution," SRI International engineer Pablo Garcia is mistakenly referred to as Pablo Green.

OBITUARIES

continued from page 20

Writers Association of America.

He was an actor and director in community theaters on the Peninsula, including the Menlo Players Guild and the Palo Alto Play-

Mike Thompson, longtime KCEA host, dies at 73

Mike Thompson, the longtime on-air host of big band and swing music on the local KCEA (89.1 FM) radio station, died unexpectedly April 6, according to the station's general manager, Michael Isaacs.

Mr. Thompson, who hosted programs on Friday night and Saturday afternoon and an annual New Year's Eve broadcast, was 73. He began hosting programs in 1987 and his last broadcast was a week ago last Friday, Mr. Isaacs said.

"His Friday night request program became a staple in thousands of homes throughout the country," said Mr. Isaacs. "During the past several years his popularity increased via KCEA's Internet streaming audio."

A memorial service was held April 12 at the Chapel of Flowers in San Jose. KCEA held an on-air tribute to Mr. Thompson at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 13.



Mike Thompson at the KCEA studios in 2003. Photo by Shannon Savage

The commercial-free station, which has been on the air for 28 years, is owned by the Sequoia Union High School District and has studios at Menlo-Atherton High School.

You can listen to KCEA on the Web at www.kcea.org.

To read a 2003 cover story in The Almanac on KCEA and Mike Thompson, enter this in Google: KCEA Thompson.

ers Guild, and with the Stanford University drama department.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce Jordan of Redwood City; daughter, Maeve Jordan of Redwood City; sons, Emmett Jordan of Briggsdale, Colo., and Luke Jordan of Minneapolis, Minn.; three grandchildren; and two sisters and two

brothers in Dublin, Ireland.

Services will be private. A "celebration of life" memorial is being planned for later this month at Crystal Springs Golf Club. Donations may be made in lieu of flowers to the Crystal Springs Junior Golf Scholarship in memory of Larry Jordan.

SARANE MARSHALL FEBRUARY 18, 1933-APRIL 5, 2008



Resident of the Bay Area for 55 years and Atherton for 12 years

Sarane Marshall, born Feb. 18, 1933 to the late Helen & James VIRRUSO in Chicago, IL, passed away on April 5th with her family by her side after a two year battle with cancer. She is survived by her beloved husband of 53 years Robert

C. Marshall; her three children Joseph Marshall and his wife Pam of Sebastopol, CA, Lisa Trapani and her husband Marc of Alamo, CA, James Marshall and his wife Kim of Menlo Park, CA and eight adoring grandchildren who were the "apple of her eye:" Lauren, Robert & Patrick Trapani; Scott, Brett & Matt Marshall, and Natalie and Harry Marshall. She is also survived by her beloved twin sister Madelyn Scardigli; niece Helene Gates and her husband Bruce of Boise, ID; nephew Tony Scardigli, of Redwood City, CA; her Aunt Olga Giardina of San Mateo, CA; her Uncle Joseph and Aunt Geri VIRRUSO of IL, cousins Dolly and Ray Bianconi of Millbrae,

CA; cousins Sammy and Mary Nicosia of San Jose, CA; as well as numerous other adoring relatives and friends.

Sarane was adored and loved by all who met her. She was raised in the Chicago area, where she met her husband Bob dating back to grammar school and moved to Millbrae, CA with her family at the age of 20. She and Bob were married at St. Dunstons Church in Millbrae in 1954. She was always the life of the party and attended many wonderful social events with her friends & family. Her interests and loves included: Her husband Bob, her children and grandchildren, her sister Maddy, her friends, gardening, cooking, homemaking, a good glass of wine, but most of all she enjoyed being surrounded by her family and friends. She is a light that will never go out, and a woman who will never be forgotten.

Memorial Mass to be held Thursday, April 10th, at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of the Wayside Church, 930 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA. 94028. Luncheon Reception to follow the Mass. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Stanford Cancer Center/Ovarian Cancer Research. Please note on the check: In memory of Sarane Marshall. Checks can be mailed to Stanford Office of Medical Development, 2700 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

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Voluntary subscriptions are available for delivery to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside at \$30 per year or \$50 for 2 years. Subscriptions by businesses or residents outside the area are \$50 for one year and \$80 for two years.



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, www.TheAlmanacOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

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Spiraling costs of public employees

Menlo Park is learning a costly lesson about compensation for its valued public safety employees: What may look like a bargain contract one year can come back to haunt you the next.

That is the driving force behind last week's approval of a new contract that grants the city's rank and file police officers a whopping 25 percent pay increase over the next three years, just to catch up with, and gain an advantage over, other Peninsula cities that compete for what is a very limited supply of candidates. The law of supply and demand has put police unions in the driver's seat when it comes to commanding significant pay increases every year.

In prior years, Menlo Park's strategy had been to keep its pay structure in the mid range of what similar Peninsula cities were paying. But recently, other cities have approved more drastic salary increases, putting the city near the bottom of the group and at an extreme disadvantage when trying to attract new recruits or convince officers already working elsewhere to make a "lateral" move to Menlo Park. With more than 30 officers leaving the 50-person force in the last three years, it became imperative to make a dramatic change that would once again put Menlo Park on a relatively equal footing with its peer cities.

Besides simply getting outbid for officers, Menlo Park also found it often was paying \$80,000 or more to send an officer to the police



Menlo Park police officer Felicia Byars speaks during a briefing at the police station. Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

academy and train him or her for patrol work, only to see the officer resign for a higher-paying job elsewhere on the Peninsula. This revolving door was particularly hard on the remaining officers, who were often pressed into working extra shifts on overtime just to cover the city's minimum patrol requirements.

The City Council and staff found themselves backed into a corner with few alternatives, which led to the 25 percent increase that will take the starting line officer's pay from about \$71,000 to about \$89,000 by January 2011. Despite the hefty cost of the package — \$1.72 million over the life of the contract — support for the city's police officers remains high at City Hall.

But while they recover from the sticker shock of this pay raise, council members need to look at the bigger question before Menlo Park and many other Peninsula cities: how to slow the runaway growth in public safety compensation, which has been skyrocketing in recent years and shows no sign of slowing. With retirees able to take home 90 percent of their highest pay after 30 years of service at age 50, the cities will soon be paying even more for officers who are no longer in uniform.

The City Council was caught between the proverbial rock and hard place when members approved the police contract last week. But that was the easy decision. Now the city must craft a budget that will cover the much higher costs, and hopefully develop a strategy to stay in front of the public safety curve without breaking the bank.

LETTERS
Our readers write

Two good candidates in Portola Valley

Editor:

I want to congratulate you on your endorsement of Bill Youstra for Portola Valley's school board.

While I think both gentlemen are great candidates, I believe that Bill Youstra has the local volunteer experience, the educational background and, most importantly, experience in and support from the Portola Valley school community.

It is unfortunate that there is only one spot open. As a result, it has created divided camps that make people feel uncomfortable in a small town where we like to believe we are known for cooperative efforts, as opposed to divisive battles. I honor both gentlemen's desire to volunteer their time to continue to make our schools wonderful. I hope that when the dust settles we still have one, positively motivated, unified school board.

SallyAnn Reiss
Golden Oak Drive, Portola Valley



Our Regional Heritage

William W. Shine is at the reins of this team pulling a load of tanbark logs down Kings Mountain Road in 1897 or '98. The three-wagon rig was about an eighth of a mile from the Tripp Road intersection.

Points conceded, but PG&E grant still grates

Editor:

Menlo Park City Council member Kelly Fergusson rightly clarifies that in the last four years the council has been funding our long-deferred public works, and Trees for Menlo has made a dramatic difference by planting trees on El Camino, as I should have noted. But her response to my let-

ter misses the point. The issue I raised about third party carbon offsets remains that our city funds are meant for Menlo Park, not PG&E. Whether one agrees with the climate offset concept or not, there is still work for our tax dollars here at home, as anyone can see every day. Much of that work can truly lower our footprint. That's the point.

Henry Riggs
Callie Lane, Menlo Park

Stalled out on Willows traffic study

Editor:

Once again the city of Menlo Park proposes to study "cut-through traffic" in the Willows neighborhood.

I don't know what a study can possibly reveal other than the fact that cut-through traffic is

See LETTERS, next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

in fact working-class residents of East O'Keefe Street traveling to and from their homes. Absent a building spree or an earthquake on East O'Keefe, that number isn't going to change over time, which gives me a pretty good idea of what the outcome of the study is preordained to be.

I also have to scratch my head at the assertion that there is "speeding" in the neighborhood. I am a homeowner in the Willows with a small child. Speeding here is impossible, due to the proliferation of speed bumps and ugly planters. If any more speed bumps or traffic obstacles are added to my neighborhood streets, I will need to pack a light snack to tide me over on my trek to Willow Road.

Brian Schar
Laurel Avenue, Menlo Park

BMR units needed in housing mix

By Elizabeth Lasensky

It is no secret. I have often publicly stated that I am on the Menlo Park Below Market Rate (BMR) waiting list, along with 300-plus others who remain anonymous.

We are among the 88 percent of San Mateo County residents who cannot afford to purchase housing in this county. We have a housing crisis in our county and region, the scope and breadth of which are breathtakingly shattering to so many.

And it is not just in the for-sale market. Rents are skyrocketing.

So BMR units are a public benefit if you are in need of housing. For the lucky few, they are a port in the storm. Menlo Park assesses 15 percent of units to be BMR for projects of more than 20 units and in-lieu fees for larger commercial developments.

The market rate units subsidize the BMR units, so developers need a certain number of market rate units at a competitive price to make a project viable. If a project is also heavily

encumbered with expenses for additional public benefits, banks are reluctant to lend money in these tough financial times. Communities need to ask what the appropriate amount of public benefit to be assessed against projects would be.

The loss of five BMR units in the revised Derry project is huge. It is the only project currently on the boards with one- and two-bedroom units, unless the former Cadillac site ends up with some two-bedroom rental units. Whereas the city was awarded \$2 million in undefined public benefits for the reduced Derry project, the five lost BMR units are irreplaceable for the foreseeable future. As it stands, the Derry project will generate eight one-bedroom and eight two-bedroom BMR units.



GUEST
OPINION

The market for higher-density, mixed-use housing is expected to increase in Menlo Park, as retirees, baby boomers and young people, mostly without school-age children, choose to live closer to downtown conveniences and transit. As the City's El Camino/Downtown Visioning process is learning, our community's attitudes towards higher-density, transit-oriented housing and development have changed. We want our downtown and El Camino to thrive with a mix of specialty shops, housing, services and, yes, some nightlife.

That vision for downtown and El Camino should also accommodate a variety of income levels. This can only be achieved by including BMR units in the mix. It's time our zoning and general plan catch up with this change in public sentiment on higher-density housing in the downtown and transit corridors.

Elizabeth Lasensky lives on Fremont Street in Menlo Park and is chair of the city's Housing Commission.

Here's what they're saying on Town Square

Police to get big pay increase

Posted by Roxie, Menlo Park University Heights neighborhood
I think the salary increase is a good thing, especially since the actual officers (as opposed to chiefs and higher ups) who do the hard work will be getting the raises. It seems to me quite reasonable that Menlo Park police should be on a payscale ranking highly among our local communities. That we were near the lower end before, given how expensive housing costs are in Menlo Park, had to be discouraging potential recruits. If this helps create a fully staffed police force for the first time in years, I say many kudos to the city management and leaders who are putting city money into what is certainly one of, if not the most, important priorities for any city — public safety. Once we have a fully staffed police force, my guess is that traffic enforcement will finally improve, which will make life safer and easier for everyone. After reading The Almanac's special report on the police shortage by Rory Brown last fall (Sept. 26, 2007), I was really worried that nothing would be done about the problem, even though I knew, from closely following many reports and debates about the city's budget and finances, that we do have the funds for paying our police. Deciding on this salary increase shows me that the city is thinking and doing something. I'm really happy to see that.

Posted by Government Watcher, Menlo Park downtown neighborhood

That's fine. All public employees ought to be paid adequate living wages. So, now, what measurable performance outcomes will the taxpayers of Menlo Park receive in exchange for these salary increases?

Posted by Watch Out Now, Menlo Park, other neighborhood

This really is an outrageous percentage increase. It will filter through all the rest of the city's employee salary structure. With the economy slowing and the only way the city can increase revenue is through the utility tax, that for sure is going to have to be increased. Of course, not this year, an election year.

Should city shuttle help kids get to school?

Posted by Martin Engel, Menlo Park Park Forest neighborhood, from the city's staff report

The city's current shuttle system routes focus on getting passengers from the Caltrain station to employment centers in the morning and vice versa in the afternoon. Project T3 would focus on the morning commute. It is intended to originate in residential areas and take passengers to the Caltrain station with connections to Hillview Middle School and Menlo Atherton High School. By serving Caltrain riders the shuttle service may be eligible for grant funding. These two schools were chosen because the students are old enough that more parents would likely feel



comfortable having their children use public transportation. The project would develop two additional shuttle routes — one east and one west of El Camino Real. By starting small, shuttle services could begin sooner and ridership levels could be measured. If the services are popular, program expansion could be considered based on actual data rather than studies.

Posted by Michelle, a member of the Menlo-Atherton High School community

Ken Ranella, superintendent of the Menlo Park City School District, said the district "isn't strongly engaged" in any efforts with the city to form a shuttle program for local schools, but said the idea is worth considering. I sincerely hope the district becomes strongly engaged in this and any other effort to create a viable transportation system to get kids to and from school collectively. The traffic congestion and waste of fuel resulting from the current "every mom for herself (and her kids)" approach to school transport is ridiculous, irresponsible and damaging for all.

Posted by Now, Voyager, a member of the Hillview Middle School community
I frequently get caught in the

afternoon traffic jam on Santa Cruz Avenue when Hillview lets out. I think shuttles (or anything else that would give kids an alternative to getting picked up in mom or dad's car) are desperately needed. I hope this works out.

Train kills pedestrian along Caltrain tracks

Posted by Martin Engel, Menlo Park Park Forest neighborhood
Between Encinal and Glenwood, along Garwood Way, there is no fencing. "There is no pedestrian crossing in the area," says the Caltrain PR person. Are there any pedestrian crossings anywhere along the rail corridor other than at crossing streets? Over a year ago I called for full fencing of the entire right-of-way. It wouldn't be perfect, because that's impossible, but it would be much better.

Posted by trainlover, Portola Valley

This person clearly stepped in front of the train on his own. It would be kind of hard to miss a train and certainly in broad daylight. There is all kinds of fencing in Redwood City but all the gang bangers and bums cut through it on a routine basis. This is a constant financial issue to continually repair the fences. If someone is determined to kill themselves, no fence, barrier or any obstruction is going to prevent them from doing whatever it takes to end their lives. I feel sorry for the poor train engineer who has to see it coming and not be able to do anything about it.

Woodside council woman charged with DUI

Posted by questioning, a resident of a Woodside neighborhood

Contrite or not, the question on everyone's mind is whether Carroll Ann Hodges is fit to remain on the Town Council. The answer is not at all clear. On one hand, she's only human, and every human is going to have a lapse in judgment at one time or another. But on the other hand, it's not like she doesn't know the consequences of drinking too much, and her drinking had obviously affected her driving enough to catch the attention of the police. Is that the kind of judgment we want on the Town Council?

Posted by Paul Goeld, a resident of the Woodside Hills neighborhood

I served with Carroll Ann on the Town Council for eight years. Although she and I were polar opposites on many issues — often to the point of exasperation for each of us — Carroll Ann was always the hardest working member of the council. I can't think of another Town Council member that I respected more than Carroll Ann. For someone to try to use this incident to challenge Carroll Ann's ability to serve on the Town Council is nothing more than political opportunism at its worst. We all make mistakes and Carroll Ann has taken full responsibility for hers. I only wish that other elected officials could face their own sins with similar candor, transparency and honesty.



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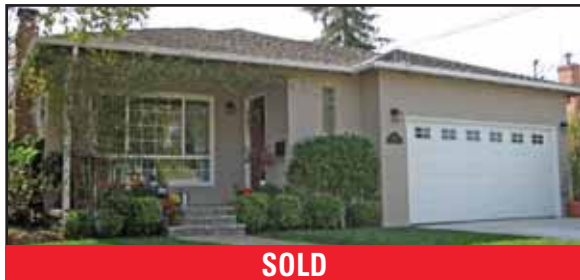
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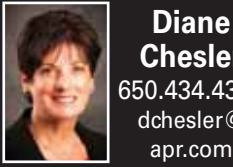
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