

**RED-LIGHT RUNNERS:** Menlo Park starts photo-enforcement program. Page 9

# The Almanac

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

**ELECTION**  
★ 2008

Voters have clear choice in Atherton council election.  
**Page 39**

MAY 7, 2008

[www.TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com) | VOL. 43 NO. 36

## woodside springs

*Horses and humans gussy up for the 86th May Day parade*  
page 16



REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990

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



### WOODSIDE

Stunning resort-like property privately situated on 4.5+/- acres surrounded by Wunderlich Park. Completely remodeled and expanded with outstanding finishes. Features office, recreation room, chef's kitchen/family room, multiple outdoor entertaining venues, sport court, pool, spa, and full equestrian facilities including 10-stall barn and ring.

**\$7,495,000**



### ATHERTON

Surrounded by majestic redwood and oak trees, this Spanish style home offers 6 bedrooms and 4.5 baths on a beautiful 1.45+/- acre lot located in central Atherton. Includes in ground pool with spa, cabana, abundant fruit trees, large lawn area, and front yard. Home offers separate dining room, library/den, large living room with fireplace, master suite with balcony and 3 car garage.

**\$5,895,000**



### ATHERTON

This 5 bedroom West Atherton home is privately located at the end of the cul-de-sac on approximately 1.6+/- acres. Detached 2-car carport with 1 bedroom apartment above. Swimming pool.

**\$4,500,000**

# Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

## FIRST SHOT



Photo by Brian Ellefritz

### Signup time for Pop Warner

Zhi'ir James carries the ball for the Menlo-Atherton Vikings, with Isiah Nash (right) defending, in a Pop Warner football game last year with the Gilroy Browns. Both players are returning this year. Registration is now open for the 2008 season. See story on **Page 26**.

### Atherton

■ City Council candidates offer contrasting views. **Page 39**

### Menlo Park

■ Burgess Gym gift gets council's preliminary support. **Page 9**  
■ Red-light runners: City starts photo-enforcement program. **Page 9**

### Portola Valley

■ Charges likely after teen-party melee that sends two to the hospital. **Page 13**

### Woodside

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### Community

■ Ex-ballerina hosts South African dancers. **Page 5**  
■ Buddhist monk visits Portola Valley. **Page 7**

### Food & Drink

■ Quick and Clean: Tips for preparing healthful "fast food" at home. **Cover, Section 2**

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### On the cover

Heather Schilling and Ben get ready to march down Woodside Road in the town's 86th annual May Day parade on May 3, as part of the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy delegation. The endearingly amateur parade ends with a May Pole dance and carnival at Woodside Elementary School. Photo by Veronica Weber. Story and photos begin on **Page 16**.

### CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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

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

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

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

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*"Now is the time  
for reflection on the  
love of a Mother."*

*George Tom*

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## ATHERTON CIVIC INTEREST LEAGUE

## 62nd ANNUAL MEETING FOR ALL RESIDENTS

**THURSDAY, MAY 15  
7:00 PM**

**THE PAVILION  
AT HOLBROOK PALMER PARK**

**7:00 - 7:15PM ANNUAL MEETING**  
Election of Directors  
and Officers

**7:15 - 7:35PM MAYOR JAMES JANZ**  
"The State of the Town"

**7:35 - 7:45PM CITY MANAGER  
JEROME GRUBER**  
"Town Operations"

**7:45 - 8:40PM TOWN COUNCIL  
CANDIDATES FORUM:**  
Elizabeth Lewis and  
Jim Dobbie

# ROBERTS

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

**Sale Dates: May 7, 8, 9, 10**  
[www.robertsmarket.com](http://www.robertsmarket.com)

*Happy Mother's Day*


## DELI

### Homemade Pecorino Sheep's Milk Cheeses

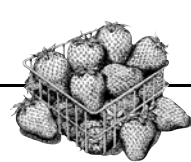

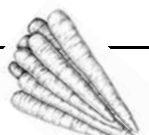
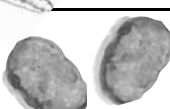
Created in Vicchio Italy, Il Forteto produces these cheeses according to the old traditions of Tuscany.

- BRINATA: A fresh cheese
- PECORINO FRESCO: Sweet but firm taste of sheep's milk
- PECORINO STAGIONATO: Firm texture & a nutty, slightly herbaceous flavor
- PECORINO BRILLO: Aged 4 months in Chianti wine in terracotta pitchers
- CACIO d BOSCO: Aged 5 months with white truffle - nutty, sweet, earthy
- ORO ANTICO: Aged over 6 months - rubbed with olive oil

Samples available



## PRODUCE

8 oz.	<b>ORGANIC STRAWBERRIES</b>		<b>\$2.99</b>
Driscoll, conventional	<b>RASPBERRIES</b>		<b>\$2.99</b>
Clip top	<b>LOOSE CARROTS</b>		<b>59¢ lb.</b>
Large	<b>NEW RED POTATOES</b>		<b>59¢ lb.</b>



**STACY - DELI**

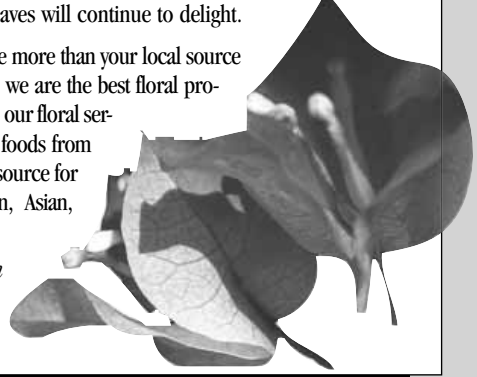
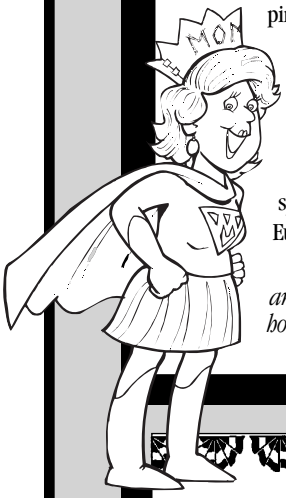
**mothers**  
 DESERVE THE BEST

### Simply Divine!

The flowering desert vines known as bougainvillea bring splashes of color from hot pink bracts and variegated beauty from cream-edged leaves. The shrubby varieties are well-suited to growing in large pots or hanging baskets. Regardless of how they are displayed, bougainvillea bring loads of sun-dappled beauty reminiscent of their native Southern California. With this in mind, bougainvillea should be positioned in sunny south windows. They require a half-day of sun. Their soil should be allowed to dry between watering, and the plant should be fed every two weeks while it is in active growth. After flowering, the plant should be pruned back and watered sparingly. Even after its pink bracts are gone, its lovely leaves will continue to delight.

At ROBERTS MARKET, we are more than your local source of all things of food and wine; we are the best floral provider in the area. In addition to our floral services we offer a wide variety of foods from all over the world. We are your source for specialty foods, including Indian, Asian, European, and other specialties.

*Hint: Bougainvillea love sun and can stand at least five hours of direct sun per day.*



## WINE

### 2007 Dry Rosé

The first of the 2007 Rosés have arrived. So far, the wines seem fresh, juicy and crisp; a classic vintage. Is any other wine more refreshing than a cool, crisp rosé? Perhaps it's time to find out what all the buzz is about. Here are a few selections to get you started.

<b>2007 Verget du Sud, Rosé de Syrah, Vinde Pays du Valcluse</b>	<b>\$10.99</b>
<b>2007 Saint Roch Les Vignes Rosé, Cotes de Provence</b> 65% Cinsault, 35% Grenache	<b>\$13.49</b>
<b>2007 Le Printemps Rosé, Mendocino County</b>	<b>\$13.49</b>
<b>2007 Dom de la Fougette Rosé des Mauves, Cotes de Provence</b> 60% Grenache, 30% Cinsault, 10% Vermentino	<b>\$15.99</b>
<b>2007 Etude Pinot Noir Rosé, Los Carneros</b> A great food wine!	<b>\$17.99</b>
<b>2007 Ch. De Pampelonne Rosé, Cotes de Provence</b> 75% Cinsault, 25% Grenache	<b>\$17.99</b>
<b>2007 Robert Sinskey Vin Gris of Pinot Noir, Los Carneros</b>	<b>\$21.99</b>

The above wines assort for 10% case discount.


## GROCERY

<b>CLOVER HEAVY WHIPPING CREAM</b> Pint	<b>\$1.99</b>
<b>PEPPERIDGE FARMS CHOCOLATE FUDGE CAKE</b> 19 oz. - Also 3-Layer Coconut	<b>\$2.99</b>
<b>TOBLERONE SWISS MILK CHOCOLATE BAR</b> 3 oz. - Also Dark Chocolate	<b>\$1.29</b>
<b>CELESTLE CHAMOMILE TEA</b> 20 Bag Count - Also Lemon Zinger - Green Tea - Sleepy Time	<b>\$2.29</b>
<b>NEWMANS OWN BALSAMIC VINAIGRETTE</b> 16 oz. - Also Oil + Vinegar	<b>\$2.69</b>
<b>PLANET ULTRA LAUNDRY DETERGENT</b> 100 oz.	<b>\$7.49</b>

## MEAT/SEAFOOD

### Special This Week at Roberts

<b>CHICKEN BREAST WITH BONE</b>	<b>\$3.49 lb.</b>
<b>ROSEMARY LAMB TENDERLOIN</b>	<b>\$18.98 lb.</b>
<b>BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST</b>	<b>\$5.98 lb.</b>
<b>TERIYAKI SALMON</b>	<b>\$19.98 lb.</b>



# Local News

MENLO PARK | A THERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Water supply is top concern on Peninsula

■ New report highlights threats to present and future water supplies from earthquake, drought, climate change, and population growth.

By Marion Softky  
Almanac Staff Writer

A safe and reliable water supply is basic to the sustained health of residents and businesses in San Mateo County, and the Bay Area, for both the short and long term.

That's why "Water — Supply and Demand" appears as the key indicator of sustainability in

the 2008 report, "Indicators for a Sustainable San Mateo County," recently released by the nonprofit organization, Sustainable San Mateo County.

With close to 90 percent of its water coming from San Francisco's Hetch Hetchy system, the county's water supply is vulnerable in at least four areas, the report says:

■ Population growth: Demand for water in the county is projected

to grow 25 percent by 2030, from 89 million to 112 million gallons per day, primarily because of population growth.

■ Drought: San Mateo County experiences regular droughts, most recently in the early 1990s. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, which runs the water system, has a water shortage plan that could lead to 30 percent cutbacks in an extended drought.

■ Earthquake: An earthquake could disrupt the master water lines that deliver 184 million gallons per day from Yosemite National Park across several

earthquake faults to 2.4 million customers in four Bay Area counties. Local water distribution lines could also break in an earthquake. (The SFPUC is engaged in a \$4.3 billion project to upgrade and strengthen the system; it should be complete in 2015.)

■ Climate change: Rising temperatures could reduce the annual snowpack in the Sierra that feeds Bay Area water supplies, and increase the amount of precipitation that falls as rain and runs off quickly. Increased evaporation rates due to higher temperatures could also increase water demand

for agriculture and landscaping. To meet these challenges, the Indicators report recommends that water agencies in San Mateo County "will need to pursue aggressive conservation or expand (their) sources of water supply to reach a sustainable state."

### Local water

Most water agencies in the county have taken measures to conserve water themselves and encourage customers to use water efficiently.

Nevertheless, people continue

See **WATER**, page 8

## New report grades county on sustainability measures, including carbon emissions

By Marion Softky  
Almanac Staff Writer

Sustainability in San Mateo County is a mixed bag. By some indicators — carbon dioxide emissions, children's health, crime, green buildings, and solid waste — life is improving.

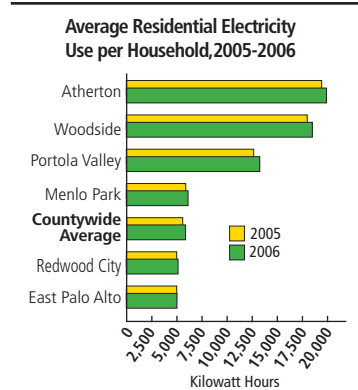
By others — agriculture, child abuse, ecological footprint, income distribution and poverty, and housing affordability — it's declining.

These are some of the conclusions of a new report, "Indicators for a Sustainable San Mateo County," that tracks 33 indicators of how well the county and its cities are maintaining a healthy environment and sound economy, combined with social equity for residents.

The 12th annual report card on the county was prepared by Sustainable San Mateo County, a nonprofit founded in 1992 to measure and promote the elements that allow a community — or nation, or world — to sustain itself into the future. These elements are summarized into the three E's of sustainability: environment, economy, and equity.

"Sustainable planning recognizes the interconnections between the environment, economy and society," the introduction reads. "A disruption in any one area affects the health of the other two."

"The annual indicators report



Data source: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

is a tremendous resource for anyone needing an overview of the county," said supervisors President Adrienne Tissier. "It should be recommended reading for anyone interested in the long-term viability of the Peninsula."

### Indicators mixed

From agriculture to water quality, the 80-page report gives details and charts on 33 indicators of health and quality of life in the county.

On the positive side, carbon dioxide emissions were down 1 percent between 2005 and 2006; and 5 percent since 2000. Emissions per capita were down 7 percent from 2000.

Some indicators give mixed signals. Gasoline consumption was down, thanks to better fuel economy, higher gas prices, and the fact that more people drove hybrid cars, such as the Prius. The

See **SUSTAIN**, page 8



Photo by Nan Melville

Kristine Elliott Schwabacher (center, top row) of Woodside, a former ballerina, and choreographer Darrell Moultrie (second from left, top row) pose with young dancers from Dance for All and Moultrie's company. Dance for All will give a free concert at Stanford on Tuesday, May 13.

## Ex-ballerina hosts South African dancers

'Dance for All' will perform at Stanford University on May 13

By Barbara Wood  
Special to The Almanac

When Woodside's Kristine Elliott Schwabacher heard about Dance For All, a program that teaches dance to young disadvantaged South African township residents, she knew she had found a cause she could throw her heart into.

Ms. Elliott is a former

professional ballerina who now teaches at Stanford University. Several years ago, when she saw Stanford student Kristin Pichaske's film, "Gugulethu Ballet," a documentary about Dance for All, Ms. Elliott saw a way to use her talent for doing good.

Since then, Ms. Elliott has traveled to South Africa five times to teach for Dance for All. She has also raised

money to bring back four of the Dance for All dancers who lived with her family in Woodside while attending summer programs at the San Francisco Academy of Ballet.

Now, Dance for All will perform at Stanford on Tuesday, May 13, with Stanford's A Cappella Talisman. Talisman's internationally known

See **DANCE**, page 8



 **STANFORD**  
HOSPITAL & CLINICS

*Stanford University Medical Center*

# STANFORD HOSPITAL & CLINICS NURSES We appreciate your commitment!

As we pause during National Nurses Week to recognize the efforts of our dedicated nurses, we are reminded that they deserve our appreciation not just this week but every single day of the year. In fact, their passion helped SHC nurses recently achieve Magnet status, nursing's highest honor.

**So, thank you SHC nurses for all that you do for our patients and your colleagues.**



**YOU BRING COMFORT. YOU GIVE SUPPORT. YOU RESTORE VITALITY.**  
NOT TO MENTION ALL THAT YOU DO FOR THE PATIENTS.

To the nurses of Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, thank you. Your commitment, professionalism and expertise reach beyond the compassionate care that you consistently provide to children and expectant mothers. We appreciate your teamwork and vital contribution to our community.



**Lucile Packard  
Children's Hospital  
AT STANFORD**



# Buddhist monk visits Portola Valley

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

In the online archives of the Central Intelligence Agency is a declassified, unsigned, type-written letter dated April 2, 1959, that reads, in part: "Now days the Chinese Communists are firing about 2,000 artillery shells per day. They have fired big guns and done very bad damage (to major monasteries). ... Many Tibetan Monks and lay people were killed. Please inform the world about the suffering of the Tibetan people."

Since 1959, says Tibetan Buddhist monk Khen Rinpoche Kachen Lobzang Tsetan, the Chinese have destroyed about 90 percent of Tibetan monasteries.

Khen Rinpoche, 72, practices in the Buddhist tradition of the Panchen Lama, the second most important figure in Tibetan Buddhism after the Dalai Lama. As a teen, Khen Rinpoche studied eight years at Tashi Lhunpo monastery, the seat of the Panchen Lama. He fled Tibet in 1960.

Chinese Consulate spokesman Defa Tong says his country's government spent "lots of money" to preserve the monasteries, not destroy them. "All those famous (monasteries) are very well preserved," he says, adding that Tibet has one monastery or temple for every 1,600 Tibetans.

Mr. Tong also insists that China did not invade Tibet, that Tibet had been part of China since the 13th century.

From his U.S. base in New Jersey, Khen Rinpoche, who was born in India, has, for the past 22 years, been teaching Buddhism throughout the United States, including at the nonprofit Siddhartha School Project in Freeport, Maine.

The Dalai Lama named Khen Rinpoche abbot in 1996 of a monastery-in-exile, also named Tashi Lhunpo, in the Indian state of Karnataka. Expansion plans for Tashi Lhunpo include a five-acre complex with a prayer hall, college, debate courtyard, living quarters and chicken farm. Rinpoche is on a campaign to raise \$3 million to complete the expansion and provide sponsorships for monks now living there.

The Almanac met with him on April 25 during his visit with Portola Valley residents Deborah and Gary DeFilippo and their guests.

## Unpeaceful meditations

Khen Rinpoche practices Tibetan Buddhism regularly, but he may have an easier time of it than his counterparts in Tibet. Monks there are punished for owning an image of the Dalai Lama, he says. Rules like that make it difficult for monks in Tibet to reach states of peace during meditation, Khen

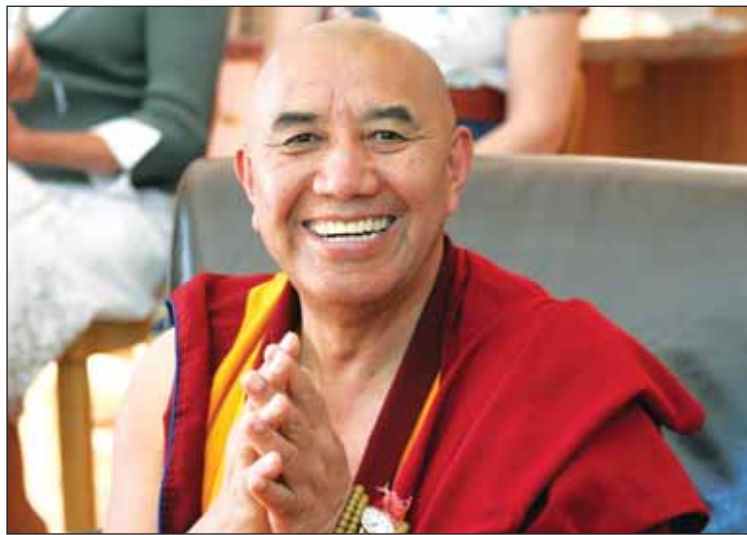


Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

**Tibetan Buddhist** monk Khen Rinpoche Kachen Lobzang Tsetan visited Portola Valley on April 25 as part of a fundraising campaign for improving the facilities at a Tibetan monastery-in-exile in India, where he is the abbot.

Rinpoche says.

Mr. Tong of the consulate says he doesn't know if owning a portrait of the Dalai Lama is a punishable offense, but he accuses the Dalai Lama of using his skill at manipulating his public image to win favor, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989. "He's playing politics," he says.

***Tibet had a government, a currency, a flag, a unique language and culture ... and even a small army, says Khen Rinpoche.***

Tibetans, Khen Rinpoche says, "don't have complete freedom of choice and religious rights." The Chinese are cracking down because they are "angry that they are not able to capture and control the Dalai Lama. They want to destroy Tibetan culture and Tibetan Buddhism."

As has been widely reported, the Chinese government has admitted holding "in protective custody" the youth named by the Dalai Lama in 1995 as the reincarnated Panchen Lama. The government acted against the six-year-old boy and his family just days after his name was announced, reports say.

"That's not the Panchen Lama," Mr. Tong says. The real Panchen Lama was chosen and "verified" by the central government, as has been the practice since the era of the Chinese dynasties, he says.

## A serf system?

Khen Rinpoche has plenty of company in exile. India is home to 77,000 Tibetans and Nepal to 22,000, according to the CIA's World Factbook. Images of Nepalese and Indian police restraining Tibetan demonstrators and

hauling them off in paddy wagons have been daily fare in news photos recently. What is it that they want?

"To go back to Tibet," Khen Rinpoche says. The Tibetan community-in-exile wants independence for their country or, failing that, autonomy, he adds. (The state is referred to by the official Chinese news agency as the Tibet Autonomous Region.)

The protesters are being manipulated by the Dalai Lama and his fellow elites, Mr. Tong says. Tibet under the lamas was a "serf system like medieval Europe," he says.

Before 1959, Tibet, known as "the roof of the world," was both isolated — on a plateau 16,000 feet above sea level — and content, Khen Rinpoche says. Telephones, airports, railroads, newspapers and other signs of modernity were rare and not important, he says.

Tibet had a government, a currency, a flag, a unique language and culture, a diplomatic corps, and even a small army that, among other rather ceremonial duties, maintained border security, he says. Tibet had been ruled by Mongols for a time, but "was completely separate from China," he says.

Were the modernizing elements introduced by the Chinese such as railroads, media outlets and airports of any benefit?

"I didn't see anything good," Khen Rinpoche says. "You have to think about how much they destroyed." That toll, denied by the consulate, includes more than 3,000 monasteries and the deaths of many who were imprisoned, he says.

Progressive thinker and author Michael Parenti, in an article entitled "Friendly Feudalism: The Tibet Myth" at [www.michaelparenti.org](http://www.michaelparenti.org), describes a complex picture of Tibet's history, one that included conflict, intolerance, corruption, exploitation and violence.

For more information on Khen Rinpoche, go to [siddharthaschool.org](http://siddharthaschool.org). ■

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Listing Agent

Dear Gloria,

We listed our house almost two months ago with an agent we thought was one of the top agents in our area. He has a lot of other listings and maybe that is why we don't hear from him, but we are feeling quite neglected. Our property isn't getting the exposure that it should. We have had it on realtors tour and two open houses. It is rarely shown and we never even get a phone call from the agent. What do you think we should do?

Margaret J.

Dear Margaret,

You say that this is a top agent with whom you are working and I am just curious if you checked references? It is prudent to speak personally with former clients that an agent has worked with and could use as a referral. It is good to use an agent with experience

and a good track record. However, there is a fine line between working with a successful agent who will only handle as much as they can as opposed to an agent who will take any and all listings knowing that a certain percentage of them will sell. Many of the listings that this type of agent has are over priced. There is small chance of over-priced listings selling in this market, or any market for that matter, so the tendency is to ignore those and work on the ones that are going to sell. It does beg the question of how you went about pricing your home. Did this busy, successful agent take the time to do a market analysis to show you what your competition is and what comparable houses in your neighborhood sold for?

Your question is what to do now. I recommend you have a serious talk with your agent, find out what his recommendations are and either cancel the listing or get a commitment from him to service your listing.

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



**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY**  
765 Portola Road  
Portola Valley, CA 94028

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing at the stated time and place to consider the following matters:

Adoption of the California Building Code, (with modifications), which includes;

- 2007 California Building Code (Part 2 of Title 24),
- 2007 California Electrical Code (Part 3 of Title 24),
- 2007 California Mechanical Code (Part 4 of Title 24),
- 2007 California Plumbing Code (Part 5 of Title 24),
- 2007 California Energy Code (Part 6 of Title 24),
- California Elevator Safety Code (Part 7 of Title 24),
- 2007 California Historical Building Code,
- 2007 California Fire Code (Part 9 of Title 24),
- 2007 California Existing Building Code (Part 10 of Title 24),
- 2007 California Referenced Standards Code (Part 12 of Title 24)

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, May 14, 2008, 8:00 p.m.

**Place:** Historic Schoolhouse - Portola Valley Town Center

The Town periodically amends Chapter 15.04 of the Municipal Code to incorporate the most recent edition of the model building code that has been adopted by the California Building Standards Commission and Chapter 15.16 of the Municipal Code to ratify amendments to the Uniform Fire Code that have been adopted by the Woodside Fire Protection District.

The Codes that are being considered for adoption are on file with the Town Clerk and are open to public inspection.

For further information, please call Gary Fitzer, Deputy Building Official, Town Hall 851-1700 ext. 13.

Published in THE ALMANAC on April 30, May 7, 2008.

## New report grades county on sustainability measures

### SUSTAIN

continued from page 5

San Francisco Bay Area is second in the nation in the popularity of hybrid vehicles.

At the same time, commuting is getting worse. Freeway congestion was up, three out of four highway commuters still drove alone, 12 percent carpoled, and 5 percent of commuters took transit.

### South County cities

All the cities in the county are taking steps to become more green and more efficient, according to the Indicators report.

Not surprisingly, the largest suburban cities in the South County were near the top of the charts that measure such things as water use, energy use, and housing affordability.

Atherton, Woodside, Hillsborough and Portola Valley topped the county in household energy use. All four burned more energy in 2006 than in 2005.

Atherton, Hillsborough, Woodside and Portola Valley also led the county in median price for a single-family home, with Atherton homes going for a median value of

\$3.5 million in 2006.

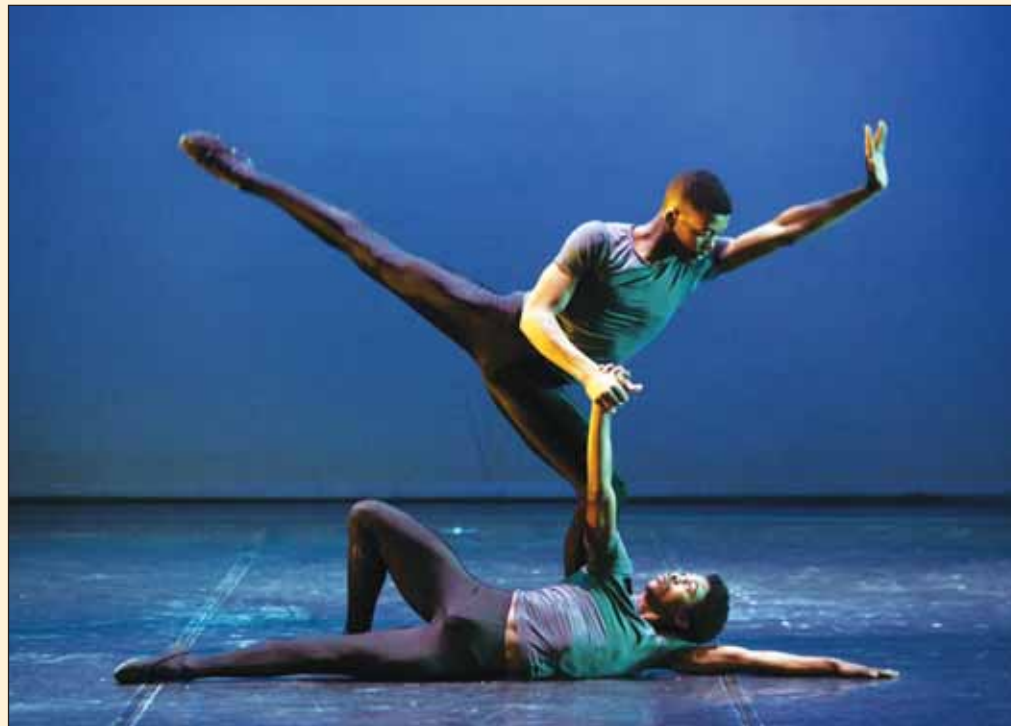
Menlo Park was fifth with almost \$1.3 million. Redwood City came in at \$885,000, and East Palo Alto at \$615,000.

Many of the cities also got credit in the report for their efforts to become more efficient and to reduce their carbon footprint.

Portola Valley led the county in solar generating capacity installed on panels and rooftops, with 621 kilowatts. Redwood City followed with 536, and Menlo Park with 391.

Menlo Park is also climbing on the green bandwagon. Among other programs, it was credited with completing an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions from community-wide and municipal sources. Major contributors to emissions were transportation, 40 percent; and energy used in commercial buildings, 27 percent. Decay at the old Marsh Road Landfill, now Bayfront Park, still contributes 10 percent of the city's carbon emissions.

For more information or copies of the report, call Sustainable San Mateo County at 638-2323 or visit [sustainablesanmateo.org](http://sustainablesanmateo.org). ■



Dance for All will give a free concert at Stanford on Tuesday, May 13.

## Ex-ballerina hosts South African dancers

### DANCE

continued from page 5

singers' repertoire includes songs from many cultures, including some in the native Xhosa language of South Africa.

The Dance for All dancers will then travel to Vancouver, British Columbia, to perform in an event called "Diversity in the Arts."

The performance at Stanford will be a reunion of sorts for the two groups, who met when Talisman performed in South Africa and had a serendipitous meeting and collaboration with Dance For All.

The Stanford performance is in the Roble Dance Studio, 375 Santa Theresa St., at 7:30 pm. It is free and will be followed by a reception to meet the artists.

During her most recent trip to South Africa, in April, Ms. Elliott arranged for Darrell Grand Moultrie, a Harlem-born black choreographer, to go with her. Ms. Elliott said she felt Mr. Moultrie would be a great role model for the students.

"Darrell was masterful when he was there," she said. While in South Africa, Mr. Moultrie created a three-part dance for the students, based in part on the recent death of one of the programs' co-founders. Ms. Elliott said the first section of the dance is



Photo by Nan Melville.

**Kristine Elliott Schwabacher** of Woodside and choreographer **Darrell Moultrie** recently traveled to South Africa to work with the Dance for All program, teaching dance to disadvantaged young township residents.

about that loss; the second is about the present and "how you go on" and "the third section is called 'Joy'."

The students will perform Mr. Moultrie's work at Stanford in addition to a "township dance" called "Pantsula" that two of the students created to commemorate their earlier trip to the U.S. The program is

called "A Sharing of Cultures Through Dance."

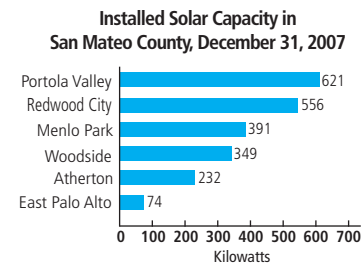
Ms. Elliott said she began having the South African dancers travel to the U.S. as an attempt to broaden their horizons and show them more of the world of professional dance. The program has been a success, she says, with two of the dancers going on to dance professionally in London and Johannesburg.

Life in the townships is not easy. "Every day there's some sort of life-threatening crisis," she says. "It wears you down."

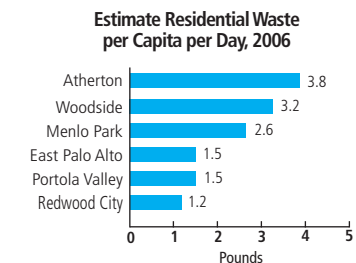
Ms. Elliott danced in Germany with the Stuttgart Ballet and then with the American Ballet Theatre in New York City under Artistic Director Mikhail Baryshnikov. She co-founded a small chamber ballet company in San Francisco before moving to Woodside, with husband Randall Schwabacher and her twin sons, and began teaching at Stanford and at the Zohar School of Dance in Palo Alto.

"I feel very fortunate, very lucky, to be a kind of continuing presence," in the Dance for All program, Ms. Elliott said. "I hope I will be able to continue to get funding to carry on." ■

*Barbara Wood is a freelance writer and photographer. She and Ms. Elliott Schwabacher are on the same Woodside softball team.*



Data source: California Energy Commission



Data sources: California Integrated Waste Management Board and the California Department of Finance

### WATER

continued from page 5

using large amounts of water, particularly in communities with big lawns and abundant landscaping. Each county resident uses 87.1 gallons per day on average. The highest usage in the county is Hillsborough, with 276.9 gallons per person per day; the lowest is the Westborough Water District in South San Francisco, with 48.8 gallons per day.

The second highest average residential water use is 185.1 gallons per day for people served by the California Water Service Co. in its Bear Gulch District. This provides water to Portola Valley, Woodside, Atherton, west Menlo Park, and adjacent unincorporated areas.

Also in South County, residents served by the Menlo Park Water Department average 130.3 gallons per day; Redwood City, 89.6; Skyline County Water District, 73.1; and East Palo Alto, 53.6.

Redwood City gets credit in the report for doing more than any other water agency in the county to conserve water and use it efficiently. It is taking these measures in part because it is already exceeding its water allocation and needs more water to serve future growth.

Among the measures Redwood City uses are: distribution of free water conservation kits, including low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators; a high-efficiency toilet-replacement program; rebates for water-efficient clothes washers; free residential water use surveys; conversion of natural grass playing fields to synthetic turf; and education programs in schools.

In addition, Redwood City started recycling wastewater in 2003 for use in landscaping in Redwood Shores and other non-potable uses. In 2007, the water-recycling program saved the city some 30 million gallons of water, the report says. ■

## Red-light runners: Menlo Park starts photo-enforcement program

■ Violators will face fines of at least \$378.

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

Red-light runners beware: Menlo Park will start a trial run of its new red-light photo enforcement system on Tuesday, May 6.

That's when cameras installed at the intersection of Willow Road and Bayfront Expressway will start snapping photos and capturing video footage of drivers who run red lights on northbound Bayfront Expressway, according to Diel Hutchins, a program manager with the Menlo Park Police Department.

For 30 days, drivers caught running red lights at the intersection will receive warnings in

### ■ INFORMATION

#### Cameras will be installed at:

- Bayfront Expressway and Willow Road.
- El Camino Real and Ravenswood Avenue.
- El Camino Real and Valparaiso Avenue.
- Sand Hill Road at the entrance to the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center.

the mail. After the trial period expires, violators will be ticketed via mail for at least \$378, Ms. Hutchins said.

Included with each ticket will be photographs of the location of the car in the intersection, the license plate of the car, and the driver's face, she said. Ticketed

drivers will also be able to go online and view video footage of their alleged violation.

Cameras will soon be installed at the intersections of El Camino Real and Ravenswood Avenue; El Camino Real and Valparaiso Avenue; and on Sand Hill Road at the entrance to the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Ms. Hutchins said. She noted that the police department will announce when the trial periods for each intersection's cameras will begin.

Public officials have stressed that the purpose of the program is to decrease accidents, but it could add up to \$500,000 a year to the city's coffers.

The camera system was approved unanimously by the City Council in November 2006. ■

## Gym gift gets council's initial support

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

All Menlo Park City Council members are jazzed about an anonymous would-be donor's offer to cover the bulk of the costs to build a new Burgess Gym, and at this point, they have no problems with keeping the donor's identity a secret from the public.

At their April 29 meeting, council members directed city staff to move ahead with a proposal by the donor to contribute at least \$8 million to the project, based on current estimates, and maybe a lot more. The donor would pay all the costs in excess of the city's share, which is \$6.2 million.

The proposed deal is contingent on these conditions: that the donor remain anonymous until the gym is built, and that the donor would pick the construction contractor and play an active role in the construction and design process.

Council members and city staff know the identity of the donor, but are not disclosing that information to the public.

Public Works Director Kent Steffens said the donor wants to remain anonymous to avoid "lots and lots of calls" from other cities looking for similar donations.

"We're fortunate to have someone come forward like this," said Mayor Andy Cohen, who blasted the notion that the council is not being transparent by keeping the donor's identity a secret.

"This is not intended to be a secret process," he said.

But some say the deal would skirt the city's usual public process, as the donor could have influence in changing the design of the gym, and the building contractor would be chosen by the anonymous donor, not through a city-led open bidding process.

City Attorney Bill McClure said the city puts construction projects out to bid to ensure the city is getting the best deal. The city would save far more by sharing construction costs with the would-be donor than by hiring its own contractor, so it likely isn't necessary to put the project out to bid, he said.

Mr. Steffens stressed that the proposal is "an offer, not a deal at this point," and the council would still have the final say on the project following the release of an environmental impact report and review by city staff and city commissions.

The donor is not looking to limit the use of the gym, Mr. Steffens said. He added that the donor does not currently have a development project proposed for Menlo Park.

### Public/private relationships

Councilman John Boyle said public/private partnerships are the "model of the future," and he encouraged the council to consider the donor's offer — a view supported by resident Michael Taylor, a former Menlo Park community services employee.

Public/private partnerships "are the wave of the future — they're the way to get things

done," said Mr. Taylor, who left the city last year to head the Saratoga Recreation Department. He said that the city owes it to supporters of Measure T, the \$38 million recreation bond measure passed in 2001, to build a state-of-the-art facility, and he said that's more doable with private funds.

No one at the meeting expressed concerns about the donor's remaining anonymous and playing a part in the construction and design process.

According to the would-be donor's plans, the gym would be constructed between the existing Burgess Recreation Center and Alma Street, Mr. Steffens said.

The gym would be big enough to hold two NBA-regulation 94-foot-long basketball courts and bleachers, Mr. Steffens said.

In addition to putting \$6.2 million toward the new gym, the city would demolish the existing gym, which is adjacent to the Burgess Aquatics Center on Laurel Street, and build a 17,400-square-foot gymnastics facility at the site. Construction costs for that project are estimated at \$11.5 million, and would be paid entirely by the city, Mr. Steffens said.

The city has an estimated \$15.8 million available to design and build the new facilities — \$9.1 million from the next Measure T bond issuance, and \$6.7 million in recreation-in-lieu funds.

The city would still need an additional \$1.9 million to cover the projected costs of building the gymnastics facility and its share of the gym. ■

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# Showdown ahead on Oak Knoll construction plan

■ District may spare huge oak tree.

By **Andrea Gemmet**  
Almanac Staff Writer

An enormous valley oak tree that's become a flashpoint for opposition to the construction planned for Oak Knoll School may be off the chopping block, according to Menlo Park City School District officials. But whether saving a tree will quell concerns about the reconfigured campus remains to be seen.

People on both sides of the \$15 million Oak Knoll project are set to converge on the school board meeting on Thursday, May 8, in the K-5 school's multi-use room. At the meeting, which starts at 7 p.m., the school board is expected to approve an environmental study that will allow the construction to begin this summer.

The project includes removing the 14 portable buildings on campus, constructing a two-story classroom building, modernizing existing classrooms and adding a two-story multi-purpose building at the north end of the school near Oak Avenue. Parking areas and the pick-up/drop-off-lane would also be reconfigured.

## ■ SCHOOLS

Some neighbors say they have been left out of the planning process and are increasingly vociferous in their criticism of aspects of the plan. Principal David Ackerman sent out a call-to-arms letter to school parents last week, urging them to support the school board by attending the meeting.

Ram Duriseti, a nearby homeowner, objected to being labeled an "opponent" and, in a letter to the Menlo Park City Council, urged city officials to stand with neighbors in questioning the Oak Knoll plan and its environmental study, called a negative declaration.

### Oak tree saved?

Superintendent Ken Ranella told The Almanac that district staff is working on a proposal to preserve the giant oak tree by reducing parking spaces in a new faculty lot to be built off Oak Avenue. Currently, the tree shades a playground and is visible from the school's frontage.

The reconfigured parking lot would go from 22 spaces down to 12, a plan that requires school board approval, Mr. Ranella said. District staff is

also working on ways to save other large trees along the perimeter of the planned athletic field, he said.

"It depends on the values of the community. Do we save trees, or maximize the field space?" he said.

Construction at Oak Knoll is slated to begin this summer and continue through fall of 2010. For the district, there's a lot riding on that timeline: in an environment of escalating construction costs, getting the project done on budget means getting it done on schedule, said school board president Bruce Ives.

District officials said that the remodeled campus would improve traffic flow and parking at the school, improve pedestrian sight-lines at a relocated crosswalk, and add more space for bicycle parking.

John Fox, a Menlo Park bicycle commissioner and member of the team that designed the school's Safe Routes to School plan, said the district has virtually ignored how children who walk and bike to school will be affected by the new campus design.

"When you look at the studies that have been done, no one is walking or biking in [the school district's] view," he said. "Everyone is driving, because these surveys and studies only look at automobiles." ■



Photo courtesy Kristen Duriseti

**This venerable oak tree**, slated for removal to make way for a new parking lot at Oak Knoll School in Menlo Park, may be saved, according to district officials. This banner, with a quote from e.e. cummings' poem, "i carry your heart with me," appeared on Arbor Day and disappeared shortly thereafter.

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## Workshop: Pets, wills and trusts

The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA is holding a free workshop Tuesday, May 6, to help people include pets in their wills or trusts. The workshop will run from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the shelter's auditorium at 12 Airport Blvd.

Attorneys Kimberley Fonner and Lori Adasiewicz will discuss how to make plans for assets with your pets in mind. For information, call 340-7022, ext. 327.

## Charges likely after teen-party melee in Portola Valley

■ Two victims were taken to the hospital.

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Formal charges are likely for the instigators of a Portola Valley melee that took place Saturday, April 19, when four teens who had been invited to a party in the 100 block of Westridge Drive were met and attacked by a larger group of other teens who were

already there and who didn't know the newcomers.

Two teens were taken to the hospital for treatment.

The five suspects are male and from local high schools, including Woodside High. None of them lives in Portola Valley, Lt. Marc Alcantera of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office said in an interview.

After being verbally harassed,

three of the four newcomers, all males, were injured as they tried to leave, Lt. Alcantera said.

The injuries included a concussion with lacerations, lacerations that required stitches, and bruises with a black eye. The police report noted that one victim had been hit on the head with a liquor bottle and another had been kicked in the head and rendered unconscious.

No one alerted the Sheriff's Office

until the next day, when one of the victims called while being treated, Lt. Alcantera said.

Alcohol was a factor, Lt. Alcantera said, adding that he did not know whether there were adults on the scene. "There is no room to have alcohol at teenage parties," he said.

Deputies are planning to revisit the scene and talk with the five suspects, he said. "We do see arrests being imminent." ■

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- Saturday, May 31
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- Saturday, May 31
- ✱ **BECOMING GRANDPARENTS**


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- Thursday, June 5
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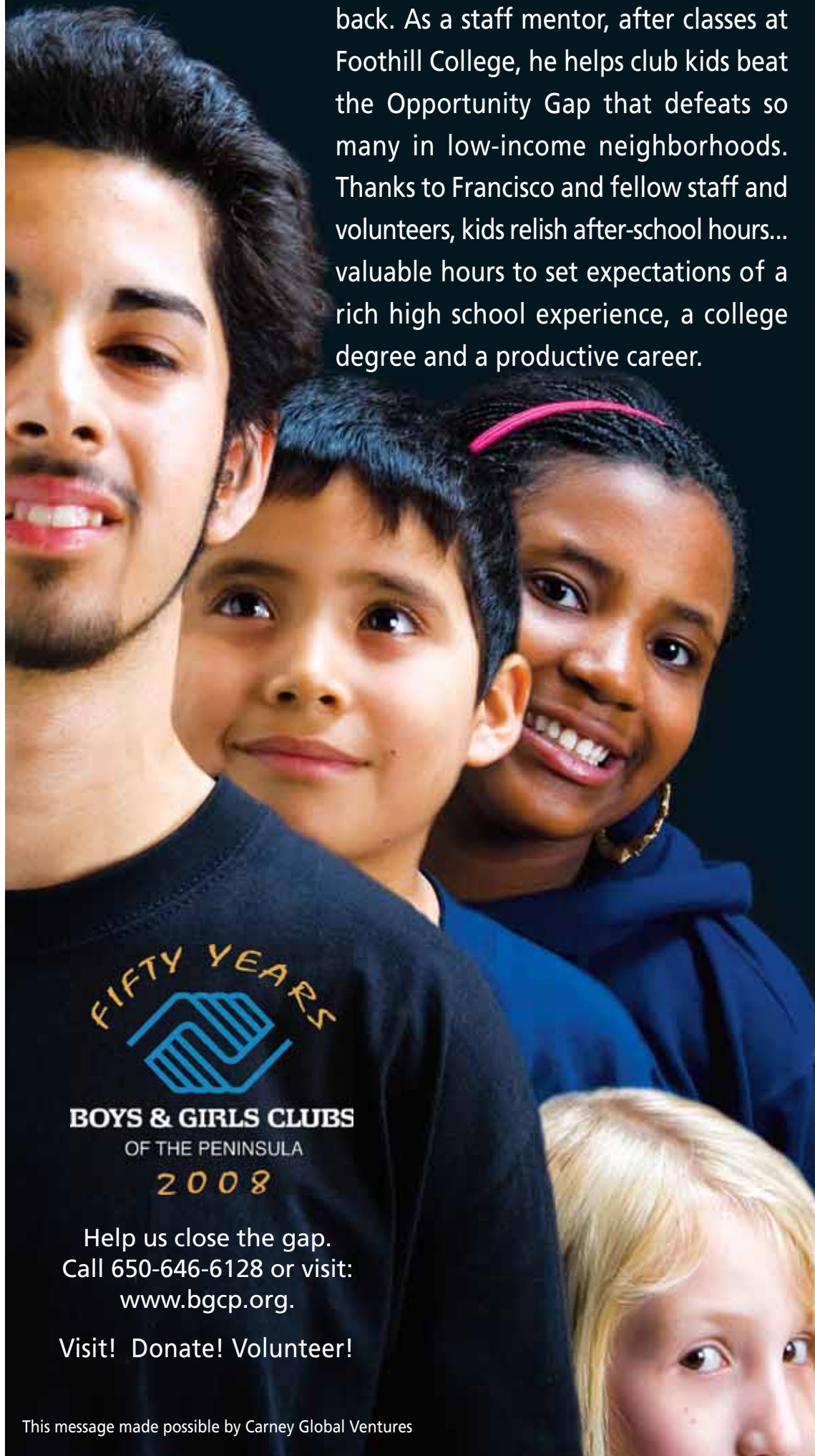
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## Deputies nab suspects in \$150,000 credit card fraud

A two-month investigation by detectives from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office has netted two suspects who allegedly stole the identity of a Woodside resident and, over two weeks in February, ran up a \$150,000 debt on the resident's credit card.

The charges against Andrew Kluchnikov, 47, of San Francisco include identity theft, burglary, theft by fraud, and possessing a false resident-alien card — a green card, said Lt. Marc Alcantera of the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Kluchnikov is in the county jail in Redwood City with bail set at \$2 million.

Also in jail is Michael Tsarevsky, 44, also of San Francisco and charged with identity theft and conspiracy. He is on no-bail status at the request of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Both men are considered flight risks, Lt. Alcantera said.

Detectives based the charges on evidence gathered at the men's homes in San Francisco, he said.

The alleged crime spree got going after a theft of the Woodside resident's mail, said Lt. Alcantera, who "strongly encourages" residents to use locking mailboxes and to report on suspicious persons seen in their neighborhoods.

## Atherton candidates expected at community forum May 15

A forum for Atherton City Council candidates Elizabeth Lewis and Jim Dob-

bie is set for the annual meeting of the Atherton Civic Interest League on Thursday, May 15, at the Pavilion in Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave. in Atherton.

ACIL members will be electing directors and officers at the beginning of the meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. Next on the agenda

See "voter guide" on Atherton council election on **Page 39**.

is Mayor Jim Janz, who will talk about the state of the town, followed by City

Manager Jerry Gruber who will talk about town operations. The candidate forum is set to start at 7:45 p.m. and should run for about an hour.

The ACIL is a nonprofit organization that is open to all residents. More information is at [www.athertoncivicinterestleague.org](http://www.athertoncivicinterestleague.org).

## Two community meetings planned on Sudden Oak Death concerns

Residents of Portola Valley and Woodside concerned about Sudden Oak Death, a contagious pathogen that is particularly dangerous to live oaks and tan oaks, are invited to two community events dealing with the disease.

### One-day session

From 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, May 8, at the Thomas Fogerty Winery, the morning session will include a lecture on the disease, with hands-on opportunities in the afternoon that address identifying SOD symptoms, how to treat infected trees, and related horticultural practices.

The winery is located at 19501 Skyline Blvd. in Woodside. To register for the event, go to [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org), click on the "Spring 2008 Wildland Trainings" link, and then on the "Register here" link.

### Weekend session

A three-day community event will include instructions on how to recognize SOD and collect samples, followed by opportunities to actually go out and get

samples and bring them back to have them analyzed.

The instructional meeting takes place at 7 p.m. Friday, May 9, in the Woodside Town Hall at 2955 Woodside Road. Over the next two days, participants can gather field samples and bring them back to Town Hall for diagnosis by lab technicians from the University of California at Berkeley.

SOD can be spread to uninfected trees by wind; rainwater; carriers such as rhododendrons, camellias and bay laurel trees; and contaminated objects such as tools, tires and shoes. More information is available at the Web site, [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org).

For more information on this event, Portola Valley residents can contact Leslie Lambert at 851-1700, ext. 12, or [llambert@portolavalley.net](mailto:llambert@portolavalley.net).

Woodside residents can contact Kevin Bryant at 851-6790 or [kbryant@woodsidetown.org](mailto:kbryant@woodsidetown.org).

Information is also available from Fire Marshal Denise Enea of the Woodside Fire Protection District at 851-6206 or [denea@woodsidefire.org](mailto:denea@woodsidefire.org).

# 5

## things to know about **Elizabeth Lewis** Candidate, Atherton Council



### **Elizabeth's family and community ties.**

Elizabeth and her husband Joe have lived in Atherton for 10 years and her roots run deep in the area. A 44-year resident of the Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Atherton communities, she attended Palo Alto High School and San Jose State University and has nearly 25 years of professional and community service. She has a blended family of 4 adult children and 4 grandchildren who all live in the area.

### **Elizabeth's professional career has prepared her for the Atherton Council.**

For nearly 25 years, Elizabeth's career has been in the world of Commercial Real Estate. Beginning as a leasing agent and now, together with her husband, she owns one of the 10 largest commercial real estate operating firms in Silicon Valley. Her expertise is directing challenging projects and negotiating successful outcomes – a job that has prepared her well for the Atherton Council.

### **Elizabeth can "Go the Distance."**

A long-distance runner and athlete, Elizabeth's proven track record is that she can "Go the Distance" in the Council meetings. She has twice won her age group in the Palo Alto Moonlight run, has run three marathons, including qualifying for and finishing the Boston Marathon. Whatever project she takes on, she does with dedication, high energy, and commitment. You will be able to depend on Elizabeth to go the distance for her neighbors on the Atherton City Council.

### **Elizabeth's 20+ years of Community Service.**

- Elizabeth helped organize the "Committee for Better Schools" a Palo Alto-based grassroots effort responsible for stopping the closure of Gunn High School and re-opening Jordan Middle School.
- Elizabeth was Board President for the non-profit Miramonte Mental Health Services and helped obtain a bond to fund the purchase of their facilities, securing their financial future.
- An active member of her church, Elizabeth is the past President of VOCE choir group.
- Elizabeth co-chaired and helped coordinate the 21-year-long StraightTalk Speaker series which ended in 2007.
- In 2005, Elizabeth volunteered on the successful Measure W campaign to renew Atherton's Parcel tax which passed by a margin of 80 percent.
- Elizabeth currently serves on the Creative Entrepreneur Project Steering Committee for the City of San Jose, which promotes the arts and artists in Silicon Valley.
- Since 2006, Elizabeth has served as a member of Atherton's General Plan Committee.

### **Elizabeth will bring a fresh perspective to local government.**

For too long, there have been the same voices on the Council and on key committees and commissions. Elizabeth will bring a fresh perspective to the Council, one that focuses on fiscal accountability and responsibility, and one that will represent all of Atherton – rather than one special interest group. Elizabeth will work to ensure that adequate advance notice is given to residents on meetings and important opportunities to become involved. She will bring a spirit of partnership between the citizens of Atherton and the Council.

# woodside springs

STORY BY ANDREA GEMMET  
PHOTOS BY VERONICA WEBER

*Horses and humans  
gussy up for the  
86th May Day parade*

Where else but in Woodside could you find marching bands and mobile chicken coops, baton twirlers and goats in baby carriages, all parading down a state highway on the first Saturday in May?

May Day may mean worker's rallies and immigration demonstrations in other places, but for the past 86 years in Woodside, it's meant costumed school kids and wobbly pony carts, fire engines, favorite pets and flower garlands.

This year's parade, held Saturday, May 3, wasn't much different.

Maybe it was the perfect spring weather that brought out so many people to line Woodside Road for the parade this year. There were Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, 4-H kids and the Woodside-Carlton Robotics Team, Guide Dogs for the Blind and nursery school families. Equestrians in smart uniforms trotted down the street on well-behaved steeds — except for one spooked horse that lent a momentary frisson of danger to an otherwise G-rated event.

The Los Trancos Woods Community Marching Band was resplendent in its usual array of zany costumes, but it begged the question: Is a beer helmet or a rubber-snake embellished sombrero really any weirder than the Woodside High School band's official headgear?

The tiny May Day queen and her royal court of Woodside Elementary School kindergartners (chosen randomly from among their classmates) rode triumphantly aboard Old Tom, Menlo Park's vintage fire engine, while their classmates marched through a cloud of the old truck's exhaust. Sheepish eighth-graders acted out roles they will soon fill for real — that of high school students — as they previewed this year's operetta performance

of "Disney's High School Musical."

This year, Woodside Town Council members dumped motor vehicles in favor of a horse, ridden by Deborah Gordon, and bicycles ridden by Mayor Ron Romines and Dave Burow. The two men wore signs on their backs, saying, respectively, "Town Council Supports" and "Eco-Friendly Transportation."

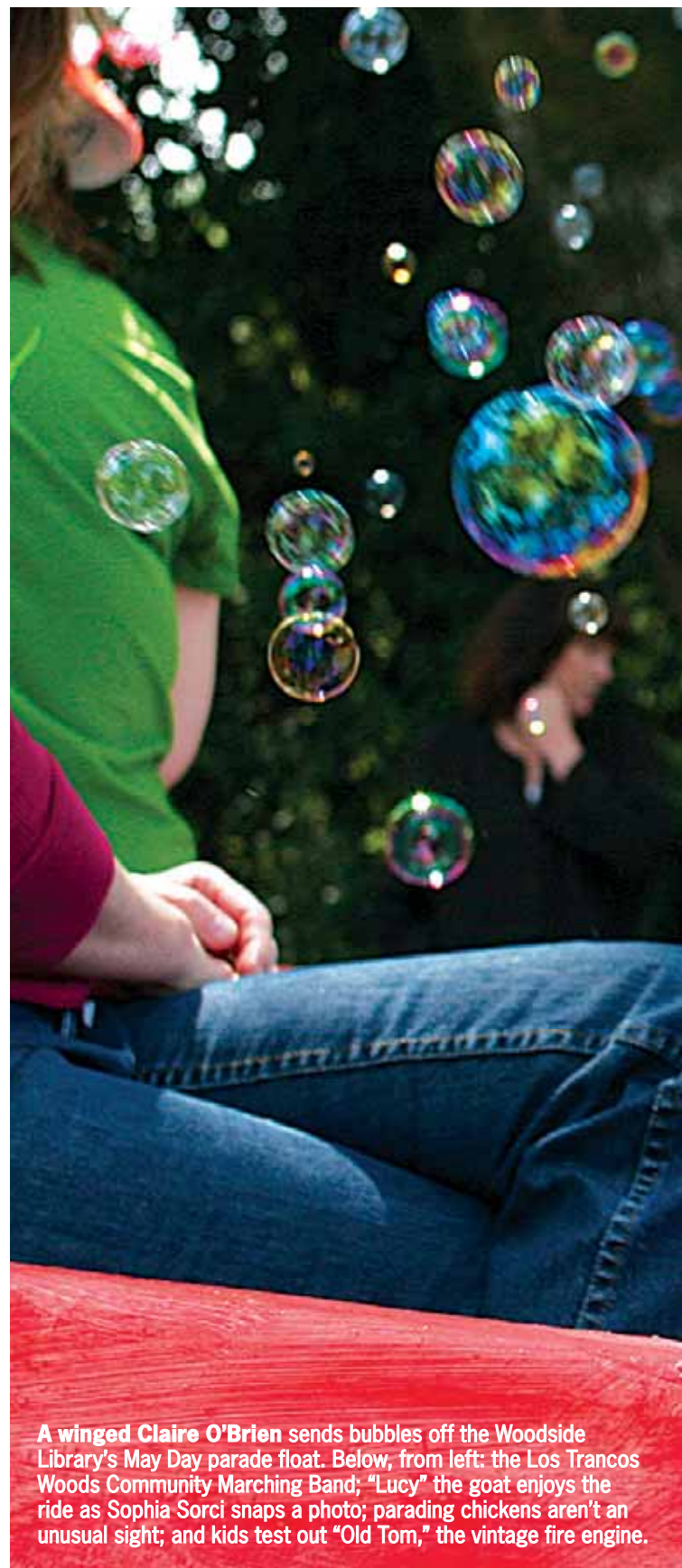
The dichotomy between being cool and green, and just being cool was especially evident in two school floats. The Woodside school board rode in a Hummer, while the school foundation waved

*But for the past 86 years  
in Woodside, it's meant  
costumed school kids and  
wobbly pony carts, fire  
engines, favorite pets and  
flower garlands.*

from an electric vehicle. Parade Grand Marshal Dan Vinson, the school's superintendent and principal, rode in a classic red Mustang convertible. The parade's "Jazz" theme was subtle, mostly limited to Mardi Gras beads and musical notes. The parade's music wasn't terribly jazzy either, with Motown dominating the morning's soundtrack. Kids dashed to catch soap bubbles coming from the Woodside Library's float almost as eagerly as they scrambled for the candy flung to bystanders.

Anne Dickey Schoebel, the parade's perennial emcee, encouraged and cajoled, vamped effortlessly during lulls and generally kept things moving.

"Are you enjoying the parade? What's your favorite part?" Ms. Dickey Schoebel asked a youngster standing on the sidelines. "The candy," came the unhesitating reply. ■



A winged Claire O'Brien sends bubbles off the Woodside Library's May Day parade float. Below, from left: the Los Trancos Woods Community Marching Band; "Lucy" the goat enjoys the ride as Sophia Sorci snaps a photo; parading chickens aren't an unusual sight; and kids test out "Old Tom," the vintage fire engine.







**Daran Rhineholm** accepts her "Citizen of the Year" award from Bettina Pike, president of the Woodside Elementary School board, as Kerri Stenson, one of the event's organizers, looks on.

## woodside's top citizen

**D**aran Rhineholm took home the annual "Citizen of the Year" award, the highest honor given out by the Woodside Elementary School's Parent-Teacher Association.

Just before an especially spirited May Pole dance by the school's third-graders, Ms. Rhineholm, the mother of a

fifth-grader and eighth-grader, took the amphitheater stage. "She puts her heart and mind into everything she does," said Kerri Stenson, the May Day carnival's chairperson, as she announced the award.

From field trips to parent education events, after-school programs to community service activities, Ms. Rhineholm has put in a lot of hard work for the school and its students, Ms. Stenson said.

She credited Ms. Rhineholm with helping start the school's first Girl

Scouts Brownie troop, running the printer ink and cartridge recycling program, doubling raffle ticket sales and coordinating volunteers for the eighth-grade operetta. Ms. Rhineholm is also part of Huddart Park's docent program, and active in 4-H, Ms. Stenson said.

---

*'She puts her heart and mind into everything she does.'*

KERRI STENSON




**From left:** Woodside operetta actresses dressed as cheerleaders to rally the crowd; Art Lesser, astride "Charlie," waits with fellow Mounted Patrol members; and Woodside High School's marching band performs "Play That Funky Music (White Boy)."

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## Local climate experts headline forum

By Rory Brown  
Almanac Staff Writer

Stanford climate scientist Dr. Michael Mastrandrea and Portola Valley climate action leader Dr. Armand Neukermans are scheduled to talk about the effects climate change will have on the Bay Area at a forum on Saturday, May 10, hosted by Menlo Park's Green Ribbon Citizens' Committee.

The forum will run from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Burgess Recreation at 700 Alma St.

### ■ MENLO WATCH

The event will focus on the effect of global warming on the everyday lives of Bay Area residents, and what actions residents can take to avoid the projected impacts, according to a Green Ribbon Citizens' Committee press release.

Dr. Manstrandrea, a scholar at the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford, is co-author of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — the group recently awarded a Nobel Prize.

Dr. Neukermans is a member of the Portola Valley Ranch Homeowners' Association, which contracted with solar power provider SolarCity to negotiate a bulk discount of solar panels for Portola Valley residents — an offer that was extended to Menlo Park and Atherton residents.

For more information about the event, and the Green Ribbon Citizens' Committee, send an e-mail to [mpgrcc@gmail.com](mailto:mpgrcc@gmail.com) or call 618-1468.

### Goats are back

Menlo Park's natural weed eaters are back.

To take the place of noisy mechanical equipment, the city has brought in several hundred goats to eat tall weeds and grass in city parks.

The goats, along with an on-site shepherd and herding dogs, will be at Sharon Hills Park off Valparaiso Avenue just west of Alameda de las Pulgas for about two weeks before moving to the undeveloped section of Sharon Park at Monte Rosa and Sharon Park drives.

Visitors are welcome to come see the goats, but are asked to keep their dogs leashed. ■

## Supes put off decision on county parks master plan

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

If the gate into Huddart Park on Greer Road in Woodside were closed and locked during the day, park employees would have to stop and unlock it before entering or leaving the park. Bicyclists would have to line up single file to get through the pedestrian entrance.

These extra steps may annoy rangers and cyclists, but probably not the park's Woodside neighbors, who are themselves mightily annoyed by the volume of vehicle and bike traffic through that gate via the narrow lane that is Greer Road.

San Mateo County supervisors and Woodside critics of a county parks master plan welcomed Supervisor Rich Gordon's idea of replacing a padlocked open gate with one that is locked closed and controlled by a key pad. Mr. Gordon made his suggestion at an April 22 public hearing on the 20-year master plan for Huddart and Wunderlich parks, both of which share borders with Woodside.

The supervisors gave the county Parks Department and the town of Woodside until June 3 to resolve long-standing differences over possible impacts of the master plan. The board had been set to vote on approving the master plan and the plan's overall environmental impact report.

"A decision will be made on June 3," Supervisor Jerry Hill remarked in a last word.

Traffic on Greer Road was one of three "outstanding issues of concern" with Woodside. Another is that adding lights to Folger stables in Wunderlich Park and replacing a picnic area in Huddart Park will lead to increased problems with

traffic, noise and illegal parking.

"There is clearly a perception on the part of the town and the (town) council that less than full consideration has been given" to Woodside's concerns, Mayor Ron Romines told the supervisors at the public hearing.

Park officials discounted the third concern, that equestrians might be forced to use a yet-to-be-built bridge to cross West Union Creek because of park objections to in-stream crossings. The Parks Department is fine with in-stream crossings as long as regional water authorities don't object, parks director David Holland told the supervisors.

Woodside Councilwoman Sue Boynton saw "a course correction" in the supervisors' decision to wait before approving the park plan. "The Board of Supervisors is sensitive to stakeholders, and Woodside is an important stakeholder in this," she said.

Woodside Town Manager Susan George concurred. "What I picked up today was a willingness, at the highest levels of the county, to address our specific concerns," she said after the meeting. "I saw movement today, and openness, and we're as committed as the Board of Supervisors seems to be in working out the remaining issues."

Will a remote-controlled locked gate be enough to mollify residents along Greer Road? "I'm going to find out," Ms. George said, repressing a smile. "We'll have to wait and see."

To see the master plan, go to the home page of San Mateo County at [www.co.sanmateo.ca.us](http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us) and click on "Departments," then "Parks Department," then "Parks Planning." ■

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## Restitution ordered in PV fatality

A former Spring Down Equestrian Center horse groomer who last year drove a pickup truck into a tree in Portola Valley while intoxicated, killing one passenger and severely injuring another, was ordered on April 22 to pay restitution to the victims.

Ignacio Hernandez Flores, now in state prison after a March 6 plea agreement, will be fined as determined by the probation department, said Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe in a daily briefing on activity in San Mateo County Superior Court.

In his plea agreement, Mr. Flores agreed to charges of vehicular manslaughter and felony drunken driving, and will serve a prison term of four years and eight months, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

The solo-vehicle accident occurred at 12:40 a.m. on April 1, 2007, near the intersection of Portola and Family Farm roads. The passengers in the truck, also horse groomers at Spring Down, were Marco Hernandez-Lopez, 27, who died at the scene, and Eduardo Bello Lucatero, 29, who suffered major head and chest trauma, Lt. Ken Jones of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office said at the time.

The truck had so impacted the tree that medics from the Woodside Fire Protection District had to use the Jaws of Life tool to extract the victims from the vehicle, Lt. Jones said.

Mr. Flores was sentenced by Superior Court Judge Clifford Cretan.

## ■ DANCE

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# Styrofoam food containers banned at county facilities

Starting July 1, Styrofoam food containers are out — at least in food facilities operated by San Mateo County, or on land owned or leased by the county.

Under an ordinance adopted by the Board of Supervisors on April 22, even vendors at the Coyote Point Museum and the San Mateo County Event Center will have to put their takeout orders in containers that are biodegradable, compostable, re-usable, or recyclable.

The reason: Polystyrene, which often appears in foam under the trademark Styrofoam, has become a major environmental pollutant, according to Supervisor Adrienne Tissier, who introduced the proposed ordinance in February. It doesn't degrade, can't be recycled, and usually isn't re-usable.

Polystyrene is "very difficult, very expensive" to recycle, said Bill Chiang, Ms. Tissier's aide. He noted that polystyrene also appears in clear plastic food containers stamped with a triangle around a number 6.

"The county should lead the way in the protection of the natural environment, the economy, and the health of its citizens," said Supervisor Tissier, who presented the ordinance for adoption on Earth Day.

If the Styrofoam ban is successful in county-owned or leased facilities, the board may extend it. In that case, "I would recommend considering an ordinance that would apply to food service providers located in the county's unincorporated areas," Supervisor Tissier said.



Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

## Woodside's Green Fair

Woodside resident Ian Wright chats while sitting atop his X1 prototype electric vehicle, a 112 mph, street-legal, battery-powered racer that he designed. Mr. Wright, the chief executive of privately held Wrightspeed Inc., spent the afternoon of April 20 at Woodside's annual Green Fair, held this year at the Woodside Elementary School.

➤ Continued from previous page

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**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY**  
765 Portola Road  
Portola Valley, CA 94028

The Town Council for the Town of Portola Valley will consider entry into a new contract with GreenWaste Recovery, Inc., its current refuse collection and disposal service provider, at its regular meeting of:

Wednesday, May 14, 2008  
8:00 p.m.

The Historic Schoolhouse  
765 Portola Road  
Portola Valley, CA

The proposed contract is available at Town Hall at the above address for anyone interested in reviewing its content.

For more information, please contact Janet McDougall at (650) 851-1700, ext. 18 or through e-mail at [jmcdougall@portolavalley.net](mailto:jmcdougall@portolavalley.net).

Published in THE ALMANAC on May 7, 14, 2008.

## Check online for PV schools election results

The results of the all-mail Portola Valley school board election will be posted on the county elections site, [shapethefuture.org](http://shapethefuture.org), at 8:05 p.m. Tuesday, May 6, just minutes after the deadline to return ballots, said David Tom, the county's elections manager.

TheAlmanacOnline.com will also post election night stories and results.

Two candidates — Dr. David Morris, a physician and researcher, and Bill Youstra, an Internet production and media

consultant — are vying for a seat on the five-member elementary school district board. The seat has been vacant since board member Donna Carano resigned Oct. 17.

The candidates are running to serve the remainder of her term, which ends in December 2009.

Mr. Tom said his elections department has a head start because the law allows election workers to begin opening and checking the mail ballots seven days before the election. The

ballots are tallied by a machine.

As of May 1, a total 1,310 ballots were received — about 26 percent of the 4,982 ballots mailed to all registered voters in the school district, said Mr. Tom. He said the voting percentage may reach the 30.7 turnout for the Nov. 6 school board election, when 1,519 votes were cast.

Ballots must be received by the elections office — not just postmarked — by the 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 6, deadline. In addition to mailing the ballots, voters can drop them off during business hours until 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 6, in a locked box at the Portola Valley Town Hall, 765 Portola Road. Business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Voters can also take them to the elections office at 40 Tower Road in San Mateo until 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 6.

Voters may check to see that their ballots have been received by calling the elections office at 312-5222 and pressing zero; or by going to [www.shapethefuture.org](http://www.shapethefuture.org) and clicking the "Track" button in the area devoted to the Portola Valley School District election.



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*Tom LeMieux*  
#1 Coldwell Banker Agent



## Workshop: Future of transportation

People interested in helping steer the Bay Area toward a better transportation future are invited to participate in a planning workshop Tuesday, May 13, from 6 to 8 p.m., in the San Mateo County Supervisors Chambers, at 400 County Center (corner of Hamilton and Bradford streets) in Redwood City.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is seeking public input on its Transportation 2035 Plan, due to be adopted in 2009. Titled “Change in Motion,” the plan is intended to promote sustainability and mobility for residents 25 years from now and beyond.

“Right now the Transportation 2035 Plan is a work in progress,” said MTC Chair Bill Dodd, a Napa County supervisor. “We’d like to hear from Bay Area residents about their transportation priorities.”

The San Mateo County meeting in Redwood City is one of nine meetings scheduled in Bay Area counties during May.

Those interested in attending should RSVP by sending an e-mail to [info@mts.ca.gov](mailto:info@mts.ca.gov) or calling 510-817-5981. Leave name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and the workshop you plan to attend.

For more information, go to [mts.ca.gov/T2035](http://mts.ca.gov/T2035).

The Almanac

# Community

NEWS OF LOCAL PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

## Dickinson's life and poetry focus of library program

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

"Tell all the Truth but tell it slant—"

Can any other line from the nearly 1,780 poems of Emily Dickinson sum up her approach to poetry any better?

Probably not, says Jim Balderston of Portola Valley, who will present a free program on "Miss Emily" at 1:30 p.m. Monday, May 12, at the Menlo Park Library.

"She wrote 'slant'—she doesn't describe something directly," Mr. Balderston says. "She's always approaching things from a different angle ... and she startles you" with new ways of seeing things, he adds.

All True, but alas, who reads "slant" these days?

Not to worry, Mr. Balderston says. He's prepared to help the audience at his presentation break the code of Dickinson's elusive verse, though he warns: "You can't just sweep in and go out (when approaching her work); you've got to spend time with her. I hope I can get people interested in spending the time with her, because it's very rewarding."

Mr. Balderston, who attracted large audiences with his previous library presentations on Walt Whitman and Ernest Hemingway, will begin his Dickinson program by explaining his tried-and-true process for enjoying poetry in general, and Dickinson's in particular.

He'll then explore the poet's era, life and character, and how



Emily Dickinson and Jim Balderston

they affected her work, he says. The program will conclude with a reading of her poems.

"Miss Emily is challenging, but the more time you spend with her, the more you get out of it, and the more enamored you become of her," says Mr. Balderston. She was a "startlingly original poet of great power ... an extraordinary individual—and provocative," he says. "Once you get into her, she won't let you go."

Mr. Balderston minored in literature at Dartmouth University, but his working life was devoted to the world of technical sales, venture capital and the semiconductor industry. Now retired, he has taken a number of extension courses in literature from Stanford and UC Berkeley.

In an earlier interview with The Almanac, Mr. Balderston said he never lost his love of literature, and always kept his novels and other non-work-related books close by, even when traveling on the job.

"I'm a great believer that literature—and particularly poetry—can relieve the pressure of work and of life," he said.

The May 12 program is supported by the Friends of the Menlo Park Library. The library is at 800 Alma St. ■

## Menlo students bring back the 1950s

Menlo School drama students will present the musical, "Grease," for two more outdoor performances Friday and Sunday, May 9 and 11, on the Upper School Quad lawn, 50 Valparaiso Ave. in Atherton.

Gates open at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. Theatergoers are advised to dress warmly for lawn seating and encouraged to bring along picnics, blankets, low camp chairs, pillows and

sleeping bags. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$10 for adults.

An upbeat rock-and-roll romp, "Grease" takes a look back at the rebellious teenage years of the 1950s at fictional Rydell High School. The musical follows the roller coaster romance of Danny Zuko, leader of the Burger Palace Boys (played by Kerry Fier), and Sandy Dumbrowski, the new girl in town (played by Adriana Kwicinski).

## May sightings

"Peach Blossoms" by Gladys Robinson is among the works on exhibit through May at Portola Art Gallery at Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park. Other artists showing work in the "A Day in May" exhibit are Karen Barone, Katherine McGuire, Kim Lordier, Alan McGee, Linda Patterson, Lindy Duncan, Julia Seelos, Barbara von Haunalter and Alice Weil. A reception is set for Saturday, May 10, from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call 321-0220 or go to [portolaartgallery.com](http://portolaartgallery.com).



## 'TV Land' theme for MP schools auction

"Step into TV Land" is the theme of this year's fundraising auction for the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation. The event starts at 5 p.m. Saturday, May 17, at Menlo College.

The party will highlight TV shows from the 1960s through the 1980s, said Lois Giovacchini, executive director of the foundation. There will be silent and live

auctions, food, dancing, a raffle, and a live game show, she said. Auction items include trips, tickets to sporting events, and parties.

This year there is an online auction through May 15 with many items available for bidding only online, at [mpaef.org/tvland](http://mpaef.org/tvland).

Tickets to the party, at \$150 each, may still be available at [mpaef.org/tvland](http://mpaef.org/tvland). The event is expected to

sell out, Ms. Giovacchini said.

Last year, about 800 people attended the auction and raised about \$500,000 for the Menlo Park City School District, she said.

The district enrolls 2,325 students at four schools: Laurel, Encinal, Oak Knoll and Hillview Middle. More information on the foundation is available at [mpaef.org](http://mpaef.org).

## Summit Prep recognized by charter schools association

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Wednesday, April 23, was a banner day for Summit Preparatory High School in Redwood City: That's when school administrators learned that their school was one of 17 newly "certified" charter schools, a designation conferred by the California Charter Schools Association as a way to validate a school's academic performance and its fiscal and organizational stability.

Summit Prep, now in its fifth year of operation, enrolls about 400 students in grades nine through 12, including 134 students from Atherton, Menlo Park, Woodside and Portola Valley, said Gary Larson, a spokesman for the state association.

Summit applied to the state association for the certification, Executive Director Diane Tavenner told the Almanac. Only an accredited school can be certified, she said, adding that a school must show financial soundness and evidence of good governance and student performance. It also must undergo a peer review from the charter school community.

In Summit's class of 2007, 96 percent of the seniors were accepted to four-year colleges

and universities, Mr. Larson said in a statement. In the current class, that acceptance rate is 98 percent. "Their clear focus on college preparation is best exemplified through the school's outstanding college acceptance rates," he said.

Charter schools were set up by the state in the early 1990s as vehicles for educational experimentation. As such, they are publicly funded, but not governed by the state's education code. Their teachers tend to have more freedom than their counterparts in traditional schools, and the schools often provide a small-school environment in which parents are highly involved.

San Mateo County is home to 12 charter schools, Mr. Larson

said. Summit Prep led public schools in the county in the 2006-07 school year with an academic performance index of 841, according to state records.

API scores help the state set goals for schools. Any school with a score below 800 on a scale of 200 to 1,000 is asked to improve its score the next year, often by a number less than 10.

Of the Summit Prep students represented by that API, 56 percent were white, 29 percent Hispanic, 8 percent Asian, and 6 percent were either on the federal free lunch program or had parents who did not graduate from high school or both, according to state records. Some 21 percent were from homes where the primary language is not English. ■

## New exhibit in Woodside

Blacksmithing will be the subject of the new exhibit at the Woodside Community Museum that's opening Sunday, May 11. The museum is open from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. each Sunday or by appointment, 851-1294.

Photo by Barbara Wood



## County focuses on housing issues

The Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County will observe Affordable Housing Week from Monday, May 10, to Saturday, May 17, with a variety of events highlighting successes and issues related to providing affordable housing in the county.

Events include a grand opening, a groundbreaking, several seminars, a legislative breakfast, and a bus tour. There will be a session with

California Housing Director Lynne Jacobs about permanent funding for affordable housing; a training session on housing elements for housing advocates; and a workshop on foreclosure prevention.

For information, call the Housing Leadership Council at 872-4444 or go to [hlscmc.org](http://hlscmc.org).

The public is also invited to join an online discussion of housing in the county by visiting [threshold2008.org](http://threshold2008.org).

## Registration time for AYSO soccer

By John Takayama

AYSO soccer

The registration process is starting for new and returning soccer players in AYSO Region 109, serving the Menlo Park and Atherton areas. All players born between Aug. 1, 1989, and January 31, 2004, are welcome to join us for our 2008 season, which starts in September and runs through the fall.

AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) is a nationwide nonprofit organization that does not require tryouts. Anyone can register and all players participate.

Last year, about 1,600 children and teenagers played on Region 109 teams.

The registration process begins online at [www.mpsoccer.org](http://www.mpsoccer.org), where parents enter or update their children's information, sign up for a volunteer job, and print out the forms.



Photo by Stephen Pang

Menlo Park/Atherton AYSO players Peter Diller, left, and Rex Bressler go for the ball last fall at Hillview Middle School field.

Then, go to a walk-in registration to hand in forms and pay fees of \$115 (\$85 for kinderleague players born between Aug. 1, 2002, and Jan. 31, 2004).

The parents of new players,

### SPORTS

including most kinderleaguers and others who have not played in our region previously, must also bring proof of age, such as a passport or birth certificate, to registration.

Parents who volunteered as coaches or referees in 2007 and plan to coach or officiate in 2008 can simply mail in their forms and checks after pre-registering. No need to show up at registration.

The dates for the walk-in registration are on two Saturdays, May 10 and May 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Hillview Middle School library (Santa Cruz and Elder avenues in Menlo Park).

Bring signed registration forms, fees (checks only), and proof of age for all new players. We will also be collecting soccer uniforms from previous years to send to children around the world.

For more information, go to [www.mpsoccer.org](http://www.mpsoccer.org).

## Pop Warner football: Vikings sign up players

Registration is still open for the Menlo-Atherton Vikings 2008 Pop Warner football season, although rosters will be assembled during the next few weeks.

Coaches are expecting a turnout close to the 160 players who participated on six Vikings teams last year, ranging in age from 5

(Tiny-Mites) to 14 (Midgets).

Equipment distribution begins July 29 at the Menlo-Atherton High School field, with first practice on Aug. 4. The annual Kickoff Jamboree is scheduled for Aug. 31, and games begin on Sept. 6.

"We're looking forward to

another great season," team president Bob Williams said, "and another run deep into the Peninsula Conference playoffs."

Information is available at (650) 562-1950, or via e-mail at [info@mapopwarner.com](mailto:info@mapopwarner.com).

—Jim Gallagher, Vikings Boosters

## Fourth grade All-Stars win Silicon Valley tourney

By Jeff Tripaldi

Assistant Coach

The Redwood City National Junior Basketball fourth grade All Star team, known as the Grizzlies, experienced an All Star Season for the ages.

The team was made up of six Menlo Park residents, one Woodside resident, two Atherton residents, two Portola Valley residents, and one San Carlos resident.

The team's six-week all star season began with a Silicon Valley Tournament in March and ended with an April trip to the National NJB All Star Tournament in Los Angeles.

The Grizzlies won the Silicon Valley Championship by going 6-0 over the course of two week-end tournaments with wins over teams from Los Gatos, Los Altos, San Jose/Almaden, Willow Glen, and Palo Alto.

The Silicon Valley Chapter fourth grade section was made up of about 900 kids this year. Winning the Silicon Valley Championship qualified the Grizzlies for the top division of the National Junior Tournament in Los Angeles, which draws from over 103 sections



The Grizzlies are, top, from right: Mason Randall, Scott Harris, Kailen Kirshner, Justin Harmon and Andrew Daschbach; bottom, from right: Nick O'Donnell, Lucas Fioretti, Kyle Bryan, Garrett McCarthy and Christian Fioretti. Not pictured: Maxton Mauney.

nationwide.

The Grizzlies success continued in the Los Angeles Tournament with four consecutive wins over teams from Encinitas (San Diego County), Campo Dana (Orange County), Tracy/Stockton and Las Vegas.

This put the Grizzlies in the national championship game in which the Grizzlies lost in a thrilling overtime contest. This All Star season to remember included

10 consecutive victories, a Silicon Valley Championship, and a runner-up finish in the national tournament in Los Angeles.

The Grizzlies players are Kyle Bryan, Andrew Daschbach, Lucas Fioretti, Christian Fioretti, Justin Harmon, Scott Harris, Kailen Kirshner, Garrett, McCarthy, Maxton Mauney, Nick O'Donnell, and Mason Randall. The coaches were Jeff Randall, Mark Daschbach and Jeff Tripaldi.

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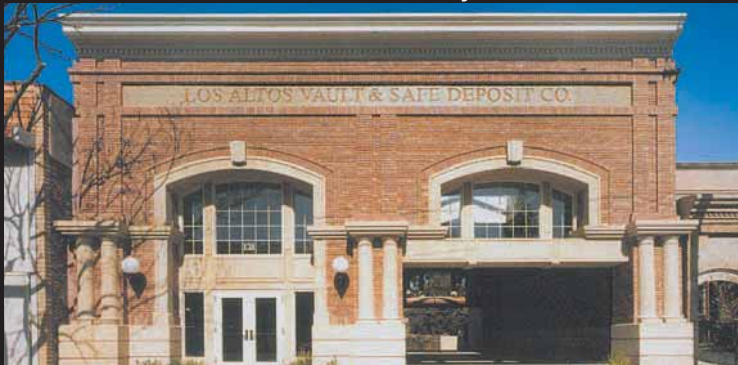
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Photo by Teri Chilton

## Thanks, Bianchini's

Corte Madera students created this banner to thank Kevin Bianchini for his market's continuing support of classrooms in the Portola Valley School District. Bianchini's, located in the Ladera shopping center on Alpine Road, is the top contributor to the district as a participating merchant in the Escrip program. Its donation surpassed \$16,000 for the 2006-07 school year. Last December Bianchini's increased its contribution percentages, which promises to make the contribution for this school year even higher. Each time a shopper enrolled in the Escrip program makes a purchase at the market, using a debit or credit card, the school district receives a percentage of the sale.

## County collects expired, unwanted pills

From September 2006 through March 2008, San Mateo County collected 5,950 pounds — almost three tons — of expired or unwanted pills and medicines at 13 police stations, from Atherton to Daly City, county officials say.

These are pills and medications that otherwise might have been flushed down the toilet, ended up in landfills, or remained in cabinets where they could be misused by inattentive patients, children, or young people seeking highs.

Now Supervisor Adrienne Tisser, who launched the program,

wants more people to participate, and more cities to offer their police stations as drug drop-off points.

She noted that recent reports have highlighted the presence of pharmaceuticals in drinking water supplies across the country. "We have to deal with pharmaceuticals in our water before it becomes a crisis," said Ms. Tisser, who is president of the Board of Supervisors.

For South County residents, the closest drop-off is the Atherton police station at 83 Ashfield Road. The container is available 24 hour a day, seven days a week.



## Swinging high

Menlo-Atherton High School junior Nick Sako, 16, recently advanced to the quarterfinals of the San Francisco City Men's Golf Championships at Harding Park, but lost to his friend Martin Trainer of Gunn High School. At M-A, Sako was voted team MVP and earned first team all-league honors in his freshman and sophomore years, and is now team captain. Last year, he won the Peninsula Athletic League championship individual title at Crystal Springs.

## Park fees to rise

Groups using San Mateo County parks, picnic grounds and shelters may see a modest increase in fees starting Monday, May 5. Entry fees will not change.


The new fee schedule, approved by the Board of Supervisors April 22, will cover the costs of a new automated reservation system to be put in place in May. There will be a new \$7 fee for online reservations.

New fees will primarily affect group picnic and shelter sites, Youth Day Camp, and the Jack Brook Horse Camp, said parks director David Holland. The biggest increase will be for the big picnic shelters, where the minimum fee will rise from \$160 to \$300.

The new fees will bring in about \$10,000 a year more to offset rising costs to operate county parks. For more information, call the county parks department at 363-4020 or go to [eparks.net](http://eparks.net).



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## OBITUARY

### Robert Polak

Menlo Park upholsterer

Robert M. Polak, owner of Robert Polak Upholstery in Menlo Park from 1974 to 2001, died April 13 in Dameron Hospital in Stockton. He was 66.

Born in Munsterberg, Germany, he moved to Encino, California, with his family at age 11.

He served in the U.S. Navy, and in 1962 married Lois Bubenheim of Encino.

After retiring from the upholstery business in 2001, they moved to Lodi to be with their daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren.

His many hobbies included

photography, wood carving and cooking.

Survivors include his wife, Lois Polak of Lodi; daughters Karin Boger of Lodi and Gretchen Polak of Los Altos; a sister, Rosie LeClair of Denton, Texas; and three grandchildren.

At his request, there were no funeral services. Cherokee Memorial Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

Obituaries are based on information provided by families and funeral homes.



Robert Polak

## Controversial sign is down, for now

The tattered sign that hung in a Menlo Park storefront window for nearly seven years has been taken down, but it looks as if a new sign, with the same message, will soon fill the space.

Maurice Thoreson of Woodside, owner of the now closed Just Add Water store located near the intersection of El Camino Real and Menlo Avenue, plans to put up a new sign in the window of the former swimwear shop, according to an

employee at A Tan For All Seasons, the adjacent tanning salon also owned by Mr. Thoreson.

The employee said the new sign will have the same message as the last one: "Menlo Park Officer Ron Prickett and District Attorney Chuck Finney are corrupt, abuse power, and violate civil rights."

Mr. Thoreson posted the original sign in 2000 following a police investigation into accusations he illegally towed 119 cars

from the store's parking lot over a six-month period.

Mr. Finney brought the case against Mr. Thoreson. Sgt. Prickett, then a line officer, was the investigating officer in the case.

The employee said Mr. Thoreson was on vacation and unavailable for comment.

Public officials and members of the public have pushed Mr. Thoreson in recent months to remove the sign.

## Talk on civic art and town planning

Anyone wanting to restore rundown parts of El Camino Real or decrepit downtowns might be interested in the Forum at Redwood City on Wednesday, May 7, from 6 to 7:45 p.m., at the historic Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway.

Author, architect and town planner Robert Almanina will discuss "The New Civic Art: Elements of Town Planning."

A co-author of "The New Civic Art," Mr. Almanina focuses on design as being critically impor-

tant to the success of new urban centers, with compact, diverse, and walkable spaces, according to the announcement. He presents a variety of models and techniques for urban design.

No RSVP is necessary; There is a \$10 fee payable at the door. For more information, contact Dan Zack at 780-7363, or send an e-mail to dzack@redwoodcity.org. For past forums, go to the Web site, redwoodcity.org/forum.

## POLICE CALLS

### ATHERTON

**Burglary report:** Normally unoccupied residence broken into, major household items stolen and interior destroyed, 100 block of Fair Oaks Lane, May 1.

### Grand theft reports:

■ Gate lock cut and tools stolen from tool box, Atherton Ave., May 1.  
■ Ring stolen from kitchen, first block of Mesa Court, May 1.

### Fraud reports:

■ Money wired to Jamaica using resident's account, first block of De Bell Drive, April 21.  
■ Unauthorized use of resident's Social Security number, first block of Tuscaloosa Ave., April 18.

### MENLO PARK

### Grand theft reports:

■ Computer stolen from unlocked office, 300 block of Ravenswood Ave., April 25.  
■ Disability scooter stolen, 2200 block of Sharon Road, April 26.

### Burglary reports:

■ GPS navigation system and other items stolen from vehicle, 700 block of Coleman Ave., April 26.  
■ Laptop computer stolen from locked classroom, East Palo Alto High School at 475 Pope St., April 29.  
■ Computer stolen from garage, first block of Willow Road, April 29.

**Spousal abuse report:** 500 block of Pierce Road, April 21.

**Child abuse report:** 900 block of Rose Ave., April 26.

### Fraud reports:

■ ID theft, 600 block of Central Ave., April 21.  
■ Check fraud, 100 block of Willow Road and 1200 block of University Drive, April 21 and 24.  
■ Credit card fraud, 1100 block of Hollyburne Ave., April 23.  
■ Unauthorized charges of \$6,000 made on credit card, 100 block of Riordan Place, April 28.

**Stolen vehicle report:** 1000 block of Valparaiso Ave., April 26.

### WOODSIDE

### Burglary reports:

■ Joseph Albert Sciarra of Redwood City arrested on burglary charges and booked into county jail, Canada College at 4200 Farm Hill Boulevard, April 24.

■ Fresh pry marks found on door to construction trailer, Canada College at 4200 Farm Hill Boulevard, April 24.

■ Locks cut on front gate and gate into maintenance yard, Menlo Country Club at 2300 Woodside Road, April 26.

### WEST MENLO PARK

**Theft report:** Travel bag containing clothes and laptop computer stolen from sidewalk as victim was preparing to leave for airport, 3000 block of Alameda de las Pulgas, April 28.

## Susan Ford Dorsey to be honored at benefit

Susan Ford Dorsey is the guest of honor at the fifth annual Circle of Support breakfast, a benefit for Family & Children Services, to be held from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Thursday, May 8, at the Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel in Palo Alto.

The keynote speaker is Iranian-American Firoozeh Dumas, author of "Funny in Farsi" and the first Middle Eastern writer ever to be nominated for the James Thurber Prize for Ameri-

can Humor. She is a resident of Palo Alto.

Ms. Dorsey is the president of the Sand Hill Foundation, a family foundation. She serves on the boards of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Peninsula Open Space Trust, Menlo School and Common Sense Media.

Tickets to the breakfast are \$75. For reservations, call 325-6576, ext. 5423.

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## Open studio

These earrings by JuLee Messerich of Woodside will be featured at an Open Studio at 190 Golden Hills Drive in Portola Valley on May 10-11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Other participants are Jan Schachter of Portola Valley, who is

showing ceramics, and Karin Moggridge of Woodside, who is showing clothing and wall hangings. JuLee is the owner of Mountain Made, a craft gallery next to Alice's restaurant in Woodside. All three artists also have their work for sale at Mountain Made. For information, call 851-3754.

## More traffic concerns over plan for Oak Knoll upgrade Major flaws in drop-off plan

By David Roise

I must respectfully disagree with Principal David Ackerman's comments in last week's Almanac regarding changes in traffic flow in the proposed Oak Knoll School redevelopment plan.

I am an Oak Knoll parent (and not a NIMBY neighbor) who voted in favor of Measure U. I strongly believe that the current Oak Knoll facilities are inadequate and need to be upgraded as soon as possible, but I also feel that the proposed, so-called improvements, in traffic flow will negatively impact the safety and convenience of pedestrians and bicyclists entering and leaving the school.

As described in the school district's draft negative declaration for the redevelopment project, pedestrian and bicycle-related traffic to and from Oak Knoll School will be consolidated into a small area at the northeastern corner of the school grounds. In place of the current open and inviting entrance to the school, the district plans to build a greatly extended, fenced-off drop-off and pick-up area, effectively walling off access to the school by non-vehicular traffic. Despite considerable vocal opposition to the extended drop-off line during public review of the school plans, this design feature has remained relatively unchanged as the school plans have evolved over the last year.

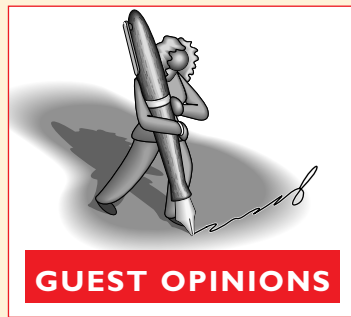
Contrary to Principal Ackerman's assertion in the Almanac last week, the traffic impact analysis (TIA), prepared as part of the review process for the Oak Knoll project, does not truly support or justify the proposed extension of the drop-off line. Specifically, the analysis does not include an

apples-to-apples comparison of how traffic would flow with and without the proposed extension. Instead, the analysis compares the effects of three turning options (right, left, or right and left), all of which include the extension. The benefits of these possible turning options, as well as the addition of a passing lane, would apply equally well to an exit driveway in the current location. It is unfortunate that the district hasn't carefully considered any and all possible changes to the drop-off line configuration that wouldn't require such a large commitment of school grounds to cars.

The traffic analysis also recommends development of an operational and educational plan to improve the function of the drop-off and pick-up line. Such operational changes would significantly improve traffic flow immediately if adopted even with the existing traffic configuration. Many other local schools have successfully adopted more efficient drop-off and pick-up procedures, but, despite Principal Ackerman's assertion to the contrary, Oak Knoll has done little to facilitate the drop-off and pick-up process. Instead, Principal Ackerman looks to the proposed airport-style drop-off line as a panacea for the school's traffic problems.

It would be one thing if the school had unlimited space, and the drop-off line could be extended without impacting access to the school by pedestrians and bicyclists. As we all know, however, space is at a premium at Oak Knoll, and the extended drop-off line squeezes all pedestrian, bicycle, and bus access into a much smaller and more constrained area.

Despite statements throughout



GUEST OPINIONS

the traffic analysis that these changes will not negatively impact pedestrians or bicyclists, there is no objective evidence in the 150-plus-page document that the bottleneck created by this change will not inconvenience and decrease safety of these members of the Oak Knoll community.

As documented in the analysis on page 21, roughly half of Oak Knoll's students walk, bicycle, or ride a bus to school, whereas only a third of the school's students are dropped off or picked up in the drop-off line. Why should precious school grounds be sacrificed for use by a minority of the school population for less than an hour each day, when there is a good chance that the new design will negatively impact a larger group of students and parents?

The Menlo Park City Council has rightly expressed concerns that the proposed drop-off line configuration will negatively affect the safety and convenience of pedestrians and bicyclists traveling to and from Oak Knoll School and is inconsistent with the city's Safe Routes to School programs. Modifying the current plans by keeping the drop-off line in the current location, while also including a new passing lane, right- and left-turn exit options, and serious attempts at improving drop-off/pick-up operations, can easily be done without delaying the construction schedule. Such modifications will address some of the concerns of neighbors and will clearly result in the least possible impact on pedestrians and bicyclists.

David Roise lives on Creek Drive in Menlo Park

## Oak Knoll plan is true to principles of bond measure

By Mark Box

I am a parent and volunteer in our public schools. This fall, my wife and I will have three children at Oak Knoll. In 2006, I served as co-chair for the "Yes on Measure U" bond campaign, and I am the current chairman of the bond oversight committee. I am also the co-president of the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation, though the opinions expressed here are strictly my own.

Over the past 2-1/2 years, I have attended approximately 20 public meetings of the Menlo Park school board, during which the district's facilities needs and plans were discussed. Each of these meetings was well-publicized; hundreds of people attended and contributed to the development of the plans. The Almanac and other local newspapers also attended and covered these meetings.

During these meetings, there has been an ongoing dialogue between the community — including parents, teachers and neighbors — and the school board about the needs of our students and the real constraints in our school district. It has been a passionate and at times difficult debate, but the plans have evolved and become better.

In many cases, the plans have been modified in response to neighbors' requests. But the plans remain true to the principles that were articulated by the school board when making the case for the bond measure, promoted in the bond campaign, and approved by over 70 percent of voters. The stated goals of the bond measure and facilities development plan are to:

- Replace temporary facilities with permanent classrooms for all students;
- Provide adequate multi-use

facilities for increased enrollment;

- Better utilize small campuses by building facilities that will preserve as much field and playground space as possible; and

- Address traffic and safety issues.

During the two-plus years of public discussion, enrollment at Oak Knoll has grown from 650 students to 740 students. More children are being educated in inadequate portable classrooms. More children are playing and exercising on cramped playgrounds. Yet, more children keep arriving in the district because it provides an exceptional public education. District-wide, there are 340 children scheduled to enter kindergarten next fall, and only 220 children will leave our district as they graduate from Hillview.

Enrollment continues to grow and so do construction costs. Rising costs have pushed the estimated cost of building a gym at Burgess Park from \$9 million to over \$14 million (and increasing). Likewise, construction of the M-A Performing Arts Center was delayed and cost estimates rose from \$17.5 million to over \$30 million. We will see similar cost increases if our projects are significantly delayed.

It's time to move forward with our plan as expeditiously as possible. Delay will only keep our children in inadequate facilities, limit the district's ability to meet the needs of our growing number of children, and cost more for the taxpayers who support the development of our public schools. Progress is under way at Laurel and Encinal. It's time to break ground at Oak Knoll.

Mark Box lives on Cotton Street in Menlo Park

## Concerned residents, parents not Oak Knoll 'opponents'

By John D. Fox

Recent mailings from the Menlo Park City School District about opposition to parts of the plans for expansion at Oak Knoll School use the word "opponents" to label many neighbors, parents of school children, members of the public and city staff who have raised some comments about the nega-

tive declaration.

I have spoken publicly at school meetings and at City Council meetings. I speak as a parent who has 10 years of experience taking my own children to Oak Knoll via foot, bike and car. I served on the Safe Routes to Schools committee that developed the existing traffic management and pedestrian/bike features at the school.

Unfortunately, by pointing

out that this design may not be in the interests of maintaining or improving pedestrian and bike access to the school, I find myself labeled an "opponent" of our schools.

In these mailings there are numerous statements that the new design configuration will address safety issues for pedestrians and cyclists. The negative declaration and traffic study is a lengthy document (over 130 pages), and I encourage those who have read this far to read it themselves. But with regard to pedestrian and bicycle safety issues,

I think it is fair to summarize the criticisms of this study in a few key areas:

1. The study is entirely focused on car counts and car traffic. It has no study of pedestrian routes or bike routes. It doesn't count parents who ride in with young children, count who has



GUEST OPINION

tandems or trailers, or what bikes are going to be leaving after the parents drop off their young cyclists. As such, it can't address the impact on pedestrians and bikes — they are never part of the study in any way.

2. The study makes no effort to assess if the existing parking and driveway exit design could be improved with better parent education or a left turn out of the existing parking lot.

3. The Safe Routes to School project for Oak Knoll, imple-

See JOHN FOX, page 31

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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.

**TOWN SQUARE FORUM**

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

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

**MAIL**

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**CALL**

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

## Endorsement

### Our choice is Jim Dobbie for Atherton City Council

Atherton voters who have been paying attention to their town government for the last few years should be happy to go to the polls June 3 to elect a new member of the City Council.

Since 2006 the town has been struggling to overcome a stream of unfortunate management decisions that roiled town hall and cost taxpayers thousands of dollars in legal fees and a considerable

**EDITORIAL**  
*The opinion of The Almanac*

amount of embarrassment. The problems began in the building department and have seeped into other areas, as a divided council bitterly, and often publicly, took

sides during the effort to solve the problems.

Into this charged environment, inject a city council election, the first to be contested in eight years, and you have the ingredients for an interesting race. Top that off with two candidates, Elizabeth Lewis and Jim Dobbie, who couldn't be more different in their backgrounds and political outlook, and you have one of the best town elections in years.

Both candidates are articulate and eager to put their philosophical stamp on the town, but we believe Mr. Dobbie is the best choice to serve out the two-plus years remaining on Alan Carlson's term. There are many reasons for choosing Mr. Dobbie at this time, but we certainly salute Ms. Lewis for her effort and for making it a contested race. We hope she remains involved in the town. She would be a formidable candidate if she chooses to run in November, when Jim Janz and Kathy McKeithen each finish up their second four-year term.

**LETTERS**  
*Our readers write*

### Is Caltrain shrugging off rail safety?

*Editor:*

In 2003, ten. In 2004, nine. 2005, ten. 2006, seventeen. Last year, it was nine. This year, it's already six, or is it seven? On April 20, it was a 15-year-old kid. On April 27, it was a 63-year-old woman, killed on the tracks near the Atherton station.

Caltrain seems to be dragging its feet. They say they have \$15 million to invest in safety measures. They could make a huge difference in the mortality rate. I've explained how many times. This is certainly something that Atherton and Menlo Park could address right now.

The cities should write a joint letter to Caltrain demanding full fencing on both sides of the tracks where it is still missing, for both towns. Also, the letter should demand four-quad gates on all six crossings, as soon as possible. The letter should represent a unanimous position from both city councils.

We want not only all the fencing

But at this time, we believe Mr. Dobbie is best suited for the open council seat, due to his long history of public service in Atherton, including a four-year stint on the Planning Commission, where he is vice chair. In addition to his formal public service, Mr. Dobbie is a tireless volunteer who has attended meetings of the airport roundtable to voice concerns about low-flying aircraft, and he mounted a letter-writing campaign to limit the time allowed to complete a new home.

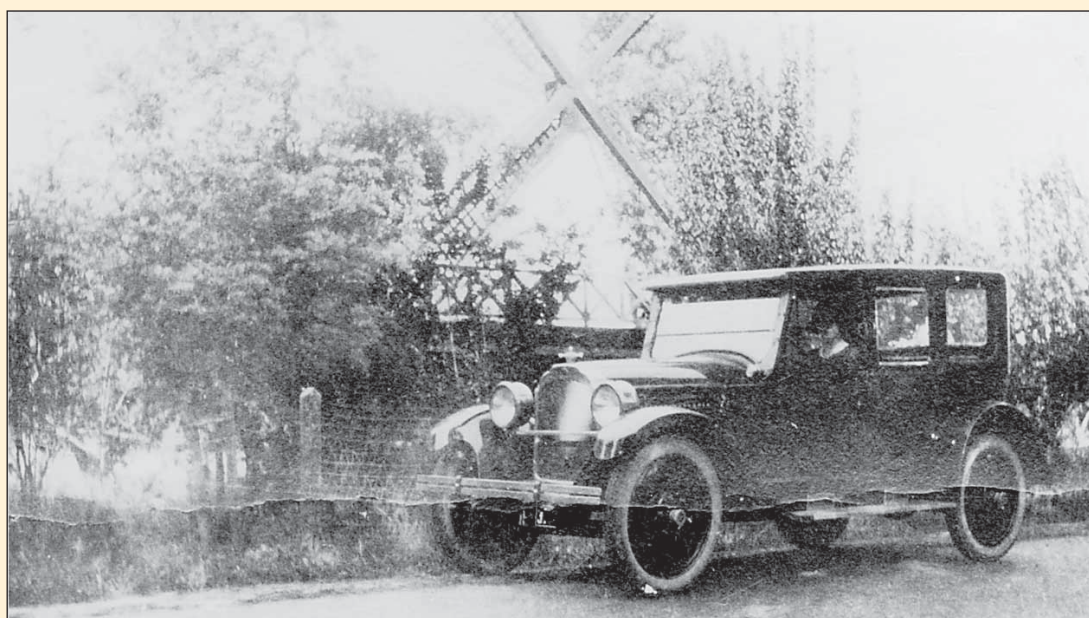
During his time on the Planning Commission, Mr. Dobbie has seen how easily loosely written ordinances can grow into costly disputes like that which developed over 94 Tallwood Court, which turned into a lengthy legal battle for the town and the property owner. He supports tighter regulation of contractors, while Ms. Lewis believes the town is already too strict with builders. Both are serving on the town's General Plan Committee, which is overseeing the rewrite some of the planning and zoning ordinances.

As a former manager of small and large corporations, Mr. Dobbie has the business skills to help guide the council in making better decisions in many areas, including keeping tabs on personnel and working with the city manager to make sure the council's directives are followed. He also acknowledges that local government cannot be operated like a business; you have to be patient, because it takes a while to get things done, he says.

Unlike Ms. Lewis, who has said the town should have avoided a recent spate of costly lawsuits, Mr. Dobbie said in at least two cases — against Menlo-Atherton High School and Randy and Lisa Lamb — the town had no choice.

In Mr. Dobbie, Atherton will find a hard-working council member who is already up to speed on most measures before the council. He has been a regular fixture at council meetings for years, in addition to attending many Planning Commission and General Plan Committee meetings. And he has the management experience that will help get the town back on course.

We urge voters to support Jim Dobbie for the Atherton council seat.



Portola Valley Archives

### Our Regional Heritage

A motorist passes by the old windmill that still stands at the corner of Portola Road and Georgia Lane in Portola Valley. The photo is undated, but it was likely to have been taken in the 1920s.

on both sides of the rail corridor, where it is now absent, but also cross-fencing (perpendicular to the rails) at all intersections; that is, fencing that closes off access to the rail corridor at each intersection, leaving only an opening with clearance for the two trains to pass through. Each of those cross

fences should have large DO NOT ENTER signs on them.

This would not be a zero-defect solution. Nothing can be. But, it will be the best that can be done, maximum effort, and anything less than that is intolerable. If it is considered important enough, funds usu-

ally materialize. Will another dozen die on the Caltrain corridor before there is consequential action? Enough is enough.

**Martin Engel**  
Stone Pine Lane, Menlo Park

See **LETTERS**, next page

# Town Square is buzzing with comments about secret donor

## Should Menlo Park reveal donor's identity?

*Posted by taxpayer, a resident of the Central Menlo Park neighborhood*

While the notion of private-public partnerships sounds interesting, it's critical that we be assured prior to agreement that this is totally above board. The public deserves to know of any quid pro quo details. Otherwise this just stinks of backroom dealing. The swimming pool arrangements were poorly handled. Let's do better this time.

*Posted by Martin Engel, a resident of Menlo Park's Park Forest neighborhood*

The introductory section of the Brown Act, officially known as the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code Sections 54950-54963), states: "In enacting this chapter, the Legislature finds and declares that the public commissions, boards and councils and the other public agencies in this state exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the law that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly."

"The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may

retain control over the instruments they have created."

*Posted by Ralph Brown, a resident of another Menlo Park neighborhood*

Without disclosure, how does the public know whether anyone in the city or on the City Council has a conflict of interest?

*Posted by Skeptic, a resident of the Menlo Park Downtown neighborhood*

There is a huge difference between a truly anonymous no-strings-attached donation and an "only-the-insiders-know-some-strings attached" donation. Especially if the insiders are people who also have the power to make decisions that impact the city as a whole. What's the point of concealing information from the rest of us? This "donation" has a suspicious taint to it.

*Posted by taxpayer, a resident of the Central Menlo Park neighborhood*

Why can't the details of the arrangement be made public, even if the donor's name isn't? The community should have some input about whether the donor's desired size of the facility makes sense. Why can't the city demand that there be no quid pro quo? Why can't the city seek competitive bids so that its "share" is certainly fair? Are such actions reasonable due diligence?

## TownSquare

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

*Posted by neighhhhhhh, a resident of the Menlo Park Felton Gables neighborhood*

Exactly, taxpayer. As The Almanac noted, what happens if the "gift horse" decides to back out after the project is underway? Let's say, for example, that the gift horse presents a development project for council approval and then withdraws the donation if the project is not approved. The city would be on the hook for \$8 million and exactly where would that money come from? Whether the donor is anonymous or not, I hope that part of the agreement (in addition to some kind of guarantee for the funding) is that the donor (and any companies with which he/she/it is involved) will not be asking for any concessions from the city for an extended period of time, say five years. No modifications to the general plan, no rezoning, no sweetheart deals. Our city councils have a history of giving too much away. I wonder what this donor is expecting as a payback for the \$8 million donation?

## Traffic-calming disaster on Linfield Drive

*Posted by Here We Go Again, a resident of another Menlo Park neighborhood*

In case you haven't gone down the "new" stretch of Linfield Drive, two words of warning: **watch out!** Seems that the

same lunkheads who gave us the infamous Santa Cruz Avenue "traffic calming" fiasco have outdone themselves this time with Linfield, having installed a ridiculously super-sized roundabout island near the two new housing complexes. Reaching that point in the road, you are suddenly squeezed over to the right side of the road with barely enough room to squeeze past. But the real icing on the cake is that that roundabout is built low to the ground and is covered with pale rocks. That combination makes it hard to see the roundabout until you're right upon it. As a result, it's going to be an accident magnet — cars are going to either hit the roundabout curb and go up and over its rocks or hit the opposite curb when drivers swerve at the last minute to try and avoid the island. You couldn't design it more poorly if you tried. If I were the Mayor, I'd get someone out there to remove it before the concrete dries — and then fire whoever at City Hall thought that it was a good design.

*Posted by Oscar, a resident of the Menlo Park Linfield Oaks neighborhood*

If you can't see the roundabout, perhaps you shouldn't be driving because you probably also can't see kids, dogs and bicyclists. Traffic circles are used around the world and are an efficient solution to keeping traffic moving, slowly, through an intersection without forcing drivers to stop if there is nobody else there.

## LETTERS

*Continued from previous page*

## Please support Measure O, for parks

*Editor:*

I encourage the residents of the area served by The Almanac (Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Atherton and Woodside), and all other residents of San Mateo County to support and vote yes

for "Parks for the Future - Measure O" on the June 3 ballot.

Fifty years ago Atherton was fortunate to have Olive Holbrook-Palmer donate her 23-acre estate to the town as a park. Although a survey done in 1958 showed that residents wanted the park and were willing to have a substantial amount of the town's budget go to the park, councils have not been able to cut other services to achieve that desire.

Other entities, the Foundation, the Atherton Dames, Little League, and playground groups have raised substantial sums for the park, but a long-term solution is needed to care for the gem of Atherton.

Other cities in San Mateo County and the county itself are in similar situations: a lack of funds to care for donated parkland.

Measure O, which is a one-eighth cent sales tax, will cost

the average county household \$40 per year and generate more than \$200,000 per year each for Atherton, Menlo Park, Woodside and Portola Valley. It will generate millions for the county park system.

During the 25-year span, the tax would raise more than \$5 million to be used for upkeep on

facilities, open space, and athletic fields for the local towns. Places were people build friendship and community.

Besides a yes vote, consider a donation to the campaign, attending a reception, or telling friends to vote yes on Measure O.

**Charles Marsala**  
Atherton council member

## JOHN FOX

*continued from page 29*

mented in 2001/2002, produced important survey data and was summarized in several reports. This most recent study for the board doesn't use any of the data on cyclists, pedestrians, street conditions, roadway widths and configurations, or address how the proposed changes would interfere or interact with the parking restrictions and routes implemented in the safe routes program.

4. The study shows that a minority of the students arrive to school via the car drop-off line (more arrive on foot, bike, and bus than are dropped in the car drop-off line). The emphasis

on the interior driveway seems to be driven by concerns of several vocal neighbors about the impact of cars dropping off students. If there are issues about illegal parking, illegal turns, or unsafe driving, simply enforcing our traffic and parking laws would be preferable to punishing the majority who don't even use it.

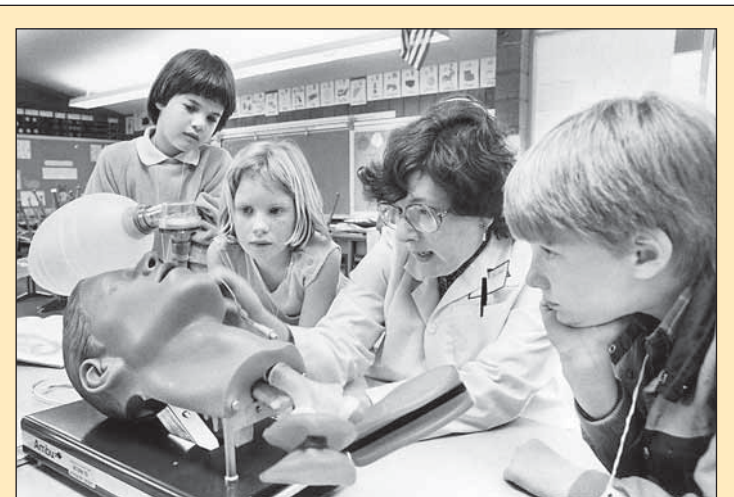
5. Concentrating all pedestrian, bike and bus traffic to one gated entry is going to make a very congested morning, especially for the parents biking with tandems and trailers. The traffic at this gate will be two-way. I also am concerned about bicycle storage in this plan.

There are many other issues raised by concerned parents and

neighbors. Many of the school children themselves have commented about the value of a 300-year-old oak tree, and the plan to cut it down to increase parking spaces. They are not "opponents" of our excellent school, but parents, children and neighbors who have expressed their concerns. They have different values about land use, and think the school property is best used for educational purposes and facilities, to bring our children a safe school ground for play, green space, and even the opportunity for future educational purposes.

**John Fox lives on Elder Avenue in Menlo Park**

See more Opinions, page 29



Atherton Heritage Association

## History goes around, comes around

In this 1986 photo, students at Laurel School in Atherton are all eyes as Dr. Julia Wall demonstrates the power of human lungs. The students, from left, are Jodi Brown, Rebecca Morgan and Sean Ballard. After The Almanac ran this picture in the paper last week, we received an e-mail that 9-year-old Jodi Brown in the photo is now a teacher at Las Lomitas and just finished teaching her class about the human lungs!

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**WOODSIDE** – 335 and 345 Kings Mountain Road – side-by-side estates totaling 6.2 level acres, are available as a remarkable 6+ acre estate property with a private entry across a beautiful creek and inspirational views of the western hills. The home at 335 (shown above and far left) has hints of Tuscan and Mediterranean styling, 4BR, 3BA, a spacious LR ideal for entertaining, formal DR, a gem of a kitchen, and a family room w/fireplace. Outside is a porte cochere, pool, tennis court, and horse barn w/corral. The spacious 4BR 3BA home at 345 (left) has a pool, spa, tennis court, and a large guest cottage. The property is in the excellent Woodside Elementary School District.

*Both homes on 6.2 acres: \$10,100,000*



**SOLD**

**WOODSIDE LOT** – 3.4 Acres on Mt Home Rd – \$5,900,000



**WOODSIDE** – On a private lane off Whiskey Hill Road, 3+ acres, this 4BR estate home wraps around pool & gardens. 3 fireplaces, a super kitchen, office, theater/game rm, family room, guest cottage.

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**SOLD**

**WOODSIDE** – French enchantment in a garden estate on 1.5 acres, central Woodside. *asking \$4,495,000*

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