

PORTOLA VALLEY MAN charged with manslaughter in fatal car crash. Page 8

The Almanac

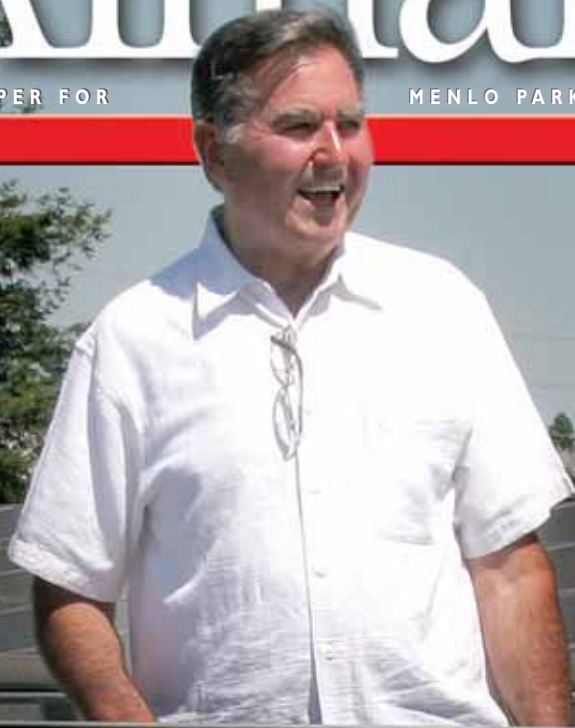
THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR

MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

JUNE 18, 2008

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BUSINESS GOES SOLAR

Ron Newdell is pushing the solar bandwagon for businesses. For starters, 2,388 solar panels totally power Edison Technology Park. And he runs an art gallery.

SEE PAGE 14

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

Who let the...

Dogs were out and about at Nealon Park in Menlo Park on June 13, as members of the Dog Owners Group of the Menlo Park Area and their canine companions celebrated the construction of a new gated entrance to the park.

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On the cover

Ron Newdollar of Woodside shows off some of the solar panels roofing Edison Technology Park in North Fair Oaks. With almost an acre of solar panels, this is one of the largest privately owned solar power installations in California. Photo by Veronica Weber. See story, **Page 14**.

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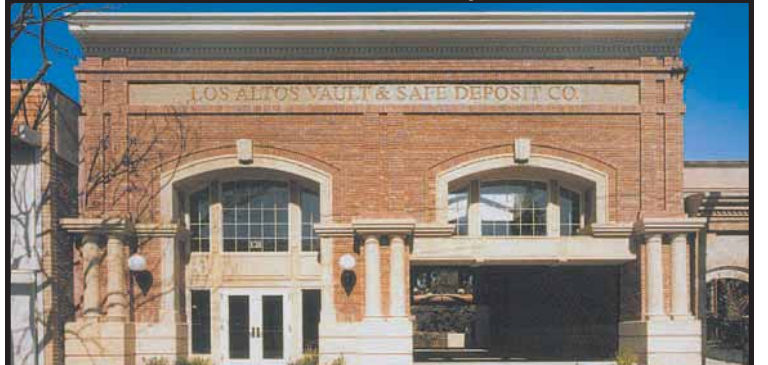
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Wine

2007 ROSÉ, PART 2

For dry rosé, 2007 is proving to be an outstanding vintage. Crisp, lively and refreshing wines are the rule, not the exception. We have tasted many examples and narrowed it down to the following selections.

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Cotes de Provence

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Dom. de Fontaine
"Gris de Gris," Corbieres

\$13⁹⁹

Ch. du Rouet "Esterelle,"
Cotes de Provence

\$13⁹⁹

Ch. de Lascaux,
Coteaux du Languedoc

\$15⁹⁹

Ch. de Trinqueddel
Tavel

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Commanderie de Peyrassol,
Cotes de Provence

\$16⁹⁹

Mas de Gourgonnier,
Les Baux de Provence

\$17⁹⁹

Le Clos du Caillou,
Cotes du Rhone

\$17⁹⁹

Dom. du Bagnol,
Cassis

\$22⁹⁹



Roberts Tip of the Week

RESTAURANTS GO LOCAL FOR SUPPLIES

The current buzzword in the green (environmental) lexicon is "local." People who are concerned about the environment have educated the rest of the country about the benefits of whole foods, organic foods, and recycling. Today, they educate us about our "environmental footprints," meaning what kind of resources, including gas for transportation, went into getting our food from the ground to our dinner plates. Restaurant chefs are rising to the challenge and making an effort to obtain produce and other products from local vendors. The next time you dine out, the salad may have come from your local farmer's market. As an added bonus, the chef may know exactly who grew the food and how to best showcase its freshness.



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Deli

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Bali B.B.Q Chicken Breast Sweet and Spicy \$8.99 lb.

Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Woodside Council names zones with 'very high' wildfire risk in town

■ New homes there must meet standards for fire-resistance.

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

New building regulations are ahead for several Woodside neighborhoods, including west of Kings Mountain Road, along and around Old La Honda Road, and Emerald Hills. The Woodside Fire Protection District designates those areas as being at "very high" risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Facing a July 1 state deadline, the Woodside Town Council voted 5-0 on June 9, with members Dave Burow and Deborah Gordon absent, to introduce an ordinance establishing "very high fire hazard severity zones" in town. A second vote is required for the ordinance to become law.

In areas labeled "very high" risk, new homes must incorporate fire-resistance in design and materials, including ignition-resistant roofs and decking, attic vents that prevent entry of burning embers, and landscaping designed to avoid "ladder" fuels — brush and low branches that allow fire to climb into a tree's canopy and spread.

The identification of local wildfire risks is part of a program begun nine months ago by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire. Cal Fire is updating its hazard maps for

cities, towns and fire districts and will be putting them on its Web site after July 1.

Woodside's fire-hazard map is the work of fire district Fire Marshal Denise Enea, who based her analysis on the terrain, prevailing winds, and the types and moisture content of vegetation. Cal Fire released a draft of Ms. Enea's map, with comments, on May 2.

Cal Fire did not formally contact Woodside about map revisions or a request for comments, Town Manager Susan George said.

The prospect of map revisions came up in a November 2007 council meeting, at which Ms. Enea explained the process and said that final versions of the state maps were expected in March.

In December 2007, at the fire district's request, the council amended the building code to include fire-resistance elements. The June 9 vote established areas where the amendments apply.

The council's action did not name Woodside Glens as "very high" risk, but it could be relabeled in coming months. Jurisdictions can add "very high" risk areas to their own local maps with a finding of substantial risk. Ms. Enea said she made such a finding for the Glens.

A safe community

Dave Sapsis, a fire scientist at Cal Fire,

told The Almanac that communities have asked for a "very high" risk designation for an entire town. Fire officials have suggested that such town-wide designations can reduce risk.

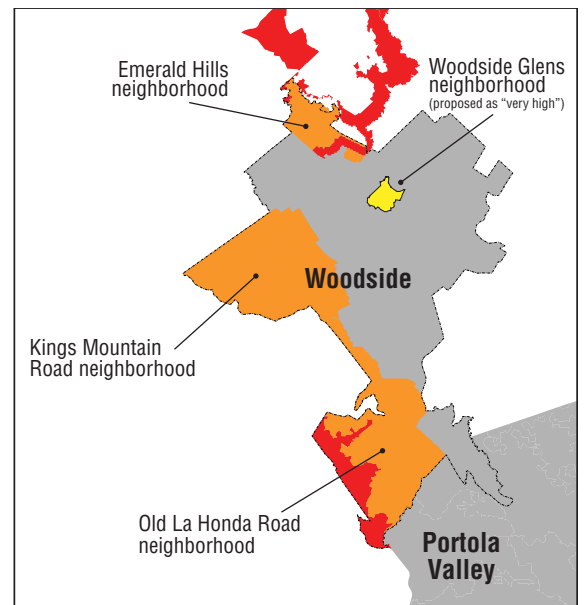
In setting the high-risk zones in Woodside, the council emphasized safety. Councilwoman Carroll Ann Hodges called the wildfire threat "very scary." Mayor Ron Romines noted that "the paramount concern is safety."

But a fire can start anywhere, and wind could send an ember into a "very high" risk area and cause a catastrophe.

And how safe is safe? Is a fire-proof metal roof adequate protection if the eaves allow embers in that can ignite an attic, Councilman Dave Tanner asked in an interview. What if you cut your dry grass but your neighbors don't?

Resident Stephen Lubin noted at the meeting that the amended building code conflicts with town guidelines that encourage the town's highly valued rural character.

That's a problem, Ms. Enea said. "There needs to be a connection between the design guidelines and the code," she said. "It's way off. That's one of the items to put on the to-do list."



Source: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

The orange portions of this map represent areas of Woodside that, because of their vegetation and terrain, are considered by the Woodside Fire Protection District to be at "very high" risk of wildfire. The red areas represent the state's view of the "very high" risk areas before Cal Fire began updating its maps. The Town Council introduced an ordinance on June 9 establishing fire-resistance building codes for new homes in western parts of town and the Emerald Hills neighborhood.

Woodside town staff will be studying the state map to determine which parcels are in "very high" risk areas. "It's going to be a bear of a project," Ms. George said.

See WOODSIDE FIRE, page 8

New \$4.4 million plan for Kelly Park goes to parks commission

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

A plan to add artificial turf, lights, a rubber running track, and a coveted full-sized soccer field at Kelly Park will be the main event of the Menlo Park Parks and Recreation Commission's meeting on Wednesday, June 18.

Commissioners are expected to decide whether to recommend that the City Council approve an estimated \$4.4 million of renovations to the triangular-shaped park in order to put a dent in the city's playing field shortage, as well as get more community use of the park.

The commission is set to meet at 6 p.m. in the Onetta Harris Community Center at 100 Terminal Ave., adjacent to Kelly Park. If a majority of

commissioners approve the plan, the design would go to the City Council for discussion and action.

Check TheAlmanacOnline.com for a news update.

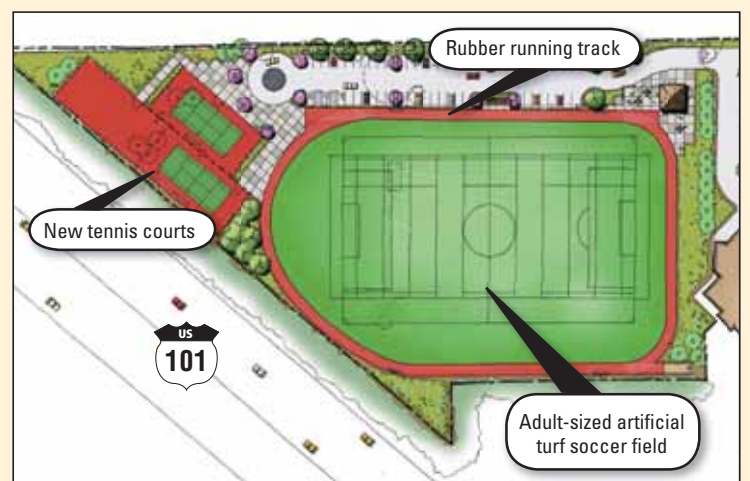
A subcommittee of parks commissioners has been working with city staff, Belle Haven neighbors, sports groups and San Francisco-based consultant Callander Associates for about six months to come up with a new plan for the park.

The current 8.3-acre park was built in 2001 for about \$1 million, but poor planning and design restrictions led to the construction of an undersized, sparsely used baseball field, and an undersized and slanted soccer field at the park.

This time around, the city is looking to do things right.

"We heard that the priorities were a full-sized soccer field for sports groups, a track for the local community, and to keep plenty of parking at the site," said Andy Kirkpatrick, one of the commissioners on the Kelly Park subcommittee. "We've come up with a plan to fit all of that at the park, so we're pretty excited about it."

Mr. Kirkpatrick said the full-sized field, in particular, is key to helping solve the city's sports field shortage. The field would be big enough for soccer, football, or lacrosse teams to use. Artificial turf and lights would be installed to give local teams a place to play in the evening and during the rainy season when local grass fields are muddy and run down, he said.



Courtesy Callander Associates

This plan for Kelly Park will be discussed at the June Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. The park is located in Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood, near Terminal Avenue.

He noted that tennis courts are proposed for the park, but plans for a baseball field were scrapped due to space constraints.

Larry Johmann, a senior engineer with the city, said

See KELLY PARK, page 8

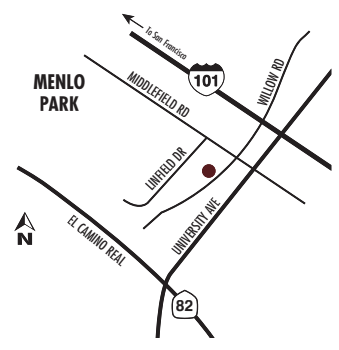
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File photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

Mateo, the San Mateo County Fair mascot, dances with kids at Menlo Park's first downtown block party in August 2007. The three parties this year coincide with concerts in Fremont Park.

City gears up for June 25 block party

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Downtown Menlo Park will be closed to traffic to make way for street-side dining, live music, a book signing and kids' activities as the summer downtown block parties kick off Wednesday, June 25.

For the second year, Santa Cruz Avenue will be closed between Evelyn Street and Doyle Street from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Block parties will also be held on two other Wednesdays: Aug. 6 and Aug. 20.

All the events coincide with city-sponsored concerts in Fremont Park. The June 25 concert, scheduled for 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., will feature country musician Fred McCarty.

Left Bank, jZ Cool, Angelo Mio, Bistro Vida, and Deelish will provide street-side dining, and downtown businesses will extend their hours to accommodate the crowds, said Brian Flegel, co-chair of the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce committee planning the block parties.

"We're really jumping off the shoulders of last year's event," Mr. Flegel said, referring to last year's block parties, which were initiated by Councilwoman Kelly Ferguson. "Last year, we were kind of flying by the seat of our pants, and this year there's going to be a

lot more things for people to do." Among the features of the June 25 block party listed by Mr. Flegel:

- A children's area on Chestnut Street will have such activities as face painting, inflatable bounce houses, and a kids table sponsored by Kepler's. People are encouraged to bring children's books to donate to Project Read-Menlo Park.

- When the one-hour concert in Fremont Park ends at 7:30 p.m., the movie "Benji" will be screened on a big screen at the park.

- Bruce Brenner and James Ehrlich, authors of the cookbook from the Public Broadcasting System television program "The Hippy Gourmet," will be posted at the Kepler's booth to sign books.

- The events will continue the "green" theme from last year's parties. Solar panel distributors and other "green" businesses will market their products. To encourage residents to bike to the event, there will be a "bike valet" service, where people can store their bikes in a secure location.

- Local nonprofits, community groups, and downtown businesses have been invited to set up booths along Santa Cruz Avenue, and some businesses will hold raffles to give away prizes.

Mr. Flegel said five bands have been tapped to play at various

locations on Santa Cruz Avenue, including BLUE, a rhythm and blues group; Yohimbe, a five-piece jazz band; rock bands Careless Hearts and Stoney Mountain Ramblers; and Hey Mom, a group that plays children's music.

Good for businesses

The block parties were formed last year to get people to come downtown and visit local businesses.

Joy Blackburn, co-owner of Visions Artwear and Salon on Santa Cruz Avenue, said the block parties make local businesses more approachable to the average person.

"I'm 100 percent in support of this. It's a great example of community outreach," Ms. Blackburn said. "It puts the owner of the business out into the street, where people aren't intimidated to come up and talk to you."

Ms. Ferguson said the momentum behind the block parties is "really exciting," and credited the council for unanimously supporting the concept last year.

The block parties are sponsored by Bank of the West, Draeger's, The Office of Les Koonce, the David B. Bohannon Organization, The Almanac, and the Palo Alto Daily News, Mr. Flegel said. ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Why Wait?

Dear Gloria,

We have found a house we like a lot and that would work for our growing family. However, we are very reluctant, actually afraid to get into this real estate market. Is it just crazy to buy now with the housing mess?

Susan & Matt

Dear Susan & Matt,

The U.S. housing situation and the economy as a whole, certainly have some problems. But please remember that over 98% of housing is not in foreclosure nor does it have financing issues associated with it. And over 94% of the population who wish to be employed ARE employed. The media have a tendency to dwell on the negative; it has always been that way and I suppose it always will be. With gasoline prices where they are and not going down in the near future, there will

be adjustment in the way people live and drive and will cause changes in the way and where people buy houses. But this is not necessarily a bad thing.

As for your situation, it would seem like a very good time to buy. The founder of Corcoran Real Estate Firm in New York recently suggested that people who are looking for investment opportunities and can afford it should be refinancing their home, taking out some of the equity and buying homes in their neighborhood for 35% less than they might have sold for one or two years earlier. That may seem somewhat radical but it does beg the question of why buyers wait until prices go up to make a move. Why, a year ago, were there 4 or 5 buyers for every well-priced property that came on the market? Where did everybody go?

So to answer your question, if you have found a property that is a good fit for you and your family, why would you wait? Go for it!

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

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Portola Valley man charged with manslaughter in fatal car crash

Keith Benford Knudsen, 19, of Portola Valley is being charged with “gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated” in a June 12 car accident that seriously injured him and killed his passenger, Robert Lewis Wetzel, 19, of Redwood City, the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office reported Monday.

While driving a black BMW, Mr. Knudsen crashed into a tree in the 800 block of Portola Road in Portola Valley shortly before 11:30 p.m., Lt. Marc Alcantera of the Sheriff’s Office said in a statement.

Mr. Wetzel was pronounced dead at the scene from the trauma of the collision, San Mateo County Coroner Robert Foucrault said.

Mr. Knudsen was taken to a hospital with “multiple fractures and other trauma,” Lt. Alcantera said.

Both men graduated from



Photo courtesy of San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office

Keith Benford Knudsen, 19, of Portola Valley is being charged with gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated in a crash that killed his passenger, Robert Lewis Wetzel, 19, of Redwood City.

Woodside High School in June 2007.

Deputies arrested Mr. Knudsen on Saturday, June 14. He is now in Sheriff’s Office custody

and scheduled for arraignment at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17, at the San Mateo County Hall of Justice in Redwood City.

Mr. Knudsen is also being charged with committing a felony — the car accident — while released on bail. At the time of the accident, he was out of custody after being charged with robbery and grand theft in Redwood City, Lt. Alcantera said.

Sheriff’s deputies first learned of the accident when someone called a dispatcher to report “the sound of a large crash,” Sgt. Linda Gibbons of the Sheriff’s Office said. Medics responded immediately, she said.

Evidence at the scene led deputies to take alcohol and speed into consideration, Sgt. Gibbons said. In the Sheriff’s Office investigation, the Major Accident Investigation Team is looking into what the two men had been doing before the accident.

Little League championship game Friday

By Colin Becht
Special to The Almanac

After hard fought seasons in both little leagues, Peak Performance, champions of the Alpine-West Menlo Little League will face Goetz Brothers, winners of the Menlo-Atherton Little League, in the city championship game this Friday, June 20.

The game is set to start at 5:30 p.m. at Burgess Park in the Menlo Park Civic Center.

The game, traditionally played on July Fourth, was set for June 20 because the holiday falls in the middle of Little League All-Star tournaments and conflicts with family vacations, said Randy Tinsley, president of the Alpine-West Menlo Little League. “Getting complete attendance and participation by each team was a little bit challenged,” he said.

Peak Performance, which finished its regular season with a 12-6 record, won all four games in the Alpine/West Menlo post-

season tournament to earn its birth in the city championship. Goetz Brothers concluded its regular season in second place with a 12-8 record, but won the Menlo-Atherton playoffs by beating Draeger’s in the championship.

Peak Performance is led by its three league All-Stars: pitcher/shortstop/catcher Michael Tinsley, pitcher/utility player Charlie Cain, and catcher/pitcher Christopher Lee.

Tinsley led the Alpine/West Menlo Little League in home runs with 15, while Cain had two game winning extra-base hits for Peak Performance. Peak Performance assistant coach Randy Tinsley praised Lee’s pitching ability and consistency behind home plate.

Goetz Brothers features the intimidating duo of Erik Amundsen and Keenan Carr. Amundsen has been a dominant force on the pitching mound, while Carr has been able to provide clutch power hitting. Both

players were influential to the team’s run through the postseason tournament.

Peak Performance capped off its four wins in the double-elimination postseason tournament with a 9-2 victory over Hengehold. The game was highlighted by home runs by Michal Tinsley and Cain and excellent pitching by Lee and Royce Branning.

Goetz Brothers had a slightly more difficult route through the Menlo-Atherton postseason tournament. After winning its first two games to advance to the league championship, Goetz Brothers lost to Draeger’s 9-4. However, due to the double-elimination format of the tournament, Goetz Brothers got another chance to face Draeger’s, which had already lost earlier in the tournament. Goetz Brothers made the most its second chance and defeated Draeger’s 3-0 to win the Menlo-Atherton championship and earn its place in the city championship game. ■



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

Dance Works Inc. student Amanada Siorta, center, and fellow dancers, from left, Cassie Phillips, Lily Mobraaten, Cebelli Pfeifer and Paige Marie Johnson practice on June 16, about two weeks before the Menlo Park studio is expected to close.

MP dance studio to close

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

It looks as if about 200 dancers will have to find a new studio, as Menlo Park-based Dance Works Inc. is being forced to close its doors.

During a recent investigation into complaints that parents of dance studio students were taking up street parking in the surrounding Park Forrest neighborhood, city staff realized the dance company does not have a use permit to operate in its current studio at 115 Buckthorn Way.

The studio, located behind the former Gaylord India Restaurant site, will close July 1, said Dance Works owner and director Angelique Shepherd. She said that due to the high cost of moving, the studio will likely close for good.

Ms. Shepherd opened the studio two years ago, and the customer base has grown from 16 dancers in 2006 to about 200 dancers of all ages, she said.

A dance studio under different ownership previously filled the space, but the sudden growth of Ms. Shepherd’s business spurred the parking complaints, and city staff noticed

that the dance studio is actually zoned as a residential unit.

No dance studio, past or present, can operate in the space without a use permit, said Community Development Director Arlinda Heineck.

“Unfortunately, ownership of the building and businesses within the building changed hands several times, and it appears that knowledge of the occupancy requirements was not understood by future tenants, including Dance Works,” Ms. Heineck said in an e-mail copied to the City Council. “As uses changed, parking impacts began to emerge.”

Ms. Shepherd said she was blindsided by the need for a use permit, which she can’t apply for retroactively.

“The space used to be a dance studio, and I had zero idea that I needed this permit,” she said. “My business was never profitable, but it was mine, it was growing, and it would have definitely been profitable one day.”

Development Services Manager Justin Murphy said the city is trying to help Ms. Shepherd relocate to a temporary location in Menlo Park, but city staff has not found any “definitive” locations yet. ■

WOODSIDE FIRE
continued from page 5

The council also plans to hold a public hearing.

Fire insurance concerns came up among council members and the few homeowners who spoke at the June 9 meeting.

“We don’t know what the state

or the insurance companies or anybody else is going to with these maps,” Councilman Peter Mason said. “That’s what scares me about this.”

Ms. Enea said residents in the fire district “have been losing their insurance at a pretty good rate,” but noted that state maps are probably not to blame, given

their focus on vegetation and terrain rather than overall risk.

Asked about whether state maps are relevant to fire insurance, Jerry Davies, the nationwide spokesman for Farmers Insurance, said: “I don’t think that has anything to do with Farmers. We have our own (proprietary) mapping systems.” ■

KELLY PARK
continued from page 5

the renovations would cost an estimated \$4.4 million, and it’s “not clear” where the money to renovate the park would come from. Because Kelly Park is located within the boundaries of the city’s redevelopment dis-

trict, city officials have floated the idea of using redevelopment funds for the project rather than tapping into the general fund or the city’s reserves.

The project would also require months of environmental studies and community meetings to inform the public of any renovation plans for the park, Mr. Johann said. ■

Encinal project moves ahead

■ School board adopts environmental impact report on construction plan.

By **Andrea Gemmet**
Almanac Staff Writer

The renovation of Encinal School will move forward without delay, the Menlo Park City School District's board vowed at its recent meeting.

Following a modestly attended public hearing, board members approved an environmental review of the potential negative impacts of the project to construct new classroom and multi-use buildings and a Teacher Education Resource Center (TERC), and improve landscaping, parking and traffic circulation.

At its June 10 meeting, the board voted 4-0, with Bruce Ives absent, to adopt the environmental impact report (EIR).

Board member Laura Rich said the transformation of the campus won't be delayed.

"The kids are here, we've got to educate them, and we've got to move forward," she said.

Currently a grade 3-5 school, Encinal, located on Encinal Avenue in Atherton, is in the process of transforming over three years into a K-5 campus with the introduction of five classrooms of kindergartners in the fall. The district is facing a surge in enrollment at all three of its elementary schools.

"I'm really happy that Encinal, the ugly duckling of the district, is going to become the swan," said board member Terry Thygesen.

The significant impact of the project identified in the EIR is increased traffic at nearby intersections.

One possible solution is to install a traffic signal at the intersection of Encinal Avenue and Middlefield Road, but it's unclear whether that will ever happen. The roadway is under Atherton's jurisdiction, and so far the city of Menlo Park has been unresponsive to a pro-

posed three-way split of the cost with the district and the town of Atherton, said Ahmad Sheikholeslami, the district's facility planner.

If negative impacts are identified outside the district's jurisdiction, all the board can do is make a firm recommendation, but it isn't obligated to take action to impose a mitigation measure, such as the installation of a stoplight, said Tim Fox of the San Mateo County Counsel's Office.

**Board member
Laura Rich said the
transformation of the
campus won't be
delayed: 'The kids
are here, we've got to
educate them, and we've
got to move forward.'**

District officials hope the project's expanded pickup and drop-off lane in the front of the school will discourage parents from parking in the surrounding neighborhood. It's an existing problem that drew several complaints from residents of the Felton Gables neighborhood in Menlo Park.

Marcy Abramowitz and her fourth-grade daughter Sarah told the board that traffic and parked cars make the route to school a dangerous obstacle course for children who walk or bike.

"It's kind of scary, even for an experienced walker and bike rider," Ms. Abramowitz said.

If parking can't be contained on campus, the neighborhood could apply for resident-only permit parking in the neigh-

borhood, said Judy Font, co-president of the Felton Gables Homeowners Association.

"We don't want to do that, but ... we have to do something," she said.

At the meeting, Menlo Park resident Dave Montague questioned the wisdom of locating the Teacher Education Resource Center on the Encinal campus.

"We implore you to consider removing the TERC from the project and deferring it until it can be put at O'Connor, where it belongs," he said, referring to the district's Willows neighborhood campus that's currently leased to the private German-American International School.

If enrollment continues to surge and the district decides to create a middle school at Encinal, the resource center would have to be bulldozed, Mr. Montague argued.

However, district officials countered his argument by saying that the TERC can be retrofitted for conversion to classrooms in the future. Putting it at the O'Connor site would take away the flexibility to reopen that campus as a district school in the future, said Ms. Thygesen.

"It's such a small campus, it would really reduce the school use," she said. "And if we put (the TERC) there and we don't need to open it up (as a school), that's creating a financial hardship" in lost lease revenue, she said.

In approving the EIR, the board made findings that the public benefits of the Encinal project outweigh the potential negative impacts.

At the same meeting, board members voted 4-0 to award a \$687,000 contract to a division of San Jose-based Granite Rock Co. to build an expanded front parking lot and pickup/drop-off lane. The construction work is slated to start this summer. ■

Schools get \$2.2 million from foundation

Thanks to a \$2.2 million grant from the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation, the Menlo Park City School District looks as if it will have a nice cushion against likely cuts in state funding for the budget year starting July 1.

A very pleased school board accepted a ceremonial giant check from foundation representatives at the June 10 meeting.

The foundation's annual grants represent between 7-1/2 to 8 percent of the district's operating fund, said Superintendent Ken Ranella.

"I don't think the community realizes how other (school) districts are reeling in fear (of state cuts)," board member Laura Rich said. "You guys have given us a cushion."

The bulk of the foundation's grant supports educational programs, such as hands-on science lessons, foreign language instruction and new math textbooks, as well as the operation of school libraries.

Other programs supported by foundation grants include professional development for teachers

and staff, a summer program for students with special needs, and support for the district's technology infrastructure.

The district is setting aside \$200,000 of the grant to offset expected funding cuts from the state due to California's budget crisis.

Board member Terry Thygesen said that despite the faltering economy, the school foundation had an excellent year for fundraising. "I'm really impressed that you expanded the donor base substantially," she said.

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2007



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF HEARING UNDER
RESOLUTION NO. 5800

DECLARING THE INTENTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF MENLO PARK TO VACATE AND ABANDON A PORTION OF THE WILLOW ROAD PLAN LINES FOR THE LENGTH OF THE WILLOW ROAD FRONTAGE OF PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 337 WILLOW ROAD AND 345 WILLOW ROAD IN THE CITY OF MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA, UNDER AND PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE "PUBLIC STREETS, HIGHWAYS AND SERVICE EASEMENTS VACATION LAW," (Section 8300, et seq., STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park did, on the 20th day of May, 2008 pass and adopt Resolution No. 5800 under and pursuant to the provisions of the "Public Streets, Highways and Service Easements Vacation Law" (Section 8300, et seq., Streets and Highways Code), declaring its Intention to vacate and abandon a portion of the Willow Road Plan Lines for the length of the Willow Road frontage of properties located at 337 Willow Road and 345 Willow Road in the City of Menlo Park, California.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN, that in Resolution No. 5800 said City Council did fix Tuesday, the 1st day of July, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., of said day, at the Menlo Park City Council Chambers, Civic Center at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California, as the date, time and place of hearing respecting said proposed vacation and abandonment of said portion of the Willow Road Plan Lines located at 337 Willow Road and 345 Willow Road, and

NOTICE IS ACCORDINGLY HEREBY GIVEN, that on said date and at said time and place of the Public Hearing aforementioned, all persons interested in or objecting to the proposed vacation and abandonment may appear and present objections to said proposed vacation and abandonment and submit evidence in support thereof, under and pursuant to the provisions of Section 8300, et. seq., Streets and Highways Code, "Public Streets, Highways and Service Easements Vacation Law".

Reference is hereby made to Resolution No. 5800 and the plat respecting said proposed vacation and abandonment of the Willow Road Plan Line, as described above, on file in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Menlo Park, Civic Center, Menlo Park, California, for further particulars, and that said Resolution and plat are hereby incorporated herein and made a part of this Notice.

Sherry M. Kelly, Interim City Clerk

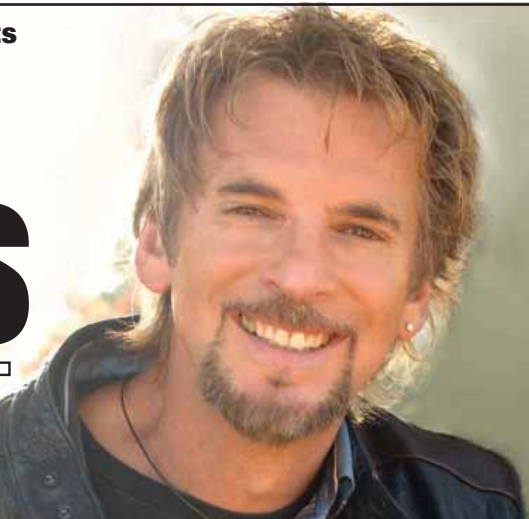
Published in THE ALMANAC on June 18, 25, 2008.

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KENNY LOGGINS

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July 20, 2008



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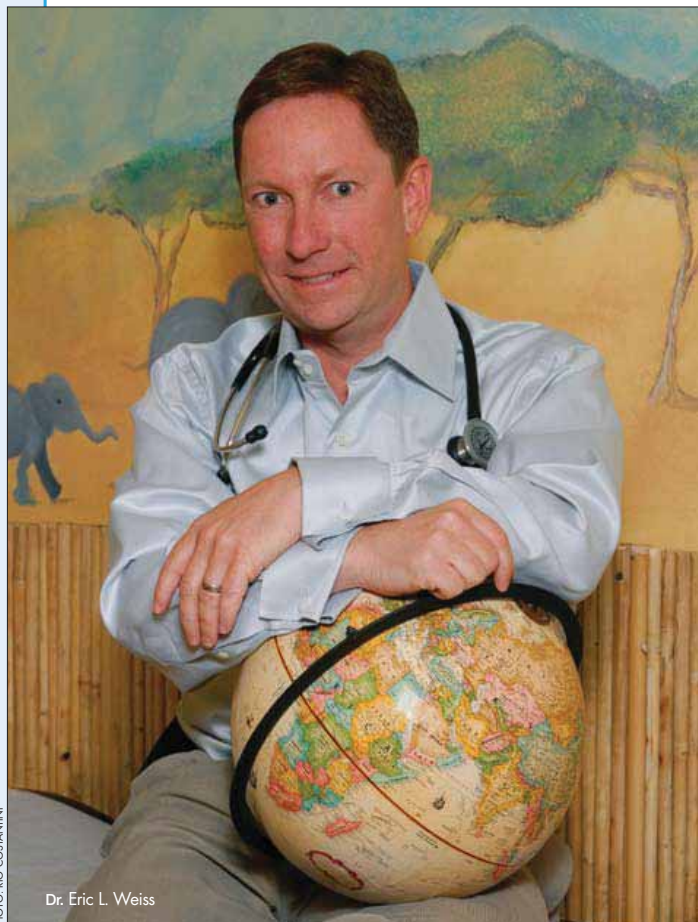
Presenting: See's Candies, NetJets, Sand Hill Foundation, A Supporter of the Children's Health Council
Center Stage: TriplePoint Capital, Whitman Capital **Spotlight:** Rambus, Three Arch Partners, Versant Ventures
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CONGRATULATIONS to The Village Doctor of Woodside for being named one of the "Top 32 Travel Clinics" in the United States by *Condé Nast Traveler*! The only program recognized in Northern California, The Village Doctor is under the direction of **ERIC L. WEISS, MD, DTM&H** who founded the Stanford Travel Medicine Service. Dr. Weiss boasts a longstanding membership in, and certification by, the International Society of Travel Medicine (ISTM) and American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) and specializes in both adult and pediatric travel medicine.

With an encompassed understanding of travel medicine based on over 20 years of experience, The Village Doctor is the ideal departure and return point of any travel itinerary by providing:

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- Electronic medical records to track your immunization history
- Wilderness Medicine expertise
- Designated Yellow Fever vaccine center

The Village Doctor is open to the public Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 5:00 by appointment.

Willows neighborhood target of six residential burglaries

A string of six residential burglaries were reported in the Willows neighborhood on Friday and Saturday, June 13 and 14, including two on Laurel Avenue, and one each on Euclid Avenue, Haight Street, Durham Street and Oak Court.

Among the items reported stolen: two laptop computers, an iPod, a camera and jewelry, according to a report from the Menlo Park Police Department. A credit card stolen from one home already had unauthorized charges

made against it by the time the victim reported the theft.

The thieves appeared to gain entry through unlocked or open doors and windows in four of the six burglaries, and in each case, the burglary occurred during the day, the report said.

Calls to the Menlo Park Police Department for comment were not returned by press time.

Police commonly advise residents that locking doors and windows is the best prevention against burglary.

Big questions remain for El Camino

By **Rory Brown**

Almanac Staff Writer

How much housing should be built along El Camino Real in Menlo Park? How tall should new buildings be? How can the city make it easier and safer for cars, bicyclists and pedestrians to cross El Camino?

These were some of the key questions facing City Council members going into their June 10 meeting devoted to revamping properties along El Camino Real, but for the most part, the questions remained unanswered at the end of the four-and-a-half hour affair.

With midnight approaching, and council members hesitant to dive into the specifics of what type of development should replace abandoned auto dealerships along El Camino Real, further discussion of the city's main thoroughfare was bumped to a meeting roughly scheduled for mid July.

"We were pretty close [on June 10], but we're not quite there," said Councilman John Boyle. "I'd hoped we'd take 10 steps forward, but maybe we took only six or seven."

The June 10 meeting had long been advertised as the culmination of the first phase of the city's "El Camino Real visioning process" — a six-month campaign to get the public to weigh in on how to improve the aesthetics

and viability of El Camino Real and the city's downtown area.

Although council members took a long look at a city-hired consultant's rough plan to add a hotel, multi-story housing, a downtown parking garage, and other amenities, council members refrained from taking any kind of stance on the tough issues — density, housing, and traffic control.

"There's still some ambiguity, there's still some issues we need to grapple with, but I felt the level of community involvement was really encouraging," said Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson.

What's next?

The consultant, Berkeley-based Design, Community & Environment, is tentatively scheduled to return in July with a more detailed plan for El Camino Real and the downtown area.

From there, it's unclear when the council will start making actual decisions regarding how the city should be developed. Some council members floated the idea of hiring another consultant to lead that process, but there was no firm agreement at the June 10 meeting.

Council members have been adamant that the city take its time in the El Camino Real visioning process to get suf-

See **EL CAMINO**, page 21

Man robs Oil Changers on Willow Road

A man simulating a weapon robbed Oil Changers at 944 Willow Road at about 6 p.m. Sunday, June 15, according to Menlo Park police.

The man approached an employee from behind, indicating he had a weapon, Officer Steven Knopp said in a press release. The employee was alone at the time.

The intruder demanded money from the safe, and after it was given to him, he fled on foot in an unknown direction, Officer Knopp said. The amount of cash

taken is undetermined.

The robber was described as black, in his 20s, and wearing a black hooded sweat shirt and a ski mask. The employee told police that, although the man simulated a weapon, it was never revealed.

The case is still under investigation, and the police department is asking that anyone with more information or who might have witnessed the incident call the department at 330-6300, or the Anonymous Tip Hotline at 330-6395.

Downtown Block Party

Santa Cruz Avenue • Menlo Park



Wednesdays
June 25
August 6
August 20
6:00 pm
to
9:30 pm

Healthy Communities block party series begins Wednesday June 25th! Local shopping, live music, children's activities, a showcase of non-profit organizations, food, and fun, all in downtown Menlo Park!



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Stanford Hospital Health Notes

special feature

A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics

Getting You Back on Your Feet and Moving



Suzanne Parsons (right) sees her orthopedic team. (Left to right) Dominique Cano, Susie Imery and Dr. Stuart Goodman

On a February day this year, Suzanne Parsons found herself in the Stanford Hospital Emergency Department after taking a fall. The 87-year-old was met there by familiar faces—not just her family, but an orthopedics team from Stanford who had been getting to know her. “I was there in the waiting room with my daughter when my doctor came in,” says Suzanne. “He came right up to me and said ‘I thought that was you; the team is here.’ That was the day I got my new hip.”

Suzanne’s journey to the Stanford Hospital Orthopedic Department began nearly two years ago, when she was still living independently in her San Carlos home. A fall in 2006 left her with a broken leg and a badly damaged knee. She went to a surgeon who set the leg, and she diligently began her recovery and rehabilitation. But there were some bumps in the road.

“After a few months the leg began to bow out. It got really bad. I went to another surgeon who took one look at it and told me to get into a wheel chair,” recalls Suzanne. “I told him that one thing I would not be doing right now is getting into a wheel chair.” It would take visits to three separate surgeons around the Bay Area before Suzanne found her way to Stanford Hospital,

While joint replacement surgery has an impressive success rate, nearly 10% of implants will fail and require a second procedure, called a revision, to remove the old implants and replace them with new components.

where she met the team that could rebuild her.

Rebuilding a Joint

Joint replacement surgery is a fairly common procedure. Each year, orthopedic surgeons in the U.S. perform more than 300,000 total knee replacements, making it one of the most successful elec-

tive surgeries done today. The surgery replaces severely damaged cartilage tissue with a metal or plastic prosthesis that duplicates the function of the knee joint. Since the 1970s, the technology and long-term success of knee replacement surgery has improved dramatically, providing relief to people with chronic, debilitating knee pain.

While joint replacement surgery has an impressive success rate, nearly 10% of implants will fail and require a second procedure, called a revision, to remove the old implants and replace them with new components. For Suzanne, her original knee joint replacement became loose and she suffered severe bone loss. The orthopedic team at Stanford Hospital, led by Dr. Stuart Goodman, performed the revision that got Suzanne back on her feet.

“I specialize in joint replacement surgery and do quite a few revisions,” explains Dr. Goodman. “Suzanne’s case was unique due to the way her previous joint replacement was setting. Her leg just couldn’t heal properly.”



Left: An x-ray taken after Suzanne’s original surgery shows how the joint replacement was failing. Above: Dr. Goodman reviews Suzanne’s current x-rays.

A New Support Team

Dr. Goodman’s reputation with his fellow clinicians throughout the area made it possible for Suzanne to improve her situation. “While joint replacement surgery is fairly common, things can still go wrong,” Dr. Goodman confides. “The most important thing is to have a team of people, whether they are at the same institution or at another hospital, who have the expertise and ability to fix a problem when it arises.”

Suzanne was referred to Dr. Goodman by her original surgeon. Their first meeting set the tone for her recovery. “He had such an amazing manner,” says Suzanne. “He came so highly recommended I didn’t know if he would be able to schedule me for surgery.” Dr. Goodman told Suzanne that he would operate on her in three days.

Did You Know...

- Nearly 70% of total knee replacement surgery patients are women over 65
- 32% of patients are between 40 and 64 years old
- Less than 2% are younger than age 40
- Approximately 300,000 total knee replacements are performed annually in the U.S.
- Arthritis is the most common cause for joint replacements

For more information on joint replacement at Stanford Hospital, call (650) 723-7266

Easy Tips to Help You Maintain Healthy Joints

Maintain a healthy body weight—less excess weight on your body means less stress on your joints.

Take your vitamins—make sure you’re getting enough calcium to build strong bones; vitamin C supports joint tissue.

Stretch—Stretching and strengthening activities can help maintain your range of motion, build muscle and promote flexibility.

Move—Sitting or standing all day can cause joint stiffness. When possible, alternate between these two positions, ideally every 30 minutes.

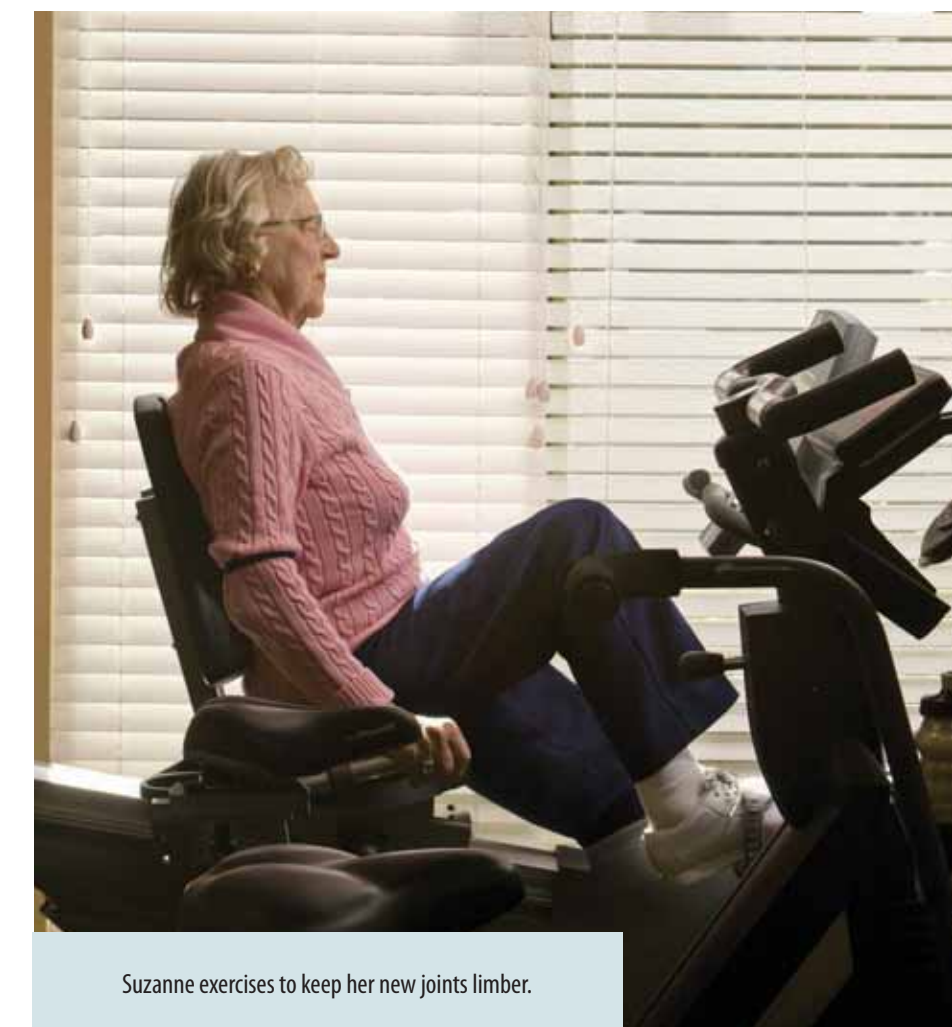


Dr. Goodman examines Suzanne’s knee.

Rebounding After a Set Back

Suzanne’s broken hip was a setback, but it hasn’t kept her down. She gets around independently, relying on a walker she playfully named “George” and a smaller, curvier cane, “Georgette.” She keeps up with physical therapy, attending sessions at the Hyatt and doing exercises on her own. “When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade,” beams Suzanne. “I got my leg back—I am the bionic woman!”

“When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade,” beams Suzanne. “I got my leg back—I am the bionic woman!”



Suzanne exercises to keep her new joints limber.

Photos by Mark Tuschman

Stanford Hospital & Clinics is known worldwide for advanced treatment of complex disorders in areas such as cardiac care, cancer treatment, neurosciences, surgery, and organ transplants. Consistently ranked among “America’s Best Hospitals” by *U.S. News and World Report*, Stanford Hospital & Clinics is internationally recognized for translating medical breakthroughs into the care of patients. The Hospital is part of the Stanford University Medical Center, along with the Stanford University School of Medicine and Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford

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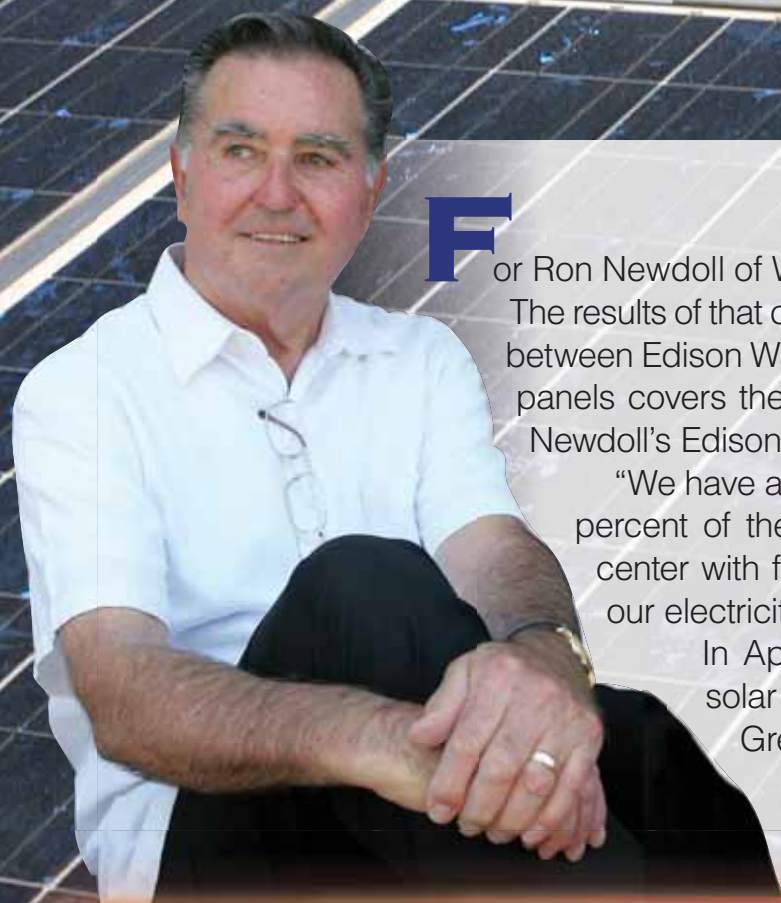
Stanford University Medical Center

June 18, 2008 ■ The Almanac ■ 13

RON NEWDOLL'S ENTERPRISES GO SOLAR

Newdoll Enterprises of North Fair Oaks earns county Green Business certificate. His Edison Technology Park is totally powered by the sun. He also runs an art gallery.

STORY BY MARION SOFTKY
PHOTOS BY VERONICA WEBER



For Ron Newdoll of Woodside, going solar is a no-brainer. The results of that conviction are highly visible over in North Fair Oaks, squeezed between Edison Way and the railroad tracks. Almost an acre of bright blue solar panels covers the roofs and provides shade to Newdoll Enterprises and Mr. Newdoll's Edison Technology Park.

"We have a 400 kilowatt photovoltaic solar installation that provides 100 percent of the power requirements for an 85,000-square-foot industrial center with four buildings," Mr. Newdoll says. "One hundred percent of our electricity and power comes from the sun."

In April, Newdoll Enterprises, which designs and manufactures solar power equipment, earned one of San Mateo County's first Green Business certificates for unincorporated areas.

Kim Springer, resource conservation manager for the county's RecycleWorks, admires Mr. Newdollar for his unique relations with his tenants. "Ron works with his tenants as a community to conserve resources, whether it's recycling, energy efficiency, or water conservation," he says.

Mr. Newdollar wants his next building to be the greenest in the Bay Area. Due to start construction this year just south of the current four, the 40,000 square-foot building will incorporate solar heating and air conditioning, generation of electricity from excess steam, capturing rain water for landscaping and toilet flushing, and maximum use of recycled materials. "So nothing's wasted," he says.

"We're shooting to make it a LEED Platinum building," Mr. Newdollar says, referring to the top rating in the green building rating system known as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

Mr. Newdollar's passions are contagious. They extend far beyond the solar future, to music, technology and art. Over a long career, he's been a radar expert and has run a company for 40-plus years that still builds recording equipment and studios around the world.

Newdollar Enterprise's main office at 3515-B Edison Way opens into an art gallery. The visitor enters a large room ringed by elegant stone Shona carvings from Zimbabwe. The walls are splashed with bright paintings on biotech themes by artist Julie Newdollar, Mr. Newdollar's daughter.

Mr. Newdollar's enthusiasm for all his projects seems boundless. "I'm so excited about what I do that it just bubbles over," he says.

RADAR TO MUSIC TO SOLAR

Ron Newdollar grew up in the San Fernando Valley when it was still orchards and vineyards.

Ron joined the California Air National Guard when he was 17 and still in high school. A couple of training sessions in radar electronics at Biloxi, Mississippi, and a couple of years at Burbank City College launched young Mr. Newdollar into a career in radar.

In 1959 Mr. Newdollar found himself in Redwood City at Ampex. While there he met and married co-worker Agnes Leon, a Redwood City girl who dreamed of living in Woodside. He also began lecturing around the world under contract to the Air Force on the operation and maintenance of recording equipment.

In 1961, Mr. Newdollar was offered "a job I couldn't refuse" as a GS-13 (a high civil service rank) with the Air Force at San Angelo, Texas. "I was 23," he says.

Mr. Newdollar hadn't been with the Air Force long before he started moonlighting. He set up a small recording studio.

"My first effort went gold — talk about luck!" he says, showing a framed gold 45 rpm recording of "The Last Kiss," a rock-and-roll song performed by J. Frank Wilson and the Cavaliers, which sold at least two million copies. It hangs the wall of his office. "I still enjoy showing it to people. Sometimes they start singing it to me," he chuckles.

Mr. Newdollar's recording business, which became the company Accurate Sound, did so well that he could leave the Air Force, and eventually the young family moved back to the Bay Area "We decided we weren't Texans at heart," he says.

"The Last Kiss" got me interested in the music business," Mr. Newdollar says. Through Accurate Sound, now part of Newdollar Enterprises, he manufactured

recording equipment and built recording studios all over the world. He has put in studios for household names like Ray Charles, the Mommas and the Poppas, and Joe South. "I still love the business," he says.

The Newdollars moved to Woodside in 1973. Their four children attended Woodside Elementary School and Woodside High School. They have two grandchildren and one on the way.

The Newdollars run the business as a team, Mr. Newdollar says. Ms. Newdollar does the accounting. They moved Accurate Sound from Texas to Fifth Avenue in Redwood City, where they manufactured equipment and put in a recording studio.

In 1978, Mr. Newdollar bought the commercial complex on Edison Way, and in 1980 he moved in. The complex expanded with two new buildings in the 1980s. Now it has 30 tenants in 50 spaces. "We're full," Mr. Newdollar says.

Mr. Newdollar loves his tenants; it appears his tenants like him. "They never want to leave unless they're forced to," he says. "There's a synergy."

Tenants at Edison Technology Park range from contractors and a patent attorney to a landscape architect, high-tech companies in electronics and biotech, and Dieter's German Car Repair.

It was later that Mr. Newdollar was bitten by the solar bug. He took note as the government and PG&E began providing more incentives to install solar power. His passion for high tech kicked in.

"I ran the numbers and decided that putting solar on the roof was a good fiscal move," he says. "It would also benefit the environment."

ADVANCING SOLAR

During 2004, Edison Technology Park installed more than 2,388 solar modules from three different manufacturers on the roofs of its four buildings, and wired them into the electrical system. They produce almost 400,000 kilowatts of peak power, and generate 570,000 kilowatt hours of renewable electricity a year, according to a company brochure.

Electric meters that run both forward and backward symbolize Newdollar's complicated relationship with PG&E. The meters run forward in winter when the complex is using more power than it generates. In summer, the solar system exports enough energy to power more than 100 homes in nearby Atherton and Redwood City neighborhoods, the brochure explains.

Once a year the bill is "trued up," Mr. Newdollar says. The problem is that the Newdollar complex pays PG&E for the power it buys in the winter, but PG&E doesn't pay for the power it gains in the summer.

"They don't even say thank you. We just lose it," he grumbles. "There's no incentive to install more solar because they won't pay you for it."

Mr. Newdollar is supporting new legislation so PG&E, or other electric companies, will have to pay the producer for power delivered to its system.

While the economics of installing solar power were favorable for Mr. Newdollar, they may be tougher for other businesses, he notes.

Mr. Newdollar had two advantages that a more struggling company might not have. He grew up with a family of contractors, so he was familiar with construction. He was able to be his own general contrac-

See **NEWDOLL**, page 16



The Brush with Science Gallery at the headquarters of Newdollar Enterprises features mystical medical paintings by Julie Newdollar, Ron Newdollar's daughter, and Shona sculpture obtained from Zimbabwe as barter for a recording studio. On top is "Spindles of Necessity," showing the goddess of cell division splitting a cell.

'BRUSH WITH SCIENCE'

Art gallery at solar company shows biotech paintings and Shona sculpture from Zimbabwe

By Marion Softky

Almanac Staff Writer

It's a real surprise to enter a high-tech solar company in Edison Technology Park, and find a lively display of bright paintings on biotech themes, and dozens of elegant stone carvings by Shona sculptors from Zimbabwe.

Welcome to "Brush with Science Gallery" at 3515B Edison Way in North Fair Oaks. It is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays.

Ron Newdollar of Woodside has used the entrance to his corporate offices to display two groups of art pieces in a gallery that will soon present lectures and be open for events.

Julie Newdollar, a microbiologist and medical illustrator, has mounted a striking display of paintings with biological themes on the walls of her father's office. Her paintings show Native American folklore, Japanese kimonos decorated with biotech symbols, and Greek mythology, says Mr. Newdollar during a tour.

Ms. Newdollar's pictures have appeared on the covers of dozens of biotech magazines, her father says proudly. And she does paintings on commission from doctors all over the world. Her images merge life science and culture, myths and molecules,

according to her Web site, brushwith-science.com.

The Zimbabwe sculptures, as carved by generations from the Shona tribe, reflect in polished stone the shapes and spirits of animals and people. One sculpture shows three giraffes with gracefully entwined necks. Others are birdbaths, each with a small carved hippo to enjoy the water.

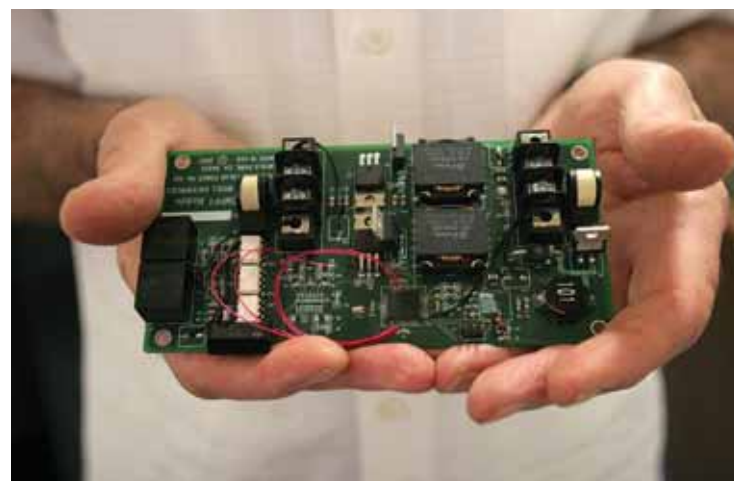
Mr. Newdollar acquired the collection by a kind of fluke — it's called barter.

His company, Accurate Sound, sells recording equipment all over the world. When a potential customer in Zimbabwe wanted to buy a recording studio, he couldn't pay. "Their money is worthless," Mr. Newdollar says.

So they finally agreed to trade. Accurate Sound shipped a 20-foot cargo container full of recording equipment to the customer in Zimbabwe. In return, Mr. Newdollar received a 20-foot cargo container stuffed with 10 tons of Shona carvings.

Mr. Newdollar plans to open the gallery soon for programs and lectures. "We'll be able to give lectures on Shona and artwork and my other passion, which is solar," he says.

For information on the Brush with Science Gallery, at 3515B Edison Way, call 440-0084, or go to brushwith-science.com. ■



This "smart card," under development by Newdollar Enterprises, monitors all the components of the solar system, from panels to meter, and maximizes the yield of electricity from the whole system.



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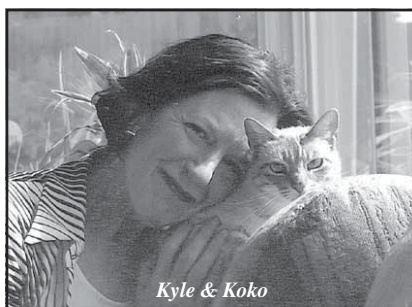
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Foundation gives \$1.5 million to schools

By Marjorie Mader

Almanac Staff Writer

The Las Lomitas Education Foundation reached a new fundraising high this year, allowing it to present a \$1.5 million gift to the Las Lomitas School District on June 10.

A committee representing foundation and school representatives determined how the grant will be used to support education programs in the district's two elementary schools, Las Lomitas and La Entrada.

Here's how the funds are to be used:

■ \$819,000, the largest amount, will help defray the cost of lowering the number of students in

classes. Class sizes at Las Lomitas, a grad K-3 school, will be capped at 20 students with one teacher instead of an average of 24 students. Classes at La Entrada, grades 4-8, will have an average of 24 students instead of 27.

■ \$531,500 will provide "extras" at both schools, such as staffing for a range of electives at La Entrada, including three foreign languages, visual and performing arts, geometry, and support classes; a part-time music teacher at Las Lomitas; additional physical education staff; and partial funding of counselors and aides to help students in the library media center and with technology and math.

■ \$65,000 will defray the cost

of two new initiatives at Las Lomitas — Literacy Collaborative and Reading Recovery for Kindergarten — and provide electronic interactive whiteboards at both schools.

■ \$84,500, raised as "Fund-A-Need" donations at the foundation's annual auction last month, will go to support visual and performing arts at both schools.

In accepting the grant, trustees thanked foundation leaders and the community for their continuing support of education in the district.

For more information about the nonprofit Las Lomitas Education Foundation, go online to www.llef.org. ■

Las Lomitas district budget 'in good shape' for 2008-09

By Marjorie Mader

Almanac Staff Writer

The Las Lomitas School District starts its new fiscal year July 1 "in good shape" with a \$16.9 million budget — a 1.8 percent increase over the 2007-08 fiscal year — and healthy reserves, said De Modderman, the district's business manager.

Budget projections turned more positive for the district after Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger issued his revised budget proposal in May that reduced the impact on "basic aid" districts such as Las

Lomitas, which depend on local property tax revenues.

Board members unanimously adopted the budget July 10. Ms. Modderman reminded board members that the budget won't be final until after the state budget is approved by the Legislature and signed by the governor. That timing is uncertain.

A record \$1.5 million grant from the Las Lomitas Education Foundation last week is a huge boost for the district.

"This grant itself allows us to maintain the core values that are so important to the com-

munity," said Superintendent Eric Hartwig. Those values, he said, include "small class sizes, a variety of enrichment opportunities for students that start at kindergarten and continue through the eighth grade, and (enhancing) the district's ability to attract and maintain the best teachers in the area."

While personnel costs of about \$13 million a year account for 82 percent of the district budget, that amount could rise because salary negotiations for employ-

Continued on next page

NEWDOLL

continued from page 15

tor, he says. And he is a saver and had the resources to put in a \$3.6 million facility. He also took advantage of rebates, tax incentives, and accelerated depreciation.

"At the end of five years I will recoup my investment," he says. "And for the next 25 years I have free electricity."

Mr. Newdoll still recommends that other businesses try to go solar — if they have a roof that is capable of supporting solar panels. "In my opinion, it's a no-brainer to put solar on the roof," he says. It might take 10 years to pay it off, but "you still have 20 years of free electricity."

AT EDISON TECHNOLOGY PARK

In front of Mr. Newdoll's office, along Edison Way, a tall control panel topped by solar panels has been set up to test what he calls a new "smart card." This is one of several pieces of equipment being developed by Newdoll Enterprises to optimize

the performance of solar panels and associated equipment.

"We've installed 48 solar panels, 24 with the new smart card and 24 without, so we can compare the improvement with the smart card," Mr. Newdoll explains.

Newdoll Enterprises LLC was formed in 2007 to develop and manufacture products that will harvest the greatest amount of power from the sun with the greatest efficiency, Mr. Newdoll writes. The company invents electrical devices that will improve solar inverters and solar panels, and better monitor the operations of solar systems.

A visit to Mr. Newdoll's newest tenant shows how they work together for greener products in a greener environment.

Peter Sharer, CEO of Agilewaves, loves the remodeling of his new labs. "It is important for me that our space lines up with our values," he says.

Agilewaves has developed a "Resource Monitor" to measure consumption of gas, water, and electricity in homes and businesses, calculate the carbon footprint, and display the information live on a touch-screen or Web page.

Mr. Sharer, who rides a scooter to work from his nearby home in North Fair Oaks, points to new green features in his bright working quarters lit by a skylight and high-efficiency lights. There is flooring made of cork; the Shaw carpet is both recycled and recycleable; the linoleum is actually made of linseed oil. And the paint is free of volatile organics. "That's good for the guys who do the painting and good for our guys," he says.

Mr. Newdoll is also enthusiastic. "I'm going to encourage Peter to apply to the county for a Green Business certificate," he says.

And there are many more ideas where these came from. "We're in expansion mode," says Mr. Newdoll eagerly. "We never quit. We just go on and on and on and on." ■

■ INFORMATION

For information on Newdoll Enterprises, call 365-2843. For information on his recording business, go to www accuratesound.com. Information on San Mateo County's Green Business Program can be found at recycleworks.org. Information about the Bay Area Green Business Program is available at greenbiz.abag.ca.gov.

Hearings on \$1.73 billion county budget

By Marion Softky
Almanac Staff Writer

Three days of marathon hearings on San Mateo County's proposed \$1.73 billion budget for fiscal year 2009 open Monday, June 23, at 9 a.m. and continue through Wednesday, June 25.

The proposed budget, which already includes cuts to eliminate a structural deficit, took another likely hit based on Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's May revision of the proposed state budget.

In a June 3 report, County Manager John Maltbie reported the county stands to lose \$29.3 million in state funds as a result of the state's \$17.2 billion deficit. His proposed budget had earlier anticipated a loss of only \$7.4 million.

If adopted, the proposed cuts in would reduce state support of the Human Services Agency by \$13.1 million; the Health Department by \$5.8 million; and public safety programs by \$8 million.

The proposed county budget for the fiscal year starting July 1 would fund 5,860 positions, 12 fewer than in the current budget, and would spend \$4 million less. It would tap general fund reserves for \$26.4 million, reduce operating costs of county departments by \$8 million, and continue a hiring freeze.

Schedule

The budget hearings will open with a statement by the county manager on Monday, June 23, at 9 a.m., in the Supervisors Chambers, 400 County Center, at the corner of Bradford and Hamilton streets in Redwood City.

Starting at 1:30 p.m., the Monday afternoon session will include: the Human Service Agency; the San Mateo County Medical Center; the Department of Housing; the Parks Department; and the Planning and Building Department.

Tuesday, June 24, at 9:30 a.m., the hearings will include: the County Library; Child Support

Services; the district attorney/public administrator; and the Probation Department.

Tuesday, June 24, at 1:30 p.m., the hearings will include: the Sheriff's Office/Office of Emergency Services; the Coroner's Office; the Private Defender Program; County support of the courts; and the Grand Jury.

Wednesday, June 25, at 1 p.m., the hearings will include: the Human Resources Department; the Department of Public Works; and Capital Projects.

At 4:30 p.m., the hearings will wrap up, and the supervisors will adopt the budget.

Hearings on the final budget will take place Sept. 30. These will reflect the budget that is finally adopted by the state.

The recommended budget is available for viewing online at www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/budget or at the County Manager's office at County Center. The detailed schedule of hearings is available at both sites. ■

Continued from previous page

ees haven't concluded.

The district projects that 1,169 students will enroll in the next school year, an increase of 33 students over the past year. Kindergarten enrollment at Las Lomas, a grade K through 3 school, could increase from 140 to as many as 160 children.

"We're totally staffed for next year and ready to handle the increase in students," said Superintendent Hartwig.

The district will have the equivalent of three more full-time teachers to handle the increase in students and to staff the special education class that is moving back to the district; up to now, students have been transported to special education programs in other districts.

The average cost of education for a student in the Las Lomas district in the next school year is estimated at \$14,505, compared with \$13,000 in the current year.

About 86 percent of the district's revenue comes from local sources. Property taxes make up the major share of revenue, and the estimated increase in property tax revenues for the budget year starting July 1 remains at 5 percent.

The district's \$311 million annual parcel tax brings in \$1.2 million a year. A total of 485 property owners, age 65 and older, have asked for and received exemption from the tax.

The \$1.5 million foundation grant compares with \$1.25 million last year. Rental of the district's former La Loma School

site in Sharon Heights and the former Ladera School site, now leased to Woodland School, will bring in a combined income of \$1.65 million during the budget year starting July 1.

Income from the state is expected to be reduced to \$1.19 million, compared with \$1.3 million in the 2007-08 budget year. This includes: \$571,140 for class-size reduction in grades K-3; about \$151,000 for bus transportation; and about \$146,000 from the state lottery.

Federal funds account for about 1.4 percent of the district's income.

The district expects to end the year with a \$556,810 balance in the general fund.

The board last week decided to move \$200,000 from the general fund reserve to the so-called "Basic Aid Differential Reserve" it established June 11 to protect the district against future funding uncertainties that could impact basic-aid districts adversely. ■

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- Monday, July 7

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- Sunday, July 27

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Sharon Heights county club fireworks show sparks dispute

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

For five years, Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club in Menlo Park has put on a July Fourth fireworks show for its members, giving residents of the nearby Sharon Heights neighborhood front row seats to the only fireworks show held within city limits.

Now, one resident is trying to keep this year's fireworks show from happening, and a lot of country club members and neighbors aren't too happy about that.

Melanie Austin, who lives near Alameda de las Pulgas, approximately one mile from where the fireworks are launched, is appealing a decision by city staff to grant a "special events permit" to the country club to put on its fireworks show. The permit is required because fireworks violate the city's noise ordinance.

The appeal has sparked a flood of more than 60 letters to the Planning Commission, urging commissioners to allow the country club to put on its annual show.

"This is a great tradition," said Sand Hill Circle neighbor Randy Lieber. "If one person wants to speak out, that's her right ... but I've never heard of anyone else objecting."

The Planning Commission is scheduled to consider Ms. Austin's appeal at its meeting on Monday, June 16, which starts at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets.

The meeting is after The Almanac's Monday press deadline, so check TheAlmanacOnline.com for a news update.

The appeal

In her appeal, Ms. Austin says the city should pull the permit

because:

■ The 20-minute show, scheduled to start at 9:15 p.m., causes "extreme noise" that affects nearby residents and dogs.

■ The fireworks show creates a potential fire hazard, and requires a "frivolous" use of fire district resources.

"I think it's kind of irresponsible, especially considering the fire situation in the Bay Area right now, for a fire truck to be devoted to monitor an event for a private club," Ms. Austin told The Almanac. "I have the right to protest, and I'm protesting."

The country club is located at 2900 Sand Hill Road near Interstate 280. A licensed pyrotechnician operates the fireworks, according to a report by Deanna Chow, a senior planner with the city.

The city's planning staff, which granted the permit, is recommending the Planning Commission deny Ms. Austin's appeal. The country club "has worked diligently" to create safe conditions for the show, Ms. Chow said.

The country club reimburses the Menlo Park Fire Protection District for inspection and supervision costs, and although the fireworks are loud, the event occurs just once a year, Ms. Chow said.

Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club staff did not return The Almanac's calls. ■

Ice cream thieves undone by tech

When a theft is under way, one rule that is sometimes overlooked by the criminals — don't do something stupid that gives the game away — was ignored again on May 24 when thieves stole 120 small containers of variously flavored ice cream from a vending machine outside the Shell station in Ladera.

"The villains used a credit card to pay for gas" and were caught on a surveillance tape, Sgt. Linda Gibbons of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office told The Almanac.

The suspects, all male and all 17, were each charged with one count of burglary and released to their parents after promising to appear before a judge in the county's juvenile court system.

Two suspects are from Menlo Park and one from Redwood City, Sgt. Gibbons said.

See **ICE CREAM**, page 19



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Watkins Avenue crossing to close for two weekends

The railroad grade crossing at Watkins Avenue will be closed for the weekends of June 20 to 23, and June 27 to June 30, while Caltrain reconstructs the crossing and adjacent track. Caltrain will also repave the street.

The street will be closed at the crossing from 8 a.m. Friday to 5 a.m. Monday each of the weekends.

During the closure, drivers, cyclists and pedestrians can use Fair Oaks Lane or Encinal Avenue as a detour.

Neighbors may hear back-up alarms and construction noise from the equipment. Two por-

table light towers powered by a diesel generator will be used for night work. Caltrain promises construction crews will work as quickly and quietly as possible to minimize disruptions to neighbors.

Train service will continue as usual during closure, with trains running through the area on a single track. As a result, passengers waiting for both north and southbound trains at the Atherton and Menlo Park stations will board from the northbound platform on the first weekend, and the southbound platform on the second weekend.

Doctor pleads not guilty in death of Stanford student from Menlo Park

A Colorado doctor pleaded not guilty Thursday in San Mateo County Superior Court to one felony charge of unauthorized practice of medicine, for prescribing pills over the Internet to a Menlo Park youth without possessing a California medical license.

Dr. Christian Ellis Hageseth, 67, allegedly prescribed generic Prozac to Stanford University student John McKay, 19, on June 6, 2005. Mr. McKay committed suicide two months later, on Aug. 2, in his home on Oak Street in Menlo Park. The coroner's report showed that Mr. McKay had the medicine, as well as alcohol, in his system at the time of his death.

Menlo Park police Officer Felicia Byars, who was dispatched to the home after Mr. McKay's mother found his body, testified she found a rum bottle at the home that was three-quarters empty.

Dr. Hageseth filled a 90-capsule prescription for Mr. McKay through the Web site www.USANewRX.com.

However, the doctor was

not legally allowed to practice medicine in California because his license had expired, according to Deputy District Attorney Jennifer Ow. He had a restricted medical license from Colorado at the time he prescribed the drugs.

Defense attorney Anthony Gibbs has argued that because Dr. Hageseth never set foot in California, he never practiced medicine in the state. However, Judge John Grandsaert found that because Dr. Hageseth knew the mailing address was in California, he knew that the medicine would be used in a state where he had no practitioner's license.

A trial is scheduled for Oct. 20 at 8:45 a.m.

Mr. McKay had just finished his freshman year at Stanford at the time of his death. He was a 2004 graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School, where he was president of the debate team for four years. His parents are David and Sheila McKay of Menlo Park.

— Bay City News Service

ICE CREAM

continued from page 18

Their names are being withheld because they are juveniles.

The scheme began to unravel the morning after when a gas station attendant notified the Sheriff's Office of the break-in. Deputies put two and two together after watching the tape

and seeing the youths make several trips to their vehicle, presumably carrying the ice cream, Sgt. Gibbons said.

Deputies traced the credit card, made a call and a youth confessed and implicated two friends.

The ice cream had a value of \$225. Most of it was returned, having been stored in a suspect's freezer, Sgt. Gibbons said.



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- 7.12 Kenny Burrell Quartet
- 7.13 Mel Martin and the Benny Carter Tribute Band
- 7.18 Gary Bartz Quartet featuring George Cables
- 7.19 The Whole Drum Truth
- 7.20 Yosvany Terry: Yedégbé - the Afro-Caribbean Legacy
- 7.21 Sandy Cressman and Homenagem Brasileira
- 7.22 Dayna Stephens Quartet
- 7.23 Andrew Speight's Bebop Night
- 7.24 Victor Lin and Friends
- 7.26 Geoffrey Keezer Quartet w/ special guest Joe Locke
- 7.27 Taylor Eigsti/Julian Lage Duo
- 7.28 Sylvia Cuenca Trio
- 7.29 Ruth Davies' Blues Night featuring Henry Butler
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- 7.31 Tia Fuller and Healing Space

AUGUST

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- 8.3 The Agosto Trio: John Scofield, Larry Grenadier, Bill Stewart
- 8.4 Barry Harris/Charles McPherson Quartet
- 8.5 Jason Moran/Larry Grenadier/Richard Davis/Jeff Ballard
- 8.6 Wycliffe Gordon Sextet
- 8.8 SJW All-Star Jam Session
- 8.9 Fly +1 w/ special guest Joshua Redman



Dugout tree wins reprieve

The drama is over for the leaning, mostly hollow but still vibrant oak tree at Ford Field in Portola Valley, a much beloved tree that six arborists had pronounced too dangerous to live.

The oak will not be cut down, the Town Council decided on June 11. The tree will be braced, the Little League dugout under it will stay closed, and the tree won't be enclosed by a fence.

The council had agreed to put off its decision until the heavy limbs were trimmed and the danger reassessed. With a positive report from the arborist who trimmed the tree — one of the six originally skeptical arborists — the council voted 3-1 to let it live, with Councilman Steve Toben opposed and Councilman Ted Driscoll absent.

The arborist will be bracing the tree at a cost of \$950 and will have to provide a letter on the tree's condition and viability, though Councilwoman Ann Wengert said the letter probably will not address liability.

The tree's advocates noted that the danger had been reduced, though not eliminated. "Trees drop limbs from time to time," Councilman Richard Merk said.



Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

Portola Valley dugout tree.

"You can't go through life without a certain amount of risk."

Mr. Toben said he wanted another arborist's opinion. "I certainly perceive the tree as less onerous than a month ago, but what do I know," he said. "It's easy to be lulled into feeling 'OK, it's a lovely tree. Let's let it go.' I'm not ready to say 'Case closed.'"

Town Administrator Angela Howard, when invited to speak, said: "If it was my decision, I would take the tree down, but it's not my decision."

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Weekends and holidays are supposed to be a time of respite from noise associated with major home construction in Portola Valley, but an apparent loophole in the town's noise ordinance is allowing residents to continue the construction work on their own.

The ordinance restricts ordinary construction activities to weekdays, but allows residents and "immediate family members" to "maintain or improve" their homes and properties on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Planning Manager Leslie Lambert said she knows of at least six homes in town where residents and "family members" are doing weekend construction work on a new home, remodel or addition.

"They're property owners who are acting as their own general contractors," Ms. Lambert told the Town Council at its June 11 meeting. "There's a lot of noise in the valley every day of the week."

Some of these residents are reportedly describing their co-workers as "cousins" when reminded of the ordinance's

PORTOLA VALLEY

restrictions on family members, Town Attorney Sandy Sloan said.

A subcommittee of town officials has been considering amendments to the noise ordinance since 2006. Ms. Lambert was asking the council for recommendations prior to the subcommittee's June 17 meeting.

One idea with some appeal: narrow the ordinance's exception to projects that do not require a building permit. Major remodels, additions and new homes all require a permit.

Council members agreed that

an amended ordinance should be worded so as not to restrict residents who work during the week from using their weekends for home improvement. Days off are "critical" for these people, Councilman Richard Merk said.

Councilman Steve Toben, an experienced mediator, saw a role for the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center, which offers mediation services.

"It's precisely that kind of solution that we should be proposing in this town, not one that's overly broad," Mr. Toben said. "It's all about living in a neighborhood and being in a situation with folks around you." ■

Local open house for park planning

The public is invited to help plan the future of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) at an open house in Woodside, Tuesday, June 17, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., at Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road.

The GGNRA, which extends from Woodside to Point Reyes, is one of the largest urban parks in the world and one of the most popular in the national park system.

Of particular interest in Woodside will be future plans for the Phleger Estate, 1,250 acres of forested hillside north of Woodside and adjacent to Huddart Park.

Another key property in San Mateo County that is in the early planning stages is Rancho Corral de Tierra, 4,262 acres north of Half Moon Bay where massive subdivisions were once planned.

This property is still owned by the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), but has been included in the authorized boundaries of the GGNRA. POST will sell it to the federal government for inclusion in the GGNRA when funds become available.

To sign up for the park newsletter, send an e-mail to goga_gmp@nps.gov or call 415-561-4965.



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Collection of Building Construction Street Impact Fee

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park, California, will hold a Public Hearing to consider reauthorizing the collection of a building construction street impact fee. The amount of and basis for collection of the proposed fee is based on information which will be available to the public at least 10 days in advance of this Public Hearing at the Public Works Department.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park will hold this Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 5, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., or as near as possible thereafter, in the City Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, Civic Center - 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that "if you challenge this matter in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the Public Hearing".

DATED: June 11, 2008
PUBLISHED: June 18 and June 25, 2008

SHERRY KELLY, Interim City Clerk

Published in THE ALMANAC on June 18, 25, 2008.



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

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TOWN BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008/2009

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing on the Proposed Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2008/2009, Wednesday, June 25, 2008 at 8:00 p.m., Historic Schoolhouse, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California.

Comments may be submitted in writing prior to the Town Council meeting or presented at the meeting. All interested persons are invited to appear before the Town Council at the time and place herein above mentioned.

The Proposed Town Budget for fiscal year 2008/2009 is available for viewing on the Town website at www.portolavalley.net, as well as copies are available between 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Portola Valley Town Hall, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California and, via mail by contacting Sharon Hanlon, Town Clerk at 650-851-1700 ext. 10.

Sharon Hanlon
Town Clerk

Published in THE ALMANAC on June 18, 2008.

COLLEGE GRADS

■ **Matthew Bowersox** of Menlo Park received a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of San Diego. His parents are Stephen and Elizabeth Bowersox.

■ **Lindsay Elizabeth Zarcone** of Menlo Park received a bachelor of science degree from Wingate University in Wingate, North Carolina.

■ **Allen McCubbins Wood** of Menlo Park received a bachelor of arts degree in political science from the University of the South, in Sewanne, Tennessee. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wood Jr. of Menlo Park.

■ **Todd Wackerman** of Menlo Park has received a bachelor of arts degree in political science and history from Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

■ **Edward Smith** of Woodside has received a bachelor of arts degree in human development from Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

OBITUARIES

John Sisson

Veteran Atherton council watcher

John Sisson, who attended almost every meeting of the Atherton Town Council for many years, died June 7 at Sequoia Hospital. He was 84.

"He kept us all honest," says Atherton council member Kathy McKeithen, adding that Mr. Sisson was a good friend. "Short of (being) a council member, I can't think of anyone who did more for this town."

Mr. Sisson, a stockbroker who became interested in local government after he retired, also served for two years as a member of the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury, according to his wife, Rosemary.

Mr. Sisson was born in Oceania, California, and attended schools in Redwood City, graduating from Sequoia High School. He served in the U.S. Army in the European Theater during World War II and was awarded the Purple Heart, Silver Star and Bronze Star medals. Returning from service, he completed his education at Stanford University and Harvard Business School.

During his business career, he was a stock broker in San Francisco, retiring in 1990.

Mr. Sisson was the founder and the first president of the Lloyd Park Homeowners Association. He first lived in Atherton in 1941. After he and his wife, Rosemary, were married in 1952, they lived in Menlo Park for 15 years before moving back to Atherton. At the

EL CAMINO

continued from page 10

efficient community input and avoid controversy, but the list of projects already in the works for El Camino Real adds some urgency to the process.

The council has already approved a medical office complex for the site of the former Acorn restaurant at 1906 El Camino Real with a similar complex proposed for the adjacent former Gaylord India Restaurant site. Plans are also in the works to build a Whole Foods grocery store at the former Cadillac dealership at 1300 El Camino Real, and the 108-condo Derry project proposed for a 3.4-acre lot near El Camino Real off Oak Grove Avenue and Derry Lane is set to go before the council this summer.

"This process is going to be a test of this council," said Councilman Richard Cline. "There's no doubt about it that it's going to be a challenge, but I think we can hammer out the details and get a comprehensive vision." ■

time of his death, he was once again serving as president of the Lloyd Park Homeowners Association.

He was an avid reader and enjoyed gardening, say family members.

Surviving family members are his wife, Rosemary, of Atherton; son Richard of Redwood City; daughter Annmarie Sisson of Menlo Park; brother Daniel of the state of Washington; and three grandchildren.

No services will be held.

Kelly Ogle

Attorney and community leader

Kelly Ogle of Menlo Park, an attorney and former member of the San Mateo County District Attorney's office, died June 6 in Palo Alto after a short illness with cancer. He was 76.

Mr. Ogle, a 48-year resident of Menlo Park, was widely known in the community. After moving to Sharon Heights in 1960, he became involved in civic affairs. He served as chairman of the Menlo Park Transportation Commission and ran for a seat on the City Council. He was the fourth president of the Sharon Heights Homeowners' Association and an active member of the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce.

Born in Chico, Mr. Ogle attended schools in Sacramento. He graduated from the University of Santa Clara in 1954, where he also earned his law degree.

He met his wife, Fran, while he was attending the University of Santa Clara and she was a student at Dominican College in San Rafael. They were married in 1957.

Mr. Ogle served as an officer in the U.S. Army, and was assigned to an artillery unit. He then transferred to the Judge Advocate General unit.

After the service he practiced law in San Francisco and was a partner in the law offices of Keil & Connolly, where he was responsible for drafting many of the leases for the large parking garages in the city and at Candlestick Park and the Oakland Coliseum.

From 1970 to 1983 he was a member of the staff of the San Mateo County District Attorney's office, prosecuting criminal cases.

In 1983 he joined the law firm of George Eshoo. In 1988 he opened his own office in Redwood City. During his law career, he served in the private defender program, and as a judge pro tem, a special master and an arbitrator.

Mr. Ogle was a private pilot, first learning to fly when he was 17.

Although a native of California, Mr. Ogle was the quintessential Irishman. He looked the part with silver hair and ruddy complexion. He had a fine tenor voice and loved to sing, taking part in amateur productions put on by the Barristers in San Francisco and the Peninsula Volunteers at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton.

He was gifted with the Irish way with words, and an outgoing personality. As one friend said, "The party started when Kelly arrived."

The Ogles enjoyed entertaining, with Mr. Ogle presiding over the barbecue grill. When he barbecued chicken for 30 neigh-



Kelly Ogle

Obituary policy

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

bors for a Fourth of July block party, his recipe for "Firecracker Chicken" appeared in the July 2, 2003, issue of The Almanac.

Mr. Ogle is survived by his wife of 51 years, Fran; three children, Mike of Salt Lake City, Kathy Dowling of Fremont, and Maureen Ortiz of San Mateo; and seven grandchildren.

A private family service and a memorial will be held at a later date. The family prefers that donations be made to the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, 700 Welch Road, Suite 350, Palo Alto, CA 94304.

Hobey DeStaebler

A Mass of Christian Burial for Hobey DeStaebler of Portola Valley will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 18, at Our Lady of the Wayside Church, 930 Portola Road in Portola Valley. There will be an outdoor reception following the service.

Dr. DeStaebler, an experimental physicist with the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center from 1958 to 2003, died of cancer at his home June 14. He was 79.

A full obituary will appear in The Almanac next week.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF HEARING UNDER RESOLUTION NO. 5800

DECLARING THE INTENTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF MENLO PARK TO VACATE AND ABANDON A PORTION OF THE WILLOW ROAD PLAN LINES FOR THE LENGTH OF THE WILLOW ROAD FRONTAGE OF PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 337 WILLOW ROAD AND 345 WILLOW ROAD IN THE CITY OF MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA, UNDER AND PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE "PUBLIC STREETS, HIGHWAYS AND SERVICE EASEMENTS VACATION LAW," (Section 8300, et seq., STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park did, on the 20th day of May, 2008 pass and adopt Resolution No. 5800 under and pursuant to the provisions of the "Public Streets, Highways and Service Easements Vacation Law" (Section 8300, et seq., Streets and Highways Code), declaring its Intention to vacate and abandon a portion of the Willow Road Plan Lines for the length of the Willow Road frontage of properties located at 337 Willow Road and 345 Willow Road in the City of Menlo Park, California.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN, that in Resolution No. 5800 said City Council did fix Tuesday, the 1st day of July, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., of said day, at the Menlo Park City Council Chambers, Civic Center at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California, as the date, time and place of hearing respecting said proposed vacation and abandonment of said portion of the Willow Road Plan Lines located at 337 Willow Road and 345 Willow Road, and

NOTICE IS ACCORDINGLY HEREBY GIVEN, that on said date and at said time and place of the Public Hearing aforementioned, all persons interested in or objecting to the proposed vacation and abandonment may appear and present objections to said proposed vacation and abandonment and submit evidence in support thereof, under and pursuant to the provisions of Section 8300, et. seq., Streets and Highways Code, "Public Streets, Highways and Service Easements Vacation Law".

Reference is hereby made to Resolution No. 5800 and the plat respecting said proposed vacation and abandonment of the Willow Road Plan Line, as described above, on file in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Menlo Park, Civic Center, Menlo Park, California, for further particulars, and that said Resolution and plat are hereby incorporated herein and made a part of this Notice.

Sherry M. Kelly, Interim City Clerk

Published in THE ALMANAC on June 18, 25, 2008.

When it comes to long-term care, THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.

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John McAfee CLU ChFC CPCU, Agent
Insurance Lic. #: 0E37462
846 Portola Rd Suite D
Portola Valley, CA 94028
Bus: 650-851-3276
john@johnmcafee.com

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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

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

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

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

Ups and downs for parks

First, the good news. The long-running (four-year) dispute over a master plan for Huddart-Wunderlich parks ended earlier this month when county supervisors approved a compromise plan backed by Woodside, Huddart Park neighbors on Greer Road and Dave Holland, county parks director.

Not everyone is totally happy with the final environmental impact report, but all the really thorny issues have been weeded out, leading the Woodside Town Council to endorse the new master plan. At Wunderlich, the mostly privately funded restoration of Folger Stables will continue, along with parking lot improvements.

With a plan in place, there is much work to be done, and that will be more difficult in some areas, including Wunderlich and Huddart,

due to the failure of Measure O. The county ballot measure would have raised \$16 million a year from a one-eighth-cent sales tax to benefit all parks in the county,

including those in 20 incorporated cities and three special districts.

And that is the bad news. Only 60 percent of voters supported Measure O on June 3 — well below the two-thirds threshold required to adopt any new tax. It was the second time in two years that voters almost approved the tiny sales tax increase to once and for all solidify financial support for the magnificent parks owned and managed by San Mateo County.

Now it is almost certain that parks will suffer due to the increasingly strained county spending plans, as legislators and the governor scramble to balance a state budget that the governor says will be short \$17.2 billion this year.

The parks money would have been used in a variety of ways, including after-school programs for kids and teens; overdue maintenance and upgrades to trails, recreation areas and park facilities; repairing and upgrading of playgrounds and playing fields; and preserving natural open space.

The Huddart-Wunderlich agreement was approved after com-

promises were forged on two major areas of disagreement — a plan to build a mountain bike trail from Woodside to Skyline Boulevard; and control of the park gate on Greer Road, a narrow lane that residents feel should not carry any park traffic at all. The deal also permits equestrians leaving Huddart Park for Woodside trails to cross through West Union Creek as long as there is no bridge they can use or until a state agency halts the practice.

The compromise approved by supervisors June 3 went along with a stipulation already put in place by the county to lock the Greer Road gate with a keypad to stop most motor vehicles from coming to or from the park. But in a letter to the supervisors, attorney and Woodside resident Robert Susk said garbage trucks and service vehicles, including dump trucks and tractors, and some park employees continue to use the gate, to the consternation of neighbors.

This is a tough issue for the county, due in part to the location of the park's maintenance yard just inside the Greer Road gate. Without access to the gate, vehicles would have to use interior park roads to reach the main gate on Kings Mountain Road. Perhaps the best solution here would be to monitor traffic now and agree on a limited number of Greer Road trips in the future.

The park staff made the right decision to sidestep a controversial bid to install a bike trail from the valley to Skyline Boulevard through Huddart Park by referring the idea to a new committee that is working on a countywide trails master plan. Clearly the first effort needed more work, as hearings on the trail proposal drew 400 people, 79 speakers and more than 300 letters. However, it is clearly time to develop a separate bike trail to Skyline, and in our view, there are plenty of ways to do so without impinging on equestrian or hiking trails.

Parks Director Dave Holland should be commended for staying the course through long and rigorous negotiations with parties that have long-standing disagreements. This master plan is a good first step, but any such plan is only as good as its signatories. Let's hope the spirit of cooperation continues.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

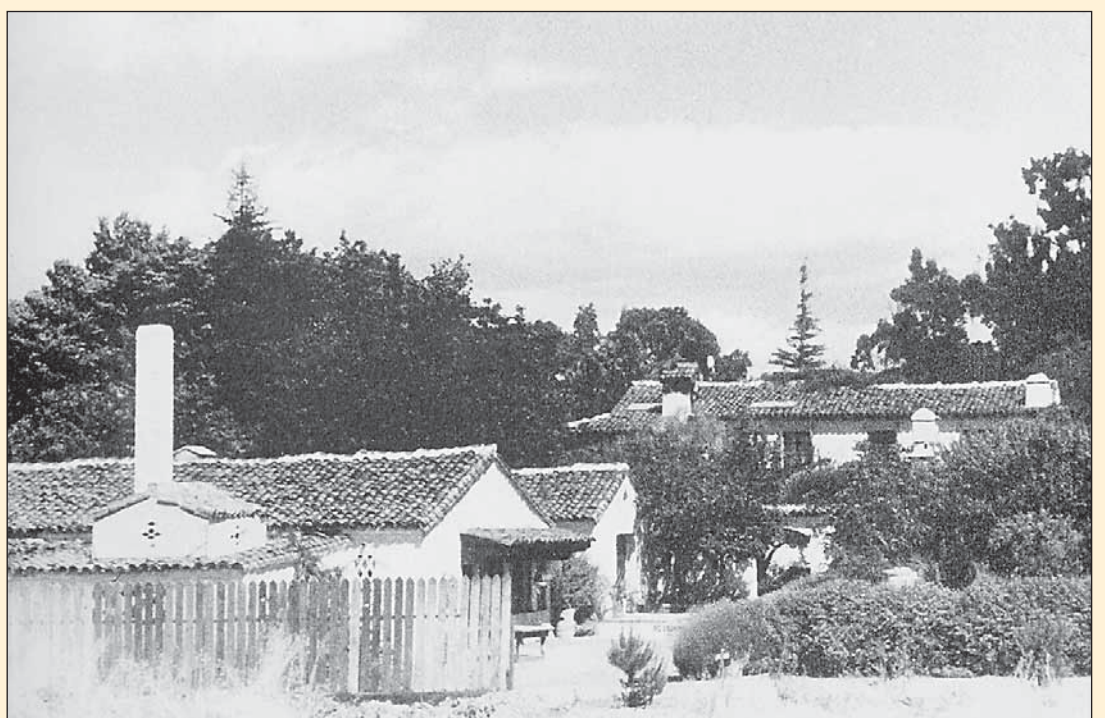
Unhappy with coverage of fire maps

Editor:

I want to express my disappointment about your recent reporting and editorial on fire hazard mapping. Your articles reflect either a lack of understanding of the facts or a lack of critical judgment.

According to our fire marshal, Portola Valley Ranch should be zoned as a very high fire hazard zone, just like the forested areas in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Here at the ranch, homes are surrounded by 30 feet of defensible space and are accessible via large paved roads; all the grassland is mowed; a fire hydrant is available every 200 feet and the fire station is a quarter-mile away.

But the pictures we saw on TV from the Santa Cruz Mountains show firefighters standing in very dense forest and brush, watching houses burn down because they



Menlo Park Historical Association

Our Regional Heritage

Irish immigrant John Murray sold this Menlo Park property to the Garner family in 1929; the Garners went on to create the Allied Arts Guild there. The Murray home was subsequently disguised to fit in with the Spanish Revival architectural theme of the guild, which exists today on Arbor Road.

See LETTERS, next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

did not have access to water. Why would your reporter not challenge statements from fire district members claiming that the conditions here are similar to the ones in the Summit fire?

Having been present at the April 23 Town Council meeting, your reporter must know that the fire map presented by the town's consultant was a map negotiated with the fire district. Anybody familiar with the topology and vegetation in our area has to admit that this is really a political map rather than a technically accurate map. I applaud the town council for not forwarding this map to Sacramento.

I would have welcomed an Almanac editorial questioning the motives of the Woodside Fire Protection District. Why promote an unreasonable very high fire hazard mapping that penalizes residents with higher insurance rates without providing any benefits? Why take all these initiatives without even informing our town governments?

In one of your articles, a fire district board member tries to justify the fire marshal's actions by stating that she is not a politician. Well, she sure fooled many of us.

Pierre Fischer

Valley Oak, Portola Valley

Is it time for Valley to take fire measures?

Editor:

If Portola Valley's withheld fire map has such bad news, maybe the town should face up to it and start to take measures.

The huge number of eucalyptus and Monterey pine trees in the Westridge area have always concerned me. I would like to see the town adopt a measure to have 80 percent of them removed in the next five years with the first year focused on any that are within 100 feet of any building.

This will be expensive but should go a long way towards reducing the hazard and keeping insurance rates reasonable. Further, thinning out this overgrowth will, to my eye, improve the appearance of the locale.

Peter Moseley
Golden Hills Drive,
Portola Valley

El Camino visioning and housing

Editor:

It would be a mistake to think that the only way to "be bold" about our El Camino/downtown corridor is to entertain ideas of under-grounding El Camino and providing underground parking, as Mayor Andy Cohen suggested at the recent Menlo Park City

Grateful for seven years at Oak Knoll

By Mary Gilles

My second and last child graduated from Oak Knoll Elementary School on June 12, and it occurred to me that a mere personal note of thanks to our teachers, the principal and vice principal and staff would not be enough to express my family's thanks to these people.

This school has been at the center of our lives for the past seven years and it is no small matter that all of the dedicated and caring people, including all the moms and dads who have volunteered their time, have indelibly shaped my children's lives.

I'll never forget my fears of letting go as my son went on his first field trip in kindergarten on a bus over the San Mateo Bridge to Ardenwood Farm. Or the year dynamos Renee Lavezzo and Karen Clancy incorporated a semester of San Francisco into my son's first grade curriculum, culminating in

a whirlwind day playing tourist on a cable car bus in the most beautiful city in the world.

Or, the maiden year of the Chinese New Year's parade and luncheon — a picture of my then first-grade daughter in her Chinese dress, her hair decorated with chopsticks, still beams at me from my bedroom dresser.

I'll never forget the days of volunteering in the art room with art phenomenon Barbara Cotrell, one of Oak Knoll's greatest gifts to our children.

Or, the enjoyment both my children had with Mr. Crabb, unique wearer of plaid, and his sense of humor during band. Or, the unbelievable music performances directed by Bee Tee, who has the supreme talent to

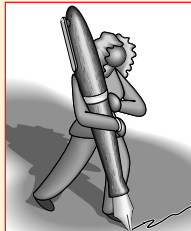
teach children to breathe the music.

Or, the consistent presence of Joseph — man of many trades and talents we all found out, when he sang a beautiful island song from his soul at the talent show. Or, the beloved office team lead by Barb Snow, resident mother of 730 children!

The list could go on. I'm sure there are hundreds of other parents who would echo the sentiment that Oak Knoll Elementary is not just a school. It's a way of life that has shaped our children's minds and character and it has taught them to love learning and life.

The energy of this school goes beyond the tenets of offering a good education. We thank Oak Knoll Elementary from the bottom of our hearts for nurturing our children into the next stage of their lives. It's a debt that can never be repaid.

**Mary Gilles lives on
Hermosa Way in Menlo Park**



GUEST
OPINION

Council study session.

It is also a mistake to disregard our Association of Bay Area Government housing allocation requirements for future housing needs in Menlo Park. Our mayor thinks that because Menlo Park has not honored previous ABAG numbers and there is "no teeth" behind enforcement, this is sufficient reason not to honor the council's 3-2 vote last October in support of our housing allocation. The council has committed itself to trying to reach the goal of 993 new housing units over the next seven years.

Unless we are prepared to maintain the status quo of empty and unsightly car dealerships, and a lack of vibrancy and image in downtown, change will happen along both El Camino and in our downtown. Whatever the mix of housing, retail, office and possibly a hotel, there will be more jobs created and workers who will need housing options, including units they can afford. Putting residents and workers near jobs, shopping, services and transit is the way of the future.

And as Fran Dehn from the Chamber of Commerce noted, Menlo Park will see an explosion of Baby Boomers who are and will be in need of different types of housing. Much of that will need to be affordable and close to services and transit.

The ABAG is right. We will need new housing to accommodate these changes in our community. We can argue the numbers but they are right about the need.

So I argue that the boldest, greenest, most humanistic and futuristic planning we can do is to create the necessary housing for our residents and workers. Reaching ABAG's housing allocation numbers is a target we should aim for, not one we should stonewall.

Elizabeth Lasensky

Fremont Street, Menlo Park

It's official: We have a drought

Editor:

The governor has spoken. There's a drought in California. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's declaration of the first statewide

drought in 16 years did not go so far as to call for rationing but, it would be wise for us to conserve water as though it did.

The water we drink, from the Hetch Hetchy aqueduct, travels 162 miles from the Tuolumne River headwaters in Yosemite National Park to join the San Joaquin River and flow into the San Francisco Bay Delta. Fifty-nine percent of the Tuolumne is diverted for urban and rural uses and 85 percent of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission water comes from the Tuolumne River.

This river supports a diverse biological community, including migratory waterfowl, peregrine falcons, bald eagles, mule deer, black bears, foothill yellow-legged frogs, Sierra Nevada red fox, rainbow and steelhead trout, and Chinook salmon.

In addition to a water shortage, we are facing an aging water system that needs a seismic upgrade and retrofitting, a \$4.3 billion project which the SFPUC is overseeing. At the same time the commission has proposed diverting up to 25 million more gallons

of water — per day — from the Tuolumne River.

Such diversion would delay the seismic upgrades and harm the Tuolumne. You have to wonder if the right hand knows what the left hand is doing.

In February of this year Portola Valley Town Council took the commendable lead on the Midpeninsula by approving a resolution drafted by the nonprofit Tuolumne River Trust (TRT), encouraging the SFPUC to focus its full attention on the seismic upgrades to the Hetch Hetchy water system and drop its proposal to divert more water from the Tuolumne River.

The Menlo Park City Council should join Portola Valley in this acknowledgement that when it comes to water, we are all in this together. Conserving water in a time of drought is every bit as important as studying our carbon footprint. Issues such as the safety and the reliable supply of our water are the responsibility of our elected council members.

Brielle Johnck
Central Avenue, Menlo Park

City of Menlo Park Community Services Department



Summer Concerts 2008



See insert in today's paper for more information



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