

MENLO PARK pays \$1.48 million
for police overtime. Page 5

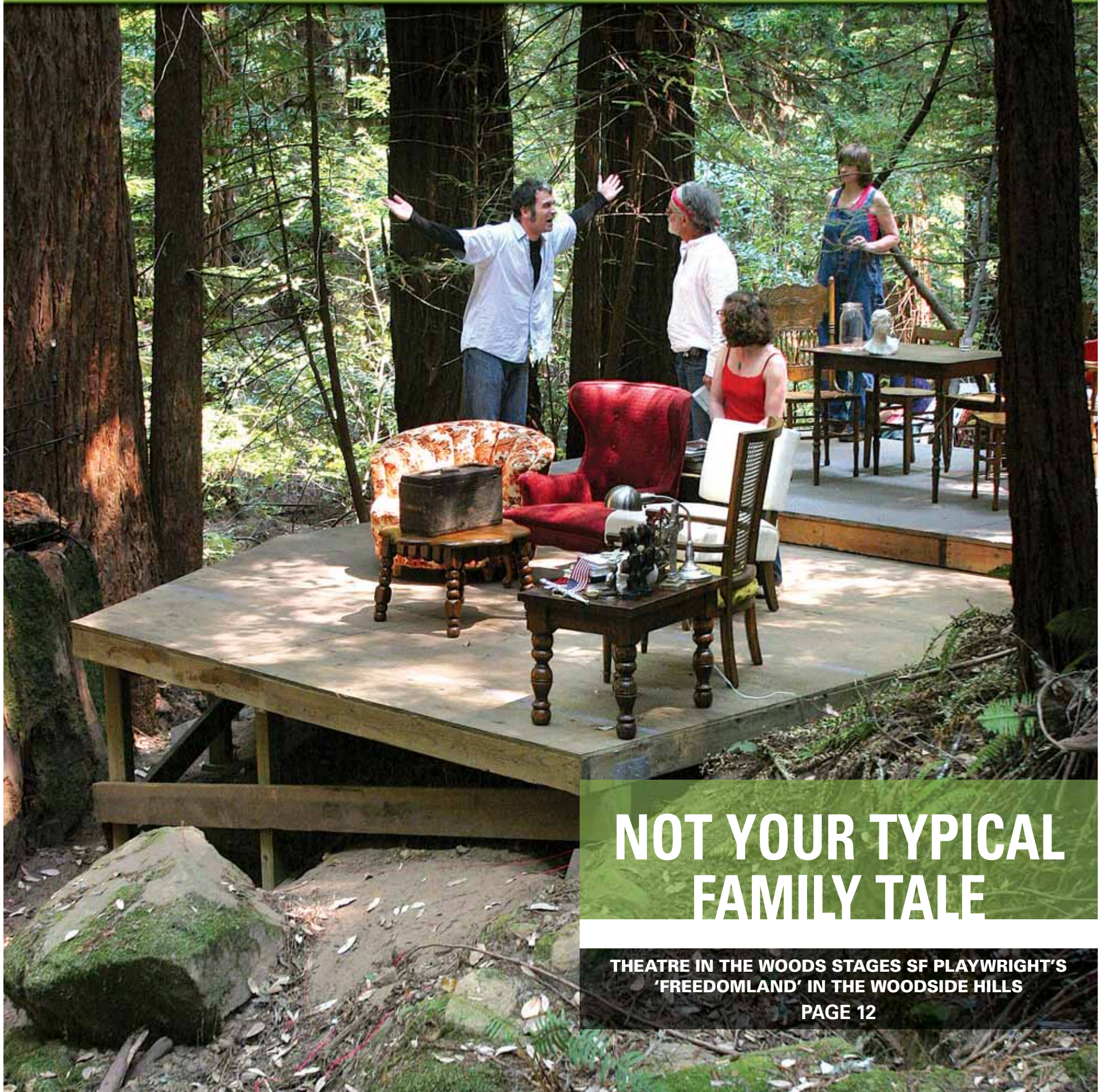
The Almanac

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

JULY 23, 2008

| www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

| VOL. 43 NO. 47



NOT YOUR TYPICAL FAMILY TALE

THEATRE IN THE WOODS STAGES SF PLAYWRIGHT'S
'FREEDOMLAND' IN THE WOODSIDE HILLS
PAGE 12

REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990

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



MENLO PARK

This 3bd/2.5ba home offers the unique opportunity to take advantage of a high quality structural upgrade done in the 90's expanding the square footage of the home to almost 2500+/-sf. Purchase, move-in and enjoy or reconfigure to suit your taste.

\$1,495,000



MENLO PARK

Enjoy this Allied Arts neighborhood, a favorite in convenient Menlo Park, and appreciate the bonus of this location that is moments to Stanford and downtown Palo Alto. This inviting and updated 3bd/2ba home features a living room with coved ceiling, true-divided light windows and a marble-faced fireplace flanked by shelves. The large and bright eat-in kitchen has an adjoining sunny deck for outdoor entertainment or relaxation.

\$1,249,000



WOODSIDE

Two homes on one parcel. Plans approved for an addition and remodel of unit one. Live in unit 2 while you remodel. Outstanding opportunity for rental income. Serene place to live lots of potential. Bring your contractors, investors, clients wanting rental income.

\$989,000

apr.com | **MENLO PARK OFFICE** 1550 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 100 650.462.1111

apr.com | **WOODSIDE OFFICE** 2930 WOODSIDE ROAD 650.529.1111

APR COUNTIES | Santa Clara | San Mateo | San Francisco | Alameda | Contra Costa | Monterey | Santa Cruz



Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

Tesla's in town

Tesla Motors Operations Manager Colette Niazmand drives one of the all-electric Tesla Roadster sports cars out of the garage at Tesla's new Menlo Park showroom and service center at 300 El Camino Real. The showroom will be open to the public on Tuesday, July 22, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., said David Johnson, the city's business development manager.

Atherton

- Fire district takes reins on Walsh Road neighborhood evacuation plan. **Page 5**
- Building fees get much pricier. **Page 7**

Menlo Park

- City pays \$1.48 million for police overtime. **Page 5**
- Bohannon forms new "non-political" group; Cohen and Fergusson remain unchallenged. **Page 14**
- Plan for adult-size soccer field at Burgess Park get thumbs up from parks commission. **Page 8**

Portola Valley

- Rebuilding Ford Field is key item in town's budget. **Page 9**

Also Inside

- Calendar27
- Letters18
- Obituaries16
- Police calls.....17

Woodside

- Town's roads on edge of rapid deterioration, official says. **Page 9**

Schools

- Woodside Elementary suspends Spanish for grades 1-4. **Page 25**

Election 2008

- Five take out papers for Atherton council election. **Page 7**
- Two file for election to Menlo Park City School District board. **Page 15**

Community

- Taking the kids to work: Cubes & Crayons mixes 'coworking' with child care. **Cover, Section 2**

On the cover

Evan Miller, from left, Randy Hurst, Syri Mongiello and Julia Mitchell rehearse a scene from Amy Freed's dark comedy, "Freedomland," which is being staged outdoors by Theatre in the Woods in the forest just off Bear Gulch Road in Woodside. Photo by Veronica Weber. Story on **Page 12**.

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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

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

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

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

THE ALMANAC (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-4455. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, the Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. Voluntary subscriptions for \$30 per year or \$50 per 2 years are welcome from residents of the above circulation area. Subscription rates for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year and \$80 for two years. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, P.O. Box 7008, Menlo Park, CA 94026-7008. Copyright ©2006 by Embarcadero Publishing Co., All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.



BEST FRESH FISH • BEST SEAFOOD

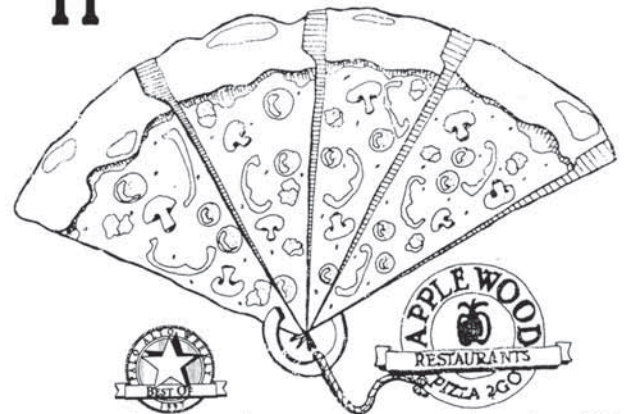
Cook's Seafood Restaurant & Market
"A GREAT PLACE TO EAT LUNCH OR DINNER"

Seafood Dinners from \$5⁹⁵ to \$9⁹⁵
Clam Chowder - Seafood Salads
Our Award Winning Fish & Chips
 Prepared from the finest Alaskan halibut.

Also featuring a full service fresh fish market.
 Restaurant: Mon-Sat 11-8:30 pm, Fri 'til 9 pm
 Market: Mon - Sat 9 - 7, Closed Sunday

751 El Camino Real Call in Orders Welcome
 Menlo Park, CA 94025 Phone 650 325-0604 or 322-2231

Join the
Applewood Pizza fan club.



Just one bite and you're a member for life.

1001 El Camino Real Menlo Park (605) 324-3486
 989 El Camino Real Menlo Park (650) 328-1556 • 227 First Street Los Altos (650) 941-9222

When A Little Help is All You Need

- Peace of Mind
- Dignity
- Independence
- Personal Care & Bathing
- Nutritious Meals
- Light Housekeeping
- Transportation & Errands
- Companionship
- Medication Reminders
- Hourly & 24-Hour Care
- Bonded and Insured
- Child Care / Nanny Services also available



Homewatch Caregivers

408 395-4676



www.homewatchcaregivers.com

1340 S. De Anza Boulevard, San Jose, CA 95129



A TOWN MARKET PLACE

ROBERTS MARKET

SINCE 1889

3015 Woodside Road Woodside, 650-851-1511
 4420 Alpine Road Portola Valley, 650-851-1711
 Open 6:30AM - 8PM

Sale Dates: July 23, 24, 25, 26 www.robertsmarket.com

BY POPULAR DEMAND
 FOR YOUR
 SHOPPING CONVENIENCE

NOW OPEN
ROBERTS
PORTOLA VALLEY

4420 Alpine Road,
 650-851-1711 Open 6:30AM - 8PM

Roberts Tip of the Week

A Sparkling Endorsement

If you love bubbly wine, keep in mind that Champagne is not your only choice. While true Champagne is limited to Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Pinot Meunier grapes, sparkling wines made from other varieties provide excellent value. For example, there are various dry, sparkling wines made primarily from Chenin Blanc. For softer and fruitier character, vintners rely on Cabernet Franc, Chardonnay, and Gamay grapes for their bubbly offerings. These wines pair wonderfully with fish and shellfish dishes. Many of these sparkling alternatives to Champagne also utilize the same "method champenoise" technique used by fine champagne producers, which involves taking blends of still wines and placing them through a secondary fermentation in the bottle, which produces the bubbles.

While Champagne is probably the best known sparkling wine, there are many different varieties of sparkling wines that offer a similarly great bubbly wine experience. At ROBERTS MARKET, we are here to make sure that your wine experience is always enjoyable. We can guarantee your satisfaction only because of our dedication. Come see us today if you have questions regarding sparkling wines. Our wine department is the most extensive in the area, more than most liquor stores.

Hint: Sparkling wines are best served in tall flutes that taper inward slightly toward the top, which helps preserve the bubbly character of the wine.



DELI

Specialty Cheeses from our deli Case:

FROMAGER D'AFFINOIS
 FROM FRANCE

\$18.99 LB.

The most luscious, creamy buttery French brie – this is the one! Texture and flavor of a triple cream but only 60%

DAWN'S HANDMADE
 GORGONZOLA
 MASCARPONE TORTE

\$18.99 LB.

Made with Mountain Gorgonzola and decorated with walnuts, apricots, and cranberries. Absolutely delicious.

Fresh PRODUCE

Local
WHITE CORN



2 FOR \$1

Local
RED, GREEN, & ROMAINE LETTUCE

99¢ ea.

California
BARTLETT PEARS



\$1.29 lb.

Tasty
RASPBERRIES

2 FOR \$5

Special this week at Roberts

MEAT

Chicken
APPLE SAUSAGE WITH CINNAMON

\$4.98 lb.

Chicken
PARMESAN SAUSAGES

\$4.98 lb.

Chicken
HAWAIIAN SAUSAGE

\$4.98 lb.

Chicken hot
SOUTH WEST TEQUILA SAUSAGE

\$4.98 lb.



On Sale GROCERY

ROCKSTAR ENERGY DRINK

16oz. – Also Zero Carb – Mango – Plus Calif. Redeem Value

\$1.49

BEN & JERRY'S ICE CREAM

Pints – Also Frozen Yogurt

\$2.79

ATHENOS SPICY THREE PEPPER HUMMUS

7oz. - Also Artichoke & Garlic - Original

\$1.89

STACY'S SIMPLY NAKED PITA CHIPS

6oz. – Also Parmesan Garlic & Herb

\$1.79

DEL MONTE SQUEEZABLE KETCHUP

24oz.

99¢

GREEN FOREST BATHROOM TISSUE

4 Roll Pack

\$1.19

Local News

MENLO PARK | A THERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

City pays \$1.48 million for police overtime

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

The mass exodus of police officers from the city from 2005 to 2007 took a serious toll on the understaffed police department, according to the testimony of Menlo Park cops, city officials and City Council members.

It turns out the high turnover rate also took a toll on the city's budget.

The city paid public safety employees — police officers and dispatchers — \$1.48 million in overtime last year, with some officers collecting as much as \$60,000 in 2007 overtime pay, according to personnel data obtained by The Almanac through a public records request.

Staffing levels are back up following an aggressive campaign to recruit more officers, but the city took some clear

financial hits due to 30 officers either resigning or retiring from the Menlo Park force over the past three years. (The department has 50 officers when fully staffed.) The impacts include:

- Forty-eight public safety employees collected at least \$1,000 in overtime pay.

- Dispatchers slated to make approximately \$75,000 a year ended up making well more than \$100,000.

- Twelve patrol officers earned more than \$110,000.

New contract

Although the city paid less in police salaries due to lower-than-budgeted staffing levels, City Manager Glen Rojas said the towering overtime costs, in addition to the estimated \$80,000 it takes to recruit and train each new officer, are reasons why it's in the city's best financial interests to keep the

department fully staffed.

"Our objective is to keep the vacancies filled, and reduce our overtime costs," Mr. Rojas said, referring to the new three-year contract between the city and the Menlo Park Police Officers' Association that will raise salaries 25 percent over the next three years for the city's 39 line-level officers.

The salary increases were approved 5-0 by the City Council in April as an attempt to recruit and retain more officers.

The agreement is estimated to cost the city an estimated \$1.72 million over the next three years — far less than what another three years of high turnover would do to the city's coffers, Mr. Rojas said.

"In our police budget, we were spending more than we have budgeted for overtime costs," he said. "We had reached a point where our officers were

Top overtime earners			
Officer	Title	Overtime pay	Total pay
William Dixon	Sergeant	\$61,325	\$183,559
Suzanna Dea-Huang	Dispatcher	\$61,015	\$140,183
Nicholas Douglas	Field training officer	\$57,828	\$152,578
Eric Cowans	Sergeant	\$53,711	\$172,504
Matthew Saylor	Patrol officer	\$52,377	\$131,720
Bradley Schuler	Patrol officer	\$50,307	\$140,022
Ronald Prickett	Sergeant	\$49,767	\$173,374
Charleen Manning	Dispatch training officer	\$48,683	\$135,880
Joshua Russell	Patrol officer	\$46,587	\$126,958

Source: City of Menlo Park personnel department

Last year, 48 Menlo Park public safety employees — police officers and dispatchers — received more than \$10,000 in overtime pay. The table shows employees who earned more than \$40,000 from taking on extra shifts. Total pay includes base salary, overtime pay and special income, such as bonuses and cashed vacation time.

exhausted, and the likelihood of officers getting too tired or injured on the job was increasing. But now we're at a point

where we've added officers, and we plan on retaining them."

See OVERTIME, page 8

Fire district takes reins on Atherton evacuation plan

By Andrea Gemmet and Renee Batti
Almanac staff writers

Atherton officials have cleared the way for the Menlo Park fire district to take the lead on disaster and evacuation planning for the rural Walsh Road neighborhood west of Alameda de las Pulgas.

The Atherton City Council, at its July 16 meeting, unanimously passed a motion endorsing a resolution by the Menlo Park Fire Protection District that offered the district's services as the lead agency to design a plan for the area.

Residents of the neighborhood, which has only one access and egress road, have been lobbying the town and fire district for some time to come up with a plan they can call upon in the event of a fast-moving wildfire or other emergency.

Frustrated with the slow pace of official efforts, an ad hoc group of the residents just before the July 4 weekend printed and distributed a brochure and map showing emergency evacuation routes — although the routes have yet to be vetted by the town or district.

In accepting the fire district's offer to take charge of the plan-

ning, the council added the caveat that fire officials are to "take into account Atherton Police Department comments" on the evacuation plan.

Residents had shown up at the council meeting to address the issue during oral communications, but the council voted 5-0 to add the topic to the agenda as an emergency item.

District's resolution

The night before, the district fire board discussed the issue at its own meeting, during which members of the ad hoc group of Walsh Road residents urged board members to take the lead on putting an evacuation plan into place.

"We need your help for a plan that's specific to our neighborhood," said Ginger Levick. Residents are willing to continue helping with the process, she added. "We are ready; we are motivated. Keep us going."

Berna Davis told the fire board that residents consider the evacuation plan they mapped out and distributed "a first version."

"We want a process and a timeline" for completion of a plan created by emergency services professionals, she said.

See FIRE, page 8



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

Fola Afariogun, center, and fellow SEIU labor union members chant during a protest July 17 at the Menlo Park offices of the buyout firm, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.

Union protest targets buyout firm KKR

By Selena Simmons-Duffin
Special to the Almanac

A protest over claims of inequitable tax laws brought an estimated 250 people to the Menlo Park offices of the buyout firm, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., on Thursday, July 17.

The Service Employees International Union organized the protest at the West Coast headquarters of KKR at 2800 Sand Hill Road. Affiliated protests

took place in 25 countries on the same day, Jono Shaffer, private equity field campaign organizer for SEIU, said in an interview.

A main target of the protest was the law that allows buyout firms such as KKR to pay 15 percent tax on investment money that Mr. Shaffer said is effectively income, since it is part of the firm's payment when it sells a company. If this money were treated as income instead of a capital gain on investments, it would be taxed

at the ordinary income tax rate of 35 percent, he said.

A bill to change this law passed in the House of Representatives, and is currently stalled in the Senate, Mr. Shaffer said.

In a statement, a KKR spokesman said: "We disagree with the SEIU's distortion of the facts and their street theater approach. ... The reality is that we are committed to creating jobs and strengthening companies, com-

See PROTEST, page 8

No evidence of attack by mountain lion, officials say

An unnamed 50-year-old Portola Valley man who reported he was attacked by a mountain lion at Foothills Park in Palo Alto, will not be fined for the subsequent investigation, which found no evidence that the attack occurred, authorities said.

The man told officials that he was hiking on the Los Altos Trail on Saturday afternoon, July 12, when he felt a shove from behind. He said he rolled down a hillside and was badly scraped, state wildlife warden Patrick Foy said.

Mr. Foy said the investigation included a professional animal tracker, five state game wardens, hounds trained to detect the scent of mountain

lions, and a forensic analysis of the man's shirt.

No evidence of the attack or the mountain lion was found by the investigation, he said. Mr. Foy estimated the investigation cost \$10,000 and took 80 hours of labor.

Palo Alto police agent Dan Ryan said the police department would not charge the hiker because there was not a good enough case against the man, who is still adamant that the attack occurred.

There have been only 16 confirmed mountain lion attacks in California since 1890, according to Mr. Foy.

— Reporting by
the Palo Alto Weekly

Correction

A picture that ran last week with a story on the Oak Knoll School Science Olympiad was taken in 2007. The students are no longer fifth-graders at Oak Knoll. They graduated from Oak Knoll in June 2007 and moved on to Hillview Middle School, where they will be in the seventh grade in August.

We'll have to start meeting like this

Anna Eshoo fields questions in telephone town hall meetings

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Ather-ton, is taking advantage of a service that blends two communication technologies, the robo-call and the teleconference, to conduct interactive live town-hall meetings over the phone in which thousands of constituents can participate.

In a June 24 call to San Mateo County — the calls are organized by county — a total of 6,030 people were on the line at one time or another during the hour-long event, said Danielle Lee, a spokesperson for Ms. Eshoo.

The meeting began at 7 p.m. Pacific time and constituents stayed on the line for an average of 13 minutes, Ms. Lee said. Peak attendance was 576.

To ask a question, a listener presses a couple of buttons on the phone and tells a call screener the general subject of the question. When the caller's turn comes around, he or she asks Ms. Eshoo the question in real time.

In a recording of a July 9 meeting with Santa Cruz County, available

on Ms. Eshoo's Web site, it was a two-way conversation while Ms. Eshoo and the caller exchanged greetings and established the question, but the caller's voice was no longer heard once Ms. Eshoo began her answer. There were no follow-up questions.

The topics ranged from presidential impeachment to universal health care to human rights and the Beijing Olympics. (Ms. Eshoo, who met with the Dalai Lama recently, said she was invited but will not attend the Olympics.)

At the end of the telephone meeting, callers who either did not get on or who had follow-up questions could leave voice mail.

Ms. Eshoo's office is using Los Angeles-based iConstituent to arrange the calls, Ms. Lee said. The company provides mass communication services to state and federal agencies, according to its Web site.



Anna Eshoo

Each electronic meeting costs Ms. Eshoo about \$4,000, but it varies according to how many phone numbers are called, Ms. Lee said. For the June 24 meeting, the company called some 45,400 phone numbers in San Mateo County. The maximum is 70,000, she said.

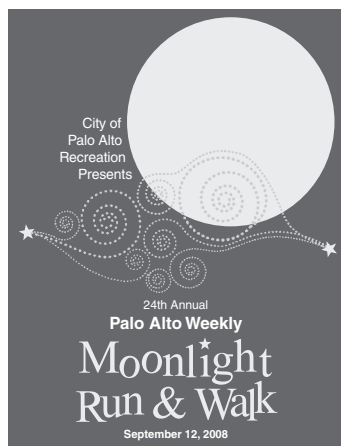
This kind of conference is cheaper than direct mail and more interactive, Ms. Lee said. "It's a very gratifying experience for the people to get answers to their questions," she said when asked for an impression.

Ms. Lee said she knows of two or three other U.S. representatives who are also using the technology.

The meetings are timed so that people are home from work, Ms. Lee said. As for when the next one happens, they're unscheduled and often depend on what's going on in Congress, she said. ■

TOWN SQUARE

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



City of Palo Alto Recreation Presents 24TH ANNUAL PALO ALTO WEEKLY MOONLIGHT RUN & WALK FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

TIME & PLACE

PLEASE NOTE TIMES: 5K walk 7:15pm, 10K run 8:15pm, 5K run 8:45pm.
Race-night registration 6:15 to 8:00pm at City of Palo Alto Baylands Athletic Center, Embarcadero & Geng Roads (just east of the Embarcadero Exit off Highway 101).
Parking — go to PaloAltoOnline.com to check for specific parking locations.

COURSE

5K and 10K loop courses over Palo Alto Baylands levee, through the marshlands by the light of the Harvest Moon! Course is flat, USAT&F certified (10K run only) on levee and paved roads. Water at all stops. (Course map available at www.PaloAltoOnline.com)

REGISTRATIONS & ENTRY FEE

Pre-registration fee is \$20 per entrant (postmarked by September 5, 2008) and includes a long-sleeve t-shirt. Late/race-night registration is \$25 and includes a shirt only **while supplies last. A scantron card must be filled out at race-night registration.**
Family package: Children 12 and under run free with a registered parent. A completed entry form for each child must be submitted with adult registration. **Please indicate on form and include \$10 for an adult small t-shirt. No confirmation of mail-in registration available. Registration also available online at www.PaloAltoOnline.com. Refunds will not be issued for no-show registrations (and t-shirts will not be held).**

SPORTS TEAM/CLUBS: Pre-registration opportunity for organizations of 10 or more runners; contact Amy at (650) 326-8210 ext. 285.

MINORS: If not pre-registered Minors under 18 **MUST** bring signed parental/waiver form (below) on race night to participate. **In addition scantron card must be completely filled out at race-night registration.**

DIVISIONS

Age divisions: 9 & under; 10-12; 13-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69, and 70 & over with separate divisions for male and female runners in each age group. Race timing provided for 5K and 10K runs only; not 5K walk.

COMPUTERIZED RESULTS by A Change of Pace

Race results will be posted on the Internet at www.PaloAltoOnline.com 10am on 9/15. Registration forms must be filled out completely and correctly for results to be accurate. Race organizers are not responsible for incorrect results caused by incomplete or incorrect registration forms.

AWARDS/PRIZES/ENTERTAINMENT

Top three finishers in each division. Prize giveaways and refreshments. DJ, Efen Ayala. Pre-race warmup by Andre Bobo.

BENEFICIARY

Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund. A holiday-giving fund to benefit Palo Alto area non-profits and charitable organizations. In April 2008, 37 organizations received a total of \$240,000 (from the 2007-2008 Holiday Fund.)

MORE INFORMATION

Call (650) 463-4920, (650) 326-8210, email MoonlightRun@paweekly.com. or go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

For safety reasons, no dogs allowed on course for the 5K and 10K runs. They are welcome on the 5K walk only. No retractable leashes! Please bring your own clean-up bag. Jogging strollers welcome in the 5K walk or at the back of either run.

Flashlights/head lights recommended.

Register online at www.PaloAltoOnline.com



Building fees get much pricier

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

Building a home in Atherton isn't exactly a cheap proposition, but it's just gotten more expensive. The Atherton City Council approved big planning fee increases — more than quadruple the current fee in one case — in an effort to recover costs for staff time.

And getting free, unlimited amounts of time to meet with planning staff before submitting plans is also a thing of the past. Pre-application reviews are free for the first hour, but every hour thereafter will be charged for staff time, from a high of \$180 per hour for the city manager to a low of \$70 for the town arborist.

The fees affected range from getting permission to remove heritage trees to getting a conditional use permit. For those and other permits, planning fees double from \$750 to \$1,500 under a resolution approved on a 5-0 vote at the council's July 16 meeting.

The cost of a zoning ordinance amendment is now four times higher, from \$900 to \$5,000.

The new fees are effective immediately, said City Attorney Marc Hynes.

Interim finance director Bill Yeomans told the council that

■ ATHERTON

Atherton's fees haven't been raised since 2000.

Some projects, such as applications for subdivisions, lot-line adjustments and general plan amendments, used to have no fees. Now, review of an application for a lot-line adjustment will

The higher fees are expected to raise town revenues by an estimated \$50,000 a year.

cost \$2,500 and a general plan amendment will cost \$5,000.

The fees cover the cost of staff time for plan reviews, as well as for site inspections, preparing public notices, attending Planning Commission meetings and responding to inquiries from neighbors. A 15 percent overhead charge is also included.

Building departments are legally prohibited from serving as cash cows for a town, but they are entitled to recoup all of their costs by charging fees. The higher fees are expected to raise building department revenue by an estimated \$50,000 annually,

said Mr. Yeomans.

Besides raising fees, the resolution reinstated the town's ability to charge refundable deposits of \$1,000 to \$2,500. Last year, the council passed a resolution that inadvertently took away the ability to charge deposits, Mr. Yeomans said. Mr. Yeomans, who was not working for Atherton at the time, said he thought it was because ex-finance director John Johns didn't consult closely with department heads when creating fee tables.

In coming up with the new planning fees, town staff surveyed fees charged by Los Altos Hills, Portola Valley, Woodside, Menlo Park, San Carlos and Hillsborough. The results show that planning fees are all over the map. For instance, the fee for a variance is \$850 in Menlo Park, \$1,900 in Woodside and \$4,168 in Hillsborough. The cost of a variance under Atherton's old fee structure was the lowest of its neighbors at \$750, but its new fee of \$1,500 puts it in the middle of the pack.

Councilman Jerry Carlson supported the higher fees but questioned the reasons for the wide variations from town to town.

"I'm not satisfied yet," he said at the meeting. "This is far from done. I've got all kinds of questions." ■

Town pays to settle historic urn lawsuit

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

The case of the Lindenwood urns appears to be closed, but it wasn't cheap. Atherton residents Randy and Lisa Lamb won the right to move a pair of antique cast iron urns from their old house in Lindenwood to their new home on Park Lane in a settlement of their lawsuit against the town.

The legal fees far outweigh the cost of the settlement, though.

Under the settlement, finalized July 14, the Lambs may move their urns, but they agree to keep them in Atherton, and town has the first right of refusal should they decide to sell them. Besides paying the Lambs an additional \$10,000 toward their legal fees, for a total of \$17,500, the town must also set aside \$10,000 toward the creation of a nonprofit historic preservation foundation.

The settlement allows the Lambs to do exactly what the Planning Commission permit would have done, only at a huge expense and a year-and-a-half delay, said Mr. Lamb.

Ms. Lamb estimates that the town has spent \$250,000 to 300,000 on the lawsuit and said that she and her husband have

spent "north of \$100,000" in legal costs.

City Attorney Marc Hynes wouldn't say how much the lawsuit has cost the town. The Almanac has filed a public records request seeking that information.

Atherton created a historic artifacts ordinance to protect objects such as the urns, which date back to at least 1937 and decorated the James Flood's Linden Towers estate before it was subdivided into Lindenwood, according to town staff.

Last July, a San Mateo Superior Court judge ruled the Atherton council didn't follow its own rules and acted "capriciously" when it denied the Lambs permission to move the urns out of Lindenwood in January 2007. As a result, the town is in the midst of revising its artifacts ordinance.

The Atherton Planning Commission had given the Lambs permission to move the urns, but the Lindenwood Homes Association board appealed, and the council voted 4-1 to overturn the permit.

"The reason we did this had nothing to do with the urns, it had to do with the principle," Ms. Lamb said. "We were getting dragged through the mud by the council and the town,

like we were doing something so horrific, like we were trying to steal artifacts. We were on the up and up. We said long before we were thinking about putting our (Lindenwood) house on the market that we'd like to take them with us.

"We truly had no idea they had historic relevance and value," she said. ■

Five take out papers for council election

Former Atherton police chief and city manager Richard Moore, as well as four other people, have taken out candidate papers to run for two, four-year seats on the Atherton City Council.

The terms for council members Jim Janz and Kathy McKeithen expire in November. Mr. Janz told the Almanac he hadn't decided whether to run for a third term and Ms. McKeithen couldn't be immediately reached by phone.

Mr. Moore told the Almanac he was speaking to supporters before deciding whether to file. Atherton does not release the names of people who withdraw candidate papers, only those who submit them, said City Clerk Kathi Hamilton. ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Loans for Green Building

Q: I want to install a solar heating system in my home but it is expensive to do this. Are there loans and grants available that would make it more affordable?

A: Yes, there are public as well as private sources of money for green building and improvements. Organizations such as Build It Green and California Green Solutions offer extensive information about sources of financing, both public and private, as well as articles recommending green building and landscape ideas. Much of this information is directed at small and medium sized businesses and communities, but there are tips for individual property owners as well. During the next decade there will be much more support for individuals like you who are retrofitting an older home with energy-saving systems, especially in the private sector. For now, first contact your local and state governments to see if there are loans available. Your utility provider may also have incentives and rebates. With a bit more research, you will no doubt find information about private sources of funding for your worthwhile project.

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



Presented by
Mark Schmidt
Licensed Optician



CLIMATE CHANGE'S POTENTIAL EFFECT ON EYES

The three primary risk factors that lead to cataract formation are age, smoking, and exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light. Because climate change may affect the earth's ozone layer, many health experts see an increased risk for cataracts. The earth's ozone layer is responsible for absorbing up to 97 percent of the sun's ultraviolet light before it reaches the earth and our eyes. As the ozone layer in the earth's atmosphere becomes depleted, more of this eye-

damaging UV light comes in contact with the eyes, which leads to opacity in the eye lens (cataract). To guard against developing potentially blinding cataracts, everyone is urged to wear sunglasses with UV protection when going outdoors.

The sun can damage your eyes just like it can damage your skin. Quality sunglasses that provide 100 percent UV protection can significantly reduce the risk of vision problems caused by sunlight such as cataracts and retinal damage. Children also need sunglasses because they tend to spend more time outdoors than adults. Visit MENLO OPTICAL at 1166 University Drive, on the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and University Drive, to browse through our wide selection of sunglasses for the entire family. Call us at 322-3900.

P.S. The sunglasses that provide the best protection from UV light are the wraparound variety.

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

BOWMAN

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



The Bowman program builds confidence, creativity and academic excellence.



Lower School - Grades K - 5

Middle School - Grades 6 - 8



Individualized, self-directed program

Rich international and cultural studies

Proven, Montessori approach



State-of-the-art facility

Low student-teacher ratio

www.bowmanschool.org

4000 Terman Drive • Palo Alto, CA • Tel: 650-813-9131

Plan for adult-size soccer field get thumbs up from park panel

■ Parks commissioners say the city should fill the dirt baseball infield with grass, and hold off on lights and artificial turf.

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

A little grass could go a long way. That was the philosophy behind the Menlo Park Parks and Recreation Commission's 4-0 vote on July 16 to move ahead with plans to fill most of the Burgess Park dirt baseball diamond with grass to accommodate a bigger, adult-sized soccer field at the park. Three commissioners were absent from the meeting.

Commissioners said filling the infield with grass — estimated to cost \$211,000 — was the quickest and least expensive way to maximize field space at the park, and give the city a much-needed adult-sized soccer field. The commission recommended the City Council approve the plan at a future meeting.

Baseball would still be played at the field, and the first- and third-base paths would remain dirt. Alpine/West Menlo Little League officials are receptive to the proposed changes, and would use a portable pitching mound at the field, said Larry

Johmann, a senior engineer with the city. During baseball season, a patch of dirt would be cleared around second base to allow players to slide into the base, Mr. Johmann said. No changes are proposed for the adjacent Little League diamond.

"This is the cheapest most efficient plan to build a full-sized field that's come up in this city so far," said Commissioner Paula Maurano.

Sports groups have repeatedly urged the city to build adult-sized soccer fields to accommodate the growing number of teenagers in local soccer groups. Larger fields are also often broken up into smaller fields to accommodate more teams.

"There's not enough space [in Menlo Park] for our kids to play soccer," said Steve Ellingson, president of the Mid-Peninsula Strikers Soccer Club, at the parks commission meeting. "I would love to see a project like this maximize the field space."

Past mistakes

No commissioners doubted

the city's need for additional field space, but Commissioner Kristi Breisch said she was "frustrated" that the city is spending time and money to reconfigure fields that underwent multi-million dollar renovations in 2004.

"I'd question why this wasn't thought of [in 2004]," Ms. Breisch said.

Ruben Nino, the city's acting public works director, said when the park was remodeled, soccer groups were open to a portion of the soccer field stretching on to the dirt baseball infield. But once the fields were finished, the soccer groups reversed that stance, and opted to use a smaller, field space at the park.

No lights or turf

The commission did not support installing lights or artificial turf at the park, and neither did the handful of neighbors who attended the meeting.

"We were repeatedly told that these fields would never have night lights installed," said Megan Gutelius, representing the Burgess Homeowner's Association. Other neighbors stressed that the park should be a place to walk and enjoy open space — not a sports complex. ■

Evacuation plan for West Atherton

FIRE

continued from page 5

Fire board member Peter Carpenter, an Atherton resident and a key organizer of the ad hoc group, crafted the resolution offering the district's help to Atherton as the lead agency, and introduced it during the board's discussion.

The resolution passed unanimously after being amended to extend the offer to the city of Menlo Park and to the county so that the district could come up with a comprehensive evacuation plan covering the area west of Alameda de las Pulgas from Woodside Road to Alpine Road.

That area, designated a "mutual threat zone," crosses jurisdictional boundaries, and Menlo Park and San Mateo County would have to approve the district's leadership in devising an all-encompassing evacuation plan.

Board member Ollie Brown cautioned that the district must proceed carefully so as not to strain relations with Atherton and other agencies. And he noted

that "police agencies must be involved in evacuation plans" — a sentiment echoed by other board members.

Progress being made

The town of Atherton is close to getting a signed memorandum of understanding with the Menlo Circus Club that will allow the private country club's grounds to be used as a staging area in the event of a major emergency, City Manager Jerry Gruber told the council at last week's meeting.

It's been difficult to determine

PROTEST

continued from page 5

munities, corporate governance, and the environment."

Protestors held signs along Sand Hill Road reading "End KKR Greed" and "Take back the economy." Some passing drivers honked their horns.

While police in riot gear were called out, and the protest was hectic and loud, there was no vio-

lence and no one was arrested. Later in the afternoon, an unnamed representative of KKR came to the protest and was handed a giant check, written to U.S. taxpayers for the billions of dollars the union says is owed by KKR.

"These are long battles but the critical outcome [of the protest] was to let KKR know that people are watching," Mr. Shaffer said. "We will be continuing to mobilize our members through the fall." ■

who is responsible for creating evacuation plans, Mr. Gruber said, adding that if you ask three different people, you get three different answers. "I do think that it's the police's responsibility to direct traffic and the fire district's responsibility to coordinate the response," Mr. Gruber said.

Mayor Jim Janz said that he and Mr. Gruber recently took a low flight over the Walsh Road neighborhood to get a bird's-eye view of it. "I don't think you'll find any lack of support on the council for this [evacuation planning] effort," he said. "This should have been done years ago." ■



Bearing the torch

Jeff Morgan of Portola Valley (shown here with his daughters Sophie, left, and Lucy) carried the Olympic torch on June 25 along the wall of Pingyao Ancient City in Shanxi Province in China. Mr. Morgan, executive director of the Global Heritage Fund, which helps preserve cradles of civilization around the world, was one of 104 torch bearers on the walls of China's first banking capital. The Global Heritage Fund is helping conserve and restore the UNESCO World Heritage site with its Ming and Qing Dynasty courtyards and temples. To see some of the Chinese press coverage, go to globalheritagefund.org and click on News and Events, and then GHF News.

OVERTIME

continued from page 5

Mayor Andy Cohen agreed with Mr. Rojas' reasoning.

"As long as we keep up the good work on the recruitment front, we'll be in good shape," Mayor Cohen said.

Pension costs

But more employees and higher salaries also means higher pension costs for the city.

Under the state's public employees' retirement system (PERS) "3 at 50" formula, public safety employees can retire as early as age 50 and receive 3 percent of their highest annual salary for each year they've worked for the city, up to 30 years. That means employees who have been with the city for 30 years will receive 90 percent of their highest annual salary each year for the rest of their lives.

The bulk of the overtime expenses aren't counted toward an employee's pension, according to Personnel Director Glen

Kramer, but the city will still be facing big employee costs as salaries rise and more officers retire.

The latest officer to retire, Cmdr. Terri Molakides, will receive a pension of at least \$124,441 annually for the rest of her life, according to the city's salary data.

Councilman John Boyle said the city has to balance the need to retain more officers with growing long-term employee costs.

"A real issue we need to think about is the long-term costs, and how much we're paying our retired police officers compared to how much we're paying the active officers," Mr. Boyle said. He noted that cities should address the issue regionally rather than competing for a limited pool of officers by continually raising salaries.

"Right now, we're caught up, but if other cities play the same game and raise their salaries, a couple of years from now we'll be playing catch-up again," he said. "So the question is: How do we reign this in to make it less about competing with each other for officers?" ■

Rebuilding Ford Field is key item in town's budget

■ Larger staff and Web site redesign also ahead.

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

From a distance, Ford Field, the baseball diamond at Alpine Road and Westridge Drive in Portola Valley, is a green and pastoral landmark, a symbol of summer and slow times and the old ball game.

Old, indeed. The field, built with the help of volunteers in the 1970s, now has rot in the wooden dugouts and the telephone poles that hold up the massive backstop, Parks & Recreation Committee Chair Erica Hughes said in an interview.

The bleachers have aged, as has the snack shack; a bathroom is a luxury not found there; when it rains, the runoff collects around home plate; and a leaning hollowed-out oak tree threatens the home-team dug-

out, though it would likely be unoccupied if the tree fell. The dugout is officially off limits.

The town's \$10.8 million budget for the fiscal year that began July 1 includes money to renovate the field and add two positions to town staff and redesign the town Web site. The Parks & Recreation Committee is recommending a complete overhaul to Ford Field, Ms. Hughes said.

The committee's priorities: re-grade the field; replace the irrigation system; put in new dugouts, a backstop, bleachers and a snack shack, perhaps one with a bathroom; and maybe move the field slightly west to avoid the leaning tree.

Town staff will determine which items on this list are feasible. The town has state grants totaling \$255,000 for the project and may use public money to cover any

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

shortfalls, Town Administrator Angie Howard said in an interview. The Little League may pitch in, too, she said.

Donations

The \$10.8 million in anticipated revenues for 2008-09 is another eight-figure sum but as in the previous fiscal year, the total includes millions in donations — \$4.1 million for the new complex of library, town hall, community hall and playing fields that opens in the fall at Town Center, and \$824,000 for the restoration of 280 feet of Sausal Creek at Town Center.

Major sources for the remaining \$5.9 million in revenues include \$1.6 million from property taxes, up slightly from the previous fiscal year, and \$737,400 from the utility users tax, an increase of 4.3 percent.

The town is anticipating \$728,600 in "government agency" funds, which includes state proposition and grant money. Road impact fees — the charges for hauling building materials through town — are expected to reach \$250,000, down from \$291,000 last year.

The relocated baseball diamond at Town Center is open now, and the redone soccer field should be available soon. The budget, reflecting the fields' availability, shows use-fee revenues rising to \$25,000 from \$10,000 last year, and maintenance costs increasing to \$88,500 from \$64,000.



File photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

Ford Field in Portola Valley is still playable after several decades of existence, but its problems, including wood rot in the dugouts and backstop, improper drainage, spotty irrigation and decrepit bleachers, call for renovation. The field has a line item of its own in the town's 2008-09 budget for just that.

Town staff grows

Compensation for town staff will rise by \$281,000, or 16 percent. A new engineering technician will fill an existing staff vacancy, and there will be two new positions: a receptionist and a sustainability-and-resource-efficiency coordinator.

The new hires will bring the count to 14 full-time and two part-time employees.

The sustainability coordinator,

whose job includes developing and promoting environmental programs in town, will report to Planning Manager Leslie Lambert and receive a salary of between \$4,248 and \$6,074 per month. The job is funded for the first 12 months as part of a major gift to the Town Center complex. The Town Council will reconsider the position after a year.

The town's Web site redesign project has a budget of \$114,700. ■

Town plans to redesign its Web site

The town of Portola Valley may have a new Web site before the year is out.

Since early in the year, the town has been preparing a plan for what a redesigned site might look like. The Town Council, at its July 23 meeting, is scheduled to consider a staff recommendation to have the work done by Vision Internet Providers Inc., a company based in Santa Monica that calls itself "The government

website experts."

The town's budget for 2008-09 sets aside \$114,700 for Web site improvements and redesign. A new site could include individual pages for each town committee, a calendar that readers can rearrange to focus on their own interests, a document distribution site and online surveys.

The council meets at 8 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road.

Woodside roads on edge of rapid deterioration, official says

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The town of Woodside plans to spend about \$1.9 million on road rehabilitation and maintenance over the next 12 months, and another \$1.3 million in the fiscal year after that, according to the recently approved 2008-09 town budget. The investment seems timely.

According to the regional Metropolitan Transportation Commission's most recent "pavement condition index," a 0-to-100 scoring system based on local inspectors using MTC software, Woodside's rating has been dropping, from 64 in 2004 to 60 in 2006.

Scores between 60 and 69 are considered "fair," a category that also includes Portola Valley, Atherton and Menlo Park, commission spokesman John Goodwin said in an interview. A score of 59 indicates "at risk," a condition not found in San Mateo

County at present, he said.

"Woodside is right at the point now where pavement deterioration really accelerates," Mr. Goodwin said he was told by Sui Tan, a commission program manager for roads and streets.

Town Engineer Paul Nagenast, when asked to comment, said the commission's numbers are out of date and do not "reflect improvements that have been completed."

"We are in the process (of) updating the program to input the roadway improvements the town of Woodside has completed in order for the PCI to more accurately reflect the condition of Woodside's roadway network," he said in an email.

Woodside has 97 lane-miles of roads, Mr. Goodwin said. One mile of two-lane road equals two lane miles, one mile of four-lane road equals four lane miles, and so on. Left-turn lanes add to the overall total.

■ WOODSIDE

Between 1980 and 1992, Woodside spent an average of \$1,000 per lane-mile per year, according to a 1995 Almanac article. Adjusting for inflation, equivalent spending in 2008 would have been about \$2,000 per lane-mile.

Spending is up. Over the last five years, Woodside spent \$6.7 million on road upkeep, an average of \$13,800 per lane-mile per year, according to a report in the new budget.

The report shows major revenue sources for this and coming years are similar to those for the preceding five years: about \$500,000 per year from the town's general fund and several hundred thousand dollars per year from road-impact fees and Measure A, the county's transportation sales tax.

Horse owners delinquent

The Town Council approved a

2008-09 budget of \$7.7 million, which includes spending of \$5.2 million from local tax revenues and the rest from other government sources. This budget is up about 8.4 percent over the last fiscal year.

The town's general fund is expected to be in the black for 2008-09 by about \$28,500, which would put the reserve at about \$3.4 million.

One shortfall involves the town's horse owners, not all of whom seem to have ponied up the annual \$50-per-horse fee used to maintain trails. The budget anticipated revenues equivalent to 750 horses, but received fees for only 596. The town received fees equivalent to 737 horses in 2007.

The town taps the general fund to match the expected total from equestrians. The Town Council increased the trail user fee to \$50 from \$35 in June 2007. Delinquent equestrians, if discovered, will be billed for

last year, Town Manager Susan George said.

The town will spend about \$60,000 on two Ford Escape hybrid compact sports-utility vehicles for the building inspectors, Ms. George said. The Toyota Prius was a contender, but the Escape's ground clearance was better and it had built-in hands-free cell phone capabilities, she said.

Woodside now has a contract with Redwood City to buy biodiesel for its equipment at a significant discount off the pump price. Biodiesel contains vegetable oil, the amount depending on the blend. The fuels are supposed to lessen global warming impacts.

The town plans to reduce its use of fresh-water for irrigation with new underground equipment at Town Center that treats and recycles water from the sewer lines. The town looked into the technology after a resident won permission to use a similar device, Ms. George said. ■

Stanford Hospital Health Notes

A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics

Taking Your Life Back from Pain's Control – with Mind, Body and New Medical Vision

Suzanne Ely was not yet 30 when she began to notice numbness and tingling in the fingers of her right hand. Then came the fiery pains, as shattering as electrical shocks, that shot up and down the inside of her right arm from wrist to elbow.

She couldn't figure it out. She hadn't hurt her arm in any way. Finally, she realized that the injury was probably the hours and hours of taking notes by hand each day at her job. Little by little, the pain bit into her ability to do the simplest things – like opening the door to her office.

The Menlo Park woman wasn't a complainer. "I love what I do and I didn't want not to work," she said. That was why, when doctors said they could move what they believed to be the problematic nerve, she took a chance. But that surgery, and then another one, didn't work. If anything, the pain was worse, harshly altering Ely's life. After six months of not being able to work and isolated by increasing depression, frustration and dependence on others to do even small tasks, she turned for help conveniently close to home – the Stanford Hospital & Clinics' Pain Management Center.

She is one of thousands enduring acute and chronic pain who arrive each year at the Center because nothing else has worked and no one else could make a difference.

Ely had great hope for what she might find at Stanford's Pain Management Center. It is just one of 12 treatment facilities in the U.S. to win the American Pain Society's designation as a Center of Excellence. That status honors the Stanford clinic for its special combination of multi-disciplinary expertise, cutting-edge therapies and clinical research, delivered in a sympathetic and sensitive setting. "If it hurts, we take care of it," said the Center's director, Dr. Sean Mackey. "We have always been known as the place to send the most complex patients."

"We don't just treat someone as an injured leg or back. We take a look at the whole person."

— Dr. Sean Mackey, Pain Management Center director

Thinking differently about pain

The Center's clinical philosophy sees patients from a mind-body perspective – an approach that data shows to be a powerful enhancement for healing. "We don't just treat someone as an injured leg or back," Mackey said. "We take a look at the whole person."

Treatment begins, as it did with Ely, in an extensive evaluation by a team of physicians, nurses, physical and psychological therapists and other staff to fashion a customized and broad-ranged treatment plan. "We explore all the options," Mackey said.

Ely's diagnosis was one that reflects a common, but one of the most chal-



With her pain diminished, Suzanne Ely again can work full-time and enjoy a full life.

Norbert von der Groeben

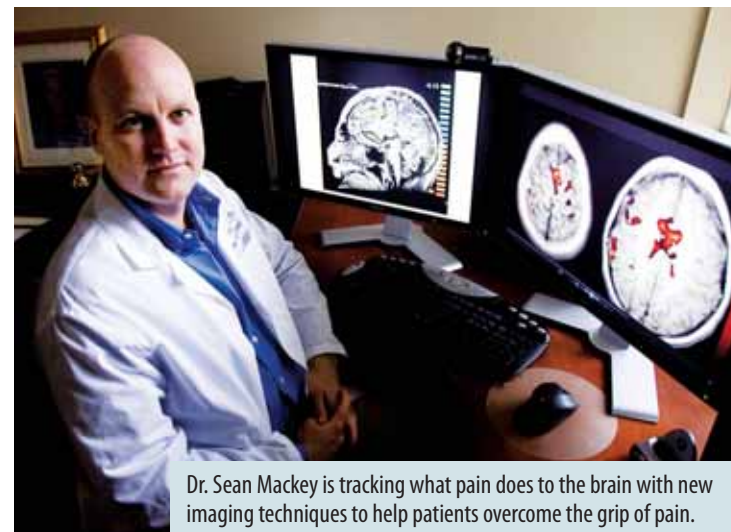
lenging, pain conditions. Her evaluation showed she suffers from complex regional pain syndrome, a chronic pain ailment described first by a Civil War surgeon caring for soldiers still in pain despite the healing of their musket wounds.

Mackey and others have gained important ground in understanding such chronic pain and the Stanford pain clinic was one of the first to incorporate the medical community's new thinking about pain. After a time, pain can become chronic, taking on a life of its own, altering brain activity and the nervous system to become its own disorder, even after an original injury has healed. Such pain can surpass its original level.

That newly-recognized pain behavior is what Mackey hopes people can avoid by not waiting to see a physician about their pain. "We do believe that it's much better to catch it early on to reduce the overall impact – and prevent it from becoming an intractable problem."

The precise nature of pain is still so difficult to understand and eradicate that effective treatment requires pain specialists such as those working and being trained at Stanford.

Pain's disruption of Ely's life is, unfortunately, not unusual. More than 50 million Americans are estimated to be living with pain so debilitating that it is costing billions in lost work and medical care. And many times its cause may be unclear. Research to understand its behavior and how to manage it has only recently begun to find explanations and solutions.



Dr. Sean Mackey is tracking what pain does to the brain with new imaging techniques to help patients overcome the grip of pain.

Norbert von der Groeben

When to see a doctor about pain

See a doctor if any of these symptoms occur

- If your pain persists for more than three months
- If your pain includes numbness and tingling
- If your pain includes fever, chills, dizziness or vomiting
- If your pain is severe and persistent
- If your pain is interfering with your ability to work or sleep

Where to find more information

- Stanford Pain Management Center (650) 723-6238
- The Stanford Health Library collection includes dozens of books about pain, a database with the latest results on pain research and management and videos on several pain-related topics, including meditation and guided imagery. The Library also hosts talks by specialists like Dr. Sean Mackey and special classes. Starting in September, the Library will offer a two-part workshop for parents with chronic illness and a six-class series on managing chronic illness. Mackey will speak about fibromyalgia in October.
- The Library's main branch is at the Stanford Shopping Center. Other branches are at Stanford Hospital & Clinics, 300 Pasteur Dr., Palo Alto and at the Stanford Cancer Center, 875 Blake Wilbur Dr. Call (650) 725-8400 or visit www.stanfordhospital.com/healthLib/.
- www.ampainsoc.org: The American Pain Society's webpage has an extensive list of helpful and informational organizations on its Resources page.

Cutting-edge therapies to regain a good life

Mackey's team has headed ground-breaking clinical trials in the use of MRI technology to reveal the location of the brain's pain centers and how people might learn to control their pain. "It's all about improving a patient's quality of life," Mackey said. "What people want most is to take back control of their life."

That's what Ely wanted to do, of course. The Stanford Pain Center is the location for more than dozen trials for new treatments which often can

"I have tried a lot and I know it could be worse, but I'm able to work and I can lead a relatively normal life."

— Suzanne Ely, Pain Management Center patient

become part of its patients' treatment plans, as one did for Ely. She was an early recipient of one of the Center's newest approaches – Botox injected directly into a nerve center. Others have benefited from implant pumps to deliver paced doses of medication and implanted stimulators to convert pain to a tingling, buzzing sensation.

Engaging the brain to change pain

Mackey is excited about emerging tools to improve outcomes, including Ely's – new medications to target specific locations in the nervous system,



For many months, Suzanne could not do the simplest of tasks, including preparing meals. Now, she's able and independent in the kitchen.

Norbert von der Groeben

new interventions to prevent pain and new ways to predict whether a certain patient will respond to a certain treatment. Where Stanford's Pain Center is most advanced is neuroimaging to create very clear windows into the brain to watch how it responds and generates pain. "We can learn to take advantage of the power of the brain to change," he said, "and

those changes can have a real impact on our whole body's physiology – for the better."

The Pain Center will move next year to the new Stanford Medicine Outpatient Center in Redwood City, to consolidate and enlarge its clinical space.

Ely worked her way through the package of treatments designed for her – the nerve blocks, medication, physical and psychological therapy and acupuncture – each with its own impact. But one of chronic pain's uncomfortable realities is that sometimes there is no complete fix. That's difficult to accept in an age where medicine has conquered so many ailments. Then, the goal at the pain clinic becomes changing chronic pain from incapacitating to manageable. "No one should be sentenced to live with pain forever," said Dr. Ian Carroll, a pain center doctor. "We can help people live a better life despite it."

Ely's pain isn't completely gone, but her treatment at Stanford gave her back her independence and her work. Now, she understands the role played in her pain by anxiety and distress and has tools, including mindfulness meditation which she learned at Stanford, to ease her ability to moderate her stress, prevent flare-ups and get a good night's sleep.

"I'm getting the strength back in my arm. I have tried a lot and I know it could be worse," Ely said, "but I'm able to work and I can lead a relatively normal life." Once again, she can cook, open doors and work full days, as well as do those simple acts so important for a balanced, full life. "I'm able to carry things I couldn't carry – like my four-year-old nephew! I have definitely improved."



Learning how to defuse stress in her daily life was an important part of Suzanne's re-entry into the world where entertaining at home was not an impossibility.

Norbert von der Groeben

STORY BY RENEE BATTI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY VERONICA WEBER

NOT YOUR TYPICAL FAMILY TALE

THEATRE IN THE WOODS STAGES SF PLAYWRIGHT'S 'FREEDOMLAND' IN THE WOODSIDE HILLS



Clockwise, from top: Behind the stage during a recent rehearsal; playwright Amy Freed; director Karen Offereins; Evan Miller, from left, Syri Mongiello, Julia Mitchell and Randy Hurst rehearse; Syri Mongiello, from left, Julia Mitchell and Valerie Lynn Brett.



Linda A. Cicero/Stanford News Service

It's probably safe to say that the unplanned gathering of the Underfinger clan in the upstate New York home of the patriarch does not represent your typical family reunion.

Sure, other reunions might have their strained moments — manifestations of unresolved conflict or stale resentments. But the Underfingers? They're not only a dysfunctional family, they're dysfunctional individuals, trying to make sense of the past they shared and struggling to figure

out how to go forward.

The Underfingers are the creation of San Francisco playwright Amy Freed, who brings them to life in her 1997 dark comedy, "Freedomland," which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

This weekend, the play opens in preview in an outdoor production by Theatre in the Woods, a small, bold company that has staged works by Sartre, Stoppard, Mamet and others in a forested area off Bear Gulch Road in Woodside since 2002.

"Freedomland," which runs weekends from July 26 through Aug. 31, is directed by Karen Offereins, who co-founded the theater company with fellow acting students Brian Markley, Gina Baleria, Reagan Richey and Dr. Victor Carrion.

Ms. Offereins had seen a few of the play's scenes

'When I started writing, the [theater] profession woke up to me. Suddenly, I understood what it was all for ... [Writing is] a pathway to my own aesthetic in theater.'

AMY FREED, on the transition from actress to playwright

performed during an American Conservatory Theatre (ACT) training program, "and I found it so witty and so poignant ... I decided that at some point I'd like to bring it to the stage," she said while winding down after a recent afternoon rehearsal.

Although she directed a one-act play for Theatre in the Woods several years ago, this will be the first full-length play she has directed.

The Underfinger family comprises patriarch Noah, his wife Claude, and his three adult children, Sig, Polly and Seth. The siblings are still trying to come to terms with an early family life in which they were abandoned by their mother and raised during a period of radical cultural change — the 1960s and '70s — by their intellectual, emotionally detached father.

Ms. Offereins said she sees the play as a family drama, but one with "so many comedic elements that it becomes a dark comedy in the end."

The siblings' struggle "to find meaning and define themselves after living so much of their lives feeling unwanted and unimportant is very compelling to me," she wrote in an e-mail.

Ms. Freed, who is artist in residence at Stanford University, said in a telephone interview that her play uses "the troubles of the American family as a sort of crucible for ideas," including the search for meaning and morality in the times in which we live.

A key device in exploring this is the pitting of the father, now a retired professor of religion, against his son, a survivalist with a penchant for violence. The son, "in his heart of heart, is yearning for absoluteness," she said.

"He's in need of an almost primitive order, of a (clear determination) of right and wrong." And conflict flares between the two as the son reacts

"against the father's intellectual language, against his relativism," she added.

The playwright's voice

"Freedomland" was commissioned by the South Coast Repertory Company in Costa Mesa, California, where it premiered. Ms. Freed has had a long association with the company, and has been focused lately on the premiere there of her latest work, "You, Nero," also a comedy.

"You, Nero," also commissioned by South Coast, is being co-produced by Berkeley Repertory Theatre, which will close its 2008-09 season with the play. Ms. Freed describes the new work as "'Spamalot' with togas."

Ms. Offereins said she was particularly happy to be directing Theatre in the Woods' first play by a female playwright, and it seems fitting that Ms. Freed is the featured artist.

Armed with a bachelor's degree in acting from Southern Methodist University, Ms. Freed came to San Francisco in the mid-1980s and enrolled in the ACT master of fine arts program. She studied with the company's legendary founder and artistic director, William Ball, and looked for work as an actress while also working as a waitress.

"The transformation into a playwright was not something I saw coming," she said, explaining that she wrote her first play, "Still Warm," because an option for her to complete the ACT master's program was to write a performance piece.

The play was based on the life of broadcast journalist Jessica Savitch, who had died several years before in a car accident. "I was fascinated by her struggle, her life as a mold-breaker — the tragedy of her trajectory and her downfall," Ms. Freed said.

The hungry young actress found a measure of common ground with the attractive Ms. Savitch, who along with other women in her field was judged by her looks and demeanor on camera. "Objectification issues were big for me, too," Ms. Freed said.

Although she's now critical of her first play, she said that writing it was a turning point for her. "When I started writing, the profession woke up to me," she said.

"Suddenly, I understood what it was all for. ACT showed me a form of [what theater] was capable of. Writing seems like the way to serve that ... it's a pathway to my own aesthetic in theater, because [for actresses] what's out there isn't that compelling."

Since "Still Warm," Ms. Freed has written a number of plays, all of which have been produced, she said. Those include "The Beard of Avon," which was staged by ACT, and "Restoration Comedy."

Although her works are comedies, Ms. Freed said she's "never written a play without a point." In "Freedomland," she examines "a culture that is stuffed to the gills with choices and options for ways to live," and a pervasive relativism that raises spiritual, moral and ethical issues.

"There's serious reflection at the end about where all the searching and relativism ... will lead to." ■

INFORMATION

"Freedomland" by Amy Freed will preview on July 26 and Aug. 2. It opens on Aug. 3, and runs Saturdays and Sundays through Aug. 31, outdoors in the woods at 2170 Bear Gulch Road in Woodside.

Play-goers may picnic on the grounds beginning at noon; the play begins at 1 p.m. Some hiking to different stages is involved. The play is not suitable for children, and parents are encouraged to use discretion in deciding whether to invite their teens along.

Tickets are \$10, previews; \$20, general; \$15, students, seniors and members. For reservations: call 415-668-2879; e-mail reservations@atmostheatre.com; or visit atmostheatre.com.

Where's the excitement in Menlo Park council race?

■ David Bohannon forms new “non-political” group; Cohen and Fergusson remain unchallenged.

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

It's almost the end of July, and there's little to no controversy on the Menlo Park City Council election front.

No arguments over sports fields; no public uprising over home building rules or traffic calming measures; and no claims that various politicians are out to serve the interests of unions or developers.

As of The Almanac's July 21 press deadline, incumbents Andy Cohen and Kelly Fergusson were the only ones announce plans to run in November. They're also the only people to nomination papers, suggesting that a city infamous for its election politics might be in

'Personally, I don't know if I'd ever want to wear the big target of councilman on my back.'

PLANNING COMMISSIONER HENRY RIGGS

for a quiet campaign season. The deadline for candidates to file for the election is Aug. 8.

"It's been quiet," said Planning Commissioner Henry Riggs, who has been floated by some residents as a potential challenger to council members Cohen and Fergusson. "Personally, I don't know if I'd ever want to wear the big target of council-

man on my back," he said. "I think most people view running for council as a daunting task because it can get so political."

Councilman John Boyle, often the minority vote on what is often considered a 4-1 council, said he hasn't heard much from anyone interested in running.

"I periodically hear names, but to be honest, I don't know of anybody that's entertaining the idea of actually running," Mr. Boyle told The Almanac.

"For the good of Menlo Park, I hope we have some competition this election season," said former council member Lee Duboc, who has repeatedly stated she has no interest in making another run at a four-year term. "If there's no competitive election, then there's no discussion or debate about important issues."

Council members Cohen and

Fergusson declared support for one another's re-election bids in separate interviews with The Almanac.

"[Mr. Cohen and I] don't always agree on everything, but the City Council has really accomplished a lot, and continuity on the council would be beneficial for the community," Ms. Fergusson said.

Bohannon's new group

One question heading into election season is what life a new group created by Menlo Park resident and developer David Bohannon will take on as the election nears.

The group, called "Sustainable Menlo Park," is aimed at increasing public awareness about local land decisions — such as efforts to revamp properties along El Camino Real and Mr. Bohannon's own plans to build a hotel and

office complex near U.S. 101 — according to Mr. Bohannon.

"This is not a political group," Mr. Bohannon said. "It's not designed to influence the election." He stressed that the goal of the group is to "add input and debate around important land-use issues."

Resident Mike Gullard, one of some 40 people to attend a recent Sustainable Menlo Park meeting, said he thinks Mr. Bohannon's pledge to stay out of election politics is genuine, but the group could still create some controversy.

"I think it's clear that this is not a political organization that's going to support candidates, but I think [Mr. Bohannon] is trying to mobilize some support for development as kind of a counterbalance to ... some of the non-development groups," Mr. Gullard said. ■

Stanford Driving School

DRIVERS ED/TRAINING PACKAGE

www.StanfordDrivingSchool.net

\$30 off

WITH THIS AD

Summer in-Class Schedule			
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Mon 7/21	Tue 7/22	Wed 7/23	Thur 7/24
Mon 8/4	Tue 8/5	Wed 8/6	Thur 8/7
Sat 8/9	Sun 8/10	Sat 8/16	Sun 8/17
Mon 8/18	Tue 8/19	Wed 8/20	Thur 8/21

(650) 493-1978 • 3960 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
 For more information on getting your permit, visit our website at:
www.StanfordDrivingSchool.net

Low Cost Divorce/Living Trust

DOCUMENT PREPARATION SERVICE



INCLUDES:

- Divorce \$549
- Living Trusts \$499
- Incorporations/LLC \$399
- Non-Profit \$399
- Probate (Free Quote)
- And much more!



We The People® 650-324-3800

We the People is a registered trademark. Stores are owned/operated by franchisees who are not lawyers, cannot represent customers; select legal forms, or give advice on rights or laws. Services are provided at customers' request and are not a substitute for advice of a lawyer. Prices do not include court costs.

THE ALMANAC ONLINE DELIVERS 24/7.



CHECK THE LATEST MOVIE REVIEWS and much more

TheAlmanacOnline.com

"The Muses themselves could hardly have designed a festival more assured of success than Music@Menlo."
— MUSICAL AMERICA



THE SIXTH SEASON: JULY 18–AUGUST 8

- » World-Class Concerts
- » Engaging Symposia and Lectures
- » Free Café Conversations
- » Institute Master Classes
- » Free Performances by Institute Artists

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:
 The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation • The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
 Koret Foundation Funds • Chubb Personal Insurance • Citi Private Bank
 American Public Media • BBC Music Magazine • San Jose Mercury News

Music@Menlo

CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL AND INSTITUTE

David Finckel & Wu Han, Artistic Directors • Palo Alto/Atherton

THE BAY AREA'S PREMIERE CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

FEATURED ARTISTS & SPEAKERS

VIOLIN

Jorja Fleezanis
Erin Keefe
Philip Setzer
Arnaud Sussmann
Ian Swensen
Joseph Swensen

VIOLA

Hsin-Yun Huang
Paul Neubauer

CELLO

Andrés Díaz
David Finckel
Laurence Lesser

STRING QUARTETS

Borromeo String Quartet
Escher String Quartet

HARPSICHORD

Kenneth Cooper

PIANO

Gary Graffman
Derek Han
Jeffrey Kahane
Anna Polonsky
Stephen Prutsman
Wu Han

BASS

DaXun Zhang

FLUTE

Sooyun Kim
Demarre McGill

OBOE

William Bennett
Kathryn Greenbank

CLARINET

Anthony McGill

BASSOON

Dennis Godburn

FRENCH HORN

William VerMeulen

SOPRANO

Celena Shafer

GUEST SPEAKERS

Bruce Adolphe
Ara Guzelimian
Stuart Isacoff
Michael Steinberg



City puts tax lien on property

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Roy Kaylor said he shouldn't have to pay the \$2,150 Menlo Park charged him to haul piles of garbage off his land.

The City Council didn't agree. Council members voted 4-0 on July 15 to place a tax lien on Mr. Kaylor's property at 1918 Menalto Ave. to collect unpaid bills associated with removing mounds of "rodent-infested" trash and debris from the property last year. Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson did not vote because she owns property near Mr. Kaylor's land.

"I ask for mercy," Mr. Kaylor told the council, stating that "one man's treasure is another man's junk," and that the city's police department didn't give him proper notice before hauling away items from the property.

Menlo Park Cmdr. Lacey Burt said Mr. Kaylor received ample notice through mailed notification, as well as phone calls and visits by police officers to the property.

If Mr. Kaylor continues to not pay the bills, the city will take legal action in small claims court, said City Attorney Bill McClure.

Bike tunnel meeting

A second public meeting devoted to where to build a bike tunnel under the Caltrain tracks in Menlo Park is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, July 31, in the Burgess Recreation Center at 700 Alma St.

The tunnel is tentatively planned for somewhere between Ravenswood Avenue and the Palo Alto border. City staff and a city-hired consultant are trying to pinpoint a location.

No council meetings

The Menlo Park City Council will not meet on July 22 and July 29. Regular meetings are set to resume Aug. 5. ■

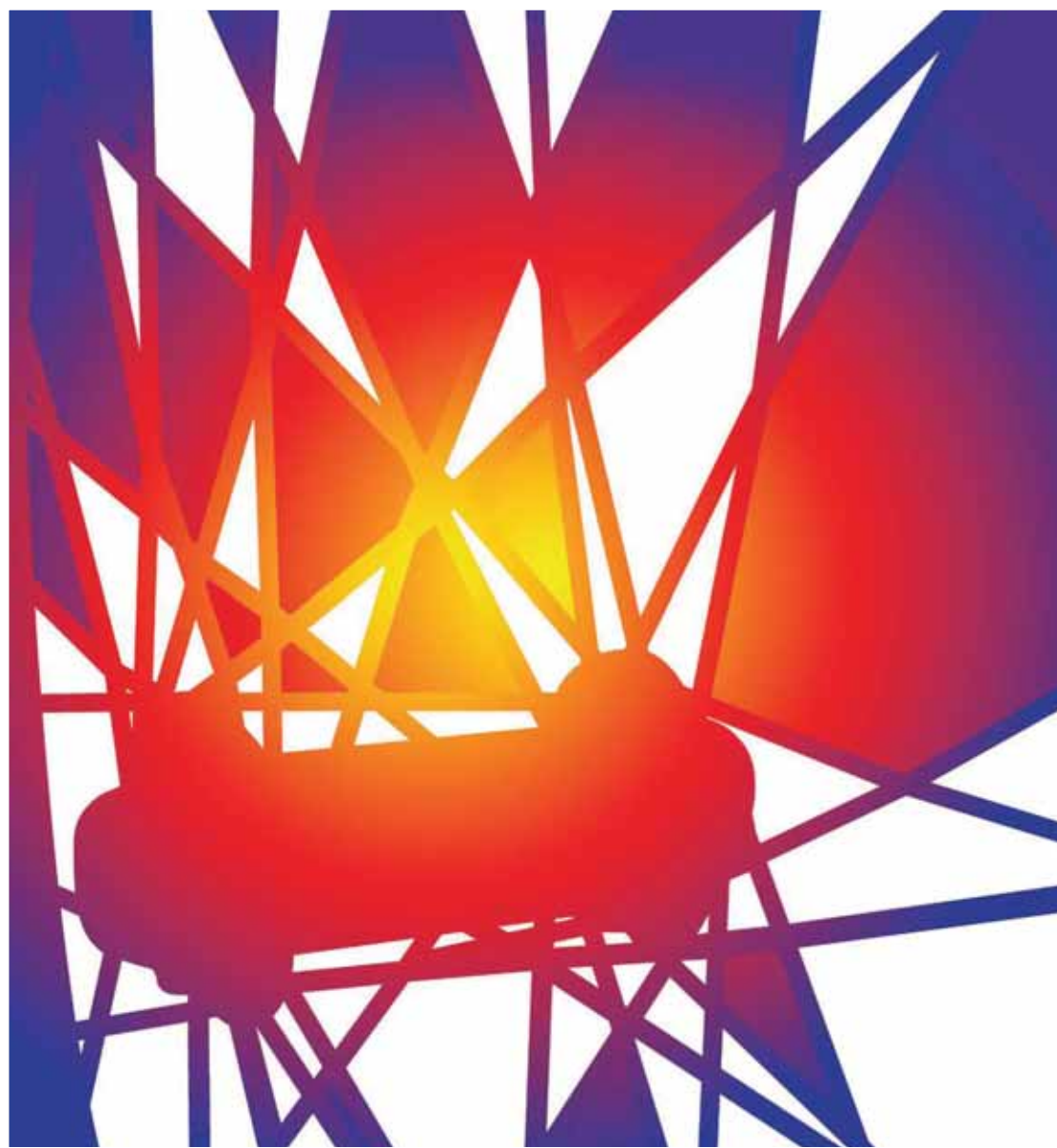
Two file for election

Two school foundation board members have filed candidacy papers to run for two, four-year terms on the five-member Menlo Park City School District's board of directors in the Nov. 4 election.

Menlo Park residents Maria Hilton and Mark Box are both board members of the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation, a nonprofit fundraising group that supports the district's four schools. Mr. Box is currently the foundation's co-president, and Ms. Hilton is a past co-president.

SPONSORED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF MENLO PARK AND THE ALMANAC

A great bike ride!



TOUR de MENLO 2008

Saturday, Aug. 16
65 and 35 mile routes

- Fully supported with two water/rest stops
- Great lunch catered by Draeger's
- Visit the scenic and historic Picchetti Open Space Preserve and Winery
- Enjoy a pleasant return ride to the start for dessert
- Free T-shirt for every rider
- 8 or 9 a.m. start at Menlo-Atherton High School

SUPPORT LOCAL KIDS

All proceeds from ride go to Rotary tutoring and scholarships for kids.

Sign up at www.tourdemenlo.com

Or call Tom at 650 854-2626



ROTARY CLUB OF MENLO PARK www.tourdemenlo.com BENEFITS ROTARY TUTORING, SCHOLARSHIPS



Menlo Park Residents
Your input is wanted!



CALTRAIN BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN UNDERCROSSING MEETING

Thursday, July 31, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
Recreation Building, Room 105
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

Help determine the best location for a potential bicycle/pedestrian undercrossing at the Caltrain tracks between Ravenswood Avenue and San Francisquito Creek. This is an opportunity to share your opinions, ask questions and receive additional information about the process being used to develop a plan for the possible undercrossing. If you have any questions or comments in the meantime or are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Randolph Craig, Project Engineer, at 650-330-6772 or by email at rmcraig@menlopark.org.

www.menlopark.org/undercrossing

Published in THE ALMANAC on July 16, 23, 2008.

Barbara Stendell Cass

*Former volunteer director
of SDForum*

Barbara Cass, a longtime Ladera resident who had a second career as executive director of software industry groups, died at her home July 8 of pancreatic cancer.

Her volunteer work at the Resource Center for Women in Palo Alto, where she counseled women re-entering the job market, sparked her interest in the fledgling computer industry. She eventually became an executive in several nonprofit associations in that industry, said Tom Cass, her husband.

Ms. Cass helped form Software Entrepreneur's Forum (SEF), where software engineers and entrepreneurs exchanged ideas during monthly dinners. She became executive director of the forum in 1984 and started inviting industry luminaries to speak. She was named to the "MicroTimes 100" several times in the 1990s.

In 1998, SEF and the city of San Jose's Center of Software Development joined forces and became SDForum, a merger that was one of the proudest moments of her career, she had said. That same year, she helped create the prestigious annual

■ OBITUARY

Visionary Awards, which recognize the successes of luminaries in the technology field.

SDForum grew from a handful of developers passionate about software to the oldest and largest association of professionals in emerging technologies in the area, with more than 2,000 members and 45 organizational sponsors, said Susan Lucas-Conwell, the forum's current CEO.

Ms. Cass retired last December as a result of her illness.

Born in San Francisco, Ms. Cass graduated from Lowell High School at age 16 and graduated from the University of California.

She married Tom Cass, whom she met while at Berkeley, a month after graduation. They lived in Washington, D.C., while her husband was in the U.S. Navy, then returned to Berkeley, and later lived in Paris while Mr. Cass completed postdoctoral studies.

Ms. Cass, a nursery school teacher during the early years of her marriage, later stayed at home to raise her young children. When the family relocated to California in 1970, she was guided to Ladera by her aunt Fanita Stendell, then secretary of Ladera School.

Ms. Cass became active as a parent volunteer at Ladera School. When her children were older, she began volunteering at the Resource Center for Women/Career Action Center in Palo Alto.

Her husband said her skills as a homemaker carried over into her professional life. She had a way of making everyone feel comfortable and welcome, he said, and as a hostess, she was always ready to accommodate one more.

Ms. Cass is survived by her husband of 49 years, Tom Cass; her mother, Norma Stendell of San Jose; a son, Peter Cass of Menlo Park; a daughter, Carin Zimmerman of San Francisco; and three granddaughters.

According to her wishes, no services were held.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Oncology Department, attention Philanthropy, 795 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

■ BIRTHS

Woodside

■ Meike Herget and Hermann Busch, a daughter, July 7, at Sequoia Hospital.

The Village Doctor Welcomes Dr. Marland Chancellor!



F. MARLAND CHANCELLOR, III, MD
2979 Woodside Road, Woodside
650.851.4747
www.villagedoctor.com

Dr. Marland Chancellor is a board-certified family medicine physician who joined The Village Doctor after five-and-a-half years at the highly respected Palo Alto Medical Foundation, where he provided comprehensive care to families and individuals of all ages. In his practice, Dr. Chancellor stresses attention to each person's physical, mental, and spiritual health, with an emphasis on wellness, which he believes encompasses much more than just the absence of disease.

Dr. Chancellor was raised in Palo Alto, obtained a B.A. degree from Yale and an M.D. degree from Ohio State University, and then completed his family medicine residency training at UCLA. He practices the full spectrum of family medicine, and when not caring for his adult and pediatric patients he enjoys time with his wife and three young daughters.

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT

NOTICE OF VACANCY

Due to the resignation of former Director John Lomax, a vacancy exists on the Board of Directors of the West Bay Sanitary District.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 1780, a copy of this Notice of Vacancy is being posted in three or more conspicuous places in the District, and a provisional appointment to fill the vacancy may be made by the Board of Directors fifteen (15) days after such posting.

The Board of Directors will consider making an appointment at its meeting on August 18, 2008. If an appointment is made, the appointee will fill the balance of Director Lomax's term of office, which will expire after the next regular election of the West Bay Sanitary District in November, 2009.

Anyone interested in serving on the Board for the duration of this term is encouraged to submit a brief statement of interest and qualifications, which should be submitted to the District no later than August 8, 2008 in order to be included in the agenda packet for the August 18, 2008 meeting.

Eligible candidates for the position must reside in and be registered to vote in the West Bay Sanitary District. Please contact the District office if you have any questions.

Tim Clayton, District Manager
500 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Tel: (650) 321 0384
Fax: (650) 321 4265

Published in THE ALMANAC on July 23, 2008

POLICE CALLS

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

ATHERTON

Burglary report: Attempted burglary suspected after pry marks found on sliding door, Fletcher Drive, July 11.

Grand theft report: Monte Vista Ave., July 14.

MENLO PARK

Burglary reports:

■ Bicycle stolen from backyard, 100 block of El Camino Real, July 11.

■ Drill stolen from residence, 200 block of O'Connor St., July 13.

■ Burglary investigation in progress, 200 block of O'Connor St., July 13.

■ Computers stolen after forced entry, James Flood School at 320 Sheridan Drive, July 15.

■ Copper wire and tools stolen from construction site, Linfield Drive and Home-wood Place, July 17.

Grand theft reports:

■ Attempt to steal copper wire, Tesla Motors at 300 El Camino Real, July 16.

■ Paperwork stolen, 1200 block of Willow Road, July 14.

■ Catalytic converter stolen from vehicle, 1500 block of O'Brien Drive, July 15.

■ Bicycle stolen, public library at 800 Alma St., July 16.

Fraud reports:

■ Unauthorized use of bank account, 500 block of Glenwood Ave., July 11.

■ Counterfeit bill passed, 200 block of El Camino Real, July 14.

■ Unauthorized use of credit card, Garland Place, July 15.

■ Identity theft, 600 block of Santa Cruz Ave., July 16.

Spousal abuse report: Laurel St. and Burgess Drive, July 12.

Injury accident report: Motorcyclist taken to hospital with broken collar bone after collision with vehicle, Willow Road and O'Brien Drive, July 15.

WOODSIDE

Fraud report: Several unauthorized charges to ATM card, Churchill Ave., July 9.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Stolen vehicle report: 1999 Jeep Grand Cherokee stolen from driveway, July 12.

Fraud report: Identity theft, 100 block of Hillside Ave., July 14.

BRIEFS

Reporter cited for suspected drug use

Brian Bothun, an Atherton resident and a reporter for the Daily Post newspaper, was cited and released by Menlo Park police early Saturday, July 19, on suspicion of being under the influence of a controlled substance, a misdemeanor.

Mr. Bothun, 46, reportedly became involved in a dispute between two other motorists at 2:34 a.m. at Ravenswood Avenue and El Camino Real and a Menlo Park officer did a field sobriety test, said Nicole Acker, a spokeswoman for the Menlo Park Police Department.

On March 26, Atherton police arrested him on a misdemeanor charge of possessing drug paraphernalia, specifically a glass pipe, said Lt. Glenn Neilsen of the Atherton Police Department.

Woodside Village Band

The Woodside Village Band will perform its 20th annual summer concert from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, July 26, at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 330 Ravenswood Ave. in Menlo Park. The program will include movie music by John Williams and Bernard Hermann, a medley of Hoagy Carmichael classics, some marches and a few surprises. There is no charge, but donations are accepted.

Tuolumne River

Palo Alto Councilman Peter Drekmeier, program director for the Tuolumne River Trust, will talk about the threat to the Tuolumne River posed by San Francisco's growing thirst for water at a slideshow and talk Tuesday, July 22, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the San Mateo Public Library, 55 W. 3rd Ave. For information, go to Tuolumne.org.

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.

TARCISIO A. BARBARIOL

Tarcisio A. Barbariol, age 80, passed away Monday, June 16, 2008. Tarcisio was the devoted husband of the late Marie Barbariol. He is survived by his daughters Angela Barbariol and Agnes Mendelson and his brothers Emmanuel Barbariol and Patrick Barbariol. We will all remember him for his generosity and undying love for his church, family, and friends. The family appreciates the dedicated service of the caregivers at Nazareth Classic Care Community for their compassionate and sensitive care of our loved one. A funeral mass was celebrated on Saturday, June 21 at St. Raymond's Church in Menlo Park and the committal occurred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Menlo Park. Donations can be sent to The Alzheimer's Association, 1060 La Avenida Street, Mountain View, CA 94043 or The Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, 400 Hamilton Ave., Suite 340, Palo Alto, Ca 94301.

PAID OBITUARY

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

A good thing about Long-Term Care Insurance from State Farm** is that you have your choice of care options – including in your home. You'll also be helping to protect your life savings from the cost of extended care. To learn more about it, just talk to your neighborhood State Farm agent.



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



LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

STATE FARM IS THERE.®

LTCI2002-08

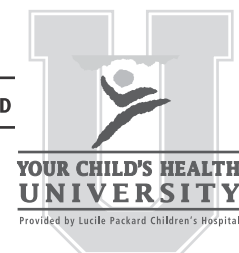
statefarm.com® • *State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company • Home Office: Bloomington, Illinois

See your local State Farm Agent for details on coverage, costs, restrictions and renewability.

P02460 04/05

LUCILE PACKARD

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



Your Child's Health University

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital offers classes, seminars and resources designed to foster good health and enhance the lives of parents and children.

* MAMA YOGA

Join other prenatal and postpartum mothers in a Yoga class designed to enhance strength, flexibility and tranquility. Practice Yoga stretches and poses while pregnant and return after your delivery for a gentle shape-up and relaxation time.

- Saturdays, August 9-23

* PREPARING FOR MULTIPLES

Are you expecting twins, triplets or more? With the potential for early delivery, expectant parents of multiples are encouraged to learn everything there is to know about carrying and delivering multiple infants.

- Sunday, August 17

* BECOMING GRANDPARENTS

Designed for new and expectant grandparents, this class examines the change in labor and delivery practices, the latest recommendations for infant care and the unique role of grandparents in today's society.

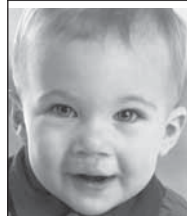
- Thursday, August 21

* ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS

Does your child have difficulty focusing, paying attention or sitting still? If so, your child could have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The Child Psychiatry Clinic at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital is offering ways for parents of children (ages 5-12) with ADHD to help their children improve behavior and function more independently. If interested, please call (650) 723-5511.

- Tuesdays, September 9 – November 11

Call (650) 723-4600 or visit www.lpch.org to register or obtain more information on the times, locations and fees for these and other courses.

LUCILE PACKARD
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

CALL TODAY TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES (650) 723-4600

Editor & Publisher

Tom Gibboney

Editorial

Managing Editor Richard Hine

News Editor Renee Batti

Lifestyles Editor Jane Knoerle

Senior Staff Writers

Marion Softky, Marjorie Mader

Staff Writers Andrea Gemmet,

David Boyce, Rory Brown

Editorial Intern

Selena Simmons-Duffin

Contributors Barbara Wood,

Kate Daly, Bill Rayburn, Miles

McMullin, Katie Blankenberg

Special Sections Editors

Carol Blitzer, Sue Dremann

Photographer Veronica Weber

Design & Production

Design Director Raul Perez

Designers Linda Atilano,

Gail Thoreson, Joanne Lee,

Laura Don, Gary Vennarucci

Advertising

Advertising Manager Neal Fine

Display Advertising Sales

Ella Fleishman

Real Estate Account

Advertising Assistant

Coordinator Nora Cecilia Meléndez

Advertising Services

Receptionists Renee Meil

Circulation, Classified,

& Legal Advertising Bill Rayburn

Published every Wednesday at

3525 Alameda de las Pulgas,

Menlo Park, CA 94025

(650) 854-2626

FAX (650) 854-0677

e-mail news (no photos please) to:

editor@AlmanacNews.com

e-mail photos with captions to:

photo@AlmanacNews.com

e-mail letters to:

letters@AlmanacNews.com

The Almanac, established in September, 1965, is delivered each week to residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside and adjacent unincorporated areas of southern San Mateo County. The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued November 9, 1969.

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.

Wildland fire could happen here

It's hard not to think about wildfires this year. Anybody who reads newspapers or watches television has been exposed to dramatic images of fires devouring California homes and landscape.

In the second year of drought, after the driest spring on record, California's fire season started in May this year. By the end of June, firefighters had confronted more than 2,000 blazes in the state.

By July 18, 2,054 fires had been contained, and 38 were still active, according to the Cal Fire Web site, fire.ca.gov. A total of 904,345 acres had been burned, and 5,180 homes threatened; 102 have been destroyed. And 18,006 people — including firefighters and equip-

ment, from San Mateo County — have been involved in fighting those fires.

So far, we have been lucky in San Mateo County to avoid what happened in Bonny Doon or Paradise.

But there is no reason to be complacent. Our hills are tinder-dry and covered with the growth of decades without fires. Fire season usually peaks in August and September, and sometimes into October.

Especially vulnerable are our foothill communities in the urban-wildland interface, where homes blend into natural landscapes — and share their risks. Everyone living or working in the South County areas from Alameda de las Pulgas to Skyline and beyond needs to be thinking about wildfire — how to prevent it, how to minimize damage from it, and how to escape it.

We are fortunate to be served by two very experienced and professional fire districts. The Menlo Park Fire Protection District leads one of 25 national Urban Search and Rescue teams that can fly overnight to help at disasters around the country, which it did after the September 11 attacks, Hurricane Katrina and many others. The Woodside Fire Protection District knows the territory. It has extensive programs to help residents prepare for and respond to fires.

These districts deserve special thanks for deploying people and

equipment to help fight the fires that have been ravaging California. Several dozen local firefighters have gone out on missions to spend 18-hour days in hellish conditions. They are true heroes.

But the fire departments can't do it all. Communities need to take some responsibility for their own safety. Individuals, families, public and private landowners, neighborhoods, and towns all need to plan for possible wildfires.

The Woodside fire district's CERPP program helps neighborhoods organize to help themselves and each other in emergencies such as wildfire or earthquake. About 10 of the 25 neighborhoods are well organized, but fire officials worry that the efforts may be slowing.

In Atherton, Peter Carpenter, a former smoke jumper and a member of the Menlo Park fire board, has spurred the community west of the Alameda to prepare a fire evacuation plan, especially for the area around Walsh Road, a mile-long cul de sac with no other outlet. They should be an example to others in vulnerable areas.

Key to reducing the hazards of wildland fires in residential areas is defensible space. This involves reducing and removing flammable material for 100 feet around homes so that firefighters can protect them. We hope that residents will take this seriously. It protects them, their neighbors and the community from runaway blazes. The fire districts are ready and willing to come over and advise on specifics to manage properties.

Thinking about fire can come down to relatively simple things. Have homeowners cleared their driveways so that fire engines can get in? Could a wooden deck catch on fire? Could a shake roof ignite if hit by a flying ember?

The towns of Woodside and Portola Valley are very conscious of the dangers of wildfire, but they could do even more. For example, building design guidelines might be altered to promote fire safety in new construction or remodeling. Are the towns ready to take on shake roofs and wood siding? Both are attractive; both can be dangerous.

Beyond prevention, residents also need to think through family

See **WILDLAND FIRE**, next page

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Keep pushing for better public transit

Editor:

Kudos to The Almanac for the timely article "Missed Connections," July 16. And to beleaguered writer Rory Brown, for his frustrating five-day experiment.

I was particularly struck by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, "trying to achieve the greater goal of getting people to cut their driving by 10 percent by the year 2035." 2035? Oil shortages and rocketing gas prices have probably already done that.

Instead, how about the MTC giving themselves a tight, five-year deadline, that gets all of the transportation agencies and districts in synch, on time, and moving more people with less environmental stress?

It seems to me that journalism is at its best when it pushes us, collectively, forward. I hope you do a follow-up on this — and keep pushing.

Dan Dippery
Santa Rita Avenue, Menlo Park



Atherton Heritage Association

Our Regional Heritage

This Colonial Revival house, built in Atherton in 1920 by Joseph Frank, was later sold to Boyd Weir. He named the residence "Gateway" and used it as a summer home. His daughter Eleanor and her friends held the first Children's Circus on the property, which ultimately became the town's popular Circus Club.

Protesting the protesters who picketed KKR

Editor:

Yesterday (July 17) the building in which I work was picketed by the SEIU. They were protesting the tax status (capital gains) of another company (KKR) that has

offices in the building.

This is the same union that gave substantial support to the campaigns of a number of Menlo Park City Council members. They then received a large raise in pay (over three years) and huge pension increases for union members who work for the city.

Imagine that. The union bought and paid for these increases. Over time Menlo Park could become another Vallejo because of this.

Here's hoping KKR and the citizens of Menlo Park give them a Brooklyn salute.

Pat White
Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park

More candidates will allow conversation about council members' first four years

By Steve Schmidt

2008, an even year in the Menlo Park political world and our two City Council members who have served their first terms want to go for another four years on the dais. As of the writing of this piece, only these two incumbents, Andy Cohen and Kelly Fergusson, have declared their candidacies. The city needs others to step up to the plate and force an actual election. Otherwise, we will not have an opportunity to hear Mr. Cohen and Ms. Fergusson summarize their contributions as council members.

To be fair, we have to roll back the calendar and remind ourselves of the difficult first two years these council members experienced. They were in the political minority whose ideas and influence were suppressed by the Winkler/Duboc/Jellins majority. Try as she might, Ms. Fergusson's ideas were dismissed by her colleagues; she was denied her rightful turn to be mayor; and she suffered other humiliations at the hand of three-time mayor Nicholas Jellins.

However, the following two years were disappointing. The Residential Design Ordinance referendum, a centerpiece of

Ms. Fergusson's campaign, was ignored, leaving the city to rely on an outdated ordinance that continues to confuse homeowners and residential developers alike. Then there was the energy-draining exercise that involved the defunct Park Theatre and the Menlo Park Dance Academy. Next, the successful Derry/Cadillac site referendum turned into a peculiar closed-door negotiation. An opportunity to have a vote on the projects or publicly renegotiate was abandoned. The council instead handed the problem over to a privately constituted and stridently anti-development group led by Morris Brown that determined Derry's fate. Two years later, the prospects for action remain uncertain. Even developers with small projects and remodels were subject to arbitrary and expensive planning requirements by the council. Most distressing, the general plan has not been updated since 1994.

Perhaps the best of Ms. Fergusson's first term is the City's Green Ribbon Citizens' Committee but, after 18 months, a budget

deficit and two other resident-participation public forums, it's difficult to put a finger on a single substantive accomplishment.

It is not a stretch to say that Ms. Fergusson and Mr. Cohen have emphasized studies and posturing over action, whereas the previous council emphasized action that favored developers at the expense of a legal and open public process.

I am looking forward to a fall campaign featuring moderate candidates who are neither decision-adverse nor overeager to pursue grandiose plans like \$19 million playfields at Bayfront Park, privatizing public facilities and programs and gifting other agencies with millions for uncertain benefits to Menlo Park taxpayers.

Will we have an election in which there are at least some candidates not associated with the obvious polarized camps that have dominated the political scene in Menlo Park for the past 20 years? This truly would be a welcome change in Menlo Park politics.

Steve Schmidt was on the Menlo Park City Council from 1994 to 2002, serving as mayor in 1997 and 2002.

GUEST OPINION

WILDLAND FIRE

continued from previous page

plans for evacuation. These should include how to communicate, how and where to evacuate, and what to take. The planning also needs to include

what to do about their animals, from dogs and cats to fish, hamsters and horses.

If we do all these things we know we ought to do, we are likely to be much better off if a fire occurs. Or, as the fire officials say: Hope for the best; prepare for the worst.



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

PLANNING COMMISSION RECRUITMENT

The Town Council is seeking an individual to serve on the Town's Planning Commission to complete the term of a Planning Commissioner stepping down the end of July 2008. This will be a three-month position. The term will expire in December 2008 and will be available for a 4-year term in January 2009. The Town Council will hold interviews tentatively scheduled for September 10, 2008.

The objectives of the Commission are to continually advise the Town Council regarding the comprehensive planning of the Town and to administer the planning regulations. The duties and functions include review of the General Plan for development within the Town, recommend ordinance and resolutions to the Council as necessary to implement the General Plan, supervise the land use within the Town by conducting necessary public hearings and acting upon applications for: zoning amendments, conditional use permits, variances, subdivisions, site development permits and building permits.

The Planning Commission consists of 5 members appointed by the Town Council. The Commission meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.

If you are interested in serving on the Planning Commission, please submit a letter of interest to the Town Council by Friday, August 29, 2008.

Published in THE ALMANAC on June 11, 18, 25, July 23, August 13, 20, 2008.

HOSTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Eurocentres Silicon Valley, an English school in Menlo Park, is looking for hosts for summer students from Italy, France, Japan, Spain, Korea, and other countries. Each host provides a private room, breakfast and dinner, and a friendly home atmosphere. Compensation is provided. Please call (650)321-1840 for more information.

EUROCENTRES SILICON VALLEY
(Formerly Language Pacifica)
585 Glenwood Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025
www.eurocentres-sv.com

"For Mom, living at home is the only way to live."



89% of older adults prefer to live at home. Our caregivers make that possible. We provide help with transportation and errands, companionship, personal care, meal preparation, medication reminders and more. Bonded, insured and rigorously-screened, we'll help your parents (and you) keep the freedom and lifestyle you both deserve.

Call for a FREE consultation!

Offices on the Peninsula, In San Jose and in the East Bay

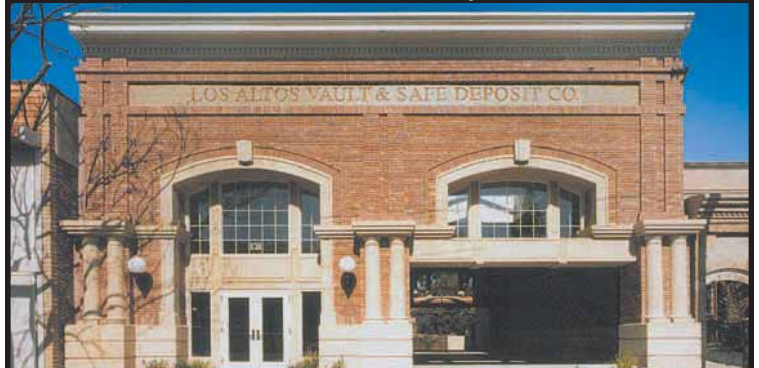
650-462-6900

HomeCare Assistance

www.HomeCareAssistance.com 650-462-6900

148 Hawthorne Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301

IF IT'S NOT IN THIS VAULT, IT'S NOT SAFE.



LOS ALTOS VAULT & SAFE DEPOSIT CO.

A private depository

Safe deposit boxes of all sizes

Strict and total confidentiality

Secured and ample parking

For your own sake we should have your business.

Visit our facilities and judge for yourself.

Data bank for important and confidential records.



SAFE FROM STATE & FEDERAL INTRUSION

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HACKERS TO PENETRATE OUR COMPUTER SYSTEM. REASON — WE HAVE NO COMPUTERS. WE DO BUSINESS THE OLD FASHIONED WAY.

121 First Street, Los Altos, CA 94022
Tel: 650-949-5891 www.losaltosvault.com



James Avenue, Atherton
FOR SALE \$7,995,000



Family Farm Road, Woodside
FOR SALE \$4,150,000



Portola Road, Woodside
FOR SALE \$3,395,000



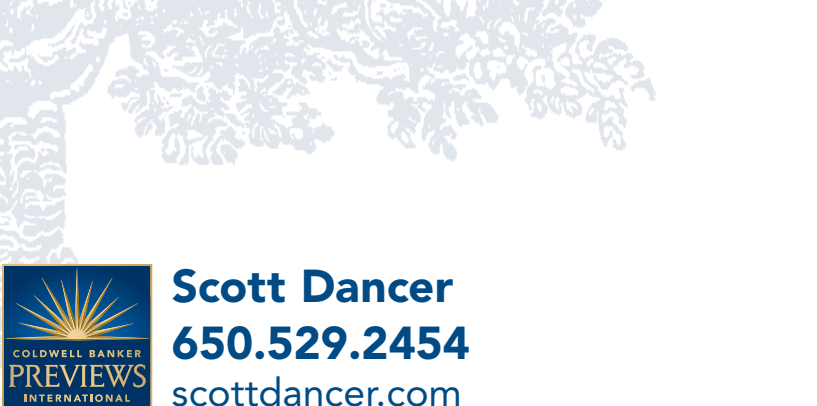
Mountain Home Road, Woodside
FOR SALE \$4,995,000



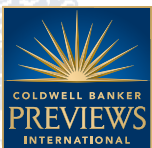
1418 Alameda de Las Pulgas, Redwood City
FOR SALE \$1,149,000



Bear Gulch Road, Woodside
FOR SALE \$1,195,000



Clayton Drive, Menlo Park
PENDING SALE \$3,595,000



Scott Dancer
650.529.2454
scottdancer.com



2969 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062
Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

Premier Properties represented by **Scott Dancer**

