

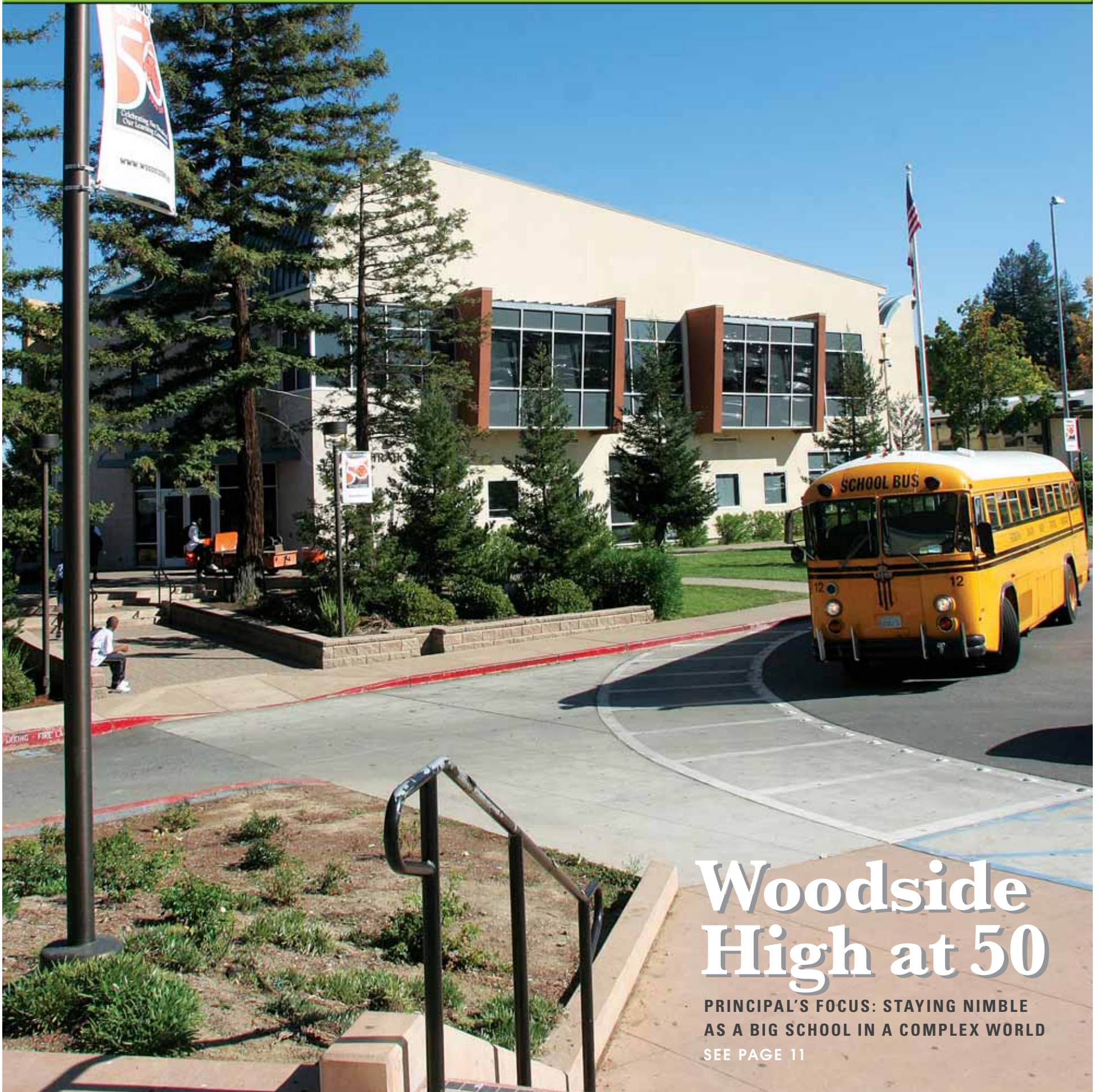
**MENLO PARK: E-mails heat up
City Council race. Page 9**

The Almanac

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

OCTOBER 15, 2008

www.TheAlmanacOnline.com | VOL. 44 NO. 7



Woodside High at 50

PRINCIPAL'S FOCUS: STAYING NIMBLE
AS A BIG SCHOOL IN A COMPLEX WORLD
SEE PAGE 11

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

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo By Veronica Weber/The Almanac

Picture this

Surrounded by her work, artist Marina Boudart of Atherton pauses for a bite to eat at the Atherton Art Committee's exhibition at the Pavilion at Holbrook-Palmer Park on Sept. 19. Ms. Boudart and 17 other artists who call Atherton home showed works ranging from portraits to pottery, and jewelry to photography at the fourth annual exhibit held at the park.

Atherton

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Menlo Park

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Election 2008

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■ Editorial endorsements on several state ballot measures. **Page 18**

Family Almanac

■ Women helping women: WANDA provides education, matching funds for single moms. **Cover, Section 2**

On the cover

Yellow school buses visit Woodside High School today as they probably did in 1958 when the school first opened its doors. Woodside celebrates its 50th anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 25, and for the rest of the school year, too. The Almanac talked with Principal David Reilly about the challenges he has set for the school. Cover photo by Veronica Weber. Story begins on **Page 11**.

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**

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■ E-mail letters to the editor to: **letters@AlmanacNews.com**

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Wine

Elite Cabernets

Here at Roberts, we strive to offer the highest quality, best value array of wines. We believe that every selection; regardless of price should offer a satisfying wine experience. We offer hundreds of outstanding affordable wine options. And, we offer some of the finest rarest, priciest wine available, too. Here is an amazing line up of several of California's greatest Cabernets.

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- '05 Etude, Napa Valley \$84.99
- '05 Heitz, Fay Vineyard, Napa Valley \$89.99
- '04 Kathryn Kennedy Estates, Santa Cruz Mountains \$124.99
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- '05 Spottswoode, Napa Valley \$129.99
- '05 Mondavi Reserve, Napa Valley \$132.99
- '05 Ridge "Montebello," Santa Cruz Mtns. \$144.99
- '05 Cliff Lede "Poetry," Napa Valley \$159.99
- '05 Caymus Special Selection, Napa Valley \$169.99
- '05 Peter Michael "Los Parots," Knights Valley \$189.99
- '04 Shater "Hillside Select," Napa Valley \$239.99
(limit 2 bottles per person)
- '04 Blankiet Paradise Hills Vnyd, Napa Valley \$259.99

- The above wines are very limited and are limited to stock on hand.
- These wines all qualify for our 10% case discount.

Roberts Tip of the Week

Say Cheese

Wine and cheese is a scrumptious pairing, and many people spend as much time selecting a cheese as they do selecting wine. There is very good reason for this. Both wine and cheese vary greatly in flavor and character depending on where and how they are produced, among other factors. When selecting a particular cheese to go with a particular wine, things can get complicated. However, everyone tastes things differently, and the age and condition of the wine and cheese, no matter how carefully each is chosen, can vary greatly. Therefore, as long as a cheese tray offers a choice of textures and flavors and there is a variety of wines, there should be something to suit every taste.

Wine and cheese is perhaps the greatest combination in the world of wine and food pairings. At ROBERTS MARKET, we can help you choose the perfect wine to go with any meal, or any occasion for that matter. Our experience and wine expertise allows us to provide you with the best advice available. We are pleased to say that we have a new market at 4420 Alpine Road in Portola Valley for those of you who may find it more convenient. You will find the same quality you find here, as well.

HINT: As a general rule, pair wine and cheese on the basis that neither one will totally overwhelm the other.



DELI

New at Roberts Market

Handmade North Valley Chevre From Cottonwood, California "A Northern California Farmstead"

- Clean mild flavor with a dense creamy texture
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- No animal rennet
- A beautiful cheese on your cheeseboard!



All the cool kids are doing it

Is it the high price of gas, the traffic delays or environmental sensitivity? Whatever the reason, Menlo Park City School District officials report that large numbers of students are taking the bus to school. So many kids are filling SamTrans buses on routes serving the school that the district is requesting additional buses, said Superintendent Ken Ranella.

Children are packed "like sardines" on the bus that arrives at Encinal in the morning, said Ahmad Sheikholeslami, the district's facility planner.

The district's new, big yellow school bus is also catching on. For \$250 annually, students in kindergarten, first or second grades can take the bus to school (but not back home). Less than three weeks into the school year, 60 children had registered for the bus, which seats 64, Mr. Ranella said.

Last week, SamTrans and the district announced bus schedule changes to better match school hours.

One windmill is enough

Portola Valley has one windmill to speak of, at Windmill School on Portola Road. If its blades do turn, they do so only rarely.

With the Town Council considering amending its general plan to add green guidelines, former mayor George Comstock asked how a request to build a working windmill would be greeted.

"I'll only say that I came from the land of windmills, Amish country," Councilwoman Ann Wengert replied, gracefully passing the buck.

Councilman Richard Merk took it up.

"I think the idea of a windmill is great, but it needs to be studied," he said, noting that it may be too high for the town's height limits, too noisy for the town's noise limits, and too deadly in general to birds on the wing.

Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Candidates report funds raised, spent

Fergusson top fundraiser in Menlo Park council race

By **Dave Boyce**
Almanac Staff Writer

Trade unions and local government officials are making donations large and small to the re-election campaigns of Menlo Park City Council members Kelly Fergusson and Andy Cohen, while candidate Rick Ciardella has received hefty donations from several development and real estate interests, as well as "minority" City Council member John Boyle, according to campaign finance reports that were due Oct. 6.

The three candidates running for two open council seats in the November election had one thing in common: each made a procedural error in reporting campaign income and expenses between July 1 and Sept. 30, and must submit amendments to the reports, City Clerk Margaret Roberts said.

Ms. Fergusson, who raised \$15,075 in cash and \$3,118 in in-kind donations, had not submitted a summary page, which lists totals of spending and cash received; Mr. Cohen raised \$11,836 and \$564 in in-

kind donations, but overstated his income by \$200 through a bookkeeping error; and Mr. Ciardella raised \$7,325, but neglected to include a form explaining the source of a \$100 loan, Ms. Roberts said.

The state Fair Political Practices Commission's rules state that candidates must amend their reports "as soon as practicable" when errors are made, Ms. Roberts said.

The next campaign finance reporting deadline is Oct. 23, she said.

Top fundraisers

Ms. Fergusson received a total of \$1,400 from trade unions: \$250 from electrical workers, \$1,000 from plumbers and steamfitters, and \$150 from heavy equipment operators, according to her report.

In addition, of the total of 134 donations reported, she received \$1,000 from Michael Cassidy, the chief executive of Kudo Corp., and \$760 from Portola Valley Mayor Maryann Moise Derwin.

See **FINANCE**, page 8

Atherton: McKeithen leads in campaign fundraising

By **Andrea Gemmet**
Almanac Staff Writer

In the race for two seats on the Atherton City Council, incumbent Kathy McKeithen edged out her challengers as the fundraising leader.

Ms. McKeithen reported raising \$16,087 in contributions. The next biggest war chest belongs to David Henig, an architect who reported raising \$10,900 in contributions plus a \$5,000 loan to the campaign from his treasurer, according to campaign finance reports filed Oct. 6. Atherton General Plan Committee member Elizabeth Lewis, who is making her second run for the council this year, reported receiving \$11,350 in contributions.

Richard Moore, the retired former Atherton city manager and police chief, reported raising \$6,274 in contributions and \$1,000 in loans. Mr. Moore told The Almanac that he planned a self-imposed campaign-spending cap of around \$6,000.

Several things set the candidates apart in terms of fundraising. Ms. Lewis, Mr. Moore and Ms. McKeithen raised virtually all their money from people listing Ather-

ton addresses. Mr. Henig's donors spanned the nation, from Arizona to Florida, New York to Beverly Hills. Only five of his campaign's 28 listed contributors are from Atherton.

Ms. Lewis counts among her supporters several residents who have battled publicly — or in court — with the town, including: Stephen Ackley, principal with Pacific Peninsula group, whose accessory structure's basement was retroactively found to violate town rules; James "Skip" Law, whose proposal to build senior condos atop a new town hall failed to get council support; Randy Lamb, who successfully sued the town over its historic artifacts ordinance; and Charlie King III, whose family sued in order to be allowed to move into their house after becoming entangled in zoning issues over the home's size.

Kathy McKeithen

Ms. McKeithen's top contributors are: D.L. Lucas, a private investor, \$2,000; Paul and Marcia Wythes, self-employed, \$900; Hermann and I. Christensen, \$900; George and D. Shaheen, \$500; Barbara and

See **CAMPAIGN**, page 8



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

A carrot for your thoughts

Penny got the spa treatment from Sydney Schwach, 4, and other kids with gentle hands at Woodside's Day of the Horse festival on Saturday, Oct. 11. The town celebrates the equestrian lifestyle every fall with a trail ride for experienced riders and a fair that, this year, included demonstrations of blacksmithing, and pony and stagecoach rides.

Almanac returns to mail delivery

Beginning with the Oct. 22 edition, next week, residents will once more receive their Almanac in the mailbox, rather than in a blue plastic bag on the driveway.

"Our campaign to ask readers to request the paper has paid off," said publisher Tom Gibboney, who noted that lower U.S. Postal Service rates and concern about the effects of all those plastic bags on the environment were major factors in deciding to return The Almanac to mail delivery.

To receive your Almanac in the mail, go to www.almanacnews.com and click on the "Mail Me The Almanac" link at the top of the page, then follow the prompts.

Print copies of the Almanac are still available in racks placed at strategic locations around the area, and at many downtown businesses.

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San Francisco set to launch big fix for its water system

By Marion Softky
Almanac Staff Writer

At last, San Francisco is ready to get seriously under way with the \$4.3 billion program to fix the aging and seismically vulnerable system that provides water from the Sierra to 2.4 million people in the Bay Area — including San Mateo County.

The “final program” environmental impact report, which was released Sept. 30, analyzes the impacts of the 37 regional projects that carry 265 million gallons of water per day from Sierra and Bay Area watersheds to taps in the Bay Area.

In back-to-back meetings Oct. 30, the San Francisco Planning Commission is set to approve the final report, and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is set to launch the water system improvement program, in a massive effort to make its sprawling water system safe and reliable.

The SFPUC staff has recommended a compromise that would allow critical construction to get started while postponing controversial aspects of the project that might delay its completion past the target date of 2014.

The controversy swirls around the proposal to divert up to 25 million gallons per day more from the wild and scenic Tuolumne River to serve growth in the Bay Area.

Demand for water from San Francisco’s Hetch Hetchy system in San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda and Santa Clara counties is projected to grow by 35 million gallons per day, from the current 265 million gallons per day to 300 million gallons per day by 2030.

The compromise proposal would delay increases in water diversions from the Tuolumne until 2018. It would absorb any increased demand through a combination of increased conservation, recycling and groundwater

use. “We’ll keep the status quo until 2018,” said Ed Harrington, general manager of the SFPUC.

Mr. Harrington urged the Planning Commission to certify and adopt the final environmental impact report. “Nothing less than the public health, safety and economic vitality of 2.4 million Bay Area customers depends on it,” he said.

Responses

Representatives of both water suppliers and conservation groups welcomed the proposed compro-

‘Nothing less than the public health, safety and economic vitality of 2.4 million Bay Area customers depends on it.’

SFPUC GENERAL MANAGER
ED HARRINGTON,
OF THE WATER SYSTEM
UPGRADE PROJECT

mise — with reservations.

Art Jensen, general manager of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, which is made up of the 27 water agencies that buy water from San Francisco, greeted the proposed compromise as: “some good; some disturbing.”

“It’s a good thing to fix up the system and create a chance of getting seismic improvements sooner rather than later,” Mr. Jensen said.

But Mr. Jensen is disturbed about whether member agencies can save an additional 10 million gallons per day of water above the 15 million gallons per day they have already committed to. “We’ve put in a lot of work,” he said.

Peter Drekmeier, Bay Area program director for the Tuolumne

River Trust and a councilman in Palo Alto, was pleased that the new proposal will decouple the issue of diverting more water from the Tuolumne from the vital upgrades of the water system.

Ten years will allow the PUC to complete a biological study of the river below the Hetch Hetchy reservoir, explore new techniques for water conservation and recycling, and understand the impacts of climate change on the watershed.

Mr. Jensen also wondered what will happen after 2018: “There will be more people. There will be more jobs. They will need water.”

Projects

The final environmental impact report for the water system improvement program consists of eight volumes. These include responses to 1,300 comments submitted by agencies and the public to the draft environmental report.

The size of the document reflects the size of the project to transport water 167 miles from Hetch Hetchy in Yosemite National Park across five earthquake faults to residents and businesses in San Francisco, and three suburban counties.

The project includes 81 individual projects grouped into 37 regional projects. Some of these projects will need additional environmental studies before they can be built, PUC officials noted.

Major projects on the Peninsula include: raising and strengthening Crystal Springs Dam; rebuilding assorted pipelines that carry water on the Peninsula; and building a new 9-foot tunnel under the Bay between Ravenswood and Newark that will replace the two deteriorating pipes that currently carry water under the Bay.

Copies of the EIR are available at the Menlo Park Library at 800 Alma St. They are available online at PEIR.sfwater.org. ■

Programs on ballot measures

In the weeks leading up to the Nov. 4 election, the League of Women Voters will sponsor several presentations of arguments for and against each of the measures on the state ballot:

■ Sunday, Oct. 19, noon-1 p.m.: St. Bede’s Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park.

■ Tuesday, Oct. 21, 7-8:30 p.m.: The Sequoias, 501 Portola Road, Portola Valley.

■ Saturday, Nov. 1, 11 a.m.-noon: Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Market Analysis

Q: What are you seeing in the market?

A: The past two weeks have seen slower sales but the market has not been as quiet as you might think in the financial markets. There have been sales in the lower ranges, i.e., \$600,000-\$1.3 million, and there have also been a few sales in the \$2.0 - \$3.4 million range. There have even been a few multiple offers in the past two weeks, not necessarily above the asking price. There are some active lenders in the market such as Wells Fargo, First Republic, and others and rates

are currently more attractive than they have been at other times during this year.

If you are a buyer, you should watch the market carefully. When you see a property in a good location that you like, it is well priced, you have a good loan option and solid financial standing, you should go ahead and act. Sellers are more amenable to offers contingent on the sale of the buyer’s property, which has been virtually unheard of in the past several years. The market has not gone away but it is different than what we have seen lately.

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.

Community meeting set on Hetch Hetchy upgrade

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) will discuss the local aspects of its massive water system improvement program at a community meeting in Belle Haven at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the Senior Services Center, 110 Terminal Ave. in Menlo Park.

One project to upgrade the reliability of two Bay Division pipelines includes construc-

tion of a new pipe next to the two existing pipes in the right of way that runs through East Palo Alto, along Ivy Drive, and through Suburban Park and North Fair Oaks.

Beginning in 2010, construction may affect parking and traffic near the right of way.

For information, call Christina Kerby at 800-571-6610, or send an e-mail to: ckerby@sfwater.org

VOTE FOR DICK MOORE ATHERTON COUNCIL

I am running for the Atherton Town Council because of **my concerns for public safety, leadership, maintenance of good financial balance, and response to the will of the community.**

The Council must provide good leadership as well as wise oversight, for which my past experience uniquely qualifies me.

As your elected Councilperson my priorities will be to:

- Provide leadership and oversight; include the continuing improvement of the existing financial practices, while delivering desired services in balance with the Town’s ability to generate revenues.
- Ensure that Public Safety meets the expectations of our citizens. Our police services are an indispensable asset in reducing crime, enforcing traffic laws, and assisting with ordinance compliance. Because of my background, I know what it takes to provide an environment that maximizes police resources.
- Enhance the Town disaster preparedness by working in conjunction with the community and the fire district. During my career as both Police Chief & Town Manager, I have attended many FEMA training programs. Presently, I am on the Town’s Disaster Preparedness Committee.
- Preserve the rural and countrified environment established by the Town founders even as we address the community’s ever-changing requirements.
- Make town services more user-friendly and less complicated for people wanting to realize their dreams of living in Atherton.
- As a former Little League Manager, I see the need for the council to facilitate playing field usage agreements between our private & public schools and youth sporting groups. More recreational areas are needed for our youth, and working together with the town this objective can be obtained.

In the course of this campaign and, when elected, during my tenure on the Council, I promise to walk the neighborhoods, talk with you, and listen to you.

Thank you for your vote!
Dick Moore, Retired Atherton Police Chief
www.VoteChiefMoore.com

View this web-site for more information

County board to consider Everest charter petition

The San Mateo County Board of Education has scheduled a Nov. 5 public hearing on a petition to charter Everest Public High School, according to board spokesman Porter Sexton.

Everest would be modeled on Summit Preparatory Charter High School, a Redwood City public school in its sixth year. About a third of Summit Prep's students live in The Almanac's circulation area.

Everest would open in September 2009 and be governed by the nonprofit Summit Institute, whose chief executive, Diane Tavenner, headed Summit Prep for several years.

Meetings of the county board begin at 7 p.m. in the Office of Education at 101 Twin Dolphin Drive in Redwood City.

In a 4-1 vote, Sequoia Union High

School District trustees rejected Everest's petition on Sept. 17, alleging that the proposed school lacked community support, had potential fiscal problems, and could create "racial isolation" by drawing white students away from charter schools in East Palo Alto, also within the Sequoia district's boundaries.

In dissenting, Trustee Olivia Martinez cited Summit Prep's diversity and popularity; the school had 3.25 applications for each freshman seat for the 2007-08 school year, the petitioners have said.

If the county board rejects Everest, the petitioners can apply to the state board. The Sequoia district will be responsible for funds for Everest's operating budget, and must offer facilities, if the petition is approved.



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

Left Bank's new look

Servers Cesar Espidio, left, and Erick Schlimmer prepare the dining room of the Left Bank in downtown Menlo Park just before the restaurant re-opened on Oct. 2 after being closed for about eight weeks for remodeling. Renovations included the addition of a dining mezzanine, an enclosed kitchen, a tile floor, and new lighting.

FINANCE

continued from page 5

Mr. Cohen received \$1,300 from trade unions, including \$250 from electrical workers, \$1,000 from plumbers and steamfitters, and \$50 from William Nack of the San Mateo Building Trades Council.

Soheila Khalili, owner of the Yogurt Stop in Menlo Park, gave \$1,000 to Mr. Cohen, and Penelope Huang, of Menlo Park-based Taylor and Huang Properties, gave \$200.

Mr. Ciardella received \$1,000 from Howard Crittenden of Atherton, owner of the former Park Theater, and \$2,500 came from Ted Schlein of the Menlo Park-based venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers.

Coldwell Banker Realtor Kimberley Lemieux gave Mr. Ciardella \$500, Bob McIntire of Palo Alto-based developer Nova Partners gave \$100, and Menlo Park

Councilman John Boyle gave \$300. ■

Contributors

A partial list of donations follows:

■ Richard Ciardella: John Boyle, Menlo Park, councilman and venture capitalist, \$300; Robert L. Dehn, Menlo Park, retired, \$500; Howard Crittenden, Atherton, self-employed investor, \$1,000; Kimberley Lemieux, Menlo Park, realtor, \$500; Ted Schlein, Menlo Park, venture capitalist, \$2,500; Bob McIntire, Menlo Park, developer, \$100.

■ Kelly Fergusson: Michael Cassidy, Menlo Park, business executive, \$1,000; Valerie Frederickson, Menlo Park, executive recruiter, \$340; Julie Lance, Portland, community volunteer, \$600; Maryann Moise Derwin, Portola Valley, councilmember and mayor, \$760; Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 467, Burlingame, \$1,000; Shirley Zeien, San Diego, retired, \$500.

■ Andrew "Andy" Cohen: Elias Blawie, Menlo Park, attorney, \$500; Jim Bramlett, Menlo Park, engineer, \$500; Don Brawner, Menlo Park, business owner, \$500; Vince Bressler, Menlo Park, engineer, \$300; Martin Engel, Menlo Park, retired, \$500; Soheila Khalili, Menlo Park, business owner, \$1,000; Jenny Klenitz, Menlo Park, research manager, \$500; James Madison, Menlo Park, attorney, \$300; Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 467, Burlingame, \$1,000.

CAMPAIGN

continued from page 5

Thomas Proulx, \$500; and David and Leigh White, \$500.

Ms. McKeithen's top expenditures were: \$5,112 to The Almanac for advertisements; \$3,650 to American Speedy Printing of Menlo Park; and \$1,373 to the US Postal Service.

Richard Moore

Mr. Moore's top donations are: \$500 from retired Atherton resident William Awbry; \$500 from Rodney and Jane Washburn, retired; \$500 from Donald Arata, president of Arata Equipment Co.; and \$500 from the Association Of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs PAC. Mr. Moore also made a loan to his campaign of \$1,000.

His top expenditures were: \$2,982 to The Almanac for advertising; \$1,635 to American Speedy Printing; and \$860 to Paw Prints Inc. for banners and yard signs.

Elizabeth Lewis

Ms. Lewis' top contributors are: Steve Dostart, a commercial real estate developer, \$1,000; James "Skip" Law of Law & Associates, \$1,000; real estate developer Randy Lamb, \$1,000; Charlie King III, a self-employed investor, \$1,000; Stephen Ackley, \$500; Henry Bullcock of Menlo Equities, \$500; Mark Davis, self-employed in commercial real estate, \$500; real estate development company Woodlane Properties, \$500; and Thomas Colby, COO of Globalstar, \$500.

Ms. Lewis' top expenditures were: \$3,257 to The Almanac for advertising; \$2,000 in campaign worker salary to Lisa Jensen; and \$1,400 to Tekute Designs of Sunnyvale for campaign literature and mailings.

David Henig

Mr. Henig's top donors are: Steve Westly, \$1,000; his campaign treasurer Peppi Elona of Sarasota, Florida, \$1,000; Joan and Stan Faust, retired, of New York City, \$1,000; Margie Richards, retired,

of Rancho Palos Verdes, \$1,000; and Conrad Platt, retired, of Los Angeles, \$1,000.

Mr. Henig's top expenditures were: \$2,340 to the U.S. Postal Service; \$1,234 to Acorn Signs of Palo Alto; and \$1,115 to Paw Prints Inc. for campaign paraphernalia.

The campaign finance statements cover the period from July 1 to September 30, and catalog contributions of \$100 or more, as well as all expenditures. They are available for viewing at the town administrative offices, 91 Ashfield Road; to buy copies of all five reports, it's \$4.70.

A fifth council candidate, Atherton Audit Committee member Sam Goodman, dropped out of the race, but also filed a campaign finance report. Mr. Goodman reported raising \$100 from retired Atherton resident Robert Franceschini. He loaned his campaign \$3,373.

Mr. Goodman's top expenditures were: \$1,462 to Paw Prints Inc.; \$964 to Kainos Home & Training Center for campaign literature; and \$840 to the U.S. Postal Service. ■

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Comments, but no changes on Oak Knoll School project

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

At its Oct. 7 meeting, the Menlo Park City Council had the unusual — and somewhat frustrating — role of hearing all about permits for the upcoming construction project at Oak Knoll School, but having no authority to actually do anything.

The Menlo Park City School District plans to build a two-story classroom building and new multi-use room, and modernize existing classrooms, among other things. Enrollment is set to decrease slightly, from the current 735 to 720.

The Oak Knoll project, as well as other school projects in the district, is funded by the \$91 million Measure U school bond passed in 2006.

Menlo Park staff said they took the unusual step of asking for the council's review and comments on permits for dealing with storm-water runoff and driveway locations associated with the project in order to provide the public a forum.

The district's plans for the school have provoked protests and

complaints from some neighbors over building sites, tree removals, traffic issues and drainage.

"This is an unusual item. Usually, we're taking some kind of action," said Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson. "I received a lot of e-mail today that urged the council to take action, but it's not really within our purview."

Because it's a public school campus, the city has authority only over Oak Knoll's storm-water drainage and physical changes made within the public right-of-way adjacent to the school, such as driveway curb-cuts. Such permits are issued over the counter by staff, without discretionary review by the council.

Menlo Park staff told the council that the district's plans, with conditions, meet all the city's requirements for issuing encroachment permits.

The school district has yet to apply for the permits, but has given its plans to the city early, in the hopes of moving the project forward quickly once a contractor is hired later this fall.

Ms. Fergusson said it "bears mentioning" that in order for the council to act, someone would have to appeal the per-

mits — once they are issued.

"There is a possibility that this may come back to us," she said.

Despite that caveat, several people at the meeting urged the council to take action that evening to deny or delay the permits.

City Attorney Bill McClure said that the criterion for issuing the permits is not whether a better or more desirable configuration exists, but whether what's proposed is safe and meets the applicable standards.

A sizable crowd, including the district superintendent and school board, attended the meeting. Board president Bruce Ives argued that delays will waste taxpayer dollars, as construction costs go up.

Councilman John Boyle praised the school board for its open and inclusive process on the Oak Knoll project while Mayor Andy Cohen said he went out of his way to give residents someone to talk to "when they felt they had no one to talk to."

"I want to encourage all the parties to try to start to do some healing. There is a fair amount of acrimony generated over this project," said Councilman Heyward Robinson. ▀

E-mails heat up Menlo Park council race

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park residents wondering if the familiar squabbles that have caused so much acrimony in previous campaign seasons would surface in this election cycle got their answer last week, when a pair of e-mails criticizing incumbents Andy Cohen and Kelly Fergusson were circulated.

Rick Ciardella, running against Mr. Cohen and Ms. Fergusson for a City Council seat, sent an e-mail to supporters on Thursday, Oct. 9, that accused his opponents of trying to delay the permitting process for the upcoming construction project at Oak Knoll School.

And an e-mail from Ciardella supporter Sam Sinnott to the Menlo Masters swimmers list sparked a heated debate on The Almanac's online Town Square forum about whether it was appropriate to use the list for political purposes. Mr. Sinnott's e-mail reportedly alleged that Mr. Cohen and Ms. Fergusson would try to block Tim Sheeper's attempt to renew his lease to run the Burgess Park Aquatics Center when the lease expires in 2011.

Mr. Ciardella claimed that Mr. Cohen and Ms. Fergusson staged their comments about the Oak Knoll project at the Oct. 7 council meeting to encourage residents "to use the procedural process of filing a complaint when the Director of Public Works issues the permit to the school district."

The council — which has no authority on whether the permits are issued — met to offer comments to city staff on the permitting process, which deals with issues such as driveway location and storm-water runoff.

"It's not just about the school project," Mr. Ciardella said of his e-mail, which broadly criticized his opponents' attitude toward development. "It's about delay. The whole tenor [of the council] is about delay."

Ms. Fergusson called Mr. Ciardella's tactics "divisive" and "unethical." She accused him of "stooping to trade off the good name of our school community for political gain."

Ms. Fergusson defended her observation, articulated near the end of the session, that the permits could be challenged after they are issued, saying that she was trying to encourage Ken

Ranella, superintendent of the Menlo Park City School District, to continue to collaborate with the community in the planning process. In her comments, she also thanked the school board for being responsive to various concerns the council has had about the project, and for modifying its plans accordingly.

In response to Mr. Ciardella's e-mail, Ms. Fergusson noted that she supported Measure U, the \$91 million school bond passed in 2006 that provides funding for the Oak Knoll project.

Asked about Mr. Ciardella's e-mail, Mr. Cohen said, "I don't like getting down in the gutter. I have no response." Mr. Ciardella's missive alleged that Mr. Cohen was trying to goad the school's neighbors into appealing the permit when he urged them to "persevere and be strong" during the council meeting.

In his comments, Mr. Cohen said that listening to the complaints of people who lived near the school reminded him of his career as an injured workers' lawyer. He said that he understood the need for the project to progress, but also noted that it appeared the school board hadn't brought the neighbors into the process. ▀



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Valerie Gardner, Atherton Environmental Programs Committee

"Elizabeth's reputation as an ethical and hard-working businesswoman has convinced me that she is just the person we need on our Council."

Merv Morris, Atherton resident and founder Mervyn's

"Elizabeth is passionate about our youth and organized sports activities on our Town's playing fields."

Nancy Sterling, Lindenwood Resident

"I have found Elizabeth to value use of the park for the entire community, especially for the youngest members through children's activities and youth sports."

Michelle Dollinger, West Atherton Resident and former Co-Chair of the Children's Play Area Committee at Holbrook Palmer Park



Thanks for your support on Nov. 4th!

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Virginia Chang Kiraly - Member California Commission for Economic Development

Rob Faisant - Retired Atherton City Attorney

Valerie Gardner - Environmental Programs Committee

Betsy Glikberg - Member Public Safety Committee

William Grindley - Planning Commission

Bill Grove - Member ACIL & Disaster Preparedness Comm

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COVER STORY

Woodside High at 50

PRINCIPAL'S FOCUS: STAYING NIMBLE AS A BIG SCHOOL IN A COMPLEX WORLD



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac & Photo illustration by Joanne Lee

Woodside High is 50 this year, as the hairstyles in these yearbook photos can attest. While there may be plenty of reasons for fond looks back on this anniversary, Principal David Reilly, above, is focusing on preparing students academically and socially for an increasingly complex world.

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

In 1958, telephones had dials, milk came in glass bottles, kids delivered newspapers and, in September of that year, Woodside High School opened its doors to its first freshman class.

High school back then prepared some teens for college and many for blue collar jobs, and a future that often included a one-income family with a stay-at-home mom and a union job that offered a career and good pay without a college degree.

Fifty years on, as Woodside High prepares to celebrate its anniversary, the school is the same, and it is different. There are graduates who eschew college and who can still find technical careers with decent wages. The campus layout has hardly changed, so visiting alumni should be able to locate a

classroom or playing field.

But Woodside must now prepare students for a truly global job market, highly competitive college admissions, and a society that is increasingly diverse.

"Being a teenager in today's world, I think, is much more complex than it ever was," Woodside High Principal David Reilly says in a recent interview. For a high school to meet current needs, he says, it must go beyond informing students to teaching them to synthesize, analyze and use that information.

Such goals are hardly made easier in an environment in which students must negotiate a hormone-complicated transition from the comforting landscape of middle school to, some four years later, a college campus that may be the size and population of a small city.

"It's quite a task to be that tran-

sitional piece," Mr. Reilly says. "It's the most complex period of anyone's life."

The Almanac spoke with Mr. Reilly in the run up to Woodside High's 50th anniversary celebration on Saturday, Oct. 25, the day after the homecoming football game.

Two events are scheduled for that Saturday: between 2 and 4 p.m., an open house, tour and retrospective video on the campus; and between 4 and 6 p.m., an alumni cocktail party/reception sponsored by the Woodside High School Foundation at the Woodside Village Church.

Emphasis on writing

The transition to college for Mr. Reilly was a surprising one, he says, particularly as it concerned English composition. (He is now 35 and graduated with honors from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1995 with a degree in English.

Coming from a high school in upstate New York where he says he "did well," he got some bad news in his freshman composition class: He wrote in the passive voice — a clumsy and tiresome style of writing, as in, "Huck and Jim were transported on a raft down the Mississippi River."

"I got a big taste of humble pie

at UCLA," he says, adding that he spent part of his first year teaching himself the elements of academic style. "That's not something that Woodside High School students are going to have to do."

Seniors at Woodside can't say that they aren't exposed to proper technique. The required senior project includes a 10- to 12-page essay that, among other things, should demonstrate familiarity with Modern Language Association guidelines, he says.

Doing well in high school counts. UCLA, Mr. Reilly notes, used to accept a 2.7 grade point average and one or two advanced-placement courses from incoming freshmen. "That's unheard of these days," he says, when a GPA of above 4.0 and three or four AP classes are more typical.

Social consciousness

If academic skills are one key to success in college, getting along in an increasingly complex culture is another, Mr. Reilly says.

As part of the Sequoia Union High School District, Woodside High's ethnic mix among its 1,900 students is as diverse as the district's, including a Hispanic population at 48 percent; Caucasians at 38 percent; African Americans at 5 percent; and Pacific Islanders, Asians, and all

others at or below 3 percent.

The school draws students from 13 elementary school districts, including those in upscale communities such as Portola Valley and Woodside, and towns that have belts of poverty such as Redwood City and East Palo Alto.

"I think Woodside High School has consistently risen to the challenge of preparing students for this global economy, this brave new world, if you will," Mr. Reilly says. "It's more important than ever for students to have a social consciousness, to have an understanding, a real understanding, of other cultures and belief systems."

Asked if Woodside had racial tension or gang members on campus, Mr. Reilly replies that he has seen no sign of racial issues and that if gang members are there, they're not allowed to identify themselves. "Do I have kids on campus that demonstrate at-risk behavior? Sure," he says.

"The term 'gang' is a really strong buzzword that excites a lot of people," he says. "Kids are kids and I have a real problem with people labeling juveniles as gang members. They can't do anything about where they live

See **WOODSIDE HIGH**, page 12

INFORMATION

Woodside High's 50th anniversary celebration happens Saturday, Oct. 25. The events begin at 2 p.m. with an open house, campus tour and retrospective video on the campus at 199 Churchill Ave., off Woodside Road.

At 4 p.m., alumni and friends are invited to a cocktail party/reception sponsored by the Woodside High School Foundation at the Woodside Village Church at 3154 Woodside Road.

On Nov. 26, the alumni battle the WHS varsity basketball team.

In May, the school inaugurates a new "community hall of fame," to include teachers, alumni and "significant contributors" to the Woodside High School Foundation.

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Woodside High at 50

WOODSIDE HIGH

continued from page 11

and who is raising them" and a popular media saturated with violence.

"We're after the whole child. We're after the whole student," he says. "My job as an educator is to make intellectual pursuits and healthy endeavors more attractive than what they see in the media. The bottom line is that Woodside High School is extremely safe."

His biggest challenge this year has been the length of skirts and shorts, he says.

The number of Woodside students with "socio-economic challenges" has been rising. Students receiving free or reduced-price lunches rose to 36 percent in 2007-08 from 25 percent in 2003-04, according to state records. Twenty-four percent of Woodside students' parents lacked a high school diploma in 2007-08, up from 20 percent in 2003-04.

At the same time, graduation rates have risen to 98 percent in 2007 from 92 percent in 2004.

"We're getting smarter on how to meet the challenges," Mr. Reilly says. "I think the purpose of high school is going to completely

transform in this century."

Leveraging success

Within the next decade, Mr. Reilly says, he expects high schools to be graduating kids with at least some of the skills expected of 20th century college graduates.

To that end, Woodside will be setting up a pre-med, pre-nursing and medical technician program that includes a facility with hospital beds and medical equipment, he says.

The school will also leverage the success of its robotics club in setting up an engineering program. Student robot designers over the past 12 years have conferred significant status on Woodside, including a national championship in 1996. The team took home three regional titles and two corporate awards in the 2007 games.

Robotics is ideal, Mr. Reilly says, because it challenges students, through hands-on experience and annual competitions, to synthesize and analyze concepts taught in the classroom.

Designing and building a functional machine is a virtuous enterprise in that it's unforgiving, he says. "Either the robot works or it doesn't work."

Robotics, he says, also draws in the community: The robots

can't be built and the team can't participate in contests without the help of corporate sponsors. Total costs can run \$15,000 to \$20,000 plus travel expenses, but it brings industry and the academy together, Mr. Reilly says.

He courts the deep-pocketed in the community and local industry in trying to improve Woodside's offerings. "The school can't do it alone," he says.

Indeed, he has already gotten started on a tutoring/intramural sports program. His hopes were to raise the funds to help kids who fritter away their time after school, who weren't doing well academically and who didn't have the grade-point average to allow them to play team sports.

Mr. Reilly says he had a brief talk about his plans with Philanthropic Ventures Foundation president Bill Somerville, a former executive with the Peninsula Community Foundation, and on a handshake, got a check for \$10,000 in seed money the next day.

His overarching goal: boost Woodside's endowment to \$10 million to \$15 million from the current \$1 million so as to reduce all class sizes to 20 to 24 students. "Then we'll really be able to compete with private schools," he says. "This is very, very possible." ■

Water quality warning system cut

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

If you're planning on hitting the beach to escape the heat, you may want to think twice before putting a toe in the water.

That's because Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger stripped funding from the Beach Safety Act with a line item veto in the state budget on Sept. 23.

The cut will force the San Mateo County Health Department to suspend its weekly monitoring of water quality at the county's beaches, according to Dean Peterson, the county's director of environmental health.

Previously, the department had

issued warnings through Web updates, e-mail missives, and signs posted at contaminated sites. It also maintained a phone hotline.

Mr. Peterson said that the department will likely allocate the program's remaining resources — it receives \$25,000 annually in funding from the federal government — to test areas that are known or suspected to have been contaminated by a sewage spill.

He is particularly concerned that the department will not be able to follow up on the results of its last test, on Oct. 1, which revealed contamination in several creeks that drain into the ocean.

The department has offered

general guidelines to anyone who plans to take a dip at one of the county's beaches, including Moss Beach, Pillar Point, and the beaches at Half Moon Bay. Health Officer Scott Morrow advises swimmers to avoid beaches near storm drains and outlets from rivers, lagoons or creeks. He also recommends steering clear of the ocean for three days after a heavy rain, because the water is more likely to be contaminated by urban runoff.

The department is in the process of looking for funding through private grants and other state agencies in the hope that it will eventually be able to re-start the program, Mr. Peterson said. ■

Girl succumbs to injuries from bucking horse

A 5-year-old Redwood City girl died Thursday, Oct. 9, from injuries sustained after falling from a horse during riding lessons at the Clermont Equestrian Center at Cypress Ridge at 12670 Skyline Blvd. in unincorporated San Mateo County.

Medics and sheriff's deputies responded to a 911 call reporting an injured unconscious child at about 6:25 p.m., according to an account from Sgt. Linda Gib-

bons of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Also responding were Engine Company 58 of the California Department of Fire and members of the Kings Mountain Volunteer Fire Department.

Although the girl and the horse were not strangers — she had ridden it about six times — the horse spooked for an unknown reason and bucked her off, then dragged her for

several seconds and kicked her in the head causing "severe injuries," Sgt. Gibbons said.

Witnesses, including the victim's trainer and grandmother, began life-saving efforts immediately, Sgt. Gibbons said. Medics drove the girl to the intersection of Highways 35 and 92 and transferred her to a Life Flight ambulance helicopter, but she succumbed to her injuries at Stanford Hospital.

Harvest supper at Djerassi Ranch

A five-course gourmet harvest supper, created by chefs Mark Sullivan and Dmitry Elperin of Spruce and The Village Pub, will be the highlight of Artful Harvest, to be held from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19, at the Djerassi Ranch, 2325 Bear Gulch Road in Woodside.

The menu will include organic vegetables and herbs just picked at the ranch. Dinner will be served in the artists' barn, which has floor-to-ceiling glass doors that open to views of the Pacific coastline.

The afternoon will feature live performances by sound artist Pamela Z, and verse from Al Young, poet laureate of California. There will be a dessert buffet and a sunset champagne toast.

Artful Harvest supports the Djerassi Resident Artists Program. Cost is \$225 per person. To reserve, call 747-1250

Holidays on a High Note

A floral demonstration by Dutch-born Rene van Rems, 25 holiday table settings, floral displays and a holiday boutique will be featured in Holidays on a High Note, to be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 20, at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton.

The annual benefit is sponsored by the Foothill Auxiliary to Family Service Agency of San Mateo County.

"East Meets West-Asian and European Design Cultures" will be the title of Mr. van Rems' presentation. Among the Menlo Park businesses presenting holiday displays are: Always

AROUND TOWN

RSVP, Casa Flora Design/Sharri Robinson, Cindy's Flowers & Gifts, Leslie Rehlaender, Sugar Shack, Rise-Krag Inc. The Dressed Room of Atherton, and Pomegranate Events & Floral Design of Woodside will also have displays.

Tickets to the holiday event are \$95 per person, including lunch. In a more intimate setting, Mr. van Rems will hold a workshop from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Oct. 21, also at the Circus Club. Attendees should bring their own shears and dress casually. Tickets are \$160 and include materials and lunch. Space is limited.

Kris Forbes is chairman of Holidays on a High Note. Last year, the benefit raised \$55,000 for Family Service Agency. For reservations, call Jennifer Levy at 322-3092.

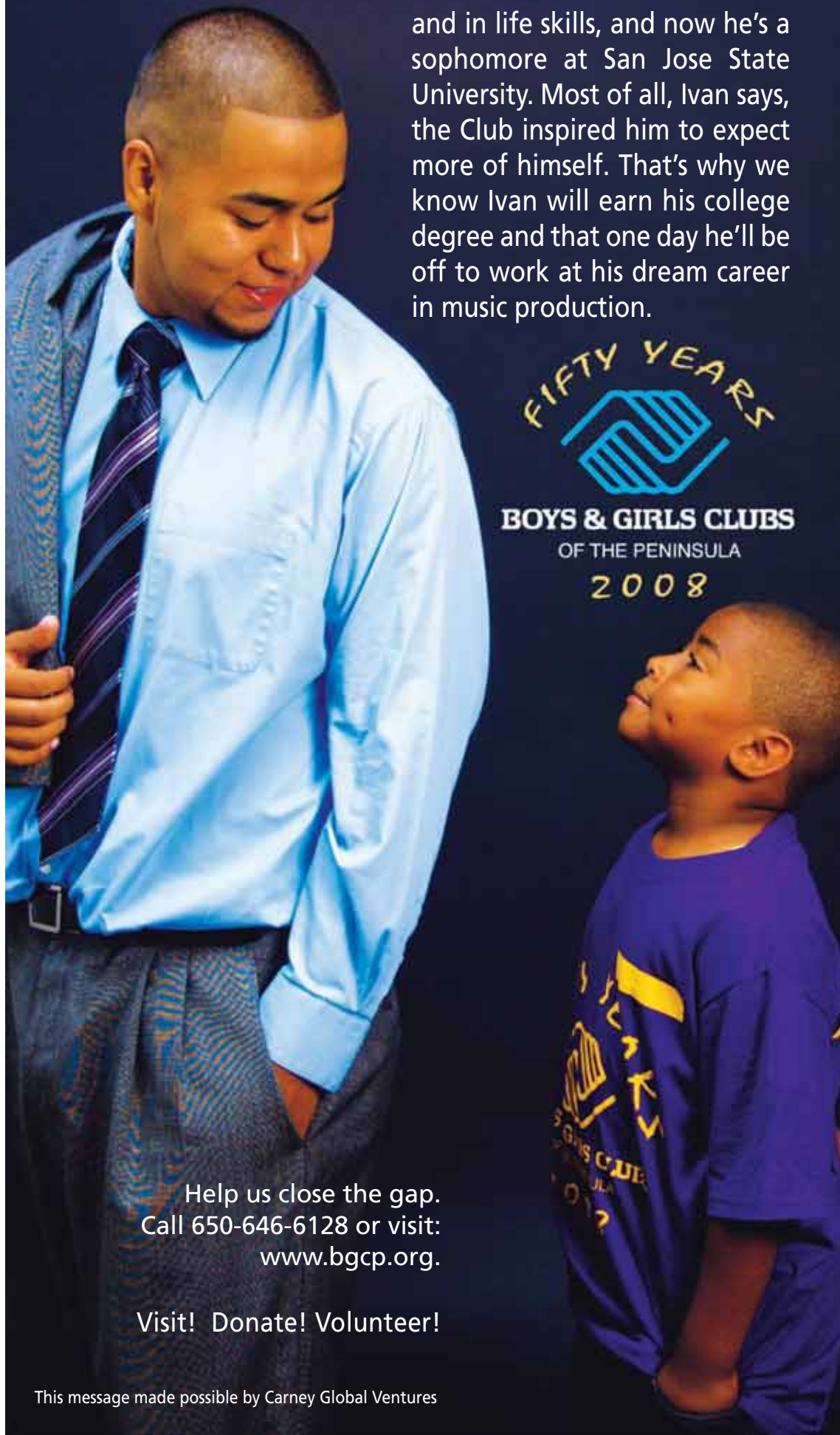
Kids' festival in Woodside

The Woodside Village Church is hosting a free "Kids Day Festival" from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18. Attractions include carnival games, a bounce house, a dunk tank, a petting zoo, and storytelling. Kids will also have a chance to meet members of the Woodside Fire Protection District, San Mateo County Mounted Patrol and the county Sheriff's Office.

The Village Church is located at 3154 Woodside Road in Woodside. Call 851-1587 or go to www.WoodsideVillageChurch.org for more information.

Ivan is off to work.

But he'll be back after his summer job at a global management consulting firm to mentor kids like young Chase at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula. Ivan Martinez, 18, returns because the Club helped *him* beat the Opportunity Gap that defeats so many kids in his neighborhood. Caring staff and volunteers coached Ivan in academics and in life skills, and now he's a sophomore at San Jose State University. Most of all, Ivan says, the Club inspired him to expect more of himself. That's why we know Ivan will earn his college degree and that one day he'll be off to work at his dream career in music production.



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Golden Gala marks 50 years for Boys & Girls Clubs

By Jane Knoerle
Almanac Lifestyles Editor

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula will celebrate 50 years in style with a “Golden Gala” on Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Sun Microsystems Campus, 1601 Willow Road in Menlo Park.

Master of ceremonies for the evening will be actor Courtney B. Vance of NBC’s “Law and Order: Criminal Intent.” A graduate of Harvard University, Mr. Vance is an alumnus of the Detroit Boys & Girls Club and a member of The Boys & Girls Clubs of America Hall of Fame.

Singer and American Idol finalist Melinda Doolittle will be a special guest star. Community leaders, donors, and volunteers will also be honored during the evening.

Cocktails at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by a gourmet dinner prepared by McCall’s Catering. After dancing to the Big City Revue, the evening will be topped off with “fireworks extraordinaire.”

Melissa Badger of Atherton, who has chaired many spectacular charity events on the Peninsula, heads the Golden Gala committee. Her committee includes Stephanie Lingle Beasley, Cathy Duane, Connie Held-



Actor Courtney B. Vance will be emcee, and Melinda Doolittle will perform at the Golden Gala.



man, Jan Harris, Andrea Gandolfo, Sally Howard, Jacque Jarve, Beth Martin, Betsy Matteson, Margo Ritter, Mindy Rodgers, Theresa Rutledge, Barbara Silverman, Linda Walsh, and Marcia Wythes.

Honorary co-chairs for the event are Michael Dorsey and Susan Ford Dorsey, and Mervin and Roslyn Morris. The Boys & Girls Clubs’ facility in Redwood City, the Mervin G. Morris Clubhouse, is named after Mr. Morris.

Tickets for the black-tie event begin at \$500 per person. For more information, call 646-6128. ■

Building success one year at a time

History of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula reflects hard work, dedication of local supporters

By Jane Knoerle
Almanac Lifestyles Editor

The black-tie gala on Oct. 25 marking the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula’s golden anniversary is the culmination of 50 years of dreams and dedication by local leaders.

It’s also the third celebration of the clubs’ 50th. Festivities got off to an early start in July when hundreds of people showed up at the Menlo Park branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs for a community party. A second festival was held for Aug. 2 in East Palo Alto. After all, don’t 50 years of hard work and success deserve more than one party?

The following history of the Boys & Girls Clubs was compiled by Chris Canter, spokesman for the clubs.

The early years

The first local club, known as the Herbert Hoover Boys Club, was organized in 1958 by a group led by Menlo Park Rotary Club president Charles Horton.

The club became part of the umbrella organization, The Boys & Girls Clubs of America, founded in 1860. Several women in Hartford, Connecticut, believing that boys who roamed the streets should have a positive alternative, organized that first club.

In 1906, several boys’ clubs decided to affiliate. The Federated Boys Clubs in Boston was formed with 53 organizations. That was the start of a nationwide movement. In 1990, the name was changed to Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

In Menlo Park, shortly after

Charles Horton organized the first local Boys Club, the Athlertons, a women’s charitable and social organization, decided to lend a hand. Athlerton members Margo Ritter, Carolyn Miller, the late Janet Rice, and others pitched into raise funds for the club with annual events. Athlerton benefits at the Menlo Park Recreation Center raised much of the early support money for the Boys’ Club, according to Boys & Girls Clubs’ spokesman Chris Canter.

In those early days, local businessmen would load up their cars with boys to take them to the San Francisco Zoo, ball games and museums. Rotarians helped with their “Dad of the Year” campaign, in which dads each contributed \$25 to sponsor a boy in the club.

The first clubhouse

The first Boys Club clubhouse opened in Menlo Park in 1965. “Our budget then was \$35,000,” says Ted Tanner, a founding board member and past president of the club who remains a supporter today.

The club continued to grow through the 1970s. The club welcomed Margo Ritter as its first president in 1972. Girls were admitted to the club for the first time in 1977. In 1979 J. Cyril Johnson led a “barn raising” to add more than 3,000 square feet to the Menlo Park clubhouse.

By 1980, the club had more than 300 members and a \$100,000 budget. In 1989, the club added a second site in Redwood City, the Mervin G. Morris Clubhouse, named after the Mervyn’s Department Store founder and longtime Atherton resident, who

provided a \$1 million challenge to build the clubhouse. Mr. Morris remains a supporter and frequent visitor to the club today.

Club executive director

In 1991, Jacqueline Glaster was hired as the club’s executive director and began the club’s transition from just being a safe place for kids after school to an organization with a strong academic program. In 1996, the club merged with the Center for a New Generation, an innovative after-school program started by now-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Susan Ford Dorsey and others.

It was also in the mid-1990s that Atherton resident Patrick Goodenough headed a capital campaign that resulted in the renovation and expansion of the clubs’ buildings in Menlo Park and Redwood City, as well as the opening of a third clubhouse — the Moldaw-Zaffaroni Clubhouse in East Palo Alto.

In 2003, thanks to the advocacy of the late Lester Dewitt, Oracle Corporation partnered with the clubs and committed more than \$1 million to revamp the academic program. Since that time, Oracle has invested another \$1 million in the program. Oracle employees often volunteer at the clubs, says Mr. Canter.

New executive director

In 2005, Peter Fortenbaugh became the Boys & Girls Clubs’ new director. A graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Business School, Mr. Fortenbaugh’s business background included experience as a management consultant at McKinsey & Company in New York City. That year the clubs expanded its Center for a New



Busy little cooks Julius Knox, Vincent Davis and Tasha Pattersen are shown in this 1978 local newspaper photo of a cooking class given by the Boys & Girls Clubs. Looking on are, left, Mary Pattersen and Veronica Coleman.

Generation to the McNair Academy in East Palo Alto.

Last year, the clubs installed the Center for a New Generation at two more schools, and two additional schools in 2008.

Today, there are nine sites — three clubhouses and six school-based programs — located across Menlo Park, Redwood City and East Palo Alto, says Mr. Canter. Programs focus on academics, science and technology, social education and life skills, physical fitness, athletics, and the arts.

In the past year, more than 4,000 children ages 6 to 18 have taken part in the club’s programs. An average of 885 youth attend

one of the club’s daily.

“Our strategy is to create a community of learners in partnership with schools and families,” says Mr. Fortenbaugh. “We still have a lot of work to do. Currently 80 percent of students in area schools perform below grade level and nearly 70 percent of youth do not graduate from high school. These numbers are not acceptable. We want all our youth to have the opportunity to succeed.”

Looking forward, he says, with the community’s continued support and partnership, there is nothing the clubs and, in turn, the young people that we reach, cannot accomplish. ■

Free flu shots in Woodside, Menlo Park

Looking ahead to flu season, the San Mateo County Health Department is offering free vaccinations to eligible residents over coming months in Woodside and Menlo Park.

The Woodside clinic is from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 25, at the main fire station of the Woodside Fire Protection District at 3111 Woodside Road.

In Menlo Park, clinics are scheduled for Little House at

800 Middle Ave. on Friday, Nov. 7, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.; the Ravenswood Family Health Center at 100 Terminal Ave. from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays from Oct. 22 to Dec. 17; and at the Willow Clinic at 795 Willow Road from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Mondays from Nov. 3 to Dec. 1.

County-sponsored clinics are open to anyone 60 and older, and adults with chronic health issues and the people who care for them,

health department spokeswoman Beverly Thames said.

The Woodside clinic will vaccinate any adult who wants to reduce the chances of catching the flu, Fire Marshal Denise Enea said.

Pregnant women and children are not eligible for county flu shots because the vaccine contains a preservative determined to be unsafe for these groups, Ms. Thames said. Preservative-free shots should be available through personal health care, she said.

Also not recommended for flu shots are people with severe allergic reactions to eggs and those who have reacted badly to a previous flu shot, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Woodside residents wanting a vaccination but unable to travel to the fire station that day should call the fire district at 851-1594.

'Carmen' comes to town

George Bizet's colorful "Carmen" comes to the West Bay Opera stage this month, with the opening performance set for Friday, Oct. 17, at 8 p.m.

The opera, sung in French with English supertitles, is being directed by David Cox, with Michel Singher conducting the orchestra. It's being staged at Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto.

In addition to opening night, performances will be on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 19 and 26, at 2 p.m.

Set in 1870s Spain, "Carmen" tells a hot-blooded story

of love, lust jealousy and murder, with bold musical themes and memorable arias.

Sarah Barber will sing the role of Carmen, and Ben Bongers will sing the part of Don Jose.

The cast also includes Rebecca Sjowall as Micaela, Jason Detwiler as Escamillo, Kindra Scharich as Mercedes, Shauna Fallihee as Frasquita, and Carlos Aguilar as Zuniga.

Tickets are \$45-\$55, general; \$30-\$40, seniors; and \$20-\$25, youth and students with ID. For tickets, call 424-9999; or order online at wbopera.org.

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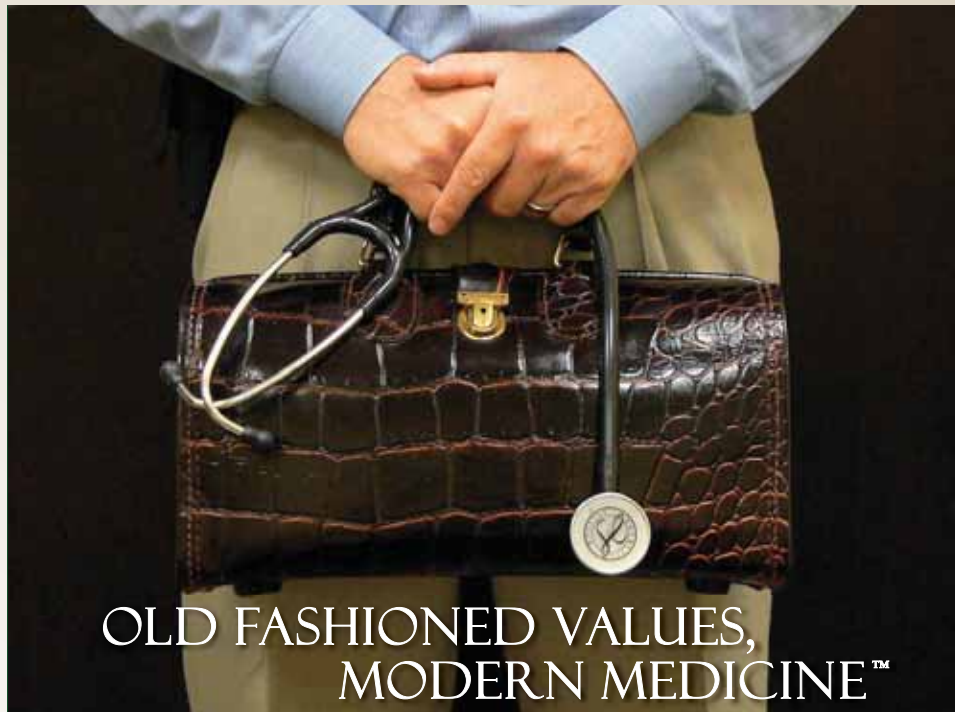
The City of Menlo Park is requesting proposals from qualified firms to provide design services for a new, replacement, potable water pump station in Sharon Heights. The objective of this project is the development of a complete, detailed design and specifications from which contractors can prepare bids for construction. Current technology is to be incorporated in this new state-of-the-art facility for maximum reliability and energy efficiency.

For the full Request for Proposals please contact:

Jennifer Ng, Senior Civil Engineer
Engineering Division, City of Menlo Park
Telephone: (650) 330-6740
www.menlopark.org/cip

SUBMITTALS must be received at the City of Menlo Park, Engineering Division by **5:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 21, 2008**

Published in THE ALMANAC on October 8, 15, 2008.



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■ OBITUARY

Edward "Ed" Softky

Fatally injured in Vermont

A Tibetan prayer service has been held at the Thosum Gephelling Institute in Williamsville, Vermont, for Edward Harvey "Ed" Softky.

Mr. Softky, 44, son of Almanac senior staff writer Marion Softky and the late Sheldon Softky, was fatally injured Oct. 9 in a hit-and-run accident in Brattleboro, Vermont. Mr. Softky was putting items in his car, when he was struck by a car driven by Jean Mahoney of Brattleboro, according to a report in a local newspaper. The 63-year-old woman has been arrested and charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol and drugs, according to the newspaper.

Ed Softky was a local boy — born at Sequoia Hospital

in 1963, attending Laurel and Encinal schools, and graduating from Menlo-Atherton High School in 1981. Already a budding physicist, he attended an advanced electronics class at Sequoia High School while in the eighth grade. In high school he had his own little business, Ed's Fixit Shop, repairing radios and small appliances. He was an active member of Boy Scout Troop 206 and always enjoyed hiking and camping.

At M-A, he was a member of the Choraliers. He later took part in barbershop quartets and folk singing.

When his mother announced she did not cook on Thursday nights, he and his brother, Bill, learned their way around the

kitchen. Ed became "a superb cook," says Ms. Softky. Enchiladas were one of his specialties.

Mr. Softky graduated from Haverford College, near Philadelphia, in 1985, majoring in physics. During several periods in his life, he worked in the computer industry as a software engineer.

Mr. Softky first became interested in transcendental meditation when he was 13. When attending Haverford, he moved over into Tibetan Buddhism, say family members. After several years of living in the Boston area working with computers and being involved in folk singing, barbershop quartet singing and contra dancing, he became re-engaged in Buddhism.

Between 1995 and 2005, he stayed in Nepal and India for several extended periods. His mother visited him in India in 2004, and they traveled through Northern India together. They also took part in an Earthwatch project in Thailand in 1998, and a trip to Southern Mexico and the Yucatan Peninsula in 2007.

Last year Mr. Softky moved to Brattleboro, Vermont, where he became an active volunteer at the Thosum Gephelling Institute in Williamsville. Mr. Softky was a translator for teacher-monk Geshe Ngawang Singey, whom he met while in India.

On its Web site, Thosum Gephelling Institute writes, "We know Ed for his cooking, and his dancing and singing and translating, and thinking, and joking and laughing and loving and caring. One of his

Continued on next page

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Arrested juveniles linked to Menlo Park burglaries

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Four juveniles have been arrested in connection with recent property crimes in Redwood City, and linked to a number of the 21 incidents, mostly burglaries, in Menlo Park between Sept. 27 and Oct. 5.

In a collaborative investigation with the Redwood City Police Department, Menlo Park detectives have leads for between eight and 10 incidents that occurred in the Flood Triangle/Suburban Park neighborhoods, Menlo Park police Sgt. Sharon Kaufman told The Almanac.

The four suspects, all Redwood City residents, are in custody in Hillcrest Juvenile Hall, Sgt. Kaufman said. Redwood City police made three arrests; Menlo Park detectives and the department's truancy officer worked with school administrators in making a fourth arrest, a

high school student.

Police recovered some property, but Sgt. Kaufman did not have specifics nor did she have information on the ages of the suspects.

Goods reported stolen from the Flood Triangle area include a bicycle, a laptop computer and video games, according to police reports.

Elsewhere in town, the crime wave netted \$5,000 in construction tools in the Belle Haven neighborhood, a racing bicycle from a locked Willows neighborhood garage, five laptop computers from Trinity School on Sand Hill Road, and two guitars that had been inside a parked vehicle in Vintage Oaks, police said.

The investigation is ongoing. Police are asking anyone with information to contact Detective Jeff Keegan of the Menlo Park Police Department at 330-6300. ■

■ POLICE CALLS

ATHERTON

Grand theft report: Television stolen from dorm room, Menlo College at 1000 El Camino Real, Oct. 5.

Weapons report: Student found with a set of brass knuckles, Menlo-Atherton High, 555 Middlefield Road, Oct. 6.

Theft reports:

■ Cell phone stolen, Menlo-Atherton High, 555 Middlefield Road, Oct. 8.

■ Raleigh bicycle stolen from bike rack, Encinal School at 181 Encinal Ave., Oct. 8.

MENLO PARK

Grand theft reports:

■ Front door pried open and a bag of coins stolen, 200 block of Market Place, Oct. 6

■ Mountain bike valued at \$400 stolen from backyard, 1300 block of Woodland Ave., Oct. 9.

Stolen vehicle reports:

■ 1990 gray Honda Civic, Willow Road and Newbridge St., Oct. 3.

■ 1990 white Honda CRX, Hamilton Ave. and Willow Road, Oct. 3.

■ White 1996 Ford Econoline van, 1300 block of Willow Road, Oct. 9.

Robbery report: Purse and cell phone stolen, Chevron gas station at 1399 Willow Road, Oct. 5.

Residential burglary reports:

■ Back door kicked open, \$400 in cash stolen, 100 block of Walnut Street, Oct. 6.

■ Side door kicked open; laptop, digital camera and iPod stolen, 300 block of Oakwood Place, Oct. 7.

■ 2 bicycles, GPS, laptop and digital camera stolen, 1000 block of Ringwood Ave., Oct. 8.

Auto burglary reports:

■ GPS unit stolen through broken window, 900 block of Crane St., Oct. 7.

■ Passenger side window broken, 900 block of Roble Ave., Oct. 7.

WOODSIDE

Accident report: Bicyclist hit by a car, Barrett Drive and Woodside Drive, Oct. 2. Sheriff reports the rider suffered minor injuries.

Vandalism report: Front plate glass window shattered with a malt liquor bottle by two males in a white car, Woodside Bakery & Cafe at 3052 Woodside Road, Oct. 4.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Theft report: Approximately \$110 worth of tools stolen from house under construction, 200 block of Westridge Drive, Oct. 2.

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- Tuesday, November 11

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Continued from previous page

best gifts to us was 'Ed's Most Excellent Adventure.'" — a camping trip and pilgrimage he organized last July to hear the 14th Dalai Lama teach in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Softky was also training as a volunteer in hospice care and had joined a choir that performed for hospice patients. He was also interested in organic gardening.

Surviving members of his family are his mother, Marion Softky, of Portola Valley, and brother, William "Bill" Softky of Menlo Park. His father, Sheldon Softky, died in 1993.

Memorials in Mr. Softky's name may be made to Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), 222 High St., Palo Alto, CA 94301; or the Thosum Gephell Institute, P.O. Box 94, S. Newfane, VT 05351.

— By Jane Knoerle



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY ARCHITECTURAL AND SITE CONTROL COMMISSION RECRUITMENT

The Town Council is seeking an individual to serve on the Town's Architectural and Site Control Commission (ASCC). The objectives of the ASCC plan review and approval is to promote the preservation of the visual character of Portola Valley, assuring that all building sites and residences are developed in a manner minimizing disturbance to natural terrain and vegetation.

The ASCC consists of 5 members appointed by the Town Council, meetings are held on the 2nd and the 4th Mondays of the month. ASCC is charged with the review of all applications for building permits for new residential projects and additions over 400 square feet, site development permits, conditional use permits, subdivision and matters referred from the Planning Commission or Town Council.

If you are interested in serving on the ASCC, please submit a letter of interest to the Town Council by Friday, November 21, 2008

Dated: October 8, 2008

Leslie A. Lambert
Planning Manager

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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

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your views to: letters@almanacnews.com and note this it is a letter to the editor in the subject line.

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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.

Endorsements

A full load of ballot propositions on Nov. 4

The 12 statewide propositions on the November ballot is once again clear evidence that the state initiative process has been largely captured by special interests. Often, it is being used in a way not intended by those reformers who conceived it at the beginning of the 20th century.

Additionally, given our ongoing state budget disaster, we are sympathetic with anyone who votes no on all measures that add to the state's costs by incurring more bonded indebtedness. Over the next three weeks the Almanac will provide our analysis and recommendations on individual propositions. We have relied on the state Legislative Analyst for some of the descriptive information on each proposition.



Proposition 1A: \$9.95 billion bond for high-speed rail

We have followed the intense interest in this bond measure in Menlo Park and Atherton over the last year or more, and noted our concerns about Proposition 1A on this page Aug. 13.

We continue to question the extremely high cost of the project, which calls for issuing nearly \$10 billion in bonds just to get started. Given the state of the economy, California cannot afford to launch high-speed rail at this time. We also believe that building the project would create havoc along the Caltrain Corridor, especially in Menlo Park and Atherton, and for that reason also believe the project is not a good thing for our communities. We recommend voting no on Proposition 1A, the High-Speed Rail bond measure.

Proposition 2: Treatment of farm animals

According to the Legislative Analyst, this proposition, beginning Jan. 1, 2015, would prohibit, with certain exceptions, the confinement on a farm of pregnant pigs, calves raised for veal, and egg-laying hens in a manner that does not allow them to turn around freely, lie down, stand up, and fully extend their limbs. Any violators would be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Many farmers have been moving in the direction of more humane treatment of animals. State law already prohibits animal cruelty. Similar propositions have been passed by voters in Arizona and Florida and legislatures in Colorado and Oregon have also passed similar laws, as has the European Union. In California this measure will primarily affect laying hens in cages. Opponents argue that it will increase the price of eggs and drive large factory farms out of the state. Proponents argue that Proposition 2 prevents cruelty to animals, improves food safety, supports family farmers, protects air and water and safeguards the environment.

The Humane Society of the U.S. is promoting this proposition and is joined by the California Veterinary Medical Association, Center for Food Safety, Union of Concerned Scientists, Sierra Club and Consumer Federation. Large egg producers oppose it. We recommend a yes vote on Proposition Two.

Proposition 3: Children's hospital bonds.

This measure authorizes \$980 million in general obligation bonds to pay for capital improvement projects at children's hospitals.

The measure specifically identifies the five University of California children's hospitals as eligible for 20 percent of bond funds. The remaining 80 percent would go to other non-profit hospitals based on various eligibility criteria. Voters passed Proposition 61 in November 2004 which authorized the sale of \$750 million in bonds to fund children's hospitals. Proposition 3's eligibility criteria are the same as Proposition 61.

According to the Legislative Analyst, as of June 1, 2008, about \$403 million of the funds from Proposition 61 had been awarded to eligible hospitals. Cost for principle and interest on the proposed bonds would be about \$64 million a year. Not surprisingly, hospitals and

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LETTERS

Our readers write

McCain-Palin signs don't last on Westridge

Editor:

What ever happened to free speech? I started the campaign season with one McCain/Palin sign near my mailbox. It was stolen within six hours.

Undeterred, I replaced it with two signs, one near my mailbox and one in a tree, about eight feet from the ground. The signs lasted for less than 24 hours. Indignant, I placed three McCain/Palin signs in three trees, over 20 feet from the ground. They lasted four days.

I started the campaign season as a former Hillary supporter, giving lukewarm support to McCain after he nominated a woman for vice president. I am now an angry McCain supporter, armed with a ladder and four McCain signs,

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Menlo Park Historical Association

Our Regional Heritage

Menlo Country Club opened this spacious clubhouse in 1912, just a year after an 18-hole golf course was completed on its 120-acre-property north of Woodside Road in what is now Woodside. It was said that "Everybody claiming membership in Peninsula society" was present for the housewarming of the new clubhouse.

ENDORSEMENTS

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doctors support this proposition, while the National Tax Limitation Committee argues that this is a special interest misuse of the initiative process.

In our opinion, such funding should come through the legislative process, and, besides, they haven't even allocated all the funds from the prior children's hospital bond. We think children's hospitals do wonderful work, but are not convinced that we should add to the state's budget deficit for this limited purpose at this time. We recommend a no vote on Proposition 3.

Proposition 4: Parental notification before abortion

This measure amends the state Constitution to require, with certain exceptions, a physician to notify the parent or legal guardian of a pregnant unemancipated minor at least 48 hours before performing an abortion involving that minor.

This amendment is similar to others defeated by voters in 2005 and 2006, and it is proposed by the same backers as the prior two. It creates additional barriers and delays for pregnant minors seeking medical assistance and creates potential penalties for doctors who attempt to serve them using their best medical judgment.

Californians strongly support freedom of choice. This initiative is an effort to get part of what anti-choice crusaders want, since they know they can't win the battle head on. We believe family communication cannot effectively be legislated. Parental notification laws force some teenagers to choose between talking with parents or having illegal and unsafe abortions. Some choose an illegal abortion, resulting in greater numbers of serious injuries and deaths.

The real answer to teen pregnancy is prevention — and strong, caring families — not new laws that endanger our daughters. Planned Parenthood and health care providers including the California Medical Association, the California Nurses Association and the California Academy of Family Physicians oppose Proposition 4. So do we. We recommend a no vote on Proposition 4.

LETTERS

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ready to do battle with the liberals in my neighborhood. If neighbors can't agree to disagree in a civil manner, how can we expect our presidential candidates to do the same?

Jennifer Hammer
Westridge Drive, Portola Valley

Opinion vs facts on high-speed train

By Jim Bigelow

In recent weeks there have been a number of letters to the editor, "Viewpoint" opinions and high-speed rail articles in which there have been many questions raised about the cost of the project, ridership projections, availability of a business plan, land use impacts and many more. As we near a statewide vote on Proposition 1A for High-Speed Rail it is important that we review some key facts.

An international peer group currently operating high-speed rail systems came to California and spent several weeks going over the California High Speed Rail Authority's plans for the statewide system, including financial plans. The international peer group found the plans to be reasonable in their technical and financial approach to the project. The estimated cost in today's dollars is \$33 billion from San Francisco to Los Angeles and the full system cost, including Sacramento and San Diego, \$45 billion.

If Proposition 1A is approved by a simple majority vote there are still several years of planning to be accomplished before any construction could begin. There would need to be a federal funding agreement



Mateo and Santa Clara Counties by 2030.

There are those who say there is not a business plan for high-speed rail. However, you can see the business plan and many other reports at the Bay Area Council Economic Institute report at the high-speed rail Web site, www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/.

Local residents and city leaders have expressed concern regarding the impacts of high-speed rail coming down the Caltrain Corridor. Business and commercial property owners would also like to know how they would be affected by the high-speed rail planning effort.

and secured financing from the private sector before the bond funds from the state would be utilized according to current plans. A recently released economic analysis by the Bay Area Council Economic Institute estimates that high-speed rail will create roughly 22,000 new, permanent jobs in San

It is a fact that the rail authority board has approved a contract to begin a project level engineering and environmental impact report from San Francisco to San Jose where we will all be involved in the planning for the project. It has been stated that the high-speed rail authority has not responded to Atherton and Menlo Park on the program level environmental impact report and impact study. According to the authority, EIR/EIS program level documents have responded to the concerns of both cities and promise that more detailed information will be provided from the project level work now getting underway.

This is an opportunity for local residents to support high-speed rail, be involved in the planning effort to combine the future Caltrain electrification with high-speed rail on the corridor to reduce noise, improve our travel options, enhance safety with grade separations, demand project mitigation, reduce our carbon footprint and coordinate with the Menlo Park El Camino visioning planning now underway. Vote yes on Proposition 1A.

Jim Bigelow, Bay Area Transportation and Housing Associates

Menlo Park needs a change at council

Editor:

It is time for change — simple, thoughtful change for our City Council. We need to balance our budget, prioritize projects and fund initiatives with governed responsibility.

We can dream of soccer fields for local athletes, a Green Alley, or other ideas for our El Camino corridor, but budget reality suggests that the tax base is increasingly important. For years, El Camino Real has been a blight on our city. After four years of visioning, we are left with empty lots. Where is the result, tax and community benefit?

Indecisiveness, long-and-drawn-out studies and outdated ordinances seem to cloud our vision and any sense of progress. Have we created an impossible environment for business and investors?

Let's enable our Planning Commission and allow zoning, planning and budget considerations to work as the foundation for commercial land-use decisions. We deserve responsible prosperity along El Camino, Willow Road, downtown, and in commercial areas in our city.

Along with the Almanac,

ENDORSEMENT LETTERS

(Editor's Note: As the election nears and as space permits, the Viewpoint page will publish a sampling of candidate endorsement letters. The letters should be brief and note positive reasons to vote for a particular candidate.)

friends and colleagues, I share the view that Rick Ciardella has a lot to offer and hope to see him serve Menlo Park. In my view, sooner is better.

Jim Schott
Cotton Street, Menlo Park

A strong resistance to Proposition 4

Editor:

No matter how you feel about abortion, if you care about teen safety, you should vote no on Proposition 4.

This election marks the third time a handful of anti-choice men have paid millions of dollars to signature gatherers to put a parental notification constitutional amendment on the ballot. Like Propositions 73 (2005) and 85 (2006) before it, Proposition 4 would prohibit young women from obtaining an abortion without government-mandated parental notification — unless they go to court or write down charges of

abuse against their parents.

Proposition 4 threatens the safety and well being of California's teens, especially those who need our help the most.

I have four children, ages 9 through 16. I certainly hope that my daughter will come to me if she is faced with an unintended pregnancy, but if for whatever reason she chooses not to, more than anything, I want her to be safe. That means she must have confidential access to care.

I also realize that some teens cannot safely tell a parent about something as sensitive as an unintended pregnancy. These teens are already in a bad situation. They don't need more challenges; they need to access to counseling, support, and quality medical care.

That's why I'm voting no on Proposition 4. The more people learn about Proposition 4, the more they oppose it. But in this presidential election, we need to reach millions of new voters.

Find out how you can help at www.noonprop4.org.

Karen Grove
Alameda de las Pulgas,
Menlo Park

Support for David Henig in Atherton race

Editor:

I am writing in support of the candidacy of David Henig for Atherton City Council.

David will bring a balanced, professional attitude to the city council. I have spoken to David about several issues, including the current discord on the council, the relationship between the town and the public schools in Atherton, and the workings of the Atherton Planning Commission.

In these and other areas, I know that David will bring a positive and constructive approach to solving problems and protecting the interests of town residents. He has a positive track record of community service as president of the Ladera Community Association and as a board member of the Las Lomas Education Foundation. Please vote for David Henig on November 4.

Lee Anderson
Bergesen Court, Atherton
(The writer is a Las Lomas Elementary School District board member.)

Population from train project not needed

Editor:

John Boyle's Viewpoint: "Making the Case for High-Speed Rail" on Oct. 1, brings two issues to my thought — cost and increased population.

"California expects to receive up to one-third of the construction costs from federal funds for

this..." the article said. Will California receive those funds?

A possibility of 450,000 new permanent jobs and more housing means more people living on top of each other, or in people's back yards. So much of what we do today caters to, supports, provides for and approves of an ever-growing population world wide. Maybe we are putting the

cart before the horse. California's and the world's population does not need to increase.

I agree that public transportation is a vital part of a community, but a train — high speed or not — through the center of a residential community does not seem appropriate.

Besides, we presently madly dash through our lives as it is.

Will we ever learn to slow down and enjoy the moment?

Jackie Leonard-Dimmick
Walnut Avenue, Atherton

TOWN SQUARE

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



Carol, Rosemary & Nicole
650.543.1184
teamcrn@apr.com



Palo Alto **\$3,995,000**
Stunningly remodeled 3bd/3.5ba home in Crescent Park neighborhood of Palo Alto. Separate FR.



Jeff Stricker
650.209.1552
jstricker@apr.com



Steve TenBroeck
650.543.1050
stenbroeck@apr.com



Los Altos **\$3,298,000**
Gorgeous 4bd/3ba home offering classic elegance and close to the Village location.



Chris Harris
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charris@apr.com



Emerald Hills **\$2,995,000**
5bd/4ba +2 1/2 baths on over 2 acres with incredible panoramic bay views. Complete privacy.



Dean Asborno
650.255.2147
dasborno@apr.com



Portola Valley **\$2,599,000**
Pristine surroundings! 4bd/3ba hidden estate located in a quiet setting. 1+/- acre. Portola Valley schools.



Nick Granoski
543.1024
ngranoski@apr.com



Portola Valley **\$1,795,000**
Beautifully remodeled 3bd/3.5ba Ladera home with open and relaxed everyday spaces. Las Lomas schools.



Pamela Culp
650.543.1051
pculp@apr.com



Atherton **\$1,598,000**
Warm and inviting 4bd/2ba home off secluded lane. Remodeled kitchen and baths. Beautiful yard with large patio and pool area.



Lisa Liu
650.380.0460
lliu@apr.com



Palo Alto **\$1,125,000**
Rarely available townhouse-style home in downtown with 3bd/2.5ba, 1580+-sf and a 2 car garage.



Joe & Mary Merkert
650.543.1156
jmerkert@apr.com



Redwood City **\$1,090,000**
Updated Mount Carmel 3bd/2ba Craftsman on quiet, tree-lined street near Stafford Park.



Steve & Julie Quattrone
650.543.1167
Quattrone@apr.com



Redwood City **\$828,000**
Charming 3bd/1ba (3rd bd - no closet) country cottage on almost 1/4ac lot. Remodeled kitchen.



Joe & Mary Merkert
650.543.1156
jmerkert@apr.com



Menlo Park **\$780,000**
Newly updated, centrally located condo. 2bd/2ba new carpeting, paint, interior doors. A/C.