

FINANCIAL LOSSES to local schools due to Lehman woes larger than thought. Page 5

The Almanac

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

OCTOBER 22, 2008 www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

| VOL. 44 NO. 8



‘Sunset Unlimited’

LANE FAMILY HONORED AS HISTORY MAKERS

Page 13

The Lane family in the 1970s



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ATHERTON – Gorgeous traditional brick estate home in desirable W. Atherton, on quiet cul-de-sac. 6 BD/5.5 BA main hse w/new gourmet kit, luxurious master ste. Sep 1BD/1BA gst hse features LR w/ fplace, full kit. Private landscaped acre. Pool, spa. Virtual tour at www.plansandtours.com/3879
Elizabeth Daschbach \$4,995,000



LOS ALTOS HILLS – Located in LAH, boasting truly majestic views, is a spacious 4BR/2BA + two half BA home resting upon a sprawling lot amidst a canopy of towering trees, a mini-orchard, sparkling pool, manicured lawns & fragrant, blooming shrubs. A Must See!
George Monaco \$3,450,000



MENLO PARK – Impeccably maintained 4BR/2.5BA Rancher. This property exhibits pride of ownership, style, grace and elegance. Thoroughly refurbished from 2004 to the present.
Gary McKae \$2,295,000



MENLO PARK – Classic Allied Arts Cottage – Mostly in original condition. Great lot, location, and lots of potential.
Tom Boeddiker \$1,395,000



MENLO PARK – Desirable 3BR/2.5BA town home in sought after Menlo Park complex. Dramatic vaulted ceiling in living room with wall of windows overlooking the rear patio and lovely common gardens. Close to shopping & downtown. Top MP schools.
Elizabeth Daschbach \$1,249,000

ATHERTON

Beautiful custom 5BR/4.5BA home nestled on gorgeous large lot in sought after W. Atherton.
Elizabeth Daschbach \$6,995,000
Price reduced on one of Atherton's most desirable streets, a stylish 4BR residence.
Tim Kerns \$2,995,000
W Atherton remodel or build new opportunity on large park-like setting.
Steve Gray \$2,595,000

EAST PALO ALTO

Great Opportunity in the "Hidden Willows!" Large lot with 2, 2BR/1BA ranch units.
Joe Carcione III \$939,000

FOSTER CITY

Wide water view. 2BR/2BA condo with elegant kitchen & bath upgrades. Great location!
Laura Caplan \$688,000

HALF MOON BAY

Spectacular views from this large lot! Complete with plans and permits.
Katherine Clark \$639,000

HAYWARD

2 separate homes on a large lot. Front unit is 3BR/3BA. Rear unit is 2BR/2BA.
Gordana Wolfman \$638,000

LA HONDA

Prop. has 3 structures, a main, barn & a studio to be permitted by the new owners.
Gary Mckae \$619,000
Great value in La Honda! Close to WS & 280. Charming cottage w/a lrg level rear garden.
Cristina Harper \$399,500
Quiet, serene & secluded. Enjoy privacy among the Redwoods. 35 min from Roberts Market.
Gary Mckae \$350,000

LOS ALTOS

Charming 2BR/2BA cul-de-sac location backs onto creek! Huge \$100,000 price reduction!
Carol Christie \$1,450,000

LOS ALTOS HILLS

Lovely 4BR/3BA property on designated scenic route adjacent to Hidden Villa.
Clarke Team & Nadine Matityahu \$1,499,500

MENLO PARK

Located in the desirable Allied Arts this 5BR/3.5BA home is surrounded by cottage-style gardens.
Doyle Rundell \$3,249,000
Set on a private lane near the Atherton border w/4BR, 3BA, + an office or possible 5th BR.
Jami Arami \$2,250,000
Prime W. Menlo on Atherton border. Large home w/space for in-law unit or au pair quarters.
Cristina Harper \$1,995,000
Charming 2BR/1BA situated in a desirable W. Menlo neighborhood. Gorgeous Kitchen & BA's.
Babak Massoudi \$1,188,888
Gorgeous tastefully remodeled light & bright 2BR/2BA condo with garage.
Suzanne Scott \$787,500
2BR/1BA end-unit condo w/private garage, patio, oak hrdwd flr, dual pane wndws, recessed lights.
Ginna Lazar \$485,000

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Beautiful Residential flat Land. Potential subdivision of 4 large lots in prime neighborhood.
Paul Skrabo \$4,400,000
3BR/2BA home in Santiago Villa, open flr plan, brkfst bar, island kitchen.
Cristina Page \$169,750

PALO ALTO

Old World Palo Alto Charm with a New Opportunity! 2 Mediterranean Style Cottages, 2BR/1BA each.
Suzanne Scott \$1,998,000

REDWOOD CITY

Gracious 4BR/3.5BA open family style home. Light & bright. W/bucolic gardens, pool & expansive decking.
Nino Gaetano \$2,295,000
Live in the Country! This 3BR/2.5BA home is located next to Handley Rock Park.
Dana Cappiello \$1,288,888
Stunning 4BR/2.5BA Mt. Carmel remodel. FR, LR/lux appliances & dining area.
Kristin Cashin \$1,225,000
Charming 2BR/2BA farmhouse on 2 fantastic lots. Great Westside location. Fantastic opportunity!
Bob Johnston \$799,000

Light bright & spacious 3BR/2.5BA private end unit. Steps away from boat dock.
Lilly Chow \$769,000
Inviting 3BR/1.5BA home located on a peaceful tree-lined street. Hrdwd flrs, new paint.
Jennifer Whelan \$685,000
Lrg 3BR/2.5BA Mediterranean styled townhome w/lrg fenced patio area. Quiet location.
Dana Cappiello \$649,000
Remodeled 3 Bedroom, 2-1/2 Bath, Tile & Hardwood Floors, New Landscaping.
Vivian Vella \$549,000
Perfectly maintained, this 2BR/1BA condo is ready to move into!
Dana Cappiello \$399,000

SAN CARLOS

Gorgeous 5BR/4.5BA one of a kind home set on one of the most sought after streets in White Oaks.
Jami Arami \$2,295,000
Located on a quite private lane is this spacious 4BR/3BA well maintained home.
Debbie Lorell/Bob Johnston \$1,398,000

SAN FRANCISCO

In the heart of S. Beach this spacious 2BR condo has spectacular views.
Joe Carcione III \$988,000
This 2BR/2BA unit features 2 master suites & recently upgraded hrdwd flrs.
Joe Carcione III \$799,000

WOODSIDE

Large acreage flag-lot, pre-approved for one home site & offers an opport. to build.
Jim Massey \$9,800,000
5BR/3.5BA. 1BR/1BA in-law unit. 2BR/1BA-guest house. Lots of possibilities!
Tom Huff \$7,300,000
This beautifully remodeled, 3BR/2BA home is situated on a lushly landscaped lot near downtown Woodside.
Ken & Carol Reeves \$1,999,000
Beautiful lot in central Woodside.
Dana Cappiello \$899,000



MOUNTAIN VIEW – Charming 3BR/2BA home blocks away from Castro St! Located on a quiet street across from a park, this home is ideal for someone looking to add their own touches. Home is in original condition but has been lovingly maintained.
Kristin Cashin \$925,000



PALO ALTO – This charming 3BR/1BA Sterling Gardens home is located on a desirable, tree lined street, near Midtown, w/great neighborhood schools. Possibilities abound for the entry level buyer, or for those looking for a remodeling opportunity, w/a lot that allows for expansion.
Leon Leong \$975,000



SAN JOSE – Premier location on Santana Row! Model unit w/many upgrades including upgrades including designer paint, carpet, appliances. This unit offers floor to ceiling window w/sliding door which opens to faux balcony & catwalk, plus one parking space in secure garage.
Camille Eder \$788,000



WOODSIDE – Beautiful home in central Woodside on a large lot. The main home has 3BR & 2 brand new BA's, LR & DR, a huge family room and a gorgeous new kitchen. The eat in kitchen has SS appliances, granite countertops & windows w/views of the bay! Also a full guest house.
Dana Cappiello \$2,695,000



WOODSIDE – Beautiful 4 yr new Home 1BR/1BA + bonus room ideal for office or wine cellar. High end appliances. Bamboo hardwood floors, spa-tub separate. Laundry room and huge wrap around deck.
Tony Fregoso \$1,295,000

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT

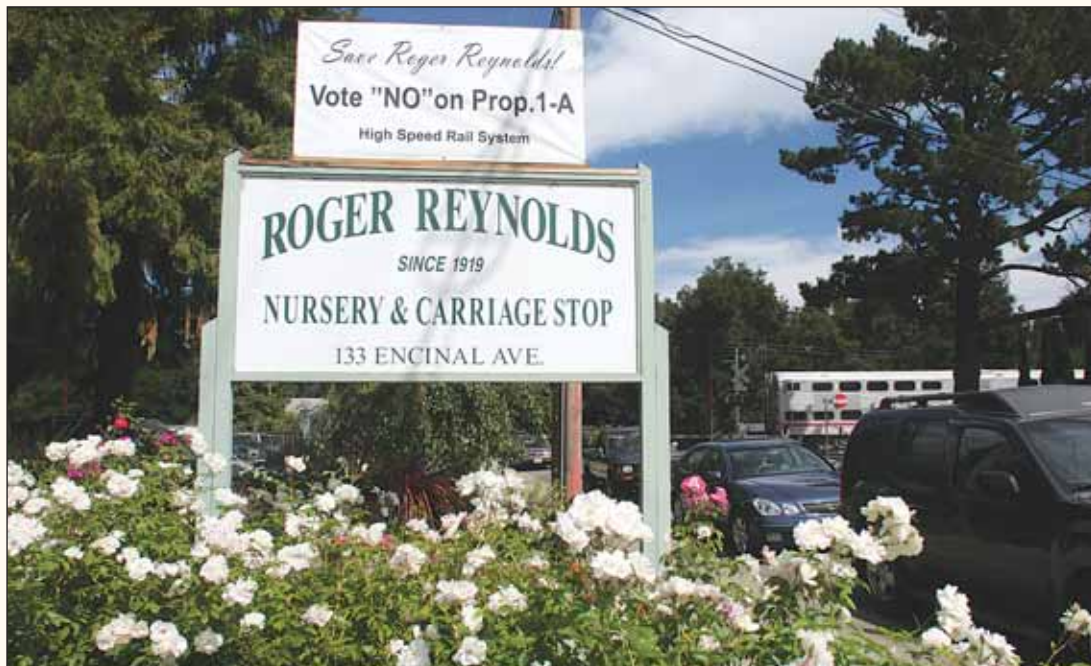


Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

Just saying 'No'

A sign advocating a vote against Proposition 1A, the high-speed rail bond act on the November ballot, has been placed on top of the Roger Reynolds Nursery sign, which is near tracks that would be upgraded to accommodate the high-speed train if voters give the go-ahead.

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On the cover

From left, Joan and Mel Lane and Jean and Bill Lane in front of an oil painting of their parents, Larry and Ruth Lane. This painting by Arthur W. Palmer hung for many years in the Sunset Magazine & Books lobby, where this Sunset magazine photograph was taken in the 1970s. The portrait now hangs in the San Mateo County History Museum in the section on Suburbia. See story on **Page 13**.

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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

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- E-mail news photos with captions to: **AlmanacNews@gmail.com**
- E-mail letters to the editor to: **letters@AlmanacNews.com**

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

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C & H PURE CANE GRANULATED SUGAR **\$2²⁹**
4 lb Pour Carton

TIDE HE 2X ULTRA LIQUID DETERGENT **\$1⁴⁹**
50 oz- Also Original-Bleach

Wine

Classic Chianti

Chianti, the predominantly Sangiovese based red wine of Tuscany, produces some of the world's best value and most food compatible wines. The following selections offer exceptional quality at bargain prices. Why substitute when you can have the "real deal" so inexpensively?

2005 Felsina "Beerdenga," Chianti Classico -

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Full, ripe flavors of wild berries, chocolate, cedar and wildflowers lead to a long mineral finish. Best Buy!

2004 Castello della Paneretta, Chianti Classico -

Reg. \$21.99, Sale **\$17.99**
Bright, juicy, tangy cherry fruit, spice, leather and berries saturate your palate. Great length.

2005 Santa Margherita, Chianti Classico -

Reg. \$26.99, Sale **\$21.99**
This sophisticated, velvety red melds seamlessly with judicious oak and earthy complexity. This competes easily with wines twice the price.

Off-Dry Rieslings

There has been a surge in popularity of Rieslings, with German, Californian, and Australian producers being the primary beneficiaries. Not to be overlooked, however, are the Rieslings from France's Alsace region, which is home to some of the grape's most respected producers. The characteristic that has made Alsatian Riesling so popular has been its reputation for being exceedingly dry. However, due to both changing tastes and changing climate (warmer growing seasons that enable growers in the northern climes to attain maximum ripeness), Alsatian Rieslings have taken a sweeter turn. These "off-dry" Rieslings have enough residual sugar to display a degree of sweetness. This newer style in Alsatian Rieslings is something that Riesling fanciers will surely want to sample.

Riesling is a great wine that goes with many foods, and we recommend that the next time you're in the mood for wine that you try a Riesling. At ROBERTS MARKET, we are wine experts priding ourselves on the ability to help our loyal customers choose perfect wines for every occasion. In addition to fine wines we are your source for specialty foods, including Indian, Asian, European, and other specialties.

HINT: Off-dry Alsatian Rieslings are the perfect complement to spicy Thai and Indian dishes.



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Fresh corn & tomato salad _____ **\$5.⁴⁹** lb.

Yellow potato salad
With egg & mustard _____ Save \$.50 lb. **\$4.³⁹** lb.



That's showbiz, kid

Scott Eagleton, 22, a 2004 graduate of Woodside High School, is a production assistant on the new reality game show, "Opportunity Knocks," which airs at 8 p.m. Tuesdays on ABC.

Scott has also produced music videos, some of which have been shown on MTV, and worked on the pilot for Fox television's swiftly cancelled fall show, "Do Not Disturb." A graduate of Brooks Institute, Scott is the son of Alan and Kelly Eagleton of Redwood City.

Coming to you live!

Les DeWitt is alive and well and residing in Atherton, not Colma. In an article about the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula in the Oct. 15 issue of The Almanac, reporter Jane Knoerle erroneously referred to Mr. DeWitt, longtime supporter of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula, as the late Mr. DeWitt.

Les DeWitt served as a board member for the club for 13 years, starting in 1990, and as its president for two years. He also volunteered for a year as development director.

Mr. DeWitt, described as "an all around good guy," is also one of the three founders of Peninsula Bridge, the summer academic program that has helped kids from low-income families succeed in high school.

The Almanac regrets the error and thanks Mr. DeWitt for his good humor and understanding.

Trees need water

We're in the middle of a drought, and the trees are feeling it the most, says Jeanne Durnford, chair of the Menlo Park Environmental Quality Commission.

She says that many of the trees planted by the city in the last five years look like they might not survive if the drought continues. If you have a young tree in front of your house, you can help it out by watering it for half an hour every week until the rains come, she said.

Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Money woes make for tough decisions

■ School district plans to transform Hillview.

By **Andrea Gemmet**
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park City School District officials couldn't be more pleased with designs for a new Hillview Middle School. The plan calls for two-story classroom buildings, covered second-floor walkways looking down upon a broad inner courtyard, roofs angled to maximize the effectiveness of solar panels, an auditorium that will seat nearly 400 people, and a third-story rooftop garden above science classrooms.

Unfortunately, there just isn't enough money to build the glowing vision of a new middle school designed by architect Erwin Lee.

School board members have to figure out where to cut corners now that the construction is estimated to cost \$39 million, around \$3 million over budget. That's on top of the fact that the district is out an additional \$3.9 million, its share of the San Mateo County investment pool's losses from the collapse of Lehman Bros.

At the Tuesday, Oct. 14, meeting, board members reviewed the Hillview schematic design and agreed to cut a planned stand-



This rendering shows the central courtyard planned for the Hillview Middle School campus in Menlo Park, looking toward the administration building.

alone building for art and industrial technology, instead adding the rooms to another building to save an estimated \$850,000. They also voted to trim the size of the auditorium's lobby.

If extremely favorable bids from contractors come back, that could be the extent of the cuts. However, board members pared another half a dozen features from the plan, making them "design alternatives" that will only be done if the money can be found.

On the chopping block are: the rooftop garden, which would save \$423,000; grass instead of synthetic turf, saving \$900,000; plain stucco instead of brick facades on buildings, \$372,600; a covered lunch shelter, \$120,000; and lockers on building exteriors, \$97,500.

Board members decided they could not part with the student center building, which is estimated to cost \$290,000.

"We need to preserve our dream of what Hillview is going to be,"

said board member Laura Rich.

Board members contemplated raiding other sources of funding in order to preserve the Hillview plan, including some bond money set aside for remodeling the O'Connor school site if there's another surge in enrollment.

"I feel bad holding that money for enrollment that our projections don't show. Hillview has always been our top priority," said board

See **HILLVIEW**, page 9

Lehman-related losses rise for schools

By **Dave Boyce**
Almanac Staff Writer

Financial losses have risen for school districts as a result of the county treasurer's reassessment of the local impact of the Sept. 15 bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers investment bank.

The original mid-September estimate, in which the pool of \$2.6 billion lost \$155 million, or 5.7 percent, hasn't moved. And the net loss is now lower, at 4.7 percent, after including the pool's "considerable" recent earnings, San Mateo County Treasurer Lee Buffington said in an interview.

But the treasurer's reassessment meant Lehman-related losses got worse for some pool account holders, including all of the public school districts in The Almanac's circulation area.

Losses rose after the treasurer, using the same formula used to distribute earnings, recalculated each pool participant's share based on average daily account balances

between July 1 and Sept. 30. The new loss figures are:

■ Sequoia Union High School District, \$6.5 million, or 7 percent of the district's \$92 million annual budget, and up from \$5.5 million.

■ Menlo Park City School District, \$3.9 million, or 14 percent of

'We are not confident that the county treasurer has made investments that constitute a philosophy of capital preservation.'

JAMES LIANIDES, SEQUOIA DISTRICT
BUDGET OFFICER

a \$28 million budget, and up from \$3.5 million.

■ Las Lomas Elementary School District, \$397,000, or 2.3 percent of a \$16.9 million budget, and up from \$320,000.

■ Portola Valley Elementary School District, \$173,000, or 1.5 percent of a \$11.5 million budget, and up from \$102,000.

■ Woodside Elementary School District, \$100,000, or 1.3 percent of a \$7.8 million budget, and up from \$55,000.

■ Town of Atherton, \$552,000, or 3.3 percent of a \$16.9 million budget, and up from \$500,000.

The losses have been "a deep shock," Sequoia district budget officer James Lianides said in an interview. Spending cuts may be ahead, he said.

While schools can exert no direct control over a treasurer's investment decisions, there is now a committee composed of K-12 superintendents and district budget officers from around the county.

Mr. Lianides explained the committee's purpose: "We are not confident that the county treasurer has made investments that constitute

Thieves strike Menlo Park

By **Dave Boyce**
Almanac Staff Writer

A spate of 10 property crime incidents in Menlo Park Thursday night had thieves ransacking unlocked vehicles and making off with computer equipment, a debit card and a stolen vehicle, according to logs of the Menlo Park Police Department.

Fremont Place in downtown Menlo Park was hard hit on Thursday, Oct. 16, with the theft of a 1998 black Audi A4 and four thefts or attempted thefts from vehicles, police said.

Elsewhere in town on Thursday night, thieves stole wallets from unlocked vehicles on Oak Lane and Coleman Avenue. At a convenience store, someone later charged \$86 using a debit card from the Coleman Avenue theft, police said.

See **LEHMAN**, page 8

See **CRIME**, page 7



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Thieves strike Menlo Park

CRIME

continued from page 5

Someone forced a locked office door at a construction site in the 2100 block of Santa Cruz Avenue and stole computer equipment valued at \$1,700, police said.

In the 800 block of Roble Avenue, thieves broke a vehicle window and stole a navigation unit, while stereo equipment was stolen from a vehicle in the 1100 block of Willow Road, police said.

A busy week

Menlo Park logs show a total of 17 property crimes in the city between Thursday night and Friday, Oct. 10.

On Oct. 10, a burglary netted three computers in the 1100 block of Elder Avenue.

Three days later, on Oct. 13, another downtown burglary netted electronic equipment and jewelry from a home in the 700 block of Laurel Avenue. Also on that day, someone stole a wallet at

US Venture Partners at 2735 Sand Hill Road, police said.

Thieves stole a handgun, a rifle, and shotgun in the 400 block of Oak Grove Avenue on Tuesday, Oct. 14, and a crowbar was reported stolen in the first block of Willow Road, police said.

On Wednesday, police found five utility poles felled and copper wire stolen from a site near University Avenue and Bayfront Expressway. Meanwhile on O'Connor Street in the Willows neighborhood, someone broke into a residence and stole an iPod and a watch. ■



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS...

It's your state, your decision. NOW GO VOTE!

YES on PROP 1A -- Safe, Reliable High Speed Passenger Train Bond Act

The League supports this bond act to fund a high speed train between Los Angeles/Anaheim and San Francisco.

YES on PROP 3 -- Children's Hospital Bond Act

The League supports this bond act to fund non-profit and University of California children's hospitals that provide specialized care for children with serious illnesses or injuries without regard to a family's ability to pay.

NO on PROP 4 - Waiting Period, Parental Notification before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy

Of course, the League supports parental rights. Mandatory notification laws sound good, but in the real world, these measures will put vulnerable teenagers in danger.

YES on PROP 5-- Nonviolent Drug Offenses. Sentencing, Parole and Rehabilitation

The League's study of juvenile justice affirmed the need to give funding priority to prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation.

NO on PROP 6 -- Police/Law Enforcement Funding. Criminal Penalties and Laws.

This measure requires that nearly \$1 billion annually in state general funds be used for designated local law enforcement. The League opposes the further restriction on the ongoing use of general funds and harmful policy change in prosecuting more 14-year-olds as adults.

NO on PROP 7-- Renewable Energy Generation.

This measure requires utilities to generate 50% power from renewable energy by . This poorly drafted, unrealistic proposition will force small renewable energy companies out of California's market and increase energy bills.

NO on PROP 8-- Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry.

The League opposes limits on the basic civil rights that should be guaranteed to all Californians. .

NO on PROP 9 -- Criminal Justice System. Victims' Rights. Parole

Victims rights are already well protected under current state law. This initiative will also dramatically increase the requirement for more prison beds at the expense of education and healthcare.

YES on PROP 11-- Redistricting Reform: California Voters FIRST Act.

The League strongly supports this measure that will remove from the legislature the power to redraw district boundaries for the State Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization after each census. Instead it provides for the appointment of a independent citizen's commission to perform this process. This measure will hold politicians accountable and help

The State League of Women Voters takes no position on Prop 2 (Standards for Confining Farm Animals), nor Prop 12 (Veteran's Bond Act of 2008)

*Paid Political Advertisement by the League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County
Phone: 650-325-5780 Email: info@LWVSSMC.org*

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Good money after bad

Dear Gloria,

Our house has been on the market for two months and we have not had an offer. Our realtor now suggests that we do some work to the exterior of the house. We have already spent so much money on the interior with painting, packing up and storing our belongings and even staging. Is this market just so bad that we are spending money that we will never get back? Shall we cut our losses now?

Martha W.

Dear Martha,

There is no question about first impressions being very important in getting a buyers attention. It is rare that someone will drive up to a house and have that "I love it" reaction. Most houses range from being rather ordinary to unattractive and leave either no impression or a negative impression on a prospective buyer. On a recent Tuesday morning tour with several other realtors, we drove up to a property that none of us were really interested in seeing but thought we would do a drive-by. However, when

we got there, we were so taken with the utter charm of the exterior that we couldn't wait to get inside. There was a used brick path leading to an inner court yard which was filled with plants, attractive patio table and chairs and window boxes with flowering plants and ivy. Other than the used brick, there was nothing that would be terribly expensive to do - it was just a very creative use of space that would otherwise look like every other house on the street. (which is basically just an older development) A Cost vs. Value Report has been published and gives the percentage of return which a renovation returns. Other than a minor kitchen remodel, exterior improvements bring the best return on investment. There are inexpensive things you can do which I mentioned above, that can make a big difference in the curb appeal of your house. I'm not sure what you are referring to - "cutting your losses". If you mean not putting more money in to fix up costs on your house, I would disagree. Get it to look so appealing to buyers that they will be anxious to see the interior.

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

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

Lehman-related losses rise

LEHMAN

continued from page 5

a philosophy of capital preservation. We want to share our very deep concern with the composition of the county's portfolio. We have very deep concerns regarding the investment policies."

Asked to comment on Mr. Buffington's assessment to The Almanac of the pool's Lehman debt as "very conservative" and "not risky," Mr. Lianides replied: "Well we have a difference of opinion."

The pool's "significant investment" in Morgan Stanley, an investment bank that is now a commercial bank, is a concern, Mr. Lianides said.

Mr. Buffington said his office sends regular earnings reports and is in frequent communication with many account holders, but school districts are not among them.

"The funny part is that I discovered a long time ago that there were telephone lines that come into this office," he added. "I never get any phone calls from these guys. For crying out loud, we get phone calls every day from everybody else."

"I'm not belittling them," he said, "I'm obviously going to go to the (committee) meetings and I'm going to listen to them."

Indeed, citing school districts' concerns, he said he sold some pool holdings in Morgan Stanley, whose stock had fallen to a 52-week low on Oct. 10. The stock price has since nearly tripled after a \$9 billion investment from Mitsubishi and a capital injection from the federal government.

"We could have made money on that stuff," he said. "We were aware of the districts' concerns, so we lightened up. We weren't that concerned. We felt we knew what was going on."

School districts appear to be exploring ways to divert unrestricted funds away from the county pool and put them under other management, perhaps the state treasurer's office that manages municipalities' investments.

That pool, the Local Agency Investment Fund, lost nothing from the troubles at Lehman, investment bank Merrill Lynch, commercial bank Washington Mutual and insurer American International Group, a fund spokesman said. ■

Amory Lovins, MacArthur Fellow and noted spokesman on tackling global warming by living more efficiently, addressed an overflow crowd at Portola Valley's new community hall on Oct. 13.

Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac



His cup runneth over

Sustainable living sage brings his message of abundance to Portola Valley

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Those of us who have been reevaluating their personal habits in light of their possible impact on global warming may also, in quieter and less hopeful moments, be asking ourselves: What can one person really accomplish?

It's a question made to order for Amory B. Lovins, who lives in a 4,000-square-foot Rocky Mountain home at a frigid 7,900 feet. His home has no furnace, no air conditioning and a greenhouse where he said he recently grew 28 crops of bananas. If his place even has a greenhouse gas footprint, it's probably negligible.

Mr. Lovins is the chief scientist and founder of the nonprofit Colorado-based Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), a "think-and-do" tank, as Mr. Lovins puts it, with a mission of making the world "secure, just, prosperous and life-sustaining."

RMI's clients include the World Bank, Pacific Gas and Electric, Royal Dutch/Shell Group, the U.S. Navy, General Motors, Monsanto and the White House, according to the Web site.

In front of a standing-room-only crowd of about 270 in Portola Valley on Monday, Oct. 13, Mr. Lovins gave a talk on the importance of thinking critically about a sustaining lifestyle and living that way. His presentation, the first in Portola Valley's "green speaker" series, appropriately inaugurated the town's new and very green community hall.

Mr. Lovins' message was simple: the world needs to get smart and cut greenhouse gas emissions through greater efficiency — doing more with less — and pursue alternatives to traditional power-plant technologies.

If it's done right, economies won't suffer, he said, and demonstrated his point with examples that included his home and thriving towns that went seriously green in Denmark and Brazil.

His message also spoke of welcoming trends, particularly concerning nuclear power, a technology he opposes and one that is getting a second look as a greenhouse-gas-free industrial-grade alternative to a grid that runs on fossil fuels. Among his points:

- Private capital in 2007 invested \$71 billion worldwide in decentralized renewable energy compared to zero for nuclear power, which relied on government subsidies.

- Seventeen percent of current global electricity capacity and 33 percent of new capacity is from "micropower" — renewable sources such as wind, solar and small-scale dams, and the use of excess heat from power plants in factories and buildings.

- New wind-generated capacity in 2007 in the

United States, Spain and China outpaced new nuclear power capacity worldwide. U.S. wind-based capacity in 2007 outpaced new coal capacity for the past five years combined.

Mr. Lovins is the co-author, with ecological entrepreneur Paul Hawken, of the 1999 book "Natural Capitalism," and the co-author of an article entitled "Forget Nuclear" in the Spring 2008 RMI newsletter.

"We're figuring out, you might say, how to unignite fire," he told the audience. And to serve as industry's acupuncturist: "We figure out where the business logic is congested and not flowing properly and we stick needles in the appropriate sites to get it flowing."

While Portola Valley is hardly industrial, industrialists live there and can set an example by living lightly on the land, he said. The benefits: less exposure to volatile energy prices, stronger local and regional economies, and a fairer and more resilient world, he said.

For more information, go to www.rmi.org.

A warm welcome

An example is set by Portola Valley's new community hall, Town Hall and library. They're optimized for a small carbon footprint and may win the nation's highest rating for green buildings. It would be a first for a U.S. municipal building, Councilman Ted Driscoll said.

Resident Paul Holland, who with his wife Linda Yates cosponsored Mr. Lovins' appearance, introduced him. "I cannot tell you how inspiring it is to look out and see standing room only" for the first speaker in the green speaker series, Mr. Holland said.

"Amory Lovins is the intellectual godfather of green," he added, and noted that it was "kind of cool" that Mr. Lovins, a 1993 MacArthur Fellow, is also a college drop-out from Harvard and Oxford universities.

Asked for a reaction after the presentation, Carter Warr, a resident, architect and member of the town's home design review board, replied: "I'm very excited. It's great to see the community energy toward sustainability."

"It's great to see the solutions-based response that Amory and RMI bring and its (potential) to help the community of the United States and the businesses of the United States to see their way clear to implementing real solutions."

The next speaker, scheduled for Dec. 16, is James Hansen, a NASA scientist, leading global warming activist and prominent Bush administration critic. ■

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of
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E-mail questions Cohen, Fergusson intentions on operation of city pool

By Sean Howell

Almanac staff writer

Local architect and developer Sam Sinnott, a supporter of Menlo Park City Council candidate Rick Ciardella, has drawn criticism over an e-mail he sent to a list consisting mostly of members of the Menlo Masters swimming program that suggests City Council incumbents Kelly Fergusson and Andy Cohen pose a “threat” to the Masters program.

In the Oct. 5 e-mail — sent just weeks before voters will choose two candidates from among the three running — Mr. Sinnott alleged that the incumbents might not renew Tim Sheeper’s lease to operate the city-owned pool when it expires in 2011.

In an interview, Mr. Sinnott said that Mr. Cohen and Ms. Fergusson “voted against Tim” because they opposed awarding a contract to Mr. Sheeper in 2006. Both Mr. Cohen and Ms. Fergusson said they opposed the move because they were unhappy with the fast-track process by which the deal with Mr. Sheeper was struck, and not specifically with the idea of Mr. Sheeper running the pool.

The issue of control over the pool was a hot topic in the 2006

council election that unseated Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler, members of the then-council majority that voted to approve the Sheeper contract. The councilwomen lost their seats to Rich Cline and Heyward Robinson amid criticism that turning the operation of the public pool over to a private business was done without a proper bidding process, public oversight and adequate information.

Talking about that process, Mr. Cohen said: “I thought it was the wrong way to do it, but as I already said and will repeat, I am completely satisfied with the way Tim Sheeper runs his operation.”

He also said that he will support a competitive bidding process when the lease expires in 2011. “The process should be open and transparent, and I believe Tim Sheeper will naturally have an advantage. If he puts forth the best proposal, he should definitely prevail.”

Ms. Fergusson agreed, saying that she “wasn’t happy with the no-bid award of a contract regarding a public facility.” But, she added, “Sheeper, from what I have observed, has a good track record at the pool, and that will be part of the evaluation” when his lease expires.

Council candidates at forum Wednesday

The League of Women Voters will hold a Menlo Park City Council candidates forum from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22, at the council chambers in the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets in Menlo Park.

During the forum, candidates will answer written questions submitted by the audience.

Three candidates are competing for two four-year terms on the five-member council. The three are Rick Ciardella and incumbents

Andy Cohen and Kelly Ferguson.

The forum will be taped and later broadcast on cable Channel 27, and online through the Palo Alto-based Media Center’s Web site, www.CommunityMediaCenter.net. The forum will not be broadcast live.

The league will also hold a presentation on the state ballot measures for the Nov. 4 election at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Menlo Park Library at 800 Alma St.

Money woes make for tough decisions

HILLVIEW

continued from page 5

member Terry Thygesen.

Instead, board members decided to keep their options open and hope that they get lucky. The district just received a bid for construction at Encinal School that came in more than \$1 million below the \$12.8 million estimate, and they are close to requesting bids for work at Oak Knoll School. Savings from those projects could be redirected to Hillview.

Although architect’s render-

ings show the school’s rooftops covered with photovoltaic panels, the electricity-generating solar panels aren’t even included in the budget. Other sources of funding will have to be found for solar panels and features that would make the school “grid neutral,” producing as much electricity as it uses, Superintendent Ken Ranella said.

This school year, Hillview has an enrollment of 662 students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade. In three years, the student population is expected to climb to 801, and hit a peak of 928

In a letter to The Almanac, Cohen- and Fergusson-supporter Craig Lewis called Mr. Sinnott’s e-mail a campaign-season “scare tactic” in support of Mr. Ciardella. He noted that Mr. Sinnott raised the issue of control over the pool shortly before the 2006 election, when he alleged that then-candidates Cline and Robinson planned to terminate Mr. Sheeper’s contract after they took office. Neither Mr. Cline nor Mr. Robinson attempted to do so.

Mr. Sinnott asserted that he was more concerned about the future of the Masters swimming program than about getting Mr. Ciardella elected.

Mr. Sinnott’s wife, Lorie, ran against Mr. Cohen and Ms. Fergusson for a council seat in 2004. ■

Should city allow more informal bids?

Menlo Park’s City Council will vote at its Tuesday, Oct. 21, meeting on whether to dramatically raise the cost threshold of public construction projects for which the city can conduct an informal bidding process, from \$25,000 to \$125,000.

The informal process differs from the formal one in that the city is not required to advertise bids publicly. Instead, it invites submissions from licensed contractors whose names are on a list maintained by the city.

The bids themselves are also less detailed, a fact that Public Works Director Kent Steffens said will save time for city staff.

The council is also slated to vote on whether to increase the limit on projects that can be authorized by the city manager without council approval from \$25,000 to \$50,000, another resolution that Mr. Steffens said would save time for staff.

students in the 2014-15 school year.

In order to accommodate the surge in enrollment, district officials plan to build the new campus on the existing field and then tear down the old school buildings, except for the multi-purpose room, and replace them with a field.

A draft environmental impact report is expected by the end of this month — or early November — for a 45-day public review period, said Ahmad Sheikholeslami, district director of facility planning and construction. ■



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING NOVEMBER 3, 2008

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Menlo Park, California, is scheduled to review the following items:

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

Use Permit and Variance/James M. Sagorac Jr./1260 Mills Street: Request for a use permit to demolish a single-story, single-family residence and construct two two-story, single-family residences and associated site improvements on a substandard lot with regard to lot width in the R-3 (Apartment) zoning district. Request for variances to allow covered and uncovered parking to encroach up to five feet into the right side yard setback where ten feet is required, and to reduce the minimum distance between the proposed buildings on the subject parcel and the existing buildings on the adjacent right side property from 20 feet to 13 feet. Continued from the meeting of October 20, 2008.

STUDY MEETING ITEMS

Study Session/Joe Colonna for 1706 ECR LLC/1706 El Camino Real: Request for a study session for a proposed use permit, architectural control, and tentative subdivision map to demolish an existing one-story 6,875-square-foot commercial building and construct a new two-story 10,236-square-foot office building for medical/dental use and related site improvements in the C-4 (General Commercial applicable to El Camino Real) zoning district. The application includes a request for a tentative map to subdivide one parcel into six commercial condominium airspaces.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment/City of Menlo Park: Consideration of a Zoning Ordinance Amendment to clarify the definition of Gross Floor Area to more specifically identify features of a building that are either included or excluded from the calculation. Gross floor area is used in calculating the floor area ratio (FAR) and parking requirements for developments in all zoning districts except for single-family and R-2 (Low Density Apartment) zoning districts. Floor area ratio equals the gross floor area of a building divided by the lot area and effectively regulates the size of a building. In addition, gross floor area is used in determining the applicability of requirements for below market rate (BMR) housing and the preparation of traffic studies. The clarifications to the definition will focus on new buildings and attempt to minimize impacts to existing buildings. The Zoning Ordinance Amendment will be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in that the changes are intended to have no potential to impact the environment.

PUBLIC MEETING ITEMS - None

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on public hearing items in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on Monday, November 3, 2008, 7:00 p.m. or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing.

The project file may be viewed by the public on weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, with alternate Fridays closed, at the Department of Community Development, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park. Please call the Planning Division if there are any questions and/or for complete agenda information (650) 330-6702.

Si usted necesita más información sobre este proyecto, por favor llame al 650-330-6702, y pregunte por un asistente que hable español.

DATED: October 16, 2008 Deanna Chow, Senior Planner
PUBLISHED: October 22, 2008 Menlo Park Planning Commission

Visit our Web site for Planning Commission public hearing, agenda, and staff report information: www.menlopark.org

Published in THE ALMANAC on October 22, 2008.

Stanford Hospital Health Notes

A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics

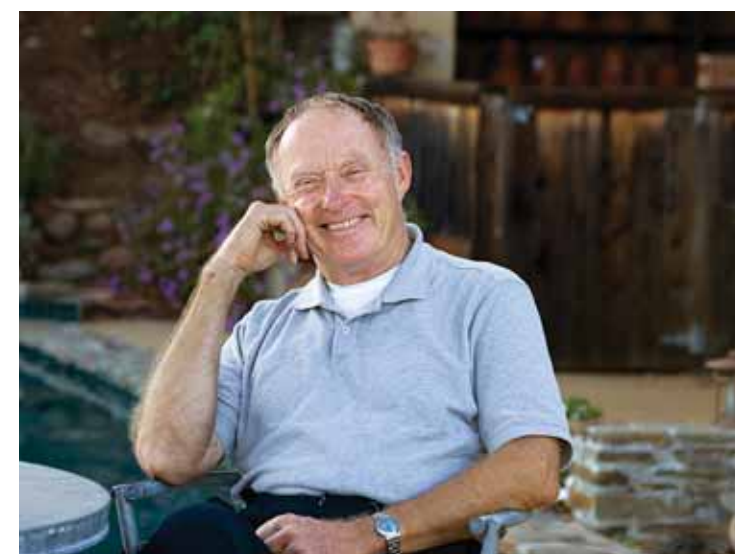
After The Worst Happens: Top Care Is Right At Hand But Pressed to Limits

Myron Hollister is a lucky man. Lucky enough to survive being hit hard by a car while riding his bicycle. Lucky to have been injured less than a 10-minute drive from the Stanford Hospital & Clinics Emergency Department. And lucky enough to arrive there on a quiet morning.

Hollister, 75, was quickly evaluated. He'd come away from the crash with five broken ribs, a punctured lung, a concussion, sprained shoulder and very nasty cuts and scrapes on his hands. His treatment proceeded quickly and deliberately.

"Everyone was very calm," said Hollister's wife Linda. "Everything was very efficient."

A week later, the Emergency Department was a very different place. A truck whose brakes had failed plowed into a car in the parking lot of a local grocery store. One person was fatally injured. Three others suffered serious injuries. They were all brought to



After Myron Hollister, 75, was hit hard by a car while on his bike just a few blocks from his Palo Alto home, he went straight to the highest degree of emergency care at Stanford Hospital's Level 1 Trauma Center.

Stanford, the only Level 1 Trauma Center between San Jose and San Francisco.

"We provided excellent medical care, but our resources were stretched absolutely to the max."

— Dr. Bob Norris, Chief of the Hospital's Division of Emergency Medicine

More Patients, Same Space

"Right before that happened, we had two motorcycle crashes come in, one with a cracked liver. Then immediately afterwards, gunshot wounds came in," said Dr. Bob Norris, who heads the Hospital's Division of Emergency Medicine. "We provided excellent medical care, but our resources were stretched absolutely to the max. We had to take care of trauma patients in rooms that weren't designed for trauma care. If that accident had been twice as big, it would have been nearly impossible for us to have dealt with that."

When Norris talks about stretched resources, he means square feet more than medical staff. Built in 1976, the Emergency Department, where the trauma center operates, now handles more than 46,000 annual visits in a space designed for less than half that number. Over

the course of 24 hours, between five and six trauma patients will arrive. Overall, patient arrivals at Stanford's Emergency Department are going up by about five percent each year.

Being Best Under Any Condition

What also stresses the current space is Stanford's status as a Level 1 Trauma Center. That is the highest care quality designation achievable, but it also means Stanford is ready to treat the most seriously injured patients, like Hollister. One of every three people who arrive at Stanford requires admission to the Hospital. The national average of hospital admissions at non-trauma emergency centers is just 13 percent.

As a Level 1 Trauma Center, Stanford is required by the Santa Clara County Emergency Medical Services Agency and the American College of Surgeons (ACS) to meet a long list of care criteria. It must have 24/7 availability of resuscitation equipment, specially trained trauma surgeons, other medical specialists in anesthesiology, orthopedics, neurosurgery and other fields, including emergency nursing. The center must also serve as a regional resource and provide leadership in education, research and system planning.

In its most recent review of Stanford, the ACS team gave it perfect scores in all 176 criteria.

Comfortingly Close

The benefit to Stanford's neighboring communities is clear: Being treated at a trauma center improves a patient's chances of survival by 20 to 25 percent. And if a

Landlocked and always growing...



Computers are as close as can be to save space, but when all are in use, there's not much room for their users.



Treatment rooms are already packed with equipment and supplies — add a patient and medical staff and there's not much room to spare.



When shifts change, the only place for updates is between two doorways.

patient's injuries are of the most severe kind, treatment at Stanford raises that survival rate to 83 percent compared to the national average of about 68 percent. And Hollister is one of the 21 percent of Stanford's Emergency Department patients who come from either Palo Alto or East Palo Alto, brought by ambulance or coming directly from their homes.

"It takes a lot of work, logistics and team effort."

— Dr. David Spain, Chief of the Hospital's Trauma, Emergency and Critical Care Surgery Program

Stanford's Emergency Department is also certified as a Level 1 pediatric trauma center, one of only a few in California. About one in four of Stanford's emergency patients are children.

Several years before Linda Hollister got the phone call about her husband's crash, she'd paid a couple of visits to Stanford for emergency treatment for two of their children. "And I was glad then, too, for Stanford's closeness," she said. The Hollisters have lived in Palo Alto since the 1960s.

Creative Logistics Can't Always Beat Frustrating Space Crunch

After his swift initial evaluation and treatment, Myron Hollister came up against both the Hospital's and the Emergency Department's space crunch. No bed was then available for him in the Hospital, nor was one to be had within the core Emergency Department. He was wheeled off to wait in a nearby 11-bed care unit, a coping strategy in response to a landlocked department that already has seven patient beds in its hallways. The Emergency Department typically runs at 90 percent of its capacity and its treatment rooms can quickly become as densely packed as a rush hour train car, especially when a trauma patient arrives. As many as 10 people will speed into a space no bigger than a typical bedroom, one already congested by built-in cabinets. It becomes denser still when the essential tools of emergency care must also be squeezed in — IV pole,

INSIDE STANFORD'S EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Key facts:

- Stanford is the only Level 1 Trauma Center between San Francisco and San Jose
- One in five patients is from Palo Alto or East Palo Alto
- One in four patients is a child
- Treatment at a trauma center improves survival by 20 to 25 percent
- Survival rate for most severely injured or ill patients is 83 percent. National average is 68 percent

What is trauma?

Traumatic injuries are the leading cause of death in Americans over one year of age but under age 45. The following conditions require trauma care:

- penetrating injuries to head, neck, chest, back, abdomen, groin or extremities near elbow or knee
- suspected pelvic fracture
- been in an automobile crash with speed over 40 mph
- been a pedestrian hit by a car going greater than 20 mph
- fall of more than 15 feet if an adult



One room, three beds, dozens of carts, built-ins and shelves equals very cramped quarters.

What can you do to prevent a visit to the Emergency Department?

One of the most common reasons people come to a hospital for emergency care is a fall. The SHC Trauma Center created a Farewell to Falls program to help seniors avoid falls. Falls can be prevented by balance, mobility and strength training programs geared specifically at averting falls, medication review and home modifications. For more information on the program, phone (650) 724-9369. For a list of other prevention and safety programs, visit www.stanfordhospital.com, select Clinical Services, then A-Z guide and click on "T" and select "trauma services."

cardiac monitor, procedure boxes and trauma cart.

"It takes a lot of work, logistics and team effort," said Dr. David Spain, the Hospital's Chief of Trauma, Emergency and Critical Care Surgery. It also takes speed, skill, judgment, timing and collaboration, added trauma center program manager Janet Neff, a veteran of 20 years in emergency and trauma care.

Norris has frequent reminders of the impact of the space squeeze. When the Hospital does not have beds immediately available for emergency patients and the 11-bed unit is full, not only must new trauma patients be diverted, but Norris also knows that there



Linda Hollister is very happy to have her husband on the mend.

are people in the waiting room who will get tired of waiting and leave.

"We have a phenomenal team that really cares about our patients," Norris said, but the crowding and the waiting upsets patients and their families. It takes an emotional toll on the staff, too, he said. "They know how hard they are working, but sometimes it's very hard for patients to come away feeling satisfied about the overall experience."

Promise of Renewal

Norris and Spain are eager to move into a new, three times larger Emergency Department that will be part of the new Stanford Hospital, which will have the capacity to respond to a surge of patients from a natural or man-made disaster.

Myron Hollister is at home again, still a bit stiff and tolerating the pain of his still-healing ribs. Those are "coming along quite nicely," he said. His family is pressuring him, as is his doctor, not to get another bike.

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



ATHERTON VOTERS FACE FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

"I promise you one thing. When I am elected I will work very hard to find the common ground for the greatest good for all of Atherton."

Elizabeth Lewis



DO YOU WANT 4 MORE YEARS OF FAILED FISCAL POLICIES OR DO YOU WANT HONEST AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT?

I am concerned about the current economic crisis.

Atherton - and our Nation - are navigating uncharted waters. Never before have we experienced such dire economic conditions.

The collapse of Lehman Brothers has reduced Atherton's financial balance sheet by **more than \$500,000**.

Atherton's Finance Committee has **only 2 members** of the Council. In these troubled and complicated financial times, this is not enough!

In the past 8 years here are decisions that have been made and how they affect you:

- Overcharging residents the Business License Tax and Road Impact Fees estimated at more than \$300,000. **Refunds need to be made.**
- \$3,000,000 in unfunded pension liabilities costs the Town 8% per year in interest payments and only earns 4% interest. **Paying off this liability could save more than \$100,000 per year.**
- \$2,000,000 in profit from Building Department permits and license fees have been co-mingled with the General Reserve for 8 straight years. **Is this legal? State Law under Prop 218 restricts this usage.**
- The Council spent over \$1,200,000 in legal fees since 2006. \$200,000 of this was for lawsuits against our school district and residents. **Arbitration could be a better solution.**
- One Police Officer position has been cut. We have no excess capacity in safety and law enforcement. **This needs to be remedied. Our public safety should be a priority.**
- With your tax dollars, the former Finance Director purchased an iPod calling it a DSU (Data Storage Unit). The Finance Committee did not have formal checks and balances in place to prevent this abuse. **We need clear revenue and expense reporting procedures.**

As your new Council Member I will work to correct these financial and safety irregularities. I will make sure that you have a complete and accurate picture of where your tax dollars are going.

I urge an experienced finance professional from our community to join the Finance Committee to help our City Manager, new Finance Director and our Town make sound financial decisions in the future.

Please join me in these efforts to improve our Town.



Your Vote Counts on November 4!

www.elizabeth2008.com

**Elizabeth
LEWIS**

elizabeth@elizabeth2008.com

ATHERTON COUNCIL

650.533.8830 • FPPC #1305204

'Sunset Unlimited'

LANE FAMILY HONORED AS HISTORY MAKERS

By Marion Softky | *Almanac Staff Writer*

When Laurence W. "Larry" Lane bought floundering *Sunset* magazine in 1928 for \$60,000, he planted the seeds of more than pretty Western flowers.

Under the leadership of Mr. Lane, and then his sons, Bill and Mel, *Sunset Magazine & Books* grew the dream and how-to's of "Western Living" throughout the West for generations.

And beyond *Sunset*, the Lane brothers have individually made huge contributions to the environment of California and the country. Through philanthropy and personal leadership, they have advanced national parks, protection of San Francisco Bay and the California Coast, preservation of open space on the Peninsula, creation of Portola Valley, and numerous projects supporting Stanford.

These accomplishments were recognized Sept. 25 when the Lanes received the History Makers Award from the San Mateo County Historical Association. Close to 100 people partied at the domed courthouse in Redwood City, now the county's history museum, and attended a program and film screening across the street at the Fox Theater.

The program highlighted how *Sunset Magazine and Books*, and the Lane family, have helped make San Mateo County a remarkable place to live.

"The Lane Family: *Sunset Unlimited*" was the title of the film honoring the Lanes and their accomplishments; it was produced by Jon Rubin of KM2 Communications of South San Francisco. The title refers to the original magazine, which was founded in 1898 by Southern Pacific Railroad and named for its special train, the "Sunset Limited."

Larry and Ruth Lane and their two small boys left Iowa and Larry's job building *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine in San Francisco. Their first edition, in February 1929, cost 10 cents.

The senior Lanes set about building a magazine that would be not about the West, but for the West. They began blending lifestyle subjects about homes, gardens, cooking, and travel, combined with practical do-it-yourself help. They wrote the magazine to appeal to men as well as women.



The Lane family in 1955, from left, Bill and Jean Lane, Larry and Ruth Lane, and Mel and Joan Lane on the lawn at *Sunset* magazine. The picture was taken shortly after Bill and Jean Lane were married.

Sunset also developed its social conscience early. In 1938, after it finally got into the black, *Sunset* stopped taking advertising for tobacco and beer, according to Bill Lane.

Mel, who died in 2007, and Bill were involved in the magazine from the beginning. They sold *Sunset* door-to-door in San Francisco during the Depression, and tasted their mother's new recipes, which were published in the magazine.

They also learned to love nature and parks, particularly in Yosemite, where they both worked summers as packers when they were teenagers. Bill used to make the famous call for the fire fall from Glacier Point.

After graduating from Stanford and serving in the Navy, Bill and Mel Lane returned to *Sunset*, and helped grow it into the bible of "Western Living." Bill married Jean, and Mel married Joan; both women were community leaders. And they made sure their children put in time at *Sunset*.

Through articles and books, *Sunset* helped guide new lifestyles that blossomed across the West after World War II. People

could learn new ways for gardening, modern cooking, home improvements, and travel in the magazine and in books that appeared in nurseries and hardware stores across the West. "We put cilantro on the map," a *Sunset* staffer was quoted in "The Lane Family: *Sunset Unlimited*."

In 1951, *Sunset* moved to Menlo Park. Its California-style building, designed by Cliff May and surrounded by gardens designed by Thomas Church, have helped to define Menlo Park and the Peninsula ever since.

In 1961, the Lane sons took over *Sunset*; Bill was editor of the magazine, and Mel took on the books, producing some 20 a year — books that helped steer readers through the intricacies of indoor/outdoor living. Over the years the magazine has grown to produce five regional issues responding to the very different climates and environments in the American West.

Under the Lanes, *Sunset* was a leader in the environmental movement that started sweeping the country in the 1960s. In 1969, the magazine blew the whistle on using DDT in an article — and stopped accepting advertising for DDT and other

garden pesticides.

The Lanes sold *Sunset* to Time-Warner in 1990, but have stayed close ever since.

The Lane brothers have also made a huge imprint on the environment in San Mateo County, California, and beyond, through their individual efforts and generosity.

Bill Lane's environmental credits extend from helping found Portola Valley in 1964 as a bulwark against development into the hills, to being a key supporter of national parks. He was also ambassador to Australia under President Reagan, and a stalwart supporter of Stanford, where he rebuilt the History Corner after the Loma Prieta Earthquake in honor of his parents, and led the restoration of the Red Barn.

"Bill personifies the best qualities of Portola Valley," said Councilman Steve Toben, citing Mr. Lane's commitment to civic well-being, steadfast environmental ethic, and personal generosity. Among other gifts, he helped make the new Town Center — off the San Andreas Fault — possible with a lead gift of \$1 million.

In 1995, Mr. Lane received the Conservationist of the Year Award from the National Parks and Conservation Association.

He was credited for his work with parks from Colonial Williamsburg to Alaska. He helped establish Redwood National Park in Northern California, and — more recently — the addition of the Presidio in San Francisco to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

"Everywhere you turn — Jasper Ridge, the Folger Stables, the Stanford Red Barn — Bill's philanthropy is off the charts," said Mr. Toben.

Mel Lane's signature achievements were preserving California coastlines as world-class treasures. As chairman of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission and later the California Coastal Commission, Mr. Lane pioneered a successful model for preventing what the film called "wall-to-wall condos."

Mel Lane was also a staunch Stanford supporter who persevered in rebuilding Memorial Church after the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. He was one of the founders of the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), which has preserved some 60,000 acres of open land on the Peninsula.

Now, anyone can walk "Mel's Lane" just south of Pigeon Point Lighthouse, which POST saved from becoming a motel. ■

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Marsala says town owes contractors fee refunds

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

An e-mail sent out by Atherton Councilman Charles Marsala urging builders to see if the town overcharged for their business license fees was swiftly rebuked by City Attorney Marc Hynes.

At issue are the annual business license fees charged to general contractors and subcontractors who work in Atherton. On Tuesday, Oct. 14, Mr. Marsala sent out an e-mail warning that the town may have double-charged contractors working on multiple Atherton job sites within the same year. He also said that the town's formula for figuring out the number of subcontractors on a project could be flawed.

In 2003, the Atherton City Council unanimously approved a new method for charging the \$250 and \$150 annual business license fee to general contrac-

ATHERTON

tors and subcontractors, respectively. Rather than billing each contractor, the town requires general contractors to pay all subcontractors' fees based on a percentage of the value of the construction project.

"Recently, two residents building new homes have (been charged) business license fees of \$24,145 and \$15,998. Translated,

this would be for 159 and 105 subcontractors," Mr. Marsala's e-mail reads. "The resident paying the \$15,998 has approximately 20 unique subcontractors and will be asking the town for a refund of \$12,948."

The council met with the city attorney in closed session to discuss the business license fees on Wednesday, Oct. 15. The council decided to hire MuniServices, LLC to review the business license tax and its collection,

on a 4-1 vote with Mr. Marsala opposed, Mr. Hynes announced. "Any information on what is owed is premature and should be disregarded," he said.

Mr. Marsala told The Almanac that he voted against the motion despite agreeing with having Muni Services do a review of the business license tax. "I believe my numbers were conservative and that's why I voted against it," Mr. Marsala said.

Carol Flaherty, an Atherton

resident who has built several new homes, said she's spent a month researching the issue and believes the fee is actually an illegal tax.

"Basing the business license fees on a percentage of the total building permit is ludicrous," Ms. Flaherty said in a letter to the council. "Just because a house gets larger, the number of subcontractors doesn't necessarily go up."

Speaking to the council at its Wednesday, Oct. 15, meeting, Ms. Flaherty urged the town not to delay refunding the money.

The issue is set to return to the council at its December meeting. ■

Police endorse Lewis, Henig

Atherton cops are backing candidates Elizabeth Lewis and David Henig in the Nov. 4 City Council election. The Atherton Police Officers Association announced its endorsement on Tuesday, Oct. 7.

The other candidates in the race for two, four-year seats are incumbent Kathy McKeithen and retired former Atherton police chief Richard "Dick" Moore.

"Both Lewis and Henig are truly eager to strive for the well-being of all Atherton residents," said Sgt. Joe Wade in a press release. "In addition to being conscientious and visionary, both candidates recognize the importance of customer service-oriented public safety, which bodes well for every member of this great community."

Cystic fibrosis benefit

Textures Hair Design on 812 Santa Cruz Ave. will open its doors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26 — typically an off-day for the Menlo Park coiffeurs — to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis Research Inc., a non-profit based in Mountain View. Haircuts require a minimum donation of \$50 and manicures, \$20. To make an appointment, call Textures at 323-6171.

PARTIAL LIST OF KATHY McKEITHEN ENDORSERS

David Arcsott	Robert Mullin
Marty Arcsott	Erik Olsen
Mary Stuart Awbrey	Michelle Olsen
William W. Awbrey	Louis Paponis
Dr. Richard Babb	Lynne Pasternack
Dede Barsotti	Bob Patterson
Mike Barsotti	Tina Patterson
Keith Bartel	Jeffers Pickard
Etta Mae Bauer	Mary Pickard
Marts Beekley	Betsy Plaschke
Sue Beekley	Bob Plaschke
Dr. Melvin Britton	Barbara Proulx
Mary Britton	Thomas Proulx
Mason S. Brutschy	Julie Quinlan
Larry Calof	Paul Quinlan
Susy Calof	Charles Ramorino
Michelle Cappa	Joann Ramorino
Wayne Cappa	Eugene Rauen
Arianna Carughi	Molly Rauen
Herman Christensen	Barbara Ringham
Isobel Christensen	Jack Ringham
Betsy Colby	Elizabeth Ross
John Cornuelle	Janice Ross
Mary Jane Cornuelle	Phoebe Rowles
Diane Crittenden	John Ruggiero
Sandy Crittenden	Virginia Ruggiero
Larry Crouch	Elmo Sanders
Mandy Crouch	Joan Sanders
Roy Demmon	Janice S. Schaaf
Nina Demmon	Jean Schaaf
Ann Dorst	Raymond J. Schaaf, Jr.
Richard Dorst	Raymond J. Schaaf, Sr.
Joan Dove	Bobbie Schumacher
Gene Elsbree	John Schumacher
Dr. Patricia Engasser	Frank Sebastian
A. Erwin Ericksen	Alicia Seebold
Janet Ericksen	James Seebold
John Fennel	Darlene Shaheen
Michael Fister	George Shaheen
Teresa Fister	Janet Simmonds
Carol Flaherty	Rosemary Sisson
John Flaherty	Rick Skierka
Robert Franceschini	Bruce Smith
Valerie Gardner	Carol Smith
Ellen Rose Goddard	Dr. & Mrs. Donald Smith
Carolan Haas	Smith
Dr. Robert Haas	Isaac Stein
Helena Hafner	Madeline Stein
Jack Hafner	Christine Timmerman
Fred Herzer	Ray Timmerman
Virginia Herzer	Marylue Timpson
Marian Hill	Trish Turner
Tom Hill	Betty Ullman
Harvey Hinman	Edwin Ullman
Betty Joss	Gerda Ungerman
Bob Joss	Jerry Ungerman
Farida Kaye	Lida Urbanek
Sandy Kaye	Jo-Ellen Varner
Doris Kellett	Kenneth Varner
Kris Klint	Kristi Waldron
Denise Kupperman	Scott Waldron
Marjo Lachman	Celia Walker
Bryan Lamkin	Jean Wangsness
Janet Landauer	Jane Washburn
Joan Lane	Rodney Washburn
Ginger Levick	Debbie Whelan
Linda Liebes	Gabe Whelan
Sidney Liebes	Gail Whelan
Joyce Lively	Leigh White
Phil Lively	Dr. David N. White
Donald L. Lucas	Kathy Wiggans
Charles Lynch	Thomas Wiggans
Justine Lynch	Art Wong
John Maulbetsch	Judy Wong
Rosemary Maulbetsch	Paul Woollomes
Thomas C. McConnell	Martha Woollomes
Mike McPherson	Marcia Wythes
Agnes Mendelson	Paul Wythes
Alan Mendelson	Marie Zahn
Steve Miller	Richard Zahn
Terry Miller	Corinne Zaro

Re-Elect

KATHY McKEITHEN

Atherton Town Council

VOTE FOR KATHY ON NOV. 4

KATHY has served on the Atherton Town Council for the last 8 years and would like to continue to represent you for the next 4 years.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Helped to increase the Town's Reserve Fund from \$4.5 million to \$9.3 million
- Oversaw 7 consecutive "clean audits"
- Worked to revitalize the Building Department and make it more efficient and equitable
- Encouraged environmental and structural upgrades to the Atherton Drainage Channel
- Established and funded the Town's Citizen Emergency Program

CURRENT PROJECTS:

- All Parcel Tax Funds to be used for capital improvements
- Litigation costs be limited to \$25,000 unless specifically authorized
- The budget be balanced without reducing services, especially police services
- Safe transportation routes to Encinal School
- Future alternatives to the Parcel Tax
- Increasing Residents' use and enjoyment of Holbrook-Palmer Park

KATHY'S financial support comes 99% from Atherton Residents; she has also chosen not to be endorsed by any Town Employee Association and is not beholden to any special interest groups.

KATHY McKEITHEN has the education and professional training and experience; has worked with 7 other Council Members and 3 Town Managers; knows the Town employees and the "ins and outs" of getting things done; has the tenacity and work ethic to make sure your needs are addressed; and most importantly, wants to represent you for another 4 years.

VOTE FOR KATHY ON NOV. 4

Re-Elect

KATHY McKEITHEN

ATHERTON TOWN COUNCIL

Re-Elect Kathy McKeithen

Experienced and Dedicated to Improving Life in Atherton
www.KathyMcKeithen.com



QUALIFICATIONS:

- Elected Atherton Town Council November, 2000 and has served two four-year terms.
- Atherton resident 24 years
- 2 children graduated from Menlo-Atherton
- Practiced law 1975-1982
- Graduate Smith College, B.A. and Columbia Law School, J. D.

PRIORITIES:

- Residents' Concerns, first
- Continued improvement of the Town's financial condition and management
- Opposing High Speed Rail in Atherton
- Supporting critical drainage improvements
- Ensuring that we're all comfortable, safe and proud to live in Atherton

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OBITUARIES

Charlotte S. Watterson

Retired registered nurse

Charlotte S. Watterson of Atherton, a registered nurse for 30 years, died Oct. 12 at Sequoia Hospital, surrounded by her family. She was 85.

Ms. Watterson was born and raised in Arcadia, Florida. A 1944

graduate of the Gordon Keller School of Nursing in Tampa, Florida, Ms. Watterson spent 16 years as a registered nurse in the emergency room at the University of California Hospital in San Francisco. She retired, after many years, as the head nurse of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinic there. She worked with and mentored hundreds of medical residents, whom she referred to as "My Boys," say family members.

For 63 years, Ms. Watterson was married to Stuart E. Watterson Jr., who died Feb. 1 of 2008.

Ms. Watterson was a kind and

Obituaries are based on information provided by families and mortuaries.

generous woman, to whom nothing was more important than her family, say family members.

Survivors include daughters Mina Lee Humphreys and Julia Piombo; sons Stuart, Robert, John and Timothy Watterson; 17 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Private family services will be held at a later date. Donations in Ms. Watterson memory may be made to: The Children's Home

Society; Ronald McDonald House, 520 Sand Hill Road, Palo Alto, CA 94304; or the Hawaii Children's Cancer Foundation, 1814 Liliha St., Honolulu, HI 96817.

Iside Filippi

Native of Italy

Iside Filippi, a native of Frisanco, Italy, died in San Francisco on Sept. 27. Ms. Filippi and her late husband, Elio Filippi, maintained a summer home in Atherton for 52 years, entertaining friends from all over the United States and Italy.

Ms. Filippi was born in Italy in 1915 and came to this country as a young woman of 20. She met and married Elio Filippi and remained at his side for more than 50 years. She worked with him to create and operate their business, the American Terrazzo Co. She devoted herself to her family, raising her children with old-fashioned discipline and humor, say family members.

She is survived by her children, Robert of San Mateo, E. Louis of Atherton, and Arlene of San Francisco; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held at St. Ignatius Church in San Francisco on Sept. 30.

Frances Tedesco Thomson

Seventh-generation Californian

Frances Tedesco Thomson, a longtime resident of Palo Alto with many ties to Menlo Park, died Oct. 10 at Stanford Medical Center after a long illness. She was 75.

Born in San Mateo, she attended San Mateo High School and graduated from Stanford University in 1955. She enjoyed traveling the world with the Stanford Travel Club, attending Stanford sports events and other functions and the San Francisco Opera and Symphony, family members say.

She was a seventh-generation Californian whose grandfather was Manual Valencia, an early California landscape painter. She worked for more than 30 years for Trendata & Seiko Instruments in Silicon Valley.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Leona Tedesco. Survivors include her brother, Dr. Joseph Tedesco of Spokane, Washington; her son, Eric Thomson of Sunnyvale; and a grandson.

A memorial service has been held. The family prefers donations in her memory to the San Francisco Opera Association, San Francisco Opera, 301 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102.

BIRTH

Atherton

■ Noemmy Barron and Eduardo Ruiz Jauregui, a daughter, Sept. 26, at Sequoia Hospital.

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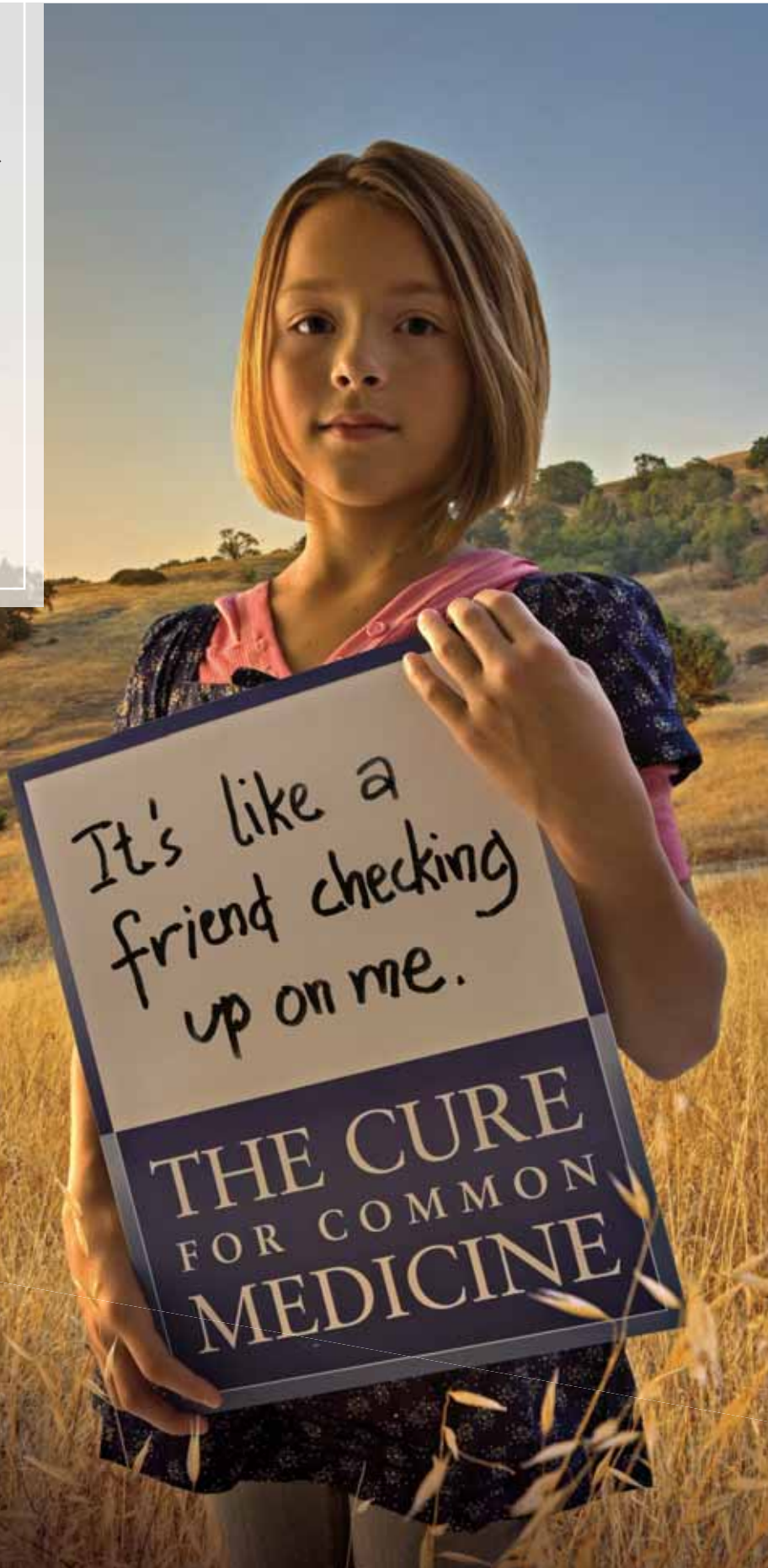
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Laurel 'Safe Routes' plan receives \$440,000 grant

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

A plan to make it easier for students at Laurel Elementary School in Atherton to walk or bike to school cleared a major hurdle on Oct. 8, when Caltrans awarded a \$440,000 grant to fully fund the project.

The plan — initiated and paid for by the city of Menlo Park and submitted jointly with San Mateo County and the city of Atherton to the federal "Safe

Routes to School" program — calls for measures to slow traffic, increase driver visibility, and limit parking in the vicinity of the school. It would add lighted crosswalks and street signs, primarily along Bay Road and Ringwood Drive.

Though the K-2 school is in Atherton, about 80 percent of its students live in Menlo Park.

The grant does not include funding for construction along Coleman Avenue, which intersects Ringwood just south of

the school. The original design included suggested modifications on Coleman, but those proposed elements were scrapped shortly before the proposal was submitted due to resistance from residents on the street, part of which is in an unincorporated area.

Menlo Park transportation manager Chip Taylor said the city is in talks with the county to develop a separate plan that would make it easier for students to walk or bike along Coleman.

According to Mr. Taylor, the design process for the site would get under way early next year, though construction would not begin until late summer or early fall of 2009 at the earliest. ■

M-A fashion show Oct. 25

Some 200 seniors at Menlo-Atherton High School will "Rock On" Saturday, Oct. 25, in the school's gym as they model trendy and classic clothes at the annual senior fashion show, the primary fundraiser for the M-A PTA. To order tickets, go to <http://tinyurl.com/BearsShow> or buy them at the door before the shows in M-A High gym at 555 Middlefield Road in Atherton. Check TheAlmanacOnline.com for more details.

■ 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

Fraud report: Resident received possible scam letter from AT&T, Fairview Ave., Oct. 16.

MENLO PARK

Accident report: Bicyclist taken to Stanford Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries after accident with vehicle, Valparaiso and Emilie avenues, Oct. 11.

Child protective services reports:

- 700 block of Laurel St., Oct. 14.
- Oct. 16.

WOODSIDE

Suspicious circumstance report: Man in small green sedan stopped and called 8-year-old pedestrian "sweetie" and asked if she needed a ride, 300 block of Kings Mountain Road, Oct. 10.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Fraud report: Identity theft case involving two debits cards and three checking accounts opened in victim's name, 100 block of Bear Gulch Road, Oct. 8.

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DEADLINE EXTENDED!

TOWN OF ATHERTON COMMITTEES RECRUITMENT WE NEED YOU!

The Town of Atherton invites dedicated volunteers to submit an application for the following committees:

ARTS COMMITTEE (2 terms expiring April 30, 2012; 5 terms expiring April 30, 2011):

The Arts Committee assists the City Council and the Park and Recreation Department in matters that pertain to arts programs, classes, workshops, performances, and other arts activities, as may be directed by the City Council. Each member serves at the pleasure of the City Council. The committee meets monthly.

AUDIT COMMITTEE (2 terms expiring April 30, 2010; 1 term expiring April 30, 2012):

One example of the Audit Committee's duties is to act in an advisory capacity and make recommendations to the City Council, upon request, in all matters pertaining to the Town's annual audit.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE (1 term expiring April 30, 2009; 5 terms expiring in April 30, 2011):

One example of the Environmental Programs Committee's duties is to act in an advisory capacity and make recommendations (programmatic and legislative) to the City Council, upon request, on all matters pertaining to the Town's natural and built environment and the Town's regional role and responsibilities as one of the communities on the San Francisco Bay Peninsula.

RAIL COMMITTEE (4 terms expiring April 30, 2012)

The Rail Committee acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council, upon request, in all matters pertaining to rail service in and through Town and researches and addresses the specific impact that high-speed rail and other rail improvements may have on the Town.

TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC SUBCOMMITTEE (1 term expiring April 30, 2011; 2 terms expiring April 30, 2012)

The Transportation/Traffic Subcommittee shall act in an advisory capacity and make recommendations to the City Council, upon request, in all matters pertaining to transportation within the Town.

Applicants must be Atherton residents and registered voters of the Town of Atherton. **Please submit your application to the City Clerk's office. Positions will be open until filled.**

For more information or to obtain an application, contact Kathi Hamilton, Acting City Clerk, Town Administrative Offices, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA 94027, phone (650) 752-0529, e-mail: khamilton@ci.atherton.ca.us. Applications may be downloaded from the Town website at <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/armm.html>

Published in THE ALMANAC on October 22, 2008.

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



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

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

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

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.

Endorsements

The Almanac's positions on ballot Propositions 5 to 8

Last week the Almanac offered recommendations on the first four propositions on the Nov. 4 ballot. As promised, we continue our analysis today with Propositions 5-8, and we will complete the series next week, with Propositions 9 to 12.

Proposition 5: Changes in sentencing, parole and rehabilitation policies

The Legislative Analyst says Proposition 5 would (1) expand drug treatment programs; (2) modify parole supervision and expand prison and parole rehabilitation programs; (3) allow inmates to earn time off sentences by participating in rehabilitation programs; (4) reduce some penalties for marijuana possession from misdemeanors to infractions, and (5) change some state laws affecting rehabilitation and parole programs.

The Legislative Analyst sees an increase in state costs, potentially exceeding \$1 billion annually, mainly for expansion of drug treatment and other services for eligible offenders but also sees offsetting savings, potentially exceeding \$1 billion annually, due mainly to reductions in prison population and parole supervision caseloads. Also, there might be one-time savings of \$2.5 billion for foregone capital outlay costs for new prison facilities.

This measure could reduce the state prison population by more than 18,000 and reduce the number of parolees under supervision by more than 22,000. Supporters include the League of Women Voters, California Democratic Party, California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, California Academy of Family Physicians, and the Consumer Federation of California. The major donor in support is George Soros. Opponents include the California Narcotics Officers Association and National Association of Drug Court Professionals. We support well-crafted efforts to improve drug treatment options, decriminalize drug use and reduce our prison population. We recommend a yes vote on Proposition 5.

Proposition 6: Tougher criminal penalties and laws

This initiative, proposed by Southern California Republican Sen. George Runner, is a tough on crime approach which increases a long list of criminal penalties, establishes new crimes, and requires

new state spending on various programs to combat crime and operate our prison and parole systems. Cost is estimated to exceed half a billion dollars annually, not counting capital outlay for new prison facilities.

Its ideas are a sharp contrast to Proposition 5. Proposition 6 is supported by a broad range of law enforcement groups and opposed by the League of Women Voters, California Democratic Party and the California Teachers Association, among others. While some of its many elements may be useful, it seems to us that locking such a broad range of criminal penalties into state law with resulting massive costs is not an appropriate use of the initiative process. We recommend a no vote on Proposition 6.

Proposition 7: Renewable Energy

This initiative requires all utilities, including government-owned utilities, to generate 20 percent of their power from renewable energy by 2010. It requires all utilities to achieve 40 percent renewable energy by 2020 and 50 percent by 2025 and imposes penalties for noncompliance. It fast-tracks approval for new renewable energy plants and requires utilities to sign longer contracts (20 year minimum) to procure renewable energy. It creates an account to purchase property or rights of way for renewable energy.

Revenues and costs to state and local governments are largely unknown. It dramatically steps up the state's conversion from fossil fuels to renewable resources. We like the goal of Proposition 7 and are tempted to support it because we believe that climate change is serious, oil is peaking, and our prosperity will continue to suffer until we wean ourselves from fossil fuels. However, this measure is opposed by the League of Women Voters, the California Labor Federation and major environmental groups including: the League of Conservation Voters, the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies, Environmental Defense Fund and the Natural Resources Defense Council as well as the Union of Concerned Scientists.

You might think it would be supported by renewable energy producers. It's not. Among the opponents are: California Solar Energy Industries Association, California Wind Energy Association, Large-Scale

See **ENDORSEMENTS**, page 19

LETTERS

Our readers write

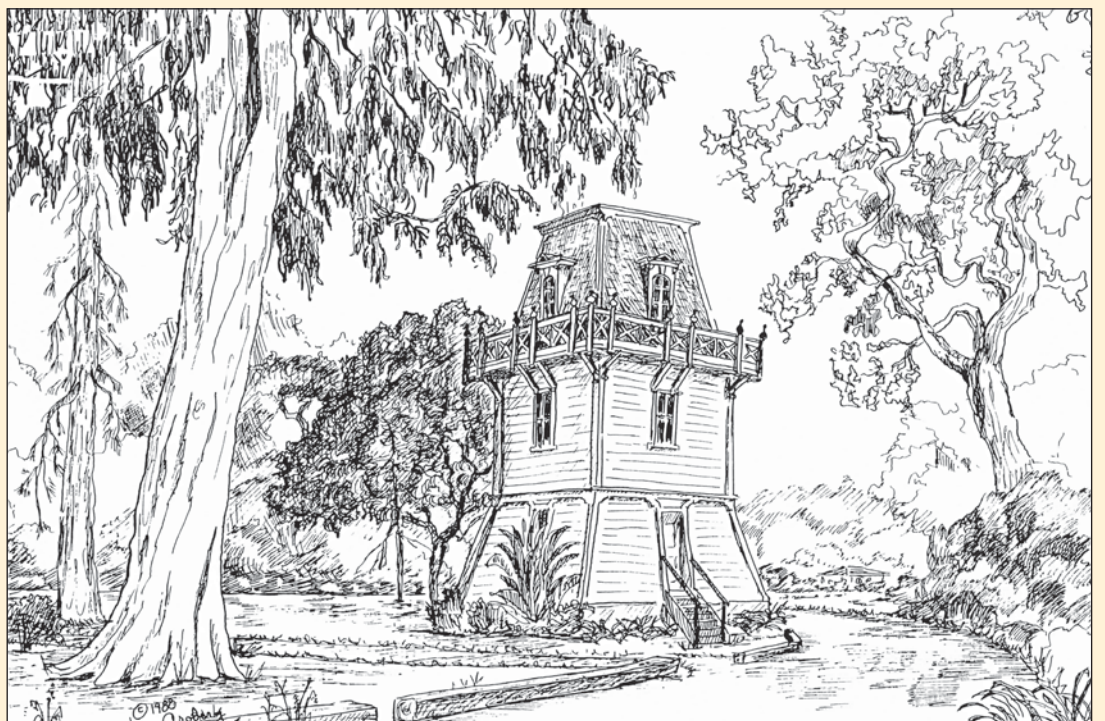
Please, no more diversions on the Tuolumne River

Editor:

I appreciated last week's article on the seismic upgrades to the Hetch Hetchy Water System. These are important projects, and it's great that the SFPUC has dropped its controversial plan to divert 25 million more gallons of water per day from the Tuolumne River, which could have delayed the improvements.

There's still one more obstacle to the plan. The agency is now proposing to divert another two million gallons per day from the Tuolumne, enough to fill 80 swimming pools every day. To gain the full support of the environmental community, and to make common sense conservation part of the plan, they should agree to a cap on diversions at current levels.

See **LETTERS**, next page



Atherton Heritage Association

Our Regional Heritage

One of the few remaining water towers in the area is located at Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton. This drawing was made by artist Jean Groberg of Redwood City in 1988.

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

With the salmon population in the Tuolumne crashing from 18,000 in 2000 to just 211 last year, the river needs every drop of water it can get. We can meet our future demands through water conservation and recycling. It is time to practice responsible choices instead of short-sighted fixes.

Kay O'Neill
Ninth Avenue, Menlo Park

Equality is key issue in Proposition 8 vote

Editor:

No one in America should be a second class citizen. Denying gay and lesbian couples the same right to marry as heterosexual couples puts them in a second class.

Voting yes on Proposition 8 goes against the grain of what our democracy is all about: freedom and equality for all.

How one might personally feel about homosexuality should play no part in how to vote on this proposition. If you believe in equality for all then a no vote on 8 is a must.

Beth Breedlove
Peggy Lane, Menlo Park

Tunneling the trains is not a new idea

Editor:

In reference to Jay Thorwaldson's column in the Palo Alto Weekly Oct. 3 about digging tunnels for our trains: I am not in politics, nor am I an engineer, and I'm not affiliated with any public transportation agency. Nonetheless, I recommended "tunneling the trains" in a letter to the Almanac some years ago, May 7, 2003, to be exact.

Having just returned from Switzerland, which has a state of the art train system, I'm constantly amazed at how old-fashioned our Caltrain is. The

'Facts' about high-speed rail in dispute

By Martin Engel

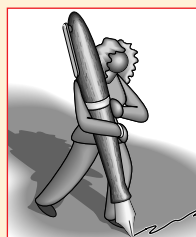
Last week you published an opinion by Jim Bigelow titled, "Opinion vs. facts on high-speed train." Therefore, we need to identify which is which.

Mr. Bigelow begins by citing an unnamed authority, "an international peer group," which came to California and "spent several weeks" going over the California High Speed Rail Authority plans, including their financial projections. Members of this peer group are not identified, and we are not told what their interest in the train project has been.

Is it possible that these "peers" have a potential financial interest in the train project? That this group found the technical and financial plans "reasonable" tells us nothing.

So far, no facts. However, it is a fact that the high-speed rail authority has retained other consultants like Cambridge Systematics, who are smart enough to tell the authority what they want to hear, like the estimated 117 million annual riders. That does not, usually, produce facts; it produces fiction. Might that not be the case with these "peers" as well?

We are told by Mr. Bigelow about the San



GUEST OPINION

Francisco to Los Angeles construction cost of \$33 billion and the total cost of \$45 billion. That is not fact. It is opinion. There is ample documentation suggesting that the costs will be three times that much.

We are told by Mr. Bigelow that the Bay Area Transportation and Housing Associates

group estimates 22,000 new permanent jobs in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to flow from the rail project. This is not a fact, but an opinion. Just to be clear, forecasts are not facts; they are either good or not so good predictions based on how close they come to reality.

Mr. Bigelow states that it is a fact that there has been contract approval to begin project-level engineering planning for the Peninsula. That means that the rail authority is asking for support from the voters without being able to tell us what they intend to do with the money since they don't know themselves.

To put it bluntly, we are supposed to vote to spend \$10 billion without any facts.

He says that this is an opportunity to support high-speed rail and to be involved in future planning and coordination with Menlo Park, and so on. Where does it say any of that? This is his opinion, not a fact.

The fact is Mr. Bigelow's opinions are starkly devoid of facts. Mr. Bigelow supports this train the same way he supports all rail developments and, for that matter, all development. The promotion of transportation and housing is his occupation and he stands to benefit personally by advocating a project that will be devastating to our communities.

What I don't understand is how the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce, which represents the well-being of our local businesses, which will suffer greatly if the Caltrain corridor is developed to accommodate the high-speed train, is being represented by Mr. Bigelow who — even though he neither lives nor works in Menlo Park — can speak on behalf of our city or for the Chamber. And, that's a fact.

Martin Engel lives on Stone Pine Lane in Menlo Park.

peninsula is a very congested area, and it never made any sense to me to:

- Have the trains go above ground;

- Have thousands of motorists wait minutes until some clumsy and noisy train finally shows up, and;

- Allow valuable real estate to be covered with train-tracks.

And of course I hate to think of the tens of millions of dollars that were spent on very expensive overpasses in recent years, which resulted in few benefits.

BART was built in the 1960s, and they were able to run a tunnel under the Bay from San Francisco to Berkeley. Wouldn't it make sense to run a straight line all the way from San Jose to the San Francisco, under the Bay? There would be a few stops along the way, which would take commuters to their jobs in Sunnyvale, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, San Mateo and Millbrae. Buses, run-

ning every few minutes would take commuters straight to their offices. Imagine: Leaving your home and be in your cubicle in less than half an hour.

The bay is not very deep, so I hardly expect any major engineering problems (the Swiss were able to drill a tunnel through the hard granite of Mt. Eiger, at a height of 12,000 feet, over 100 years ago!

Of course, the tracks would be compatible with BART, to finally make an easy connection with the East Bay.

All these ideas make perfect sense to me, and I don't know why nobody thought about them 30 years ago?

Dieter Hurni
Redwood City

ENDORSEMENTS

continued from page 18

Solar Association and Independent Energy Producers Association. They all argue that Proposition 7, because of its flawed drafting, will set back the cause of renewables rather than advance it.

We could use a low-carbon energy self-sufficiency Manhattan type project. However, launching such a crash program in a complicated ballot initiative that runs some 40 pages and is funded by one wealthy individual, Peter Sperling (some \$5.5 million in contributions and counting), and requiring a two-thirds vote of the legislature to change it is not the way to go. We sadly recommend a no Vote on Proposition 7.

Proposition 8: Limit on marriage

This measure amends the California Constitution to specify that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California. It would reverse the California Supreme Court ruling earlier this year and limit marriage to include only individuals of the opposite sex.

We see this is as an equal rights issue. We believe that all California citizens, regardless of sexual preference, should be treated equally, and entitled to the same rights and status. Further, we continue to be amazed at how some heterosexuals feel so threatened by their gay or lesbian fellow citizens who wish to make a lasting commitment to each other in the form of marriage. We believe that society as a whole benefits when more individuals, of whatever sexual preference, commit to love and support each other. We recommend a no vote on Proposition 8.

■ TOWN SQUARE

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