

PORTOLA VALLEY may add a green chapter to its general plan. Page 11

The Almanac

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

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VOL. 44 NO. 10



PAGE 13

'Guys and Dolls' in Woodside

Community theater group stages Broadway classic



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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 – Located in the desirable Allied Arts this 5BR/3.5BA home is surrounded by cottage-style gardens. The flrpln offers formal LR & DR w/hrdw flrs & an updated kitchen w/window-lined eating area. A spacious, light-filled, FR w/FP, plantation shutters & French drs opens to a delightful patio & rear grounds.

Doyle Rundell \$3,249,000



MENLO PARK – This classic ranch-style home is located on one of the nicest streets in central Menlo Park. The home offers 3BR/3BA, including an office/exercise rm or even a 4th BR. The open flr plan includes; hrdwd flrs, updated BA's, breakfast nk, formal DR & LR.

Steve Gray & Tim Kerns \$1,850,000

ATHERTON

Price reduced on one of Atherton's most desirable streets, a stylish 4BR residence.

Tim Kerns \$2,695,000

W Atherton remodel or build new opportunity on large park-like setting.

Steve Gray \$2,595,000

MENLO PARK

Set on a private lane near the Atherton border with 4BR, 3BA, + an office or possible 5th BR.

Jami Arami \$2,250,000

REDWOOD CITY

Live in the Country! This 3BR/2.5BA home is located next to Handley Rock Park.

Dana Cappiello \$1,288,888

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Desirable 3BR/2.5BA town home in sought after Menlo Park complex. Close to shopping & downtown.

Elizabeth Daschbach \$1,249,000

Charming 2BR/1BA situated in a desirable W. Menlo neighborhood. Gorgeous Kitchen & BA's.

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Gorgeous tastefully remodeled light & bright 2BR/2BA condo with garage. One level.

Suzanne Scott \$787,500

REDWOOD CITY

Perfectly maintained, this 2BR/1BA condo is ready to move into!

Dana Cappiello \$399,000

SAN CARLOS

Located on a quite private lane is this spacious 4BR/3BA well maintained home.

Debbie Lorell/Bob Johnston \$1,398,000

WOODSIDE

Large acreage flag-lot, pre-approved for one home site & offers an opportunity to build.

Jim Massey \$9,800,000

Beautiful 3BR/2BA home in central Woodside on a large lot. With new BA's, LR & DR, a huge FR & in law unit.

Dana Cappiello \$2,195,000



MENLO PARK – Classic Allied Arts Cottage – Mostly in original condition. Great lot, location, and lots of potential.

Tom Boeddiker \$1,395,000



MOUNTAIN VIEW – Beautiful residential flat land. Potential subdivision of four large lots in prime residential neighborhood. With partial view of mountains.

Paul Skrabo \$4,400,000



PALO ALTO – Desirably located on a storybook street in Mid-town PA is a completely remodeled, 4BR/2.5BA home brimming w/exuberant light that gently filters through its lavish windows. Generously set back from the main thoroughfare.

Tim Kerns \$1,749,000



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



WOODSIDE – This beautifully remodeled, 3BR/2BA home is situated on a lushly landscaped lot near downtown Woodside. The master suite has lrg closets & an updated BA. The sun-lit LR w/a wood-burning FP is warm & inviting. The sep DR is light & spacious w/ easy access to the chef's kitchen.

Ken & Carol Reeves \$1,999,000

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

Halloween Parade

Three-year-old Will Avina (in French fry costume) and friends take off on their bicycles at the beginning of Mara's 7th annual Halloween Parade, which started at the corner of Santa Clara and Idyllwild avenues near Atherton on Friday.

Menlo Park

■ Conflict of interest issue raised at Menlo Park City Council meeting. **Page 5**

Portola Valley

■ Portola Valley may add green chapter to general plan. **Page 11**
 ■ Priority to slash electric bills with solar array. **Page 8**

Election

■ Barack Obama has big fundraising lead locally. **Page 7.**

Regional news

■ San Francisco launches big fix for Bay Area water system. **Page 5**

Also Inside

Ask the Deputy.....20
 Births.....20
 Calendar.....30
 Letters.....22
 Wedding.....18

Schools

■ Portola Valley students vote in national mock election. **Page 5**
 ■ Ormondale School "Turkey Trot" expected to draw hundreds. **Page 15**
 ■ Students achieve National Merit recognition. **Page 16**

Community

■ New director for San Mateo County libraries. **Page 14**

Food & Drink

■ BethAnn Goldberg is an artist with a bread knife. **Cover, Section 2**
 ■ Left Bank brasserie reopens after not-so-extreme makeover. **Page 28**

On the cover

Kerie Geni Darner and Damien Marhefka perform "Never Been in Love" for the Woodside Community Theatre production of "Guys and Dolls." Photo by Mark Bowles. See **Page 13.**

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Desserts



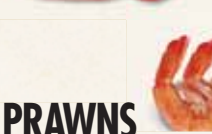

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Wine

Holiday Bubbly



The election has arrived and the holiday season is upon us. It's time to celebrate. What better way to kick off the festivities than a (or a few) bottles of delicious refreshing sparkling wine! Here are some special pricing to soften the blow.

- Domaine Chandon Brut Classic, Blanc du Noirs, Rose** - Reg. \$17.99, Sale \$14.99
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Prices are net and do not qualify for further discounts.



Gather ye chestnuts while ye may

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire? Turkey with chestnut dressing on Thanksgiving? Locals can revel in old-world autumnal traditions by collecting chestnuts from the 150-year-old orchard on Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District lands in the hills above Palo Alto. Run by the Johsens family, the orchard is open daily from 9 a.m. to dusk until the day before Thanksgiving. Chestnuts can be gathered off the ground and cost \$5.25 per pound.

To get to the grove, take Highway 35 south of Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, and look for a dirt road and an open gate. Visitors will be provided with buckets and gloves. Call (408) 395-0337 or e-mail Hans Johsens at h.johsens@gmail.com.

Boys & Girls Clubs' big night

Nearly 500 guests were dazzled by the decor at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula's Golden Gala on Oct. 25, reports club spokesman Chris Canter. No less dazzling is the nearly \$600,000 the gala raised to support club programs.

Guests were greeted by children from the clubs at the "tented oasis" on the Sun Microsystems campus in Menlo Park. Large gold panels displayed images from the club's first 50 years, many featuring Margo Ritter of Menlo Park, the first woman board member and past president.

Ms. Ritter credits Melissa Badger of Atherton with "making the evening so very special. The tent, the food, the decorations, the program, and to top it off, the fireworks."

The reception pavilion was designed by Jeffrey Adair of J Floral Art.

Guests were welcomed by honorary co-chairs Mervin Morris and Susan Ford Dorsey. Actor and Boys & Girls Clubs alum Courtney B. Vance took over as master of ceremonies. American Idol finalist Melinda Doolittle sang, including one number with the clubs' youth choir.

After the fireworks, the Big City Review band played and guests danced the night away, reports Mr. Canter.

Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

SF launches big fix for water system

By Marion Softky
Almanac Staff Writer

By 2014, the system that provides some of the world's best drinking water to 2.4 million people in four Bay Area counties should be safe, reliable, and strong enough to resist earthquakes on the three major faults that cross its pipelines and tunnels.

In back-to-back meetings Oct. 30, two San Francisco agencies officially launched the \$4.3-billion project to restore and strengthen the aging system that brings water 167 miles from Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park to faucets in San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Alameda counties.

First, the San Francisco Planning Commission unanimously approved the final program environmental impact report for the massive set of 37 regional projects. Then, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission formally adopted a variation of its water system improvement program. Each hearing took three hours with close to 40 speakers in an overflowing room.

Hillsborough Councilman John Fannon spoke for many when he said, "I want desperately to see it completed before the next major earthquake."

While there was near-unanimity on the importance of fixing the water delivery system as soon as possible — a break could be catastrophic — there are still major disagreements. These focus primarily on how to balance the growing demand for water to serve Bay Area growth against the need to preserve the Tuolumne River from further diversions, which damage the already-collapsing salmon run.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission responded to the opposition to diversions from the Tuolumne River by adopting a variant to the water system improvement program that will delay decisions about expanding the water supply until 2018.

For the next 10 years, San Francisco and the 27 suburban water agencies that buy its water wholesale will have to stay within the current 265 million gallons per day that can be delivered. Any growth in water demand will have to be met by conservation, water recycling, and

See **WATER**, page 8

Conflict of interest issue raised at Menlo Park council meeting

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

A vote on a pay raise for union members at the Menlo Park City Council's Oct. 28 meeting prompted the question of whether it's improper for council members to vote on issues involving groups they have received donations from.

Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson, up for re-election, was one of four council members who voted in favor of a 2 percent pay raise for the city's temporary workers — most of whom claim membership in the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), which donated \$1,000 to Ms. Fergusson's campaign on Oct. 3.

Henry Riggs, chair of the Planning Commission, suggested during the public comments period that Ms. Fergusson should recuse herself from the vote to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, though he didn't mention Ms. Fergus-

son by name.

But the city attorney, Bill McClure, said that the Fair Political Practices Act does not restrict council members from voting on a matter involving a group that has contributed to their campaigns.

Fergusson response

In an interview, Ms. Fergusson defended her choice to participate in the vote.

"I look to my own sense of ethics, the city attorney and state law for guidance on that," she said. "I'm elected to make decisions. If we recused ourselves every time a street was paved near one of our houses, we wouldn't be involved in anything."

Councilman John Boyle — who voted against the pay raise, citing the economic downturn and his concern that raising the hourly rate of temporary workers above that of permanent workers

See **UNION**, page 8



Photo by Marjorie Mader/The Almanac

Second-graders wearing red, white and blue hats help other students register outside the Ormondale School mock polling place.

PV students vote in national mock election

By Marjorie Mader
Almanac Staff Writer

Portola Valley kids in kindergarten through third grade at Ormondale School got to vote early in the presidential election. They cast ballots online Oct. 30 in the school's computer lab, which was transformed into a polling place.

In doing so, they joined students across the country in a nonpartisan National Student/Parent Mock Election, aimed at teaching students and par-

ents about democracy and the election process. In the 2004 national mock election, more than four million students, parents, and teachers voted.

"Kids don't get to vote in the real election, but they do at Ormondale," said one boy during a lively all-school assembly on Oct. 22 that was devoted to the election.

Organized and run by second-graders and their teachers, the all-school mock election Oct. 30 was the culmination of a month-long study by second-graders of

how government works.

They studied the Constitution, learned about the branches of government, enacted laws, and sang the preamble to the Constitution in rock style at the assembly.

"The election really highlighted the voting process for the students and their responsibilities of being a citizen," said teacher Daphna Woolfe.

"It was a natural match for students between state (curriculum)

See **MOCK**, page 8

County to sue Lehman Bros. officials over investment losses

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in a closed session Oct. 28 authorized a lawsuit against the officers and directors of the Lehman Bros. investment firm for misleading investors leading up to the firm's collapse, Supervisor Mark Church said.

The Lehman Bros. bankruptcy led to a \$155 million loss for the county investment pool, in which many school districts, towns, and other government agencies have deposited funds.

The supervisors authorized the county to retain the Burlingame law firm of Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy to file the suit.

"We have pursued the matter in the bankruptcy court, we have pursued the matter legislatively, and now we are pursuing the matter with direct action against the officers and directors," Mr. Church said.

A total of 5.9 percent of the investment pool was invested in Lehman Bros. securities, Mr. Buffington said.

Local school districts were hit hard, especially the Menlo Park City School district, which lost \$3.9 million — 14 percent of its annual \$28 million budget — and the Sequoia Union High School

District, which lost \$6.5 million, or 7 percent of its annual budget.

Menlo Park Superintendent Ken Ranella said he is working with the entire county educational community to investigate whether there are "any levels of negligence" involved in the county's investment losses.

"Of course, we're highly interested in any level of recovery (of funds)," Mr. Ranella said.

County Superintendent Jean Holbrook plans to address the Board of Supervisors on the topic at their Tuesday, Nov. 4, meeting, he said.

Investment policy

"It's hitting everybody all at once and that's the problem," Mr. Buffington said. "It's probably been the hardest thing that we've ever had to deal with."

The investment pool currently holds about \$2.6 billion, he said.

He noted that the limit on investments for certain types of securities is 10 percent of the pool, so the 5.9 percent that was invested in Lehman Bros. was allowed.

"It was half of what we're allowed to spend on one company, so it was not excessive in

terms of the investment policy," Mr. Buffington said.

"Since that time we have operationally made a decision that we will keep everything under 5 percent instead of the allowed 10 percent," he added.

The rest of the investments in the pool are "pretty diversified," he said.

Legal options

The county has hired a bankruptcy attorney in New York to represent its interests in bankruptcy proceedings with Lehman Bros. The county could recover 20 to 60 percent of the \$155 million lost, Mr. Buffington said.

County officials also started work with congressional leaders in an attempt to recover the money by way of the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout, he said. "We don't

know if we will get any money out of that or not," he said.

"In essence, they (officers of Lehman Brothers) were authorizing the sale of significantly devalued securities, and investors relied on their representations that the company was adequately capitalized when in fact it was not," Mr. Church said. "We now know it was false."

He added that Lehman Bros.' upper management failed to take "the steps necessary to save the company when they knew the company would collapse without some infusion of cash."

The benefit of suing the officers and directors is that their individual actions may be covered by the company's errors and omissions insurance, Mr. Church said. The officers' and directors' individual net worth is also considerable, he

said.

Other local participants in the investment pool had the following losses:

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

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

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

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

Bay City News Service and Almanac staff writers Andrea Gemmet and Dave Boyce contributed to this report.

Portola Valley plans workshop on neighborhood noise

A second weekend workshop on noise in Portola Valley is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 16, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road. The first workshop was held Saturday, Nov. 1.

The Town Council is seeking

public comment ahead of possible noise-related ordinances and amendments to the town's general plan.

Residents planning to attend should read the materials available at www.portolavalley.net.

Click on the links under the topic, "Are you concerned about noise?"

For more information, call Town Clerk Sharon Hanlon at 851-1700, ext. 210, or write to her at shanlon@portolavalley.net.

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31364	India/Agra	10 x 13.10	Blue	10,375	4,500
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33824	India/Mahal	8.9 x 11.7	Navy/Coral	3,500	1,250
30701	India/Sultanabad	8.10 x 11.8	Black/Ivory	5,125	2,675
30609	India/Sultanabad	9 x 11.10	Ivory/Black	5,325	2,675
30710	India/Agra	8.11 x 11.11	Plum/Ivory	6,895	2,500
33971	Pakistan/Khyber	9.2 x 12.1	Green/Ivory	8,300	3,500
33142	Pakistan/Ghazani	11.5 x 12	Beige/Beige	8,905	2,500
2194	Pakistan/Mahal	9.3 x 12.4	Black/Gold	14,265	5,750
28473	Pakistan/Ghazani	9.1 x 11.7	Green/Beige	6,840	2,650
33969	Pakistan/Khyber	8.10 x 11.3	Green/Ivory	7,455	2,950

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Obama has big fundraising lead locally

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The gap in fundraising between senators Barack Obama and John McCain is making news in this presidential campaign season, and an analysis of local contributions shows the trend here as well.

Over roughly a year and a half leading up to September 2008, when fundraising restrictions kicked in for Mr. McCain because he accepted public financing, Mr. Obama raised \$542,606 in Atherton, nearly triple Mr. McCain's take of \$182,132, according to records from the nonpartisan nonprofit

Center for Responsive Politics.

A similar pattern occurs in Woodside, with Mr. McCain raising \$169,897, about one third of Mr. Obama's \$483,770, the records show.

Portola Valley donors gave \$388,411 to Mr. Obama, five times more than the \$80,751 given to Mr. McCain.

In Menlo Park, donations to Mr. McCain amounted to \$180,750, but Mr. Obama's were not readily available since the number of gifts exceeded 1,000, the limit for free information from the Center for Responsive Politics.

Not having accepted public financing, Mr. Obama raised \$668,401 in September and over

the first two weeks of October, in Woodside, Portola Valley, Atherton and Menlo Park, the records show.

For the entire campaign, residents of The Almanac's circulation area gave Mr. Obama 1,194 gifts of more than \$1,000, including 764 at the maximum of \$2,300 for the general election, and 42 at the \$2,300 maximum for both the primary and general elections.

By contrast, Mr. McCain received about a fourth of that, with 271 gifts of more than \$1,000, including 198 at the maximum \$2,300 for the general and 19 that covered both elections, the records show. ■

Ciardella mailings fail to disclose source

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

Rick Ciardella, challenging for one of two open seats on the Menlo Park City Council, drew criticism over the weekend for mailing campaign material to Menlo Park residents that failed to disclose its source.

The fliers feature a short letter signed by Mr. Ciardella, but they do not state that his campaign paid for the mailings — an

apparent violation of the Fair Political Practices Act.

A disclaimer was also absent from an advertisement placed by the Ciardella campaign that ran as a sticker on the cover of last week's Almanac. In a letter to The Almanac, Menlo Park resident Patti Fry voiced concern that the sticker might have been construed as an endorsement of Mr. Ciardella, rather than an advertisement. The Almanac has endorsed Mr.

Ciardella's opponents, Andy Cohen and Kelly Fergusson, for the two council seats.

Scott Lohmann, Mr. Ciardella's campaign manager, apologized for the omission in response to a post on The Almanac's Town Square Forum, saying that it was inadvertent.

"This was a very honest mistake, and I'll take full responsibility for it," Mr. Lohmann wrote.

Mr. Ciardella could not be reached for comment. ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Good money after bad

Dear Gloria,

We have found a house we would like to make an offer on. We were looking at open houses and the agent there was really helpful; however, we have a relative who lives in another area and we would like to have him make the offer for us. Do you see any problem with doing that? Would we be better off using the agent from the open house?

Sid and Diane M.

Dear Sid and Diane,

I definitely do see a problem with using a relative from out of the area who has not seen the property. It is important to be familiar with the nuances of this specific area and more particularly, the micro-neighborhood which you are interested in. Every neighborhood has its advantages and very few have no disadvantages. How busy is the street? Are there plans for any city improvements or changes? School bonds? Is the neighborhood in transition? Up or down? What school district is the property in? Yes, you

can get some of this information off GreatSchools.net or other resources but an agent who lives and works in this area knows not only the schools and scores but teachers and anticipated changes. In other words, there is in-depth information that you have to "live and breathe" to really know an area and therefore, values. The flip side of this is that in this market when an offer is received on a property, the listing agent and sellers like to know who the agent is and that this escrow will close. What is the agent's reputation and how much business does he do? This person will be an unknown to the seller and will lack credibility. It is not clear to me why you would prefer to use a relative who does not work this area. If it is because you might save a little money on commission, I would suggest that it is not in your best interests. Whether or not you choose to work with the agent who was holding the house open would depend on what kind of a relationship you developed and the reputation and qualifications of this particular agent.

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.

Get local election results online Tuesday night

Polling places are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 4. By law, you have a right to vote if you are in line at the polling place when the polls close.

For local results, including the vote in the Menlo Park and Atherton city council races, check TheAlmanacOnline.com. For more infor-

mation on the election, go to:

■ The League of Women Voter's Web site, smartvoter.org.

■ The San Mateo County elections office site, shapethefuture.org.

■ The California Secretary of State's site for state-wide results, sos.ca.gov.

■ 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

Grand theft reports:

■ Laptop computer stolen from unlocked vehicle and camera stolen from unlocked garage, Lupin Lane, Oct. 23.

■ Two bicycles stolen from unlocked garage, Rosewood Drive, Oct. 23.

■ Apple laptop computer stolen, Menlo College at 1000 El Camino Real, Oct. 27.

Commercial burglary report: Storage shed at work site broken into, 100 block of Fair Oaks Lane, Oct. 29.

MENLO PARK

Auto burglary reports:

■ Vehicle window smashed and computer stolen, 700 block of El Camino Real, Oct. 17.

■ William Fidel Chavez, 18, of Menlo Park and Ronald Edgardo Amaya, 18, of Redwood City arrested on charges that include burglary and larceny, Glenwood Ave. and Garwood Way, Oct. 30.

Residential burglary reports:

■ Six storage units burglarized, 2100 block of Santa Cruz Ave., Oct. 21.

■ Two Felt racing bicycles valued at \$5,800 stolen, 1100 block of Woodland Ave., Oct. 25.

Commercial burglary reports:

■ Laptop computer stolen, East Palo Alto Stanford High School at 475 Pope St., Oct. 20.

■ Fence cut and aluminum beams stolen, Fitness 101 in 3600 block of Haven Ave., Oct. 23.

■ Window broken but no entry made, Belle Haven After School Program at 100 Terminal Ave., Oct. 24.

Robbery report: Two men robbed gas station at gunpoint and got away with \$750, Union 76 station at 710 Willow Road, Oct. 21.

Grand theft reports:

■ Bicycle valued at \$500 stolen from apartment complex, 700 block of Roble Ave., Oct. 20.

■ Bicycle stolen from carport, 300 block of O'Connor St., Oct. 21.

■ Wedding and engagement rings missing from place they had been left, first block of Scott Drive, Oct. 23.

■ Bicycle stolen, University Drive and Santa Cruz Ave., Oct. 26.

■ Bicycle stolen, 300 block of McKendry

Drive Oct. 30.

Theft report: Purse stolen followed by \$3,500 in unauthorized charges, 500 block of Hamilton Ave., Oct. 27.

Indecent exposure report: Man exposed himself in laundry room at apartment complex, 800 block of Roble Ave., Oct. 23.

Stolen vehicle reports: Red Vespa motor scooter stolen, 1500 block of El Camino Real, Oct. 23.

■ Yamaha motorcycle stolen, 500 block of Hobart St., Oct. 24.

■ Gray 1985 Ford Mustang stolen, 200 block of Hedge Road, Oct. 28.

Fraud reports:

■ Three cases of identity theft, 600 block of Woodland Ave. and 1300 block of Willow Road and 800 block of Creek Drive, Oct. 20 and 22.

■ Unauthorized access to bank account, 1100 block of Windermere Ave., Oct. 23.

WOODSIDE

Stolen vehicle report: Red 1999 Honda CRF 70 motorcycle stolen, 200 block of Mountain Home Road, Oct. 28.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Vandalism report: Hot tub started earlier in day and resident returned home to find it drained and pump wires cut, 100 block of Shawnee Pass, Oct. 26.



Stanford Shopping Center
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GREAT TREE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

5PM-7PM

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*Santa's Enchanted Woods will be closed during the Tree Lighting Ceremony and will reopen after the parade.

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MP residents, businesses honored for conservation

A house built with recycled materials, an apartment retrofitted for better insulation, and efforts by a seventh-grader to save heritage trees were among the contributions to the environment recognized by the Menlo Park Environmental Quality Commission in an awards ceremony at the Oct. 28 City Council meeting.

The awards program is designed to raise awareness about environmental issues, and to set an example for other residents, according to Commissioner John Nash, who presented the awards.

Mitch Slomiak, Linda Herreshoff, Jordan Gruber and Gail Slocum received an award for a re-build of the house they own at 205 Pope St., in which they carefully dismantled the house and re-used many of the materials to construct a new one. The design incorporated cork and bamboo flooring and recycled glass countertops, among other sustainable elements.

Another award went to John Mooney for "reducing the carbon footprint" of the apartment

building he owns at 1157 Willow Road. In addition to installing solar panels, Mr. Mooney double-paned the windows and added insulation to the exterior walls and ceiling to improve the building's ability to retain warm air in the winter and cool air in the summer.

Maddie Napel, a Hillview School student, was honored for an April 23 guest opinion she wrote for *The Almanac*, in which she made a case for preserving heritage trees at Oak Knoll School in light of impending construction plans. In his remarks, Mr. Nash called Maddie's editorial a "catalyst" for a re-design of the construction project that spared several trees.

Other honorees included Bill and Carol Mince, for using native plants to landscape their yard at 1300 Middle Ave.; the Pollock Financial Group, which planted trees and installed permeable asphalt outside its building at 321 Middlefield Road; and Tyco Electronics, which won awards for conserving water and installing energy-efficient lighting.

UNION

continued from page 5

would set a potentially dangerous precedent — argued that the timing of the vote, coming less than a month after Ms. Fergusson received the SEIU donation, created "at least the appearance of a potential conflict."

"It's up to the individual, but if you've accepted a donation from someone that will come before the council in a short period of time, it has that appearance," Mr. Boyle said in an interview. "I think it was an unfortunate choice, but legally, there was nothing wrong with it."

A gray area

Mr. Boyle agreed with Ms. Fergusson that it would be difficult for a council member to recuse himself on every vote in which he might have a personal stake.

"It's impractical to say, 'I'm never going to vote on any issue where a contribution is involved,' but there should be some kind of time buffer," Mr. Boyle said. He added that he would like to see the council take measures to address the potential conflict surrounding campaign contributions. He said that a restriction might apply to donations from organized labor, developers, even a resident who's remodeling a home.

Councilman Rich Cline defended Ms. Fergusson's right to vote on the pay raise, saying that any restriction on voting should apply across the board, not just to unions.

A personal decision

For now, though, council members are left to decide whom they should accept donations from — and when, or if, they should step aside in a vote. Mr. Boyle said that he refused contributions from several developers scheduled to come before the council when he ran for a seat in 2006.

Mayor Andy Cohen takes an even firmer stance on campaign donations. He said that he pre-empted a possible SEIU contribution to his campaign — along with Ms. Fergusson, he is up for re-election on Nov. 4 — by refusing donations from any union that would, or might, come before the council during the next term. He said that he applies the same rule to developers, but that he would accept donations from individual union members, real estate agents or brokers.

"I see a potential conflict of interest" in voting on an issue involving a campaign contributor, Mr. Cohen said. "I will not call it a conflict, because I am no longer a lawyer." ■



Photo courtesy of Woodside Priory School

The sun shining on these solar panels is expected to cut electric bills by 50 percent at Woodside Priory School in Portola Valley.

Priory to slash electric bills with solar array

The electric bills at Woodside Priory School in Portola Valley should be lower by about 50 percent for the duration of this dry season and for many dry seasons ahead now that the campus has solar panel arrays.

The 175-kilowatt system,

installed in September by Foster City-based SolarCity Corp., should prevent some 347,720 pounds of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere each year, the equivalent of taking 3,000 sports utility vehicles off the

road, school spokesman Sean McInain Brown said.

"This installation keeps with the Priory's tradition of being good stewards of the environment and is one of many on-going green projects on campus," Mr. Brown said.

WATER

continued from page 5

groundwater projects.

Except during droughts. Then the plan allows for an additional two million gallons per day to be diverted from the Tuolumne River, and for water to be cut off from San Jose and Santa Clara, which have some other water supplies.

From 2008 to 2018

Dozens of speakers at the October hearing highlighted tough issues that have to be confronted in the next 10 years, before the 2018 deadline.

The most immediate problems relate to building up water-saving programs to stay within the current allocation while the communities that depend on San Francisco continue to grow; and how to keep enough water flowing

if the drought continues.

For 2018 and beyond, planners will have to tackle these same problems for the longer term, until 2030, when the projected need is for 300 million gallons per day. Plus, they need to confront the prospect of continued global warming that could drastically reduce the snow pack on which California farms, cities and economy depend.

Supporters of the Tuolumne River strongly opposed diverting any more water, even for drought. The river is already losing 60 percent of its water on average, they say, some to the Bay Area, and most to the Modesto and Turlock irrigation districts for agriculture.

Art Jensen, executive director of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, which represents San Francisco's wholesale customers, urged

working out a solution with the agricultural users.

Salmon, which are a keystone species, have declined 99 percent in the Tuolumne in the last 10 years, said one speaker. Just 211 were counted last year.

Palo Alto Councilman Peter Drekmeier, Bay Area program director for the Tuolumne River Trust, particularly objected to diverting another two million gallons a day in case of drought. This is when the salmon need the water most, he said.

Many speakers promoted more effective ways of saving water, ranging from more recycling plants, to pricing water at its real value.

A Pacifica resident reported seeing water running down the street and people hosing cars. "Price water so people stop wasting it," he said. ■

MOCK

continued from page 5

standards and current events," said Peggy D'Angelo, a member of the second-grade teaching team that included Tiffany Chandler, Suzanne Fast, Kerry Guinn and Ms. Woolfe.

"The election also opened up meaningful conversations between kids and their moms and dads," said Ormondale Principal Jennifer Warren.

When actual election results become available, Ms. Warren said, students will use their math

skills to compare the school's data with information from national, state and local levels.

Students brought home sample paper ballots that had pictures aside the name of each candidate. Parents were encouraged to read the questions with their children, discuss how they would vote for president, and help their children learn about the democratic process.

Among the issues listed for discussion included health care, the economy, global climate change, and the educational system. The final question was: On which issue should the government

spend the most money?

On Election Day, students — wearing red, white and blue — checked in at the outdoor registration table with their teacher before entering the polling place. Second-graders staffed the registration table and were on hand as monitors at the polls in case students had questions or needed help in logging on the computer.

Not only did students vote for the president. They also were asked this question: "If miracles could happen, which one of the following Presidents listed (from George Washington to Bill Clinton) would you want to lead the nation?" ■

Green light for Willows traffic study

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

Willows residents who have waited a decade and a half for traffic mitigation efforts that would address “cut-through” traffic in the neighborhood moved closer to getting their wish after Menlo Park’s City Council voted 4-1 on Oct. 28 to authorize a \$120,000 consultant-led traffic study.

In the study, the city will measure traffic volume and average car speed on the major “cut-through” routes that motorists use to get through the neighborhood on their way to another destination. Measures to re-direct some of that traffic, such as speed bumps and road closures, will be considered in the course of the study, according to Transportation Manager Chip Taylor.

The Willows is bounded by several thoroughfares: U.S. 101

to the north, Willow Road to the west, and Woodland Avenue to the east.

Traffic has long been a concern in the area, though past efforts by the city to install traffic-calming devices fell flat when the city failed to build a consensus in the neighborhood over what measures it should take. A number of traffic circles and lane chokers installed by the city in 1994 were later removed when residents protested.

The city has promised a high level of community involvement in the process this time around, after taking criticism for not seeking enough feedback in the previous effort. Any implementation efforts will require the approval of a majority of residents, according to Mr. Taylor.

Residents’ concerns

One point of contention during the council meeting was the city’s decision to include a swath of East

Palo Alto, south of U.S. 101 and west of Woodland Avenue, in the study area. Several Willows residents pushed for East Palo Alto to be excluded from the study, which would mean that cars driving from the East Palo Alto section through the Menlo Park Willows would be defined as cut-through traffic for the purpose of the study.

Willows resident Eric Doyle, who sits on the Transportation Commission, cautioned the city not to let a “vocal minority” of residents control the study process, saying that the city should make sure that any eventual traffic control suggestions are amenable to most of the neighborhood’s residents.

Mayor Andy Cohen dissented in the 4-1 vote, saying that he didn’t feel comfortable with the city carrying out a traffic study before it has a better understanding of potential development projects in East Palo Alto that might impact traffic in the area. ■

Johns wages e-mail campaign for old job

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton in-boxes are awfully busy lately, as former finance director John Johns has unleashed a barrage of e-mail missives to the City Council and town officials threatening litigation, demanding his old job back, and then offering to resign — if he’s compensated.

As of Monday, Nov. 3, Atherton City Attorney Marc Hynes has returned unanswered two of Mr. Johns’ claims against the town: one for \$1 million for malicious prosecution and another demanding his reinstatement because the council allegedly violated the state open meeting law known as the Brown Act and conferred about his employment, Mr. Johns said.

Mr. Hynes said both claims fall outside the six-month window for action.

Mr. Johns said that the town’s efforts to prosecute him continued at least until June and therefore meet the six-month requirement. The claim for the alleged Brown Act violation stemmed from public records he only recently received, said Mr. Johns.

To date, Mr. Johns has filed 10 California Public Records Act Requests for numerous Atherton documents related to his suspension, the town’s personnel investigation and his subsequent firing last year.

ATHERTON

Mr. Johns said that among the 1,800 pages provided to him last month from his first records request are documents showing the council met in closed session a few weeks prior to his firing to discuss the investigation.

Meeting secretly without disclosing the topic violates the Brown Act governing public disclosure of meetings, Mr. Johns said.

Mr. Hynes has a different take on the issue.

“The council can obviously meet in closed session to discuss potential litigation. Unless there’s some action, they do not have to report out,” Mr. Hynes said.

The council wouldn’t meet on personnel issues relating to Mr. Johns, Mr. Hynes said, because the council only has hiring and firing authority over two employees: the city attorney and the city manager. All other town staff members are employed by the city manager.

A court case that Mr. Johns is using as the basis for his argument to be reinstated, involving a King City finance officer, doesn’t apply to Mr. Johns’ situation, Mr. Hynes said. That case involved a violation of contractual noticing requirements when the employee was fired. Mr. Johns, on the other hand, was an at-will employee with no contract, Mr. Hynes said.

“It’s a different situation. I can

appreciate the argument, if he fit, but he doesn’t,” Mr. Hynes said.

Mr. Johns requested reinstatement, and said in an e-mail that if he is paid \$261,000 in back wages, legal fees and lost retirement benefits, he will promptly resign and settle his \$1 million malicious prosecution claim for only \$1.

After he was fired in October 2007, Mr. Johns filed a wrongful termination lawsuit against Atherton, saying he was unfairly targeted for being a whistleblower. He was forced to drop the case when the town asked the San Mateo County District Attorney’s Office to charge him with working for outside contracts on town time, using town equipment. The DA’s office investigated, but eventually declined to press charges, saying there wasn’t evidence that the town suffered a loss.

Mr. Johns claims that Atherton officials maliciously pursued the criminal case in order to get him to drop his lawsuit.

He told The Almanac he may renew his wrongful termination claim against the town, and that he’s prepared to go after Mr. Hynes and Wende Protzman, the former acting city manager who fired him, for violating the Brown Act.

“He’s making threats to go to the DA with Brown Act violations, which he won’t do if we pay him off. That’s not the best thing to do,” said Mr. Hynes. ■

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She was an Entrepreneur and once owned a Vegetarian restaurant in Berkeley.

As an educator, she hopes to be a role model to inspire and encourage girls to pursue technical fields of education and employment.

She believes in the Benedictine value of Individuality and hopes to help students to discover their innate talents.

Her favorite quote is: “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime” - Chinese Proverb

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Woodside council shares views on revamping design guidelines

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

There's an old joke in which a robin says to its spouse: "Let's stay home tonight and open a can of worms."

An apt metaphor, perhaps, to describe a discussion at the Woodside Town Council meeting of Wednesday, Oct. 28. Asked to comment on a commissioned proposal on how to update and improve the town's residential design guidelines, the council, which supports the idea, gave a critique that highlighted the priorities of a complex task.

■ The guidelines should significantly improve wildfire safety in a town the fire marshal considers an urban-wildland interface in its entirety, and encourage sustainable living in a town in which residents can often afford the best of everything.

■ The guidelines should include a process that looks at a project's totality and addresses most, if not all, issues at individual parcels, including impacts on views, three-dimensional site models to help with visualization, impacts of steep slopes, shade as it affects solar collectors now and for

future homeowners, outdoor lighting, conservation easements, water retention and septic fields in a town with 10 creeks, and even line-of-sight interruptions of Internet signals.

■ This process should be consistent across parcels; consider inherent tradeoffs; recognize differences among large, small and nonconforming lots; include periodic reviews of big projects; provide a roadmap linking the guidelines by section number to a comprehensive checklist; and be structured so as to avoid surprises to staff, homeowners, architects and design review boards.

■ The guidelines should have color illustrations; in the online version, there should be live links to relevant ordinances and general plan citations; it should be relatively easy to use, be ready in less than a year, and should not compromise the town's rural character.

"How do you do a rural character, (that) is a fundamental question," said Arnold Mammarella, a consulting architect with San Francisco-based Stephen O'Connell and Associates. The group reworked design guidelines for residents of Oakland Hills after

the catastrophic 1993 fire.

The Oakland Hills fire "was a real eye-opener," Stephen O'Connell told the council. "I'm just really glad that you're all looking at revising the design guidelines."

In June, the Woodside council designated several neighborhoods as at very high risk of wildfire, a listing that requires specific ignition-resistant building materials and landscaping practices for new homes.

More recently, the council supported the idea of extending the regulations to other neighborhoods in a town that Fire Marshal Denise Enea of the Woodside Fire Protection District has said she considers an urban-wildland interface in its entirety. Ms. Enea is working with the town on that, Town Manager Susan George said.

The consultants' presentation, Ms. George said, included two months of work by the staff and the Architecture and Site Review Board.

That collaboration would continue in producing an initial draft of the design guidelines over the next few months, Ms. George said. The council and community would review and comment on the document, and a final draft might be ready in six months, Ms. George said.

That scenario could change. Councilman Peter Mason, anxious to move it along, suggested including a subcommittee from the council, the ASRB and the Planning Commission.

Designing backwards

ASRB member Anne Kasten, speaking for herself, emphasized

the need for a "very exhaustive" checklist early on in a project to avoid it being "designed backwards" with late additions and surprise changes.

"The gift of Woodside is that we haven't messed it up yet because we have enough space that there's room for things," she said. "I think it's going to be complex. I think it's going to take a long time."

ASRB chair Karen Rongey-Conner noted the eventual payoff. "The prize we're getting is well worth the effort that we're putting into it," she said.

A council member broached the idea of parts of the design guidelines being mandatory. "I think most cities struggle with this," Mr. Mammarella, the consultant, said. "Sometimes, they don't want to convey the impression that these are merely suggestions." ▀

County shows election night behind the scenes

Anyone who has wondered what goes on after the ballots are cast, need wonder no longer. San Mateo County elections officials are producing a live broadcast that promises to take viewers behind the scenes with local results, national news and

an insider's view of the process.

The show airs from 7 p.m. to midnight on PenTV Channel 26 and will be streamed online at www.pentv.tv, said Warren Slocum, the county registrar of voters.

"Our goal is to make our pro-

cess completely transparent so that San Mateo County voters can see for themselves how elections are conducted and know why they can have confidence in the election results," Mr. Slocum said in a statement.



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Portola Valley may add green chapter to general plan

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Portola Valley officials are exploring an amendment to the general plan that could add guidelines, eventually mandatory, for sustainable development in town.

The Town Council, at its Oct. 8 meeting, discussed a Sept 26 staff report on the topic prepared by Town Planner George Mader. The report, forwarded to the council by the Planning Commission, included a draft of the sustainability element (available at tinyurl.com/PV-Sustain).

In commenting on the draft, then referring it back to the commission, council members noted the essential task before town officials: getting the community involved in a discussion of the proposed amendment, possibly through a series of workshops.

A general plan sets policies and priorities for land development over the long term. The draft element on sustainability sets several "overarching goals," including:

- Educating the community about sustainability and encouraging sustainable practices.

- Seeking to balance the impacts of human activities and nature so as to "maintain and improve conditions of life in town for future generations."

- Reducing carbon dioxide emissions to 80 percent of 1990 levels by 2050, as laid out in the state's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.

A long-term goal, to be sure, as would be any effort to implement the objectives of this element, Mr. Mader said.

Councilwoman Ann Wengert

wondered about whether to encourage residents to remodel rather than rebuild.

In a related comment, Councilman Steve Toben noted the council's choice to deconstruct rather than demolish the old school buildings for the new Town Center complex.

That decision yielded a \$250,000 savings for the project, he said. "There's a real economic argument to be made (to green approaches) if you tweak your thinking in the right way."

Councilman Richard Merk turned to house size, where he thought the draft "a little weak," adding: "I think that's something we do need to look at more seriously."

That topic was discussed "at length" by the Planning Commission, Mr. Mader replied. "I felt that it's a very tough thing to come down on. It's very true that the size of a house does affect how green it is. It's a fundamental issue."

A "back door route" to smaller homes may be to require more green features as the size of proposed house increases, former mayor George Comstock said.

"Yes, that's exactly what we're looking at," Mayor Maryann Moise Derwin said, referring to a committee that includes planning and home design officials in town.

In an interview, Ms. Derwin added that new guidelines will be "vetted to the community a lot of times," and that higher prices for energy and water will push people toward conservation. "I think people are going to want to do this. I think it will be required, yes, I do." ■



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New no-parking area likely opposite Woodside Elementary School

■ Concern for one driveway is harbinger of broader restrictions.

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

In a small step toward restricted parking on Woodside Road near Woodside Elementary School, the Town Council approved a request to the state to create a small “no parking” zone on the north side of the road opposite the school’s tennis courts.

More parking restrictions may be ahead for the half-mile stretch of Woodside Road, a state highway regulated by the California Department of Transportation. The town is doing an analysis of parking between Canada and Miramontes roads, with recommendations expected before the end of the year.

The study will likely recommend “much more” than this

initial step, Town Engineer Paul Nagengast said.

Twice every school day, parents dropping off and picking up their children transform this east-west arterial into a crowded promenade in which vehicles jockey for position with cyclists and pedestrians of all ages, including school children.

Woodside Road, is popular with cyclists, but the overflow

school parking often blocks bike lanes and can force bikes and pedestrians into the street. The closest thing to a sidewalk is a horse trail on the south side of the road.

The proximity of restaurants and the commercial district can extend the problem into the weekend. Councilman Dave Tanner said he had to walk his dog in the street on a recent Sunday. “It’s literally seven days a week,” he said.

The council, on a 6-0 vote with Councilwoman Deborah Gordon absent, approved a request to Caltrans to install the no-parking signs 12 feet on either side of the driveway at 3210 Woodside Road.

Michael Sieber, the homeowner and resident, wrote to the council in November 2007 complaining of the danger in leaving his driveway because parked cars can block his view of traffic in both directions.

His family sometimes goes without mail because postal workers won’t deliver if they can’t reach the mailbox, he said.

“I’ll give (the new no-parking zone) a try and see how it works, and I want to thank the town for working on it,” Mr. Sieber said.

Councilman Peter Mason wondered whether there are residents who have similar complaints but have not been heard from.

The town received just the one letter, Mr. Nagengast said. ■

Planting sessions for new creek bed

It’s rare to find a bare creek bed — no bushes, no grasses, no ecology to speak of — with the potential to grow into a natural asset to the community if only someone would come along and plant its un-vegetated slopes.

Such an opportunity is ahead for members of the public who have free time on Saturday mornings to plant the banks of about 290 feet of Sausal Creek at the Portola Valley Town Center at 765 Portola Road.

Friends of Sausal Creek and the Palo Alto-based Acterra Stewardship Watershed Project are inviting people of all ages to planting sessions between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Nov. 8, 15 and 22, and on Dec. 6 and 13. Children under 18 will require adult supervision and the signature of a parent or guardian.

Native plants, gloves, tools and techniques will be provided; your clothing should be old and your shoes sturdy. Some 15,000 square feet of creek bed needs planting.

Due to a finite number of tools, supervisors and plants to be planted on any given day, space is limited. To register, go to www.acterra.org/watershed.

For more information, contact Program Director Arnie Thompson at arniet@acterra.org or 962-9876, ext. 310. Should severe weather intervene, call that same number for recorded information on the morning of the event.

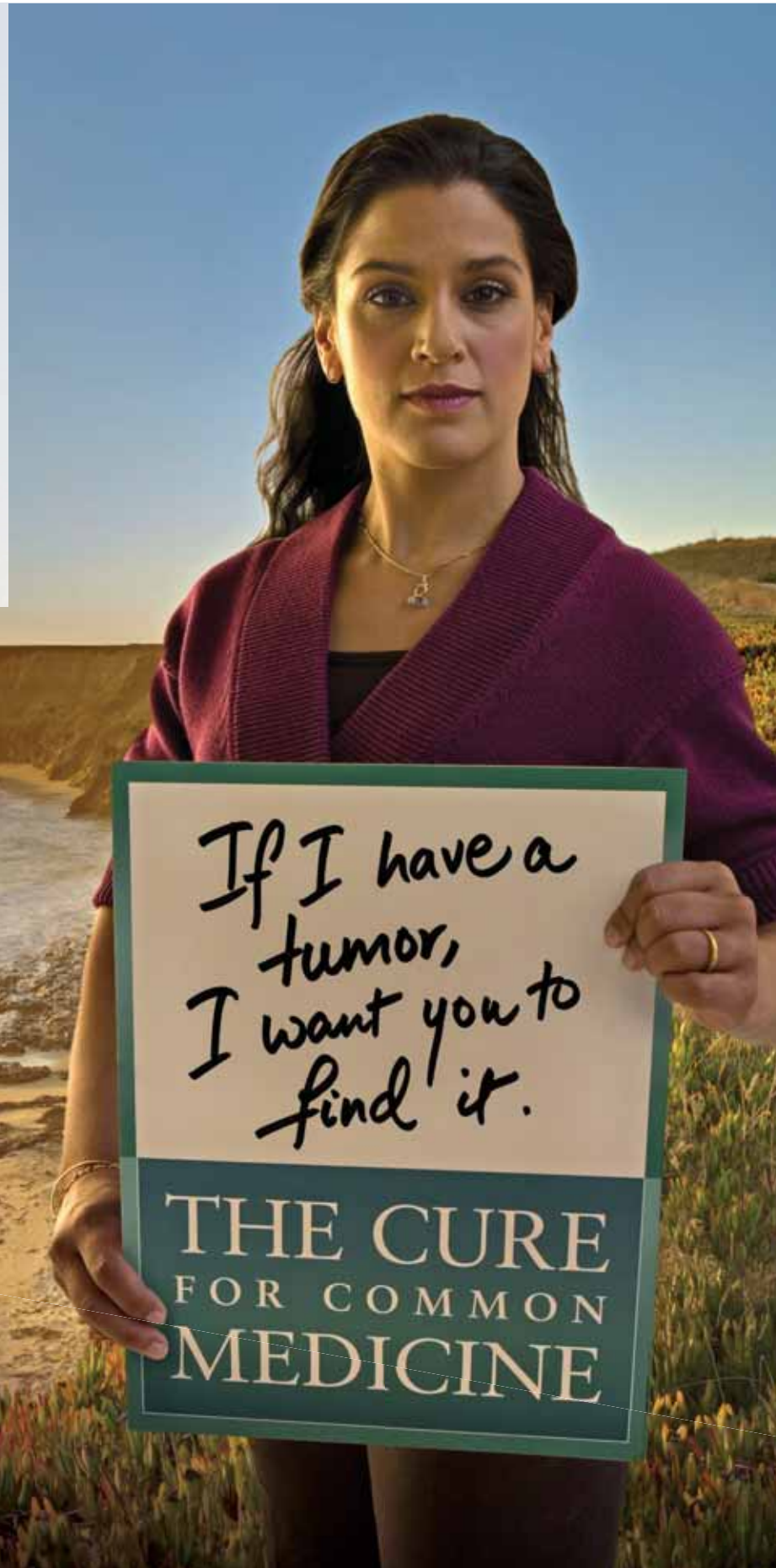
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Photo by Mark Bowles

Singing "Got the Horse Right Here," are, from left, David Bray, Bill Boardman and Jon Mirsalis in the Woodside Community Theatre production of "Guys and Dolls." **Left: Kerie Geni Darner**, left, and **Karen DeHart** perform "Mary the Man Today."

'Guys and Dolls' in Woodside

Community theater group stages Broadway classic

By **Kate Daly**
Special to The Almanac

Woodside Community Theatre will mark its 51st season in November by staging "Guys and Dolls," Frank Loesser's musical about gambling in New York and Havana back in 1950. "It's a show we've always wanted to do," says co-producer Mindy Bowles of Woodside.

A cast of 40 — many local residents — is getting ready to perform on the weekends of Nov. 7-9 and 14-16.

"The show is going to look great," says Ms. Bowles, who has been involved with the local theatrical group since it was reorganized six years ago. "Each year it gets better."

Most of the costumes and backdrops are being rented from Southern California, and all of the behind-the-scenes people are full of experience, having worked on multiple WCT performances in the past.

Michael Taylor is back for his third season as artistic director. Mark Bowles of Woodside is acting as set designer and technical director for his sixth season in a row. Donna Losey is co-producing for the sixth time. Choreographer Jane Kellam has both appeared in and worked on WCT shows before, as has costume designer Deborah Rosas.

Stage manager Joan Rubin and lighting designers Don and Catherine Coluzzi are old WCT hands, too, but no one perhaps goes back as far

as music director Richard Gordon of Woodside. He recalls getting started with WCT in 1987 when the late Woodside School superintendent, George Sellman, directed the shows.

Mr. Gordon will conduct a 25-piece live orchestra for this show. Many of the musicians also play with him in the Woodside Village Band.

Mr. Gordon says he, too, is impressed with the quality of this show. "As we go from year to year, we attract more good people and more good singers, and less training is needed," he says.

Sixteen new people have joined the cast this year. A veteran of five shows, cast member Dar-

lene Batchelder of Woodside says she is excited to work with them. "We went out recruiting people from nearby communities and brought in a lot of new talent," she says.

She is playing the role of General Mathilda B. Cartwright, her first real speaking part since she performed in Woodside elementary and high school productions.

Her husband, Darrell Batchelder, is also appearing in his fifth WCT show, this time as Joey Biltmore.

Two other returning cast members are the leads of "Guys and Dolls," after playing the leading

roles in "Music Man" last year: Damian Marhefka and Kerie Geni Darner, both of Redwood City. He stars as Sky Masterson, the gambler, and she shines as Sarah Brown, the missionary.

The other romantic pair in the show is Nathan Detroit, played by Ron Lopez of San Carlos, and Miss Adelaide, portrayed by Karen DeHart of San Jose.

Richard Vaughn, who heads up the music program at Hillview School, is back on stage at WCT this year with his entire family. He's the master of ceremonies; his wife, Liz Matchett, is a Hot Box Nightclub performer; and their

'We went out recruiting people from nearby communities and brought in a lot of new talent.'

DARLENE BATCHELDER OF WOODSIDE

daughters, Aurora and Evy, join Emily Ross of Atherton and Tony Sinclair of Woodside as the only children in the cast.

Appearing in their sixth WTC show, Woodside High students Brigitte Losey and LeeAnn Patrick are Hot Box Girls. Audiences familiar with the show should recognize their song and dance numbers, "A Bushel and a Peck" and "Take Back Your Mink."

Other local cast members include David Bray of Menlo Park as Rusty Charlie, Chris Sheehy of Portola Valley as a mission band member, and Bayley Sullivan as a doll. ■

INFORMATION

■ "Guys and Dolls" will be staged at the Woodside High School Performing Arts Center, 199 Churchill Ave., just off of Woodside Road. Show times are: Friday, Nov. 7, and Saturday, Nov. 8, at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 9, at 2 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 14, and Saturday, Nov. 15, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 16, at 2 p.m.

■ Tickets are available online at WoodsideTheatre.org or by calling 529-4828. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$16 for seniors, 62 and up, and students, 18 and under. Groups of 20 qualify for further discounts.

Supervisor candidate wants to reopen Atherton station

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

An election hasn't even been called yet, but Richard Silver is already wooing Atherton voters to his campaign for Jerry Hill's District 2 seat on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. He's calling for Caltrain to reinstate service to Atherton's train station — as well as return service to Burlingame's Broadway station and add a new train station in Brisbane.

Supervisor Hill is widely considered a shoo-in to win election to a state Assembly seat on the Nov. 4 ballot, which would leave open his spot on the county Board of Supervisors. It's up to the remaining supervisors to decide to call an election or appoint someone to fill the remaining two years of Mr. Hill's four-year term.

The loss of weekday Caltrain service to Atherton's historic station in 2005 has been a major

bone of contention for town officials. Fierce lobbying efforts earned the town hourly stops on weekends, but for more than three years, the station has been empty on weekdays as trains chug past.

Mr. Silver, the former clerk of the Board of Supervisors and the executive director of the Rail Passenger Association of California & Nevada, said that while he understands Caltrain officials' reasoning, he disagrees

with their decision.

"I think it was a mistake for them to close it," he said.

In the past few years, Caltrain's ridership has increased tremendously, and it should keep growing, Mr. Silver said. Stations on either side of Atherton — Menlo Park and Redwood City — are extremely busy, he said.

"We need Atherton to reopen if for no other reason than to handle overflow from those two stations," he said.

Low ridership may have provoked Caltrain officials to cut Atherton's service, but the number of rail passengers has doubled since then, and there's no reason to believe that the Atherton station's ridership wouldn't increase as well, Mr. Silver said.

There would be another, more intangible benefit to reopening the Atherton station, he said.

"Once Atherton lost its station, you (took) Atherton out as one of the advocates for Caltrain," Mr. Silver said. "You need support from all of the cities along the right of way." ■



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New director for county libraries

The new director of the San Mateo County library system is something of an old hand at library operations.

Martin Gomez has a career of more than 30 years behind him, including executive positions as president of the Urban Libraries Council, executive director of the Brooklyn Public Library, and director of the Oakland Public Library.

He is scheduled to attend a welcoming reception in Portola Valley at 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 3, in the new public library at Town Center, said Anne-Marie Despain, the interim director of the San Mateo County library system.

Among the local libraries he oversees are those in Portola Valley, Woodside and Atherton.

Mr. Gomez has a bachelor's

Martin Gomez

Photo courtesy of San Mateo County Library System



degree in English from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a master's degree in library science from the University of Arizona, Tucson.

He is also past president of the National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos, and speaks nationally and internationally on the topic of public libraries, Ms. Despain said.

Menlo Park to survey 1,200 residents

A random selection of Menlo Park residents will have a chance to weigh in on topics ranging from the quality of city services to the quality of life in Menlo Park.

The city is sending postcards next week to 1,200 residents, notifying them that they have been selected to fill out the 35-question survey.

"The best measure of government performance is com-

munity satisfaction, and this survey will tell us where we are on a number of measures," City Manager Glen Rojas said in a press release.

Results of the survey will be available after Jan. 1, the city said.

Starting Nov. 14, residents who were not selected for the mail-in survey will be able to fill out an online version at the city's Web site, www.menlopark.org.

Resident recognized for donations

Mary Gilliland of Menlo Park received an award at the 2008 Silicon Valley Arts and Business Awards Luncheon for donating nearly \$700,000 over the past eight years to the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles.

Ms. Gilliland's contributions helped cover the cost of a new facility for the museum, which

exhibits a wide variety of new and old textiles — strictly defined as cloth produced by weaving, knitting or felting. Though textiles (and quilts) have historically served practical functions, their manufacture is now regarded as something of an art form, according to Ms. Gilliland.

Ms. Gilliland, who sits on the museum's board, said that it has been gratifying to see the museum move from the 2,000-square-foot building it had previously rented into the new space, which is over five times that size.

■ TOWN SQUARE

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www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

Ormondale 'Turkey Trot' expected to draw hundreds

Ormondale School's annual "Turkey Trot" takes off Saturday morning, Nov. 22, from the K-3 school at 200 Shawnee Pass Road in Portola Valley. There will be running events and fun for the entire family, say Turkey Trot chairs Ruth Taylor and Shelly Sweeney.

Last year more than 500 kids, moms, dads, friends and community members participated in the event, sponsored by the Ormondale Parent Teacher Organization. Besides training for the event, students have created artwork that will be featured on the race T-shirt.

There are two runs: a 5K, which starts at 9 a.m., and a 1K for kids, starting at 10 a.m. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

Entry fees are \$40 per family until Friday, Nov. 5, and \$30 per entry on race day. Registration forms are available in the school office or on the school's Web site, <http://www.pvsd.net/>.

Corte Madera students, as part of their community service, will help organize race times and games on the field for children.

During an awards presentation at 10:45 a.m., signature medals will be awarded to the boy and girl winners in each grade and to male and female runners with the best times.

The "Turkey Trot Training Program" is in full swing with a group of parents supervising lap-running at lunch recess. Tim Cullinane, a physical education specialist, has students running the distance during his class. Students receive an award each time they reach certain levels.

The event is designed to encourage fitness and fun, says Turkey Trot chair Ruth Taylor. Proceeds cover the race costs; any additional funds will go to Ormondale School.



Images Of Woodside

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Book fair, authors at Las Lomitas

Las Lomitas Elementary School will stage its annual, on-campus book fair from Friday, Nov. 7, through Friday, Nov. 14, in the school's Cano Hall, 299 Alameda de las Pulgas in Atherton.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday; 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday and Thursday; and until 8 p.m. Wednesday. The book fair will be closed on Tuesday in observance of Veterans Day.

The fair features two local authors. Natalie Lillie, now 11, who wrote "Natalie's Lice Aren't Nice" as a third-grader, and Las Lomitas parent Mark Reibstein, who will talk about his book, "Wabi Sabi," at 4 p.m. on Thursday.

This year Las Lomitas is teaming up with Kepler's bookstore to offer an assortment of books for the whole family, as well as calendars and family-centered games. Kepler's staff also will give book talks during the fair.

All proceeds from the book fair will support the school's library and literacy programs.

BRIEFS

Corte Madera book fair

All readers and holiday shoppers are invited to peruse and purchase books for all ages at Corte Madera School's annual book fair Nov. 6-7 and 12-14.

This PTO-sponsored event will be held in the now vacated old town library building on campus, at 4575 Alpine Road in Portola Valley. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

New "best sellers," fiction, classics and popular children's series will be featured along with art, music and sports books. Educational reference books for English, math and Spanish also will be available. There will be an extensive collection of books for adults, as well as cookbooks, gift books and CDs.

All proceeds from the fair go to support the school libraries. Hickleebee's Books of Willow Glen in San Jose provides the books and book fair support.

For more information, call Mary Livingston at 851-9789 or e-mail jwfizbin@comcast.net.

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M-A holds open house for eighth-graders

The first day of high school is less than a year away for eighth-graders. For families considering public schools, Menlo-Atherton High School at 555 Middlefield Road is having an open house Monday, Nov. 10, between 6 and 8:30 p.m.

In addition, leadership-class students will lead campus tours on Saturday, Nov. 15, between 10 and 11:30 a.m. Tours start at the library; the last tour leaves at 11:15 a.m.

To schedule a student shadowing day with an M-A freshman, call Student Activities Teacher

Kelly Todd at 322-5311, ext. 5250, or write to ktodd@seq.org.

Students considering a transfer to M-A must attend these events, a school spokeswoman said.

For the open house, M-A students, parents, faculty and administrators will be on hand to talk with prospective freshmen and their parents about the school's programs and academic offerings.

Principal Matthew Zito and college adviser Alice Kleeman and students will greet visitors from 6 to 6:30 p.m.; classroom visits start at 6:30 p.m. Overflow parking will be in the SRI International parking lot across Middlefield Road from the campus.

For more information, go to <http://tinyurl.com/BearsInfo>.

Students achieve National Merit recognition

Many of us will never have our names mentioned in connection with the National Merit Scholarship Program, but some 35 students at Menlo-Atherton High School are officially no longer part of this crowd.

For scoring in the top 2 percent among the 1.5 million students who took the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) in 2007, the following M-A seniors are recognized as Commended Scholars

by the National Merit program: Sarah Carp, William Cohen, Peter Defillips, Mark Frankle, Emily Goldberg, Haley Hoech, Hideyo Kameda, Tiffany Kung, Mikalie Lai, Jeff Leanse, Brittany Margot, Nora Ng-Quinn, Haley O'Neel, Sheri Park, Julia Ransohoff, Nicole Scherm, Jay Slavik, Emily Van Rheenen and Neil Watters.

M-A seniors whose PSAT scores were in the top 1 percent and who may compete for scholarship mon-

ey are considered National Merit Semifinalists. The list this year: Alex Amato, Daniel Chao, Cameron Cogan, Nick Felt, Tamara Hasoon, Thomas Ivy, Christopher Kelvie, Gregory Liggett, Laura Mitchell, Rishikesh Santhanam, Jessica Schwab, Adin Vaeworn and Robert Weber.

M-A senior Russell Perkins is a National Merit Semifinalist for scoring in the top 1 percent of the country's black high school students.

M-A seniors Uriel Hernandez and Nadia Saad are National Merit Semifinalists for having scored in the top 1 percent of Hispanic/Latino students nationwide.

"We are extremely proud of all these students, and pleased that their hard work and dedication is being recognized on a national level," M-A spokeswoman Kelly Todd said in a statement.

TOWN SQUARE

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

COLLEGE NEWS

■ **Mary Wilder**, a junior at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, is spending the fall semester in Madrid, Spain, pursuing studies of Spanish language and culture. Students agree to speak only Spanish and study the humanities, fine arts and social sciences, while living with a host family. Ms. Wilder is a graduate of Crystal

Springs Uplands School in Hillsborough and is the daughter of Abigail and Henry Wilder of Woodside.

■ **Todd S. Lavine** has enrolled as a freshman at Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts. Todd is a graduate of Menlo School and is the son of Clifford Lavine and Hildy Shandell of Atherton.



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Menlo Park teen gets a close look at national security

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

It was a simulation, but after serving as “U.S. Secretary of State” in a foreign policy crisis involving central Asia during a recent visit to Washington, D.C., Menlo Park resident and Summit Preparatory Charter High School junior Niko Levy has come home with insights on using the levers of power.

The situation: Russia has proposed a peacekeeping mission in Georgia at the same time that U.S. intelligence has shown Iran preparing to invade Iraq. As head of the State Department, Niko says in an interview that he and the “Secretary of Defense” didn’t always see things in the same way.

“You can see how the government might run into problems,” he says. “It’s real interesting to see how other people interpreted the information.”

Those people would be the approximately 399 other teens from around the country who participated in a six-day mid-October national security forum that included presentations by current and former members of the defense and intelligence communities.

The National Youth Leadership Forum, a nonprofit educational organization based in Virginia, organized and ran the event.

The students separated into groups of 20 and took on roles for the four-hour simulation. New information came in as the situation evolved. There was no tidy ending, and no grade.

“In the real world, you don’t get graded,” Niko, 16, says.

What else did he learn? “Much as we don’t like it, some sacrifices have to be made to achieve a greater goal,” he says in recalling a personnel decision he had to make. “In order to get things done, sometimes somebody (who is) obstructing things needs to be let go for a greater cause.”

“It’s hard to do that. Summit teaches you a lot about teamwork. But they don’t teach you how to make sacrifices,” he says.

In another shorter simulation, the problem before them was the



Photo courtesy of Levy family

“You can see how the government might run into problems,” says Niko Levy, 16.

U.S.-run prison at Guantanamo Bay, looked at from the perspective of Geneva Convention rules about torture.

To get into the roles, the teens used fact sheets to derive their responses as key players in the executive branch, the military, Congress and non-governmental organizations.

“We all acted as the people who are in those positions right now,” he says. Ethical reflections came to him in hindsight “which, of course, is where and when a lot of ethics is done,” he admits.

No slackers

Such experiences aren’t accessible to just anyone. Assuming the family can afford the \$1,420 that covers everything but travel, a student’s grades and preliminary SAT scores make a big difference, Niko says.

“If you’re a slacker, you don’t get to go,” he says. “They’re all people who worked hard, got good grades and want to go places.”

Lighter notes included an open-ended tour of Capitol Hill, where he says he sat in on a session of Congress and visited the offices of both California senators, neither of whom were in at the time.

From the list of agencies available for tours, he chose the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in light of the TV program based on it. “I thought it’d be really cool to see what the difference was” between the program and the agency itself, he says. “It’s pretty amazing.”

A career in national security? “There’s a lot of possibilities in there and I’m certainly going to look at it,” he says. “If there’s a degree for it, they need it.”

As for the military, he was less doubtful. “I can’t kill people or indirectly hurt them,” he says. “I’d be carried away thinking about the consequences, which means it is not the right career for me.” ▀

■ IN THE SERVICE

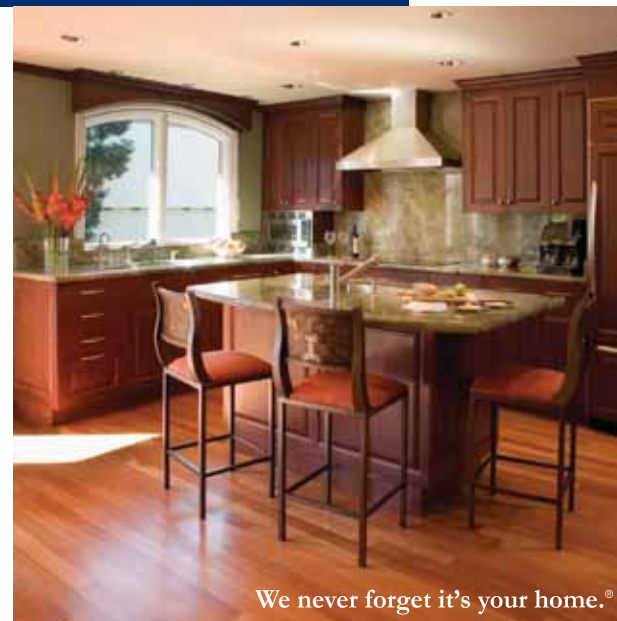
Nicholas A. Noyes has been designated a naval aviator and presented with the “wings of gold” following flight training with Training Air Wing One in Meridian, Mississippi. A 1996 graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School, he is the son of Roger Noyes of Menlo Park and Nancy Kane of Corrales, New Mexico.

#11 Monthly Workshop Series by Harrell Remodeling

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Wednesday, November 12

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

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Mountain View

- Call us or go online to register for this class. See you there!



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Community Health Education Programs

November 2008

Events and Lectures

Autism and Asperger's: Understanding the Basics and Planning for Care Tuesday, November 11, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Niranjan S. Karnik, M.D., Ph.D., PAMF Psychiatry and Behavioral Health

Join us for a presentation on autism spectrum disorders. Learn about the current prevalence of these disorders and how they are diagnosed and treated. *This is a repeat presentation of the March 2008 lecture at the Fremont Center.*

Hearst Center for Health Education, Level 3, Jamplis Building, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, 795 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. RSVP to 650-853-4873.

Classes

Learning About Heart Failure, Wednesday, November 12, 2:30 – 4 p.m.

This class, taught by a cardiology nurse practitioner, discusses medications used in treatment, dietary requirements, weight monitoring, self-care, activity guidelines, and symptom recognition and reporting, and more.

What You Need to Know About Warfarin, Wednesday, November 19, 2 – 4 p.m.

A PAMF pharmacist will discuss what warfarin is, why you are taking it and how you can help yourself.

Managing Your High Blood Pressure, Wednesday, November 19, 3 – 5 p.m.

This class provides information on causes, risks and treatment of high blood pressure, and approaches to successful reduction, such as exercise and medication.

Advance Health Care Directives, Tuesday, December 2, 10 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

PAMF's specially trained volunteer will provide advice and answer questions about the advance health care directive. No cost.

Support Groups

Alcohol and Drug Education (Every Tuesday) • **Cancer** (1st & 3rd Tuesdays) • **Caregivers for Cancer Patients** (last Monday) • **Diabetes** (1st Wednesday) • **Healing Imagery for Cancer Patients** (November 12) • **Multiple Sclerosis** (2nd & 4th Mondays) • **Sleep Apnea** (1st Thursday) • **Young Mothers with Cancer** (first three Mondays)

For information on class fees and to register, call the Education Division at 650-853-2960.



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF MENLO PARK
PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING NOVEMBER 17, 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 Architectural Control/T-Mobile/1340 Willow Road: Request for a use permit and architectural control to install wireless telecommunications antennas on the roof of Mid-Peninsula High School and associated equipment inside the school building in the M-2 (General Industrial) zoning district.

Use Permit/Evergreen Mountain, Inc. dba The Pilates Zone/1800 El Camino Real, Ste. C: Request for a use permit to operate a private recreational facility in a multi-tenant building with non-conforming parking in the C-4 (General Commercial, Applicable to El Camino Real) zoning district.

Use Permit/Anter Enterprises dba Curves/1800 El Camino Real, Ste. D: Request for a use permit to operate a private recreational facility in a multi-tenant building with non-conforming parking in the C-4 (General Commercial, Applicable to El Camino Real) zoning district.

Use Permit, Architectural Control, Environmental Review/Kenneth Rodrigues and Partners, Inc./2550 Sand Hill Road: Request for use permit and architectural control approval to demolish an existing convalescent facility and to construct a new 23,190-square-foot non-medical office building and related site improvements in the C-1-C (Administrative, Professional, and Research District, Restrictive) zoning district. A traffic study has been conducted as part of this project and is available for public review at the Department of Community Development. The project is categorically exempt under Class 32 (Section 15332, "In-Fill Development Projects") of the current California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

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 17, 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 30, 2008 Deanna Chow, Senior Planner
PUBLISHED: November 5, 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 November 5, 2008.

WEDDING

Boeddiker-McNaghten

Rebecca Eileen Boeddiker and Matthew Sam McNaghten were married July 26 at Sunset View Ranch in Napa. The ranch is the home of Bill Boeddiker, the bride's uncle, and Bob O'Halloran.

Following the ceremony, there was dinner and dancing by the poolside cabana.

The bride's sister, Melissa Lawson of London, England, was matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Bryn Ma and Meghan McNaghten. Cayla Canterbury and Makayla Kowalski were flower girls. Connor Canterbury was ring bearer.

The bridegroom's cousin, Scott Freeze of Foxpoint, Wisconsin, was best man. Groomsmen were Ben McNaghten and Daniel McNaghten.

The wedding was performed



Rebecca Boeddiker and Matthew McNaghten

by the bride's brother, Lt. Ted Boeddiker, U.S. Army, who was deputized by the county clerk of San Francisco as a deputy commissioner of marriages for his sister's wedding only. He is a 2008 graduate of West Point.

The bride is the daughter of Tom and Margaret Boeddiker of Menlo Park and the granddaughter of Robert Boeddiker of

Carmel, formerly of Menlo Park. A 1999 graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School, she received her bachelor of arts degrees in psychology and business management at the University of California at Santa Barbara. She received her master of arts degree in communications management from the University of Southern California. She is a story producer/writer for Hallock-Healey Entertainment in Los Angeles.

The bridegroom is the son of Greg and Carol McNaghten of Redmond, Washington. He received his bachelor of arts degree in communications and television production from Washington State University. He is a television producer for Hallock-Healey Entertainment in Los Angeles where the couple first met.

After a honeymoon in Alaska and the Hawaiian Islands, the newlyweds are living in Studio City.

La Entrada votes for president

Some 600 students — fourth-through eighth-graders — at La Entrada School in Menlo Park are casting their votes for president Nov. 4. The school library has been converted into a polling place for the mock election.

Students will be using "old fashioned" paper ballots "because we want them to have the experience of marking a paper ballot and putting it in the ballot box," said Doe Myers, school librarian.

Teachers will bring their social

studies classes to the library to vote during the day. The plan is to have the votes counted by day's end, and the winner will be announced.

"Our goal is that as students watch the official election results at home, they will already know who La Entrada students 'elected' to be president," said Ms. Myers.



**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Consideration of a Request from the
Menlo Park Police Department for use
of AB 3229 (COPS) Funds**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park, California, has, in compliance with AB 3229, received a request from the Police Department Staff to approve the fiscal year 2008-2009 Citizens Option for Public Safety (COPS) funds in the amount of \$100,000 and to approve a request to use the funds in conjunction with funds remaining from the fiscal year 2007-2008 COPS Grant in accordance with state requirements. The request specifies the front line law enforcement needs of the City including the enhancement of the mobile computing project, support the first of a two-year roll out of the update and replacement of the patrol fleet's mobile data terminals, information and communication technology upgrades and an online reporting system.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said City Council will hold a Public Hearing on the Police Department Staff's request on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 7:00p.m., or as near as possible thereafter, in the Menlo Park City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel Street – Civic Center, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon and the City Council will make a determination on the request.

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

DATED: October 30, 2008

_____/s/
Margaret S. Roberts, MMC, City Clerk

Published in THE ALMANAC on November 5, 2008

Sports

NEWS OF LOCAL ATHLETES AND TEAM SPORTS

Joe Wise breaks his record in Beijing

By Colin Becht
Special to The Almanac

Joe Wise, 15, of Menlo Park has returned from Beijing after finishing fifth in the 400-meter freestyle at the Paralympics. Wise, a sophomore at Sacred Heart Prep in Atherton, also broke his own U.S. record with a time of 4:15.83, almost 10 seconds better than his former best.

"I didn't think I would get that place and go that fast, so I'm extremely happy with that," said Wise, who represented the United States in the Paralympics, held in September in the same venues and immediately following the Olympics.

Before he could compete in the finals, he qualified by placing second in his heat.

In April, Wise had qualified for the Paralympic team when he won a gold medal in the 400-meter freestyle at U.S. swim trials, held in Minneapolis. At the trials, Wise set the then-U.S. record with a time of 4:24.92.



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

"Beijing kept the (Olympic) Village the same way (for the Paralympics)," says Joe Wise. "It was awesome."

His condition is mitochondrial myopathy, a form of muscular dystrophy. He competes in the S10 classification for the Paralympics, which is the least disabled classification.

For the Paralympics, Wise got to compete and live in the same facilities as the Olympic athletes, including swimming in the famous "Water Cube" National Aquatics Center in Beijing.

"Beijing kept the (Olympic) Village the same way. They didn't change anything from the Olympics. It was awesome," said Wise.

After swimming for the varsity team at Sacred Heart this year, Wise said he hopes to qualify to compete in the International Paralympic Committee's 25-meter swimming world championships in Rio de Janeiro next August.

He also hopes to compete in the Paralympics again at the 2012 Games in London and the 2016 Games "and then call it quits."

"I'll try to get a gold medal," he added.

If Wise's career is anything like that of a fellow swimmer who was 15 at the time of his first Olympics, he seems destined for many gold medals.

Michael Phelps finished fifth at his first Olympics too. ■

Menlo, SHP meet in Valparaiso Bowl

By Kate Daly
Special to The Almanac

For the sixth year in a row, the Menlo School Knights face off against the Sacred Heart Prep Gators in the Valparaiso Bowl, set this year on Friday, Nov. 14.

The two schools are located just down the block from each other on Valparaiso Avenue in Atherton, and started a tradition of a using the football rivalry to raise funds for the nonprofit Peninsula Bridge program, which helps middle schoolers in underserved areas of the Peninsula.

The program provides the students with summer courses at Menlo, Sacred Heart and other school campuses, to bolster academic training.

Both football games are open to the public and will take place at Woodside High School, 199 Churchill Ave. The junior varsity game will start at 4 p.m., and the varsity game at 7 p.m. under the lights.

Admission is \$5. The Dutch Goose will be selling food during the event. ■



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY PORTOLA VALLEY HOUSING ELEMENT COMMUNITY MEETING

Portola Valley Town Hall
(Historic Schoolhouse)

765 Portola Rd. Portola Valley CA 94028
November 19, 2008, 8:00 PM

Portola Valley is updating the Housing Element of its General Plan. California cities are required to update their housing elements every five years. By state law, the housing element needs to plan for specified numbers of new housing units, including affordable housing, within the town.

The state requirements and options for achieving the required housing numbers will be presented at the meeting. The new housing element may provide for some significant changes to town policies and regulations.

Residents are urged to come and offer their ideas and recommendations as part of an open discussion of various approaches the town should consider.

Published in THE ALMANAC on November 5, 12, 2008

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IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

BY
MICHAEL PABST, CSB

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Thursday - November 13, 2008
@ 7:30 pm.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 1:00PM-3:00PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 1:00PM-3:00PM

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Author of

**Big-Box Swindle:
The True Cost of Mega-Retailers
and the Fight for America's
Independent Businesses**



Where's the best place to put your money?

In your community, according to Stacy Mitchell, who will be in Redwood City to talk about why independent businesses are our best bet for a secure future.

**Sunday, November 16, 2008
4:00 – 7:00 pm**

**The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2124 Brewster Avenue
(2 blocks south of Whipple at Lowell,
midway between El Camino and the Alameda)
Redwood City**

Wine and Cheese Reception

Nearby street parking

Hometown Peninsula's mission is to support locally-owned, independent businesses on the peninsula, to maintain our unique community character, to educate local residents that purchasing locally creates community economic strength, and to bring back the vibrant hometown to our communities that is being displaced by national chains and online stores.

www.hometownpeninsula.org

Ad space donated by the Almanac

New Almanac feature: Ask the Deputy

Deputy Stephanie Josephson of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office is starting a new feature in The Almanac, called Ask the Deputy, modeled after the long-time Ask the Officer feature, written by then Menlo Park police officer Glenn Raggio.

Deputy Josephson, who patrols in unincorporated areas of the county, grew up in the East Bay, near Walnut Creek. As a senior at the University of California at Santa Barbara, she interned with

a criminal prosecutor in Washington, D.C.

After graduation, she returned to Northern California and in 1999, was hired as a correctional officer in San Mateo County. She was promoted to deputy sheriff and attended the police academy in 2001.

Her assignments have ranged from patrol to jails, transportation and court security. She currently patrols in the unincorporated areas of San Mateo County.

ASK THE DEPUTY

Q. I've heard that thefts from vehicles parked near walking trails is a growing problem. How can I prevent this?

A. You are right. Such vehicle burglaries occur with increasing frequency. There are ways to make such burglaries less enticing or at least less profitable.

Take your valuables with you, leave them at home, or lock them in the trunk (but do so prior to parking — you never know who's watching).

Do not leave anything in sight within your vehicle, not even an empty bag. If you saw the inside of my personal vehicle, you would never know someone even drives it.

To reduce your losses in the event your wallet is stolen, carry a minimal number of credit cards and do not ever carry your passport, Social Security or banking information in your wallet.

Know how to contact your bank and credit card companies to cancel your cards immediately. These burglaries often result in the immediate use of credit cards. As a general tip, I would recommend cleaning out your wallet periodically and always know what's in it, just in case.

Deputy Stephanie Josephson, of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, answers questions about law enforcement.

Send questions to: editor@AlmanacNews.com; call 854-2626, ext. 213; or mail to: Ask the Deputy, The Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.



Arrests in string of auto burglaries

Menlo Park police arrested two men Thursday morning in connection with a string of auto burglaries, including some in the vicinity of Garwood Way and Glenwood Avenue in Menlo Park.

Arrested were Williams Fidel Chavez, 18, of Menlo Park, and Ronald Edgardo Amaya, 18, of Redwood City, police reported. They were booked into the San Mateo County jail on suspicion of burglary, conspiracy to commit burglary, possession of stolen property, and possession of burglary tools.

At about 1:31 a.m. Thursday, police on patrol in the area of Garwood Way and Glenwood Avenue in Menlo Park, spotted a red Honda leaving the area. Moments later they found a vehicle had been burglarized near where the Honda had been seen, acting sergeant Scott Mackdanz said in a statement.

The officers then spotted a second vehicle that had been burglarized, he said.

About 20 minutes later, an officer spotted the suspect Honda on Fifth Avenue in unincorporated Redwood City, Sgt. Mackdanz said. The officer stopped the car and found stolen property from the auto burglaries in the car, he said.

During this time, officers in Menlo Park found three more unreported auto burglaries. Property from these burglaries were also found in the suspect vehicle, police said.

Police are searching for a third suspect, Sgt. Mackdanz said.

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DELIVERS
24/7.**



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Upper School Open Houses: 10/16/08 6:30 pm; 12/7/08 1:00 pm**

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BIRTHS

Menlo Park

■ Jaclyn and Jason Lettman, a daughter, Oct. 23, at Sequoia Hospital.

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OBITUARIES

Lynn Delagnes

Retired real estate agent

Lynn Bovik Delagnes, who combined a successful real estate career with raising six children, died peacefully Oct. 18 at her home in Atherton following a long illness. She was 75.

Ms. Delagnes was born in Seattle. She attended the University of Washington, where she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. After moving to Menlo Park in 1961, she became a Realtor and married Andre Delagnes. Together, they started Delagnes & Co. Realty in Menlo Park and bought the former home of baseball great Ty Cobb. She remained active in real estate until 1998.

An excellent cook, Ms. Delagnes loved to entertain, say family members. She also enjoyed traveling, fishing, clamming, and playing cards, they say. She was a member of the Menlo Circus Club.

She is survived by her husband of 40 years, Andre Delagnes; children Adrien, Duane and Jon Delagnes, Robert Moore, Lyle Moore Medeiros and Nicole Delagnes Patton; and 14 grandchildren.

A celebration of her life is planned.

Louis Pourciau

Audio and television engineer

Louis "Dee" Lawrason Pourciau, a former Portola Valley resident, died Oct. 25 in Belmont. He was 87.

Mr. Pourciau was born in Rayne, Louisiana, and grew up in New Roads, Louisiana. He graduated from Tulane University in 1942 with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering. After graduation, he joined a group of scientists brought together at MIT's radiation laboratory to create microwave radar systems. While at the radiation laboratory, he met his future wife, Nancy Hunter, and they were married in 1943.

Mr. Pourciau later worked at General Precision Laboratory in Pleasantville, New York, where he was responsible for the development and design of television cameras and displays. In 1967 he joined International Video Corp. (IVC) of Sunnyvale, where he oversaw the design and development of color television and video record equipment. After leaving

Obituaries are based on information provided by mortuaries and family members.

IVC in 1974, he worked as a consultant until his retirement.

A member of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers and IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), Mr. Pourciau held many patents in the fields of audio and television.

Mr. Pourciau lived in Portola Valley from 1967 to 1996 and served on several town committees. He enjoyed all music, especially opera and jazz. With season tickets to the San Francisco Opera, he looked forward to having dinner at a special restaurant before each performance, say family members.

Surviving Mr. Pourciau are his daughter, Jacqueline Morrisey of Foster City; son, Bruce Pourciau of Appleton, Wisconsin; and four grandchildren. His wife, Nancy Pourciau, died in 1995.

Memorials in his name may be made to the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition, 2501 Oak Lawn Ave., No. 435, Dallas, TX 75219.

Richard Evdokimoff

Former Menlo Park resident



Evdokimoff

A celebration of the life of Richard William Evdokimoff will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, at Gar Woods restaurant in Carnelian Bay at Lake Tahoe. Mr. Evdokimoff died at his home in Carson City, Nevada, on Oct. 28. He was 66.

Born in San Francisco, Mr. Evdokimoff grew up in Redwood City, graduating from Sequoia High School and San Jose State University. He lived in Menlo Park from 1970 until 1988 and, at one time, worked in commercial real estate sales for Cornish & Carey. He moved to Carson City 18 years ago.

Mr. Evdokimoff enjoyed fishing, skiing, golf, tennis and cooking, say family members.

He is survived by his daughter, Kerry Evdokimoff of Mill Valley and brother Jim Evdokimoff of Pleasanton. Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 1281 Terminal Way, Suite 111, Reno, NV 89502 or a charity of the donor's choice.

Board to consider Everest charter petition

The San Mateo County Board of Education has scheduled a public hearing on a petition for Everest Public High School at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 101 Twin Dolphin Drive in Redwood City.

Everest would open in Sep-

tember 2009 and be modeled on Summit Preparatory Charter High School in Redwood City.

Trustees of the Sequoia Union High School District rejected Everest's petition on a 4-1 vote on Sept. 17.

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P02640 11/04

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

TOWN OF ATHERTON STATE OF CALIFORNIA

TREE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT PROJECT NO. 08-009

Notice is hereby given that SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027, until 3:00 p.m. NOVEMBER 12, 2009, at which time they will be publicly opened and read, for performing the following work:

The work of this Contract includes, but is not limited to, routine pruning, hazardous tree removal, and storm damage cleanup of City trees within the City limits of Atherton. Bids must be for the price per crew hour for performing tree work, which shall be inclusive of equipment and travel. The budget set forth for this project will be a maximum of \$60,000 dollars.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for TREE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT, Project No. 08-009", along with date and time of bid opening.

Specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton Public Works Department, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton CA 94027, for a non-refundable fee of \$10.00. Additional important information is contained in Town of Atherton Standard Specifications, which are available for an additional \$20.00. If shipping is requested, there will be an additional charge of \$10.00.

Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash, a cashier's or certified check or bid bond for not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid, as a guarantee that the bidder, if awarded the Contract, will fulfill the terms of the bid. The Town of Atherton reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and/or to waive any irregularities therein.

Bidders are hereby notified that, pursuant to California Civil Code Sections 3247 and 3248 and Standard Specifications Section 3.02, the successful bidder will be required to provide payment and performance bonds in the amounts stated in Section 3.02 of the Standard Specifications.

Bidders are hereby notified that provisions of California Labor Code regarding prevailing wages are applicable to the work to be performed under this contract. Pursuant to Section 1773 et seq. the general prevailing wage rates have been determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations and appear in the California Prevailing Wage Rates. Copies are on file at the office of the City Engineer and are available to interested parties upon request. The successful bidder shall post a copy of the wage rates at the job site.

The Contractor may elect to receive 100 percent of payments due under the contract, without retention of any portion of the payment by the Town of Atherton, by depositing securities of equivalent value to the retention amount in accordance with the provisions of Section 22300 of the California Public Contracts Code.

The successful bidder must be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9, Division 3, of the California Business and Professions Code to do the type of work contemplated in the project at the time the contract is awarded and shall be skilled and regularly engaged in the general class or type of work called for under the Contract. Failure of the bidder to obtain proper and adequate licensing for an award of the contract shall constitute a failure to execute the contract and result in the forfeiture of the bidder's bid security.

Each bidder shall submit with this bid a statement setting forth his/her/its experience and qualifications. The statement shall be made on the forms provided by the Town and must accompany each bid. The three lowest bidders will be required to submit subcontractor's experience and qualifications statements within 48 hours of the bid opening, on forms provided by the Town.

By submitting a bid in response to this advertisement for bids, the bidder shall be conclusively deemed to have read, understood and agreed with all of the information and materials contained in the bid documents, including but not limited to the construction contract, the standard specifications, the special provisions, the required nature and amount of insurance and the documentation evidencing said insurance.

Any questions regarding the project should be directed to the City Engineer, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA 94027, telephone (650) 752-0532, preferably no later than five days before bid opening. Requests for Information may be faxed to (650) 688-6539. Plan holder's lists may be obtained by calling (650) 752-0570.

By: _____
Duncan L. Jones, P.E., City Engineer

Date: _____

Published in THE ALMANAC on November 5, 12, 2008

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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.

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Appearance of conflict a concern

Amid the mud-slinging during the race for Menlo Park's two open City Council seats, the one of greatest concern to voters is candidates accepting campaign donations that represent a potential conflict of interest.

The case in point is the practice of the city's largest union, the SEIU, to make large donations to one or more City Council candidates, who they obviously hope will support them when it is time to bargain for higher wages. The problem was clearly illustrated last week when council member Kelly Fergusson, a candidate for reelection, accepted a large donation — \$1,000 — from the SEIU, and then voted to give the city's non-benefited workers, who are represented by the SEIU, an additional 2 percent increase in addition to the standard raise recommended by the union.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

Ms. Fergusson, who received two other \$1,000 donations, is the only candidate who received a donation from the SEIU. The city attorney said she did nothing illegal when she voted for the pay raise and that the state's Fair Political Practices Act was not violated by her vote.

And there are no laws that say unions cannot donate to local political campaigns. But Ms. Fergusson easily could have abstained from that vote, citing a conflict of interest due to the SEIU contribution. She did not. And even though she apparently believes that there is no link between her vote and the SEIU's \$1,000 campaign donation, the appearance of conflict is too strong to ignore. Clearly, the SEIU has a strong agenda in the city, including getting its members the highest possible salaries and adding union jobs to the city roster.

Council candidate Rick Ciardella accepted a donation of \$1,000 from Howard Crittenden, owner of the shuttered Park Theatre, who almost certainly will come before the council to develop his building site within the next four years.

We like incumbent candidate Andy Cohen's approach. He has refused contributions from organizations that might bring business before the city council. Such a solution takes any talk of conflict of interest off the table.

Menlo Park even has a model conflict law on the books — for the Planning Commission, which bars commissioners from accepting a campaign donation from anyone who has or will appear before them. The law could easily be adapted for the City Council. Some cities have set a voluntary campaign-spending limit. Either or both would be appropriate for Menlo Park to consider. After the meeting last week, council member John Boyle said he would like to see the council adopt a municipal ordinance that would prohibit a vote on an issue involving a group that gave a council member a donation within a certain time period.

Mr. Cohen's decision to pass up potentially conflict-laden donations did not appear to hurt his fund-raising efforts, even with unions. He accepted \$250 from the electrical workers and \$1,000 from the plumbers and steamfitters, but these unions do not represent workers who bargain with the City Council on new contracts.

We see similar conflicts in the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, where over the years the firefighters' union has been actively involved in fire board campaigns, making donations and recommending candidates. By accepting such donations, board members subject themselves to a serious conflict unless they recuse themselves during salary negotiations for the rank and file.

Candidates for local office should not need to spend exorbitant sums to get elected. By simply declaring that they will not accept donations from groups like the SEIU that do business with the city, candidates can easily defuse any claims of conflict. It would be a simple step and send a positive message to the voters, who may rightfully wonder about the council's independence.

LETTERS

Our readers write

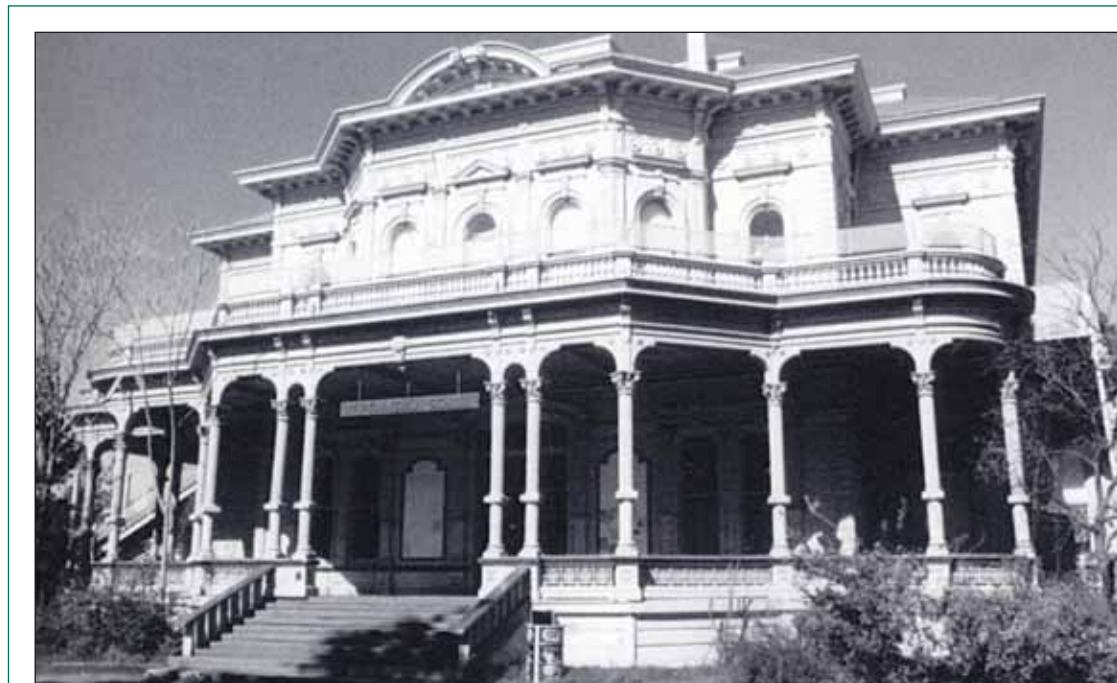
Is it a fee or tax in Atherton?

Editor:

Local Governments have many responsibilities to their citizens. In Atherton we deal with drainage, high-speed rail, housing, emergency preparedness, police, and fire issues just to name a few. After the passage of Propositions 13 and 218, state and local governments have struggled to finance services with restrictions on tax increases.

An alternative is to evaluate the cost of services and increase "fees," which only requires a majority vote on the council, while two-thirds of residents are need to approve a new tax. But a fee must reflect the true cost to provide a service, and income from a fee cannot be funneled off for other services. At times cities have been challenged as to whether a fee is a actually a tax.

Back in 2005 Atherton followed 20 other cities and implemented an "off-haul fee" to defray the cost of road repair. The level or magnitude of the fee in Atherton was four times that of any other city. In the summer of 2006, several residents challenged the fee, charging



Menlo Park Historical Society

Our Regional Heritage

The Coleman House was completed in 1882 by Maria O'Brien Coleman as a gift for her son. He never occupied the home and after sitting vacant for many years, it was acquired by Peninsula School in 1925 and continues to be used by that institution.

that it was a tax. In September of 2006, the council decided to return all funds collected with interest.

In Atherton I believe we have three fees we need to review. In 2004, the business license fee collection format as it pertains to

construction was changed, and in 2007 the multiplier for plan check fees, which also impacts the business license fee and the road-impact fee, was changed.

The new fee levels have been challenged and called taxes. Recently

Menlo School applied for a permit to build a new gymnasium. The total cost of the permit is \$321,258. This includes \$67,615.20 for business license fees and \$133,352 for

See **LETTERS**, next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

road impact fees.

My personal opinion is that this is “more than is necessary to provide services.” At some point, we at the council level will have to re-evaluate the fee-versus-tax issue and address the refund situation.

The moral dilemma a council member faces is, when do you inform the public; do you do what is best for the town and limit refunds (following state law) or do you go back further to represent the interest of individual citizens who make up the town? I chose to inform residents and suggest they submit letters of review requests.

**Charles Marsala, member
Atherton City Council**

Taking stock of the street trash in Woodside

Editor:

Most days I take a brisk morning walk along Olive Hill Lane, Albion, Manuella, King’s Mountain, Woodside and Cañada roads in Woodside. I think it’s about a mile.

One morning I stopped to retie a shoe and noticed a couple of empty beer cans in the ditch. That drew my attention to the fact that there was a lot of stuff littering the roadsides along most of my route.

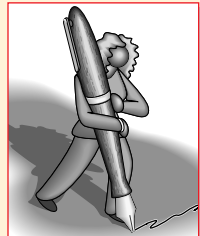
So one day I slung an old sports bag over my shoulder and stopped to pick up the worst of the litter along the part of my route that had its collection that day. I filled my bag six times and emptied it into various garbage cans. And that was only one side of the street.

A few weeks ago, on both sides of Cañada between Glenwood and Olive Hill, I collected enough litter to fill four 5-gallon buckets in

More sparkle for Santa Cruz Ave.

By Ernst Meissner

In the 1970s, Menlo Park gave its downtown a big face-lift. Among the many improvements were a large number of planters with ground-level up-lights to provide year-round nighttime illumination



GUEST
OPINION

Current lighting components also include 20 light kiosks with stained glass windows, backlit street names, and high crosswalk luminaries, as well as low-glare post lights along the sidewalks. Lights in the median planters down the center of the street illuminate the trunks

and underside of the canopy of mature London plane trees. All these lights (220 in total) are regularly monitored by volunteers and maintained by city staff.

Now, however, changes in the landscaping, and new technology require a re-evaluation of the city’s downtown lighting. The Downtown Group and the Holiday Committee, both sub-committees of the Chamber of Commerce, are proposing some changes in

the downtown lighting program, including:

■ That the city continue to maintain all the downtown lighting noted above

■ That the city re-evaluate existing landscape up-lights and redirect or eliminate fixtures where appropriate

■ That LED lights be installed in 20 feature trees at key intersections for year-round illumination. Initial installation is to be funded by individual donations, with ongoing maintenance by city staff

■ During the holiday season, the trunks and major branches of all trees in the center medians be outlined with mini-lights and that the median up-lights be temporarily disconnected. The installation and removal of temporary mini-lights will be paid for by the Chamber of Commerce from funds collected for that purpose, and

power to be provided by the city.

To give the public an idea of how Santa Cruz Avenue trees will look, a sample LED illuminated tree has been done at 863 Santa Cruz Avenue, and a sample of the seasonal tree mini-lighting can be seen in the median at the intersection of Santa Cruz Avenue and Chestnut Street.

Please take an evening stroll along Santa Cruz Avenue, observe the sample trees, and let your imagination fill in the rest. We believe that a combination of new LED lighting and improved up-lighting will not only reduce energy and maintenance costs but also greatly enhance the year-round appearance of our downtown, with the seasonal mini-lights in the medians providing a special ambiance

during the holiday season.

Ernst Meissner is a longtime volunteer in the downtown beautification project. He lives on Johnson Street in Menlo Park.



Ernst Meissner

More sparkle would be added to downtown trees under a plan to upgrade lighting.

only 500 yards. I doubt that I got everything, but my haul included ball-point pens, beer and soda cans, glass bottles, paper coffee cups, fast-food containers, candy wrappers, shopping bags, liquor bottles in paper bags, remnants of automobile collisions, lots of cigarette ends and paper handkerchiefs, till receipts and various unidentifiable bits of paper and plastic. Most of it was probably hurled from passing vehicles; likely over a number of years.

So, wherever you live, here is a challenge: perhaps once in springtime and again in fall before the rains wash it into the storm drains,

creeks, bay and ocean, take a bucket and barbecue tongs and pick up the garbage littering the roadside along your property line.

Please? I’m not getting any younger and my back hurts.

**John Kay
Woodside**

Cyclists continue to get cold shoulder on Caltrain

Editor:

Caltrain is bumping more bicyclists now than ever, even though many trains have literally hundreds of empty seats.

Caltrain doesn’t want anyone to know about the empty seats (staff has repeatedly told the Caltrain board the trains are full). Two conductors on different days prohibited me from taking photographs on the train, stating it was against Caltrain policy, and one threatened to confiscate my camera. Now not only are we denied boarding, we are also denied our civil rights.

Caltrain management seems intent on driving away its most loyal, most environmentally responsible customers through abysmal service. Conductors told us they recently they received a memo saying that

their jobs will be in jeopardy if they allow extra bikes on board above the stated capacity limit.

Many conductors used do just that, but now they are forced to deny service to customers with paid tickets, who need to get to work on time, who need to get home after work. We are left behind on the platform, often bumped from two or more trains in a row, while the trains pull away with empty seats. This has got to stop.

Shirley Johnson
(The writer is a leader of BIKES ONboard, a project of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition.)

Atherton mayor looks back on the year

By Jim Janz

As I finish out my year as Atherton’s mayor, I am also completing my second term on the city council. After 18 years of service on the council and the planning commission, I have decided to step down and allow others the opportunity to make a contribution to the town.

At the beginning of my term as mayor, I delivered the “State of the City” address in January, urging the council to focus on the big issues and to focus more on the future than on the past or present. I encouraged the council to be proactive, to stop reacting to events, and to deal with issues before they become problems.

In January I identified a range of issues before us, some that will take years to resolve, but here’s how we’ve begun to address some of them:

■ Examine the relationship between the council and staff in order to streamline administration, while maintaining adequate public oversight.

In the last nine months we have hired a new city manager, who in turn has hired a new police chief, a new finance director and an assistant city manager. In March, we held our first-ever City Council retreat and workshop, a two-day event.

It was followed a few weeks later with a full-day retreat that included the council and senior staff. The goal of these meetings was to have the council focus on “big picture” items, and to develop confidence that the staff would operate the town services, and implement the goals and objectives that the council developed in the workshops.

■ Relations with other cities and districts, public safety agencies, and high-speed rail.

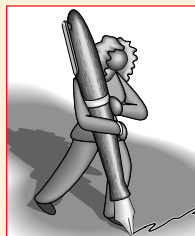
We have developed relationships with our neighboring cities and districts that did not exist before. We now have a very friendly and effective working relation-

ship with our fire district — one that is probably the model for the district.

We have also worked with Menlo Park and its council members on several issues at a joint meeting in January and a study session on high-speed rail in September. In August, Atherton joined Menlo Park, several rail groups, and the California Planning and Conservation League to challenge the adequacy of the environmental impact report prepared for the high-speed rail project. This was done at no cost to either city, and by working together, the impact of each city’s voice was greatly enhanced.

■ Explored new opportunities for increasing revenue, housing and redeveloping neighboring areas.

To meet fiscal needs and state housing requirements, I suggested that the city explore annexing some adjacent unin-



GUEST
OPINION

corporated areas. The tax support from even a limited amount of commercial development might be able to replace the parcel tax. And, annexation might provide the space for development of some multi-family housing that would help meet state requirements.

The concept of annexing some adjacent areas has so far been favorably received by the county, Redwood City, and the Local Agency Formation Commission. I encourage the council to continue to work on these relationships, and to pursue this concept to see if a consensus can be developed.

Finally, I want to say that there will be change, and the challenge ahead is to make sure those changes happen on our terms, not on someone else’s. My service to the town has been an educational and rewarding experience, and I can only wish equal satisfaction to my successors. I assume that Vice Mayor Jerry Carlson will be mayor next year, and I am confident that he, along with our new and very-qualified city manager, Jerry Gruber, will do a terrific job.

Jim Janz is currently mayor of Atherton

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600 Hobart Street, Menlo Park
Spacious 6-bedroom, 4.5-bath remodeled and updated home with beautifully landscaped gardens in West Menlo; access to excellent local schools
OFFERED AT \$3,250,000



FOR SALE

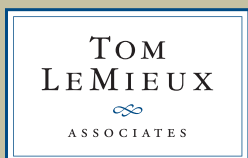
2156 Sterling Avenue, Menlo Park
2-bedroom, 2-bath Carmel cottage-style home with extraordinary gardens and access to top-rated Las Lomas schools
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4-bedroom, 3.5-bath home featuring refined French country living in Felton Gables; access to excellent local schools
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To view these properties and others, please visit my website at www.tomlemieux.com



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