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See Home & Garden Design inside this issue**

# The Almanac

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



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**26**

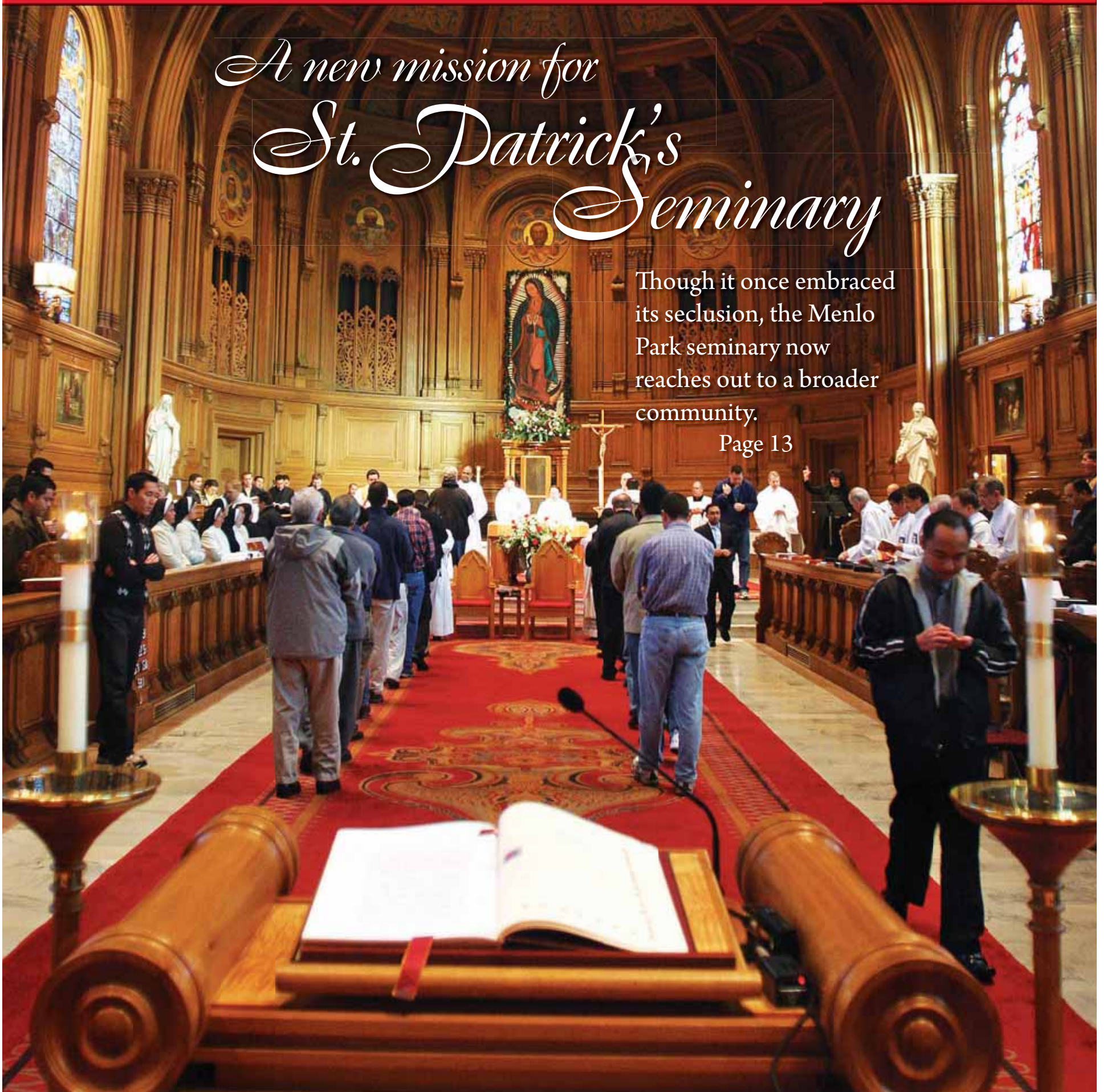
DECEMBER 17, 2008

[www.TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com) | VOL. 44 NO. 16

## *A new mission for St. Patrick's Seminary*

Though it once embraced its seclusion, the Menlo Park seminary now reaches out to a broader community.

Page 13



# Season of Sharing Community Caring

The holiday season is first and foremost a time of giving. In this season of sharing, 112 of Cashin Company agents and staff have generously given to 49 different local charities of their choice. Their generosity supports dedicated caring community organizations and improve the lives of others throughout the year.

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# Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

## FIRST SHOT



Photo courtesy of Henry Riggs

### Double your parking, double your ... convenience?

Workers install a two-tiered parking space at a mixed commercial and residential building at 622 Santa Cruz Ave. in downtown Menlo Park on Dec. 2. The device allows two cars to be stacked at different levels; it moves up and down like an elevator, depending on which car needs to be brought to ground level. A crane, out of frame, lowers the device into place.

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## Family Almanac

- An interview with Woodside Vineyards' Bob Mullen. **Cover, Section 2**

## On the cover

Congregants in the chapel at St. Patrick's Seminary & University take Holy Communion during Mass. The seminary, once known for its monastic seclusion, is now encouraging students to reach out to the broader community and engage in dialogue with people of other faiths. Photo by Michelle Le. See story on **Page 13**.

### CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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

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■ E-mail news, information and obituaries to (no photos please): **editor@AlmanacNews.com**  
 ■ E-mail news photos with captions to: **AlmanacNews@gmail.com**  
 ■ E-mail letters to the editor to: **letters@AlmanacNews.com**

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The Environmental Volunteers is a 36-year-old educational non-profit that provides environmental science programs to Bay Area schools. More information is at [www.Evols.org](http://www.Evols.org) or call 961-0545 by Dec. 18.

### Calling all paparazzi

There may not be a red carpet, but you will see several local filmmakers when their movie premieres in Campbell Theatre at Sacred Heart Prep in Atherton at 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21.

The film, “Our Feature Presentation,” was directed by Portola Valley product Gardner Loulan, and produced by his mother, JoAnn Loulan. It was the subject of an Almanac cover story in August of 2006.

Mr. Loulan shot the movie primarily at homes of family friends in Portola Valley, Woodside and Los Altos, he said at the time. A number of local residents worked in the cast and crew.

The story follows a young man who returns home after college to make a movie about his hometown. His artistic integrity is compromised, however, when the wealthy townspeople throw money at him in exchange for roles.

Admission is free, and DVDs of the film will be available for purchase. A warning to parents, however: Ms. Loulan said it includes questionable language and one “bedroom” scene, though no skin is exposed.

Sacred Heart is located at 150 Valparaiso Ave., between Emilie Avenue and Elena Avenue.

# Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## District may yank funds from county pool

By **Andrea Gemmet**

Almanac Staff Writer

Officials from the Menlo Park City School District are stepping up efforts to recoup a nearly \$4 million loss in bad investments made by the San Mateo County treasurer, and may withdraw millions of dollars from the county investment pool in order to insulate the district from further losses.

News about the losses from San Mateo County’s ill-advised investment in Lehman Brothers debt instruments has gone from bad to worse for the district. A corrected calculation recently added \$92,539 to the school district’s loss, in both bond money and operating funds, due to the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers, Superintendent

Ken Ranella said.

The district’s total loss now stands at \$3.99 million, which includes \$3.28 million in school construction bonds. The school district had a total of \$79 million invested in the pool at the time of the bankruptcy.

Rather than holding onto those debt instruments and hoping to recoup some of the losses in bankruptcy court, the county could sell them off at the current price of about 13 cents on the dollar, Mr. Ranella told school board members at their Dec. 9 meeting. Selling the distressed assets could net the district about \$400,000, he said.

The bond money is urgently needed for construction projects at the three elementary school campuses, and future construc-

tion at Hillview Middle School. “We’re at the peak of our spending,” said Ahmad Sheikholeslami, the district’s director of facility planning and construction.

Board members voted unanimously to ask county treasurer Lee Buffington to sell the distressed Lehman assets, and to start a process that will allow the district to move surplus funds out of the county pool, at least on a short-term basis. School districts are required to participate in county treasury pools under the state education code, but there are loopholes for funds that are declared “surplus.”

Board member Jeff Child said he disagreed with how Mr. Buffington is handling the county’s Lehman Brothers holdings. “This is three months

post-Lehman (bankruptcy) — what has he done for us? He’s our money manager,” Mr. Child said at the meeting.

“I don’t think either of us have walked out of meetings saying, ‘I want to hire him,’” Mr. Child said bluntly to Mr. Ranella at the meeting.

Mr. Child belongs to the county’s Investment Policy Workgroup formed in the wake of the Lehman Brothers losses. The group, which includes representatives from cities and school districts, is seeking an outside investment adviser to rewrite the county’s investment policy and monitor the portfolio, and will be making recommendations to the county Board of Supervisors.

See **LEHMAN**, page 7

## County board rejects charter high school

By **Dave Boyce**

Almanac Staff Writer

Having been rebuffed by two local school boards, the year-long local effort to charter another public high school in the Sequoia Union High School District now heads to the state Board of Education.

Short of a lawsuit, the state board is the last stop for petitioners for Everest Charter High School, who are trying, in essence, to clone Summit Preparatory Charter High School.

Summit, a six-year-old school in Redwood City, received its charter from the Sequoia district and is notable for its ethnic and academic diversity, small classes, comparatively low costs per student, and very high admission rates to four-year colleges. A fourth of its 407 students live in The Almanac’s circulation area.

Like all charter schools, Summit is free to experiment with teaching methods, and free of most regulations that govern large comprehensive high schools such as Menlo-Atherton and Woodside.

Summit is dramatically oversubscribed every year for its 100-seat freshman class. Everest is meant to provide 100 more freshman seats in September 2009 and grow to 400 students in grades 9-12 like Summit Prep.

See **EVEREST**, page 8



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

**This is the lone remaining traffic circle** from the early 1990s traffic-mitigation project in the Willows neighborhood, during which the city installed street furniture that was later removed when residents protested. Last week, the City Council gave the go-ahead to a new study of traffic in the area.

## Is the issue traffic, crime, or both?

By **Sean Howell**

Almanac Staff Writer

When meetings for a Willows area traffic study get under way, the consultant hired for the project will likely have her hands full trying to bring together residents who think the study should focus on crime-prevention measures — and others who wish the city hadn’t decided to carry out the study in the first place.

At its Dec. 9 meeting, the Menlo Park City Council decided to proceed with the traffic study, but not without reservations — and lingering questions about whether the impetus for the study emerged from con-

cerns about traffic or crime.

The Willows area borders the low-income city of East Palo Alto, and several Willows residents have expressed concern that the growing crime in the neighborhood may be tied to easy street access to and from the neighboring city. The incidence of property crimes in the Willows has increased by 47 percent from 2007 levels, according to the police department.

The idea for a traffic study emerged during meetings held in the Willows last year over concerns about several shootings in and around the neighborhood, according to Police Chief Bruce Goitia.

The council voted 4-1 on Dec.

9 to approve the specifics of the study — the substance of which it had already signed off on — with minor changes.

While debate among residents over the study has largely revolved around the issue of crime and relations with East Palo Alto, council members said they believed that traffic concerns alone merit a study. They cited recent development projects in East Palo Alto just outside the Menlo Park Willows area and the closure of a U.S.-101 off-ramp as contributors to increased traffic since the last study in the early 1990s.

Several residents had pushed

See **WILLOWS**, page 7

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# Were taxpayers subsidizing builders?

By Sean Howell  
Almanac Staff Writer

## ■ MENLO PARK

Somewhat lost in the hub-bub over the Menlo Park City Council's recent decision to increase fees at the Menlo Children's Center was its approval of a steep bump in fees for planning services, nearly doubling the city's cost recovery rate for those services.

Services for which the planning department charges fees include preparing a development permit, conducting environmental review on a proposed project, drawing up parcel maps, and amending zoning ordinances.

In setting those fees, the city has been guided by a philosophy that taxpayers should not subsidize planning services, but that builders and homeowners who use the services should pay for them in full, according to Carol Augustine, the city's finance manager.

But according to the city's cost allocation report, that's essentially what they've been doing — to the tune of over \$600,000 last year alone.

Which begs the question: Why was the city recouping only half the cost of services for which it tries to fully recover its costs?

Because the city has never really had a handle on the true costs associated with planning fees, said Arlinda Heineck, head of the planning department. Ms.

Heineck has long been aware that the city wasn't calculating the true costs of planning services, she said.

"We've always known the hourly rate the finance department had established prior to this study (for billable planning services)" didn't account for the full cost, Ms. Heineck said.

The issue of cost allocation was brought up by residents during the Your City/Your Decision budgeting process for the 2006-07 fiscal year, after which the finance department posed the idea of carrying out a study to the City Council.

Planning fees had previously incorporated costs directly traceable to the planning department, such as staff salary and post-retirement benefits, but they hadn't accounted for more oblique "overhead" costs, according to Finance Director Carol Augustine. Those include work done by other departments related to planning services, general administration, the process of updating various planning documents, and the use of city facilities and equipment.

But those areas wouldn't account for the full \$600,000 increase in cost recovery, according to Ms. Augustine. She estimated that roughly half the \$600,000 increase is due to over-

head costs, and the other half came from fees that had been set at a flat rate, but were changed to a sliding scale to account for staff time and cost of materials.

That's not correct, says Ms. Heineck: She's not aware of any flat fees that moved to a sliding scale.

The City Manager's office referred questions about the increase in planning fees to Ms. Augustine.

It would be fair to say that taxpayers have been subsidizing planning services "to some degree," Ms. Heineck said, though it's hard to know where to draw the line. "At a certain point, taxpayers are paying to have a functioning city government, and all of those services are part of a functioning government," she said.

Ms. Augustine said she did not think it was necessarily a mistake for the city to have waited so long before calculating its true costs on a department-by-department basis.

"We have a lot of other priorities, and this is a big project," she said.

Ms. Augustine is "pretty confident" the city has an accurate handle on the costs of planning services, she said, and she believes it will continue to recover nearly all its costs for planning services. She said it was "hard to say" how much money the city has failed to recover for performing those services over the years. ■

## WILLOWS

continued from page 5

for amelioration of crime to be included as a goal in the study, arguing that crime could be addressed by diverting "cut-through" traffic away from the neighborhood. But Transportation Manager Chip Taylor said

the study would focus only on the volume of traffic and the speed of vehicles traveling in the area.

The study will, however, allow for the consideration of street closures, a measure that some residents advocated when the city studied the neighborhood's traffic in the early 1990s. During that study, the council rejected a plan to barricade streets near the East

## LEHMAN

continued from page 5

Mr. Child strongly suggested that the school district declare \$10 million or so as surplus funds, remove them from the county pool, and park the money in short-term U.S. Treasury bonds until the county sorts out its investment policy.

However, in the long-term, keeping money with the county treasurer is the best way to go, once the problems get fixed, he said.

"I don't think the model is flawed. You can't have every little school district trying to manage its own money," Mr. Child said. "We want tighter controls. For one person to be

running a \$2.7 billion (investment pool), in the private sector, you don't see that."

The timing of the loss is particularly rough on the Menlo Park district. In July, the district deposited \$30 million from a bond sale into the county investment pool, money earmarked for construction projects at Laurel, Oak Knoll and Encinal schools, according to Mr. Ranella. Two months later, before the money even earned any interest, almost 11 percent of the district's bond money was gone.

District officials are also bracing themselves for mid-year cuts in state funding. Those cuts are expected to be announced in January, said Diane White, the district's chief business official. ■

Palo Alto border.

Councilman John Boyle was the lone dissenter in the Dec. 9 vote, arguing that street closures and other "extreme" traffic-control measures should only be considered if safety concerns emerge — the city's usual procedure. Mr. Taylor said the city had opted to allow for consideration of street closures at the behest of Willows residents who had pushed for the study.

"We're talking about a lot of money that will potentially get spent exploring things that will generally be difficult to win long-term approval for," Mr. Boyle said.

## East Palo Alto

The study area will include a swath of East Palo Alto contiguous with the Menlo Park Willows, and those residents will be surveyed about the study and invited to participate in meetings, Mr. Taylor said.

Four Willows residents who were among the group that led the initial push for a traffic study voiced dissatisfaction with the scope of the study in a

See **WILLOWS**, page 9

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



### Is it time?

Dear Gloria,

We have been looking at houses for nearly two years and actually made an offer on one last spring. We didn't get it, as there were multiple offers and we weren't the highest. We just stopped looking in September mainly because there was very little on the market to look at and secondly, all of the economic bad news was such that we don't feel confident about the future. Lastly, with the plunge in the stock market we have lost some of the money for our down payment. But now it seems like prices have come down so much and there are quite a few houses on the market. Would we be just crazy to buy a house in this terrible economy?

John and Martha

Dear John and Martha,

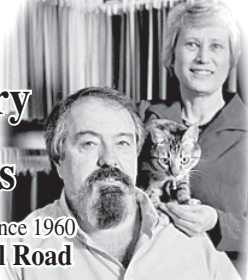
Here we are, two weeks before Christmas and a long time from the traditional buying season called the spring market. And in what some are saying is

the worst economy in nearly 80 years, chugging along only because the government has propped up some major financial institutions. And you want to buy a house??? Well, good for you! To quote the New York Times in an article written December 5th by Ron Lieber "Five or ten years from now, when the financial crisis has ended and housing prices are up smartly once more, we will look in the rearview mirror and realize that we missed a golden age for first-time home buyers." Interest rates are down again and there is much excitement in the air over the possibility of the fed trying to drive interest rates down to 4.5%. The supply of houses, and many of them good houses and great buys, has also greatly increased. So if you still have enough for a down payment I think it would be a great idea to jump right in. And probably be happy that you waited until now to do it.

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

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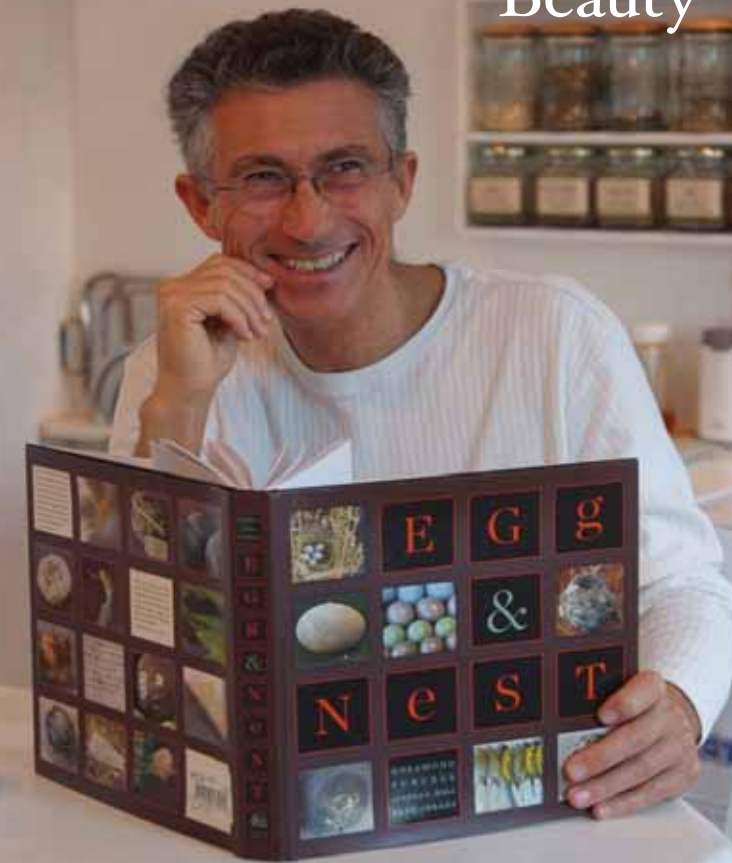
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# County board rejects charter high school

## EVEREST

continued from page 5

The San Mateo County Board of Education, reflecting the views of county Superintendent of Schools Jean Holbrook, rejected the Everest petition in a 5-2 vote on Dec. 8. State law allows petitioners to appeal to the state board after rejection by a county board.

Asked by reporters when she planned to send the Everest petition on to Sacramento, Everest spokeswoman and Summit Prep founder Diane Tavenner replied: "We're sending it tomorrow."

In explaining his vote to deny the petition, county Trustee Guillermo (Memo) Morantes of Menlo Park said in an interview that "it was not a good time to take away resources from the Sequoia high school district."

Trustees Ted Lempert and Rod Hsiao dissented from the majority. Mr. Lempert, in an interview, said he could not find a rationale to deny the petition. "The arguments of elitism were bizarre to me," he said. "Kids who were seriously struggling are now college bound (at Summit Prep)."

The board heard from 66 members of the public, each of whom had a minute to make argue for or against the charter. Everest backers, including many Summit Prep students and parents, outnumbered opponents by about 2-to-1.

Like Summit Prep, the backers said, Everest will offer a four-year-college-preparation program geared to a wide range of abilities, including students with learning problems.

Not good enough, opponents said. There will be children with special needs who won't succeed

at Everest, plus the Sequoia district will have to provide precious operating funds for 400 more charter school students at the expense of 8,000 district students in the comprehensive high schools.

The opponents' complaints echoed those from when the petition went before Sequoia district trustees, who denied it on a 4-1 vote on Sept. 17. The majority cited a lack of community support, potential financial problems and the attraction to white students who might otherwise attend undersubscribed charters in East Palo Alto.

In dissent, Sequoia Trustee Olivia Martinez acknowledged Summit's strong points and the evident community support for another school like it.

### Denial urged

Ms. Holbrook, the county

schools superintendent, had knocked Everest for what she called inadequate contingency planning and a budget too dependent on donations. In a memo, she criticized Everest's approach to special education and its potential to not reflect the Sequoia district's diversity, and she noted the opposition of "so many district staff and elected board of education members."

County staff had worked with petitioners in crafting needed changes that would have been spelled out in a memorandum of understanding. "Good progress has been on its development," staff spokesman Porter Sexton told the board. "Ms. Tavenner and I have reached general agreement."

When Trustee Lempert questioned Ms. Holbrook about the contradiction between her recommendation for denial and her staff's indications that sticking points were being worked out, she replied: "Whether you authorize or

the state authorizes (this charter), the impact will be on the Sequoia district. I think that it's very important to take into account the impact on the district."

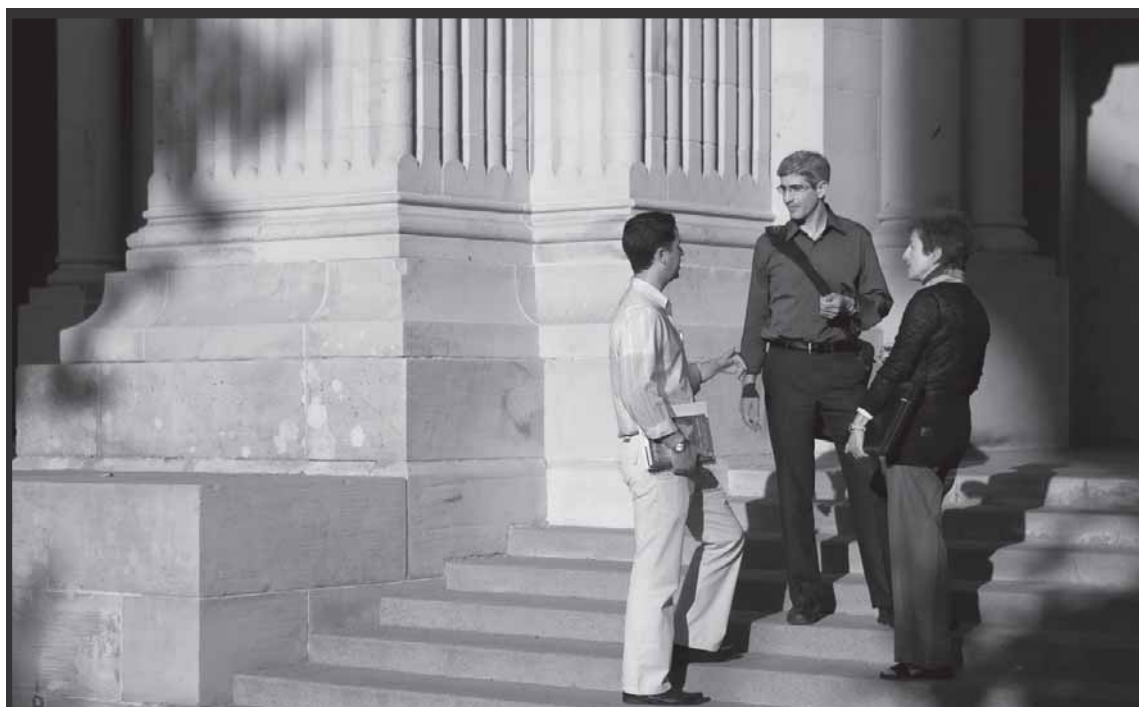
By state law, an education board is not allowed to consider a charter's impacts on a school district, including financial impacts, Everest attorney Paul Minney said.

This restriction called Trustee Jim Cannon. "It seems that the law is irresponsible in saying to us that we cannot consider financial impacts," he said before casting his "no" vote.

Trustee Morantes, in an interview, cited the troubled economy as a reason to deny Everest's charter. Besides, he added, the Sequoia district "has been doing a lot of good work for the students and the people in general."

And his message to families failing to get into Summit because there isn't room? "There's plenty

See **EVEREST**, page 12



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## School building plans cleared to proceed

By Andrea Gemmet and Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writers

After voicing concern that construction plans at Oak Knoll elementary school would be delayed by an appeal to the Menlo Park City Council of a conditional use permit at the school, Menlo Park City School District officials can now perhaps breathe a little easier. The City Council denied the appeal by a unanimous vote at its Tuesday, Dec. 9 meeting.

In January, the school district plans to start construction on the project, which includes a new parking lot and driveway on Oak Avenue, as well as a two-story classroom building and new multi-use building.

Under state law, the school district is exempt from the city's zoning ordinance. The city has authority only over storm-water drainage and physical changes made within the public right of way adjacent to the school, such as driveway curb-cuts, according to City Attorney Bill McClure. The appellants claimed the project would cause dangerous traffic conditions on Oak Avenue and worsen drainage issues.

At the meeting, appellant Kristin Duriseti argued that the school district's planning process had not been transparent. She said she had appealed in part because residents were "denied recourse in any other way" to voice concerns about the proposed project. The school district, she added, had not shown a good faith effort to respond to the concerns of residents about the project, especially those living in the vicinity of the school.

Another appellant, Kurt Hafer, said he was concerned that the planning process for the new construction at Oak Knoll had been "predicated on an adversarial relationship, rather than a cooperative one."

Mayor Heyward Robinson said that most of the questions raised by speakers at the meeting were "beyond the purview of our discussion this eve-

ning," but that it was important for the city and the school district to continue to communicate about the project.

### City criticized

The school district had criticized the city for hearing the appeal, expressing concern that it might delay the hiring of a contractor. The district expects to award a bid before the end of December, and delays or changes to the conditions on the permits could prove costly, said Superintendent Ken Ranella.

Menlo Park staff disputed the contention that the city has been holding up the process, saying that it only received the district's final plans last week.

In an e-mail to parents, Mr. Ranella wrote: "The City Council's unprecedented decision to conduct an appeals hearing on our encroachment and drainage permits deeply concerns us."

Such an appeal is not specified in any provision of the Menlo Park city ordinance or municipal code regarding permits, Mr. Ranella said.

Mr. McClure, the city's attorney, acknowledged that it

is pretty unusual for anyone to appeal the approval of an encroachment permit, because such permits are usually a small part of a much larger approval process for big projects. Mr. McClure said that he and city staff — not the City Council — decided it was appropriate to allow an appeal. City code does give the council authority to uphold or rescind permits, Mr. McClure said.

The appeal was scheduled for the earliest possible council meeting in December in order to accommodate the school district's desire to award bids and begin construction in January, Mr. McClure said.

Mr. Robinson said he has been responding individually to tens of e-mails from angry parents who believe the city has been holding up construction plans.

"There needs to be some healing between the school district, the city and the council," Mr. Robinson said. "Ken Ranella's e-mail didn't help." ■

*'There needs to be some healing between the school district, the city and the council. Ken Ranella's e-mail didn't help.'*

MAYOR HEYWARD ROBINSON

### WILLOWS

continued from page 7

jointly signed e-mail to the City Council log on the eve of the Dec. 9 vote. "We are concerned that the recommendations that are going before you tonight do not represent what the neighborhood wanted," they wrote, pushing for the consideration of crime-mitigation efforts.

They also asked for the city to measure cut-through traffic into and out of the Menlo Park Willows alone, without regard to the adjoining sliver of East Palo Alto identified as the "hidden Willows" by some of its residents in e-mails to the council log. That would mean vehicles originating in the East Palo Alto neighborhood and traveling through the Menlo Willows would be regarded as cut-through.

Instead, the study will define cut-through traffic as vehicles traveling through the broader

area, including that swath of East Palo Alto.

In an e-mail to the council log, Willows resident Dan Fowler said he had attended several of the early traffic meetings, but that he stopped going when it became clear to him that traffic concerns were being raised by a few people with "a personal agenda to put up a virtual wall between Menlo Park and East Palo Alto."

Penelope Huang, a Willows resident who also serves on the Transportation Commission, said that critics of the 1990s traffic-mitigation project were using "scare tactics" to dissuade the city from carrying out another study.

The city installed traffic circles and other street furniture as part of the earlier traffic-mitigation project, most of which was later removed when residents who had not been aware of the project protested that the implementations were making it difficult

for them to negotiate the streets of their own neighborhood.

### Council concerns

Several council members asked whether the city can still afford the \$120,000, consultant-led study. They said they hope the city is not headed for a repeat of the failed early 1990s project.

Council members agreed that it would be a challenge to get residents who have been feuding since the scuttled traffic-mitigation project 15 years ago on the same page.

"I'm moving toward approving this, but not without a measure of concern about how this is going to work," said Councilman Rich Cline.

"We need to go in with our eyes wide open, and to be very realistic about the challenges," Mayor Heyward Robinson said, referring to the divide between Willows residents that emerged during the earlier traffic-mitigation project. "This needs to be handled with a lot of delicacy." ■



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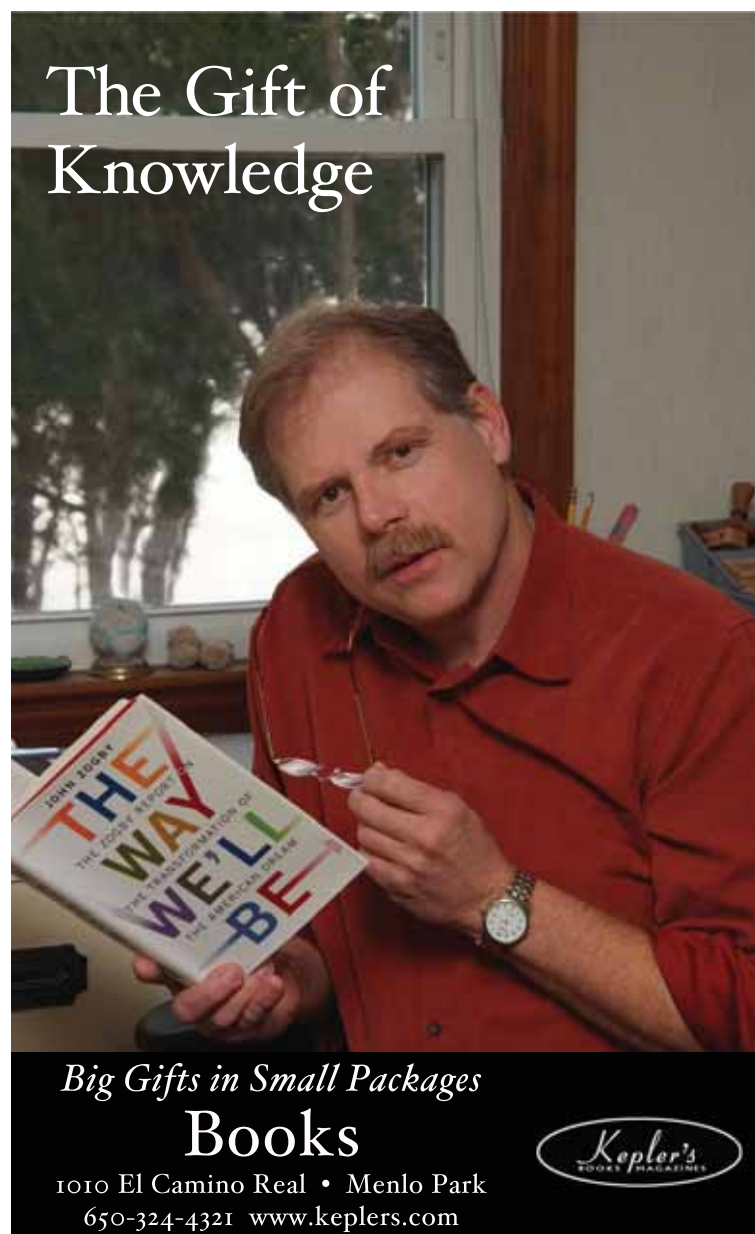
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# Stanford Hospital Health Notes

A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics

## Adding Music to Medicine a Resounding Success

The man was in a wheelchair, parked in the waiting room of the Emergency Department, as a Stanford Hospital & Clinics musician, seated nearby, played his guitar. Slowly, the man lifted his head and spoke in a quiet voice. "You're saving my life," he said.

Two floors up, in a room in the cardiac care unit, a woman sat in a chair next to her bed, her husband keeping her company in another chair across the room. A Hospital musician joined them and began to strum a guitar and sing, "That's All," the 1959 hit that begins "I can only give you love that lasts forever." The woman sang along softly. Her husband nodded his head in time to the music. When the song was over, she turned slightly toward the musician and smiled. "You made my afternoon," she said.

At the Stanford Cancer Center, Krista Bowman prepared for her hours-long chemotherapy treatment. A Hospital musician arranged herself on an upholstered bench facing Bowman. The musician drew her harp to her shoulder and put her hands to its strings, and out poured a rippling melody that cast its warmth all around the large treatment room. Bowman smiled and relaxed back in her chair.

### More than an afterthought

Every single day at Stanford Hospital & Clinics, music is, by design, an audible and effective element in healing. Within each month, every part of the Hospital receives a scheduled visit from a musician. Patients can request a special visit from a musician, for any reason. They can order CDs from the Hospital's collection to play in their room. Or, if able, they can attend the Bing Concert Series twice

weekly concerts in the Hospital's atrium, a central open space four stories high that is illuminated by a wall composed entirely of windows. Or they might hear and see a musician playing in the hallway of their care unit.

**"There is something about music that goes around the intellect and straight to the heart."**

— Hospital musician Barbary Grant

In the summer, the sound of music from a concert in an outdoor patio might drift through the Hospital's buildings. And when patients and their families arrive for their first visit at the Cancer Center, live music greets them from a musician playing a baby grand piano, harp or guitar. The musicians even go across the street to play for patients in the Hospital-owned apartments that are a transition from hospital to home. For the Hospital's physicians, nurses and staff, the music is a means to lessen their stress, too.



Earlier this month, the Marin Dance Theatre performed *Sophie and the Enchanted Toyshop* in the Hospital atrium.



The Black Olive Quartet brings a jazzy note at a Bing Concert Series' performance.

"There is something about music that goes around the intellect and straight to the heart," said Hospital musician Barbary Grant. "People don't even think about it until the music starts, and then they realize they're breathing easier. It transforms their state of mind."

Each year, for more than 15 years, the Hospital has expanded music's presence as an "important and defining feature of our Hospital," said Barbara Ralston, Vice President of Guest Services and International Medicine. With the substantial support of donors with innovative vision and great generosity, Ralston said, "we will continue our commitment to music."

The feedback from staff, patients and their families, she added, "has been huge and positive and reinforced music's importance and power in a healing environment."

**"We come with no agenda, no needles, no tubes to plug in."**

— Hospital musician Barbra Telynor

### A universal language beyond words

The Hospital's music program is one of the most robust in the country, said its director, Greg Kaufman. He organizes the series of concerts at different locations, manages the program's staff of six musicians and seeks out ways to fund new events. His long-lived love and knowledge of music and his own performance experience have translated into a wide variety of musical choices for patients.

In one month, listeners at the Bing Concert Series might catch jazz, classical or folk music, new and old, Latin American to Japanese to Celtic to big band, Tin Pan Alley and Jelly Roll Morton. Kaufman works hard for programming that represents a full library of music's many styles. The same variety emerges when Hospital musicians play in their regular rounds.

## Stanford Hospital & Clinics' Music Program

Patients and families can experience the comfort of music in a variety of ways at Stanford Hospital & Clinics. The Hospital's music program features live music available seven days a week, whether at a patient's bedside, on the hospital nursing units, in the Stanford Cancer Center lobby or through a weekly concert series. All the music services are free. The program's regularly scheduled events include:

- **Ambient Piano Series at Stanford Cancer Center**, noon to 3 p.m. every Wednesday and Thursday. Listeners can enjoy talented pianists playing soothing and inspiring music from a broad repertory of styles in a casual environment in the lobby of the Stanford Cancer Center.

- **Bing Concert Series** in the Hospital atrium, 12:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays. A wide range of musical performers, both instrumental and vocal, present music in a venue that's open to patients, families, visitors and staff.

- **Music on the Hospital Units.** Musicians play on nursing units throughout the Hospital seven days a week.

- **Music at bedside.** Patients can request a Hospital harpist or guitarist to play at their bedside. This service is provided seven days a week.

- **Recorded music on request.** Portable CD players and a selection of CDs are available for patient use.

These musicians always exercise compassionate sensitivity, shaping their music to a particular patient and circumstance. Harpist and singer Barbra Telynor may sometimes hum instead of singing the words of a song. Grant

often plays less well-known music because it's impossible to know what kinds of memories a popular song might trigger. Underlying all the music is the idea that patients need do nothing but listen, and that is what distinguishes music from other elements in a medical setting, Telynor said. "We come with no agenda, no needles, no tubes to plug in. And we stay as long as you want."

Over the winter holidays, Kaufman adds an extra program to celebrate the season. Last year, the Marin Dance Theatre brought more than three dozen of its youthful dancers to debut a production of the ballet, "Sophie and the Enchanted Toyshop," on a temporary stage set up in the atrium. More than 200 patients and staff found places to watch. For an hour, they enjoyed the music of Rossini, Respighi, Strauss and Saint-Saens that filled the atrium's great space.

### Soothing stress, rallying hope

Music as an instrument of healing, in particular the harp, has

existed for several thousand years. The Bible includes a famous story about David soothing a tense King Saul with his harp playing. Only recently has science caught up to parse out what goes on in the human body when it hears music. Research evidence is mounting to support the positive physical and emotional effects of music.

Dr. Steven D. Chang believes strongly in addressing the emotional dimension of illness, especially for his cancer patients. "A lot of these patients are living day to day," he said. "They're not worried about a year from now. They live in the moment and music helps them do that."

As director of the Hospital's Cyberknife program, which provides computer image-driven radiation treatment for cancer patients, Chang has instituted a protocol that includes asking a patient about his or her favorite music. Hearing that music played during procedures, he said, "takes away the monotony and helps

them relax." When patients have music during their treatment, he said, they don't need as much anti-anxiety medication. Music, he said, "plays a large role in helping patients adjust and adapt and work through their difficult times."

**"It's cool to have something else to think about. I really love the music."**

— Krista Bowman, Stanford Hospital & Clinics patient

For patients who may have to visit the Hospital repeatedly or stay for a long time, the chance to hear live music on a regular basis and get to know the musicians becomes part of their routine. Joe Silva received weeks of inpatient treatment at Stanford. Once he and his wife Kristen found out about the

Wednesday and Friday Bing Concert Series, they became regulars. The music, Silva said, evolved into an important part of his stay.

And Grant has been playing for Bowman in the Cancer Center for months now, at each of her chemotherapy sessions. Bowman is especially receptive and appreciative. "I grew up with music and played music myself," she said. Watching Grant play "gives you something to do. It's cool to have something else to think about. I really love the music."

People remember the music they have heard at the Hospital, Telynor said. "It's something that's quite magical and wonderful. People recall it and recall the Hospital in a more positive and supportive way because there's something tender that happened there."



Harpist Barbary Grant is one of six Hospital musicians who play in patient rooms, in the Cancer Center and in the hallways of care units.

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

## Councilman rejects new pellet gun law

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The Town Council in Portola Valley has formally adopted a new law that bans the firing of pellet and air guns within town boundaries, but with a difference.

Councilman Steve Toben, who voted reluctantly for the ordinance in November after a BB gun restriction was removed, dissented in a 4-1 vote at the

Dec. 10 meeting at which the council formally adopted the law after its “second reading,” a requirement of parliamentary procedure.

Mr. Toben, an attorney by training but not currently practicing, said this law was a response to a crime — the unsolved pellet gun shooting death of a pet cat in late August — but that it had not been vetted by an investigation to understand the problem, if any,

behind the crime and what should be done about it.

And why not address other weapons, such as slingshots and bows-and-arrows, he asked.

“I can no longer support the ordinance,” he said. “At the end of the day, we are responsible to be very prudent and careful when we undertake the responsibility to craft a new ordinance.”

While Councilman Ted Driscoll said he was “somewhat persuaded” with Mr. Toben’s

point, he voted with the majority after learning that the law covering unincorporated parts of San Mateo County was more strict in that it also banned BB guns.

Mayor Ann Wengert said she saw the cost-benefit ratio working out in favor of the new law, that additional research would not turn up anything significant, and that there was no evidence to support adding language to cover slingshots and bows.

“It’s a lot harder to hit something with a BB gun or slingshot or bow-and-arrow,” whereas a malicious act done with a pellet gun is more

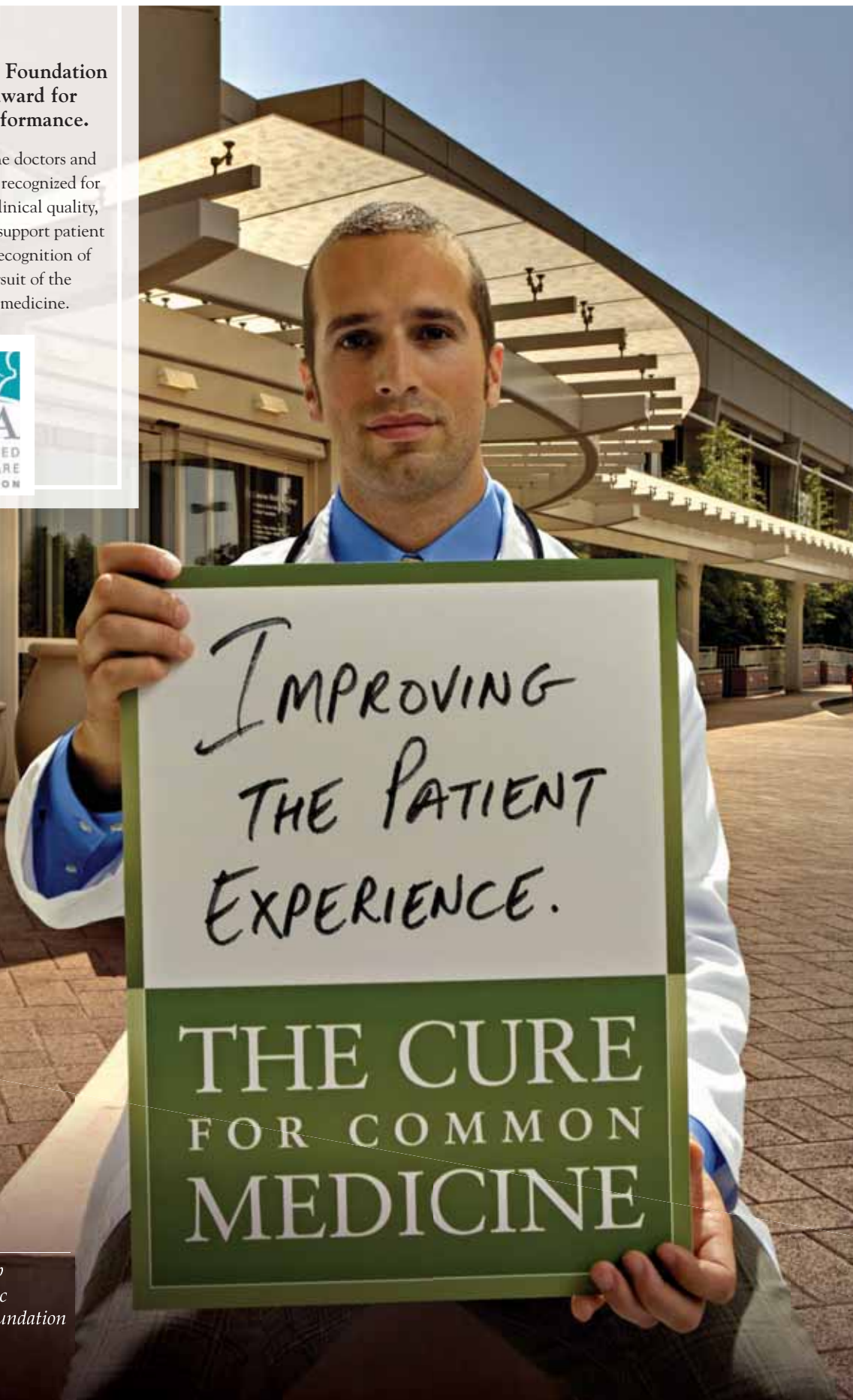
likely to cause damage, councilman Richard Merk added.

Kevin Webster, a resident of Westridge Drive and a pellet gun owner, objected. “I use them for practicing and working on my skills,” he said, adding that he practices only occasionally and is careful to set up targets so as to make the area behind them safe.

The law is fine as it is, said Kirk Raab, whose cat was the victim in the August shooting. “I can’t figure out for myself what the benefit (of pellet guns) to the community is,” he said. “Where’s the good in it? Where’s the positive for our community?” ■

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### EVEREST

continued from page 8

of room in the Sequoia high school district.”

Mr. Lempert, a former state assemblyman who helped refine charter school law, said that while he does not support all charter petitions, neither does he countenance their unjustified rejection.

After finding that school districts were denying charters on insufficient grounds, in 1998 he authored legislation that raised the bar on petition denials, he said. He also made it easier to close poorly performing charters, he said.

The Everest application “seemed like a real quality charter,” he added.

### Clashing views

The county board met before a standing-room-only crowd that overflowed into a second room.

“I think Summit is an incredibly diverse school with incredible options,” a Summit student named Nathan said. “If you take one thing that’s amazing and multiply it by two, you have two amazing things.”

Summit parent Monica Wegner remarked that M-A high did have a diverse population, as claimed, but only to a point. “When I look at the classes that my daughter would have been in, that diversity disappeared. That should be important to all of you,” she said.

“We (already) have choice in the district,” an Everest opponent said. “Our comprehensive high schools are currently working very well. We’ve (gotten) them to a point where they’re really wonderful.”

Woodside High Principal David Reilly said if Everest were to be placed on the campus of a comprehensive high school, it would “precipitate significant financial and logistical strains on the hosting school.” Mr. Reilly was an assistant principal at Sequoia High during Summit Prep’s stay there. ■

# A new mission for St. Patrick's Seminary

Though it once embraced its seclusion, the seminary now reaches out to a broader community, and draws students from all over the globe

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

Coming down the drive that leads into St. Patrick's Seminary & University off Middlefield Road in Menlo Park, it's tempting to imagine yourself as an explorer happening upon some lost world. The dense stands of trees suddenly clear, and there it is: a wide, inviting, red brick building with a cross at its peaked roof; a statue of Jesus, arms outstretched, in the middle of a grassy courtyard.

Wandering around that courtyard, it would be easy, in fact, to forget you're in Menlo Park at all. The place seems to be of a different era, and it is: once surrounded by fields, the centerpiece in a community of farmers, it now offers a respite from the busy streets and luxury homes that have developed around it.

For a long time, the seminary embraced its seeming isolation, says The Rev. Gerald Brown, president and rector of St. Patrick's. Father Brown recalls that when he studied there in the late 1950s and early 1960s, it resembled a monastery — students weren't allowed to leave the premises except for weekly bike rides, and the lights went out at 9 p.m. every night.

"That was good for our day," Father Brown says. "But we needed to change."

Now, the seminary is accepting students from all over the globe — about three-quarters of its 98 seminarians were born outside the United States, and 44 percent are ethnically Asian or Pacific Islander. And it is encouraging students to reach out not just to their parishioners but to entire communities, to not only spread the Catholic religion but to engage in dialogue with people of other faiths.

## Expansion plans

As the seminary's mission has broadened, so has its enrollment — the student body has increased since Father Brown took over as rector in 2004, from 87 students to its current 99. As a result, the seminary is looking into building new structures — a pricey proposition, especially in this economy, but one that Father Brown thinks it can pull off.

"I really believe that if you have

a mission that you believe in, and you're doing something you know is needed, you'll get the support," he says, referring to the additional donations the seminary would require in order to expand its facilities.

The seminary relies heavily on donors to maintain its current operations. The students' home dioceses pay their tuition, room and board, but that only covers about half the true operating costs, according to Father Brown. Contributions have been down in recent months, and he says that the seminary's financial picture is uncertain, though it hasn't been forced to cut any personnel yet.

## Increased enrollment

But there might be a silver lining in the financial crisis for the priesthood, he says. He noted that ordination spiked following the Great Depression and World War II, as people started to look beyond material gain for fulfillment. He thinks the same thing might be happening now, as young people follow the horrors of the Iraq War and watch the sky fall on Wall Street.

"The Depression forced people to really say, 'What do I want to do with my life?' It was such a traumatic time," he says. "We have that potential now, with a lot of people who have been encouraged by their family and the culture to think that success means getting ahead. I think people are starting to ask, 'What is really important to me?'"

Father Brown says he has been heartened by what he sees as a renewed emphasis on service among young adults, and that he hopes the Catholic Church can tap in to that trend.

As the number of young Americans enrolling in seminaries has declined, St. Patrick's has started to

draw more students from abroad, and from other professions — 48 percent of students are 35 or older. One seminarian is a retired tax lawyer; another was the director of entertainment at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Several were computer scientists in their previous lives.

The older seminarians bring a range of skills from all walks of life, and Father Brown feels fortunate to have students who represent a broad range of cultures, he says. But he hopes to see more young applicants, who have a career of service in the priesthood ahead of them.



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

The Rev. Gerald Brown, right, president and rector of St. Patrick's Seminary, converses with student body president Joe Kim over lunch last week.

## A new role

Father Brown stresses a multicultural, multi-faith based approach to service from within the priesthood. Far from the "monastic" style of education the seminary offered when he first set foot in its courtyard 50 years ago, it now encourages students to interact with a larger community. All students are required to complete a yearlong internship at a small parish in the United States before they begin the four-year seminary program, and they visit hospitals and prisons and learn community organization skills in addition to studying philosophy and divinity.

Father Brown serves on the board of the Peninsula Clergy Network, an affiliation of leaders from a spectrum of religions that addresses broader social concerns in the area. The theological underpinnings of the Catholic faith do not prevent him from engaging in dialogue

with rabbis and imams, he says.

"We need to be capable of genuinely respecting and listening to people of other faiths, though we also need to know where we stand," he says.

As the seminary has engaged with the larger community, it has also taken on a broader role in the Catholic faith, according to Father Brown. The relative scarcity of new priests means that seminary students often find themselves leading a congregation within a year of their ordination, whereas divinity students in his generation might have waited 20 years before taking the reins as pastor at a church.

The seminary has seen an expansion in its continuing education program, he says, and has started to fill the role (previously occupied by churches) of training ordained students to become pastors. That program is running out of space, Father Brown says — another reason the seminary is looking to expand its facilities.

## Changing with the times

Father Brown's job isn't getting any easier. Times are changing faster than ever, he says, and priests will have to continually adjust to keep up. The seminary's goal is not to send ordained priests into the world fully formed, he says; rather, it teaches them an approach to the vocation, which he calls a lifelong learning process.

He speaks of the challenge of finding quiet time — something that wasn't much of a problem when he was a student, but that is now difficult even for him, with his BlackBerry vibrating seemingly continuously in his shirt pocket. The seminary's job is not only to train its students in the Catholic tradition, but to "help prepare balanced human beings who are capable of reaching out to others, within the context of their own faith and beyond," he says.

"I see a real danger in extremes, in this idea that I have the total truth, and you don't," Father Brown continues, citing the polarization during the just-concluded election season as a recent example. "You need to be willing to die for something. But some people are willing to die for too many things." ■



# Peninsula Christmas Services

## BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH



*We yearn for the innocence,  
peace, and purity found at  
Christmas.*

*Join us on...*

### Christmas Eve at Bethany

**5:00 Family Christmas** – Children tell the story of Jesus, as shepherds, angels, wisemen, and the holy family.

Join us for a time of food and Christmas cheer until...

**7:00 Christmas with Quadre** – The horns of Quadre create the music of Christmas, as we celebrate the birthday of Jesus.

**10:00 Candlelight Christmas** – A quiet and contemplative time to listen, sing, and reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ.



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Wednesday | December 24

### Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Family Worship

6:00 pm Festival Choral Worship

11:00 pm Candlelight Worship

*"Comfort, comfort  
now my people;  
tell of peace!"*



Thursday | December 25

### Christmas Day

10:00 am Carols & Lessons

Communion offered at all services.

[www.gracepa.org](http://www.gracepa.org)



### Come & Celebrate Christmas Eve at Christ Episcopal Church

815 Portola Road · Portola Valley, CA 94028  
650-851-0224

**Christmas Eve**

**Kinder Service 3:00 p.m.**

*Features Christmas carols, children's sermon  
(for Children 6 years and under)*

**Christmas Eve**

**Choral Eucharist 5:30 p.m.**

*A joyous traditional service featuring adult choir.*

**Christmas Day**

**Holy Eucharist 10 a.m.**



## Woodside Village Church

### CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

**Plum Pudding Party & caroling** by the campfire with a visit from Santa  
Sunday, December 14, 6:30 p.m.

**Family Worship Service**  
Sunday, December 21, 9:30 a.m.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
& Reception**  
Wednesday, December 24, 10 p.m.

We worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

**Woodside Village Church**

3154 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA (650) 851-1587 [www.woodsidevillagechurch.org](http://www.woodsidevillagechurch.org)



Where  
Heaven  
Meets  
Earth

### Christmas Services Menlo Park Presbyterian Church

950 Santa Cruz Avenue, Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 23  
\*6:30 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24  
\*5 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8 p.m., 9:30 p.m. & 11 p.m.

\*Childcare available





# Peninsula Christmas Services

## ST. LUKE'S CHAPEL IN THE HILLS ANGLICAN

The 1928 Book of Common Prayer

Wednesday, December 24, CHRISTMAS EVE:

5pm Family Holy Communion Service  
 10:00 pm Lessons and Carols  
 11:15 pm Candlelight Holy Communion Service  
 Thursday, December 25: 11:00 am  
 - Holy Communion Service

26140 DUVAL WAY • LOS ALTOS HILLS  
 (650) 941-6524 www.stlukeschapel.org



## Valley Presbyterian Church

945 Portola Road  
 Portola Valley, CA  
 650-851-8282  
 www.valleypreschurch.org  
 Christmas Eve Services:  
 "Cradling the Christ"

5:00 pm - Family Service  
 10:00 pm - Candlelight Service  
 - Lesson & Carols

## St. Bede's Episcopal Church

2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, 854.6555  
 www.stbedesmenlopark.org

*Celebrate the Season of  
 Promise Fulfilled!*

*Wednesday, December 24th*

*Christmas Eve*

4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist  
 10:00 p.m. Festal Choral Eucharist

*Thursday, December 25th*

*Christmas Day*

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Carols, Rite I

## ST. DENIS PARISH

St. Denis Catholic Church  
 2250 Avy Avenue, Menlo Park



CHRISTMAS EVE—4 & 6 PM  
 CHRISTMAS DAY—7:30 & 9:30 AM

## CHRISTMAS MASS

Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church  
 930 Portola Road, Portola Valley



CHRISTMAS EVE—5:30 & 9:30 PM  
 CHRISTMAS DAY—9:30 AM

Merry Christmas

www.StDenisParish.org



## HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MENLO PARK

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#### Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Children's Service with Pageant\*\*  
 8:30 pm Carol Sing  
 9:00 pm Christmas Service with Choral Eucharist  
 \*\*Childcare for infants and toddlers

#### Christmas Day

10:00 am Christmas Day Eucharist

330 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park  
 (between El Camino Real and Middlefield Road)  
 650-326-2083  
 www.trinitymenlopark.org

#### Sunday, December 21

8:30am & 10:30am Worship services - The Joy of Singing Music  
 10:30am Pergolesi's Magnificat during Worship  
 11:45am Christmas Music on Patio - All Welcome!

#### Christmas Eve December 24

5pm • Family Christmas Pageant  
 The Joy of Christmas  
 8:15pm • Organ Prelude  
 8:30pm • Communion Service  
 10:40pm • Organ Prelude  
 11pm • Candlelight & Carols Service

(650) 323-6167

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 and  
 Christmas



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■ OBITUARIES

**Arthur Edward Hillier**

*Career in aviation*

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, at Christ

Church Episcopal in Portola Valley for Arthur Edward Hillier, who died Dec. 12 at the home he built in Portola Valley. He was 88.

Born in Ogden, Utah, he grew up in Salt Lake City. He learned to fly in the Army Air Corp, where

he later served as a glider instructor during World War II.

He was hired by Pan American Airlines, where he first flew the China Clippers out of Treasure Island; there he met his future wife, Frances Hughes of Spanish

Fork, Utah.

He finished his aviation career 38 years later as a 747 check captain.

While he was based in Miami, daughters Francie and Katherine and son Geoffrey were born. About 1951 he was transferred back to the West Coast, where son Jonathan was born.

Mr. Hillier enjoyed the great weather of Portola Valley, skiing, tennis, golfing with friends and family, and many memorable family trips, say family members.

Survivors include his wife, children and their spouses, and three grandchildren.

**Margaret Kiely**

*Longtime Woodside resident*

A funeral Mass will be held at noon Friday, Dec. 19, at the Woodside Priory, 302 Portola Road, Portola Valley, for Margaret Lee Kiely of Woodside. Ms. Kiely, who had a lifelong passion for words, writing and literature, died Dec. 3. She was 98.



Margaret Kiely

A committal service will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery in Menlo Park. An evening service will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, at the Woodside Priory.

Margaret Lee Hughes was born in Spokane, Washington, and grew up in Jacksonville, Florida. She majored in English at Vanderbilt University and returned to Jacksonville to teach English literature. On Jan. 20, 1940, she married John Kiely of Tacoma, Washington.

During World War II, they moved to Southern California,

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

where Mr. Kiely, an engineer, built Liberty and Victory ships for Calship.

After the war, the family moved to Woodside, where they raised their five children. The Kielys were one of the founding families for Woodside Priory Schools in the late 1950s. In 1999, she was honored for her service to the school with the St. Benedict's medal.

She traveled throughout the world with her husband, a Bechtel Corp. executive. They shared a love for adventure, hiking to the base camp of Mount Everest, fishing the rivers of Iceland and New Zealand and backpacking in the Sierras, say family members.

Ms. Kiely wrote two books: "Hours that Shine," and "Coat-tails," which recounts 20 years of fishing with her husband in exotic and remote places. She also wrote articles for The Almanac.

Ms. Kiely devoted many years of service to the Woodside Priory School and St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room in North Fair Oaks. She was honored as a Dame of Malta.

Survivors include her children, John R. Kiely III of Dundee, Michigan; Peggy Harris of Cornelius, Oregon; Michael H. Kiely of Spring Valley, New York; Kathryn Felix of Woodside; and Sister Marie Kiely, O.S.B., of Washington, D.C. Other survivors are sisters Emily Taber of Glen St. Mary, Florida, and Mary Jane Harper of Tallahassee, Florida; 13 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

*Continued on next page*

**A light will shine,**

**and a Child will be born.**

Isaiah 9:2-7

**Come journey with us this Advent Season. We are a community with diverse beliefs, united in spiritual discovery and renewal.**

**Ladera Community Church**  
3300 Alpine Rd., Portola Valley  
(650) 854-5481 [www.ladera.org](http://www.ladera.org)  
Sunday Services at 9:30 a.m.

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  God is still speaking.

**HEATHER LANI WIMMER**  
APRIL 21, 1961–NOVEMBER 22, 2008



Heather Lani Wimmer died peacefully at her home in Los Altos Hills on Saturday, November 22, 2008. In her final weeks, she was surrounded by her husband, Gary, daughters, Rachel and Kelly; parents, Rev. Norman and

Dorothy Pfothenauer; sisters, Vivian, Dorothy, Jane, and Dawn as well as Gary's family and close friends from her college and community.

Born in Hawaii, Heather embraced the spirit of the Islands in her vivaciousness and love of the sea. Through her family's unbroken lineage of Lutheran pastors, she lived a spiritual life, leading through

example, many of Christ's teachings.

Heather attended Woodside High School and, later, Stanford University. Entering in the Fall of 1979, Heather began a life-long affiliation with Stanford including working with the Athletic Department and the DAPER investment fund.

At Stanford she met her husband, Gary, and her close-knit group of friends that grew by the year. As was her way, despite her dire diagnosis, Heather dedicated her last years to spending time with her family and friends as well as to helping others with her disease—raising significant funds for brain cancer research.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that her efforts be continued through gifts (in Heather's name) to: UCSF Foundation, Neuro Oncology Fund, PO Box 45339, San Francisco, CA 94145-0339

A Memorial and Celebration of Life service will be held at the Stanford Chapel on Thursday, December 18th at 4:30 pm with a reception, on campus, immediately following the service.

PAID OBITUARY

**All Are Welcome!**

**Dec. 18 A Blue Christmas 7 PM**  
Candlelight meditation and carols' service for those who find the season difficult or stressful. Time amidst the holiday rush to center on the Spirit.

**Dec. 21 Handel's Messiah 9:30 AM**  
A worship-filled celebration: Christmas Chorale, with string orchestra, featuring the Ladera Church Choir, directed by Mark Hanson.

**Dec. 24 Christmas Pageant 5 PM**  
Angels and shepherds, starlight and wonder, the nativity story brought to Life as we welcome the Christ child.

**Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols 9 PM**  
Hope Unfolding: "For unto us a Child Is Born"  
The sacred story in scripture and song

**Ladera Community Church**  
3300 Alpine Rd., Portola Valley  
[www.ladera.org](http://www.ladera.org)

 God is still speaking.

Continued from previous page

Memorials may be made to the Woodside Priory, 302 Portola Valley Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028; or St Anthony's Padua Dining Room, 3500 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park CA 94025.

### Kendall Dean Moll

SRI senior research analyst

A memorial service will be held at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Stanford Memorial Church for Kendall Dean Moll of Portola Valley. He died Nov. 27 from complications of Parkinson's Disease. He was 81.

He was born an identical twin in Oakdale, California, and attended local schools, where his mother was a teacher and, later, principal. In 2002 he and his brother, Kenneth, were honored as distinguished alumni of Oakdale High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy just in time to witness the end of World War II.

Within a year, the Navy department appointed him to the U.S. Naval Academy; his brother was simultaneously appointed to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. Both graduated in 1950 and for more than 50 years had the distinction of being the only twins to simultaneously attend the two military academies, family members said.

Kendall graduated with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

He married his wife of 57 years, Barbara Lucille Delphey,



Kendall Dean Moll

on Sept. 2, 1951. While raising his family and working full-time, he acquired a master's degree in electrical engineering and a doctorate of philosophy in decision analysis, both from Stanford University.

Mr. Moll spent the majority of his career as a senior research analyst at Stanford Research Institute in Menlo Park, where he specialized in disaster preparedness, energy planning, nuclear defense, and the development of emerging countries' economies and infrastructures.

Through his career, he traveled worldwide, often with his family. Postings included two years in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 18 months in Anchorage, Alaska, and a year in Japan.

Mr. Moll traveled to all 50 states, and every continent. He swam in the Dead Sea and the Antarctic Ocean, kissed the Blarney Stone, climbed a live volcano and watched nuclear tests in Nevada, say family members.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; three sons Martin Moll of Chico, Howard Moll of McMinnville, Oregon, and Stanton Moll of Anchorage, Alaska; two brothers, Kenneth Moll of Alexandria, Virginia, and Leo R. Moll Jr. of Aptos; and two grandchildren.

Burial will be at Alta Mesa Cemetery in Palo Alto.

### John Hubbard

Outdoorsman and golfer

John Hubbard, who lived in Menlo Park for 50 years, died Dec. 5 at the age of 97.

Mr. Hubbard was born in Oakland and spent his earliest years on the Klamath River, where his mother and father were mining for gold. After his mother's death when he was 12, his father remarried and the family moved to San Francisco. He graduated from Polytechnic High School and joined Graham Paper Co. It was there that he met his future wife, Edith Reid.

The Hubbards were married in 1936 and spent the next 67 years together, separated only by Mr. Hubbard's service as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army during World War II. Ms. Hubbard died in 2003.

After he retired from Graham Paper Co. as West Coast manager in 1978, the couple traveled the world. Mr. Hubbard also took up painting and genealogy, served as president of the Palo Alto SIRS and president of the Palo Alto Senior Men's Golf Club.

Mr. Hubbard loved the outdoors, whether it was hiking in the Sierras or playing golf. He

once walked the Pacific Crest Trail beginning to end and enjoyed backpacking well into his late 70s, family members said.

Mr. Hubbard learned to play golf on San Francisco's public courses and won a number of amateur titles. He continued to play until suffering a stroke in 2004. He was proud to have shot an 89 when he was 89.

Surviving Mr. Hubbard are his daughter, Linda Hubbard Gulk-er of Menlo Park; one grandson; and one great-granddaughter.

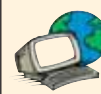
No service is planned. The family will gather next spring at a relative's ranch. Memorials may be made to the Sierra Club or Mission Hospice of San Mateo.

READ MORE ONLINE

TheAlmanacOnline.com

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- Should Menlo Park spend another \$900,000 on the El Camino Real "visioning" process?
- Menlo Park city staff proposes less detailed minutes on council meetings.
- Councilman calls for more openness in closed sessions.
- Relaxed holiday parking rules downtown through Sunday, Jan. 4.
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## LOUIS VICTOR BELLOMI

Louis Victor Bellomi passed into the Lord's loving arms in Menlo Park, CA. on December 4th, 2008, after a brief illness. He was 86.

He was born April 22nd, 1922 in Parma Italy to Attilio Bellomi and Antonietta Longinotti-Bellomi. He immigrated to the United States with his mother at seven years of age, where they were reunited with his father Attilio Bellomi.

He served his country during WWII in the US Army. He then married Colleen B. Proietti in 1949, and together raised two children, daughter, Janelle A. Armstrong of Santa Clara, and son, Victor L. Bellomi of Cupertino, and four grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Colleen B. Bellomi on November 23, 2002.

He attended St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School in Menlo Park. Later he graduated from Sequoia High School in Redwood City. He was an avid and highly talented, natural born athlete. He loved all types of sports, but golf was his true passion. He was an accomplished golfer and won many golf tournaments in his lifetime.

He was a fire captain with 33 years of outstanding and distinguished service in the Menlo Park Fire Protection District. He always performed above and beyond the call of duty in his career in the Fire department. He was brave, diligent and courageous, and saved many lives in his career as a Fireman. He was one of the youngest men in the Menlo Park Fire Protection district to obtain the rank of Captain, which was a great honor, in and of it's self.

He was a lifelong member of the Italian American Social Club of Menlo Park, where he loved to participate in all of the club's activities and social events. The club was not only a part of his Italian heritage, but was also an indelible link to his lifelong childhood friends.

He was a member of the Little House Senior Center in Menlo Park on 800 Middle Avenue, Menlo Park, where he had met and made many dear friends. He enjoyed having his daily lunch and other activities at the center with his many friends.

He was also a lifelong member of the "The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks" lodge number 1471. He was an avid participant in all of the lodge's activities including numerous golf tournaments and events. The Elk's Club was one of his favorite places to be, because of the many deep and lasting friendships which he cultivated there.

He had many lifelong friends who loved him for his charismatic personality and great sense of humor. He will be so greatly missed by those who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his daughter, Janelle A. Armstrong; his son, Victor L. Bellomi; and four grandchildren.

The viewing will be on Thursday, December 11th, 2008 at Spangler Mortuary, 650 Live Oak Avenue, Menlo Park, CA. 94025.

Viewing hours are from 4:00pm - 8:00pm with the Rosary service beginning at 7:00pm.

A funeral mass will be held on December 12th, 2008 at 2:00pm, at St. Raymond's Catholic Church, 1100 Santa Cruz Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Interment will follow at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, 1100 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Donations can be made to a charity of your choice, the American Diabetes Association, or the Alzheimer's Association.

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11/04

## FLORENCE EUGENIE TUTSCHEK



Florence Eugenie Tutschek passed away on December 9, 2008, in Los Altos, CA, two months before her 100th birthday. Florence was born on February 18, 1909 in Orange, New Jersey, the daughter of Eugenie and Warren Hayes. She was married to Charles Tutschek for sixty years before his death in 1993. They lived in Short Hills, New Jersey, where they raised their family, and moved to Palm Coast, Florida upon their retirement. Florence was an active community member in both areas as a Girl Scout leader and Red Cross and church volunteer. In 1995, Florence moved to Redwood City and then

Los Altos, California to live near her daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Robert Ells of Portola Valley. She was a delightful hostess and lover of gardening, travel, music, and most of all, her family. Some of her fondest memories are of spending time relaxing with family at Glen Wild Lake in New Jersey every summer. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Florence also leaves behind her son, Philip Tutschek of St. Augustine, Florida, her grandchildren Elizabeth Tutschek, Spencer Murphy, and Steven, David, Christina and Lisa Ells, as well as her great-grandchildren Grayson, Jane and Clayton and many nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held at a future date at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Palm Coast, Florida, a church Florence and her husband helped establish when they lived there.

PAID OBITUARY

PAID OBITUARY

### TOWN SQUARE

Post your views and comments on TownSquare: [www.TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com)

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

## Raising fees raises questions in Menlo

What would Menlo Park residents rather subsidize with their tax dollars — recreation programs or development? It may seem a strange question, but in light of the city's efforts to raise fees on everything from gymnastics classes to reviewing building plans, it's a question that needs to be asked.

Revised fees are expected to generate upwards of an additional \$1 million annually for the city, a positive development in light of the anticipated budget deficit. However, the recently completed cost-allocation study for Menlo Park services revealed some surprising information about which services recoup their costs from fees and which ones receive significant support from the city's general fund.

**EDITORIAL**

*The opinion of The Almanac*

The after-school child care program, for instance, is recovering 100 percent of its costs through its fees. The Planning Department, on the other hand, has been getting only a 51 percent cost recovery on its services. Bringing the department up to 99 percent cost recovery will net the city an additional \$600,000 per year, according to Finance Director Carol Augustine. It's clear that, if the city had paid attention to its cost recovery problems in the department sooner, last year at least a half-million dollars would have been available for other important projects.

Municipalities are entitled to recover all reasonable costs, including staff time and overhead, that come from property development services such as plan checks, building inspections and zoning code reviews. Generally speaking, that's precisely what cities and towns try to do — recover all of their costs through user fees. On the other hand, nickel-and-diming seniors and families with children in order for Joe Spec Builder to get his plans reviewed at half price strikes us as unusual, to say the least.

The proposed increase in the city's fee schedule, discussed at the Nov. 25 City Council meeting, was surprising in its revelation of where taxpayer money's been going. It may be reasonable to ask elderly patrons of the Menlo Park Senior Center to start paying 25

cents to get a take-out container for their lunches, but, for example, should taxpayers have been footing the bill for 74 percent of the cost of planning services when a developer wanted to create a subdivision? With the previous 26 percent cost recovery rate on tentative subdivision maps — a service that now will cost the developer \$6,000 — that's exactly what's been happening.

It's one thing for the council to make a conscious decision to subsidize the activities of contractors and developers, as a couple of council members suggested doing, but to do it by default is inexcusable.

Good decisions are impossible without good information. In order to build a sustainable budget for the city, council members need the right tools, namely clear and accurate financial information from staff. Based on the questions — and corrections — that council members asked for during the Nov. 25 meeting, that's clearly something they have not been getting.

The staff report on the proposed user fees was notable not only for the lack of cost recovery in the Planning Department, but for the many errors and instances of questionable reasoning.

In one example, council members and parents questioned the rationale behind a proposed 7 percent increase in Menlo Children's Center full-time fees, and sadly, there weren't a lot of good answers. In the case of the after-school program, the higher fees would have generated excess revenue that would have been used to subsidize other programs. The plan to raise fees for part-time children by as much as 88 percent (from \$294 to \$552 per month for twice-a-week kindergarteners, for example) was even more strange, and based on the premise that part-timers made scheduling tricky and should be discouraged. The council wisely refused to go along with the staff recommendation.

While you can't change the past, you can use what you've learned from past mistakes to improve the future. The City Council needs to hold City Manager Glen Rojas accountable for the shortcomings of his staff, and he, in turn, needs to hold his staff to higher standards, especially when it comes to the city's finances.

**LETTERS**

*Our readers write*

### Open letter to the Menlo Park community

Editor:

This holiday season comes at a time unlike many of us have ever seen. While we are facing economic uncertainty, we are encouraged by reflecting on what we're thankful for. This season in particular seems to be much less about trendy toys and gadgets, and more about our common values and goals; about what brings us together as a community working not only to improve the future, but to maintain our current strengths. One thing we're extremely grateful for is our children's opportunity to get a great, well-rounded education at our local public schools. Our two families send five kids off to Oak Knoll, Encinal and Hillview every day.

Our schools offer a firm foundation in reading, writing and arithmetic, enriched with a diverse curriculum in science, technology, art,



Portola Valley Archives

### Our Regional Heritage

This dramatic fire took place in 1974 at the Morshead Ranch in Portola Valley.

See **LETTERS**, next page

# Straight talk on trash

By Kelly Fergusson

**H**ank Lawrence's letter in the Dec. 3 Almanac misrepresents several aspects of trash and recycling programs used by Menlo Park's residents and businesses. I wish to set the record straight by discussing today's situation as well as providing a glimpse of the future.

Today, Menlo Park and several other nearby local agencies individually contract with Allied Waste for curbside pickup of trash and recycling. This refuse is taken to Shoreway Transfer Station in San Carlos, where trash is consolidated and trucked to the Ox Mountain Landfill in Half Moon Bay. Recycling material is sold to third-party processors. Menlo Park and the other local agencies collectively own and run Shoreway through membership in South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA).

Each local agency sets its own rates by combining the cost of curbside pickup with its share of Shoreway's costs. Allied reports these costs in its annual rate application, and also estimates revenues for the coming year. This year's report shows a 24 percent increase in revenues needed to cover Allied's costs next year, which Lawrence misleadingly calls "a proposed 24 percent increase in Menlo Park trash rates." Here are the facts.

Menlo Park sets the rates; Allied does not. Menlo Park does not consider rate changes until after a thorough audit and review of the rate application.



Menlo Park sets rates on a calendar-year basis for commercial and multi-family residential customers, and on a fiscal-year basis for single-family residential customers. This nuance makes revenue forecasting very challenging, and is the main reason actual rate proposals have differed significantly from revenue projections provided in Allied's rate application in years past.

Allied (formerly BFI) has provided curbside collection since 1974 without any competitive bid process. Reporting problems, cost concerns, and poor service are several reasons why an open and competitive bid process was begun in 2005. This August, the SBWMA board recommended Norcal Waste's proposal as providing the best value (a combination of service and cost) to the region's residents. The City Council agreed, and voted to support awarding the collection contract to Norcal when Allied's contract ends on Dec. 31, 2010.

Our trash rates are among the lowest in

the Bay Area, just \$5.64 per month for a 20-gallon can, with free recycling. Rates will remain low only as long as we maintain precious capacity in the Ox Mountain Landfill. Maintaining capacity is a direct function of our recycling rate, currently 55 percent. It can increase to 75 percent or more with Norcal's better collection service and by rebuilding the outdated Shoreway Transfer Station to state-of-the-art standards that allow "single stream" recycling. Rates will have to go up to cover the cost of the improved service and facilities. However, once Ox Mountain fills up, rates will *really* go up.

Maximizing the life of Ox Mountain is the responsible course of action and provides the best value to ratepayers in the long term. For these reasons, I am supporting the SBWMA board's recommendations to switch our collector to Norcal and to modernize the Shoreway facility.

**Kelly Fergusson is a member of the Menlo Park City Council.**

## LETTERS

Continued from previous page

music, foreign language, and supported by excellent libraries. They are preparing our children to thrive in the 21st century, and the campuses are right down the street from where we live. We are proud to have these schools

in our neighborhoods. They positively impact property values, and we feel fortunate that we are able to send our children to them.

Right now, one of the best ways we can support our public schools is through the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation, an organization which for the past 26 years has been dedicated to raising money for our school district

to help bridge the gap between available public funding and what it costs to provide the excellent education we expect for the children of our community. We are honored to serve as co-presidents of the Foundation this year, along with the dedicated members of our all-volunteer board. We know that this is a difficult year to ask for support, but it is during times like these that our publicly funded

institutions are most vulnerable.

The Menlo Park City School District has been hit with an almost \$4 million loss due to the Lehman Brothers failure, mid-year cuts from Sacramento, decreasing property tax revenue and the poor economic environment. Our district is already very efficient and responsible with its funding but can only weather so many storms. The yearly Foundation grant accounts for approximately 8 percent of the district's budget, making it a substantial funding source that our schools depend on every year. We're hoping we can survive this funding crisis without implementing any cuts that would sacrifice our wonderful teachers, our enriched curriculum or the good reputation of our local public schools.

This holiday season, if education is one of the things your family values, please support our local public schools by contributing to the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation. Visit us online at [www.mpaef.org](http://www.mpaef.org) for more information or call our office at 325-0100. Menlo Park is a terrific community, and together we will keep our schools thriving.

**Shari Conrad and Kim Guthrie  
Co-presidents, Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation**

## Prop. 98 will impact high-speed rail funds

Editor:

Having worked for several years with the California League of Cities and the governor's office for state budget reform, I would like to mention Proposition 98's budget impact for high-speed rail, and Proposition 1A's impact on city funding.

Passed in 1998, Prop. 98 guaranteed 39 percent of the state

budget would go to education, plus adjustments for inflation and enrollment. Today education receives about 45 percent of the budget. So when the state needs to raise almost a billion dollars a year to pay for the \$10 billion in high-speed rail bonds, Prop. 98 will claim 45 percent of those funds for education.

Therefore the state needs to raise \$1.6 billion a year to net the \$900-plus million pay for every \$10 billion in HSR bonds. Given that the state is looking at deficits of \$10 billion a year for the next couple of years, where is it going to find another \$1.6 billion a year?

Back in 2005, one of the governor's initiatives was to balance the budget and modify Prop. 98. The League of Cities supported the governor, but the initiative failed. The redistricting initiative also failed in 2005. However, this year thanks to Steve Westly's support and leadership, it passed. Perhaps a balanced budget would pass on a second try with bipartisan leadership.

The governor deserves much credit for helping the League of Cities pass Prop. 1A. As the state struggles with its budget deficit, we do not see what had become common in previous years — the state withholding cities' funds to meet state needs. With much effort we passed Prop. 1A in 2004 and the state now has to pay interest whenever it "borrows" city funds and repay them before it can "borrow" them a second time.

The new state legislature will need backbone, discipline, and bipartisan efforts to solve the threatening crisis. And citizens should become open to modifying changes from propositions that have negative unintended consequences.

**Charles Marsala  
Emilie Avenue, Atherton**

# Habitat has supporters in Belle Haven

By Jennifer Doettling

**T**hank you for making your readers aware of Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco's recent meeting with the Belle Haven community (Almanac, Nov. 19). Unfortunately, several key points were missing from the story that we feel should be shared with your readership.

First, there are people in the Belle Haven community who are in favor of the Habitat development on Terminal Avenue. Many recognize the need for more affordable housing in Menlo Park and the value of partnering with Habitat to achieve this goal.

We have a strong record in East Palo Alto, Redwood City and other local communities where our partnerships with civic organizations, businesses, faith groups, volunteers, working families and many others have helped to provide more than 100 Habitat homes, just on the Peninsula alone.

Second, we are concerned about the suggestion that Menlo Park is "dumping" Habitat's below market rate (BMR) homes on Belle Haven. Dumps are sites for garbage and discarded items, and we feel this language has no place in a discussion about housing for real working fami-

lies who have real needs.

Furthermore, it sends the message that Habitat homes are somehow inferior or substandard, which could not be further from the truth. Habitat has incredibly high standards for the construction quality, livability and aesthetics of our homes, and we are proud to say that our homes help to improve the neighborhoods in which they are built.

In general, studies have shown that housing for families with low and moderate incomes does not diminish property values. Often it is the case that these new housing developments actually help to increase the value of surrounding properties.

We hope that in time the Belle Haven residents who oppose our Terminal Avenue development will reconsider their position. Support for the development will help 22 deserving families obtain a safe and decent place to live. These are hard-working members of the community who

may currently live in unsafe, unhealthy and inadequate living conditions.

Through the Habitat program, our houses are sold to partner families at no profit and are financed with affordable, zero-interest mortgages. The Habitat for Humanity approach encourages self-help by providing a "hand up — not a hand out." That's why our partner families also invest considerable effort into their dreams, including up to 500 hours of "sweat equity" to help build their own homes. Homeownership gives Habitat partner families the chance to break the cycle of poverty, establish financial stability and to build an equity stake in their communities.

Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco remains very optimistic about the Terminal Avenue development. We look forward to a continued dialogue with the Belle Haven community and hope to find a solution that mitigates any concerns, yet enables the development to move ahead in a way that is most advantageous for the community.

**Jennifer Doettling is the communications director of Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco.**





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