

Woodside Horse Park wins long-term permit, plans new barn, stables. Page 8

The Almanac

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



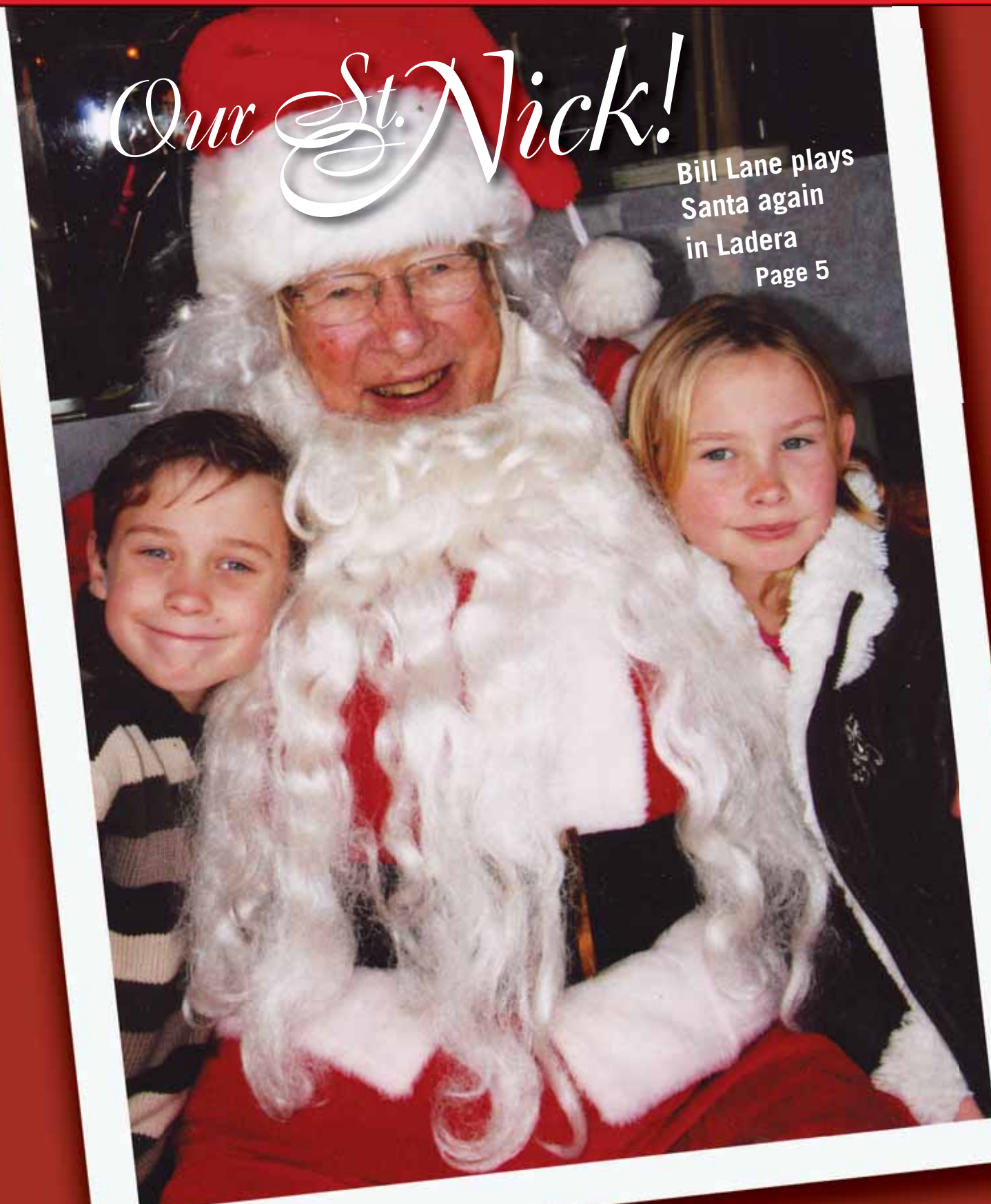
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Our St. Nick!

Bill Lane plays Santa again in Ladera
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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Holy night

Deacon Ian Mendoza, left, and Jeff J. Fernandez sing during a recent morning Mass in the main chapel at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park.

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On the cover

Snuggling up to Santa (Bill Lane) are brother and sister Trace, left, and Madison La Mar at the Ladera Christmas Fair on Dec. 13. The children live in Woodside and go to Ormondale School in Portola Valley. Photo by Susan Thomas. See **Page 5**.

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Da svidaniya, comrades!

Moscow proved the undoing for Woodside mother-son duo Toni and Dallas Imbimbo who competed in "The Amazing Race" on CBS-TV. They were expected to be one of the three teams competing for \$1 million in the final leg, but their hopes were dashed when Dallas lost their money and passports in a Russian taxi.

Unlike other teams that squabbled under pressure, Toni and Dallas stayed supportive even as they were reduced to begging Muscovites for subway fare while desperately trying to stay in the race. The Imbimbos' finale spot went to a pair of hapless fraternity brothers, who were soundly thrashed by winning siblings Starr and Nick Spangler.

Enough ink to print this

Menlo Park City Manager Glen Rojas isn't happy with the editorial that ran in last week's Almanac, but don't expect him to fire back.

"We'd rather not get into a confrontation" with "somebody who buys ink by the barrel," Mr. Rojas said during the City Council meeting Tuesday, Dec. 16, paraphrasing an adage attributed to Mark Twain: "Never pick a fight with a man who buys ink by the barrel."

The editorial criticized city staff for not adjusting planning fees sooner, and cited errors and "instances of questionable reasoning" in the staff report on the updated fee schedule. Mr. Rojas defended his staff, saying that it's difficult to avoid the occasional mistake in a long staff report, and that staff corrected errors when it brought the report before the council. He didn't respond to the arguments posited in the editorial.

If Mr. Rojas had really wanted to lampoon The Almanac, he could have cited another quote often attributed to the famous Mr. Clemens: "If you don't read the newspaper, you are uninformed; if you do read the newspaper, you are misinformed."

Local News

MENLO PARK | A THERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Does traffic diversion reduce crime?

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

Over the course of the debate on whether to conduct a traffic study in the Willows neighborhood of Menlo Park, the question of whether traffic-mitigation efforts could be used to regulate crime surfaced.

"I'm struggling with the separation of crime and traffic" in the scope of the study, said Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson at the City Council's Dec. 9 meeting, pointing out that the origin of the study emerged in conversations between the city and residents about crime. (At the Dec. 9 meeting, the City Council signed off on the study without including the amelioration of crime as a goal).

Noting that one of the stated purposes of the study is to increase safety, Ms. Fergusson said: "What



The Willows neighborhood in Menlo Park borders a portion of the city of East Palo Alto.

I'm nervous about is ... vehicles bring guns, and people shoot guns out of cars, and how are we really capturing that kind of safety prob-

lem with this study?"

A drive-by shooting in the neighborhood in May of 2007 helped spark the meetings that eventually led to the decision to conduct a traffic study.

The Willows area borders the low-income city of East Palo Alto, and several Willows residents have expressed concern that growing crime in the neighborhood may be tied to easy street access to and from the neighboring city.

In outlining the scope of the study, however, city Traffic Manager Chip Taylor declined to include crime as a consideration when the city looks at possible traffic-control measures.

At the Dec. 9 meeting, Police Chief Bruce Goitia said that traffic mitigation is an imprecise way to regulate crime, because the set of crimes that involve a vehicle is nearly all-inclusive.

"Common sense says, you have to get there some way," Chief Goitia said. "The mere fact that there's the use of a vehicle in a crime does not immediately stand out."

Some Willows residents have suggested there might be a correlation between cut-through traffic and crime, arguing that if the city can make it more difficult for drivers to get through the neighborhood, crime rates might fall as well. In light of an attempted armed home invasion in the neighborhood Thursday night, Willows resident Ross Wilson wrote to the council e-mail log, saying the council was unwilling to "remedy the cut-through traffic problem" in the neighborhood "for reasons of political correctness." (The police department later revealed that the suspect fled on foot.)

See **TRAFFIC**, page 7

Armed man tries home invasion

Menlo Park police are looking for a suspect in an attempted home invasion robbery Thursday night in the 2000 block of Menalto Avenue in the Willows neighborhood of Menlo Park.

A resident of the home told police that at around 8 p.m. a young man rang the doorbell and attempted to force his way into the home, pointing a long-barreled black revolver at the resident and demanding his wallet.

The resident and his wife managed to keep the gunman from entering the home by pushing the door closed and locking it, said Sgt. Matthew Ortega of the Menlo Park Police Department.

The suspect fled east on Menalto Avenue on foot, and then south on E. O'Keefe Street toward East Palo Alto, Sgt. Ortega said in a press statement.

There was no property taken and no one was injured.

Police describe the suspect as a black male in his late teens or early 20s, approximately 5 foot 6 inches tall, and with a stocky build. The suspect was wearing black pants and jacket, a black beanie cap, and a red bandana around his face, police said.

Anyone with information is

See **INVASION**, page 7



Photo by Susan Thomas

Enjoying Santa's visit is the Espinosa family of Ladera. They are Carol (Crews) Espinosa, who grew up and lives in Ladera; her husband Chris Espinosa; and their children Tommy and Lydia. "One of our most treasured series of pictures are with Santa in front of the Konditorei, taken each year since Tommy was a baby," says Carol.

Sage Santa visits Ladera Christmas fair

By Marjorie Mader

Almanac Correspondent

When Santa stops at the Ladera Christmas Fair, he arrives in a shiny, red fire engine.

For 55 years, Bill Lane has played Santa Claus: first for Christmas parties at Sunset magazine, where he was pub-

lisher, and since 1990 (when the family sold Sunset) at the Ladera shopping center on Alpine Road.

For Sunset parties, he arrived by horseback, buggy, police car, a huge four-door Lincoln convertible, and even a helicopter with Stan Hiller at the controls.

"But, It's always by fire

engine at Ladera," says Mr. Lane, retired publisher of Sunset magazine and a key member of a group whose work led to the incorporation of the town of Portola Valley in 1964.

At the Ladera Country Shopper, located at 3130 Alpine

See **SANTA**, page 7

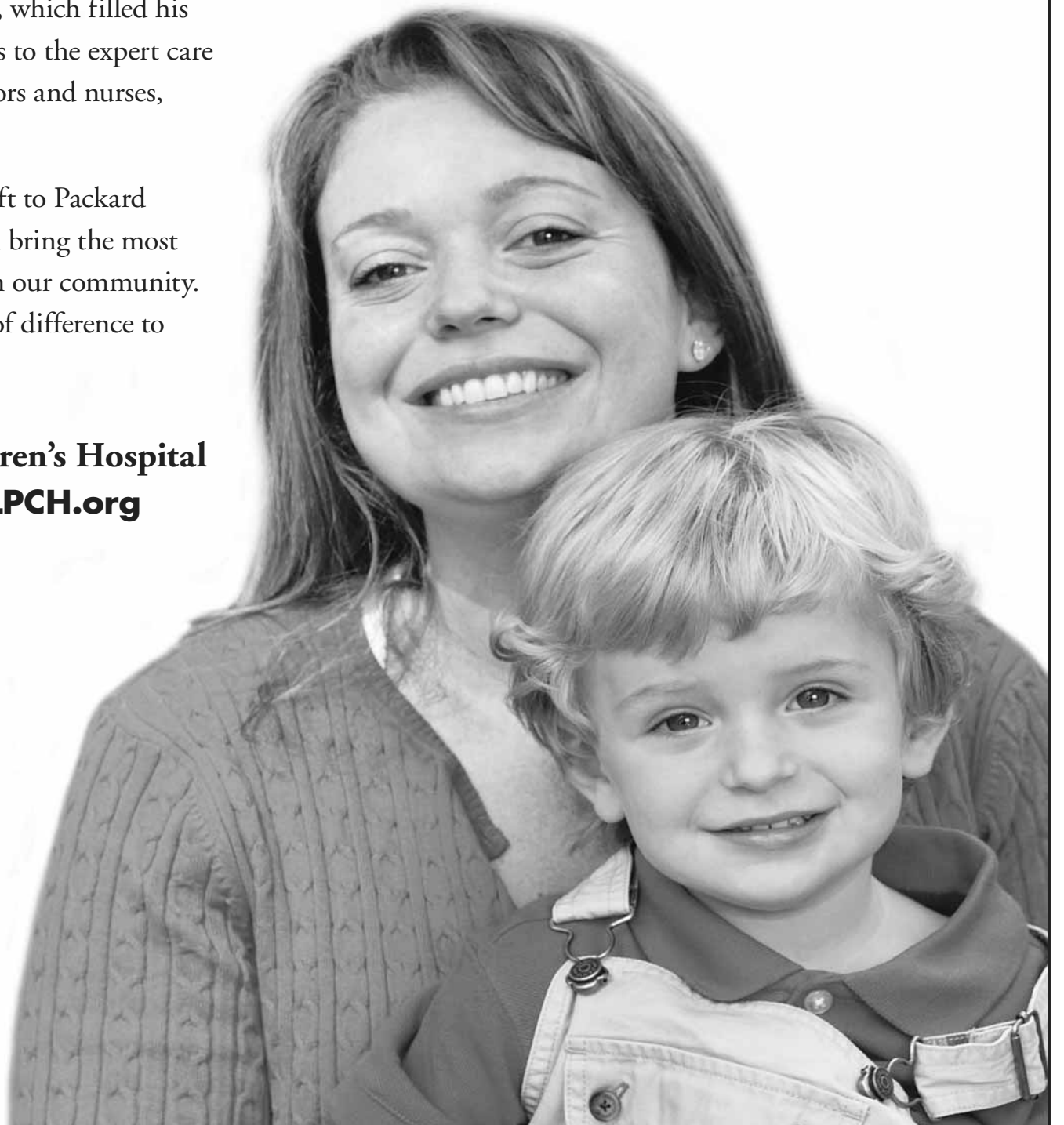
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Man with concealed gun arrested in park

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

An alert Atherton police officer patrolling Holbrook-Palmer Park on the night of Thursday, Dec. 18, discovered and arrested a man who had a loaded pistol concealed in his waistband.

Police arrested Zachary Mathews, 33, of Newark on charges of possession of a loaded and concealed firearm, possession with previous felony conviction, and possession as a gang member, Atherton police Chief Glenn M. Nielsen said in a statement.

Mr. Mathews was booked into San Mateo County jail.

Holbrook-Palmer Park was officially closed — it closes half an hour after sunset — when Officer

Gordon Dere stopped by a few minutes after 11 p.m. and put his hand on the hood of an unoccupied vehicle parked there, police said. The hood was warm to the touch.

While walking through the park, Mr. Dere encountered a man and woman near the tennis courts. An odor of marijuana led to some questions, after which Mr. Mathews handed over “a small amount” of marijuana to Mr. Dere, police said.

With two more Atherton officers now on the scene, Mr. Dere patted Mr. Mathews down and detected the handgun, a .380 caliber Bersa semi-automatic pistol, police said.

Mr. Mathews’ companion was released without charges, police said.

SANTA

continued from page 5

Road, Mr. Lane plays Santa for hundreds of children and their families, usually on the second Saturday in December.

This year, Santa stepped down from the Woodside Fire Protection District’s spic-and-span engine Dec. 13 and held court on a bench outside the Konditorei cafe for more than two hours. With kind words and gentle advice, Santa greeted the children.

While waiting to perch on Santa’s lap, children were planting bulbs outside Ladera Gift and Garden Center, making frames for their Santa photos at the frame shop, taking a turn at swatting pinatas at Amigos Grill, and watching the balloon artist create animals and fanciful shapes.

As Santa listened intently and talked with the children, photographer Susan Thomas of Portola Valley took pictures. (Some 400 of the photos are now posted in

the windows of the Konditorei.)

People often wonder why the busy Bill Lane decided to lead a double life as Santa during the Christmas season. Here’s his answer:

When Sunset moved from San Francisco to its new Cliff May-designed headquarters in Menlo Park in 1952, he suggested his father, publisher Laurence W. Lane Sr., host a Christmas party for children of Sunset staffers.

“But who would be Santa?” responded his father, who quickly declined the ho-ho role. Young Bill thought about searching for a Santa, but decided finally he would play Santa himself. He rented a suit and used a pillow to fill out his tummy, he recalls.

“It turned out that I really loved being Santa,” says Bill Lane. “I love relating to kids and hearing what they have to say.”

He listens to their wishes, checks their lists, and also gives some gentle advice. “Santa Claus watches very closely to see what you do,”

he tells them. “Do you help around the house? Your parents do a lot for you, what do you do for them? Oh, that’s wonderful.”

Santa also reminds them: “We live in a beautiful country, and we have to take care of it. When you’re out on a trail, hiking or just walking down the street, if you see trash, you should pick it up.”

The children are “all excited about their gift list,” says Santa during an interview in his Portola Valley home. “An amazing number of them want iPods or iPhones.”

Being a wise man, Santa tells them he will try to bring the things they want, but he can’t promise. So many children want the same thing.

“I personally have always enjoyed playing Santa,” he says, “but this year especially I got a lot of satisfaction from helping kids, and usually a parent or two, be happy together and forgetting any personal economic problems or troubles around the world.” ■

A Christmas to remember

Bill Lane and his wife, Jean, have fond memories of Christmas down under in Australia.

When he served as the U.S. ambassador to Australia from 1985 to 1989, he packed his Santa suit. The only other personal items the Lanes took were his Presidential rocker, a gift from the Sunset staff, and Jean’s harpsichord.

The Lanes hosted a festive and memorable Christmas party on the embassy grounds in Canberra in 1988, Australia’s bicentennial.

Ambassador Lane arrived as Santa and played

the role he had perfected stateside.

And Jean Lane played the piano for the sing-along and orchestrated the instrumental chorus for some Christmas carols. Guests received a bamboo musical instrument from Thailand, called an “angklung,” that they shook when the appropriate number appeared on the poster board.

The Lanes brought to Australia this musical tradition that they had used for many years at Christmas in their home.

But the idea of altering that geography to ease crime rates might raise more questions than it answers.

Chief Goitia acknowledged that the incidence of crime has increased by 47 percent over 2007 levels in the Willows (according to preliminary data), but he noted that crime had risen by over 30 percent citywide.

He also pointed out that, despite the fact that Willows residents mobilized in response to several violent crimes, the high rate of property crime is the real concern

in the neighborhood. Violent crime is significantly more prevalent in the Belle Haven neighborhood than in the Willows, Chief Goitia said. ■

INVASION

continued from page 5

asked to contact the investigating officer at 330-6300 or the anonymous tip line at 330-6395.

TRAFFIC

continued from page 5

But Chief Goitia argued that responding to crime via traffic-control measures would dictate an extreme response, such as enclosing a neighborhood completely. He wasn’t discounting the idea that geography affects crime patterns, he said, observing that easy freeway access might help to explain the high burglary rate on Sharon Road.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Mortgage Rate Watch

Q: My adjustable rate mortgage loan will reset next year. Should I do anything about it now?

A: Mortgage loan rates are coming down to lower levels. If you have a conforming loan, i.e., under \$625,000, those rates are very attractive and getting more so since the Federal Reserve lowered the Federal funds rate to 0 - .25% this week. If you are not upside down on your mortgage, that is, your mortgage is higher than your house is worth, you would do well

to refinance now. Watch the rates carefully and when you find the best rate, you should move on it.

You could wait to see what your loan rate will be when it resets, but to play it safe, you could refinance into a loan that is fixed for an extended period.

If your loan is a jumbo, that is, higher than \$625,000, those rates too are coming down considerably. Keep watching and when you see a loan that is right for your needs, you should refinance if appropriate

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Woodside Horse Park receives nine-year permit; new barn, stables OK'd

■ New shade canopy and small house approved.

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Operators of the 272-acre Horse Park at Woodside now have the county's permission to build several new structures, including a hay-storage barn, a modular home for staff, and 60 stables.

And after years of Horse Park staff applying every six months to extend the facility's use permit, the San Mateo County Planning Commission, on a 4-0 vote, granted a nine-year permit for the property at the corner of Sand Hill and Whiskey Hill roads in unincorporated Woodside.

Commissioner Steve Dworetzky was absent for the Dec. 10 vote.

The decision reportedly did not have a lot of opposition at the meeting. According to county Planner Tiare Pena, Woodside resident and Horse Park neighbor Joan Baez did speak up for her preference for a five-year permit.

In an interview, Ms. Pena said that while Ms. Baez appeared to be comfortable with the commission's decision, she had expressed concern that compliance could wane under a nine-year permit if new executives later came on board.

Horse Park representatives responded that while directors and staff may change, the facility's integrity and dedication to its mission would not, Ms. Pena said.

County staff will check com-

pliance with the use permit after one year and then every two years, she said.

Stanford University owns the property, but university representatives reportedly did not attend the Planning Commission meeting.

Needs met

Did Horse Park operators get everything they wanted? "I believe that they did, yes," Ms. Pena said.

The new 576-square-foot hay barn, because it might be seen from Interstate 280, will use non-reflective metal siding and display natural coloring of tan and dark green, according to the staff report. County staff must approve the colors.

The same colors will be used on the new stables, which will be located on the southeast part the property. Existing oak trees will screen the stables from the view of passersby on Sand Hill Road, the report said. The new permit also raises the maximum number of stabled horses to 120 from 100.

The modular house will be no larger than 1,000 square feet and is to be located behind the office near the entrance to the park, the report said.

A 2,400-square-foot, 18-foot-high canopy with a green asphalt shingle roof will provide shade near the central show area.

The new permit also allows key-holding members of the private Woodside Trails Club to ride in the oak woodland in the northeast corner of the 272-acre property. ■

The new permit raises the maximum number of stabled horses to 120 from 100.

Two East Palo Alto gang members arrested by new two-city police team

Two members of the Taliban street gang were arrested last week by a newly formed street crimes unit made up of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park officers, according to East Palo Alto Detective Ed Soares.

Danny Darnell Coleman of East Palo Alto was arrested after a short foot pursuit in Menlo Park. He was charged with having a concealed weapon, being a member of a street gang with a firearm, a gang enhancement charge and resisting arrest.

Jason Reese, another Taliban gang member, was arrested with Coleman and charged with a parole violation, Soares said.

The police team also arrested two Pacific-Islander men, whose names were not available, for having two guns, including a loaded Uzi machine gun with 300 rounds of ammunition.

The two also had scales for weighing drugs and night-vision goggles. Packaged narcotics for sale were also seized in the arrest, which occurred in the 1100 block of Saratoga Avenue in East Palo Alto.

The strike team, which began work Dec. 16, includes a sergeant and three detectives from the two police departments.

— Palo Alto Online



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Holiday treat

Children at the Woodside Library enjoy the puppet show, "One Wacky Winter," performed by Randal J. Metz on Dec. 17. At right is Erica Hurlbut with children Zeah, Andrew and John.

City to spend \$900,000 on 'vision' study

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

The status of Menlo Park's budget projections is uncertain, but that didn't stop the City Council from deciding unanimously to authorize \$933,950 for the consulting firm Perkins+Will to carry out "phase two" of the El Camino Real / downtown "visioning" study.

The first of three community meetings to solicit input over the course of the project is scheduled for late February, and the project is set to wrap up in October of 2010, according to a report prepared by the consultant.

The blow to the city's budget will be dampened by the fact that the study's cost will be spread over three fiscal years, according to staff — only \$380,000 will be allocated to this year's budget. The city might also be able to recoup some of the cost in assessing fees to builders and applying for grants, Community Development Director Arlinda Heineck said.

Menlo Park has already spent \$226,000 on the first phase of the plan, resulting in the establishment of general guidelines for development along El Camino Real, improving east-west connectivity across the thoroughfare, and "revitalizing" abandoned auto dealerships, among other issues.

In the second stage, the city will hammer out a detailed parcel-by-parcel plan for El Camino and the downtown area, and examine potential impacts on

traffic and city finances.

Council members acknowledged budgetary concerns during the council's Dec. 16 meeting, but they were adverse to the idea of halting a project that has been a top priority.

"We committed to it, and we need to keep going," said Councilman Rich Cline in an interview. He added that putting

Residents' skepticism about the process remains the highest hurdle the city has to clear, says Mayor Heyward Robinson.

the study off for fiscal reasons would be "short-sighted," and that the city would likely have to find other ways to cut costs.

Councilman John Boyle, who along with Mr. Cline sat on the subcommittee responsible for selecting the consultant, called the project a "reasonable expense" — even if it forces the city to dip into its financial reserves — because it represents an "extraordinary, one-time item," rather than a structural, ongoing commitment.

Overcoming skepticism

Mayor Heyward Robinson said he has been encouraged by community involvement in the study so far, but that residents' skepticism about the process

remains the highest hurdle the city has to clear. The city needs to work to get the community on board, Mr. Robinson said, and to convince people that this won't be "another report on the shelf."

"A few little flare-ups" occurred at the community meetings during the first phase, Councilman Andy Cohen said, attributing them to the age-old butting of heads between what Mr. Cohen called the advocates of progress, and of quality of life. He said he hopes the city can skirt that ideological impasse as citizens address more specific topics in the upcoming phase.

Still, council members were quick to ensure that the agreement with the consultant is non-binding. Either party can terminate the contract at any time, staff said.

The city decided not to re-hire Design Community & Environment, the consultant that conducted the first stage of the plan. Council members and city planning staff said residents had complained that the group facilitators hired by the consultant were sometimes unable to prevent the loudest participants from controlling discussions during community meetings.

Though the study will take time, residents will see its benefits for years to come, Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson said in an interview. The city is decades behind in land use planning, she maintained, and it's still trying to catch up. ■

Menlo Park to use briefer minutes for council meetings on trial basis

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

Residents looking for written reports of what went on at Menlo Park City Council meetings will get summaries that are briefer than the ones they're used to — for the next three months, at least.

The council decided unanimously at its Dec. 16 meeting to authorize the use of a more streamlined form of meeting minutes, on a trial basis. Council members said that they would like to hear input from residents on which system they prefer before the council decides whether to stick with the new style of minutes.

The city hopes to compensate for the briefer minutes with a more detailed indexing of the videos of council meetings posted on the city's Web site. The "summary" form of minutes the city currently uses not only records how council members voted, but also includes a brief description of comments made by every speaker, including members of the public.

The new style approved by the council, called "action" minutes, would entail only a barebones list of actions taken by the council (including how council members voted), along with one-sentence summaries of announcements and presentations, according to City Clerk Margaret Roberts.

Ms. Roberts will prepare the more detailed "summary" style of minutes for items involving an appeal, and at the request of a majority of council members for items they think might be of particular interest to the public.

In a letter to the City Council e-mail log, Menlo Park resident Morris Brown argued that streamlining minutes would make city business less transpar-

'If someone wants more detail, they can watch the video.'

COUNCILMAN JOHN BOYLE

ent, and that it would be more difficult for residents to get information about the context in which decisions are made.

But Councilman John Boyle argued that important context tends to get left out of "summary" minutes, as well, and that the summaries run the risk of distorting council members' stated opinions. Most residents just want to know how council members voted, he said.

"If someone wants more detail, they can watch the video," Mr. Boyle said.

Councilman Andy Cohen said he was concerned that the heavier reliance on video recordings

might make it difficult for residents who aren't as familiar with computers to follow the meetings. Ms. Roberts noted that VHS tapes and DVD recordings of meetings are available at the Menlo Park Library, and in her office.

Ms. Roberts cited the time and cost of preparing "summary" minutes as another reason to make the switch. She estimated that she spends 20 hours per week preparing minutes for the council — an expense of \$71,380 per year. Action minutes, on the other hand, would take only about 90 minutes to prepare, and would be available the morning following a meeting, Ms. Roberts said.

City staff brought the proposal forward as an information item on the agenda — not as regular city business — because staff viewed it as a "ministerial" topic, and because the council had requested it be brought back as an information item at an earlier meeting, said City Manager Glen Rojas.

Any item on the agenda can be acted upon if staff has made a recommendation, regardless of what category it's listed under, according to Mr. Rojas. While he acknowledged it is unusual for the council to act on items not listed under the "consent" or "regular business" categories, he said he did not think that listing it as an information item limited public comment. ■

Pioneer in liquid crystal displays

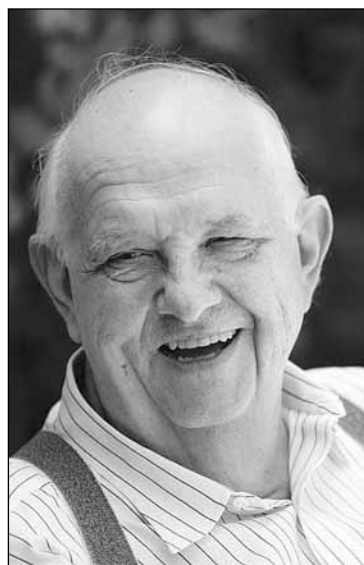
A memorial service will be held in January for James L. Fergason of Menlo Park who held more than 130 patents in the United States. Mr. Fergason died Dec. 9 at age 74. Recently inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame, Mr. Fergason was known as the father of the modern liquid crystal industry, say family members.

James Fergason was born in Wakenda, Missouri. He served as an officer in the U.S. Army.

After obtaining a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Missouri in 1956, he began his work on the practical uses of liquid crystals at the Westinghouse Research Laboratories in Pennsylvania, earning his first patent in 1963. He was granted a U.S. patent for a liquid crystal display that utilized the twisted nematic field effect (TN effect), according to Wikipedia.

Mr. Fergason left Westinghouse to form his own company, ILIXCO, to manufacture these improved liquid crystal

OBITUARY



James Fergason

displays. His first customer was the Gruen Watch Co. of Switzerland, which used the technology to market the first liquid crystal

display (LCD) watches using the technology. Most of the world's digital watches use this kind of LCD display, says Wikipedia.

Mr. Fergason has been honored with dozens of awards including the Richardson Medal from the American Optical Society and the Lemelson-MIT Prize, the highest award offered anywhere in the world for invention, say family members. In 2001 Mr. Fergason was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Missouri.

Through his professional organizations, he also mentored independent inventors. Serving on the U.S. Patent Office advisory board, he supported efforts to improve the quality of patents, say family members.

Mr. Fergason is survived by his wife of 52 years, Dora of Menlo Park; children Teresa Neal, Jeffrey Fergason, John Fergason, and Susan Mortimer; brother Lewis Fergason; and 10 grandchildren.



NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2009

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

Minor Subdivision, Variance, Environmental Review/ Sharon Blood/1204-1206 N. Lemon Avenue: Request to subdivide one parcel into two parcels in the R-1-S (Single-Family Suburban) zoning district, and a request for a variance to permit the existing house to maintain a side setback of five feet from the proposed side property line where 10 feet would otherwise be required. Due to the variance request, the proposed project is not categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act and a Negative Declaration is being prepared to analyze the potential environmental impacts.

The proposal requires the preparation of a Negative Declaration (ND). The Initial Study prepared for the project identifies less than significant impacts for the following categories: Aesthetics, Agricultural Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy and Mineral Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation/Traffic, and Utilities. The Initial Study for the project did not identify environmental impacts that are significant and unavoidable. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires this notice to disclose whether any listed toxic sites are present at the location. The project location does not contain a toxic site pursuant to Section 6596.2 of the Government Code.

Copies of the project plans and Negative Declaration will be on file for review at the City Library and available for distribution at the Community Development Department, Civic Center, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025, on **Monday, December 29, 2008**. The review period for the Negative Declaration has been set from **Monday, December 29, 2008** through **Friday, January 23, 2009**. Written comments should be submitted to the Community Development Department no later than 5:00 p.m., **Friday, January 23, 2009**.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on this item in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on **Monday, January 26, 2009**, 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 these items 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.

Documents related to these items may be inspected 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 Megan Fisher, Associate Planner, if there are any questions or comments on this item. She may be reached at (650) 330-6737 or email at mefisher@menlopark.org.

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING
COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2009**

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/Connie Fitzgerald/1140 Middle Avenue:**

Request for a use permit to demolish an existing single-story, single-family residence and construct a new two-story, single-family residence on a substandard lot in regard to lot width in the R-1-S (Residential Single-Family Suburban) zoning district.

As part of this development, the following five heritage trees are proposed for removal: A stone pine in the middle of the property with a 47.3-inch diameter at breast height (DBH) in fair condition, a stone pine in the right side yard with a 42.7-inch DBH in fair condition, a stone pine in the left side yard with a 15.2-inch DBH in poor condition, a privet in the rear yard with a 18-inch DBH in fair condition, and a privet in the left side yard with a 16.5-inch DBH in fair condition.

1430 O'Brien Drive, Suite A/TJet Technologies, Inc./

Use Permit: Request for a use permit for the indoor use and storage of hazardous materials for the research and development and manufacture of organic light emitting diode (OLED) displays in the M-2 (General Industrial) zoning district.

PUBLIC MEETING ITEMS**Architectural Control/Sunset Publishing Corporation/80**

Willow Road: Request for architectural control for the removal of an existing sand volleyball area in a courtyard behind the existing main building, and the construction of a new outdoor test kitchen facility, including a fully-equipped kitchen with burners, grills, sinks, and refrigeration, a pizza oven, new landscaping and gardens, lighting, hardscape, and seating areas for property located in the C-1 zoning district.

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, January 12, 2009, 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: December 18, 2008 Deanna M. Chow, Senior Planner
PUBLISHED: December 24, 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 December 24, 2008

Atherton to refund business license fees

By **Andrea Gemmet**

Almanac Staff Writer

The complaints about Atherton's expensive formula for calculating the business license fees charged to building contractors started in 2003. Now, nearly six years later, the town will be offering refunds to people who have been overcharged.

The City Council acted in closed session on Dec. 17 to offer refunds for the fees, going back two years, said City Attorney Marc Hynes.

"I was happy to end the business license tax, but not about how far it would go back," Councilman Charles Marsala told The Almanac after the meeting.

By changing the methodology for calculating fees, some contractors and residents say they've been charged for dozens more subcontractors than they've actually employed. The new Sacred Heart student center was charged \$55,000 in business license fees, officials at the private school said in an e-mail.

Mr. Marsala, who has been pressing town officials on the issue for the past year, in October sent out an e-mail

to residents warning them to make refund requests as soon as possible or risk having them rejected for not being timely.

Prior to 2003, Atherton charged a flat business license fee of \$250 to general contractors and \$150

to \$450,000 annually.

This fall, threatened with legal action, Atherton hired MuniServices LLC to review its business license fees. That report was not made public, but the council reviewed it in closed session, Mr. Marsala said. Whatever the result, the MuniServices review apparently prompted the City Council to rescind the town's percentage-based calculation and go back to its flat fees.

General contractors may apply for refunds of business license fees paid in the past two years — Dec. 17, 2006, to Dec. 17, 2008 — less the \$250 annual flat fee, according to Mr. Hynes.

Mr. Marsala said the town is legally obligated to offer refunds only for fees paid in the past year, but the council opted to extend it to two years. He said he is reflecting on his closed-session vote, and may ask to revisit the topic.

"If we knew about it in 2003, based on (The Almanac's) story, do we have an obligation to take action and go back further?" Mr. Marsala said.

A press release explaining the process for seeking refunds is posted on the town's Web site, www.ci.atherton.ca.us. ■

The new Sacred Heart student center was charged \$55,000 in business license fees, officials there said.

to their subcontractors on an annual basis, in accordance with its municipal code.

That changed March 19, 2003, when the council voted unanimously to begin charging .36 of a percent of the value of the construction project as a business license fee. Then-finance director John Johns was quoted in an Almanac story as saying that the change was intended to address "widespread noncompliance" by subcontractors who didn't pay. As a result, Atherton saw its revenues from business licenses jump from \$150,000

Grants provide \$3 million for food, shelter services

Forty-seven nonprofit organizations will receive \$3 million in grants from Silicon Valley Community Foundation to help provide food and shelter in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties during the current economic crisis, the foundation announced.

"The impact of the current economic downturn has been swift and steep," says Emmett D. Carson, president of the foundation.

Safety-net providers are seeing demand skyrocket while revenue drops, he said.

Second Harvest Food Bank, which will receive a \$300,000

grant, reports a 55 percent increase in calls for help during the first quarter of 2008, compared to the same quarter in 2007. Most of the new callers had never sought assistance before, a foundation spokesperson said.

Other local organizations receiving grants:

■ Shelter Network, a principal provider of homeless services in San Mateo County, \$175,000.

■ Samaritan House in San Mateo, \$150,000 for its food program and a homeless shelter.

■ CORA, \$62,500 for emergency shelter for domestic vio-

lence victims.

■ East Palo Alto Senior Center, \$45,650 for food and supplies to provide hot breakfasts and soup lunches for seniors and disabled adults.

■ Ecumenical Hunger Project, \$45,000 for emergency food.

■ El Concilio of San Mateo County, \$50,000 to provide information and referral along with emergency housing and food.

■ HIP Housing, \$40,000 for salaries for the emergency shelter program administrator and case manager for the Self-Sufficiency Program, which offers shelter to homeless families.

Workshop helps girls fight esteem-wrecking images

Britney Spears is too fat. Nicole Ritchie is too thin. One of the Olsen twins has an eating disorder — is that a good thing or a bad thing? And how is a girl supposed to develop a healthy self-image in this kind of environment?

Mixed messages in the media are nothing new, and the Menlo Park library is hosting a workshop to help teens establish a healthy body image despite a barrage of degrading, sexualized images of women everywhere they look.

The free workshop — "The

Secret Story: How Advertisers Sell You Beauty" — is open to girls in grades 7-12 and will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7. It's led by an expert in body image and media, Anne Sutkowi from About Face (www.about-face.org). Attendance is limited to 30 young women. RSVP to andrus@plsinfo.org or 330-2530.

School boards reorganize

It's that time of year, when school boards reorganize and new members are sworn in. The

■ BRIEFS

Menlo Park City School District said farewell to board members Bruce Ives and Terry Thygesen, and seated newly appointed members Maria Hilton and Mark Box. Deborah Fitz was chosen to serve as the board president, and Jeff Child as vice president.

Trustees of the Woodside Elementary School District chose Karen Werner to serve as the board president, and Ginger Bamford as the vice president.

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

While many of us have experienced investment losses in these tough times, people in our low-income neighborhoods are being hit the hardest. Jobs and homes are disappearing. Crime and violence are on the rise. Children face increasing threats to their safety and education.

Here at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula, we see and hear every day the problems kids face in our at-risk neighborhoods. Just this month, the six-year-old sister of one of our highest achieving members was wounded in a drive-by shooting. It was one of a five East Palo Alto shootings in six days.

During this economic crisis, young people need the Club more than ever. Here they can find safety, productive activities and caring adults to help them learn and grow. More than 1,000 come to our eight sites daily.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula is on the front lines of the effort to keep kids progressing in education so they'll become productive citizens. Despite jeopardized budgets in this economy, the Club is trying to extend its hours and to keep clubhouses open during the holidays. Perhaps more than any other time in our 50-year history, our children need a place to be safe.

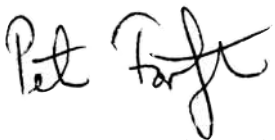
We can't do this alone. Our programs are made possible by community support. We need your help.

Some concerned foundations and corporations are echoing our call. The Morgan Family Foundation, the Louis R. Lurie Foundation, the Grove Foundation, and the Oracle Corporation have each agreed to match donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$250,000.

This is an opportunity to have your gift multiplied up to four times. And you will be doing something about the disturbing headlines appearing in these newspapers. Thousands of young people are depending on us.

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Peter Fortenbaugh
Executive Director

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula
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This space made possible with generous support from Oracle.

Public gets more time to review labor deals

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

Tentative labor agreements between the Menlo Park Fire Protection District and its employees will be available for review by the public at least 15 calendar days before the district board votes to ratify or reject them at a public meeting—a significant change in the “sunshine” practices of the district.

The district board voted 4-1 on Tuesday, Dec. 16, to adopt the policy introduced by board member Peter Carpenter, who maintained that the district’s practice of making the terms of tentative agreements available to the public only days

before ratification was inadequate.

Board member Rex Ianson voted against the policy, raising concerns about changing the district’s practices during the middle of current negotiations, according to board President Bart Spencer.

Mr. Spencer said he shares that concern, as do several other board and staff members. But in the end the board majority accepted the staff and legal counsel’s recommendation to approve the policy “to allow for adequate review and comment by the public prior to final board action” on labor agreements.

The labor negotiations will still take place behind closed

doors; the policy changes only the length of time the terms of a tentative agreement, which will have already been reviewed by members of the firefighters’ union, will be available for public review.

John Wurdinger, president of the Menlo Park Firefighters’ Association, said the new policy won’t require that things be done “that much different from how we’re doing it now,” because the information has been available weeks before the board has ratified agreements. “This is just putting it in writing,” he said.

Mr. Carpenter noted earlier this month, however, that although the information might technically have been available, it was unlikely that a member of the public would know when a tentative agreement had been reached, and the district hadn’t made that information public until just days before board ratification, when it published the meeting agenda.

He said he would push the district to make a vigorous effort to inform the public about the terms of the tentative agreement during the 15-day “sunshine” period, including posting it on the district’s Web site.

Mr. Wurdinger said the discussion at last week’s meeting about public access to information had an unexpected side benefit. The firefighters’ association, he said, has been asking the district to post the ratified labor agreement between the district and unrepresented employees—including the fire chief and top officers—on the Web site for about two years, to no avail.

But when, during the meeting, association vice president Mike Sweeney requested that the information be posted, Mr. Carpenter questioned why it wasn’t on the Web site, Mr. Wurdinger said. The agreement has since been posted, he said, “and we’d like to thank Peter Carpenter for that.”

He said the represented employees’ contracts have been posted on the Web for many years.

Menlo Park changes?

Spurred by Mr. Carpenter’s efforts, Menlo Park Councilman John Boyle submitted a letter to the City Council, calling for more transparency when the council meets in closed sessions.

He offered a number of options to discuss at a future meeting, including making more information available to the public after closed sessions, within the limits of what is legally allowed.

The issue was discussed at the council’s Dec. 16 meeting, and the council agreed to add it to the list of possible topics for a future study session. ■

Towns go on holiday hours

Local towns have scheduled the following holiday hours:

■ **Atherton:** The town’s administrative offices and branch post office will be closed Thursday, Dec. 25, for Christmas and Thursday, Jan. 1, for New Year’s Day. The Planning Commission’s Dec. 24 meeting has been cancelled. The next scheduled meeting is Jan. 8, starting at 6 p.m. Call 752-0500 for information.

■ **Portola Valley:** Town Hall closes at 1 p.m. Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, and won’t reopen until 8:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 2.

■ **Woodside:** Town Hall will close at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, and not reopen until

8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 5.

■ **Menlo Park:** City Hall and the police department will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Thursday, Dec. 25, but will be open Friday, Dec. 26. They will also be closed Thursday and Friday, Jan. 1-2.

The Burgess Recreation Center and Onetta Harris Community Center in Menlo Park are both closed Christmas and New Year’s weeks; they will re-open Monday, Jan. 5. The Burgess Pool will be closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Both the main library in the Civic Center and Belle Haven library will be closed Dec. 24 and Dec. 25, and from 5 p.m. on Dec. 31 through Jan. 1.

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Supervisors reject special election, appoint Groom to vacant seat

San Mateo City Councilwoman Carole Groom was appointed Dec. 16 to fill the Board of Supervisors seat left vacant by Jerry Hill, who was elected to the state Assembly.

The supervisors by a 3-1 vote appointed Ms. Groom in lieu of holding a special election, which would have cost between \$1.6 and \$1.7 million, county spokesman Marshall Wilson said.

Supervisor Rich Gordon made a motion for an election, but

failed to get a second, and the board opted to appoint one of the 11 applicants.

Mr. Gordon also cast the dissenting vote.

“There is a time for an appointment. There is a time for an election. This cycle calls for an election,” he said in a statement. “Now is the time for democracy.”

Supervisors must live in the district they represent, but they are elected county-wide

or appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Groom will represent District 2, which includes Belmont, Foster City and San Mateo. She has lived in the district for 32 years.

In 2000, she was appointed to the San Mateo City Council for one year to fill a vacant seat. She then was elected to the council in 2001 and again in 2005, and served as mayor in 2004 and 2008.

She is vice president of Mills-Peninsula Health Services and serves on the board of directors of SamTrans and the county’s Housing Endowment and Regional Trust. She also is a member of the county’s Blue Ribbon Task Force on Adult Health Care Coverage Expansion.

“I do think Carole rises to the top,” board president Adrienne Tissier said in a statement. “She’s done planning, she’s tackled huge budgets and has served on

regional boards.”

Mr. Hill announced his resignation from the five-member Board of Supervisors in November after he was elected to the 19th Assembly District seat.

Ms. Groom expects to start serving her term on the Board of Supervisors by Jan. 6. Her District 2 term ends Jan. 3, 2011.

— Bay City News Service contributed to this report.

Parking limits on holiday

Relaxed holiday parking rules are in effect in Menlo Park. **MENLO WATCH** Through Sunday, Jan. 4, parking in downtown plazas is unlimited. And through Saturday morning, Jan. 3, there will be no enforcement of overnight parking rules.

Candidates sought for two commissions

Aspirants to the Transportation and Environmental Quality commissions have until Jan. 20 to apply. The city has extended the deadline, originally Dec. 8, because it didn’t receive any applications for those commissions’ open seats, according to City Clerk Margaret Roberts.

The Environmental Quality Commission advises the City Council on matters related to environmental protection, sustainable practices, and historical preservation. The Transportation Commission advises the council on traffic and transportation issues, and hears appeals of city decisions related to traffic, parking and transportation.

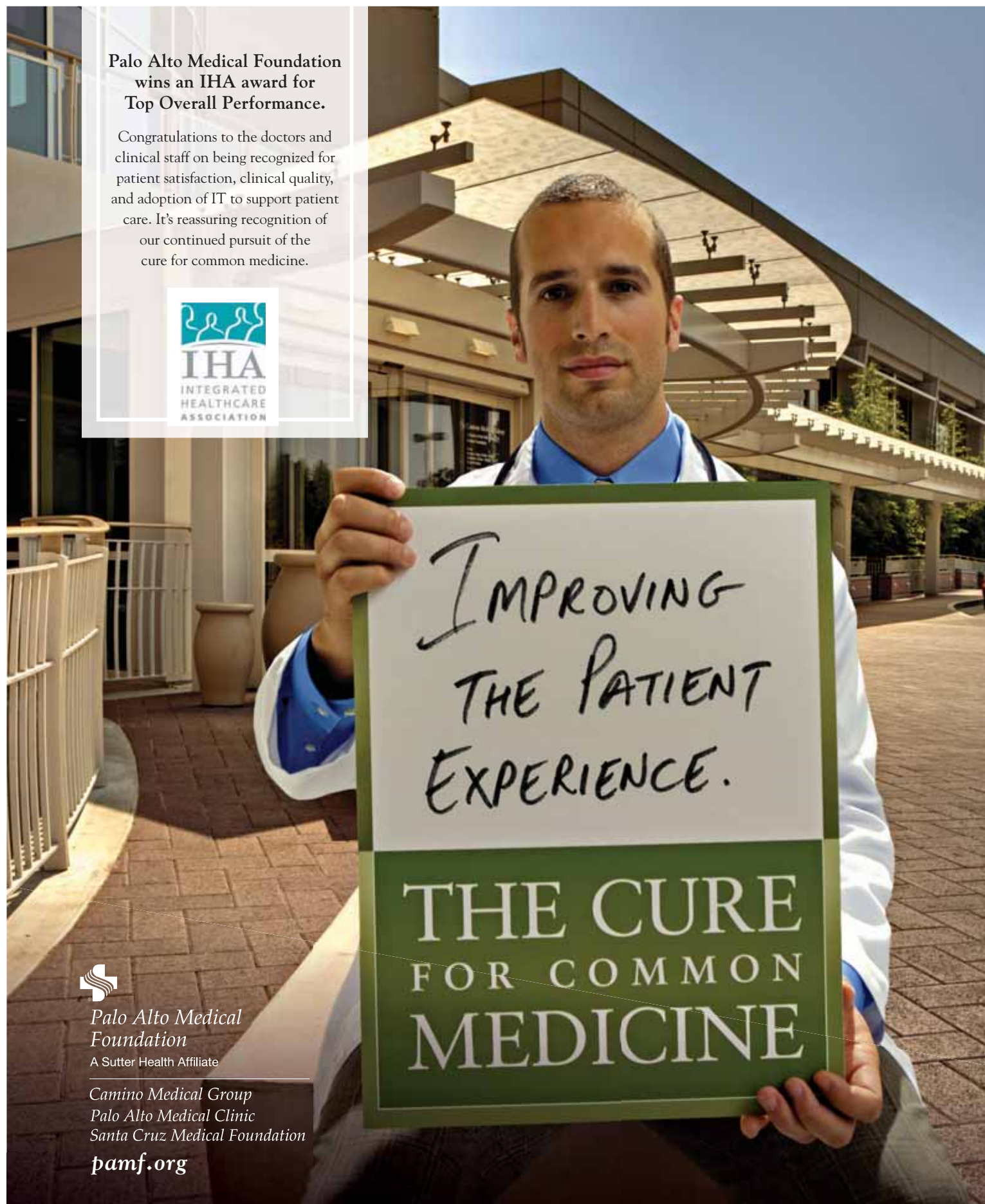
Applications can be obtained at tinyurl.com/appcomm, or by e-mailing Ms. Roberts at msroberts@menlopark.org.

Council takes break

The Menlo Park City Council won’t meet either this week or next week. The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 6.





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Palo Alto Medical Foundation wins an IHA award for Top Overall Performance.

Congratulations to the doctors and clinical staff on being recognized for patient satisfaction, clinical quality, and adoption of IT to support patient care. It’s reassuring recognition of our continued pursuit of the cure for common medicine.





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Camino Medical Group
Palo Alto Medical Clinic
Santa Cruz Medical Foundation
pamf.org

TOWN OF WOODSIDE INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR COMMITTEES

BICYCLE COMMITTEE

Meets third Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.; appointed for two year term.

The Committee advises and recommends to the Town Council on the policies for planning, developing, maintaining, and usage of Town's bikeways system.

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m.; appointed for two year term.

The Committee advises and assists the Town Council, Planning Commission, and staff on conservation, open space, noise, public services and facilities as pertaining to the elements of the Town's General Plan.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Wednesday of each month; 5:30 p.m.; appointed for two year term.

The Committee advises the Planning Director on applications for commercial stable permits, dog kennel permits, and exception requests to the private stable regulations.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Thursday of each month, 5:00 p.m.; appointed for two year term.

The Committee advises and assists the Town Council, Planning Commission and staff in implementing the policies and goals of the Open Space and Conservation elements of the General Plan, specifically with respect to acquisition and maintenance of conservation easements and open space preservation.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meets on call of Chair; appointed for two year term.

The Committee advises the Town Council and staff on issues of community public safety, including police and fire services provided within the Town.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Meets first Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.; appointed for three year term.

The Committee guides the activities of the community recreation programs.

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Meets second Thursday of each month, 3:00 p.m.; appointed for two year term.

The Committee reviews land divisions, subdivisions and conditional use permits for locations for equestrian, pedestrian and bicycle trails and makes recommendations to the staff and to the Planning Commission.

WOODSIDE HISTORY COMMITTEE

Meets first Thursday of each month, 9:30 a.m.; appointed for two year term.

The Committee advises the Town Council and staff regarding actions, policies and plans relating to historic preservation.

Committees are volunteer positions and serve in an advisory capacity to the Town Council.

Interested residents may request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon and 1 – 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, or telephone (650) 851-6790, or through the Town's web site at www.woodsidetown.org. Deadline for applications is Friday, January 16, 2009, 5:00 p.m.

Published in THE ALMANAC on
December 24, 31, 2008 and January 7, 14 2009.



Holiday Fund

FOR THE 16TH YEAR, THE ALMANAC OFFERS READERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MULTIPLY THEIR CHARITY DOLLARS BY GIVING THROUGH THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY FUND.



Volunteers serve a holiday meal at St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room.

Welcome to St. Anthony's, for a hot, nutritious meal

By Jim Bramlett

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room serves 500 guests daily, Monday through Saturday, 52 weeks a year. All in the community are welcome to enjoy a hot meal, and then take home a bag full of food items including produce.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are the busiest days of the year, serving as many as 1,000 meals on these holidays.

In conjunction with the Men-

■ HOLIDAY FUND

Gifts to the Holiday Fund benefit St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room in North Fair Oaks. To give to the Holiday Fund, see the coupon on the next page or go to TheAlmanacOnline.com.

About the author:

Jim Bramlett is chairman of the Advisory Council for St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

lo Park Fire Protection District, toys are collected during the Christmas season. As many as 2,000 children receive toys during an annual giveaway event held in the parking lot just before Christmas.

Our guests include working and nonworking singles, entire families, senior citizens, home-

less, and newcomers to the area.

Many in our community do not have health insurance or ready access to medical care. To provide fundamental health services and assistance, a public health nurse is on-site one day each week.

In addition to serving guests in the dining room, St. Anthony's provides meals to the Maple Street Shelter and Sequoia Children's Center in Redwood City, and the Clara-Mateo Shelter in Menlo Park.

The Dining Room first opened its doors in 1974 to serve the low-income elderly a weekend meal supplement in a social and friendly atmosphere. However, the need in the community was much greater and allowed St. Anthony's to quickly grow into the much larger operation it is now, serving six days a week year-round.

Clothing distribution

The Clothing Distribution Center provides 1,000 patrons a month with shoes, clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, and baby and infant wear.

Adjacent to the Padua Dining Room, the Clothing Center is open Wednesday for women and Thursday for men, and other times on an emergency basis.

Donations of gently used clothing are welcome and always needed. They can be dropped off at the

ALPINE / WEST MENLO

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

SIGNUPS (AGES 5-12, AND 13-18)

Please visit the League website for online registration and information, all divisions:
<http://www.eteamz.com/alpine/index.cfm>

REGISTRATION SCHEDULE:

- **Majors** (ages 9-12): REGISTRATION OPEN
- **Minors** (ages 9-12): REGISTRATION OPEN
- **Majors and Minors Players:** Deadline to register online is January 15, 2009. Tryouts required.
- **Juniors/Seniors/Big** (ages 13-18): REGISTRATION OPEN

Pitching Machine (8): Registration opens Jan. 2, 2009
Coach Pitch (7): Registration opens Jan. 2, 2009
T-Ball (ages 5-6): Registration opens Jan. 2, 2009

Registration questions? Contact Karen Lucian,
karenlucian@sbcglobal.net

(Please contact division commissioners with all non-registration related questions.)

Continued on next page

Holiday Fund donors

As of Dec. 18, 2008

Anonymous (31 gifts)..... \$16,770
 Judy & Doug Adams..... *
 Barbara Bessey & Kevin Gilmartin *
 Carmen Biland..... *
 Barbara & Bill Binder..... *
 Ann Benson & Iris Harrell..... *
 Elizabeth Blair..... \$500
 James Brice..... \$150
 Shirley & Jerry Carlson..... *
 Kirke Comstock Family..... \$100
 Erika Crowley..... *
 Nancy Davidson..... \$100
 Patricia & Bill Dewes..... \$25
 Lisa, Brian, Sean & Jesse Donnellan..... *
 Kristin & Ram Duriseti..... *
 Candy & Tim Eastham..... *
 Barbara & Bob Ells..... \$100
 James Esposto..... *
 Fanning Family..... *
 Pat & Dan Finlay..... \$40
 Jan Fisher..... \$50
 Mary Ford..... *
 Florine & John Galen..... *
 Penny & Greg Gallo..... \$500
 Marilyn Green & Drew McCalley..... \$100
 Catherine Habiger & Richard Ruby..... *
 Sandy & Andy Hall..... *
 Mary & Doug Heller..... *
 Anne Hillman & George Comstock..... \$1,000
 Donna Ito & Jozef Ruck..... \$100
 Barbara Jacobson..... *
 Esther Judd..... *
 Nita & Clay Judd..... *
 Andrea Julian..... \$250
 Sybille Katz..... *
 Dorothy Kennedy..... *
 Julia Krinkel..... *
 Jean & Bill Lane..... *
 Diana Laraway..... \$200
 Carol & Hal Louchheim..... *
 Lorraine Macchello..... \$100
 Donna Mackowski..... *
 Margaret & Jamis MacNiven..... *
 Linda & John Montgomery..... \$200
 Anne Moser..... *
 Stephanie & Jim Nisbet..... *
 Marion & Bob Oster..... *
 Martha & Robert Page..... *

Mr. & Mrs. C. Pausa..... *
 Raydean Randlett..... \$200
 Margo Ritter..... *
 Michael Roberts..... \$100
 Melba & Bill Rogoway..... *
 Helen & Glen Ruffner..... *
 Mary Ann & Marc Saunders..... *
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Schreck..... \$250
 Barbara & Robert Simpson..... *
 Thelma & John Smith..... *
 Karen Sortino..... *
 Paula Stewart..... \$100
 Lina Swisher & Dan Rubin..... *
 Helen & Glen Ruffner..... *
 Caroline Tonetti..... *
 Onnolee Trapp..... *
 Anne Tuttle..... \$350
 Roma & Gary Wagner..... *
 Rose Wright..... *
 Julie & Craig Wyreman..... *
 Elizabeth Yasek & Michael Fleice..... *
 Julie & Joe Zier..... \$100

In honor of

Spangle Associates for Portola Valley Town Staff
 Lynore Banchoff for Eliza, Natalie and Mariah Banchoff Grover
 Sherry Chuang for Jason Chuang
 Adam Creeger for the teachers and staff at La Entrada Middle School
 Kayleen & Fred Miler for Hattie, Charlie and Krisitn
 Shirley & John Reiter for Lucas Matthew

In memory of

Kathleen Anderson for William Anderson
 Carolyn & Colon Gulledge for Esther Johnson
 Carmen & John Quackenbush for Larry Wenrick
 Jo Ann Rogers for James Rogers
 Barbara Seaney for Martin Seaney


TOTALS: As of Dec. 18, 2008, a total of 109 donors have given \$60,970 to The Almanac's Holiday Fund.

* The asterisk designates that the donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.

Continued from previous page

Clothing Center Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 At St. Anthony's, "we do not believe in miracles. ... We count on them." ■

For more information about St. Anthony's, call 365-9664 (Dining Room), 364-2557 (Clothing Center) or go online at www.paduadiningroom.com. The mailing address is: St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room, 3500 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025.



Think Shop Buy LOCAL

Be sure to **SHOP LOCAL** this holiday season

Thanks. **The Almanac**

Giving to the Holiday Fund



Your gift helps children and others in need

Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers contributed \$116,000, and with available matching grants, over \$150,000 was raised for 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community corporations, foundations, and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies.

This year, the Almanac's Holiday Fund will support these nonprofit organizations in the community

- **Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula**
 Provides after-school academic support and enrichment activities for 1,000 youths each day, ages 6 to 18. Operates clubhouses in Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood, East Palo Alto and Redwood City, and after-school programs at schools in these communities designed to extend the learning day and supplement the school's curriculum.
- **Ecumenical Hunger Program**
 Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, special children's programs and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 1,500 households.
- **Family Connections**
 Provides a free parent-participation preschool program that includes parent education, parent leadership, preschool and pre-kindergarten for 400 people, including children, ages newborn to 5, at three sites in the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City.
- **Project Read-Menlo Park**
 Provides free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. Trained volunteers work one-to-one or in small groups to help adults improve their basic reading, writing and English language skills so they can achieve their goals and function more effectively at home, at work, and in the community. In 2007-08, a total of 120 tutors assisted more than 300 students.
- **Ravenswood Family Health Center**
 Provides primary medical care, behavioral health services and preventive health care for all ages at its clinics in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto. It also operates a mobile clinic at school sites. Of the 22,700 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured.
- **Second Harvest Food Bank**
 The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 30 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to some 162,000 people each month through more than 700 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.
- **St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room**
 Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week in a social and friendly atmosphere to anyone in need. Funded entirely by contributions from the community, St. Anthony's is the largest soup kitchen between San Francisco and San Jose. It offers groceries to take home and distributes clothing to families.
- **St. Francis Center (North Fair Oaks)**
 Provides services for families in need with the goal of helping them to live in dignity and become self-supporting community members. Assists 2,400 people each month with such services as low-income housing, food and clothing, showers and laundry, counseling, community garden, and education.
- **Shelter Network**
 Provides short-term shelter and transitional housing services to more than 3,700 people and children each year. Offers programs for families and individuals to become self-sufficient and return to permanent housing.
- **Youth and Family Enrichment Services**
 Provides many programs to help people who struggle with substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health, relationship and communications issues. Helps strengthen youth, families and individuals to overcome challenges through counseling, education, and residential services.

Name of donor _____ Amount \$ _____
 Street address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 I wish to contribute anonymously. Don't publish the amount of my contribution.

I wish to designate my contribution as follows:

In honor of: _____ In memory of: _____

TO DONATE ONLINE GO TO: TheAlmanacOnline.com

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: THE HOLIDAY FUND

Enclose this coupon and send to: **The Almanac Holiday Fund**
 The Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas,
 Menlo Park, CA 94025

By Credit Card: Visa or MasterCard No. _____
 Exp. Date _____
 Signature _____

The organizations named below provide major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.



The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
 The David and Lucile Packard Foundation



Rotary Club of Menlo Park

The Almanac will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2008, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

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What are you doing New Year's Eve?

If dancing the night away is your idea of welcoming in 2009, here are some suggestions:

A **New Year's Eve ball** featuring Paul Price's Society Orchestra will be held Wednesday, Dec. 31, from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Palo Alto Masonic Center, 451 Florence St. in Palo Alto. There be a free waltz lesson at 8 p.m. Cost is \$25. For more information, go to paulpriceorchestra.com/NYE08.html.

The **Little House** community

■ AROUND TOWN

center in Menlo Park will celebrate with the Jerry J Quartet from 8 p.m. to midnight in the auditorium. Dressy attire is requested. Cost is \$20 per person and \$30 per couple. Little House is located at 800 Middle Ave. For more information, call 326-2025.

The **British Bankers Club** is having a masquerade party on New Year's Eve. Tickets are available for a four-course holiday dinner. After dinner, there will be dancing to a DJ and a live art show featuring models painted in body art. The BBC is located at 1090 El Camino Real in Menlo Park. For more information, call 327-8769.

If listening to music appeals more than dancing, you might want to know that organist James Welch will present a **New Year's Eve concert** at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave. in Palo Alto. The program will range from works by J.S. Bach to "American in Paris" by George Gershwin. Donation is \$10. For more information, call 326-3800.

Church concert on Christmas Eve

The St. Raymond chorus will present its 10th annual holiday concert on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at St. Raymond church, 1100 Santa Cruz Ave. in Menlo Park.

The 80-member chorus, conducted by composer Patrick Feehan, will perform at 4:30 p.m., followed by a Christmas Mass at 5:15 p.m. The program will include a variety of contemporary and traditional songs during the concert and service to follow, says Mr. Feehan. The concert is free and open to the public.

Catch the wave at history museum

Visitors will be able to "Catch the big wave at Maverick's" on the Waverider, a multi-sensory game interface, at the San Mateo County History Museum through Dec. 31. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The admission charge is \$4 for adults and \$2 for students and seniors. The museum is located at 2200 Broadway in Redwood City. For more information, call 299-0104.



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS TOWN OF ATHERTON STATE OF CALIFORNIA HOLBROOK-PALMER PARK MAIN HOUSE LAWN FOUNTAIN PROJECT NO. 08-006

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. JANUARY 8, 2009, at which time they will be publicly opened and read, for performing the following work:

Re-install historic fountain with new equipment and landscaping including planters, pathways, benches and trees in the Main House lawn at Holbrook-Palmer Park.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for HOLBROOK-PALMER PARK MAIN HOUSE LAWN FOUNTAIN, Project No. 08-006", along with date and time of bid opening.

Plans and specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton Public Works Department, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton CA 94027, for a non-refundable fee of \$30.00. 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 \$20.00.

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 December 17, 24, 2008



IS YOUR TAP WATER CLOUDY OR MILKY WHITE?

Drinking water in Menlo Park and other Peninsula cities may appear cloudy or milky-white in color when drawn from the tap beginning in early January for a month or two. The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, which is the City's regular source of water, will be shut down temporarily so that maintenance and improvement projects can be carried out.

During the shutdown, the City will receive water from the local Alameda County watershed. This local water has different characteristics and is fed to the treatment plant at a higher-than-normal flow rate. The increased flow rate results in the introduction of very small air bubbles that give the water a white, cloudy appearance.

If the water is allowed to stand for few minutes, the cloudiness will dissipate as the air bubbles break apart. There are no public health concerns, as water meets all the regulatory requirements and is safe to drink.

The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir will again be providing water to City customers by the end of February 2009.

Published in THE ALMANAC on December 24, 31, 2008.

Athletes sign up with colleges of choice

By Keith Peters
Palo Alto Online Staff

Two local Menlo-Atherton High School seniors recently signed letters of intent for their college of choice. Menlo-Atherton seniors Morgan Leech-McDonald (women's water polo) and Nick Sako (golf) signed up with Arizona State and St. Mary's, respectively.

Meanwhile, Sacred Heart Prep water polo standouts Paul Rudolph and Yvonne Dunlevie have signed with Stanford. SHP's MJ Mordell has signed to play water polo at UCLA.

Sako is one of the top junior golfers in Northern California — ranked No. 4 in the Junior Golf Association of California (JGANC) and 11th in the NCGA for 2008.

Sako was a first-team All-PAL performer last season as the league's Most Valuable Player. In fact, he's a two-time MVP. He'll join a St. Mary's team that qualified for the NCAA Division I tournament for the first time ever last spring.

"Nick has the drive, work ethic and determination to succeed at



Photo by Keith Peters/Palo Alto Weekly

Menlo-Atherton seniors Morgan Leech, left, and Nick Sako recently signed national letters of intent.

the college level," said M-A golf coach Buff Fiurlani. "Not only is he an outstanding player, but is a great team leader."

Leech-McDonald is a standout on the M-A girls' water polo team. She earned first-team all-league honors her freshman and junior years and again this season. She also competes for the NorCal club team during the summer.

SPORTS

"Morgan has contributed significantly to Menlo-Atherton's girls water polo team's success over the past two years," said head coach Chris Rubin.

Menlo School also announced that eight members of its senior class have made commitments to continue their athletic careers in college.

Molly Bagshaw will play volleyball at Princeton; Kenny Diekroeger will play baseball at Stanford; Daniel Hoffman will play tennis at UC Santa Barbara; Haley Read will swim for Duke; Alex Smith will play basketball at Claremont McKenna; Chelsea Sullivan will play water polo at Maryland, and Steven Zavodnick is headed to USC to play baseball.

"The class of 2009 is made up of a very talented group of kids," said Menlo Athletic Director Craig Schoof. "These student-athletes exemplify what it means to be a Knight — high marks in the classroom and excellence on the fields, courts and in the pool." ■

By Kalwant Sandhu
Strikers coach

The Mid-Peninsula Strikers soccer team for boys under 11 invited 6-year-old Erica Rix to toss the coin to start a crucial game against the Coyotes team of San Jose at the Sequoia High School stadium on Dec. 7. It was the Norcal Premier League championship game.

Erica, of Los Gatos, lost her hand in a freak accident while returning home from a soccer practice. Her hand was reattached by the great surgeons at the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

Erica, wearing a pink outfit and a big smile, enjoyed every minute of the event. The Strikers lads showed her their appre-

ciation by cheering her name at half time.

Prior to the game, I walked her toward the stands where all the fans and families were seated and introduced her to a standing ovation.

Both teams stood by her side for a group photograph before the game.

The game and the championship was won by the Strikers, 3-0. The team had earlier won the Battle by the Bay Tournament this year and the Abrozino Class 1 Division Title last year.

The lads were second in the Norcal State Cup Super Division and second in the U.S. National Cup Regionals.

For more information on the MP Strikers, go to www.mpstrikersfc.com. ■

Registration opens for local Little Leagues

Registration is open for the two local Little Leagues: Menlo-Atherton and Alpine/West Menlo.

The Menlo-Atherton district is Menlo Park west of U.S. 101 and east of El Camino Real and all of Atherton. The Alpine/West Menlo district is Menlo Park west of El Camino, plus Woodside, Portola Valley and Ladera.

Menlo-Atherton

People can register online now for the Menlo-Atherton Little League. The league has six levels of baseball. All K-12 boys and girls between the ages of 5 1/2 and 16 (by April 30, 2009) are eligible to participate if they submit a completed registration form by Jan. 25.

Parents can go to the league's Web site at www.m-all.org to enroll their child for the 2009 season. Play begins in late February and extends through the end of the school year. Applications received after Jan. 25 are subject to a waiting list and a late fee of \$25, says league spokesperson Carla Posthauer.

Alpine/West Menlo

The league has divisions for ages 5 to 18. Go online to register for all divisions. Enter "Alpine/West Menlo Little League" in your search engine to find the link.

Registration is now open for these divisions: Majors (ages 9-12), Minors (ages 9-12) and Juniors/Seniors/Big (ages 13-18).

For Majors and Minors players, the deadline to register is Jan. 15, and tryouts are required.

Registration opens Jan. 2

for these divisions: Pitching Machine (age 8), Coach Pitch (age 7) and T-Ball (ages 5-6).

If you have registration questions, contact Karen Lucian at karenlucian@sbcglobal.net.

For information on the other leagues, go to www.cadistrict52.org/.

ACTIVE LIVING Q&A

Recharge During the Holidays

Q: How can I make certain that I exercise daily during the whirlwind of the holidays?

A: Let's face it, it's a tough time of year to stay committed to our daily practices of exercising and eating right. We strive to have everything just right for family, friends and guests but sacrifice our own daily needs.

Take time to get out the door daily. If you're the type that feels guilty or worried, leave it at the door, take deep breathes and know you will have more to offer of yourself once you return. Keep it simple, a brisk walk, outdoor circuit training or if its too cold hit the gym. If you have guests know that they enjoy some breathing room as well, so give them the gift of space.

Don't procrastinate and let everyone know that you will be walking out the door for a walk or heading to the gym at a specific time each day. Keep in mind that everyone typically has plans for you, or you have plans for others, so discuss schedules before the day starts.

By Jackie Ballinger, Physically Focused

Consultant to Corporations, Medical Practices, Individuals, Families and Public Services
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TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

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Portola Valley, CA 94028



In recognition of the
Holiday Season, the

Portola Valley Town Hall

will be closed

Thursday, December 25, 2008
through Thursday, January 1, 2009

Published in THE ALMANAC on December 17, 24, 2008



**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
ANNOUNCEMENT**

As of January 2009 the terms of appointment end for three members of the Town's Architectural & Site Control Commission (ASCC) and three of the Planning Commission.

If you are interested in an appointment to either the ASCC or Planning Commission contact Leslie Lambert, Planning Manager at (650) 851-1700, extension 212 or llambert@portolavalley.net. By Friday, January 16, 2009.

Published in THE ALMANAC on December 24, 31 2008

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WEDDINGS



Courtney Grey and Reggie Hanna

GREY-HANNA

Courtney Grey and Reggie Hanna were married Oct. 25 at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park. A reception followed at Allied Arts Guild.

The bride is the daughter of Maureen Grey of Menlo Park and the late John R. Grey III. A graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School, the University of Puget Sound, and the University of Michigan Ross School of Business, she is a financial analyst at Del Monte Foods in San Francisco.

The bridegroom is the son of Recca and Al Hanna of Stilwell, Kansas. He is graduate of Kansas State University and is a project manager with Opus West Construction in Pleasanton.

The bride's sister, Amanda Grey Timar, was matron of honor. Her niece, Annelise Timar, was flower girl. The bridegroom's brother, Steve Hanna, was best man.

After a honeymoon in St. Kitts, the couple is living in San Francisco.



Liz Cirone and Mark Bongiorno

CIRONE-BONGIORNO

Liz Cirone and Mark Bongiorno were married June 14 at Nestledown private estate in Los Gatos.

The bride is the daughter of Josie and Tony Cirone of Menlo Park. She is music director for the middle school division of Menlo School in Atherton.

The bridegroom is the son of Roberta and Don Bongiorno of Colorado. He is an engineer for Johnson Controls in San Jose.

Jennifer Carsillo Buterman was matron of honor. The bridesmaids were Kimberly McIntyre Walker, Candie Watkins Antolinez, Suzanne Watkins Hitchcock, and Stacy O'Farrell Ryan, all childhood friends of the bride, and Amy Fortin, the bridegroom's sister. Sydney and Sierra Fortin were flower girls.

Dominic Bongiorno was his father's best man. The groomsmen were Carlos Alfaro, Lou West, Michael Holley, Anthony Cirone, and Nick and Jon Bongiorno, the bridegroom's sons. Matt Bongiorno was ring bearer.

After a wedding trip to South Beach, Florida, and Cancun, the couple is living in Menlo Park.

BIRTHS

Menlo Park

- Amy and Matthew Heinz, a son, Nov. 24, at Sequoia Hospital.
- Jody and Casey Zelinsky, a son, Nov. 28, at Sequoia Hospital.

Woodside

- Barbara and AJ Costa, a son, Nov. 20, at Sequoia Hospital.
- Corinne and Achim Moesta, a daughter, Dec. 4, at Sequoia Hospital.

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■ 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

Residential burglary reports:

- Video game player, DVDs and alarm clock stolen, Menlo College at 1000 El Camino Real, Nov. 30.
- Video game player, TV and Apple iPod stolen, Menlo College at 1000 El Camino Real, Nov. 30.

Grand theft reports:

- Guitar stolen from garage, Greenoaks Drive, Dec. 10.
- Lawnmower stolen, Camino por los Arboles and Valparaiso Ave., Dec. 11.

Rug shampoo machine stolen, first block of Almendral Ave., Dec. 11.

- Four packages stolen from porch, 100 block of Patricia Drive, Dec. 12.

Stolen vehicle report:

- Maroon 1995 Buick LeSabre, Menlo-Atherton High School at 555 Middlefield Road, Dec. 11.

MENLO PARK

Auto burglary reports:

- Radio stolen, 1200 block of Hollyburne Ave., Nov. 28.
- Laptop computer stolen, 1000 block of Sherman Ave., Dec. 1.
- Sunglasses and purse with credit cards and checkbook stolen, 1600 block of Marsh Road, Dec. 2.
- Purse with credit cards and keys stolen, 100 block of Seminary Drive, Dec. 7.
- Five incidents resulting in stolen radar detector, sunglasses and GPS device, underground garage in 1600 block of El Camino Real, Dec. 10.
- Window smashed and video game system stolen, 1200 block of University Drive, Dec. 10.
- Car broken into, 400 block of Encinal Ave., Dec. 10.

Residential burglary reports:

- Wallet and other items stolen, 200 block of Oak Grove Ave., Nov. 29.
- Jewelry and cash valued at \$5,500 stolen, 1100 block of Hollyburne Ave., Dec. 4.
- Computer and miscellaneous items stolen, 200 block of Blackburn Ave., Dec. 8.
- Christmas presents stolen, 600 block of Pierce Road, Dec. 17.

Commercial burglary reports:

- Cash stolen, The Sundek restaurant at

3000 Sand Hill Road, Nov. 30.

- Two computers stolen, St. Raymond Catholic Church at 1100 Santa Cruz Ave., Dec. 8.

Grant theft reports:

- Jewelry valued at \$2,000 stolen from residence, 200 block of Santa Margarita Ave., Dec. 1.

- Quintana Roo Caliente bicycle valued at \$3,000 stolen from carport, 2100 block of Santa Cruz Ave., Dec. 5.

- Diamond pendant, gold earrings and necklace valued at \$10,000 stolen from residence, 1000 block of Arbor Drive, Dec. 10.

- Tools stolen from truck, 2800 block of Sand Hill Road, Dec. 16.

- Coat stolen and arrest made, 1100 block of El Camino Real, Dec. 16.

Robbery report:

- Attempted robbery, outside Safeway at 525 El Camino Real, Dec. 8.

Stolen vehicle reports:

- Blue 1999 Toyota Camry, 200 block of Blackburn Ave., Nov. 29.
- Silver 1995 GMC Yukon, 1300 block of Willow Road, Nov. 29.
- Maroon 1988 Plymouth Grand Voyager, 1300 block of Willow Road, Dec. 1.
- Gray 1999 Honda Civic stolen, 1100 block of Henderson Ave., Dec. 5.
- Maroon 1986 Volkswagen Rabbit stolen, 1600 block of El Camino Real, Dec. 10.

- Blue 1987 Ford Thunderbird, 800 block of Cambridge Ave., Dec. 15.

- White 1997 Chevrolet truck, 3000 block of Haven Ave., Dec. 16.

Fraud reports:

- Bad check passed to obtain currency, 1200 block of Willow Road, Nov. 28.
- Unauthorized online purchase valued at \$400, 700 Laurel St., Dec. 9.
- Identity thefts, 1100 block of Ringwood Ave. and 701 Laurel St., Dec. 12 and 14.
- Unauthorized access to checking accounts, 1200 block of Bay Laurel Drive and 600 Block Harvard Ave., Dec. 13

and 18.

- Unauthorized use of personal information used to set up utilities, 800 block of Coleman Ave., Dec. 14.

- Unauthorized use of personal information used to set up cable services, 800 block of Coleman Ave., Dec. 18.

Indecent exposure report:

- Man approached woman, exposed himself and followed her for one block, O'Keefe St. and Laurel Ave., Dec. 5.

Accident report:

- Boy, 15, suffered non-life-threatening injuries after falling through plate glass window while playing with friends, 800 block of Santa Cruz Ave., Dec. 6.

WOODSIDE

Incident report:

- House wares including crystal, china, silverware and expensive wine totaling \$8,500 reported taken by ex-girlfriend, 100 block of Bolivar Lane, Nov., 27.

Indecent exposure report:

- Student on school bus who was later suspended, Canada Lane and Woodside Road, Dec. 3.

Grand theft report:

- Diamond earrings valued at \$6,000 stolen, 500 Block of Eleanor Drive, Dec. 10.

Mountain lion report:

- Possible sighting, Mountain Home and Portola roads, Dec. 11.

WEST MENLO PARK

Theft reports:

- Sunglasses, checkbook and alarm clock with total value of \$750 stolen from truck, 2000 block of Manzanita Ave., Dec. 3.

- Golf bag, clubs and accessories valued at \$2,000 stolen from vehicle trunk, 3000 block of Alameda de las Pulgas, Dec. 10.

Residential burglary report:

- Side window smashed and resident confronted suspected burglar confronted who then fled and remains at large, 2000 block of Liberty Park Ave., Dec. 4.

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Judge refuses to lift bail for doctor

A San Mateo County Superior Court judge on Dec. 17 declined to eliminate bail for a Colorado doctor accused of illegally prescribing anti-depressant pills to a Menlo Park college student, who two months later committed suicide, a deputy district attorney said.

Christian Ellis Hageseth, 67, is out of custody on a \$100,000 bail bond but had made a motion for release on his own recognizance, according to Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

Mr. Hageseth is charged with prescribing Prozac to Stanford University student John McKay, 19, on June 6, 2005, on the Internet without possessing a California medical license, according to Mr. Wagstaffe.

— Bay City News Service

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EYE CARE NEWS

Presented by Mark Schmidt Licensed Optician

DON'T GET CAUGHT OFF BALANCE

It is widely recommended that seniors get eyeglasses or updated lens prescriptions as a means of averting falls. Better vision usually translates to better awareness of obstacles and hazards that can cause, or contribute to falls. However, recent research also reveals that people over age 70 should take their time adjusting to new glasses or lens prescriptions. In some cases, improved vision may prove to be initially unsettling to seniors, particularly in the case of

multi-focal lenses that distort depth perception. During the period of adjustment to new lenses, seniors are advised to take every precaution as they move around, such as firmly grasping railings. Seniors should also delay ambitious activities until they are fully used to their new lenses.

Our bodies change as we get older. Over time, bones lose part of their mass and become vulnerable to breaks or fractures. A senior with good vision can reduce his or her chances of falling. Regardless of your age, be sure to have routine eye exams. Bring your prescription to MENLO OPTICAL at 1166 University Drive, on the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and University Drive. We carry a wide selection of lenses and glasses to suit all prescription needs and personal preferences. Please call us at 322-3900.

P.S. Better lighting offers one of the most effective means of helping seniors see better in their own homes.

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

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



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

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

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

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or deliver to: Editor at the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

CALL

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

Cutback on council meeting minutes a mistake

The Menlo Park City Council took a disappointing step backward on Dec. 16 when it unanimously approved using an abbreviated form of council meeting minutes, known as action minutes, for a three-month trial period. The switch to minimal minutes from the more detailed form available to the public for years, known as summary minutes, will be a significant hindrance to many people — including journalists and other researchers — who have relied on the longer documents to review background, council deliberations and votes, and community sentiment on issues of importance. This is

information that the public needs to make informed decisions at the ballot box — and that our city government should be willing to provide if it strives for transparency.

In voting for the change, council members endorsed a more detailed indexing of videos of the council meetings, suggesting that the videos, accessible on the city's Web site, would compensate for briefer written reports on council meetings. The council also included some exceptions: Summary minutes will be taken during all appeals hearings, and when a majority of council members vote to require them for particular issues they deem important.

These measures are inadequate. First of all, indexing videos might help people who typically turn to their computers and other electronic devices for fact-gathering and who prefer video over print. But it is useless for those who don't have Internet access or computer proficiency — yes, folks, they really do exist — and for people who need to quickly scan written documents for pertinent information rather than invest far more time in watching videos and taking notes.

Secondly, the subjective method for determining which issues are important enough to require summary minutes will inevitably lead to politicizing the process, which would not serve

the public's interests. Imagine, for example, how often council members Andy Cohen and Kelly Fergusson might have been outvoted during their tenure as minority members of the previous council if this new policy were in place then, and they had requested summary minutes for specific agenda items.

Councilman Cohen, to his credit, raised the concern that relying on video recordings of meetings might make it difficult for those with limited computer know-how. In addition, he said of the staff-recommended change, before the exceptions were included in the proposal: "I think we are moving away from transparency, toward opaqueness — at best." It is unfortunate he disregarded those concerns when he joined his colleagues in voting for this change.

City staff argued, and the council apparently agreed, that changing to action minutes would be a welcome cost-saving move, freeing up a significant amount of the city clerk's time. But this just doesn't jibe with the sentiment the council expressed last year when it created a brand new position in City Hall — that of community engagement manager. The position, with a salary of \$101,000 a year, was created as a means to help keep the public more informed about, and involved in, the city's business. Why isn't the already budgeted spending on staff time to provide the public with adequate, conveniently accessible information on council meeting proceedings considered an important means of encouraging community engagement?

We agree with resident Morris Brown when he predicted that, as a result of the cutback on information in meeting minutes, "a whole lot more of the public will be kept in the dark" as to what goes on in council meetings. We also agree with his statement, sent to the council before the meeting and posted on the Almanac's Town Square forum: "Considering the modest amount of cost savings, I think this is unwarranted. For a council that has preached more community engagement, this would be a major step in the opposite direction."

We hope that the council discards this bad idea after the three-month trial period ends — sooner would be better yet.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS
Our readers write

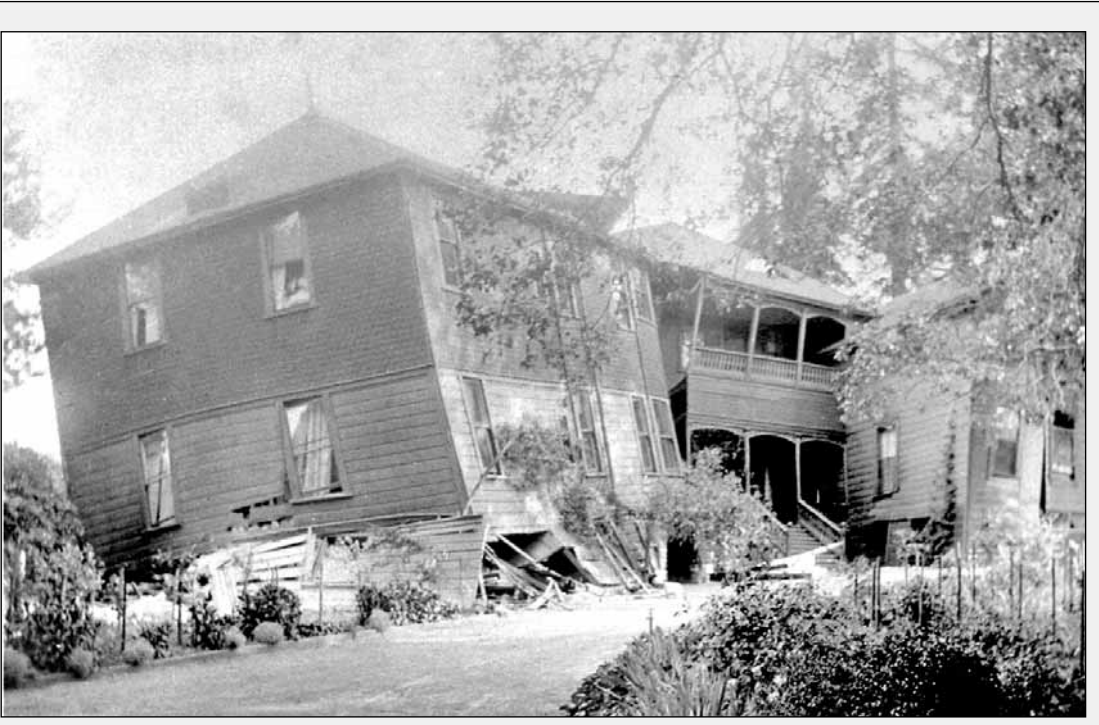
Chairman Slocum gets it right at commission dais

Editor:

Gail Slocum of Menlo Park, chairman of the San Mateo County Planning Commission, had just heard reports from staff and Gail Strickland, president of the Board of Governors of the Horse Park of Woodside, on Dec. 10 when she spoke to the public hearing that was next. She faced a full house when she said she had more than 70 letters in favor of extending the requested permit to nine years. Only one person opposed in the 50-some speaker cards. Yet, everyone should get three minutes. What could be done to save time?

She called a brief meeting break at which the audience organized by combining and

See **LETTERS**, next page



Woodside Library Collection

Our Regional Heritage

This home, built by Charles Josselyn on the northeast side of Union Creek near Kings Mountain Road in Woodside, was nearly destroyed by the 1906 earthquake. The home was used during hunting trips, and was known as Brookside.

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

cutting among themselves. Then, having agreed to forgo applause, everyone agreed to begin with the chairman's demonstrated, but silent, maneuver: raise both hands and wiggle fingers. All without sound. Nobody needed a negative thumbs down. Chairman Slocum looked for approval and saw a roomful of waving fingers, laughter, and then quiet.

For this occasion, one could say everyone in Woodside is a good public speaker, for the presentations moved along quickly with tales from the Horse Park, its successes in the equine world, family life with horses, how to solicit funding, concerns for fire protection, volunteer efforts, the park location in a scenic corridor, how to seed a grassy cross-country course, rider and horse safety, and need for a new million-dollar water supply, to name a few. Never in the history of public hearings in the history of San Mateo County has there been a public event so efficient, (with) so much practical know-how, so much quick response to speakers and so many smiles.

When it came time for a commission vote re the Horse Park permit that coincides with the lease from Stanford University, it took short minutes to confer with their legal adviser and commissioners agreed 5-0. The audience voted unanimously with arms up high and waving fingers. All those smiling folks were only slightly late to their lunch dates.

Cheers for Chairman Slocum, who brings chairing a meeting to a new level of competence and art. Robert's Rules of Order may want to call her when it's time for the book's revision.

**Nita Spangler
Redwood City**

What came first, the chicken or the speed bump?

Editor:

The last issue of the Almanac expresses concern over the new \$120,000 consultant study of traffic problems raised by some in the Willows area of Menlo Park. The Menlo Park Council fears that dissension in the neighborhood may prevent anything once again from ever being done.

Here's an idea. An inexpensive solution which might apply to the Willows was described in the Dec. 12 issue of the S.F. Chronicle. See "Town where chickens really, truly are free range."

In Fair Oaks, Calif., instead of installing speed bumps all over town, they are letting chickens run wild, which causes cars to slow

Here's what they're saying on Town Square

Council to vote on proposal for abbreviate Council minutes

Posted by Morris Brown, a resident of the Park Forest neighborhood:

Although the recorded video of the meetings ... gives really the best information as to exactly what went on in a meeting, limiting published minutes to "action minutes" in many cases is certainly going to give the other City commissions or the public little if any informa-

tion about in what context the action was taken.

Posted by Old Timer, a resident of the Linfield Oaks neighborhood:

The idea of making the minutes even more abbreviated is the wrong direction to take if we are a city that wants transparency from the council and

participation by the residents. As one who has had to do research in the Menlo Park government for cases pending in court, the written minutes are essential for understanding issues before the council.

Posted by New Timer, a resident of the Fair Oaks neighborhood:

I think the notes being "abbreviated" is a good thing. I like to see "action items," it makes for a better read. ... If we have the video, combined with the

"action items," I think this is good enough. It saves time, energy and waste. Plus, a video tape is FAR better than notes taken by an individual who may, or may not, really understand the context, or may come off focus during the meeting, or may not be very good at it.

TownSquare

Join the conversation on www.TheAlmanacOnline.com. Click on links under the TownSquare banner.

down. There are now 200 chickens on duty slowing traffic.

"They are self-replacing speed bumps. You run them over and they grow new ones."

Perhaps the Willows people would be willing to try this. They get to eat them if it doesn't work. In fact, the Weeks Poultry Farm was once a thriving business in this area.

Sincerely (more or less),

**Reg Rice
Tioga Drive, Menlo Park**

BMR housing needed, but not where it's planned

Editor:

Habitat for Humanity exists to help people own homes on whatever land is offered. Menlo Park has offered unsuitable land. Justifying the use of that land is part of Jennifer Doettling's job.

I have lived in Belle Haven for 22 years and recognize the need for more affordable housing in Menlo Park. But I don't want it to be in a cul-de-sac off a crowded dead-end street, where emergency services and escape routes are doubtful, and where low-income working families would be segregated from most other citizens. In contrast, the BMR housing in Vintage Oaks and Hamilton Park is integrated with other housing, and all residents of those developments have access to the same transportation, shops, schools, services, and recreation opportunities.

Menlo Park could have offered Habitat the opportunity to build homes integrated into our city's diverse neighborhoods. It didn't.

Doettling naively conflates opposition to the Terminal Avenue project with opposition to affordable housing, and seems to know little about our neighborhood. Belle Haven is already home to most of the affordable housing in Menlo Park, since other neighborhoods have vociferously rejected it. Belle Haven is the most crowded neighborhood in Menlo Park, with the least capac-

ity to absorb more population. Belle Haven residents don't need to be convinced that low- and moderate-income families make good neighbors, as most of Menlo Park's low- and moderate-income citizens already live here.

I would like to see Menlo Park embrace affordable housing. However, the city government's last effort to locate some downtown, near the railroad station, bus lines, stores, etc., was defeated by aroused citizens.

Belle Haven cannot and should not continually increase its proportion of BMR housing on behalf of the rest of the city. People who live in BMR housing deserve better than the isolation, crowding and risks to their safety that would inevitably come with the Terminal Avenue project.

**Nina Wouk
El Camino Real, Menlo Park**

Habitat should consider neighborhood group's plan

Editor:

I am writing this letter to respond to Jennifer Doettling's recent commentary about the proposed Habitat for Humanity housing project in the Menlo Park community of Belle Haven. While I and my colleagues in the Belle Haven Neighborhood Association (BHNA) highly respect and admire Habitat for Humanity, Ms. Doettling's comments overlook the problematic location of the project and underestimate the depth of community opposition to the proposal.

The proposed development could not be more poorly located for the very-low-income owners it is designed to uplift: it is geographically isolated from the existing community, served by only a single transit option, and is far removed from retail and employment centers.

Equally, if not more important, the proposed Habitat development would prevent

future expansion of the Beechwood School — one of the community's most valuable educational assets. For Belle Haven to thrive, it is imperative that high-quality educational options like the Beechwood School continue to grow and serve children throughout the community. Solid opposition to the proposed development was recorded at the Nov. 13 Habitat information meeting and at the Dec. 9 City Council meeting.

Like Habitat, BHNA is committed to increasing affordable housing opportunities across Menlo Park. In fact, our members have proposed rehabilitating foreclosed and substandard housing in the existing community as a positive and productive alternative to new construction on Terminal Avenue. Habitat for Humanity could play a vital role in such a venture, which has the possibility of serving far more families than the current proposal with the added benefit of enhancing the entire community. We look forward to continued dialogue with Habitat for Humanity to find the best solution for the Menlo Park residents in the Belle Haven neighborhood.

**Ash Vasudeva
President-elect, Belle Haven
Neighborhood Association**

Council should support, not hinder, building upgrades

Editor:

I am struck by a quote by our new mayor in last week's Almanac. In connection with an article on Page 9, "School building plans cleared to proceed," Honorable Heyward Robinson is quoted as saying: "There needs to be some healing between the school district, the city and the council. Ken Ranella's e-mail didn't help."

If Mayor Robinson truly wants to heal, then why does he — in the same breath — criticize the school superintendent, Ken Ranella?

The issue of the Oak Knoll School remodeling project is the most recent example of what has plagued our community over the past 15 years. Anytime there is an attempt to redevelop aging property in Menlo Park — whether it be a house, a building, or a school, the voices against these improvements have been supported by either the current council in power or individuals who will run a petition drive against a council decision that supported the project.

Our current council is very clearly supportive of no redevelopment, as became quite apparent when Mayor Robinson, and council member Richard Cline ran election campaigns supporting Morris Brown's petition drive against the Derry Project — a gorgeous multi-use project set back from El Camino and Oak Grove. Former Mayor Fergusson actually reversed her position and joined Robinson and Cline in opposing the Derry Project in support of the Robinson/Cline campaign.

In the face of 70 percent of the voters approving a school bond to improve our public schools, our current council continued to give credence to residents from 12 households encouraging them to bring their petition against the Oak Knoll project as far as it could go. Ken Ranella's e-mail to the parents of the school district was not only justifiable, it was an alert to the voters that their vote for school improvements might be circumvented by the City Council and these 12 households.

It truly is a time to heal our community. We should embrace the much-needed redevelopment of our schools, our decrepit commercial buildings, and be encouraged to upgrade our homes without being handed more and more regulations and fees. If Mayor Robinson and the other council members wish to heal, then they should be making decisions on the dais that will effect these changes.

**Mary Gilles
Hermosa Way, Menlo Park**

Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Submitting items for the Calendar

Submit information online. Go to TheAlmanacOnline.com and on the green navigation bar on the left, click on "Calendar Event." That will take you to the Palo Alto Online Master Community Calendar page with a form to enter your information. If the event is of interest to a large number of people, also e-mail a press release to Editor@AlmanacNews.com.

Special Events

Bach — and All That Jazz! Organist James Welch rings in the New Year with master organ works of J. S. Bach, along with jazz-inspired pieces, including "American in Paris" by George Gershwin, and pieces by jazz pianist George Shearing, theatre organist Billy Nalle, and others. Wed. Dec. 31, 2008, 8-9 p.m. \$10 at the door. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-326-3800. www.welchorganist.com

Dance

New Year's Eve Ball. Paul Price's Society Orchestra. Free waltz lesson at 8 p.m. Come dance to music of the 1890s through the 1930s. Refreshments Served. Modern or Vintage evening wear. Wed. Dec. 31, 2008, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. \$25, \$20 with non-dessert finger food contribution. Palo Alto Masonic Center, 461 Florence St., Palo Alto.

New Year's Eve Dance. Dance into the New Year in the Auditorium of Little House community center. Music will be provided by the Jerry J Quartet; refreshments are available. Dressy attire is requested. Call 326-2025 for tickets. Wed. Dec. 31, 2008, 8 p.m.-12 a.m. \$15 person, \$25 couple pre 12/24; \$20/\$30 after. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025. PeninsulaVolunteers.org

Annual Lego Train Exhibit. The Museum of American Heritage and BayLUG present the annual Holiday LEGO Train Exhibit. Through Jan. 11, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-1004. www.moah.org

Chopsticks: A Tradition of Comedy and Chinese Food. Chopsticks - a tradition of first-rate comedy and Chinese food. This year, Gary Gulman of "Last Comic Standing" is headlining. Wednesday, Dec. 24, 7-9 p.m. \$70. Contact Boris Vladimirovsky for tables of 10 at 650-852-3509. 7-9 p.m. \$70. Contact Boris Vladimirovsky for tables of 10 at 650-852-3509. Ming's Restaurant, 1700 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-852-3509. <http://www.paloaltojcc.org/chopsticks>

On Stage

"Long Story Short." Creators Brendan Milburn and Valerie Vigoda of the rock band GrooveLily return to TheatreWorks with this musical roller-coaster romance. Dec. 3-28, Tue.-Wed. at 7:30 p.m., Thu.-Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 2 and 7 p.m. \$21-64. TheatreWorks at the Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org

Talks/Authors

Total Cure: The Antidote to the Health Care Crisis. Health care reform proposals typically focus on increasing private insurance or expanding government-sponsored plans. In "Total Cure," Harold Luft, director of Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute, presents a comprehensive new proposal. Wed. Jan. 7, 2009, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com

Community Forums at Little House. The December Forums in the Garden Room will address events that will affect people next year: Dec. 10, Digital TV Transition; Dec. 17, Medicare 101: HMOs & PPOs & prescription drug coverage; Dec. 24, Mobility Matters for Older Adults: health & driving. 11 a.m.-noon. Free. PV Inc Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025.

Your Money or Your Life. Vicki Robin discusses and signs his book. Mon. Jan. 5, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com

Art Galleries

California Oils. Allegro Framing and Art presents a group showing for eight artists with diverse concepts but with California as the central theme. Bev Iverson, Caroline Robbins, Jim Caldwell, Joanna Baciocco, Kit Colman, Nancy Meze, Pam Naeve and Teresa Ruzzo. Through Dec. 31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Allegro Framing and Art, 3056 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-529-1800. www.alegroframing.com

For all listings

This Calendar contains partial listings of community events. To see all listings, go to TheAlmanacOnline.com and on the green navigation bar on the left, click on "Community Calendar."

Go Figure. Norton Gallery show for December is "Go Figure!" by William Bruner. Figurative works in pastel. Through Dec. 31, 6-8 p.m. Free. Pacific Art League, 668 Ramona St., Palo Alto. Call 650-965-1879. www.pacificartleague.org

Sacred Places Open Spaces. Linda Patterson of Newark, Calif., exhibits paintings of the wetlands, hilly vistas and vanishing rural landscapes of the Bay Area at the Portola Art Gallery through Dec. 31. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. www.portolaartgallery.com

Classes/ Workshops

Acrylic Painting. Instructor Juliet Lundy will work with each person at their own level. All levels welcome. Materials not provided; pick up materials list at Front Desk at time of registration. Wed. Jan. 7 to Mar. 25, 2009, 3:30-5:30 p.m. \$65 members/\$75 non-members. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-5436. www.avenidas.org

Computer Classes. The Computer Learning Center at Avenidas is offering courses, including introduction to computers and the Internet, computer skills, PC open lab with tutors, Mac OS X, digital photography, and more. Call 650-289-5400 for more info. Classes start Jan. 6, 7, 8, or 12, 2009, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$25 members/\$45 non-members. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-2436. www.avenidas.org

CPR and First Aid. Basic CPR and first Aid Classes. Healthcare professional/renewal CPR. Call and pre-register. Wednesdays, 5-9:30 p.m. Basic CPR \$60 and Basic First Aid \$40 or combination of \$75 and Healthcare Professional \$75. All Care Plus Inc, 862 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-424-0204. www.allcareplus.org

Digital Photography. Learn how to pursue digital photography using PhotoShop Elements. Tue. Jan. 6 to Feb. 24, 2009, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$25 members/\$45 non-members. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-5436. www.avenidas.org

Lip Reading/Managing Hearing Loss. These classes help hard of hearing people with or without hearing aids improve lip reading and gain other skills to ease hearing/communication problems. Friends and family members are welcome. Taught by CA licensed audiologist. 3 class times to choose from. Mon. Jan. 5 to Wed. Mar. 25, 2009, 1:30-2:45 p.m. Foothill college tuition and fees. varied sites off campus, Mt. View, Palo Alto and Menlo Park. Call 650-949-7999 ext. 4379.

MAC Computer Classes. Avenidas has computer classes for Mac users. Meet the Mac 1 & 2, digital photography, fun with iTunes and iChat, Mac open lab with tutors, and browsing the Internet. Call 650-289-5400 for more information. Classes start Jan. 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, or 19, 2009, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$25 members/\$45 non-members. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-5436. www.avenidas.org

Mask for Actors and Improvisers. For actors of all skill levels — 18 years and up. Led by Professional Actor William Hall. Sat. Jan. 3, 2009, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$95 (\$85 if registered before Dec. 28, 2008). Dragon Productions Theatre, 535 Alma St., Palo Alto. Call 650-493-2006. <http://dragon-productions.net/classes.htm>

Clubs/Meetings

Monday Night OUT. Lesbian, Gay, bisexual and transgender group with supporters and friends. Discussion, social events, education and spiritual development. Mondays, 7 p.m. Offering accepted. Unity Palo Alto, 3391 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-494-7222. www.UnityPaloAlto.org

Woodside Library Bookclub. Come join fellow book-lovers as we discuss "Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons" and "Patty Jane's House of Curl" by former stand-up comic Lorna Landvik. Tue. Jan. 6, 2009, 11:15 a.m.-noon. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-0147. www.smcl.org

Concerts

Bach — and All That Jazz! Organist James Welch rings in the New Year with master organ works of J. S. Bach, along with jazz-inspired pieces, including "American in Paris" by George Gershwin, and pieces by jazz pianist George Shearing, theatre organist Billy Nalle, and others. Wed. Dec. 31, 2008, 8-9 p.m. \$10 at the door. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-326-3800. www.welchorganist.com

PeaceNick: Roy Zimmerman concert. Satirical songs from Roy Zimmerman. Sun., Dec. 28, 7-8:30 p.m. \$15 suggested donation, no one turned away for lack of funds. Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, 505 E. Charleston Road., Palo Alto. www.uucpa.org

Exhibits

"Catch the Big Wave at Maverick's." December 2008 visitors at the San Mateo County History Museum will be able to surf a "virtual" Mavericks on the Waverider, a multi sensory game interface. Visitors can look down on the Courthouse Square from the second floor of the Museum nearly 40ft below. Dec. 14-31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission \$4 adults; \$2 students/seniors. San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City. Call 650-299-0104. www.historysmc.org

Keeble & Shuchat Photography. Landscape and wildlife photography from the African Savannah to the frozen continent of Antarctica by Jeanine Lovett and Dave Hartley are on display in the gallery. Through Jan. 14, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Keeble & Shuchat Photography, 290 California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-327-8996. www.kspphoto.com

Music To One's Ears. New exhibit at the Museum of American Heritage, "Music to One's Ears: Musical Instruments in the home, band and orchestra." Explore the basic principles of music making, technology and technique over the ages, from the hollow log to the electronic harmony. Through Jan. 18, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-1004. www.moah.org

The Venice Series and Retrospective. Massimo Mazzoni will be showcasing a series of Venice landscape paintings along with recent figurative work. Through Jan. 5, noon-midnight Cafe Zoe, 1929 Menalto Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-322-1926. <http://www.pinxi.com>

Venezky Collection: American Primers & Readers. Exhibit of colonial through 20th-century textbooks, paired with text from Richard L. Venezky's work in the history of literacy. Highlights include the "New England Primer" (1813), "The Southern Primer" (1860) and the Elson-Runkel Readers that first introduced Dick and Jane in 1930. Through Dec. 31, Call for hours. Free. Green Library Bing Wing, 557 Escondido Mall, Stanford University. Call 650-725-1020.

Kids & Families

Bell System Music Group. The Bell System, a music performance group for children in grades 3-8, teaches the basics of music and bell technique. The group participates in community outreach concerts at nearby senior centers and on Santa Cruz Avenue, as well as in annual Christmas and Spring concerts. Thursdays, ongoing, 3:45-5 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Pres., 950 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. mppc.org

Health

CPR and First Aid Classes. Every Wednesday night, CPR and first-aid classes. CPR basic/health care professional/renewal and basic first aid class. Please call and pre-register. Can be taken separately or combination. 5-9:30 p.m. \$75 for both. 862 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-424-0204.

Issues with food? Obsessed with food? Food Addicts In Recovery Anony-



Photo by Ned Gault

Deck the halls

Volunteers topped themselves in decorating Filoli, the historic Woodside mansion, for the holidays.

mous is a program for individuals recovering from addictive eating and anorexia based on the 12 steps of AA. No dues/no fees/no weigh-ins. Sundays, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 415-248-9347.

Outdoors

Sunday Baylands Birdwalks. Learn to identify the birds of the Palo Alto Baylands. Designed for beginners (ages 9 and up) and others interested in recognizing the area's birds by sight, sound and behaviors. Meeting time varies to coincide with favorable tides. Call or email for current schedule. Free. Baylands Nature Center, 2775 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2506.

Church Services

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Join our church community on Christmas Eve for a candlelight service and reception after. Wed. Dec. 24, 2008, 10-11 p.m. Free. Woodside Village Church, 3154 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-1587.

Christmas Eve Festival Communion Service. Rev. Scotty McLennan, Dean for Religious Life will deliver a sermon, "Eternal Hope." Music featuring University Organist, Dr. Robert Huw Morgan. Wed., Dec. 24, 2008, 8 p.m. Free. Stanford Memorial Church, Stanford University, Stanford. Call 650-724-7174. religiouslife.stanford.edu

Christmas Eve Service. Everyone is invited to the traditional Christmas Eve Service at First Baptist Church of Palo Alto. The service will be filled with music and a meditation by Dr. Mixon. Wed. Dec. 24, 2008, 6-7 p.m. Free. First Baptist Church, 305 North California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-327-0451.

Christmas Eve Services. Christmas celebration for all ages with carols, candles, and Christmas stories from the 1st century to the 20th. Braille and large-print hymnals, assisted listening system, and American Sign Language interpreting. Refreshments after. Wed. Dec. 24, 2008, 6:30 and 8 p.m. Free. Unitar-

ian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto. www.uucpa.org

Family Christmas Eve Service at Stanford Memorial Church. Rev. Joanne Sanders, Associate Dean for Religious Life, delivers a children's sermon, "Hope is Born," including a Carol-sing and musical offerings by University Organist, Dr. Robert Huw Morgan. Please plan to arrive early: doors open at 4:15 pm. Wed. Dec. 24, 2008, 5 p.m. Free. Stanford Memorial Church, Stanford University, Stanford. Call 650-724-7174. religiouslife.stanford.edu

New Year's Eve Meditation & Service. Spiritual celebration and service for the new year. Wed., Dec. 31, 10 p.m.-midnight. Free. Ananda, 2171 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 650-323-3363. www.anandapaloalto.org

Et Alia

Chapter 2. For women newly separated or divorced. Facilitated by and experienced therapist, licensed for over 20 years. Tue. Jan. 6 to Mar. 31, 2009, 7:15-8:30 p.m. \$50 per session. Bright Eagle Mansion, 1040 Noel Drive #209, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4429.

Divorce/Relationship Recovery. Take the first step toward healing from a broken relationship. Group meets every Monday evening, holidays included. Small group discussion follows the evening presentation. Free child care provided upon arrival by 7:40 p.m. Mon. Dec. 15, 2008 to Mon. Feb. 23, 2009, 7-9 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Presbyterian Church Garden Court, 950 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. www.mppc.org

La Femme. General support group for women of all ages. Tue., Jan. 6 to Mar. 30, 2009, 10:30-11:45 a.m. \$50/session. Bright Eagle Mansion, 1040 Noel Drive #209, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4429.

Volunteer for The American Cancer Society. Become a Volunteer representative for Daffodil Days, a fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. Thu. Jan. 1 to Sat. Jan. 18, 2009, Your Workplace, Silicon Valley. Call 408-871-1062 (Option 3, ext. 250). www.cancer.org/daffodilonline

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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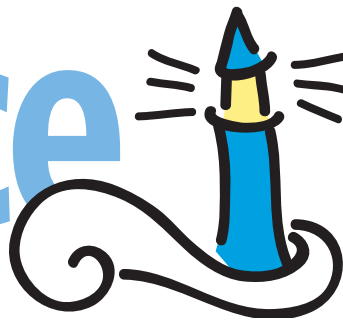
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995 Fictitious Name Statement

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 226204
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Deseo, 851 Main St., Redwood City, CA 94063: Renato Cusimano, 99 Stockbridge Ave., Atherton, CA 94027; Diane Cusimano, 99 Stockbridge Ave., Atherton, CA 94027. This business is being conducted by husband and wife. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 8/1/2008. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 3/31/2008. (Almanac 12/3, 10, 17, 24, 2008)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 230296
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, IP Voice Associates, 2262 Sharon Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025: David Howard, 2262 Sharon Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025 This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 11/24/08. (Almanac 12/3, 10, 17, 24, 2008)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 230323
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Classic Property Services, 1050 Chestnut Street, Ste. 202, Menlo Park, CA 94025: Nancy Kerry, 916 Peggy Lane, Menlo Park, CA 94025 This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on Jan. 1999. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 11/25/08. (Almanac Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2008)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 230014
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Portola Wealth Strategies, 158 Goya Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028: Robert M. Cheney, Inc., 158 Goya Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028 This business is being conducted by a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 11/7/08. (Almanac Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2008)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 230344
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Clearpath Media, 903 Christopher Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025: Michael J. Murphy, 903 Christopher Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025 This business is being con-

ducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 7/7/1998. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 11/26/08. (Almanac Dec. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2008)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 230383
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Letgeorgeoit, 1320 American Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025: George H. Walker, 1320 American Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025 This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 12/2/08. (Almanac 12/17, 24, 31, 2008, 1/7/09)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 230331
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Best Mower Shop, 474 First Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94063: David Martinez, 474 First Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94063 This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 7/1/07. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 11/26/08. (Almanac Dec. 17, 24, 31, 2008, Jan. 7, 2009)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 230384
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Communication Technologies International, 1115 Altschul Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025: Christoph Pfistner, 1115 Altschul Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025 This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 11/12/2002. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 12/2/08. (Almanac Dec. 24, 31, 2008, Jan. 7, 14, 2009)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 230477
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Therae, 103 Gilbert Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025: Kings Road International, Inc., 405 El Camino Real, #327, Menlo Park, CA 94025 This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 12/01/08. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 12/8/08. (Almanac Dec. 24, 31, 2008, Jan. 7, 14, 2009)

997 All Other Legals

TS # CA-08-132200-RM Loan # 0015329287 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A

DEED OF TRUST DATED 5/8/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): MELIAME AFUHAAMANGO, A MARRIED WOMAN AS HER SOLE AND SEPARATE PROPERTY Recorded: 05/19/2006 as Instrument No. 2006-075543 in book xxx, page xxx of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California; Date of Sale: 12/30/2008 at 12:30 PM Place of Sale: At the Marshall St. entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$709,101.13 The purported property address is: 1333 ALMANOR AVENUE Menlo Park, CA 94025 Assessors Parcel No. 055-353-050 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. Pursuant to California Civil Code §2923.5 (c), the beneficiary or authorized agent declares as follows: See the attached Declaration marked as Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof by this reference. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Date: 12/2/2008 Quality Loan Service Corp. 2141 5th Avenue San Diego, CA 92101 (619) 645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: (714) 573-1965 or Login to: www.priorityposting.com Reinstatement Line: (619) 645-7711 Rochelle Matkin If you have previously

been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holder's rights against the real property only. This notice is sent for the purpose of collecting a debt. This firm is attempting to collect a debt on behalf of the holder and owner of the note. Any information obtained by or provided to this firm or the creditor will be used for that purpose. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. P503247 12/10, 12/17, 12/24/2008 (Published in the Almanac 12/10, 17, 24, 2008)

Trustee Sale No. 727152CA Loan No. 3011288630 Title Order No. M827645 Notice of Trustee's Sale YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 10/12/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 12/30/2008 at 12:30 PM California Reconveyance Company as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust, recorded on 10/19/2006, Book , Page , Instrument 2006-157328 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California, executed by: JUAN AGUILAR AND MARGARITA GORDILLO, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS JOINT TENANTS, as Trustor, WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: At the Marshall St. entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA Legal Description: LOT 1, BLOCK 29, AS SHOWN ON THAT CERTAIN MAP ENTITLED, "TRACT NO. 1, BLOCKS 18 TO 35, BELLE HAVEN CITY, SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA", FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF THE COUNTY ON MAY 28, 1932 IN BOOK 20 OF MAPS, AT PAGES 5,6, & 7. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$491,323.43 (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 1460 HILL AVENUE, Menlo Park, CA 94025 APN NUMBER: 055-333-010-1 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". In compliance with California Civil Code 2923.5(c) the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent declares: that it has contacted the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure; or that it has made efforts to contact the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure by one of the following methods: by telephone; by United States mail; either 1st class or certified; by overnight delivery; by personal delivery; by e-mail; by face to face meeting. Date: 12/5/2008 California Reconveyance Company, as Trustee (714) 259-7850 or www.fidelityasap.com (714) 573-1965 or www.priority-posting.com Deborah Brignac California Reconveyance Company is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Deborah Brignac, Vice President 9200 Oakdale Avenue Mail Stop N110612 Chatsworth, CA 91311 P504173 12/10, 12/17, 12/24/2008 (Published in the Almanac 12/10, 17, 24, 2008)

Trustee Sale No. 08-14560 Title Order No. S809432 APN 063-640-060

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 11/1/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 1/6/2009 at 12:30PM, Old Republic Default Management Services, a Division of Old Republic National Title Insurance Company as the duly appointed Trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust, Recorded on 11/09/2006 as Instrument No. 2006-169558 of official records in the Office of the County Recorder of San Mateo County, California, executed by: Lucia Amanoni, and Antonio Amanoni, wife and husband as joint tenants as Trustor, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Saxon Mortgage Services, Inc., as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable in full at time of sale by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). At: At the Marshall St. entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, and state, and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1124 Mandela Court, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 . The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to wit: \$683,663.84 (Estimated) Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. The Declaration pursuant to California Civil Code, Section 2923.5(b) is attached hereto as Exhibit A. Date: 12/10/2008 Old Republic Default Management Services, a Division of Old Republic National Title Insurance Company, as Trustee 600 City Parkway West, Suite 610, Orange, CA 92868-2915 (866) 263-5802 For Sale Information Contact: Priority Posting and Publishing (714) 573-1965 Esther Valenzuela, Assistant Vice President EXHIBIT A TO NOTICE OF TRUSTEE SALE Trustee Sale No. 08-14560 Loan No. 2000237913 APN063-640-060 DECLARATION OF LENDER, TRUSTEE OR AUTHORIZED AGENT UNDER CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE SECTION 2923.5 (C) The undersigned is the lender, beneficiary, or its authorized agent under the Deed of Trust of Mortgage that is the subject of the Notice of Sale to which this Declaration is attached and made a part. In compliance with the requirements of California Civil Code section 2923.5(c), the undersigned does hereby declare as follows: (strike out or delete the option that is not applicable) 1. The borrower under said Deed of Trust or Mortgage has been contacted in order to assess the borrower's financial situation and to explore options for the borrower to avoid foreclosure. Or, 06/06/08 2. No contact has been made with the borrower. The following list enumerates the efforts that were made in order to make such contact with the borrower: (continue on attachment, if more space is needed). Date: 11/19/08 BY: Shari Landram (name of person signing and their corporate title) Shari Landram Default Coordinator P507390 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/2008 (Published in the Almanac 12/17, 24, 31, 2008)

Trustee Sale No. 08-14548 Title Order No. S809384 APN 063-038-383-32/063-383-320-7 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 3/17/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT

A LAWYER. On 1/6/2009 at 12:30PM, Old Republic Default Management Services, a Division of Old Republic National Title Insurance Company as the duly appointed Trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust, Recorded on 03/28/2006 as Instrument # 2006-044335 of official records in the Office of the County Recorder of San Mateo County, California, executed by: Nelida Contreras, a married woman, as her sole and separate property as Trustor, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Saxon Mortgage Services, Inc., as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable in full at time of sale by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). At: At the Marshall St. entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, and state, and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1175 Cypress Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 . The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to wit: \$606,357.49 (Estimated) Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. The Declaration pursuant to California Civil Code, Section 2923.5(b) is attached hereto as Exhibit A. Date: 12/10/2008 Old Republic Default Management Services, a Division of Old Republic National Title Insurance Company, as Trustee 600 City Parkway West, Suite 610, Orange, CA 92868-2915 (866) 263-5802 For Sale Information Contact: Priority Posting and Publishing (714) 573-1965 Esther Valenzuela, Assistant Vice President EXHIBIT A TO NOTICE OF TRUSTEE SALE Trustee Sale No. 08-14548 Loan No. 2000165038 APN063-038-383-32 DECLARATION OF LENDER, TRUSTEE OR AUTHORIZED AGENT UNDER CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE SECTION 2923.5 (C) The undersigned is the lender, beneficiary, or its authorized agent under the Deed of Trust of Mortgage that is the subject of the Notice of Sale to which this Declaration is attached and made a part. In compliance with the requirements of California Civil Code section 2923.5(c), the undersigned does hereby declare as follows: (strike out or delete the option that is not applicable) 1. The borrower under said Deed of Trust or Mortgage has been contacted in order to assess the borrower's financial situation and to explore options for the borrower to avoid foreclosure. Or, 05/02/08 again 5/07/08 A3P 2. No contact has been made with the borrower. The following list enumerates the efforts that were made in order to make such contact with the borrower: (continue on attachment, if more space is needed). Date: 11/19/08 BY: Shari Landram (name of person signing and their corporate title) Shari Landram Default Coordinator P507387 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/2008 (Published in the Almanac 12/17, 24, 31, 2008)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Gerald Allen Wright, Amended. Case# 118334 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Gerald Allen Wright. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by: Kimberly Johnson in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Kimberly Johnson be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the person-

al representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 6, 2009 at 9am, Dept. 14 of the Superior Court of California, San Mateo, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in section 9100 of the California Probate Code. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: /s/ David H. Duff, 034502, 260 Sheridan Ave., #200, Palo Alto, CA 94306 (The Almanac 12/17, 24, 31, 2008)

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public of the following actions under the Environmental Review Process. Review of the documents concerning these projects can be arranged by calling (415) 558-6378 and asking for the staff person indicated.

PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF HEARING ON DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR
THE FOLLOWING

2005.0164E – The Bay Division Pipeline (BDPL) Reliability Upgrade Project. The project would be constructed as a 21-mile pipeline, parallel to, and within the existing right-of-way (ROW) of BDPL Nos. 1 and 2, which originate at the Irvington Tunnel Portal in Fremont, pass through the cities of Fremont and Newark in Alameda County, cross the Bay at the Dumbarton Strait, and continue through the cities of East Palo Alto, Redwood City, Menlo Park, and unincorporated areas of San Mateo County. The project (also referred to as

"BDPL No. 5") would include a seven-mile "reach" (or sub-segment) in the East Bay that begins approximately 100 feet east of Mission Boulevard, near the Irvington Tunnel Portal, and continues westward through the cities of Fremont and Newark to the Newark Valve Lot. A proposed five-mile tunnel would extend from the Newark Valve Lot to the Ravenswood Valve Lot in Menlo Park, crossing beneath the Bay and adjacent marshlands. From the Ravenswood Valve Lot, BDPL No. 5 would extend nine miles westward to the Pulgas Tunnel Portal in unincorporated San Mateo County. The project would also include: new facilities at six existing valve lot locations, including new concrete valve vaults and control buildings that house electrical control panels, isolation valves, mechanical equipment, and cross-connections between BDPL No. 5 and the existing BDPL Nos. 1 and 2; new flow-metering vaults at Driscoll Road in Fremont and Hassler Road in Redwood City; and a new fiber optic cable installed on existing towers between PG&E's Ravenswood Substation in Menlo Park and its Ames Substation in Mountain View. Notice is hereby given to the general public as follows:

1) A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) has been prepared by the Planning Department in connection with this project. A copy of the report is available for public review and comment at the Planning Department offices at 1660 Mission Street, 1st Floor Planning Information Counter. The DEIR can also be viewed on-line at www.sfplanning.org/mea. Referenced materials are available for review by appointment at the Planning Department's office at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400 (call 415-575-9035 to schedule an appointment).

2) This DEIR tiers from the Program EIR (PEIR) prepared for the SFPUC's Water System Improvement Program (WSIP), State Clearinghouse No. 2005092026, available for review at the San Francisco Planning Department, 1650 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 and online at www.sfplanning.org/mea. The proposed project is a component of the SFPUC's WSIP. As a component of the WSIP, it contributes to the impacts that the WSIP, as a program, may have on the environment.

The DEIR identified that significant impacts may occur to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use, noise, recreation, transportation and traffic, and utilities and service systems. Most impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels; however, significant impacts that may not be avoided either through the SFPUC's Standard Construction Measures and/or feasible mitigation measures were identified for four resource areas, including aesthet-

ics, cultural resources, land use, and noise. The analysis determined that the project could have a cumulatively considerable contribution to cumulative impacts in the areas of aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, recreation, and traffic and transportation when viewed in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. As stated, the proposed project is one of several improvement projects that comprise the SFPUC's WSIP. Implementation of the WSIP would support growth in the SFPUC service area, thereby contributing indirectly to environmental impacts caused by that growth. Because the proposed project is part of the WSIP and would contribute to the WSIP's growth inducement impact, the project therefore would contribute to the significant and unavoidable program-level impacts associated with growth inducement. In addition, the proposed project as part of the WSIP, could contribute to the following significant and unavoidable impacts resulting from implementation of the WSIP: effects on fishery resources in Crystal Springs Reservoir in San Mateo County; and effects on stream flow in Alameda Creek between the diversion dam and the confluence with Calaveras Creek. All other impacts resulting from implementation of the WSIP can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

3) A public hearing on this DEIR and other matters will be held by the Planning Commission on Thursday January 22, 2009 in Room 400, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102, beginning at 1:30 p.m. or later (call 415-55876422, the week of the hearing for a recorded message giving a more specific time). – Other meetings will be held on: Wednesday, January 14, 2009, Fremont Main Library, Fukaya Room A, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont, CA 94538; Tuesday, January 20, 2009, Belle Haven Community School, Cafeteria, 415 Ivy Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025; and Wednesday, January 21, 2009, Veterans Memorial Senior Center, Redwood Room, 1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061. Each Public Hearing will begin promptly at 7 p.m. Representatives will be available to answer questions beginning at 6:30 p.m.

4) Public comments will be accepted from December 23, 2008, until February 5, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. Written comments should be addressed to Bill Wycko, Environmental Review Officer, San Francisco Planning Department, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103 or provided via fax to 415-558-6409 or by email to timothy.johnston@sfgov.org. Comments received at the public hearing and in writing will be responded to subsequently in a Comments and Responses document. (Published in the Almanac 12/24/2008)

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- NOTICES OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE
- PUBLIC HEARING NOTICES
- TRUSTEE'S SALE
- RESOLUTIONS
- BID NOTICES
- LIEN SALE



The Almanac
854-2626



HOLIDAY GREETINGS



FROM

The Almanac Staff