

NEIGHBORHOODS 2009: New edition inside this issue contains key information on 28 local neighborhoods.

The Almanac



See Page 13

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

DECEMBER 31, 2008

www.TheAlmanacOnline.com | VOL. 44 NO. 18

Extra! Extra!

Top Stories of 2008

See Page 5

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MENLO PARK
WOODSIDE



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VP/Mngr, Menlo Park/Woodside
Second Harvest Food Bank
Breast Care Action



Carol Bartlett
St. Anthony's Dining Room



Joann Bedrossian
Capernaum - Young Life



Regan Byers-Cinelli
Second Harvest Food Bank
Peninsula Open Space Trust
Pathways Hospice



Kristin Cashin
American Red Cross
Pathways Hospice



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Mary Jo McCarthy
Family Services Mid-Peninsula



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St. Vincent DePaul Society



Nana Spiridon
St. Anthony's Dining Room



Vivian Vella
Pets In Need



Denise Villeneuve
St. Anthony's Dining Room,
Project Open Hand, Family Service
Mid-Peninsula, Habitat for Humanity



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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Drive safely

Troy Maxey, 62, cruises down the Willow Road bike lane on his way to the bank. He lives at the Menlo Park Veterans Affairs complex and commutes on his motorized wheelchair, decorated with the American flag and his family's name flag.

Atherton

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Menlo Park

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Obituaries

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People

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Neighborhoods 2009

■ New edition inside this issue features key information on 28 local neighborhoods.

On the cover

Almanac staff writer Andrea Gemmet recounts the top stories of 2008. Cover design by Joanne Lee. See **Page 5**.

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Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Extra! Extra! Top stories of 2008

By **Andrea Gemmet**
Almanac Staff Writer

From the specter of speeding trains to the heartbreak of disappearing cash, 2008 has been a difficult year for many Midpeninsulans. Called upon to select the top news stories of the year, the newsroom staff chose the stories that kept reporters' notebooks filled and dominated the chatter on The Almanac's Town Square forum.

The top stories aren't all bad news. On the bright side, Portola Valley celebrated the completion of its fabulous new Town Center, funded largely by residents' donations.

On the not-so-bright side, local schools saw piles of cash evaporate, victims of declining home values, bad county investments and a clerical error. The state's high-speed rail initiative is dividing the communities of Atherton and Menlo Park, figuratively and possibly literally, and Woodside admitted that parts of town are wildfire hazards, while Portola Valley fought the designation for its own neighborhoods.

Schools lose cash

Public school budgets took one

hit after another this year.

Billionaire Larry Ellison successfully argued that his elaborate Woodside estate, a re-creation of a feudal Japanese estate, has limited market appeal due to its "structural over-improvements" and excessive landscaping. Its devaluation for tax purposes from \$173 million to a mere \$70 million resulted in a nearly \$300,000 hit to the Portola Valley School District in 2008, and a \$62,000 loss to the Sequoia Union High School District.

Then, over the summer, a clerical error by a county staff member triggered a court judgment awarding \$20 million in back property taxes to biotech behemoth Genentech. The South San Francisco-based company routinely challenges its property tax assessments, and it won more than a dozen of them by default, which could cost the county's public schools \$8 million.

Adding insult to injury, the county investment pool bought Lehman Brothers debt instruments, and lost a total of \$155 million when the venerable investment bank went bankrupt in September. School district officials, obligated by the state education code to hand the dis-



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

During 2008, the town of Portola Valley celebrated the completion of its new "green" Town Center complex, funded largely by residents' donations. In this picture, the library is on the left and the community hall in back.

tricts' bond money over to the county treasurer's investment pool for safekeeping, gnashed their teeth as more precious funds disappeared. It was an especially tough blow for the Menlo Park City School District, which had just dumped the proceeds from a school construction bond into the county pool, and lost nearly \$4 million.

Stretching scarce dollars is going to be even more important

in the new year, as the state's budget crisis will doubtlessly slash education funding even further.

Not all onboard

If you want to start an online shouting match, just mention Proposition 1A, the multi-billion-dollar bond measure to build a high-speed rail line connecting San Francisco to Los Angeles. There just doesn't seem to be a middle ground on this

hot-button issue.

Statewide, the measure passed easily, but locally, not everyone is onboard with the idea. The chosen route will send trains rocketing through the Peninsula along the Caltrain corridor, which will have to be widened to accommodate extra tracks. City councils in Atherton and Menlo Park are opposed to the plan, and joined

See **TOP STORIES**, page 8

Major planning effort ahead for Woodside

By **Dave Boyce**
Almanac Staff Writer

To every thing there is a season, it is said. Woodside, in 2009, will be a season to talk of planning.

Sometime after mid-January, the town will be seeking 20 to 25 residents willing to meet once a week for at least 27 weeks to talk in detail about changes to Woodside's general plan — the document that sets long-term policies and priorities for land development.

A daunting task, perhaps. Woodside's current general plan has seven chapters over some 200 pages and dates from 1988, though it has been revised in places over the years. Among the topics covered: roads, trails and paths; conservation; land use; safety; noise; and open space.

The Town Council, after an hour's discussion at a Dec. 9 meeting, gave the go-ahead to

Town Manager Susan George to refine a draft proposal on how to assemble the "task force" and go about updating the plan. Interim Town Planner Irwin Kaplan prepared the draft.

Sixty percent to 90 percent of the plan may need changing, Mr. Kaplan said. An update would incorporate new technologies and laws that have come on the scene since the last major revision, Ms. George added.

"Although the general plan is required by law, we are really doing it for ourselves," Mr. Kaplan wrote in his report. "As such ... there is really only one question the community needs to answer for itself, which is, 'What sort of community do we wish to leave to our grandchildren?'"

A possible process, Mr. Kaplan said, might start with the task

See **WOODSIDE**, page 8

Green Ribbon panel moves into new phase

By **Sean Howell**
Almanac Staff Writer

Since submitting a detailed list of climate-related recommendations to the City Council a year ago, the Menlo Park Green Ribbon Citizens' Committee (GRCC) has set out in a new direction, according to Mitch Slomiak, who co-chairs the committee with Carol McClelland.

While the group originally saw itself in the role of a policy advocate, it is now focused on reaching out to a variety of community organizations and helping them take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Mr. Slomiak said in an interview.

"As we put together our recommendations (to the council), we realized that we could play a key role in the city to do outreach and start initiatives in all sectors of the community," Mr. Slomiak said. "We couldn't ask the

city government to do it all."

Menlo Park Mayor Heyward Robinson sees the group as an essential player in the city's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint. He said that he hopes it will take recommendations in the city's forthcoming climate action plan and spread them through the community.

"The GRCC will help us to implement the plan," Mr. Robinson said. "We need to go out and sell it — to reach out to the business community, residential groups, whoever, to get people on board."

The group plans to channel its efforts through five distinct community groups: schools, businesses, faith-based groups, building professionals, and neighborhood organizations. It hopes to recruit new volunteers to work on conceptual issues, such as waste reduction, energy and water use.

The group is now focusing more on outreach than advocacy, co-chair says.

See **GREEN RIBBON**, page 8



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AT STANFORD



Peter Mason elected mayor of Woodside

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Woodside Councilman Peter Mason will be handling the mayor's gavel for the next 12 months at Town Council meetings.

Mr. Mason was elected mayor in a unanimous vote of the Town Council on Dec. 9. Elected vice mayor was Councilman Dave Burow, also by a unanimous vote.

The mayor serves as president of the council, a largely ceremonial position that includes setting council agendas and chairing the meetings. He still casts just one vote on the council.

Mr. Mason, 58, is a licensed architect with a career of more



Photo courtesy of Virginia Dare

Peter Mason is a licensed architect with the firm of HKS Hill Glazier Studio in Palo Alto.

than 30 years and is vice president at the Palo Alto architectural firm HKS Hill Glazier Studio. The company specializes in five-star hotels and resorts, including the Ritz-Carlton Half Moon Bay Resort and the Four Seasons Hotel in East Palo Alto. Mr. Mason also designed the remodel of his own home, he said.

He received a bachelor's degree in architecture from Cal Poly, served on the Woodside Architecture and Site Review Board for nearly four years, and helped find an architect for the renovation of Folger Stable.

Mr. Mason is married to Virginia Dare, who chairs the Open Space Committee. The couple has one child. ■

Jerry Carlson picked as mayor of Atherton

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

Councilman Jerry Carlson was unanimously selected to serve as Atherton's mayor in 2009. The Atherton City Council voted 5-0 at its Dec. 17 meeting to offer the mayoral gavel to Mr. Carlson, the 2008 vice mayor.

Councilwoman Kathy McK-eithen, who was re-elected to a third term in November, was chosen as the 2009 vice mayor. At the same meeting, new council member Elizabeth Lewis was sworn in, taking the seat of Jim Janz.

Mr. Carlson was appointed to the council in January 2005 to fill the remainder of the late Bill Conwell's term, and then he was elected to the seat in 2006.

Mr. Janz, the outgoing mayor, received praise and proclamations for his 20 years of volunteer service to the town as a member of the Planning Commission and then the council.

Mr. Janz served as mayor twice during his two terms on the City Council, and was Atherton's point person on train issues.

A representative from state Assemblyman Ira Ruskin's office presented a lengthy proclamation from Mr. Ruskin



Jerry Carlson

and state Sen. Joe Simitian. Jack Ringham, a member of the Atherton Rail Committee, offered a tribute in verse that borrowed freely from "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

Councilman Charles Marsala, acknowledging Mr. Janz's efforts to restore weekday train service to the town, presented him with a miniature Atherton train station and model Baby Bullet train that he could make stop at the station as often as he liked.

Former Councilman Alan Carlson, who gave up his seat when he moved out of Atherton last year, praised Mr. Janz for always staying calm and cool.

"You are one of the most decent human beings I've ever had the pleasure of knowing," Mr. Carlson said. ■

Terms expiring on design and planning commissions

You may not get a seat this time, but if you're a resident of Portola Valley and interested in reviewing and passing judgment on the designs of new and remodeled homes in town, you may want to know that the Town Council will be interviewing candidates for the Architectural & Site Control Commission (ASCC).

Four-year terms are expiring in January for three of the

five ASCC commissioners. The ASCC meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, usually at 8 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse.

Three terms also expire on the five-member Planning Commission, which deals with zoning issues and approves conditional use permits and variances. The Planning Commission meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 8 p.m.

The commissioners currently holding these six seats are likely to seek reappointment, Planning Manager Leslie Lambert said, adding that the council would likely schedule interviews, if needed, for its Jan. 28 meeting.

To apply, call Ms. Lambert at 851-1700, ext. 212, or send her e-mail at llambert@portolavalley.net. The application deadline is Friday, Jan. 16.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Is it time?

Dear Gloria,

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

John and Martha

Dear John and Martha,

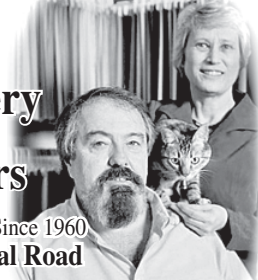
Here we are, two weeks before Christmas and a long time from the traditional buying season called the spring market. And in what some are saying is

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

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

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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.

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Be sure to

SHOP LOCAL

this holiday season

Thanks. *The* Almanac

Extra! Extra!

Top stories of 2008

TOP STORIES

continued from page 5

a lawsuit challenging the project over environmental concerns. They were the only two cities in the state to do so.

But while elected officials see trouble ahead, those who favor high-speed rail accuse opponents of being head-in-the-sand NIM-BYs, heedless of the overall environmental benefit of the massive mass transit initiative, an allegation to which they strenuously object. High-speed rail will cause the loss of private property and heritage trees along the tracks, and add to noise pollution, opponents say. They add that the plan is fiscally foolhardy.

"The project has been approved by the voters without regulatory controls, budget or legitimate business plan," says Menlo Park resident Martin Engel, an outspoken opponent of the project. "It promises to be, in my mind, a calamity of as yet unrealized dimension."

Greenest town hall?

For the past couple of years, Portola Valley officials and residents have labored mightily to build a new Town Center, and this September they celebrated the project's completion. After an earthquake

fault trace was discovered in 2002 under some of the buildings, town officials had to figure out how to rebuild on safer ground.

The result was somewhat akin to a modern-day barn-raising, with residents pitching in to donate \$17 million, attend workshops to rough out the design, and deciding to restore a long-buried portion of Sausal Creek running through the property.

Living up to the town's pioneering standards of environmentalism, old structures were dismantled and building materials salvaged, rather than being sent to the landfill.

With its many sustainable, energy-efficient and environmentally sound features, the new three-building complex — a library, Town Hall and community hall — may earn a platinum-level award, the highest recognition given by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Down the road in Atherton, town officials have been closely monitoring Portola Valley's progress as they embark on their own campaign to construct a new building for administrative offices and the Atherton Police Department.

Fire hazards

A sense of rejection may have nagged at Woodside Fire Pro-



Photo by Danielle Vernon/The Almanac

A firefighter at a Glenwood Avenue house in Woodside that was seriously damaged by fire Nov. 26.

tection District Fire Marshal Denise Enea at times in 2008 as she proposed that certain neighborhoods in the fire district be designated as wildfire risks.

In April, the Portola Valley Town Council unanimously rejected a map prepared by Ms. Enea that would have declared parts of several neighborhoods — Woodside Highlands, Westridge, Alpine Hills and Portola Valley Ranch — at "very high" risk.

The potential impact on fire insurance drove the council's decision to tell the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to stay with an old map that showed no such risks in town.

Cal Fire recently released a map showing only Woodside Highlands as a "very high" risk area. Fire insurers have told The Almanac that they have their own vegetation maps for setting rates.

Ms. Enea's markups were based on water supply, accessibility for firefighting vehicles, and topography. Her map took a slightly tougher view than a map prepared by a consultant hired by the town.

Her analysis of Woodside received a receptive hearing in June, when the Town Council approved designations of "very high" risk for the Emerald Hills neighborhood and areas west of

Kings Mountain Road and along and around Old La Honda Road.

However, when she came back in September to request extending that designation to include Woodside Glens, Greer Road east of Huddart Park, Moore Road and a few other areas, the Woodside council said no.

The council did ask staff for recommendations that could expand the number of parcels that would fall under a building code requiring the use of fire-inhibiting materials and landscaping for new homes. ■

— Almanac reporter Dave Boyce contributed to this report.

GREEN RIBBON

continued from page 5

The group's education and implementation efforts go hand-in-hand, according to Mr. Slomiak. For instance, he views the group's plan to help schools conserve energy and reduce waste as an education opportunity, enabling teachers to use those efforts as a jumping-off point for broader conversations with students about sustainability.

Bob Barrett, who heads up the GRCC's school-outreach program, said the group was in the preliminary stages in that sector: contacting schools to see what measures they have already been taking to promote sustainability, and finding out whether they would be interested in working with the committee. The representatives he's talked to so far have been receptive to the idea, Mr. Barrett said, noting that many schools already have "green" programs in place.

Mr. Barrett emphasized that schools can save money on the use of electricity, fuels and paper supplies in the process of reducing their carbon footprint.

Eventually, he said, he hopes to establish a framework for faculty and administrators to share best practice ideas with their peers, whether through an online network or in conferences.

Mr. Slomiak emphasized the importance of selling the idea that sustainable methods can be cost-effective, as well. He said that Kepler's bookstore — Mr. Slomiak is the company's chief financial officer — recently retrofitted its lighting system, saving an average of \$1,000 per month in electricity bills over the past year and a half.

The group's efforts are limited only by volunteer participation,

Mr. Slomiak said. He said that the organization had room for people with a wide range of skills, including research, writing and Web design.

"Every level of the citizenry and local government has a role to play" in combating climate change, he said. "No matter how great the Obama administration or the state of California is, government efforts won't be enough. We're hoping that others learn from us."

A newsletter the committee recently released, detailing its efforts thus far, is available on its Web site: www.greenmenlopark.org. ■

Forum on transit and development

The Forum at Redwood City will host a presentation Thursday, Jan. 8, on the city of Portland's efforts to stimulate development by installing public transit.

Former Oregon state assemblyman Rick Gustafson will speak about Portland's streetcar line, which opened in 2001, and the lessons that can be applied to local communities. The street-

car has been a significant factor in the "turnaround" of Portland's city center, according to a press release.

The presentation will run from 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at the Fox Theatre at 2009 Broadway Street, off Middlefield Road. The presentation will cost \$10 at the door; credit cards aren't accepted. No one under 21 years old will be admitted.

WOODSIDE

continued from page 5

force preparing a draft general plan, section by section, over many weeks. The council would then get a look at it before passing it to the Planning Commission for a public hearing. Finally, the council would get it back again for another public hearing.

There were more suggestions: To properly kick it off and raise community awareness, it might be good to have a weekend workshop, Mayor Peter Mason said.

A joint meeting with the council might follow that, Ms. George added.

In a town of woody paths and narrow winding roads, equestrians, motorists and cyclists are all interested communities. The task force should represent every constituency, Councilwoman Deborah Gordon said.

Mr. Mason wondered whether the council should review each section as the task force finishes with it. Mr. Kaplan welcomed the sentiment, but recommended "an open and free-wheeling process."

Councilman Ron Romines asked about who would propose revisions. The meetings should be run by a facilitator skilled at

involving people and keeping things on track, Mr. Kaplan said. "That's not an easy task to do. It can be done," he added.

Anne Kasten, a member of the Architecture and Site Review Board and the only member of the public to speak on the matter at the Dec. 9 meeting, noted the importance of keeping the process transparent and the residents informed.

And it should somehow involve the businesses. The town once had a barbershop, a bookstore, a clothing store and a pharmacy. No more. Ms. Kasten wondered how to get new businesses involved, particularly those offices that tend to have the blinds drawn.

"Our commercial district isn't anymore," she said. "How do we persuade this part of the community to talk to us. We've become VC (venture capital) central."

High rents drove the traditional businesses away, Councilwoman Carroll Ann Hodges said. And the downtown offices tend to be older than the town's incorporation and thus not governed by conditional use permits, Ms. George added.

For more information and to read Mr. Kaplan's proposal, go to tinyurl.com/WS-plan and turn to page 23. ■



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Andy Cohen accepts a plaque from Heyward Robinson on behalf of the city of Menlo Park at the Dec. 2 City Council reorganization meeting, during which Mr. Robinson took over for Mr. Cohen as mayor.

Andy Cohen reflects on year as mayor

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

It's been a month since Heyward Robinson took over for Andy Cohen as Menlo Park's mayor, but Mr. Cohen hasn't found himself longing for the gavel.

"It's a great relief," Mr. Cohen said of moving from the center of the dais to the edge. "I miss being in charge, but there are advantages of not being in charge. I can focus on what I want to work on much more," instead of facilitating.

Mr. Cohen said he has been encouraged by what he's seen from Mr. Robinson in the first two meetings the new mayor has presided over. Mr. Robinson's approach is making Mr. Cohen reconsider his long-stated opposition to "micromanaging," he said.

"I used to find fault with [Mr. Robinson] for talking too much," Mr. Cohen said. "But now I'm starting to think that I should talk more, not that he should talk less." Mr. Cohen attributed his disdain for verbosity to his impatience with lawyers during his days as a judge. "I hate bull---," he said in an interview.

Before he handed the reins to Mr. Robinson during the City Council reorganization meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 2, Mr. Cohen reflected on his year as mayor in a wide-ranging speech in which he poked fun at Sarah Palin and quoted Bob Dylan. (The mayor's title rotates annually among council members.)

Among his accomplishments as mayor, Mr. Cohen listed the initiative he took in establishing a finance audit committee; in strengthening communication between the council, commissions and city staff; and in launching a speaker series. He maintained that he had pushed for open government, and that he had helped streamline council meetings.

Mr. Cohen praised the current council for its dedication to public service, saying that "hidden agendas will be nonexistent." He contrasted the council's motives with those of Clint Eastwood during the actor's brief stint as mayor of Carmel, maintaining that Mr. Eastwood had mounted a last-minute campaign in order to get approval for a development project he had proposed.

He recalled the 2004 election, saying that voters had chosen advocates of quality of life (in electing Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson and him) over pro-development forces. "In this year's election, they have re-affirmed that support," he said. (Mr. Cohen and Ms. Fergusson both won re-election in November.)

Mr. Robinson read a proclamation in honor of Mr. Cohen at the meeting, and gave him a present on behalf of the city.

"Candy?" Mr. Cohen asked. "Oh, another gavel," he said after opening the box, a smile breaking across his face. ■

Residents invited to emergency training classes

Portola Valley's Emergency Preparedness Committee is inviting residents to learn how to respond to an emergency such as an earthquake, wildfire or terrorist attack.

A series of six free Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) classes on Tuesday evenings begins Jan. 13, with a final class on Saturday, Feb. 28, for hands-on training and exercises. Pre-

registration is required.

Evening classes are from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and take place at Woodside Fire Protection District station 19 at 4091 Jefferson Ave. in the Woodside Glens neighborhood. The Feb. 28 class happens at the main fire station at 3111 Woodside Road.

Among the topics: emergency medical operations, search-and-rescue, disaster psychology,

and dealing with terrorism on a neighborhood level.

To register for CERT classes, call Pamela Van Horn at 851-1594 or write to her at pvanhorn@woodsidefire.org.

To register by mail, send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to CERT class, Woodside Fire Protection District, 3111 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062.

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.

Tesla Motors hands keys to 100th roadster owner

Tesla Motors on Dec. 9 named Menlo Park businessman Sam Perry, known nationally for being the man Oprah Winfrey clung to during president-elect Barack Obama's victory speech, as the company's 100th Roadster owner.

At the Menlo Park store, located at 300 El Camino Real, Tesla Motors CEO and chairman Elon Musk handed Mr. Perry the keys to a 2008 radiant red Roadster.

"You can have something that's sexy and fast and fun, and that's also environmentally responsible," Mr. Musk said of the sports car.

The Roadster, launched in early 2008, costs between \$2.50 and \$5.50 to recharge and can run for 244 miles with a full charge, company spokeswoman Rachel Konrad said.

The purchase price of the car is \$109,000, and there is a waiting list

of nine months to a year, she said.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and actors George Clooney and Leonardo DiCaprio are among the other owners of the Tesla Roadster, she said.

Tesla Motors manufactures about 15 Roadsters per week and hopes to make about 30 per week by the spring, according to Ms. Konrad.

Tesla Motors is a 5-year-old company based in San Carlos that develops and manufactures all-electric, zero-emission vehicles. The company recently announced plans to move its headquarters to San Jose.

The company plans to begin manufacturing a four-door, five-passenger luxury sedan in 2011.

— Bay City News Service



Travel memories

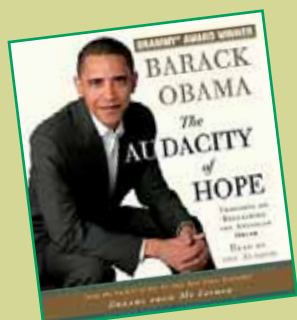
When touring Ireland in 2007, Hillview Middle School students brought along a copy of The Almanac. They took this photo at Ring of Kerry in Ireland during their summer trip there. Hillview teacher Sharron Thompson and her husband Omer led the group of seventh- and eighth-graders on the trip, which also included Wales and England. Pictured are, kneeling from left: Sienna Roat-Shumway, Lindsey Hom (holding the Almanac), Daryn Tinsley and Kelly Davis; middle row, Brendan Hale, Jamie Blawie, parent Alice Hom, Charlotte Sewell, Kendall Songer, Tennyson Jellins, Clare Rudolph, Sara Orton, Michaela Hutter, Omer Thompson and parent Julie Davis; and back row, Kurt Kessler, Sharron Thompson, Adam Winkworth, parent Libby Tinsley and Paddy (local bus driver).



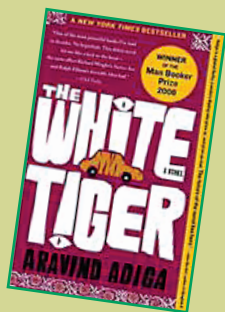
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Atherton inspector volunteers to help China quake victims

By **Andrea Gemmet**
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton building inspector Kenneth Huo recently traveled to the earthquake-ravaged Chinese province of Gansu with a five-man team of volunteer Bay Area seismic safety and building experts. The deadly May 2008 quake, centered in Sichuan, is blamed for nearly 70,000 deaths.

Mr. Huo, who speaks Mandarin, is from Taiwan, "but it was only the second time I've been to China," he said.

Mr. Huo led the delegation on the 10-day trip, which included building inspections,

seminars with Chinese officials and a bit of paintbrush diplomacy — bringing artwork and school supplies from Peninsula school kids to an earthquake-damaged school in Wenxian, according to Mr. Huo.

"It was a very moving afternoon. We arrived at the village school and the whole village was waiting for us," he said.

In Wenxian, six children were killed when their school's brick wall collapsed, he said.

"Earthquakes don't kill people,

the collapsed building does," he said.

Gansu province, known as the gateway to the silk road, is home to 55 of China's 56 ethnic groups, and has a wide variety of architectural styles, he said. It's about 200 kilometers from the epicenter of the quake, but still suffered a great deal of damage. One entire village was destroyed, and it's being rebuilt in a new location, Mr. Huo said.

'It was a very moving afternoon. We arrived at the village school and the whole village was waiting for us.'

ATHERTON BUILDING INSPECTOR
KENNETH HUO

Essential emergency services were seriously hindered by the earthquake, he said. For two days after the quake, communications systems were down, according to Mr. Huo.

"The police department was abandoned completely; they had to move into tents and stay in the central courtyard," Mr. Huo said.

The trip was organized by San Francisco-based Cross Cultural Exchange, and participants volunteered their time and used vacation days in order to make the trip, Mr. Huo said.

"In the reconstruction period, it's a good time to bring new concepts and ideas," he said, adding that locals "really rolled out the red carpet for us." ■

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, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day. The Planning Commission's next scheduled meeting is Jan. 8, starting at 6 p.m. Call 752-0500 for information.

■ **Portola Valley:** Town Hall has been closed since Dec. 24, and won't reopen until 8:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 2.

■ **Woodside:** Town Hall has been closed since Dec. 23, and won't reopen until 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 5.

■ **Menlo Park:** City Hall

and the police department will be closed Thursday and Friday, Jan. 1 and 2.

The Burgess Recreation Center and Onetta Harris Community Center in Menlo Park closed for Christmas and New Year's weeks; they will re-open Monday, Jan. 5. The Burgess Pool will be closed Jan. 1.

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

The Portola Valley Library and the Woodside Library close at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, and are closed New Year's Day.

MP student scores high at WordMasters

Menlo Park resident Chantal Guegler finished among the 130 highest-scoring high school sophomores in this year's WordMasters Challenge, a national competition for high school students that requires close reading and analysis of various styles of prose and poetry.

Chantal, a student at Notre Dame High School in Belmont, made only two errors. Some 54,000 students from 47 states participated in the competition, which asks students to analyze a writer's logic in a manner similar to various standardized tests, according to a press release.



Atherton building inspector **Kenneth Huo** (right) with John Mullins (center), Hillborough's chief building official, and F.L. Kong (left), a San Jose structural engineer. The three were part of a volunteer team of building and seismic safety experts who traveled to an earthquake-damaged area in China.

Photo by Kangning Li

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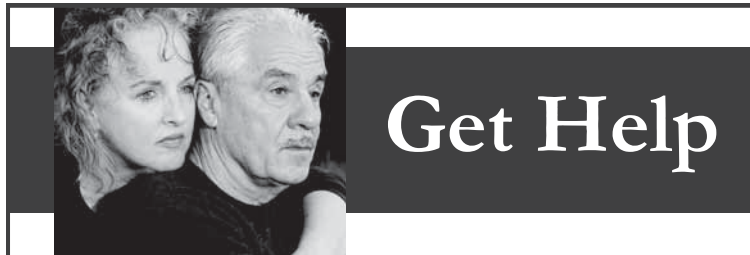
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A common pitfall is to forgo exercise on days when you are feeling tired or lethargic because you feel you don't have enough energy for it, this is not true, being active, getting up and out creates energy and a sense of well being.

Hang in there, once you move past this initial stage you will learn to have a different relationship with your exercise activity. Before you know it, you will feel better, it will become the norm for you and your new habit will begin to take solid form. Stick with it!

By Jackie Ballinger, Physically Focused
Consultant to Corporations, Medical Practices, Individuals, Families and Public Services
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Photo courtesy of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula

College bound

Sean Mendy, director of the College Bound program of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula, fields questions from participants during a high school prep conference. The Boys & Girls Clubs are beneficiaries of The Almanac's Holiday Fund. To give to the Holiday Fund, see the coupon on the next page or go to TheAlmanacOnline.com.

County office helps veterans access services

By Amanda Kim

The San Mateo County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) is reaching out to community members to ask for their help in connecting county veterans with services. More than 75 percent of San Mateo County veterans are 55 years of age and older and many have never accessed veterans' programs or benefits.

Over the last year, the county veterans service office has helped more than 2,000 local veterans recapture \$778,000 in retroactive payments and over \$1,200,000 in awards. They have also helped 88 dependents attend college through a fee waiver program. But there are many more veterans and families in need of assistance.

The county veterans office — an access point to federal and state veterans services as well as county-administered social services — connects local veterans with benefits and programs, ranging from financial compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs to locally administered in-home care.

Most new referrals to the office are not veterans of Iraq or Afghanistan. Instead, they are aging veterans of the Vietnam War or World War II. The majority of these are Vietnam veterans who may be unaware that they can file claims for post-traumatic stress disorder or that an ongoing medical condition like diabetes or respiratory cancer can be attributed to Agent Orange, a chemical defoliant used extensively during the Vietnam War.

Elderly World War II veterans are the second largest group of service seekers. Many are either homebound or in long-term care, entirely unaware of the continuum of services available to them. In some cases, county veterans services staff will go to the facility or the home to ensure that supports are in place for both the veteran and family.

In addition to serving as navigators, the county

About the author: Amanda Kim is public information officer for the County of San Mateo Human Services Agency.

veterans service staff fill a much-needed advocacy role. They have helped veterans find the documentation needed to substantiate a claim, sometimes involving in-depth research, persistence and interactions with various entities from the Department of Defense to a local doctor's office.

In a recent case, a county veteran service representative called a medical provider twice a week for six weeks to ensure that needed paperwork was completed for a 91-year old homebound World War II Navy veteran. Last month, a veteran's wife contacted the county office to request burial assistance for her hospitalized husband; she was provided with case management services that led to not only assistance with burial arrangements, but also aid and assistance for her husband and a lifelong spousal pension for her.

Veterans of all ages may be eligible for a range of services and benefits, compensation, pensions, and medical services. They may also receive in-home care, vocational counseling, home loans and college fee waivers for their dependents.

To learn more about services and benefits, the Department of Veterans Affairs offers an online benefits screener and information clearinghouse at www.va.gov.

To contact the San Mateo County Veterans Service Office, call (650) 802-6598. Appointments are available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-noon and 1 p.m.-5 p.m., at 260 Harbor Blvd., Bldg A in Belmont. The County Veteran Service Officer is stationed at the Menlo Park Veterans Affairs Campus, Bldg 323A, 795 Willow Road in Menlo Park on Mondays and at the Peninsula Vet Center, 2946 Broadway Street in Redwood City on Wednesdays.

Most new referrals to the office are not veterans of Iraq or Afghanistan. Instead, they are aging veterans of the Vietnam War or World War II.

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TOTALS: As of Dec. 24, 2008, a total of 143 donors have given \$94,380 to the Almanac's Holiday Fund.

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

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: _____

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 The Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas,
 Menlo Park, CA 94025

By Credit Card: Visa or MasterCard No. _____

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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.



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

Thanks. *The* Almanac

Mitchell Owens missing for 26 years

Mitchell Owens of Menlo Park has been missing for 26 years and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children is asking for the public's help in locating him.

Mitchell was 4 years old when he disappeared from his Menlo Park home on Feb. 3, 1983. He is a black male with black hair and brown eyes. When last seen he was 3 feet tall and weighed 40

pounds. He had a scar on the upper part of his nose, a surgical scar on the left side of his rib cage and a lazy right eyelid.

The public is urged to call 1-800-843-5678 with any information concerning his disappearance or his current whereabouts. They may also call the Menlo Park Police Department at 858-3300. All calls are confidential.



Mitchell Owen, left, at age 4, and what he might look like now based on a computer's "age progression" software.

■ 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.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary report: House broken into, 1000 block of Santa Cruz Ave., Dec. 20.

Auto burglary reports:

- Window smashed and purse stolen, 4000 block of Campbell Ave., Dec. 20.
- Window smashed and GPS device stolen, 200 block of Arbor Road, Dec. 20.
- Vehicle broken into, 100 block of Arbor Road, Dec. 20.
- Window smashed, 700 block of Valparaiso Ave., Dec. 21.

■ Window smashed and stereo equipment stolen, 1100 block of Willow Road, Dec. 22.

Stolen vehicle report:

White 1991 Acura Integra, 2100 block of Menalto Ave., Dec. 21.

Fraud report: ID theft, 1300 block of Carlton Ave., Dec. 23.

WOODSIDE

Theft report: Bike lock cut and two bicycles valued at \$1,750 stolen from front porch, 2000 block of Stockbridge Ave., Dec. 18.

WEST MENLO PARK

Theft reports:

- House key left under doormat stolen, 2000 block of Valparaiso Ave., Dec. 17.
- Cell phone and computer software stolen from unlocked vehicle, 1000 block of Camino de las Robles, Dec. 21.

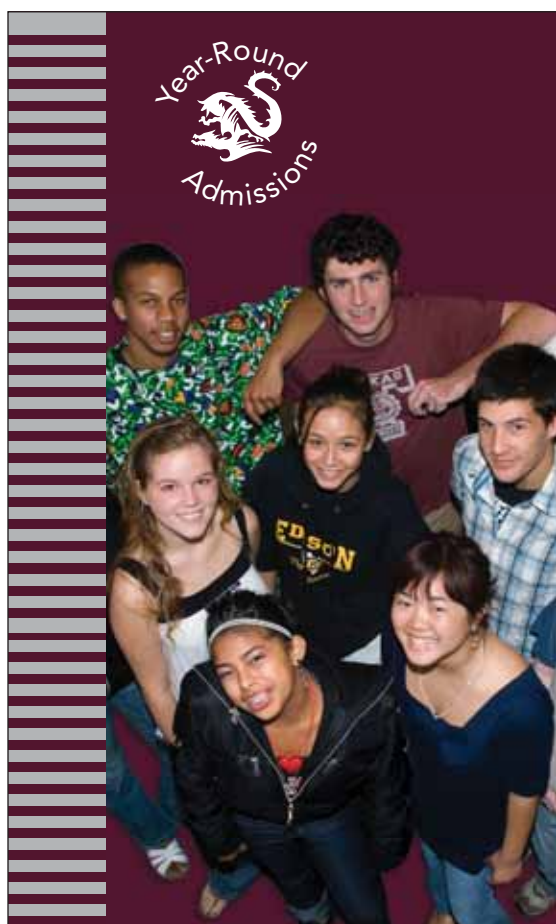
WOODSIDE COMMUNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

WINTER SCHEDULE 2009

CLASS	DAY	TIME	INSTRUCTOR	LOCATION	FEE	STARTING DATE
YOGA FOR EVERYONE						
11 Weeks	Mon	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Carla Germano	Independence Hall	\$176	Jan. 5
11 Weeks - Bring exercise mat and wear comfortable clothing	Tues.	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM		Wdse. Village Church Guild Hall	\$176	Jan. 6
11 Weeks	Wed.	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM		Wdse. Village Church Guild Hall	\$176	Jan. 7
11 Weeks	Thurs.	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM		Wdse. Village Church Guild Hall	\$176	Jan. 8
LOW IMPACT AEROBICS & JOYFLEX BODY TONING						
13 Weeks Healthy Back, Cardio, Inner-Core Strengthening	Mon.	7:45 AM - 9:00 AM	Joy Lopez	Independence Hall	\$450	Jan. 5
	Fri.	7:45 AM - 9:00 AM		Independence Hall	\$23 drop in	Jan. 9
MUSIC TOGETHER						
10 Weeks Ages 0-5 Years Creative Classes For Children	Tues.	8:30 AM - 9:15 AM	Sean Mendelson	Wdse. Library	\$140	Jan. 6
	Tues.	9:15 AM - 10:00 AM		Wdse. Library	\$140	Jan. 6
	Tues.	10:15 AM - 11:00 AM		Wdse. Library	\$140	Jan. 6
	Fri.	1:00 PM - 1:45 PM		Independence Hall	\$140	Jan. 9
	Fri.	2:00 PM - 2:45 PM		Independence Hall	\$140	Jan. 9
					\$50 mat. fee	

Financial assistance available for children. Visit our Web Site at: www.woodsiderec.com

*** To Register or Fax: (650) 851-3534 ***



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- Individualized attention and support
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- An environment that supports creative thinking

Information Session with Doug Thompson, Ph.D, Head of School
 January 8, 2008 from 7:00-8:00 pm
 1340 Willow Road, Menlo Park

No RSVP necessary

(650) 321-1991
www.mid-pen.com

OBITUARIES

Arthur Boettcher

Former M-A football coach

Arthur Ernest Boettcher, who won the first South Peninsula Athletic League (SPAL) championship for the Menlo-Atherton High School in 1964, died Dec. 25 at Stanford Medical Center. He was 87.



Boettcher

Mr. Boettcher taught mathematics and coached football at M-A from 1953 to 1984. He was named coach of the year by the SPAL in 1964.

Born in Morris, Manitoba, Canada, Mr. Boettcher attended Shurtleff College in Alton, Illinois, where he was named to the Little All American team in his freshman year, according to his wife, Diana Boettcher, whom he met in college. He played as a fullback throughout his college career and during his service with the U.S. Air Force.

After becoming an American citizen in 1942, Mr. Boettcher served in the Air Force during World War II, receiving his pilot training at Texas Tech. He graduated from Eastern Washington University in 1948 and received his master's degree from Stanford University in 1951.

He maintained a lifelong interest in flying and owned private planes, frequently visiting Mexico and Montana for fishing and vacationing. He also served in the Air Force Reserve.

Mr. Boettcher is survived by his wife, Diana. Services will be held in Spokane, Washington.

Naomi M. Regan

Longtime Menlo Park resident

Naomi M. Regan, a 64-year Menlo Park resident, died Dec. 21, just three days shy of her 92nd birthday.



Regan

Born Naomi Sargent in Fruitland, Idaho, she was raised on an apple and dairy farm, where she delivered milk as a girl.

In 1938, she married William V. Regan in San Francisco, and with her husband moved

to Menlo Park in 1944. For the last 50 years, she lived on Arbor Road, where she raised seven children. She was a member of St. Raymond Catholic Church.

Ms. Regan is survived by four children, Bill Regan, John Regan, Muffy Bui, and Jan Difu; and by 19 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, William; and by three children, Daniel, Michael and Ann.

Yenny Jarquin provided "loving care" to Ms. Regan toward the end of her life, the family noted in appreciation.

Creek planting, weed-pulling in Menlo Park

Volunteers are needed to plant native plants and pull weeds along San Francisquito Creek in Menlo Park. Volunteers will meet at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at Creek Drive and University Drive, and work until 12:30 p.m.

The work day is sponsored by the San Francisquito Watershed Project. Volunteers are asked to sign up online. Go to acterra.org and look under "What's New." Youth under 18 are welcome, but must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian. Minors must

be accompanied by an adult.


In the event of heavy rain, call the hotline for an update at 962-9876, ext. 310.

Be sure to SHOP LOCAL this holiday season

Thanks.

The Almanac









Town Hall
765 Portola Road
Portola Valley, CA
94028

Town of Portola Valley Winter 2009 Class Schedule

Phone: 650-851-1700 ext. 200
Fax: 650-851-4677
Email: crodas@portolavalley.net

Visit us at our website: www.portolavalley.net

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Kickboxing Adults 8:30 - 9:15am Science & Nature 1st Grade 3:15 - 4:45 pm 	Creative Art for Young Children Pre-School 10:00 - 11:30 am Science & Nature 2nd - 4th Grade 3:15 - 4:45 pm Karate Ages: 5 and up 4:00 - 6:00 pm	Tai Chi Adults 8:30 - 9:15 am Science & Nature Kindergarten 1:30 - 3:00 pm 	Creative Art for Young Children Pre-School 10:00 - 11:30 am Creative Art for Young Children Kinder - 2nd Grade 3:00 - 5:00 pm Karate Ages: 5 and up 4:00 - 6:00 pm 	Kickboxing Adults 8:30 - 9:15 am Creative Art for Young Children Pre-K - Kindergarten 1:00 - 2:30 pm Creative Art for Young Children Kinder - 2nd Grade 3:00 - 5:00 pm Modern Dance for Children Ages: 7 - 10 3:30 - 4:30 pm	Creative Art for Young Children Ages: 3 - 8 10:00 - 12:00 pm Creative Art for Young Children Ages: 3- 8 1:00 - 3:00 pm Self Defense Seminar Adults/Teens 1:00 - 3:00 pm *One day class 

Registration for Portola Valley residents will begin December 1st-16th . Non-Resident registration begins December 16th, please visit our website for more information or call (650) 851-1700 ext. 200

ASK THE DEPUTY

Deputy Stephanie Josephson, of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office,



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

Q. I just got pulled over, and two police cars pulled behind mine. I don't think I look like a bad guy. Why were there two cars?

A. In most areas, officers and deputies ride solo in their vehicles unless they are in training. It is common practice for one officer to "cover" another officer during a traffic stop to provide assistance. Even "routine" traffic stops are among the most dangerous things we do on a daily basis.



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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, theater 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

New Year's Eve Ball. Paul Price's Society Orchestra. Free Waltz Lesson at 8:00 p.m. Come dance to music of the 1890s through the 1930s. Refreshments served. Modern or vintage eveningwear. 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. The Jerry J Quartet will provide music; 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. Peninsula Volunteers Inc

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

January Bagels, Lox and Learning. "From Anguished to Action: Greening Our Lives to Heal the Planet." Sat., Jan. 11, 10:15 a.m.-noon \$5 suggested donation. Kehillah Jewish High School, 3900 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-494-6400. www.keddem.org

Jayne Anne Phillips book signing. The author will be discussing and signing "Lark and Termité." Set during the 1950s in West Virginia and Korea, it's a story of the power of loss and love, war and family and the unseen bonds that unite and sustain

us. 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com

PARC Forum. "Folding@home: the most powerful and energy efficient supercomputer in the world." Vijay Pande, of Stanford University, will talk about how Folding@home works, concentrating on recent advances involving stream computing and massively parallel computation. Thu., Jan. 8, 2008, 4-5 p.m. Free. George E. Pake Auditorium, 3333 Coyote Hill Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-812-4000. <http://www.parc.com>

Your Money or Your Life. Author Vicki Robin discusses and signs her book. Mon. Jan. 5, 2009, 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

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

Mariana Barnes Art Exhibit. "The inspiration for my paintings comes from the art and symbols of ancient civilizations as well as contemporary cultures from around the world. Geometric and nonlinear patterns are integral to my art," Barnes said. Her work will be on exhibit through Jan. 10. Free. Avalon Art and Yoga Center, 370 S. California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-324-2517.

Robyn Horn: Paintings and Sculpture. Join Tercera Gallery on Friday, Jan. 9 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for the opening reception of artist Robyn Horn. Her paintings and wood sculptures will be featured for the month of January. 6-9 p.m. Tercera Gallery Palo Alto, 534 Ramona St., Palo Alto. Call 650-322-5324. www.terceragallery.com

Sacred Places Open Spaces. Linda Patterson of Newark, California, exhibits paintings of the wetlands, hilly vistas and vanishing



Photo by Nancy Stanton

Tribute to the Pichels

Cecile Henschel Pichel, right, and Doris Dahlgren pose with Ms. Dahlgren's painting, "Lilies with a Blue Background," at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation Clinic. The painting is dedicated to Ms. Pichel and her late husband, Dr. Julian Pichel, who died in 2004 several days after being injured in a Christmas Eve fire in the couple's Atherton home. The artist was a patient of Dr. Pichel for many years.

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

Bridge Instruction. Here's your chance to learn Bridge. This 8-week series includes responses to one no trump, takeout doubles, the stayman convention, cue bids, opening leads, and slam bidding. One-hour instruction, 30 minutes play, plus time to discuss hands students may bring in. Wed. Jan. 14 to Mar. 4, 2009, 2-4 p.m. \$80 members/\$90 non-members. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-5436. www.avenidas.org

Acrylic Painting. Instructor Juliet Lundy will work with each person at his or her own level. All levels welcome. Materials not pro-

vided; 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

Continuing Mandarin. For students who have completed Introduction to Mandarin or have background knowledge of Chinese pinyin, this class advances and improves the structural format of speaking and writing the Mandarin language. Mon. Jan. 5 to March 23, 2009, 1-2:30 p.m. \$60 members/\$70 non-

members. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-5436. 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 Health care 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 www.paadultschool.org

Feldenkrais. For flexibility, coordination and strength. Fridays, 11-noon. \$40 members/\$45 nonmembers (4 classes). Little House fitness room, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-327-9419. www.Umovebetter.com

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 some valuable and fun 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, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$25 members/\$45 non-members. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-5436. www.avenidas.org

Clubs/Meetings

Woodside Library Bookclub. Come join fellow book-lovers as we discuss

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"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

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

Palo Alto Scrabble. Just for fun. Open to players of all levels. All equipment provided. Mondays, ongoing, 6-10 p.m. Free. Boston Market Restaurant, 3375 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 650-326-6243.

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. 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

Durer to Picasso. Cantor Arts Center at Stanford: This exhibition, of European and American art, features a selection of the most noteworthy works acquired over the past 10 years. Through Feb. 15, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Cantor Art Center at Stanford University, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

Introducing the Cantor Arts Center. These docent-led tours feature a sampling of objects from various eras and cultures. Every tour is different. Saturdays and Sundays. Meet in the main lobby. 1-2 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

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

Polish Heroes: Those Who Rescued Jews. An exhibition of photographs by Chris Schwarz that tell the stories of Poles who saved Jews from the Nazis during the Holocaust. Through Feb. 2, Koret Pavilion, 565 Mayfield Ave., Stanford.

Stanford Art Spaces Stanford University. Stitched monotypes, Katherine K. Allen. Sculpture, Feng Jin. Mixed Media, Kay Kang. Paintings, Chunming Yu. From Oct. 31 to Jan. 8. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Stanford Art Spaces, 420 Via Palou, Stanford. Call 650-725-3622. http://cis.stanford.edu/~marigros

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."

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

Timbuktu to Cape Town. This exhibition celebrates the complexity and variety of African art from across the continent. Through March 22, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Yhu. until 8 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

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

Atherton Library Saturday Family Storytime. Storytimes for children. Once a month. 11-11:30 a.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org

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

Happy Birds Performing Parrot Show. The Happy Birds Performing Parrot show is a family favorite and perfect for children of all ages. Sponsored by the Friends of the Atherton Library. Mon. Jan. 12, 2009, 4-4:45 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422.

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

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 preregister. Can be taken separately or combination. 5-9:30 p.m. \$75

for both. 862 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-424-0204.

Yoga and meditation for well being. Explore opening the body and calming the mind with yoga meditation and other mindful movement. All ages and levels are welcome. Wednesdays, 5:30-7 p.m. \$98. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-323-5532. www.yogawithmike.com

Support Groups

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.

Grief Support. Join a 5-week mutual support group for individuals grieving the death of a loved one. Each week we will discuss issues and concerns common to newly bereaved people. New individuals will not be accepted into the group after second week. Sat. Jan. 10 to Feb. 7, 2009, 9-10:30 a.m. Free. Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, 950 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. www.mppc.org

La Femme. General support group for women of all ages. Explore life's challenges in a warm, trusting environment, while learning new strategies for taking control of your life. Led by an experienced therapist, licensed for over 20 years. 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.

Post-partum and Pregnancy Support Group. Join this drop-in discussion group on the challenges and mood changes that you may be feeling in your pregnancy and after birth. You will find a relaxed and welcoming environment at Blossom for discussing these unexpected feelings. Wed. Dec. 17, 2008 to Feb. 11, 2009, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$15 drop in, \$85 three months unlimited. Blossom Birth, 299 S. California Ave., Suite 120, Palo Alto. www.blossombirth.org

Et Alia

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

Three Kings Day. "Celebrate the arrival of the three kings and the coming of Christ's light to the nations. There will be a special surprise for children," the church says. Sun., Jan. 4, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Free. Ladera Community Church, 3300 Alpine Road., Portola Valley. www.ladera.org

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Thanks.

The Almanac



ALPINE / WEST MENLO

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- **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.)



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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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The Almanac, established in September, 1965, is delivered each week to residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside and adjacent unincorporated areas of southern San Mateo County. The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued November 9, 1969.

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



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

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

EMAIL your views to:

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

MAIL or deliver to:

Editor at the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

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

Start the year with transparency

Three cheers for the Menlo Park Fire Protection District board, which decided two weeks ago to require that tentative labor agreements between the district and its employees be available for public review at least 15 calendar days before being brought before the board for ratification.

Fire board member Peter Carpenter pushed hard to add the extra time, so residents will have at least two weeks to look over the final outcome of the board's negotiations with represented employees, rather than just the few days of review that was the practice in prior years. Only board member Rex Ianson

voted against the measure, saying he had concerns about changing the district's policy in the middle of negotiations, although John Wurdinger, the president of the firefighters' union, had no problem.

Area residents should be pleased that the fire board was so willing to add time for the public to take a deeper look at the outcome of final wage and benefit negotiations. In some communities, public officials meeting in executive session will endorse major increases in pay and benefits without having a clear plan to pay for them. Such actions are much more difficult to pull off when the discussion is out in the open, or as in this case, terms of the tentative agreement are available in a timely manner so the public can see its impact on the budget and register comments before a final decision is made by elected officials.

Our hope is that local city councils and other agencies adopt similar policies. In Menlo Park, council member John Boyle has asked that the council consider a number of ideas that he presented in a recent memo. We believe all of them have merit and should be discussed early next year. Here are Mr. Boyle's suggestions:

■ Going to closed session only when it is truly required (vs. when it is allowed). A vote to go into closed session could be required.

■ "Deliver more substantive reporting [to the public] after each closed session. Even if council members can't provide all the details, there could be a summary beyond the typical "nothing to report."

■ "Pursue approaches where there is more of a hybrid (open/closed session) discussion of various topics. For example, present background facts or data in open session, but strategize or negotiate in closed session."

"Consider recording closed sessions or taking minutes which could be released at a later date after negotiations are completed and the confidentiality is no longer required."

We urge the Menlo Park council to take up Mr. Boyle's agenda and talk about it in open session. Having more time to evaluate proposed labor contracts and more transparency in the use of executive sessions would be a huge step forward for Menlo Park — and other cities and public agencies on the Peninsula — to consider as they begin the new year. ■

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

West Menlo child care racks up huge subsidy

Editor:

I write regarding your Dec. 17 editorial "Raising fees raises questions in Menlo." Some of the conclusions and characterizations in your editorial make me wonder if we both attended the same meeting.

The one major subsidy you failed to cover in your editorial was the one given to Menlo Park Child Care (MPCC) operation. This was the center of most discussion that evening. This preschool and toddler program serves 54 children of West Menlo residents. That program was recovering 63 percent of costs, leaving the city with a loss of \$359,000. That's a subsidy of \$6,648 per child.

During the discussion it was uncovered that MPCC is not accredited because the MPCC staff do not have child care credentials and there is currently (as of the meeting) no formal manager of the facility. In fact, turnover of managers has been



Menlo Park Historical Association

Our Regional Heritage

Soldiers stationed at Camp Fremont in Menlo Park were welcomed at a garden party on July 4, 1918, at the Hillsborough home of George Pope. At the time, it was common for some of the Peninsula's most prominent families to entertain the troops. Some 43,000 soldiers were stationed at Camp Fremont, and most were never deployed before the armistice was signed in November 1918.

See **LETTERS**, next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

an ongoing problem. This came to light from the comments of parents who have children in the MPCC and then questioning by the council. It was interesting the director of community services did not offer this information to the council in her report.

I find myself in total agreement with you regarding the performance of the city manager and his manager of finance and his director of community recreation services. Their lack of preparation and seeming ignorance left City Council members without key pieces of information. The council questioned them on labor cost statistics and received a "guesstimate" as an answer. Labor makes up 75 percent of the city budget. You'd think a sharp financial officer would have been totally fluent in all facts and figures related to labor.

At the beginning of the meeting the council asked Finance Director Carol Augustine if "comparable market surveys" had been completed on similar fees in other cities on the peninsula. She promised that each department head would provide such studies when they gave their reports. When the department heads gave their reports they had not made any effort to perform a comparable market study.

During this entire meeting the city manager did not step in to provide any information or clarify why his staff was so ill-prepared. The City Council was left to make decisions with missing or flawed information.

Edward Moritz
Hillview Avenue, Menlo Park

Don't balance budget at expense of Prop. 98

Editor:
It is difficult to believe that

Atherton City Council member Charles Marsala or anyone else would favor modifying Proposition 98 to divert tax money from our already under-funded schools as part of the effort to balance the state budget.

Instead of sacrificing the education of our next generation, the burden of restoring state fiscal integrity should be borne primarily by those who can bear it best. Much of the budgetary gap can be closed if those who can afford fancy cars pay motor vehicle registration fees restored to their historic levels and if taxpayers like my wife and me, with incomes of \$200,000 a year or more, have a percentage point added to the maximum state income tax rate.

James R. Madison
Holly Avenue, Menlo Park

Caltrain needs to boost number of bike spots

Editor:
I commute from Palo Alto to San Francisco daily and greatly value Caltrain's bike service for the advantages it gives over driving: I get exercise, I don't have to worry about where to park, don't have to worry about getting parking tickets, don't have to stress about traffic.

Many is the evening I've biked past backed-up traffic getting on the highways with a little "haha!" in my heart, on my way to a comfortable ride on Caltrain. Of course, some evenings the bike car is full and I'm bumped, and that turns into a half-hour wait or longer for the next train.

However, the SF Bike Coalition has proposed an idea to expand bike capacity by reducing some seating to create 80 bike spots on every train, a great option for both bikers and riders. I urge Caltrain to review this plan and move forward in its plans to offer more bike access to commuters.

Beth Morgan
Everett Avenue, Palo Alto



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KEPLER'S FEATURED AUTHORS IN JANUARY

Mark Zائفman

Your Money or Your Life: 9 Steps to Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Achieving Financial Independence: Revised and Updated for the 21st Century

Monday, January 5, 7:30 p.m.

An easy-to-use index, anecdotes and examples particularly relevant today.



Rodes Fishburne

Going to See the Elephant

Thursday, January 22, 7:30 p.m.

SF author "Fishburne's sweet and funny debut novel offers comic-book-like entertainment with an iron core." —Booklist, starred review



Harold Luft

Total Cure: The Antidote to the Health Care Crisis

Wednesday, January 7, 7:30 p.m.

Director of PAMF Research Institute presents a comprehensive new proposal for health care.



Writing Workshop with Janis Bell

Clean, Well-Lighted Sentences: A Writer's Guide to Avoiding the Most Common Errors in Grammar and Punctuation

Sunday, January 25, 2:00 p.m.

Long overdue: a clear, good-humored discussion targeting only the most common errors in American sentences—nothing more.



Robert Roper

Now the Drum of War: Walt Whitman and His Brothers in the Civil War

Tuesday, January 13, 7:30 p.m.

The Civil War is seen anew, and a great American family brought to life, in Roper's brilliant evocation of the Family Whitman.



Poetry with Giovanni Tempesta

The Cremation of Sam McGee and Other Verses by Robert Service: An Italian Translation

Monday, January 26, 7:30 p.m.

Stanford Professor brings his brilliant Italian rendition of Robert Service's best rhymes to the less known and yet magical world of the 1898 Klondike Gold Rush.



Jayne Anne Phillips

Lark & Termite

Wednesday, January 14, 7:30 p.m.

Her first book in nine years. *Lark & Termite* is set during the 1950s in West Virginia and Korea.



Frances Dinkelspiel

Towers of Gold: How One Jewish Immigrant Named Isaias Hellman Created California

Tuesday, January 27, 7:30 p.m.

Hellman was directly responsible for the creation of California's largest banks and was essential in making the state a financial and industrial superpower.



Poetry with Dominique Renda & Brooks Anderson

String of Lights

Thursday, January 15, 7:30 p.m.

Local authors infuse words and images with understanding in this collection of poetry and photographic art.



Steven B. Johnson

The Invention of Air: A Story of Science, Terror, and the Birth of America

Friday, January 16, 7:30 p.m.

Story of 18th-century radical thinker Joseph Priestley—scientist and theologian, protégé of Benjamin Franklin, friend of Thomas Jefferson.



Dacher Keltner

Born to be Good: The Science of a Meaningful Life

Wednesday, January 28, 7:30 p.m.

UC Berkeley psychiatry professor reveals a new examination of the surprising origins of human goodness.



Janice Y.K. Lee

The Piano Teacher

Wednesday, January 21, 7:30 p.m.

In the sweeping tradition of *The English Patient*, a gripping tale of love and betrayal set in war-torn Hong Kong.



Tiffany Baker

The Little Giant of Aberdeen County

Thursday, January 29, 7:30 p.m.

The book "grabs you from its astonishing beginning to its riveting conclusion...This dark-yet-rollicking debut is a must-read." —Sara Gruen, *Water for Elephants*



Special Family Event

Free the Children Youth Rally

Friday, January 30, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Location: Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto
Kick off your second semester with a bang and meet Craig Kielburger, founder of Free the Children!



Kepler's Story Time every Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

January 4th - Dinosaur Story Time

Dinosaur Roar! Join us for these stories about some very unusual dinos.



January 18th - Story Time with Oliver Chin

Celebrate Chinese New Year early with Oliver Chin! 2009 is The Year of the Ox.



January 11th - Story Time with Christine Gardner

This charming new book from local author Christine Gardner has a very fitting post-holiday message: we can ALL benefit from an effort to slow down.



January 25th - Story Time with Diana Spieker and Krista Skehan

Local author and illustrator Diana Spieker and Krista Skehan join us to celebrate their charming new alphabet book.



Our event program is updated often. Please visit keplers.com for current information.

All events are free at Kepler's unless otherwise noted.



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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 230383
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 conducted 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, Letgeorgeoid, 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 Pfister, 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, Thermae, 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

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)

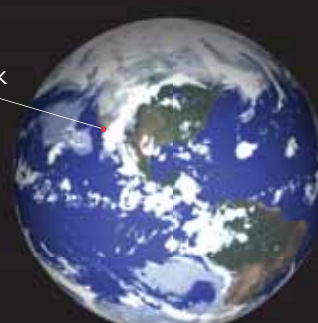
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Gerald Allen Wright, Amended. Case# 118334 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Gerald Allen Wright. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by: Kimberly Johnson 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 personal 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)

T.S.#CR8-1383 Order: 1001606-05 File: CR8-1383 JP A.P. Number 080-073-110 Notice of Trustee's Sale under Deed Of Trust YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED February 27, 2007. 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. Notice is hereby given that County Records Research, Trustee Division as Trustee, or Successor Trustee, Or Substituted Trustee pursuant to the Deed Of Trust executed by Hector Flamenco and Diana Flamenco, husband and wife Recorded on 03/01/2007 as Instrument No. 2007-032087 in Book Page of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of San Mateo County, California, and pursuant to the Notice Of Default and Election to Sell thereunder recorded 9/2/2008 in Book , Page , as Instrument No. 08-099496 of said Official Records, will sell on 1/21/2009 at At the Marshall St. entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA at 12:30 PM at public auction to the highest bidder for cash (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States), 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 hereinafter described: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust. The property address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 135 Los Trancos Cir. Portola Valley, CA 94028 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$1,644,968.36. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on 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. In the event tender other than cash is accepted the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness

secured by said Deed, advances thereon, and the unpaid principal balance of the note secured by said Deed with interest thereon as provided in said note, fees, charges and expenses of the trustee and the trusts created by said Deed Of Trust. Dated: 12/19/2008 County Records Research, as said Trustee Trustee Division 4952 Warner Avenue #105 Huntington Beach, CA, 92649 Trustee's Sale Line (714) 573-1965 Fax Number (714) 846-8720 Sales Website: www.priorityposting.com Phone number (714) 846-6634 By: John C. Holmberg County Records Research, Trustee Div. P510921 12/31, 1/7, 01/14/2009 (Published in the Almanac 12/31/08, 1/7, 14, 2009)

LEHUA GREENMAN
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HOLIDAY GREETINGS



FROM

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