

**FACING TOUGH CHOICES** and an uncertain future,  
council members snipe over city finances. Page 5

# The Almanac

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON,

PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

APRIL 8, 2009

[www.TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com) | VOL. 44 NO. 32

**express**

Get local news updates in your  
e-mail inbox twice weekly. **FREE.**

Sign up today at —

[TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://TheAlmanacOnline.com)

## THOSE WHO CAN, TEACH

Menlo Park students use the artificial intelligence  
in "Betty's Brain" to learn by teaching. SECTION 2



# CASHIN COMPANY

MENLO PARK (650) 614-3500 ■ PORTOLA VALLEY (650) 529-2900 ■ WOODSIDE (650) 529-1000 ■ LOS ALTOS (650) 948-8050  
 PALO ALTO (650) 853-7100 ■ SAN CARLOS (650) 598-4900 ■ SAN MATEO (650) 343-3700 ■ BURLINGAME (650) 340-9688



**ATHERTON** – Destined to be one of the finest homes in Atherton. This magnificent 6BR/4BR new home is crafted with extraordinary attention to detail. Wide rounded corners and richly stained wood moldings typify the developer's attention to detail. Towering ceilings and windows provide stunning light and volume, along w/ the finest millwork to behold unfolds to create warmth and ambiance

**Kristin Cashin** (650) 614-3500 **\$9,950,000**



**ATHERTON** – Elegant, custom traditional home nestled on a gorgeous private acre in sought after W. Atherton neighborhood. 5BD/4.5BA; tastefully remodeled throughout by the designer/owner with uncompromising attention to quality & detail. Lush mature garden, expansive lawns, salt water pool & spa.

**Elizabeth Daschbach** (650) 614-3500 **\$6,295,000**



**LOS ALTOS** – Look no further! This charming updated Ranch style home has all the modern comforts you are looking for & much more! Private backyard with park like setting & serene cul-de-sac location. New paint and carpet. Ready for the new owners!

**Victor Platonoff** (650) 948-8050 **\$1,495,000**



**LOS ALTOS HILLS** – 5BR/5.5BA home situated on a cul-de-sac. Hardwood floors & crown molding. Kitchen w/ granite counter tops, top of the line appliances & Butler's Pantry.

**Susan Furstman** (650) 529-2900 **\$5,395,000**



**MENLO PARK** – 4BR/4BA Executive home w/ Architectural details. Cathedral ceilings & Gourmet Kitchen w/ inviting family room. Las Lomas School District.

**Kristin Cashin** (650) 614-3500 **\$2,099,000**

## ATHERTON

This exceptional 5BR/6BA home features an expansive gourmet kitchen, wood paneled library, home audio system, sparkling pool and a regulation sized tennis court. Great home for entertaining!

**Michelle Englert/Doyle Rundell** (650) 614-3500 **\$5,295,000**

4BR/4+BA Casual & formal living spaces flowing over 2 levels featuring oak hardwood flooring, boxed & wood-beamed ceilings, crown moldings, wood trims & built-ins. Backyard w/ lap pool & spa, patio & lawn area. Lg Mstr & Granite Kitchen.

**Tim Kerns** (650) 614-3500 **\$2,475,000**

## CUPERTINO

This wonderful 4BR/2BA Ranch style home boasting a formal entry, bright & airy LR, remod kitch w/ granite countertop, maple cabinets & brkfst bar. Sep. DR, spac FR w/ frplc, private MB w/ sliding glass door to backyard. 2 car gar & more!

**Bonnie M Kehl** (650) 948-8050 **\$1,199,888**

## EAST PALO ALTO

3BR/2BA single story home featuring a family room with a dining area, eat-in kitchen & formal dining area. Attached garage w/ an electric door opener. Gas heater, laundry area in the garage and a shingle exterior with a composition roof.

**John Marshall** (650) 614-3500 **\$321,000**

1BR/1BA Bright corner unit featuring double paned windows & sliding doors. Freshly painted inside & out, hardwood floors in dining area, tile in entry & hallway. Spacious living area with redone balcony & mirrored closet doors in hallway & bedroom. Lg Walk-In Closet. Located on west side of the freeway.

**Gordana Wolfman** (650) 614-3500 **\$237,000**

## EMERALD HILLS

Remodeled 4 BD/4+ BA home with gourmet kitchen that features custom cabinetry & top-grade appliances. A master retreat with elegant bath & a sun deck that overlooks an indoor pool.

**Doyle Rundell** (650) 614-3500 **\$2,150,000**

3BR/2.5 home situated on a large lot next to Handley Rock Park. Features a large updated kitchen that flows to the family room, which is surrounded by outdoor decks. The living room has a woodburning fireplace and there is also a separate dining room.

**Dana Capiello** (650) 529-1000 **\$1,050,000**

## HALF MOON BAY

Situated on the 1st Fairway of the "HMB Golf Links" located close to the Ritz Carlton & Walking Trails. Easy commute to Silicon Valley or San Francisco. Picturesque view must be seen to be believed. 4th room for den or office/guest.

**Judy Chow** (650) 614-3500 **\$1,630,000**

Spectacular views from this lot!!! Complete with Plans and Permits. Planned "Green" home with separate/permitted unit over additional 2 car carport.

**Katherine Clark** (650) 614-3500 **\$589,000**

## LOS ALTOS

Rarely available ground floor unit with large landscaped patio. 2BR/2BA, new carpet and paint, fireplace in living room and close to downtown. A must see!

**Victor Platonoff** (650) 948-8050 **\$599,000**

## LOS ALTOS HILLS

Dramatic new construction is ideally located in Los Altos Hills. Living area incl: 6BR, incl a sep. guest ste or Ofc, 5BA + (2).5BA, LR & DR, 2 FR & Grmt kitch. Amenities incl: a media Rm, a recreation Rm, wine tasting/DR & much more!

**Farideh Zamani** (650) 948-8050 **\$9,800,000**

## MENLO PARK

Exceptional 5BD/4.5BA remodeled home on desirable cul-de-sac. Incredible gourmet kitchen; 2 FR's-1 upstairs, 1 downstairs; elegant living and dining rooms; luxurious Mstr Suite; lg separate guest/au-pair suite w/ kitchenette; large sunny lot; Las Lomas Schools.

**Elizabeth Daschbach** (650) 614-3500 **\$2,695,000**

Light filled craftsman featuring 4BD/3.5BA with full basement, hardwood floors and dual paned windows. Nice neighborhood and Menlo Park Schools.

**Camille Eder** (650) 614-3500 **\$1,850,000**

An excellent opportunity in Linfield Oaks. 3BR/2BA home w/ large backyard and a garage-converted play-room. The home is move-in ready and offers room to expand.

**Nino Gaetano** (650) 529-2900 **\$1,295,000**

5BD/2BA charming, single-level home. Welcoming garden setting with traditional style. Hardwood floors. Great Menlo Oaks neighborhood. Best location. Close to downtown Palo Alto or to the train. Bike to Stanford.

**Laura Caplan** (650) 614-3500 **\$1,148,000**

## MENLO PARK

3BD/1BA charming bungalow on a large lot. Granite kitchen with a wonderfully large backyard. Many upgrades, including newer windows, as well bathroom plumbing and electrical. Additional features include hardwood floors, a laundry room and an eat-in kitchen to make this a special home. There is room to grow!!!

**Kristin Cashin** (650) 614-3500 **\$839,000**

Sophisticated remodeled 2BR/2BA one-level condo in prime location. Abundant natural light, hardwood floors, recessed lighting and fireplace. Convenient to Stanford and Hwy 280.

**Mary Jo McCarthy** (650) 614-3500 **\$775,000**

2BR/1.5BA spacious townhome featuring an open living area w/ FP and sliding doors to a private patio. Large bedrooms w/ upstairs laundry. New paint inside. Located at the back of the complex. Has a pool and 1 assigned space in garage. Security gate.

**Linda Samaha** (650) 614-3500 **\$375,000**

## MOUNTAIN VIEW

Location...Location...Location...Convenient Mid Peninsula area close to everything. This highly desirable upper end unit 2BD/2BA condo in "The Waters" complex offers serene views of the lake and mature trees from the living room, dining area and balcony.

**Jan Strohecker** (650) 614-3500 **\$468,000**

## PALO ALTO

Located in the Crescent Park neighborhood, this 2-story 5BR/3.5BA home sits on a beautifully manicured lot. Details include hrdwd flrs, a wood burning fireplace and large kitchen w/ granite countertops. Ideally situated just minutes from all of the downtown amenities.

**Ginma Lazar** (650) 614-3500 **\$2,345,000**

## PORTOLA VALLEY

Remodeled 3BR/2.5BA, casual, elegant attention to details. Open floor plan includes Chef's kitchen & family room, exquisitely remodeled baths, hand-hewn Maple hardwoods & expansive windows leading out to patio, deck, spa, and garden.

**Brooke Dunbar** (650) 340-9688 **\$1,492,000**

## REDWOOD SHORES

Beautiful 3BR/3BA with large deck and hot tub. New paint, stove and microwave. Must see to appreciate!

**Joann Bedrossian** (650) 614-3500 **\$980,000**

Light & bright spacious 3BR/2.5BA private end unit. LR w/ high ceilings, recessed lights & views of the water. Mstr BR features Walk-In Closet, soaking tub and dual sinks. Steps away from boat dock.

**Lilly Chow** (650) 614-3500 **\$699,000**

## SAN CARLOS

4BR/3BA This fabulous updated home features a remodeled kitchen w/ custom built-ins. Mstr BR Ste w/ a remodeled BA & Walk-In Clst. Fresh Paint & New Carpets. Canyon & Bay views from nearly every room. Can entertain from large deck. Attached two-car garage and lots of storage.

**Debbie Lorell/Bob Johnston** (650) 614-3500 **\$1,398,000**

A superb layout goes with this 4BR/2BA Mediterranean offering a bay view enhanced by mtn vistas. Desirable amenities include patio, family room and deck. Two-car garage. Enjoy the move-up & magic of this lovely home.

**Michael S. Teymour** (650) 948-8050 **Offered at \$1,198,000**

Stunning remodeled Marbella plan at La Ventana complex in San Carlos Hills features a unique open floor plan. The well-lit end unit offers executive living with two bedrooms plus office/den & large loft area. Newly Remodeled "Tuscan" kitchen and more!!!!

**Brendan Royer** (650) 614-3500 **\$874,950**

Close to downtown and to the train station is this beautiful 3BR/2BA San Carlos charmer! A striking LR/DR w/a raised ceiling that opens up to a courtyard. Hardwood flrs, new kitchen linoleum, a newer roof, some dual paned wdws & new landscaping. Two-car attached garage & inside ldry.

**Susan Berry** (650) 614-3500 **\$735,000**

## SAN MATEO

Charming 2-story Aaragon home is move-in ready. 3BR, plus bonus office & sitting area, as well as 2 Full BA's. Remodeled Kitchen and Baths with Granite counters, recessed lighting and French doors leading to a spacious deck/backyard. Bonus multi-use garden cottage. Don't want to miss this one!

**Meegan Ferrari** (650) 614-3500 **\$1,299,000**

## SANTA CLARA

Mediterranean Townhome. High ceilings, light & bright interior. Kitchen w/ Granite & stainless steel appliances. Attached 2/car garage & AC. " El Camino to Lincoln to Clay"

**Paul Shrabo** (650) 529-2900 **\$785,000**

## SANTA CRUZ

Excellent opportunity to build the estate of your dreams.

**Susan Furstman** (650) 529-2900 **\$1,195,000**



**MENLO PARK** – 2+BR/2.5 BA desirable end unit townhome with magnificent sf-bayviews.

**Kristin Cashin** (650) 614-3500 **\$1,875,000**



**MENLO PARK** – 3BR/2.5BA gorgeous current remodeled home. Best Sharon Heights value. Professionally landscaped. Hot Tub, flat lawn area & beautiful decks perfect for entertaining. Very private yard. Wonderful family home.

**Suzanne Scott** (650) 614-3500 **\$1,789,000**



**PORTOLA VALLEY** – Prime, close in 2.5 acre Westridge view lot, 1/2 mile from Alpine Rd. Spectacular views to Bay, Mt Diablo & Southeast mountains. Site & Architectural plans approved by Town for 4 BD/4BA home. Minutes to Ladera shopping & Hwy 280. Sewer is at the lot line.

**Elizabeth Daschbach** (650) 614-3500 **\$3,300,000**



**SAN MATEO** – One level 2BR/2BA spacious penthouse located on the top floor of a 4-story building. Close to downtown shops & transportation.

**Enayat Boroumand** (650) 529-2900 **\$700,000**



**SARATOGA** – All of the best elements of a genteel life style are realized in this wonderful 2BR/2BA townhome. Chef's kitchen, dramatic ceilings, private courtyard & 2-car garage. Close to town, shopping & freeway access.

**Victor Platonoff** (650) 948-8050 **\$598,888**

Selling Northern California's Finest Properties



cashin.com

# Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

## FIRST SHOT



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac.

### Open for business

Rosewood Sand Hill hotel spa receptionist Janet Tarr, right, welcomes attendees after the ribbon-cutting ceremony April 2 for the new hotel complex on Sand Hill Road at Interstate 280. See story on Page 7.

## Atherton

■ Grand jury rebukes Atherton events rules. **Page 17**

## Menlo Park

- Council members split on approach to budget. **Page 5**
- City looks to accelerate planning efforts in 'light industrial' area of Menlo Park. **Page 7**

## Portola Valley

- Town holds cleanup event Saturday. **Page 24**
- Portola Valley poised to ignore Cal Fire deadline. **Page 5**

## Regional

- Court throws out Menlo Park's letter to high-speed rail agency. **Page 10**
- POST acquires two ridgetop properties. **Page 13**

## Also Inside

- Calendar .....25
- Letters .....18
- Obituaries .....11, 16
- Police Calls .....17

## CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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

For Classified ads, call **854-0858**  
For all other calls, phone **854-2626**  
News: **Ext. 213**  
Display advertising: **Ext. 233**  
Fax: **854-0677**

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

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

**THE ALMANAC** (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-4455. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, the Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. Voluntary subscriptions for \$30 per year or \$50 per 2 years are welcome from residents of the above circulation area. Subscription rates for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year and \$80 for two years. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, P.O. Box 7008, Menlo Park, CA 94026-7008. Copyright ©2009 by Embarcadero Publishing Co., All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

## Fire calls

■ Fire causes major damage to two-story home in Menlo Park. **Page 11**

## Schools

- Everest charter high school not happy with new facilities offer. **Page 5**
- Woodside property owners set to vote on renewing school parcel tax. **Page 14**
- Auction to raise funds for Woodside High. **Page 15**

## Community

■ 'Book Buddies' give books to pre-schoolers. **Page 26**

## People

■ Mardell Ward, former Almanac ad director, dies. **Page 11**

## On the cover

Kevin Conrad, a fifth-grader at Encinal School in Atherton, looks up from his computer. He and his classmates are teaching science concepts to an artificial intelligence program called Betty's Brain as part of a Stanford University education study. Students enhance their own grasp of the material by educating virtual students called "teachable agents." Photo by Michelle Le. Story begins on the cover of **Section 2**.

## Images of Woodside Presents A Mother's Day Event

Treat the special mother in your life to the gift of beauty

Do you want to treat the special mother in your life to a wonderful day of pampering that she deserves? Simply purchase her a gift certificate for any of our salon services and you will both receive a gift of Kenra travel size product.

In addition to the free gift you will be entered in a drawing for our grand prize basket that includes a gift certificate for services and products.

Images • 650.851.7103  
3040 Woodside Road  
Woodside, Ca

Hurry... Mother's Day is May 10



## Allied Arts Guild

Supporting Lucile Packard Children's Hospital



### Coming Events

- **Fashion Show & Luncheon, Art to Wear** - Friday, April 17
- **Belle Intima, Bridal Faire Charity Event** - Saturday, April 18 - 1pm to 5pm
- **Flavors of the Gardens, Arts and Food Festival** - May 9 - 10am to 5pm

Local vendors, wine tasting, kids activities, artists en plein air, live entertainment. Suggested donation: \$5.00

- **Mother's Day Brunch, The Red Currant Cafe** - Sunday, May 10

For more info visit: [www.alliedartsguild.org](http://www.alliedartsguild.org) or call 650-325-2450

ALLIED ARTS GUILD: 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025



STANFORD

## DERMATOLOGY CENTER

NEW LOCATION & EXTENDED HOURS

Stanford Dermatology Center Provides State-of-the-Art Care and Management for the Common to Complex Problems of Adult Skin.

We offer a full range of medical and surgical dermatology services in a new patient friendly environment.

Stanford Dermatology Center new location & hours are designed to fit your schedule.

8:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Friday

Extended center hours:  
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays

8:00 am - Noon on Saturdays

A physician is on call 24 hours a day.

For more information, or to make a dermatology appointment

**Call: 650-723-6316.**

Stanford Dermatology Center  
450 Broadway Street  
Redwood City, CA 94063

[www.stanfordhospital.com](http://www.stanfordhospital.com)

A TOWN MARKET PLACE  
**ROBERTS MARKET**  
 SINCE 1889

Happy  
Easter



3015 Woodside Road Woodside, 650-851-1511  
 4420 Alpine Road Portola Valley, 650-851-1711  
 Open 6:30AM - 8PM

Sale Dates: April 8, 9, 10, 11

www.robertsmarket.com

**10% Wine Discount**  
 on 6 Bottles

Effective immediately, Roberts is offering a 10% discount on the purchase of 6, or more, bottles of regularly priced wines. Red tag sale prices excluded.

Fresh  
**PRODUCE**

**ORGANIC SPRING MIX**

**\$2<sup>99</sup>** lb.

Local  
**ASPARAGUS**

**\$1<sup>49</sup>** lb.

Local Sweet  
**STRAWBERRIES**

**\$1<sup>99</sup>** ea.

Local Sweet  
**NAVEL ORANGES**

**49¢** lb.

Special this week at Roberts

**MEAT**

**SMOKED SALMON DIP**

**\$16<sup>98</sup>** lb.

**NIMAN PETIT HAM**

**\$7<sup>98</sup>** lb.

**FILET MIGNON**

**\$19<sup>98</sup>** lb.

**RACK OF LAMB**

**\$13<sup>98</sup>** lb.

On Sale

**GROCERY**

**CHALLENGE SALTED BUTTER**

1 LB. CUBES

**\$1<sup>99</sup>**

**AFTER EIGHT DARK CHOCOLATE THIN MINTS**  
 7 oz. **\$2<sup>99</sup>**

**EDWARD'S GOURMET TURTLE PIE**  
 30 oz. — Also Key Lime Pie **\$5<sup>99</sup>**

**GOLD MEDAL ALL PURPOSE FLOUR**  
 5 lb. — Also Unbleached **\$2<sup>39</sup>**

**NABISCO WHEAT THINS**  
 9 oz — Also Triscuits **\$2<sup>69</sup>**

**VANITY FAIR DINNER NAPKINS**  
 40 count — Also Everyday **\$1<sup>99</sup>**

*Argentine Malbec*

One of the great wine success stories of the new millennium is the meteoric rise of the Malbecs of Argentina. Malbec is a French varietal used in Bordeaux as a blending grape, and is the primary constituent in the famous "black wines" of Cabor. But, in Argentina, Malbec has emerged as the top dog of red grape types. Usually providing hearty, rich, flavorful wines, Argentine Malbecs definitely present the consumer with some of the finest wines values available. Try one today.

2008 Alamos Malbec, Mendoza

The "value" standard for Argentine Malbec!  
 Reg. \$9.99 SALE **\$8<sup>99</sup>**

2004 Monte Lomas Malbec, Mendoza

A dark, firm, mineral-laden red. Reg. \$13.99 SALE **\$11<sup>99</sup>**

2007 Alamos Malbec "Seleccion"

Has amazing purity and refinement. Great example! Reg. \$17.49 SALE **\$14<sup>99</sup>**

2006 Cicchitti Malbec, Gran Reserve

A focused, structured wine with great aging potential. Reg. \$22.49 SALE **\$19<sup>99</sup>**

2006 Catena Malbec, Mendoza

Both bright and fresh, yet rich and lush. A reference standard! Reg. \$22.99 SALE **\$19<sup>99</sup>**

Sale prices are net and do not qualify for quantity discounts.



**Spiral Sliced Ham**

Glazed with Honey Mustard. Approx. 8 lb. **\$60<sup>00</sup>** ea.

**Roast Leg Of Lamb**  
 With Rosemary and Garlic **\$12<sup>00</sup>** lb.

Roberts Tip of the Week

*Argentine Reds*

If you are looking for some of the best values in wine, red wines from Argentina, the world's fifth largest wine producer, top the list. Of particular interest are Malbec varietals. The signature red grape of Argentina produces wines of considerable depth of flavor and complexity. Malbec wines have a characteristically lush berry flavor with hints of pepper. While the Syrahs from Argentina tend toward dark fruit flavors, the country's Cabernet Sauvignons marry cassis flavors with small notes of bell pepper. As one might imagine, Argentine reds go beautifully with meats such as roasts, steaks, braised lamb shanks, and dense stews. Argentine has long been known for its grilled beef; now it's also known for its delectable red wines.

Pork is the culinary name for meat from the domestic pig, often specifically the fresh meat. At ROBERTS MARKET, we feature the finest produce, meats, poultry, and seafood available in the area, and we have a great selection of marinades which help change the taste of your favorite meats. Our seasonal produce is beautifully displayed in our large produce department. We pride ourselves on catering to our valued customers' needs and on the high if you find yourself pressed for time visit our "heat and eat it" department for wonderful gourmet prepared foods. Our wine department is the most extensive in the area, more than most liquor stores. Don't forget the fresh cut flowers from our floral department to grace your table.

HINT: The best red wines from Argentina are produced in the Mendoza region.

**DELI**

Roberts Market Deli

**Grilled Asparagus and Peppers**

With Parmesan Cheese **\$9<sup>99</sup>** lb.

**Potato Pancakes** **\$2<sup>99</sup>** ea.

# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## City finances: How deep will cuts go?

■ “Everything’s on the table,” but a possible tax hike and staff cuts promise to heat up budget debate.

By Sean Howell  
Almanac Staff Writer

The high drama that’s been unfolding in the Menlo Park council chambers in recent weeks might not provide fodder for playwrights and novelists, but it should be compelling viewing for council watchers. At its roots: budget discussions.

Always laborious, the budgeting process looks to be more contentious than usual this year, with council members split on how to approach the city’s finances in the midst of a recession.

Menlo Park is facing a projected deficit of \$2 million to \$2.2 million in the upcoming fiscal year (which begins July 1), and there’s a range of opinions on what the city should do to try to narrow the gap between revenue and expenditures — and to try to climb out of what city officials say is a structural, long-term deficit.

The options at the City Council’s dispos-

al: increasing the tax on utilities; drawing on the city’s \$24 million in general operating reserves; delaying infrastructure projects (such as street resurfacing); and reducing expenditures on employees.

Three of the five City Council members have tentatively nixed the idea of putting off projects, and no one is eager to drain the city’s reserve. But the council now must decide whether the city can survive the recession with a temporary tax hike, or whether it’s in need of a more dramatic restructuring.

City Manager Glen Rojas has not yet made his recommendation for the 2009-10 budget, but council members are already

### ■ MENLO PARK

at odds over how to approach the budgeting process.

After Councilman John Boyle dissented and Councilman Andy Cohen abstained in a March 24 vote on what projects the city should undertake in the next fiscal year, Mayor Heyward Robinson addressed the issue head-on.

*Council members ‘are playing political games with child care, sidewalks, what have you, to get their little piece of what they think their constituents are demanding. I cannot accept that this is good government.’*

COUNCILMAN ANDY COHEN

“Go ahead and tell me right now if you’re not going to vote for this budget,” he said to councilmen Cohen and Boyle. “We could save a lot of time, I’ll work things out with my colleagues to my left, and we’ll

get through this sooner.” (Councilman Rich Cline and Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson sit to Mr. Robinson’s left on the dais.)

Mr. Cohen, who has essentially removed himself from public budget discussions

thus far, said there was a “very good chance” he wouldn’t vote for the budget. When Mr. Robinson said Mr. Cohen hadn’t offered any input, Mr. Cohen shot back that the mayor hadn’t been listening.

Asked in an interview whether he was willing to work with Mayor Robinson in crafting the budget, Mr. Cohen said, “Not on his terms.” He is more likely to join Mr. Boyle in voting against the eventual budget proposal, he said.

In an interview, Mr. Robinson said he’s willing to work with “anybody that has constructive ideas, and wants to participate.”

Mr. Boyle seems to be the only council member who is optimistic the council will hash out a budget proposal he would vote for.

### How bad will it get?

Mr. Rojas has cautioned against cutting city staff, saying that staff cuts lead to fewer services for residents, and that the city shouldn’t make rash decisions when it’s sitting on a \$24 million reserve.

But Mr. Cohen says the city manager is

See **BUDGET**, page 8

## Portola Valley poised to ignore Cal Fire deadline

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

### ■ PORTOLA VALLEY

It appears that the Town Council of Portola Valley will miss its deadline for accepting a wildfire hazard map prepared by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The council had until April 14 to accept a map that showed a “very high” risk of wildfire in the northwest corner of town, including the Woodside Highlands neighborhood.

The agenda for the Wednesday, April 8, meeting, which starts at 8 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse, does not mention action related to the Cal Fire map. The council’s next regularly scheduled meeting would be on April 22.

An independently commissioned map shows severe wildfire dangers throughout town, and council members have noted this map as a reference point in discussing amending the building

code for better fire-resistance.

This map is similar to one prepared by the Woodside Fire Protection District, which serves Portola Valley. The fire district’s analysis includes terrain, prevailing winds and the types and moisture content of vegetation, officials have said.

There are no penalties if Portola Valley does not accept Cal Fire’s map. If it is accepted, real estate transactions for homes in “very high” risk areas would have to include a statement about wildfire risk.

Highlands area homeowners turned out on Feb. 25 to argue to the council that a “very high” risk label would negatively impact homeowners insurance.

Insurers have said in interviews that they make their own maps and do not consider Cal Fire maps in determining rates. ■



Trustee Gordon Lewin, listens as charter school petitioner Diane Tavenner expresses disappointment with the board’s new offer.

Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

## New offer doesn’t please charter school

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac staff writer

The board of the Sequoia Union High School District voted 4-1 on April 1 to approve a revised and “final offer” to Everest (charter) Public High School of a temporary home in several portable buildings on a residential street in East Palo Alto.

The new offer has several changes from the original proposal: Everest would have exclusive use of the buildings, instead of having to share them with an adult school. In addition to the four portable buildings in the original offer, Everest would get three more portable buildings for use as a classroom, a multipurpose room, and offices.

Access to a nearby gym is promised, as is shared use — proportional to the school’s 104 students — of physical education, arts and kitchen facilities at Menlo-Atherton High School in Atherton.

Everest, which rejected the original offer, is still not happy with the new proposal, said Diane Tavenner, the chief petitioner for Everest.

The basic complaint is that the school would be located in East Palo Alto, far from the location Everest requested in Redwood City. Also, students would have to travel four miles one way to M-A for electives and physical education. The proposed facilities in East Palo Alto are not “reasonably comparable” to what students have at schools such as M-A, she said.

See **EVEREST**, page 8

## Car strikes pedestrian in Atherton

A car struck a pedestrian at the intersection of El Camino Real and Stockbridge Avenue in Atherton around 12:40 p.m.

Monday, Atherton police said. The victim was taken by ambulance to Stanford Hospital.



## JOIN OUR TEAM

Make us a partner  
in your estate plan

7-year-old Joseph loves to play ball, but suffers from juvenile arthritis. Only a year ago, he was so sore and lethargic that he could barely walk. Today, under the care of pediatric rheumatologists at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, Joseph is back to playing second base on his little league team.

By including Packard Children's in your estate plan today, you help children like Joseph receive specialized care not found at most hospitals. Your gift can create tax savings for your estate or help fulfill your financial goals — all while improving the health of children.

Contact our gift planning office to learn more. Visit: [www.lpfch.org/giftplanning](http://www.lpfch.org/giftplanning)  
or call **(650) 736-1211**.

Lucile Packard  
Children's Hospital  
AT STANFORD



  
Lucile Packard  
FOUNDATION *for Children's Health*

SUPPORT **YOUR**  
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

## City looks to accelerate planning in MP's 'light industrial' area

By Sean Howell  
Almanac Staff Writer

When it comes to planning for development in the city's so-called "light industrial" area, Menlo Park has decided it can't afford to wait any longer.

The city will begin working with three major property owners clustered near the intersection of Willow Road and Bayfront Expressway to develop a coordinated plan for a 130-acre area, per a 4-1 vote of the City Council at its March 31 meeting.

The property owners have said they want to get moving on developing vacant land and re-tooling their facilities to accommodate businesses in emerging fields, such as clean technology and life sciences. And the city is eager to accommodate companies that might produce sales tax revenue for Menlo Park, and provide jobs for residents in the nearby Belle Haven neighborhood.

The effort might preclude the city from accepting funds from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to design a transit hub. With plans to run commuter trains across the Dumbarton Bridge under-funded and on the back burner for now, council members said a new approach was required.

"It's clear that Dumbarton Rail, as a (functioning rail line), isn't going to happen any time soon, and I think we need to be prepared to act accordingly," said Mayor Heyward Robinson. Negotiations with MTC to fund the city's study have also stalled, though council members remained hopeful that the city would still have access to MTC money.

A transit station could be incorporated into the new coordinated development plan for the area, council members said.

### Coordinated approach

The study approved by the council might include an evaluation of zoning amendments to allow for increased development, and the possible deployment of redevelopment funds by the city.

The owners involved — General Motors, AMB Properties, and the Tarlton family — have agreed to share the \$800,000 bill for the study, which

would take at least two years.

While saying they weren't interested in undertaking an exhaustive community-based planning effort, similar to the downtown/El Camino visioning/planning process, council members said they might like to add more of a community outreach aspect to the plan when they finalize the details at a later meeting.

Under the existing general plan and zoning ordinance, the three properties are allowed about 3.1 million square feet of development among them, with about 2.1 million of that already filled.

The coordinated approach to planning would allow the city to study possible impacts on traffic and the surrounding environment all at once, instead of in a piecemeal fashion, according to Community Development Director Arlinda Heineck.

Councilman John Boyle dissented in the vote, saying he would have voted to approve the study had he been assured that MTC would not withdraw funding for the transit study. In thinking they would be able to proceed with both studies, council members were trying to have their cake and eat it too, he said.

### Housing

The city would also evaluate the need for new housing through the process. The state has asked Menlo Park to plan for the addition of 1,800 housing units through its housing element, a requirement that essentially has no teeth. MTC had said the city would need to add around 1,500 units near the transit station, but seemed to back off that requirement in a letter sent hours before the March 31 council meeting.

AMB has said it might be amenable to accommodating a transit station and housing development on its property, in exchange for zoning concessions from the city. But council members seemed conflicted about the idea of filling up valuable space in the city's revenue-generating "breadbasket" with housing.

Two of the city's housing commissioners, Elizabeth Lasensky and Patricia Boyle, spoke at the meeting to urge the council to consider the need for housing in the planning process. ■

*The city will work with three major property owners to develop a coordinated plan for a 130-acre area.*

## Rosewood Sand Hill hotel complex opens for business

By Sean Howell  
Almanac Staff Writer

Officials from Menlo Park, Rosewood Hotels and Resorts, and the Stanford Management Co. gathered to celebrate the opening of the Rosewood Sand Hill hotel, spa and restaurant on Thursday, April 2.

About 150 people were on hand to watch as Michael Casey, managing director of Rosewood Sand Hill, and Menlo Park Mayor Heyward Robinson cut ribbons and delivered speeches.

Mr. Robinson praised city staff, as well as current and former council members, for shep-

See picture on Page 3.

herding plans for the facilities through the city's planning process. The City Council approved those plans in June 2006, with Councilman Andy Cohen casting the lone dissenting vote.

Mr. Robinson said the hotel would provide much-needed jobs for local residents, would offer a space for local residents to hold large events, and would be a boon to the city's tax revenue. The hotel has a 2,800-square-foot ballroom that can hold between 150 and 250 guests, according to hotel officials.

Though the country is mired

in a recession, Rosewood CEO John Scott said he sees a silver lining for the "ultra-luxury" hotel. It will have less competition, because he doesn't envision many new hotels opening soon, he said in an interview.

He said he believes the Peninsula's economy is still on relatively solid ground, and that business people will still elect to stay there on trips. And with people tightening their budgets, nearby residents might eschew a trip to a far-away resort in favor of a weekend stay in Menlo Park, he said.

The hotel, spa and restaurant actually opened for business Wednesday, April 1. ■

**RJ's**  
Upholstery  
and  
Slipcovers

A Better Choice Since 1960  
1064 Cherry Street

**A Fabric Store**

**50% Off**  
Selected Fabrics

650-591-0220  
San Carlos

**Judy's**  
**Pet Care**  
Services

- Vacation Care
- Pet Transportation
- Vet Appointments
- Groomer
- Plant Care
- House Sitting

**Judy Gossard • 650-868-2378 • e-mail: JaGoss8288@aol.com**

It's not just a ring. It is the best day of our lives.







*Gleim*  
the Jeweler  
SINCE 1931

Love • Commitment • Achievement

PALO ALTO (650) 323-1331 • LOS ALTOS (650) 949-1122  
STANFORD SHOPPING CENTER (650) 325-3533  
GLEIMJEWELERS.COM

**Yes seniors *can* live at home, with the best trained caregivers in North America.**



**HomeCare Assistance**  
1-866-4-LiveIn™

**Call toll-free: 1-866-462-2899**  
**www.HomeCareAssistance.com**

# Charter school not happy with new offer      Council split on budget

## EVEREST

continued from page 5

### Board vote

The vote was an echo of a September 2008 vote of 4-1 when the Sequoia district board denied Everest a charter. In both decisions, Trustee Olivia Martinez dissented.

Everest received a charter from the state Board of Education in March and plans to open in September.

The Sequoia district has opposed Everest all along, but is required by law to offer facilities.

Everest has until May 1 to act on the latest — and what the school district called the “final” — offer.

Everest’s governing board “will probably send a letter asking the Sequoia board to reconsider,” said Ms. Tavenner in an interview. “If that doesn’t work out, we’ll have to decide as a board if we’re going to file suit.”

Asked after the meeting if he was afraid or concerned about a lawsuit against the district, Superintendent Patrick Gemma replied: “I’m neither afraid nor concerned. Do I think one’s going to happen? Yes.

“I could be wrong,” he added. “I hope I’m wrong. I hope that the Everest leadership sees this offer as we do. This is a quality offer in terms of their (facilities) request.”

The offer of the portable buildings on Green Street in East Palo Alto is for the first two years of Everest’s existence. The district proposes to move Everest to another East Palo Alto site for its third and fourth years of operation, then to a new 1,500-student school in East Palo Alto that would also house the other two charter high schools that currently serve East Palo Alto students.

Everest would be modeled on Summit Prep, a

charter school in its sixth year that has many more applicants than available seats each year.

The offer is in good faith, according to Sequoia district Trustee Lorraine Rumley. “I know we’ve always taken our charter school responsibilities, as far as facilities, seriously.”

Trustee Gordon Lewin added: “I hope that our friends in the Everest/Summit community would really take the time to review and contemplate the proposal.”

### Everest’s request

“Certainly we’re not satisfied that they (Sequoia district board members) have done their best to try to locate the school where we requested, which is Redwood City,” Ms. Tavenner said.

Everest had asked for seven classrooms in an unused building on the campus of Sequoia High School, saying that it expected most of its students to come from families who would attend the Sequoia High and M-A.

In its revised offer, the district rejected this location for several reasons, including claims that it would compromise Sequoia High’s small class sizes for students learning English and force relocation of special education classes to other campuses. And the Everest community, as at Summit Prep, would settle in Redwood City rather than East Palo Alto, thus increasing “the racial, language and socioeconomic isolation of students in the neighborhoods and schools west of U.S. 101,” the offer said.

Sequoia district trustee Martinez wasn’t buying it. The East Palo Alto site does not meet the district’s obligation because “that’s not where they want to be,”

See **EVEREST**, page 17

## BUDGET

continued from page 5

ignoring economic realities. He scoffed at a chart, drawn up by Mr. Rojas, that seemed to indicate that the city could pull itself out of its budget hole in two to three years, without delaying infrastructure projects or cutting employee costs.

“I just don’t think it’s a storm that’s going to be weathered in two to three years, and Rojas is not even willing to look beyond that,” Mr. Cohen said.

Mr. Rojas said the chart depicted only one possible scenario. He is not discounting the potential for a drawn-out recession, he said, but added that he doesn’t want to make decisions based on speculation.

“I don’t know how you look five to 10 years ahead, I don’t know how we’d adjust to that,” he said in an interview. “Should we be making layoffs and panicking in response to something we don’t know? Let’s go with what we know.”

In his recent “state of the city” speech, Mayor Robinson suggested that raising the tax could be a relatively painless way for the city to balance the budget for the short term. An increase in the utility users’ tax to the maximum allowable level — 3.5 percent for utilities (water, gas and electric), and 2.5 percent for communication — would add about \$1.8 million to the city’s revenue stream, according to Finance Director Carol Augustine.

In an interview, Mr. Robinson said he hopes a more efficiently operating staff, along with increased revenues from the just-opened Rosewood hotel and other potential new businesses, would go much of the way toward narrowing the revenue gap in the long term.

While Mr. Boyle said he’s not inclined to support raising taxes, he agreed that the city might not have to “work too hard” to balance the budget. By focusing more on business development, scaling back projects, and cutting corners here and there, the city could plausibly see its revenue stream match expenditures in one to two years — without taxation, without major staff restructuring, and without a significant decrease in the services provided to residents, he said.

Mr. Cohen doesn’t agree with that assessment. The city’s staff should stop kidding itself about the economy, he said, and the council should start facing up to the city’s budget issues, rather than doing what’s politically expedient.

“I am not happy with the way staff is operating, and I’m not happy with the way the council is

treating their recommendations,” he said. “(Council members) are playing political games with child care, sidewalks, what have you, to get their little piece of what they think their constituents are demanding. I cannot accept that this is good government.”

Mr. Cohen is getting ahead of himself, according to Councilman Rich Cline.

“Andy believes we’re going to have a precipitous decline over the next five years. I have a lot of respect for Andy, but I don’t have enough respect for anybody to tell you I agree with that,” Mr. Cline said. “It’s not appropriate to make these type of heavy-handed decisions based on how you feel, what the news is telling you, what’s happening in different cities.

“I think we need to create a system that has flexibility, so we can make adjustments as we go,” he continued, saying the city wouldn’t want to slash staff in anticipation of a long recession, only to find itself short-handed when the economy turns around.

### Tax or cut?

While a majority of council members approve of Mr. Rojas’ approach to the budget, a majority are also reluctant to support a big tax hike — a solution Mr. Cline labels the “resident as mule” option.

Mr. Cohen said he wouldn’t support increasing the tax, while Mr. Cline has said he favors a solution that splits the burden of the deficit between residents and city staff.

Council members have repeatedly said that “everything’s on the table,” and have urged Mr. Rojas to consider creative ideas for reducing expenses. He said he’s weighing reducing the city’s dependence on consultants, freezing vacancies, doing routine maintenance less often, and outsourcing positions, such as police dispatch services.

Meanwhile, union representatives looking to protect their workers, and residents asking them to renegotiate their contracts with the city, are digging in for a struggle that’s sure to heat up in the coming weeks. While council members have urged Mr. Rojas to ask unions for concessions, he said in an interview he’s reluctant to do so, unless the alternative is to lay off workers — a measure that would be premature, in his view. ■

### ■ MENLO PARK BUDGET

Want to learn more about the state of Menlo Park’s finances, and City Manager Glen Rojas’ approach to the budget process? The city has created a page on its Web site to keep residents informed. Go to [tinyurl.com/MPBudget](http://tinyurl.com/MPBudget).

## ABBASI PROGRAM IN ISLAMIC STUDIES

# CHARTING CHANGE, CHALLENGING POWER: WOMEN LEADERS IN MUSLIM CONTEXTS



### BARONESS KISHWER FALKNER

The House of Lords, Great Britain

### DR. SHAHIDA JAFFREY

Founder and Vice Chancellor of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women’s University, Pakistan

### PROF. JULIA CLANCY-SMITH

Department of History, University of Arizona

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 7:30 PM  
ANNENBERG AUDITORIUM  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY**

<http://islamicstudies.stanford.edu>



ABBASI PROGRAM IN  
ISLAMIC STUDIES



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

## Smack-down, Renaissance-style

Thomas Johnson, 13, swings at Austin Wilson, 12, at Hillview Middle School's annual seventh-grade Renaissance Faire, held Thursday, April 2. The two boys were learning about the art of jousting at "Baptista's Bale Battles," one of the educational stations set up at the Menlo Park school. See more photos on [TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://TheAlmanacOnline.com).

# Is the city's budget in for a big hit?

By Sean Howell  
Almanac Staff Writer

With Menlo Park struggling to get out from under a budget deficit of \$2 million or more, new regulations related to storm water pollution could impose a \$300,000 hit on the city's operating expenses, if adopted by the regional agency in charge of water issues.

Calling the order an unfunded mandate, city staff also said they were concerned it is technically and legally unsound.

The city takes in \$310,000 annually in fees for the prevention of storm water pollution, and spends about \$500,000. Under the new regulations, the city would be forced to spend about \$800,000 on pollution prevention in the first year, according to city staff.

The additional spending would likely be funded through the city's general operating purse, according to Finance Director Carol Augustine.

If adopted by the San Francisco

## Saving water on landscaping

Amateur gardeners can hone their skills through two free landscaping classes in upcoming months.

The classes, sponsored by the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, emphasize water-efficient landscaping.

A class on April 25 will focus on the use of native plants, and a class on May 2 will deal with methods for attracting birds and butterflies to a garden.

The classes will be held at the Burgess Recreation Center in Menlo Park. To register, call 349-3000, or e-mail [landscaping@bawasca.org](mailto:landscaping@bawasca.org)

### ■ MENLO WATCH

Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board at its May 13 meeting, the new regulations would go into effect immediately, city staff said.

### Downtown workshop set for April 16

Residents will be able to get involved in the planning process for downtown Menlo Park when the city holds the first of three workshops as part of that process.

The workshop is set to run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, April 16, in the meeting room of

the Menlo Presbyterian Church, behind the ACE Hardware store at 700 Santa Cruz Ave. The entrance to the meeting space fronts on the parking lot behind the hardware store, which can be accessed from Oak Grove Avenue.

The workshop marks the beginning of the consultant-led process of hammering out a detailed parcel-by-parcel plan for El Camino Real and downtown Menlo Park. It follows on a "visioning" effort, during which residents formed general guidelines for downtown development.

The two other workshops are scheduled for June 18 and Sept. 17.

For more information, visit [tinyurl.com/MPPlan](http://tinyurl.com/MPPlan) ■



**Steven Gray**  
650-743-7702

more information:  
[sgray@cashin.com](mailto:sgray@cashin.com)



**Real Estate  
Market Condition  
Reports for...**

**Atherton  
Menlo Park  
Portola Valley  
or Woodside**

Visit  
[www.PeninsulaSpecialist.com](http://www.PeninsulaSpecialist.com)  
and select the  
**report of your choice.**



**25% off**  
ALL CUSTOM WORK

Shutters  
Draperies  
Blinds  
Bedding  
Small Upholstery

660 El Camino Real  
San Carlos  
591-7131  
[www.customcreationsbayarea.com](http://www.customcreationsbayarea.com)

**CUSTOM CREATIONS**  
*Serving the Bay Area since 1972*

**MIKE GARL PAINTING ANNOUNCES  
FRESH AIR**  
A GREEN PAINTING COMPANY

Environmentally Safe | Zero Voc | Minimal odor




**CALL 650.367.7118**

With every **FREE ESTIMATE** we will pick up & safely recycle your old paints. Valid thru 5/30/09.

**MG** [www.mikegarlpainting.com](http://www.mikegarlpainting.com)  
SERVING PENINSULA FOR 20 YEARS

**IF IT'S NOT IN THIS VAULT, IT'S NOT SAFE.**



**LOS ALTOS VAULT & SAFE DEPOSIT CO.**  
A private depository  
Safe deposit boxes of all sizes  
Strict and total confidentiality  
Secured and ample parking  
For your own sake we should have your business.  
Visit our facilities and judge for yourself.  
Data bank for important and confidential records.

**WE ARE #1!  
There Is No #2  
BELIEVE IT!**

**SAFE FROM STATE & FEDERAL INTRUSION**

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HACKERS TO PENETRATE OUR COMPUTER SYSTEM. REASON — WE HAVE NO COMPUTERS. WE DO BUSINESS THE OLD FASHIONED WAY.

121 First Street, Los Altos, CA 94022  
Tel: 650-949-5891 [www.losaltosvault.com](http://www.losaltosvault.com)



**Livingscapes**  
**Masonry**  
**Woodwork**  
**Lighting**  
**Water Conservation**

Outdoor Living Space  
 Lighted Seat Wall  
 Ambient Lighting  
 Infratech Heaters  
 Gas Fireplace

**metrofolia**  
 LANDSCAPING, INC.  
 DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

650.726.1950  
 metrofolia.com  
 LICENSE #520106

# Stanford Driving School

## Spring Break Savings Package

**FREE CLASSROOM TRAINING with the purchase of Freeway plus driver training**

Must have coupon for this offer. Expires May 31, 2009

April and May In-Class Schedule			
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Mon 4/13	Tues 4/14	Weds 4/15	Thurs 4/16
Sat 4/18	Sun 4/19	Sat 4/25	Sun 4/26
Sat 5/16	Sun 5/17	Sat 5/23	Sun 5/24

**(650) 493-1978 • 3960 El Camino Real, Palo Alto**  
 To register online, please visit our website at:  
**www.StanfordDrivingSchool.com**



**Egg Hunt**

**Saturday, April 11th**  
**10 A.M. to Noon**  
**Burgess Park**

**EVENT SCHEDULE**

10 a.m. Bunny arrives  
 Bounce House Opens  
 Crafts Begin  
 Jelly Bean Guess

10:30 a.m. Egg Hunt Begins  
 2 & Under (with parents) - 10:30  
 3-4 years (parents optional) - 10:45  
 5-6 years - 11:00  
 7-8 years - 11:15

11:45 a.m. Jelly Bean Guess  
 Winner Announced

**Parents Please Note:**

- Parents are not allowed to participate in the Egg Hunt unless noted.
- Children are allowed to collect four eggs and should bring their own basket or bag.
- Children will be given additional candy at the end of the hunt.
- In the event of rain, eggs and candy will be given out at the Burgess Recreation Center at 10 a.m.
- Bring your camera for photos with the Bunny.
- Eggs are filled with candy and small toys which may be a choking hazard for small children.

City of Menlo Park ~ Community Services Department  
 701 Laurel Street ~ Menlo Park, CA 94025 ~ 650.330.2200  
 "We create community through People, Parks and Programs"

## Weekend workshop on Sudden Oak Death

With Sudden Oak Death (SOD) afflicting forests and neighborhood trees in Portola Valley and Woodside, a three-day training session on recognizing the disease is set to start at 7 p.m. Friday, April 17, at the Portola Valley Town Center.

The program trains residents in recognizing SOD and collecting and preparing samples for later analysis at a diagnostic lab at the University of California, Berkeley. The Web site [tinyurl.com/SuddenOD](http://tinyurl.com/SuddenOD) describes the event. Residents should bring GPS devices if they have them.

Over the months that follow, a community meeting will be scheduled to discuss with residents the lab results and next steps.

SOD can be spread to uninfected trees by wind; rainwater; carriers such as rhododendrons, camellias and bay laurel trees; and contaminated objects such as tools, tires and shoes. While there is no cure, its spread can be inhibited. More information is available at the Web site [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org).

For local information, Portola Valley residents can contact Leslie Lambert at 851-1700, ext. 212, or [llambert@portolavalley.net](mailto:llambert@portolavalley.net). Woodside residents can contact Kevin Bryant at 851-6790 or [kbryant@woodsidesidefire.org](mailto:kbryant@woodsidesidefire.org).

Information is also available from Fire Marshal Denise Enea of the Woodside Fire Protection District at 851-6206 or [denea@woodsidesidefire.org](mailto:denea@woodsidesidefire.org).



File photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

The dark wound in the crotch of this oak in Portola Valley is a symptom of Sudden Oak Death disease. The treatment for the incurable disease turned the moss brown. The rhododendron (with the pink flowers) is a carrier of the disease.

## Court throws out Menlo Park's letter to rail agency

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

In a ruling that Menlo Park Councilman Rich Cline called "kind of a stomach punch," a California Superior Court judge has denied a motion to allow a comment letter from the city to be added to the record in a lawsuit against the agency overseeing the high-speed rail project.

Council members have said the High-Speed Rail Authority's failure to respond to the letter, commenting on the alternatives the rail authority should consider to running high-speed trains along the Caltrain corridor, was part of the reason they joined the suit. The rail authority says it never received it.

Under law, the agency is required to respond to every letter it receives as part of the environmental review process.

But in the March 27 ruling, Judge Michael Kenny said the city did not adequately prove that it had in fact sent the letter, and that it didn't do enough to make sure the letter had been received. Furthermore, after the release of the final environmental document but before it was certified, there was a 40-day window in which Menlo Park could have re-sent its letter, the judge said.

The city did not do so, because it was not aware the document had been released, according to Public Works Director Kent Steffens.

Menlo Park officials maintain they sent the letter via mail and fax in September 2007. But by the time the rail authority announced its decision to run trains up the Peninsula in May 2008, it had not responded to it.

The judge's ruling raises questions about the city's process for submitting comment letters.

Asked whether the city would reconsider that process, Assistant City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson said: "Given our experience, I'm sure we would call and make sure they got the letter in the future."

Ms. Jerome-Robinson did not work for the city at the time it sent the letter, and could not comment on the specific process. Mr. Rojas is on vacation.

### Reconsider the suit?

During the City Council's March 31 meeting, City Manager Glen Rojas said the plaintiffs' attorney did not think the exclusion of the city's letter would have much effect on the case, because arguments similar to those Menlo Park made had been made by others, including the town of Atherton.

But given that the lack of response from the rail authority was one of the factors in council members' decision to sue, Councilman John Boyle asked whether the city should reconsider that decision. At each of the council's last three meetings, Mr. Boyle has asked whether the city should consider dropping the lawsuit, in light of the fact that the rail authority finally responded to Menlo Park's letter. The agency issued its response Feb. 19, having requested and received a copy of the letter from the city's attorneys.

In August, Mr. Cline and Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson voted in closed session to join the lawsuit, with Mr. Boyle opposed. Mayor Heyward Robinson was absent, and Councilman Andy Cohen is recused from rail issues.

Mr. Cline and Ms. Fergusson, who make up a

*'I'm not even close to talking about getting out of this lawsuit.'*

COUNCILMAN RICH CLINE

## Fire causes major damage to two-story home in MP

A two-story Menlo Park home sustained major damage in a two-alarm fire Wednesday afternoon, April 1, Menlo Park Fire Protection District Deputy Chief Tim Campbell said.

The blaze was reported at 4:13 p.m. at the home at 1015 Deanna Drive. Fire crews determined the fire started on an outside patio and spread to the house, seriously damaging the second floor, Mr. Campbell said.

The first floor of the home sustained minor damage

before the blaze was brought under control at about 4:30 p.m.

"It's salvageable, but not livable," Mr. Campbell said of the house.

He said no residents were home when the fire broke out and there was no report of injuries. Crews managed to rescue a small bird from the house, he said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

— Bay City News Service

## Former Almanac ad director dies at 84

Mardell R. Ward, who served as advertising director of The Almanac from 1971 to 1989, died March 23 in Palo Alto. She was 84.

Ms. Ward, a former editor of the Menlo Park Recorder, took over advertising for The Almanac just six years after the paper was founded by Betty Fry and the late Hedy Boissevain. Her local contacts were invaluable to the newspaper as it expanded into Menlo Park in the 1980s.

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Ms. Ward had a career in journalism and adver-

tising that included working at Sunset Magazine, the Menlo Park Recorder, Wank, Williams & Neylan advertising agency, and the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce.

"She was a very classy lady," said Mort Levine, publisher of The Almanac from 1980 to 1993. "She gave The Almanac a certain tone. She was very interested in building up the business district of Menlo Park."

Ms. Ward was born on Nov. 11, 1924, in Santa Barbara and grew



Mardell Ward

up in Ventura. She enjoyed gardening, reading, traveling, and talking daily to her wide circle of friends and family, say family members.

She was a longtime resident of the Barron Park neighborhood in Palo Alto and often wrote for the Barron Park Association's newsletter.

She is survived by her three children, Valerie Burns Kepko of Sacramento, Craig Burns of Woodside, and Douglas Burns of Palo Alto; and one grandson.

## Menlo Park men arrested after high-speed chase

■ Both are apprehended in the 1100 block of Willow Road.

Officers on April 2 arrested two Menlo Park men suspected of armed robbery after pursuing them in a high-speed chase through residential neighborhoods in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, according to police.

Both men were apprehended in the 1100 block of Willow Road.

A patrol officer reported seeing a masked man run out of a business and into a waiting vehicle at about 11:55 a.m., joining another man allegedly standing on lookout, according to the East Palo

Alto Police Department.

The two men drove off and ignored an attempt by police to pull them over, initiating a pursuit through school zones and residential streets that at times reached 70 mph, according to police.

Police reported that the pursuit continued on foot when Richardo Bravo, 21, and Manuel Olivares, 23, abandoned their vehicle on Saratoga Avenue, near Willow Road.

Though the suspects did not successfully take any money and police were not able to locate a weapon, Mr. Olivares and Mr. Bravo were arrested and booked into the San Mateo County Jail.

— Bay City News Service

### SUIT

continued from previous page 10

council subcommittee tasked with dealing with high-speed rail issues, have not yet recommended that the council reconsider its decision to sue. Both said they were open to having the discussion, though Mr. Cline said it would take some

convincing to get him to change his mind.

"I'm not even close to talking about getting out of this lawsuit," he said.

Ms. Fergusson said the city shouldn't rush into a reconsideration, because when it comes to the city attorney, time is money.

Mayor Robinson said he did not want to reconsider the issue. ■



# SPIRITED SPRING SALE!

S E R V I C E | S E L E C T I O N | S A V I N G S

Compare Our Pricing!

**JW BLACK**  
1.75 L \$49.99 | 750 mL \$23.99

**ABSOLUT**  
1.75 L \$25.99 | 750 mL \$17.99

**KETEL ONE**  
1.75 L \$31.99 | 750 mL \$19.99

**DEWAR'S SCOTCH**  
1.75 L \$24.99 | 750 mL \$16.99

**BOMBAY GIN**  
1.75 L \$21.99 | 750 mL \$15.99

**LAGAVULIN**  
16 YEAR SINGLE MALT SCOTCH  
750 mL \$64.99

**SAZERAC**  
6 YEAR RYE  
750 mL \$23.99

**JACK DANIELS**  
1.75 L \$30.99 | 750 mL \$16.99

### STORE HOURS:

**MON-FRI** 10am to 7:30pm  
**SATURDAY** 9:30am to 7:30pm  
**SUNDAY** 10:00am to 6:30pm

\*Offer valid thru 4/30/09 and while supplies last.

**BELTRAMO'S**  
W I N E S A N D S P I R I T S  
1-1/2 miles north of the Stanford Shopping Center  
1540 El Camino Real, Menlo Park • 650.325.2806



\*Not responsible for typographical errors.

factory authorized spring event

BROWN JORDAN



Please join us for an Unprecedented Factory Authorized Promotion. Save an ADDITIONAL 20% off OUR EVERYDAY SALE PRICING on all BROWN JORDAN collections. NOW THROUGH APRIL 15.

*Flegel's*  
Fine Furniture & Interior Design

870 Santa Cruz Ave.  
Menlo Park  
M-Sat: 10-6  
650-326-9661

## Street Beat

# What are you worried about?



**Bob J.**  
Store Manager

I'm worried about the economy...I'm looking for a new home, but if I lose my job how will I pay my monthly mortgage?



**Sandra L.**  
State Worker

I'm worried I won't get the best deal...but if I buy a foreclosure I won't know what I'm getting and that could cost me big time!



**Dave W.**  
Nurse

The economy is so unpredictable. What if I buy a house and then get laid off?



**Diane K.**  
Veterinarian

These are crazy times. Companies are going out of business right and left. I'm worried that my home builder won't be there for me.



**Kelley D.**  
High School Principal

Actually, I'm not worried about ANYTHING! Because I just bought a Taylor Morrison Home!



## Homebuyers, if you lose your job, we've got you covered.

- Your mortgage will be paid for up to six months if you lose your job.\* Our mortgage protection program will give you the confidence of knowing your mortgage payment will be made, and you won't have to fear the loss of your home.
- We've partnered with one of the country's most reliable insurers to offer you a safety net. Protect yourself for two years from the day you close escrow.
- Your actual monthly payment up to \$2,500 will be fully covered in the event of an involuntary job loss.
- You will be eligible to receive up to six payments during the term of your coverage.
- Your home-buying experience will be worry-free with Taylor Morrison – a reputable builder whose parent company has been around for 125 years worldwide.



**Morgan Lane**  
1,470 to 1,951 sq. ft.  
From **\$1.31 million**  
Menlo Park  
650-324-3282



**Verona Ridge**  
2,941 to 3,312 sq. ft.  
From **\$1.67 million**  
San Mateo  
650-638-9100

Visit us at [www.NoWorriesProgram.com](http://www.NoWorriesProgram.com)

taylor  
morrison  
Homes Inspired by You

\*The Mortgage Protection Plan offered by Rainy Day Foundation is backed by an "A-Excellent" rated carrier and is subject to the terms thereof, including but not limited to eligibility, education and counseling services, vesting period and other limitations. Only purchase agreements specifically written to include this program are eligible as allowed by lender guidelines and when purchaser utilizes Taylor Morrison Home Funding. Contact a Taylor Morrison Sales Representative or a Taylor Morrison Home Funding Originator for complete details. Mortgage Protection Plan and quoted prices are subject to change without notice. Square footages are approximate.

## POST acquires two properties

The Peninsula Open Space Trust announced April 2 that it has completed purchases of two properties near New Almaden in San Jose, including one formerly co-owned by Dianne Johnson Schilling of Portola Valley.

The properties are:

■ Seventy-four acres of undeveloped land next to Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space Preserve.

■ The second is 118 acres adjacent to the first purchase and next to Almaden Quicksilver County Park.

POST bought the properties in February and March for \$250,000 and \$400,000, respectively, said Nina Nowak, director of communications for the Palo Alto-based POST.

“Together, they link the 8,000 acres of already protected open space within the adjacent preserve and county park,” she said in a press release.

“These properties have great potential to create a key trail and wildlife connection between the two large neighboring parks,” said POST President Audrey Rust of Atherton.

Ms. Novak provided these other details:

Dianne Johnson Schilling of Portola Valley and her brother Richard Johnson of Reno sold the 74-acre parcel to POST. The land had been in their family for five generations, since their great-great-grandmother, Alleta Menke, purchased it in the late 1800s.

“From my home in Portola Valley I can see Windy Hill. That’s what first got me interested in POST,” said Ms. Schilling, referring to the Skyline Ridge landmark POST protected in 1979 and later transferred to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

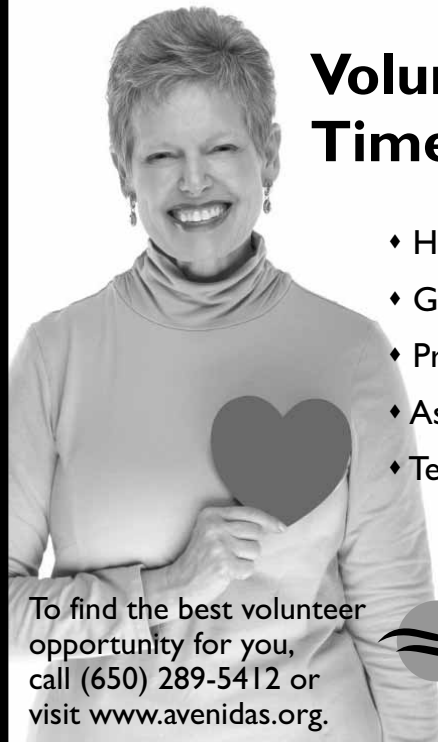
## Local hearing on Lehman losses

Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, and Rep. Jackie Speier, D-San Mateo/San Francisco, will co-chair a congressional field hearing in Redwood City on the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy and its impact on local government agencies, including the Menlo Park City School District.

The hearing is set to run from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, April 16, in the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors Chambers on the ground floor at 400 County Center (401 Marshall St.) in Redwood City.

Local agencies that have lost money in the bankruptcy will have the opportunity to testify about the effects on local services and programs, said Bill Chiang, legislative aide to San Mateo County Supervisor Adrienne J. Tissier.

# Get Involved!



## Volunteer Your Time & Talents

- ◆ Help a child read
- ◆ Give a senior a ride
- ◆ Provide office support
- ◆ Assist with activities
- ◆ Teach a class

To find the best volunteer opportunity for you, call (650) 289-5412 or visit [www.avenidas.org](http://www.avenidas.org).



# A TASTE OF THE PENINSULA

A cornucopia of restaurants and cafes providing the finest dining from brunch to dessert.

### Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

#### Celia's Mexican Restaurant

3740 El Camino, Palo Alto (650) 843-0643  
1850 El Camino, Menlo Park (650) 321-8227  
[www.celiasrestaurants.com](http://www.celiasrestaurants.com)

Full Bar - Happy Hour Specials; Catering

#### Vive Sol-Cocina Mexicana

2020 W. El Camino Real, Mtn. View  
(650) 938-2020.

Specializing in the Cuisine of Puebla.  
Open daily for lunch and dinner.

### Coffee & Tea

#### Connoisseur Coffee Co.

2801 Middlefield Road, Redwood City  
(650) 369-5250 9am-5:30pm Mon. - Sat.

Coffee roasting & fine teas,  
espresso bar, retail & wholesale.



To Advertise in "A Taste of the Peninsula" call The Almanac 650-854-2626.

## Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection

# A Bright Idea!

07-144



## Fluorescent lighting contains mercury and is not allowed in the garbage.

The County of San Mateo would like to recognize and thank the Retail Recycling Partners who assist the County in the proper recycling of fluorescent bulbs. The following retailers are providing a community service and helping protect the environment and your neighborhood.

Take back your used fluorescent lighting to these Retail Recycling Partners:

- Reclaim: Healthy Green Home • 855 Santa Cruz Ave. • Menlo Park
- Portola Valley Hardware • 112 Portola Rd. • Portola Valley
- IKEA • 1700 East Bayshore Rd. • East Palo Alto
- All Home Depot Stores



Fluorescent tubes also contain mercury. To recycle tubes, please call San Mateo County's Household Hazardous Waste Program for recycling options at 650-372-6200. View drop-off locations online, or make an appointment to dispose of other household hazardous waste at: [www.smhealth.org/hhw](http://www.smhealth.org/hhw).

Message brought to you locally by:

# Experience Easter with Us

6:30 and 9:30 a.m.



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

**(See our ad in the Easter Services section)**

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

**UNITED CHURCH  
 OF CHRIST** 

## Womans's Health Series

Transform  
 Your Body Without  
 Weighting.



Food is not the enemy. The right food can fuel you and transform your body. Learn which foods and supplements can jump-start your metabolism from Stanford-trained physician Joelle Osias, M.D. We'll discuss: food choices, FDA-approved medications, appetite suppressants, and how to tackle problem areas with low-downtime procedures.

Learn More at Our Open House

Thursday, April 9, 5:30-7:30pm  
 RSVP 650.843.0600

University Mission Medical Clinic  
**SPA JOLI**  
 744 San Antonio Road Suite 16,  
 Palo Alto



## Woodside property owners set to vote in all-mail school parcel tax election

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

■ SCHOOLS

Property owners in the Woodside Elementary School District should receive ballots in the mail this week to vote on Measure C, which would renew a district parcel tax that is set to expire July 1.

The annual tax, \$242 per parcel, must be approved by two-thirds of the voters; it would expire in 2017.

"This is not a new tax," said parent Jessica Lonergan, chairperson of the Measure C campaign. "It just maintains the status quo."

Ballots for the all-mail election must be received by the county elections office by Tuesday,

May 5, or may be dropped off at the school district office at 3195 Woodside Road, or at Woodside Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, by 5 p.m. that day.

The tax would raise about \$242,000 annually for the one-school district; Woodside Elementary School serves students from kindergarten through eighth grade who live in portions of Woodside.

If approved, the tax would provide funding for:

- Maintaining and improving instruction in math, science, reading and writing;
- Maintaining small class sizes at all grade levels; and
- Retaining teachers.

The tax would be adjusted for inflation up to 4 percent every year, using the Consumer Price Index. The current tax is \$233 per parcel; the adjusted rate for fiscal year 2009-10 would be \$242.

Property owners 65 years and older can apply for an exemption if they live on the parcel.

Those currently exempt will be automatically exempted from the renewed tax.

Owners of two or more contiguous parcels will be taxed for only one.

Revenue from the tax will be placed in a special account, according to the county's impartial analysis. An independent citizens' committee will be formed to monitor spending of the funds, and an annual report will account for revenue raised, and how it was spent, the analysis says.

Ballot arguments in support of Measure C were submitted by a number of Woodside residents,

**The tax would raise about \$242,000 annually for Woodside Elementary School.**

including two council members, community volunteers and business people. Among the points made is that parcel tax funds are controlled

locally, and "cannot be taken by the state," nor will they be used for administrative salaries.

Prior to asking for the renewal, the argument says, the district "engaged in an extensive evaluation of the entire school budget. Budget cuts have been made. There are no frills in the budget."

Ballot arguments opposing the parcel tax renewal were signed by members of the Libertarian Party of San Mateo County. The arguments cite the ailing economy, and maintain that the government should be struggling to find ways to reduce the cost of living at this time.

"It is shameful, and unfair, for schools to seek higher property taxes, kicking the less fortunate when they're down," the opposition argument says.

For the complete ballot arguments, go to [shapethefuture.org](http://shapethefuture.org). ■

## Six MP agents rank in top 1 percent

Six Menlo Park real estate agents were among the top 1 percent of all Coldwell Banker agents in Northern California, the company has announced.

Realtors Tom LeMieux, Hugh Cornish, Keri Nicholas, Hanna Shacham, Steve Bellumori and Elaine White were in that top rank among the company's 3,600 agents in Northern California.

Mr. LeMieux was ranked as No. 4 in Northern California;

Mr. Cornish, No. 9; Ms. Nicholas, No. 10; Ms. Shacham, No. 14; Mr. Bellumori, No. 23; and Ms. White, No. 26.

Coldwell Banker has two Menlo Park offices. One is at 800 El Camino Real, Suite 300, where there are 60 agents and Wendy McPherson is managing broker. The other is at 930 Santa Cruz Ave., where there are 40 agents and David Hobson is manager.

## Auction to raise funds for Woodside High

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

Hoping to raise enough money to help principal David Reilly reduce class sizes in core classes, as well as make up for some of the cuts in state education funding, the Woodside High School Foundation is hosting its annual "Spring Into Auction" event, to be held at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton this year, as well as launching its first online auction.

Anyone can visit the foundation's Web site, [whsfoundation.org](http://whsfoundation.org), to take part in the bidding. But those who want a chance to dance to the music of Big City Revue, enjoy a Circus Club dinner, and have the last chance

at both live and silent auction bidding will want to buy tickets for the April 25 Spring Into Auction event.

Among the items available at the auction are: airfare and a four-night stay for four people in a luxury Manhattan highrise (with a view of the Empire State Building); reserved prime seats and parking for this year's graduation ceremony; a "Top Chef" competition featuring principal David Reilly; and a home-cooked dinner delivered to your dining room once each month for a year.

Other items up for grabs include a free coffee every day for a year, a re-do of your teen's bedroom, and a delivery of compost for your garden.

Bizzarro's Auctions will provide professional auctioneering talent for the live auction.

A special feature of the auction, both online and at the

April 25 event, is the Fund-A-Need and Match programs in which donors can give money directly to their favorite activities, including the Academic Resource Center, Mental Health Counseling, the PTSA Season of Sharing, MESA/AVID, Phoenix Nova-Net, the Principal's Fund, Robotics, Get it Right-Get it Tight, Freshman Transition/SOS/KLEAR program, Athletic Boosters, Music Boosters and Drama Boosters.

Auction chair Leslie Ballinger says the goal is to raise \$190,000 for Woodside High programs.

Tickets remain at last year's price of \$100 per person and are available online at [WHSFoundation.org](http://WHSFoundation.org) or by calling 650-367-9750, ext. 8687. ■

*Barbara Wood is on the board of the Woodside High School Foundation*

### ASK THE DEPUTY

Deputy Stephanie Josephson, who patrols locally for the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, answers your questions about law enforcement. Submit questions to [editor@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:editor@AlmanacNews.com); or call 854-2626 and



leave a message on ext. 213; or mail questions to: Ask the Deputy, The Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

**Q.** I get very nervous when I get pulled over. What is the best thing to do?

**A.** As soon as you see the lights or hear the siren behind you, make it known to the officer that you have an intention of pulling over by turning on your right-turn signal.

As soon as it is safe, move to the right side of the road and pull over in an area large enough to accommodate both vehicles. It is perfectly fine to pull into a parking lot or onto a side street if you are on a busy road.

On the freeway, it is often much more safe to pull off at the next exit.

After you stop, if it is at night, turn on your inside dome light. Roll down your window, and place your hands on your steering wheel.

Tell any passengers in your vehicle to remain quiet and leave their hands displayed openly. Always tell the officer if you have to reach anywhere to get your wallet or registration, and follow his or her directions.

### BIRTHS

#### Emerald Hills

■ Amy and Scott Hublou, a daughter, March 24, at Sequoia Hospital.

#### Menlo Park

■ Jennifer and Douglas Hirzel, a son, March 25, at Sequoia Hospital.

# BOWMAN

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



**The Bowman program builds confidence, creativity and academic excellence.**



Lower School - Grades K - 5

Middle School - Grades 6 - 8



Individualized, self-directed program

Rich international and cultural studies

Proven, Montessori approach



State-of-the-art facility

Low student-teacher ratio

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

4000 Terman Drive • Palo Alto, CA • Tel: 650-813-9131

## "I'm too young to die."



That's a common thought, especially for anyone who looks and feels healthy. But did you know the second leading cause of cancer death in men and women 50 and older is colorectal cancer? And did you know you could have the early stages of this deadly cancer and not know it?

A simple procedure called a colonoscopy could easily save your life with early detection. We apologize if this message is upsetting, but we believe it's far better to face reality than to die from a disease that can be detected early and successfully treated.

We urge you to see your doctor and discuss a colonoscopy soon. And please check the list to the right for any of these symptoms. You may be young, but you're not too young to die.

If you are uninsured, we can help. For more information please call Strides for Life at 650-348-5800.

### Colon Cancer Checklist

- A change in bowel habits
- Constant tiredness
- Blood in stool
- Unexplained weight loss
- Diarrhea, constipation, vomiting
- Unexplained anemia
- Narrower than normal stools
- Feeling that the bowel does not empty completely
- Abdominal discomfort



Sequoia Hospital

A member of CHW

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



Strides for Life

Colon Cancer Foundation

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

# “I Love My McRoskey!”



“Every night when I go to bed I say, Thank you, Mr. McRoskey!”

~ Doris, San Carlos



McRoskey mattress sets are loved for many reasons:

- Exceptional Comfort and Support
- Handcrafted for Quality
- Cool and Breathable



A heritage of comfort.™  
www.McRoskey.com

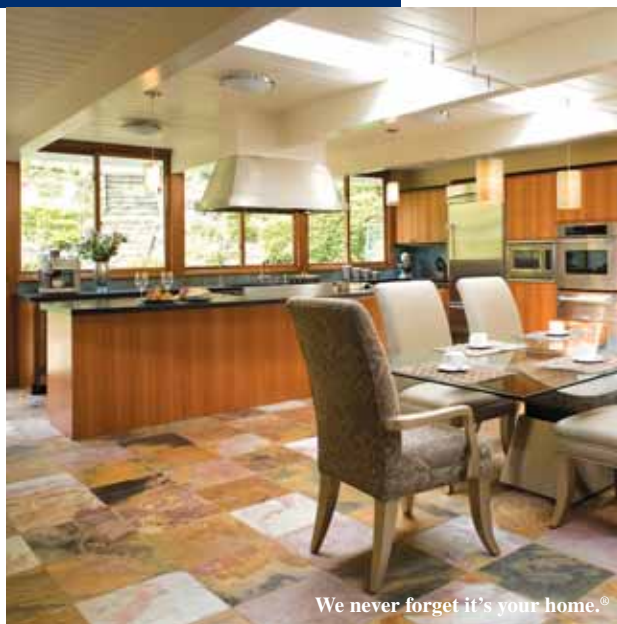
Call or visit our Palo Alto store • 220 Hamilton at Emerson • 650-327-1966

## #4 Monthly Workshop Series by Harrell Remodeling

### Practical Green Remodeling

Ecologically sound homes are healthy and happy homes! For homeowners interested in reducing their carbon footprint, this class covers the facts and how-tos for creating the unique, green home you've always wanted.

- What is a green remodel?
- Learn about sustainable features and materials
- Questions to ask yourself about energy efficiency, solar options, and indoor air quality



We never forget it's your home.®

**Saturday, April 18**  
9:00am to 11:00am  
Reclaim, Menlo Park

**Saturday, April 25**  
9:00am to 11:00am  
Harrell Design Center, Mtn. View  
\*With special guest speaker -  
Organic Restaurateur,  
Jesse Cool of Flea Street Café

Call us or go online to register for this class.



Harrell Remodeling Design Center  
1954 Old Middlefield Way  
Mountain View, CA 94043  
(650) 230-2900  
harrell-remodeling.com

License: B479799.  
Our Design Center is 85% solar powered.

## OBITUARIES

### Rosemarie E. Hess

Former Stanford medical researcher



Rosemarie E. Hess

Rosemarie E. Hess, a resident of Portola Valley since 1973, died March 22 at the age of 73.

Born in Schwerin, Germany, Ms. Hess completed her education in biochemistry in Berlin in 1954 at Lette-Verein, subsequently working at a medical institute in Cologne, Germany, and Frauenklinik in Zurich, Switzerland.

In 1962, Ms. Hess moved to California to work in medical research at Stanford University.

She was married to Robert Hess in 1964. The couple enjoyed collecting art and antiques. They traveled extensively, including trips to Antarctica, Africa, and the Galapagos Islands.

Ms. Hess was deeply interested in neonatal research, say family members, funding unrestricted research grants for more than 35 years. She was a Stanford Associate, an honorary organization of those who have demonstrated significant volunteer service to the university.

Surviving Ms. Hess are her husband of 45 years, Robert Hess of Portola Valley; daughters Gabriela Hess of McCall, Idaho, and Verena Hess of Seattle, Washington; sister Margrit Look of Germany; brother Hartmut Eysell of Germany; and a grandson.

Memorial donations may be made to the Christopher David Hess Endowed Fund for Neonatology Research at the Stanford School of Medicine, Medical School Office Building, room x131, 251 Campus Drive, Stanford, California, 94305-5101.

### Frank Latimer Henry

Retired Airborne Ranger captain



Frank Latimer Henry

A memorial service will be held at noon Saturday, April 18, at St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Menlo Park for Frank Latimer Henry, retired decorated Airborne Ranger in the 1st Special Forces Group in Vietnam, real estate developer, and 42-year Menlo Park resident. Mr. Henry died peacefully March 25, surrounded by his family, after a 10-month battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 69.

The son of an oil wildcatter, Mr. Henry was born in Seattle, but spent his childhood in many places, from Pasadena to Butte, Montana, to Calgary, Alberta, Canada, before graduating from Los Angeles High School in 1957.

He graduated from Stanford University in 1961, where he completed the ROTC program and majored in economics, with Phi Beta Kappa honors.

After graduation, he began six years of service in the Army Special Forces (Airborne). He trained at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and received Ranger training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He also received language instruction at the Army Language Institute in Monterey.

From 1964 to 1967, Capt. Henry and his airborne A-detachment took part in active combat throughout Vietnam. He also worked with the Royal Thai Special Forces to create bases of operation and helped lead joint training exercises at the British Jungle Warfare School in Malaysia.

On the island of Okinawa, where the 1st Special Forces Group was headquartered, Capt. Henry used his experience as a jump master to serve as a HALO (High Altitude Low Opening) instructor, leading jumps from 25,000 feet.

In 1967, Mr. Henry returned to the Bay Area, while still participating in the Airborne Reserve, and began his 40-year career in real estate development, settling in Menlo Park with his family.

He was an avid student of history and had a remarkable ability to recall dates and events from all periods, ancient to modern, say family members. He also liked to write poetry, especially for his wife, Bonnie.

He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Bonnie Henry, and their blended family of six children: Jon Henry, Jennifer Niven Miller, Nancy Niven Pudlo, Thea Henry-Hamilton, Lisa Niven Kelly, and John Niven; and 10 grandchildren.

Donations in Mr. Henry's memory may be made to the Palo Alto Elks Veterans Committee, on which he served for many years, 745 Distel Drive, Suite 121, Los Altos, CA 94022.

### Annmarie Sisson

Former Oak Knoll paraeducator

Annmarie Sisson of Menlo Park, who worked as a paraeducator at Oak Knoll Elementary School in Menlo Park for eight years, died March 26. She was 51.

Ms. Sisson was born in Redwood City and attended Menlo Park schools. She graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School in 1975 and from UC Santa Cruz in 1979, majoring in English literature.

Ms. Sisson loved writing poems, art and music. She was continu-

Continued on next page

## POLICE CALLS

This information is from the Atherton and Menlo Park police departments and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.

## ATHERTON

**Theft report:** Custom jewelry valued at \$50,000 stolen, 200 block of Camino Al Lago, March 30.

**Robbery report:** Male victim jumped by two bike-riding males without weapons and wearing hooded sweatshirts, Middlefield Road and Palmer Lane, 8 p.m. on April 1.

## MENLO PARK

**Grand theft report:** Baby clothing valued at \$500 stolen, Lauderland Laundromat at 995 El Camino Real, March 28.

**Residential burglary report:** Antique silverware, electric toothbrush and vacuum cleaner stolen, 300 block of Bay Road, April 2.

## Auto burglary reports:

■ Window smashed and purse stolen, 600 block of Sand Hill Circle, March 28.

■ Forced entry, carpet-cleaning equipment valued at \$900 stolen, 900 block of Hamilton Ave., March 30.

**Accident report:** Minor injuries in one-vehicle incident, near Draeger's market at 1010 University Drive, April 2.

## Fraud reports:

■ Letter asked victim to cash enclosed check and send back money-gram but victim's bank found check to be fraudulent, 1100 block of Sevier Ave., March 30.

## Child protective services reports:

■ 1100 block of Berkeley Ave., March 27.

■ Main police station at 701 Laurel St., April 1.

## WOODSIDE

**Fraud report:** Two unauthorized credit card accounts opened in victim's name; a charge of \$922 made, 100 block of Old La Honda Road, March 27.

**Battery report:** Juvenile at house party sustained injuries to left eye including hole in retina after assault by adult, Canada and Romero roads, March 30.

## PORTOLA VALLEY

**Theft report:** Purse valued at \$395 stolen from unlocked vehicle, 100 block of Cordova Court, March 27.

## Grand Jury rebukes Atherton events rules

If Atherton neighbors have a problem with events on the Menlo-Atherton High School campus, they should take it up with the school district and the town should stay out of it. That, in a nutshell, is the conclusion of a San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury report issued Monday, April 6, that examines Atherton's controversial special events ordinance.

In 2006, the Atherton City Council passed a broad ordinance regulating events within the town, from weddings and fundraisers to youth sports practices, partly in response to Lindenwood neighborhood complaints about Pop Warner football practices held at M-A. In trying to regulate private, non-school-related

events on public school campuses, the town overreached, according to the grand jury.

"The Town of Atherton should not impose restrictions on school groups using facilities at Menlo-Atherton High School," the report says. "Difficulties and differences should be settled directly between the impacted parties whenever possible."

Atherton Mayor Jerry Carlson said he was "a little disappointed" that the grand jury chose to focus

on the topic. "I was led to believe that closure is near between town residents and the school on whatever issues remained," Mr. Carlson said.

He declined to comment further, saying he'll wait until the City Council has a chance to meet with its new city attorney on the issue.

The full Grand Jury report is available online by going to [www.SanMateoCourt.org](http://www.SanMateoCourt.org) and clicking on Grand Jury. ■

## EVEREST

continued from page 8

she said. "I'd like to see some way to work something out.... Diversity is not really germane to our decision tonight."

District officials dismissed as not cost-effective a recent counterproposal from Ms. Tavenner that the district house Everest in a private

building at 955 Charter St. in Redwood City for three years. The site is a block away from Summit Prep and would cost \$2.1 million to renovate and lease, she said.

The arrangement, she said, would address mutual interests, including creating a safe environment in a neighborhood with many "high-need or at-risk students who will benefit from a small, personalized, college prep program."

The Charter Street site is near a former Tyco Corp. factory and open to questions about toxic residues, district officials said. But Ms. Martinez expressed support for the site after Ms. Tavenner said that an "extensive investigation" had judged the building safe to occupy.

See more pictures on [TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://TheAlmanacOnline.com).

Continued from previous page

ously creative, at home with her children, at school, and during her travels, say family members.

She enjoyed family travel, especially to Graeagle and the Feather River in the Northern Sierra.

She is survived by her children, Laura and Jonathan of Menlo Park and Stephen of Palo Alto; her mother, Rosemary Sisson of Atherton; and brother Richard Sisson of Redwood City.

A memorial service was held April 2 at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church.

Memorials in Ms. Sisson's name may be made to the Scleroderma Foundation at [www.scleroderma.org](http://www.scleroderma.org).

## Max Rondoni

Retired financial consultant

Max Rondoni of Menlo Park died March 11 of a massive heart attack at the age of 78. Services were held March 18 at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, where Mr. Rondoni taught Sunday school for 17 years.

"He especially enjoyed teaching young children and toddlers for their simple faith," says his daughter, Susan Grant.

Mr. Rondoni was born in San

Jose and served in the Korean War. He attended Stanford University and worked as a financial consultant in Menlo Park.

Through the Highland Christian Church in Burlingame, he was involved in mission work, especially in the Ukraine and Latin America, for almost 20 years, say family members.

Mr. Rondini was a member of the Italian-American Social Club in Menlo Park. He enjoyed playing piano and often entertained at local nursing homes.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Lois Rondini of Menlo Park; children Susan Grant, Pamela Ascanio, Marlowe Rondini, and Marguerite Steele.

## MARDELL R. WARD



MardeLL was born in Santa Barbara on November 11, 1924 to Irene and Eugene Richards and surrounded by her loved ones, peacefully passed away in Palo Alto on March 23, 2009. She is survived by her loving children, daughter Valerie Burns Kepko (husband John and son Clinton) of Sacramento and sons, Craig Burns of Woodside and Douglas Burns of Palo Alto. She grew

up in Ventura and proudly graduated from University of California, Berkeley. MardeLL enjoyed a long and rewarding career in advertising and journalism in Menlo Park and Woodside. She enthusiastically worked at Sunset Magazine, Menlo Atherton Recorder, the Country Almanac, Wank, Williams and Neylan and the Chamber of Commerce. MardeLL loved gardening, reading, traveling and talking daily to her wide circle of friends and family. MardeLL's intellectual and intriguing conversations will be missed. Her family wants to thank her long time care giver and friend, Julia Hernandez and the compassionate staff at Stanford Hospital.

PAID OBITUARY



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
and  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
CITY OF MENLO PARK  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

**Architectural Control and Environmental Review/City of Menlo Park/600 Alma Street:** Proposal to demolish the existing 17,400-square-foot gymnasium and gymnastics building and construct a new 22,500-square-foot gymnastics facility (plus a 1,400-square-foot locker room expansion) at the location of the existing gymnasium and gymnastics building, a new 25,700-square-foot gymnasium in an area between the existing Recreation Center and Alma Street, and associated site improvements located at the Civic Center Complex in the P-F (Public Facilities) zoning district.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and Initial Study (IS) prepared for the project identify potentially significant environmental effects that can be mitigated to a less than significant level in the following categories: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Hydrology and Water Quality, Geology, Soils and Seismicity, and Noise. The DEIR identifies potentially significant environmental effects that are significant and unavoidable in the following category: Transportation, Circulation, and Parking. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires this notice to disclose whether any listed toxic sites are present at the location. The project location does not contain a toxic site pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

Copies of the Draft EIR will be on file for review at the City Library and available for distribution at the Community Development Department, Civic Center, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025, as of Thursday, April 9, 2009. The review period for the Draft EIR has been set from **Thursday, April 9, 2009** through **Tuesday, May 26, 2009**. Written comments should be submitted to the City of Menlo Park no later than 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 26, 2009.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on this item in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on **Monday, May 4, 2009**, 7:00 p.m. or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park during the public review period for the DEIR or at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Documents related to these items may be inspected by the public on weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, with alternate Fridays closed, at the Community Development Department, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park. Please call Nathan Scribner, Assistant Engineer, if there are any questions or comments on this item. He may be reached at 650-330-6751 or by email at [nvscribner@menlopark.org](mailto:nvscribner@menlopark.org). Up-to-date information on the project can be found on the project webpage: <http://www.menlopark.org/departments/pwk/cip/gym/index.html>

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

DATED: April 2, 2009 Deanna Chow, Senior Planner  
PUBLISHED: April 8, 2009

If there are any questions, please call the Planning Division at (650) 330-6702.

## Editor & Publisher

Tom Gibboney

## Editorial

**Managing Editor** Richard Hine

**News Editor** Renee Batti

**Lifestyles Editor** Jane Knoerle

**Senior Correspondents**

Marion Softky, Marjorie Mader

**Staff Writers** Andrea Gemmet,

David Boyce, Sean Howell

**Contributors** Barbara Wood,

Kate Daly, Bill Rayburn, Miles

McMullin, Katie Blankenberg

**Special Sections Editors**

Carol Blitzer, Sue Dremann

**Photographer** Michelle Le

## Design & Production

**Design Director** Raul Perez

**Designers** Linda Atilano,

Laura Don, Gary Vennarucci

## Advertising

**Advertising Manager** Neal Fine

**Display Advertising Sales**

Ella Fleishman

**Real Estate Account**

**Advertising Assistant**

**Coordinator**

## Advertising Services

**Receptionist** Renee Meil

**Circulation, Classified,**

**& Legal Advertising** Bill Rayburn

Published every Wednesday at  
3525 Alameda de las Pulgas,  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
(650) 854-2626  
FAX (650) 854-0677

e-mail news (no photos please) to:

editor@AlmanacNews.com

e-mail photos with captions to:

photo@AlmanacNews.com

e-mail letters to:

letters@AlmanacNews.com

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.

# Endorsement

## Vote yes on Measure C for Woodside Elementary School

Residents of the Woodside Elementary School District will receive a ballot in the mail this week, and we urge them to fill it out and vote yes to continue the parcel tax that supports their local school. The ballots for Measure C are due back by May 5; a two-thirds majority is needed for the tax to pass.

This important measure is not a tax increase — a yes vote will simply continue the current annual parcel tax

### EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

single parcels of real estate, so a small lot and a 100-acre lot are assessed the same, as long they are in one parcel. Even adjoining properties under the same ownership are taxed as one parcel.

Woodside voters have always been supportive of their high-achieving elementary school, which received the prestigious National Blue Ribbon School Award in 1995 and was named a California Distinguished School in 1987, 1993 and 1997. Over the years, the school's teachers, administrators and parents have continued to come up with a formula that inspires students to perform at the highest level, which is reflected in consistently high rankings in the statewide tests.

To retain that high achievement takes money, some of

which comes from the parcel tax, or Measure C on the mail-in ballot. Unlike the \$12 million bond measure passed in 2005, the parcel tax may be used only in the classrooms and not for buildings. The renewed parcel tax will remain in place until 2017 and will cost each property owner \$242, which will be adjusted in subsequent years to reflect the Consumer Price Index, although it cannot increase more than 4 percent in any one year. Seniors 65 and over are exempt from the tax if they file for an application with the school district; those who filed in prior years will remain exempt.

There is no question that Woodside Elementary School is doing a superb job with the funds voters have entrusted to the district over the years via the parcel tax. Although the approximately \$240,000 raised by the tax is only 3.5 percent of the district's budget, it supports critically important items such as smaller class sizes, retaining teachers, and improving instruction in math, science, reading and writing.

Many other communities have shown their support for local schools by approving parcel taxes, including Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Los Altos, Hillsborough and Mountain View.

We know Woodside wants to remain in that category, and urge residents to vote yes and promptly mail back their ballots. There is no better investment for a community than supporting local schools.

## LETTERS

Our readers write

### Council's 'house-flipping' plan is not realistic

Editor:

Just a couple of years ago, the city government in Menlo Park cried poverty, and used that excuse to convince voters to approve a utility users tax.

However, far from being impoverished, the city government now has enough money, and enough real estate expertise, to seriously consider buying and flipping foreclosed properties for a profit.

Indeed, Menlo Park thinks it can do this in a down market that hasn't yet seen a bottom. Given this opinion of their house-flipping skills, the City Council should resign en masse, take up their hammers, and start a real estate company to flip distressed properties.

Or, should realism prevail, they might consider turning off "Flip This House" and stop thinking up new and grandiose ways to waste our money. Sadly, neither of those two scenarios is likely.

**Brian Schar**  
Laurel Avenue, Menlo Park



Menlo Park Historical Association

## Our Regional Heritage

Brothers Bill and Dom Ryan stand behind their wares at Menlo Park Hardware in this 1929 photo. The store opened in 1924; a smaller version, under different ownership, remains at the same location on Santa Cruz Avenue.

## District likely to lose on charter school site fight

By Paul Goeld

On April 1, trustees of the Sequoia Union High School District approved a final offer of facilities for Everest Public High School and in doing so acted in opposition to the best interests of all the students and families they are elected to serve.

The board's offer for a cluster of portable buildings in East Palo Alto was prepared by district staff and knowingly included inaccurate and misleading information. The report conceals the fact that the district spent \$3.9 million to purchase a Redwood City site intended for a charter school — a site that should have been considered for Everest.

The board continues to rely on data about Summit Prep that district staff knows is false in a transparent attempt to perpetuate an unfounded perception — one they created — that the school is elitist. Finally, the board claims that if Everest does not locate in East Palo Alto, it will increase the racial isolation of schools east of U.S. Highway 101, communities where the district itself has not operated a school for over 30 years.

The result is a clearly illegal offer that fails to meet the basic requirements of state law to provide a "reasonably equivalent" facility. Everest offered a counter proposal for a three-year solution in a needy part of Redwood City that would require no human resources from the district at half the cost of the district's one-year solution. Although board members implored Everest to reconsider this final offer, neither staff nor trustees had the courtesy to consider Everest's proposal.

Unfortunately for our community, the board hasn't learned from past mistakes. In 2002, the district lost a similar Proposition 39 lawsuit to the Aurora Charter School, which resulted in the district financing Aurora's facilities for the school's entire existence. The trustees shouldn't be surprised when the courts reject this equally insufficient offer.

For the past 10 months, the Sequoia superintendent and trustees have argued that Everest's educational program is unsound and designed to solve a problem that doesn't exist. At their April 1 meeting, they argued that Everest must be located in East Palo Alto because it is such a high-quality program. "It's a gift," said one smiling trustee.

The state Board of Education unanimously overruled the district on the charter petition and all evidence points to a similar outcome in the courts with a Proposition 39 lawsuit. The expense of litigation and resolution will undoubtedly be more costly than reaching a reasonable agreement with Everest today. I suggest the trustees wake up — this is going to be an expensive lesson for the district.

The best interest of our community is served if all students are engaged in schools that succeed in preparing them for prosperous futures. Rather than spending precious tax dollars trying to defeat perceived competition, the trustees should be investing in schools like Everest that are innovative, cost-effective models with a high degree of parent satisfaction and student success.

**Paul Goeld lives in Woodside, where he has served two terms on the Town Council and two terms as mayor.**



GUEST OPINION



## ADVANTAGE.

Equity ownership and continuing care at The Forum Retirement Community.

Ask about our high-level amenities and low monthly fees. Call today to schedule a personal tour. **650-944-0190.**

As a resident-owned community, The Forum offers a unique opportunity to plan for a secure future where you can retire in style with luxury living in a vibrant, carefree environment and take advantage of equity ownership and continuing care.



AT RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

23500 Cristo Rey Drive  
Cupertino, CA 95014  
650-944-0100

[www.theforum-seniorliving.com](http://www.theforum-seniorliving.com)

RCFE# 435200344 COA# 174  
A Smoke Free Community



Palo Alto Medical Foundation

A Sutter Health Affiliate

THE CURE FOR COMMON MEDICINE

[pamf.org](http://pamf.org)

## Community Health Education Programs

April 2009

### Events and Lectures

#### Don't Leave Home Without It: What the Traveler Needs to Know

Tuesday, April 14, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Gary Fujimoto, M.D., PAMF Travel Medicine

This talk will focus on food and sanitation in some overseas travel destinations, the latest vaccination recommendations and requirements, dengue fever, chikungunya and other emerging infectious diseases, malaria prevention, travelers' diarrhea and jet lag.

Free.

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

### Classes

#### Preparing for Birth: A Refresher, Saturday, April 19, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

A class offering unique strategies, topics and techniques for those preparing for their second or subsequent birth.

#### What You Need to Know About Warfarin

Wednesday, April 22, 2 – 4 p.m.

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

#### Moving Through Pregnancy, Mondays, May 4 – 18, 7 – 9 p.m.

This class covers a wide variety of topics relating to pregnancy, infant care and safety.

#### Supermarket Wise, Wednesday, May 6, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

A class on making healthy food choices in a local supermarket.

#### Preparing for Birth, May 7 – June 11, 7 – 9:15 p.m.

A six-week program designed to help prepare expectant parents for the practical, physical and emotional challenges of childbirth.

#### Managing Your High Blood Pressure

Thursday, May 21, 3 – 5 p.m.

A class on understanding and managing high blood pressure.

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

### Support Groups

Alcohol and Drug Education (Every Tuesday) • Cancer (1st & 3rd Tuesdays) • Diabetes (1st Wednesday)

Healing Imagery for Cancer Patients (January 14 & 28) • Kidney (Quarterly) • Multiple Sclerosis (2nd & 4th Mondays)

Support groups are free. For information, call the Education Division at 650-853-2960.

## Family is why WE DO IT ALL.



We all feel the same commitment to care for our families. As your good neighbor agent, I can help you meet your insurance needs. Call me today.

John W McAfee CLU ChFC CPCU, Agent

Insurance Lic. #: 0E37462  
884 Portola Rd, Ste B1  
Portola Valley, CA 94028  
Bus: 650-851-3276

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR



STATE FARM IS THERE.®

P02640

State Farm Insurance Companies • Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois

11/04

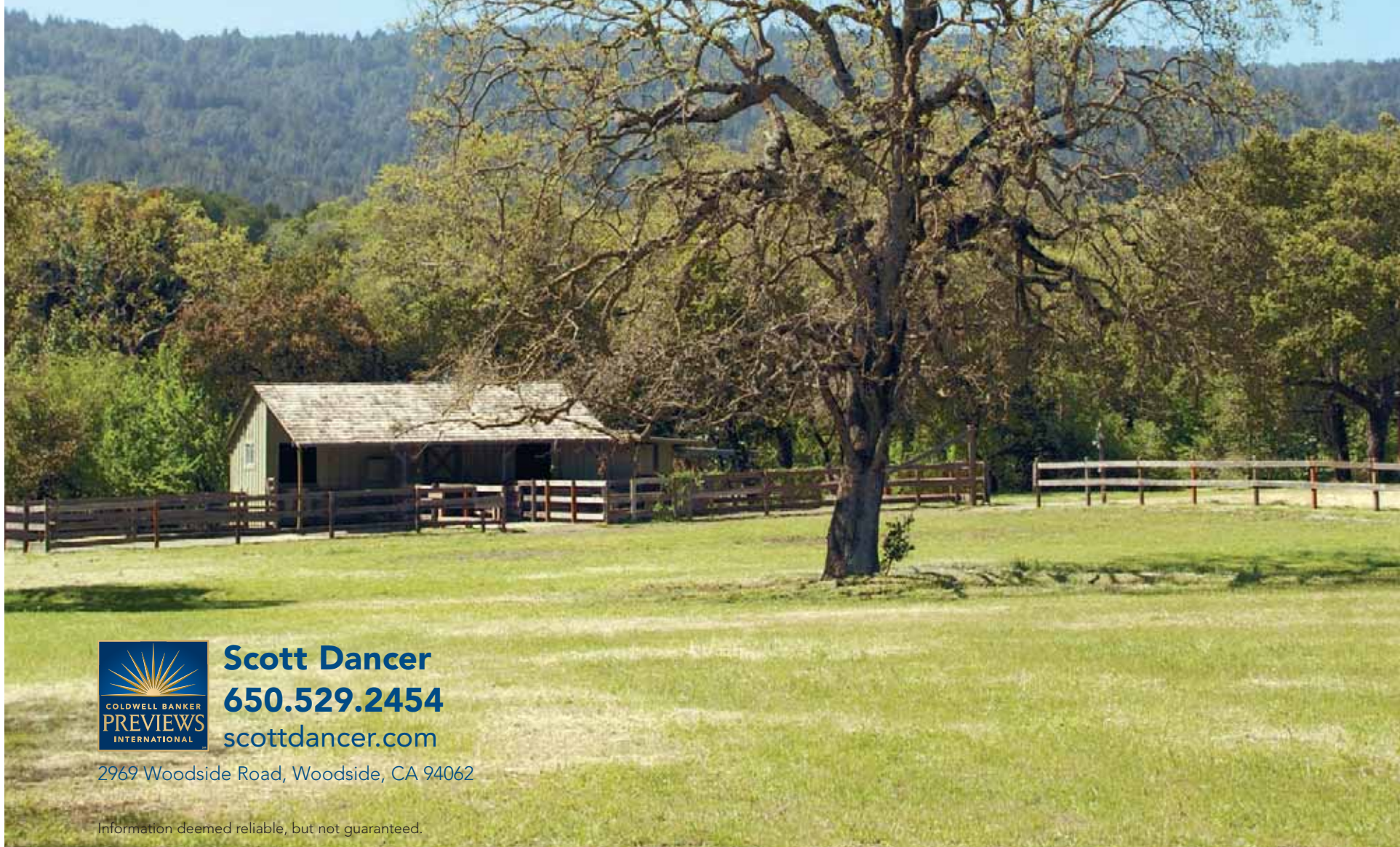


WOODSIDE

**FOR SALE**

*Offered at \$3,500,000*

- Ideal horse property
- Over 3 acres of level land
- Western hill views
- Woodside schools



**Scott Dancer**  
**650.529.2454**  
scottdancer.com

2969 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062

Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

**Premier Properties** represented by **Scott Dancer**

