



MENLO PARK celebrates 23rd annual Connoisseurs' Marketplace festival of the arts. See special publication in this issue.

The Almanac

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

JULY 15, 2009 | VOL. 44 NO. 46



www.TheAlmanacOnline.com



YOU MADE THIS
DECISION HOW?



NORTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION

WITH THE PROMISE OF AN \$8 MILLION DONATION FOR A NEW GYMNASIUM, MENLO PARK RACED AHEAD WITH ITS PLANS. BUT IN THE CITY'S RUSH TO SECURE THE FUNDING, DID IT OVERLOOK IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS?

SEE PAGE

14

REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990

Reading between the emotional line makes the difference between finding a house and a home.



WOODSIDE

Set on 10+/- rolling, pastoral acres, this 3bd/3ba home evokes feelings of a prairie lodge. Massive beams, soaring ceilings, and a wide open floor plan great for entertaining. Beautiful views of surrounding pristine hills and spring fed pond. Great trail access, round pen, 5 stall barn, and 2 stall pasture shelter. Plenty of room for livestock, vineyard uses, or other farming. Portola Valley/Woodside Schools.

\$2,150,000



MENLO PARK

Exceptional West Menlo ranch elegantly remodeled with easy expansion potential on gorgeous 1/3+/- acre with huge backyard. Light-filled home is privately situated and sits over 35+/- feet from Middle Avenue. Enjoy the beauty and quality of living with 3 en suite bedrooms with marble and tile bathrooms.

\$1,895,000



EMERALD HILLS

True modern architecture, combining beauty and functionality. Inspired by its natural surroundings, this 3bd/2.5ba home offers flexible living spaces both indoors and out. Spacious master retreat offers a spa inspired bathroom and 2 walk-in closets. Beautiful kitchen with quality appliances. Also features a private artist studio/bonus room, elevator service, bamboo floors and multi-zoned radiant heating.

\$1,525,000

apr.com | **MENLO PARK OFFICE** 1550 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 100 650.462.1111

apr.com | **WOODSIDE OFFICE** 2930 WOODSIDE ROAD 650.529.1111

APR COUNTIES | Santa Clara | San Mateo | San Francisco | Alameda | Contra Costa | Monterey | Santa Cruz



Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo by James Tensuan/Special to The Almanac

More madness

During a recent Menlo Madness summer camp at Burgess Park, a kid hides balls underneath a temporarily inflated parachute as part of an obstacle course. That's what they told us.

Atherton

- Town's "best friend," a 15-year-old Labrador retriever, touched many hearts. **Page 11**

Menlo Park

- Bohannon office/hotel project: Outreach meetings set for July 23 and July 29. **Page 7**

Woodside

- Judge asks opponents to explain why Steve Jobs can't tear down mansion. **Page 7**

Schools

- Menlo Park parent aims to make new Hillview campus carbon-neutral. **Page 5**

Regional

- Big divide over pay and benefits for firefighters. **Page 5**
- Grand jury trashes waste-contract process. **Page 6**

Sports

- Menlo Park Legends: Big dreams for summer baseball. **Page 9**
- Alpine Little League takes all-star 10-11 championship. **Page 17**

Artscene

- TheatreWorks marks 40 years with a New Works Festival. **Page 27**

Also Inside

- Calendar 28
- Guest opinion 23
- Obituaries 20
- Police Calls 20
- Viewpoint 22

On the cover

Few complaints were voiced when developer John Arrillaga offered \$8 million or more to help Menlo Park build a new gym. But as the project nears approval by the City Council, residents and city officials are asking whether the city has thought the plan through. Renderings courtesy of the city of Menlo Park. **See Page 14.**

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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

For Classified ads, call **854-0858**
To reach the newsroom, call **854-2690**
Newsroom fax: **854-0677**
Advertising: **854-2626**
Advertising fax: **854-3650**

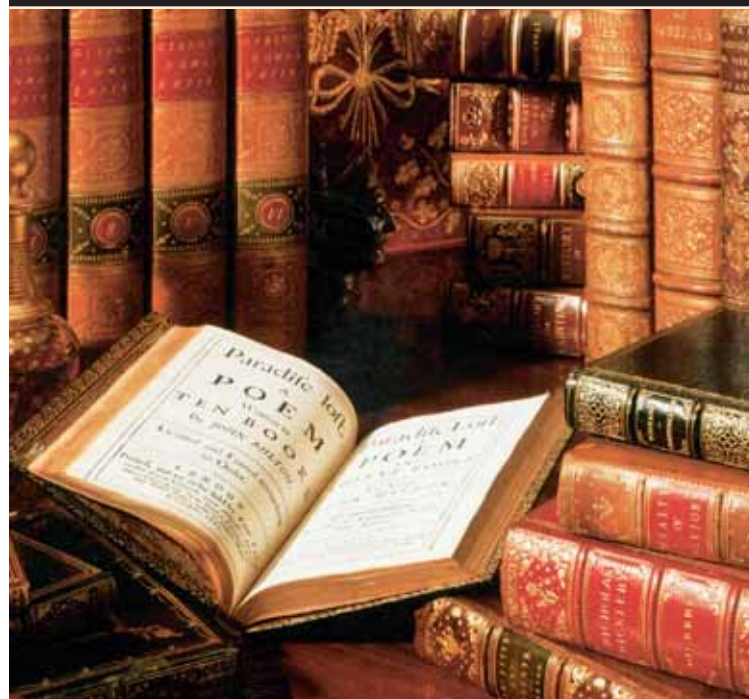
- E-mail news, information, obituaries and photos (with captions) to: **AlmanacNews@gmail.com**
- E-mail letters to the editor to: **letters@AlmanacNews.com**

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 in, or 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.

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**.

BRB BAUMAN RARE BOOKS

Be inspired. Build a great library.



535 Madison Avenue, New York
and at The Palazzo in Las Vegas
For a complimentary catalogue,
call us at 1-800-972-2862
or email us at brb@baumanrarebooks.com

WWW.BAUMANRAREBOOKS.COM

A Beautiful Smile for the entire Family!



Dr. Richard S. Durando, DDS is known for his personal touch that leads our patients to refer their friends and families. Many of our new patients come to us from personal patient referrals. We are proud of our work and our attempts to bring a unique service to the complex world of family health care.

Dr. Durando is available for all your family's cosmetic and dental needs.

- Comprehensive Dental Care ■ Restorations ■ TMJ
- Implants ■ Veneers ■ Emergency Services Available

Dr. Richard S. Durando, DDS

625 Menlo Avenue • Menlo Park
www.menloparkdentalcare.com

650.323.8328

Contact us today for a consultation.

A TOWN MARKET PLACE
ROBERTS MARKET
 SINCE 1889

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

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.

Sale Dates: : July 15, 16, 17, 18 www.robertsmarket.com

Fresh
PRODUCE



Whole or Cut
SEEDLESS WATERMELON

39¢ lb

Tasty
ORGANIC DAPPLE DANDY PLUOTS

\$1.29 lb

Local
ORGANIC CAULIFLOWER

\$1.59 ea

Local, Sweet
WHITE CORN

2 for \$1.00

Robert's Weekly Specials

MEAT

ARTICHOKE JALAPEÑO STUFFED BREAST

\$6.98 lb

WILD BAY SHRIMP

\$8.98 lb

CHICKEN DRUMMETTES

\$3.98 lb

MARINATED LAMB TENDERLOIN

\$19.98 lb

On Sale

GROCERY



HÄAGEN-DAZS ICE CREAM
 14oz. — Also Five - Sorbet

\$2.59

BLUE MOON BELGIAN STYLE ALE
 12oz. 6 Pack Bottles — Plus Calif. Redeem Value

\$5.99

STAR KIST ALBACORE WHITE TUNA
 6oz. Pouch

\$2.99

TILLAMOOK SLICED MEDIUM CHEDDAR CHEESE
 12 oz. — Also Sharp - Swiss

\$2.99

NABISCO WHEAT THINS
 10oz. — Also Triscuits

\$2.19

PANTENE PRO-V CLASSIC SHAMPOO
 12oz. — Also Conditioner

\$4.49

Viva La France!

Celebrate Bastille Day with some fresh, delicious French wines, perfect on warm, sunny days. Here are a few fun suggestions to get the party started.

2008 Chide Trinqueddel

Tavel Rosé Reg. \$14.99 SALE **\$12.99**
 A classic from France's only all rosé appellation.

2007 Andre Vatan Sancerre.

Les Charmes Reg. \$20.99 SALE **\$17.99**
 The epitome of dry, crisp Sauvignon Blanc. Delicious!

2007 Paul Pernot Bourgogne

Blanc (Chardonnay) Reg. \$21.99 SALE **\$18.99**
 A crisp, juicy, spicy, mineral white from the best vintage in years.

2007 Les Traverses de Fontanes.

Cabernet Sauvignon Reg. \$11.99 SALE **\$9.99**
 This is pure Cabernet without oak. Goes down easy!

2008 Dom. Dupeuble

Beaujolais Reg. \$12.99 SALE **\$10.99**
 A gorgeous, fresh, juicy, mouthwatering red. Serve it chilled.

2006 La Bastide Blanche

Bandol Rouge Reg. 24.99 SALE **\$21.99**
 A bold, peppery, spicy red. Great with B.B.Q.



DELI

Roberts Market Deli

Spinach Pear Salad

With Pears and Glazed Walnuts in a Lemon Zest

\$7.99 lb



Sorrento Panini

With Mozzarella Ball Tomatoes and Basil Drizzled with Lemon Zest

\$8.00 ea

ROBERTS HARDWARE

3044 Woodside Road • 851-1084
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30-6:00, Sat. 8:00-6:00, Sun. 9:00-5:00

Ivermectin

Paste 1.87% Anthelmintic & Boticide Net Wt. 0.21 oz.

\$3.99

Reg. 6.99

Same ingredients as Ivercare @ \$9.99



Pyrantel Paste

Equine Anthelmintic Net Contents 23.6 g

\$4.99

Reg. 7.99

Same ingredients as Strongid Paste @ \$12.99





Gets along well with children

Nancy Hendry, the principal of Laurel School in Atherton for 19 years, is presumably busy enjoying her retirement this summer. In paying tribute to the primary school's longtime leader, board member Laura Rich of the Menlo Park City School District reminisced about the interview committee's description of Ms. Hendry when she applied for the principal job: "The one who looks like she's 12 years old."

"And she hasn't aged a bit since," added Ms. Rich, who made her comments at the board's June 9 meeting.

Is it possible that during all Ms. Hendry's years on the grades K-2 campus, Laurel students looked up to their principal for being a child prodigy?

A penny for your lizard

In digging through files from Menlo Park's "Smart Growth" planning process in 1999, we came across the following answer, in response to a question about quality of life in the city:

"I miss the bank I could walk to with my children to deposit their pennies (1600 El Camino), looking for lizards in the open area that used to be there."

The consultant must still be trying to figure out how to incorporate that comment into her metrics.

More donors give to Menlo Park schools

Despite the bleak economy, a record number of people donated to the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation this year. While the foundation's \$1.8 million donation to the Menlo Park City School District is down from last year's \$2.2 million grant, more than 1,000 families contributed to fundraising campaign, said foundation co-president Shari Conrad, who gave them credit for "stepping up during a very tough economic environment."

The nonprofit education foundation's annual grant to the district helps pay for science, library, technology, music and professional development programs.

Eshoo calls for probe of covert CIA program

■ Local congressional representative says eight-year-old program was never disclosed to Congress.

By Chris Kenrick

Palo Alto Weekly

U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, is calling for an investigation of a covert CIA program that she said ran from 2001 to June 2009 without congressional knowledge.

CIA Director Leon Panetta informed the House Intelligence Committee June 24 that he had just learned of the eight-year-old secret program, which had never been disclosed to Congress, Rep. Eshoo said. Mr. Panetta told the committee that he ordered an end to the program as soon as he heard about it, she said.

The New York Times reported Saturday that Mr. Panetta told the Senate and House intelligence committees that the CIA withheld the information from Congress on direct orders from then-Vice President Dick Cheney, according to two people with direct knowledge of the matter.

Rep. Eshoo, who sits on the Intelligence

Committee, said the program is "highly classified" and declined to disclose any details about it.

"The committee was actually stunned," she told Joe Scarborough, host of the "Morning Joe" program on MSNBC.

Her remarks followed her release on July 8 of a June 26 letter she wrote Mr. Panetta asking him to "publicly correct" his May 15 statement that "it is not our policy or practice to mislead Congress. That is against our laws and values." The letter was co-signed by six of Rep. Eshoo's 12 Democratic colleagues on the Intelligence Committee.

Failure to disclose the secret program, she said, "flies in the face of that in a very, very serious way. They simply do not want to acknowledge that the Congress was not fully informed. And they have an obligation under the National Security Act of 1947 in a timely way to inform Congress. So this is as serious as it gets.

"I give Leon (Panetta) credit for coming



Anna Eshoo

up to the Hill and informing us. He had just been informed himself."

However, she later told the Palo Alto Weekly, Mr. Panetta's general statement that misleading Congress is "against our laws and values" does not excuse the inconsistency that actually took place.

"It's wonderful to have a mission statement, but you need to have the actions to back them up. Otherwise,

what's on the piece of paper is meaningless. When you come in and tell us about the (secret) program, those words cannot stand. They did not stand when he uttered them because there were people there that knew (about the covert program)."

Rep. Eshoo said Mr. Panetta should "retract those words or restate something."

Asked whether her disclosure was an effort to vindicate her close friend, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-San Francisco, Rep. Eshoo told MSNBC: "I don't think this is about Nancy Pelosi at all."

Rep. Pelosi's statements in May that CIA

See **ESHOO**, page 6

Big divide over pay, benefits for firefighters

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

A year after the expiration of their contract, the Menlo Park Fire Protection District has reached an impasse in negotiations with the union representing 93 firefighters.

There is a wide divide on pay and benefit issues, but details of the negotiations are not public so it is not clear exactly what each side is asking for. A June 2 memo to the union from district negotiator Richard Bolanos said the union is insisting on "substantial" raises in each of the next four years, including an 11 percent raise in the first year, while the fire board is pressing to postpone pay raises until the end of this year.

The 17 employees not represented by a union have reached agreements that include deferred raises, Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman said.

Capt. John Wurdinger, who represents the firefighters, provided The Almanac with a copy of the union's grievance, but did not

See **CONTRACT**, page 8



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Ted Schlein (shown at Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park) is no stranger to fundraising. He's past president of the education foundation, and a managing partner at venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers.

How green is my middle school?

Parent aims to make Hillview Middle School carbon-neutral

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

When construction at Hillview Middle School finishes in 2012, students could have more than just extra elbow-room at the reconfigured campus. They could be spending their days at one of the first

carbon-neutral public schools in America

Ted Schlein, a Menlo Park parent of two middle-school students, has volunteered to raise more than half a million dollars in order to bring Hillview up to a higher standard of energy efficiency and solar power capacity than

See **SCHLEIN**, page 8

Grand jury trashes waste-contract process

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

The four-year-long search for new garbage contractors got a vote of no-confidence from a San Mateo County civil grand jury in a report issued July 10.

The South Bayside Waste Management Authority failed to conduct its search for contractors for garbage collection and facility operation with "integrity and transparency" as promised, and the results should be reconsidered, according to the report.

The 10-year garbage contracts affect Atherton, Menlo Park, the West Bay Sanitary District and some unincorporated portions of San Mateo County, as well as eight other Peninsula cities.

The waste management authority spent four years planning, soliciting and evaluating proposals in anticipation of the end of the current garbage contract in 2011. The two-pronged process looked at separate proposals for trash collection service and for running the Shoreway transfer station and recycling facility.

Officials from the South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA) are working on an official response to the grand jury report, said Monica Devincenzi, the authority's recycling outreach and sustainability manager. "We think we will address it in a manner that shows that the process was fair and transparent," she told *The Almanac*.

The grand jury report criticizes the waste management authority for lack of due diligence. In selecting San Francisco-based Norcal Waste Systems over current provider Allied Waste for the garbage collection contract, the report says grand

jury members could not confirm whether the selection committee was aware of past legal and other problems that the city of San Jose and San Bernardino County had with Norcal.

The waste collection services contract will be one of the largest in the country, according to the SBWMA.

Lack of due diligence is also cited as a problem in the selection of South Bay Recycling to run the Shoreway facility, as the report refers to numerous problems with South Bay Recycling operations in Southern California.

The grand jury's report also dings the waste management authority's executive director, Kevin McCarthy, for requesting letters of support from bidding agencies. In an e-mail dated Aug. 23, 2008, Mr. McCarthy sought to rebut criticism from Allied Waste by making "a special and awkward request" for letters stating that, "while you are certainly disappointed with the results and you not being selected, you feel the (request for proposals) processes were conducted professionally, thoroughly and with the highest level of transparency and integrity."

The South Bayside Waste Management Authority, its board, and elected officials from its 12 member agencies should meet and reconsider the pending contracts with Norcal and South Bay Recycling, the grand jury report says.

"The grand jury has no opinion as to which contractors should have been selected. However, the grand jury has no confidence in the RFP (request for proposals) processes by which the collection services contractor and the Shoreway Master Plan Facility contractor were selected," the report says. ■

Eshoo calls for probe of CIA program

ESHOO

continued from page 5

briefers had lied to her about waterboarding and other interrogation techniques was undercut by Mr. Panetta's May 15 statement that the CIA does not mislead Congress.

Rep. Eshoo said the secret CIA program now warrants a full investigation.

"Who set up the program? How can it be that one CIA director after another, that are now retired, and others, never informed the Congress? The full committee was absolutely stunned when we were informed a program was in place from 2001 to 2009," she said, adding the Republican committee members expressed similar concerns.

Michigan Republican Mike Rogers, also a committee member, told MSNBC he did not share Rep. Eshoo's impression

of the Panetta briefing.

"I don't know we can come to the conclusion that (we) were lied to and misled," Rep. Rogers said. "These are very serious allegations. I didn't walk away and thought that had happened."

The covert program "was not a program that was continuously operated. It was 'off again, on again.'"

"I think this is a little bit of political theater," Rep. Rogers said. "Attacking the CIA to make sure the Speaker (Pelosi) looks OK at the end of the day is not the best use of our time."

Rep. Eshoo said she waited two weeks before publicly releasing her letter to Mr. Panetta because it originally had been classified on the advice of the committee's legal counsel. When another committee member wrote a similar letter that was not classified, she successfully argued to declassify her own. ■

Woodside reining event showcases equestrian skills

This story was submitted by Scott Delucchi, senior vice president, community relations, Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA.

The 10th annual Reining By The Bay, a venue for riders and their mounts to showcase their skills and compete for \$100,000 in cash and prizes, will be held July 21-26 at the Horse Park at Woodside, 3674 Sand Hill Road.

The event, sanctioned by the National Reining Horse Association, is a judged competition that shows the athletic ability of horses as their riders put them through a program of circles, spins and stops. Think pairs ice skating, but with a horse and rider.

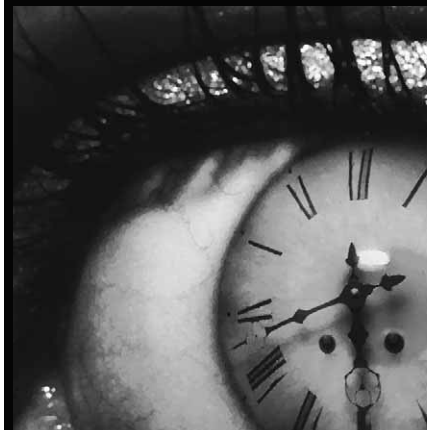
Admission and parking are free. Competition starts at 8 a.m. daily and runs to about 6 p.m.

The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA (PHS/SPCA), located in San Mateo, has been selected as the benefit charity. Shelter pets will be on hand for adoption, and shelter logo merchandise will be for sale. Western vendors will showcase their wares.

For more information, visit www.reiningbythebay.com and www.PHS-SPCA.org.

In addition to shelter and adoption work, the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA provides wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, cruelty investigation, animal behavior program including public obedience classes, free sheltering for pets belonging to domestic abuse victims, animal-assisted therapy, a pet loss grief support group, low-cost spay/neuter, and community education and outreach.

STANFORD SUMMER THEATER



FREE FILM SERIES BEGINS JULY 13

All film screenings on Monday evenings at 7pm Annenberg Auditorium, Stanford University
FREE ADMISSION

TO VIEW ALL electra festival EVENTS PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://SUMMERTHEATER.STANFORD.EDU](http://SUMMERTHEATER.STANFORD.EDU)

JULY 13
Iphigenia
Cacoyannis, 1979
Discussant, Ciara Murphy,
Stanford Ph.D. Candidate in Drama

JULY 20
Electra
Cacoyannis, 1962
Discussant, Al Duncan,
Stanford Ph.D. Candidate in Classics

JULY 27
Elektra
Friedrich, 1982
Discussant, Paul Robinson,
Richard Lyman Professor of the Humanities, Emeritus;
author of *Opera and Ideas: from Mozart to Strauss*

AUGUST 3
Vaghe Stelle dell'Orsa
Visconti, 1965
Discussant, Kristine Samuelson,
Director of Film and Media Studies;
Chair, Stanford Department of Art and Art History

AUGUST 10
Die kleine Zeit
von Trotha, 1983
Discussant, Adrian Daub,
Assistant Professor of German Studies

express

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

Sign up today at —

TheAlmanacOnline.com

Judge asks opponents to explain why Jobs can't tear down mansion

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

A judge has ordered the preservationist group Uphold Our Heritage to explain by Aug. 3 why Apple co-founder Steve Jobs should not be allowed to demolish an 85-year-old Woodside mansion known as the Jackling house.

Mr. Jobs and the town of Woodside will have until Aug. 19 to respond to any objections by Uphold, then Uphold must prepare a brief by Aug. 30, with a hearing set for Sept. 10, Woodside Town Attorney Jean Savaree said in an interview.

The ruling was by San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Marie S. Weiner, the same judge who, in 2006, ruled for Uphold in a lawsuit that invalidated Mr. Jobs' first demolition permit.

In that case, the judge found that Mr. Jobs had not proven the economic hardship of the various alternatives to demolishing the house, including the cost of restoring it and either living in it or moving it to another site. His new plans include such a study.

This new schedule takes into account the illness of Uphold's principal attorney, Douglas Carstens, and the inability of his stand-in to articulate objections to Mr. Jobs' plans at the July 10 conference, Ms. Savaree said.

A spokeswoman for Santa Monica-based Chatten-Brown & Carstens said the firm had no comment on behalf of Uphold Our Heritage.

Asked about the outcome if Uphold did not raise substantial objections, Mr. Savaree replied: "If they can't articulate one, my guess is that (the judge) would say, 'We're done.'"

Mr. Jobs' plans center around a tentative proposal by Palo Alto venture capitalist Gordon Smythe, a longtime fan of Jackling house architect George Washington Smith. Mr. Smythe said he is assembling a team to carefully remove historically significant parts of the house and use them in a new home at a cost of \$4 million to \$6 million at a site yet to be determined. Mr. Jobs would pay the estimated \$605,000 to deconstruct the house.

Mr. Smythe would have five years to find a site, after which the parts of the house could be offered to interested parties, including the town of Woodside and the county historical museum.

Uphold spokeswoman Clotilde Luce sent The Almanac a statement that said the Smythe proposal was chosen "because it asks nothing" of Mr. Jobs.

"UOH has not been shown Mr. Smythe's plans, but from what we know, they do not even meet (Mr. Jobs' attorney Howard) Ellman's previously stated criteria that there be 'a definitive commitment suitably backed with financial ability to perform on a site acceptable to your principles,'" the statement said.

The Woodside Town Council conditioned its new demolition permit on Mr. Jobs and Mr. Smythe going forward with this plan. A new lawsuit by Uphold Our Heritage could put it on indefinite hold.

The council meets Tuesday, July 14, at 7:30 p.m. to consider a resolution to approve the contract with Mr. Jobs and Mr. Smythe. ■

Bohannon project: Outreach meetings July 23, July 29

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park is planning to hold several outreach meetings in the coming weeks on the massive "Menlo Gateway" office/hotel project proposed by developer David Bohannon.

Two community meetings at the Onetta Harris Community Center July 23 will kick off a series of meetings and public hearings on the project, which could reach eight stories and 933,000 square feet. The project would rest on land in the city's "light industrial" area, near the Belle Haven neighborhood. It would include a 230-room Marriott Hotel with a health club, three office buildings, a restaurant or cafe, and 10,420 square feet of retail.

The project would require a general plan amendment, and the creation of a new zoning district. Under the new zoning requirements, the maximum allowable building height in designated areas would increase from 35 feet to 140 feet.

The maximum ratio of floor area in the buildings to the area of the parcel would increase from 55 percent to 137.5 percent.

The city plans to negotiate with Mr. Bohannon's development company for additional public benefits for the city, in exchange for modifying the zoning ordinance.

A list of the upcoming outreach meetings follows.

■ Thursday, July 23, 4-6 p.m.: Meeting for business community (particularly in Belle Haven and

"M2" zone), Onetta Harris Community Center.

■ Thursday, July 23, 7-9 p.m.: Meeting for Belle Haven neighborhood, Onetta Harris Community Center.

■ Thursday, July 29, 7 p.m.: Citywide meeting, fireside room in the recreation center, Civic Center complex, 7 p.m.

The city plans to hold three public meetings with city commissions in August. Several meetings of the Planning Commission and City Council will follow, culminating in a vote in March.

For more information on the project, visit the project's Web site at menlogateway.com. A city Web page is also devoted to the project, available at tinyurl.com/menlogateway. ■

Middlefield and Linfield: Traffic signal, or lighted crosswalk?

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

At its meeting on Tuesday, July 14, Menlo Park's City Council could decide whether to install a traffic signal or a lighted crosswalk on Middlefield Road at Linfield Drive.

The city has determined that it needs to improve the intersection's existing crosswalk, after the recent construction of several housing developments in the area. City staff is recommending that the city install a lighted crosswalk system,

powered by solar technology, at the intersection.

But the city's Transportation Commission disagreed with that recommendation at its June 10 meeting, voting 5-1 in favor of installing a traffic signal. Commission members said a lighted crosswalk would help pedestrians, but not bikers.

The city's Bicycle Commission, however, voted to install the lighted crosswalk, rather than a signal.

In recommending the lighted crosswalk, city staff cited con-

cerns that the traffic signal could increase cut-through traffic on Linfield Drive, and clog Middlefield Road.

The traffic signal would cost about \$225,000, the lighted crosswalk about \$30,000, according to city staff. The city expects to collect \$186,000 from developers in traffic-mitigation fees that could be applied at the intersection.

The council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the council chambers, located in the Civic Center complex between Laurel and Alma streets. ■



FREE DELIVERY
(with min. order)

"THE BEST PIZZA WEST OF NEW YORK"

—Ralph Barbieri
KNBR 680

**880 Santa Cruz Ave
Menlo Park**
(at University Drive)
(650) 329-8888

**226 Redwood Shores Pkwy
Redwood Shores**
(Next to Pacific Athletic Club)
(650) 654-3333

GREAT PASTAS • FRESH SALADS

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Determining the real value

Q: We are thinking about selling and wondering how to determine a reasonable value for our home in the current market. Can you offer any suggestions?

A: There are many factors involved in determining the relative value of a property in any market. Some of these include location, condition, size and market conditions. Especially in this area, location has a major impact on property values driving up the perception that this is a good place to live. So, knowing the values typical to your specific location is essential when assessing your homes value. When doing a market analysis in your neighborhood, it is also important to take into consideration the condition and size of yours relative to those around it. Obviously, a home that has

a new roof, fresh interior paint, new appliances, and more livable square footage will be worth more than a smaller home that is in need of some repairs or upgrades. Finally, and most importantly, the value of a property is directly related to market conditions since the selling price will ultimately be determined by what a buyer is willing to pay when comparing your house to others on the market.

In order to correctly assess a reasonable value for your home in the current market, you must be up to date on the housing market and selling trends in your area. Some of this information on local market conditions can be found in our online newsletter at www.gloriadarke.com or you can contact us for more specific answers at 650 543-1177

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



NOTICE OF PERMANENT CHANGE TO THE NEW 7:30 PM START TIME OF REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

At its June 10, 2009 meeting, the Town Council considered and voted to adopt an Ordinance to permanently change the start time of its regular Town Council meetings from 8:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The adopted ordinance, #2009-378, reflects this decision, which takes effect July 10, 2009.

The July 22, 2009 Council meeting will be the first regular meeting to reflect this new start time.

Fire district declares impasse in contract negotiations

CONTRACT

continued from page 5

consent to an interview by press time.

The five-member district board has unanimously approved a resolution that declares the negotiations to be at an "impasse," according to the June 2 memo. The district covers Atherton, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and unincorporated areas.

The latest contract expired in July 2008, and firefighters have been working under the old contract.

With an impasse declared, Chief Schapelhouman told *The Almanac* that he has requested a public hearing in July when the board could end negotiations and impose a salary structure. The union could then file a request for an injunction to delay the board's action.

The district twice offered to enter mediation, but the union did not respond, board member Peter Carpenter said in an interview.

The union, San Mateo County local 2400 of the International Association of Fire Fighters, answered the impasse declaration on June 15 with an "unfair practices" filing with the state's public-employee labor relations board.

Firefighters cannot strike, nor can the parties be subject to binding arbitration, Chief Schapelhouman said. Firefighters can make life difficult for district management. "I think they've done that exceedingly well," Mr. Carpenter said.

The board wants to avoid long-term commitments on wages, given the prospect of the economy's troubles extending into 2011, he said.

The union's "unfair practices"

grievance, a chronology of negotiations dating from April 2008, claims the district engaged in bad-faith bargaining. Central to the union's complaint is the board's refusal to raise salaries high enough to compete favorably in a wage comparison survey of 12 firefighting agencies that include Palo Alto, Redwood City and Woodside.

A page in the grievance attributed to Capt. Wurdinger says the firefighters would like wages that are 5 percent above the average of the 12 agencies, but that total compensation would be less than 5 percent above average.

Bargaining over many issues had not been contentious, Chief Schapelhouman said. The district agreed, for example, to assign a minimum of three firefighters to an engine company and four to a ladder truck, he said, adding that firefighters accepted that economic hardship might force temporary closure of a fire station.

The real difficulties lie in what is still unresolved, he said. "We have had 106 different examples of having success. We have two areas where we haven't been successful: wages and benefits."

"Unfortunately," added Deputy Chief Tim Campbell, "we're just miles apart in the economics and welfare sections."

Mr. Carpenter, speaking for himself, noted that firefighters elsewhere have agreed to concessions. The Menlo Park district, he told *The Almanac*, "is blessed by having some of the best firefighters in the country. (But) as an association, I consider them to be irresponsible and arrogant."

Firefighters in the Contra Costa

Fire Protection District and Santa Rosa agreed to postpone raises for two years, according to news accounts at the Web site of the Berkeley Fire Fighters Association. In San Bernardino, they agreed to an 8.7 percent wage cut.

Morale low

A copy of a June 25 e-mail from veteran firefighter George Miller, provided to *The Almanac* by Mr. Carpenter, claims the district's tactics have damaged firefighter morale.

Chief Schapelhouman said he did not disagree with the claim, but disputed the cause. Morale is not well served by two and a half years of contract negotiations, with just one three-month break last summer, he said.

"I'm very concerned about the morale of the organization," he said. But, he added, "morale isn't just the fire chief's problem. It is everybody's problem. A lot of times,

when people talk about morale, they talk about what everybody else needs to do and not what they need to do."

Firefighters should be cognizant of the recession and the situation of taxpayers, he said. "People are losing their jobs and don't have jobs. We all need to be sensitive in government to that (and) show some level of leadership."

Asked to comment, Mr. Carpenter attributed low morale to "horrible (union) leadership." "How can a really talented, capable, bright group of people possibly condone this behavior by their union leadership," he asked.

Capt. Wurdinger, the union representative, was not available for comment.

Tight budget

The fire district's \$32 million budget for the next 12 months, including the district's contract offer, anticipates income of \$25,000

over expenses, finance manager Michele Braucht told *The Almanac*.

County Assessor Warren Slocum is predicting property tax revenue growth in San Mateo County of less than 1 percent for the fiscal year that began July 1, but Ms. Braucht is projecting between 2.5 percent and 3 percent growth within the fire district.

Mr. Slocum's office, she noted, shows assessed values in East Palo Alto dropping 10 percent for 2009-10, but Atherton's and Menlo Park's increasing by 6.5 percent and 3.5 percent, respectively.

The district's \$2.5 million reserve will not be tapped, Chief Schapelhouman said. The directors consider it a "fund of last resort," he said, and are not touching it in anticipation of tougher years ahead.

Ms. Braucht said she has planned for cuts of up to \$2.5 million if Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger follows through on a proposal to borrow up to 8 percent of property tax revenues from local agencies. ■

Parent aims to make campus carbon-neutral

SCHLEIN

continued from page 5

even the Menlo Park City School District had planned.

"We live in Silicon Valley, the heart of innovation. If we don't lead here, in terms of turning communities into innovative and sustainable communities, I don't know where else in the country they'll do it," he told *The Almanac*.

Hillview, the district's only middle school for grades 6-8, is bracing for a big increase in enrollment in

the coming years. The campus, located off Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park, is essentially going to be rebuilt with two-story classroom buildings, a performing arts venue and a new administration building in order to accommodate a swelling student population.

District officials already planned to incorporate a number of "green" measures to make Hillview "grid neutral," a term that means the campus will generate enough solar power to offset its use of electricity from the power grid.

Mr. Schlein wants to help the district go even further, by offsetting the school's entire carbon footprint. He aims to do this by funding additional solar energy-generating photovoltaic panels, enough to offset Hillview's use of natural gas, as well as electricity.

The cost difference between the district's grid-neutral project and achieving the higher standard of carbon neutral is about \$500,000 to \$600,000, said Mr. Schlein.

"I will work tirelessly on raising the money to fill that gap," Mr. Schlein told the school board in June. "I think this is something we'll look back on and feel proud that we did it."

At that meeting, the board voted unanimously to allow Mr. Schlein to go ahead with his efforts.

"Thank you for looking over the fence and throwing down the gauntlet," said Deborah Fitz, the board president.

While being able to zero-out the monthly electricity bill through solar power has a cost benefit, current regulations don't allow for PG&E customers to make money by selling back to the utility company any electricity in excess of

what they use. In other countries, such as Germany, a feed-and-tariff system allows individuals to sell back solar electricity, said Mr. Schlein. He hopes the U.S. will one day adopt such a policy, he said.

"There's not an economic benefit for the district to get to carbon neutrality, but there's a community benefit, a it's-the-right-thing-to-do benefit, an educational benefit, a societal benefit," he said.

It's safe to say that Mr. Schlein is no stranger to fundraising. He's a past co-president of the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation, and a managing partner at venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers.

His fundraising efforts will begin in earnest in August, Mr. Schlein said. He plans to work up a PowerPoint presentation and hold several small gatherings with potential donors. There's a high degree of interest in the community about getting Hillview to carbon-neutral, he said.

"I think these are exciting times for all of us. I certainly don't go to any parties where the topic of green and sustainability doesn't come up," he said.

His one concern is to avoid tapping into donations that would otherwise fund school programs.

"I don't want people to think that if they contribute to this, they don't have to contribute to the foundation or the PTO," he said. ■

Anyone wishing to contact Mr. Schlein directly about the project can send an e-mail to him at tschlein@kpcb.com.

SENSE
A ROSEWOOD SPA™

NATURALLY EXTRAORDINARY

A sensual sanctuary. A rejuvenating retreat.
Introducing Sense, A Rosewood Spa™, the signature
spa at Menlo Park's newest hotel, Rosewood Sand Hill.

Reservations, please call 650.561.1580
sensespa.com
2895 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025



Photo by James Tensuan/Special to The Almanac

David Klein, founder of the Menlo Park Legends, coaches the team from beside the dugout, stopwatch and clipboard in hand. He says he uses the stopwatch to time opposing players and gain a competitive advantage.

Big dreams for summer baseball

By **Sean Howell**
Almanac Staff Writer

David Klein was standing around at Menlo-Atherton High School's Bettencourt Field after a baseball scrimmage with some friends one day last summer, when the question came up: Why don't we get a team together?

Klein, who graduated from Menlo-Atherton in 2005, had just finished his third year at UC-Santa Barbara, where he served as a backup catcher on the baseball team. That summer, he had been playing every Wednesday with some high school teammates and other local ballplayers. They saw it as a good chance to stay sharp, and to keep in touch with old friends.

Now, they were talking about getting organized: joining a league, and competing against other Bay Area teams.

"We were talking about how great it would be to keep playing together," Klein said. "I realized we could take it to the next level."

Conversations like that one tend to end in the same place where they begin: as a wistful idea, a wouldn't-it-be-nice vision of recaptured youth.

But Klein takes recreational baseball more seriously than most. He also saw an opportunity to use some of the entrepreneurial and business skills he'd been learning in his classes at Santa Barbara, where he is finishing up a degree in communication and a technical management program, with

minors in sports management and technology management.

Over the school year, he spent "a few hours a day" not only assembling a team, but crafting a "brand" — setting up a Web site, calling local businesses to sell them on the idea of sponsoring the team, and setting up several weeklong baseball camps.

The team Klein formed, the Menlo Park Legends, is now at the tail end of a six-week season in the summer league Stan Musial Division of the Western Baseball Association, with several games scheduled at Bettencourt Field.

Community support

The season's first few weeks were admittedly a little rocky. The team had to play its first doubleheader in shirts with logos and numbers ironed on by Klein and his parents, when the uniforms failed to arrive as scheduled. It lost its first five games, before breaking through with its first win. The Legends are now 5-9 (5-5 in league play), following wins in both ends of a doubleheader Sunday, July 12, against the El Cerrito A's.

In the early going, the team had some "issues with the infield" that Klein says have since been resolved. And local businesses haven't been as enthusiastic as he had hoped they would be about the prospect of sponsoring the team.

But to Klein — who serves as the team's general manager and on-the-field coach, in addition to its starting catcher — the ven-

ture has been a success so far.

"We've gotten a lot of support from the community," he says. "Everybody wants to be able to come out and watch the local talent play."

And he has big plans for the team's future.

"My goal is to build a team that would grow in the years to come," he says. He envisions a second team, for 17-to-19-year-olds, that would serve as a kind of "farm team" for the Legends. Over time, he says, he would like to expand the Legends brand into other sports and age groups, molding it into an all-purpose sports organization.

But for now, "I'm just trying to pay my parents back," he says. They gave him nearly \$8,000 to cover the expenses, because "they know that I understand how to manage a budget."

He used some of the money to hire a Web site manager, and to enlist a graphic designer to create a logo.

The on-the-field costs associated with recreational baseball are greater than you might expect. There are costs associated with jerseys and equipment; fees to use the field and hire umpires, transportation fees, insurance fees. But the fee to join the team — \$200 per player — helps to offset the costs. (The Legends boast a 30-man roster.)

Klein has also enlisted some free help: The Legends have two interns, and he's still looking for a trainer, a marketing director,

See **LEGENDS**, page 10

MENLO PARK CLEANERS

Now Open!



20% OFF

Gift Certificate

Only 1 per household expires July 30, 2009

Operators have happily served community for over 50 years



Environmentally Friendly Cleaning!!!

515 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (650) 321-1500
In Safeway Plaza on El Camino

If I were confident about my retirement savings...

In times like these, you may be concerned about the stability of your retirement savings. Especially if you've left behind a 401(k) with a former employer. Rolling over your 401(k) to an IRA with MetLife may be the appropriate solution.

Give me a call. You'll receive my personal service, guidance on choices specific to your goals and the strength and the stability of a company with over 140 years experience. You can have confidence in MetLife. We've consistently delivered on the guarantees we make to millions of customers as well as 90 of the top one hundred FORTUNE 500® companies.*



Charles E. (Ted) Pollock, CLU, ChFC
Investment Adviser Representative
CA License #0453266
950 Tower Lane, Suite 1000, Foster City, CA
650-286-5800
tpollock@sf.nef.com
www.tedpollock.com

For the if in life.®

New England Financial®
A MetLife Company

*FORTUNE 500®, April 2008. FORTUNE 500® is a registered trademark of FORTUNE® magazine, a division of Time, Inc. Neither New England Financial nor its representatives are permitted to give legal or tax advice. You should consult with and rely on your own independent legal and tax advisors. Guarantees apply to certain insurance and annuity products (not securities, variable or investment advisory products) and are subject to product terms, exclusions and limitations and the insurer's claims-paying ability and financial strength. New England Financial is the service mark for New England Life Insurance Company (NELICO), 501 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116. Securities products offered by New England Securities Corp. (NES) (member FINRA/SIPC) NELICO and NES are MetLife companies. ©2009 MetLife L0209019531[exp0210][All States][DC] 0902-0541



So Close, Yet So Far Away...

Enjoy Lunch and Dinner

Among 600 Years Old Redwoods
Just 5 Minutes West of 280.

We Offer Eclectic Californian Cuisine
in a Very Relaxed Natural Setting.

Take Advantage of Our No Corkage Fee

On Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays.

DISCOVER THE GEM OF THE BAY AREA

650.529.9007
www.parksidegrille.com

Open 7 Days a Week
884 Portola Road, Portola Valley
(Take Sand Hill Road, West off Hwy 280 - 3.5 miles)



Jensen Hauser

CUSTOM UPHOLSTERING

Swiss Craftsmanship Since 1950
98 5th Ave. • (650) 365-5027 • Redwood City

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

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.

LEGENDS

continued from page 9

and a "director of operations" He convinced a friend to abandon the prospect of a summer internship on the East Coast to work for the Legends.

On the field

He's also thought a lot about the "fan experience," tailoring it to draw families with children who could become future Legends players. Klein paid to fix up the sound system at M-A's Bettencourt Field, where the team plays its games. Early in the season, his father served as the PA announcer while one of his brothers selected music to play over the loudspeakers, before one of Klein's former classmates took over the job. Another brother plays on the team and serves as the first-base coach.

His mother flips burgers during the games, and kids can participate in between-innings entertainment. Some days, they're even allowed to hang out in the dugout.

"We really want to serve as role models for younger kids," Klein says. "When I was a kid, I would have loved to have had a chance to hang out with col-

legiate players, to throw the ball with them before the game."

He estimates that about 25 players come out for each game, and notes that five or 10 of those are essentially "practice players," with little chance of seeing game action.

But he is loathe to turn anyone away.

"We want to get as many people involved as possible," he says. "It's important to give people an opportunity, and it's important that for people to improve their skills, and to have a good time out there." Many of the players currently play for a college team; others haven't played ball since high school.

The various responsibilities that come with serving as a general manager/player/coach can take a toll during games, but Klein says he enjoys the challenge. He has been "very critical" of some of his own coaches in the past, and likes calling the shots. The fact that he's a catcher makes it easier for him to manage the team, he says. He's already in the middle of the action, calling the pitches, barking out orders, with a full view of the field.

And his players like the fact that he's a player-coach: It lends itself to a more informal rela-

tionship than they're used to having with management.

Klein says he plans to spend at least another summer running the Legends, before looking for a full-time job. Asked about his long-term goals, he says he's more interested in the idea of starting a business than in joining a professional sports franchise and trying to work his way up the ladder. He likes that the Legends is a communal organization, rather than a hierarchical one.

"We set up the field together, come to the park early. It's a good ambiance," he says. "There's a good summer atmosphere." ■

■ INFORMATION

■ The Menlo Park Legends, an amateur baseball team, are scheduled to play three games at Menlo-Atherton's Bettencourt Field in the upcoming week: Wednesday, July 15; Friday, July 17; and Wednesday, July 22. All games start at 5 p.m.

■ The team is scheduled to hold three week-long baseball camps, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Red Morton Fields in Redwood City, on the following dates: July 20-24 (ages 6-15), July 27-31 (ages 6-12), and Aug. 3-7 (ages 6-12).

■ For more information on the team, and on the camps, visit menloparklegends.com.



Welcome to Our Safe, State-of-the-Art Office!

Dr. ChauLong Nguyen



Healthy Gums Lead to a Healthy Body!

Continued research has linked gum disease to diabetes, heart disease and low birth weight. Call today for your dental cleaning.

At my practice, I take time to care for each patient with my full attention. I also see only one patient at a time so I can do a thorough and exceptional job. With my frequent continuing education, I provide the best care with the latest advanced technologies of laser, digital x-rays, computerized Comfort Control anesthetic system, CEREC 3D which makes porcelain crowns & fillings in one appointment, no-temporary and no impression is needed. I take care of patients with dental diseases, gum diseases, cosmetic dentistry, veneers, full mouth reconstructions. I enjoy doing dental cleaning, cosmetic work, and placing and restoring implants most.

Don't miss life because of missing teeth, say.....

"YES!"
to dental implants

The many benefits of dental implants

- Help to minimize the bone resorption (deterioration) process
- Look, feel, and function like natural teeth
- Do not compromise adjacent teeth by grinding them down for a bridge or securing a partial denture to them
- Increase stability, making chewing more natural
- Eliminate the pain of ill-fitting dentures and partials
- Improve appearance
- Often easier to clean than traditional tooth replacements



Cleaning & Polishing **\$122** | Dental Exam & 4 X-rays **\$76**

Convenient Appointments Before and After Work or School!

724 Oak Grove Avenue, Suite 120 • Menlo Park
Please visit us on the web: www.MPDentalExcellence.com

We cordially invite you to call
(650) 838-0260

Our office is conveniently located at the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and Crane Street.



Jill, a 15-year-old Lab, became a friend to many in Lloyd Park and Atherton's town center. Here, Jill models sunglasses for the camera.

Atherton's 'best friend' touched many hearts

By **Amanda Young**
Special to The Almanac

While some people consider dogs mere pets, Atherton resident Phoebe Rowles takes to heart the expression "a dog is man's best friend."

"Jill [my dog] always kept her eyes on me," Ms. Rowles said. "She was like a person: such a companion."

And more than a companion to one woman, the 15-year-old yellow Labrador retriever became a friend to Ms. Rowles' neighbors in the Lloyd Park neighborhood and to town staff who work in the nearby administrative offices, and who saw Jill on her daily walks in the area.

"Jill and I walked every day for 15 years, through the park and to the town center," Ms. Rowles said. "Some public works fellows said that if they didn't see us, they knew that they were late to work."

An incident in 2004 especially brought Jill close to Atherton residents. While Ms. Rowles attended to a sick tree in Lloyd Park, Jill managed to escape.

"The whole town searched for Jill," Ms. Rowles said. "Everybody was so concerned about her."



Phoebe Rowles

A woman found Jill walking around El Camino Real, and after four hours, the dog was reunited with Ms. Rowles.

On April 25, when Jill died, many in town were saddened, among them town arborist Kathy Hughes Anderson, who suggested planting a tree in Jill's memory.

"I knew that [Rowles] was having a very difficult time losing her dog," Ms. Anderson said. "Your pets become like your babies."

On June 12, many who knew Jill attended a ceremonial planting of a dogwood tree at the entrance to Lloyd Park.

Steve Tyler, Atherton's public works superintendent, read a poem titled, "The dogs who have shared our lives" by Linda Barnes.

"I still have tears in my eyes when I think about Jill, but when I see the tree, there are no tears," Ms. Rowles said. "I feel so much gratitude for this little slice of heaven where there are so many caring and loving people." ■



"Staying independent is why I joined Avenidas Village."

Get access to all the services and activities you want while remaining in the home that you love. Call to learn more.



(650) 289-5405 | www.avenidasvillage.org

Nominated for Best New Business 2009



Pilates	Acupuncture
Yoga	Massage Therapy
Body Contour	Nutrition Counseling
Class or Private	Physical Therapy

IN WOODSIDE – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
2920 Woodside Rd. Woodside, CA 94062

www.WellnessStudio.com

SINCE 1899

McROSKEY *Mattress Company*

MATTRESS CO

www.McRoskey.com

"We Love Our McRoskey Daybed!"



Mattresses and Box Springs
Lovingly Handcrafted in
San Francisco since 1899.

save
\$500

On our daybed
and trundle
package today!*

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

* Offer good through July 31, 2009.

Stanford Hospital Health Notes

special feature

A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics

Being An Active Senior Beats Slowing Down: Stay Lively to Stay Healthy

Martin Wegenstein grew up in Switzerland and his parents put him on skis long before he attended his first day of school. He didn't think of it as exercise—it was fun. As he grew older, he added other sports. When a friend suggested Wegenstein try out a new jogging track installed at their workplace, he did. He didn't have the right shoes, but he started going every day at lunch. "All of a sudden, I was in it," Wegenstein said. "I started to run 5ks, 10ks, all the way up to marathons."

Stanford Hospital & Clinics is a major sponsor of the Games, which open Aug. 1 in Palo Alto, at venues on the Stanford University campus and elsewhere in the Bay Area.

"I see 80- and 90-year-olds improving. I've seen those who don't exercise and those who do and it's a cautionary tale."

—Larkin Lapides, staff instructor, Stanford Hospital Strong for Life

In 1992, he and his family moved to Menlo Park, Calif., and later bought a house in the Sierras, which made it easy to ski often. Wegenstein, looking for a way to enjoy the mountains in summer, started mountain biking. A couple of years later, he branched out to road biking, quickly working his way up to more than 100 miles weekly. In 2000, he completed his first Tour de California Alps, one of road cycling's most intense one-day challenges: 129 miles, up and down five mountain passes in the Sierras, with combined climbing of over 15,000 feet, in weather that varies from pouring rain to snow to stultifying heat. His first time, he said, he was a bit cautious, so it took him nearly 12 hours to finish.

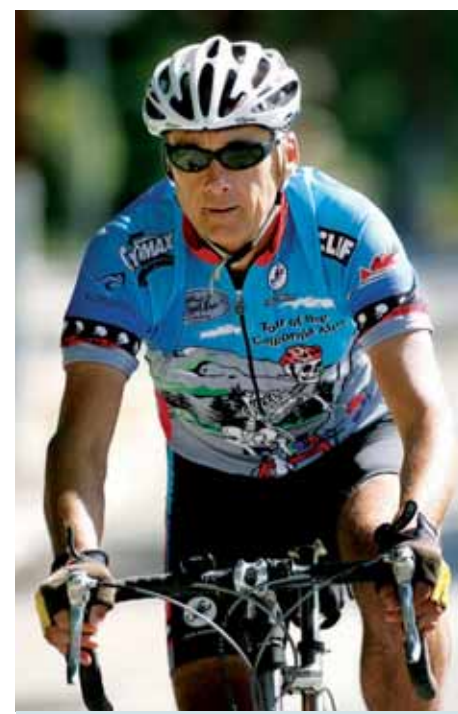
Wegenstein will turn 60 next May. While he still skis over 40 days a year, he doesn't do ski jumps any more and he has stopped jogging—two knee injuries repaired by Stanford Hospital & Clinics doctors prompted them to recommend those changes. But he's on a course to increase the chances that in 20 years or more, he'll still be an inspiring representative of how activity influences aging.

Growth in numbers and knowledge

Every other year, the National Senior Games brings together thousands of other representatives of that influence: older athletes, prepared with purpose and intent like Wegenstein, whose continuing physical accomplishments after age 50 are shining proof that using it keeps you from losing it—a basic principle all doctors believe. This year,

The Games will host 10,000 senior athletes this year, symbolic not only of its own growth since 1989, when 2,500 competed, but also of the increasing proportion of seniors within total population: one in eight Americans are now 65 or older; in 40 years, the ratio will be one in five. Sixty-five percent of the Games' 2009 participants are 61 and older.

Attitudes about life beyond that age are also changing. Nearly 15 years ago, Stanford Hospital physician Walter Bortz wrote a pioneering self-help book, "Dare to Be 100." Now nearing



Every year since 2000, Wegenstein has completed one of the West's toughest cycling challenges, the Tour de California Alps: a 129-mile journey through the Eastern Sierras over five mountain passes, with a combined elevation of 15,000 feet.



Martin Wegenstein has had two knee injuries treated at Stanford Hospital & Clinics and he's nearing 60, but he's made activity a habit and keeps it fun.

80, Bortz ran the New York Marathon in 2008 and many, many other physicians and proponents have joined his advocacy of healthier aging through activity. "When I first started on this stuff 30 years ago, everybody poked fun at me," he said. "It's no longer a bland platitude, it's science."

Age has no firm rules

The plain biological fact is that muscles don't wear out as we age. Even in the body of a 90-year-old, their strength and flexibility improve within days of increased activity. And when people keep moving, many other good things happen.

Keeping active has comprehensive effects. "It's not that you'll get the way you were at 20," said Stanford Hospital orthopaedist Michael Fredericson, MD, "but every part of your body will benefit—your immune system, bone density, cholesterol levels, cardiac parameters."

"Another plus of activity's improvement to bone and cartilage density is that it reduces the likelihood of bone breaks after a minor fall," said Gary Fanton, MD, Chief of the Hospital's Sports Medicine Division. More than 67,000 Californians 65 and older fell and were hospitalized in 2006. In 2007, 27 people in San Mateo County 65 and older died from fall injuries.

Injury doesn't mean stop

Even post-injury treatment philosophy is more driven by the idea of staying active. "On general principle, we do try and get people moving," Fredericson said. "You want to get the body moving as quick



A Strong for Life exercise session at Little House Activity Center in Menlo Park, led by staff instructor Larkin Lapides, far left. To her right: Sylvia Wildmann, Margaret Weissbluth, Margaret Worland and George Weston.

as you can. If you have a fracture, we wouldn't recommend that all of a sudden you start putting weight on it. But there's always something you can do."

Fredericson's fellow Stanford orthopaedist, Tim McAdams, MD, did Wegenstein's most recent knee repair and advised him to lay off weight-bearing activity for several weeks, but to keep moving. McAdams recommended to Wegenstein a machine that moved his knee for him. He grabbed his laptop so he could work, too, and kept his knee from stiffening up. Even though Wegenstein had only three weeks to train for that mountain passes event that year, he still completed the grueling course.

As Wegenstein was forced to recognize, sometimes aging means doing things differently. The key to keeping fit with an aging body, Fredericson said, is changing how you exercise. "You need to get smart, not overdo it and come at your body in different directions," he said. "Running is a great exercise, but it loads your body only in one plane of motion. It's important to cross train."

In addition to cycling and skiing, Wegenstein does weight training and plays tennis.

SEE THE GAMES AND LEARN MORE

Aug. 1-15, Stanford University

As part of the 2009 Senior Games, Stanford Hospital & Clinics will present free talks by some of its

senior health experts in aging and performance enhancement. Except as noted, all lectures are

at Avery Rehearsal Hall, adjacent to the Avery Aquatic Center. At the nearby Athletes Village, the Hospital's booth will be the location for demonstrations and programs highlighting special Hospital services. On the schedule are visits from the therapy animals of

Pet Assisted Wellness at Stanford, performers from the Hospital's music program and organic chef Jesse Cool.

Lecture schedules may change. Please check for updates and more information on the Games, including maps and directions, at stanfordhospital.org/seniorgames/.

Date and Time	Speaker	Lecture Topic
Monday, Aug. 3, 1 pm	Michael Fredericson, MD (SHC)	Core Strengthening for Swimmers
Wednesday, Aug. 5, 10:30 am	Thor Besier, MD (SHC)	Biomechanics in Sport: Performance
Thursday, Aug. 6, 10:30 am	David Spiegel, MD (SHC)	Hypnosis, Stress, and Performance
Thursday, Aug. 6, 1 pm	James Radcliff, MD (SHC)	The Runner's Foot
Saturday, Aug. 8, 1 pm	Hayes Gladstone, MD (SHC)	The Athlete's Skin
Monday, Aug. 10, noon-3 pm*	Ellen Corman	Farewell to Falls
Tuesday, Aug. 11, 10:30 am	Phil Cutti, MD (SHC)	Building the Body Machine
Tuesday, Aug. 11, noon*	Jesse Cool and Chris Gardner	Nutrition for Peak Performance
Wednesday, Aug. 12, 1 pm	Tim McAdams, MD (SHC)	Injuries of the Senior Athlete's Shoulder
Thursday, Aug. 13, 1 pm	Rita Ghatak, PhD (SHC)	Living Long Living Well
Friday, Aug. 14, 1 pm	Euan Ashley, MD (SHC)	Your Heart on Exercise

*In the Athletes Village, Stanford Hospital & Clinics booth

OTHER RESOURCES:

At Stanford Hospital & Clinics:

- Strong for Life, 650.725.4137
- Aging Adult Services, 650.723.1303
- Farewell to Falls, 650.724.9369
- Health Library, 650.725.8400
- For online information about these programs, visit stanfordmedicine.org

A surefire preventive

Nor are the benefits of activity restricted to anatomic mechanics. "There's good evidence that maintaining activity does have a positive effect on the brain and, in particular, on mood," said Peter Pompei, MD, a Stanford Hospital gerontologist and member of the Improving Doctoring for Elder Americans Task Force of the Society of General Internal Medicine. "People who remain physically and socially active do better."

And it's as close to a fountain of youth as may ever exist. "There is so much evidence and research to support that staying active is one of the biggest preventive methods we have against physical vulnerability to falls and cognitive problems," said Stanford Hospital's Rita Ghatak, PhD, Director, Aging Adult Services.

For people whose motion has been restricted, or who haven't done specific

exercises for flexibility and strength, building a helpful routine isn't complicated and can easily be done at home. Stanford Hospital sponsors a free exercise program for seniors called Strong for Life. Staff instructors with trained volunteers visit local senior centers for group classes. The program is so popular that even with 10 trainers, it's hard to keep up with the demand for additional classes.

"I never thought of myself as a senior, although my age qualifies me. I think of myself as who I am."

—Martin Wegenstein, cyclist, skier, tennis player

The evidence-based exercises, said program director Candace Mindigo, are based on specific living skills "important in everyday life, like getting out of a chair or picking up a grandchild."

Staff instructor Larkin Lapides, 65, volunteered to lead classes for the program five years ago, "so I would exercise regularly," she jokes. Over and over, she's seen changes happen for class participants. "I see 80- and 90-year-olds improving," she said. "I've seen those who don't exercise and those who do and it's a cautionary tale."

The classes meet weekly, for 35 minutes, and the routine can include anything from stretches with resistant fitness bands to arm circles and deep breathing. The focus is to strengthen the core abdominals, back, legs and arms to improve balance and flexibility. The program distributes DVDs so people carry on the exercise at home.

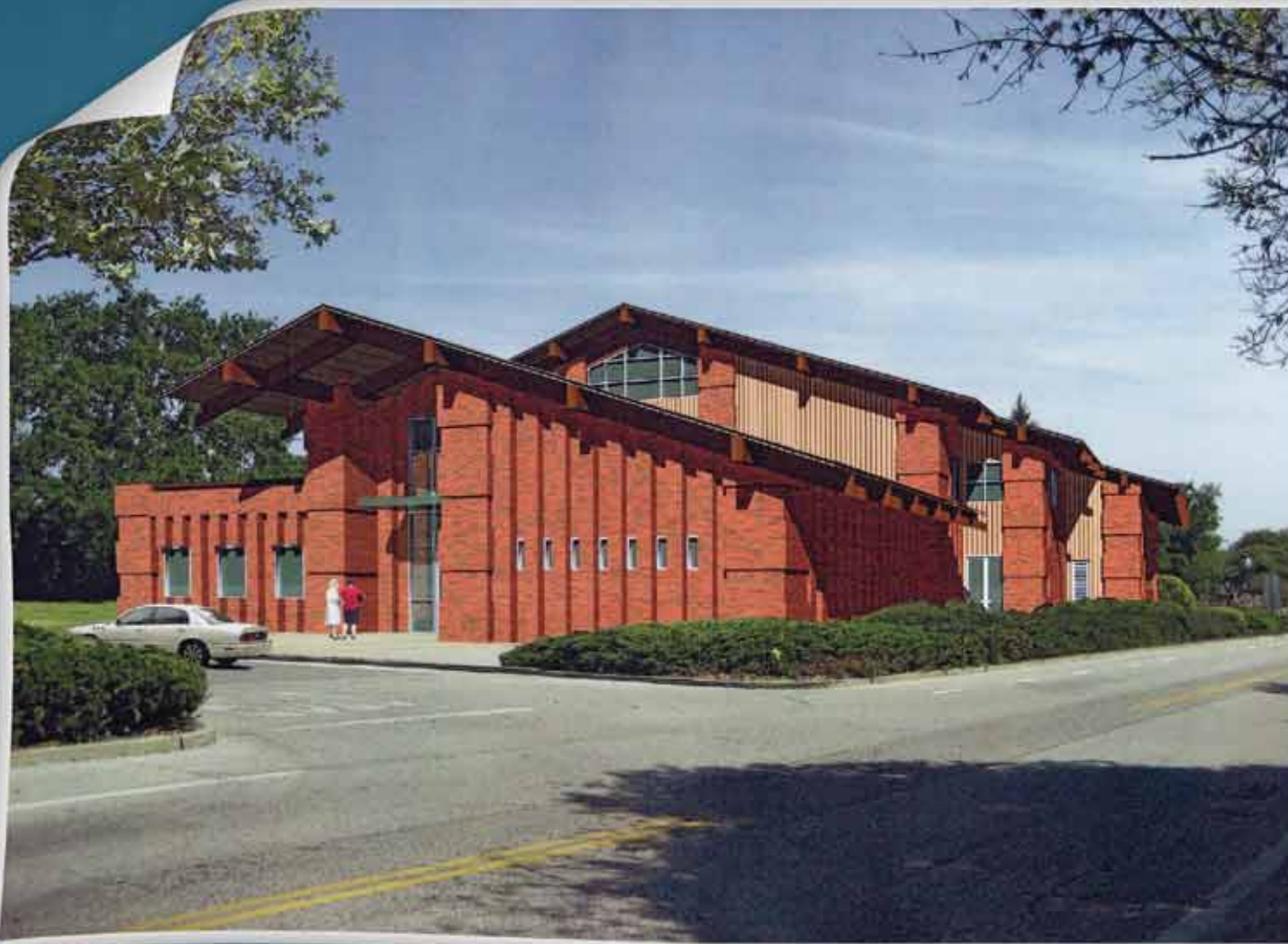
Being active isn't complicated

That word exercise, however, may be a barrier to understanding that activity doesn't have to be deep knee bends or a trip to the gym. "Just regular activ-

ity can have significant positive effect," Pompei said. "I don't even like to call it exercise. It can be those daily activities we would do normally. Doing more walking and recreational activities you like will be beneficial."

Wegenstein's advice builds on Pompei's. "Just start, whatever it is. Do an activity and do it every day or five or six times a week at a certain time, just the way you get up every morning and take a shower. After a while, it becomes a habit that you can't get rid of." Then, he said, "have fun with it. For me, it's not about being the best 59-year-old biker; for me it's to have fun doing it. I never thought of myself as a senior, although my age qualifies me. I think of myself as who I am."

Bortz is not one to focus too much on age either, except when it comes to his favorite saying on the topic: "It's never too late to start, but it's always too soon to stop."



YOU MADE THIS DECISION HOW?

WITH THE PROMISE OF AN \$8 MILLION DONATION FOR A NEW GYMNASIUM, MENLO PARK RACED AHEAD WITH ITS PLANS. BUT IN THE CITY'S RUSH TO SECURE THE FUNDING, DID IT OVERLOOK IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS?

BY SEAN HOWELL | Almanac Staff Writer

When Palo Alto billionaire John Arrillaga offered to help Menlo Park fund and build a new public gymnasium in the spring of 2008, the city moved quickly to put the plan in motion.

It was a perfect match. Menlo Park needed a new gym, but construction cost estimates had sailed over the city's price range. Mr. Arrillaga, who has long played and coached basketball in Menlo Park, was offering them the money to build it.

No stranger to making big donations — you don't have to walk far on Stanford's campus to see a building with Mr. Arrillaga's name on it — Mr. Arrillaga would design the gym with input from the city, and employ his own construction company to build it. He would cover any construction costs over \$6 million on the estimated \$14 million project.

The project is still very much on track, slated to go before the City Council for approval at its July 21 meeting. That would clear the way for construction to begin in the fall.

But as community members criticize the city's plan to "shoehorn" a 25,700-square-foot, 50-foot-high gym into the Civic Center complex — between a skate park, recreation center, and a parking lot adjacent to the library — some are asking whether the city has thought this through. The project barely cleared the Planning

Commission, in a narrow 4-3 vote, with some commission members asking who exactly is in charge.

One member of the City Council, Andy Cohen, said he never agreed with the decision on where to put the gym, arguing that the council wasn't given a chance to weigh in.

"We were so grateful for that gift that I think we rushed ahead," Mr. Cohen said.

Was city management so impressed by Mr. Arrillaga's offer that it overlooked important considerations, and

skirted its usually rigorous decision-making process? And with a donation of \$8 million or more on the line, will council members opt to move ahead with plans to build the new gym — or heed the calls of some community members to put some more thought into the project?

YOU'RE PUTTING IT WHERE?

Back when Mr. Arrillaga made his offer in April 2008, few people expressed concerns about the plan.

"Here we have Menlo Park working on an agreement that would protect the public's interests, and would get the gym built with private money," Michael Taylor, a longtime community services employee for the city, said at the time. "How could you go wrong?"

By the time Mr. Arrillaga came forward, the city had held nine public meetings on the project, honing its options down to essentially two alternatives. It could build a new, combined gymnasium/gymnastics center at the site of the existing gym, on Laurel Street. Or it could build the facilities separately: one at the site of the existing gym, and one on Alma Street, by the recreation center.

By late April, the city had hashed out a tentative plan to separate the facilities, building the gym at the Alma Street site. (The gymnastics center, for which the city has not yet identified a source of funding, would be built at the site of the existing gym, after the completion of the gymnasium.)

Council members spoke highly of the plan, thanking Mr. Arrillaga and praising the work of everyone involved. Shortly thereafter, the city proceeded with design work on that plan.

The selection of the site has only emerged as an issue recently, when vocal members of the library community expressed astonishment at the gym's proposed location. They faulted the city for not informing them, and asked it to re-think its plans. With library patrons asked to share parking with gym users, city employees, and visitors to the recreation center, they fear that some would be discouraged from coming to the library.

Councilman Cohen recently told *The Almanac* that he has a radically different vision for what the campus should look like, with one facility housing both the gymnastics center and gymnasium, and an underground



Above: The site of a new gymnasium proposed for Menlo Park's Civic Center. **Below:** Visitors walk in and out of the nearby library. Some in the library community are concerned that gym users will take away parking from library patrons.



Map of Menlo Park's **Civic Center**, with proposed new gymnasium, and new gymnastics building. Together, the buildings would cover nearly three times as much land as the existing gymnasium and gymnastics center does.

HOW BIG ARE THE BASKETBALL COURTS?

When developer John Arrillaga made an offer to donate \$8 million or more to help Menlo Park build a new gymnasium, he asked that the size of the gym be increased to accommodate basketball courts that are 94 feet long, the size of college or NBA courts.

Since then, *The Almanac* has described the courts as NBA-sized. But according to Public Works Director Kent Steffens, a city-appointed steering committee chafed with that concept early on in the design process, saying it preferred the 84-foot-long high school-sized

courts originally in the plans.

"We took it back to the steering committee, and they said: 'Gee, we'd like to keep it at 84 feet, but we'd like the added space to go around the striped court.'"

Mr. Arrillaga acquiesced. Current plans call for a 25,700-square-foot gymnasium, 4,900 square feet larger than initial plans called for. But the court length would be kept to 84 feet. A larger gym brings many benefits, such as allowing for the floor to be configured as three crosswise volleyball courts, Mr. Steffens said.

“I think it's nice that Arrillaga donated the money to get the architecture off the ground, but we haven't had a chance to review the architecture. ... Who's pushing this project through without proper reviews?” – MELODY PAGEE, PLANNING COMMISSION

KEY MEETING ON GYMNASIUM

Menlo Park's City Council could give final approval to a project to build a new, donor-funded city gymnasium at its meeting Tuesday, July 21, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in the council chambers in the Civic Center complex, between Laurel and Alma streets. It is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. For more information on the project, go to www.menlopark.org/gym.

parking lot beneath it. The facilities would complement each other better if they were next to each other, Mr. Cohen said. He is now advocating that the city take a step back and conduct a broader review of the entire Civic Center complex, arguing that it has failed to think holistically about the future of the campus.

Asked why he didn't voice his opinion before the city proceeded with the design plan, Mr. Cohen, who was mayor at the time, said: "I was not given an opportunity to make that known."

"I feel as though the matter was presented to the council as a fait accompli, and especially in view of the recently raised new issues, I do not feel that it was adequately developed early on."

DESIGN CRITICISM

At its June 29 meeting, the Planning Commission approved the design plan in a narrow, 4-3 vote, amid concern that Mr. Arrillaga would pull the offer if the commission didn't approve the design.

In explaining their votes, dissenting commission members cited fears that the gym would be an imposing, monolithic brick structure, towering over the nearby recreation center and

library. They said the city hadn't done enough to secure parking for library users, and expressed dismay at what they see as the Planning Commission's lack of involvement.

The architecture was hashed out mainly between city staff, and an architect hired by Mr. Arrillaga, according to Public Works Director Kent Steffens.

"Why even come to us?" asked Melody Pagee, a commission member who dissented in the 4-3 vote. "I think it's nice that Arrillaga donated the money to get the architecture off the ground, but we haven't had a chance to review the architecture." Ms. Pagee noted that architectural review generally falls under the aegis of the commission. But by the time the commission had a chance to weigh in, it was told that modifying the architectural plans would cost the city more money, she said.

Ms. Pagee questioned the need for the building to be up to 50 feet high. She also described information presented about the architect's commitment to the LEED environmental certification process as "fluff."

"Who's pushing this project through without proper reviews?" she asked.

"Once it's built and put into place, people might say, 'Why did you do that?'" said John Kadvan, a commission member who also dissented. "We have to face up to these things now, or we could really make some dumb mistakes," he said.

Henry Riggs, the commission's chair, defended the design. He said that in his opinion, city staff has conducted a thorough review of the project, though it overlooked some potential parking-related conflicts.

"I think the design fits the goals that were given to the architect very well," Mr. Riggs said. "It's supposed to be homogeneous with the existing campus. You're not going to do a Frank Gehry bldg, and claim it's homogeneous."

To Mr. Riggs, the issue is parking. "If there's a parking problem that's 95 percent solvable, is that a reason to go back to the drawing board when that has, to be honest, some risks for the city of Menlo Park?" he asked.

The city hasn't been honest with itself about the inherent challenges of working with a private donor, Mr. Kadvan said.

"It's very unclear who the decision-makers are here," he said. "In a private

context, you'd have a recognized project champion who speaks for the project, who's the go-to point person. You don't have that here."

"There's nobody to blame here," he continued. "It's systemic. The unusualness of the donor situation, the limits on the budget, the site constraints, the multiplicity of decision-makers ... that's just the situation we found ourselves in. It's best to honestly appraise that."

DECISION MADE HOW?

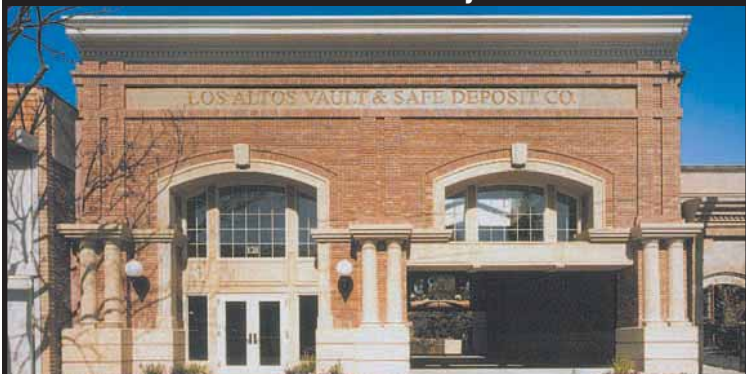
Given the recent outcry over the city's initial decision on where to place the gym, shouldn't the city have made certain it had figured this out, and gotten everyone on board, before starting work with Mr. Arrillaga on the design?

City Manager Glen Rojas emphasized the fact that in private meetings with the city, Mr. Arrillaga has never threatened to pull his offer from the table. But Mr. Rojas acknowledged that the city would be rolling the dice if it wanted to revisit its initial decision on where to put the gym.

"We can all speculate that if it gets extended too much longer, he could

See GYM, page 16

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

*Stroll.
 Browse.
 Enjoy.*

**23rd
 Connoisseurs
 MARKETPLACE 2009**
 MENLO PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
www.menloparkchamber.com

Nirvana for the Festival Lover

**July 18-19, 10am-6pm
 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park**

- Contemporary Fine Art & Unique Crafts
 - Fabulous Food & Wine
 - Refreshing Margaritas & Microbrews
 - Home & Garden Exhibits
 - Organic & Gourmet Specialty Foods
 - Green Products Showcase
 - Health & Wellness Displays
 - Live Rock 'n Roll, Blues, Jazz & Party Music
 - Saturday Headliner Concert With Dynamite Party Band LIVEWIRE 5 to 7 p.m. in Fremont Park
 - Action-Packed Kids' Fun Zone
 - Cool City, Eco-Friendly Festival
 - Ample Bicycle Parking
- ADMISSION IS FREE**

Info-line: 650-325-2818 | www.miramarevents.com



YOU MADE THIS DECISION HOW?

continued from page 15

lose interest," Mr. Rojas said, adding that Mr. Arrillaga has "always been real antsy" to move ahead with the project.

But "I don't want that to sound like a threat," Mr. Rojas cautioned. "My feeling is, if the council says, 'that's just not the right place for it,' then we'll have to figure out what location is better, we'll have to evaluate. Then we'd go to Arrillaga and say, 'we may have to delay it for a period of time.'"

There is no indication that any council member other than Mr. Cohen objects to the site choice. City management and council members, including Mayor Heyward Robinson, point to scads of public meetings about the proposed location, and say they believed the current plan was the consensus of the community.

But there's not a clear record of how the city arrived at that plan. When first asked, Mr. Rojas, Mr. Steffens, and Councilman Rich Cline all recalled that the site had been selected through the Parks and Recreation Commission, prior to Mr. Arrillaga's involvement.

Both Mr. Steffens and Mr. Cline said there are plenty of reasons not to house the gym and gymnastics center in one building, and that the city has already evaluated that option. It would have created a parking and traffic nightmare on the other side of the Civic Center complex, they say. And many felt that there simply isn't enough room on the campus for a building that large, Mr. Cline added.

But Mr. Cohen, who was serving as mayor at the time, feels that the city didn't thoroughly investigate the possibility.

"I see staff making what amounts to policy decisions here, and that's my responsibility, when it comes down to it," he said.

RISK OF LOSING OFFER?

City officials have trouble understanding doubts that have cropped up about the partnership between the city and Mr. Arrillaga.

When asked about the potential complications of working with a donor, Engineering Services Manager Lisa Ekers said: "You mean the complications of the fact that he's giving us a gym?"

"Let's give some credit to the city for getting somebody to come in and get a donation that most cities don't get," Mr. Rojas said. "The

"There's nobody to blame here. It's systemic. The unusualness of the donor situation, the limits on the budget, the site constraints, the multiplicity of decision-makers ... that's just the situation we found ourselves in. It's best to honestly appraise that." — JOHN KADVANY, PLANNING COMMISSION

But Mr. Cline couldn't find any record of that decision in his notes from the meetings he attended. Mr. Steffens later corrected himself, saying the initial recommendation had come from city staff. The city wanted to start working with Mr. Arrillaga immediately, rather than wait for the commission to weigh in, he said: "We felt an obligation to inform the council that a donor was involved, and to do that soon."

The council never voted to approve the site choice, but Mr. Steffens said he felt the council tacitly signed off on the plan in a study session. "The Parks and Recreation Commission did approve the siting" at a later meeting, "and came up with the same answer we had suggested to the council," he said, arguing that a second council meeting would have been redundant.

Though city staff recommended the site to Mr. Arrillaga in private, Mr. Rojas said there was no question of Mr. Arrillaga dictating terms.

"He basically said, you tell me where the gym's going to go, and I'll build it," Mr. Rojas said. Mr. Arrillaga would have even agreed to build the gym in the same structure as the gymnastics center, if the city had found a way to make it work.

"It would have been a complication," Mr. Rojas said. "I don't know how logistically we could have done that. ... We would have had to put some money together, but it never got that far."

"We really suggested this was the site that we think works best, because the gym could be done first, and as a standalone facility, without the gymnastics center," Mr. Steffens said.

city negotiated a deal with a benefactor, and we need to find ways to make that work. ... Nobody's talking about that side of it."

Critics of the project "have concerns, but where are the negatives? I don't understand," Mr. Rojas said. "They may have an issue or two that may be valid, but I think we have a good plan, and I think it's gonna work."

Still, if the city can't explain the plan to concerned community members, the council may have to "take a step back," Mr. Cline said.

"I know that we really want to expedite this, but if there are a lot of holes, a lot of conjecture, and if we can't find ourselves comfortable with it, then we might have to have another council meeting about it," he said.

Would Mr. Arrillaga take the donation off the table if the council slows down the process, or if it doesn't approve the design, as drawn up? Mr. Steffens and Mr. Rojas said they didn't want to speculate on that, though Mr. Rojas said Mr. Arrillaga has been "real accommodating."

The real threat to the donation, Mr. Cline believes, is some of the rhetoric he's heard from community members, impugning Mr. Arrillaga's motives.

"Why would we vilify somebody who's going to do this, and start throwing conspiracy theories out to wind?" Mr. Cline asked. "Some of the rhetoric I've heard from our very active community goes in that direction."

"But we're in this together. If he walks, we all take the blame together."

The council's July 21 meeting is "obviously going to be a contentious meeting," Mr. Cohen said. "I wish it didn't have to be that way." ■

Alpine Little League takes all-star 10-11 championship

By Amanda Young

Special to The Almanac

With a 14-run outburst in the final inning, the Alpine-West Menlo Little League all-stars easily took the District 52 age 10-11 tournament title on July 7 at Arguello Field in San Carlos, defeating Hillsborough, 24-6.

"Hillsborough came into the game with a large number of pitchers unavailable, while we came in with our number one pitcher on the mound," Alpine coach Mark Martella said. "That was the whole difference of the game."

Hillsborough had gone through its pitchers in a game with San Carlos that was called due to darkness the night before the championship game. Then on the next morning, before facing Alpine, Hillsborough had to finish the San Carlos game, eventually winning 14-12.

Four Alpine players walked in the first two innings of the title game, while Alpine pitcher Kodiak Conrad had a no-hitter through the first four innings, and five strikeouts overall.

Alpine jumped to an early 3-0 lead in the first inning, and led 4-0 through the third. Alpine kept up the momentum in the fourth. With the bases loaded, Conrad doubled, driving in three, but was tagged out trying to take third.

Hillsborough did not score until

the bottom of the fifth, and trailed 10-2 going into the sixth and final inning.

In the 14-run sixth, Jared Lucian hit a three-run homer for Alpine, giving him six RBIs for the game.

Even a grand-slam home run for Hillsborough in the bottom of the sixth wasn't enough to catch Alpine.

Lucian led Alpine with four hits, followed by Conrad and Mitch Martella with three each. Rylan Pade got on base all six times he batted.

Ten of the 13 players on the Alpine team had played on the Alpine all-stars team the previous year, which also won the championship. "We had a big advantage because our defensive strategy was familiar to the returning players," Martella said.

The two-week double-elimination tournament had 16 teams, which were seeded in a random draw. Alpine had a perfect record, 4-0, before the championship game. Hillsborough had lost its first game against Palo Alto National, so it had to rise from the loser's bracket in order to play in the championship game.

Alpine moves on to the Section 3 tournament in Tracy, where it will face the District 45 champ. The game is at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 18, at Jefferson #4 field, 7500 Linne Road in Tracy. ■

The Alpine 10-11 all stars

are, top row, from left, Jared Lucian, Matthew Heneferth, Kodiak Conrad, Andrew Cox, Daniel Kollar-Gasewieski and Grace Baker' and bottom row, from left, Evan Easton, Travis Jones, Rylan Pade, Nick Stoner, Justin Harmon, Mitch Martella and John Bird.

Photo by Amanda Young/Special to The Almanac



#7 Workshop Series by Harrell Remodeling

The Forever Home

For homeowners interested in creating a space that is stylish, safe and comfortable for ages 4-84. This workshop presents ideas, products and design solutions so you can stay in the home you love, this year and every year.

- Learn to evaluate your family's specific needs, usage patterns and lifestyle
- Gain knowledge and inspiration through our guided review of other completed home projects
- Leave with tools for understanding the design and remodeling process from start to finish

Thursday, July 16
10:30 am to 12:30 pm
Kepler's Bookstore, Menlo Park

Saturday, July 18
9:00 am to 11:00 am
Harrell Design Center, Mtn. View

Call us or go online to register for this class.



Harrell Remodeling
Design + Build

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

License: B479799.

Our Design Center is 85% solar powered.

harrell-remodeling.com

Sportsmanship award winners named

This story was submitted by Carla Posthauer, a member of the Menlo-Atherton Little League Sportsmanship Committee.

Every year in the M-A Little League, one player is chosen from each team (in each division except T-Ball) to receive the Sportsmanship Award.

The award is presented, at the end of the season, to the player who best exemplifies the spirit of Little League: "To Play Fair, Strive to Win, Do One's Best."

In an era where winning at all costs is rampant, the league hopes this award will help children recognize the importance of maintaining a positive attitude toward yourself, your teammates, and your competitors.

Winners of the award were recognized at a ceremony held between the Majors and AAA Championship games on Player Appreciation Day at Burgess Field on June 6.

The winners

"A" Division: Peter Vitale, Grant Porter, Will Moldow, Walt Smithers, Nolan Birkelan, Ethan Mimeoles, Zachary Meyer.

"AA" Division: Hunter Thompson, Joe Posthauer, Liam Smith-Leitch, Emilio Obando, Rob Wild, Gran Komin, Cooper Ketsdever.

"AAA" Division: Brad Yaffe, Jackson Benning, Ian Rosenfeld, Andrew Wyatt, Jack Fitzsimons, James Burke, Suraj Dhawan.

"Majors" Division: Riley Haight, Andrew Simpson, Stephen Kaufman, John Robert Hardy, Austin Wilson, Ben Simon.

"Challenger" Division: Robbie Batista.



Summer Special **SAVE \$75** When you start service in Summer of 2009*
*\$25 off each of your first three cleaning visits. Offer applies to new clients only. Expires August 31, 2009.

No Sweat. (We trade fair!)

TeamWorks provides non-toxic house cleaning services to its clients – and fair compensation, ownership opportunities, and quality health insurance to every one of its house cleaners.

Social business is our solution.

www.TeamWorks-Cleaning.coop

650.940.9773



SURPLUS OFFICE FURNITURE FREE

- Tables
- Desks
- File Cabinets
- Chairs
- Misc. Supplies



**Saturday, July 25th
9am to noon**

The Almanac

**3525 Alameda de las Pulgas
Menlo Park 94025**

The Almanac sales and production departments have relocated, so we're shrinking our space and need to dispose of surplus furniture and equipment. No phone calls please



Libby Cooper plans on hurdling and running the 800-meter race for UC Davis next year.

Hurdles: Libby Cooper finishes 13th in state meet

After training for hurdles for only half of a season, Menlo Park resident and Castilleja High School graduate Libby Cooper came in 13th overall in the 300-meter hurdles at the state championships track meeting June 5.

"She thought she'd be good at hurdling, and wanted to give it a try," Sally Cooper, Libby's mom, said.

Libby had run on the track team at Castilleja since her sophomore year and was named most valuable player of the West Bay Athletic League that year.

She continued racing in the

100-, 200-, 400- and 800-meter events, and then, in her senior year, she tried long jumping and hurdling for the first time. She qualified for the Central Coast Section semifinal for long jump, but she excelled in hurdling.

"I was overjoyed [to go to state] but also nervous because I had no idea what to expect," Libby said. "I was up against well-practiced competitors who already went to state before."

The University of California at Davis recruited Libby for the track team, and Libby plans on hurdling and running the 800-meter race for Davis.



"One of the finest summer chamber music festivals in the land."
—STRINGS MAGAZINE

Music@Menlo

CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL AND INSTITUTE

David Finckel & Wu Han, Artistic Directors

THE 2009 FESTIVAL

Being Mendelssohn

July 17–August 8, 2009 / Atherton • Menlo Park • Palo Alto

A three-week exploration of Felix Mendelssohn's greatest chamber works, showcased alongside music by his predecessors, contemporaries, and artistic heirs, featuring:

- » CONCERTS BY WORLD-RENOWNED CHAMBER MUSICIANS
- » ENGAGING SYMPOSIA AND LECTURES
- » FREE CAFÉ CONVERSATIONS AND MASTER CLASSES
- » FREE CONCERTS BY YOUNG ARTISTS FROM MUSIC@MENLO'S CHAMBER MUSIC INSTITUTE

FESTIVAL SPONSORS: the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Koret Foundation Funds, Chubb Personal Insurance, MacCorkle Insurance Service, American Public Media, BBC Music Magazine



FEATURED ARTISTS & SPEAKERS

VIOLIN

Eugene Drucker
Jorja Fleezanis
Arnaud Sussmann
Joseph Swensen

VIOLA

Paul Neubauer

CELLO

Colin Carr
David Finckel
Paul Watkins

ENSEMBLES

Pacifica Quartet
St. Lawrence String Quartet

BASS

Scott Pingel

PIANO

Jeffrey Kahane
Gilbert Kalish
Menahem Pressler
Thomas Sauer
Wu Han

FLUTE

Carol Wincenc

OBOE

William Bennett

CLARINET

Anthony McGill

BASSOON

Dennis Godburn

FRENCH HORN

William VerMeulen

ENCOUNTER

LEADERS

Bruce Adolphe
Ara Guzelimian
Orli Shaham
R. Larry Todd

FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION:

WWW.MUSICATMENLO.ORG • 650-331-0202

Locals win Pacific Coast Spring Soccer League title

This story was submitted by John Takayama, with AYSO Region 109.

For the second consecutive year, the Menlo Park-Atherton AYSO Region 109 Boys-under-19 (BU19) team captured the Pacific Coast Spring Soccer League championship. This AYSO-sponsored spring soccer league includes teams from San Jose to San Bruno.

Playing its final game at home at Burgess Park with the league championship at stake, the Road Runners took an early lead early in the match and continued to dominate Saratoga FC Cupertino, winning the game 10-6.

“Although a diverse group, many have played together for years and it shows in the quality of their play and teamwork,” said John Carvell, who coached the team as a parent volunteer.

Parent-coach Pastor Guzman added: “They like to play for AYSO because of its emphasis on allowing every player to play and encouraging coaches to be positive and supportive.”

Team members attend local

high schools, including Menlo-Atherton and Sequoia high schools, Menlo School and East Palo Alto Academy. Many have played AYSO soccer since age 5.

The BU19 Spring Select team was one of 11 developed from among the 143 teams (over 1,600 local children, between ages 4 and 18) who played soccer in Region 109 this past fall.

Tryouts were held at the end of the fall season. Although scores were not kept for the U10 divisions, congratulations should also go to the GU10 Sharp Shooters (Coach Jubin Dana), which won all the games it played.

For more information on the league, go to www.mpsoccer.org.



Menlo Park-Atherton AYSO Region 109 Boys-under-19 (BU19) team. Top Row: Coach John Carvell, Jose Hernandez, Tuy Rosales, Miguel Llamas, Jorge Rodriguez, Sergio Zamudio, Luis Araiza and Coach Pastor Guzman. Middle Row: Salvador Mendes, Sam Woolf, Miguel Cuevas, Sergio Balcazar and Danny Flores. Bottom Row: Patrick Renschler, Matthew Carvell, Joe Pinsker, Manuel Garcia, Vicente Cuevas and German Delgadillo. Front: Marco Moreno. Not in picture: Victor Juan-Chang, assistant coach.

Nathan Ford named athlete of the year

Portola Valley resident Nathan Ford, a graduate of Palo Alto High School's class of 2005, was named athlete of the year by the Cornell Daily Sun, Cornell's newspaper.

Ford, a recent Cornell graduate,

played football and baseball for Cornell throughout college. He was a three-year starting quarterback. Last year, he had 2,815 passing yards, the second highest mark at Cornell in a single season, according to the paper.

His accomplishments are not limited to football records. Ford entered the last week of the regular baseball season with a career .364 batting average, two points higher than the all-time school mark, the paper reported.

Managing two sports and academics was a challenge. “Time

management was very tough,” Ford said.

He decided to drop football and investigate opportunities in Major League Baseball. “My best shot is in baseball,” Ford said. “I have a few tryouts lined up for MLB and I got an invitation to play in the Australian Baseball League.”



City of Menlo Park

Menlo Gateway Project (Bohannon Hotel-Office)

A proposed hotel and office development on 16 acres near US 101 and Marsh Road has the potential to significantly impact Menlo Park, both positively and negatively. If you are interested in future development in Menlo Park, your input on the proposed amendments to the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance required for this project is very important, especially in determining public benefit needs the project might meet. The proposed project, at 100 to 190 Independence Dr. and 101 to 155 Constitution Dr., requires review and recommendation by the Planning Commission and final approval by the City Council. You are encouraged to attend any of the Community Meetings to provide your input. All Commission Meetings will also include time for public comment and you are welcome to attend.



Please visit the project page for more information and to sign up for the email list to be notified of future meetings:

http://www.menlopark.org/projects/comdev_iac.htm

For more information, please contact throgers@menlopark.org or 650-330-6722.

Si usted necesita más información sobre este proyecto por favor llamar 650-330-6718, y pregunta por Maria Juana.

Community Meetings

Business Community

Thursday, July 23, 2009 | 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Onetta Harris Senior Center, 110 Terminal Avenue

Belle Haven Neighborhood

Thursday, July 23, 2009 | 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Onetta Harris Senior Center, 110 Terminal Avenue

General Citywide

Wednesday, July 29, 2009 | 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Recreation Center Fireside Room, 701 Laurel Street

Commission Meetings

Housing Commission

Wednesday, August 5, 2009 | 5:30 p.m.
Administration Building, 701 Laurel Street

Transportation Commission

Wednesday, August 5, 2009 | 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel Street

General Commission Meeting

Wednesday, August 19, 2009 | 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel Street

Planning Commission

Monday, September 14, 2009 | 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel Street



Matched Care Givers
 "There's no place like home."
 Redwood City - San Mateo - San Jose 650 839-2273



**When you,
 or someone you care about,
 needs assistance...**

**you can count on us
 to be there.**

**Call now (650) 839-2273
 www.matchedcaregivers.com**

**Thank You Almanac Readers
 For Increasing Fuel Sales by 50%!**



Servicing most European and domestic vehicles
 with the most qualified ASE certified technicians using
 factory diagnostic and programming equipment.

SPECIAL OFFER

**We Fill Your Tank
 WITH
 30K, 60K, 90K & 105K
 SERVICE PURCHASE**

*Appointment only. Must bring ad.
 Valid through July 30, 2009*



For Quality & Performance
Ron Ramies Automotive Inc. Auto Repair & Fabrication

SINCE 1981 **650-851-6789**

115 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028

Brand New LEED Certified Office Building



- 4,786sf Move-in Ready
- Highly Efficient "Green" Building
- 41,157sf Available
- 4.5+/1000 parking
- Locally Owned and Managed
- New Construction
- Extremely accessible to Highway 101

Contact Jason or TJ at 650 298 0080 to tour the space



OBITUARY

Jennifer Gill

19 year resident of Woodside
 Jennifer Carryl Gill, a 19-year resident of Woodside and a native of Cape Town, South Africa, died July 2 at her home in Woodside. She was 58.

Ms. Gill enjoyed entertaining and cooking at home, said family members. In the winters, she and her husband Robert Foster Gill lived in Cabo San Lucas on the Baja Peninsula in Mexico. Summers were spent at a cabin at Lake Tahoe.

Every five years or so, Ms. Gill

would visit relatives in South Africa, the family said.

Mr. Gill is a retired investor and a lifelong resident of Woodside.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Foster Gill; two sons from a previous marriage, Shane Whitworth of Woodside and Ryan Whitworth of Cape Town; and two grandchildren in Oregon.

A memorial service is in the planning stages. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Recht Brain Tumor Research Fund, c/o Stanford University Medical Department, 2700 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

POLICE CALLS

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

MENLO PARK

Child abuse report: 900 block of Alice Lane, July 3.

Spousal abuse report: 400 block of Encinal Ave., July 8.

Fraud report: Unauthorized charges on credit card for cell phones never ordered, 300 block of Waverley St., July 9.

ATHERTON

Fraud report: Woman wired \$3,000 to Canada after request from her "grandson," but refused second request for \$3,400, Watkins Ave., July 8.

Continued on next page

**312,120+ OPTIONS
 GET IN HERE!**



'07 & '08 BEST BURGER
 —Palo Alto Weekly

**ONE OF THE BURGERS YOU
 MUST EAT BEFORE YOU DIE**
 —GQ Magazine

BEST BURGER
 —Oprah Winfrey Show

THE COUNTER 
 CUSTOM BUILT BURGERS

PALO ALTO
 369 CALIFORNIA AVENUE 650 321 3900 650 321 3902 FAX
 TAKE OUT FAX FORM AVAILABLE ONLINE THECOUNTERBURGER.COM

HomeCare Assistance
 1-866-4-LiveIn™



"With the Balanced Care Method™ from Home Care Assistance, you can live better than ever before!"

Announcing the Balanced Care Method™
 of in-home care, designed to help your parents live healthier and longer.

Home Care Assistance 1-866-4-LiveIn™ is announcing a breakthrough in new caregiver training, the Balanced Care Method™. Based on a major study of centenarians' lifestyles, it was created to promote longer, happier lifespans through diet, exercise and mentally stimulating activities. For a free overview of this exclusive training system, call one of our local offices: Peninsula/North Bay (650-462-6900), South Bay (408-997-2159) or East Bay (925-820-8390).

Call us today to find out how quickly the Balanced Care Method™ can help!

Because health-span is as important as life-span. www.HomeCareAssistance.com
www.BalancedCareMethod.com

County holds online forum on constitutional convention

Is it time for a change? California's budget crisis is providing an incentive to hold a constitutional convention to overhaul the state government.

At www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smc-forum, an online forum for San Mateo County residents explores this idea.

"We need to fundamentally change how government works in California, and a constitutional convention may be the best opportunity for serious reform," said county Supervisor Rich Gordon in a press release announcing the creation of the forum.

The site includes a short video about the proposed constitutional convention, news stories and a survey.

Rainfall within 2 inches of last year's total

The numbers are in for the total amount of rain that fell upon Cotton Street in Menlo Park between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009.

Precipitation came to 14.85 inches for the 12-month period, somewhat

BRIEFS

less than the 16.15 inches in the previous rainfall year, but much more than the 8.2 inches of 2006-07, said Bill Russ, who tracks annual rainfall with a rain gauge in his yard.

The totals increase the further north you go, with 11.61 inches reported in San Jose and 15.23 inches at the San Francisco International Airport, Mr. Russ said.

Junior League open houses

Women who are interested in learning more about the Junior League of Palo Alto/Mid Peninsula are invited to attend two open houses for prospective members.

The Saturday, July 18, open house will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at The Gatehouse, 555 Ravenswood Ave. in Menlo Park. The Thursday, Aug. 27, open house will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., also at The Gatehouse.

To register online, or for more information, e-mail: openhouses@thejuniorleague.org.

Continued from previous page

Annoying phone call report: Resident's wife reported she was threatened with death because she would not buy English language lessons, 1200 block of Windermere Ave., July 8.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Theft reports:

■ Two rings valued at \$125,000 to \$150,000 stolen from master bedroom, perhaps during recent remodeling, 500 block of Cresta Vista Lane, July 3.

■ Victim sent phone equipment to Alabama in

exchange for check for \$402 but check made out to middleman in Washington state who told victim to forward check in exchange for cash, but no cash has been forthcoming, 800 block of Portola Road, July 6.

BIRTH

Menlo Park

■ Janne and Bryan Wise, a daughter, June 9, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Perla and Michael Lanza, a son, June 16, Sequoia Hospital.

RJ's Upholstery and Slipcovers


A Better Choice Since 1960
1064 Cherry Street

A Fabric Store

Chair Seat Special
\$1/yard
on selected fabrics
650-591-0220 San Carlos

CHARLES ARMSTRONG SCHOOL

40 years of serving children with language-based learning differences




- Day school grades 1-8
- Simultaneous multi-sensory instruction
- Full academic curriculum
- 6:1 student-teacher ratio
- Fully WASC accredited

Now accepting applications for the 09-10 school year

Contact Christy Cochran at 650.592.7570 ext. 237 or cochran@charlesarmstrong.org. For more information visit the admissions section at www.charlesarmstrong.org.

Charles Armstrong School • 1405 Solana Dr. Belmont CA 94002-3653



Global Rug Specialist

Rug Handwash and Repair
• Reweaving • Refringing • Rebinding
(650) 965-RUGS (7847)
www.GlobalRug.com
825 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View
Monday-Saturday, 9-6



A 5th Generation Family Business Since 1895

Free How-To Clinics

Sign up to reserve your seat

July 18 → Concrete & Stone Cleaners, Sealers & Impregnators
Steve Powers *Lyngso Garden Materials*

July 25 → Installing Flagstone: Sand Set or Mortar Set
Tony & Joleen Morales *Redwood Landscape Inc*

August 1 → Designing & Installing a Pondless Water Effect
Bob Blasing *Ripple Effect*

August 8 → Forming & Finishing Concrete
Bob Peek *Burch Brothers Concrete*

August 15 → Installing McNear Interlocking Pavers & Corsican Wall System
McNear Brick & Block

August 22 → Installing Calstone Interlocking Pavers
Michael Irvin *Select Environments & Calstone*

August 29 → Soil Preparation for Bonsai Container Plants
Tim Kong *Bonsai Society of San Francisco*

LYNGSØ

GARDEN MATERIALS, INC.

www.lyngsogarden.com
650.364.1730

19 Seaport Boulevard
Redwood City
Mon - Sat: 7 to 5
Sun: 8 to 4

STANFORD LIVELY

ARTS 09-10

PERFORMING ARTS SEASON

A SEASON OF 'ART + INVENTION'

Lively Arts explores a year of "Art+Invention" through commissions and premieres, ground-breaking collaborations and more.



SECRET VOICES: THE SISTERS OF LAS HUEL GAS

ANONYMOUS 4

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 8:00PM
MEMORIAL CHURCH

The famed a cappella quartet revisit their favorite century (the 13th) in these once-forbidden works from a Spanish convent.



THE MUSIC OF STEVE REICH

SO PERCUSSION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 8:00PM
DINKELSPIEL AUDITORIUM

U.S. Premiere of 2009 Pulitzer-winner Reich's *Mallet Quartet* and more—including on-stage performance by the composer.

Featuring: Uri Caine (10.10), St. Lawrence String Quartet (11.1, 1.31, 4.18), Morphoses (1.22), Misha Dichter (2.17), Terence Blanchard (3.6), Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet (4.21), Dave Douglas & Keystone + Bill Morrison (4.24), Hal Holbrook (4.27), Laurie Anderson (5.5), and many more!

SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE ON JULY 17!

livelyarts.stanford.edu | 650-725-ARTS

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, 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 and Advertising

Coordinator Diane Martin

Published every Wednesday at

3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,
Menlo Park, Ca 94025

Newsroom: (650) 854-2690

Newsroom Fax: (650) 854-0677

Advertising: (650) 854-2626

Advertising Fax: (650) 854-3650

e-mail news and photos with
captions to:

AlmanacNews@gmail.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 854-2690, ext. 222.

Budget stalemate hitting home

Local government agencies and schools have gingerly crossed into a new fiscal year, not knowing what to expect when the state's interminable budget crisis is finally resolved.

But even the waiting can be a challenge, as seen last week when the Sequoia Union High School District announced that after taking \$2.5 million out of this year's budget, another \$3 million must be found to make up for the cuts expected if the governor and Legislature finally agree on a spending plan.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

But at Sequoia, as in other districts like the Menlo Park City Elementary, the so-called "soft" cuts have already come out.

When millions of more dollars must be found, there are no easy areas left to cut, which means compensation for teachers and staff will be next on the chopping block.

Personnel salaries and benefits account for 80 to 85 percent of the Sequoia district's \$100 million budget. Cuts in compensation costs are likely if, as expected, the state decides to suspend the Proposition 98 requirement to fully fund education.

And when such cuts are made, it is teachers and staff who will bear the brunt, as suggested by the California School Board Association, which is advising districts to put compensation packages on the bargaining table. No numbers have been made public, but temporary salary cuts and higher insurance co-pays

are among the possibilities. Work furloughs, which are simply mandated vacation days without pay, could shorten the school year if imposed.

Local governments and fire districts must also adopt budget plans during the current uncertainty. Most expect that the state will attempt to borrow tax revenue due to go to local government agencies. It is difficult to assess now what impact on residential services would come as a result of such actions.

All of this goes to show that the state's budget process needs a complete overhaul. The requirement that a super (two-thirds) majority of the Legislature must approve a budget should be scrapped. In the current session, one or two legislators have been able to stymie the entire budget process, forcing the state to issue IOUs, a situation that has further reduced California's already abysmal credit rating.

A private business operated in this fashion would never survive such an inability to make a decision and move forward. Rigid ideology has no place in a deliberative body like the Legislature, where compromise is the order of the day.

At this writing, there is no end in sight to the stand-off in Sacramento. In the meantime, the real world needs of schools and local governments and districts around the state continue. The victims of this ineptitude will be students, teachers, and public employees who will feel the frontline impact, but the rest of us will be harmed as well, in inestimable ways that will only be revealed when a budget deal is reached.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Few fond memories of former Atherton mayor

Editor:

In last week's Almanac, the subject of alleged censorship by the Atherton City Council was commented on by former council member and mayor Alan Carlson, who now lives in Carmel.

It is noteworthy that Mr. Carlson neglected to mention his own specific and unfortunate role in Atherton's past affairs. Perhaps several examples will serve to enlighten.

During Mr. Carlson's two terms as mayor he tried to run the town like a dictator. He attempted to make sure that nothing would be on the council agenda without his approval and openly objected if any item escaped his stricture.

He went so far as to predetermine and rigidly control the precise order in which council members would be allowed to speak on all matters before them, thereby controlling discussion. He con-

sistently opposed any review of the building department, which clearly had serious problems.

And he actively supported Don Guluzzi, the former city manager and Steve Cader, the former police chief, despite a serious breach by both of their responsibilities. He consistently shut down or tried to belittle anyone, citizen or council member, who disagreed with him.

He helped engineer an "emergency" City Council meeting with less than the statutory notice period, the purpose of which was to appoint Ralph Freedman as interim city manager and prevent those who disagreed to have enough time to object.

Presently the town is being managed much better than it has been in the past. We have seen enough of Alan Carlson. We don't need or want the opinion of someone who has no credibility here.

John Rugeiro
Stockbridge Avenue, Atherton



Atherton Heritage Association

Our Regional Heritage

Nan Chapman, Atherton's first city councilwoman, is shown with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Franks, at their home on Park Lane in Atherton in the 1930s. Ms. Chapman served as mayor of Atherton from 1986 to 1988 and was a member of the Town Council from 1980 to 2000.

TOWN SQUARE

Post your views and comments on TownSquare:

www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

Staring down the high-speed train

By Martin Engel

A few weeks ago the contractor/developer for the proposed housing portion of Alma Plaza in Palo Alto announced that he had pulled out of the deal because of "economic hard times." But I'm wondering what contractor in his right mind would want to be selling housing along the high-speed rail right of way when by law he would have to disclose the prospect of an elevated railway in the corridor in front or beside the residences.

At one scoping meeting held by the consulting group HNTB last spring, a Palo Alto resident stated that his property had become worthless on the market because the scoping process itself is an indicator that there will be "destructive construction" on the rail corridor. A savvy real estate agent for Alain Pinel said the same thing about all our houses along the rail corridor in Menlo Park.

In the past, houses in our neighborhood had risen in price and sold like hotcakes with multiple bids. That's over. Coupled with the housing bubble burst, the train is the coup de grace.

NIMBY, schimby. Critics ask that we stop kvetching and be prepared to make sacrifices for the greater good. I'm a pre-World War II immigrant from Germany. I was brought up during the Depression. I've worked hard for 40 years, much

of it in government, public, academic and military service. I've raised a family. I've paid my debts. This house, which I love, should be my "last" house. My home is my castle.

Many of us fear the eminent domain process, the necessary and potentially highly conflicted value-appraisal process. It will be up to the high-speed rail authorities to pursue adverse taking or not (both frightful options), partial takings, takings for temporary (five years or more) construction easements, and perhaps worst of all, the impact of a second temporary rail corridor for shoofly tracks that would keep trains running during the construction process.

All those who are adamant about pursuing agendas that are intended to terminate the trains prior to the rail corridor, or have it directed elsewhere, or wish to have the entire project stopped in its tracks, sound abstract and disassociated to us. By "us" I mean all those in Atherton, Menlo Park and Palo Alto who are so directly impacted.

Of course I'm supportive of all those efforts: reaching the

Legislature, writing resolutions, forming collaborating city structures or grass-roots movements. Those are excellent efforts. But, with all those efforts, what can we really expect as a final outcome? Cooperation from the consultant HNTB and the high-speed rail authority? What's the evidence for that? We already have seen the modus operandi with the program-level environmental reports.

This train project is a serious mistake. Given the glacial political and economic force behind it, we need to think realistically about what's workable, possible, and reasonable. At this moment my best and considered thinking leads me to believe that if they come, two tunnels (two tracks each) should run beneath our three towns (7.5 miles), with or without freight trains in those tunnels.

Removing Caltrain from the surface should be a huge gain for all of us. Caltrain gets its grade separations and electrification and doesn't have to make any deals with Union Pacific, which can continue to do what they are doing now; and the high-speed rail gets its dream boondoggle built, although out of sight in our three towns. Everyone wins.

Martin Engel lives on Stone Pine Lane near the tracks in Menlo Park and is an outspoken opponent of high-speed rail.



GUEST OPINION

THE ALMANAC ONLINE DELIVERS 24/7.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION AT TOWNSQUARE
TheAlmanacOnline.com

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

Stanford Driving School

Summer Savings Package
FREE CLASSROOM TRAINING with the purchase of Freeway plus driver training

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

July and August In-Class Schedule

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Mon 7/6	Tues 7/7	Weds 7/8	Thurs 7/9
Mon 7/20	Tues 7/21	Weds 7/22	Thurs 7/23
Mon 8/3	Tues 8/4	Weds 8/5	Thurs 8/6
Mon 8/17	Tues 8/18	Weds 8/19	Thurs 8/20

(650) 493-1978 • 3960 El Camino Real, Palo Alto

To register online, please visit our website at:
www.StanfordDrivingSchool.com



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING JULY 27, 2009

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

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

Use Permit/Reza Raji/1921 Oakdell Drive: Request for a use permit to modify the first floor and construct a second-story addition to an existing single-story, single-family nonconforming residence that would exceed 50 percent of the replacement value of the existing structure in a 12-month period on a lot in the R-1-S (Single-Family Suburban) zoning district.

Use Permit, Architectural Control/Joseph Comartin/1081 Santa Cruz Avenue: Request for a use permit and architectural control for the demolition of an existing single-family residence and the construction of four attached single-family dwelling units in the R-3 (Apartment) zoning district. The use permit request includes a proposal for excavation within the front setback for a ramp to a basement garage. As part of this development, the following five heritage trees are proposed for removal: one valley oak in the rear yard with a 41-inch diameter at breast height (DBH) in poor condition, one deodar cedar at the front right corner with a 38-inch DBH in fair condition, and three Italian cypresses at the front left corner with 20-inch DBH in fair condition.

Use Permit/Penelope Huang, Taylor & Huang Properties, Inc./825 Santa Cruz Avenue: Request for a use permit for a real estate office on the ground floor of an existing commercial building in the C-3 (Central Commercial) zoning district.

Use Permit/Tyco Federal Credit Union/3715 Haven Avenue: Request for a use permit for a credit union to locate on the second floor of an existing commercial building and a new automatic teller machine (ATM) associated with the credit union to be installed on the first floor exterior of the building located in the M-2 (General Industrial) zoning district.

PUBLIC MEETING ITEMS - None

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on public hearing items in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on Monday, July 27, 2009, 7:00 p.m. or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing.

The project file may be viewed by the public on weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, with alternate Fridays closed, at the Department of Community Development, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park. Please call the Planning Division if there are any questions and/or for complete agenda information (650) 330-6702.

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

DATED: July 9, 2009 Deanna Chow, Senior Planner
PUBLISHED: July 15, 2009 Menlo Park Planning Commission

Visit our Web site for Planning Commission public hearing, agenda, and staff report information: www.menlopark.org



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 – Traditional 6+BR/4+BA 1-Year new home. LR & DR both have fireplaces, 2 Master Bedroom Suites, 1 ground floor bedroom & wine cellar. Hardwood & tile flooring & guest quarters. Den & bonus rm. BBQ Area, patio & 3-Car attached garage.
Kristin Cashin (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$8,250,000**



ATHERTON – Beautifully remodeled 2 story traditional home, gracious rooms, cooks kitchen, 5 bdrm/4 ba, private culdesac, prof landscaped grounds w/ pool, spa, fountain, fireplace and casita, walk to downtown Menlo Park.
Meryle Sussman (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$3,900,000**



LOS ALTOS HILLS – Elegant 5 bedroom, 5.5 bathroom home situated on a quiet cul-de-sac. Featuring hardwood flrs, granite countertops, top of the line appliances, crown moldings & plantation shutters. Mature & private landscaping & outdoor bbq kitchen.
Susan Furstman (650) 529-2900 **Offered at \$4,695,000**



LOS ALTOS – Newly constructed lovely Capecod crafted with mastery! 5BR/4BA+2(.5BA), one master suite, state of the art kitchen with breakfast nook, 2 fireplaces, separate study & family room. A Must See!
Oak Lo (650) 948-8050 **Offered at \$2,495,000**



MENLO PARK – Charming, immaculate and spacious 4BR/3.5BA Tudor style home. Featuring gourmet kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, Thermador range & center island plus large, finished basement & expansive lawns. Los Altos Schools.
Stephanie Savides (650) 529-2900 **Offered at \$1,825,000**

ATHERTON

Isabella Ave. is one of the most sought after streets in Atherton. This estate property offers a wonderful opportunity to build your dream home or renovate the existing & innovative residence to its original splendor.
Steven Gray (650) 529-1000 **Offered at \$7,900,000**

Located in one of Atherton's most desirable neighborhoods, this 2-story 4BR/3.5BA Colonial features a floorplan that flows beautifully for both indoor/outdoor entertaining. Private, level yard & renowned Menlo Park School district.

Tony Fregoso (650) 529-2900 **Offered at \$3,299,000**

FOSTER CITY

4BR/2.5 Ranch Style home on the water. Newly redone eat-in kitchen, tile & hardwood flooring & wall-to-wall carpeting. Dual paned windows & ceiling fan(s). 2-Car Garage w/ opener & fenced yard w/ deck. Automatic sprinklers.

John Marshall (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$1,099,000**

LOS ALTOS HILLS

Dramatic new construction is ideally located in Los Altos Hills. 6BR, incl a separate guest suite or office, 5BA + (2).5BA, LR & DR, 2 FR & gourmet kitchen. Amenities include media room, recreation room, wine tasting/DR & much more!

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

MENLO PARK

Remodeled inside & out 3BR/2.5BA home. Living Room w/FP, separate FR & eat-in kitchen. High ceilings, skylights & dual paned windows. BBQ area, deck & fenced yard. Corner lot w/2-car garage. Front & rear automatic sprinklers.

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

Move right in to this 4br/2ba home. Gourmet Kit w/ granite, SS appl. & maple cabinets. Kit/opens to dining area & great room. Outstanding Las Lomas Schools.

Stephanie Savides (650) 529-2900 **Offered at \$1,240,000**

Remodeled 2BR/2BA one-level condo in prime location. Kitchen includes slate counter tops, news appliances & cork flooring. Abundant natural light, hardwood floors, recessed lighting & fireplace. Convenient to Stanford & Hwy 280.

Mary Jo McCarthy (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$699,000**

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Sky is the limit in this home featuring cottage & outdoor entertainers dream! 2BD/2BA w/updated kitchen. Flexible floorplan cottage w/separate entry. In-ground pool and built-in BBQ.

Susan Berry (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$1,295,000**

PALO ALTO

4BR/3BA 2-Story Mediterranean styled home. LR, DR & FR w/dbl french doors opening onto a large patio. Gourmet kitchen w/professional appliances, Mstr BR w/walk-in closet & spa tub. Patio & fenced yard. 1-Car detached garage.

Robin Mello (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$2,390,000**

3BR/2BA single family Palo Alto charmer! Living room features cathedral ceilings & wood burning fireplace. Great neighborhood, close to parks, schools, shopping & restaurants.

Meryle Sussman (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$895,850**

PORTOLA VALLEY

Remodeled in 2001, this Craftsman designed home with beautiful appointments & quality finishes features 3BR/2.5BA, gourmet kitchen, hw flrs & media/entertainment rm. Natural setting with beautifully crafted stonewalls & patios.

Steven Gray (650) 529-1000 **Offered at \$1,445,000**

PORTOLA VALLEY

Vintage Charm. 3BR/1BA Redwood Cabin home on a beautiful level lot. Lovely creek side setting. Redwood Interior w/Cathedral Ceiling Great Room. Detached garage w/adjacent guest unit potential.

Paul Shrabo (650) 529-2900 **Offered at \$1,395,000**

REDWOOD CITY

5BR/4+BA home featuring a great floor plan & nice views. Chef's kitchen, LR opens to a large deck & formal DR. FP in LR & FR. Mstr Ste w/bonus room, 2-levels & high ceilings. Central A/C. 3-Car Detached garage & extra storage.

Tahereh Vahdatpour (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$2,395,000**

4BR/4+BA remodeled home w/gourmet kitchen, ceiling windows & 2 Mstr BR Suites. Fireplaces in both FR & BR. Hardwood flooring & indoor pool w/retractable roof. Fenced yard & patio. Cul-de-sac location w/2-Car detached carport.

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

5BR/3BA home w/ fresh paint, granite kitchen & FR. Built-ins, high ceilings, hardwood floors & plantation shutters. Fireplace in LR & double paned windows. Photovoltaic System.

Camille Eder (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$1,499,000**

This extensively renovated 3BD/2BA ranch style home has large open & airy living room w/coffered ceiling. The large kitchen has granite countertops and hardwood floors. Tumbled marble & granite baths.

Matt Shams (650) 529-1000 **Offered at \$1,349,000**

4BR/2.5 BA Ranch style home. Features separate FR, eat-in kitchen & FP in Living Room. Updated w/ newer windows, roof, plantation shutters & paint. Located on a cul-de-sac w/ a pool. Attached 2-car garage. WS/Sequoia Union HS.

Brendan Royer (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$999,950**

5BR/3.5 2-Story Home located in the Horgan Ranch area. Updates include hardwood floors, crown molding & fresh paint making it move-in ready. Vaulted ceilings, FP in LR & Master BR. Patio & BBQ area, Automatic sprinklers.

Cristina Harper (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$899,000**

End your search with this delightful 3BR/2BA Cottage-style. Envious wood/stucco cottage providing pleasant living. Two-car garage. Don't miss seeing this unusually nice home!

Tom Boeddiker (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$750,000**

REDWOOD SHORES

Large & beautiful 3BR/3BA home featuring Family Room Kitchen, Living Room w/FP & 1 Master BR Suite. Dual paned windows, high ceilings, tile & area carpeting. Lg deck w/hot tub & 2-car attached garage.

Joann Bedrossian (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$995,000**

Great opportunity don't miss out! This townhome is an end unit with largest floorplan. Kitchen, family room, and bedrooms have breathtaking views of the lagoons and walking trails. Call for appt today!

Cristina Harper (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$739,000**

SAN CARLOS

Truly welcoming 4BR/2BA Mediterranean with a shimmering bay view gazing out at the mtns. Some of the special features of this beautiful home are deck, family room and patio. Two-car garage. Ideal for stylish living!

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



MENLO PARK – Custom built, this 4 bedroom, 4.5+ bath Mediterranean-inspired home has been lovingly maintained by the original owners. Featuring a Sharon Hills premier lot, magnificent views, over sized tennis court and Las Lomas Schools.

Ship Cashin (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$5,275,000**



MENLO PARK – Rare opportunity to secure a classic 4 br 3 ba home on a good sized lot. Heritage Redwood Grove and specimen oaks. Home is ready for renovation or a perfect setting for your new construction!

Tom Boeddiker (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$2,895,000**



MENLO PARK – Spacious 3BR/2.5BA on secluded street steps from downtown MP. This stunning home offers an open 2-level floor plan including vaulted ceilings throughout creating a light & open atmosphere.

Meegan Ferrari (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$1,175,000**



MENLO PARK – Picturesque Menlo Park 3BR/1BA, peaceful tree-lined street, updated, open floor plan, granite kitchen, spacious bedrooms, large serene backyard with lawn, hot tub, Top Menlo Schools.

Meryle Sussman (650) 614-3500 **Offered at \$849,950**



PORTOLA VALLEY – Prime, Westridge view lot, near Alpine Rd. Spectacular views to Bay, Mt Diablo & Southeast mountains. Plans approved by Town of Portola Valley for 4 BD/4BA home. Minutes to Ladera shopping & Hwy 280. Sewer is at the lot line.

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

Selling Northern California's Finest Properties



cashin.com