



BILL LANE is still going strong
at 90. See Page 19

The Almanac

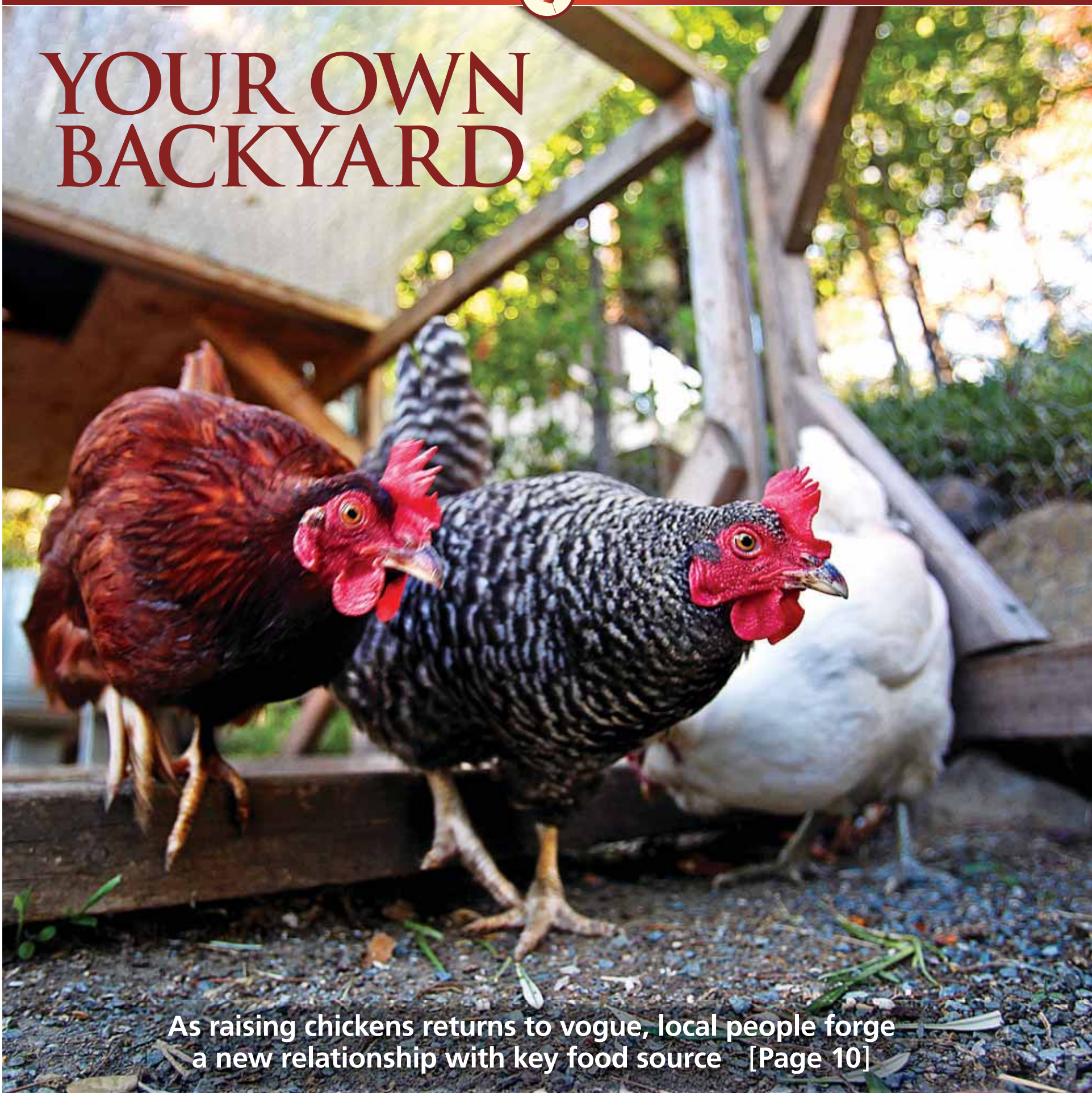
THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, AHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

NOVEMBER 4, 2009 | VOL. 45 NO. 10



WWW.THEALMANACONLINE.COM

YOUR OWN BACKYARD



As raising chickens returns to vogue, local people forge
a new relationship with key food source [Page 10]

#1 AGENT WOODSIDE OFFICE

RECENT SALES

by ERIKA DEMMA

REPRESENTED SELLERS

1341 Delfino Way, Menlo Park **Sold in 1 day!**
3317 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park
345 Eleanor Dr., Woodside
250 Greer Rd., Woodside
189 Mountain Home Rd., Woodside
123 Otis Ave., Woodside
181 Myrtle St., Redwood City
342 Rutherford Ave., Redwood City
108 Wildwood Ave., San Carlos
2305 Howard Ave., San Carlos
760 Buckland Ave., Belmont

REPRESENTED BUYERS

41 Sneckner Ct., Menlo Park
125 James Ave., Atherton
482 West Maple Way, Woodside
Woodside Rd., Woodside **Sold Off-Market**
3600 Tripp Rd., Woodside
2472 San Carlos Ave., San Carlos **Sold in 1 week!**

Specializing in: WOODSIDE, ATHERTON,
PORTOLA VALLEY,
MENLO PARK, EMERALD HILLS...
and surrounding areas

BORN AND RAISED IN PORTOLA VALLEY and now residing in Woodside with children in local schools, Erika is committed to the community and the business of real estate.

Here's what her clients have to say...

"We have worked with Erika on three separate real estate transactions. Each time, Erika proved to be a great partner. She provided smart advice, quick service and great results."

– JOHN & ROBINA RICCIHELLO, WOODSIDE

"Thank you for taking such good care of us and always going above and beyond! Thanks for sprinkling us with your fairy dust."

– LAURA & DAVID FOX, WOODSIDE

"Erika is outstanding. Having had an opportunity to work with Erika as both a buyer and a seller, I can say in both instances she demonstrated a great understanding of the market and how to get a transaction done, but, perhaps more importantly, working with her is a pleasure. Erika is extremely focused on what her clients want and need, and she is relentless in providing the highest level of service."

– BEN & DANA BISCONTI, ATHERTON

"We have worked with Erika on three real estate transactions over the last nine years – she is fantastic. She is proactive, detail-oriented, creative and hard working. We strongly recommend her to our friends."

– WOODSIDE RESIDENTS

"Erika Demma is an outstanding agent who represents her clients to the fullest of her ability. I have found her to be professional, honest, thorough, resourceful, ethical, and respectful in her dealing with all interested parties during and after the transaction. I have been extremely satisfied with her ability to exceed expectation. She is the only agent I use on the Peninsula."

– RUDOLPH W. DRISCOLL, JR, WOODSIDE



ERIKA DEMMA

650.740.2970
edemma@cbnorcal.com
erikademma.com

- Top U.S. Realtor, *The Wall Street Journal*
- #1 Agent, Woodside Office
- Relocation Specialist
- #12 Agent, Coldwell Banker, Northern California - 2008
- Top 1% Internationally



Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT

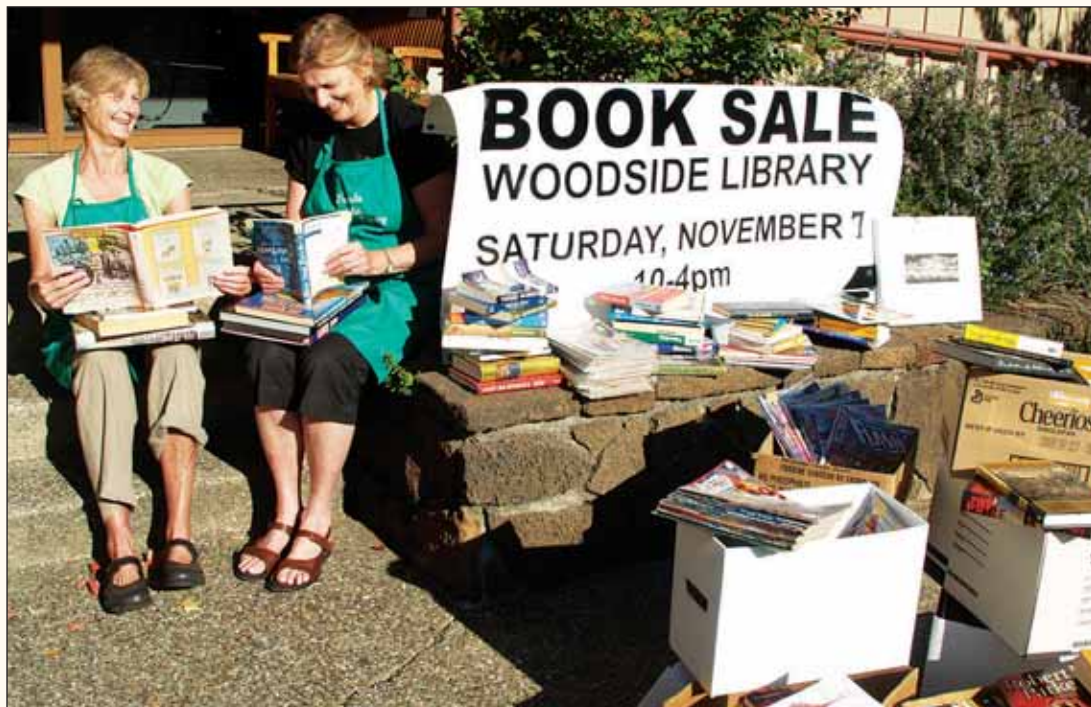


Photo by Barbara Wood

Book bonanza

Margaret MacNiven and Susan Flint prepare for the next Friends of the Woodside Library book sale, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the library, 3140 Woodside Road. Thousands of books, including children's books and comic books, plus CDs, DVDs, videos, tapes and books on tape will be on sale, along with some rare and new books suitable as gifts.

Atherton

- Atherton parcel tax campaign raises more than \$10,000. **Page 13**
- Atherton fire causes fuel tanks to explode. **Page 7**

Menlo Park

- Menlo Park motorcyclist killed after crashing on Highway 84. **Page 9**

Woodside

- Council reaffirms location for equine statue on Village Hill. **Page 6**

People

- Bill Lane is still going strong at 90. **Page 19**

Schools

- Two students expelled in Sacred Heart Prep drug incident. **Page 5**

Food & Drink

- Chefs for a night: Woodside High staff prepare great meal for donations to school foundation. **Section 2**
- To your health: Be a guest at your own party. **Page 23**

Community

- 'Baubles, Bangles and Bags' benefit Peninsula Volunteers. **Page 24**

Also Inside

Calendar 14
Letters 18
Obituaries 17
Police Calls 17

On the cover

Kung Pao, left, and Oreo, center, head for the chicken feed in the backyard of the Freidenrich home in Woodside. The Freidenriches are among a number of local families who have started raising hens in their backyards over the past few years, deepening and complicating their relationship with a key food source. Photo by Michelle Le. **Story begins on page 10.**

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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

Classified ads: **854-0858**
Newsroom: **854-2690**
Newsroom fax: **854-0677**
Advertising: **854-2626**
Advertising fax: **854-3650**

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

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

THE ALMANAC (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. 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. Subscriptions for \$60 per year or \$100 per 2 years are welcome. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Copyright ©2009 by Embarcadero Publishing Co., All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

RJ's Upholstery and Slipcovers
A Better Choice Since 1960
1064 Cherry Street

A Fabric Store
Chair Seats and Cushions Special
\$1/yard on selected fabrics
650-591-0220 San Carlos

The Girls' Middle School

180 North Rengstorff Ave. • Mountain View, CA 94043
650.968.8338 x133 • www.girlsms.org
admissions@girlsms.org

OPEN HOUSES

Saturday,
November 14, 1 pm

Thursday,
December 10, 7 pm

IGNITING THE SPARK
OF KNOWLEDGE AND
SELF-DISCOVERY

CASTILLEJA SCHOOL

Women Learning • Women Leading



Educating Girls for the 21st Century

Fall 2009 Open House Dates

Middle School (grades 6-8)
Sunday, November 15

Upper School (grades 9-12)
Tuesday, November 3
Sunday, December 6

To make a reservation or learn more
www.castilleja.org • 650.470.7733 • admission@castilleja.org
1310 Bryant Street, Palo Alto

express

Get local news updates **FREE** in your e-mail inbox daily.
Sign up today at TheAlmanacOnline.com

ROBERTS MARKET

A TOWN MARKET PLACE
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: Nov. 4, 5, 6, 7

www.robertsmarket.com

Fresh PRODUCE



6oz.
BLACKBERRIES & RASPBERRIES

\$1⁹⁹ ea.

California
NAVEL ORANGES



99¢ lb.

Local
ORGANIC SPRING MIX

\$3⁹⁹ lb.

YAMS



79¢ lb.

Robert's Homemade!

MEAT



CHICKEN THIGHS

\$2⁹⁸ lb.

VEAL LOIN CHOPS



\$9⁹⁸ lb.

THE BENTLY
(CHICKEN BREAST W/BLEU CHEESE & ROASTED GARLIC)

\$7⁹⁸ lb.

JUMBO PRAWN (15 COUNT)



\$16⁹⁸ lb.

On Sale

GROCERY



CLOVER ORGANIC FAT FREE MILK

Gallon — Also Whole — 2% Reduced — 1% Lowfat

\$4⁷⁹

STOUFFER LEAN CUISINE MACARONI & CHEESE

10oz. — Also Lasagne with Meat Sauce — Spaghetti with Meat Sauce

\$1⁹⁹

PELOPONNESE PITTED KALAMATA OLIVES

11oz. — Also Whole

\$3⁹⁹

LU PETIT DARK CHOCOLATE ECOIER

5oz. — Also Milk Chocolate — Pim's Orange

\$2²⁹

TASTER'S CHOICE ORIGINAL GOURMET COFFEE

7oz.

\$6⁹⁹

MILKBONE LARGE DOG BISCUITS

26oz. — Also Small - Medium

\$2⁹⁹

WINE

Great New Arrivals

While rare, we do occasionally try a wine that is so good, and so surprising, that it leaves a lasting impression, and reminds us why we do this job. Here are a couple new releases that fit the criteria..

2007 Fort Ross Pinot Noir
Sonoma Coast -

An utterly gorgeous and delicious Pinot experience. This beauty has everything you want; richness, elegance, texture and balance. The balance is remarkable. This level of quality at this price is rare and deserves a place in your collection.

\$32⁹⁹

2006 Respite Cabernet
Sauvignon, Alexander Valley

Don't let the price tag fool you. This wine is a bargain! Denis Malbec, formerly of Ch. Latour (Yes! That Ch. Latour), oversees the viticulture and vinification of the vineyard that sits at 2500' elevation in the north-east corner of the Alexander Valley. The power of California meets the sophistication of Bordeaux with poise and near perfect balance.

This is a great wine! **\$47⁹⁹**

DELI

Roberts Holiday Thanksgiving Menu

Stuffed Bake Brie

Stuffed with caramel apple or cranberry chutney and baked to a golden brown. **\$14.50** ea

Pumpkin & Butternut Squash Soup

Savory with a hint of curry and cream. ... **\$9.50** per qt

Free Range Diestel Ranch Turkeys

The Diestel turkeys are pre-roasted and will need approximately 2 hours to re-heat at 300 degrees in your oven.

Small 10-12 lbs. serves 8 to 10 people..... **\$50.00**

Large 16-18 lbs. serves 14 to 16 people **\$60.00**

Traditional Stuffing

Mushrooms, onion, celery, water chestnuts and sage
\$10.75 qt **\$5.50** pt

Cornbread Stuffing

Dried cranberries, apricots and green onion
\$10.75 qt **\$5.50** pt

Mashed Potatoes

Fresh potatoes whipped with cream, and butter
\$12.00 qt..... **\$6.25** pt

Porcini Mushroom Gravy

Rich and creamy made with turkey drippings
\$12.00 qt..... **\$6.25** pt

Onion Sage Gravy

With red wine, caramelized onion and sage
\$12.00 qt..... **\$6.25** pt

Green Bean Almandine

Sauteed shallots, butter and almonds
\$11.75 qt..... **\$6.00** pt

Roasted Butternut Squash with Apples

Seasoned with brown sugar and spices
\$11.75 qt..... **\$6.00** pt

Fresh Cranberry Sauce

Whole cranberries slow cooked with a hint of orange
\$9.50 qt..... **\$4.75** pt

Good Earth Bakery Pumpkin Pie

8" pie serves 8 people .. **\$11.99** ea

Gianna's Bakery

Apple, Cherry, 4 Berry, Sweet Peach and Pecan.
9" pies serve 8 people ... **\$15.99** ea

ROBERTS HARDWARE & TACK

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

WEBER SUMMIT 650



\$1799⁰⁰

Reg. \$2329.00

1 Display Model Only!
Natural Gas Only!



Six individually controlled burners give you the flexibility of grilling over direct and indirect heat at the same time.



The Summit S-650 grill comes with a stainless steel rotisserie spit that can handle a whole turkey, multiple chickens, or large cuts of meat. It's powered by a heavy-duty, electric motor.



The 12,000 BTU-per-hour input, flush-mounted side burner lets you sauté while you grill.



Desperately seeking old photos

Woodside is the latest town to get Arcadia Publishing's popular "Images of America" treatment. Thalia Lubin of Woodside and Bob Dougherty of La Honda are hard at work gathering information for the local history book, and they need more old photos of Woodside. Ms. Lubin, a member of the Woodside History Committee, is hoping residents will come forward with images of Woodside's past that can be used in the upcoming book.

"We just want to copy them and return them," she said. Anyone willing to haul out the old photo albums is invited to call Ms. Lubin at 854-4234.

Happy birthday, Internet

SRI International in Menlo Park is party to a birthday.

On Oct. 29, 1969, a student at the University of California, Los Angeles tried to log on to a computer 400 miles away at SRI, and lo — which is as far as the student got with the word "login" before the system crashed — the Internet was born, according to a report on the SRI Web site.

Those two characters were enough to establish a milestone in electronic communication. Many more have followed.

"By reliably connecting different kinds of computers to each other, the ARPANET took a crucial step toward the online world that links nearly a third of the world's population today," said Marc Weber, founding curator of the Computer History Museum's Internet History Program in Mountain View.

Your library needs you

Do you patronize the Atherton library? If so, the library staff wants to hear your opinion. A needs-assessment survey is under way for the branch library at 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane.

Carine Risley, the new Atherton library branch manager, said Anderson Brule Architects is conducting the study, which includes a focus group, interviews with "key informants," and an online poll.

Go to smcl.org/ATHsurvey.

Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Two expelled in Sacred Heart drug incident

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Two students were expelled from Sacred Heart Preparatory for using marijuana, but there was no drug bust on the private Catholic school's Atherton campus, a spokeswoman for the school said.

Rumors about a drug-related incident were running rampant last week, but Atherton police contradicted key parts of the stories circulating through the grapevine.

There was no drug bust by federal Drug Enforcement Administration agents, no arrests were made,

there's no police involvement, and no large sums of money or cocaine were discovered, Atherton police Chief Glenn Nielsen told The Almanac.

School officials said the students' marijuana use did not occur on campus.

"It's grotesque rumors blown out of proportion," Chief Nielsen said. "If even 10 percent of the rumors were true, we'd be actively investigating it."

But there is no police investigation, he said. Atherton police Sgt. Kristin Nichols said on Friday, Oct. 30, that she'd been fielding calls from the community, but that she had no information

about any drug busts. If the DEA had been involved, local law enforcement authorities would have been notified, said Chief Nielsen.

In response to numerous requests for comment, Richard Dioli, director of schools at the private Catholic school, issued a statement on Friday about an incident involving "marijuana-related activity."

"We conducted our own internal investigation and have asked these individuals to leave our school; they are no longer students at Sacred Heart Preparatory," Mr. Dioli said.

The Atherton police depart-

ment is not involved in any kind of formal investigation on our campus."

School spokeswoman Millie Lee said that Sacred Heart has a strong relationship with Atherton police and always consults and cooperates with them in possible cases of illegal activity.

"We have never found any drugs or evidence of drugs on campus from these two individuals," said spokeswoman Millie Lee. "What we found were two individuals who have displayed inconsistent behavior with our school's goals and criteria and therefore they have been released as part of our student body." ■

City faces falling revenues

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

City of Menlo Park revenues have sloughed off during the economic recession even more than initially anticipated, a recent budget report revealed.

According to an un-audited report provided by the city for the fiscal year that ended June 30, the city's revenue dropped by \$2.5 million, or 6.6 percent, from the 2007-08 fiscal year. Falling utility users' tax revenues accounted for \$489,000 of that loss, after the City Council lowered the tax rate.

Taxes associated with retail business and hotel occupancy fell by 11 percent each from the prior fiscal year.

Revenue from building permit fees also dropped precipitously, reflecting a slide in the cumulative value of construction projects in the city. So did business license fees revenue. Combined, revenue from those fees dropped 29 percent (they are lumped together in the budget).

The numbers would seem to indicate that local residents and people who patronize local businesses cut back as the economy floundered, and were still tightening their belts in the first half of the 2009 calendar year.

Combined, revenues from all three categories — sales tax, transient occupancy tax, and fees for

An unknown person pasted a sticker on a campaign sign indicating that it was the firefighters' union, not individual firefighters, endorsing three candidates.

Photo by Peter Carpenter



Firefighter group yet to divulge spending

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Scores of union-sponsored campaign endorsement signs are visible all over the local landscape, but the state-mandated campaign spending report stating how much has been spent by the local firefighters' association on the signs — and mailers, advertisements and "robo-calls" — in support of three candidates for the fire board is nowhere to be seen a week and a half after it was due.

As of mid-afternoon Monday (Nov. 2), The Almanac was still in the dark about spending by the Menlo Park Firefighters Legislative Action Group, as was the San Mateo County Elections Office. The

forms were due in that office on Thursday, Oct. 22.

Repeated phone messages from The Almanac to the group's treasurer, Walter Vidosh — requesting information about spending and an explanation for the tardiness of the filing — were unanswered by The Almanac's press time on Monday.

The firefighters' group has endorsed Rob Silano, Jack Nelson and Jon Mosby for three seats on the Menlo Park Fire Protection District board. Two incumbents, Peter Carpenter and Ollie Brown, are not running; incumbent Rex Ianson, a former firefighter, is seeking re-election. The remaining challengers are Stephen Nachtsheim and James Harris.

Mr. Nachtsheim filed a report

by the Oct. 22 deadline, declaring expenditures of \$5,732 as of Oct. 17. The other five candidates didn't file documents detailing spending through that date.

Candidates and committees formed to support candidates are required to file reports detailing how much money they raise and spend if spending reaches \$1,000, according to the elections office.

Over the last few weeks, the firefighters' committee has flooded mailboxes, streets, front yards, newspaper pages and online sites with endorsement fliers, signs, and ads, and waged a phone campaign in support of the three candidates — undoubtedly far

See **ELECTION**, page 8

See **FINANCE**, page 8



Steven Gray
DRE# 01498634
650-743-7702
more information:
sgray@cashin.com



Whether selling
or buying
a home, you need
to understand how
the market is
trending.

For factual information
on today's local
real estate market for
**ATHERTON,
MENLO PARK,
PORTOLA VALLEY or
WOODSIDE** visit:

www.PeninsulaSpecialist.com



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

Sign up today at TheAlmanacOnline.com

Woodside council reaffirms location for equine statue on Village Hill

By **Dave Boyce**
Almanac Staff Writer

Sometime in the coming months, a bronze statue of a slightly larger-than-life mare and foal will rise amid the daffodils on Village Hill in Woodside opposite the Village Pub on Woodside Road.

After a while, the back story, and there is always a back story, will be lost to time, a matter for town archives and old news stories.

For the record, then, the privately funded \$100,000 sculpture has gotten lots of community support, according to Town Manager Susan George. But there are pockets of dissent as to its Village Hill location, and the Town Council generally agreed that it could have done a better job of overseeing the project since approving the design in September 2008.

The council, in a 6-0 vote on Oct. 27 with Councilwoman Carroll Ann Hodges absent, reaffirmed its earlier decision and directed staff to proceed with the installation. The fundraising effort is still about \$15,500 short,

Ms. George said in an e-mail.

In eloquent testimony dissenting from the Village Hill site, resident Rebecca Witter talked of a better spot: the street-level triangle of open space at the corner of Woodside and Mountain Home roads. Everyone would see the sculpture, even at night if it were lit. It could serve as the town's "silent ambassador," she said.

"I think this is a very legitimate, safe, secure and visible location for this beautiful sculpture," she said, adding that rather than abusing it, people will "see it, enjoy it, protect it and love it."

Also raising objections over the Village Hill site was the Architecture and Design Review Board. Among the complaints: the statue's potential as an attractive nuisance and as a distraction to drivers. On the same day the ASRB met to discuss it, the panel was also caught flatfooted because the Woodside Landscape Committee had moved the photographic cut-out standing in for the horses.

"Why weren't we involved sooner?" asked ASRB member

Anne Kasten. "I just feel that I didn't get to do my job well."

Assistant Town Manager Kevin Bryant respectfully disagreed. As the council had directed, town staff had asked the ASRB for its opinion on the location, the ASRB had responded, and of the issues brought up, none were deal breakers, Mr. Bryant told the council.

The council had the major role, Ms. George added, because there is no formal process for accepting public art as a gift.

A process of some kind may be forthcoming. "In my opinion, I think we clearly dropped the ball," Councilman Ron Romines said. "In retrospect, we should have been more thoughtful" about the process.

Councilman Dave Burow agreed, saying in an interview that he thought the relevant committees should have been allowed more input.

Councilwoman Deborah Gordon argued that the town should not accept any more public art without a process in place, and her colleague Sue Boynton agreed. ■

THE ART OF CRAFTING DELI MEATS

HAND RUBBED SPICES v. SPRAYED ON FLAVOR



There are two ways to create deli meats: The Kingsley way, and every other way. Kingsley only uses whole breast turkey, ham and top-round beef. We believe in naturally, slow-roasting our meats, hand-rubbed herbs and spices, and never do we spray on flavor. With Kingsley it is just the meat. www.KingsleyDeliArts.com.

KINGSLEY

DELI ARTS™

KINGSLEY DELI MEATS AVAILABLE AT DRAEGER'S MARKET AND OTHER FINE SPECIALTY STORES

© 2009 Kingsley Deli Arts

Atherton fire causes fuel tanks to explode

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

Residents of an Atherton neighborhood awoke to the sound of an explosion Monday morning, Nov. 2. Firefighters quickly extinguished a one-alarm fire on Lloyd Drive that caused several fuel tanks to explode, Menlo Park fire officials said.

The fire occurred at a tent-canopy structure behind a home, said Menlo Park Fire Protection District investigator Bob Blach. During the blaze, a five-gallon propane tank and four small butane tanks — the kind

that are commonly used in camping stoves — exploded, he said.

A couple of nearby residents told Mr. Blach that the blast shook their houses.

Atherton police witnessed the smoke and reported the fire around 6:30 a.m., Mr. Blach said. There were no injuries, and a woman and her dog were evacuated from the house. “The occupant was unaware that there was a fire in the back,” he said.

Firefighters were still at the scene at 8:15 a.m. but the fire was knocked down in about 10 minutes, said Mr. Blach. The blaze also knocked out

telephone and cable TV lines, he said. Witnesses said the fire was “very smoky” and visible from the baylands.

The cause is still under investigation, but so far it appears to be accidental, said Mr. Blach. A detached garage suffered minor damage, and a rough estimate of total damages from the fire tops out at about \$45,000, said Mr. Blach. Five fire engines and one fire truck responded to the fire, with a total of 19 firefighters and three battalion chiefs.



LUCILE PACKARD

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Your Child's Health University

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital offers classes and seminars designed to foster good health and enhance the lives of parents and children.

▶ ALL ABOUT PREGNANCY

Our newest class is designed to offer an overview of pregnancy for the newly pregnant or about-to-be pregnant couple. The program will include the physical and emotional changes of pregnancy, comfort measures for pregnancy, maternal nutrition and fitness, pregnancy precautions, fetal development and growth, pregnancy testing, life changes and more.

This first offering of the class will be complimentary but please call to reserve a space.
- Sunday, October 25: 1:00 - 3:00 pm

▶ PREPARING FOR MULTIPLES SEMINAR

Are you expecting twins, triplets or more? With the potential for early delivery, expectant parents of multiples are encouraged to learn everything there is to know about carrying and delivering multiple infants.

- Sunday, November 1: 12:30 - 5:00 pm

▶ PEDIATRIC WEIGHT CONTROL PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE

This family-based, behavioral and educational weight management program promotes healthy eating and exercise habits for overweight children and their families. More than 80% of children achieve long-term weight loss through this program — and parents lose weight too! Call (650) 725-4424 for information.

- Tuesday, November 3: 7:00 - 8:00 pm

▶ CHILDBIRTH PREP CLASS

Our Childbirth Prep Class is designed to explain the variations and choices surrounding birth. Along with preparation for labor and birth through lecture, discussion and film, the class includes relaxation and breathing techniques, medical pain relief options and the important role of the support person for the laboring mother.

- Two Sundays: November 8 & 15: 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Call (650) 723-4600 or visit www.lpch.org to register or obtain more information on the times, locations and fees for these and other courses.



Lucile Packard
Children's Hospital
at Stanford



CALL TODAY TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES (650) 723-4600

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Do Houses Sell During the Holidays?

Dear Gloria,

Q: We were trying to wait out this real estate down turn before trying to sell our home. However, things have changed and we need to try to sell before the end of the year.

We have been told that the holiday season is a difficult time for selling houses. Do you think that is the case and will we be taking a discount by trying to sell now that November is here?

Michelle and Frank

Dear Michelle and Frank,

A. Not true and especially this year! All of the tried and true clichés have not held up given the financial and particularly the real estate crisis, which we have just been through, or are going through, depending on your perspective. For example, we usually recommend that sellers take advantage of the “spring market” which for us begins the first part of February. This year, of course, we were in the depths of the economic downturn

and didn't really have a spring market. In the past six months there have been several properties which have attracted multiple offers, although it is certainly not the norm. So while casual lookers may disappear during the holidays, November through January can be a good time to sell your home. People who need to buy a home during the holidays, perhaps because of a recent transfer or a multitude of other reasons, have an immediate need to fill and are serious buyers. After all, this is a time consuming process and those buyers with a serious need are willing to take the time during this busy season.

Because so many potential sellers have held off putting their homes on the market, there is very low inventory right now. That is greatly in your favor. Use the season to show your home at its best. Decorate with candles, put your tree and lights up early and fill your home with the sights and sounds of the season.

Your home will be festive, warm and inviting to buyers.

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.



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

FREE DELIVERY
(with min. order)
“THE BEST PIZZA WEST OF NEW YORK”
—Ralph Barbieri
KNBR 680

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

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.

FINANCE

continued from page 5

licenses and permits — totaled \$2.04 million below what the city had initially projected at the end of the fiscal year, and \$1.21 million below the city's mid-year projection, adjusted to take into account the effects of the economic recession.

While the city had at mid-year anticipated about a \$340,000 jump in hotel tax revenues over the prior year with the opening of Rosewood Sand Hill, revenues from that tax actually fell by about \$120,000, despite the new hotel.

In making its revenue estimates, the city continues to rely on a 2006 report that estimated it would receive \$1 million per year in hotel tax revenues from Rosewood Sand Hill.

Sales tax revenues and fees for business license and building permits have continued to slide in the first quarter of the 2009-10 fiscal year, compared with the first quarter of the 2008-09 fiscal year, according to a separate report.

Expenses rising

Meanwhile, expenditures rose by about \$950,000 over the

prior year — and would have risen more, had the city not reduced its transfer to the capital improvement fund by \$800,000. Police spending jumped 7 percent over the prior year; spending in administrative services increased by 13 percent.

According to the report, the city's general fund finished the 2008-09 fiscal year about \$570,000 in the red. The city considers more than half of that — \$360,000 — to be a one-time, "below-the-line" expense on a long-term planning project in the city center.

Before a recently discovered \$400,000 accounting error, the city had balanced its budget for the current (2009-10) fiscal year.

With city expenses projected to rise at a faster rate than revenues in the long-term, city management is working to make structural changes to the organization as employees resign and retire in order to cut costs. ■

■ TOWN SQUARE

Post your views and comments on TownSquare: www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

ELECTION

continued from page 5

exceeding the \$1,000 threshold. Mr. Harris is running a low-visibility campaign, relying on newspaper endorsements and face-to-face contacts with the public.

Mr. Ianson has taken out several newspaper and online ads, and has posted a small number of signs, but his total spending — less than \$750, according to Mr. Ianson — is well below the threshold set for filing. He said he has also handmade campaign fliers.

The union's endorsement is a touchy topic this election, which comes at a time when the district and firefighters are at impasse in contract negotiations.

The firefighters have been working without a contract since June 2008, and have filed a complaint with the state claiming that the district has engaged in unfair labor practices. District officials have denied that charge. ■



International School of the Peninsula

Ecole internationale de la Péninsule • 半島國際學校

French and Chinese Language Immersion
Palo Alto, CA • www.istp.org • (650) 251-8504

- Nursery (3 years old) to 8th grade
- 30 years of bilingual education experience
- Academically rigorous program within a nurturing environment
- Low student-to-teacher ratio
- No second language experience required
- Established English curriculum
- Two age-appropriate campuses



French Program Info Nights: 10/6 & 11/3
Chinese Program Info Nights: 10/20 & 11/17



Explore our affordable services:

Reiki ♦ Feldenkrais ♦ Podiatry
Screenings ♦ Health Information ♦ Massage
Hypnotherapy ♦ Acupuncture

Holiday gift certificates available!

For more information,
please call (650) 289-5400
or visit www.avenidas.org.

Avenidas
Aging Well for 40 Years

www.TheAlmanacOnline.com
your online source for local news about
MENLO PARK,
ATHERTON,
PORTOLA VALLEY,
WOODSIDE

express

Get local news updates in your e-mail inbox twice weekly. **FREE.**
Sign up today at —
TheAlmanacOnline.com



DON'T LEAVE YOUR HAPPINESS TO CHANCE.

Take action to restore meaning to your life and relationships.

Have you put your happiness on hold, secretly hoping your problems will solve themselves? In a safe and confidential space, Andrew Logan can help you identify issues, break old patterns, improve communication skills and enrich your relationships. Andrew counsels families, couples and individuals—including adults, adolescents and children. Call today for a complimentary consultation.



Andrew LoganTM
PSYCHOTHERAPY

- › Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist **MFC #45196**
- › Member of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists
- › Board Certified Professional Counselor

510 Waverly Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301 | t 650.462.1100 | andrewloganmft.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

What public benefits from Bohannon project?

What would it take for Menlo Park's City Council to approve one of the largest single land development projects in the city's history? Given the project's size, are council members willing to consider it at all?

Those are the questions council members will try to answer in their next two meetings, as they offers guidance on how city management should proceed with development negotiations for the Menlo Gateway project, proposed by the Bohannon Company.

The council will begin the discussion at its meeting Tuesday, Nov. 3, starting at 6 p.m., in the council chambers between Laurel and Alma streets in the Civic Center complex. The meeting will begin with a two-hour presentation.

The council will continue the discussion at its Nov. 17 meeting.

Public benefits would come in exchange for a major re-zoning and general plan amendment to allow for three eight-story office buildings and a hotel near Marsh Road and Bayfront Expressway.

The city has already collected input from residents and city commissioners on what form public benefits might take.

Go to tinyurl.com/yacoz2 for a list of those ideas.

George Shultz at St. Bede's

Former Secretary of State George Shultz will lead a discussion at St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Menlo Park on Thursday, Nov. 5, from 4 to 6 p.m.. The topic: his advocacy for a world free of nuclear weapons.

The discussion will center on a 50-minute documentary about the efforts by Mr. Shultz, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of Defense William Perry, and former Senator Sam Nunn, to "raise awareness about nuclear threats" and to "help build support for urgent actions needed to address nuclear threats," according to a St. Bede's spokesperson.

St. Bede's is located at 2650 Sand Hill Road, near Monte Rosa Drive.

Mr. Shultz is a fellow at Stan-

■ MENLO WATCH

ford's Hoover Institution, and a parishioner at St. Bede's, according to the spokesperson.

Meet the mayor at farmers' market

Menlo Park Mayor Heyward Robinson plans to hold an informal "meet the mayor" event at the Menlo Park Farmers' Market on Sunday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m. to noon. The market is in the

parking lot next to Trader Joe's.

Mr. Robinson said he wanted to give residents a chance to chat with him and ask questions before the end of his year-long term as mayor in December (the position rotates among council members).

The farmers' market has been a hub of political activity lately, with farmers' market founders and downtown business interests campaigning against preliminary long-term plans by the city for the downtown area.

Menlo Park motorcyclist killed

The Santa Clara County medical examiner's office Monday identified a motorcyclist who died after crashing on state Highway 84 near La Honda on Sunday morning as 29-year-old Sundararajan Venkatesh of Menlo Park.

The crash was reported at about 10:10 a.m. on west-bound Highway 84 near Entrada Way in unincorporated San Mateo County.

Mr. Venkatesh, a Menlo

Park resident, apparently lost control of his 2009 Honda motorcycle while negotiating a turn and crashed into a guardrail.

He was ejected from the motorcycle and suffered major internal injuries, according to the California Highway Patrol.

He was airlifted to Stanford Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at 2:23 p.m.

— Bay City News Service

FREE Seminar for Parents

"Eating Disorders in Adolescents – what are they and why be concerned?"



**Thursday, November 19
7:00-9:00 pm**

**Bethany Lutheran Church
1095 Cloud Avenue, Menlo Park**

Speaker: Neville H. Golden, M.D.

Neville H. Golden is Chief of Adolescent Medicine at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and the Marron and Mary Elizabeth Kendrick Professor in Pediatrics at Stanford University School of Medicine. In conjunction with the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the Division of Adolescent Medicine runs a multidisciplinary inpatient and outpatient program for the treatment of children, adolescents and young adults with eating disorders. His research has focused on the medical complications of adolescents with eating disorders and in particular, the cause and implications of menstrual disturbances in adolescents with anorexia nervosa. He has studied growth retardation and structural brain changes in anorexia nervosa; vital sign instability and nutritional rehabilitation in malnutrition secondary to eating disorders; and the use of both hormone replacement therapy and bisphosphonates to treat reduced bone mass in anorexia nervosa.

**SEATING IS LIMITED AND IS ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

**To reserve your seat, contact Linda at
lindab@bethany-mp.org or call 650-854-5897, ext. 210**

Include your name, phone number, email address, number of people attending.

Ready for holiday entertaining? Shop Our November Sale.



BRICK MONKEY

Curious and distinctive home furnishing, accessories and gifts now in downtown Redwood City.

2400 Broadway, Redwood City. 650.260.1155 www.brickmonkeyonline.com

Heartfelt professional care for the elderly



"Assisted living that's better than home."

- Private or shared rooms
- 24-hour on-call assistance
- Dementia and Alzheimer's care
- All meals, snacks, special diets
- Many special activities and events
- Personal care
- Beautiful new wandering paths and vegetable garden

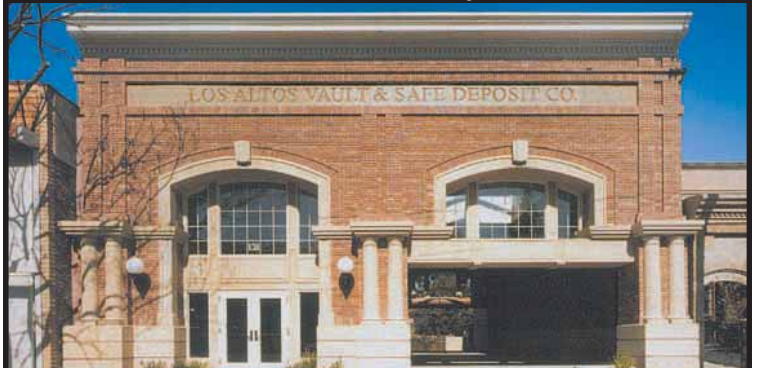
just like family

Gordon Manor
1616 Gordon Street
Redwood City, CA 94061
Lic # 415600025

650.562.0555

www.justlikefamily.com • Family owned and operated

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.

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



express

Get local news updates
in your e-mail inbox
daily.

FREE.

Sign up today at —

TheAlmanacOnline.com

YOUR OWN BACKYARD

As raising chickens returns to vogue, local people forge a new relationship with key food source

A sampling of eggs produced by chickens raised by the Freidenrich family in Woodside, varying widely in color, size and shape.

Michelle Le/The Almanac



Michelle Le/The Almanac

Bianca Johnston, 6, holds Licorice, her favorite chicken. Bianca has forged a relationship with the four chickens her family raises, and says she likes them because they are “crazy.”

When Leslie Ballinger and her family started raising chickens in 1998, they were pretty much on their own.

Upon moving from Menlo Park to Woodside, they decided to fill a small portion of their greatly expanded backyard space with a chicken coop. But the family faced a steep learning curve, primarily because they didn't know anyone else who raised chickens. The family had no one to go to for advice when the hens got sick; no one to warn them about the dangers of predators; no one with whom to swap stories about their chickens' personalities, or the quality of their eggs.

Eleven years later, that has all changed. Ms. Ballinger has friends and neighbors who raise their own domesticated fowls; they share eggs, trade stories and helpful tips.

“It's very much an exchange of information,” she said. “People who have just started raising chickens will e-mail me with questions; someone will have too many hens for whatever reason, and will want to give some away. ... It's a very nice community.”

Spurred in large part by the “eat local” movement, and perhaps by a rebellious do-it-yourself ethos in this age of big-box retail, suburban Americans are embracing the idea of raising their own chickens. In local towns, it has started to take the shape of a true grassroots movement. Many of the people we interviewed for this story became interested in raising chickens when their kids learned about it in school, or when they saw the coops of neighbors and friends; most of them knew scads of other families who also raised hens.

They don't necessarily raise chickens for the same reasons. Some see the animals as

pets, others as a source of delicious eggs, still others as part of a whole ecological backyard system.

But all of them are re-forging a relationship with an animal that for decades has been absent from their everyday lives. And while it's perhaps not surprising that there are plenty of chickens running around backyards in Woodside and Portola Valley, city dwellers take note: They are also making inroads into Menlo Park and Atherton.

Picking up steam

It seems clear that raising chickens is a growing trend locally, though it's harder to put a finger on its origin.

Kathy, the seed store clerk at Portola Valley Feed, said she thinks the “locavore” movement has fueled demand in recent years. She noticed a sharp upswing in customers after *Sunset* magazine published a short how-to article on raising chickens in April 2009.

“I don't know if it's directly attributable to that, but we did notice an increase,” she said. “Also, people start to (buy chickens) as their neighbors get them, too.”

About 75 people per week come into the store to buy chicken feed, according to Kathy (who didn't give her last name). She can tell the newcomers from the veterans because they tend to buy the increasingly popular organic chicken feed, though it's “almost twice as expensive as conventional feed.”

The chickens in the Menlo Park backyard

of Alessandra Costa and Michael Johnston owe their perch in large part to Michael Pollan, whose 2006 book “*The Omnivore's Dilemma*” has become a sort of sacred text for proponents of the “eat local” movement.

‘Chickens seem to be a perfect convergence of the economic, environmental, gastronomic, and emotional matters of the moment.’

WRITER SUSAN ORLEAN

“My husband started reading all of Michael Pollan's books about how we eat, how poorly we eat, how poorly the animals we eat are raised,” Ms. Costa said. It took some convincing to get her on board, but she eventually warmed to the idea, and the family purchased four chicks in August.

While Mr. Pollan's book has certainly helped spark a renaissance for backyard chickens, environmental sustainability wasn't the primary motivator for most of the people we talked to.

“Most of the people I know wanted fresh eggs, and had the space to do it,” said Woodside resident Lisa York, whose family got their chicks from a neighbor with a surplus, at the urging of her daughter. “As far as just completely starting off doing it because it's environmentally a good thing ... I don't know anybody who started off that way.”

“I'm a fan of the environment,” but the taste of the eggs played a bigger role in his family's decision to raise chickens, said Atherton resident Bruce Deal (they have eight hens). “If the kids hadn't have thought of this idea, I can guarantee you we wouldn't have chickens.”

Woodside resident Amy Freidenrich's daughter convinced the family to get chickens after studying them at Woodside Elementary School. Ms. Freidenrich's husband didn't want anything to do with the chickens, at first.

Now, “I'll find him sitting in the living room with a glass of wine, watching the chickens in the yard like it's TV,” she said.

‘Perfect convergence’

Leslie Ballinger, the longtime Woodside chicken raiser, said she often brings the strange-shaped, odd-colored, bright-yolked eggs her hens produce as gifts when she visits friends in Atherton or Menlo Park, where they're seen as something of a novelty.

But it wasn't too long ago when backyard chickens were about as common as backyard tomatoes. As Ms. Ballinger points out, it's not a coincidence that “scratching out a living,” “hen-pecked,” and “pecking order” are some of our most common idioms.

In a recent article in *The New Yorker*, Susan Orlean traces the disappearing act of chickens from backyards to the newfound availability of supermarket eggs in the 1950s, along with a growing “enchantment with a hygienic, suburbanized life.”

“Can you picture the ambitious young couples of Westchester in the fifties wanting chickens pecking around the flagstone patio and the swing set?” she asks. Now, “chickens seem to be a perfect convergence of the economic, environmental, gastronomic, and emotional matters of the moment.”

As people in local towns get caught up in chicken fever, they have begun to forge a rich new relationship with an animal we have long known solely through the identically sized white eggs and saran-covered cuts of

COVER STORY BY SEAN HOWELL

meat that line supermarket aisles.

Often, the first things people notice when they get their own chickens are the eggs themselves: oddly shaped, varying widely in size, with a rich, foreign flavor.

"We give them away to friends, and they love them," Mr. Deal said. "They're super-tasty. It's not like I was some kind of egg connoisseur before, but once you get used to the taste of fresh eggs, you definitely appreciate it."

"You get spoiled," said Ladera resident Eric Ponteri, whose family has kept three chickens for several years. "Our older son won't eat an omelet if we don't have our own eggs, it's that noticeable."

For some families, chickens have become the centerpiece of the household ecological system. Everyone interviewed for this story learned quickly to feed their hens food scraps from the house.

"I go to friends' houses for lunch and take their compost back home," said Ms. Ballinger. "You almost get obsessive about not wasting stuff; I've packed food scraps in a suitcase and taken them on a plane before."

Chicken poop also makes for potent fertilizer. Ms. Costa and Mr. Johnston, the Menlo Park couple, simply move the coop around to different spots in the garden that need to be fertilized.

Unlikely pets

Hens may not be quite as affectionate as dogs or cats, but many of the people we spoke to were surprised at how attached they've grown to them.

"They're not very smart animals, but they're kind of friendly,

and enthusiastic," Mr. Deal said. "They waddle to the fence, they start clucking — it's kind of like having a dog. ... It's not that they're really great companions, but it's like, 'Oh, someone's happy to see me in the mornings,'" he said with a laugh.

Ms. York's two hens come when she calls them by name. Ms. Costa and Mr. Johnston's 6-year-old daughter, Bianca, carries their hens around under her arm. After pleading for (and getting) a hamster, she has basically lost all interest in it, in favor of the chickens.

Many of the people we interviewed for this story started raising chickens because they thought it would provide a good educational opportunity for their kids. Ms. Costa said the chickens have become a major attraction for Bianca's friends, and sometimes for their parents. Julie Figliozzi's kids raise their own chickens in their Menlo Park backyard, and recently hosted a class on backyard chickens, as part of the San Carlos 4-H club.

But don't get too attached, Ms. Ballinger warns. Her family named its first batch of hens, but stopped after they started getting eaten by predators and occasionally dying of disease. There was one particularly horrific incident involving a possum; three of her hens froze in a cold snap last winter. Early on she took one hen to the vet to be put down, but said she isn't inclined to do it again.

Still, there's "always one in particular that I get quite fond of," she said. "She'll come running to me, let me pet and hold her. And that actually is an amazing little bond

there, it's kind of funny."

She also finds herself taking an unusual kind of comfort in the flock after traumatic events.

"I went out there on 9/11," she said. "Everyone was so shocked. And going up to see them, sitting down and petting the chickens, was really therapeutic. I do the same thing if there's a death in the family. ... It's very relaxing, I think it's spiritually good for you."

While the people we spoke to are happy to harvest eggs from their hens, the prospect of putting them on a dinner plate was a little tougher to swallow.

"I'm not a vegetarian, but the idea of raising chickens and then killing and eating them ... I couldn't do that," said Ms. Costa.

Ms. York of Woodside agreed. "If you had a bunch, and they were just out there, you didn't have names for them and they weren't pets..." she said, trailing off.

Mr. Ponteri's son Bixby, 13, stopped eating store-bought chicken meat after the family got chickens. "He became very aware of the life of the animal, and the process that animals go through" in the industrial food system, Mr. Ponteri said.

"The first time I served chicken, my oldest fingered it and said, 'This kind of reminds me of Rosetta,'" said Ms. Ballinger — referring to the name of one of their hens. "It took a while to disassociate store-bought chickens from the ones they petted and loved."

"I'm not sure the kids would buy into that," Mr. Deal said. "We're avoiding that discussion for the time being ... I'm sure the meat's tasty..." ■

RAISING CHICKENS: A FEW TIPS

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

Interested in raising chickens in your backyard? Here are a few words of wisdom from other local people who do it, and some tips on where and how to get started.



How many eggs can you expect from one chicken? Slightly less than one per day during the summer months; as little as one per week during the winter.

In addition to feed, what will they eat? Practically anything, according to Mr. Deal — including their own eggs.

Getting started

The first thing you'll need to get is a coop — and some chicks.

Coops come in all shapes and sizes. You can get a pre-built standard one (omlet.us is one popular source), build your own, or have one built for you. Paul Gardner, owner of Whole House Building Supply in East Palo Alto, says he'll build one to your specifications out of recycled material: antiquated-looking coops, A-frames, standard wire affairs, you name it.

Half Moon Bay Feed and Fuel is the closest spot nearby for baby chicks, though be warned: It can be difficult to tell a hen from a rooster, and several people we talked to had to find a new home for one or more chickens when they started crowing.

You can have grown chickens about to enter their laying years delivered through standard U.S. mail from McMurray Hatchery in Iowa.

After you've gotten set up, Portola Valley Feed should be able to outfit you with everything you need.

In terms of upkeep, many of the people we spoke to were surprised to learn how easy caring for mature chickens is. Atherton resident Bruce Deal estimates that he spends less than five minutes a day giving his family's chickens water and food, and collecting the eggs.

"I thought it was probably going to be, (a), a lot of work, and (b), dirty and messy," Mr. Deal said. "It's not zero work, but it's not as much as I thought it might be, assuming you have a place big enough for them to run around in."

But "If people are thinking about getting birds, they need to go over to (the house of a friend or neighbor with chickens) and watch them clean out the coop," said Woodside resident Amy Freidenrich. "It's a messy proposition."

In the 'burbs

The family of Woodside resident Leslie Ballinger started raising chickens when the family moved from Menlo Park to Woodside in 1998. In retrospect, she wishes they had started earlier. "It's low-maintenance," she said. "I wish I had known (when I lived in Menlo Park), I would have had chickens then."

"I live in a very urban neighborhood, but I know at least a half-dozen people here with chickens," Ladera resident Eric Ponteri said.

Though hens can cluck quite a bit, no one we spoke with was bothered by the noise, or reported annoyed neighbors.

You aren't likely to run into problems with the authorities in any local jurisdictions, though Menlo Park, Atherton and Portola Valley ban roosters.

Menlo Park permits up to 50 chickens per quarter acre. Atherton code calls for hen-keepers to apply for a license, but no one does, according to code enforcement officer Bob Cushing. "We don't get any complaints," he said. "The only thing that comes up a couple times a year is roosters."

Suburbanites don't have to worry much about coyotes or red-tailed hawks, a which can pose a threat to Woodside hens. Still, raccoons, rats and possums can be trouble, according to Ms. Ballinger.

Economics

Yeah, it's great to have fresh eggs, a clean conscience, and some low-maintenance pets. But will raising hens pencil out?

Only if you eat them when their laying days are up, according to Kathy, the seed store clerk at Portola Valley Feed. ■



Michelle Le/The Almanac

Theo Freidenrich, right, mixes bird feed as his sisters Beverly (center) and Sylvia (left) coax the chickens out of their coop in the family's yard in Woodside.

PINEWOOD SCHOOL

Open House Events

November 7

Grades 3-6
9:00 am – 11:00 am
327 Fremont Avenue
Los Altos
650.209.3060

November 7

Grades 7-12
11:00 am – 1:00 pm
26800 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills
650.209.3020

November 14

Grades K-2
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
477 Fremont Avenue
Los Altos
650.209.3060

Experience *the Difference*

Founded in 1959, Pinewood is an independent, coeducational, non-profit, college-prep school serving grades K-12. Students benefit from small class size, a rigorous academic curriculum, and a wide choice of enrichment activities from sports to fine arts, to community service. Our limited enrollment of 600 students is divided over three campuses. We offer an environment where each student is a respected and vital member of our educational community. Pinewood welcomes students of diverse cultural, religious, socio-economic, and ethnic backgrounds. We invite you to explore the opportunity for your student to become a part of the Pinewood tradition of academic excellence.

K
THROUGH
12

For more information, and to discuss the advantages we provide at Pinewood, please contact our Admissions Office.

www.pinewood.edu

Police: Be on lookout for missing man

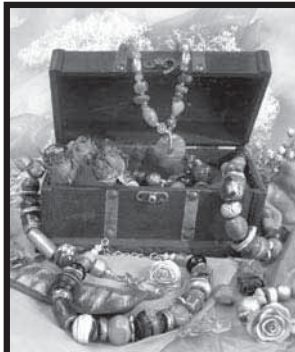
Police are searching for Menlo Park resident Paul McAdoo, 86, who has been reported missing and was last seen at 8 a.m. on Oct. 16 in the vicinity of his residence in the 1300 block of Carlton Avenue in the Belle Haven neighborhood. Mr. McAdoo suffers from dementia.

Mr. McAdoo, a black man who is 5 feet, 7 inches tall, and 135 pounds, was wearing a brown/tan trench coat and a gray golf cap, and was carrying a cane, according to investigators from the Menlo Park Police

Department.

Mr. McAdoo, who has gone missing in the past, has been discovered all over the Bay Area. He is known to use SamTrans buses and BART and to frequent Daly City, the TransBay terminal in San Francisco, and Pittsburg and East Bay BART stations, police said.

Police are actively investigating this case, and are asking anyone with information on Mr. McAdoo's whereabouts to call 330-6300 immediately.



2009 Holiday Boutique

Benefiting Peninsula Volunteers, Inc.

Saturday and Sunday
November 7th & 8th
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Little House - Roslyn G. Morris Activity Center
800 Middle Avenue • Menlo Park

Please call 650-326-2025 for more information.

Free How-To Clinics

Sign up to
reserve
your seat

November 7 → Tony & Joleen Morales *Redwood Landscape, Inc.*
How to Incorporate a Viable Landscape Drainage System for Your Yard

November 14 → Astrid Gaiser & Earl Boyd *Astrid Gaiser Design & Lyngso Garden Materials*
Gardening Green: Tips & Answers to Some of the Questions of Sustainable Gardening

November 21 → Allison Olson *Dreamscapes*
Why Succulents in Your Garden, How to Pick and Plant Them

December 5 → Theresa Lyngso *Lyngso Garden Materials*
The Soil FoodWeb, Learning About Living Soils

www.lyngsogarden.com
650.364.1730

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

LYNGSØ
GARDEN MATERIALS, INC.



Atherton parcel tax campaign tops \$10,000

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Supporters of Measures S and T, a renewal of the Atherton parcel tax on the Nov. 3 ballot, raised more than \$10,000 as of Oct. 17. With the addition of Councilman James Dobbie, the financial supporters now include all five members of the City Council.

In the finance report filed Oct. 22, campaign treasurers Richard Moore and Douglas Devivo reported receiving \$5,759 in contributions between Sept. 20 and Oct. 17, bringing the Yes on S and T campaign's total to \$10,533. The biggest expenditure reported by the group is \$2,540 for newspaper advertisements.

The biggest contributions made during the most recent campaign finance filing period are from Mindy Rogers, a retired Atherton resident, and Jeffrey Wise, an inventor, who each gave \$500.

Other top donors are: Councilman James Dobbie, \$300; Robert O'Donnell of Capital Research & Management, \$250; Bernard Ross, an engineer, \$200; Joseph Comar-



tin, retired, \$200; and Jonathan Venverloh, a senior manager at Google, \$200.

The parcel tax is an annual assessment that costs most Atherton homeowners \$750, unchanged from the current rate. The proceeds fund infrastructure improvements as well as town gen-

eral fund expenses such as police and employee salaries. It generated about \$1.86 million last year.

Measure S renews the tax at the existing rate. Measure T allows the town to raise its appropriation limit to spend revenue from the tax.

Measure S, the four-year renewal of the parcel tax, requires approval by two-thirds of the voters to pass. Measure T needs a simple majority: at least 50 percent of voters plus one. ■



Always
BEST CARE
SENIOR SERVICES

Call (650) 299-0220

Helping others,
making life rich - *Always*

- Care from 4 hours to 24 hours a day
- Allows you to remain safe in your home
- Care Providers are well screened and trained
- FREE No obligation in-home care assessment

4 HOURS FREE

when you purchase 20 hours of in-home care

Coupon Valid Until: 12/31/09

Code:

Not to be combined with any other offer and subject to change without notice. Offer valid for initial 20 hour order only.

www.alwaysbestcare.com

express

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

Sign up today at
TheAlmanacOnline.com

TOM'S OUTDOOR FURNITURE

SOLID • SUSTAINABLE • BEAUTIFUL

40% OFF

ALL TEAK
AND UMBRELLAS

Offer good through 11-30-09

Open Year Round Daily 10 - 5
650-366-0411

1445 Veterans Blvd, Redwood City
www.tomsoutdoorfurniture.com

"BEST ON THE PENINSULA" "DEALER OF THE YEAR"
SF Examiner Consumer Business Review 2009



MERCY

A Catholic College Preparatory Since 1931

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday - 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

November 15th

Tours are approximately 1 1/2 hours in length;
the last tour will begin at 2:15 p.m.



Mercy High School
2750 Adeline Drive • Burlingame
650.762.1114
www.mercyhsb.com



PORTOLA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Request for Statement of Qualifications For Architectural and Engineering Services

The Portola Valley School District is seeking Request for Qualifications (RFQ) as an initial step in the selection of a qualified architectural organization to provide architectural and engineering services to the District for Solar Energy Project at Ormondale and Corte Madera Schools.

For RFQ application materials, please contact:

Tim Hanretty
Assistant Superintendent
Portola Valley School District
4575 Alpine Road
Portola Valley, CA 94028
(650) 851-1777 ext. 3000
thanretty@pvdsd.net

From the qualified list of firms, the District may proceed to select a number of firms for oral interviews. The deadline for submission of the RFQ application materials is December 4, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

The Request for Qualifications does not commit the Portola Valley School District to award a contract or pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a proposal responsive to this request. The District reserves the right to accept all or part of any proposal or cancel in part or in its entirety this Request for Qualifications. The District further reserves the right to accept the proposal that it considers to be in the best interest of the District.

CITY OF MENLO PARK ORDINANCE 965 SUMMARY NOTICE OF ADOPTION

The City Council of Menlo Park adopted Ordinance No. 965 at its regular City Council meeting of October 20, 2009. The Ordinance was introduced on October 6, 2009, and adopted on October 20, 2009, by a 4-1 vote. The ordinance is effective thirty days from its adoption, and is summarized as:

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK REZONING PROPERTY WITH THE PRIMARY ADDRESS OF 1300 EL CAMINO REAL. This Ordinance amends the zoning map of the City of Menlo Park such that certain real property with the primary address of 1300 El Camino Real (061-430-420 and 061-430-450) is rezoned from C-4 (General Commercial District – Applicable to El Camino Real) to P-D(8) (Planned Development).

The full text of the ordinance and all exhibits are available at the Office of the City Clerk and/or may be viewed on the City of Menlo Park website at www.menlopark.org

Margaret S. Roberts, MMC
City Clerk

Dated: October 27, 2009



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE HOUSING ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD OF PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION RELATED TO THESE AMENDMENTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the housing element of the town's general plan on November 18, 2009 at 7:30 p.m., at the Historic Schoolhouse in the Town Center, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California. The proposed amendments include four significant changes to town policy as follows: facilitation of approval process for some second units, allowance of emergency shelters at religious institutions, allowance of residential facilities for six or fewer people by right in residential areas (as required by the state) and consideration of a housing impact fee to be used for affordable housing. Other changes are intended to implement the housing element and do not represent changes in housing policy. Interested parties are urged to review a copy of the plan at Portola Valley Town Hall. The Planning Commission will consider all evidence, written and oral pertaining to the proposed amendments. All interested persons are invited to appear before the Planning Commission to be heard at the time and place mentioned above.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed negative declaration regarding the above mentioned general plan amendments has been prepared. The Planning Commission of the Town of Portola Valley will consider the proposed negative declaration at its meeting on November 18, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Schoolhouse in the Town Center, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California. The review period for the negative declaration will extend to November 16, 2009 and all interested persons are invited to submit comments in writing so that they are received at Town Hall no later than November 16, 2009. Copies of the proposed negative declaration are available at Portola Valley Town Hall, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California.

Portola Valley Town Hall is open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays.

Date: October 22, 2009 Leslie A. Lambert
Planning Manager

Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events

Preholiday Book Sale. Woodside Friends of the Library host their semi-annual sale of thousands of books from private collections (\$1/hardbacks, 25¢ paperbacks) in all categories, books on tape, cds, dvds, videos plus a special selection of pristine books for gift-giving. Hundreds of comic books. Rain or shine. Sat., Nov. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Woodside Public Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-1532.

On Stage

"Bulrush" by Eisa Davis. Stanford Drama presents this finalist for the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, set in 1955 in the redwood

country north of San Francisco. Nov. 5-7, 8 p.m. Tickets \$5-\$15. Nitery Theater in the Old Union, 514 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 808-621-2680. drama.stanford.edu

"Night of the Living Dead." Palo Alto Children's Theatre presents "Night of the Living Dead." Oct. 29-Nov. 7, 8-9:30 p.m. \$5 children, \$10 adults. Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-463-4930. www.cityofpaloalto.org/childrenstheatre

Talks/Authors

When Alaska Called! Chris Goode, a fifth-generation Californian, will discuss his book, "Sourdoughs at Seventy Mile: California Native

Sons in the Yukon Gold Rush." His book blends San Mateo County pioneer history with the experiences of the sons of the pioneers who traveled to Alaska in search of gold. Sat., Nov. 7, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2512. www.menloparklibrary.org

Chef David Chang's "Momofuku." Chef David Chang presents his new cookbook. Sat., Nov. 7, 4 p.m. Free. Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com

Herant Katchadourian's "Guilt: The Bite of Conscience". "Guilt" studies guilt from a wide variety of perspectives including those of psychology, anthropology, religion and philosophy. Thu., Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com

Joyce Carol Oates' "Little Bird of Heaven." Told in halves in two very different voices, "Little Bird of Heaven" is a new Oates novel. Wed., Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com

Kids & Families

Las Lomitas Book Fair. Proceeds of the book fair go to support the school's library and literacy programs. Nov. 6-12, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. (closes at 3:30 p.m. Sat.). Las Lomitas Book Fair, 299 Alameda de las Pulgas, Atherton. www.llesd.k12.ca.us

For all listings

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

Sacred Heart Schools

Where scholarship and values matter



OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

PRESCHOOL & K: 650.322.0176

GRADES 1-8: 650.473.4011

Tours available for preschool - 5
(please call for an appointment)

Open House for Grades 6-8
Sunday, November 1 at 1 p.m.
Saturday, November 14 at 10 a.m.
(registration required)

GRADES 9-12: 650.473.4006

Open House
Sunday, October 25 at 1 p.m.
Sunday, November 22 at 1 p.m.
(no registration required)

150 Valparaiso Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027

www.shschools.org

Inquiries and reservations: admission@shschools.org

NORMA GREENE LECLAIRE

Passed away peacefully in her home September 29, 2009. Born in 1913 in Binghamton, New York, to Harry and Luella Greene. Graduate of New York University at Cortland, New York. Married to Harry W. LeClaire from 1939 until his death in 1991. Mother of Don LeClaire of Woodside and Ed LeClaire of Vancouver, WA. Grandmother of 5 and great grandmother of 4.

For almost 40 years, she played a supporting role in her husband's founding and development of Tab Products Company.

Her civic involvement was in The Girl Scouts, Palo Alto Auxiliary, Pink Lady at Stanford Hospital and a Member and former president of the Atherton Garden Club. Se was a member of Palo Alto Hills and Menlo Country Clubs. She was a generous contributor to Stanford University Hospital and Chapel, The Boys Club of America and other charities.

A family service was held on October 6, 2009 at Alta Mesa Memorial Park, Palo Alto, CA.

Donations in her name may be made to a charity of choice.

PAID OBITUARY

FARNAD

C O U T U R E



LOCAL DESIGNER

Farnad couture is created by Farnad in Menlo Park, at her onsite design studio and boutique. When you walk in, you experience the feminine touch with a collection expressing elegance, sophistication intertwined with art. Her elegant designs, embellished with modern European fabrics, give our today's sophisticated women a new and inspired look.

Farnad's textile inspired designs celebrate the essence of luxury yet bringing to you an effortlessly sensual couture line of clothing, that every woman desires, finds timeless and easy to wear.

Visit the Menlo Park's
Design Salon
Mon. Wed. Fri.
11 am - 6 pm
For appointments call
650.325.1200
1160 University Dr.
Menlo Park Ca 94025

Plans heat up for 'Havana Nights'

Cuban music and mojitos will put guests in a festive mood at "Havana Nights," St. Raymond School's annual auction, to be held Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton.

The evening will feature a wine cellar, with popular favorites and hard-to-find wines, cocktails, dinner, a live auction and dancing.

Those who wish to donate wine for the auction, may call Bob Vanhoy or Kevin Forsaith at Draeger's

supermarket in Menlo Park with donation amount and credit card number and they will select wines for purchase at the auction. For every dollar donated, the store will add another 20 percent to the school.

Week-long accommodations in Italy, Cape Cod and Kiahuna Beachside Resort in Hawaii, are among the auction items, according to co-chairs Britt-Marie Sundquist and Stacey Sundquist Anstead. This is the third year the twin sisters have co-chaired the event.

Tickets are \$50 for cocktails, appetizers, wine and roving auc-

AROUND TOWN

tions. Tickets for the entire evening are \$100 and also include dinner, live auction and dancing. For tickets, call Nina Gabb at 593-5494.

Solo art exhibit by Adele Seltzer

A solo exhibition of recent paintings, sculptures and monotypes by Menlo Park artist Adele Seltzer opened this week at Bry-

ant Street Gallery in Palo Alto. An artist reception is set for Friday, Nov. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. For some 30 years, Ms. Seltzer

See **AROUND TOWN**, page 16



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 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/ForSight Labs, LLC/191 Jefferson Drive: Request for a use permit for the indoor storage and use of hazardous materials for the research and development of vision-related medical technologies in the M-2 (General Industrial) zoning district.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS

Appeal of Administrative Permit/Safeway, Inc./515 El Camino Real: Appeal of the Community Development Director's approval of an administrative permit for outside seating in conjunction with food services (both Peet's Coffee and Rubio's Restaurants) and to allow the sale of beer and wine in conjunction with a restaurant use (Rubio's Restaurants only) in the C-4 ECR(X) (General Commercial, Applicable to El Camino Real, Conditional Development) zoning district. *Continued from the meeting of October 19, 2009*

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, November 16, 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: October 29, 2009 Deanna Chow, Senior Planner
PUBLISHED: November 4, 2009 Menlo Park Planning Commission

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



Menlo School

Why Menlo School? Come Find Out.



Rigorous. Engaging. Joyful.

Middle School Open Houses: 11/8/09 1:00 pm; 12/3/09 6:00 pm
Upper School Open Houses: 12/6/09 1:00 pm

50 Valparaiso Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027 • 650.330.2000 ext. 2600 • www.menloschool.org

STANFORD LIVELY-ARTS

09-10

PERFORMING ARTS SEASON



A PORTRAIT OF LEONARD BERNSTEIN
JAMIE BERNSTEIN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 | 8 PM
 DINKELSPIEL AUDITORIUM

Bernstein's daughter Jamie shares the world of her father in an unforgettable evening of story and song, joined by pianist **Michael Barrett** and singers **William Sharp** and **Judy Kaye**.



4 SEPARATE PROGRAMS—CONCERTS, FAMILY PROGRAM & MORE
THE PROKOFIEV PROJECT

NOVEMBER 12-15
 SEE WEBSITE FOR PROGRAM INFO

The great 20th-century Russian composer/pianist is explored and celebrated by pianist **Alexander Toradze**, the Stanford Symphony Orchestra, scholar **Joseph Horowitz**, puppet artist **Robin Walsh**, and others.

Plus: Contrasts Quartet (11.18), "From the Top" with Christopher O'Riley (12.5), Chanticleer (12.10), Steve Reich + So Percussion (1.9), Kronos Quartet + Wu Man (1.16), Morphoses (1.22), Misha Dichter (2.17), Vusi Mahlasela (2.19), Terence Blanchard (3.6), Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet (4.21), Hal Holbrook in "Mark Twain Tonight!" (4.27), Laurie Anderson (5.5) **AND MANY MORE!**

TICKETS: livelyarts.stanford.edu | 650-725-ARTS



Community Health Education Programs

Palo Alto Center 795 El Camino Real

Lecture and Workshops

Surviving the Holiday Blues for Caregivers

Presented by Donna Schempp, LCSW, Program Director,
Family Caregiver Alliance
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 – 8:30 p.m., 650-853-4873

Living Well Classes

What You Need to Know About Warfarin

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2 – 3 p.m., 650-853-2960

Managing Your High Blood Pressure

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 3 – 5 p.m., 650-853-2960

Nutrition and Diabetes Classes

Bariatric Class

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 9:30 a.m. – noon, 650-853-2961

Bariatric Shared Medical Appointment

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 10:30 a.m. – noon, 650-853-2961

Prediabetes

Monday, Nov. 9, 9 – 11:30 a.m., 650-853-2961



Healthy Eating with Type 2 Diabetes

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., 650-853-2961

Heart Smart Class

Must attend both sessions.
Tuesdays, Nov. 17 & 24,
5:30 – 8:30 p.m.,
650-853-2961

Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and Child Care Classes

Moving Through Pregnancy

Mondays, Nov. 9, 16 & 23, 7 – 9 p.m., 650-853-2960

Preparing for Birth

Thursdays, Nov. 5 – Dec. 17,
7 – 9 p.m., 650-853-2960

Feeding Your Toddler

Thursday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m. – noon, 650-853-2961



Refresher: Preparing for Birth

Sunday, Nov. 15,
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.,
650-853-2960

Breastfeeding

Saturday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m. – noon, 650-853-2960

Support Groups

Cancer

650-342-3749

CPAP

650-853-4729

Diabetes

650-224-7872

Drug and Alcohol

650-853-2904

Healing Imagery for Cancer Patients

650-799-5512

Kidney

650-323-2225

Multiple Sclerosis

650-328-0179

Redwood Shores Health Center 290 Redwood Shores Parkway

Nutrition and Diabetes Classes

Prediabetes

Wednesday, Nov. 25, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., 650-853-2961

Mountain View Center 701 E. El Camino Real

Lecture and Workshops

Behavioral Strategies that Work in the Preschooler

Marvin Small Memorial Parent Workshop Series

Presented by Elizabeth Copeland, M.D.

Tuesday, Dec. 8, 7 – 8:30 p.m., 650-934-7380



Nutrition and Diabetes Classes 650-934-7177

Healthy Living and Controlling Diabetes (2 part class)

Wednesdays, Nov. 4 & 11,
2 – 4:30 p.m.,

Tuesdays, Nov. 10 & 17,
9:30 a.m. – noon,

Wednesdays, Nov. 18 & 25,
2 – 4:30 p.m.,

Tuesdays, Nov. 24 and Dec. 1,
9:30 a.m. – noon,

Heart Smart Class

Thursday, Nov. 5 & Tuesday,
Nov. 10, 3 – 5:30 p.m.

Prediabetes

Thursday, Nov. 19 & Tuesday,
Nov. 24, 3 – 5:30 p.m.

HMR Weight Management Program 650-404-8260

Free orientation session. Tuesdays, Nov. 3 & 17, noon – 1 p.m., Thursdays, Nov. 12 & 19, 5 – 6:30 p.m.,

Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and Child Care Classes



Breastfeeding

Monday or Tuesday, Nov. 2,
3, 9, Dec. 7 & 8,
6:30 – 9 p.m.

Feeding Your Toddler

Tuesday, Nov. 3 & Dec. 1,
7 – 9 p.m.

Infant Emergencies and CPR

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 25 or Dec. 2, 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Preparing for Baby

Tuesday, Nov. 10 and Dec. 1,
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Childbirth Preparation

Friday, Dec. 4, 6 – 9 p.m., or Saturday, Nov. 5, 9 a.m. – noon

For all, register online or call 650-934-7373.

Health Resource Center 650-934-7380

General Social Services, Friday, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4, 1 – 2 p.m., drop-in visits with our social worker

HICAP Counseling, by appointment

Advance Health Care Directive, by appointment



Palo Alto Medical Foundation

A Sutter Health Affiliate

Community Based, Not For Profit

For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures and health education resources, visit: pamf.org.

AROUND TOWN

continued from page 15

has exhibited her works in museums and galleries in the United States and Germany.

Her work is inspired by an interest in archaeology and her connections with nature, she says. Motion is a theme of the work in her current exhibit.

The exhibit closes Nov. 30. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and Thursdays until 7 p.m. The gallery is at 532 Bryant St.

More information about Ms. Seltzer and her work is at adeleseltzer.com.

Native sons in Yukon gold rush

Chris Goode of Menlo Park will discuss his book, "Sourdoughs at Seventy Miles: California Native Sons in the Yukon Gold," at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at the Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St. in Menlo Park.

Mr. Goode's book blends San Mateo County pioneer history with the experiences of the sons of the pioneers who traveled to Alaska in search of gold in 1898. There will be a 30-minute DVD, which includes excerpts from the book. The program is supported by the Friends of the Menlo Park Library.

Free van service is available for Menlo Park seniors and people with disabilities. For more information, call 330-2512.

Broadcast legends

"Golden Memories of Radio" will be presented by the Broadcast Legends at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, at Hanson Hall at The Sequoias, 501 Portola Road in Portola Valley.

Broadcast Legends is an organization of broadcast veterans. They will re-create some old-time programs and commercials. The performance is free and open to the public. For more information, call 851-1501.

Ladera meditation group

A Ladera meditation group, called Ladera Sunday Morning Mindfulness Meditation Sangha, will hold a free introduction to its program from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16, at a home in Ladera.

For more information, call 854-4157 or e-mail Birgitte Moyer-Vinding of Ladera at bpmoyer@earthlink.net.



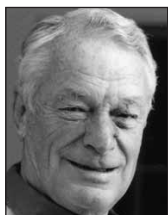
Get daily local news updates FREE in your e-mail inbox.

Sign up today at TheAlmanacOnline.com

■ OBITUARY

William Halford Jr.

A celebration of the life of William Wilson Halford Jr. will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton.



William Halford

Mr. Halford, a resident of Atherton and Palm Springs, died Oct. 23 after a short battle with lymphoma. He was 78.

Born in San Francisco, Mr. Halford grew up in Piedmont and graduated from Piedmont High School in 1949. He graduated from UC Berkeley in 1952 with a degree in business administration. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, serving as president during his last semester at Cal.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

His career in the investment business spanned a quarter century and included working for Irving Lumborg and Clark Dodge, and culminated in his being manager of the Palo Alto office of Kidder Peabody.

Mr. Halford was a lifelong Cal Bears supporter and fan. He co-

chaired the Capital Campaign for the university. In recognition of his commitment, he was given the UC Berkeley Foundation Citation in 1998. He was an annual donor to both the Cal Athletic Department and the Lawrence Hall of Science for more than 20 years. In 1999 he established the William Halford Jr. family chair in marketing in the Haas Business School at Cal. Because of his contributions, he was named as a member of the Robert Sproul Associates. The family's name is included in the Builders of Berkeley Wall next to Doe Library.

A dedicated volunteer, Mr. Halford served as president of the board of directors of Castilleja School, president of the board of directors of the Children's Health Council, board member of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, and president of Smoke Tree Ranch.

Mr. Halford was an avid golfer and tennis player, a lover of the outdoors and traveling, and devoted dog owner, say family members.

Mr. Halford married Sue Sutton in 1956. They raised four daughters during their 37 year marriage. After her death, he married Jean Holden in 1995.

He is survived by his wife, Jean; daughters Robin, Blair, Gail and Sara; sons-in-law Matthew Morey and Kurt Jorgensen; stepchildren Michael and Jennifer Holden, Shanna Holden and Steffan Long; four grandchildren, and four step-grandchildren.

Donations in Mr. Halford's name may be made to Castilleja School, the Children's Health Council or the Palo Alto Medical Foundation.

Special Thanks



A Heartfelt Thank You From
the Woodside Recreation Committee to the entire

Rosekrans Family

for the use of the
RUNNYMEDE SCULPTURE FARM
for the Woodside Barn Dance

An additional thank you to the Runnymede Sculpture Farm Staff
for their help in making this a successful event.

We would also like to thank...

Our Sponsors:

- WL Butler
- Sun Light & Power
- Village Doctor & Wellness Studio

- Buck's
- Dave Tanner - Home & Gardens
- Woodside Vineyards
- Woodside Pioneer Saloon

Volunteers:

- Fireman Dave Dickinson and the Menlo Park Fire Department - Fire Truck Rides
- Our Awesome BBQers & Food Prep - Skip Pierman, Jeff Varnell, Isobel Crammer, Sandy Harvey, Mark Boyko, Frank Foti, Mark Foti, Dot Foti, Art Lesser, Jerry Girouard
- Nita Sierke - Wonderful Art Knowledge on the Sculpture Tours

- Community Service Volunteer Students from Woodside Elementary School and Karen Peterson for Help in Set-up, Clean-up and Face-painting
- Friends of Woodside Library
- California Riding Academy
- Belmont Community Players Melodrama Group

The Usual Suspects:

Our spouses, significant others, friends and family members of the Woodside Recreation Committee that always seem to be around for setup, cleanup, organizing, bartending and other roles that help make our events and this year's Barn Dance spectacular!

Great Performances By:

Marshall Virelio, River Rats, Banjo Guy's

WWW.WOODSIDEREC.COM

■ POLICE CALLS

ATHERTON

Grand theft report: Laptop computer and backpack stolen, 100 block of Valparaiso Ave., Oct. 23.

Fraud report: Identity theft, first block of Heather Drive, Oct. 28.

Residential burglary reports:

■ Private office broken into, first block of James Ave., Oct. 28.

■ Boulder thrown through window of vacant home and furniture stolen, Stockbridge Ave., Oct. 29.

MENLO PARK**Residential burglary reports:**

■ Laptop computer valued at \$1,500, in the 1000 block of Woodland Ave., Oct. 23.

■ Wallet stolen, 800 block of Partridge Ave., Oct. 24.

■ Camera and bracelet with total value of \$360 stolen, 300 block of O'Connor St., Oct. 26.

■ Two laptop computers and personal digital assistant with total value of \$3,300 stolen, 200 block of Concord Drive, Oct. 29.

Spousal abuse report: 1100 block of Madera Ave., Oct. 23.

Fraud reports:

■ Loss of \$432 in unauthorized use of credit card, 900 block of Roble Ave., Oct. 26.

■ Loss of \$1,300 in unauthorized use of credit card, 4000 block of Bohannon Drive, Oct. 27.

Stolen vehicle reports:

■ Silver 1991 Toyota Corolla, 1300 block of Willow Road, Oct. 28.

■ White 1991 Infiniti M30, 1100 block of Willow Road, Oct. 28.

■ Red 1985 Ford Bronco, 3700 block of Haven Ave., Oct. 29.

WOODSIDE

Residential burglary report: Pry marks discovered at home's back door, 100 block of Josselyn Lane, Oct. 23.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Fraud report: Friend who had resident pay cell phone bill kept credit card information to pay subsequent cell phone bill, 1000 block of Westridge Drive, Oct. 26.



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

Sign up today at TheAlmanacOnline.com



MENLO PARK FIREFIGHTERS Support

www.MPFFA.org

☒ Jack Nelson

☒ Robert J. Silano

☒ Jon J. Mosby

For Fire Board

Menlo Park Firefighters Legislative Group (881024) P.O. Box 534 Menlo Park 94026

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, 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:**Editor@AlmanacNews.com**

e-mail letters to:

letters@AlmanacNews.com

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

Subscriptions are \$60 for one year and \$100 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.

Viewpoint

Ideas, thoughts and opinions about local issues from people in our community. Edited by Tom Gibboney.

Council struggling to 'go green'

Menlo Park's City Council has talked a good game about being green, but recent decisions raise questions about whether they are really serious about it.

The latest — but certainly not the last — example of the council's struggle to "go green" was a pair of recent decisions that instructed a large developer to hew to a "carbon-neutral" policy for a 110,000-square-foot project at 1300 El Camino Real, site of the former Cadillac auto dealership. The decision came despite the fact that there is no city ordinance that requires such a carbon-neutral design.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

Then two weeks later, as it approved a much smaller, 10,100-square-foot office building just a few blocks north at 1706 El Camino, the council decided not to apply the same policy as it did

at 1300 El Camino.

"These things are tough to do up here on the last, final approval," said Mayor Heyward Robinson at the time, a position opposed by council member Kelly Fergusson, who favored imposing the carbon-neutral policy on the much smaller building. The final vote was 4 to 1.

The City Council has not yet set a consistent policy to address how it can require all new buildings to be carbon neutral. It is a situation that should be corrected, in the opinion of Mitch Slomiak, who chairs the city's Green Ribbon Task Force. Regulating buildings' carbon emissions after the fact is "...much harder to do," he said, and we agree.

The council could get some help in January, when council members will consider adopting the state's green building code that would

require all projects to meet certain green requirements by late 2010. But that code does not require carbon neutrality. And it does not regulate emissions caused by building-related traffic.

Deciding how to regulate carbon is more urgent for Menlo Park due to the upcoming consideration in the spring of David Bohannon's huge Menlo Gateway office/hotel complex near Marsh Road and Bayfront Expressway. Former council member Paul Collacchi has challenged the council to adopt a carbon policy before taking up the project, which according to the environmental impact report would increase the city's greenhouse gas emissions by 3 to 4.5 percent over 2005 levels.

Whether the council can muster the will and the votes to adopt a new carbon policy before it considers the Bohannon project is a good question. Council members have been criticized for making a lot of noise about reducing greenhouse gases — appointing the Green Ribbon Task Force, for example — but not doing much to back it up. The council's apparent lack of will to require transit-oriented development at 1300 El Camino leaves it open to critics who say council members are not really serious about "going green."

At a minimum, the council should have a clear carbon policy in place before it takes up the Menlo Gateway development, which would be one of the city's largest projects ever. At this time it is not clear how the city will consider emissions from traffic generated by any new project. But even so, the city should not shy away from moving forward in this area. It is the right thing to do at a time when there is more and more evidence that everyone must pitch in to halt the growth of global warming.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Superintendent disputes drop-out number

Editor:

In your Oct. 21 editorial, you stated that the Sequoia Union High School District has an "above-average dropout rate." This is entirely inaccurate.

As posted on the California Department of Education Web site, our schools have a rate far lower than state averages. The one-year dropout rate among California's 9-12 grade students averaged 3.9 percent in 2007-08 (the most recent data posted). In 2007-08, 25 of Carlmont's 2,290 students dropped out, representing a 1.1 percent rate; 50 of Menlo-Atherton's 1,970 students dropped out, a 2.5 percent rate; 28 of Sequoia's 1,615 students dropped out, a 1.7 percent rate; and 20 of Woodside's 1,931 students dropped out, a 1.0 percent rate.

The four-year "derived" dropout rate among California's 9-12 grade students (i.e., the probability a ninth-grader will drop out during the four years) averaged 15.3 percent. Carlmont's rate was 4.5 percent; Menlo-Atherton's rate was 10.5 percent; Sequoia's rate was 6.9 percent; and Woodside's rate was 4.3 percent.

While our rates are lower than

state averages, we have an ongoing commitment to reducing the rates even further and supporting all students in completion of high school and preparation for success in a 21st century global society.

**Pat Gemma, Superintendent
Sequoia Union
High School District**

The Almanac responds:

Mr. Gemma has a technical point in his claim that dropout rates in the Sequoia district are not above average, but the state's formula has been cited as fundamentally flawed by independent critics (albeit with numbers not of recent vintage).

A 2006 report by Education Week magazine put California's graduation rate at 67.5 percent, where it was 10 years earlier, and the Sequoia district at 76 percent, an increase of 11.5 percent over the decade.

A 2005 Harvard University study, "Confronting the Graduation Rate Crisis In California," says the state's federally defined formula "relies heavily on underestimated dropout data" and called California's 2005 graduation rate of 87 percent "an illusion."

Education Week projected a 2008-09 California graduation rate of 67.4 percent, compared with 69 percent nationally.

The Editor

Late endorsement

Editor:

Thank you for your article about the candidates running for the Sequoia Union High School District board.

I support Virginia Chang Kiraly, who I believe offers the most level-headed and balanced perspective about issues facing all the students in the entire high school district.

This is not a surprise to me as I have worked with her on various school projects when she was president of the Las Lomitas PTA and also know what her hard work produced when she was on the Las Lomitas Education Foundation Board, particularly when she chaired the foundation's auction.

Virginia served two terms on the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury, and was selected foreperson in her second term. And Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed her to the state Commission for Economic Development.

Virginia is more committed to our children and to creating a better world for them than anyone I know. We should be thankful that someone like Virginia is willing to serve us. Virginia Chang Kiraly has my vote and should have yours for the Sequoia District board.

**Karen Hill
Portola Valley**

Sad to see exodus from 'Goat Hill'

Editor:

I was saddened to hear "El nino de Peru" (the black llama), and his other two- and four-legged furry and feathered friends might leave us.

For the last two years or so, these goats, ducks and chicken, plus their black-furred leader of the gang, Nino, have brought a smile to my face every time I drive past that meadow on Woodside Road and Hacienda.

I realize "Buck's" cafe, a place where million-dollar deals are made, is just a few hundred yards away. However, is it too much to ask to have a small reminder that Woodside is not just home for Silicon Valley millionaires and 12-room mansions, but also is a rural area, with lots of wildlife?

After all, that is one of the reasons we like it here on the Mid-peninsula.

I hope somebody could help Lisa Green, and keep her cute animals for all of us to enjoy.

**Dieter Hurni
Redwood City**

(Editor's Note: This letter was written before Ms. Green moved her animals to another location, out of Woodside.)



Bill Lane still going strong at 90

Former Sunset publisher, philanthropist, and Portola Valley town father is still active in good causes, from neighborhood to international

By Marion Softky

The rock circle at Glacier Point overlooks one of the most spectacular views in the entire world: Half Dome and the glacier-carved mountains of the High Sierra to the east, linked to the cliffs and waterfalls of Yosemite Valley below.

A brass plaque dedicates the amphitheater to “BILL LANE, PUBLISHER, STATESMAN, PHILANTHROPIST, CHAMPION OF THE NATIONAL PARKS.”

This tribute barely hints at the range and diversity of Bill Lane’s interests and activities. The former publisher of Sunset magazine is better known locally for his long history with Portola Valley, his support of local parks and open space, and his devotion to Stanford University. All have benefited not only from his deep pockets, but from his personal involvement at every level.

Now that Mr. Lane is approaching his 90th birthday on Nov. 7, family, friends and admirers are taking stock of his many achievements and contributions. Portola Valley is planning a big birthday party for him on Sunday, Nov. 22.

Even at 90. Mr. Lane’s energy is awesome. He may have given up his plans to take a tourist trip into space, but he recently took his wife, Jean, on a dirigible ride out of Moffett Field. And he still puts in full days tending his many projects. “I don’t feel a lot different,” he says, “But increasingly my good friends are a lot younger.”

Sunset career

Life changed for the Lane boys, Bill and his younger brother Mel,

when they moved from Iowa to California in 1928. California really was different. “It was a drastically different lifestyle,” Bill says.

Their parents, Laurence W. and Ruth Bell Lane, had left “Better Homes and Gardens” in Iowa and bought Sunset magazine in San Francisco. Ever since, the magazine has been a laboratory for ways of living in the West, and has come to define its mystique. “It was not about the West; it was for the West,” says Martin Litton, a fierce conservationist who worked for 15 years at Sunset.

The Lane boys started working in the family business at the bottom. They sharpened pencils, emptied wastebaskets, and sold Sunset subscriptions door-to-door.

After Naval service in World War II, they plunged into the family business and in 1961, took it over. In 1990, they sold Sunset to Time Warner, and theoretically retired.

Bill published Sunset magazine, and Mel put out hundreds of books on the magazine’s core subjects: gardening, cooking, home improvements, and travel. Sunset’s “Western Garden Book” remains the bible for immigrants from other climates, and for native west-erners.

A trip to Yosemite when he was 9 sparked Bill’s lifelong passion for parks. Through his teen years he worked summers at Yosemite as a packer and other jobs. A big, cheery man with a booming voice, Bill took special pleasure in calling the famous firefall, a cascade of flame where a bonfire pushed off Glacier Point fell 2,000 feet to the valley below.

I can remember when Bill shiv-

ered the rafters of the Four Seasons Hotel ballroom in Washington, D.C. He was being honored as Conservationist of the Year by the National Parks and Conservation Association. He climaxed his presentation with the full-volume call: “Let the Fire Fall.”

Sunset provided a natural base for the Lane brothers to pursue their passion for parks, the environment and public service. In 1969, Sunset pulled the plug on DDT; it published an expose of the lethal pesticide and refused to advertise it. Sunset also supported national parks and environmental causes without getting embroiled in the often-bitter fights about details.

No newspaper has enough space to list all of Bill Lane’s awards and accomplishments, nor his gifts to support thousands of causes, large and small. He was ambassador to Australia and Nauru from 1985 to 1989, and still serves on dozens of boards of worthy organizations.

A Stanford graduate, Class of ‘42, Bill remains a devoted alum. He led the campaign to restore the Red Barn and made the lead gift towards the new field station at the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. The Lane History Corner and the Bill Lane Center for the Study of the American West continue to enrich university programs.

The Portola Valley story

Bill Lane loves to say he was the first mayor of Portola Valley — for 20 minutes.

As top vote-getter in the 1964 election to incorporate Portola Valley, Mr. Lane convened the first meeting of the Town Council. Because Mr. Lane was too

busy to be mayor, the council quickly elected Nevin Hiester as mayor, with Mr. Lane as vice mayor. “Organizing Portola Valley was like herding cats,” he reflects.

Living in Portola Valley for more than 50 years, Bill and Jean Lane have helped shape the town, both through their generosity, and through their personal involvement in every aspect. As residents of Westridge, the Lanes were involved in its pioneering efforts to control building and design for the neighborhood.

As San Mateo County approved more subdivisions and developments, including a sewer line out Alpine Road to serve The Sequoias retirement complex, Bill Lane became a leader in the drive to incorporate the town in order to control use of its land and preserve its rural charm.

Nothing is too small or too big to gain Mr. Lane’s attention, energy and funding. His deep pockets are accompanied by energetic participation and meticulous attention to detail. And every year at Christmas, he dresses in a red suit as Santa Claus.

“He has fantastic energy; he seemed to be everywhere,” says Ed Davis, a former Westridge neighbor and council member.

“He was an ideal neighbor in the broadest sense.”

Mr. Lane’s generosity is visible all over town. The new Town Center, restoration of the historic schoolhouse, the Larry Lane Trail, Lane Hall at Ormondale School, and the Lane Family Room at Valley Presbyterian Church are among the most visible projects that benefited from Lane generosity.

Councilman Ted Driscoll is grateful that Mr. Lane’s support of the new \$20 million Town Center did not extend to trying to influence its design. “There were no strings attached,” he says.

Councilman Steve Toben admires the way Bill Lane “personifies the democratic ideal.”

Often Bill Lane is the only member of the public attending Town Council meetings, Mr. Toben says. Even with his national and international interests, Bill remains engaged in governing a town of 4,500. “He has never stopped caring about the life of the community.”

Thanks, Bill, for everything. Happy birthday! ■

Senior correspondent Marion Softky has followed the career of Bill Lane and his family for more than 30 years in the pages of the Almanac.



Peninsula School

Nursery through 8th Grade
Progressive Education Since 1925

We believe education is challenging and joyous

- Celebrating arts and academics
- Working together to cultivate curiosity and imagination
- Strong community building
- Focusing on the process of learning
- Low student teacher ratio, small class size

IMPORTANT DATES

Nursery, Kindergarten & 1st Grade Open House
Saturday, October 24 10:00-11:30 a.m. Children welcome.

School Tours—Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.
Oct 15, Nov 5, Jan 7 & 14 at 10a.m. and Dec 3 & 10 at 9 a.m. Parents only please.

For an appointment, please call 650.325.1584, ext. 5.

920 Peninsula Way, Menlo Park, CA | 650.325.1584 | www.peninsulaschool.org

GULLIXSON

*Prime
Atherton
Location*



www.227ParkLane.com



www.gullixson.com

The Gullixson Team's total sales volume in residential real estate on the Peninsula is now in excess of \$1.98 billion dollars. Representing \$1 billion in Atherton Sales alone.

BRENT GULLIXSON

650.543.1194
650.888.4898 Cell
bgullixson@apr.com

DRE# 01329216



MARY GULLIXSON

650.543.1175
650.888.0860 Cell
mgullixson@apr.com

DRE# 00373961

Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Square footage and/or acreage information contained herein has been received from seller, existing reports, appraisals, public records and/or other sources deemed reliable. However, neither seller nor listing agent has verified this information. If this information is important to buyer in determining whether to buy or to purchase price, buyer should conduct buyer's own investigation. Photography by Bernard André

