



ATHERTON names new
police chief: Lt. Mike Guerra | PAGE 7

The Almanac

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

NOVEMBER 11, 2009 | VOL. 45 NO. 11



WWW.THEALMANACONLINE.COM

TEVYE COMES TO WOODSIDE

A behind-the-scenes look at the
making of Woodside Community
Theatre's 'Fiddler on the Roof'

[See Section 2]



REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990

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



ATHERTON

Elegant French Provincial home is a gardener's delight. Black bottom pool, pool/guest house, and gardens surround this home with lush beauty. Features 5bd/3.5ba with a huge master with raised sitting room fireplace and balcony access. Large mahogany paneled library with high ceilings, elegant living room with marble fireplace and a gourmet kitchen with breakfast bar and nook.

\$6,499,888



EMERALD HILLS

Amazingly elegant 3,225+/-sf home includes 4bd/4ba, living room with a stone fireplace, dining room with coffered ceilings, and a kitchen with granite counters and a Viking range. Impressive master suite offers a large closet with dressing area and bath with a diamond glass window and an alcove, antique free-standing tub. Large 700+/-sf, 3 car garage.

\$1,999,000



PALO ALTO

Meticulously kept Midtown Palo Alto ranch style home offers the peaceful ambiance of a country retreat; situated on a park-like setting; and minutes from the best of urban conveniences. This 2,233+/-sf home offers 4bd/2.5ba, a living room, family room, and formal dining room. Also includes a cozy fireplace, hardwood floors, and 2 car detached garage. Top-rated Palo Alto Schools.

\$1,395,000

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

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

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



Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

First student play at new M-A theater

Menlo-Atherton High School drama students Maddie Napel (second from left in front) plays Eva Jackson and Zachary Clarence (right) plays Robert Conklin, as other students play trees, in "The Rimers of Eldritch," the first student theatrical production at the new M-A performing arts center. The play opens Thursday, Nov. 12. See story on **Page 14**.

Atherton

- Voters strongly endorse renewal of town's parcel tax. **Page 10**
- Zoning overhaul loosens some rules. **Page 12**

Menlo Park

- City plans to channel some blight-eradication funds to "economic breadbasket." **Page 5**

Portola Valley

- Voters renew utility taxes; architect John Richards elected to the council. **Page 9**

Woodside

- Anne Kasten joins the Woodside Town Council. **Page 14**

Schools

- Campaigning ends, governing begins in Sequoia Union High School District. **Page 5**
- M-A holds first student play in new theater. **Page 14**

Fire district

- New Menlo Park district fire board faces tough challenges: employee relations, cost-cutting. **Page 5**

Community

- Fleet Feet recognized for its "green" innovation. **Page 13**
- Around Town: R&B dance under the stars in Portola Valley. **Page 24**

Also Inside

- Calendar 24
- Obituaries 16
- Letters 18
- Police Calls 17
- Short Takes 13

On the cover

Daniel Matzis of Pacifica, returning to the theater after a 25-year hiatus, practices his role of Tevye during the more than 20 hours of rehearsals that took place the week before opening night. Photo by Atom Biggs. See **Section 2** to learn about some of what goes into the making of a community theater production.

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

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.

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**.



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

TOWN OF WOODSIDE

2955 WOODSIDE ROAD
WOODSIDE, CA 94062

PLANNING COMMISSION

November 18, 2009
7:30 PM

PUBLIC HEARING

2. Paul and Nicole Ricci SDES#2009-0001
382 Mountain Home Road

Review for approval/denial of a Site Design Permit for a proposal to construct a new 2,497 square foot two-story barn including an Accessory Living Quarter on a parcel with an existing single-family residence. The property is located in the Rural Residential (RR) zoning district.

3. Massoud and Olga Taherian SDES#2009-0003
103 Alta Vista Road

Review for approval/denial of a Site Design Permit for a proposal to demolish an existing one-story single family residence and construct a new one-story 2,602 square foot single-family residence including a two car garage. The existing detached workshop/garage would not be altered under this proposal. The property is located in the Residential (R-1) zoning district.

4. Menlo Country Club APPL#2009-0001
2300 Woodside Road

Review and approval or denial, of an appeal, pursuant to Woodside Municipal Code Section 153.335(A), of a decision of the Planning Director regarding the zoning classification of the Menlo Country Club.

All application materials are available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 – 10:00 AM and 1:00 – 3:00 PM, or by appointment. For more information, contact the Woodside Planning and Building Department at (650) 851-6790.

A TOWN MARKET PLACE
ROBERTS MARKET
 SINCE 1889

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

10% Wine Discount
 on 6 Bottles

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

Sale Dates: Nov. 11, 12, 13, 14 www.robertsmarket.com

Fresh
PRODUCE



FUYU PERSIMMONS

49¢ ea.

Pacific Northwest

RED D'ANJOU PEARS



99¢ lb.

Ready to eat

BABY CARROTS



99¢ ea.

Great roasted

PARSNIPS, TURNIPS AND RUDABAGA'S



99¢ lb.

Robert's Homemade!

MEAT



JUMBO PRAWNS (15 COUNT)

\$16⁹⁸ lb.

KOBE TRI-TIP



\$19⁹⁸ lb.

CHICKEN LEGS & THIGHS



\$2⁴⁹ lb.

CHICKEN WELLINGTON



\$7⁵⁰ lb.

On Sale

GROCERY



BRIANNA'S BLUSH WHITE VINAIGRETTE

12oz. — Also Blue Cheese — Caesar — Poppy Seed

\$2⁴⁹

OCEAN SPRAY CRANBERRY COCKTAIL

64oz. — Also Cran-Raspberry

\$3⁹⁹

HORIZON ORGANIC CREAM CHEESE

8oz. — Also Reduced Fat

\$1⁹⁹

PLANTERS CASHEW HALVES & PIECES

9oz. — Also Mixed Nuts 11oz

\$3⁹⁹

TABASCO BRAND PEPPER SAUCE

2oz

\$1¹⁹

ALL FREE 2X ULTRA LAUNDRY DETERGENT

50oz.

\$4⁹⁹

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

STOCK UP NOW

25% OFF



All Duracell Batteries
 Including C, D, AA, 9V,
 And Watch and Camera

Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Campaigning ends, governing begins in Sequoia district

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

For Chris Thomsen and Alan Sarver, newly elected to the board of the Sequoia Union High School District, it's time to shift gears.

Three months of campaigning are over; four years of governing are about to begin. The constituencies in this district of 120,000 registered voters include impoverished families sharing apartments in East Palo Alto, millionaires (on paper) throughout Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside, and more than a few billionaires in secluded estates.

What ran through Mr. Thomsen's and Mr. Sarver's minds after realizing that they were finishing one-two out of a field of eight candidates in the Nov. 3 election?

"The challenge of it all," replied Mr. Thomsen, who finished first with 9,105 votes (as of *The Almanac's* press time on Nov. 9). The disputatiousness of campaigning is over, he said in an interview. "The minute you're elected, it is a matter of how can you work to get things done," he said.

Likewise for Mr. Sarver, who



Top vote-getters, from left, Chris Thomsen and Alan Sarver.

finished second with 8,167 votes. His first thought: "Recognition of making a transition from campaigning to doing the job that I was interested in doing from the beginning," he told *The Almanac*. "I'm pleased to be turning the page and getting the opportunity to start really doing the job."

A brain trust

A school board election can serve as a referendum on the major issues that come up during the campaign. There weren't many opportunities for the candidates to spar, but their campaign issues could end up on the list of board priorities after the election. Maybe.

In an interview with *The Almanac* during the campaign, Mr.

See **SEQUOIA**, page 6

New fire board faces challenges: employee relations, cost-cutting

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

Voters asked incumbent Rex Ianson for an encore performance, and also elected two community emergency preparedness volunteers — one endorsed by the firefighters' union, the other not — when they cast their ballots last week in the Menlo Park Fire Protection District board race.

If the semi-official vote tally from the county elections office maintains its ranking order when all the votes are counted, Jack Nelson of Menlo Park and Stephen Nachtsheim of Atherton will join Mr. Ianson, Bart Spencer and Peter Ohtaki on the fire board in December.

They've got their work cut out for them. The fire district — which serves Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto, and nearby unincorporated areas — is feeling the strain of the economic downturn, with the rate of tax revenue increases now outpaced by the rate of operational

cost increases.

Early this year, the district slowed or halted spending on capital improvement projects in anticipation of further drops in property tax revenue as home values continue their decline.

But the most serious challenge is employee relations: Firefighters have worked without a contract since June 2008, contract talks are on hold — with each side accusing the other of refusing to go back to the table — and the union has filed an "unfair practices" complaint against the district with the state's Public Employment Relations Board.

The firefighters' union endorsed three candidates in the race — Mr. Nelson, Jon Mosby and Rob Silano — and spent tens of thousands of dollars to try to get them elected.

Outgoing board member Peter Carpenter, who, along with Ollie Brown, did not seek re-election, is advocating that the current board

See **FIRE ELECTION**, page 8

Menlo Park plans to channel some blight-eradication funds to 'economic breadbasket'

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

In what city officials have described as a shift in emphasis, Menlo Park plans to devote a chunk of its redevelopment funds over the next five years to strengthening business in a key revenue-generating area.

While the great majority of the \$19.6 million the city plans to spend to eradicate blight over that period will still go to residential areas east of U.S. 101, a significant chunk of the money would go to planning studies and infrastructure improvements in the "light industrial" district, also east of U.S. 101.

Those areas fall within the redevelopment district, though in the past the city has focused almost entirely on efforts in and near residential areas.

The renewed attention to the city's industrial area coincides with a declining revenue stream, and

a gradual shift in the area to companies specializing in "green" technology, medical devices, and biological sciences.

Under the plan the City Council could approve at its meeting Tuesday, Nov. 10, the city would spend \$1.1 million on streetscape improvements

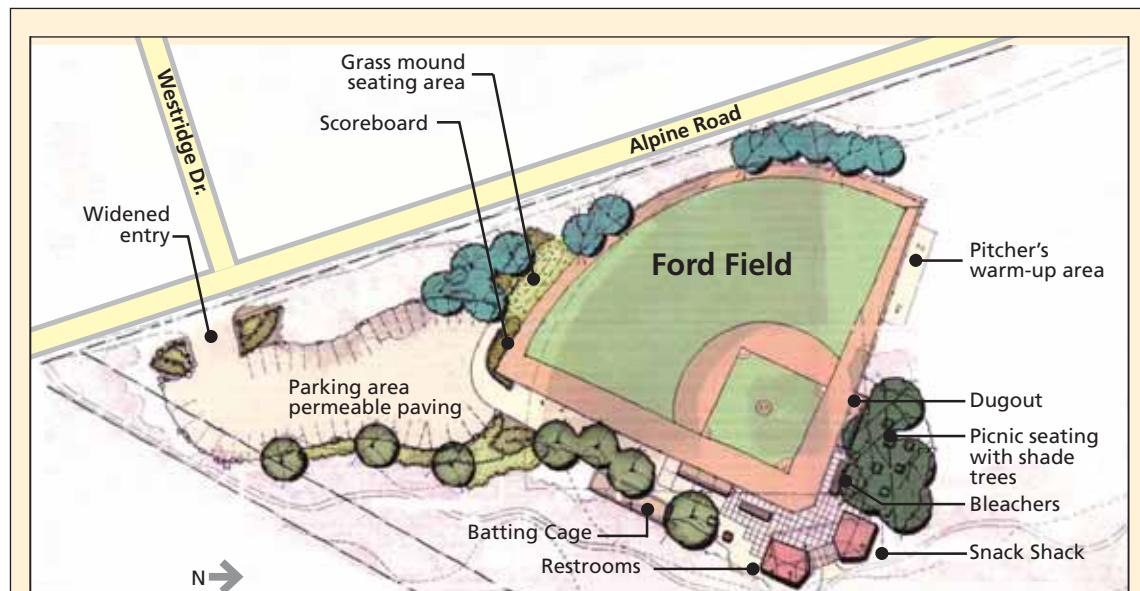
and land-use studies along a dilapidated strip of commercial buildings along U.S. 101. The city envisions the location as a possible site for freeway-visible

retail.

The redevelopment district would also contribute \$350,000 to an ongoing land-use study, designed to facilitate development for three major property owners in the area.

Half a million dollars would go to streetscape improvements along O'Brien Avenue, a key street in a business park south of Willow Road. The city would also use redevelopment funding to deploy

See **REDEVELOPMENT**, page 8



The baseball diamond at Ford Field in Portola Valley has become a little shabby over the years. A regional grant paid for a study on how to improve the field, but financing the proposed changes would be very difficult.

Big plans for Ford Field, but no funds

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The Ford Field baseball diamond at Alpine Road and Westridge Drive in Portola Valley is not famous for its shade trees.

Trees would appear along the first and third base lines and behind the outfield if renovations presented to the Town Council on Oct. 28 were to actually occur, but it's a field of dreams for the time being. The tight budget has no money for such a project. Maybe there's enough to complete the study.

Under the plan, which reflects three community workshops, the trees would shade new "social

space," including picnic tables, bleachers and a grassy knoll behind left field. The batting cage and pitcher warm-up area would be smaller, and there would be permanent bathrooms and a snack shack. The field would be rotated a few degrees to the east to improve the bank of Los Trancos Creek.

The socializing spaces could attract people without a baseball connection, resident Virginia Bacon noted; she suggested that the word "Park" be added to Ford Field. Council members Steve Toben and Maryann Moise Derwin agreed.

The parking lot would lose up to five spaces. The

See **FORD**, page 10

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




express

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

Sign up today at

TheAlmanacOnline.com

SEQUOIA

continued from page 5

Sarver listed his chief concerns as raising the graduation rate, helping kids with mid-range academic abilities to succeed, and doing more to address career technical education and the stigmas associated with not going on to college.

As one of five trustees, and new to a job that will involve a “massive wealth of detail and nuance,” Mr. Sarver said in a post-election interview that he would be “drinking from a fire hose. Maybe after a year, I will feel suitable to run for the school board for the first time. I anticipate a great deal of learning to be the very dominant feature of my first year.”

Mr. Thomsen’s campaign focus included raising the number of graduates ready for four-year college, analyzing district budgets in much greater detail, and fostering an exchange of teaching ideas — so-called best practices — between the charter and the comprehensive schools, including Menlo-Atherton and Woodside.

“I think I know that there’s a community of people who are standing behind me who are anxious to have my perspective, their perspective, represented on the board,” he said after the election. “You get the sense that there’s this brain trust that’s out there. I really do expect that I will go to them for help in making the best possible case in those instances in which I expect to differ from other members of the board.”

Relationships with other trustees and with Superintendent Pat

Gemma will be critical, he said.

Mr. Thomsen, who has children at Summit Preparatory Charter High School and M-A, said during the campaign that he would have preferred that Mr. Gemma focus on graduates’ four-year college readiness and stop the campaign against Everest (Charter) Public High School, which opened in August in Redwood City.

Does he plan to talk with Mr. Gemma about his priorities? “I expect so,” Mr. Thomsen said.

Mr. Thomsen’s desire for comprehensible budgets is shared by retiring Trustee Sally Stewart, who said she was more or less alone in calling for them.


During the campaign, Mr. Sarver described budget transparency as a goal, but given what he sees as the district’s financial probity, he wasn’t “eager to throw the baby out with the bathwater. I don’t want to turn (the budget) upside down and shake it.”

Asked about the issue after the election, he replied that he wants as much transparency as possible in the budget.

As for Mr. Thomsen’s quest for sharing best practices among schools, Mr. Sarver is on board. “I’m very eager to see best practices shared wherever we can.”

Vote count

The vote count as of Nov. 9 was: Chris Thomsen, 9,105; Alan Sarver, 8,167; Virginia Chang Kiraly, 6,805; Bob Ferrando, 4,671; Nohema Fernandez, 3,644; Jacqueline Wallace Greene, 3,177; Beth “Ms. Inja” Injasoulion, 3,117; Noria Zasslow, 2,813. ■



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 Logan™
PSYCHOTHERAPY

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

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



Caring Community
A ★ W ★ A ★ R ★ D ★ S

Call to Nonprofits

Sequoia Healthcare District Directors have established grant priorities for the 2010 Caring Community grant cycle and allocated \$2 million for the program. Priorities are: Basic health and nutrition needs, mental health services and programs that support “healthy, active, engaged older adults.” District directors also are formulating policy for a fourth priority category, school health.

This is to announce that an informational meeting for potential applicants will be held Dec. 8, 2009 at 4 p.m. at district offices, 525 Veterans Blvd., Redwood City. Additional information is available on the district’s web site at www.sequoiahealthcaredistrict.com



Caring Community grants benefit district residents.

Lee Michelson
Chief Executive Officer
Sequoia Healthcare District
650.421.2155

525 Veterans Blvd.
Redwood City, CA 94063



GIDEON HAUSNER
JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
INSPIRING MINDS... CREATING COMMUNITY

Please Join Us
For Our Kindergarten
Open House

Thursday,
November 12
7:00 – 8:30 pm

RSVP:
Aileen Mitchner
Director of Admission
650.494.8200 ext. 104
admissions@hausner.com



www.hausner.com
450 San Antonio Road,
Palo Alto, CA 94306

CAIS and WASC Accredited
A Beneficiary of the JCF
Confidential Scholarships Available

Additional scholarship funds provided by the Jim Joseph Foundation in partnership with the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties and Bureau of Jewish Education

Mike Guerra named Atherton police chief

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

When Atherton police chief Glenn Nielsen retires at the end of this month, the town will be losing an officer whose entire 34-year career was spent at the Atherton Police Department.

The very next day, a new chief will take over who also has a long history with the department — Lt. Mike Guerra.

Chief Nielsen's decision to retire on Nov. 28 was made public late last week, and just a few days later, City Manager Jerry Gruber announced his successor.

Like Chief Nielsen, Lt. Guerra is a career Atherton officer who rose through the ranks. He joined the department as a reserve officer in 1984 and has been the department's second-in-command since last year, when Chief Nielsen left the lieutenant position to take over as chief.

"When you have an internal candidate with Mike's qualifications, I think it is in the town's best interest to appoint rather than go outside," Mr. Gruber said. "If there was any question regarding Mike's qualifications (then) I would have recommended to the council that we hire a professional recruiting firm to assist with the



Photos by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Outgoing police chief Glenn Nielsen, left, and new chief, Mike Guerra.

process."

"We have to keep filling positions because of promotions and retirements, which is a good thing," he said. "We don't have revolving door in our training unit at all."

Lt. Guerra has held a range of positions, including detective sergeant, school resource officer at Menlo-Atherton High School, and patrol watch commander. Lt. Guerra earned a Ph.D. in education and leadership from the University of San Francisco in 2001. He describes himself as a life-long adult learner who first went back to school to earn his associate's degree from the College of San Mateo, then earned his bachelor's and masters degrees.

"Mike is a well-educated person. I think he'll do a good job," said Mayor Jerry Carlson.

Chief Nielsen first joined the police department as an Explorer

cadet in 1975 while a student at Sequoia High School in Redwood City. Once he retires, he said he is looking forward to playing more tennis — he recently won a silver medal in the Western States Police & Fire Games — and finding a challenging new second career outside of law enforcement.

"I want to do something new, something exciting, something very foreign to me, for the sake of learning new skills and making new friends," Chief Nielsen said.

He said he was retiring because there was no longer a financial incentive to stay.

"He's done a good job. We're going to miss him," said Mayor Carlson.

Mr. Gruber said Chief Nielsen has played a key role in the creation of a strong management team for the town.

"Chief Nielsen will be sincerely missed and words cannot express what he has contributed to the town of Atherton as a dedicated police officer and police chief," said Mr. Gruber.

Said Chief Nielsen: "For over 34 years, I've loved coming to work each and every day. I consider all of the men and women who serve in the Atherton police department as my friends and family, and I'm going to miss them very much when I go." ■

Police arrest suspected burglar in Atherton backyard

Responding to a resident's report of a burglar at an Atherton home in the 100 block of Heather Drive, police captured a man on the afternoon of Thursday, Nov. 5, as he was climbing over a fence behind some bushes in the backyard.

Joshua Hartless, 27, of Redwood City was booked into San Mateo County jail on charges of burglary and prowling, according to Atherton police.

The resident called police around 3 p.m. to report that she could see a man already in her sunroom and trying to break into the part of the house where she was located, police said.

While police were en route, the man managed to break into the rear of the house, after which the resi-

dent fled to the front yard, according a police recounting of the resident's story.

Arriving at the scene, Atherton police officers Dave Metzger and Brad Mills moved the resident to a safe location, established a perimeter around the house and waited for reinforcements from the Menlo Park Police Department and the county Sheriff's Office.

While waiting, Officer Metzger noticed some bushes rustling in the backyard, checked into it and discovered Mr. Hartless climbing over a chain link fence. Mr. Hartless complied with the officer's request to come down and was arrested without incident, police said.

M-A Vikings wrap up Pop Warner football season

This report is from Adam Greenlow of Menlo Park, a player on the Pee Wee Vikings team. He is a seventh-grader at St. Raymond School. All players named are with the Vikings.

The Menlo-Atherton Vikings football teams ended their season in the second week of the Peninsula Pop Warner conference playoffs, held Saturday, Nov. 7, at the Salina Sports Complex. Below are the game summaries.

■ **Pee Wees:** The Pee Wees played the Almandine Mustangs of San Jose. In the first half, Adam Greenlow crossed the goal line on a 35-yard reverse. Charlie Roth had a tackle to stop the opponents from scoring when they were on the one-foot line and fourth down. Following this, the Vikings had a 99-yard drive with a lot of great passing that ended with Benjamin Burr-Kirven scoring on a 15-yard catch from Robby Beardsley. The score at half was 12-0 Vikings. In the second half, the Mustangs took over with a solid running game and scored four touchdowns. But the Vikings didn't give up and Adam Greenlow scored off a 20-yard pass reception from Benjamin Burr-Kirven on a last minute drive, but it wasn't enough to win. The final score was 26-18.

■ **Junior Midgets:** The Junior Midgets lost 18-0 to the Monterey Jets. The Vikings were not able to put together their offense. They had trouble moving the ball down the field. Even though they lost this tough game, it is still impressive that they went this far in the playoffs. The Junior Midgets were coached by Eddie Paterson, a Stanford football standout. Bob Williams, an assistant coach, is president of the M-A Vikings Association.

The Viking's season is over, but we look forward to next year.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



High Credit Scores Don't Get the Loan

Q: I want to refinance my home with a "cash in" (i.e., paying down some principle) new loan. My credit score is above 800 but I was turned down because my credit history is too short. My current lender doesn't report my payment history to the credit bureaus and I only have two credit cards that I pay in full whenever I use them. I have a solid employment status and cannot understand why I would be turned down this way. Any ideas?

A: You unfortunately are caught in the current, very strict lending climate. Although it isn't rational that someone with your record would not

qualify for a loan, you don't meet the rule that says you need at least four credit accounts and few lenders can or will make exceptions. You may find a lender who will allow you to provide alternative proof of your credit history besides relying solely on what is in your credit report. If so, you can get a letter from your current mortgage holder saying that you have always paid your loan on time. You can also produce cancelled checks from your lender as well as the utility providers you have contracts with.

Contact a few of the top lenders and you should be able to find at least one who will help you. They would be lucky to have you as a borrower.

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



Presented by
Mark Schmidt
Licensed Optician



A LOOK BACK AT EYEGLASS FRAMES

Aviator-style eyeglass frames are not the only retro-look frames that are back in style. The fact is that nearly all popular frame styles reappear every few years, which means that popular retro looks are scarcely ever out of style. Most recently, perfectly round-shaped lenses, a style that was popularized by John Lennon, are very much in vogue. Whether you prefer that style or any other, it is possible to get the frames with the look that you really want. To familiarize yourself with the many choices

available, comb books with glossy pictures of movie stars and fashion icons of the past. Many are sporting the retro styles that you will see on people's faces in the years ahead.

There are several eyewear styles that are popular for a few years, disappear for a while, and then become popular again. Frames are as much a fashion statement as means to correct a vision problem. At MENLO OPTICAL, we carry eyewear in a variety of materials—from wire-thin titanium and stainless steel to sleek colored laminated plastics and bold metals. Color choices are varied to suit many personal preferences. Please call us at 322-3900, or bring your prescription to us at 1166 University Drive, on the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and University Drive.

P.S. The vintage frame styles of the 1970s and early 1980s are making the biggest hit in retro-inspired designs right now.

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

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

Redevelopment: Hope, frustration for Belle Haven residents

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

Residents of Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood have offered plenty of suggestions for what the city could do to help the community as part of the five-year redevelopment area plan the City Council will take up at its meeting Tuesday, Nov. 10.

Some of those ideas are simple, some ambitious. But all are grounded in practical experience, and a familiarity with every street, sidewalk and empty patch of grass in the neighborhood, according to resident Matt Henry.

Among the items on a brief wish list Mr. Henry plans to present to the council: lighting on a dark street; bus shelters and benches along the SamTrans route; a patio outside the senior center; and a row of trees to block mounds of railroad rock along Chilco Street, providing a welcoming entrance into the community.

"Some of these things might seem minor, but they're not minor to us," Mr. Henry said in an interview. "Our little group (the homeowners' association), we actually sit down and we really talk about this stuff. I mean, we bleed about this stuff."

He pointed out that there aren't any bus shelters or benches in the neighborhood, saying that he's used to seeing people huddled

over and shivering during rainstorms, waiting for the bus. "This is the kind of thing we haven't had for so long, everyone just takes it for granted" that it doesn't exist, Mr. Henry said.

For some, the opportunity presented by the redevelopment district to fund projects that address blight offers hope for areas east of U.S. 101.

But the process of allocating those funds also serves as a reminder of just how far the city has to go, and of the barriers, in addition to the freeway, that stand in its path. The homeowners' association focused on practical goals, but there are even obstacles to some of the ideas Mr. Henry described as minor.

Chilco Street isn't in the redevelopment area, for instance. And the city can only ask that CalTrans build bus shelters, a request that Community Engagement Manager Cherise Brandell says the city has already made.

The association sees some of its other proposals — for an expansion of Beechwood School, a new library, year-round operation of the pool, and a pedestrian bridge over the freeway at Willow Road — as even more crucial, though none of them are on the city's list at the moment, for a variety of reasons.

The city currently has other plans for the land adjacent to Beechwood; city officials say they don't think using the redevelopment money to build a library or operate the pool

would be legal.

And Ms. Brandell said this was the first she had heard of the proposal for a bike/pedestrian bridge at Willow Road, though Mr. Henry said he's brought the idea up before, to no effect.

Of the homeowners associations' suggestions that the city has received, "everything that legally could be funded is in this plan," Ms. Brandell said.

The city has concrete plans to fund one of the nine items on the homeowners association's list: new lighting on Pierce Road.

Several of Mr. Henry's suggestions were new to Ms. Brandell. "These are nice ideas, the council can consider including them, but it's kind of late" to incorporate them into the five-year plan, she said.

"What we've been trying to articulate to the city is that plans in the redevelopment area need focus on a few key principles," said Ash Vasudeva, the association's president. Those principles, he said, are: educational opportunity, positive youth development, programs for seniors, and safe transportation corridors.

"Some (of the specific proposals) have come up more recently, some are longstanding, but it's no surprise that that has been our focus," he said.

While city officials say they are striving to bridge the chasm between east and west

Menlo Park, and straining to listen to Belle Haven residents, it's clear that they have a ways to go if they want to convince people in the community. Only a handful of residents, including Mr. Henry, showed up for a community meeting on the five-year plan in the spring. They crowded around a single table to hear presentations and offer feedback, while representatives from nearly every city department sat and stood around the room, outnumbering residents two-to-one.

After years of being ignored, "a lot of (Belle Haven residents) have just given up," Mr. Henry said. "A lot of this stuff just wears on people."

Criticizing the city for being overly fixated on providing housing in Belle Haven, he continued: "There have to be other ways to approach (the problem of blight). The suggestions we have given over the years have been ignored. I'm not saying we've got all the answers, but they should at least look at some of the ideas we've got. ... Part of the problem is that we live in a town full of very successful people. They say, hey, we're successful, you're not, so why should we listen to you? ... You're the poor people."

"I'm not saying they haven't done some good things over here, because they have. But the base problem is, a lot of the blight still exists." ■

Firefighter group biggest spender by far in board race

■ Spending reports filed 11 days late.

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

The Menlo Park firefighters' political action group that endorsed three candidates for three open seats on the local fire board spent \$18,316 in support of those candidates in the period ending Oct. 17, according to documents filed the day before the election, 11 days after they were legally required to be filed.

The documents were due in the San Mateo County Elections Office on Oct. 22, and their late filing has been publicly criticized by some as a way of keeping relevant information from voters prior to their casting ballots.

As of Oct. 17, the firefighters' group, registered as the Menlo Park Firefighters Legislative Action Group, had a cash balance of \$44,921, according to the report submitted to the county.

It is unknown how much of that balance was spent in the final two weeks before the Nov. 3 election. Documents reporting the amount of money spent after Oct. 17 aren't due at the elections office until February.

Walter Vidosh, the group's treasurer, did not return multiple calls by The Almanac seeking comment.

The union's heavy involvement in the campaign was particularly noteworthy this year, when a bitter conflict over now-suspended contract talks between firefight-

ers and the district has led to low morale and an "unfair practices" complaint against the district filed by the union with the state's public-employee labor relations board. The firefighters have been working without a contract since June 2008.

The firefighters' group spent the money in support of successful candidate Jack Nelson and two candidates who lost the race: Rob Silano and Jon Mosby. The spending far exceeded that of individual candidates, most of whom said they didn't spend enough to meet the \$1,000 threshold that would trigger the need to file a report.

The group spent the money on a range of campaign material and services, including yard and

street signs, mailers, newspaper and online advertising, "robocalls," banners and door hangers. The material supported the candidacies of Rob Silano, Jon Mosby, and Jack Nelson.

The only individual candidate who filed spending documents was Stephen Nachtsheim, who reported spending \$5,732 as of Oct. 17. Mr. Nachtsheim came in third place, according to the county's semi-official results.

The other candidates, who included incumbent Rex Ianson and James Harris, say they spent less than \$1,000 on their campaigns.

Mr. Ianson was the top vote-getter, according to the semi-official tally.

FIRE ELECTION

continued from page 5

officially declare an impasse in negotiations and impose a contract reflecting the district's last offer. This action, he said, should be taken at the Nov. 17 board meeting, or at a special meeting, so that an "environment for a fresh start" will be in place for the new board next month.

Mr. Nachtsheim said he doesn't have an opinion as to whether the board should declare impasse, but added that, if it does, "it should declare it on

its merits, rather than because there's a new board coming on. ... They ought to do what's right for the district."

Mr. Nelson said he wouldn't have a problem with anything the current board decides to do because "when Steve and I take our positions, we'll just take it from there."

Tallying the votes

The official vote tally that will be released next month will include absentee ballots dropped off at polling places on election day, and is highly unlikely to

change the semi-official results regarding winners.

Those results ranked Mr. Ianson as the top vote-getter, with 3,024

votes, or 19.8 percent. He was followed by Jack Nelson, with 2,920 votes, or 19.1 percent. Mr. Nachtsheim received 2,500 votes, or 16.4 percent.



Elected to four-year terms on the fire board were, from left, incumbent Rex Ianson and newcomers Jack Nelson and Stephen Nachtsheim.

James Harris received 2,419 votes, or 15.8 percent. Jon Mosby had 2,206 votes, or 14.45 percent — only five more than Rob Silano, who received 2,201 votes. ■

REDEVELOPMENT

continued from page 5

an optical fiber network in business parks.

There's also a new emphasis on "green projects," with a combined \$900,000 to install solar panels at the Onetta Harris Community Center, and to convert streetlamps to halogen bulbs.

Other new projects include \$2.5 million for flood abatement in the Atherton Channel, and \$900,000 to renovate a bike/pedestrian underpass at Bayfront Expressway and Willow Road.

A large chunk of the money is devoted to ongoing police enforcement, to a renovation of Kelly Field, and to shuttle programs.

By state law, the funds come from property tax revenues within a jagged-bordered, discontinuous area of the city that encompasses the Belle Haven neighborhood, business parks, and areas between Middlefield Road and U.S. 101 along Willow Road. ■

MEETING TUESDAY

Menlo Park's City Council will review the redevelopment plan in a public hearing at its Nov. 10 meeting. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the council chambers, located in the Civic Center complex between Alma and Laurel streets.

Lonely at the polls

Menlo Park resident Mary Calderwood-Working votes alone in the polling place at First Baptist Church on Middle Avenue in Menlo Park on Election Day. The voter turnout county-wide was about 26 percent of registered voters.

Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac



Portola Valley voters renew utility taxes

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

In choosing to renew Portola Valley's two-part utility users tax for the fifth time, voters showed enthusiastic support for not raising the tax, strong support for the tax's open-space element, and significant support for raising the appropriations limit so the town could collect revenues to help pay the town's operational expenses.

Measure P, approved by 82 percent of voters, renews the tax for four years at its current rate: 4.5 percent.

Measure Q, approved by 58 percent, increases the town's appropriations limit so the town can collect and spend the revenue.

And Measure R, approved by 64 percent, renews the 2 percent tax for open space for four years.

The taxes are levied on energy, water, and telephone bills for residences and businesses.

The results seem to reflect efforts to kill the tax. That may explain the heavy vote for Measure P; had it failed the tax would have jumped from 4.5 percent to

5.5 percent in July 2010.

If Measure Q (raising the appropriations limit) had failed, P and R would have been moot. If Q and P had passed and R failed, open-space funding would have ended. State law makes such linkages unavoidable, town officials have said.

The utility taxes, totally 6.5 percent, raise about \$250 a year from each residence. Revenues are split, with 70 percent going toward expenses such as police services and road maintenance, and 30 percent set aside for the purchase of open space.

The measures had opposition — from about 80 households, said resident and former town treasurer Ed Wells, who helped lead the effort. Their recommendations: approve Measure P to keep the tax at 4.5 percent; defeat Q to stop collecting revenues for operational expenses; and vote your heart on R, the open-space element and a strong value in this semi-rural and quiet town. The outcomes seem to reflect that set of priorities.

"I think the 42 percent (opposition on Measure Q) was a very, very good showing," Mr. Wells said in an interview. "We didn't

get run over."

The campaign could point to two successes, Mr. Wells said. Crafting ballot arguments that created "real opposition" to the measures, and informing voters on the "peculiar" linkage and the need to defeat Measure Q. "Our total focus was on Q because that was the trigger mechanism for the three ballot measures," Mr. Wells said.

"Ed Wells," Councilman Steve Toben said, "concentrated his fire on Q, so it's not surprising to me." But, he added, a tax measure that gets a 58 percent majority is "something you rarely see" and "impressive in this day and age."

"Taxes are not popular on any ballot," Mr. Toben continued, "(and with) the fraying of public finance in California, this is one area where we can control our own destiny. Like other cities, we're looking out for our community assets, and I think that's the message here."

With 3,182 registered voters in Portola Valley and 1,179 ballots cast, the town had a 37 percent turnout, well above the county's 26 percent rate, according to Elections Office estimates. ■

Architect John Richards elected to Portola Valley council

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Architect John Richards will be the newest member of the Town Council of Portola Valley.

Mr. Richards, a planning commissioner in the 1990s, ran unopposed in the Nov. 3 election to replace Councilman Richard Merk, who is retiring after 30 years of volunteer service, includ-

ing 13 years on the council.

Re-elected in unopposed races were incumbent council members Ted Driscoll for his fifth four-year term, and Maryann Moise Derwin for her second.

Mr. Richards, asked in an interview if he'd felt trepidation, given the certainty of being elected, replied: "Of course. Yeah. I've wondered what I've done here, sometimes. I've wondered if I've gone insane, especially consider-

ing the pay."

He had to be convinced to run. "I was pressured by a bunch of people for the last few years and I'd been smart enough to put it off," he said. "This time, I caved. People gave me some good reasons and I couldn't think of any way to get out of it."

The vote totals, as of Nov. 6, was: F. John Richards, 884; Ted Driscoll, 832; Maryann Moise Derwin, 817. ■

Voters got the message in Woodside Elementary board race

It was a race two of the five candidates didn't want to win. And they didn't.

Incumbent Bettina Pike and contenders Wendy Warren Crandall and Marc Tarpenning will take seats on the Woodside

Elementary School Board in December as a result of the Nov. 3 election.

According to the county's semi-official tally, Ms. Pike received 27 percent of the vote; Ms. Crandall, 24.7 percent; and Mr. Tarpen-

ning, 23.2 percent.

Candidates Elianne Frenkel-Popell, an incumbent, and Millo Fenzi announced their withdrawals from the race during the election season, too late to keep their names off the ballot.





BEST FRESH FISH • BEST SEAFOOD

Cook's Seafood
Restaurant & Market
"A GREAT PLACE TO EAT LUNCH OR DINNER"

Seafood Dinners from \$5⁹⁵ to \$9⁹⁵
Clam Chowder - Seafood Salads
Our Award Winning Fish & Chips
Prepared from the finest Alaskan halibut.

Also featuring a full service fresh fish market.
Restaurant: Mon-Sat 11-8:30 pm, Fri 'til 9 pm
Market: Mon - Sat 9 - 7, Closed Sunday

751 El Camino Real Call in Orders Welcome
Menlo Park, CA 94025 Phone 650 325-0604 or 322-2231

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**

**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

STANFORD LIVELY-ARTS 09-10

PERFORMING ARTS SEASON



THE PROKOFIEV PROJECT NOVEMBER 12 - 15

INTERPRETING PROKOFIEV

Joseph Horowitz, Alexander Toradze, Kumaran Arul, George Barth In Conversation | **FREE**
THU 12 NOV | 7:30 PM | CAMPBELL RECITAL HALL

PIANISTIC PROKOFIEV

Alexander Toradze, Kumaran Arul, George Barth, *Piano*; Joseph Horowitz, *Speaker*
FRI 13 NOV | 8 PM | DINKELSPIEL AUDITORIUM

ORCHESTRAL PROKOFIEV: ROMEO & JULIET, PIANO CONCERTO NO. 2 and more

Alexander Toradze, *Piano*, with the Stanford Symphony Orchestra, Jindong Cai, *Conductor*; Robin Walsh, *Puppet Artist*

SAT 14 NOV | 8 PM | DINKELSPIEL AUDITORIUM

FAMILY PROKOFIEV: ROMEO & JULIET

The Stanford Symphony Orchestra, Jindong Cai, *Conductor*; Robin Walsh, *Puppet Artist*; Erinn Knyt, *Narrator*

SUN 15 NOV | 2:30 PM | DINKELSPIEL AUDITORIUM

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

Atherton's voters strongly endorse town's parcel tax

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton's parcel tax renewal, Measure S, won a resounding victory, passing 1,204 votes to 352 in the Nov. 3 election. Measure S, and its companion Measure T, give the town a four-year extension of the current parcel tax that costs most homeowners \$750 a year.

"I'm delighted," said Atherton Mayor Jerry Carlson. "It allows us to continue our capital projects and do (fiscal) planning for next year."

The current parcel tax measure expires June 30, and last year it generated \$1.86 million in revenue for the town, according to Atherton Finance Director Louise Ho. The money flows into the town's general fund, and each year, the City Council decides how to allocate it. In recent years, most of the parcel tax has gone toward capital improvement projects.

Measure S to renew the tax got more than the two-thirds vote needed to pass, winning 77.4 percent to 22.6 percent as of Thursday, Nov. 5. Voter turnout was nearly 33 percent, not including any provisional ballots or absentee ballots

that may still be uncounted.

Measure T, which raises the appropriations limit to allow the town to collect and spend the revenues from the renewed parcel tax, needed only a simple majority and it passed 68.8 percent to 31.2 percent.

"I think it shows support for town services, and certainly the police department is a big factor there," Mr. Carlson said.

However, the success at the polls is not making Mr. Carlson complacent.

"There are areas we need to continue to improve upon, finding efficiencies and cleaning up the mess from the past," he said. "Some of the expert advice the council relied upon in the past turned out to be... well, it needed some cleaning up."

Town officials have been working hard to clear up old personnel issues and ongoing litigation against the town, Mr. Carlson said.

"I think we've got good legal counsel that is helping us stay clear of the land mines we got ourselves into," he said. "I think next year's council will have a cleaner slate to work with. It ought to be a good year next year." ■

FORD

continued from page 5

improvements, former mayor Bill Lane noted, could raise the field's profile as a tournament venue, and the resulting tangles of visitor traffic. One solution: assign someone to manage traffic, presentation author Peter Callander replied.

None of this is likely to happen anytime soon. The town had \$255,000 allotted for this project in the 2008-09 budget, but the state reneged on \$200,000 of that and for the current budget year, there is no funding available, Town Manager Angela Howard said in an interview.

The study itself cost \$16,000,

which was paid for with a grant from the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Little League representatives expressed concern to the council that rotating the field could create problems for batters having to face pitchers with the sun behind them. In such cases, umpires are required to call the game, they said.

The council may allow Ms. Howard to tap into a \$10,000 reserve to figure out the sun's path for the field's orientation, but only if residents vote to renew the 4.5 percent utility user tax on Nov. 3.

And if that doesn't happen? "You might as well forget it," Ms. Howard said. "This type of stuff can't be done, I can assure you." ■

wellnessstudio

THE VILLAGE DOCTOR



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

Truly Integrative Wellness in Woodside

2920 Woodside Rd. Woodside, CA 94062 (650) 851.4747

Learn More and Sign Up for Classes at www.WellnessStudio.com



TASTE-FULL EVENTS Of Los Altos

Gourmet Catering



(650) 518-1598

Police tie incident at BBC with robbery at 7-11 store

Menlo Park police arrested three men on Thursday, Nov. 5, in connection with a bottle-throwing incident at the British Bankers Club night club on El Camino Real, and a later robbery at the nearby 7-11 convenience store at Alma Street and Oak Grove Avenue.

Police charged Christian Efrain Gomez, 18, and Mario Navarrette, 21, both of East Palo Alto, and Salvador Gomez, 20, of Menlo Park, with robbery and conspiracy, said Sgt. William A. Dixon of the Menlo Park Police Department.

Other charges included assault with a deadly weapon, and possession of a dirk or dagger, police said.

The situation began with a

report from the BBC to police that a patron had thrown a beer bottle at an employee Thursday at about 10:35 p.m., then fled the club on foot with two other patrons.

About 12 minutes later, police learned of the 7-11 robbery of currency and merchandise by three suspects matching the descriptions from the BBC incident, police said.

Menlo Park officers Thomas Crutchfield and Rolando Igno apprehended three men in two Menlo Park locations within five minutes of learning of the robbery. Witnesses identified the three men, and surveillance footage confirmed their identities, police said. The property from the robbery was recovered.

Missing Menlo Park man is found

Paul McAdoo, an 86-year-old Menlo Park man who has been missing for nearly three weeks, was located at around 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, in Daly City, the Menlo Park Police Department reported.

Mr. McAdoo, who suffers

from dementia, was reported in fair condition and was reunited with his family, police said.

Police had reported he was last seen Oct. 16 in the vicinity of his residence in the 1300 block of Carlton Avenue in the Belle Haven neighborhood.

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



Gordon Manor

1616 Gordon Street
Redwood City, CA 94061
Lic # 415600025

650.562.0555

www.justlikefamily.com • Family owned and operated



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

Sign up today at TheAlmanacOnline.com

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

THE ART OF CRAFTING DELI MEATS

NATURALLY SMOKED v. LIQUID SMOKE ADDITIVES



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 slow-roasting, hand-rubbed herbs and spices, and we only naturally smoke our meats with wood from the Black Forest in Germany. With Kingsley, it is just the meat. www.KingsleyDeliArts.com.

KINGSLEY

DELI ARTS™

AVAILABLE AT DRAEGER'S MARKET AND OTHER FINE SPECIALTY STORES. ASK FOR A SAMPLE.

© 2009 Kingsley Deli Arts

Zoning overhaul loosens some rules

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

■ ATHERTON

Atherton homeowners will find it easier to install a fountain in the front yard, add a second kitchen, or bump out a bay window. Revisions to the zoning ordinance have loosened some regulations, clarified others, and reorganized the zoning codes that govern land-use throughout the town.

Zoning codes may not be the sexiest of topics, but decisions about what can and can't be built are of vital interest to property owners, and can have a big impact on property value.

The comprehensive update to the zoning code was approved by the Atherton City Council 4-1, with Jim Dobbie opposed, at the Oct. 21 meeting.

The goal wasn't to rezone the town or make major changes,

but to update an increasingly unwieldy and occasionally inconsistent zoning code. The Atherton Planning Commission worked on it for nearly a year before sending it on to the council in August.

Key changes include allowing homes to include more than one kitchen — opening the door for the creation of in-law apartments — and exempting covered patios from floor-area limits. Getting permission to install fountains, trellises or other small structures in a front yard will get easier.

Light restrictions

Other changes have to do with placement of light wells for basements, requiring a 20-foot setback for entry gates, and eliminating the exception review process.

The council stripped out a

proposed requirement to shield outdoor lighting and prevent it from spilling into neighboring properties, siding with town staff over the Planning Commission.

"Streets should be kept reasonably rural," Planning Commission member Hermann Christensen told the council. "(Lights) glaring all around on the street is not in keeping with the traditions of Atherton."

Town staff opposed adding stricter lighting regulations, similar to those in Woodside, saying it would be overly restrictive and would create too many nonconforming properties throughout the town.

Mayor Jerry Carlson pointed out that light coming from homes provides a measure of safety along Atherton's otherwise dark and largely unlit streets.

"There's a great deal of concern about safety as you look out on a one-acre parcel, and (wonder) who might be lurking in the woods out there," said Atherton resident Joe Comartin.

A split council concurred on dumping the lighting restrictions, with Mr. Dobbie and Ms. McKeithen opposed.

Another proposed addition would have allowed rear and side fences up to 8 feet tall, instead of current regulations that keep them to 6 feet and under. It also failed to pass muster with the council. ■

Johns lawsuit gets go-ahead

The ongoing legal battle between the town of Atherton and its former finance director, John Johns, got the go-ahead from a judge Oct. 27.

Mr. Johns was fired in October 2007 and has been fighting his dismissal ever since. The latest in a series of lawsuits he's filed against the town overcame a procedural hurdle when Judge Steven M. Hall ruled on Oct. 27 that Mr. Johns' lawsuit seeking reinstatement meets legal requirements to continue.

Lawyers for Atherton had filed a demurrer challenging portions of Mr. Johns' lawsuit.

Last year, Mr. Johns twice filed and then dropped wrongful termination lawsuits against the town. In his current lawsuit, he alleges that the City Council improperly interfered in his personnel investigation and violated the state's open meeting law by discussing the investigation in closed session.

Mr. Johns was fired after an attorney hired by the town investigated complaints against him by Atherton staff.



International School of the Peninsula Ecole internationale de la Péninsule • 半島國際學校

French Immersion and Chinese 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 Immersion Info Nights: 11/3 & 1/19
Chinese Immersion Info Nights: 11/17 & 1/20

A COMBINATION OF

Wine Tasting,

EUROPEAN STYLE *Café,* AND

A *Specialty* MARKET

PRIVATE PARTIES
WINE EVENTS
CATERING
GIFT BASKETS
GIFT CERTIFICATES

- WINE, CHEESE & CHARCUTERIE
- SOUPS, SALADS & SANDWICHES
- CHOCOLATE FONDUE
- CHEESE FONDUE



TASTING CAFE
EST. 2008
GC's
& Specialty Market

650.322.WINE

www.GCsTastingCafe.com

657 Oak Grove Ave Menlo Park

M-W: 11 am - 9 pm • Thurs-Sat: 11 am - 10 pm
Sun: Closed

Fleet Feet recognized for 'green' renovation

■ Tyco, Senior Center, Green Ribbon committee also among environmental award winners.

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

“Shop local” is the marketing mantra of many of Menlo Park’s local businesses. This year, one of those businesses took that idea a step farther, carrying out a remodel by using materials from other local businesses.

In expanding into space previously occupied by stationary store The Paper Chase, Fleet Feet (formerly Runners High) used materials its former neighbor had left behind to build shoe racks and counters.

ARENDS Construction & Design, a green building company with offices next door to Fleet Feet, carried out the renovation: using recycled blue jeans for insulation, cribbing store fixtures from another company that was closing, and employing non-toxic paint and resurfacing materials.

Fleet Feet is one of seven entities that will be recognized by Menlo Park’s Environmental Quality Commission in an award ceremony during the City Council

meeting Tuesday, Nov. 10. The ceremony will come toward the beginning of the meeting, scheduled to start at 7 p.m. in the council chambers, located in the Civic Center complex between Laurel and Alma streets.

The Green Ribbon Citizens’ Committee (a volunteer group) and the city’s Senior Center in Belle Haven will join Fleet Feet as winners in the resource conservation category. The committee organized a “drive less challenge” in the spring, attracting 120 participants who logged some 5,000 “green” miles.

In a program that began five years ago under the guidance of Recreation Supervisor Avideh Yaghmai-Samardar, the Senior Center has been employing a range of “green” practices, including doing away with disposable dishes and tablecloths, recycling household materials and food waste, using reusable bags for brown bag lunches, and creating a storeroom of used walkers, canes, and wheelchairs.

Two companies — Tyco Thermal Controls and Foundation

Capital — won awards for renovating their buildings.

In upgrading its lighting systems in a building in Menlo Park and three others in Redwood City, Tyco reduced energy use by 1,843 kilowatt-hours per year, saving a projected quarter-million dollars annually in energy costs, according to Regina Wheeler, environmental specialist for the city of Menlo Park.

Tyco Electronics also won an award last year for a lighting renovation project in other buildings.

Foundation Capital renovated the firm’s building to meet LEED Gold certification standards, reducing water and energy use, and incorporating recycled materials into the rebuild, Ms. Wheeler said.

The Shena-Ricke residence will be recognized for a “green” renovation of a 1939 home: using “cool” roofing, natural lighting and ventilation techniques, recycled insulation, and other environmentally sound materials.

The Van Hoff residence won for a water-efficient landscaping renovation, planting native vegetation with grass that doesn’t require mowing and implementing a drip-irrigation system. ■

SHORT TAKES

Preschoolers shimmy at Sultana

Belly-dancing preschool children will perform at Middle Eastern restaurant Sultana on Nov. 10, as part of a fundraiser for Menlo Park’s city-run child care program.

The event is one in a series organized by Menlo Children’s Center parents, who are working to raise money for the program as the city considers asking a private company to operate it.

Parents have been dining out at local restaurants once a month, with a percentage of profits going to the children’s center. They have also held a yard sale and a family photo day.

The dancing performance at Sultana is scheduled to begin at 6:45 p.m. The restaurant is located at 1149 El Camino Real. The children learned their moves from Marzieh, one of the teachers at the center; one parent reports that it’s irresistibly cute.

E-mail parent Osnat Loewenthal (osnat.loewenthal@gmail.com) for information on future events.

Everybody’s doing it

Yes, it’s time for the Ormondale Turkey Trot. The family fun run is set for Saturday, Nov. 21, at Ormondale School, 200 Shawnee Pass Road in Portola Valley. Registration starts at 8 a.m. with

a 5K race beginning at 9 a.m. and a 1K, for kids in kindergarten through third grade, at 10 a.m.

Students at Ormondale and Corte Madera schools have been training during lunchtime, and students also created artwork for the race T-shirts. The race-day entry fee is \$15 and registration forms are available at the Portola Valley School District’s

site, www.pvsd.net.

Desperately repenting typo

A slip of the finger last week resulted in a wrong phone number listed for Thalia Lubin, the Woodside resident seeking to borrow old photos for an “Images of America” book on the history of Woodside. The correct phone number is 851-4234.

MENLO AVENUE	APPLEWOOD RESTAURANT PIZZA
	ELCAMINO REAL
	?

We hold the monopoly on the best pizza in town.

1001 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (650) 324-3486
989 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (650) 328-1556 • 227 First Street, Los Altos (650) 941-9222

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

OPERA SAN JOSE
PRESENTS ROSSINI'S
La Cenerentola
CINDERELLA

NOVEMBER 14-29, 2009 CALIFORNIA THEATRE
ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW!
408.437.4450 OPERASJ.ORG

CHRIS AYERS PHOTO
CITY OF SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

M-A holds first student play in new theater

Menlo-Atherton High School International Thespians will present its first production in the school's recently opened performing arts center at 555 Middlefield Road in Atherton.

The community is invited, although it should be noted that the play, "The Rimers of Eldritch" by Lanford Wilson, is rated PG-13 for mature content.

Opening night is Thursday,

See photo on Page 3.

Nov. 12, with additional performances on Nov. 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21.

Thursday and Friday performances are at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday performances are at 2 and 7:30 p.m.

The play, set in a dying Midwestern town in the late 1960s,

explores the many faces of small-town America. The play centers on a startling event, revealed at the end, that highlights the town's hypocrisy.

Drama teacher Mandy Peoples is the director. Assistant director is student Michael Farzi; student Kelly Davis is stage manager.

Tickets will be sold at the door: \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and staff.

Anne Kasten joins the Woodside Town Council

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Anne Kasten, the newly elected member of the Woodside Town Council who will take office on Dec. 8, says she is excited about and ready to dig into an ostensibly obtuse and bureaucratic puzzle: an update to the town's general plan now under way by a task force of town staff and volunteers.

"It's a great opportunity for us to really position Woodside well

for the future," Ms. Kasten said in an interview. "I really believe it's important to have a good plan with clear goals and policies. (It says) who we are and where we are going to go and what we will stand on as we go forward."

Ms. Kasten, who will be leaving the Architecture and Site Review Board, ran unopposed in the Nov. 3 election to fill the District 6 seat of Carroll Ann Hodges, who is retiring after three four-year

terms on the council.

Incumbent council members Deborah Gordon and Dave Tanner ran unopposed for districts 2 and 4, respectively, and were re-elected.

"We have great resources in this town, including on the Town Council, Ms. Kasten asserted. "I hope I'll be one of them."

The vote count as of Nov. 9 was: Deborah Cody Gordon, 524; David Tanner, 511; and Anne Kasten, 549.

Menlo Park council starts discussion on housing project

Discussion about a potential housing project along Hamilton Avenue in Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood will get under way at the City Council meeting Tuesday, Nov. 10.

The city owns 2.1 acres on the east side of Hamilton Avenue, and could expand the site to 7.1 acres if it purchased adjacent parcels.

Among the questions the council will take up: How dense should the housing be? How

■ MENLO WATCH

many of the units would be below-market-rate? Would the development include retail, or other community-serving uses?

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the council chambers.

Sustainable Menlo topic: high-speed rail

Representatives from two consulting companies working on the

California high-speed rail project will speak at a meeting of Sustainable Menlo Park to discuss the project Wednesday, Nov. 18.

John Litzinger of the HNTB Corp. and Ann Jamison of AECOM will provide an overview of the project, focusing on the stretch of the rail line that would run along the Caltrain corridor.

The meeting will run from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the meeting space behind ACE Hardware at 700 Santa Cruz Ave.

Comment sought on open space plan

The public is invited to a hearing on Thursday, Nov. 12, to comment on a 30-year master plan being considered for the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, which includes a working ranch, grasslands and forests near the town of La Honda and a part of the Midpeninsula Open Space District.

The meeting takes place at 7 p.m. in the district's administrative office at 330 Distel Circle in Los Altos.


At this meeting, the district's board of directors may vote on options for public use of the 5,759-acre preserve and tentatively approve the plan, which seeks to balance the preservation of the environment with other uses, including grazing, public education and "low-intensity recreation," according to a district statement.

For more information and to read the master plan, go to www.openspace.org or call 691-1200.

YOUTH SOCCER OPEN TRYOUTS

NOV. 16 TO DEC. 15

Palo Alto Soccer Club



"Take the next step!"

SOCCER PLAYERS WANTED:
Boys and Girls born between 8/1/96 to 7/31/02
(Ages 8 to 13 1/2)
Join our Under-9 to Under-13 Teams for 2010

BENEFITS:

- Receive professional coaching in a parent-managed organization
- Join Competitive (Class 3 teams) and Highly Competitive (Class 1 teams)
- Develop individual skills and techniques
- Enjoy a fun and positive environment
- Learn teamwork and game strategy
- (Positive Coaching Alliance Philosophy)

Visit our website for Time, Locations and Contacts
www.pasoccerclub.org




FREE DELIVERY
(with min. order)

"THE BEST PIZZA WEST OF NEW YORK"

—Ralph Barbieri
KNBR 680

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

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




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.



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.

HISTORIC ATHERTON ESTATE



www.311Stockbridge.com



- Spectacular three-story main house with 6 bedrooms, 5 full baths, and 2 half-baths
- Spacious chef's kitchen and casual dining area
- Lower-level wine cellar, work room, office, and tunnel to "Kasbah" entertainment center
- Expansive rear terrace with outdoor kitchen, garden pavilion, fireplace, and spa
- "Kasbah" with full kitchen, 3 baths, gym, night club, vault, and 2 terraces
- Award-winning Las Lomas School District

**HUGH
CORNISH**
DRE #00912143

*#1 Individual Agent 2008 SF-Peninsula
#8 Individual Agent 2008 Nationally
Ranked One of the Top 50 Agents by
The Wall Street Journal, 2008*

650-566-5353
hcornish@cbnorcal.com

311 STOCKBRIDGE AVENUE, ATHERTON
Offered at \$7,995,000



This information was supplied by Seller and/or other sources. Broker believes this information to be correct but has not verified this information and assumes no legal responsibility for its accuracy. Buyers should investigate these issues to their own satisfaction. Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

Sustainable Menlo Park

Speaker Series Invites You to Our



November 18, 2009 – 5:30 to 7:00 PM
PRESENTATION OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
REGARDING HIGH SPEED RAIL
IN MENLO PARK

John Litzinger, Senior Project Engineer with HNTB Corporation and
 Ann Jamison, Transportation Planner with AEOM

Will combine an overview of the entire California High Speed Rail Project
 with special emphasis on the most current alternatives being studied
 for the alignment in Menlo Park

The presentation will be held at

700 B Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park, CA

in the auditorium directly behind the ACE Hardware Store.

Entrance to the presentation hall is directly from the rear parking lot.

Hope to see you there

Chuck Kinney, Chairman of Sustainable Menlo Park
 650-854-5554 or sustainable_menlopark@gmail.com
 www.sustainablemenlopark.com

OBITUARIES

Elisabeth Ullman Wills

Hostess, chef, teacher, activist

Elisabeth Ullman “Babette” Wills died peacefully on Oct. 19 at the age of 97. Ms. Wills was a longtime resident of Portola Valley, living in a hand-built house called Willy Nilly.

Willy Nilly was a gathering place for artists, intellectuals and activists, including Nobel laureate Linus Pauling, United Farm Workers leader Cesar Chavez,

and filmmaker Felix Greene, according to family friend Constance Crawford.

In the 1960s, author Wallace Stegner and others held a series of meetings at Willy Nilly, resulting in the creation of the Committee for Green Foothills, says Ms. Crawford.

Ms. Wills was born in St. Gobain, France. At the age of 20, she married her first husband, American painter Paul Ullman. The couple lived in Paris during the 1930s, surrounded by a community of artists. Their son, Jacques, was born in 1935.

The advent of World War II forced the family to leave France for the United States in 1940. The couple settled in Connecticut, where Ms. Wills became an American citizen. Mr. Ullman was killed in France in 1944, while on assignment to the Office of Strategic Services.

In 1945 Ms. Wills married Michael Wills. The couple eventually moved to Portola Valley, where they created their home over the next 25 years. Although they lived in an Army surplus hospital tent for the first two years, they entertained frequently, says Ms. Crawford. Their son, David, was born in 1950.

Ms. Wills taught cooking classes, did catering, and fostered a variety of cultural and political causes. For two years the Willses served as full-time chefs for the Maison Francaise at Stanford University. They celebrated Bastille Day with a large party every July 14. A biography of Ms. Wills, “Babette: Elisabeth Ullman Wills,” by Constance Crawford was published in 2005.

Survivors include sons Jacques Ullman of Sausalito and David Wills of Berkeley; sister Camille Bertron of Toulon, France; and two grandchildren. Her husband, Michael Wills, died in 1994.



Richard ‘Dick’ Mesak

Homebuilder, sportsman, restaurateur

Richard Henry “Dick” Mesak, a past captain of the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County, died Oct. 8 at his home in Redwood City with his wife, Ada, at his side. Founder of the Circle Star Theater in San Carlos and the Circle Star restaurant, he was 89.

Born in San Francisco, Mr. Mesak was a member of the Mission High School 1936 championship football team. He attended St. Mary’s College in Moraga and played for the 1939 Cotton Bowl championship team.

He served in the U.S. Navy from 1941 to 1945 with the first group of Sea Bees in the Pacific.

After the war, he played football for the Detroit Lions in the National Football League and the Clippers in the Pacific Coast League in San Francisco.

Mr. Mesak was a member of many organizations, including the Disabled American Veterans, past senior commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, past vice president of the Homebuilders Association, San Mateo County Horseman’s Association, Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County and the Shack Riders Club. He was a former member of the Palo Alto and Shoreline golf clubs and a life member of the Redwood City Elks Club.

Continued on next page

SINCE 1899

McROSKEY *Mattress Company*

MATTRESS CO

www.McRoskey.com

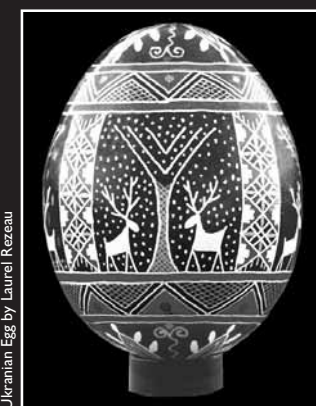
Author of *Bonk*, Mary Roach

“I *Love* My McRoskey!”

“How can I get anything done if I can’t get out of bed?”

McRoskey Mattresses
 and Box Springs Lovingly
 Handcrafted in San
 Francisco Since 1899.

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



Ukrainian Egg by Laurel Rezeau

the
artifactory
 COOPERATIVE

HOLIDAY FAIR

Fine Crafts ♦ Local Artists

December 11, 12, 13, 2009

Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10-5

Hoover House

(aka “The Girl Scout House”)

1120 Hopkins, Palo Alto

for information:

650-625-1736 or TheArtifactory@aol.com

■ POLICE CALLS

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

ATHERTON

Residential burglary report: Storage unit broken into and compressor, chain saw, transit and hardware stolen, 100 block of Atherton Ave., Nov. 4.

MENLO PARK

Grand theft reports:

■ Computer stolen for estimated loss of \$999, East Palo Alto Academy High School at 475 Pope St., Oct. 30.

■ Bicycle valued at \$500 stolen, Coleman Place, Nov. 3.

■ Three pairs of sunglasses, pocket tool and CDs stolen from unlocked vehicle for total loss of \$750, 1400 block of Woodland Ave., Nov. 3.

■ Two bikes stolen from carport for estimated loss of \$400, 800 block of Middle Ave., Nov. 3.

■ Theft of Smith & Wesson .38 caliber handgun with blue steel barrel and brown wooden grip for estimated loss of \$500, Durham St., Nov. 3.

■ Video camera, camera cards, lens and battery stolen from vehicle for estimated loss of \$9,600, 1200 block of El Camino Real, Nov. 4.

Auto burglary report: Window smashed and purse and wallet stolen, Bayfront Park, Nov. 3.

Commercial burglary report: Break in and theft of TV set, Interio Real Estate at Santa Cruz Ave. and El Camino Real, Nov. 2.

Fraud reports:

■ Unauthorized use of credit card for esti-

mated loss of \$1,000, 1600 block of Oakdell Drive, Oct. 31.

■ Identity theft for estimated loss of \$7,000, 1000 block of Tehama Ave., Nov. 1.

Stolen vehicle report: Black 1997 Honda Civic, 1200 block of Mills St., Nov. 5.

■ IN THE SERVICE

■ Navy Seaman Apprentice Dokyun Kim, son of Eunhee and Eric B. Kim of Atherton, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at the Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois.

■ BIRTHS

Menlo Park

■ Christine and Christopher Peetz, a son, Oct. 23, Sequoia Hospital.

Ira Ruskin calls 'town hall' meeting

State Assemblyman Ira Ruskin will hold a "town hall" meeting with constituents from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, at the Redwood City council chambers, 1017 Middlefield Road in Redwood City.

For more information, call 691-2121.

Continued from previous page

He is survived by his wife, Ada, of Redwood City; son Richard Mesak; stepson Bruce Paisley; and one granddaughter. His first wife, Jeanne, and daughter, Jeannine, preceded him in death.

No formal services will be held.

Irene Johnson

Retired Menlo Park teacher

Irene Martha Johnson of Oak Park Heights, Minnesota, who taught in the primary grades at Oak Knoll School in the Menlo Park School District from 1961 to 1995, died Sept. 16. She was 81.

Ms. Johnson was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, and graduated with a degree in elementary education from the University of Minnesota. She later received a master's degree in education from Stanford University.

After graduation, she taught in Minnesota, England, and Germany before moving to Palo Alto.

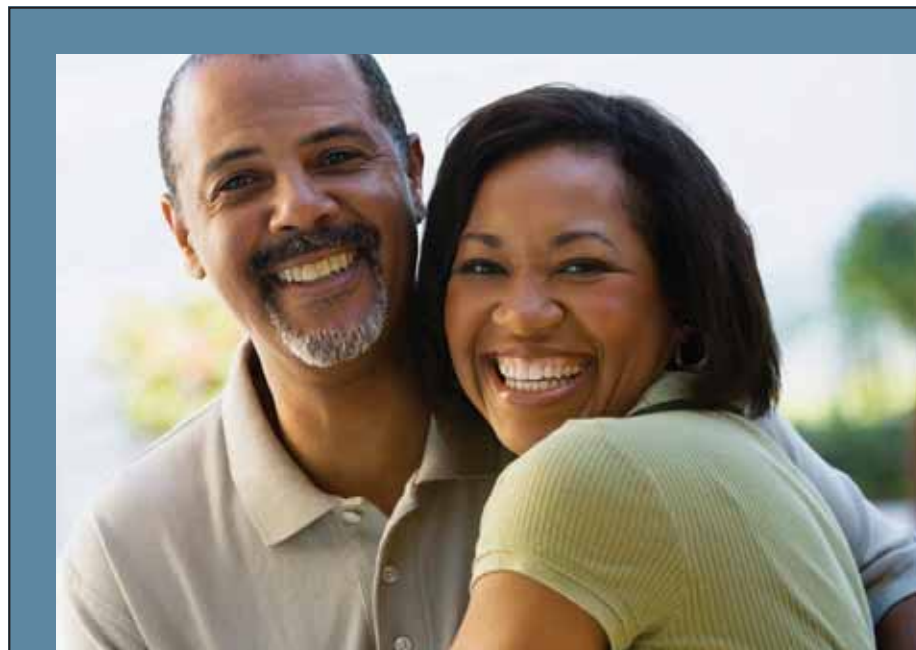
She will be remembered for her love of travel, books, learning, the arts, playing the piano, and for instilling an appreciation of these things in her nieces and nephews, say family members.

She is survived by her sister-in-law, Diane Johnson, brothers-in-law Richard Weiss and Denis Bakke; and seven nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University.

■ ONLINE

Check TheAlmanacOnline.com for prep sports stories and pictures.



Personal care will get even better

More capacity. More access. More service.

Menlo Medical Clinic will open a second Menlo Park location

at 321 Middlefield Road to provide exceptional primary and specialty care for its community. Personal. Knowledgeable. Integrated. Soon

our family of physicians and practitioners will grow to 50+, our specialties will increase to 20, and our clinic will expand to two — all

in affiliation with Stanford Hospital & Clinics to better serve you.



Our second Menlo Park clinic at 321 Middlefield Road will open December of 2009.

Menlo Medical Clinic
1300 Crane St.
Menlo Park, CA 94025

650-498-6500
menloclinic.com

MENLO MEDICAL CLINIC
Affiliated with
Stanford Hospital & Clinics

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.

Imagine Menlo 30 years from now

Does anyone remember what downtown Menlo Park looked like in the 1940s, the 50s and the 60s? Were the stores on Santa Cruz Avenue one story or two? What were the flagship businesses on El Camino Real? Was it two or three lanes then?

One thing is for sure: The entire downtown looked a lot different then than it does now. There were no trees on Santa Cruz Avenue, there were no trees on El Camino. There was no Menlo Center, where Kepler's and Cafe Borrone have become the nucleus of a vibrant downtown.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

There are condominiums on Oak Grove Avenue now and the old Gambardella's has morphed into a much larger establishment on Merrill Street.

Draeger's was a cramped one-story market at the corner of Menlo and University until the second story and brick facade were added years ago.

All of these changes have greatly improved the city's downtown in a way that, in many cases, was unimaginable five, 10, or 20 years before it happened.

But change can be a scary thing for someone who may have a vested interest in keeping things the way they are now, or who may not have tried to visualize how a facelift could rejuvenate downtown Menlo Park.

Change for the better is the key ingredient of the Downtown Visioning process that is under way now and that is under attack from a handful of downtown business and property owners. The leaders of this opposition, landlord Nancy Couperis and furniture store owner Mark Flegel, feel some of the changes suggested in the current plan — which has a full year of additional public hearings and discussion to go before any part is adopted — could upset the harmony they believe

exists now along Santa Cruz Avenue.

Their opposition is unfortunate, because it could derail months of work, which involved much public comment, that has unfolded over the past two years. Although we can understand that the downtown owners and merchants fear that the plan will take away parking and authorize taller buildings on Santa Cruz, now is not the time to try to derail the process. Their opposition was rightly rebuffed by the City Council, which wants to see the process through to the end.

We hope the coming months will bring many more residents of the city together to decide what they want their city to look like after a makeover that could last 20 or 30 years. We hope the council and planners guiding the visioning process will acknowledge the needs of the downtown property owners today, but also show them a path forward that will keep the city enticing for the next 20 or 30 years or more.

The question is: Will we have the vision to create another Menlo Center, or will we stubbornly hold on to what we have now, while other cities pass us by?

The City Council has made a good-faith effort to create a downtown plan that will replace the vacant car dealerships on El Camino Real, and make the downtown area more inviting for pedestrians and shoppers. Hundreds of hours of public discussion and hundreds of thousands of dollars (more than \$1 million altogether) have been invested in this very open and transparent process.

We hope those who dislike parts of the process now will give it a chance to move ahead as planned. There will be plenty of time for comment as the council closes in on a final vote. Remnants of previous failed planning initiatives litter City Hall bookshelves. This time, we sincerely hope that the opponents will restrain themselves so the city can continue this very important effort that will greatly impact the future of Menlo Park.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Editorial mailed prior to Portola Valley vote

Editor:

You should be aware that proponents of the Portola Valley utility taxes mailed your editorial in favor of these taxes to our voters just days before the election. Using my name, you quoted unnamed administration staff and former mayors as stating that my analysis "is a sham and mixes budget numbers with actual income."

Your reporter had declined to review my analysis in his interview with me, and you did not set up a meeting with me, as you suggested might happen. A one-page summary is available.

The data used in my projections are confirmed, in part, by the county controller's records. The analyses are correct: The town has received more than \$6 million in "unanticipated property taxes" since 2006. And, in 2006, \$4.1 million was transferred from the general fund to the Town Center project. The question we couldn't answer



Menlo Park Historical Association

Our Regional Heritage

The French Laundry started in this building at 1893 El Camino Real in Menlo Park, near the original Menlo gateway at left. The laundry continues today as the Peninou French Laundry and Cleaners at 1142 Crane St. in Menlo Park.

was, "What happened to all the money?"

In the election, with 42 percent voting "no," the 80 households leading the opposition campaign made a surprisingly good showing, especially considering that the major donor's group outspent

"NO on Q" five to one.

The voters against continuing utility taxes in Portola Valley were successful in two ways: 1) They managed on very short notice, to show that there is strong opposition to the town's utility taxes. 2) They were able to inform many

voters that the town has crafted some really peculiar laws to perpetuate their taxes.

Ed Wells
Naranja Way, Portola Valley

See **LETTERS**, next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

The Almanac responds:

No town official contacted by The Almanac could understand your reasoning on the taxes. We generously provided you space for a 500-word Guest Opinion to make your point. Obviously, the voters did not decide in your favor. Also, anyone can reproduce Almanac editorials and disseminate them provided they attribute the reproduction to the paper.

The Editor

Finally, action on El Camino corridor

Editor:

It is indeed welcoming to learn that our City Council is finally acting to allow the development of our city corridor to proceed.

For far too long, we have witnessed our mayors and councils abdicate their elected responsibilities to act on our behalf to get things done. Instead, and contrary to the concept of electing people to represent a populace, the councils have thrown up meeting after meeting in search of an impossible-to-achieve consensus.

First, it was housing. Then, it was parking. Then housing again. And now, to beat the drum one more time, it is carbon. Here's an idea: How about letting the people who are willing to invest their resources in Menlo Park decide how to best use the land they own? What a concept. If there is a demand for housing, they will build housing; if there is a need for retail space, presumably they will build that. Let them determine if they need to build more parking.

Finally, a plea: Please let Howard Crittenden build anything he wants at the old Park Theater site. Anything. Everyone I know is sick to death of looking at this graffiti-plagued eyesore. If there's no parking for what he wants to do, then that's his problem. Just let him build. How long does the council — the past, the present, the future — plan to allow this embarrassment to continue?

Sloane Citron
Laurel Street, Menlo Park**Opposition to downtown projects seen before**

Editor:

I chuckled recently when The Almanac had the articles regarding a potential Whole Foods store and the opposition from the Draeger family.

Same opposition, different time: I remember well the City Council meetings that occurred in the 1980s, I believe, when the

Downtown plan a disaster in the making?

By Morris Brown

The Menlo Park City Council has confirmed the outline for a specific plan for downtown and El Camino Real and reaffirmed that decision despite objections from major stakeholders, including downtown businesses.

The consultant has been directed to go ahead with the current plans. It is disappointing there will be no further public meeting discussions until next March, at which time the public will be presented with a drafted specific plan and draft environmental impact report.

The plan now outlined, which will be subject to modification after public hearings, would increase building heights downtown to three stories, and allow parking structures on the plazas and many other changes to the downtown, most of which just add up to more density.



Throughout the process the consultant kept using the term “vibrancy.” “We need more vibrancy,” is their motto. Only at the final workshop was it revealed the plan would add about 1,500 more people to the downtown, with an additional 680 housing units with grossly inadequate parking provided. I now understand that vibrancy to the consultant, means more people living downtown. For most of us vibrancy means more retail uses that serve our community.

The plan would also include five-story structures on El Camino. When queried about this, the consultant replied this was data from the workshops. When informed that the Derry referendum had gathered 3,000 votes, and that four-story condos and 50 feet in height were major concerns with that project, and that the negotiations removed the fourth floor and reduced the height to three stories, he shrugged it off,

sticking to his “five stories is the input we gathered, so it must be OK.”

Council members are especially emphatic, stating public input is not over; really just beginning according to them. But why in the world do you go ahead with a preliminary design that already has so many stakeholders and others greatly concerned?

Santa Cruz Avenue is currently one- and two-story structures. I have photos of Santa Cruz near El Camino where new construction of a two-story building is just taking place. Its height matches the two-story bank building next door, but even at 30 feet overshadows the building at 626, which is really one story. Add another 12 feet or so to the new construction of this building and you get to three stories (40 feet). This is certainly not the “village feel” that so many residents expressed they prefer.

We don't need another Smart Growth disaster. This sure is starting to resemble that fiasco.

Morris Brown lives on
Stone Pine Lane in Menlo Park.

idea of the Farmers' Market was originally discussed. Leading the opposition — the Draeger family — saying virtually the same things they are saying now about the idea of a Whole Foods Market (“would drive us out of business, we couldn't compete,” etc.). Sounds to me like the Draegers figure that Menlo Park must be their own “private Idaho.”

Frank Merrill
Moulton Drive, Atherton**Writer missed the point of reader's criticism**

Editor:

It seems Barbara Wood did not understand the reason Janice Ross wrote her letter to the editor.

Ms. Ross showed no anger about Ms. Wood's chickens. Ms. Ross stated that she found repugnant the story about Ms. Wood's friend trying to run over the coyote that ran away with the chicken.

I found the story repugnant, too, and not a bit funny. Ms. Wood missed the point completely. Ms. Ross, I'm with you, and I'm another chicken owner.

Christine Pixie Couch
Almanor Avenue, Menlo Park**In favor of low density in downtown Menlo Park**

Editor:

I have been a Menlo Park resident since 1998 and am a regular shopper and diner in the town.

I enjoy the small-town atmosphere and sense of community that we have in Menlo Park. I certainly do not want to see us become a high-density town with a big-city atmosphere.

I understand the benefits of a multi-story car park for employees in Menlo Park, but do we really need a three-story building? I love the plaza parking,

which is very convenient and gives easy access to many of the retail stores and restaurants.

I really do not understand the need for a covered market. It would compete directly with Trader Joe's and Draeger's and threaten, if not end, the year-round Menlo Park Live Oaks Lions Club Sunday farmers' market. This market not only supports local farmers but also creates a real community center where families come together and appreciate the healthy organic produce.

The market raises about \$35,000 a year for local charities as well as giving thousands of pounds of produce to local shelters and food closets, donated by the farmers. This seems to be a priceless benefit.

Please keep Menlo Park downtown low-density with small-town charm.

John Hickson
Loyola Avenue, Menlo Park
(The writer is a member of the
Menlo Park Live Oaks
Lions Club.)**Palo Alto council stood up to union**

Editor:

The bold Palo Alto City Council should be commended for finally standing up to the SEIU. Even those who have been backed at election time, including our state treasurer, Bill Lockyer, a Democrat, are speaking out against the crazy out-of-balance union benefits.

Some past local officials like Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler tried to make people aware of the unsustainable path of maintaining SEIU and other public employee union benefits — only to be falsely demonized during the 2006 campaign season with ads paid for by the San Mateo County Labor Council — and

they didn't get re-elected.

The time has come for a new approach to politics. We should and hopefully will elect individuals who do not seek union endorsements. It has always been an incestuous relationship between the candidate and the local labor council. The labor council will promise campaign help through phone banks, paid direct mail and hit pieces against the opposition. They've been very successful with this approach and their candidates generally make it into office. If the candidate doesn't fulfill his/her end of the bargain while in office, he/she will not be re-elected.

The sad thing is, the shift from seeking union support to candidates running from it has only now occurred because of our devastated economy. It didn't happen because our elected officials thought it was a conflict of interest to continue granting outrageous benefits to public employees. Nonetheless, we are finally getting to where we should be. The voters should pull out the stops and withhold their votes from all candidates who have received any type of union endorsement.

Mary Gilles
Partridge Avenue, Menlo Park**Sidewalk needed on Watkins Avenue**

Editor:

Atherton's Holbrook-Palmer Park is a great asset to our area. All the recent park improvements, from the new pedestrian bridge at the west side to the shiny new drinking fountain (complete with a basin for the dogs), are wonderfully thoughtful. Unfortunately, access by foot to the park, if you're coming from El Camino, is a bit precarious.

I know that sidewalks are anathema in Atherton, but this is a case where common sense should prevail. This is not a winding street brimming with rural quaintness. If anything, it resembles a rural road in the Central Valley with the many trucks speeding down it.

Watkins is a busy route because it is a straight shot between El Camino and Middlefield. The electronic speed limit sign on Watkins is there for a very good reason.

The enlightened developer of the new office building at the corner of El Camino Real and Watkins is putting in a sidewalk along its part of Watkins Avenue. Caltrain has put in a short sidewalk at the end of the block as part of rail crossing improvements. Doesn't it make sense to connect the two ends?

For the sake of the many people walking their dogs, pushing their kids in strollers, and simply trying to reduce their carbon footprint in an age where every step in this direction is so critical, I hope that the city can reconsider its no-sidewalk policy here.

Lydia Lee
Spruce Avenue, Menlo Park**Where was the editor?**

Editor:

I also read Barbara Wood's article and I agree with Janice Ross' response published on Oct. 28.

Ms. Wood's hypocrisy lies in the fact that in her answer to Ms. Ross' response she boasts about her great love of all animals, but finds the actions of her “nameless” friend obviously amusing.

And that you as the editor are unaware of this fact is quite disturbing.

Walli Finch
Portola Valley

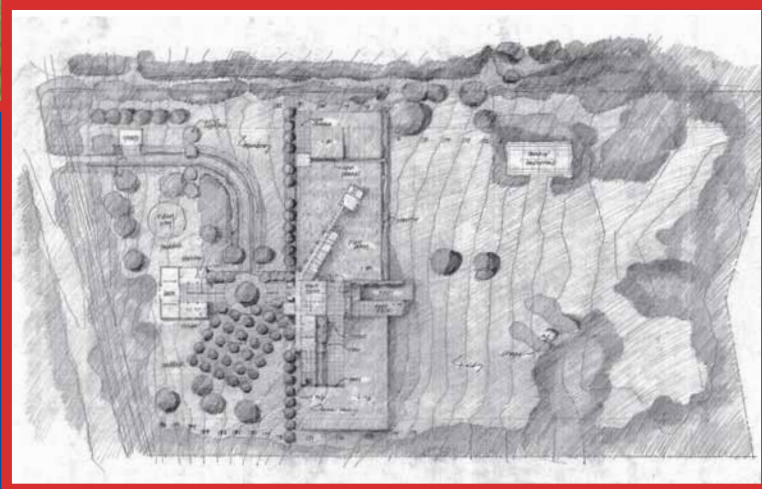
9+ level acres in Woodside ... dream!

Woodside – 9.7 acres



WOODSIDE – These 9.7 (approx) level acres are ideal for a grand estate or an equestrian country property. Just minutes from I-280 but with the quiet and privacy of the countryside, the sun-swept land is bordered on two sides by Stanford lands, has views of the Western Hills, and features mature oaks & redwoods and, at the front of the property, a stylishly updated 3-BR home. Potential to build up to 23,000 sf of improvements. Excellent Portola Valley schools.

exclusively listed at **\$6,000,000**



Atherton at its best ... Serenity surrounds remodeled 6,300 sf home on a private acre. Built around an inner courtyard and pool, 5-BR home is filled with light and features vaulted ceilings w/ exposed beams, huge windows, spacious rooms, 3 fireplaces, sumptuous master suite. Privacy gates, circular drive, gardens and koi pond add to the delightful surroundings.

exclusively listed at **\$3,900,000**

**Ed Kahl –
Real Estate Experience you can trust**

- Sold over \$1 Billion in residential and commercial properties
- MA in Economics from UC Davis
- Real Estate Broker since 1972
- International President's Premiere

**Top 1% Coldwell Banker Agents
Over \$1 Billion Sold**

Ed Kahl

(650) 400-2796

ed@edkahl.com
www.EdKahl.com

