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home-built aircraft in Watsonville | PAGE 5

The Almanac

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

NOVEMBER 25, 2009 | VOL. 45 NO. 13



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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Seems like old times

It was a nostalgic morning (Nov. 13) for Kathryn Williams, 96, of Menlo Park when she read "The Story of Peter Rabbit" to her great-granddaughter Kathryn's kindergarten class at Las Lomitas School. Ms. Williams taught first and third grade at the school from 1963 to 1971. She joins 15 or 20 other retired Las Lomitas district teachers for lunch once a month.

Atherton

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On the cover

Haven Family House resident Asinate, right, shows off her turkey drawing to children's program coordinator Naty Duenas. Haven Family House in Menlo Park is operated by Shelter Network, which provides housing and other services to families in need. Shelter Network is one of 10 organizations that benefit from your gifts to The Almanac's Holiday Fund. Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac. **See Section 2.**

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WINE

Thanksgiving Wines

What to serve with the eclectic montage of flavors that is the Thanksgiving experience?! It is a perfect opportunity to be adventuresome. No one wine can pair perfectly with all the assundry flavors, and textures, the meal provides. Why not try a Riesling, Gewurztraminer, Pinot Gris, or Viognier? And for the reds we recommend Pinot Noir, but feel free to serve Zinfandel, Cabernet, or Merlot. We do suggest avoiding heavy wines that are high in alcohol or overtly oaky. *Have Fun!*

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Cornbread Stuffing Dried cranberries, apricots and green onion \$10.75 qt \$5.50 pt	Fresh Cranberry Sauce Whole cranberries slow cooked with a hint of orange \$9.50 qt..... \$4.75 pt
Mashed Potatoes Fresh potatoes whipped with cream, and butter \$12.00 qt..... \$6.25 pt	Good Earth Bakery Pumpkin Pie 8" pie serves 8 people.. \$11.99 ea
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Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

High rent forces out local advocate of affordable housing

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

Elizabeth Lasensky stood in front of Eileen Donahoe's Portola Valley residence on a chilly night in February 2007, waiting for Barack Obama to show up for a fundraiser. Ms. Lasensky was not one of the people who had forked over \$1,000 or more to hear Mr. Obama speak; she doesn't have that kind of money. Instead, she was volunteering to help out at the event with several other people.

When Mr. Obama finally arrived in an SUV, he got out and walked right up to the diminutive Ms. Lasensky.

"He took both my hands and said, 'Oh, my gosh, your hands are cold,'" she related over coffee at Cafe Borrone two weeks ago. "I said, 'Well, yeah. We've been waiting, you're a little late.'"

She went on to urge Mr. Obama to hold an event for low-money donors on his next California trip, to give people like her a chance to see him speak. Later, she said, she regretted not "giving him a few more pieces of my mind." Her views on health care, for instance.

"As we know, I have a lot to

say," Ms. Lasensky said.

That fact has earned her a few staunch allies and a raft of detractors over the years, though perhaps her chiding of Mr. Obama lends a little more perspective to her outspoken nature. She is not one to hide behind pleasantries when she has a bone to pick.

While she has been very involved in several key causes, such as preserving open space, promoting local businesses, and fighting for below-market-rate housing, Ms. Lasensky is perhaps better known as a council watcher, and a critic of people of every political stripe, chastising decision-makers on both sides of the aisle. Nobody, it seems, including The Almanac news staff, has been immune from her blunt rebukes.

"Elizabeth answers to no one," former council member Steve Schmidt wrote in a letter to The Almanac in August, defending Ms. Lasensky after she came under fire for one of her many letters to this paper. "She calls it as she sees it, and her calls are based on her strong core values: transparency, fairness and knowing the facts before she speaks." He



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Menlo Park community activist **Elizabeth Lasensky** packs at her apartment on Fremont Street in Menlo Park. A huge increase in rent is forcing Ms. Lasensky out of the city.

praised her for her "continuous watchful eye on the council."

To the dismay of Mr. Schmidt, and perhaps the relief of some of Ms. Lasensky's more frequent targets, Menlo Park is losing her watchful eye. After spending 19 years in an apartment on Fremont Street, she's being forced out by a 62 percent rent increase instituted by a new landlord.

Affordable housing

To Ms. Lasensky, who works

as an assistant to Stanford's dean of research, her situation underscores the need for affordable rental housing in Menlo Park. It's a cause she has advocated for frequently before the council, and in two partial terms on the city's Housing Commission.

"I have given countless hours to the community, but with the stroke of a pen and 60 days' notice, look at the upheaval," she said. "And this is not an

uncommon story."

She spoke to what she sees as a prejudice in some quarters against people who can't afford to buy a house in Menlo Park at the going rate.

"There are people who need affordable housing, and I'm one," she said. "There's an assumption by far too many people that we're shiftless, or we're robbers. ... That's just not

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Atherton attorney dies in crash of home-built plane in Watsonville

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton resident Gary Lampert, 58, died after his experimental aircraft he was flying caught fire and crashed in an apple orchard near the Watsonville Municipal Airport on Saturday, according to the Santa Cruz County coroner's office and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Mr. Lampert, the only person on-board, was an attorney. He had a law practice in Redwood City and specialized in real estate and development, his father Roland Lampert told The Almanac on Monday.

"Nobody knows what caused the accident," said Roland Lampert. "He radioed to the Oakland Airport while he was flying and said



Gary Lampert

that there was fire and smoke in the cockpit, and he asked to make an emergency landing in Watsonville. Obviously, he didn't make it."

The crash occurred at 1:40 p.m. Saturday as Mr. Lampert attempted to make an emergency landing at Watsonville Municipal Airport. He was returning from visiting an uncle in Scottsdale, Arizona, and he was on his way to the San Carlos airport, his father said.

Mr. Lampert's brother, David, visited the crash site Sunday with

See **LAMPERT**, page 6

Bohannon deal: Is cutting car trips the key?

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

Can Menlo Park make way for a major development in the eastern part of the city without besmirching its conscience?

City officials hope to get more insight into that fundamental question in the coming months as the city enters negotiations over a 950,000-square-foot office/hotel complex near Marsh Road and Bayfront Expressway, proposed by the Bohannon Development Co.

The willingness of City Council members to approve the project as proposed may well hinge on the ability of the city and the developer to reduce car trips to and from the site, without scaling back the size of the buildings.

For a council that has repeat-

edly affirmed its commitment to mitigating the city's carbon emissions, getting people to car-pool or take public transportation to the project site is a crucial,

Should the city aim to cut by half the number of vehicle trips to the site? The Planning Commission thinks so.

if lofty, goal. Reducing car trips could also assuage other concerns about gridlock on U.S. 101 and on Marsh Road, and about the "dominance" of the project's parking structures, which occupy nearly as much space as the buildings themselves.

"In a way, this (discussion) actually revolves around what we conveniently call transportation demand management, the use of the automobile," said Henry Riggs, chair of the Planning Commission, in an interview. "It affects land use. It affects carbon emissions. It affects traffic. And its alternatives could positively affect the availability of shuttles" from downtown Menlo Park to the eastern region of the city.

The commission has recommended that the city aim to cut vehicle trips to the site in half through its negotiations with the Bohannon Co.

Mr. Riggs maintains that it's a realistic goal, saying that the right mix of incentives and

See **BOHANNON**, page 7

High rent forces out local affordable-housing advocate

LASENSKY

continued from page 5

the case. We're working people whose incomes aren't keeping pace with the price of housing.

"People who need affordable housing should be treated with dignity, and some of that's missing," she continued.

"Elizabeth moving is a great loss to the city," Brielle Johnck, a former city commissioner, wrote in an e-mail. "It seems she threatened some of the old guard in the city who are fearful of change, growth and certainly fearful of new housing for working, middle-class people. ... I believe Elizabeth represented perfectly the kind of person the city would want as a resident."

Unfinished business

During the interview, Ms. Lasensky revisited her accomplishments, and recounted sores from some of the old Menlo Park battles. In addition to her advocacy for affordable housing, she is proud of leading the campaign to preserve Bedwell-Bayfront Park as open space, her involvement with the local merchant group Hometown Peninsula, her role on a city budget workshop committee in 2005, and her support of Democratic candidates and causes.

Mostly, though, she talked about important issues that are yet to be decided.

"I'm sad to leave," she said. "I have not finished a lot of things I would like to have finished."

She reserved her most pointed criticism for former council member Paul Collacchi and resident Morris Brown, who led a referendum drive to repeal the council's approval of the Derry commercial/residential project in 2006.

She criticized the way the referendum was handled at the time. Had the project gone

ahead as proposed, along an adjoining development project, the city's stock of below-market-rate housing would have increased by about 70 percent, according to Ms. Lasensky. She will be taken off the city's below-market-rate wait list when she moves to San Carlos.

She's still stung by a scuttled bid for a council seat in 2006, when she was one of several people who participated in meetings to determine which three candidates the city's liberal bloc would support. In informal surveys, people said they would not vote for Ms. Lasensky because she was a renter, she was told, though she alleged that Mr. Collacchi and other leaders of the group had already made up their minds.

Mr. Collacchi, a Redwood City resident at the time, said he was simply reporting the results of the survey to Ms. Lasensky, and that he didn't tell any candidate whether or not to run.

"There are times when I look at the council and think, I really regret not running," she said. "But sometimes, I think, I'm glad to be on this side, because I can really let 'em have it."

Ms. Lasensky lamented the bipolar state of Menlo Park politics, and the uneven influence wielded by what she referred to as the "anti-growth" contingent.

"The 'Morris Browns' are very organized," she said. "The other side, the people with a different opinion, they don't necessarily have a voice. I tried to be the voice for the other side, or for some other side."

As of our interview, Ms. Lasensky was still debating whether to write a final letter to the editor: not a fond farewell, but rather a missive in support of the "emerging plan" for downtown, which would provide for about 680 new housing units. ■



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Great sensitivity to the environmental impacts of new construction has earned Portola Valley the highest acclamation from the green-building community for its very green \$20 million complex of library, Town Hall and community hall that opened in September 2008.

High marks for PV Town Center

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Earth tones, homespun textures and subordination to the landscape are central to the three-building complex at Portola Valley's Town Center: the exterior siding is redwood, the slats shading entranceways are cedar, and the concrete plaza is a light tan, a complement to the wood and to the imprints of leaves pressed into the concrete when it was wet.

Not quite the scene to associate with platinum, a silvery-white precious metal emblematic of big-city glamour, but officials and volunteers involved in the four-year effort to complete the \$20 million project probably won't quibble.

The Green Building Certification Institute, the Washington, D.C.-based certification authority for the U.S. Green Building Council, has given the complex of library, Town Hall and community hall a platinum rating — its highest — according to a Nov. 17 statement copied to The Almanac by project lead architect Larry Strain.

The award for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is the latest recognition of

the Town Center that re-opened in September 2008, and it's gratifying. "This is one that's more of a concrete affirmation of the fact that we did a good thing," Councilman and project point man Ted Driscoll told The Almanac.

The complex needed 52 points from a 69-point checklist to reach platinum; it earned 54. The list tests a project's sustainability, resource use, indoor environment, and innovation.

The vetting is an honor system, with crosschecks, and is done over months. Architects, helped by the project team, fill out forms online and submit them to the certification agency, Mr. Strain said in an interview.

The town bought redwood siding said to be salvaged from old bridge timbers and already cut logs, for example. The crosschecks in this case were letters from the vendors certifying the wood's sources, Mr. Strain said.

The town's point count included two for innovation and four for public education, Mr. Strain said.

Critical to the education element, Mr. Strain said, were the hiring of a resource efficiency coordinator; sponsorship of lectures on green topics; and the "dashboard,"

a computerized display in the library at which visitors watch a real-time display of the complex's use of water and energy.

"The town actually upped their whole approach to sustainability as a result of this project," he said. "That, to me, is really cool."

Platinum is rare for a municipal building. In an undated listing of 199 rated buildings at the Web site of the Northern California chapter of the Green Building Council, 18 reached platinum. Of those, two are connected with local government, one of which is San Jose City Hall.

Residents of Portola Valley contributed \$17 million to the project. The cost of LEED certification was "a relatively small additional increment," Mr. Driscoll said, "It's almost impossible to measure."

The goal of LEED platinum helped fundraising, he added. "It was a lot easier to convince people to contribute to this project when we emphasized how green it was," he said.

Deep pocketed and generous residents aside, the completed complex is now an object lesson on green building aesthetics, Mr. Driscoll said, noting: "It doesn't look like a lean-to." Indeed. ■

Man reports being hit in drive-by shooting

A 27-year-old man being treated at Stanford Hospital said he was the victim of a drive-by shooting Friday night, Nov. 20, in the area of Bayfront Expressway and University Avenue, according to Menlo Park police.

The man told police he was driving near the intersection when he was shot at several times by occupants of small, four-door, silver or gray sedan, Sgt. William A. Dixon said in a statement.

The man's injuries were not life-threatening, and two pas-

sengers in his vehicle were not injured, police said.

Earlier, shortly after 10 p.m., police were called about a traffic accident at the intersection. When they arrived, they found a vehicle abandoned in the mud next to the road. Soon thereafter, they learned the injured man had arrived at Stanford Hospital with a gunshot wound, and that he had been the driver of the abandoned vehicle.

Police ask anyone with information to call 330-6300 or the anonymous tip line at 330-6395.

LAMPERT

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four friends and told the Santa Cruz Sentinel that he believes the plane's engine lost its oil, overheated, caught fire and seized up. David Lampert said a groove dug by a propeller blade indicated it was not turning, which means the engine likely had seized up.

Mr. Lampert had been a pilot for about 20 years and had been flying his home-built Lancair Legacy, with tail number N7JX,

at about 5,000 feet when he reported the fire.

"It's a very elite aircraft, quite expensive," his father said. "He's flown it for two years. Gary had a lot of hours, he was an accomplished, instrument-rated (pilot)."

Mr. Lampert also logged thousands of hours piloting a helicopter that he used to own, his father said.

An FAA investigator returned to the site of the crash Sunday morning to try to determine what caused the experimental aircraft to crash, FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said.

The wreckage is being transported to a storage yard in Sacramento.

The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the crash. An autopsy is planned for this week, said a spokesman for the coroner's office.

A memorial service is planned, but a date has not yet been set. Mr. Lampert is survived by his 19-year-old son, Josh Lampert of Atherton; his parents, Roland and Audrey Lampert of Woodside; and his brother David and sister Julie, both of Atherton. ■

Superintendent to run for county post

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Anne Campbell, the superintendent of the Portola Valley School District, said she plans to run for the post of San Mateo County superintendent of schools in 2010.

Ms. Campbell was named "superintendent of the year" for the San Francisco-San Mateo County region in 2008 by the Association of California School Administrators, and has spent her 35-year career in public education. This will be the first time she's run for public office.

"It's a whole new world," she told *The Almanac*.

Ms. Campbell said she was encouraged to run by Superintendent of Schools Jean Holbrook, who announced in a Nov. 16 statement that she will retire in January 2011, ending her single term in office.

Two days later, Ms. Campbell announced her plans to run.

"Anne Campbell has my unqualified and enthusiastic support as she seeks the county superintendency," said Ms. Holbrook in a statement. "She is an outstanding educator and strong advocate who brings a wealth of experience and a deep passion for improving the well-being of all the children in our community."

So far, no other challengers have emerged, but the filing period for the June 8 election isn't until February.

Ms. Campbell said her priorities include championing



Anne Campbell

school finance reform, closing the achievement gap, and ensuring that all children arrive in kindergarten prepared to thrive.

As she prepares for the June 2010 election, Ms. Campbell said she plans to talk to voters and educators throughout the county to share ideas about the county's public schools. In her work with the San Mateo County Superintendents Association, which holds monthly meetings, she's gained a good idea of the issues facing educators along the Peninsula and on the Coastsides, she said.

She's already been endorsed by a long list of county superintendents and school board members, including all five members of the Portola Valley school board, Woodside elementary superintendent Diana Abbati, Las Lomas superintendent Eric Hartwig, and Floyd Gonella, the former county superintendent of schools.

"Anne Campbell will be a great county superintendent. She is an effective and innovative educational leader, skilled at forging the partnerships we need to create 21st century schools that work — for our kids and for our community," said Portola Valley school board President Donald Collat in a statement.

Ms. Campbell said that her possible departure gives the

Portola Valley board members plenty of time to think about how they might replace her.

"It's an opportunity to look at the administrative staffing structure, to look at what we really need and take a look at the superintendent position and other positions," she said. "Do we want to make changes or do we like the model we have?"

A board subcommittee is researching the issue and is due to report back in January. "They're really doing their due diligence," Ms. Campbell said.

Ms. Campbell became head of the two-school Portola Valley district in 2003. Prior to that, she served as superintendent of the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District, as principal of Ralston Middle School, and as a teacher, counselor and assistant principal in the San Mateo-Foster City School District.

Ms. Holbrook said she's looking forward to serving her last year as county superintendent.

Along with her position at the head of the county Office of Education, Ms. Holbrook sits on other county panels, including the governing board for special education, and the "First 5" commission concerned with early childhood development.

Jim Cannon, president of the seven-member county Board of Education, called Ms. Holbrook's leadership skills "exemplary in San Mateo County's drive to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for all students." ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Property Taxes Are Due

Q: Should I pay both installments of my property tax bill before the end of 2009? Or should I pay them in two installments?

A: This is a question for your tax advisor. In the past it was usually a good idea to pay both installments of the property tax bill for your primary residence in the first half of the tax year, i.e., by December 10 and 31st. However, if you are subject to the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) which limits deductions for those in certain income brackets, it is not advantageous to pay both installments in the first year. You won't be able to deduct the payments on the federal tax return so there is no reason

to pay early from a tax standpoint.

If you have income property however, deductions are not limited in the way they are for non-income property and for this kind of property it is probably good to pay both installments of the property tax bill in the first year. This will maximize your deductions. Again, check with your tax advisor regarding your own status.

Many property owners received higher assessments even though real estate values are down in 2009. You must contact the tax assessor's office in your county if you wish to be reassessed at a lower rate. However the counties are very strapped for money this year and it will not be easy to get a lower assessment.

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



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BOHANNON

continued from page 5

penalties — subsidizing public transportation and carpools, while charging employees a fee to park on-site — could have a dramatic effect on transportation habits.

Mayor Heyward Robinson expressed skepticism about the feasibility of that goal at the council's Nov. 17 meeting, saying that in his experience, planners are happy if they're able to cut vehicle trips by 5 to 7 percent solely through transportation demand management programs.

To some, the idea that the city can have its cake and eat it too — getting all the revenue from the project, without exacerbating gridlock, burdening other jurisdictions with housing demand, or damaging the environment — just isn't realistic.

Resident Morris Brown said he was "terribly disappointed" at council members' unanimous agreement that they would be

willing to approve the project at its current size, provided that the city is able to secure sufficient mitigations and public benefits.

"You can say, 'well, we're gonna use shuttles, we'll get people

Project not necessarily too big, Menlo Park City Council says. But gridlock, carbon emissions are concerns.

to bike,' but I think you have to face reality here," Mr. Brown said. "People are going to drive to this site. I think that basically, to reduce these impacts, you've got to reduce the size."

Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson saw it as an either/or proposition. "You either reduce the (number of) trips, or you reduce the size of the project," she said.

But "if you you reduce the size of the project, other things get

reduced, too," said Councilman John Boyle, referring to monetary and other benefits to the city.

How many vehicle trips would the Bohannon Co. have to vanquish for the council to approve the project? How many tons of carbon emissions would it have to reduce or offset?

Council members didn't say, declining to take a hard-line negotiating stance. Ms. Fergusson said she thinks the city "needs to be able to call this a climate-neutral project." Her colleagues noted that measuring carbon emissions or offsets is far from an exact science, and that the council hasn't spent much time discussing the topic.

"Are we willing to reduce the size of the project to meet this goal (of carbon neutrality)?" Ms. Fergusson asked at one point, turning to her colleagues. She didn't get an answer at the meeting, but Ms. Fergusson and Menlo Park residents can expect more clarity on that point after the first round of negotiations with the Bohannon Co. wraps up in early 2010. ■



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Portola Valley holds its first holiday fair

A holiday fair, which Portola Valley resident Steve York and the town's Cultural Arts Committee hope will become an annual tradition, will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, in the Old Schoolhouse.

The fair will feature jewelry, paintings, woodcrafts, artwork, handmade cards, holiday ornaments, pottery and knitwear.

Children are encouraged to be creative, with space provided for their wares.

A local Girl Scout troop will sell baked goods outside the building. Friends of the Portola Valley Library will have a used-

book sale near the library.

Cultural Arts Committee members would like any further potential vendors to contact them by e-mail at pvholiday-fair@gmail.com or call Deirdre Clark at 218-8563.

The Old Schoolhouse is located at 765 Portola Road in Portola Valley.

Santa comes to town

Decorated with thousands of lights, the Caltrain holiday train will stop at four Peninsula stations each night on Saturday, Dec. 5, and Sunday, Dec. 6, for a show featuring music and visits

from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The train will stop in Menlo Park from 7:25 to 7:45 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5.

Along the way, the train will pick up toys and books for the Toys for Tots program and the Salvation Army holiday toy drive. Visitors may drop off a new toy or book in barrels at the stops.

At each station stop, holiday characters will get off the train to greet children. On Saturday, Masterworks Chorale of San Mateo will join the Salvation Army brass band. On Sunday, the band will accompany the Menlo Park Chorus. For more information, call 1-800-660-4287.


Peninsula School craft fair Dec. 6

Peninsula School will hold its annual craft fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at 920 Peninsula Way in Menlo Park.

The fair will feature jewelry, customized gifts, handmade toys, fine art, ornaments, textile art, artisan food, and a variety of green and eco-friendly gifts. There will be live music and strolling singers, as well as free children's crafts.

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Five new buildings proposed for winery

Though motorists, cyclists and other passersby wouldn't know it when driving by 555 Portola Road in Portola Valley, behind the trees just west of the pasture are regimented rows of grapevines, part of the Spring Ridge winery.

The pasture, which is popular with deer and offers an uninterrupted view of the western hills, is considered to be within the town's scenic corridor it is now the site of a proposed vineyard expansion that could include a

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

barn as one of five new buildings spread throughout the 229-acre site, including on the hillside, according to a Nov. 19 report to the town's Architecture and Site Control Commission (ASCC) and conversations with planning staff.

The winery, according to the report, is proposing to add 23,000 square feet of floor area that would also include a

greenhouse, an entertainment/cabana building, a guest house/art studio, and an "agricultural building."

Go to tinyurl.com/PVwinery to view the staff report. Turn to Page 4.

The ASCC held an on-site public meeting Monday, Nov. 23, and reviewed the proposal at its meeting that night, after The Almanac's print deadline.

Check TheAlmanacOnline.com for updates.

Town struggles with new definition of open space

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

An undeveloped piece of ground can have many names: briar patch, redwood grove, field of flowers, abandoned lot down the street, open space.

Be careful on that last one; it's a term of art. The state has a definition for open space in a town's general plan, and Portola Valley is now working on a related definition: "open space preserve."

Getting the definition right is important because the town collects taxes and donations for the purchase of open space. This verdant, upscale town has shown strong interest in maintaining its verdant, upscale character, and key to that interest is buying and protecting desirable land when it becomes available.

"Open space preserve" is not an unfamiliar term in town deliberations, Town Planner George Mader told The Almanac, but a definition is needed. Residents recently renewed the tax for open space acquisition, and an ad hoc committee is forming to consider uses for the 6-acre Spring Down property adjacent to Town Center.

The town acquired Spring Down in 2000 for \$3.25 million in public funds. It had been home to a private equestrian facility, now moved out, and some have talked of establishing a community vegetable garden or farm there.

Mr. Mader, on Nov. 11, recommended in a staff report to the Town Council that such preserves be retained in a "natural condition," allow activities such as nature study and kite flying, and limit structures to benches and trail signs.

The council discussed the report and, after some unresolved disagreement over how restrictive to make the definition, handed it off for comment from volunteer committees with a natural interest in the matter.

Ad hoc committee meetings will be public, will start in January, and will be noticed in advance, including on the Web

A garden, said Councilman Steve Toben, could engage neighbors who might otherwise never get to know one another. 'I think it's sorely lacking in our community, as it is in every community.'

site www.portolavalley.net. To sign up for a notice, click on eNotices on the home page and check the box for ad hoc committees.

An implicit promise?

The town adds to the open space acquisition fund some \$225,000 in utility users tax revenues every year, paid by residents and businesses. Additional funding comes from events such as the annual Blues & Barbecue Festival, which regularly raises more than \$50,000. A town dance that benefited open space was held Nov. 14.

Is there an implicit promise in such fundraising? Does it square with what donors and taxpayers expect and want? Opinions differ.

Councilman Richard Merk, saying that he was "very impressed" with Mr. Mader's report, described a restrictive

definition as a bulwark against the diluting effect of cultural trends.

The town is changing, and not always for the better, chimed in Councilwoman Maryann Moise Derwin. She knows of two younger homeowners, she said, who've illuminated their trees in violation of the ethic of protecting the town's darkness.

Portola Valley has rural appeal because the community protected it, she said. "I feel that what George has produced here is holding the line," she added.

Ms. Derwin asked Mr. Mader if his definition would allow a garden at Spring Down.

"I would say that changes the site," he replied. "Community gardens usually disturb the area considerably."

A garden could be in a park, he added, implying that such land is not open space and thus ineligible for restricted funds.

Councilman Steve Toben described himself as hesitant about a restrictive definition and proposed a "different perspective." The town, he said, should consider whether the permitted activity would "nurture the development of the social capital of our community."

A garden, he said, could engage neighbors who might otherwise never get to know one another, thereby countering the "centrifugal forces" that drive neighbors apart. "I think it's sorely lacking in our community, as it is in every community," he added.

Mayor Ann Wengert agreed on restrictions too finely drawn, and claimed a "very, very strong sense of unease" about prohibiting activities that hadn't yet been thought of. ■

Breakfast with Santa in Menlo Park

Kids and families are invited to have "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Burgess Recreation Center, 700 Alma St. in Menlo Park.

Activities include a pancake

breakfast, letter writing to Santa, holiday crafts, and a visit with Santa in person.

The charge is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children. Reservations are required. Call 330-2200.

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Siegel appointed to school board seat

■ SCHOOLS

Jay Siegel, who has a child at La Entrada School and has been an active volunteer on the Las Lomas Education Foundation, has been appointed to the five-member Las Lomas School District board.

Mr. Siegel was appointed by the board at a special Nov. 18 meeting to fill the remaining term of David Bailard, who resigned Oct. 5. The term ends in December 2010.

The new board member has

a doctorate in economics from Stanford, "and has extensive experience in financial research and planning," according to a press release from the district.

"His education and professional experience will be invaluable to the board while it struggles with decreasing revenues and increased enrollment," board

President Leslie Airola-Murveit said in a written statement.

Mr. Siegel was among four candidates for the post, according to the press release. His appointment is provisional, and will become permanent unless a petition calling for a special election garners a sufficient number of signatures and is filed with the county superintendent of schools' office within 30 days, the district noted.

Homeless shelter at VA still looking for new home

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

The 60-bed Clara Mateo shelter on the campus of the Menlo Park Veterans Affairs hospital is still looking for a new home.

The shelter is scheduled to be demolished in December 2010 as the VA continues a renovation project, according to Christine Burroughs, CEO of InnVision, which operates the facility.

"To find another shelter, it takes time," she said. "We are hoping that folks that maybe have a connection to property near that area, in the north end of Palo Alto and Menlo Park, would come forward and possibly help us pull together the resources to make this work."

The shelter downgraded to 60 bed from about 100 in late 2008, when donations dried up as the stock market headed south.

Councilman ailing

After a change in medication sent him to the hospital for a

■ MENLO WATCH

brief stay, Menlo Park Councilman Andy Cohen is on the mend, he says — though he doesn't expect to be back on the job for one to three weeks.

Mr. Cohen, who has missed the past two City Council meetings, said he experienced difficulty breathing after his primary care physician changed his medications Oct. 28. He spent three days in the hospital undergoing testing, he said, after which doctors again changed his medications to correct the problem.

"I am well" and "receiving the best care available through the VA and Stanford," Mr. Cohen wrote in an e-mail.

City now gets Tesla sales tax

Menlo Park only recently began receiving sales tax revenue for roadsters sold at Tesla Motors' flagship dealership, according to Menlo Park's finance director.

Sales tax from Tesla began coming in to the city near the

end of the fiscal year that ended June 30, according to Finance Director Carol Augustine. The automaker opened at the site of the old Anderson Chevrolet dealership on El Camino Real in the summer of 2008.

Parking tickets on the rise?

Over the past year, several people miffed at getting parking tickets have suggested that Menlo Park has ramped up its parking enforcement to secure more revenue for the city during the recession.

The police department has denied that it's stepped up patrols, and city revenue figures seem to support that assertion. The city collected about \$253,000 from parking tickets in the 2007-08 fiscal year, but only \$227,000 in 2008-09, according to Finance Director Carol Augustine.

What accounts for the 9 percent drop? Ms. Augustine speculated that perhaps the collection company has been slow in processing, and acknowledged that the recession might have something to do with it, with fewer people parking downtown. ■

Atherton council delays decision on road-impact fees

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton residents waiting to find out if they will get a refund of road-impact fees will have to wait a little longer. The topic has been rescheduled to a special City Council meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8.

Town staff is recommending that the fee, charged to builders to compensate the town for construction-related damage to its roads, be rescinded. If approved, anyone who paid the fee on or after Aug. 20 would get a refund.

Atherton would have to give back about \$130,000 in fees collected since Aug. 20, according to town staff. From July 2001 to June 30, 2009, the town collected a total of \$5.17 million in road-impact fees.

Road-impact fees paid for about half of all of the street reconstruction projects done in Atherton last year, Public Works Director Duncan Jones told The Almanac. If left in place, the fee would bring in an estimated \$650,000 by the end of this fiscal year on June 30.

"We've been improving the roads quite a bit since the road-impact fee went into effect," said Mr. Jones. "House construction is still going on, though not quite as fast (as it was), but the roads are still getting destroyed."

The fees have been in place since 2000, and were increased in 2005. Heavy trucks working at residential construction projects do serious damage to the town's roads, Atherton officials have said.

Over the years, some residents have criticized the road-impact fee as an illegal tax masquer-

ading as a fee. A recent court case in Southern California touches indirectly on the issue and says that California vehicle code pre-empts impact fees for damage to roads — something that may lend weight to critics' arguments.

An analysis by City Attorney Wynne Furth concludes that while the court decision isn't binding on Atherton, it could have implications for future cases. Atherton officials clearly don't want their town to be the test case that decides the issue.

"Litigation of its legality would be an expensive proposition," said Ms. Furth and City Manager Jerry Gruber in the staff report.

The council was set to tackle the issue at its Nov. 18 meeting, but at 11:30 p.m. the council decided to end the meeting and reschedule the item. ■

Sprinkler system douses fire in home office

An interior sprinkler system left firefighters from the Woodside Fire Protection District with little to do by the time they arrived in full gear at a fire at 30 Buck Court in Woodside shortly before 9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18.

The sprinkler system had already extinguished what appears to have been an electrical fire in the home office, Battalion Chief Don Romero told The Almanac. A computer and miscellaneous papers burned, but the fire did not damage the house and there were no injuries, Mr. Romero said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. Estimated damages of \$27,000 includes about \$7,500 in water damage. "The

consequence of a sprinkler system is that it does create water damage," Mr. Romero said, but that's preferable to fire damage.

About 22 firefighters arrived at 8:53 p.m. to see "light smoke coming off the building," Mr. Romero said. The district responded as is standard for a structure fire, he said, with five engine trucks, a ladder truck, and two battalion chiefs to manage the firefighting crews.

In this incident, the crews cleared smoke from the building, shut off the water to the one sprinkler head that had been activated, and vacuumed up the sprinkler water from the floor, Mr. Romero said.

Almanac launches online 'virtual edition'

A new enhanced online version of The Almanac is now available on TheAlmanacOnline.

This new "virtual edition" enables users to flip through the paper electronically, turning pages and zooming in on specific stories and ads. Users can print out and e-mail pages of interest.

The edition is similar to a PDF (also available to online visitors) but doesn't take as long to load on a computer screen and offers intuitive tools and features that closely resemble the process of reading a physical newspaper.

In addition to current and past issues of The Almanac, special publications such as the Visitors Guide, Home & Garden Design, Info Menlo, Neighborhoods and Living Well will also be available in the new format.

The "virtual edition" can be accessed from TheAlmanacOnline home page by clicking on the "The Almanac Recent Editions" link near the top of the left-hand navigation bar.

"Introducing this new online presentation is a logical extension of our multi-media focus," said Tom Gibbone, publisher of The Almanac. "It's not groundbreaking, but it offers our growing online audience another attractive option for viewing the newspaper and our many special publications."

The virtual edition is powered by Issuu Inc., a Menlo Park company offering digital-publishing platforms. Founded in 2006, it was named one of the 50 best Web sites in 2009 by Time.com.

Armed men invade, rob Menlo Park home on Pierce Road

Two men armed with semiautomatic handguns confronted a resident outside his home in the 700 block of Pierce Road at around 6:30 p.m. Monday night, Nov. 16, forced him inside the home, and held him and his girlfriend at gunpoint while they looted "several electronic items and an undisclosed amount of cash," according to Menlo Park police.

Police received several 911 calls of a robbery in progress, arrived minutes later, and conducted a search of the area but failed to find the suspects, police said in a statement.

Neither the resident nor his girlfriend were

harmed, police said.

The suspects were described as black male adults, both wearing black sweatshirts, blue jeans, black scarfs covering their faces, and armed with black semiautomatic handguns.

One was approximately 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighed 200 pounds. The other was described as approximately 22 years old, 6 feet tall, and weighing 170-180 pounds.

Anyone with information is asked to call Menlo Park police at 330-6300 or the anonymous tip hotline, 330-6395.



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EYE CARE NEWS

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CHOOSING THE RIGHT SUNGLASSES

Because ultraviolet B (UVB) rays are linked with cataracts, macular degeneration, and growths on the eye's surface, and UVA rays lead to wrinkles around the eyes, sunglasses are a must. When making your selection, do not necessarily assume that costlier sunglasses are better. Top UV-blocking coatings can be found in all price ranges. However, it is true that bigger glasses (especially wrap-around styles) afford better protection. Along these same lines, UV-absorbing contact lenses, which only cover a portion of the eye, do not provide ample protection. It is also important to note that darker lenses do not necessarily give more UV protection. It is the special UV-blocking coating on the lens that does the job, not the lens color.

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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.



Photo by Devin DeHaven

Homecoming

Taylor Eigsti, a Woodside Priory graduate and jazz pianist, will return to his alma mater to join three other acclaimed pianists for a concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. See **Page 25**.

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Two foundations help Ravenswood district

By Chris Kenrick
Palo Alto Weekly

Two foundations have organized to raise support for public school children in east Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.

Both groups draw their funds primarily from outside the community.

The newest entry, the Ravenswood Education Foundation, has raised nearly \$1.3 million since it got started in early 2008, mainly from donors in Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Woodside, Portola Valley and Los Altos.

The 16-year-old East Palo Alto Kids Foundation (EPAK) in recent years has raised about \$225,000 a year to offer grants to public school teachers in the Ravenswood City School District.

The two organizations say they are friendly, cooperative and stay off each other's turf.

"We love EPAK and we support them," Ravenswood Education Foundation director Charley Scandlyn said. "We've purposely stayed away from teacher grants so we wouldn't get in their way. We focus on projects, partners and initiatives."

"We are very cooperative with Ravenswood," Kids Foundation board Vice-President Julie Mahowald said. "They do big projects — remodeling all the science labs, for example. We do the grants to teachers."

The Kids Foundation for years has enabled teachers to set up programs such as classroom "literacy centers" and purchase book collections, art supplies and math-learning tools known as manipulatives.

In August, the Kids Foundation met with teachers new to the Ravenswood district and offered them each \$200 for classroom supplies, provided they submit receipts.

Kids Foundation volunteers several years ago renovated the library at East Palo Alto's Edison-McNair School, bringing in volunteers to sort through the old books, catalog new books and train librarians and teachers.

"One particular donor was interested and gave a large amount," Ms. Mahowald said. "It's the kind of project a principal doesn't have time for."

"Any bigger project from now on we'll pass along to Ravenswood (Education Foundation)," she said.

The Ravenswood Education Foundation (REF) got its start when private funders sponsored Mr. Scandlyn, formerly a youth minister at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, to manage the newly formed 501(c)3.

The foundation underwrites

extended school days and summer academies at three schools.

Members from the same church provided funds and volunteer power to remodel all of Ravenswood's science labs and have provided continuing support for the district's science teachers, Mr. Scandlyn said.

Some 300 volunteers from an organization called 2nd Mile have done "extreme makeovers" of Ronald McNair and Green Oaks schools, he said.

This fall for the first time, the Ravenswood Education Foundation is reaching out to parents, offering \$1,000 matching grants to any school that can get 100 parents to donate \$10. So far, three schools have met the challenge.

"Our role is really to listen and find out what the needs are," said Mr. Scandlyn, whose office is in district headquarters next to that of Superintendent Maria De La Vega.

"The heroes are those principals and teachers in the district, who are really laboring. They're the experts," he said. ■

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Happy birthday, Charles

Charles W. Kneubuhl of Menlo Park, who was a school crossing guard for more than 20 years in Menlo Park and Redwood City, celebrated his 90th birthday on Nov. 1, says his son David Kneubuhl. Charles retired in 1990. He's married to Gloria Kneubuhl.

Sacred Heart Prep boys make history with third straight CCS Division II title

By Keith Peters
Sports Editor, Palo Alto Weekly

Sacred Heart Prep didn't win one invitational water polo title during the season. The SHP boys had two fifth-place finishes of note, but no significant hardware. The Gators, however, didn't care.

"What doesn't kill you makes you stronger," said SHP senior David Culpan. "We used those losses to help us today. It worked out pretty well. This is what we worked so hard for."

What the top-seeded Gators did accomplish during the regular season they achieved on Saturday in a 15-6 blasting of No. 2 Menlo School in the finals of the Central Coast Section Division II playoffs at Santa Clara University.

Winning a third straight CCS title has been the goal all season for Sacred Heart Prep. The Gators made history by becoming the first Division II team to win three consecutive crowns.

"This team wanted to make history," said SHP coach Brian Kreutzkamp, who has guided the Gators to three of their four

INFORMATION

Check TheAlmanacOnline for more sports stories and pictures.

section crowns.

Not only did SHP make history, but it accomplished it with its best performance of the season.

"That's the best we've played all season," Kreutzkamp said.

Two earlier CCS matches allowed Kreutzkamp to rest his starters so they would be fresh against Menlo.

"If anything, we were going to be fast today," Kreutzkamp said. "But I didn't think we'd be that fast."

After a slow start that saw the Gators holding a 3-2 first-quarter lead, things began to click after that.

"It all starts with Ben," Kreutzkamp said of his senior goalie, Ben Dearborn. "Once they (the Gators) saw Ben blocking balls, it allowed us to take more chances. He ran the offense and defense."

Dearborn also had 15 saves, which ignited a blistering counter attack. The Gators went on

an 11-1 run over the second and third quarters to grab a 14-3 lead and put the game out of Menlo's reach. Kreutzkamp figured eight of the 11 goals came on counters, where Dearborn acted as a quarterback and found his wide receivers at the other end of the pool for easy goals.

Culpan had six of his seven goals during that time to hand Menlo one of its worst losses ever in postseason play.

"When we get rolling, we're hard to stop," Kreutzkamp said.

Kreutzkamp's game plan was to wear Menlo down in the first half and then attack in the final two periods.

"It just came a little earlier," he said. "Those two (second and third) quarters were critical."

Sacred Heart's other plan was to shut down Menlo junior scoring leader John Holland-McCowan.

"All their offense is run through him," Kreutzkamp said. "Our plan was to double- and triple-team him and make others beat us... but, I wouldn't have expected this."

Holland-McCowan was limited to a single goal with 3:33 left



Photo by Keith Peters/Palo Alto Weekly

Senior goalie Ben Dearborn (center) and junior Philip Bamberg (right) begin celebrating Sacred Heart Prep's 15-6 win over Menlo in the CCS Division II title match Saturday.

in the first quarter. That was it. Senior Chris Akin and sophomore Matt Hale both scored two goals for the Knights, but they

needed much more. SHP junior Philip Bamberg scored four goals himself while senior Connor Still added two more. ■

Sacred Heart Prep girls also win third straight CCS water polo championship

By Keith Peters
Sports Editor, Palo Alto Weekly

A third straight victory and a second straight loss. That was the bottom line for two top-ranked teams at the Central Coast Section girls' water polo championships on Saturday at Santa Clara University.

No. 1 Sacred Heart Prep defended its Division II crown and captured its third consecutive section title with a 6-2 win over No. 3 St. Ignatius. And No. 1 Menlo-Atherton suffered its second consecutive overtime loss to St. Francis in the CCS finals, dropping a 12-11 heart-breaking match to the No. 2 Lancers.

Sacred Heart Prep (22-8) was expected to win and did, with a dominating defense and just enough offense.

"This is the one we've been talking about since last August," said SHP coach Jon Burke. "We talked about how this team really hadn't accomplished anything because we had lost a lot of players and this team was pretty young and new."

But, as Burke said, the players worked hard, bought into the program and it all paid off with a third straight title.

"This is huge for our pro-

gram," said Burke, who loses only two seniors (Heather Smith and Lisa Rennels). "They earned this. This is what we focus on in the fall, getting to this game."

And then making the most of the opportunity, which SHP did.

"The field blocking was very effective," said Burke, who gladly accepted the ritual post-match dunking. "We tried to clamp down on their scorers. With this team, defense has been the main attack all season long."

The Gators missed some early opportunities before sophomore Erin Sheridan scored on a breakaway with 2:54 left in the opening period. With just 52 seconds left in the quarter, SHP took advantage of a 6-on-5 situation with junior Emily Parsons finding the net.

St. Ignatius got back a goal when junior Liz Rosen scored the first of her two goals with 3:32 remaining, but SHP's Heather Smith erased that and provided the eventual winning goal on another 6-on-5 advantage less than 20 seconds later for a 3-1 match.

Sacred Heart Prep scored four of its goals on power plays, with Smith scoring three of them. The Gators' defense did the rest, with junior goalie Catherine Donahoe stopping 10 shots,

most of them right at her.

"We played great team defense," Burke said. "Every single time they took a shot it looked like we were taking the lanes away."

While SHP was heavily favored, SI brought in plenty of momentum after knocking off No. 2 Castilleja in the semifinals. The final matchup also was the fourth of the season between SHP and SI.

"They came into this game with great momentum," Burke said. "They played us hard in the WCAL semifinals and, it's hard to beat a team four times. We tried to get that out of the players' heads. This was just another game."

Well, sort of. Burke did get pushed into the pool and the SHP girls got to hoist another trophy and pose for postgame photos. For Smith and Rennels, they're probably used to it by now. Both were on the past two championship teams.

Smith said this title is the most special.

"We kept losing people to Division I schools and I was skeptical we could do it again this year," Smith said. "And, it's my senior year and my last game."

Smith said she did think the

Gators had a decent chance, but a lot of things had to happen.

"We spent a lot of time working on defense," she said. And it paid off.

"For sure," she said. "It's real exciting."

For Burke, the title was special, as well.

"It gets harder every year to win," he explained. "Whether you're a first-time or second-time champion, you have to defend."

Division I

In a match similar to last season's division finale, second-seeded St. Francis upended No. 1-seeded Menlo-Atherton in overtime, 12-11, to win a second-straight section title on Saturday at Santa Clara University.

The Bears came into the finals riding a 25-game winning streak and ranked No. 1 in Northern California. M-A hadn't lost since September. The Lancers came in ranked No. 3 in Nor-Cal, and having been beaten by M-A in the finals of the Amanda MacDonald Invitational earlier this year.

Menlo-Atherton grabbed a 9-8 lead on a goal by senior Anna Geiduschek with 1:40 left in regulation. The Lancers, how-

ever, took advantage of a 6-on-5 situation and got a game-tying goal from Katherine Elward with 1:25 left to play.

St. Francis took a 10-9 lead in the first overtime on one of seven goals by Hathaway Moore. M-A senior Becca Dorst tied the game at 10 in the second extra period but Moore fired in another goal that appeared to ricochet off the head of M-A junior goalie Emily Dorst, who finished with 15 saves.

With only 43 seconds left to play and trailing by 11-10, a shot by Dorst was stopped. With time running out, M-A coach Chris Rubin had backup goalie Darya Sheikhezai jump into the pool to stop the clock. It also cost the Bears a five-meter penalty shot, which Moore made for a 12-10 lead with 16 seconds left. Dorst scored with five seconds to play, but the Bears couldn't find a way to score again and dropped their second straight overtime decision to the Lancers in the CCS finals.

For the Bears, it was another tough season-ending defeat, made tougher by the fact eight players will be graduating -- including starters Becca Dorst, Vanessa Lane, Heather Bogott, Anna Geiduschek, and Sarah Winters. ■

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Night games at M-A? Boosters enthusiastic, neighbors wary

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

A recent football game between Menlo-Atherton High School and Sacred Heart Prep created a sensation in M-A's school community and concern in M-A's immediate neighborhood.

The impassioned reactions were due, not to the gridiron action (the Bears lost 48-14), but to the fact the game was played at night.

Say what? Around the Bay Area and the country, a night game would not be worth a blink much less a raised eyebrow. But this is M-A, where the field is unlighted — the school rented lights for this event — and varsity games start at 3 p.m. Meanwhile in dark and quiet Atherton, where homes

border the field, residents would like to keep it dark and quiet.

That could change, eventually. A consensus on the governing board of the Sequoia Union High School District agreed on Nov. 18 to begin an inquiry into whether Coach Parks Field should have lights.

Board member Olivia Martinez attended the night game and said she was "blown away" by an event "so uniquely spectacular that it reminded me of how much we are missing by not letting our kids play on Friday night."

As for those Atherton neighbors, Ms. Martinez said she was "extraordinarily sympathetic to their perspective," adding: "I think this is one of the more difficult topics we've taken on since I've been on the board."

The district's investigation could take three months and will include an environmental analysis of noise, traffic, artificial light and safety impacts,

A game with rented lights was 'so uniquely spectacular that it reminded me of how much we are missing by not letting our kids play on Friday night,' says board member Olivia Martinez.

Assistant Superintendent Jim Lianides told the board.

Staff will also look into equipping the field with outlets for temporary lights, and what effect, if any, night games may have on athletes who now leave class early to prepare for afternoon games.

Plans for permanent lights could be done concurrently and lights could be in by October, said Mr. Lianides, laying out a range of possibilities.

Once invested in, the lights will be used, retiring Trustee Gordon Lewin noted. "I think you have a lot of (analytical) work to do here."

Receipts up at night

Night games, about four per season, would accommodate working parents, said M-A Athletic Boosters member Susan Mohr. The soccer and lacrosse teams would also like to use the field after dark, she added.

Gate receipts, Ms. Mohr said, were \$5,500 for the night game versus \$1,600 on a typical afternoon. The snack bar take

Continued on next page

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OBITUARIES

Susan Jane Conley

Portola Valley native

Susan Jane Conley of Menlo Park died peacefully Sept. 15 at Stanford Medical Center. She was 57.

Ms. Conley was born Feb. 15, 1952, the third daughter of the late Harry and Jane Anne Conley. She spent her childhood and young adult life in Portola Valley, graduating from Woodside High School.

Like her father, master horseman Harry Conley, she was passionate about caring for horses and dogs, say family members.

Ms. Conley is survived by her three sisters, Vian Cafaro and Robin Flournoy of Modesto,

and Karen Sorensen of Newburgh, Indiana.

There will be no services. The family requests memorials be made to a favorite charity.

Odessa Daniels Bock

Former Woodside resident

Odessa Alice Tarr Daniels Bock died Oct. 15 in San Diego. She was 97.

Ms. Bock, who lived in Woodside from 1981 to 2004, was born on her family's farm in North Dakota. She was trained as a registered nurse in San Francisco. After marrying Sam Daniels, the couple moved to Merced in 1945.

In her 34 years in Merced, she was a staff nurse at Mercy Hospital, school nurse at Weaver Elementary School, and administrator of La

Sierra convalescent hospital.

Some years after Mr. Daniels died, she married Dr. Rudy Bock. The couple lived in Woodside and traveled throughout the world. Dr. Bock volunteered his medical expertise on missions to Peru, Afghanistan, Botswana, Nicaragua, Bali, Jamaica, India and Mexico. He died in 2006.

Ms. Bock suffered from dementia for many years and moved to San Diego in 2004 to be close to her daughter, Alice Joy Winter.

She is survived by her four children, George Daniels, Bill Daniels, Alice Joy Winter, and Tim Daniels; and seven grandchildren.

A family memorial will be held in San Diego during the Thanksgiving holiday.

ROSEMARY BETTINI SCHICK

Rosemary Bettini Schick passed away at Kaiser Hospital, Redwood City, on November 14, 2009. Rosemary was born in San Rafael on August 30, 1918 and moved to Menlo Park in her early childhood. She attended Sequoia High School and San Jose State College where she received her B.A. in Education and taught kindergarten at the old Central School in Menlo Park. In July 1941, she married Ervin Schick at Nativity Church and lived in Menlo Park for 55 years, raising their daughters Karen Dotson of Long Beach and Kristine McColloch of Menlo Park. Rosemary was predeceased by her husband in 1996, and is survived by her 2 daughters, four grandchildren, Ryan Andrews, Courtney Andrews, K.C. McColloch, and Brianna Dotson, and one sister, Rita Quarre of Seattle, Washington. Her ashes will be buried at Alta Mesa Cemetery in Palo Alto. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations made to the charity of choice.

PAID OBITUARY

Residents' bid to transfer to Las Lomas district denied

A request by residents of a tiny neighborhood near Woodside High School to have their area included in the Las Lomas Elementary School District has been denied by the agency that reviews school annexation requests.

Two public hearings were held in September and October on the question of whether to transfer the area along Ward Way and Greenways Drive from the Redwood City School District to the

Las Lomas district.

On Nov. 17, the County Committee on School District Organization, which reviewed the residents' annexation petition, declined the request, according to Las Lomas Superintendent Eric Hartwig.

Committee members agreed that the petition met six of nine criteria required by the state Education Code to allow such a transfer, and did not meet

one of the criteria, Mr. Hartwig reported, adding that committee members couldn't agree on the remaining two criteria.

The Redwood City district opposed the transfer proposal, and the Las Lomas district took no position, Mr. Hartwig said.

The petitioners have until Dec. 5 to file a formal appeal of the committee's decision, and have indicated that they will appeal, Mr. Hartwig said.

POST to sell 4,262 acres to National Park Service

The Peninsula Open Space Trust plans to sell Rancho Corral de Tierra, a large tract of land surrounding Montara and Moss Beach, to the National Park Service.

The Peninsula Open Space Trust spent nearly \$30 million to acquire the 4,262-acre area, one of the largest pieces of undeveloped space on the San Mateo County coast, according to spokeswoman Nina Nowak.

The federal agency will pay approximately half the purchase price for the land, according to POST.

Congress recently approved additional funds for the acquisition. Including the latest \$5

million appropriation, Congress has set aside a total of \$11 million to date toward the eventual purchase.

The tract of land harbors flora and fauna unique to Rancho Corral de Tierra, according to the trust. The terrain is steep and rugged, offering both impressive vistas and challenging hiking trails.

Threatened and rare species found in the area include the Montara manzanita, Hickman's cinquefoil, peregrine falcon, San Bruno elfin butterfly, San Francisco garter snake, and the California red-legged frog. The land is also home to several critical

watersheds.

Incorporating Rancho Corral de Tierra into the GGNRA would connect the Bay Area Ridge Trail network with the California Coastal Trail system.

— Bay City News Service

Continued from previous page

jumped to \$3,100 from \$700.

Lighting advocates are aware of the issues around parking, safety, artificial light and noise and want to mitigate neighbors' concerns, Ms. Mohr said. "We know they do not support the lights," she added. "We know they don't want this to happen. We want to be good neighbors."

Include the residents

The state exempts school districts from zoning restrictions.

Given Sequoia's independence, Atherton residents have few

cards to play. Security came up frequently.

The risks at night games include large emotional crowds, inadequate supervision, and the presence of illicit substances and gangs, said Toyon Road resident Bob Plaschke, citing concerns he said he drew from a study by the American School Board Journal.

Engage the community and take an incremental approach, he advised the board, echoing the words of at least two other residents present. "You have to bend over backwards to make sure the residents and the city are involved," Mr. Plaschke said. ■

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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.

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Holiday Fund will help strapped local agencies

Last year, Almanac readers stepped up their giving to the Holiday Fund in response to the economic crisis that continues to grip much of the Silicon Valley. Donations increased by nearly \$40,000 over the previous year so that with additional grants from foundations, more than \$17,000 was distributed to each of the 10 nonprofit agencies supported by the Holiday Fund.

We urge readers to keep that spirit alive this year, as the nonprofit agencies supported by the Holiday Fund report that their demand for help continues to outstrip their ability to provide it. This year, more than ever, it is important for those who have the means to share with those who are down on their luck.

If you are able, we urge you to consider a donation to the Almanac's Holiday Fund, now in its 18th year. Your contribution will help support 10 nonprofit agencies that provide a safety net to local residents who have nowhere to turn. These are our neighbors who may have been laid off unexpectedly, or had a catastrophic illness, or suffer from addiction or mental health problems. They deserve our help.

The Holiday Fund provides grants to organizations that can offer a temporary home, arrange health care or provide counseling to bring an end to the substance abuse that destroys families and victimizes young children.

Last year the Holiday Fund and its partners — the Rotary Club of Menlo Park, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation — were able to raise more than \$170,000 for 10 local agencies. Well over half of that contribution — \$146,000 — was donated by more than 200 Almanac readers.

Over the last 17 years, Almanac readers and the supporting foundations have contributed more than \$3 million to local social service agencies. More than half came from Almanac readers, and the rest from generous individuals and foundations.

Monies contributed to the Holiday Fund are held by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and will be distributed to the nonprofits in February or early March. No administrative costs or fees are deducted from Holiday Fund gifts, so 100 percent of all donations will be received by the nonprofit agencies.

The Almanac's Holiday Fund this year will support the following nonprofit organizations in the community:

EDITORIAL
The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS
Our readers write

Paying twice for rail authority's PR

Editor:

It was disturbing and I thought unfair when taxpayer dollars were used to promote a ballot measure that I opposed — Prop 1A in November of 2008.

No matching funds were given to the opposition. If tax dollars are used to promote a ballot measure it is essentially the same as saying that the decision has already been made. Why bother to vote on it?

It was equally disturbing to learn that the California High Speed Rail Authority has agreed to a \$9 million public relations contract with Ogilvy Worldwide to promote high-speed rail in California. The rail authority won the election. The measure (which I and millions of other voters unwillingly supported with our tax dollars)

See **LETTERS**, next page

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula: Provides after-school academic support and enrichment activities for 1,000 youth each day, ages 6 to 18. Operates clubhouses in Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood, East Palo Alto and Redwood City, and after-school programs at schools in these communities designed to extend the learning day and supplement the school's curriculum.

Ecumenical Hunger Program: Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, special children's programs and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 1,500 households.

Ravenswood Family Health Center: Provides primary medical care, behavioral health services and preventive health care for all ages at its clinics in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto. It also operates a mobile clinic at school sites. Of the 22,700 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room: Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week in a social and friendly atmosphere to anyone in need. Funded entirely by contributions from the community, St. Anthony's is the largest soup kitchen between San Francisco and San Jose. It offers groceries to take home and distributes clothing to families.

Second Harvest Food Bank: The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 30 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to some 162,000 people each month through more than 700 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

Shelter Network: Provides short-term shelter and transitional housing services to more than 3,700 adults and children each year. Offers programs for families and individuals to become self-sufficient and return to permanent housing.

Youth and Family Enrichment Services: Provides many programs to help people who struggle with substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health, relationship and communications issues. Helps strengthen youth, families and individuals to overcome challenges through counseling, education, and residential services.

Project Read-Menlo Park: Provides free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. Trained volunteers work one-on-one or in small groups to help adults improve their basic reading, writing and English language skills so they can achieve their goals and function more effectively at home, at work and in the community. In 2007-08, a total of 120 volunteer tutors assisted more than 300 students.

Teen Talk Sexuality Education: Provides educational programs for youth and adults to help teens make healthy choices that will result in lower rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Its "Teen Talk" program last year served thousands of youth at public school sites in San Mateo County.

Fair Oaks Community Center: Serves more than 2,500 households each year with services ranging from food assistance to shelter referral to rental and crisis assistance. The center also has a subsidized child-care program and a fully operating senior center, and offers a variety of other social services and programs throughout the year.



Our Regional Heritage

On July 20, 1988, a light plane crashed at 120 Sausal in Portola Valley. No other information is available about the crash, including whether the pilot survived. Anyone with more information can send it to the editor at letters@almanacnews.com

Portola Valley Archives

MENLO GATEWAY

Neighbors could lose entitlements

By Vince Bressler

Menlo Gateway is the largest development project ever to come before Menlo Park. However, not a single property owner adjacent to David Bohannon's Menlo Gateway has spoken before the Planning Commission or the City Council on this topic.

Perhaps these property owners do not understand that they will probably never enjoy the zoning entitlements that will be given to Mr. Bohannon if this project is approved. The Menlo Gateway proposal includes a new zoning district which would be known as M3. Only the Menlo Gateway parcels would be changed to M3.

Under M3, Menlo Gateway will effectively capture all of the available up-zoning benefit for the entire area, maxing out Menlo Park's housing allotment, water usage and added traffic in the area.

It would be far better for the adjacent parcel owners if the city planned its own changes to the M2 zoning district. This process would include all land owners in the area and would consider all points of view.

In the event that the city does enter into a negotiation on Menlo Gateway, that negotiation should be a matter of public record. Sound recordings of the negotiation should be made

available after the fact and outside witnesses should be in attendance during the negotiation.

The public deserves to know the details behind the largest zoning entitlement negotiation in its history, even if that negotiation does not occur as part of a public process. Note that the El Camino Visioning process is another (more open) way to change zoning.

Some very important recommendations came out of the Nov. 9 Planning Commission meeting:

- Reduce traffic associated with Menlo Gateway by 50 percent relative to current estimates.

- Negotiate a gross rents fee (or equivalent) for commercial space in the M3. This would be a very significant new revenue source for the city.

- Increase the estimated number of required new housing units associated with Menlo Gateway in its current configuration from 76 (10 percent allocation) up to 190 (25 percent allocation).

- Identify new housing sites to meet the requirements noted above.

Given that the above housing impact is associated with Menlo Gateway alone, we should expect the project to mitigate this with new housing in or around the Menlo Gateway area.

Vince Bressler is a member
of the Menlo Park Planning Commission

Many unanswered questions on project

By Andy Cohen

While the Menlo Gateway project is an attractive proposal, and the developer has presented persuasive arguments in support of it, there remain a significant number of unanswered questions regarding its net benefit to the city as a whole.

In these times of economic downturn, any project might look attractive, but it is in addressing specified detailed concerns that answers must be painstakingly flushed out. The developer's best-case scenario is subject to serious questions.

Without detailing factors more thoroughly investigated elsewhere, I can only say that I am gravely concerned regarding the windfall to the developer not being offset sufficiently by compensatory revenues to the city, leaving city expenses significantly increased over time without offsetting revenues.

To begin this negotiation without first addressing the M-2 area as a whole in a General Plan comprehensive re-evaluation process is, first and foremost, bad practice, and, as we have seen in the downtown, fraught with possibilities of losing support of critical community members.

A guaranteed income stream, adequately addressing the traffic impacts, and the unpredictability of our city's, region's and nation's economic future make this a very risky under-

taking at this time.

Menlo Park, like every city in the region, is largely a mature, fully developed city, with only limited space for expansion and growth. Existing uses are never able to compete with promised benefits of proposed development, and, especially when professionally promoted, exaggeration is always possible. In uncertain times not only are people desperate for good news, but predicting the future is very risky.

When a project is said to promise relief from hardship, it is easy for people to be swayed by potential benefit, and fail to see the lost stability of the status quo, especially when a 20-year period is considered in an uncertain (at best) economic climate.

When all is said and done, the magnitude of windfall to the developer in a project as large as this must be critically and cautiously evaluated against the stability of the status quo, the loss to the remainder of the M-2 of potential for growth of a different sort, and the cost to the city of maintaining, servicing, and protecting property and citizenry, once the project has been approved.

Andy Cohen is a member
of the Menlo Park City Council

LETTERS

continued from page 18

passed. Why in the world do we have to pay for PR now?

Rod Diridon has given us an answer. At a board meeting on Nov. 5, he specifically charged Ogilvy with the task of countering the dissemination of information

by critics of the high-speed rail plan — such as me. He has the gall to complain about “misinformation” when the ballot measure passed precisely because of the lack of information provided by the rail authority to the voters.

What exactly is the “misinformation” of which Mr. Diridon complains? He didn't say. He did,

however, make reference to “festered sores” and “rotten apples.”

Mr. Diridon should step down from the rail authority board, and he should take his high-priced PR firm and their “flying squads of emergency response” with him.

Anthony E. Wynne
Jennings Lane, Atherton

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the housing element of the town's general plan on December 9, 2009 at 7:30 p.m., at the Historic Schoolhouse in the Town Center, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California. The proposed amendments include four significant changes to town policy as follows: facilitation of approval process for some second units, allowance of emergency shelters at religious institutions, allowance of residential facilities for six or fewer people by right in residential areas (as required by the state) and consideration of a housing impact fee to be used for affordable housing. Other changes are intended to implement the housing element and do not represent changes in housing policy. Interested parties are urged to review a copy of the plan at Portola Valley Town Hall. The Town Council will consider all evidence, written and oral pertaining to the proposed amendments. All interested persons are invited to appear before the Town Council to be heard at the time and place mentioned above.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed negative declaration regarding the above mentioned general plan amendments has been prepared. The Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will consider the proposed negative declaration at its meeting on December 9, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Schoolhouse in the Town Center, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California. The review period for the negative declaration will extend to December 1, 2009 and all interested persons are invited to submit comments in writing so that they are received at Town Hall no later than December 4, 2009. Copies of the proposed negative declaration are available at Portola Valley Town Hall, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California.

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

Date: November 19, 2009
Leslie A. Lambert
Planning Manager



Judy Bogard-Tanigami
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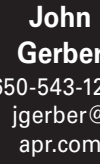
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Photo: Cate Gaffney

In an OP-ED in the August 14th issue of the New York Times, journalist Bob Herbert wrote about his visit to a community clinic in Vermont and about the impact of community health centers in America.



Luisa Buada

"There are similar health centers across the country serving primarily low-income patients in areas where medical services are scarce. They are a crucial resource, even in those cases where staffing is difficult or other challenges arise. But there are not enough of them. What is impressive is how much sense the centers make. They are nonprofit and receive federal support, but they don't require a ton of taxpayer dollars. By focusing intently on primary care and preventive services, they save tremendous amounts of money."

Dear Friends:

RFHC provides over 5,600 same day medical visits per year, saving the local health care system over \$2 million in emergency room costs. We provide access to health care and quality health care at a reasonable cost.

In the 36 plus years that I've been a part of the community health center movement, I've seen CHCs evolve into a comprehensive model of integrated primary care for the self-employed, the disenfranchised, the "working poor" that receive no health benefits, the unemployed and the homeless.

In the 1970s when the community health movement started, the first clinics were small storefronts, staffed by volunteers and managed with scarce resources. In the past 40 years they've matured. Today, due in part to financial and technical support from the federal Bureau of Primary Health care, CHCs have become essential to the nation's health care system with over 6,600 sites serving 20 million poor and uninsured Americans.

As unemployment has grown with the current economic recession and the rolls of the uninsured climbs steadily, more people are depending on CHCs for their source of medical, dental and mental health care. RFHC has experienced a 22% increase in the number of homeless patients receiving care and is anticipating a 40% increase this fiscal year (09-10) compared to the last. Demand exceeds our capacity.

In 2010, RFHC will initiate a \$19 million capital campaign to expand our current campus to accommodate the tremendous unmet health care needs of the communities we serve. Forty percent of this funding has been pledged or committed to date.

We know how fortunate our nonprofit community health center is to be located in an area where so many people are listening and concerned about the need for healthcare reform. Come for a visit and see firsthand what Bob Herbert of the NY Times saw when he visited a CHC in Vermont. Visit our website for information about Brunch/Clinic Tours -www.ravenswoodfhc.org.

Wishing you peace and health,

Luisa Buada, RN, MPA
Chief Executive Officer



Ravenswood Family Health Center's mission is to improve the health status of the community we serve by providing high-quality, culturally competent primary and preventive health care to people of all ages regardless of ability to pay

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Visit our website at:
www.ravenswoodfhc.org

Ravenswood Family Dentistry

Dental care will soon be integrated into RFHC's primary care medical practice. East Palo Alto is about to get a state-of-the-art 10-operatorial dental clinic that will provide full scope care: preventive, restorative, surgical, periodontal and emergency services. Six years in the planning, The new dental clinic, across from the main clinic in East Palo Alto, will open in the spring.

"Dental disease is the most common health problem we see among children and adults," says CEO Luisa Buada. Ignoring their need was never an option. We've known from the day we opened RFHC in 2001 that we had to find a way to address the dental health problems."

The effect of untreated dental disease on the health of the population has been recognized for a long time. In a dental screening at Ravenswood City School District, 32% of the children had visible dental caries. At RFHC, pediatricians and family practice physicians see serious dental problems every day. "We see children whose faces are swollen due to abscesses," says pediatrician Janice Lowe, MD. "In fact, in my first couple of months at Ravenswood, I saw more children with dental abscesses than I had seen in several years in my former practice." She notes, "An abscess causes chronic pain and that affects a child's ability to concentrate in school. They don't eat well, avoiding certain foods, notably fiber essential for healthy digestion."

Family practice providers say that many adults have had no treatment for years; an estimated 40% need immediate access to oral

health services—particularly those with diabetes. But efforts to get RFHC patients into dental care are frustrated: few dentists accept Denti-Cal (Medicaid) coverage, and most adult patients have no insurance and can't afford out-of-pocket expense.



RFHC's patients live in an area designated by the federal Health and Human Services agency as a "dental shortage area." The designation is based on the ratio of the population to the number dentists. To be a shortage area, the ratio has to be at least 5,000:1. RFHC's service area is 81,521 population to 1 dentist.

Source: Data from two NHANES surveys reported on CDC website.

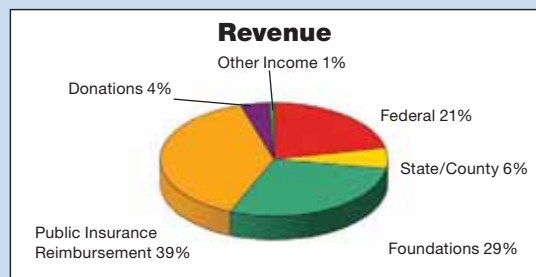
Last year, RFHC went to the David and Lucile Packard Foundation with a proposal to build a dental clinic. Knowing the need, the Foundation agreed and granted \$1.5 million for construction and necessary equipment. With additional grants from The Bothin Foundation and the Grove Foundation, RFHC has secured most of the initial funding needed for construction.

RFHC then recruited Jack Luomanen, DMD

with 30 years in community health. He will be the new Director and guide the development of the dental clinic. It is designed to have a "café" style waiting room and health education. It will be equipped with the latest dental technology including a digital record system, digital radiography, and an anesthesia surgery suite. Initially, RFHC expects to have 1,800 dental encounters to 1,800 dental encounters to 3,000 patients in year 2. The 10-operatorial clinic will be able to serve 8,000 patients annually.

To expand capacity, RFHC has a partnership with UCSF's and the University of the Pacific's dental schools to provide the National Dental Pipeline community externships to students. When they graduate from school, they will be learning from the staff in dentistry and we will have a staff to give them more clinical experience. Jack Luomanen. "We will also have a graduate dental resident and a pediatric dental resident. This is a partnership with the Food and Drug Administration Community Colleges Dental Assistant programs to provide training. "Our most significant local partnership is with the Mid-Peninsula Dental Society. "We know that most dentists are not aware of the disparities that exist in access to dental care. We want to have a chance to work together in the future."

The Federal Office of Management and Budget has ranked health centers one of the ten most effective federal programs. By focusing on prevention, Community health centers save substantial dollars in avoided emergency room visits, medical treatment and hospitalization.



Major Grants to Increase Capacity at Belle Haven Clinic

With Congresswoman Anna Eshoo's support, RFHC is one of the nation's community health centers benefiting from American Recovery Act stimulus funding designed to expand CHC capacity to meet the rising number of uninsured. And then in August 2009, the Board of Sequoia Healthcare District awarded a grant of \$750,000 over 3 years to support clinic operations and service expansion at the Belle Haven Clinic. According to Lee Michelson, CEO of Sequoia Healthcare District, "This is the beginning of a significant partnership with Ravenswood Family Health Center." *(Note: 22% of RFHC patients live within the District's area)

With this funding, Belle Haven is now fully staffed. Family practice physician Justin Wu, MD was hired to oversee the Belle Haven Clinic and other providers have increased their hours. Since the summer, there has been a 57%

increase in the number of patients compared to the same period last year.

"It's a small clinic," says Erika Simpson, Clinic Manager. "People who come here say it's really like a family clinic. When we took the clinic over from the County in 2007, most of our patients were seniors. Now we're seeing younger patients, including pregnant women. Along with medical care, we provide health education, insurance



Top: The Otero Family

enrollment as well as at the Belle Haven Clinic site."

More families are enrolling at Belle Haven Clinic. Stephen Otero was laid off; he lost the health insurance for his family for the past several years. He signed up for the Health Plan managed care health plan care benefits to San Mateo residents, but clinics were full of new patients, until they were members of the family. Salvadora says she calls for an appointment recognizes her voice at the clinic. She's relieved. "There's a lot of work," says Salvadora. "We're young and we're looking for work." Her attentiveness. "Many d



What we do

RFHC offers integrated Primary Care and Prevention services to low-income and uninsured residents of southeast San Mateo County

Medical Services

- Pediatric care
- Adolescent Health
- Adult Medicine
- Prenatal Care
- Chronic Disease Management
- Screenings & Immunizations
- Family Planning

Special Services

- Integrated Behavioral Health
- Dental care for uninsured
- Health Education
- Lab Services
- Pediatric social services
- Pharmacy assistance program
- Enrollment in public insurance programs

RFHC Patient Profile

- RFHC treated **9,300** patients in 2009
- 92% are Latino, African American, Pacific Islander, and Asian
- 97% live at or below 200% of federal poverty level
- 57% have no health insurance – 25% of children are uninsured
- 76% prefer to speak a language other than English
- 16% of pregnant women were under the age of 20
- 18% are 5 years and younger

RFHC's staff of 101 employees includes 24 full or part-time clinicians of which 9 are physicians. We contract with Stanford Dept. of Pediatrics and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital for OB and pediatric clinicians.

Main Clinic:
Ravenswood Family Health Center
Tel: (650) 330-7400
1798A Bay Road,
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

Belle Haven Clinic:
Tel: (650) 321-0980
100 Terminal Avenue,
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Onetta Harris Community Center

Mobile Clinic:
Various sites in the school district and where homeless congregate

Belle Haven Clinic continued

says Stephen, "but he'll sit down and talk with me, giving me good suggestions." Salvadora adds, "He followed up with a call when my son had an infection." It's the little things he does that make the difference, says Stephen.

Their son Joseph was overweight. Dr. Wu referred him for health education and nutrition.

He's taken it to heart; in fact, he's influencing the whole family: "I read the back of the chip bag about the calories in a serving size. I check what I'm eating and I don't snack that much anymore.

I used to have a lot of dessert but



Top: Joseph Otero

now I cut it in half. And all I drink is water, water, water. I only drink one cup of juice a day". He has

lost 7 lbs in the last six weeks.

His mother laughs, "He's doing it on his own," she says. "And now we're all looking at labels and if the kids see we're low on water, they tell me." As for exercise, Joseph runs a lot. When asked how is the rest of the family is doing, the mother laughed and pointed to an exerciser in their living room. "I have my machine. I walk by and say 'Hi' to it." Joseph is his parent's fitness role model. Thanks to Joseph, the whole family is moving towards fitness.

Peninsula Family Advocacy Program: A Medical-Legal Partnership with RFHC



Brooke Heymach, JD, MSW, Legal Director, Francisca Guzman, FAP Project Coordinator, & Dr. Dana Weintraub, Medical Director, also pediatrician at RFHC and LPCH.

When seeing patients in clinic, pediatric providers often identify legal problems that may negatively impact child's health, such as insufficient income for basic needs, substandard housing, or unsupported special education needs. "For a child with asthma living in a home with mold, dirty carpeting or cockroaches, health care providers can prescribe medicine," explains RFHC pediatrician Dr. Dana Weintraub, "but the key to prevention is to eliminate the underlying triggers."

That's where the Peninsula Family Advocacy Program (FAP) steps in with legal support. As a General Pediatric fellow at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital (LPCH) in 2004, Dr. Weintraub co-founded the Peninsula Family Advocacy Program, a medical-legal partnership between Lucile Packard and the Legal Aid

Society of San Mateo County to bring free legal aid services to pediatric and obstetric patients at LPCH and RFHC. FAP has also recently expanded to serve obstetric patients at San Mateo Medical Center and its clinics. FAP is based on a medical-legal partnership model replicated in 180 hospital and health centers across the United States.

"FAP is an essential resource for our providers," says Reshma

"The Family Advocacy Program is grounded in the preventive care approach used in pediatrics. Because many families visit their pediatrician on a regular basis, health care providers may spot legal issues and make appropriate referrals to FAP long before they become legal emergencies. In this way, FAP can begin advocating for families before an economic or legal crisis occurs.."

Thadani, RFHC Associate Pediatric Medical Director. FAP trains pediatric providers about housing rights, public benefits, disability rights, special education, employment, family law and domestic violence. If a legal issue is identified, the family is referred to FAP.

Legal Representation: A child with a severely disabling condition expected to result in life-long neuro-developmental impairments was denied disability benefits under the Supplemental Security Income program. FAP ultimately corrected the determination so that the child is receiving the needed benefits.

"Providing legal services on-site at RFHC allows us to bring legal advocacy and representation where families receive medical care," describes Brooke Heymach, Legal Director of FAP. "Many of these families may never have accessed legal services or realized that a legal issue was impacting their child's health or family well-being. In addition, being at RFHC allows us to work directly with health care providers; a powerful partnership when advocating for families."

Prior to FAP, 79% of the families surveyed were not aware of legal resources available to them. Thanks to FAP, RFHC brings critical resources together at the same site. It's an immense relief to vulnerable families to receive such help.

For more information: www.peninsulaFAP.org

FAP's legal services to East Palo Alto clients have included help for problems with housing habitability (27%); eligibility for health insurance often resulting in a medical bill (24%); accessing public benefits, like CalWORKS or Food Stamps (19%); family law issues, including domestic violence (18%); and special education services (12%).

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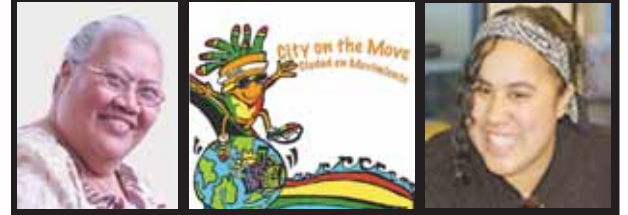
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Youth on the Move for Community Health



When the RFHC led Get Fit collaborative first planned to develop a multi-media campaign to promote healthy living, it made several fortunate decisions. The members realized that the spontaneity and creativity of youth could make the media campaign much more appealing to young people. And then, they chose Nancy Brink, talented filmmaker (Present Tense Productions) and gifted teacher to oversee Get Fit's media plan, including the production of City on the Move bilingual video (with Karen Brown Davison) as well as a youth website featuring youth video reports created by Get Fit recruits. This had to be accomplished in the small crowded office at EPA.net, a community online resource center that hosts the Get Fit website. No one on the collaborative foresaw what would happen once media tools were given to young people eager to learn.

Get Fit selected five youth to be video reporters. None of them had any experience with a video camera or editing with Final Cut Pro. But coached by Nancy, within a few months they posted their first video reports to the youth developed Get Fit website (www.epa.net/getfit).

Liz Savusa was one of the Get Fit reporters. Liz is from an American Samoan family, one of 12 children. She is the granddaughter of RFHC Board member Rev. Elisabeta Savusa. At 16 Liz had quit high school to take care of her father who was seriously ill with diabetes. She was working on her first Get Fit video project when her father died.

In the beginning Liz was reserved and unsure, but her artistic ability emerged and she was asked to animate the Get Fit logo for the City on the Move video. That was a turning point. In the following months she has teamed up with other youth to produce a number of media projects.

This summer her leadership ability blossomed. With federal stimulus funding, EPA.net hired 40 youth for a 6-week Get Fit Summer Project to promote the Get Fit message and present the City on the Move DVD to community groups. Liz was their mentor. "I've watched Liz's confidence grow and her world expand," said Nancy. "Other staff looked to her this summer." When the Get Fit Summer project ended, the youth had hosted 22 presentations of City on the Move to community groups of all ages. They also produced a number of videos that can be seen on www.vimeo.com (Get Fit Summer 2009) and YouTube.

Youth have a lively approach when it comes to promoting fitness. Get Healthy San Mateo County Taskforce noticed and recruited Get Fit youth to help them develop www.yspacesmc.org. Then the County contracted with them for ongoing content management of videos, blogs, and stories for yspacesmc. Their professionalism in handling projects led to other contracts at EPA.net including promotion videos for the City of East Palo Police and the Sanitary District, to name a few and an emerging youth media enterprise model.

Liz is now on staff at EPA.net, continuing to work on EPA.net's media projects. Recently Liz asked Nancy, "What's my title?" Nancy responded, "Ace". In fact, her title at EPA.net is now Senior Producer.

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