

**READERS' CHOICE 2010**  
Vote for your favorites – Page 11

# The Almanac

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

JUNE 30, 2010 | VOL. 45 NO. 44



[WWW.THEALMANACONLINE.COM](http://WWW.THEALMANACONLINE.COM)

## **Festivities** for the **Fourth**

Among local highlights:  
the 60th annual  
Woodside Junior Rodeo  
[Section 2]



**Palo Alto Medical Foundation**

A Sutter Health Affiliate

Community Based, Not For Profit

# Community Health Education Programs

## Palo Alto Center 795 El Camino Real

### Lecture and Workshops 650-853-4873

#### Your Baby's Doctor

Wednesday, July 14, 7 – 9 p.m.



### Living Well Classes 650-853-2960

#### Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction

Mondays, July 12 – Aug. 30; Tuesdays,  
July 13 – Aug. 31, 6:30 – 9 p.m.

#### Functional Spine Training

First Monday of each month,  
5 – 6:30 p.m.

#### What You Need to Know About Warfarin (Coumadin)

Wednesday, July 21, 2 – 4 p.m.

### Nutrition and Diabetes Classes 650-853-2961

#### New Weigh of Life

(Pre-assessment required prior to  
starting class)

Palo Alto: Wednesdays starting  
Sept. 1 for 12 weeks, 6 – 7:15 p.m.  
Free orientation on Wednesday, Aug.  
18, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Redwood City: Thursdays starting  
Sept. 23 for 12 weeks, 2 – 4:15 p.m.

#### Adult Weight Management Group

Thursdays, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

#### Bariatric Pre-Op Class

Tuesday, July 13, 4 – 6 p.m.

#### Bariatric Nutrition SMA

First Tuesday of each month,  
10:30 a.m. – noon

#### Prediabetes

First Monday of the month, 9 – 11:30  
a.m., and third Wednesday of every  
other month, 4:30 – 7 p.m. Also in  
Redwood Shores, fourth Wednesday of  
every other month, 5:30 – 8 p.m.

#### Living Well with Diabetes

Tuesdays, 4:30 – 7 p.m., or Fridays,  
9:30 a.m. – noon

#### Heart Smart Class

Third and fourth Tuesday of every other  
month, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

#### Healthy Eating Type 2 Diabetes

Third Wednesday of every other month,  
5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

#### Gestational Diabetes

Wednesdays, 2 – 4 p.m.

### Pregnancy, Breastfeeding & Child Care Classes

#### Preparing for Birth

650-853-2960

Thursdays, July 1 – Aug. 5,  
7 – 9:15 p.m.

Saturdays, July 10, 17 & 24,  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Wednesdays, Aug. 4 – Sept. 19  
(skip 9/18), 7 – 9:15 p.m.

#### Moving Through Pregnancy

Mondays, July 5, 12 & 19, 7 – 9 p.m.,  
650-853-2960

#### Breastfeeding: Secrets for Success

Saturday, July 31, 10 a.m. – noon,  
650-853-2960

#### Raising Healthy & Happy Eaters! (for parents of children aged 0 – 6)

650-853-2961

Introduction to Solids (ages 0 – 1)

Feeding Your Toddler (ages 1 – 3)

Feeding Your Preschooler (ages 3 – 6)

Offered in Palo Alto and Los Altos,  
please call for dates.

### Support Groups

#### Bariatric

650-281-8908

#### Cancer

650-342-3749

#### CPAP

650-853-4729

#### Diabetes

650-224-7872

#### Drug and Alcohol

650-853-2904

#### Healing Imagery for Cancer Patients

650-799-5512

#### Kidney

650-323-2225

#### Multiple Sclerosis

650-328-0179

## Mountain View Center 701 E. El Camino Real

### Lecture and Workshops 650-934-7373

#### Nutrition and Training Tips for the Everyday Athlete For Your Health Community Lecture Series

Presented by Jaye Camposanto, P.A., and  
Susan Kirkpatrick, R.D.

Wednesday, July 14, 7 – 8 p.m.



### HMR Weight Management Program 650-404-8260

Free orientation session. Tuesdays, noon – 1 p.m., and Thursdays, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

### Lifesteps® Weight Management 650-934-7373

Wednesday, July 7, 6 – 7:15 p.m.

### Living Well Classes 650-934-7373

#### Supermarket Wise

Wednesday, July 7, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

#### MindBody Stress Management

Monday, July 19, 7 – 9 p.m.

### Nutrition and Diabetes Classes 650-934-7177

#### New Weigh of Life:

**Adult Weight Management Program**  
(Pre-assessment required prior to  
starting class)

Mondays starting Oct. 4 for 12 weeks,  
6 – 7:15 p.m.

#### Heart Smart Class

Second Tuesday of each month,  
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

#### Diabetes Class (two-part class)

Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. – noon and  
Wednesdays, 2 – 4:30 p.m.

#### Prediabetes

Third Thursday of each month,  
2 – 4 p.m. Fourth Tuesday of each  
month, 3 – 5 p.m.

#### Sweet Success

**Gestational Diabetes Class**  
Wednesdays, 9 a.m. – noon

### Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and Child Care Classes

#### OB Orientation

Thursdays, July 1, 15 & 29, and  
Wednesday, July 21, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

#### Breastfeeding Your Newborn

Monday/Tuesday, July 6, 12 &  
Aug. 2, 6:30 – 9 p.m.

#### Infant Emergencies and CPR

Wednesdays, July 7, 21 & Aug. 4,  
6 – 8:30 p.m.

#### Childbirth Preparation

Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays,  
July 8, 9, 10 & Aug. 5

#### Feeding Your Toddler

Tuesday, July 13, 7 – 9 p.m.

#### Preparing for Baby

Tuesday, July 13, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

#### What to Expect with Your Newborn

Tuesday, July 20, 7 – 8 p.m.

#### Baby Care

Thursday, July 29 and Saturday,  
July 31, 10:30 a.m. – noon.

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

### Free Appointments 650-934-7373

HICAP Counseling, Advance Health Care Directive Counseling,  
General Social Services (visits with our social worker)

### Support Groups 650-934-7373

AWAKE

Bariatric Surgery

Breastfeeding



For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures  
and health education resources, visit: [pamf.org](http://pamf.org).



Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

**George Mader**, left, with former mayor Bill Lane, center, and Tom Vlasic at the June 23 Portola Valley Town Council meeting, where Mr. Mader announced his semi-retirement and the council appointed Mr. Vlasic, Mr. Mader's longtime assistant, as the new town planner.

## Passing of the torch in Portola Valley

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

If the original 19th-century landowner of what is now Portola Valley were to find himself reconstituted and sitting on a horse where Alpine and Portola roads meet, he would have no trouble recognizing the skyline to the west and finding a trail to the top of Windy Hill for a look around.

Though it is now an incorporated town of 4,700, that this valley retains its wooded skyline and wooded hillsides below is a part of the legacy of George Mader, president of Menlo Park-based Spangle Associates and the town's planner for 45 years.

Mr. Mader announced his semi-retirement at the June 23 Town Council meeting before colleagues and friends. Following a brief ceremony in Mr. Mader's honor, the council appointed Tom Vlasic, Mr. Mader's assistant for 38 years, as the new town planner.

Mr. Mader became a specialist in the development of geologically hazardous and steep terrain, of which Portola Valley has plenty. It sits against the Santa Cruz mountains and a major earthquake fault bisects the town.

In preserving the landscape,

Mr. Mader was fulfilling the wishes of a town incorporated specifically to prevent over-development. The town's success, Mr. Mader noted in his remarks, was the work of noted individuals, "a forward-thinking community," and land purchases by the Midpeninsula Open Space District.

Mr. Mader's pioneering work in finding ways to develop a community in areas of hazardous geology has spread to six continents, he and others have said. Mr. Mader also helped develop a degree program in environmental earth science at Stanford University, where he taught for 30 years.

Town Councilman Ted Driscoll, who has a doctorate in earth science, recalled traveling to Japan and a casual conversation on the plane with a Japanese passenger that revealed a mutual interest in town planning amid hazardous geology and a recognition of Mr. Mader's prominence in that field.

In Mr. Driscoll's account, the passenger at one point turned to his fellow travelers to explain who he and Mr. Driscoll were discussing. "Mader-san, Mader-san," the passenger said. "I discovered," Mr. Driscoll recalled, "that George Mader's reputation

was already on the other side of the Pacific."

In his remarks, Mr. Mader said he'd been privileged to consult in China, Mexico, Ecuador, Italy, the former Yugoslavia, Algeria and Turkey. He also chairs GeoHazards International, a Palo Alto-based nonprofit with a worldwide mission of educating vulnerable communities on how to survive large earthquakes.

Mr. Mader has held prominent positions with the California Seismic Safety Commission, the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy, the National Research Council, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

He lives in Ladera with his wife Marjorie Mader, a senior Almanac correspondent. The couple have three children.

### A geologist's non-geologist

If a town is divided by the notorious San Andreas fault, and one side of it rests on steep and historically unstable base rock, it helps if somebody in the planning department knows something about geology.

Mr. Mader has been that some-

See **MADER**, page 12

## CALIFORNIA NEUROHEALTH



California Neurohealth is a multidisciplinary clinic specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of chronic pain and neurological disorders.

### SERVICES OFFERED:

Chiropractic Neurology      Nutritional counseling  
Acupuncture                      Brain-based rehabilitation/exercise  
Chinese medicine and herbs      functional medicine testing

We also treat conditions affecting the elderly

See website for conditions treated • [www.californianeurohealth.com](http://www.californianeurohealth.com)

**FREE 30 MINUTE CONSULTATION WITH THIS AD**

Chris DeMartini, D.C., D.A.C.N.B., Chiropractic Neurologist

EIham Khodabandloo, L.Ac., Licensed Acupuncturist

530 Lytton Avenue, 2nd Floor, Palo Alto, CA 94301, (650) 617-3457

FAX (650) 617-3458

good fun stuff that just happens to be green



Kids' toys made from recycled plastic

Folding portable speakers

Now Open

\$5 off

with purchase of \$25 or more.  
Expires 7/31/10

livegreen<sup>™</sup>

158 University Ave (at High St.), Palo Alto  
[www.livegreene.com](http://www.livegreene.com) - [info@livegreene.com](mailto:info@livegreene.com)  
(650) 331-0700

## PREFERRED DENTAL PRACTICE FOR OVER 50 YEARS!

Cosmetic Dentistry • Invisalign • Teeth Whitening



Marisa Walker, Dave McKenna, and Jeuel Espanola

**McKenna Family Dentistry**

Experience the Tradition

1691 El Camino Real • Ste 300 • Palo Alto

**650-321-4544**

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

## CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

The Almanac newsroom is at 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Classified ads: 854-0858

Newsroom: 854-2690

Newsroom fax: 854-0677

Advertising: 854-2626

Advertising fax: 854-3650

■ E-mail news, information, obituaries and photos (with captions) to: [editor@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:editor@AlmanacNews.com)

■ E-mail letters to the editor to: [letters@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:letters@AlmanacNews.com)

**THE ALMANAC** (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, The Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. Subscriptions for \$60 per year or \$100 per 2 years are welcome. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Copyright ©2010 by Embarcadero Media, All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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

# PALO ALTO clay & glass FESTIVAL

july 10 & 11, 2010  
10am to 5pm

palo alto art center  
embarcadero and newell

180 prestigious  
clay & glass artists

members gallery  
demonstrations

free admission  
valet parking

650-329-2366  
acga.net



## NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS BID PROPOSALS SOUGHT FOR PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO LAUREL SCHOOL FEDERAL PROJECT NUMBER SR-2SF 5273(019) CITY PROJECT NUMBER 70-057

The City of Menlo Park invites qualified contractors to submit sealed bid proposals for the construction of the PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO LAUREL SCHOOL PROJECT. Work required as part of this project consists of, in general, installing electronic speed feedback displays, installing traffic signs, installing traffic striping and markings, constructing asphalt concrete pathways, constructing asphalt concrete dikes, constructing Portland cement concrete valley gutter, sidewalk, and handicapped ramp, installing in-pavement lighted crosswalk systems, installing street lights, and installing pedestrian countdown signal heads; and all appurtenant work in place and ready for use at various locations in the City of Menlo Park; all as shown on the plans and described in the specifications. Performance of this work requires a valid California Contractor's License Class A. The UDBE contract goal for the project is 3.8%. The DBE contract goal for the project is 9.2%. Project documents and copies of the prevailing rate of wages can be obtained from the Menlo Park Transportation Division, located in the Administrative Building at 701 Laurel St. Sealed bid proposals will be received at the Transportation Division office until 2 p.m. on THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2010, at which time they will be opened and publicly read. Additional information can be obtained on the City's website: [www.menlopark.org/cip](http://www.menlopark.org/cip)

## SENIORS HEALTH SPECIALIST

Are you a senior, or do you have an elder parent and are concerned about their health?

Contact a Certified Fitness Trainer experienced in working with seniors.

Training that focuses on:

1. **Strength:** increase bone density and keep weight and blood sugar in check
2. **Balance:** help prevent falls
3. **Stretching:** freedom of movement
4. **Endurance:** aid breathing and heart functions



Personal Fitness Training  
by Brian Doyle

Call 650-235-6494

[www.doylebfit.com](http://www.doylebfit.com) • [doylebfit@comcast.net](mailto:doylebfit@comcast.net)

## Leather Furniture Repair

Upholstery Cleaning

Expert color matching  
and re-dyeing

We can repair leather,  
vinyl, fabrics & plastic

Even pet damage and burns!

FREE ESTIMATES • MOBILE SERVICE



**FIBRENEW**  
SILICON VALLEY

408.773.1395

[www.fibrenew.com/silicon\\_valley](http://www.fibrenew.com/silicon_valley)

Sale Dates: June 30, July 1, 2, 3

## ROBERTS MARKET

SINCE 1889

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

### Fresh Produce

Local  
**BING CHERRIES** **\$3.99** lb

Whole or Cut  
**SEEDLESS WATERMELON** **39¢** lb

Hail Caesar  
**ROMAINE LETTUCE** **99¢** ea

### Deli Department

## LET US HELP YOU CELEBRATE THE 4TH OF JULY!

**New Potato Salad**  
With sour cream, dill, and radishes  
**\$5.99** lb

**Yellow Potato Salad**  
With egg, mayo, celery, and onion  
**\$5.99** lb

**BBQ Chicken Breast**  
**\$6.59** lb

**Macaroni Salad**  
With eggs and mayo  
**\$5.99** lb

**Baked Beans**  
**\$5.99** lb

We also offer a variety of special  
4th of July Cookies.

### Meat and Seafood

**B-B-BACK RIBS** **\$4.98** lb

Schwarz Brand  
**SKINLESS FRANKS** **\$4.98** lb

Roberts  
**HOMEMADE SAUSAGE** **\$4.98** lb

### Wine and Spirits

## Alta Maria Vineyards

The Santa Maria Valley's soil and climate is perfectly suited to the Burgundian grapes - Chardonnay, and Pinot Noir. It takes great passion, commitment, and talent to marry the bounty of mother nature, viticulture, and wine making to create fine wines of beauty, nuance, and harmony. The wines of Alta Maria capture the purity, freshness, and transparency that define great Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. These are FANTASTIC values!

**2008 Alta Maria Pinot Noir,**  
**Santa Maria Valley** **\$21.99**  
Reg. \$24.99 Sale  
*If you are looking for honest Pinot with purity and fine detail, this is it!*

**2008 Alta Maria Chardonnay,**  
**Santa Maria Valley** **\$21.99**  
Reg. \$24.99 Sale  
*A fresh Chardonnay with hints of citrus and pear fruits and a long, subtle, haunting mineral finish.*

### On Sale Grocery

12oz.-12 Pack Bottle-  
Plus Calif. Redeem Value  
**CORONA EXTRA  
CERVEZA**

**\$12.99**

9oz.-Also Triscuits  
**NABISCO  
WHEAT THINS** **\$2.59**

4 oz.-Also Bonbel  
**LAUGHING COW  
MINI BABYBEL** **\$2.39**

6 count  
**WHITE CASTLE  
CHEESEBURGERS** **\$3.49**

15 count-Also Platters  
**CHINET CLASSIC  
WHITE DINNER PLATES** **\$2.49**

# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Sequoia schools place well in nationwide ranking

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The schools in the Sequoia Union High School District with graduating seniors were extraordinary in the 2008-09 school year in their success at preparing average students for college-level work, according to a recent nationwide analysis of high schools by Newsweek magazine.

For the second consecutive year,

Summit Preparatory Charter High School and Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high schools were among the 6 percent — about 1,600 schools — that made Newsweek's 2010 list of "America's Best High Schools."

Summit Prep was ranked 76th in the nation and is one of the top 10 public high schools listed for California. M-A's rank was 528 and Woodside's was 1,100. The two other comprehensive schools

in the district, Sequoia and Carlmont, also made the list.

The rankings represent a combination of factors, Newsweek Contributing Editor Jay Mathews said in explaining the process on the magazine's website. A key rating is the "equity and excellence" category: the percentage of graduating seniors who passed at least one college-level test, such as an advanced-placement (AP) test.

A student's willingness to take

a college-level test, even if he or she does not pass, is "the best predictor of college graduation" and "(is) important because they give average students a chance to experience the trauma of heavy college reading lists and long, analytical college examinations," Mr. Mathews said.

In Summit Prep's 2009 class of about 100 seniors, 75 percent passed at least one AP test. At M-A and Woodside, with about 350

seniors each, the numbers were 52 percent and 29 percent, respectively.

Asked to comment, Summit Prep Executive Director Todd Dickson noted that "it is only one data point (and) does not necessarily guarantee a great school," but the equity-and-excellence number "gives a very good indication of the percent of students at a high school

See **SCHOOLS**, page 8

## Unions sue Menlo Park over pension measure

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Menlo Park resident and two unions representing Menlo Park employees have launched a legal counterattack on a grassroots group that led a successful effort to put a pension-reform measure on the November ballot.

The unions and resident Katy Rose on June 23 filed a lawsuit to keep the measure off the ballot, naming the city of Menlo Park and resident Ned Moritz, treasurer of Citizens for Fair and Responsible Pension Reform, the group that gathered some 3,100 signatures to qualify the

initiative for the ballot.

The initiative would increase the retirement age for new, non-police employees from 55 to 60 years of age, and would also decrease the pension payments those employees receive.

The city was named as a plaintiff because the City Council voted last month to place the measure on the ballot rather than vote it into law — the only two options available to it under state law after the validated petition was filed.

Mr. Moritz was named as a "real party in interest," but the lawsuit states that its "allega-

See **LAWSUIT**, page 10

### Solar charge

Marissa Muller of Woodside, shown here in Sharon Hills Park in Menlo Park, recently completed a 12-high-school tour throughout California to solicit ideas from kids and spread the word of the coming of age of solar power, with herself as an object lesson. She rode an electric bicycle with the intent, sometimes realized, of recharging with solar panels mounted on a towed cart. The tour included a stop at Woodside High School.



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

## Council action on controversial project surprisingly easy

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

The recent vote by the Menlo Park City Council on the Menlo Gateway project proposed by David Bohannon was surprisingly smooth, with all but one council member affirming support for putting the question before the voters.

The 4-1 vote on June 15 might have come as a surprise, given the controversial nature of the project. The council elected to send it to the ballot rather than approve it outright — the procedure for most development projects — because a voter referendum aimed at overturning the project seemed so likely.

Council members' positions have also come as a surprise to a number of their "slow-growth" constituents, some of whom played a large role in running campaigns for four of the five council members.

Resident Elias Blawie spelled out the situation as he sees it in an e-mail to the council, arguing that members of the council majority "really are not seen as supporting the values of their traditional constituents at this point," and that there isn't much that differentiates them from the "pro-development" camp.

The council vote could be seen as a reflection of the growing fragmentation of the city's slow-growth camp. Members of the coalition that supported four of the current council members found themselves arguing against each other over the project, which some see as a bellwether in the fight to preserve the city's small-town feel.

For the council members who support, or appear to support, the project after months of negotiation, however, that support largely comes down to the city's bottom line. With the city projecting deficit budgets

for the foreseeable future, with employee costs increasing, with tax revenue stagnant, and with the city beginning to cut services, they say Menlo Gateway may be a rare opportunity to boost revenues — even if the project won't be built for years, if at all.

Once it's up and running, the project is expected to generate approximately \$1.6 million annually for city coffers in tax revenue, and could generate more if the city's hotel tax rates increase.

"I have yet to hear somebody come up with a magic revenue-generating tool for the city," Mayor Rich Cline said at the June 15 meeting. "The answer has been, 'cut' (employees). ... It sounds great in theory. It sounded great until I was up here and looked at the books, and realized, we have services bundled in with all this stuff, and it costs a lot of money to live here ... you expect a certain level of service."

Reducing employee costs is exactly what Chuck Bernstein and Mr. Blawie suggested the city do, an argument that their "pro-development" counterparts have been making for years. Mr. Bernstein likened the project to fodder for the "insatiable beast" of city bureaucracy, while Mr. Blawie said the connection between that bureaucracy and the services it provides has been lost.

Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson's support for the project was more tenuous than that of other council supporters, judging by comments she has made in public meetings. She had insisted upon a provision for "windfall" profit-sharing with the developer, but dropped her effort after the Bohannon company agreed in last-minute talks to spend an additional half-million dollars on landscaping. She said the new work would make the site a welcoming entrance to the city, and to Bedwell-Bayfront Park.

Councilman Andy Cohen voted to give the project conditional approval while maintaining that he does not support it, saying he wanted voters to decide. Before the vote, he tried to assess whether the motion would have enough votes to pass if he voted against it. Councilman Heyward Robinson threatened to abstain if Mr. Cohen dissented, and Mayor Rich Cline called the vote, as Councilman John Boyle covered his face with his hands.

### Negotiation recap

At one point in the negotiation process, it looked as though the council was headed toward a discussion of a citywide greenhouse gas policy. While the city recently completed a plan to deal with problems associated with climate change, the city does not have any regulations governing carbon emissions by development projects.

Former council member Paul

See **BOHANNON**, page 9



Orthopedic and  
Plastic Hand  
Surgeons



Pediatric  
Emergency  
Department



Pediatric  
Anesthesiologists



Occupational  
Therapists



Stanford  
School of  
Medicine

TOGETHER  
THE RIGHT TEAM SAVED A RIGHT HAND.



Lucile Packard  
Children's Hospital  
at Stanford

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

A broken window almost closed the door on Alexandre Acra's use of his right hand. The accident severed two major nerves and a tendon in Alexandre's wrist. Having one of the best pediatric hand surgeons in the world right in the neighborhood came in, well, handy. After surgery, a cast and a splint, and several weeks of rehabilitation, Alexandre's back in full force: giving two thumbs up to his team at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

Visit [www.lpch.org](http://www.lpch.org) to see more success stories.

## Sun Micro reassessment not yet resolved

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The question is still open as to whether the San Mateo County Assessor's Office will reassess the four-parcel campus of Sun Microsystems at Willow Road and Bayfront Expressway in Menlo Park.

Oracle Corp. recently acquired (or merged) with Sun — the difference is not automatically material to whether a reassessment occurs, officials said — and a reassessment of the \$355.4 million campus could boost property tax revenues for the city of Menlo Park.

Terry Flinn, a deputy assessor with San Mateo County, told The Almanac that his office has forwarded Oracle's paperwork to the Legal Entity Ownership Program at the state Board of

Equalization.

Not all commercial property transfers receive this level of treatment, Mr. Flinn said. "These complex legal entity transfers, we ask the state board to look at those," he said. "They're going to review the case and let us know what to do."

Menlo Park Finance Director Carol Augustine, who in an interview said that she's been involved in municipal finance for 25 years, said she told the City Council that she has never seen a commercial property reassessed and that it is unlikely in this case as well.

"We haven't heard anything," she told The Almanac. "I thought that Oracle, of all companies, would structure their purchase or acquisition to not trigger a reassessment. ... I just have had no experience whatsoever of

commercial properties being reassessed."

The board will look at two questions, said Anita Gore of the state Board of Equalization. Was there a change in control of Sun Microsystems of more than 50 percent? Was there a change in ownership?

These questions are complicated when a company's properties span more than one county, as in this case, Mr. Flinn said.

The state's opinion is not final. "If we independently see something differently, we would definitely have the opportunity to send it to our lawyers," Mr. Flinn said.

The reassessment question tends not to be as complicated for homes as it is for corporations, Mr. Flinn said. "People die, corporations don't," he added. ■

## Steve Schmidt says he'll skip Menlo Park council race

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Former Menlo Park mayor and two-term councilman Steve Schmidt has been coy about whether he'll run for City Council this year, but has finally decided to sit this round out. "It's just not the right time," he said. "I will take another look in

two years."

He declined to cite specific factors influencing his decision, saying, "The lines are not as clear in defining who's who in this year's election. I'd rather wait."

Mr. Schmidt served on the council from 1994 to 2002.

Without further comment on the upcoming elections, Mr. Schmidt changed topics. "It's too

nice a day to be inside, but I don't have a choice." He recently broke his hip after tumbling from a bicycle and expects to spend the summer recuperating.

The candidate filing period opens July 12. Three terms expire this year — Mayor Rich Cline's, Vice Mayor John Boyle's, and Councilman Heyward Robinson's. ■

## Attorney: HSR lawsuit stopped, but purpose served

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

A Sacramento judge may have dismissed a lawsuit that Menlo Park attorney Mike Brady filed last year against the California High-Speed Rail Authority and Caltrain, but Mr. Brady insists that the ruling is in fact a victory for his side.

"The central objection of the lawsuit was to get the court to say that the High-Speed Rail Authority cannot start construction on the Peninsula corridor until they get the express consent of Union Pacific — consent in writing — to any construction proposals at all, and we think that this is required," Mr. Brady said last week, commenting on Judge Kevin Culhane's June 22 ruling.

Although Judge Culhane ruled that the lawsuit had no merit and couldn't proceed further in the courts, Mr. Brady said that in the process of getting to that point, both the High-Speed Rail Authority and Caltrain filed legal papers acknowledging they must obtain consent from the private rail transportation corporation before construction begins. And, he added, Union Pacific (UP) has

expressed "serious safety concerns" and opposition to having high-speed rail service along its right-of-way.

Mr. Brady and Mountain View-based attorney Zachary Tyson filed the lawsuit last year on behalf of Menlo Park resident Russell Peterson and Roger Reynolds Nursery in Menlo Park.

Consent from UP, which retained the right to veto any intercity passenger service other than Caltrain when it sold the rail corridor in 1991 to the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board that governs Caltrain, may be a key factor in the high-speed rail's construction on the Peninsula.

Although one local newspaper reported last week that unnamed UP officials said the company would not try to block construction of the project, a UP spokesman told The Almanac that the company has not changed its previously stated position about running high-speed trains along corridors where the company has a right-of-way.

That position, spokesman Aaron Hunt said, can be found in part in a letter UP wrote to the rail authority in February 2009,

which included the statement that UP's "permanent easement for freight and Amtrak service (along the corridor) is a valuable property and operational right that must not be impaired by construction and operation" of high-speed rail.

In an April 10, 2010, letter commenting on a draft environmental document, UP challenges the rail authority's report: The document, it said, "does not accurately characterize and summarize UP's position, i.e., that no part of the high-speed corridor may be located on UP's right-of-way."

Mr. Brady acknowledged that "the ball is now in Union Pacific's camp." But, he said, the judge's citation of the rail authority's and Caltrain's agreement that UP's consent must be obtained before the high-speed system can be built along its right-of-way constitutes "a binding decision. There is no way the high-speed rail and Caltrain can do an end run around Union Pacific's rights."

The High-Speed Rail Authority could not be reached before The Almanac's press time. ■

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



### Determining The Right Price

Dear Gloria, A friend of mine, who has done quite a few real estate transactions, says the best way to price a house is to let our realtor put the number on it. I have a problem with that. It's my house and I have seen other houses in the neighborhood and have a good idea what it should be priced at. I also want to leave some room for negotiating and with the number the realtor suggests, that would be my bottom number. How do most sellers decide on a list price?

George M.

Dear George, When real estate sales are considered normal, and prices remain stable over time, it is a rather easy task to do a Comparative Market Analysis to determine the asking price when listing a property. When a market is rising rapidly,

such as we experienced in 2000 or when we are in a declining market such as we have been, it is more difficult to determine the right list price. You need to trust and depend on your realtor to give you the right information by showing you comparable properties and having other realtors in to help with the pricing. Over-pricing, even in a great sellers market, is the biggest mistake you can make. The house will just sit on the market, probably with very few showings and you will eventually either have to reduce your price BELOW what you would had you priced it right in the beginning or take it off the market. The reality is that you as the seller really don't set the price; the market sets the price. You can refuse to sell at market value but you cannot, except in rare instances, get someone to pay over market value just because you have decided that's the price at which you will sell.

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

Join Now & Save \$100\* Lose 15-20 Lbs. in 8 Weeks

Losing Weight has never been so easy!

Seale Harris M.D. LITE FOR LIFE WEIGHT LOSS

• Improve Your Health • Increase Your Energy  
• Look & Feel Better • FREE Consultation

Menlo Park  
713 Oak Grove  
(650) 323-5483  
(across from the Fire Station)

\*12 week minimum. Limited time offer. Call for details

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

The Almanac

READERS' CHOICE

It's time to vote for your favorite businesses in Menlo Park

VOTE ONLINE AT [www.TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com)

The Almanac READERS' CHOICE 2010

DEADLINE JULY 11

## SCHOOLS

continued from page 5

that are 'prepared' for college."

Woodside High Principal David Reilly told *The Almanac* that the survey is narrowly focused, that it hardly paints a full picture of a school's qualities, and that charters and traditional schools are "apples and oranges." But, he added, it is "outstanding (that) all of the high schools in the district, charter or traditional, are in the top 1,600. That's fantastic."

Outgoing Superintendent Patrick Gemma, asked about the importance of AP classes, said, "I think that if kids want to take an AP class, they should be able to take an AP class." And are all kids informed on how an AP test foreshadows college work? "It's easy to know what somebody knows," he said. "It's difficult to know what they don't know."

Other factors included in the ranking: the number of students qualified for federally subsidized lunches (Woodside led the district in this category), and the "challenge index," the number of college-level tests administered school-wide compared to the number of graduating seniors.

Elite schools, those with higher-than-average SAT or ACT college-admission-test scores, are excluded from the list. The formula "does not work with schools that have no, or almost no, average students," Mr. Mathews of *Newsweek* said.

Go to [is.gd/cQs8R](http://is.gd/cQs8R) (case sensitive) for more information.

### Parental involvement

Summit has a reputation of getting virtually every senior accepted to a four-year college. At Woodside, that figure may be 50 percent, Principal Reilly said in an interview, with 46 percent headed to community colleges.

If *Newsweek* is right about AP tests foreshadowing college work, and just 29 percent of Woodside's 2008-09 senior class passed at least one AP test, are students being shortchanged? Do they grasp the importance of these tests if they

aren't required to take them as they are at Summit?

Student situations tend to determine the approach, Mr. Reilly said. Those with two educated, savvy parents at home probably don't need help. The parents know "exactly what they want for their kids," Mr. Reilly said. "It's like it's in their DNA."

Help is needed for promising students with parents who are not savvy at all. These students can get individual attention by joining academic assistance programs such as AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) and MESA (Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement).

These two categories — AVID/MESA students and students with home advantages — are 35 percent of a typical Woodside freshman class, Mr. Reilly said.

With exceptions for very limited special-education students, "every freshman who comes in we're preparing for college" through programs throughout the school year, Mr. Reilly said. "You get as many resources and (as much) assistance as you ask for." For foster kids or students with both parents in jail, it's tougher. They may have a different path, he said.

Of Woodside High's roughly 1,800 families, he said that maybe 100, 5 percent, are active in groups such as the school foundation, the parent-teacher association and booster clubs.

At Summit, "virtually 100 percent of parents are in touch with us at some level of engagement in every year," said Diane Tavenner, chief executive of Summit Prep's corporate parent. The district has structural problems in not encouraging parental participation, she added. "Please find me parents who don't care about their children. There are very few of them."

But getting into Summit is determined by lottery — there are more applicants than seats — which presupposes parental engagement and research on alternative schools, Mr. Reilly pointed out.

"That's another red herring," Ms. Tavenner said. Students have applied on their own and Summit

has long requested that the Sequoia district include packets on charter schools in information-night handouts at middle-schools.

"We'd be happy to have ours included and given to every family in the district," Ms. Tavenner said. "They have declined to do that."

### Community college

Some parents, Mr. Reilly said, want their sons in community college initially to give them time to mature and develop a solid foundation before attending a four-year school.

Some parents shun ideas about college. Mr. Reilly recalled a "very timid" sophomore who showed great promise, but whose father planned for her to help raise his children and get married, not go to college.

Mr. Reilly said he convinced the father to relent, and the girl passed AP English and took three more AP classes. Years later, he met her by accident at the University of California at Berkeley. "It's so appropriate for me to be bumping into you," she said in Mr. Reilly's recollection, "because I would never, ever, ever have been here if it hadn't been for you."

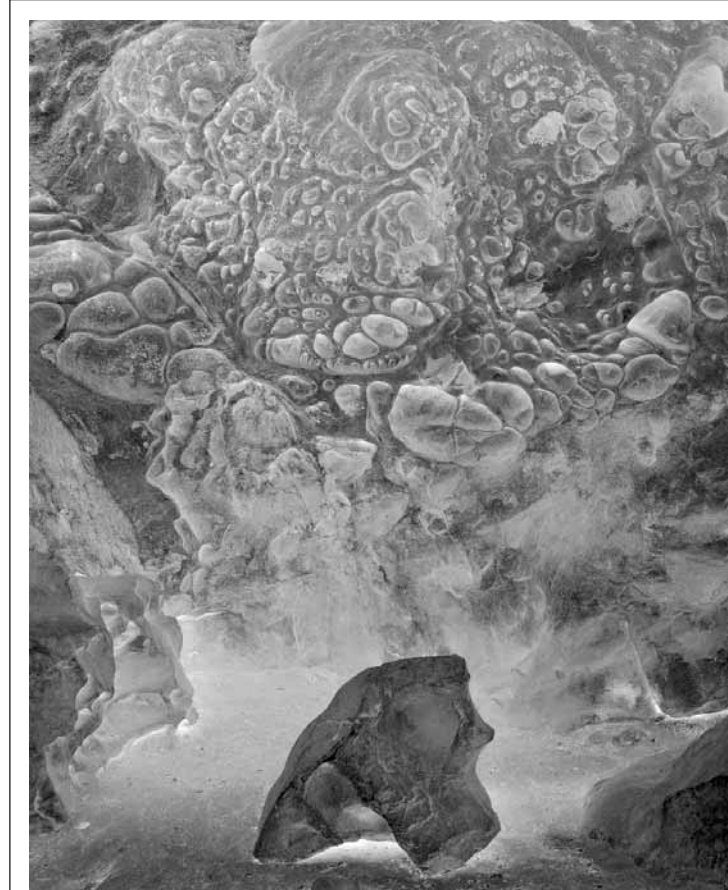
And there is community college, which is no reason for despair, Mr. Reilly said, recalling a "brilliant, brilliant" 26-year-old he met recently who started at Foothill Community College, graduated from UC Berkeley, and went to Stanford University for a master's degree.

"What wrong with community college if it's a pathway to something greater?" Mr. Reilly asked. "If you don't go to a four-year college, there's this image that you're going to be living in a van down by the river."

And this fixation on four-year colleges, Mr. Reilly asked, what does it do to self-esteem? Is all the anxiety worth it? To worried families, he said he gives his "many paths to the same destination" speech.

Summit prepares kids for four-year college so they have that as a choice, Ms. Tavenner has said.

The *Almanac* requested comment on the example of the bril-



### Accentuate the negative

"Tafoni Study — Castle Rock State Park" by photographer Alan McGee of Portola Valley is featured in the Portola Art Gallery's July show: "Tafoni — Accentuating the Negative." Tafoni are unusual honeycomb formations and shallow caverns created by weathering in sandstone outcroppings. They occur in mountains in only a few places in the world. Mr. McGee photographs these nature forms and presents them as negative images, reversing the tonal values of the conventional print. A reception for the artists will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 10. Portola Art Gallery is located at Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park.

liant 26-year-old. "If you look at statistics and data, that's an absolute aberration. You can't use that as an indicator that your whole system works for everyone all the time," she said. "He's using anecdotes to mask the larger problem."

Asked to respond, Mr. Reilly said: "Maybe Foothill to Cal to Stanford is unique, but is Foothill to San Francisco State to San Jose State to achieve a master's degree an aberration? I don't think so."

Charters and traditional schools "use different models," he said. "We don't have to be contentious."

### Tests as yardsticks

AP tests are limited indicators, Mr. Reilly said. A student may pass a test, but what does it prove? He knows of kids, he said, who pass the AP physics exam but "couldn't write their way out of a paper bag."

Is competitive heat from charter schools too hot? "I'm not anti-competitive," he said. "I'm just a little befuddled as to what is a true measure of a successful high school. You can't just look at AP scores. The message that I'd like to convey to folks is try not to pass judgment on a school with one single indicator."

Ms. Tavenner said that Mr. Reilly

is captive to a system not organized to get all students ready for college. An anecdote such as the young woman with the reluctant father, while heartwarming, depends on individuals like Mr. Reilly for it to unfold as it did.

Summit Prep, and sister school Everest Public High School, are consciously designed not to rely on individuals for successful outcomes, she said.

As for AP tests, all Summit and Everest students are prepared for them from the beginning and are not shocked by their rigor. "They have this very strong foundation that just continues to grow," she said, "By the time of the test, they're very familiar. It's not overwhelming or scary. It's what they do."

Woodside's lower *Newsweek* ranking, Mr. Reilly said, also reflects the school's requirement that all students who take an AP class also take the relevant test. "We do that, knowing that we're going to take a hit in the success rate," he said.

At Summit, staff steer students to tests they are likely to pass, though all take AP English as juniors, Executive Director Todd Dickson said. A mandate to test in all AP classes would be onerous because seniors take four or five of them. ■

## City manager gets more time to pay back loan

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Terms of the bridge loan from the city that was part of Menlo Park City Manager Glen Rojas' employment agreement have been changed to give him more time to pay it off.

The City Council unanimously approved the change on June 22, giving Mr. Rojas until Feb. 1, 2011, to repay the \$127,000 bridge loan, which originally was to be repaid when he sold his former residence in Riverside.

So far, he has paid \$95,000, but because he hasn't been able to sell the house — Riverside was recently named by *Forbes Magazine* the third-worst post-bust real estate market in the country — he has been unable to repay the loan in full, he said. The balance due on the loan, with interest, is about \$41,500, according to a staff report.

Mr. Rojas, who was hired in 2007, bought a home in Menlo Park in October 2008 with a \$1.27 million loan from the city. His employment agreement

provided for a bridge loan of 10 percent of the purchase price, secured by the new home and the Riverside house. The terms of the loan required him to pay it off in full when he sold the Riverside house.

Mr. Rojas requested earlier this year that his employment agreement be changed to allow him to sell the Riverside house without paying off the bridge loan in full at the time of the sale if the sales proceeds are not enough to fully pay off the loan. ■

## Council opts for neutral ballot language

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Although the majority of the Menlo Park City Council supports the proposed Bohannon development project, the council chose to remain neutral in approving language for the November ballot measure that seeks voter approval for the project.

The council voted June 22 on a slightly modified version of language crafted by City Attorney Bill McClure, who also offered an alternative that was far more promotional of the project.

Earlier this month, the council voted 4-1 to send the project, known as Menlo Gateway, to the ballot rather than approve it outright because of the likelihood that a grassroots referendum campaign would attempt to overturn the decision. Councilman

John Boyle, who supports the project, opposed sending the question to the ballot, saying the council should decide the matter itself.

Voters will be asked to approve the Bohannon company's plan for three eight-story office buildings, a 230-room Marriott hotel, and a sports club, totaling nearly one million square feet of development on land near the intersection of Bayfront Expressway and Marsh Road.

The discussion at last week's council meeting centered on the ballot language for the measure, and the method of writing arguments supporting the project. The alternative ballot language rejected by the council spoke of the project's potential to "generate new revenues for city services, create jobs and provide money for neighborhood and park improvements."

Several residents spoke at

the meeting or wrote e-mails to the council urging members to support the neutral alternative, which merely stated the project's location and features.

The language of the neutral alternative was tweaked to include an opening phrase indicating that the council has given its support to the general plan amendment needed to green-light the project.

The council also agreed to appoint a subcommittee that will include Mayor Rich Cline to write arguments in favor of the ballot measure, and the rebuttal to the arguments against. Ballot arguments can have up to five signatories, and, at the urging of former mayor Gail Slocum, who supports the project, Mayor Cline will sign on behalf of the council, and four other people representing a broad range of interests will be asked to add their signatures. ■

### BOHANNON

continued from page 5

Collacchi pressed the council to develop such standards and to refine the calculation used in the environmental documents for the Bohannon project.

According to the environmental impact report, the project would generate 13,583 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions — a substantially smaller amount than what the project would be expected to generate if it wasn't built to save energy, but a figure that still represents 2.8 percent of the city's total emissions in 2005.

The developer has committed to "offset" some of those emissions through a PG&E program, though it isn't clear exactly by how much, because the method of calculating emissions used in the environmental impact report differs from the language in the development agreement.

Developer David Bohannon was successful in convincing council members that his company should not be responsible for offsetting emissions associated with vehicle trips and solid waste, which together would account for 77 percent of the project's total emissions.

### Other issues

The council tied up several other loose ends in the negotiation process at its June 15 meeting.

The Bohannon company agreed to help finance a study that would require developers to pay a fee for new fire district equipment and personnel, addressing concerns the

Menlo Park Fire Protection District has about its need for a tall ladder truck to serve the office buildings, which would be 50 feet taller than any existing city building.

After being lobbied by members of Friends of Bedwell Bayfront Park, the city agreed to set aside \$350,000 of a voluntary up-front payment by the Bohannon company to fund capital improvements to the park.

At the insistence of the Environmental Quality Commission, the council agreed to set aside an estimated \$150,000 per year in hotel tax revenue to put toward reducing vehicle trips in the city.

The council agreed to limit science "wet lab" occupancy of the office buildings to 10 percent of the total space, over concerns about the city's water supply.

A total of 79 designated heritage trees would be removed to allow for the buildings, including three tall redwoods under which people who work nearby say they eat lunch. The trees would not be removed until building was set to begin, and would be replaced with new trees at a ratio of at least two-to-one, a city requirement.

### Meeting recap

Belle Haven residents packed the council chambers in support of the project at the June 15 meeting, saying that it would provide a boost to the neighborhood.

Several people criticized Mr. Cohen and Ms. Fergusson for pressing for a profit-sharing agreement with the developer, with one man comparing it to a scene in the novel *Dr. Zhivago*, when a woman working for the Communist gov-

ernment asks a character to cram more people into his house.

During the public comment period, Planning Commissioner Vince Bressler said he had been "threatened with legal action and public humiliation" by the development company, after refusing to meet with the developer in private. Mr. Bressler declined to elaborate in an interview, but said he brought it up to illustrate his concern about the fact that much of the haggling over the project was not open to the public.

"We have found that there is a \$44 million upside potential cash flow (to the landlord and equity investors), conservatively, based on a study the city paid for," Mr. Bressler said. "How can we (give this away)? This is just wrong, and nobody seems to care." Regarding people who chastised council members for the profit-sharing idea, he said, "We're supposed to feel sorry for political insiders who are lobbying to acquire what is essentially public property?"

Resident Morris Brown brought a tape recorder to the podium and played into the microphone comments Councilman Boyle had made during a previous meeting, in which Mr. Boyle explained his reluctance to send the project to the ballot. Mr. Boyle and everyone else in the room listened as his recorded voice crackled over the PA system.

Mr. Brown said he was playing the clip back because he found Mr. Boyle's argument that the project and its implications are too complicated for voters to fully grasp to be "undemocratic." ■



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




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

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


**Call now (650) 839-2273**

# BOWMAN


INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL




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



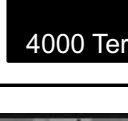
◆ Lower School - Grades K - 5




◆ Middle School - Grades 6 - 8




◆ Individualized, self-directed program




◆ Rich international and cultural studies



◆ Proven, Montessori approach



◆ State-of-the-art facility



◆ Low student-teacher ratio

[www.bowmanschool.org](http://www.bowmanschool.org)  
4000 Terman Drive • Palo Alto, CA • Tel: 650-813-9131



## International School of the Peninsula

Ecole internationale de la Péninsule • 半島國際學校

French Immersion and Chinese Immersion  
Palo Alto, CA • [www.istp.org](http://www.istp.org) • (650) 251-8504

- Nursery (3 years old) to 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- 30 years of bilingual education experience
- Academically rigorous program within a nurturing environment

- Low student-to-teacher ratio
- No second language experience required
- Established English curriculum
- Two age-appropriate campuses



**Call for Tour Information  
or visit [www.istp.org](http://www.istp.org)**



**VB BRACHA**  
654 Laurel Street  
San Carlos, 94070  
**650-620-9900**  
Mon-Sat 11am-6pm  
Sun 1pm-5pm

stylish clothes for today's woman  
**20% OFF SALE!**



**eXpress**  
Get daily local news updates  
**FREE**  
in your e-mail inbox.  
Sign up today at  
[TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://TheAlmanacOnline.com)



**THE VITAMIN CLOSET**

Experts in natural solutions  
959 El Camino Real Menlo Park, CA  
Next to Guild theater. 650-321-9100

Sibergin™ the world's leading high potency Siberian Eleuthero, is a classic adaptogen, helping the body achieve a natural balance between vitality and tranquility, boosting energy and relieving stress. Men and women of all ages appreciate SIBERGIN® for increased endurance, improved concentration, and enhanced well being.

by **Health Aid America**

\*off MSRP while supplies last; may not be combined with other discounts. No coupon necessary.

## Stressed out? Type A? Out of balance?

**Eleuthero** is a legendary herb that can reduce stress, increase productivity, and improve hormonal balance

Experience the gentle power of Nature's products!

**10% discount\***

through June 2010



## Announcing the All New Info 2010 Publications



**Our annual Info publications are being completely redesigned with a new format and all-glossy pages.**

The information you have come to enjoy and use all year long will still be included:

- City and Community Services
- Recreation and the Outdoors
- Detailed Calendar of Events
- Local Maps
- A useful almanac of local facts ... and much more!

### Advertisers:

Make sure your business is represented in this year's Info publications. **Advertising deadline is June 25, 2010.**

Contract your sales representative for more information and to schedule your ad.

**Publication date: September 8, 2010**

*The* **Almanac**

450 Cambridge Avenue, Palo Alto | 650.326.8210 | [TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://TheAlmanacOnline.com)

## Unions sue Menlo Park over pension measure

### LAWSUIT

continued from page 5

tions and causes of action" are not directed against him.

The unions and Ms. Rose held a press conference on June 23 in the city's Civic Center to announce the legal challenge.

The lawsuit asserts that the pension reform initiative violates Article XI, section 7, of the California Constitution; and provisions of the Meyers-Milius-Brown Act. It asks the court to decide the issue, and keep the measure off the ballot if it agrees that it's illegal.

Representatives of the unions, Service Employees International Union Local 521 (SEIU) and American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees Local 829 (AFSCME), denounced the initiative as not only illegal but misguided. The initiative organizers are "taking advantage of our poor economy" to take fair compensation away from the city's employees, said Muriel Frederick, a SEIU member who works for Santa Clara County.

The plaintiffs assert that state law prohibits public pension contracts from being changed through a voter initiative, giving authority for such action exclusively to a city council.

Ms. Rose also spoke at the press conference, and afterward said she and her husband are unemployed blue-collar workers who "believe fundamentally" that the initiative is a "broad strategic attack on workers as a whole."

### Bad bank deal?

The real solution to the city's financial difficulties, Ms. Rose and union representatives said, would be to renegotiate a "bad bank deal" the city made for its redevelopment agency in 2006, one that, according to speakers, is on track to lose nearly \$37 million in public funds.

As the speakers presented their statements, a handful of city employees stood behind the podium, some with signs reading, "Illegal Initiative Not the Answer" and "Real Solution Fix Bad Bank Deal."

Carol Augustine, the city's finance director, forcefully rejected the unions' claims that the 2006 deal — a renegotiation of redevelopment agency bonds — was a "toxic swap" that is costing the city \$2.5 million annually.

The interest-rate swap agreement was made in hopes of saving \$5 million over the life of the bond, a reasonable assumption at the time it was made, she said. But even though the subsequent

economic downturn lowered those hopes, the city still is in line to save "just short of \$4 million" as a result of the deal, Ms. Augustine said.

The agreement "is performing perfectly," she said, adding that the unions' assertions are "just not valid."

After the press conference, Henry Riggs, who along with Roy Thiele-Sardina co-chaired the initiative drive, said the unions were "trying to separate the immediate budget issues from the long-term issues. We're looking at the long term."

Mr. Moritz accused the unions of "trying to shift attention away from our effort."

### What's next?

The City Council held a closed-session meeting on the lawsuit on June 25, and took no action regarding how to address the complaints in the lawsuit, according to Mayor Rich Cline. But council members did ask the city attorney to provide more legal analysis about the litigation so that they can have "more clarity" before deciding the next step, he said.

Before the council went into closed session, several residents, including Mr. Riggs and Mr. Moritz, addressed the council to encourage them to get behind the effort to prove the legality of the initiative in court.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Riggs said his group would supply legal support that "can coordinate with the city attorney," but that the city should be willing to provide a "vigorous defense" of the measure.

Noting that 3,100 people signed the petition to place the initiative on the ballot, he said, "We would have a great deal to say to our City Council if they were in any way hesitant to defend the will of the people."

City Attorney Bill McClure said that the plaintiffs had to name the city as a defendant in the lawsuit because the measure will be voted on in a city election. But, he added, the council had only two options under state law when presented with the validated petition: adopt the initiative as law or put it on the ballot. Sending it to the ballot didn't make the city an advocate, he noted.

"The city could take a position that we will abide by the decision of the court ... saying, since it wasn't our choice (to introduce the measure), we will not expend the time creating legal arguments, and spending tens of thousands of dollars" defending the pension-initiative group's position, he said. ■

# Camp Connection

For more information about these camps, see our online directory of camps at [PaloAltoOnline.com/biz/summercamps](http://PaloAltoOnline.com/biz/summercamps)  
To advertise in a weekly directory, contact 650-326-8210

## Sports Camps

**Glenoaks Stables' Horse Camp** **Portola Valley**  
Giddy up your summer at Glenoaks Stables' horse camp. A full day of equestrian fun includes supervised riding, horsemanship, vaulting, pony games and arts & crafts. 5 one-week sessions. All skill levels welcome, ages 6+.  
[www.glenoaksequestriancenter.com/summercamps.htm](http://www.glenoaksequestriancenter.com/summercamps.htm)  
650 854 4955

**express**

Get local news updates

**FREE**

in your e-mail inbox daily.

Sign up today at

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

## Roller Hapgood & Tinney

The Peninsula's Premier Funeral Service Provider

Serving families since 1899

980 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto, California 94301  
(650) 328-1360

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

Funeral Home FD132

In this year's Readers' Choice we applaud Hollywood, the cinema and everything we love about our local A-listers.

*The Almanac*

# READERS' CHOICE



## Vote online at [TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://TheAlmanacOnline.com)

### Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

- (Restaurants)
- Best Casual Dining **NEW!**
  - Best Chinese Restaurant
  - Best Dining with Kids
  - Best French Restaurant
  - Best Indian Restaurant
  - Best Intimate Dining
  - Best Italian Restaurant
  - Best Japanese Restaurant
  - Best Mexican Restaurant
  - Best New Restaurant
  - Best Wine List

### Reality Bites

- (Food & Drink)
- Best Bagels
  - Best Bakery
  - Best Breakfast
  - Best Dessert
  - Best Ice Cream/Frozen Yogurt
  - Best Independent Coffee and Tea House
  - Best Hamburgers
  - Best New Food/Drink Establishment
  - Best Pizza
  - Best Place to Buy Meat
  - Best Place to Buy Wine
  - Best Sandwiches
  - Best Seafood
  - Best Take Out

### Goodfellas

- (Services)
- Best Auto Repair
  - Best Barber
  - Best Dry Cleaner
  - Best Day Spa
  - Best Gym
  - Best Fitness Classes **NEW!**
  - Best Florist
  - Best Green Business
  - Best Hair Salon
  - Best Hotel
  - Best Landscape Service
  - Best Manicure/Pedicure
  - Best New Service Business
  - Best Painter
  - Best Pharmacy
  - Best Plumber
  - Best Travel Agency
  - Best Health and Nutrition Services **NEW!**

### The Shop Around the Corner

- (Retail Shopping)
- Best Bicycle Shop
  - Best Bookstore
  - Best Boutique
  - Best Floor Coverings **NEW!**
  - Best Frame Store
  - Best Gift & Novelty Store **NEW!**
  - Best Grocery
  - Best Hardware Store
  - Best Home Décor and Furnishings **NEW!**
  - Best Jewelry Store
  - Best Lingerie
  - Best New Retail Business
  - Best Nursery
  - Best Pet Store
  - Best Produce
  - Best Shoe Store
  - Best Toy Shop

### Ferris Bueller's Day Off

- (Fun Stuff)
- Best Happy Hour **NEW!**
  - Best Place for a Date
  - Best Place to Meet People
  - Best Place for a Children's Birthday Party
  - Best Live Music

**VOTING ENDS JULY 11**

## Menlo Park Hardware **ACE**

Visit our **NEW** gardening and building materials expansion

### Our New Services:

- Knife & scissors sharpening
- Window screen replacement
- Lumber, plywood, glass and acrylic cut to size

**VOTE FOR US!**

700 Santa Cruz Ave **650-325-2515**

### For Quality & Performance

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



Thank you for voting us #1 in the past. We appreciate you voting for us again!



**PVG**

Since 1948

Portola Valley Garage  
4170 Alpine Road, Portola Valley 650-851-7442

**Cafe**

**BORRONE**  
ART GALLERY COFFEEHOUSE

**THANK YOU**

for voting for us in the past and please **Vote for us again!**

- Best Café
- Best Outdoor Dining
- Best Solo Dining

Sun-Mon  
7am - 5pm  
Tues-Sat  
7am - 11pm

1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park  
650.327.0830  
[www.CafeBorrone.com](http://www.CafeBorrone.com)



Thank you for voting for us as Best Cafe and Best Live Music in 2009!

We appreciate your support.

Please **VOTE** again this year!  
Best Cafe, Best Live Music,  
Best Independent Coffee & Tea House

1929 Menalto Avenue  
[cafezoemenlopark.com](http://cafezoemenlopark.com) phone: 650.322.1926



**MOM-IN-A-BOX™**  
THE ESSENTIAL COLLEGE BOX

[www.mominabox.net](http://www.mominabox.net)

The "I Care" package you'll want to send off with your new or returning college student



**RJ's Upholstery and Slipcovers**

A Better Choice Since 1960  
1064 Cherry Street

**Kathy's Draperies**

See Our Selection of  
**Roman Shades**

[www.rjsupholstery.com](http://www.rjsupholstery.com)  
650-591-0220 San Carlos

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

**MADER**

continued from page 3

body. "George grasped all this stuff early on," said Sheldon Breiner, a geophysicist who chairs the Geologic Safety Committee. "He understood it and translated it to rules and policies. As a non-geologist, he sure grabbed a hold of these things very well."

"He knew how to capture the flavor of the town as a rural area near an urban center and still keep its character," Mr. Breiner added. "George is the fellow that holds the key. I don't know anyone else who comes close."

Danna Breen, an Architecture and Site Control commissioner, said of Mr. Mader: "He's always so measured and reasonable and thoughtful. I have huge respect for him."

Linda Elkind, a former Planning Commissioner, called Mr. Mader wise. "I think he's also shown great leadership in sensing and anticipating people's reactions," she said. "This was the case when I was very eager to adopt standards to protect the creek corridor. George said, 'Let's take this slow. Let's give lots of opportunity for site visits.'" It made it a much better process and I learned a lot from it."

"Perhaps no one understand Portola Valley as well as George Mader," town historian Nancy Lund has said. "And perhaps no one is more responsible for the way the town has emerged as a leader in environmental preservation and in reducing geologic risk for residents." ■

**■ POLICE CALLS****ATHERTON****Grand theft reports:**

■ Items valued at \$6,000 stolen from unlocked vehicle, Patricia Drive, June 22.

■ Apple iPad stolen, Heritage Court, June 23.

**Fraud report:** Unauthorized use of credit card, Madrone Road, June 24.

**MENLO PARK**

**Grand theft report:** Six ceramic figures valued at \$5,000 stolen from residence after house cleaning, Millie Lane, June 21.

**Auto burglary reports:**

■ Luggage, clothing, running shoes and swim goggles for total value of \$885 stolen, 1200 block of Woodland Ave., June 23.

■ Car broken into and stereo valued at \$350 stolen, 1300 block of Sevier Ave., June 21.

**Domestic violence report:** 800 block of Alma St., June 19.

**Elder abuse report:** 900 block of Wallea Drive, June 18.

**WEST MENLO PARK**

**Fraud report:** Unauthorized use of credit card to charge \$1,482 at stores not frequented by victim, 3000 block of Alameda de las Pulgas, June 17.



**City of Menlo Park's Annual**

**4th OF JULY CELEBRATION**

**Parade 11:45<sub>am</sub>**

Starts at the Wells Fargo parking lot on Santa Cruz & Chestnut. Come dressed in red, white, & blue and decorate your bike or wagon to participate in this fun-filled people parade!

**Celebration 12-2:30<sub>pm</sub>**

Located at Burgess Park (Alma & Burgess Ave) and is the end point for the parade. Activities include: carnival games, jump houses, rock wall, crafts, face painting, laser tag, food, music by Dave & The Diamonds, & more!

**\$6** wrist band is required for some activities and is sold at the event & parade.

● City of Menlo Park ●  
● Community Services Department ●

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

 (650) 330-2200



## Death penalty possible in murder case

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

**M**urder suspect Pooroushasb "Peter" Parineh of unincorporated Woodside is scheduled for a court appearance on Thursday, July 1, when he will be asked to enter a plea to charges of premeditated murder for financial gain in the shooting death of his wife, Parima Parineh, on April 13, prosecutors said.

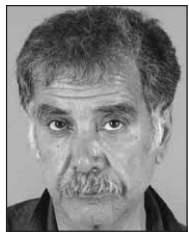
Ms. Parineh, 56, had a "large" life insurance policy and Mr. Parineh has several properties in foreclosure, no liquidity and "enormous debt," said Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe of the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

Mr. Parineh, 64, could be sentenced to death or life

in prison without the possibility of parole if he is convicted. The District Attorney's Office has not yet decided whether to seek the death penalty, prosecutors said.

Deputies from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office arrested Mr. Parineh in Sunnyvale on June 17 and booked him into the San Mateo County jail. He is the only suspect in the case and is in jail on a no-bail status.

Mr. Parineh tried to make the death of his wife appear to be a suicide, Mr. Wagstaffe said. Ms. Parineh had been shot several times in the



Pooroushasb "Peter" Parineh

head and was found in the couples' bedroom of their home, a mansion at 50 Fox Hill Drive in Woodside.

Details about the case are sealed until after the trial, if there is one, Lt. Ray Lunny of the Sheriff's Office told The Almanac.

Mr. Parineh was arraigned Friday, June 18, in Redwood City and was initially scheduled to enter a plea on June 24.

"From the very beginning, evidence appeared to indicate that this was a murder," prosecutor Al Giannini said outside the courtroom.

Mr. Giannini said that Mr. Parineh was not immediately arrested because police wanted to wait until the investigation was complete before filing charges. ▀

*Bay City News Service contributed to this report.*

## Menlo Park budget dips into reserves

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

**M**enlo Park plans to dip into its reserves by just over a half-million dollars to fill the gap between revenue and spending in the next fiscal year. The City Council unanimously approved the \$38.1 million budget for fiscal year 2010-11 at its June 22 meeting.

Councilman Andy Cohen, who remained silent during the budget discussion, cast the only vote opposing the new budget.

The spending plan leaves the utility users' tax at 1 percent, and calls for a reduction in staff of almost seven positions — a cutback that represents about \$800,000 in savings, according to Assistant City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson.

Four other staff positions that are now vacant are also under review to determine whether they need to be filled or could be cut, Ms. Jerome-Robinson said.

Service cuts will be felt in the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, and will include the closure of the senior center in Belle Haven eight additional days per year, and closure of the main library another nine days, generally following holidays.

The cuts in staff positions and services still won't make up for increased employee costs. Those increases are driven mostly by boosts in police compensation,

City Manager Glen Rojas said.

Other employee groups accepted pay freezes and increases in their share of benefit costs during the last two years, according to Finance Director Carol Augustine. The city will continue to work with employee groups to reduce costs by means including a two-tier retirement benefit package for new hires, and "flexibility in using furloughs, if needed," she said.

The \$38.1 million budget represents a boost of about \$918,000 over projected spending for this fiscal year.

The \$571,675 budgeted from the \$25.5 million reserve includes \$103,000 in anticipated costs for the ongoing project to create a specific plan for the downtown/El Camino Real area.

For the current fiscal year, the city had budgeted nearly \$400,000 in spending from the reserve, but bumped that figure up to nearly \$1.2 million earlier this year because of lower-than-expected revenues.

The 2010-11 fiscal year budget anticipates increases of about \$300,000 in property tax revenue, about \$229,000 in sales tax revenue, and about \$222,000 in hotel tax revenue.

The council received a number of e-mails opposing the plan to use funds from the reserves to balance the budget.

Chuck Bernstein was one of several residents who, during the

meeting, urged the council to make further spending cuts rather than spend from the reserves. Strategies such as staff furloughs rather than cutting more staff positions are ineffective, he said. "A furlough is not cost-cutting," he argued. "It's a reduction in service. But all the fixed cost is still there," he argued.

But council members noted that the city has been reining in costs and continues to look for more spending efficiencies. "We're going in the right direction, based on the numbers I've seen," Mayor Rich Cline said.

Saying that he doesn't want to "slash and burn services," Councilman John Boyle said: "We are in a recession. And we have the luxury of a reserve we could potentially dip into."

In explaining his opposing vote, Councilman Cohen said in an e-mail: "I believe it is high time this city manager balanced the budget. He's been hedging on this his entire three years in the position with a majority of the council's indulgence despite a public policy to balance the budget repeated each of the past five years (my entire tenure)."

The budget is based on an analysis by staff of "all operations of the (city) from a long-term point of view," according to a staff report. That review, called "2010 and Beyond," resulted in the identification of "strategies which would help move the city toward a sustainable budget in the long term," the report said. ▀

## Is Your Teen Ready To Drive? FREE CLASSROOM TRAINING

No Time For Class?

Try our Online Driver's Course for ONLY \$29.99  
(Must present ad for this offer. Expires July 30, 2010)

### June and July In-Class Schedule

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
6/14/10	6/15/10	6/16/10	6/17/10
6/21/10	6/22/10	6/23/10	6/24/10
7/12/10	7/13/10	7/14/10	7/15/10
7/26/10	7/27/10	7/28/10	7/29/10

## Stanford Driving School

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

To register online, please visit our website at: [www.StanfordDrivingSchool.com](http://www.StanfordDrivingSchool.com)

## TOWN OF WOODSIDE

### INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND SITE REVIEW BOARD

The Architectural and Site Review Board reviews and makes recommendations to the Director of Planning and Building on residential, site design and commercial applications.

Meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month, 4:30 p.m. Appointment is for an unexpired term through January 2011

Interested residents may request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1-5:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office, 2955 Woodside Road, by telephone at (650) 851-6790, or through the Town's web site at [www.woodsidetown.org](http://www.woodsidetown.org). Deadline for applications is Tuesday, July 20, 2010, 5:00 p.m.

## A TASTE OF THE PENINSULA

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

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

### Vive Sol-Cocina Mexicana

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

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

Coffee & Tea

### Connoisseur Coffee Co.

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

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

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

**Editor & Publisher**

Tom Gibboney

**Editorial**

**Managing Editor** Richard Hine

**News Editor** Renee Batti

**Lifestyles Editor** Jane Knoerle

**Senior Correspondents**

Marion Softky, Marjorie Mader

**Staff Writers**

David Boyce, Sandy Brundage

**Contributors** Barbara Wood,

Kate Daly, Katie Blankenberg

**Special Sections Editors**

Carol Blitzer, Sue Dremann

**Photographer** Michelle Le

**Design & Production**

**Design Director** Raul Perez

**Designers** Linda Atilano,

Gary Vennarucci

**Advertising**

**Vice President Sales & Marketing**

Walter Kupiec

**Real Estate Manager** Neal Fine

**Real Estate and Advertising**

**Coordinator** Diane Martin

Published every Wednesday at  
3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,  
Menlo Park, Ca 94025

**Newsroom: (650) 854-2690**

Newsroom Fax: (650) 854-0677

**Advertising: (650) 854-2626**

Advertising Fax: (650) 854-3650

e-mail news and photos with  
captions to:

[Editor@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:Editor@AlmanacNews.com)

e-mail letters to:

[letters@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:letters@AlmanacNews.com)

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

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



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, [www.TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com), and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

**TOWN SQUARE FORUM**

POST your views on the Town Square forum at [www.TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com)

**EMAIL** your views to:

[letters@almanacnews.com](mailto:letters@almanacnews.com) and note this it is a letter to the editor in the subject line.

**MAIL** or deliver to:

Editor at the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

**CALL** the Viewpoint desk at 854-2690, ext. 222.

## Summit Prep walks its talk

When it comes to preparing students for a four-year college, Redwood City-based Summit Preparatory Charter High School has a significant edge over the much larger comprehensive high schools in the Sequoia High School District, at least according to the recently released list of "America's Best High Schools" from Newsweek magazine.

For the second consecutive year, Summit and all Sequoia district schools, including M-A and Woodside, were among the nearly 1,600 high schools included on Newsweek's list, with Summit ranked 76, considerably above M-A at 528 and Woodside at 1,100. Two other district high schools finished in the top tier, with Carlmont (in Belmont) at 901 and Sequoia (in Redwood City) at 1,194. Nearby Palo Alto High ranked 430 and Gunn, the district's second high school, had 134.

In one measurement used to compile its rankings, the magazine compared the percentage of graduating seniors who passed at least one college-level test, such as advanced-placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Cambridge tests.

Summit finished higher in this category because 75 percent of its roughly 100 graduating seniors took and passed at least one AP course, while only 52 percent of about 350 seniors passed at M-A and 29 percent of about 350 passed at Woodside.

Jay Mathews, the Newsweek editor in charge of the survey, explained on the Newsweek website that a student's willingness to take a college-level test, even if he or she does not pass, is "the best predictor of college graduation" and "(is) important because they give average students a chance to experience the trauma of heavy college reading lists and long, analytical college examinations."

(Other factors included in the ranking: the number of students qualified for federally subsidized school lunches and the "challenge index," or the number of college-level tests administered school-wide compared to the number of graduating seniors.)

The high Newsweek ranking for Summit — in the top 10 of California high schools listed — must make school officials feel particularly proud, given the all-too-frequent shabby treatment given to its parent corporation, the Summit Institute, by the Sequoia district. The Summit group has had a fight on its hands with the Sequoia board from the beginning, including a pitched

battle to charter Everest, a sister school, and locate it in Redwood City, near a majority of its students.

Diane Tavenner, the chief executive of Summit Institute, said a key factor in the high ranking is the extensive groundwork laid down in the classroom. She said all Summit students (chosen by lottery with only one third to one fourth of applicants accepted) are prepared for AP tests from their first days at the four-year school and are not surprised by their difficulty. "They have this strong foundation that just continues to grow," she said.

The commitment to getting all students used to AP level testing pays off in the acceptance of virtually every senior to a four-year college. Woodside expects to see about half its graduating seniors be accepted to a four-year college, with most other seniors considering a community college.

With only 100 seniors compared to 350 for Woodside or M-A, it is much easier for Summit to stay in touch with its students, a big plus when it comes to approaching a difficult AP test. But Summit's rigorous curriculum is also a factor, as is its tight faculty structure.

Woodside principal David Reilly shrugged off comparisons of his school's performance to Summit, saying the survey is narrowly focused and is not a comprehensive look at a school's total qualities. Charters and traditional schools are "apples and oranges" he said, although he added that it is outstanding that all high schools in the district are in the top 1,600 schools in the survey.

We agree. There are many other factors that can contribute to the widely varying "grades" achieved by all the local high schools, and the Sequoia district should be proud to have all its schools among the top 6 percent in the country in the Newsweek survey.

But now Summit's model can no longer be called experimental. It is a fully vetted teaching method that is more than the equal of curriculums at large high schools, especially for students who are likely to get lost amid 2,000 or so classmates.

The Newsweek rankings, and other yardsticks, show that Summit Prep is doing an excellent job at preparing its students for acceptance into a four-year college. We hope the Sequoia district keeps that in mind in its future dealings with Summit, Everest and if they come, other charters based on the same model.

Rather than view it as the enemy, Sequoia should do all it can to collaborate and adopt some of Summit's teaching methods in its own schools. Such a partnership could improve the district's performance and greatly benefit its students in the years to come.

**EDITORIAL**

*The opinion of The Almanac*

**LETTERS**

*Our readers write*

**Open up Alma to Sand Hill traffic**

*Editor:*

Thanks to The Almanac for pointing out how little Stanford is doing in taking steps to mitigate traffic effects from its planned expansion.

As a volunteer at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital for over five years, I generally favor the expansion, but only if traffic is mitigated. The opening of Alma so that drivers can go from Sand Hill Road directly to and from Palo Alto — rather than clogging El Camino in either direction while making their way

See **LETTERS**, next page



Jac Auddifred Collection

**Our Regional Heritage**

Students gather for a photograph outside Woodside Elementary School in 1910.

## Volunteers welcome to help out in Atherton

By Jerry Carlson

If a reader's only impression of Atherton came from local newspaper headlines and blogs, what would that person conclude? Probably, that the town is sinking financially, the council isn't behaving well and residents are unhappy.

Some of this is true. The town does have financial challenges not unlike those of its neighbors. The council does need to refocus its efforts on solving the bigger issues and many people have expressed to me their concerns about what the council is doing and not doing.

I thought last week's article by Scott Barnum, "Time for residents to step up in Atherton," urging community members to become engaged in our fiscal issues, was very timely. We see and hear from relatively few and often the same residents at council meetings. I believe the entire council would welcome broader community interest in the affairs of our town. We have some very key issues that affect us all that need to be addressed.

Many of you with e-mail addresses recently received my note saying that even though the council has passed a 2010-11 budget its work has just begun. The finance committee recommended its passage in order for the town to continue paying its bills beyond July 1.

Now the hard work of addressing the town's cost structure must begin. Looking back several years

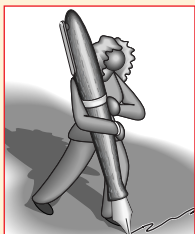
we see the pattern of costs rising more steeply than general fund revenues. To balance next year's budget we allocated parcel tax money to cover a portion of the police department costs and building department reserves to cover the shortfall caused by lower construction-generated permit fees. The sky is not falling but clearly something has to change.

I encourage you to become engaged in the process. Besides attending finance committee and council meetings and expressing your view firsthand, feel free to personally contact each one of us with your concerns, questions and ideas. By becoming part of the process you can help shape the kind of community you want Atherton to be in the future.

The same is true with another large issue involving the rail corridor. The issue is not just about high speed rail but involves the future of Caltrain as well. While one-time capital project money, funded by public debt, seems available to build more rail projects, there isn't enough money to maintain the transportation systems we now have. Such borrowing by state and federal agencies continues to increase the amount of interest that will be added to the future cost of these systems. We need to be very selective where we invest our capital dollars for transportation systems.

Yes, do please step up, Atherton residents, and become engaged in your town's future. Become part of the process for reaching the best decisions we can as a caring community.

**Jerry Carlson is a member of the Atherton City Council.**



**GUEST OPINION**

## LETTERS

Continued from previous page

indirectly back to and from downtown Palo Alto — is a minimal and necessary start.

**Anne Perlman  
Cathy Place, Menlo Park**

### If you can't stomach oiled birds, why eat meat?

Editor:

I wonder how many of the

dedicated volunteers who helped save a pelican from the deadly Gulf oil have other birds for dinner or dine at a local fast-food outlet.

They are not alone. Most people are appalled by the devastation of animal life by the Gulf oil spill, yet subsidize the systematic killing of other animals for their dinner table. They know that meat and dairy harm the environment and their family's health, but compartmentalize this knowledge when shopping for food.

And it goes beyond dietary flaws. We tolerate the killing of innocent people when our government and media label them terrorists; we ignore the suffering and starvation of a billion people, except when our government and media tell us to care because an earthquake or tsunami has struck.

Our society would benefit greatly from more original thinkers, and our personal diet is a great place to start.

**Malcolm Davidson  
Encinal Avenue, Menlo Park**

## Chamber likes having voters decide Gateway

By Robert W. Carter

We would like to commend the Menlo Park City Council for supporting the proposed Menlo Gateway project and for taking the right steps to help ensure an expeditious groundbreaking. In spite of the arduous journey to approval, the final decision was the correct one to make.

By proactively agreeing to place the issue on the November ballot, the council is breaking a recurring pattern in Menlo Park of protracted analysis while attempting to gauge the majority opinion. The council also made a choice that costs the taxpayers far less than holding a special election next year.

Instead, the city is admirably assuming leadership by taking a positive step that accelerates delivery of the project's benefits for us all. This approach allows

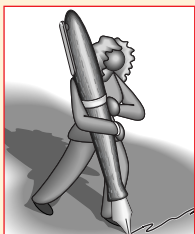
the city to frame a constructive debate that will further educate and allow for meaningful engagement with the entire community. This will pay dividends long after November.

The council's vote also demonstrates that it recognizes the importance of this project to our community. Menlo Gateway will deliver beautifully designed, energy-efficient buildings that will revitalize an underutilized area east of Marsh Road and the Bayshore Freeway. The significant guaranteed annual revenue, associated economic activity, and job creation benefits are sorely needed.

With backing from the majority of Menlo Park residents — many of whom voiced support at the council meetings — approval of the ballot measure will be the final endorsement.

Thank you to the City Council for coming together on this critical project and getting behind this opportunity to improve the community for us all.

**Robert W. Carter is board chairman of the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce.**



**GUEST OPINION**



GREAT PASTAS • FRESH SALADS

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

**FREE DELIVERY**  
(with min. order)  
"THE BEST PIZZA WEST OF NEW YORK"

—Ralph Barbieri  
KNBR 680

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



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING JULY 12, 2010**

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

### PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

**Use Permit/Ethan C. Brabant/237 Marmona Drive:** Request for a use permit to construct first- and second-story additions that would exceed 50 percent of the existing square footage of an existing single-story, single-family residence on a substandard lot in the R-1-U (Single-Family Urban) zoning district. The proposed remodeling and expansion are considered to be equivalent to a new structure.

**Use Permit/Kim LeMieux for Laurel Homes/240 University Drive:** Request for a use permit to demolish an existing two-story, single-family residence and detached garage and construct a new two-story, single-family residence with a basement and detached garage on a substandard lot with regard to lot width in the R-1-U (Single-Family Urban) zoning district. The construction of the proposed residence would require the removal of two heritage size redwood trees, one of which is 52-inch in diameter and the second is 15 inches in diameter.

**Use Permit/Jaime Maliksi/1260 Mills Street:** Request for a use permit for interior modifications and first and second floor additions that would exceed 50 percent of the replacement value of the existing structure in a 12-month period and 50 percent of the existing square footage of the existing nonconforming single-story, single-family residence on a substandard lot in the R-3 (Apartment) district. The proposed remodeling and expansion are considered to be equivalent to a new structure.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on public hearing items in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on Monday, **July 12, 2010**, 7:00 p.m. or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing.

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

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

DATED: June 24, 2010 Deanna Chow, Senior Planner  
PUBLISHED: June 30, 2010 Menlo Park Planning Commission

Visit our Web site for Planning Commission public hearing, agenda, and staff report information: [www.menlopark.org](http://www.menlopark.org)



Completely remodeled 4 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom contemporary home. Offering you a relaxing indoor/outdoor California lifestyle, this tastefully updated home has a single level floorplan that is set on a large, secluded lot in a private cul-de-sac close to downtown Menlo Park. Great style, fine materials and meticulous care make this home truly desirable.



# 1531 Laurel Place, Menlo Park




 Great Value Near Downtown \$1,695,000

Remodeled in 2004  
 4 bedrooms/ 2.5 bathrooms  
 Bright and open floor plan  
 Gourmet Kitchen  
 Gas fireplace in the Great Room  
 Hardwood floors

Fourth Bedroom may be used as a guest room/office  
 Approx. 2,090 sf Interior / Approx. 11,850 sf Lot  
 Built in bbq area  
 Serene, flowing, waterfall  
 Close to Downtown Menlo Park

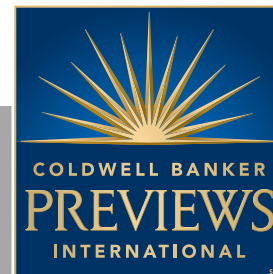
[www.1531LaurelPlace.com](http://www.1531LaurelPlace.com)



CINDY  LIEBSCH

DRE #01324217  
 Cell Phone | 650.591.7473  
 Email | [Cindy.Liebsch@cbnorcal.com](mailto:Cindy.Liebsch@cbnorcal.com)

Website: [www.propertiesbythebay.com](http://www.propertiesbythebay.com)  
 Check out my blog:  
<http://peninsularealestatenews.com>  
 information herein deemed reliable but not guaranteed



*"Introducing your home to the world..."*