



**WOODSIDE:** Traffic jams a fading memory at school. See page 5

# The Almanac

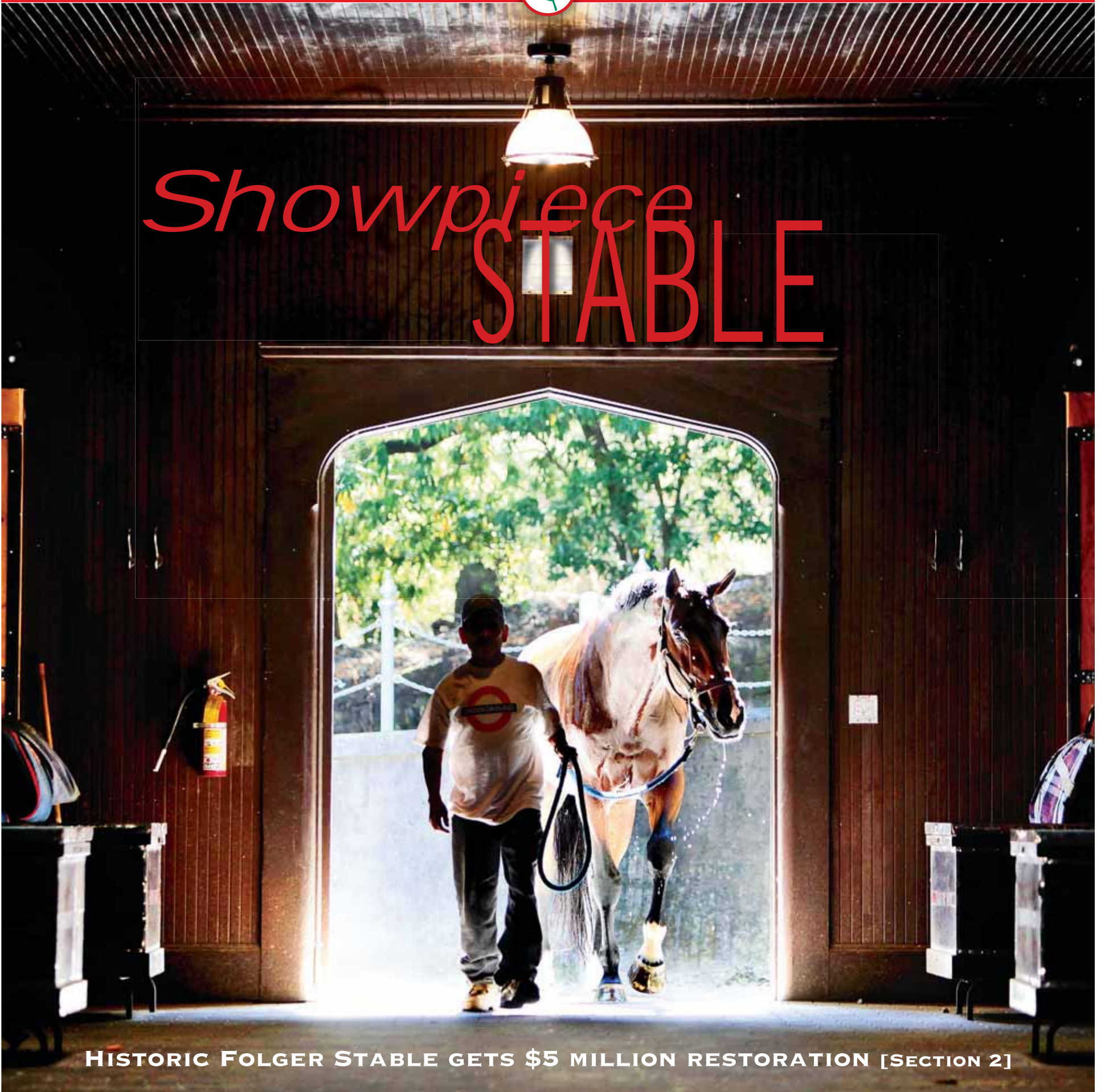
THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

SEPTEMBER 15, 2010 | VOL. 46 NO. 3



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Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

## Honoring the fallen

Small American flags, 343 at each of four fire stations in the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, waved on Saturday, Sept. 11, in memory of the firefighters who died on Sept. 11, 2001, in New York City. Shown here is the display on the lawn at Station 4 at 3322 Alameda de las Pulgas in West Menlo Park.

## Local firefighters help out in San Bruno

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Local firefighters played a role in fighting the massive residential fire that began with the explosion of a gas pipeline at 6:24 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 9, in San Bruno.

A message to the southern end of the Peninsula came in almost immediately asking for a water-tender group of four water trucks. The Woodside Fire Protection District provided a 3,000-gallon tender and four firefighters from Station 8 in Portola Valley, according to Battalion Chief Don Romero.

Other participants in the group were the Kings Mountain and La Honda fire stations, staffed by trained volunteers, and the Skylonda station, which is staffed by firefighters who work for San Mateo County under contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Mr. Romero said.

The Menlo Park Police Department had two officers on the scene for duties as needed, Chief Bryan Roberts said.

Chief Harold Schapelhouman of the Menlo Park Fire Protection

District said that he and about 14 other members of his team were at the fire at one time or another. They went on a voluntary basis since commanders on the scene did not request more firefighters from this far south of the action, he said.

In addition to Chief Schapelhouman and several of his deputies, there were a logistics specialist, a fleet mechanic, and three men from the Menlo Park-based California Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 3, he said. Some of the men, including himself, worked all night.

They helped map the scene, including counting and locating

burned vehicles with a GPS, doing an initial count of damaged structures, damage assessment, and pumping out a crater 15 or 20 feet deep, Chief Schapelhouman said.

"Typically, we don't self-dispatch," he said.

"I have to tell you," he added, "I don't think I've ever seen a fireball that big." It measured some 800 feet across and 200 feet high, he said.

For firefighters on the scene in San Bruno, there was a lot of checking for and extinguishing small fires, Mr. Romero said. "You want to make sure you don't get a wild-land fire out of this." ■

## Volunteers mobilized to clean up coast

Tens of thousands of Californians are expected to take part in the annual California Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, Sept. 25.

Volunteers are asked to show up at cleanup locations at 9 a.m., and bring their own bucket or reusable bag, gloves, and reusable water bottle. Most cleanups end by noon.

On the coast, volunteers for Pillar Point should meet at Pillar Point Harbor near the HMB Kayak Company. From Highway 1, turn

west onto Capistrano Road at the light.

For cleanup of San Francisquito Creek, volunteers will meet at the corner of Manhattan Avenue and Woodland Road in Menlo Park. For cleanup in Bedwell Bayfront Park, located on the east side of U.S. 101 off Marsh Road and Bayfront Expressway, volunteers will meet in the park's first parking lot.

For more information, call Judi Shils at 415-378-0504.

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# Local News

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## Stop signs and cyclists: is there an answer?

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

When a knot of 30 or 40 or even 100 bicyclists passes through Portola Valley and Woodside, as happens regularly, the cyclists tend to behave like a flock of birds: the individuals sense a change in direction or speed and seem to act as one.

The comparison goes only so far, though. Birds, for example, don't have to pay attention to stop signs.

Bicyclists do have to pay attention, but often do not. Twenty-five of them received tickets and were accused by sheriff's deputies of running a stop sign at Canada and Woodside roads on Aug. 28. A pair of deputies on motorcycles were on the scene and pulled them over.

What is it about that group-riding thing? It does have an

appeal, and it's speed. The cyclists arrayed behind the leaders pedal against much lower air resistance and move at much higher speeds. There are risks, however. Mere inches separate rear and front wheels as the cyclists lead and follow each other. A mistake at high speed in very close quarters can be disastrous.

The real physical grind is on the cyclists out front, a cast of characters that continuously changes as they fall back and are replaced by fresher riders from within the group. The result is a blistering pace, and stop signs present a conundrum.

When a road is temporarily a race course, the conundrum goes away. The course is mapped out, the intersections are cleared, the traffic rules are fairly simple: go for it. In a race, there is a word for cyclists when they bunch up: peloton.

### ■ ANALYSIS

#### No excuses

"We have some riders that think they are in a peloton," Sheriff's Office Lt. Ray Lunny, a bicycle rider himself, said in an interview. "They're not in a peloton. They're not in a race. They're out on a ride on an uncontrolled roadway that is open to all types of vehicles. They're not on a race track."

"There's a place to compete on a bicycle (and) a public roadway is not the right place," he said. "Pelotons don't exist in California unless there's a race going on."

The state vehicle code offers no relief to massed bicycles, Lt. Lunny said. The law treats them the same as a group of cars or motorcycles.

The rules of the road, he added, are meant to make it safe for everybody, but some cyclists don't

want to obey the rules. "That's too bad," he said. "I feel terrible for them (but) how about the rights of everybody else that's on the roadway?"

#### A hard nut

Stop signs and masses of cyclists ignoring them are a problem, said Bob Mionske, a prominent attorney in cycling circles, based in Oregon, and a two-time Olympic contender and former U.S. national champion in men's road racing.

Mr. Mionske acknowledged that cyclists roll through stop signs, but noted that cars do, too, "all day long," and cause much more damage in an accident than bicycles.

So stop signs are a problem. What about the anonymity of drivers, the raw physical presence of a larger and heavier steel-caged vehicle moving at speed, a

driver's ability to keep a vehicle under control, distractions while driving, contention with bicycles for space at intersections, and pent up emotions in everyone? Not to mention losing hard-won momentum.

"In front of a judge, none of these things are going to matter," Mr. Mionske said. "(The stop-sign problem) is one of the things where we don't have any defense. I don't know what the solution is in terms of getting it under control. ... This kind of scofflaw behavior doesn't do much for our reputation. The (peloton) wanna-be's are the real problem."

The state of Idaho, he said, now has a stop-as-yield rule, meaning that drivers and riders can treat stop signs as yield signs if it's safe to proceed. "That's a real sensible way to approach this issue," Mr. Mionske said. ■

## New police chief reflects on first week in Menlo Park

Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

His first week on the job started well, then took a tragic turn as an explosion in San Bruno on Sept. 9 destroyed lives and homes. Menlo Park's new police chief, Bryan Roberts, said the department sent two patrol officers to the scene, and is committed to doing whatever it can to help.

Other challenges lie in wait, like building connections with a community whose relationship with the police has sometimes been rocky. He listed one goal for his first 30 days as becoming acquainted with the residents, and the other police officers.

That includes getting out of the office to visit local civic organizations, such as the Boys and Girls Club and the Chamber of Commerce.

"They're certainly going to see me out there quite a bit. I'll be out in a patrol car today with one of our officers to learn more about the geographic boundaries," Chief Roberts said. "It's a busy, busy time."

The 49-year-old man served the past four years as second-in-command of the Citrus Heights police department in Sacramento



Courtesy, city of Menlo Park  
Bryan Roberts

County. Menlo Park is similar in its desire for a professional, responsive police department, he noted, but different demographically, given the uneven geographical distribution of affluence among its residents.

"Some neighborhoods have different challenges, like Willows and Belle Haven," he said. "We'll be listening to those communities and responding to their needs."

Specific ideas on how to engage the community in cooperative problem-solving will have to wait until he gets a feel for what the department is already doing.

A former Marine, he has spent 24 years in law enforcement.

The family-oriented atmosphere and professionalism of the Menlo Park Police Department drew him to apply for his new job, he said, and his own family made a smooth transition to their new home.

He replaced Bruce Goitia, who retired June 1. According to the city, Chief Roberts emerged as the front-runner in a pool of more than 30 candidates across the United States.

"It's been a very good experience," he said of his first week here. "Everybody in the community and city has been very welcoming." ■



Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

Kids may freely walk and bike to Woodside Elementary School, and traffic jams and illegal parking in bike lanes appear to be at an end, thanks to a combination of no-parking signs, more parking on the campus, and a mutual understanding between parents and the school.

## Traffic jams a fading memory at school

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

While the morning routine of dropping off kids at Woodside Elementary School continues, the most annoying aspect of it

— being stuck in traffic — now appears to be a thing of the past.

In September 2009, arriving in a vehicle around 8:15 a.m. with the intention of traversing the quarter-mile of Woodside Road on either side of the school meant spending the next 10 to 15

minutes in a stop-and-go crawl.

Pedestrians, skateboarders and cyclists had their own troubles on this two-lane stretch, whether going to school or just passing by. On-campus park-

See **TRAFFIC**, page 8

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## A Medal of Gratitude to local Rotarian

In recognition of her support of Poland's Solidarity movement 30 years ago, Donna Baranski-Walker recently received the European Solidarity Committee's Medal of Gratitude from Lech Walesa, former president of Poland.

Ms. Baranski-Walker, a leading member of the Rotary Club of Woodside/Portola Valley, received the medal Aug. 31 in a ceremony in Gdansk, Poland. The event was part of the 30th anniversary of the Polish Solidarity movement.

When she was 25 years old and working as an engineer near Chicago, she helped found Support of Solidarity-Chicago (S.O.S.-Chicago). The group raised funds for the Solidarity underground in Poland, sending care packages and money, and smuggling shortwave radio communica-

tions equipment to the Solidarity movement.

Ms. Baranski-Walker, a resident of Redwood City, is a second-generation Polish-American.

In 1979, as a undergraduate engineering student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she was part of a U.S./U.S.S.R. cultural exchange to Siberia, after which she studied at Poland's Jagiellonian University for her junior year abroad.

She graduated from MIT with a degree in electrical engineering and used to be on the Silicon Valley fast track. "I've worked for MIT, Stanford and SRI eval-



Photo by Anna Kaminska  
**Donna Baranski-Walker**

uating new technologies, filing patents, and attracting venture capital funding," she said in a 2002 article in The Almanac.

In 2003, she left the business world to form the Rebuilding Alliance, a nonprofit organization that supports Israel and Palestinian citizens who work together in rebuilding Palestinian homes, playgrounds and schools.

The Rebuilding Alliance shares an office and store space in San Mateo with Reach and Teach. The store sells peace and social justice learning materials and organic fair trade olive oil from Palestine.

Ms. Baranski-Walker joined the Woodside/Portola Valley Rotary Club in 1999 and has served as its president and as chair of its International Service Committee.

## Frances and Arjay Miller celebrate 70th anniversary

The family and friends of Frances and Arjay Miller gathered in their home in Woodside on Aug. 15 for a celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary. It also marked their 40 years in the home they built on Mountain Home Road.

The Millers met at UCLA and were married Aug. 18, 1940, when they were graduate students at UC Berkeley. Military service took Mr. Miller to the Pentagon as an Army Air Force officer. Ms. Miller worked as an economist in the Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C.

In 1946, Mr. Miller became one of the 10 "Whiz Kids" recruited by Ford Motor Co. He went on to become president of



**Frances and Arjay Miller** were married Aug. 18, 1940.

Ford, serving from 1963 to 1968. (Another of the "Whiz Kids" was Robert McNamara, who also became president of Ford and U.S. defense secretary.)

In 1969, the Millers returned to the Bay Area, where he became dean and professor of management at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. He resigned after 10

years. "Don't say retired," says Ms. Miller, according to her daughter, Ann Olstad, "because he doesn't know the meaning of retired."

Family attending the Miller's celebration included their son, Kenneth, his wife, Gisele, daughter Ann Olstad and her husband, Jim; three granddaughters; and five great-grandchildren.

## Mendelsohn resigns from Portola Valley school board

By **Renee Batti**  
Almanac News Editor

Judith Mendelsohn, who has been battling cancer for some time, has resigned her seat on the Portola Valley School District board, effective immediately.

The school board will vote on accepting her resignation at its meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 15, when board members will also discuss how to fill the now-vacant seat.

Ms. Mendelsohn, who was serving as the board's president, submitted her resignation in an Aug. 30 letter to her fellow trust-

ees, citing her "ongoing illness."

A math teacher by profession, she was elected to the board in 2007.

"It was my honor and pleasure to serve on the (school board) ... My goal was always to make our schools the best possible places for our students to learn and grow," Ms. Mendelsohn said in an e-mail to The Almanac.

"I enjoyed working with the



**Judith Mendelsohn**

other school board members. We listened to each other and worked collaboratively to reach our decisions," she wrote. "Our different viewpoints and backgrounds brought an enormous amount of knowledge to our decision making."

### Filling the seat

Superintendent Tim Hanretty said the board has two options to fill the vacant seat: Either appoint someone to fill out Ms. Mendelsohn's term, which expires in December 2011; or

See **MENDELSON**, page 12

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### High Speed Rail

**Dear Monica:**  
My home is located near the Caltrain tracks and I am wondering what the effect will be if a high speed rail system is built. How much might this affect the value of my property?

**Diane C.**

Dear Diane:

The answer to this question is not known at this time. The proposed San Francisco - Los Angeles high speed rail system would be installed along the existing Caltrain corridor and would necessitate expanding the corridor to do this. The new system will either be built on a platform well above ground, run alongside the existing tracks, or, as Menlo Park, Palo Alto and Atherton have requested, in

a closed tunnel or an open trench. The High Speed Rail Authority has said that the tunnel and trench options are too costly. City councils and commissions on the Peninsula have been holding hearings on this topic for months but many residents don't yet understand what the potential impacts of the High Speed Rail system will be.

The public needs to become informed on this subject and express their views in the forums provided. The only way to know if the High Speed Rail system will be a good or a bad addition to this area is understand what the options are. The new system, however it's built, will significantly change the Caltrain corridor and everyone should understand what is at stake.

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



takes older eyes longer. This makes it more difficult to see after encountering bright oncoming headlights on dark roads. And after about age 40, the eye lens becomes less flexible, which leads to presbyopia ("aging eyes") that makes it difficult to shift focus from near to far.

Presented by  
**Mark Schmidt**  
Licensed Optician

### DRIVING SAFELY OVER AGE 65

If you are a driver over age 65, you should realize that age-related changes in the eye could potentially compromise your safety. To begin with, the narrowing of the visual field associated with glaucoma and macular degeneration affects 13% of otherwise healthy individuals over age 65. In addition, age-related changes in the iris, pupil, lens, and retina can diminish nighttime vision. Seeing in the dark after exposure to bright light ("dark adaptation") also

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P.S. Antiglare coatings on prescription eyeglass lenses may help older drivers see better.

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

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## Menlo's Burgess baby pool closed until next spring

Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Splish, splash, babies won't be taking a bath again in the Burgess baby pool any time soon, according to aquatics center manager Tim Sheeper.

The pool's reopening is scheduled for May 2011, right about the time the facility's operating contract comes up for renewal, and 10 months after a chlorination malfunction put two children in the hospital.

The 2-year-old and 3-year-old sisters recovered from their Aug. 10 misadventure, and still take swim lessons at the center, according to Mr. Sheeper.

"Simply put, the pool was drawing in chlorine when it was not supposed to. The redesigns are to prevent this from happening," Mr. Sheeper wrote in an e-mail to The Almanac.

He said pool designers are currently comparing alternatives for dispensing chlorine that would fix the problem.

City Attorney Bill McClure said that under the terms of the lease, Team Sheeper is legally responsible for maintenance and incidents at the pools, and carries insurance to that effect.

The City Council in August

agreed to request bids on the contract to manage the aquatics center after the current lease expires next May.

Four years ago the previous council awarded Team Sheeper the contract to operate the \$6.8 million, publicly funded facility without charging rent or asking other vendors for bids.

The request for bids asks for rates to manage the Burgess pools alone, and also for both the Burgess and Belle Haven pools. City staff estimated a base monthly rent of \$19,444.

Speaking before the council on Aug. 24, Community Services Director Cherise Brandell pointed out three other areas the next contract should improve: better communication with the contractor, particularly regarding maintenance; clarification of the split between city and contractor responsibilities; and following through on preparing annual reports about the facility.

After the council requested that staff solicit more than three vendors for bids, the request went to 15 potential contractors on Aug. 27.

The Council expects to award the new contract in December. ■

## Resident appeals BevMo approval

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Beverages & More won a battle in the years-long fight to open a Menlo Park store, but will it win the war? After the Planning Commission's 4-3 approval of the retailer's use permit on Aug. 23, a city resident has decided to appeal the decision to the City Council.

Maureen Hogan sent a letter on Sept. 1 to the city clerk's office that outlined her reasoning. "I observed several disturbing themes in the Commission's deliberations: loss of focus, specious reasoning, and distorted information," she wrote.

Ms. Hogan challenged the public convenience and necessity for a BevMo at the former site of Chili's Restaurant at 700 El Camino Real, given that Safeway is right across the street.

She also disagreed with the commissioners who stated that the chain retailer posed no threat to the other eight wine and spirits merchants in Menlo Park, and questioned whether the city would actually benefit.

Ms. Hogan did not respond to The Almanac's request for comment.

City Attorney Bill McClure explained that the City Council

must hold a hearing within 75 days after the appeal is filed. Based on the time needed to compile a staff report, and notify the public, he thought the hearing might occur in late October.

Jeff Sealy, the chain's vice president of real estate, said, "We obviously want to have that hearing sooner rather than later."

BevMo representatives will attend, he said, and make their case again. ■

### TRAFFIC

continued from page 5

ing was very tight so parents who wanted or needed to walk their toddlers to class tended to park in the only available spaces: bike lanes.

Bike-lane parking, which is illegal, then blocked sight lines for residents trying to leave their driveways. With no sidewalks available, everyone, toddlers included, competed for space in the traffic lanes.

Such tie-ups were not at all in evidence to this reporter on a recent Tuesday morning. Kids pulled along their wheeled backpacks in an uncluttered bike lane. Families on bikes rolled toward the crosswalk at an

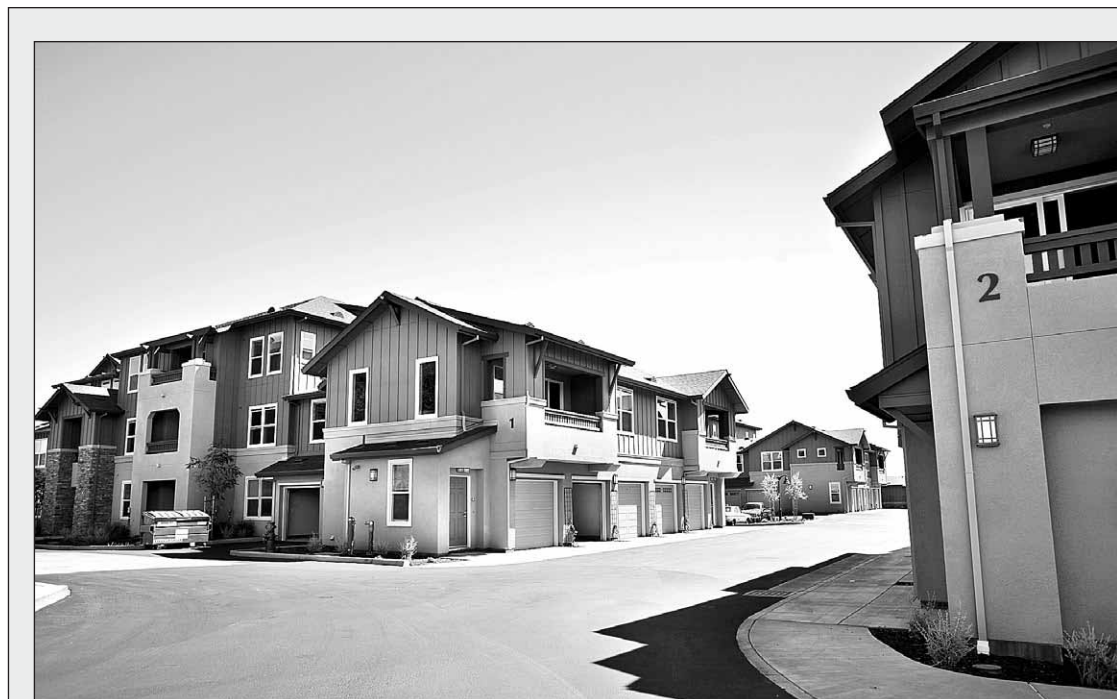


Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

### City on a hill

With the completion of some 55 apartments on the hilltop campus of Canada College, faculty and staff now have convenient housing while the town of Woodside, not known for its low-income housing, receives credit for having built some. Surveys showed a majority of San Mateo County Community College District employees planned to leave within a few years because of the unavailability of affordable housing.

## Sun Micro campus reassessment coming

■ Any property tax revenue increase would go to the Menlo Park redevelopment agency.

Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park residents often have more questions than answers, but at least one question can now be put to rest: the San Mateo County Assessor's Office confirmed that Oracle's purchase of Sun Microsystems qualifies the campus at Willow Road and Bayfront Expressway in Menlo Park for a reassessment of its property value.

The State Board of Equalization recently made the ruling, said Terry Flinn, special assistant to the assessor. Oracle bought Sun Microsystems for \$7.4 billion in

January.

Reassessment of the campus, now assessed at \$355.4 million, could boost or decrease property tax revenues for Menlo Park.

However, any increase wouldn't replenish the city's general fund. Mayor Rich Cline said that since the campus lies within redevelopment agency boundaries, any increased property tax would funnel back into redevelopment projects — and not the general fund.

Mr. Flinn said that due to the property's size and complexity, the appraisers may not finish the reassessment before June 2011.

"Commercial properties are

pretty distressed these days," Mr. Flinn said, agreeing that the recession has eaten away at the property's value during the past two to three years.

The sprawling 2.5-million-square-foot campus joins a list of approximately 13,000 properties in the county being reassessed, Mr. Flinn said.

Oracle declined to comment.

"In downturns we get more decline in value requests. It's more complicated when the market's down. Taxes are one of highest operating costs owners have besides mortgage, so they start taking a closer look," Mr. Flinn explained.

The previous owner, Sun Micro, was one of Menlo Park's top sales tax revenue producers. ■

easy pace. Recreational cyclists heading somewhere else pedaled through unhindered. In the traffic lanes, the crossing guard kept backups to no more than six or seven vehicles at a time, and for less than 30 seconds.

A profound change, apparently brought about by adding some 30 parking spaces to the campus, no-parking signs on the north side of the road, and regulated parking on the south side. The town plans to cover the signs for special events at the school.

The signs are a first step, Public Works Director Paul Nagen-gast said in a recent e-mail. Staff will be monitoring the situation should problems resurface.

Another key ingredient: coop-

eration and conversation among the stakeholders, including town staff, deputies from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, and the communities connected with the school, the town library and the Woodside Village Church, said Kevin Bryant, the assistant town manager.

"I don't think we've really had a bad day," Mr. Bryant said, referring to the new school year.

### The bad old days

Back in 2008, at least one bicyclist concerned about blocked bike lanes on Woodside Road between Canada and Kings Mountain roads complained to the California Department of Transportation, which then

wrote to the town proposing to install no-parking signs.

The Town Council agreed with that proposal and in July 2009 advised irate parents to cooperate with the school in addressing the traffic jams and stop complaining about Caltrans, cyclists, and proposed changes to their tradition of illegal parking in the bike lanes.

"You're not going to hear me say this very often (but) this is not a bicyclists' problem," then-Mayor Peter Mason said at the time. "We've got to come up with ideas that solve the problem. Otherwise, we're all going to keep doing the same stuff."

Advice that has apparently been taken. ■

## Menlo Park man killed by train identified

The San Mateo County Coroner's Office has identified the man killed by a train in Menlo Park on Sunday (Sept. 12) as Stephen Ebaugh, 53, of Menlo Park.

Southbound train number 438 struck Mr. Ebaugh on train tracks at Glenwood Avenue, north of the Menlo Park station, at about 5:14 p.m., Caltrain spokeswoman Tasha Bartholomew said.

Mr. Ebaugh was on the tracks for unknown reasons, and Caltrain's official position is that he was trespassing, she added.

No further information is available yet about the accident. Ms. Bartholomew said this is the seventh fatality for Caltrain this year.

— Bay City News Service contributed to this report.

### Menlo Park robber rips off necklaces

A 72-year-old woman strolling along the 300 block of El Camino Real on Saturday afternoon in Menlo Park confronted a robber intent on ripping off her necklaces.

The suspect snatched three necklaces off the woman's neck, but his victim grabbed one back, police said. She sustained minor injuries during the scuffle.

Police described the robber as a Hispanic male about 5 feet 6 inches tall, weighing about 140 pounds, and around 18 to 23 years old. The suspect, wearing a white shirt, jumped into a black Honda waiting nearby driven by an unidentified person. The car fled

### NEWS BRIEFS

north on El Camino Real. Police spokesperson Nicole Acker said the two stolen necklaces are both 18-karat gold chains, one with two charms. Their combined value is approximately \$260.

Detectives continue to investigate the robbery.

Anyone with information about this crime can call the police at 330-6300 or the anonymous tip hotline at 330-6395.

### Con man's trial set

Simon Gann, the con man who allegedly sweet-talked a Menlo Park woman into a relationship and out of money by pretending to be a millionaire MIT graduate named "Saleem Dutante" who could count cards "like Rainman," pleaded not guilty at his Sept. 10 arraignment in San Mateo County Superior Court.

The 29-year-old man remains in custody on \$100,000 bail. Authorities tripled his initial bail after discovering Mr. Gann's multiple convictions for fraud last year in Canada. Superior Court Judge Lisa Novak scheduled a jury trial for Oct. 25.

He's charged with obtaining approximately \$1,900 under false pretenses and grand theft. He also racked up a charge of resisting arrest by attempting to evade Menlo Park police by hiding in his accuser's closet.

If found guilty, Mr. Gann could serve up to four years in state prison, according to the district attorney's office.

## Contentious rezoning request comes back to council

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

The contentious proposal to allow residents to build larger houses on smaller-than-typical lots on Atherton's Parker Avenue is returning to the City Council on Wednesday, Sept. 15.

The issue has divided residents on the small street of 21 single-family residents, with a robust minority of the residents framing the question as a matter of fairness.

The question has gone before the council and Planning Commission numerous times in the

last two years, with the commission twice recommending against the change and the council wavering in its decision.

Parker Avenue lots are less than 10,000 square feet, making them atypical of most Atherton lots, which are about one acre. However, Parker Avenue's zoning is R1-A, which allows bigger houses on lots larger than 10,000 square feet, but significantly restricts buildings on smaller lots.

Some Parker Avenue residents have urged the town to either change the R1-A zoning rules to give them more flexibility

to build additions and garage space, or to change their street's zoning to R1-B, which is a zoning applied to a small number of Atherton streets, mostly surrounding Town Hall, that have lots smaller than one acre.

A majority of Parker residents oppose a zoning change, as do a number of residents of surrounding streets, who say allowing larger houses on Parker would almost certainly mean that their backyard neighbors would extend their homes from the rear,

See **REZONING**, page 16

## Disaster-preparedness fair at USGS

A free safety fair emphasizing family preparedness kicks off Saturday, Sept. 18, hosted by the Menlo Park branch of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and San Mateo County.

Attendees can look forward to demonstrations of emergency equipment, survival tips, and tchotchkes. They can also learn basic CPR for free. The first 500 families to arrive will receive a mystery gift, said Leslie Gordon, USGS spokesperson.

Seismologist Walter Mooney will give a lecture on lessons learned from the recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, while economist Anne Wein will talk about what could happen if a massive storm strikes the Bay Area, Ms. Gordon said.

The fair runs from 10 a.m. to 2

### MENLO BRIEFS

p.m. at the USGS campus at 345 Middlefield Rd. Signs will be posted to show families where to go.

### New pharmacy

The arrival of a new pharmacy in Menlo Park has been greeted with less outrage than Beverages & More's plans to open a local store, although Pharmaca Integrative also appears to be a chain retailer.

The 4,700-square-foot Menlo Park store will be the 23rd pharmacy for its Colorado-based parent company. It will replace the Xanadu Gallery at 871 Santa Cruz Ave., which shut down in October 2009.

Pharmaca spokesperson Elexis

Mariash said the store should open in early November. The company hosted a job fair last week in Palo Alto and 30 people attended, she said. The company plans to hire eight licensed practitioners to work in its newest store, which will offer conventional and alternative health care.

### Smoking ordinance

After taking an extended Labor Day weekend, the Menlo Park City Council meets again in council chambers at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14.

On the agenda: Planned revisions to the city's smoking ordinance, which would ban smoking in the common areas of housing units, and service areas like ATM lines, but allow pedestrians to smoke while walking along the street.

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# Stanford Hospital Health Notes

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## Cancer Specialists Collaborate To Analyze Treatment Options Advanced Techniques Refine Choices

Bill Mussone's blood tests showed he was anemic, so his physician did some more testing. "He came out looking like he'd seen a ghost," Mussone said. His doctor had seen cancer. Mussone's next step was a visit to a surgeon, and the message he received there was just as life-changing. "You'll need a colostomy, I'm 100 percent certain," was what Mussone heard.

The surgeon was telling him that the treatment to remove Mussone's rectal cancer would leave him without the ability to have a normal bowel movement, that he would have to live the rest of his life with a bag attached to his abdomen to do that job. "I thought my life was over. I literally felt the weight of the world on my shoulders," Mussone said.

The news was particularly hard for Mussone, then 58, because he had recently married. The wedding had been a joyously large celebration. And Mussone, an endodontist, was looking forward to retirement in just a handful of years. "Now," he said, "I was faced with not surviving."

Mussone, however, was not ready to accept that first opinion. "It's easy just to say, 'We're going to take your rectum out,'" Mussone said. "It's much harder to do the analytics, to look at alternatives." He found Mark Welton, MD, who leads the colorectal cancer team at the Stanford Cancer Center. It is one of only 65 cancer centers in the U.S.

designated for major funding by the National Cancer Institute because of its multidisciplinary research programs committed to improving the clinical care of cancer patients.

*"I thought my life was over... The physicians I met at Stanford just lifted my spirits."*

- William Mussone, patient, Stanford Cancer Center

As an innovator and expert in surgical techniques to help patients with colorectal cancer avoid colostomy, Welton helped develop the American College of Surgeons program to improve colorectal surgery and serves on the executive board of the American Society of Colorectal Surgeons. The radical surgery Mussone was told he had to have "is not an unreasonable recommendation from a general surgeon," Welton said. In Mussone's case, however, Welton thought the cancer was small and accessible enough to treat with a more conservative surgical removal that would spare Mussone a colostomy.

"He was so kind-hearted," Mussone said. "I walked out feeling hopeful. The physicians I met at Stanford just lifted my spirits."

### More Detailed Understanding

Colorectal cancer is the third most common malignant tumor type worldwide

and the second leading cause of cancer deaths (irrespective of gender) in the United States, according to the National Cancer Institute. Atypical growths in the intestines can hide in the folds of the body's 25 to 28 feet of intestines. At first, physicians had to rely on X-rays, using barium to detect colon problems. Not until the 1970s did techniques and devices emerge that could not only visualize in better detail the entire length of the colon, but could also find and remove polyps—benign growths that can develop into cancerous tumors.

As with many other illnesses, early detection is crucial to successful treatment. Colorectal cancer's mortality rate has declined steadily in recent years, the decrease aided by a public awareness and acceptance of colonoscopy that increased how many people are screened. Cancer, however, remains in many people's view a single entity distinguished only by its location. As a group, cancers do share one trait: they are abnormal cells that grow without control. Within that broad description, however, is a multiplicity of cancers with individual characteristics that determine location and behavior.

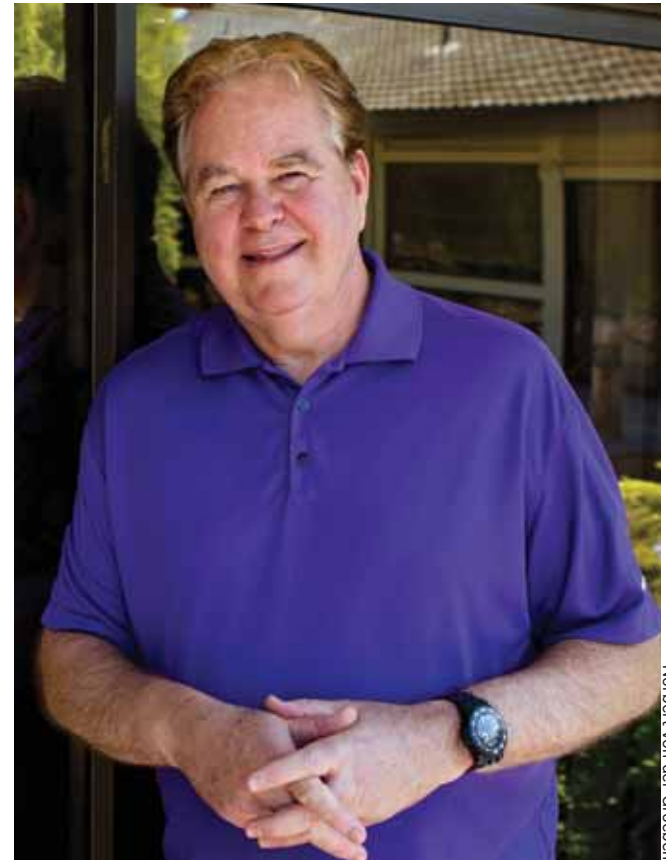
Some colorectal cancers, Welton said, can become quite large but not spread anywhere else. Some go through the lymphatic system to the lymph nodes and the bloodstream. Welton uses a metaphor when he talks with patients about treatment. "If you're trying to figure out how to get to San Francisco, what you really want to know is if you have a car. If the cancer is in the lymph nodes, we can remove that. But we also know that if it's there, it has a car," Welton said.

*"As we work together in the same environment, we gather momentum and energy and excitement and this helps us take better care of patients and improve their overall experience."*

- Mark Welton, MD, colorectal cancer surgeon, Stanford Cancer Center

If the cancer has moved elsewhere, or grown deeply into the colon wall, then any surgical treatment is enhanced with chemotherapy, a way to take the air out of the tires of a cancer that might have already escaped to another location before surgery, Welton said.

Some of Mussone's colorectal cancer cells had apparently found their way



Five years ago, William Mussone was diagnosed with colorectal cancer and told he needed radical, life-changing surgery. Physicians at the Stanford Cancer Center had other ideas about how to help him.

Norbert von der Groeben



Norbert von der Groeben

With the help of trainer John Angleson, William Mussone is focused on strengthening his overall health to recover from surgery to remove colorectal cancer and to prevent its recurrence. He's made great progress, driven by a determination to live his life to the fullest.

## Lower Your Risk for Colorectal Cancer

- Build meals that are low in fat and rich in fruits, vegetables and other high-fiber foods. Exercise is also beneficial.
- If you have a family history of colorectal cancer, let your doctor know. About 20 percent of colorectal cancers are believed to be genetically transmitted.
- At age 40, ask for an annual fecal blood test.
- At age 50, ask for a flexible sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy screening.

## When To See Your Doctor

Symptoms of colorectal cancer can include:

- blood in stool
- anemia, fatigue, weakness
- diarrhea, abdominal pains, cramps, constipation
- change in bowel habits

## What Can Cause Colorectal Cancer?

The causes of most colorectal cancers are not definitively known. Anal cancer, however, has shown a high association with infection by the human papilloma virus (HPV), the same virus

that can be responsible for cervical cancer in women. Stanford's colorectal cancer specialist, Mark Welton, advocates that men and women at high risk for the disease be screened with a tissue sample similar to the cervical tissue test women routinely undergo. When that test, commonly known as a Pap smear, became routine, 40 women in 100,000 died of cervical cancer, Welton said. Now, the number is 6 to 8 per 100,000

For more information: [cancer.stanford.edu](http://cancer.stanford.edu)

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into his lung before his primary tumor was removed, although growing so slowly they were not discernable until three years after his first surgery. "It was too small to be seen and the chemo didn't kill it," Welton said. When discovered, the tiny lesion was removed. Two years later, another bit of colorectal cancer showed up in Mussone's lung and was again removed. Since Mussone's first meeting with Welton, his cancer has not reappeared in its original location.



Stanford Hospital thoracic surgeon Richard Whyte listens to Mussone's lungs. Whyte is part of Mussone's treatment team which also includes Mussone's colorectal surgeon, medical oncologists, radiologists, pathologists and radiation oncologists.

Norbert von der Groeben

## Productive Synergy

From the very start, Mussone's treatment was a collaborative enterprise. Stanford's history of innovative cancer treatment springs in large part from its tumor boards, Welton said. "You've got 15 other physicians in the room, all experts, who might say, 'It's time for you to push the envelope. Our radiation is better now, our chemo is better now. This is something we might have always thought non-operative, but maybe we need to push this.'"

Disease-specific tumor boards meet weekly. A board may include surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists and hematologists. Mussone's treatment has involved several physicians, including Welton, medical oncologist George Fisher, radiation oncologist Albert Koong and thoracic surgeon Richard Whyte.

"Many of the successes we've had in cancer management come directly from the successful interaction of the specialists," said Richard T. Hoppe, MD,

Stanford's Chair of Radiation Oncology. "And the majority of cancers we treat at Stanford we treat with more than one modality."

*"You might not be able to cure a cancer, but you could control it so it doesn't shorten your life."*

— Mark Welton, MD, colorectal cancer surgeon, Stanford Cancer Center

"I think it's well documented," Welton said, "that as we work together in the same environment, we gather momentum and energy and excitement and this helps us take better care of patients and improve their overall experience."

Mussone's treatment also included chemotherapy and radiation. The Stanford Cancer Center was one of the first medical centers to use chemotherapy before surgery to prep the cancer cells to be more sensitive to radiation that would follow. The approach has proven very effective. The Center's radiation therapy is directed by the most ad-

vanced, most precise three-dimensional imaging that protects healthy tissue.

As their understanding of cancer increases, physicians hope that more and more kinds of cancer will be manageable in the same way that certain chronic illnesses—like hypertension, diabetes and coronary artery disease—will be kept in check. "You might not be able to cure a cancer," Welton said, "but you could control it so it doesn't shorten your life."

## Continuing Care

Mussone has been watched quite carefully, of course, and his two recurrences were disappointing, Welton said, "but fighting cancer is a war, not just one battle. The key players are the physicians who take care of you—and a patient who bounces back after a couple of bumps in the road."

Welton looks at Mussone and sees someone who is being treated by a group of physicians who know his case well and who watch him closely. "Maybe we do take little things out every three or four or five years," Welton said, "but he's getting more years of life."

Mussone, who knows how different his life would be if he had had a colostomy, is clearly on his best game. "I'm on board for whatever," Mussone told Whyte at a recent check-up. "You keep saving my life!"

Managing cancer will be much easier as research works out techniques to identify whether a par-

ticular patient's cancer is likely to recur and what might be the most effective chemotherapy. Some of the most advanced work is under way at Stanford. Welton, Fisher and Koong are collaborating with Stanford medical oncologist Hanlee Ji, senior associate director of the Stanford Genome Technology Center to test for those predictors with molecular inversion probe technology, the most advanced analytic tool now available.

Mussone has taken his recovery as he has done things all his life. "I've always been one to take the bull by the horns," he said. He works out with a trainer twice a week, watches his diet and enjoys the couple of days a week he spends at work. "I'm not focused on dying," he said. "I'm hopeful—my plan is to die of old age."



Norbert von der Groeben

Mussone is an endodontic dentist. Five years after he was first diagnosed with colorectal cancer, his work continues.

Stanford Hospital & Clinics is known worldwide for advanced treatment of complex disorders in areas such as cardiovascular care, cancer treatment, neurosciences, surgery, and organ transplants. Consistently ranked among the top institutions in the U.S. News & World Report annual list of "America's Best Hospitals," Stanford Hospital & Clinics is internationally recognized for translating medical breakthroughs into the care of patients. It is part of the Stanford University Medical Center, along with the Stanford University School of Medicine and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. For more information, visit [stanfordmedicine.org](http://stanfordmedicine.org).

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## Portola Valley schools sees leadership shifts

By Renee Batti  
 Almanac News Editor

### SCHOOLS

Although there aren't many changes in Portola Valley School District classrooms as the new school year gets rolling, a restructuring of the district's administrative team is likely to have a trickle-down effect on the day-to-day operations of the district's two schools.

Tim Hanretty has begun his tenure as district superintendent, having served as the district's assistant superintendent and chief financial officer until being tapped to replace Anne Campbell. Ms. Campbell will be sworn in as the county's superintendent of schools in January.

Mr. Hanretty's appointment was part of the school district board's streamlining of administrative staff, and included the promotion of Carol Piraino from Corte Madera principal to assistant superintendent for special education and curriculum.

Heading the team at Corte Madera, a grade 4-8 school, is Don Cox, who will serve as interim principal until a search process that begins in early 2011 culminates in the hiring of a permanent principal. Mr. Cox retired from the Palo Alto Unified School District, where he served as principal at Jane Lathrop Stanford (JLS) middle school and Hoover elementary school, according to Mr. Hanretty.

The streamlining of administrative staff approved earlier this year resulted in the layoff of Tom Keating, who had served as director of educational technology. Also, Carolyn Schwartzbord's position as director of special education was eliminated when she left the district for the Ravenswood Elementary School District. The responsibilities of overseeing special education were melded into Ms. Piraino's new position.

Ms. Piraino will also continue to oversee Corte Madera's restructured fourth- and fifth-grade program, which she spearheaded last year when she was the school's principal. Superintendent Hanretty said Ms. Piraino will work on "fine-tuning" the innovative

teaching approach, which last year she described as incorporating four different programs designed to play upon teachers' strengths and improve students' learning.

At the K-3 Ormondale School, Principal Jennifer Warren has introduced a character-building program based on concepts found in Carol McCloud's book, "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?"

"This book explains that everyone has an invisible bucket that needs to be filled in order to be mentally and emotionally healthy," Ms. Warren wrote in the district's first Weekly Post of the school year. "While parents and caregivers can fill buckets in a variety of ways, children must also be taught how to fill the buckets of others."

"This book was written to teach young children how to be bucket fillers rather than bucket dippers."

The program, she said, encourages positive behavior, and among its goals is "to establish a framework for more constructive words and actions and less bullying."

### Bucking the trend

The Portola Valley district faces the same challenges as other school districts in terms of declining property tax revenue. But in terms of enrollment, it's bucking the trend.

As of last week, enrollment in the two schools totaled 712. Mr. Hanretty said that when enrollment stabilizes, he expects that the combined enrollment figure will show a decline from last year of about 23 students. The decline is largely the result of fewer kindergartners — 20 fewer of them this year, he said.

That drop means that Ormondale has only three kindergarten sections this year, down from four last year. The decrease was anticipated in a multiyear demographic study done several years ago, Mr. Hanretty said. But because 2010-11 was the last year analyzed in the study, the district will have to conduct a new one this year. ▀

### MENDELSON

continued from page 7

call for a special election.

The appointment of a new member or the decision to call a special election must be made by Oct. 31, Mr. Hanretty said. If the board chooses to appoint a member, it is likely to follow a process it has used in the past: solicit applications from inter-

ested community members, conduct public interviews of applicants, and then make a provisional appointment.

The decision to appoint a member can be challenged by members of the public, who have 30 days to file a petition calling for a special election. If a provisional appointment is not challenged within 30 days, it becomes official. ▀



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## Benjamin "Jack" Crow, coastside rancher, dies at 91

Benjamin "Jack" Crow, former proprietor of the historic Durham Ranch on the coastside near the Kings Mountain area, died Aug. 10 from complications from cancer. He was 91.



Jack Crow

Mr. Crow was one of the last members of the Crow family, who established the town of Crow's Landing in the Central Valley of California. He served in the U.S. Marines during World War II. While living in San Carlos and Woodside, he worked as

### OBITUARIES

a building contractor. In 1961, he and his wife moved to the Durham Ranch, renaming it the BenBar Ranch.

Mr. Crow continued to work the ranch until a few years ago, according to his neighbor Mike Liebhold. He raised a variety of livestock, including steers, horses, sheep, goats, pigs even llamas. He was well liked and never too busy to share his knowledge of ranching or stop his truck on the road for a friendly chat, says Mr. Liebhold.

Mr. Crow's wife, Lorraine, died in 1995. A gathering of Mr. Crow's friends was held at

the ranch Sept. 10.

### Robert James Archer

*Retired physicist*

Robert James Archer, a resident of Portola Valley since 1963, died Sept. 4 at the age of 84.

Mr. Archer was a native of San Francisco and served in the armed forces during World War II. He received his doctorate from Columbia University in New York City and was employed as a physicist at Hewlett Packard from 1963 to 1985.

He is survived by his only daughter, Mary Jo Archer Kloezean. His wife, Joline Archer, died in 1998.

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## Dentist rides, raises money for benefit

Menlo Park dentist and cyclist Jan Gabus recently rode his bicycle across Iowa for seven days and 461 miles, raising \$9,000 from sponsors for the Mid Peninsula Dental Health Foundation, which provides low-cost dental care for the uninsured working poor.

"It's hot and humid, but my sister and brother have done the ride for several years," Dr. Gabus said. "It sounded like fun and a great way to spend time with my family."

The ride, called RAGBRAI, is an annual event in its 38th year. "Starting on the banks of the Missouri River on a Sunday, you bicycle for seven days, until you reach the banks of the Mississippi the next Saturday," Dr. Gabus said.

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## Sacred Heart holds senior fashion show

"Seniors in Wonderland" is the theme for Sacred Heart Preparatory's 22nd annual senior fashion show to be held Saturday, Sept. 18, on the school's Atherton campus.

More than 750 guests are expected to attend the event, where the entire senior class, along with parents, will model fashions from local stores, including Alys Grace, Banana Republic, Betsey Johnson, Bloomingdale's, Eileen Fisher, Brooks Brothers and more.

The evening will begin with cocktails at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner prepared by Thomas John Events. The fashion show will be held after dinner, along with student-choreographed dance numbers.

An "Alice in Wonderland" theme will prevail throughout the evening. The cocktail reception will be held in the "Mad Hatter's Garden." Guests will then venture through the rabbit hole to dine in the "Red Queen's Court."

Renee Capovilla, Anna Henderson, Laura Hosking, and Ellen Lynch are chairs of the event. Kim Selby will choreograph the runway show.

Proceeds from the fashion show will be used to support senior activities, including the Junior/Senior Prom and Grad Night.

Tickets to the fashion show are \$110 each. To reserve, contact Susie Coyne at smjbc@yahoo.com.

## 'Jewels & Jeans' gala

"Heroes and Horses; A Jewel & Jeans" gala will be held Saturday, Sept. 25, from 5:30 to 11 p.m. at the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy (NCEFT) facility at 880 Runnymede Road in Woodside. Proceeds from the benefit will support the center's equine-assisted therapy.

Cocktails and dinner will be followed by dancing to the music of Fred McCarty & Company. Guests are encouraged to wear Western attire.

Susan Lang of Woodside will be honored as the first recipient of the Barb Heine outstanding service award. Ms. Lang is an occupational therapist and equestrian.

"Susan is the ideal recipient of this first award established in Barb's honor," says Gari Merendino, executive director of NCEFT.

Ms. Heine, who died of cancer in March, was executive director and board president of NCEFT. She was a longtime resident of Woodside before moving to Australia 10 years ago.

Nicole Buttitta is chairman of the gala, assisted by Betsy Glikbarg, Susan Martin, and Suzanne Rischman. Tickets to the benefit are \$200 per person. For more information, call Ms. Buttitta at 851-0444.




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# RE-ELECT JIM DOBBIE

## ATHERTON COUNCIL

### VOTE FOR JIM DOBBIE ON NOV. 2

#### JIM IS QUALIFIED, EXPERIENCED, INVOLVED AND ACCESSIBLE.

Here are Jim's personal qualifications:

- Atherton Resident 16 years
- Chairman (former), Atherton General Plan Committee
- Vice Chairman (former), Atherton Planning Commission
- Elected Atherton Town Council 2008
- Vice Mayor, Atherton 2010
- 40 years of Corporate management and financial experience
- Pilot, Royal Air Force Reserve
- Electrical engineering degrees from Glasgow and Arizona State Universities



**DURING JIM'S TWO YEARS ON THE ATHERTON COUNCIL** he has been deeply involved in, and/or responsible for, the following accomplishments:

- Reduced Town expenses to help approach balanced budget
- Made Town purchasing decisions more accountable
- Changed Town's investment policy to reduce risk
- Opposed refunding road impact fees
- Examined outsourcing Town services with minimum impact on Residents
- Initiated programs to limit Builder-Developer construction time, to install "Construction Rules" signs on building sites, and to ensure a Resident's choice of drainage systems

**LOOKING AHEAD, JIM KNOWS** Atherton is facing many important and complex issues, including High Speed Rail, Litigation, Road Maintenance, Drainage, Construction and Energy Conservation. High Speed Rail especially has the potential to divide the Town and destroy its character.

**JIM DOBBIE** has the business management and financial experience, love of Atherton, familiarity with Town activities and in-depth understanding of the issues to ensure that Atherton's quality of life is enjoyed now and preserved for future generations.

#### JIM DOBBIE

*is qualified, experienced, involved and accessible.*

**JIM DOBBIE**  
ATHERTON COUNCIL



**RE-ELECT JIM DOBBIE ON NOV. 2**

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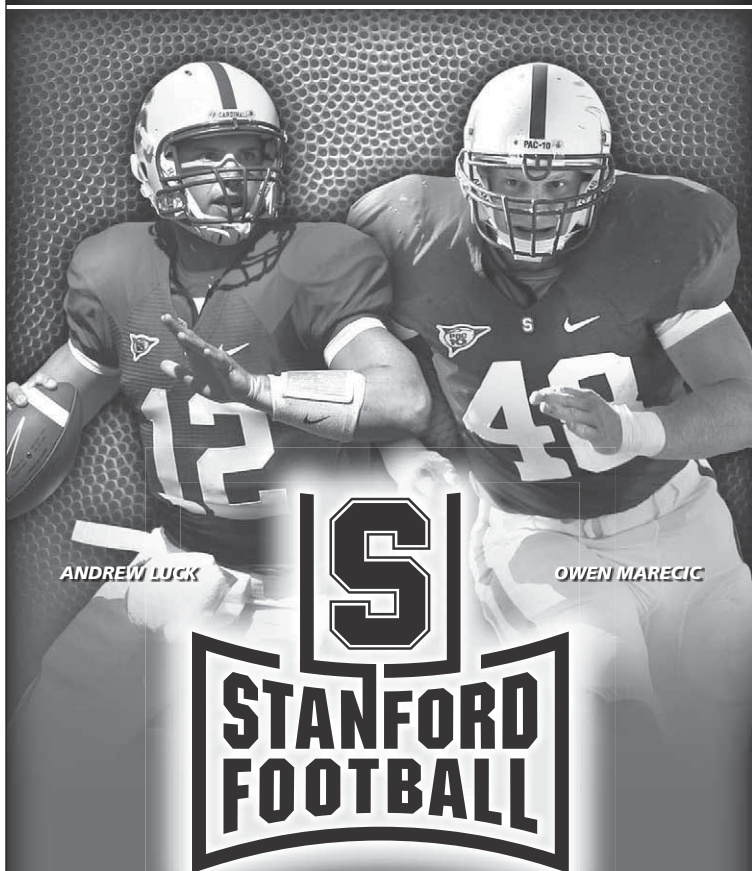
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## 'Swing in the Park' fundraiser set for Sept. 19

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

A pedestrian bridge named for the late City Councilman Bill Conwell, and a garden enhancing the area around the Water Tower were completed this year in Atherton's Holbrook-Palmer Park, amenities made possible through funds raised by the town's annual "Swing in the Park" event.

This year, organizers of the fundraiser, set for Sunday, Sept. 19, hope to raise money to help pay for future projects such as the rejuvenation of the park's historic Carriage House, and a new informal amphitheatre near the children's play area.

Swing in the Park, sponsored by the Atherton Dames and the Holbrook-Palmer Park Foundation, will enliven the park from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, the swing courtesy of the 16-piece Unicorns Dance Band.

Activities for kids will include games, clown appearances, and a performance of the Happy Birds



Photo by Courtney Behm

Volunteers plant trees for the new Water Tower garden in Atherton's Holbrook-Palmer Park.

Parrot Show. A barbecue picnic will be presented by Jesse Cool's CoolEatz Catering.

There will be a live auction, silent auction, and a raffle.

"Here is an opportunity for the community to join in celebration and support our jewel of a park," said Denise Kupperman of the Atherton Dames.

Reservations are highly recommended, Ms. Kupperman said. Open seating is \$75 per person; \$15 for children 2 to 11; and free for children under 2. Tickets for \$700 are available for tables of 10.

Visit [www.athertondames.org](http://www.athertondames.org) or call 234-8447 to reserve tickets or learn more about the event. ■

### REZONING

continued from page 9

infringing on their privacy.

On Sept. 15, the council will consider options that include: following the Planning Commission's recommendation against changing Parker Avenue's zoning to R1-B; rezoning Parker Avenue to R1-B; directing staff to come up with options that would retain the zoning design-

nation but make larger houses possible with Planning Commission review and approval, or through a special permitting process; and directing staff to work on creating a new zoning district with rules similar to R1-B zoning but with larger rear-yard setbacks.

### Public records resolution

At that meeting, the council also will consider a resolution

reaffirming the town's commitment to providing public records to people requesting them.

The town has been besieged since last March with public records act requests — more than 75, according to a staff report. Former finance director John Johns has made about 50 of those requests, the report indicates.

Deputy City Clerk Theresa DellaSanta has spent about 130 hours since March dealing with the requests, according to the report, and the city attorney's office has billed the town for about \$19,850 for reviewing the requests and documents sought to ensure that material that should not be public is redacted before the documents are released.

The town has come under fire recently for not complying with requests made under the state's Public Records Act, most notably after a videotaped incident in which a resident and Mr. Johns confronted City Manager Jerry Gruber in Town Hall about records requests that had not been responded to.

Assistant City Manager Eileen Wilkerson said the council is being asked to approve the resolution to let the public know that the town is committed to meeting the requirements of the Public Records Act.

The council meeting begins at 7 p.m. in Atherton Town Hall, at 94 Ashfield Road. ■

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■ POLICE CALLS

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

**ATHERTON**

**Grand theft reports:**

- Large pieces of equipment stolen from truck, Selby Lane, Sept. 3.
- Western trophy saddle stolen after horse show, Menlo Circus Club at 190 Park Lane, Sept. 9.

**MENLO PARK**

**Residential burglary reports:**

- Loss estimated at \$19,970 in theft of laptop computer, several pieces of jewelry and cash, 200 block of Seminary Drive, Sept. 6.
- Loss estimated at \$3,800 in theft of laptop, iPod and jewelry, 500 block of Pope St., Sept. 3.
- Loss estimated at \$2,579 in theft of laptop, camera, iPad, Palm Pad and cash, 100 block of Laurel Ave., Sept. 3.
- Fence and cables cut and loss

estimated at \$1,400 in theft of four leaf blowers and a gas can, 1100 block of O'Brien Drive., Sept. 6.

■ Loss estimated at \$360 in theft of bicycle, helmet and lock from apartment parking area, 1600 block of El Camino Real, Sept. 3.

**Grand theft report:** Bicycle valued at \$1,000 stolen, first block of Willow Road, Sept. 3.

**Fraud report:** Loss of \$750 in unauthorized use of credit card, 600 block of Willow Road, Sept. 8.

**Auto burglary reports:**

- GPS valued at \$150 stolen, 1700 block of Poppy Ave., Sept. 3.
- Paper work and registration stolen from vehicle, 1900 block of Santa Cruz Ave., Sept. 3.
- Vehicle parked in driveway broken into, 500 block of Bay Road, Sept. 6.

**Stolen vehicle report:** Silver 1997 Honda Accord, 400 block of Oak Grove Ave., Sept. 6.

**Spousal abuse report:** 1400 block of Almanor Ave., Sept. 6.

**Assault report:** Motorcyclist arrested

**WOODSIDE**

**Assault report:** Motorcyclist arrested

and booked into jail after non-injury accident that led to assault on vehicle driver by motorcyclist, Woodside Road and Interstate 280, Sept. 4.

**PORTOLA VALLEY**

**Fraud report:** Woman attempted to cash check allegedly made out to her but fled as bank manager attempted to verify transaction with checking account owner, 100 block of Bow Way, Sept. 7.

**WEST MENLO PARK**

**Theft report:** Jewelry valued at \$53,200 in black leather purse that was stolen, 2000 block of Sand Hill Road, Sept. 5.

**LADERA**

**Assault report:** Grandson taken to county hospital after picking up empty wine bottle from floor and hitting grandmother in head with it while watching TV, 3000 block of Sand Hill Road, Sept. 1.

■ SPORTS

Go to AlmanacNews.com for sports news, including a report on the second games of the season for the Menlo-Atherton Vikings teams in the Pop Warner football league. The Vikings teams faced the Bay Cities Bulldogs on Saturday at San Mateo High School.



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



**WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?**

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

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**CALL** the Viewpoint desk at

854-2690, ext. 222.

## Time for smokers to be responsible

Smoking is a smelly habit that everyone loves to hate, including many who are addicted to cigarettes. Long ago declared a health hazard by the U.S. Surgeon General, the California Air Resources Board and the state and federal environmental protection agencies, cigarettes are probably the world's best-known legalized health hazard.

Smoking is banned in most indoor workplaces and in most public places throughout California, and some communities, notably Belmont on the Peninsula, have piled on more regulations that attempt to protect the rights of non-smokers

**EDITORIAL**  
*The opinion of The Almanac*

— said to be 86 percent of Californians — from second-hand smoke.

Given the overwhelming evidence that smoking is a health hazard for smokers and everyone around them who can breathe second-hand smoke, it should be easy for the Menlo Park City Council to pass a tough anti-smoking ordinance on Tuesday, Sept. 14. The ordinance was passed 4-1 in March but was pulled back so that some language could be revised.

The council was pressed to adopt new smoking regulations by Barbara Franklin, a resident of Sand Hill Circle, who was bothered by second-hand smoke from her downstairs neighbor. After months of effort, she convinced her condominium association to pass a regulation governing second-hand smoke in the common areas of her complex and since then has pressed the City Council to follow suit.

Perhaps inspired by Ms. Franklin, the most controversial part of the proposed ordinance is a section that declares second-hand smoke a nuisance, and authorizes a private citizen to bring a legal action against a person whose smoke is entering a unit of a multi-unit residence. The new regulation, if included and passed in the ordinance, would give non-

smokers a persuasive tool to force people to smoke outside their condominium or apartment unit.

Living with someone else's smoke can make life miserable, as it did for this apartment dweller, who wrote on the Almanac's Town Square:

"The second hand cigarette smoke in my last apartment was so overwhelming I finally moved. The forced air heating sucked the smoke out of my neighbor's apartment and moved it into mine. My apartment smelled like a smoker's apartment. Even my clothes hanging in the closet smelled like cigarette smoke. Smoke can travel through the tiniest spaces including electrical outlets. There's really no way to keep it out."

We suspect there are hundreds or more examples of residents who are forced to live with second-hand smoke. The City Council is well within its rights to pass an ordinance that protects residents from such a noxious health hazard. State law already prohibits smoking in most indoor job sites, children's playgrounds and tot lots, and around the entrances and exits of public buildings. And state law expressly authorizes local governments to pass additional restrictions on smoking.

The proposed Menlo Park ordinance would prohibit smoking in enclosed places like restaurants, businesses and work areas, and outdoor areas of restaurants, businesses and public recreation areas. Other language covers where smoking can be permitted in outdoor areas of apartment buildings and parking lots.

For non-smokers, nothing is worse than being forced to breathe and smell second-hand smoke. It will be a breath of fresh air when this ordinance passes, and when it does, we hope that smokers will understand that it is not them, but their habit, that is being asked to leave the building.

**LETTERS**  
*Our readers write*

**Stunned to see BevMo approval**

Editor:

I attended the August Menlo Park Planning Commission meeting regarding the use permit for BevMo. Approval of the permit was to be based upon findings that BevMo would fill a need and that granting the permit would not be detrimental. The meeting was to give residents an opportunity to voice their opinions.

With 13 locations selling alcohol and a BevMo three miles away in Redwood City, there was no demonstrated need for BevMo. However, the commission voted 4-3 favoring the permit. I was stunned to see 1,500 residents who mailed in postcards opposing the permit ignored by city officials.

Furthermore, the commission seemed unaware or unwilling to address the current labor woes



**Our Regional Heritage**

Judge James Allen built this house on 80 acres off Alpine and Los Trancos roads in Portola Valley in the 1880s. Called The Hawthornes, the property has been owned by only two families until recent times.

Portola Valley Archives

of BevMo, which aired Aug. 13 when Channel 7 news reported BevMo management had demoted 163 full-time employees without notice to part-time

status, an action BevMo's management described as a way "to weather the economic storm."

Menlo Park is a charming community with a unique

hometown atmosphere. I feel that BevMo's harsh labor practices, combined with its low-

See **LETTERS**, next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

end strip mall theme and mega chain store sales mentality, will surely harm our community.

Again, why do we need BevMo? One thing does seem clear. BevMo is not likely to bring any full-time benefited jobs to Menlo Park.

I urge concerned residents to contact the City Council. Tell them: Just say no to BevMo!

**Barbara Rosasco**  
Hillview Drive, Menlo Park

**No need for another liquor store in Menlo**

Editor:

I attended the August Planning Commission hearing regarding the BevMo permit application and was shocked at the split 4 to 3 vote approving a permit.

Liquor establishments, gun stores and massage parlors are held to a different standard than most retail outlets for fairly obvious reasons. In order to receive a use permit, these establishments need to prove that they are a convenience or necessity and that it is not to the detriment of the welfare of the city.

There are already 11 liquor retailers in Menlo Park, including a Safeway that is literally across the street from the proposed BevMo site. Clearly the BevMo store is unnecessary and the existing liquor stores (all within four miles) establish that the convenience argument is spurious. On this basis alone, the Planning Commission should have unanimously denied the use permit.

If that isn't enough, my real objection is the detriment to our town. Menlo Park is a family-oriented city with a classy image. Putting a discount, big box liquor store like BevMo on an important and prominent thoroughfare like El Camino, within walking distance of the train station, is not a positive.

Arguments that the BevMo will help our local economy are vastly overstated, as their sales will largely come at the expense of existing retailers in the area, many of which are locally owned and operated.

I implore fellow residents concerned about this issue to let our City Council members know about your opposition.

**Maureen Hogan**  
Wallea Drive, Menlo Park

Let town decide: add taxes or cut spending

By Malcolm Dudley

Atherton, like most communities, faces severe financial stress.

Past sources of state and federal revenue sharing have greatly diminished. Since Atherton has no commercial base providing sales tax revenues, the city is totally dependent upon property tax revenues and our limited special parcel tax.

At the time Proposition 13 passed, the town encountered a similar dilemma. It faced a huge loss of revenue, and had to make a decision: substantially reduce the level of town services, or find an alternative revenue source.

At that time police services accounted for approximately 50 percent of our budget and road maintenance accounted for about a third. It was clear that any significant reduction in services would have to come from those two areas. This was an extremely important decision for the council, which chose to conduct a survey to seek community input.

The survey asked homeowners

their preference between reducing services or seeking additional revenues to maintain the current level of services. The survey provided homeowners with a breakdown of expenditures for each of the major sectors of service. Those preferring to balance the budget by cutting expenditures were asked to prioritize their preferences for the services they wanted reduced.



Residents who preferred to maintain the current level of services were asked to indicate their preference for the type of additional fee source (parcel tax, utility tax, or other). Over 80 percent of those responding preferred to maintain the current level of services and wanted to make up the deficit with a special parcel tax. Residents have

renewed that tax every four years; however, increases in that tax have been slight, and have not kept up with increasing costs.

Today we face a similar budget deficit problem. I would encourage the City Council to survey the town residents for their input on dealing with this deficit. I would suggest that the survey provide a breakdown showing the reduced level of services that would result from balancing the budget through a cut in expenditures. No doubt it would show a significant reduction in police services and road maintenance.

The survey would show the increase in special parcel tax, or other revenue source, that would be needed to balance the budget while maintaining the current level of town services.

The results of this survey would provide the council with the clear community preference for solving Atherton's budget dilemma.

**Malcolm Dudley is a former mayor and member of the Atherton City Council**

City of Palo Alto Recreation Presents - 26th Annual  
**PALO ALTO WEEKLY MOONLIGHT RUN & WALK**  
Friday, September 24, 2010

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE FRIDAY SEPT. 17TH

**Palo Alto Weekly**  
City of Palo Alto Recreation  
hp invent  
Palo Alto Medical Foundation  
A Sutter Health Affiliate  
W&R Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati FOUNDATION  
B Borel Private Bank & Trust Company



**TIME & PLACE PLEASE NOTE NEW WALK TIME: 5K walk 7:00pm, 10K run 8:15pm, 5K run 8:45pm.**  
Race-night registration 6:15 to 8:00pm at City of Palo Alto Baylands Athletic Center, Embarcadero & Geng Roads (just east of the Embarcadero Exit off Highway 101). **Parking** — go to PaloAltoOnline.com to check for specific parking locations.

**COURSE** 5K and 10K loop courses over Palo Alto Baylands levee, through the marshlands by the light of the Harvest Moon! Course is flat, USAT&F certified (10k run only) on levee and paved roads. Water at all stops. Course map available at www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

**REGISTRATIONS & ENTRY FEE** Pre-registration fee is \$25 per entrant (postmarked by September 17, 2010) and includes a long-sleeve t-shirt. Late/race-night registration is \$30 and includes a shirt **only while supplies last. A scantron card must be filled out at race-night registration.**

**FAMILY PACKAGE:** Children 12 and under run free with a registered parent. A completed entry form for each child must be submitted with adult registration. **Please indicate on form and include \$15 for an adult small t-shirt. No confirmation of mail-in registration available. Registration also available online at www.PaloAltoOnline.com. Refunds will not be issued for no-show registrations and t-shirts will not be held.**

**SPORTS TEAM/CLUBS:** Pre-registration opportunity for organizations of 10 or more runners; contact Amy at (650) 223-6508 or arenalds@pawebly.com.

**MINORS:** If not pre-registered Minors under 18 **MUST** bring signed parental/waiver form (below) on race night to participate. **In addition scantron card must be completely filled out at race-night registration.**

**DIVISIONS** Age divisions: 9 & under; 10-12; 13-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69, and 70 & over with separate divisions for male and female runners in each age group. Race timing provided for 5K and 10K runs only; not 5K walk.

**COMPUTERIZED RESULTS by A Change of Pace** Race results will be posted on the Internet at www.PaloAltoOnline.com 10am on 9/27. Registration forms must be filled out completely and correctly for results to be accurate. Race organizers are not responsible for incorrect results caused by incomplete or incorrect registration forms.

**AWARDS/PRIZES/ENTERTAINMENT** Top three finishers in each division. Prize giveaways and refreshments. DJ Alan Waltz. Pre-race warmups by Noxcuses Fitness, Palo Alto

**PALO ALTO GRAND PRIX** Road Race Series — Moonlight Run, 9/24; Marsh Madness, 10/23; Home Run 11/14, for more information go to www.paloaltogp.org.

**BENEFICIARY** Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund. A holiday-giving fund to benefit Palo Alto area non-profits and charitable organizations. In April 2010, 43 organizations received a total of \$240,000 (from the 2009-2010 Holiday Fund.)

**MORE INFORMATION** Call (650) 463-4920, (650) 326-8210, email MoonlightRun@pawebly.com or go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

JUNGLE Nike TRADER JOE'S Spot CONTINENTAL CATERERS  
HOBEES AutoWorks AXIS WHOLE FOODS ARROWHEAD  
Coffeeseur Give blood for life! HOUSE-BAGELS noxcuses FLEET FEET  
STANFORD FEDERAL CREDIT UNION Wahoo's popchips

**FLASHLIGHTS/HEAD LIGHTS RECOMMENDED**  
For safety reasons, no dogs allowed on course for the 5K and 10K runs. They are welcome on the 5K walk only. No retractable leashes! Please bring your own clean-up bag. Jogging strollers welcome in the 5K walk or at the back of either run.  
First aid service and chiropractic evaluations provided by K. Skinner, R.N., D.C. Sports and Spinal Injury Specialist

**Register online at www.PaloAltoOnline.com**

**GOT OLD SHOES? Give them to Meb!** We'll be collecting gently worn athletic shoes to go to those in need in war-zones and post-conflict areas. Bring your shoes to the Project Active booth on the baseball diamond and support your sport by giving back.  
**Go to www.GiveMebYourShoes.com** for more information about the cause.

**Are you a Foursquare user?** Try to earn the elusive "swarm" badge (50 or more people checking in at the same time in the same location) for your profile by checking in on Moonlight Run Race night -- or even better, the harder to obtain "Super Swarm" badge (250 or more people checking in at the same time in the same location)! The Foursquare location is the Palo Alto Weekly Moonlight Run on race night. These are among the hardest badges to earn!

# PROPERTY SHOWCASE by Hugh Cornish



## TIMELESS WILLIAM WURSTER DESIGN

**265 Eleanor Drive, Woodside**

4-bedroom, 4-full and 2-half baths with separate apartment  
Offered at \$2,975,000 [www.265Eleanor.com](http://www.265Eleanor.com)



## ONE-OF-A-KIND HIDDEN VALLEY PROPERTY

**160 Farm Road, Woodside**

4-bedroom, 4.5-bath home on approx. 4.6 acres  
Offered at \$6,250,000 [www.160Farm.com](http://www.160Farm.com)



## WESTERN HILL VIEWS; SINGLE-LEVEL UNIT

**2 Mansion Court, Menlo Park**

3-bedroom, 3.5-bath condominium  
Offered at \$1,299,000 [www.2MansionCt.com](http://www.2MansionCt.com)



## HISTORIC ATHERTON ESTATE

**311 Stockbridge Avenue**

Three-story main house with 6 bedrooms  
Offered at \$6,850,000 [www.311Stockbridge.com](http://www.311Stockbridge.com)



## ROMANTIC REDWOOD ESTATE

**1990 Portola Road, Woodside**

5-bedroom, 4.5-bath home on approx. 4.5 acres  
Offered at \$6,750,000 [www.1990Portola.com](http://www.1990Portola.com)



## UNPARALLELED VIEWS

**180 Golden Oak Drive, Portola Valley**

4-bedroom, 4.5-bath home on approx. 3.82 acres  
Offered at \$3,199,000 [www.180GoldenOak.com](http://www.180GoldenOak.com)



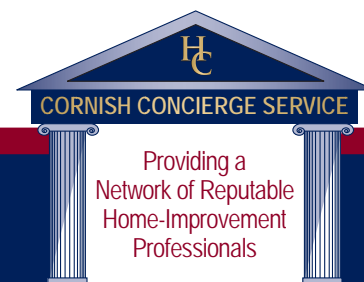
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650.566.5353  
[hcornish@cbnorcal.com](mailto:hcornish@cbnorcal.com)

For a virtual tour and more information on this property, please visit:  
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