



Home & Garden Design
inside this issue

The Almanac

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

OCTOBER 6, 2010 | VOL. 46 NO. 6



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Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Members of the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County, along with friends, family and colleagues, leave the memorial service for Bill Lane at Stanford Memorial Church on Friday, Oct. 1.

Church packed in celebration of Bill Lane

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The tones were not entirely somber Friday, Oct. 1, at a Stanford University campus celebration of the life of equestrian and Portola Valley resident Bill Lane, a tireless benefactor, with his wife Jean Lane, of his home town, his alma mater a few miles to the east, and parks throughout California and the nation.

Five or six cowboy hats were visible among the 1,100 or so people gathered in Memorial Church for the noon event. Also seen: one park ranger hat, a baseball cap or two, a few backpacks, the occasional colorful dress, and a mix of generations that defied Mr. Lane's own demographic. He died at the age of 90 on July 31.

From the 11 remembrances of the day came anecdotes, unsurprising to anyone who knew him, about Mr. Lane's joyous spirit, his love of democracy, his passion for the Western United States, and his energy. But also came reports of a less familiar Bill Lane.

Bill Marken, who worked for Mr. Lane at Sunset magazine, said

that while his boss was known for embodying the enthusiasm of a large puppy, he could also be "as fierce as a Rottweiler" in defending the magazine, and "as cunning as a coyote" when the moment called for strategic thinking.

Mr. Lane was of legendary proficiency at multi-tasking when driving, Mr. Marken said. "We should be gratified," he added, that Mr. Lane had not had the options of Twitter and instant messaging.

He was also a wind surfer, and once was too busy having fun to notice the effect that gravity was having on his bathing suit, Mr. Marken noted.

"He was an environmentalist before we had the word," his daughter Sharon said. And he knew the value of perseverance, she said, noting the time her dad towed her around a lake 25 times until she achieved her intended purpose of getting up on one water ski.

"He knew how to seize the day," she added, using as an example her dad's frequent lunches that consisted entirely of ice cream, sometimes in large amounts.

"Dad, that's a lot of ice cream,"

she recalled, recounting a day he happened to be having a large bowl of it. "Yes, you bet it is," he replied, "and I'll have another bowl after this if I want to."

Mr. Lane's son Bob, heroically containing his breaking voice for the several minutes that he spoke, said that people often asked him what it was like to live in the shadow of his accomplished father.

"Today, for the first time, I realized that that shadow was lovely for me to live in," he said. "He was a humble man, believe it or not. He totally knew what forgiveness was about. He was a gentleman through and through."

"I can't remember one time," his daughter Brenda recalled, "when he ever felt sorry for himself or said (in effect) 'Why me?'"

Praise from officials

Former governor Pete Wilson spoke of Mr. Lane's exemplary citizenship, his persistence in helping to restore the governor's mansion in Sacramento, and his appreciation of the importance of freedom.

See page 10

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Paid for by the 2010 Citizens Coalition for Menlo Gateway, Yes on T, major funding by the David D. Bohannon Organization, 100 Independence Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025

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Tom Gibboney, Publisher
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Any interested parent or community member must complete an application form and a "letter of interest" stating his/her experience in and commitment to educational, youth and community activities.

Application materials may be found in the "Headlines and News" section of the PVSD web site www.pvsd.net or by calling 851-1777, ext. 3001. Completed applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on October 15, 2010, and should be sent to:

Tim Hanretty
Superintendent
Portola Valley School District
4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028

Candidates will be interviewed by the Board on the evening of Thursday, October 21, 2010, beginning at 6:00 P.M. Final selection will be made by a majority vote of the Board Members at the regular Board meeting on October 27, 2010.

For additional information, contact Tim Hanretty at 851-1777, ext. 3000.

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

'Waiting for Superman' hits Woodside High School

By Chris Kenrick

Embarcadero Media

Woodside High School is cast in an unflattering spotlight with the nationwide opening of the documentary "Waiting for Superman," a portrait of a troubled U.S. public school system.

But the film has "mischaracterizations and misrepresentations," according to Woodside Principal David Reilly.

The film paints Woodside as a "not so bad" high school, but asserts that just 62 percent of its freshmen go on to graduate, and that only 32 percent of the school's graduates meet entrance requirements for California's four-year public universities.

Mr. Reilly disputes those figures and said college-bound students in the class of 2010 exceeded 90 percent. He said if filmmakers had

"talked with us and visited our schools," they "likely would have avoided some of the mischaracterizations and misrepresentations in the film."

The movie, which opened Oct. 1 in San Francisco and will open Friday, Oct. 8, in Palo Alto, has been

film also highlights Woodside, which is characterized as a middle-class public school in wealthy Silicon Valley.

Among the movie's five student protagonists is Emily Jones of Redwood City, who tells filmmakers she was lucky to win the lottery to

"An Inconvenient Truth," featuring former Vice President Al Gore speaking on global warming.

Emily says she would have been "put into the low classes" at Woodside because she's not a good test-taker.

At Summit, "Everybody takes the same classes, even though you might not be the best speller or the best at taking tests," she says. "Everybody's taking the same thing and it's a great place to be."

In a lengthy e-mail, Woodside's Mr. Reilly said filmmakers rebuffed his efforts to share more information about the school.

"Although we were aware a segment of the film was being produced locally in spring 2009, we were told very little," he said.

"We offered for the filmmakers to learn more about Woodside and other schools in the Sequoia district, but the filmmakers declined. Had they talked with us and visited

our schools, the filmmakers likely would have avoided some of the mischaracterizations and misrepresentations in the film."

In Woodside's class of 2010, 93 percent of graduates had plans to go to college, about half at four-year and half at two-year colleges, Mr. Reilly said.

The remainder, he said, chose military service, "gap-year" experiences such as travel, apprenticeships or employment.

He criticized the film's portrayal of Woodside's low graduation rate as failing "to factor in the attrition and turnover of students between ninth and 12th grade."

"The source of the information presented in the film is a study conducted through UCLA by the Institution for Democracy and Educational Access (IDEA)," Mr. Reilly said.

See **SUPERMAN**, page 18

Woodside High's principal says the documentary contains "mischaracterizations, misrepresentations."

commented on by President Obama and promoted by "Oprah."

It features billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates and others lamenting that American students lag far behind their counterparts in many countries — but that charter schools have demonstrated successful models for change.

Though mainly focusing on large inner-city "dropout factories," the

attend Summit Preparatory Charter High School instead of Woodside High.

Woodside ranks in Newsweek's top 6 percent of American high schools and "is not so bad," Academy Award-winning filmmaker Davis Guggenheim says.

However, it is not the best place for Emily, says Mr. Guggenheim, who also produced and directed

Woodside aims to make library a 'destination'

■ Council green lights library redesign

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Plans to significantly reorganize the interior of the Woodside town library shifted into second gear on Tuesday, Sept. 28, after a unanimous Town Council, with some caution, gave architects the go-ahead to spend about \$200,000 to prepare construction documents for a project estimated to cost around \$2.3 million.

In a presentation to the council, architect Dawn Merkes, a principal of South San Francisco-based Group 4 Architecture Research and Planning, said that the library's layout is configured for people picking up items. Fifty-six percent of the 90,000 visitors in 2009 were there to check items out, according to a Group 4 survey.

The project goal is to make it a destination library through changes that encourage visits longer than the typical 20 minutes shown by the survey.

Among those changes: relocating the self-checkout area, creating a study room and separate areas for kids and teens, and designing a more welcoming bookstore-like appearance. The changes would be environmentally oriented, but

without the official stamp of the U.S. Green Building Council, a savings in documentation costs of about \$46,000, Ms. Merkes said.

The library has many visitors but not much social interaction among them, according to the survey. The new less compartmentalized layout would be expected to encourage more exploration.

The proposed new features include easier access to the patio, a book-hold area that will not need staff participation to pick up an item, a less intimidating information desk, a living room-like area, and glass enclosed rooms for teens and quiet study.

Construction would begin in late spring or early summer of 2011 and end about six months later, Ms. Merkes said. While the library is closed, options for Woodside residents would include possible visits by a bookmobile and/or visits to the libraries in Atherton and Portola Valley. Ideally, children's story time could relocate to a temporary home in town.

All project funding is coming from a restricted reserve of about \$2.1 million in Woodside library property tax revenues. The libraries in Woodside, Portola Valley and Atherton are unusual among the 12 member libraries of the

Free rides on the Wells Fargo stagecoach will be offered from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. during the event. The stagecoach, driven by Paul Fellingham, is provided by the Wells Fargo Whiskey Hill branch, "one of the oldest Wells Fargo express offices in the U.S., opening in 1868," said M. Fentress Hall, an organizer of the event.



A day for horses in Woodside

A progressive trail ride expected to draw more than 300 costumed riders will be one of the highlights of Woodside's sixth annual "Day of the Horse" on Saturday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The free horse fair's activities will be centered at and around Woodside Town Hall. The Wells Fargo Stagecoach will be giving rides and there will be horse-themed crafts and blacksmith demonstrations. Children's activities will include a petting zoo,

pony rides, and having their picture taken astride a pony.

Representatives from many of the area's riding programs will be on hand with information, including "Back in the Saddle," a program for adults who haven't ridden since their youth and want to ride again.

Riders in the progressive trail ride will wear costumes representing different holidays, such as Halloween and Valentine's Day. Pre-registration is required for all

riders.

"The Day of the Horse" is sponsored by the Woodside-area Horse Owners Association (WHOA), a local group dedicated to preserving Woodside's rural ambience and promoting equestrian activities.

Woodside Town Hall is located at 2955 Woodside Road, at Whiskey Hill Road. For more information, call Donna Poy, 380-6408.

Go to whoa94062.org for information.

San Mateo County Library Joint Powers Authority in that they accumulate more in revenues than they spend each year, said Greg Bodin, assistant director of the county library.

Although Woodside's library will spend about \$125,000 on maintenance this year, the reserve grows by about \$300,000 annually so the balance should be around \$2.3 million by June 30,

2011, Assistant Town Manager Kevin Bryant told the council.

Mayor Dave Burow wondered whether the county government,

See **LIBRARY**, page 15

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ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTORS



Steve Lewis is President of Lewis & Mathews Investment Management in Menlo Park. He is a college professor, investment counselor, Value Line award winner, financial author and has appeared on national radio and television. He is a past officer of the S.C. International Association of Financial planners and served on the National Academy Advisory Board. He has written for Money magazine and Dow Jones's Barron's.



Jim Curran is a veteran of over 25 Years on Wall Street. He is President of Curran & Lewis Investment Management, Inc., in Menlo Park, a Wealth Manager Magazine top Wealth Management firm. He is Chief Portfolio Manager, and specializes in investment advice for individual investors, companies, and their officers. He is an accomplished and dynamic college and business lecturer.

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TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY SEEKS APPLICANTS TO SERVE ON THE TRAILS AND PATHS COMMITTEE



The Town Council seeks applicants for appointment to the Trails and Paths Committee. The Trails Committee advises the Town Council and staff on all aspects of the Town's extensive trails system. The committee is also responsible for promoting the safe enjoyment of the Town's trails for the benefit of all users. Members of the Trails Committee will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Commitment to attend monthly Trails Committee meetings (second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.)
- Support and appreciation for the interests of diverse user groups
- Ability to generate creative ideas around issues of trail usage, development and maintenance
- Ability to prioritize trail improvement and maintenance issues within financial constraints
- Willingness to help organize educational, recreational and service-based events to engage the community and strengthen support for the Town's trails
- Commitment to use the trails on a regular basis and report trail issues to Town staff
- Ability to work effectively with other committee members
- Appreciation for the rural character of the Town and the value the trails provide to our community

Applications may be downloaded or submitted on-line at <https://portolavalley.net/index.aspx?recordid=61&page=24>. The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m., Monday, October 11. The Trails Committee will conduct an initial round of interviews of candidates at its November 9 meeting. A follow-up round of interviews will be conducted in mid-November by two members of the Town Council (Steve Toben and Ted Driscoll) and Town Manager Angie Howard. Final recommendations for appointment to the committee will be presented to the Town Council for action on December 8. The term of appointments will be one year, starting January 1, and appointments are renewable. Portola Valley's trails are one of the Town's most cherished assets, and we encourage interested individuals to apply.

Bicyclist, 62, killed by car in Atherton

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The San Mateo County Coroner's Office has identified a 62-year-old bicyclist who was struck by a car and killed while crossing El Camino Real in Atherton on Thursday morning, Sept. 30.

Christopher Chandler of Redwood City was killed at about 10:35 a.m. when he was hit by a car on southbound El Camino Real at Isabella Avenue, Atherton police Lt. Joe Wade said.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

A preliminary investigation indicated Mr. Chandler was riding his bike in a crosswalk when a southbound Toyota Camry struck him, Lt. Wade said. The point of impact was the passenger-side windshield.

The driver, a 69-year-old man and a resident of Stanford, stopped at the scene and was cooperating with investigators, Lt. Wade said.

Mr. Chandler came to rest 53 feet south of a curb at Isabella Avenue, Lt. Wade said. The frame of his bike was found on the shoulder of the road about 74 feet away. The distances are likely to increase once measurements from the point of impact are known, Lt. Wade said.

It does not appear that alcohol played a role in the accident, and it has not been determined whether speed was a factor, Lt. Wade said, adding that investigators have not yet made a determination as to who was at fault.

Unlike a pedestrian in a crosswalk, for whom traffic must stop, a bicycle has no special privileges. It is considered a vehicle pulling on to a roadway and is responsible for yielding to oncoming traffic, Lt. Wade said. A cyclist walking a bike in a crosswalk is considered a pedestrian, he said.

Southbound El Camino Real was closed between Watkins and Atherton avenues for about five hours while the accident was investigated.

— Bay City News Service
contributed to this report.

Pros and cons on state ballot measures

The League of Women Voters will present a pro and con discussion of the Nov. 2 state ballot measures at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, in Hanson Hall at The Sequoias, 501 Portola Road in Portola Valley.

For more information about the meeting, call The Sequoias at 851-1501.

Menlo candidates campaign at forum

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

The council chamber was half full on Sept. 29 as candidates for Menlo Park City Council took turns answering six questions submitted by the audience. The League of Women Voters hosted the event, which ran a good deal shorter than most interminable council meetings.

Incumbents Rich Cline and Heyward Robinson, along with educator Chuck Bernstein, Menlo Park Fire Protection District board president Peter Ohtaki, Planning Commissioner Kirsten Keith, and wildcard entrant Russell Peterson fielded questions.

Before the forum began at 7 p.m., residents milled around outside the chamber, visiting with candidates and picking up campaign fliers. Former mayor Gail Slocum urged people to vote for Mr. Cline and Mr. Robinson, and also suggested taking a close look at Ms. Keith. Doing his part to keep the forum lively, Mr. Robinson was overheard coaching a member of the audience on questions "someone has to ask."

After the candidates got a few moments to enjoy the view from the dais, the moderator presented questions about the city budget, the downtown specific plan, climate change, lack of collegiality on the current council, whether decisions should be made via ballot measures, and, of course, high-speed rail.

Rail, downtown

Mr. Peterson, well known for his opposition to high-speed rail, declared, "There is a god!" when he got the chance to respond first to a question about how much time candidates were willing to devote to the issue, and how they would demonstrate the impacts of the project to residents.

He, along with every other candidate, went on to explain why he thinks the current high-speed rail plan should be derailed.

In an evening filled with generalities, Ms. Keith proved willing to offer specific proposals. She proposed raising the utility tax on gas, water, and electricity from 1 percent, citing Palo Alto's 5 percent as an example, to help balance the budget. She also put forth electrify-

JobTrain to hold open house Thursday

JobTrain, the Menlo Park-based nonprofit that provides training, counseling and job-placement services, is celebrating 45 years with its annual open house and barbecue from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7, at 1200 O'Brien Drive.

Formerly known as OICW, the organization was founded in 1965 to serve low-income people in Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.



ing Caltrain tracks from San Jose to San Francisco instead of building high-speed rail.

Mr. Bernstein, whose voice boomed across the chamber, displayed the most passion in his responses, and did not hesitate to attack. Declaring the amount paid for the study that led to the downtown specific plan "shameful," he said, "I don't like what I've seen of the plan. I don't think I can even call it a plan. Parking garages — who's going to pay for them?"

Mr. Peterson disliked allowing five-story buildings on El Camino Real, while Mr. Ohtaki suggested focusing first on attracting new businesses to empty lots and storefront. He pledged to fill the empty lots on El Camino Real if elected.

The remaining three candidates reiterated their support for the plan.

Ballot measures

A potentially controversial question about whether the council should hand off to voters decisions on such matters as pension reform (otherwise known as Measure L) and the Bohannon Gateway (Measure T) didn't stir up much discord. All six candidates agreed that ballot measures, while less than ideal, are sometimes necessary.

"If you were to ask me when I was first running, I would've said, 'No, absolutely not, you need to be a leader,'" Mr. Cline said. But he added that now he's realized some projects have a large enough impact that voters should decide. "Though the council should still take stand and vote on it. We did vote on Gateway."

Collegiality?

At least one audience member wondered whether future council members could get along better than the current ones.

Ms. Keith pointed to six years of Planning Commission meetings and a broad base of support as proof that she knows how to work collaboratively. Mr. Ohtaki drew upon his experience with the diverse backgrounds of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District directors, sug-

gesting that setting priorities can minimize internecine squabbles.

For Mr. Bernstein, the answer is simple. "It starts by talking to people, speaking clearly, frankly, directly, being honest, and above all, having respect for other people."

Distinguished from the other candidates by his lack of experience in holding a political office, Mr. Peterson said he'd stay focused on the issue and move on despite disagreement.

The incumbents, of course, have several years' worth of council meetings to demonstrate their working styles, as Mayor Cline said. Mr. Robinson stated he believes the council is less divided now than it was when he was first elected in 2006.

Climate change

Once again, the candidates found common ground, concurring that approving Proposition 23, which would freeze reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in California until unemployment drops 7 percent, is not a step in the right direction.

Discussion veered toward Menlo Gateway after Mr. Bernstein declared the current council hypocritical for approving what he regards as a non-green project. Ms. Keith, the planning commissioner, and Councilman Robinson countered by referring to the project's potential LEEDS certification and carbon-neutral status. ■

Video of the voters forum will be available soon on public access television and smartvoter.org, according to the organizers.



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REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



AS IS SALE

Dear Gloria, I recently sold my house, which is only 15 years old, in a fairly short period of time. The offer came in at a good price and with only an inspection contingency. It also stated that the buyer would take it "as is". I had already done all the presale inspections and actually remedied most of the items on the inspection report, which were all fairly minor.

After having another inspection done, the buyer came back to me and wanted either a credit or to have me do additional work on the house. What good is "as is" if they don't take it "as is"?

Jerry D., Portola Valley

Dear Jerry, Although it doesn't sound as if you put the "as is" clause in the contract but rather the buyer did, as is only covers defects or issues with the property which have already been disclosed, either by your inspection or by your sellers disclosure. If the second inspector finds something that the first inspector either missed or did not consider a defect, this becomes new

information, which the buyer can either accept, ask that the seller do the necessary work to repair or renegotiate the contract. You did not state if the work the buyer wanted done was minor in scope or not; however, both buyer and seller need to take a deep breath and consider the possible outcomes — one, for the buyer to request repairs and two, for the seller to refuse to do the repairs (obviously there are others such as the contact falling apart.) Buyers are looking long and hard at properties prior to making an offer and may have put several months in to finding just the right house prior to making the offer. They are missing the bigger picture if it is a minor item that they can easily take care of. Even if it is more of a major financial fix, do they really want to lose the house over this? For you as the seller, you must ask yourself the same questions; in this market, you got lucky or else had a special and well priced home (maybe both) and do you want to start all over again with another buyer who may have the same issues, offer a lower price or need financing.

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Solar panels at Christ Episcopal Church are expected to generate more power per year than the church can use.

Photo by Michelle Le /The Almanac

Blessings from above at Christ Church

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

If there are blessings to be had for reducing one's fossil fuel consumption, Christ Episcopal Church in Portola Valley will surely win some over the next 25 years.

The recently installed roof-mounted 20 kilowatt solar panel system is expected to produce each year more electricity than the church uses and reduce annual emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, by the

equivalent of a mid-sized car not driving 818,000 miles, according to a statement by church spokesman Matthew Burt.

The church community worked for several years to arrange for the purchase and installation of the 92 solar panels, which were blessed on Sunday, Sept. 12, by the rector, the Rev. Mitch Lindeman, during a ribbon cutting, system turn-on and barbecue.

A group of 12 parishioners, led by church board member Tim

McAdam, founded "Powered by the Son," a limited liability corporation used to win federal and state incentives and the right to depreciate the cost of the panels, Mr. Burt said. Upon recouping the return on its investment, the corporation plans to donate the panels to the church.

The church, located at 815 Portola Road, expects to save \$250,000 it would have normally spent on energy costs over the lifetime of the system, Mr. Burt said. ■

Blues festival canceled for lack of volunteers

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

In its quest for funds to buy and maintain open space within its boundaries, the town of Portola Valley has been raising money every September by means of a blues concert, but that heretofore reliable mojo has done gone, or so it appears.

September is over and the Blues & Barbecue Festival, a concert featuring live music and a sit-down meal outside at Town Center, did not happen, will not be happening this year, and may not happen next year.

There weren't enough volunteers to bring it off. It's the second time the festival has been

canceled since the first one in 1997. The other was in 1998, when again the volunteers didn't step up, Town Manager Angie Howard said.

This festival is the responsibility of the Community Events Committee, one of 17 citizen groups that report to the Town Council on community matters. The events committee also organizes the town picnic in June and a holiday party for volunteers in December. This past summer brought new duties at Town Center: at least two outdoor concerts and an outdoor movie.

In the last seven years, the blues festival has raised an average of \$58,000 per year, according to town records. In recent years, proceeds have twice reached \$79,000. This money, plus about \$250,000 annually from a 2 percent utility users tax, goes to a restricted fund for the acquisition of open space. As of July, the fund had a balance of \$2.8 million, according to the 2010-11 budget.

A message on the town's website announced the five-person committee's decision. "Blues & Barbecue 2010 has been cancelled due to a shortage of volunteers," it read. "If you've enjoyed Blues & Barbecue in years past and would like to see its return in 2011, we encourage you to consider volunteering some of your time and energies."

How much time? How much energy?

Putting on the festival — and the picnic and the holiday party — "requires a very significant uptick of (extra) people" who can meet deadlines and work

methodically, said Councilwoman and committee liaison Ann Wengert. "It's a worker committee of the first magnitude. We need people who can and are really ready to roll up their sleeves."

Events committee Chair Michael Bray did not respond to a request for an interview.

The day of the festival requires about 100 person-hours spread among 83 individual tasks, including setting up the event, tending beverage bars and the

will-call table, and gofer duties, according to the committee's website. The bartending jobs go to people who

have volunteered for more than one job.

Ahead of the festival, a dozen people spend about 30 hours handling voice- and e-mail, assembling ticket packets for will-call, receiving rented items such as tables and dishware, and preparing centerpieces for the tables. Then there's cleanup when it's over.

To ease the burden, the mundane routines are computerized to the extent possible and the whole thing is very tightly managed, Ms. Wengert said.

This year, she said, the committee lost several longtime members and many people from the corps of extras. "It was like a perfect storm of (those losses) hitting relatively quickly," she said. "One of the things that we really don't want to lose in this embedded knowledge."

Why the shortage?

Losing embedded knowledge, if that were to happen, would be a new problem for Portola Valley, which has had a deep tradition of volunteerism going back to its first years.

"So many people are so over-booked now on their time commitments, and this is one that requires time," Ms. Wengert said. "We were all disappointed. Everybody is disappointed."

Nevertheless, she took pains to point out, the question raised is not exclusively how to protect the tradition of volunteerism, but where the community is in 2010 with respect to the giving of its time.

"I think it's (the council's) job to make sure we understand what the community wants," she said. ■

The event was a major fundraiser for open space acquisition.

Menlo Park school celebrates Peace Day

Menlo Park's German-American International School joined other schools around the world Sept. 21 in celebrating the United Nations-

declared International Peace Day.

The school held an assembly, incorporating peace messages into performing and visual arts. This

event ended with students observing a moment of silence, accompanied by a peace prayer.

Founded in 1988, the German-American School is located at 275 Elliott Drive in Menlo Park.

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Council plans interim city manager

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ **ATHERTON**

An interim city manager will be overseeing Town Hall in Atherton while the City Council sorts through resumes and eventually engages a citizens committee to help interview candidates to replace departing City Manager Jerry Gruber, who is leaving on Oct. 22 for a position in Cambria, California.

The City Council talked the matter over in a special meeting on Thursday, Sept. 30, sandwiched in between discussions about candidates for code enforcement officer, building official and city attorney.

The council, in a unanimous vote, agreed to have Mayor Kathy McKeithen and Councilman Jim Dobbie solicit resumes for an interim manager for review by the entire council in a special meeting on Oct. 16, a Saturday. A notice similar to the one used to hire Mr. Gruber will go up Monday, Oct. 4, at CalOpps.org, an online clearinghouse for government job openings, he said.

It may be six months before the council decides on a permanent replacement from among resumes gathered by an executive recruiter, Mr. Gruber said in an interview.

The process is expected to include citizens committee interviews of council-chosen finalists from what is hoped to be as many as 100 applicants.

Fresh eyes

Councilwoman Elizabeth Lewis wanted citizens involved from the get-go by having them write a job description for the new manager.

"I think now is the time for true transparency in our process," she

said. "I want to surround myself with the bright spots of the community who know more than me."

Hiring a recruiter? "That is not going to work," Ms. Lewis said. "Atherton is at a crossroads right now. ... I think that Atherton has entered into an era that we need

A citizens committee is expected to interview council-chosen finalists for the permanent post.

to put away the old way of doing things."

An interim manager hired from the outside would have to be brought up to speed, Councilman Charles Marsala noted. Why not have Assistant City Manager Eileen Wilkerson fill in until a permanent choice is made?

An outsider will bring a fresh and possibly impartial perspective, Councilman Jerry Carlson said, and Mayor Kathy McKeithen and Councilman Jim Dobbie agreed. "Make the job very, very attractive," Mr. Dobbie added.

The town needs a good interim manager, Mayor McKeithen said. "One of the most important things is that we are not rushed," she added. "We need to make sure that we do this right."

Make the job very, very attractive? The town can't afford it, said resident and former private sector CEO Jon Buckheit. "We can't afford to pay a city manager \$500,000 to get the right city

manager here."

Better to skip recruiters — "Recruiters are crooks," he said — and look in Atherton. A resident will come cheaper and have a vested interest in the town's welfare, he said.

Another option bandied about is having government run more like business. That's a serious consideration for Ms. McKeithen. "Maybe it's time for government to run like a business," she said. "Maybe a business man or woman would be good for this town."

Council candidate Bill Widmer seconded that notion. "I believe we need to bring some business practices to the town," he told the council. "I think it's important that we are open to these kinds of thoughts and these types of people when we're making the selection." ■

Jerry Gruber comments on his departure

The Almanac, in its Sept. 29 issue, ran an earlier version of a story about the resignation of Atherton City Manager Jerry Gruber that did not contain the comments below from an Almanac interview on Sept. 27.

Mr. Gruber, who is resigning effective Oct. 22, said he has taken a job as utilities manager of the Cambria Community Services District.

Mr. Gruber, who came on board as Atherton city manager in early 2008, said he was hired for the Cambria job in the expectation that he will replace the district's current general manager in June 2012.

Mr. Gruber has owned a

home in the Cambria area, just south of San Simeon, since 2005, according to a written announcement from Atherton Town Hall.



Jerry Guber

"It's been fun here," he said in the interview. "It really has. I'm a better person for all that I've experienced here in Atherton. I feel like I'm leaving on a really positive note. ... I think we're in better shape fiscally and organizationally than when I came here in 2008."

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**Celebration of
Bill Lane**

continued from page 3

Mr. Lane, said Ambassador Kim Beazley, who represents Australia in Washington, D.C., "is the only 90 year old that I know who would consider his life's work only half done." Mr. Lane represented the United States in Canberra in the late 1980s.

"Bill Lane was, above all, a man of the West," said David Kennedy, a co-director of the Bill Lane Center for the American West on the Stanford campus. "It is most fitting that this memorial service is taking place on the campus he loved. (The university and Mr. Lane) have done more than simply embody the West. They have shaped it as well."

"God bless your wondrous West," Mr. Kennedy intoned. "It will feel emptier without you."

Mr. Lane, as regulars at Portola Valley Town Council meetings know, did not rest on his larger achievements, but poured his energy and love of democracy in action into matters involving the town he helped to found.

He loved the give and take and did not avoid matters of controversy, said Mayor Steve Toben. "Bill would take a position, but always gently and always with respect for different points of view," Mr. Toben said. "The constant renewal of democracy was (to Mr. Lane) not a labor but a joy."

In memory of Mr. Lane's habit of carrying a pocket version of the U.S. Constitution in his jacket pocket, copies like his were available at tables outside when the ceremony came to a close with a bagpiper playing Amazing Grace, a classic American spiritual.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, gifts in Mr. Lane's name can be made to the Peninsula Open Space Trust, the California Parks Foundation, the Yosemite Conservancy, or the Portola Valley Open Space Acquisition Fund. ■



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Sunday, Oct. 3, 1 to 4 p.m., 650-323-2225

Understanding Medicare, Medigaps, Medicare Advantage and the Drug Plans

Presented by Don Rush, volunteer counselor for Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)
Tuesday, Oct. 12, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Your Baby's Doctor

Thursday, Oct. 14, 7 to 9 p.m.



Living Well Classes 650-853-2960

Functional Spine Training

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

Nutrition and Diabetes Classes 650-853-2961

Adult Weight

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Thursdays, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Bariatric Nutrition SMA

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

Living Well with Diabetes

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

Heart Smart Class

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

Healthy Eating Type 2 Diabetes

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

Gestational Diabetes

Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.

Prediabetes

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

Pregnancy, Breastfeeding & Child Care Classes

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Saturdays, Oct. 2, 9 & 16, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesdays, Oct. 6 – Nov. 10,
7 to 9:15 p.m.

Thursdays, Nov. 4 – Dec. 16, 7 to 9:15 p.m.

Breastfeeding: Secrets for Success

Thursday, Oct. 28, 7 to 9 p.m.,
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Mountain View Center 701 E. El Camino Real

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Wednesday, Oct. 6, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Sunnyvale Public Library, Sunnyvale

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Wednesday, Oct. 27, 7 to 8:30 p.m.



HMR Weight Management Program 650-404-8260

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Living Well Classes 650-934-7373

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Mind/Body Stress Management

Starts Monday, Oct. 18, 7 to 9 p.m.

Nutrition and Diabetes Classes 650-934-7177

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6 to 7:15 p.m.

Heart Smart Class

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3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Diabetes Class (two-part class)

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

Prediabetes

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

Sweet Success

Gestational Diabetes Class

Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to noon

Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and Child Care Classes

Breastfeeding Your Newborn

Monday or Tuesday, Oct. 4, 5, 11,
Nov. 1 or 2, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Baby Care

Oct. 5, 23 – Nov. 2, Tuesday/Wednes-
day, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Saturday,
10 a.m. to noon

Feeding Your Toddler

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 7 to 9 p.m.

Infant Emergencies and CPR

Wednesday, Oct. 6, 20 & Nov. 3,
6 to 8:30 p.m.

Preparing for Baby

Tuesday, Oct. 12, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

OB Orientation

Wednesday or Thursday, Oct. 14, 20,
28 or Nov. 4, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Introduction to Solids

Monday, Oct. 18, 10:30 a.m. to noon

What to Expect with Your Newborn

Tuesday, Oct. 19, 7 to 8 p.m.

Childbirth Preparation

Oct. 1, 2, 14 – Nov. 5, 6; Thursday,
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Cutting cost of code enforcement

By Dave Boyce
 Almanac Staff Writer

Like all California cities and towns, Atherton has a municipal code meant to take care of matters such as the incessant barking of a dog or the fate of a heritage tree or whether it is acceptable to operate a backhoe on a weekday after 5 p.m. (It is not.)

With public finances a major concern, the question before the City Council on Thursday, Sept. 30, was how to enforce the code for less than the current annual cost of \$57,000 for a consultant to do eight hours of enforcement work per week. By a unanimous vote, the council approved soliciting new proposals for such services.

In the discussion leading up to the vote, Councilwoman Elizabeth Lewis' suggestion of having police officers handle it, as is done in Menlo Park, raised arguments for and against.

Police officers don't know the municipal code, Councilman Jim Dobbie said. He added that he does hear from residents every week about code violations. "We can just walk around and see the rules being broken all over the place," he said.

Resident Gene Elsbree noted that code violations have been a regular occurrence in connection with a home construction project on Fletcher Drive. Over the summer, 18-wheeled dump trucks crept up the winding road before 8 a.m. and back down after 5 p.m., he said.

How hard is it, Councilman Charles Marsala and Bill Witmer asked, for a police officer to tell someone that weekend work is not allowed or that its past time to be operating a backhoe.

Mayor Kathy McKeithen commented that using police officers is not without costs and that uniformed officers at the door would be chilling to residents who expect complaints to be handled in a nonchalant, neighborly, "kind of, would you please" approach.

"Officers should not be perceived as a threat," countered Ms. Lewis. "They should be perceived as our friends (and) protectors." Besides, she added, they can do the job in plain clothes.

There are important privacy concerns, said resident Jon Buckheit during public comment. Once inside, an officer can do a search-and-seizure if he or she sees something to justify it. "It really creates a tense situation," he said. ▀

RE-ELECT JIM DOBBIE

ATHERTON COUNCIL

VOTE FOR JIM DOBBIE ON NOV. 2

JIM IS QUALIFIED, EXPERIENCED, INVOLVED AND ACCESSIBLE:

- 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
- Electrical engineering degrees from Glasgow and Arizona State Universities

DURING JIM'S 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
- 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

LOOKING AHEAD, JIM KNOWS Atherton is facing many important and complex issues, including:

- Balancing the Budget
- Opposing High Speed Rail
- Hiring a new Town Manager, Attorney and Building Dept. Manager
- Reducing Litigation Expense
- Ensuring Superior Police Services

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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Remaking Woodside Library

LIBRARY

continued from page 5

which is facing a significant structural deficit, might try to redirect some of these funds. "Everybody's trying to grab everybody else's money," he said. "This is the sport of the day."

The collection of revenues for libraries is specified in an agreement among JPA members: the county and 11 cities and towns, Town Manager Susan George said. To amend that agreement with respect to distribution of revenues would require the approval of a two-thirds majority of JPA members, a scenario Ms. George said would be unlikely.

The Menlo Park Library is independent of this JPA, but like all public libraries in the county, belongs to the Peninsula Library System and shares books through

inter-library loans.

The overall goals of the redesign include flexibility as needs change and economical and sustainable operation. The physical footprint of the library will not change significantly and is "very adequate" for the size of the community, the architects said.

The new bathrooms will comply with federal law on accessibility for the disabled.

The plan included solar panels for the roof, but that has been scrubbed as being not cost-effective.

The council is likely to revisit the proposal around February. "It looks like a great project," Councilman Ron Romines said. ■

Go to is.gd/fAmbn (case sensitive) to view the proposal. The plans include comments and suggestions from the Woodside community.

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Allied Arts neighborhood fence won't be torn down

By **Sandy Brundage**

Almanac Staff Writer

Good fences make good neighbors, but in Menlo Park, good neighbors make for good fences.

The City Council voted 3-2 on Sept. 28 to let a fence in the Allied Arts neighborhood remain standing, even though it enters the city's right-of-way.

The fence at 900 Cambridge Ave. has been under contention since January, according to homeowner Tom Wandless, when the public works department denied an encroachment permit.

He and his wife accidentally built the fence too far from the property line around their corner lot in 2004, Mr. Wandless told the council. The fence extends 6 feet into the right-of-way, and also encompasses two heritage oak trees that belong to the city.

The couple had already agreed to move the fence back to their property line if the city ever decided to put sidewalks along Cambridge and therefore needed the right-of-way space.

When asked how encroachments are handled, Deputy City Manager Kent Steffens told the council, "We do take it pretty seriously." The city does not search for right-of-way violations, he said, but becomes aware of them either through complaints, or by the owners applying for building permits — which is what happened in this case.

At least five of Mr. Wandless's neighbors sent e-mails to the council asking them to leave the fence alone.

"There's no cause to remove the fence — it doesn't block any views, make the street dangerous, or infringe on the street. It's simply not a disruption to our neighborhood," Andrea and Steve Cutright wrote. "It's too bad that this is taking up city time — it's definitely worth keeping."

Mayor Rich Cline and Councilmember Heyward Robinson were inclined to let the fence stay. For once, colleague Andy Cohen agreed with them, despite trading barbs with the mayor during the debate.

"I think the city should always take the position that this is our right-of-way, and then have a hearing to decide it, because every case is unique," said Mr. Cline.

Councilmembers John Boyle and Kelly Fergusson disagreed. Mr. Boyle commented on the necessity of protecting the city's right-of-way, noting that encroachment is one of the city's biggest issues on Santa Cruz Avenue.

"A homeowner is in essence enlarging their property," he said. "Every homeowner in Menlo Park tomorrow will be asking for an encroachment permit and promising to tear it down if we ever need it; I don't

See **FENCE**, page 18

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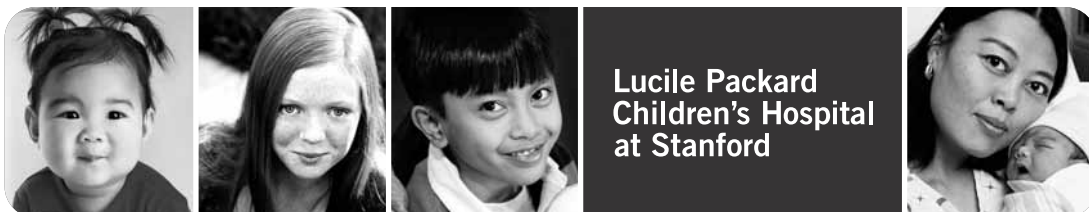
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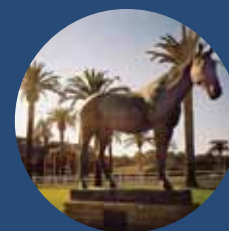


evolved into a community service organization which participates in rodeos, equestrian events, charitable activities and assists the Sheriff's search and rescue team.

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Woodside vaulters selected for World Equestrian Games

By **Samantha Bergeson**
Special to the Almanac

Three members of the Woodside Vaulters equestrian vaulting club have been selected by the U.S. Equestrian Team to compete in the World Equestrian Games, being held from Sept. 25 to Oct. 10 in Lexington, Kentucky.

This international competition in vaulting, which is essentially gymnastics and choreographed dance on a moving horse, is held every four years.

Ali Divita, a two-time national champion, will be competing as one of the three individual women performers. The 21-year-old Redwood City resident is a student at the University of California, Berkeley, and placed first in the International Vaulting Concours earlier this year.

Katherine Wick, 17, is the first alternate rider for the woman's individual competition. She won first place in the Prize of Sparkasse in Aachen, Germany this past June.

Patrick Stevens, 19, is the first alternate rider for the men's individual competition. Stevens was the men's reserve national champion in 2009.

Other local participants the from Woodside Vaulters include Katrina Nibbi, 16, Tessa Divita, 13, and Ellie Gifford, 12. They are attending as part of the Friendship Team, a group of vaulters from across the United



Photo by Santa Barbara Pix

Redwood City resident Ali Divita performs her freestyle vaulting routine at the Santa Barbara 2010 National Championships.

States. They will demonstrate vaulting in Kentucky Horse Park and in downtown Lexington during the games.

Also competing in the games are two vaulters from Quito, Ecuador, hosted by Woodside Vaulters: Marina Paulina Martinez Ribadeneira, 17, and Carla Martinez Restropo, 18. Both have been training in Woodside since early August.

Isabelle Parker is head coach of the Woodside Vaulters.

Go to woodsidgevaulters.org for more information on Woodside Vaulters. ■

No-confidence vote on bullet train?

By **Sandy Brundage**
Almanac Staff Writer

Those interested in the future of high-speed rail on the Peninsula may want to attend the Menlo Park City Council meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 5.

The council may issue a vote of "no confidence" on high-speed rail, or make a formal resolution opposing the project, as Orange County did. Council members can also choose to do nothing.

On Sept. 21 the council voted to join Palo Alto and Atherton in a lawsuit challenging the project's environmental impact report.

Palo Alto earlier last month also passed a "no confidence" vote, based on the rail authority's flawed ridership projections, estimated \$42.6 billion construction cost, and deteriorating community relationships, according to the staff report.

The Menlo Park City Council meeting begins at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Civic Center, 700 Laurel St.

■ BRIEFS

Smoking ban passes

With zero discussion, the Menlo Park City Council waived a second reading of the revised smoking ordinance, thus making the new laws official. The changes go into effect Nov. 29.

Major revisions include no more smoking in outdoor areas like Cafe Borrone's patio, unless the business owner chooses to set aside a designated, unenclosed space for smokers.

While residents can still smoke within their own apartments, or while walking in the street, common use areas of multi-unit housing will become smoke-free zones, according to City Attorney Bill McClure.

'Town Hall' meetings on state issues

State Sen. Joe Simitian will discuss state issues affecting local communities, including high-speed

rail, at town hall meetings open to the public. One meeting is set for Wednesday, Oct. 6, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Redwood City Council Chambers, 1017 Middlefield Road in Redwood City.

Opponents meet on Proposition 23

Local environmental activists are holding a meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13, about Proposition 23, a statewide initiative that would freeze reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in California until unemployment drops to 2007 levels — essentially reversing the state's global warming statute. Prop. 23 will appear on the ballot for the Nov. 2 elections.

Former Menlo Park mayor Gail Slocum, who works for PG&E as an attorney on energy policy, said in a press release the initiative undermines the state's ability to attract investors in clean technology.

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. in the community room at the Menlo Park Library on Alma Street.

SUPERMAN

continued from page 5

"This is complex information for a lay audience to absorb, and the study authors acknowledge in the appendix that the presentation of the data is imperfect.

"Over the course of four years, students will move into and out of the area, and this isn't reflected in the data," he said.

"Moreover, the study only documents graduates enrolled in public colleges in California. It does not document graduates enrolled in private colleges in California, nor public and private colleges outside of California, of which Woodside High has a fair number."

Except for special-needs students, all freshmen entering Woodside are registered in college-prep classes that satisfy the entrance requirements for the University of California and the California State

University systems.

"A central focus of Woodside High is quality college preparation, and we have established a college-going culture on our campus," he said.

"We know there isn't a one-size-fits-all model of a successful school that meets all needs of all students. Nor is there a simple or singular solution for solving the complex problems of America's schools.

"We encourage public dialogue that focuses on ways to improve our schools while recognizing the complex nature of this undertaking."

Woodside is one of four comprehensive high schools in the Sequoia Union High School District and draws students from Redwood City, East Palo Alto, Woodside, Portola Valley and Menlo Park.

High school-age students from East Palo Alto are spread out among the four Sequoia campuses, and have a dropout rate estimated

to be about 65 percent.

The Sequoia district once had a campus in East Palo Alto, Ravenswood High School, but closed it in 1976.

Two small charter high schools and one independent school currently operate in East Palo Alto and send nearly all of their graduates to college.

The four-year-old East Palo Alto Phoenix Academy, run by charter operator Aspire Public Schools, graduated its first class of 21 seniors in June and all were accepted by four-year colleges.

The five-year-old Stanford University-run charter East Palo Alto Academy High School sends about 90 percent of its graduates to two- or four-year colleges.

The 14-year-old independent Eastside College Preparatory School, which runs a sixth-through-12th-grade program, has 100 percent of its graduates accepted to four-year colleges. ■

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Women's health event in Atherton

Ten doctors associated with Sequoia Hospital are giving out free medical advice on a range of women's health issues at an all-day event at Menlo Circus Club in Atherton on Saturday, Oct. 16.

Peninsula Urology Center of Atherton and Sequoia Hospital are cosponsoring the second annual 2010 Women's Health Conference.

Available to the first 150 women who sign up, the conference will start at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast, followed by 30-minute presentations and question-and-answer periods with each specialist. Lunch will be served. The sessions are expected to end at 3 p.m.

Internist Denise Brown will moderate the speakers who plan to talk about these topics in this order: Urologist Chris Threatt, "Urinary incontinence, the 15 minute cure"; internist Sean Bourke, "Why wait to lose weight? Food for thought and health"; plastic surgeon Jane Weston, "Restoring our bodies/restoration and rejuvenation"; cardiologist Mary Larson, "Women's and men's heart disease"; endocrinologist Sherina Madan, "Update on hormone replacement therapy"; oncologist Jelena Kao, "Breast cancer screening, risk factors and prevention"; obstetrician and gynecologist Elaine Chien, "Too much bleeding? What is normal, what is not?"; urologist Dieter Bruno, "Always looking for a bathroom? Treatments for an overactive bladder"; and psychologist Nancy Coxwell, "Sandwich generation: creating guilt-free boundaries."

Go to pucenter.com/conference or call 306-1018 to register

Menlo Circus Club is located at 190 Park Lane in Atherton.

FENCE

continued from page 16

know why that's not a bigger issue for everyone."

After nearly two hours of discussion the council finally voted to grant the encroachment permit. The council also asked staff to add clauses requiring any future owners of 900 Cambridge Ave. to protect the heritage trees, and shield Menlo Park from liability should the trees injure anyone, since the owners are responsible for maintaining what is actually city property. ■

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Cultural Arts Committee

Meets as announced; appointed for a one-year term. Increase cultural awareness among residents of Portola Valley by sponsoring and supporting local cultural activities in the areas of art, music, science and nature, history, horticulture, drama, literature, photography and dance.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Meets second Thursday of each month, 8:00 a.m.; appointed for a one-year term. This Committee works with Town Staff to ensure that neighborhoods and Town government are ready to respond to possible emergencies such as earthquakes, wildfires and flooding. Other duties include maintaining emergency supplies and equipment, planning response to emergencies and educating Town residents.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Meets third Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m.; appointed for a one-year term. This Committee meets to develop, promote and maintain quality recreational and community enrichment programs, recreational facilities and park areas in the Town of Portola Valley.

Teen Committee

Meets as announced; appointed for a one-year term. This Committee meets to promote awareness of the unique needs of teens, as well as to provide visibility to teen contributions to our society.

Traffic Committee

Meets first Thursday of each month, 8:15 a.m.; appointed for a one-year term. This Committee meets to assist the Town in advising ways and means for safer conditions regarding motor vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians and road conditions and to encourage proper traffic enforcement.

Applications are available at Town Hall and on-line at www.portolavalley.net. Please return completed applications to:
Town Clerk Sharon Hanlon
Town of Portola Valley
765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028
E-mail: shanson@portolavalley.net
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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

Fraud report: Loss of \$5,200 in unauthorized charge to online travel agent, Walsh Road, Sept. 25.

Auto burglary report: Tools valued at \$1,500 stolen from truck storage unit, Ralston Road, Sept. 27.

MENLO PARK

Fraud reports:

■ Loss of \$3,050 in unauthorized use of credit card, 2300 block of Sharon Oaks Drive, Sept. 25.

■ Loss of \$3,000 in identity theft case, 500 block of Oakfield Lane, Sept. 28.

■ Loss of \$370 in unauthorized use of credit card, reported at main police station at 701 Laurel St., Sept. 29.

■ Loss of \$27 in unauthorized use of credit card, 700 block of Laurel Ave., Sept. 25.

Grand theft report: Two unlocked bicycles with total value of \$550 stolen from driveway, 700 block of Nash Ave., Sept. 26.

Auto burglary report: Apple iPod valued at \$200 stolen, 2000 block of Men-

alto Ave., Sept. 25.

Accident report: Motorcyclist skidded into solo vehicle crash and suffered no life-threatening injuries, 2200 block of Sand Hill Road, Sept. 26.

Adult Protective Services report: First block of Henderson Place, Sept. 27.

Spousal abuse report: 1200 block of Sharon Park Drive, Sept. 27.

WOODSIDE

Auto burglary report: Window smashed and gym bag with clothes inside stolen, Park and Ride at Lawler Ranch and Sand Hill roads, Sept. 24.



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Tue, Oct 26, 5:00-6:00 PM

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Sunday morning I had my maps and stood at the bus stop heading to Port-en-Bessin and Omaha beach. After about half an hour a French woman asked if I was an American? How can they tell? "Yes I was," I said. "Well there are no busses on Sunday". This is even better than I had hoped for. I could hitchhike again just like the old days. And off I went along a small road winding through the beautiful Normandy country side in the first week of June. It wasn't long before an old car with a much older farmer picked me up. "You're an American" he proudly said in English. How do they know? "Yes, and I have my friend's urn with me. He was here on D-Day and his wish was to be scattered off Omaha Beach." "We are very grateful and I know just where to go". In less than an hour he dropped me off at the small fishing town of Port-en-Bessin. I walked along the canal through the Sunday morning Farmers

D-Day + 64 years

market. It was filled with the sights and smells of the farmers produce, cheese, sausage and home made wines. By now it was noon and the tide was just beginning to flood. This meant that I would have some hours before the small fishing boats would lift off the mud and float again. Time enough to scout around and make a plan. Bob wanted to be scattered at sea and not on the beach.

At low tide Omaha Beach was almost impregnable. A hard shelf almost 200 yards across was exposed and it extended for miles to the East and West of my position and the cliffs rose more than 100 feet up from this shelf. How could those mostly 18 to 25 year old GIs have made it up and over on that D Day? I had time to take a few pictures of the urn and flag for his family. A young Japanese tourist asked me what I was doing. I told him and he asked if it was ok to take some pictures of me and e-mail them to me later. By now the boats were starting to rise and fishermen were walking down the still steep ramp to a little dock where their small row boats would take them to their boats at anchor. I saw a father and two sons taking supplies back and forth to their boat. I walked down the steep ramp to the floating dock and spoke in my high school French to a son about 25 years old. I explained why I was there and showed him the flag and the urn. I told him Bob was about 25 when his ship was hit just offshore. Some of his crew died right out there and he wanted to be with them now. I offered him \$50. He looked at me with tears in his eyes and said "It's an honor for my father and me and it's an honor for France." He

took the urn and spoke to his family and off to sea they went. I kept my word to Bob and they kept the honor of France. That night back in Paris I was swept up in a crowd of thousands of happy people. "You're an American, come with us". How do they know? A friend of America became the President of France that night. A Polish Jew! Nicolas Sarkozy. I stood in the crowd of tens of thousands of Parisians that Sunday night and waved Bob's American Flag to the cheers of the French men surrounding me.

Hitler said the Third Reich would last a thousand years. Bob and 100,000 of the Greatest Generation bet their lives that it wouldn't last one more year. -The End

For more photos or comments go to
www.MenloParkFunerals.com.



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■ OBITUARY

Laurel Ann Hiatt*Financial planner*

Laurel Ann Hiatt, a longtime resident of Menlo Park and Atherton, died unexpectedly Sept. 18, surrounded by her family. She was 65.

Ms. Hiatt was born in Southern California and grew up in Los Angeles. She received her bachelor of arts degree from Principia College in Illinois and graduated from Stanford University's School of Business in 1967, one of only two women in the graduating class.

That year she married James A. Hiatt, who became a real estate developer. She worked for IBM while her husband served as an officer in the U.S. Navy.

She put her work career on hold while raising four daughters and volunteering in the community.

Twenty years later she returned to the work force, becoming a financial planner.

A lifelong Christian Scientist, she served the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Menlo Park, in many capacities, including terms as First and Second Reader.

She is survived by her four daughters, Emily Vesely of Menlo Park, Chelsea Hiatt Farley of Pacifica, Mindy Castle of Martinez, and Jamie Hiatt of Donner Summit; her father, Edgar Fuller; half-sister Tracy Fuller of Palos Verdes; and three grandchildren. Her husband, James A. Hiatt, preceded her in death.

Private services have been held. Donations in her honor may be made to the Christian Science Peninsula Visiting Nurse Service, P.O. Box 7141, Menlo Park, CA 94026; or Arden Wood Inc., 445 Wawona St., San Francisco, CA 94116.

Trinity Church hosts 'save energy' party

Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park is hosting a party from 11 a.m. to noon Sunday, Oct. 10, calling on people to reduce their energy use by 10 percent this year, according to Lynn O'Leary Pieron, a spokesperson for the church.

Those who attend the party, to be held in the Trinity courtyard at 330 Ravenswood Ave. in Menlo Park, will receive "inspiration, tips and tools to reach their goal," she said.

People can sign up for free home services from Acterra's Green@Home program and for the "No on 23 faith campaign" to defeat Proposition 23, which would post-

■ BRIEFS

pone mandated reductions in greenhouse gas emissions until the economy improves.

At the 10 a.m. worship services, a guest preacher, the Rev. Sally Bingham, will talk about the link between ecology and spirituality.

"She is the driving force behind Interfaith Power and Light, which unites 10,000 congregations in 35 states in a religious response to global warming," Ms. Pieron said in a press release.

For more information, call Ms. Pieron at 529-9232.

■ ONLINE

More news online

Go to AlmanacNews.com for more news and sports. To read about local candidate forums, go to:

■ is.gd/fHCdq (case-sensitive) for a report on an Atherton City Council candidates forum.

■ is.gd/fHCuk (case-sensitive) for a report on a candidates forum for a runoff election for San Mateo County supervisor, District 3.

■ GRADS

Graduates

■ **Junlan Yang**, a resident of Menlo Park, recently received a doctorate in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

■ BIRTHS

Menlo Park

■ Evan and Curt Herberts, a daughter, Sept. 20, Sequoia Hospital.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDSTOWN OF ATHERTON
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**TOWN LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

Notice is hereby given that SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California, 94027, until 3:00 p.m. OCTOBER 14, 2010, at which time they will be publicly opened and read, for performing the following work:

This contract service provides for all inclusive landscape maintenance at various locations in the Town of Atherton; including town center and the El Camino Real median. The contract will be for the remaining eight months (Nov-June) of the 2010-2011 FY and have the option for three 1 year renewals pending fiscal appropriations.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for TOWN LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICES, along with date and time of bid opening.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held for all interested bidders to review the work site(s) and conditions, and for the Town staff to respond to questions, at;

**Atherton Administrative Offices
91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California
at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 8, 2010.**

Failure to attend this mandatory pre-bid meeting will result in disqualification of bidding for this project.

Per Section 6.01 of the Town of Atherton's Standard Specifications, the General Contractor shall perform, with his own organization, work of a value amounting to not less than 50% of the total contract, excluding specialty items as indicated on the bid schedule.

Plans and specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton Public Works Department, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton CA 94027, for a non-refundable fee of \$30.00. Additional important information is contained in Town of Atherton Standard Specifications which are available on line at www.ci.atherton.ca.us. If shipping is requested, there will be an additional charge of \$25.00.

Bidders are hereby notified that provisions of California Labor Code regarding prevailing wages are applicable to the work to be performed under this contract. Pursuant to Section 1773 et seq. the general prevailing wage rates have been determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations and appear in the California Prevailing Wage Rates. Copies are on file at the office of the City Engineer and are available to interested parties upon request. The successful bidder shall post a copy of the wage rates at the job site.

The successful bidder must be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9, Division 3, of the California Business and Professions Code to do the type of work contemplated in the project at the time the contract is awarded and shall be skilled and regularly engaged in the general class or type of work called for under the Contract. Failure of the bidder to obtain proper and adequate licensing for an award of the contract shall constitute a failure to execute the contract and result in the forfeiture of the bidder's bid security. Contractor must obtain an Atherton business license prior to start of first day of work.

Each bidder shall submit with this bid a statement setting forth his/her/its experience and qualifications. The statement shall be made on the forms provided by the Town and must accompany each bid.

By submitting a bid in response to this advertisement for bids, the bidder shall be conclusively deemed to have read, understood and agreed with all of the information and materials contained in the bid documents, including but not limited to the service contract, the standard specifications, the special provisions, the required nature and amount of insurance and the documentation evidencing said insurance.

Any questions regarding the project should be directed to Steve Tyler, Public Works Superintendent, telephone: (650) 752-0541 or by written Requests for Information (RFI) to: Public Works Department, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA 94027, preferably no later than five days before bid opening. RFIs may be emailed to styler@ci.atherton.ca.us or faxed to (650) 752-0591.

For information on obtaining Plans and Specifications, Standard Specifications or obtaining a Plan Holders list, please call Judy Belmont at (650) 752-0570.

By: _____
Duncan L. Jones, P.E., City Engineer

Date: _____

**VOTER'S
GUIDE
2010**

The Almanac's Voter's Guide, with information about local candidates and ballot measures, will appear in the Oct. 13 issue of the Almanac.

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

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



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

POST your views on the Town Square forum at www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

EMAIL your views to:

letters@almanacnews.com and note this it is a letter to the editor in the subject line.

MAIL or deliver to:

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

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

Atherton needs outside manager

Following the sudden and unexpected resignation of Atherton city manager Jerry Gruber, the City Council has a major opportunity to steer the city out of the most troubling period in its history.

The job won't be easy, but already the city's leaders have agreed on a plan to quickly bring in an interim replacement for Mr. Gruber, and then begin an executive search for a permanent manager that could take six months or more and will involve

Atherton residents in the final hiring decision. Other key positions will be filled as well, including the critical job of town attorney.

Looking back, the blame for

most of the town's turmoil rests not with Mr. Gruber, who joined the city in January 2008, but with City Council members who often failed to make good choices, particularly when it came to legal advice. Many of these flawed decisions have come back to haunt the town in the form of significant lawsuits that add up to around \$900,000 in the last 12 months.

And more legal trouble is on the way. A federal lawsuit filed by resident Jon Buckheit over police behavior during his arrest in a domestic disturbance case could result in another substantial settlement, and although it has yet to be filed, resident Kimberly Sweidy has indicated she will bring a claim against the city over improper work

by a building official.

On top of worrying about legal actions against the town, a new city manager will need to cope with a pile of other challenges, including a budget that is structurally out of balance; some pressure to outsource the police department or at least lower its cost; low employee morale; and a council whose members often feud among themselves.

In this environment, it will take an experienced manager to stay on course to resolve these difficult issues. Some have suggested that the town tap one of its own residents as manager, but in our view, it could be difficult to find anyone who was not allied with one side or the other in Atherton's internecine squabbling on the council. Someone with virtually any prior associations could be on the defensive before he or she even got started. It would be far better for a new manager, without any former ties in the town, to consult with residents who are eager to help resolve problems as volunteers, rather than as paid hands.

Others have raised questions about whether the city can afford to pay a top-quality city manager. We believe the answer is an unqualified yes. There are ways to reduce spending in a small

town, but given Atherton's issues, the town needs a proven performer who can save the game. That kind of talent may be expensive, but if a new manager is able to balance the budget, restore morale, resolve at least some legal disputes, and convince the City Council to work cooperatively, the cost will be worth it.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

Don't vote yet!

The Almanac's Voter's Guide, with information about local candidates and ballot measures, will appear in the next issue. Also, the Viewpoint pages in that issue will have endorsements on local races and the two Menlo Park ballot measures.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Not 'no,' but 'hell no'

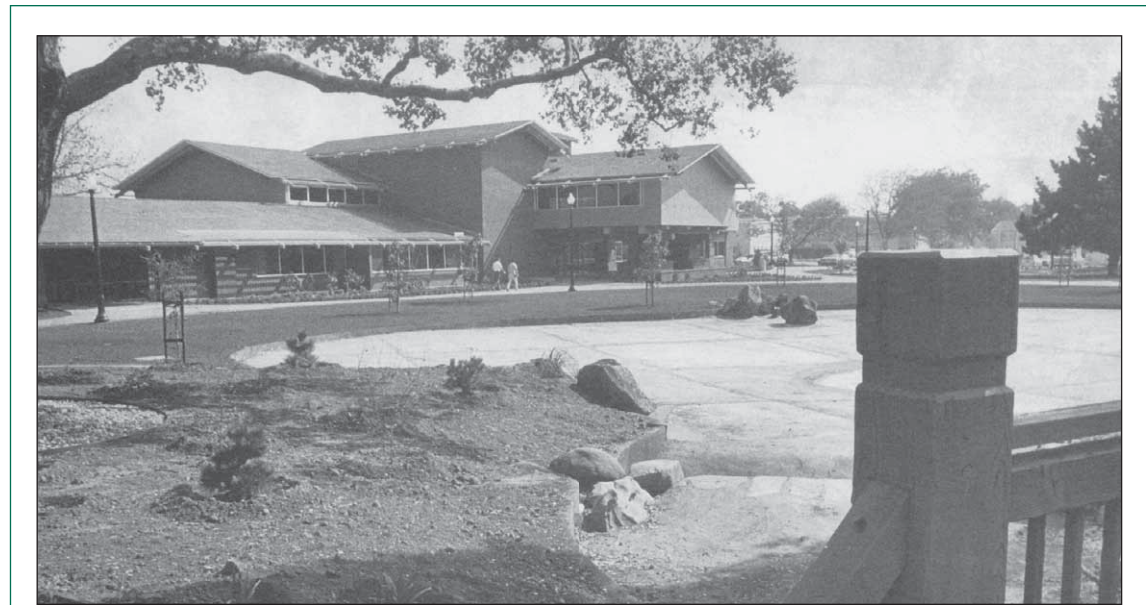
Editor:

On quick read, Steve Schmidt's guest opinion last week on high-speed rail seems reasonable, but the opinions are belied by demonstrable facts. Steve says, "I encourage the council to use a rational and realistic approach ... to be positive, creative. ..."

For about two years the council has been rational, realistic, positive and creative to no avail. Two years ago commissioner Rod Diridon stood in the Menlo Park City Council chambers and said the high-speed rail authority would do nothing that Menlo Park does not want.

Since then, current Menlo Park Mayor Rich Cline has headed the Peninsula Cities Consortium, which has met, talked and "negotiated" with the high-speed-rail board in good faith, but with absolutely zero effect. Even after losing the first lawsuit, the rail authority has completely ignored the desires of the citizens.

Mr. Diridon's words have been proven disingenuous and the rail authority's current plan under its chief executive, Roelof van Ark, continues the agency's disdain for



Menlo Park Historical Association

Our Regional Heritage

The new Menlo Park Civic Center was dedicated in October of 1970 by Mayor Ira Bonde, who said it marked a new era for the city.

the needs of our community by reaffirming its original position of two years ago. I believe it is its intent to drive the easiest, cheapest elevated rail structure possible through the center of our town, the wishes of citizens be damned. Steve Schmidt's continued optimism is poorly placed. The only realistic recourse left for us now is to say, not "no," but "hell no."

Don Barnby
Spruce Avenue, Menlo Park

Not 'minimum impacts,' but no impacts

Editor:

Steve Schmidt and I disagree on just about everything. His guest opinion last week regarding my alleged persuasive influence are

included in our disagreement list.

I did not advocate the creation of a Menlo Park commission to follow the Peninsula Cities Consortium's position statement about minimizing impacts and incorporating the best urban design features or high-speed rail. I disagree with the PCC's position statement as being

See **LETTERS**, next page

Pros, cons of Measure T

Editor's Note: On Nov. 2, Menlo Park voters will decide whether to approve the Menlo Gateway project on Constitution Drive and Marsh Road. When completed, the project will include three multi-story offices buildings, three parking garages, a hotel and health club. The following guest opinions were written by City Council member John Boyle and Planning Commissioner Vince Bressler.

PRO:

A great deal for Menlo Park

By John Boyle

In my business career, I've been involved in a lot of negotiated agreements — many involving hundreds of millions of dollars. I've never seen a “perfect” deal. There are always pros and cons. The key is to recognize when the pros outweigh the cons by enough margin to take a risk and move forward.

Menlo Park is facing such a decision right now with Measure T, the Menlo Gateway Project. If approved by the voters, this measure will allow the redevelopment of an underutilized light industrial area adjacent to U.S. 101 and Marsh Road near the Bayfront Expressway. It will transform this largely dormant area into a vibrant, productive, job-producing new region. The project will include high-tech oriented office space, a four-star hotel, and a new athletic club.

Collectively, the project is projected to deliver over \$15 million in one-time impact fees, over \$1.6 million in annual *net* incremental revenue to our city, and millions more to other parts of our overall community (the high school district, fire district, county agencies). The project is projected to create 1,800 construction-related jobs and provide more than 2,500 permanent jobs.

Those who oppose this project point to fears about traffic impacts, changes to the region, and other concerns that all have been discussed and debated over several years and through an extensive public process. In the

final analysis, the people who have studied the data most closely all have come to the same conclusion — this is a great deal for Menlo Park and our community at large. The consultants hired by the city (multiple experts in environmental, traffic, and other key issues) all gave it unanimous support. The Planning Commission and the City Council both approved the project.

I take notice when experts say that something is a great deal for Menlo Park. It's important to me because I care about this city. I've lived here for almost 30 years. One of the things that my family and I really appreciate about living in Menlo Park is the quality of life it affords us — and all residents — thanks in large part to the number of city-provided services, such as libraries, parks, swimming pools, and the police department.

But these services cost money. To avoid drastic cuts in services, we must continue to grow the top line for the city. And that means embracing smart projects like Menlo Gateway when they come along, which isn't very often.

In fact, the revenue boosts from recent projects like the Rosewood Hotel on Sand Hill Road and the Safeway on Middle Avenue have helped Menlo Park weather the economic downturn far better than some of our neighboring cities. Menlo Gateway can grow our top line in similar fashion to help secure the city's financial future.

There are always challenges in any deal. But the upside to Menlo Park on this deal far outweighs the downside risks. The city, in fact, isn't being asked to invest any of its cash in this project. The investment risk will be 100 percent on the developer. Nor is the city being asked to provide any form of “tax holiday” or other incentive, as is often the case for a city that wants to attract a new hotel.

So if Menlo Gateway is built, we all win. If it isn't, we all lose: the developer loses a significant investment, and the community loses the opportunity to create jobs, revenue, and a revitalized region at Marsh Road and



Menlo Gateway

U.S. 101.

Menlo Gateway is a great deal for Menlo Park. Please join me in voting yes on Measure T.

John Boyle is city council member who is currently serving as vice mayor.

CON:

Largest zoning change in city's history

By Vincent Bressler

Measure T on the November ballot is a vote on the largest zoning change in the history of Menlo Park.

I will vote no on Measure T for a variety of reasons.

Measure T provides no up-front money to Menlo Park. The city gets no payment in exchange for giving the biggest zoning entitlement in its history.

In other words, if voters approve Measure T, the value of the land for this project will immediately increase by about \$100 million, but the city does not receive any money until and unless the Bohannon Group pays for a building permit. David Bohannon has stated that he does not intend to build until the economy can support his massive project.

Measure T will not create jobs when we need them. Under Measure T, the Bohannon Group has the right but no agreement or obligation to build. In fact, the 20-year time frame presents an opportunity for Bohannon to wait for the best economic conditions before proceeding.

Measure T may hurt existing job-creation mechanisms. Companies like Pacific Biosciences, Geron, and InVisage, headquartered

in the M-2 zone where the Bohannon project is located, are most likely to provide job and revenue growth for our city over the next 10 years. However, the development agreement gives the Bohannon Group priority over other projects. Even if the Bohannon Group has not moved ahead with its project, those companies may be unable to expand — because important resources required by any development will have been reserved for the Bohannon Group.

If not Measure T, then what? A new process defined in the M-2 Zoning Plan streamlines development projects for companies doing business in Menlo Park.

What went wrong with Measure T, and how do we fix it?

The negotiation process for the development agreement was closed and insular. City Council members who were part of the “negotiation team” were barred from the negotiations, which were conducted in closed sessions and included only the Menlo Park city manager, city attorney and public works director along with the Bohannon negotiating team. The attitude of the majority of City Council members seems to be: “This is the best that we can do.” But that is clearly not the case.

The M-2 Zoning Plan is taking place in a much more open environment. That process is a model for what should happen here. Vote no on Measure T, and let's move forward in the right way.

Visit FactsNotHype.org for more information.

Vincent Bressler is a member of the Menlo Park Planning Commission.

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

insufficiently assertive.

Mr. Schmidt damns me with faint praise. He confuses my intentions to accommodate to the high-speed-rail agenda by Menlo Park. Indeed, I oppose accommodation. It has been tried and failed.

Accommodation may be the PCC's intention. It may even be the Menlo Park City Council's high-speed-rail subcommittee's intention. It is not my intention. I don't want to merely “minimize impacts.” I want no impacts. I don't want high-speed rail on the Caltrain corridor. Steve Schmidt does.

Steve claims that our efforts won't make the project go away. Our intention has been to inform Menlo Park that this project is a disaster. Making it go away should be our next step. With enough participation, we may succeed.

**Martin Engel
Stone Pine Lane, Menlo Park**

Why we need the downtown plan

By Kelly Fergusson

Have you heard about the draft plan for El Camino Real and downtown? Menlo Park seeks your comments and suggestions to inform our study and decision-making in the months ahead.

The draft plan is the culmination of almost four years of surveys, community workshops, study sessions, and commission hearings. Thousands of residents have participated — weighing in on what they love today about Menlo Park, and what needs improving. Key priorities have emerged:

- Make our city more walkable and bikeable.
- Create new public spaces.
- Enhance downtown's “village” charm.
- Enhance appeal and attractiveness of El Camino Real and downtown.
- Attract more customers to downtown businesses.
- Increase economic activity/vibrancy.
- Increase family-oriented businesses, activities.
- Create a blueprint for future development.

What's most important to me about the draft plan is that it allows the people that care most



GUEST OPINION

about Menlo Park to shape our future instead of out-of-town developers that may not have our best interests at heart.

Today's zoning ordinance is geared to the old days when Menlo Park was mostly used car lots, gas stations, and auto repair shops. Therefore, developers apply for one-off projects asking for large height and size exemptions.

Some aspects of their plans might make sense — like condos near the train station, more cafes and plazas — but are the projects too big, too small, or just right? Are there enough public benefits like wide sidewalks and public spaces?

No city council should make such important decisions on a piece-meal basis. We need a community-driven plan as a blueprint.

Without a plan, developers have the upper hand. But having a plan in place puts the city in an excellent position to enforce public benefits and strong neighborhood protections. We fill empty storefronts with hometown businesses we want.

The draft plan has been available for review and comments for about six months. It provides a good foundation, but still needs work to become the great plan we deserve.

One point of lively discussion is the idea of parking garages — one near the post office and

one behind Flegels. Today people complain about employee parking clogging the parking plazas. Moving employee parking into garages would free up surface parking for patrons closest to stores.

If parking garages were ever built, a few things are certain: They would need to be aesthetically pleasing, compatible with existing architecture, and be easily accessible.

Another point of discussion is whether the plan would somehow harm the Sunday Farmers' Market. Claims that the City Council is poised to adopt a plan that would harm the Farmers' Market ignore the careful and inclusive community process that is under way.

I am committed to working with the Lions Club volunteers, who run the Farmers Market, on every detail so the plan truly enhances the market or leaves it as-is.

The City Council will be discussing the draft plan and public comments at meetings in the coming months. We look forward to working with the public and making this plan the best it can possibly be.

Kelly Fergusson is a member of the Menlo Park City Council

(An electronic version of the draft plan is available at menlopark.org/projects/comdev_eecdowntown.htm. Hardcopies are available at City Hall. Contact Thomas Rogers at 330-6722 or throgers@menlopark.org.)

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