

*Inside:*  
**Fall Real Estate special section**

# The Almanac

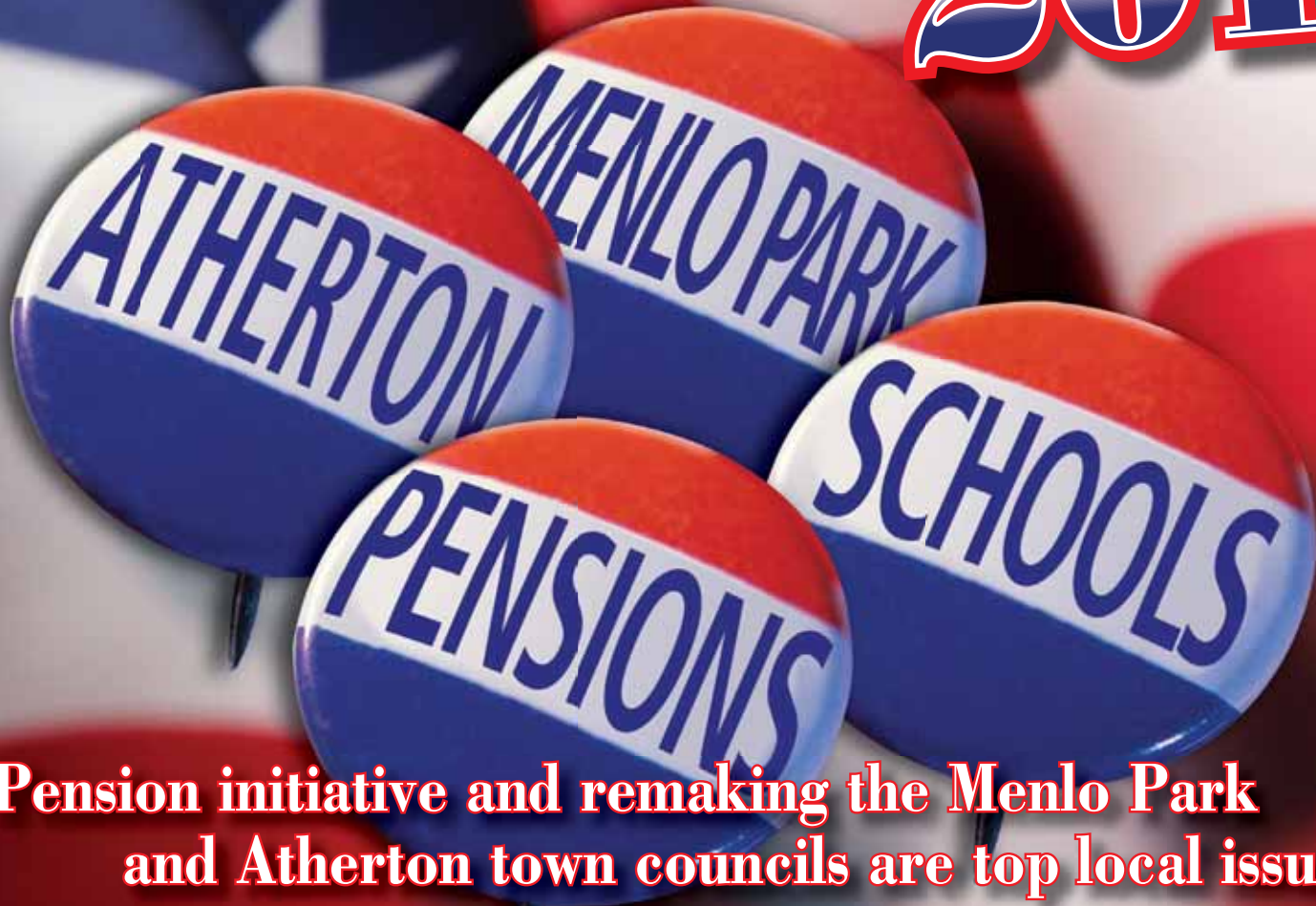
THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

OCTOBER 13, 2010 | VOL. 46 NO. 7



WWW.THEALMANACONLINE.COM

# Voter's Guide 2010



**Pension initiative and remaking the Menlo Park and Atherton town councils are top local issues this year**

[Section 2]

# Shop Local

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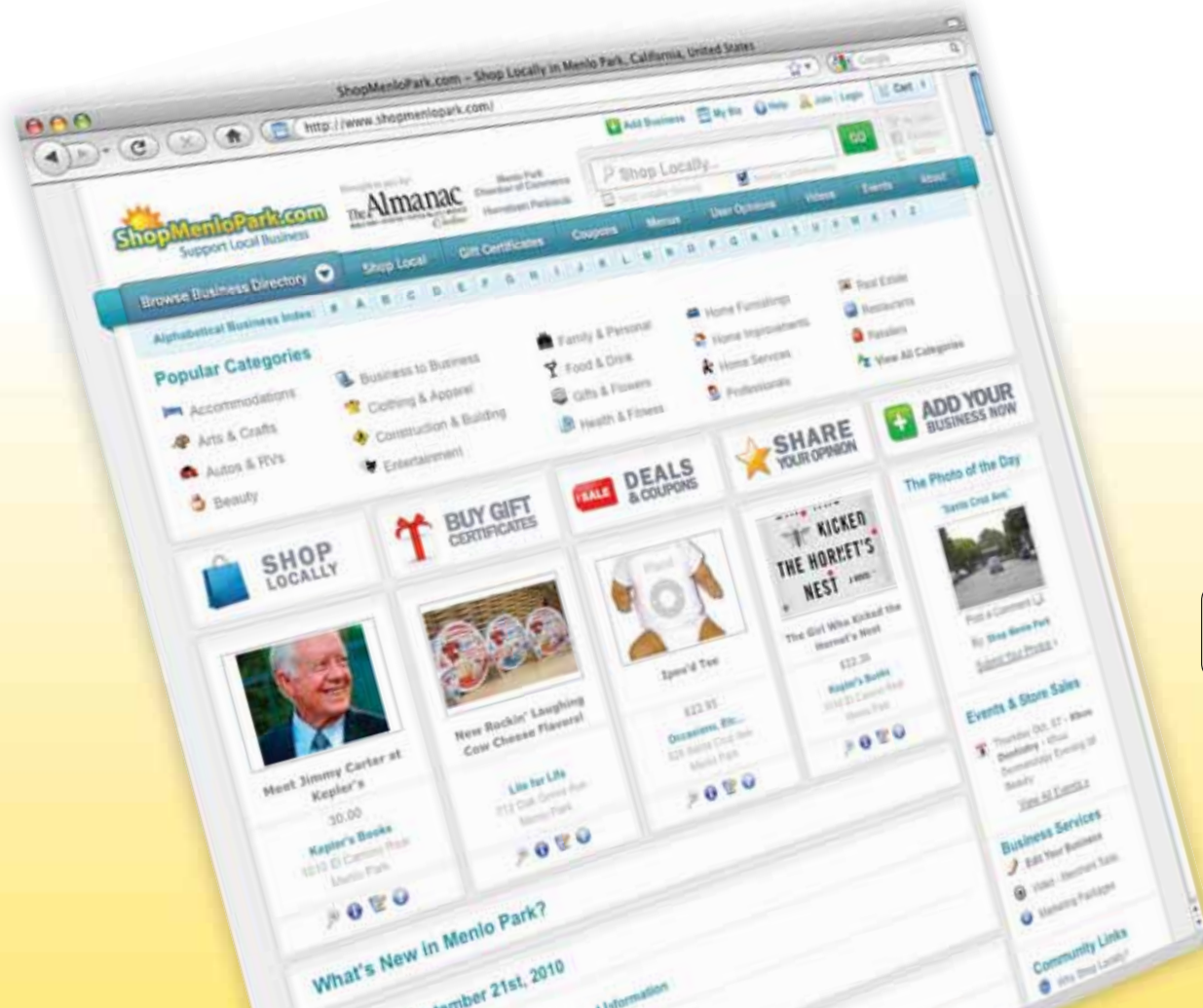
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Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Emily Jones of Summit Preparatory Charter High School on screen in a Redwood City theater, where her schoolmates gathered Friday to watch "Waiting for 'Superman.'"

## Local schools featured in 'Superman'

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Woodside High School and Summit Preparatory Charter High School now have something in common with former New York Yankees superstar outfielder Mickey Mantle. All three make appearances in "Waiting for 'Superman,'" a harsh and compelling documentary that dissects the condition of U.S. public education through the experiences of five families and five charter schools.

While Mickey Mantle, a public school graduate, has been called "Superman in Pinstripes" in reference to the Yankees' striped uniform, that is not why he was included in this film.

Director Davis Guggenheim used

Mr. Mantle to illustrate the difference between public education outcomes today and outcomes from the mid 20th century, when the United States was riding high and a high school diploma that met the needs of those times could propel a kid into the middle class and sometimes beyond.

Much of the action takes place in areas of deep and persistent poverty, including Harlem, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles. Woodside High and Summit Prep appear to have been chosen to undermine any presumptions about the same thing not happening in deep-pocketed school districts.

A central point of the film, the overwhelming demand across the economic spectrum for excellent educational experiences, and the

lack of faith in traditional public schools to provide them, comes home again and again in scene after scene of children's futures being determined by lotteries.

By law, when a charter school or any other public school is oversubscribed, admission must be by lottery. In each charter school profiled in the film, the oversubscription rate is astounding and the ensuing lottery scenes are moving and uniformly heartbreaking.

The film asks whether U.S. public schools, broadly speaking, are meeting the challenges of today, when a bachelor's degree has essentially become a necessity. Mr. Guggenheim says no.

His film asserts that everyone knows this; that far too many schools are graduating far too many students who are unprepared for college work; that the blame lies mostly with unqualified or lazy teachers and the unionized system that sustains and protects them; and that 20 percent of charter schools, which are public schools, know how to correct this increasingly dire situation and are engaged in doing it now; and that they're doing it primarily by employing great teachers.

Randi Weingarten, who heads

See **SUPERMAN**, page 6

### MORE NEWS ONLINE

Check AlmanacNews.com for more news, sports, and community information. Below are links (case-sensitive) to online-only content:

■ [is.gd/FTXDH](http://is.gd/FTXDH)

Two women lead charge against BevMo store in Menlo Park.

■ [is.gd/fUmjy](http://is.gd/fUmjy)

Menlo-Atherton rolls to a big PAL football victory.

■ [is.gd/fV9u5](http://is.gd/fV9u5)

Greg Conlon of Atherton and Rich Gordon of Menlo Park vie for Assembly District 21 seat.

■ [is.gd/fV8fe](http://is.gd/fV8fe)

Search database of community events on the Midpeninsula.

■ [is.gd/fWvgY](http://is.gd/fWvgY)

Vikings Pop Warner football: Week 6.

### CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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

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Newsroom: **854-2690**

Newsroom fax: **854-0677**

Advertising: **854-2626**

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

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

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## CITY OF MENLO PARK ORDINANCE 972 SUMMARY NOTICE OF ADOPTION

The City Council of Menlo Park adopted Ordinance No. 972 at its regular meeting on September 28, 2010. The Ordinance was introduced on September 14, 2010, and adopted on September 28, 2010, by a 5-0 vote. The Ordinance is effective sixty days from its adoption and is summarized as:

Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Menlo Park Amending Chapter 7.30 [Smoking Regulated or Prohibited] of Title 7 [Health and Sanitation] of the Menlo Park Municipal Code. The Ordinance prohibits smoking in indoor and outdoor common areas of condominium and apartment buildings and in public outdoor areas in the City where people tend to congregate such as parks, recreation areas, ATM lines, bus stops or similar areas. Smoking is permitted inside individual apartment and condominium units and on their private balconies/patios and on streets and sidewalks, public parking lots and designated smoking areas. The Ordinance empowers individuals adversely affected by second hand smoke to bring a legal action against a person who is smoking to abate secondhand smoke as a nuisance. Violations of Chapter 7.30 may be cited as an infraction or the City may bring a legal action to enforce compliance.

The full text of the ordinance is available at the Office of the City Clerk and/or may be viewed on the City of Menlo Park website at [www.menlopark.org](http://www.menlopark.org).

Margaret S. Roberts, MMC  
City Clerk

Dated: September 29, 2010

Sale Dates: Oct. 13, 14, 15, 16

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Judge nixes M-A High's plans for night football

■ Court bars night lights at M-A football field until hearing on restraining order.

Temporary light towers have been on campus at least a month at Coach Parks Field at Menlo-Atherton High School, and the electricity hookups are in, but varsity football games this year will be played there as they have been for the past 59 years: during the day.

Atherton neighbors of Menlo-Atherton High School, who oppose the school's plans to use night lights at its football field, won a key victory in court on Oct. 5.

San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Marie Weiner issued a preliminary injunction barring the school from using the night lights until a hearing is held Nov. 9 on a petition for a restraining order.

The judge said in her ruling that it is "highly likely" that the

neighbors will prevail at that hearing, as well.

The school had three night games scheduled, all before Nov. 9, including one on Thursday, Oct. 7, against Kings Academy. That game was played under the lights at Sequoia High, and the Bears rolled up an impressive 35-14 victory.

In court pleadings, the neighbors argued that the Sequoia Union High School District, of which M-A is a part, should have conducted a study of the environmental effects of the use of night lights, including noise, traffic, light and safety impacts, before proceeding with the project.

The district is preparing such a study, but decided to install temporary lights so night football — as well as evening soccer and lacrosse games, and night

athletic practices — could go ahead this year while the district studies the impact of the lights with respect to the neighbors' concerns.

An environmental impact study should have been done for the temporary lights as well, contends Anna Shimko, a San Francisco-based attorney representing the neighbors.

### Judge's ruling

The district improperly divided the installation of the lights into a "temporary" project and a "permanent" project, the judge said. "Such a piecemeal approach to (environmental law) compliance would be a violation."

Citing precedent, the judge noted that it is a "mandate of (state law) that environmental considerations do not become submerged by chopping a large project into many little ones — each with a minimal potential

impact on the environment — which cumulatively may have disastrous consequences."

### School board action

Sequoia district board members voted on Sept. 1 to go ahead with the temporary lights and to claim the district's right to exempt itself from local zoning laws. Board members have asserted that they considered the neighbors' concerns, in part by restricting use of the lights.

For the football games, the lights were to be out by 10:30 p.m. They were to be out by 8:30 p.m. for all other week-night athletic events, including six evening games of soccer and six of lacrosse scheduled per season and all evening athletic practices. No one was to use the lights on weekends. The public address system would be available for the football games only.

The night sports activities

were also meant to align with the school's new schedule that has students starting the day 40 minutes later. The later start is in recognition of research showing that teens need more sleep than they typically get.

In an interview in September, Tim Fox, the school district's attorney, defended the use of temporary lights as a place holder for the permanent lights — after an environmental analysis. "Sometimes," he said, "you have to put the cart before the horse as long as the cart goes back behind the horse at the end of the day."

The later start to the school is laudable, Ms. Shimko said in September, but it did not justify "nearly two and a half hours of (artificial) light" in November. "They have not justified the need for the late use of the lights at all," she said. "They absolutely can accommodate all school-related practices before it gets dark." ■

## Ballot measure campaigns better funded than candidates

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Measure T, the ballot measure that would allow the Bohannon Menlo Gateway complex to be built, has a supporter with deep pockets, possibly to the envy of the six candidates running for Menlo Park City Council.

According to the finance report for the "2010 Citizens Committee for Menlo Gateway, Yes on Measure T," David Bohannon has sunk \$150,000 into getting the measure passed — more than 10 times as much money as any council candidate has raised on her or his campaign.

Mailers, volunteers, public relations, and \$25,225 telephone polls are expensive, even when the polls indicate 68 percent of the 400 people surveyed would probably vote in favor of Measure T. Another \$48,064 in bills remain outstanding.

Mr. Bohannon plans to build Gateway, a roughly 950,000-square-foot hotel and office complex, on 16 acres located east of U.S. 101 that span Independence Drive and Constitution Drive.

The opposition, "Measured Growth for Menlo Park" (also known as "No on Measure T") is running a less costly campaign. Of the \$4,050 donated by people including David Speer, Andy Cohen, and Paul Colacchi, less than half has been spent — \$1,262

for pamphlets, copies, and postage. That leaves a couple thousand dollars still in the piggy bank.

### Pension reform

The financing of the opposition to Measure L, the pension reform initiative, remains murky. The initiative seeks to raise the minimum retirement age for new public employees, excluding police officers, by five years to 60, and also decrease their maximum pension benefits by 0.7 percentage points to 2 percent of their highest annual salary averaged over three years.

The "No on Measure L" website reveals no names, although Councilmember Kelly Ferguson and former mayor Gail Slocum have publicly decried the measure. Two local unions, which lost a lawsuit in August

See MEASURES, page 8



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Construction staff tighten bolts Friday on basketball hoops, making them earthquake-proof, at the new Arrillaga Family Gym in Menlo Park.

## Menlo Park's new gym opens Saturday

The community gets its first tour of the Arrillaga Family Gymnasium on Saturday, Oct. 16, when the city hosts a grand opening from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. After the ribbon-cutting, visitors can walk around the gym, watch sports demonstrations, and play games.

Developer and basketball fan John Arrillaga donated most of the \$11.5 million construction

cost of the gym, with the city contributing \$5.62 million.

Built at 600 Alma St., the single-story, 24,100-square foot gym hosts two full-sized basketball courts and four smaller versions; three volleyball courts; and last, but not least, four badminton courts.

Lockers, showers, and restrooms round out the amenities. Those who would rather

watch than play can head for the bleachers, which can seat 664 people. The gym itself can hold up to 1,700 people.

The city asks that anyone attending the grand opening wear tennis shoes to avoid damaging the floor. Entrance is free, and the first 100 visitors will receive water bottles. For more information, call 330-2200.

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## Local schools featured in film

### SUPERMAN

continued from page 3

the American Federation of Teachers, asserts that the overwhelming majority of teachers have students as their first concern and that it is wrong to place so much of the blame for such a complex set of problems on them.

Michelle Rhee, the chancellor of public schools in Washington, D.C., has a different focus. "There's this unbelievable willingness to turn a blind eye to the injustices that are happening to kids every single day in our schools in the name of harmony amongst adults," she says.

"Waiting for 'Superman,'" at 107 minutes long, is necessarily limited to sketching out a problem, not making an exhaustive inquiry.

Officials from the traditional schools, including Principal David Reilly of Woodside High, say that such broad-brush treat-

ment compares apples to oranges, maddeningly passes over important differences that work to a charter school's advantage, and ignores popular amenities available in traditional schools such as major sports and arts programs.

Summit Prep Executive Director Todd Dickson is not eager to pile on. Indeed, he said in an interview that he had proposed issuing in response to the film a joint press release with the Sequoia Union High School District, which includes Woodside and Menlo-Atherton high schools. Superintendent James Lianides turned him down, Mr. Dickson said.

"We couldn't come to agreement on the language," he said in an e-mail. "I wanted it to focus on how we could focus as a district on increasing the number of students who were college ready, but Jim wanted it to focus on how the district has many great alternatives for high school." ■

## Folger open house, party draw crowds

Visitors "just kept coming and coming" to an open house at Folger Stable in Woodside on Sept. 19, said Nan Chapman, spokesperson for the project to renovate the historic stable in Wunderlich Park.

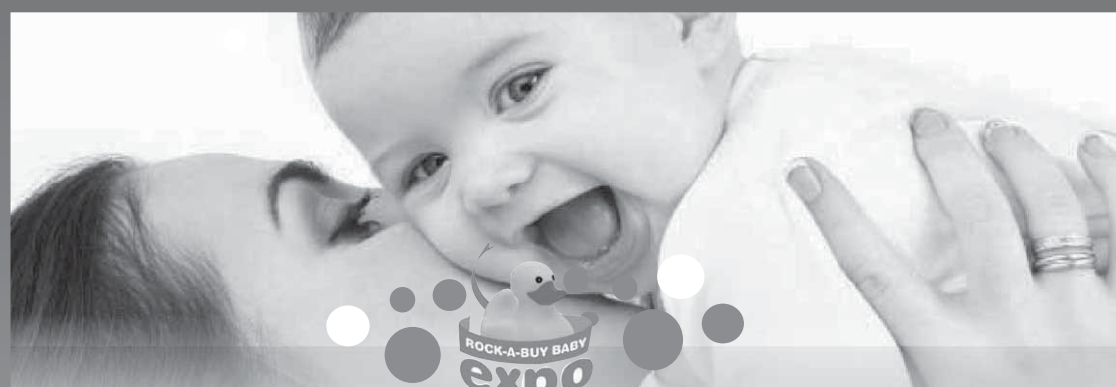
"They waited in line, three deep, for the pony rides, petting zoo and to observe the blacksmiths and leatherworkers plying their trades," said Ms. Chapman, who estimates the crowd was in the thousands.

"It was a delight to see families with young children, many of whom were visiting Wunderlich Park for the first time, enjoying

the beauty, history and ambience of the area," she said in a message to the Almanac.

Major sponsors of the Folger Stable Project were thanked at a party at the barn Sept. 17. About 150 guests attended, including members of the Wunderlich and Folger families.

A large donor board was unveiled, and guests toured the former carriage room, now a museum. A video showing many local residents recalling their memories of the Peninsula in the early 1900s was presented by its producer, Patsy Kahl of Woodside.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 11AM-4PM

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## Beltramo townhomes get green light

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

A housing project first envisioned a decade ago evaded an equally drawn-out death as the Menlo Park Planning Commission voted 5-0 Monday, Oct. 4, to accept a revised deal with Beltramo's for construction of 16 townhomes at 1460 El Camino Real.

The city and developer had been haggling for months over the number of below-market-rate (BMR) apartments to be included. The original approved plan set aside three BMR units, but the Beltramos asked to include only one, in light of declining real estate values.

Ten to 20 percent of sales revenue on each remaining unit goes back to the city if the

sales price exceeds \$1 million to compensate for not including two more under the revised plan, according to the staff report.

Five planning commissioners also agreed to accept in-lieu fees on five market-rate townhomes and \$207,348 in commercial linkage fees.

Commissioner Katie Ferrick abstained from the vote after stating she "was troubled by the BMR piece," but didn't want to see the project fail. Colleague Ben Eiref was absent.

One city official appeared to express regret. The Housing Commission unanimously recommended the revised proposal on Sept. 1. However, Commissioner Anne Mozer said she wished she could

retract her vote.

"In retrospect I regret my vote that approved it," she told the planning commissioners. "I finally decided I needed to stand up and say I made a mistake."

Too many people are waiting for BMR housing, she said, and there aren't enough units in Menlo Park.

"I'm almost at the point of throwing a coin in the air," Chairman John O'Malley said after acknowledging that in-lieu fees are never large enough to buy a BMR unit elsewhere in the city. However, the revenue sharing and commercial linkage fees let the Beltramos win his coin toss.

The deal will now go to the City Council for final approval. ■

## Caltrain hikes fares, cuts service

In an effort to close a \$2.3 million budget gap, the Caltrain Board of Directors has approved fare increases and service reductions.

Caltrain, used by about 38,000 riders every weekday, is trying to close the gap by eliminating some routes and increasing fares and pass prices effective Jan. 1, spokeswoman Christine Dunn said.

The changes, approved by the board Oct. 7, were discussed at three community meetings in August and a public hearing in September, Ms. Dunn said.

"Most people were in favor of increasing the fare and keeping

as much service as possible," Ms. Dunn said.

Starting Jan. 1, the fare for each zone will rise 25 cents. Fares for travel within the same zone will stay the same. The change is expected to raise about \$1.4 million a year, she said.

Caltrain expects to save about \$160,000 by eliminating four trains between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. weekdays. The northbound 237 and 257 trains and southbound 236 and 256 lines will not run during those hours starting Jan. 1.

Another \$600,000 is expected to be saved by eliminating ticket offices at the San Francisco

and San Jose Diridon stations starting Oct. 11, she said. Riders could use ticket vending machines at those stations.

Also starting Jan. 1, Caltrain will launch a three-month pilot project to test express weekend service, she said.

The pilot project will cost Caltrain about \$107,000. That money will come from savings from lower fuel prices, she said.

The board also voted to increase the on-board bicycle capacity of many trains. All trains will have two bike cars, which adds one 40-bike gallery car to trains that now have only one, she said.

— Bay City News Service

## County workers reject benefits offer, enter mediation

San Mateo County workers gathered outside Redwood City government offices Thursday, Oct. 7, to announce that their union members have voted to reject the county's most recent contract proposal, leaving open the possibility of strike should third-party mediation fail.

Representatives of Service Employees International Union 152 said that concession propos-

als asking members to increase their payments to their health care and retirement plans, and to take furlough days, could result in \$5.5 million in savings to the county budget over five years.

However, spokespeople at the rally, attended by dozens of county workers, said similar concessions should be made by county executives, whose ben-

efit contributions amount to as much as 25 percent less than those made by union members. "Everyone should share the pain and carry the burden," union organizer Brady Calma said.

Mediation is the final stage in the bargaining process before a vote to strike is brought before county workers, union officials said.

— Bay City News Service

## Local authors publish biography of A.P. Giannini

A.P. Giannini, the founder of Bank of America, is the subject of a new book by mother and daughter Angela B. Haight and Dana Haight Cattani.

"A.P. Giannini, The Man With the Midas Touch," is a biography for middle-grade readers, ages 10-14. It tells the story of a man who survived the San Francisco earthquake, anti-immigrant bias, the Great Depression, and

World War II, to transform his tiny bank into one of the largest financial institutions in the world.

Dana Haight Cattani is a graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School and taught English there for several years. She holds a doctorate in education from Stanford University and is the author of "A Classroom of Her Own."

Co-author Angela Haight, also

a graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School and Stanford University, works in the children's department of the Menlo Park Library. She has published more than 100 children's stories and articles and two early reader books.

"A.P. Giannini, the Man With the Midas Touch" is available at Kepler's Books and through its website, Keplers.com.

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### Sellers Duty to Disclose

Dear Monica: I am selling the home I have lived in for many years and for tax purposes I have kept receipts for everything I have done to the house since I bought it. How much of this record should I share with a buyer? Judy L

Dear Judy: As a seller, you have a duty to disclose all material facts, including inspections and reports, that pertain to your property. Most sellers do keep good files on improvements they have made so that they can add these costs to their basis and thus reduce the amount of capital gains tax required. When you list your home to sell, your agent will provide you with all mandated disclosures for you to complete. Your agent will also probably

order a termite and a home inspection. All reports, both recent and past (if they are available) should be disclosed to your buyer. You will also be asked to list repairs that you have made since you have owned the property.

It's great that you have kept such good records to refer to as you compile your list. Some sellers are afraid of disclosing too much detail to a potential buyer because they fear that they will scare someone away from buying the property. But buyers appreciate sellers who give them complete information and if they end up buying the house, they rarely find fault with it after the sale. They were told everything material about the property up front and there is nothing left to surprise them.

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)

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## Residents invited to learn about new recycling service

Menlo Park residents have a chance to learn more about the city's new curbside recycling service at a community meeting on Thursday, Oct. 14.

The new service, called CartS-MART, begins January 2011. Recology, San Mateo County's service provider, began dropping off residential carts two months ago.

Blue carts provide single-stream recycling — no sorting required. Green carts take compost from yard cleanups, food scraps, and paper products used for food and beverages, like pizza boxes. However, Recology asks that no one dump food into the green carts until Jan. 3. The black carts non-recyclables.

The meeting starts at 6 p.m. in council chambers at the Civic Center, 701 Laurel St.

Visit [rethinkwaste.org](http://rethinkwaste.org) for

### ■ MENLO BRIEFS

more information.

### Fake distress call doesn't fool grandmother

Someone pretending to be the grandson of an 83-year-old Menlo Park woman called to beg her to send a \$5,000 money order to bail him out of jail. Instead of calling Western Union, the woman called police. "She did not fall for it," said police spokeswoman Nicole Acker.

### Meeting cancelled

The Menlo Park City Council has cancelled its Tuesday, Oct. 12, meeting. The council will reconvene on the following Tuesday, Oct. 19.

### MEASURES

continued from page 5

to keep the measure off the ballot, likely funded a citywide telephone poll conducted in September that attempted to discredit Measure L. So The Almanac asked the Service Employees International Union Local 521 (SEIU) for a copy of the "No on Measure L" committee's Form 460 finance report.

"We don't have a 460 available because our committee didn't incur any expenses before October," said Jerry Jimenez, communications specialist for SEIU. "Our committee was formed October 1, which was the cutoff for the filing period. Our next 460 form will be filed when due on October 21."

On the other hand, the "Yes on Measure L" crowd got a jump on

the competition by forming an official committee in February. Its latest finance report shows \$23,994 in contributions since then. Council candidates Chuck Bernstein and Russell Peterson each donated \$100. Local certified public accountant James Benzel gave \$2,500, as did banker Colin Stewart.

Those screaming yellow "Yes on Measure L" signs spattered across Menlo Park yards cost the committee \$2,750. But the biggest expense by far was the cost of defending the ballot measure against the unions' lawsuit — \$8,450. Those convinced Measure L will face a post-election legal challenge if it passes may be consoled by the \$6,100 remaining in the committee's bank account that could go toward a second court fight. ■

### At Kepler's

Michael Kransy, host of the KQED-FM "Forum" program, will discuss his new memoir, "Spiritual Envy: An Agnostic's Quest," at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13, at Kepler's bookstore, 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park. Mr. Kransy is the author of "Off Mike: A Memoir of Talk Radio and Literary Life." For more information, go to [keplers.com](http://keplers.com).



Craig + Grant architects, Danville

Artist's rendering of Marsh Manor renovation, with a view of the new patio area.

## A new look for Marsh Manor

After 50 years, shopping center marks remodel with Harvest Hoedown

Pumpkin decorating, wine and beer tasting, barbecue appetizers and music will be part of Harvest Hoedown, a celebration of the completion of phase 1 of the Marsh Manor shopping center remodel. The public is invited to the event from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22. Marsh Manor is located just off U.S. 101, at the corner of Marsh Road and Florence St. in Redwood City.

Along with Starbucks and eateries serving submarine sandwiches, Mexican, Italian, and Chinese food, the center is adding a bakery and ice cream shop serving Angel Heart Cakes and Queen Bee Ice Cream. Angel Heart Cakes and Atherton Sub

will be offering samples.

Marsh Manor's new look includes a trellis-covered walkway between stores and a patio area for relaxed gathering and outdoor dining.

Marsh Manor is a local enterprise, developed 50 years ago by Richard Delucchi of Woodside. Mr. Delucchi built many homes in Friendly Acres, north of Florence Street, just across from the present shopping center.

When he first started to develop the property at the corner of Marsh Road and Florence Street, he planned to build 16 homes. Forms for the foundations were laid out. When he learned Marsh Road

was connecting to the new 101 freeway, he tore out the foundations and started the process of building Marsh Manor.

Mr. Delucchi is a longtime resident of Woodside, who celebrated his 101st birthday in September. In 2005, he was honored as "Horseperson and Citizen of the Year" by the Woodside Mounted Patrol. Mr. Delucchi is also a past captain of the Mounted Patrol, past president of the San Mateo County Horsemen's Association, and past president of the Peninsula Contractors' Association.

He is looking forward to welcoming guests to the Harvest Hoedown celebration on Oct. 22.

See [marshmanor.com](http://marshmanor.com) for more information.

## Three arrested in string of Willows burglaries

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

After weeks of investigation, Menlo Park police have nabbed three men allegedly behind the recent rash of home burglaries in the Willows neighborhood.

Two suspects called East Palo Alto home, 19-year-old Victor and his 18-year-old brother

Ricardo Esparza. Jesus Lara, 18, resides in Hayward and East Palo Alto, according to police who announced the arrests Oct. 7.

The men are charged with three counts of burglary, according to Assistant District Attorney Karen Guidotti.

In September, describing the crime spree as "unprecedented," Menlo Park police met with Willows residents to discuss the

string of break-ins.

Ten burglaries and two attempts occurred in September — nine within one week — during the hours of 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., when empty homes made inviting targets.

Investigators continue to chase leads. Police ask that anyone with information about the crimes or suspects to call detectives at 330-6364 or 330-6363. ■

## Allied Arts Guild sets open house Oct. 23

The Allied Arts Guild is inviting the public to an afternoon of drinks, food, and music from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, in the Allied Arts gardens at 75

Arbor Road in Menlo Park.

There will be complimentary mimosas, appetizers and a candy buffet. Visitors are invited to tour the new conference room,

and take garden tours. The guild's head gardener will host a flower pot display demonstration and a display booth will feature photos taken of Allied Arts Guild by Ansel Adams.

To respond, call Allied Arts Guild, 322-2405.

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## In the pink

Menlo Park firefighters join the "Care Enough to Wear Pink" campaign to raise funds for cancer research. Wearing the pink T-shirts are, back row, from left, David Dickinson, Gary Torre, Rob Johnson, Eric Mijangos, Mike Harrington and Jim Stevens. In front are Tim Bogner, left, and John Wurdinger. The shirts may be purchased for \$20 at the Menlo Park Fire Protection District Station 1 at 300 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park. A total of 110 shirts were sold at a recent firefighters breakfast that also raised \$10,500 for the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation.



## Unions say 'no thanks' to endorsements

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

They invited, they interviewed, and they conferred, but in the end, three unions decided to endorse — no one running for Menlo Park City Council.

It seems the unions have bigger fish to fry on Nov. 2. "Our focus in Menlo Park is on the defeat of Measure L," said Julie Lind, political director for the San Mateo County Central Labor Council (SMCLC).

None of the six candidates got the stamp of approval from the Service Employees International Union Local 521 (SEIU), the SMCLC, or the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 827 (AFSCME).



Measure L seeks to raise the minimum retirement age for new public employees, excluding police officers, by five years to 60, and also decrease their maximum pension benefits by 0.7 percentage points to 2 percent of their highest annual salary averaged over three years, multiplied by the number of years employed by Menlo Park. This formula was used in 2007, but revised in 2009.

Under this measure, a new hire who retired at age 60 after working for 30 years would receive 60 percent of that average salary. Current employees could retire at age 55,

and get 81 percent.

Incumbents Rich Cline and Heyward Robinson stand alone in the pack of six by not endorsing Measure L, but apparently that wasn't enough to earn an endorsement this year. In 2006 both had the support of the SEIU and SMCLC.

Their four challengers — Chuck Bernstein, Kirsten Keith, Peter Ohtaki, and Russell Peterson — support the ballot measure.

A city-wide telephone poll conducted on Sept. 27 and Sept. 28 attempted to discredit Measure L, according to Henry Riggs, one of the organizers of the grassroots coalition that gathered enough signatures to put the pension initiative on the ballot. ■

## Money trickles into Menlo Park council campaigns

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

The six Menlo Park City Council candidates disclosed the state of their campaign finances last week, covering donations and expenditures from July 1 through Sept. 30.

Three seats are open, with two incumbents seeking re-election. But two newcomers lead the money race, with less than a month to go before the Nov. 2 election.

### Biggest war chests

According to the filed statements, Peter Ohtaki raised the most, with \$11,790 in donations; \$800 came out of his own pocket. The Menlo Park Fire Protection District Board president also landed the largest single donation of any candidate, \$2,500, from local certified public accountant James Brenzel.

The California Apartment Association chipped in \$250 for Mr. Ohtaki; the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors, \$1,000. Fifty-seven percent of the donors listed Menlo Park addresses.

Coming in second, educator and community activist Chuck Bernstein followed Mr. Ohtaki's lead with \$9,830, donating \$500 to his own campaign. He was the only candidate to list non-mon-

etary donations, approximately \$190 worth from Cisco employee Tiffany Choy, who pitched in with nametags, refreshments, and paper goods.

Certain contributors of interest read like a "who's who" of Menlo Gateway opponents: Patti Fry (\$200), Martin Engel (\$1,000), Planning Commissioner Vincent Bressler (\$200), and Councilman Andy Cohen (\$200). A duet of former mayors also put money behind Mr. Bernstein: Lee Duboc (\$200), and Mickie Winkler (\$150).

Eighty-one percent of Mr. Bernstein's backers listed Menlo Park addresses.

### Incumbents

Incumbent Heyward Robinson reported \$9,214, including a \$1,000 loan from himself. Sixty-seven percent of the money came from Menlo Park donors.

Mayor Rich Cline collected \$8,837, including \$2,198 he loaned to the campaign. Eighty-two percent of the 43 contributors live within Menlo Park.

He provided the only surprise among the candidates' list of expenditures. Mr. Cline seems to subscribe to the "get 'em while they're young" philosophy of civic involvement — the mayor rented a jumpy house for

his and Mr. Robinson's joint kickoff party. "It was for me. I shoved the kids aside," Mr. Cline said.

Former mayor and active Democrat Gail Slocum favored the incumbents by giving each \$250.

### Other candidates

Attorney Kirsten Keith reported \$4,199 in contributions — \$3,000 from a self-loan, and the rest from 16 donors, about half of whom live outside the city. One fellow planning commissioner chipped in; John O'Malley donated \$100.

Trailing the pack is community volunteer and stay-at-home dad, Russell Peterson. Of the \$3,150 Mr. Peterson collected, \$3,000 came from himself and a relative. Fifty percent of his four donors live in Menlo Park. ■

### ■ PACS

One political action committee, California Real Estate PAC, put in an appearance, giving \$1,000 to Mr. Bernstein and \$500 to Mr. Robinson.

The unions are not only skipping the endorsements, so far they've also refrained from contributing money or other assistance to any Menlo Park candidate.

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# Stanford Hospital Health Notes

A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics

## Out of Options: Hand Surgery Saves Fingers and Function

On the outside, Melissa Warde just glows. Confident, quick to smile, happy. One look at her hands and a different reality is obvious.

Her left hand and fingers are purple, and swollen. Until this summer, her right hand had been the same way—worse, in fact, with unhealed ulcers on the tips of her index and ring fingers.

For more than half her life now, Warde has doggedly kept moving against scleroderma, an autoimmune system disease that can harden the skin until it feels like stone. Its scientific name means hard skin. It's not a common disease, but it can affect every organ in the body, in addition to the skin.

*"This procedure is becoming a very much desired procedure for scleroderma patients, but you need a vascular surgeon who has the experience."*

—Lorinda Chung, MD,  
Stanford Hospital rheumatologist

Its cause is unknown; a cure not in sight. The best that can be done right now is to respond to its symptoms. "It's a very, very debilitating disease,"

Warde said. She has developed a tremendous mental strength. "I get up every day, no matter how much pain I'm in. I always put myself together."

In part, the pain comes from blood vessels whose flow is constricted by overabundant tissue deposited around their exterior surfaces. And, Warde said, "I started to get these ulcers on my fingers that wouldn't heal." Bit by bit, Warde had to give up playing the sports she loved, and, ultimately, was unable to continue her job in a cancer research center.

She tried various medications, but nothing worked. Sometimes, the pain would be so bad that the necessary dose made it impossible for her to do anything. And Warde's fingers became so damaged that amputation seemed ahead. "I was in danger of losing my fingers," she said. Finally, a scleroderma specialist at Stanford Hospital & Clinics, Lorinda Chung, MD, mentioned one last option—a surgery called a digital sympathectomy.

### Delicate procedure, practiced hands

In this procedure, microvascular surgeons like Stanford's James Chang, MD, Division Chief, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, dissect open the wrist and palm through small incisions to isolate the blood vessels that feed the fingers. Guided by his view through an operating microscope, Chang carefully releases the scar tissue that envelops and constricts the arteries. Freed from the scar tissue, the arteries plump open again and enough blood reaches the fingertips to nourish them. If the arteries are too damaged, then the surgeon will make a bypass around them from unaffected arteries elsewhere in the hand.

"The stakes are high, and this is a technically difficult and challenging procedure," said Chang. "But the effect can be huge. We're setting back the clock of the effects of scleroderma on hand blood vessels by 10 to 12 years."

*"I started to get these ulcers on my fingers that wouldn't heal and I was in danger of losing my fingers."*

—Melissa Warde, patient,  
Stanford Hospital & Clinics

"It's becoming a very much desired procedure, but you need to have a microvascular surgeon who has the experience," said Chung, an autoimmune system physician who has treated Warde at Stanford. She and her colleagues are part of a multidisciplinary



Norbert von der Groeben

For several years, Melissa Warde endured disabling pain in her fingers, caused by an autoimmune system disease. She found some relief in medication, but the disease progressed, constricting blood flow to her hands so badly that amputation became a strong possibility. The surgery she had at Stanford Hospital changed all that.



Norbert von der Groeben

Melissa Warde shows her Stanford plastic surgeon, James Chang, the changes in her hand since surgery. At left, she points out the healthy new finger nail and finger tip on her right index finger where once an ulcer had deadened and eroded the tissue. At center, the palm of her right hand is clearly a healthy pink color, in contrast to her left palm, where fibers still constrict blood flow. At right, the renewed blood flow has also improved her hand's function, including its sensitivity to touch.

## About Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

- Plastic and reconstructive surgery techniques have broad applications, not only to limbs and the face but also to the body's internal regions: Abdominal walls, for example, can be reconstructed, tendons transferred and even the smallest of blood vessels restored to function.
- Surgeons can also retain or restore function to the tongue, palate and esophagus as one aspect of a cancer surgery.
- Specialists in plastic and reconstructive surgery are often part of a team of physicians focused on a patient's care and their skills incorporated into a coordinated approach to treatment.
- For many millions of people who have suffered highly disfiguring injuries or health conditions, the specialty has offered the chance at a life lived without the stares of others. For others, it has meant a life returned to normal activity.
- The field had its earliest recorded beginnings in India, around 2000 BC.
- By 1794, the first published reports appeared in an English magazine.
- In 15th century Europe, the technique was used sometimes to replace a nose lost and devoured by dogs.
- In 1827, the first American plastic surgeon repaired a cleft palate. As soldiers returned from World War I, plastic and reconstructive surgeons gained, unfortunately, experience with reconstruction of explosive- and burn-injured faces.

For more information about plastic surgery: Call **650.723.7001** or visit [plasticsurgery.stanford.edu](http://plasticsurgery.stanford.edu). For more information about hand surgery, call **650.723.5256** or visit [stanfordhospital.org/chase](http://stanfordhospital.org/chase). Join us at: [stanfordhospital.org/socialmedia](http://stanfordhospital.org/socialmedia)

scleroderma center there and regularly consult with physicians, like Chang, who might offer another aspect of care to her patients.

Warde said Chang explained to her that scar-like tissue had encircled her hand's blood vessels "like a piece of twine wrapping around a garden hose, and that you had to strip away the twine." Medication might be somewhat helpful, she thought, but she liked the idea of "starting with a clean slate."

When Chang opened up Warde's hand, he was using microsurgical tools and technique. Microsurgery depends on optics, surgical tools and the skill of the surgeon. One early barrier now overcome: the eyes of the needles used to carry sutures to close up blood vessels were so large they tore holes in the fragile tissue. Now, the suture thread is fused to the needle, expanding what microsurgery can successfully accomplish.

### More than skin deep

Within Stanford Hospital's Robert A. Chase Hand & Upper Limb Center and its Complex Reconstruction Center, surgeons treat very challenging conditions. People like Warde may come to Stanford for help with the damage caused by a chronic disorder; they may come after a traumatic accident to have a limb reattached; or they may come to talk about what might be done during or after cancer surgery.

Plastic and reconstructive surgery might mean reconstructing a face damaged in a car accident or replacing a breast removed for cancer by using abdominal skin or repairing a cleft

lip. Modern microsurgery enables the reconstruction of wounds and defects anywhere from scalp to toes.

Chang and his colleagues can now, as a routine procedure, reattach a hand completely amputated across the palm or move all or just some of the big toe to make a new thumb. The latter capability is especially critical because the thumb is responsible for 40 percent of the function of the hand.

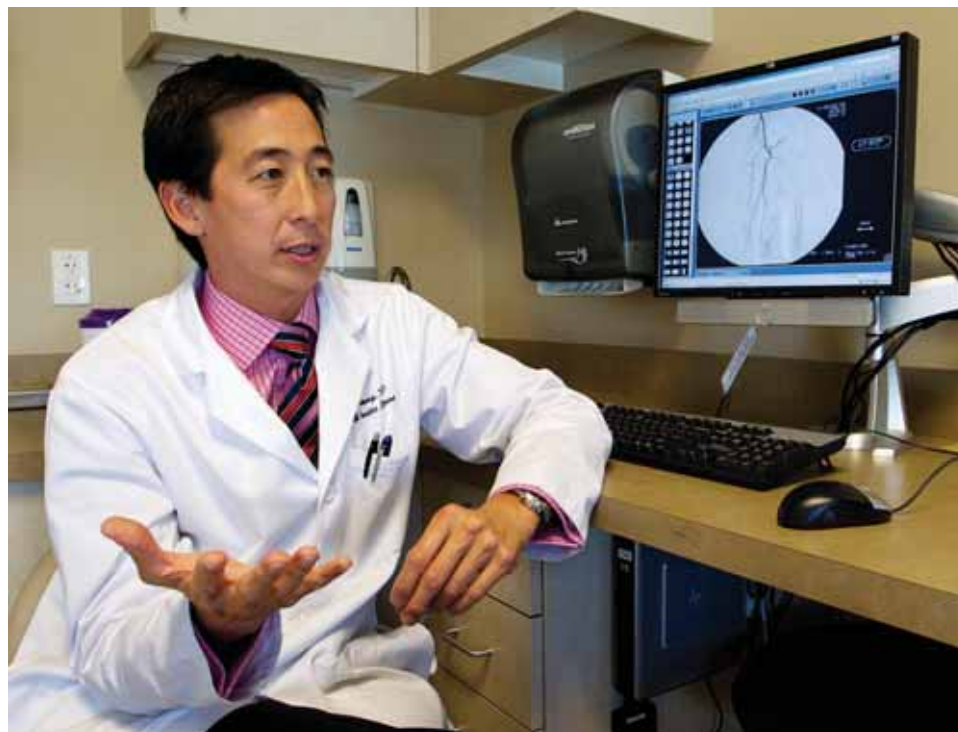
The scale of the surgical territory in the hand is stunningly miniscule. The sutures Chang handles are no thicker than a human hair—and to secure connections he makes eight

stitches around the circle of a one millimeter vessel's circumference. Just getting to where he needed to work in Warde's hand required a careful movement down through a tightly-packed group of tendons, nerves, veins and arteries, none much bigger than the ones obscured by the scleroderma. Even the most meager misstep can have major impact on how well her hand would work after surgery, or trigger chronic pain.

### Looking ahead

New techniques are available to take this type of surgery to an even higher level. Recently, Stanford's

surgeons pioneered new techniques in wrist arthroscopy, nerve reconstruction, and release of Dupuytren's contracture, a condition that twists the hand and fingers into a nearly non-functional shape. The next steps, Chang said, will likely include the movement of more precise combinations of a patient's skin, nerve, muscle, and tendons to individually tailor a reconstruction. Stanford's plastic surgery laboratories also are actively involved in the combination of synthetic scaffolding and human cells to repair tissue, bone and nerve. "It's an exciting time in plastic surgery, because our toolbox is expanding," Chang said.



Stanford hand surgeon James Chang is one of a very small group of physicians with the technical expertise to successfully perform a surgery like Warde's. Called a digital sympathectomy, the surgery includes stripping disease-caused fibers away from blood vessels. On the screen behind Chang is an angiogram of Warde's hand; the dark lines in the hand is evidence that blood is now flowing much more normally to Warde's fingers.

*"The surgery has been the biggest lifesaver for me. I can fully function. I feel a lot more whole than I have in quite a few years because of this surgery."*

—Melissa Warde, patient,  
Stanford Hospital & Clinics

Since her surgery, Warde has worked hard with a hand therapist to regain mobility lost to lack of use. But she could see the effect of the surgery immediately. Her right hand and fingers lost that deep purple color and became a healthy pink again. The ulcer began to heal. "There was a drastic, drastic difference," Warde said. "It wasn't an open wound any more."

The surgery, Warde said, "has been the biggest lifesaver for me. I can fully function. I feel a lot more whole than I have in quite a few years because of this surgery."

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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**EYE CARE NEWS**

**Presented by Mark Schmidt Licensed Optician**


**GOING GAGA OVER THE DOE-EYED LOOK**  
Lady Gaga recently made quite a splash in her *Bad Romance* video in which her face exhibited a doe-eyed look. While this effect was largely computer-generated, a demonstration of how to achieve the effect by wearing contact-lenses called "circle lenses" that change the appearance of the color and shape of the eyes has also appeared online. Although these lenses are quite popular, they raise some legitimate concerns among eye professionals. Most of the lenses are manufactured in Asia and are available online, which leads the Chair

of the Contact Lens and Cornea Section of the American Optometric Association to question oversight of their quality and fit. Any eye color change created by a contact lens should be supervised by an eye professional.

The latest eyewear fads online or on television may catch your attention but on closer inspection you may find hidden dangers. Wearing contact lenses is different from wearing eyeglasses because the lenses are worn directly on the eyes. Adherence to a prescribed wearing, cleaning, and replacement schedule is important. Please bring your eyewear prescription to MENLO OPTICAL at 1166 University Drive, on the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and University Drive. We carry contact lenses and cleaning supplies. Call us at 322-3900 if you have any questions about eyewear.

P.S. Colored contact lenses come in three kinds: visibility tints, enhancement tints, and opaque color tints.

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.

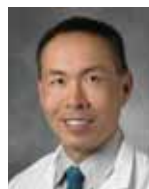

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## Medical Disaster Preparedness

**Definition:** A disaster is a man made or natural emergency/event that disrupts a community's normal function, and causes concern for the safety, property and lives of its citizens. A disaster is an event that exceeds the capabilities and resources of the community to respond.

During this program, Daniel Huie, MD, will introduce practical principles of medical disaster preparedness and provide available resources for disaster preparation. You will learn how to be individually prepared for a disaster and what community and government resources are available to you.



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To register for this event, visit [menloclinic.com/prepare](http://menloclinic.com/prepare) or call 650.721.1411. Seating is limited.

Dr. Daniel Huie is a board certified in Family Medicine and has additional clinical interests in preventive, emergency and wilderness medicine. He is a reserve police officer and tactical officer for the Hillsborough Police Department and the Medical Director for the North Central San Mateo Regional SWAT medics. Dr. Huie completed his medical education at Loyola University's Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago and medical training at O'Connor Hospital in San Jose, CA. Prior to joining Menlo Medical Clinic, he was in private practice for over ten years.

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## Police search ex-editor's home

A probation-violation inquiry by officers of the Atherton Police Department, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and the county probation department led to a search for illegal drugs in the Atherton home of Brian Bothun at about 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7, police said.

Mr. Bothun, a former editor of the Palo Alto Daily News and a former reporter for the Daily Post, is on probation in connection with a July 2008 citation by the Menlo Park Police Department for being under the influence of a controlled substance, Lt. Joe Wade of the Atherton Police Department said.

Earlier this year, Mr. Bothun pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor charge of possession of pornography and opted to serve a jail sentence rather than accept probation, but this police visit to his home was not related to that case, Lt. Wade said.

During the search, a probation officer found "a substance that tested positive for methamphetamine," Lt. Wade said. Police turned the matter over to the county District Attorney's Office for possible prosecution on charges of possession and a probation violation.

Mr. Bothun was cooperative during the two-hour episode and was not arrested as he is the primary caregiver for someone who shares his house with him,

Lt. Wade said.

Atherton police, which deployed three officers to the scene, also had the help of two county probation officers and Sheriff's Office deputies, including a drug-sniffing dog unit. Atherton is not equipped for routine drug search operations and the police force is so small that a call during a search would overstretch its resources, Lt. Wade said.

Indeed, a call came during this incident and Atherton officers had to leave, Lt. Wade said.

Asked to comment on the need for such force for a home search, Daniel Barton, a Palo Alto-based defense attorney who has represented Mr. Bothun in the past, replied: "It's very unusual for there to be a search of somebody who is on (court ordered) drug treatment. I've never seen that before, ever."

Mr. Bothun's treatment is set to expire in November, as is his probation for the 2008 incident, Mr. Barton said.

In a probation situation, police do not need a reason to conduct a search, Mr. Barton noted.

Did the search leave Mr. Bothun's home in disarray? "We always do our best to make sure the place is left as it was when we entered," Lt. Wade said.

"They seldom put things back," Mr. Barton said when asked for a comment.

## Rodgers open wine and cheese shop

Valeta and T.J. Rodgers are proprietors of the new Half Moon Bay Wine and Cheese Company, now open at 421 Main Street in Half Moon Bay.

The couple owns Clos de la Tech winery, producing pinot noir wine from the vineyard surrounding their home in Woodside. The new shop will feature wines from the Santa Cruz Mountains, specializing in pinot noir. A temperature

and humidity controlled room, called a "jewel bin," stores high-end luxury wines from around the world.

The shop also focuses on locally grown goods, including fine cheeses. The store will have wine and cheese pairings and feature guest winemakers on weekends.

Mr. Rodgers is the CEO, founder and president of Cypress Semiconductor in San Jose.

### Song Sundays at Bethany

We invite you to join us for guest musical performances during our 9:30 a.m. service.

**Sunday, October 31**

CSMA faculty member Mihail Iliev with  
CSMA Merit Scholarship student Kyle Liu, Bassoon

**Sunday, November 21**

Brian Bensing, Flute

**Sunday, December 19**

Quadre, The Voice of Four Horns

**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
1095 Cloud Avenue, Menlo Park  
650.854.5897  
[www.bethany-mp.org](http://www.bethany-mp.org)



Date of Release:  
September 30, 2010

## **TOWN OF ATHERTON REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) BUILDING OFFICIAL**

The Town of Atherton invites qualified organizations to submit proposals for professional Building Official services for the Town of Atherton.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Town of Atherton primarily consists of single-family residential land uses with several private and public schools and a country club. The median lot size in the Town is one acre in area and the Town has numerous ongoing private construction projects.

The Town's Building Official recently retired and the Town is seeking a professional to serve in this capacity on a part-time consulting basis.

The Building Official reports directly to the City Manager and will be responsible for managing five staff members. The Building Official will be responsible to oversee, direct and participate in all activities of the Building Department including; plan checking, building inspection and permit tracking. The Building Official will be responsible to interpret the Building Code, Municipal Code and other local, State or Federal regulations.

### **SCOPE OF SERVICES**

Plans, organizes, provides administrative direction and oversight and participates in all planning, plan checking, building inspection, zoning administration and related activities for private and public construction for the Town; provides expert professional assistance to Town management staff in areas of expertise; fosters cooperative working relationships with intergovernmental and regulatory agencies and various public and private groups; and performs related work as required.

Oversee, directs and participates in all activities of the Building and Zoning Department, including short and long-range planning, plan checking, building inspection and zoning administration activities through Town and contract staff. Responsibilities include coordinating the activities of the department with those of other appointed officials and managing and accomplishing the complex and varied functions of the department. The incumbent is accountable for accomplishing departmental planning and operational goals and objectives and for furthering Town goals and objectives within general policy guidelines.

Consultant Responsibilities: This service will be provided under the general guideline of the City Manager or his designee. The Building Official will be responsible for the following duties:

- Develop and direct the implementation of goals, objectives, policies, procedures and work standards for the department, prepares and administers the department's budget.
- Contributes to the overall quality of the department's service by developing, reviewing and implementing policies and procedures to meet legal requirements and Town needs.
- Oversees all Town plan checking activities; performs complex structural and non-structural plan checks; coordinates contract plan checking activities.
- Oversees all Town building inspection activities; personally inspects sites with complex construction practices or materials or where questions have been raised; coordinates staff and contract building inspection activities.
- Works in concert with the contract Town Planner on planning issues.
- Confers with and represents the department and the Town in meetings with members of the Council, members of boards and commissions, various governmental agencies, developers, contractors, business groups and the public.
- Prioritizes and allocates available resources; reviews and evaluates program and service delivery, makes recommendations for improvement and ensures maximum effective service provision.
- Prepares and directs the preparation of a variety of written correspondence, reports, procedures, ordinance and other written materials.
- Maintains and directs the maintenance of working and official departmental files.
- Monitors changes in law, regulations and technology that may affect department operations; implements policy and procedural changes as required.

The individual assigned to this task shall have excellent communication skills, both verbal and written, understanding of municipal processing procedures, be able to review and interpret the building code and municipal code, be able to work with other departments and outside agencies, and have knowledge of construction techniques.

The consultant should dedicate three days per week to this effort and may need additional hours as requested by the City Manager.

### **RFP FORMAT AND CONTENT**

The proposal shall be brief, precise, and shall not include unnecessary promotional material. The proposal shall include the following items organized as follows:

1. Transmittal Letter  
Describe your firm's interest and commitment in providing services to the Town. The letter shall be signed by an individual of the firm who is authorized to contractually bind the firm, and to negotiate a contract with the Town.
2. Work Plan Approach and Schedule  
Discuss your firm's understanding of the Scope of Work to be performed. Describe the method for serving the Building Official function.
3. Experience  
Briefly describe the qualifications, certifications and experience of the personnel to be assigned to the project. The description shall include previous experience showing knowledge of the Building Code and construction techniques.
4. References  
Provide at least three references (name, company, title, address and telephone number) for recent similar or related work. Submittal of references is waived for a governmental agency.
5. Cost  
**In a separate envelope**, provide a complete summary of the estimated number of hours, schedule of hourly rates, and the total cost for the Scope of Services.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Proposals will be considered only in their entirety. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all proposals without qualifications, and to negotiate specific requirements and costs using the selected proposal as a basis. The criteria listed below will be used to evaluate proposals for the purpose of ranking them in relative position based on how fully each proposal meets the requirements of this RFP:

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

- Proposed Work Plan and Approach.
- Familiarity with policies and procedures related to the work effort.
- Qualifications of assigned staff member.
- Previous experience with similar projects and satisfaction of previous clients.

### **INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The selected Consultant must have a General Liability Insurance insuring it and its firm to an amount not less than \$2,000,000 (Two Million Dollars) combined single limit per occurrence and in the aggregate for bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage. , An Automobile Liability Insurance policy insuring it and its staff to an amount not less than \$1,000,000 (One Million Dollars) combined single limit per accident for bodily injury and property damage. \$1,000,000 (One Million Dollars) Worker's Compensation Insurance and \$1,000,000 (One Million Dollars) Professional Liability/Errors and Omissions Insurance. The selected Consultant will be required to provide original Certificates of Insurance and Endorsements to the City evidencing the insurance coverage and endorsing the City as additional party insured.

### **COMPENSATION**

The organization will be required to sign the attached City's Standard Agreement for Consultant Services. Compensation for the services shall be on a time and expense not-to-exceed basis in accordance with the approved schedule of billing rates.

### **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

One (1) original and three (3) copies, for a total of four (4) proposals, must be submitted by 4:00 PM, on November 1, 2010 to:

Town of Atherton  
Theresa N. DellaSanta, Deputy City Clerk  
91 Ashfield Road  
Atherton, CA 94027.

For questions regarding this Request For Proposal, please contact Theresa DellaSanta, at (650) 752-0529 or by e-mail at tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us

Interpretations or clarifications considered necessary by the Town in response to questions may be issued by addenda mailed, faxed or delivered to all parties recorded by the City as having received this RFP.

— End of RFP —

**TOWN OF ATHERTON**  
**INTERIM CITY MANAGER**

The Town of Atherton invites your interest for the position of Interim City Manager.

The Interim City Manager will serve at the pleasure of the five member City Council as its chief administrative officer on an interim basis. The Town of Atherton seeks to hire a qualified applicant for the position effective November 8, 2010, or soon thereafter. The City Council intends to maintain the interim City Manager position for the period during which it is recruiting candidates for, and hiring the Town of Atherton's regular City Manager.

A copy of the Ordinance describing the powers and duties for the regular City Manager position is attached. The contracted salary and other specific job duties and employment provisions will be subject to negotiations between the final candidate and City Council in order to best use the skills of the selected candidate to meet the needs of the Town of Atherton during the period while the Town is recruiting for, and hiring a regular City Manager. The ideal candidate will possess strong leadership capabilities, substantial knowledge of managing in the public sector and perhaps even some private business experience, financial acumen, good interpersonal skills, an equitable and responsive attitude which values all people and residents of the Town of Atherton in particular, a desire to strive for excellence and superior service while supporting a cohesive and efficient town staff

If you are interested in pursuing this opportunity, please forward a letter of interest, your resume, current salary, and a completed copy of Atherton's Application for Employment and the names and phone numbers of five professional references to:

City Attorney of Atherton  
Burke Williams & Sorensen, LLP  
545 Middlefield Road, Suite 180  
Menlo Park, CA 94025-3471  
Fax: 510.839-9104  
Email: [shagle@bwslaw.com](mailto:shagle@bwslaw.com)

Applications must be received by 5:00 p. m. on Friday, October 29, 2010. The Town may extend this application deadline if it determines that it has not received sufficient qualified applicant(s) by the established due date.

Application forms may be obtained from Deputy City Clerk, Theresa DellaSanta, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA 94027, (650) 752-0529, or from the Town's website at [www.ci.atherton.ca.us](http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us).

If you have questions regarding this position, please feel free to contact City Manager Jerry Gruber at 650-752-0504, [jgruber@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:jgruber@ci.atherton.ca.us).

The Town of Atherton is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all applicable state and federal employment laws, including, but not limited to, laws prohibiting unlawful discrimination.

**ATHERTON MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.12.070 Powers and duties.**

The city manager shall be the administrative head of the government of the town under the direction and control of the city council, except as otherwise provided in this chapter. He shall be responsible for the efficient administration of all the affairs of the town which are under his control. In addition to his general powers as administrative head, and not as a limitation thereon, it shall be his duty and he shall have the powers set forth in the following subsections:

- A. To see that all laws and ordinances of the town are duly enforced and that all franchises, permits and privileges granted by the town are faithfully observed;
- B. To control, order and give directions to all heads of departments, except the city attorney, and to subordinate officers and employees of the town through their department head, and consolidate or combine offices, positions, departments or units under his direction;
- C. To appoint, remove and demote any and all officers and employees of the town except the mayor, councilmen, chairman and members of the planning commission and the city attorney;
- D. To represent the town in its negotiations and working relationships with the state, the county and other governmental jurisdictions; provided, that any contracts negotiated for the exchange of services from any such other governmental jurisdiction shall be subject to approval by the city council;
- E. To perform all of the duties and powers imposed by law on the city clerk or city auditor;
- F. To attend all meetings of the city council of the town unless excused therefrom by the council;
- G. To recommend to the city council for adoption such measures or ordinances as he deems necessary or expedient;
- H. To keep the city council at all times fully advised as to the financial conditions and needs of the town;
- I. To prepare and submit the proposed annual budget and the proposed annual salary plan to the city council for its approval, and to supervise the administration of the budget after its adoption;
- J. To purchase all supplies for all of the departments or divisions of the town. No expenditures shall be submitted or recommended to the city council except on report or approval of the city manager. He shall approve all warrants drawn on the town before payment thereof;
- K. To make investigations into the affairs of the town or any department or division thereof and any contract for the proper performance thereof;
- L. To investigate all complaints in relation to matters concerning the administration of the town government and in regard to the service maintained by public utilities in such town;
- M. To exercise general supervision over all public buildings, public parks and all other public property which are under the control and jurisdiction of the city council;
- N. To devote full time to the duties of his office and the interest of the town. The city manager shall not be employed by or work for any other person, corporation or entity, whether or not compensated therefore;
- O. To perform such other duties and exercise such other powers as may be delegated to him from time to time by ordinance or resolution or other action of the city council;
- P. To attend any and all meetings of any commissions or boards created by the city council upon his own volition or upon direction of the city council. At any such meetings at which he attends, the city manager shall be heard by such commissions and boards as to all matters upon which he wishes to address them. (Ord. 274 § 7, 1967)

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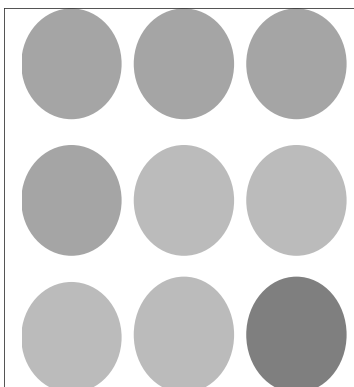
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# Balanchine dancer Janice Bering dies at 83

Janice Bering, who danced with the New York City Ballet, under the director of George Balanchine, died Sept. 24. A longtime resident of Woodside, she was 83.

Janice Margaret Mitoff Bering was born in San Francisco. She graduated from Lincoln High School and went on to a long career as a ballet dancer.

She started with the San Francisco Ballet and moved to New York in 1948. She found work that first year with the American Ballet Theatre. The next year she was hired by Mr. Balanchine.

With the New York City Ballet, she performed throughout the United States and Europe. After her career in New York, she returned to San Francisco, where she taught at the San Francisco Ballet.

In 1961 she married Donald Bering. In 1968 they moved to Woodside and Pebble Beach. Ms. Bering started Ballet Woodside, a nonprofit, and enjoyed her life, family, friends, and her garden to the fullest, say family members.

Ms. Bering is survived by her daughters, Gretchen Bering of Palo Alto and Karin Bering-

Friedrichs of Woodside; her twin sister, Elsa Morrison of Bellevue, and many nieces and nephews. Her husband, Donald

Bering and brother Stephan Mitoff preceded her in death. A celebration of her life has been held.



## TOWN OF ATHERTON Legal Counsel Selection Committee Join us and Make a Difference

The Town of Atherton invites dedicated volunteers to submit an application for the City Attorney Search Committee.

Criteria and Process for Selecting Community Volunteers for City Attorney Selection:

The City Council of the Town of Atherton has directed the formation of an Ad Hoc Legal Counsel Selection Committee to be formed for the purpose of developing a Request for Proposals, reviewing the proposals and submitting them along with recommendations to the entire City Council for selection of a City Attorney for the Town.

Council Members Carlson and Lewis are the Council representatives who will solicit applications from the Town of Atherton Community for volunteers to serve on the Committee. Three residents will be selected by the entire Council at the November 17, 2010 meeting.

Applicants will be chosen based on the following criteria:

1. Atherton resident and homeowner.
2. Experience in public sector law, as counsel or as a public sector manager receiving legal services.
3. Experience in recruitment, selection and hiring (or making hiring recommendations) of counsel for public entities, or corporations.
4. Independent of any close association with Atherton interests which could pose a conflict.
5. Awareness of Atherton's financial situation and its exposure to lawsuits.
6. Ability to work as a team member, focus on solutions and compromise.
7. Member of the California Bar and experience practicing law in California is highly desirable.

Please submit an application no later than November 5, 2010. Final selection of 3 Committee Members will be at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting in November.

For more information or to obtain an application, contact Theresa DellaSanta, Deputy City Clerk, Town Administrative Offices, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA 94027, phone (650) 752-0529, e-mail: tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us. Applications may be downloaded from the Town website under the Announcements Link.

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**Free Attorney Consult!**  
 650.424.1900 • greencard1.com • heller@greencard1.com



HE EARNED HIS B.S. IN INDUSTRIAL AND LABOR RELATIONS FROM CORNELL UNIVERSITY, A J.D. CUM LAUDE FROM UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, AN M.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON, AND AN M.A. IN EDUCATION FROM UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

Drew loves helping students learn to interpret and analyze historical sources. He says, "...students can use the skills of critical analysis and synthesis to become careful contributors and consumers of information throughout life."

He's an admitted "recovering lawyer" and welcomes any lawyer joke you may know. When he's not teaching, he can often be found playing soccer, trail running, or longboarding.

Drew earned academic acclaim with several awards and fellowships including: University of Michigan School of Education Scholar Award, University of Michigan Regents Fellowship, the Rebmann & Calloway Cornell Tradition Scholar, and the Cornell Tradition Fellowship.

He hopes his students become more informed and empathetic members of society through the study of different cultures in a historical context.

His favorite quote is: "Tell me and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me, and I'll understand." - Chinese Proverb

### DREW CIANCIA

ONE OF THE MANY REASONS TO SEND YOUR CHILD TO:



Woodside Priory School  
 Admissions Office  
 302 Portola Road,  
 Portola Valley, CA 94028  
 www.PrioryCa.org

### OPEN HOUSE for Prospective Students and Families

Saturday, Nov. 13th, 2010 at 10 a.m.  
 Wednesday, Nov. 17th, 2010 at 7 p.m.  
 Saturday, Dec. 4th, 2010 at 10 a.m.

For information and to R.S.V.P. contact Admissions at 650. 851. 8223

### Menlo votes 'no confidence' in high-speed rail

The rail authority can look forward to receiving yet another letter expressing "no confidence" in its handling of high-speed rail.

The Menlo Park City Council voted 3-1 on Oct. 5 to follow in Palo Alto's footsteps by formally expressing its dismay with the current state of the project and lack of collaboration by the rail authority.

Mayor Rich Cline said he and city staff have some editing to do, particularly of the sections on ridership projections and elevated tracks, but the letter will go out.

The solo dissenting vote came from Councilman John Boyle, who said the city was already taking action via lawsuits, and could find a more diplomatic way to criticize the rail authority.

■ Go to [is.gd/fUp3E](http://is.gd/fUp3E) (case-sensitive) to read about the new lawsuit filed against high-speed rail by Atherton, Menlo Park and Portola Valley.

## Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School





450 San Antonio Road  
 Palo Alto, CA 94306  
[www.hausner.com](http://www.hausner.com)

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RSVP  
 Aileen Mitchner  
 Director of Admission  
 650.494.8200 x 104  
[admissions@hausner.com](mailto:admissions@hausner.com)

**Middle School**  
 Sunday  
 October 31st  
 1:00 - 3:30 pm

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**Kindergarten**  
 Thursday  
 November 18th  
 7:00 - 8:30 pm

## TOWN OF ATHERTON REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

The Town of Atherton invites jurisdictions and qualified organizations to submit proposals for professional Code Enforcement services for the Town of Atherton. Proposals from both public agencies and private companies are encouraged.

### INTRODUCTION

The Town of Atherton primarily consists of single-family residential land use with several private and public schools and a country club. The median lot size in the Town is one acre in area and the Town has numerous ongoing construction projects.

The Code Enforcement function operates under the direction of the Town's Building Official. The Town has retained consultant services for this function over the last several years and is interested in seeking competitive proposals for this ongoing service. The Code Enforcement officer is responsible for responding and resolving complaints from interested persons relating to municipal code violations (zoning code, building code, noise ordinance, etc.). The Town's Municipal Code is available for review at [www.ci.atherton.ca.us](http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us).

The majority of the code enforcement issues are related to single family home construction activity, noise code violations, work without a permit and damage to heritage trees.

### SCOPE OF SERVICES

Organizations responding to this RFP are to review the Town of Atherton's Municipal Code (available at [www.ci.atherton.ca.us](http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us)) for an understanding of the services required by this RFP.

**Responsibilities:** This service will be provided under the general guideline of the Building Official. The Code Enforcement Officer will be required respond to complaints in a timely manner from interested persons, investigate the municipal code, conduct field investigation, prepare correspondence, log and track complaints, conduct subsequent inspections and follow-up until violations are in compliance with the Town's requirements and work with the City Attorney as needed to ensure resolution.

The individual assigned to this task shall have excellent communication skills, both verbal and written, understanding of municipal processing procedures, be able to review and interpret the municipal code, be able to work with other departments and outside agencies, and have basic construction knowledge.

The individual assigned to this task should dedicate eight hours per week to this effort and may need additional hours as requested by the City Manager.

### RFP FORMAT AND CONTENT

The proposal shall be brief and precise. The proposal shall include the following items organized as follows:

- Transmittal Letter.**  
Describe your organization's interest and commitment in providing services to the Town. The letter shall be signed by an individual of the organization who is authorized to contractually bind the organization and to negotiate a contract with the Town. Please include a point of contact including an email address.
- Work Plan Approach and Schedule**  
Discuss your organization's understanding of the Scope of Work to be performed. Describe the method for resolving code violations.
- Experience**  
Briefly describe the qualifications, certifications and experience of the personnel to be assigned to the project. The description shall include previous experience showing knowledge of the code enforcement procedures.
- References**  
If applicable, provide at least three references (name, company, title, address and telephone number) for recent similar or related work. Submittal of references is waived for a governmental agency.
- Cost**  
In a separate envelope, provide schedule of hourly rates, and the total cost for the Scope of Services.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be considered only in their entirety. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all proposals without qualifications, and to negotiate specific requirements and costs using the selected proposal as a basis. The criteria listed below will be used to evaluate proposals for the purpose of ranking them in relative position based on how fully each proposal meets the requirements of this RFP:

#### Evaluation Criteria

- Proposed Work Plan and Approach.
- Familiarity with policies and procedures related to the work effort.
- Qualifications of assigned staff member.

Previous experience with similar projects and satisfaction of previous clients.

### INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The selected Organization must have a General Liability Insurance insuring it and its organization to an amount not less than \$2,000,000 (Two Million Dollars) combined single limit per occurrence and in the aggregate for bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage. An Automobile Liability Insurance policy insuring it and its staff to an amount not less than \$1,000,000 (One Million Dollars) combined single limit per accident for bodily injury and property damage. \$1,000,000 (One Million Dollars). Worker's Compensation Insurance and Professional Liability/Errors and Omissions Insurance in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 (One Million Dollars). The selected Organization will be required to provide original Certificates of Insurance and Endorsements to the City evidencing the insurance coverage and endorsing the City as additional party insured.

### COMPENSATION

The Organization will be required to sign the attached City's Standard Agreement for Consultant Services. Compensation for the services shall be on a time and expense not-to-exceed basis in accordance with the approved schedule of billing rates. Potential changes to contract language may be submitted, in writing, at the time of proposal. Changes will be negotiated through the Town's City Attorney.

### PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE

One (1) original, three (3) copies and one Word Document, for a total of four (4) hard copy proposals and one electronic proposal, must be submitted by 4:00 PM, on November 1, 2010 to:

Town of Atherton  
Theresa N. DellaSanta, Deputy City Clerk  
91 Ashfield Road  
Atherton, CA 94027.

For questions regarding this Request For Proposal, please contact Theresa DellaSanta at (650) 752-0529 or by e-mail at [tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us)

Interpretations or clarifications considered necessary by the Town in response to questions may be issued by addenda mailed, faxed or delivered to all parties recorded by the City as having received this RFP. Please include an email address for retrieval of these specific interpretations and/or clarifications.

— End of RFP —

### OBITUARIES

#### Christopher Chandler

Event planner

Christopher Clay Chandler of Redwood City died Sept. 30 after being struck by a car while riding his bicycle across El Camino Real in Atherton. Mr. Chandler, who grew up in Woodside, was 62.



Christopher Chandler

Mr. Chandler was a graduate of Woodside High School, where he was the first male cheerleader. He entered the cheerleading competition as a joke, but stayed with it after learning he could travel on the bus with all the girl cheerleaders, say family members.

He graduated from San Francisco State University with a business degree and received his MBA from Golden Gate University. He served in Vietnam for three years and was honored with three medals.

Community leader Jane West dies at 92. **Page 31**

After working in several businesses, Mr. Chandler started his own event-planning business, ROI International. His hobbies were horseback riding, gardening, trains, walking, and playing with the family dog, Cammie.

Mr. Chandler's wife, Jan, is the director of the dance program at Menlo School, where she has been employed since 1982. Their daughter, Courtney, has been teaching dance at Menlo's middle school since 2004. A celebration of Mr. Chandler's life was held at Menlo School Oct. 10.

His daughter, Courtney, recalls her father attended every play, dance performance, horse show, volley ball or soccer game. He was there for all the small events, as well as the big events, in his daughters' lives.

The family requests that trees be planted in Mr. Chandler's memory and that pictures of the planted trees and their locations be sent to [chandlerfamilytrees@gmail.com](mailto:chandlerfamilytrees@gmail.com).

#### Willis H. Nelson

Field geologist and explorer

Willis H. "Willie" Nelson, field geologist and explorer, died Sept. 26, of complications following surgery. Mr. Nelson, who worked for the U.S. Geological Survey during his lifelong career, was 89.

Born in Three Forks, Montana, Mr. Nelson obtained an engineering degree from Montana State College. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He rose to sergeant and was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sus-

Continued on next page

**■ POLICE CALLS**

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

**ATHERTON**

**Residential burglary report:** Home entered via unlocked side door and TV and laptop computer stolen, first block of San Benito Ave., Oct. 5.

**MENLO PARK**

**Residential burglary reports:**

■ Losses estimated at \$3,800 in theft of DVD player, ring and cash, 100 block of Hamilton Ave., Oct. 7.

■ Window screen slashed and losses estimated at \$2,060 in theft of jewelry, electronic and cash, 1100 block of Carlton Ave., Oct. 5.

**Theft report:** Losses totaling \$1,500 in theft from unlocked vehicle of stereo and backpack, 4100 block of Bohannon Drive, Oct. 4.

**Auto burglary reports:**

■ Purse valued at \$145 stolen, 600 block of Santa Cruz Ave., Oct. 4.

■ Car stereo valued at \$30 stolen, 1100 block of Willow Road, Oct. 6.

**Fraud reports:**

■ Identity theft, 1200 block of Johnson St., Oct. 1.

■ Fraudulent phone calls received, first block of Willow Road, Oct. 6.

**Assault report:** Man scratched in assault by woman who was later arrested on domestic violence charges, 1500 block of San Antonio St., Oct. 6.

**Stolen vehicle report:** Two jet skis and trailer stolen, Haven Ave., Oct. 4.

**Spousal abuse report:** 1300 block of Sevier Ave., Oct. 2.

**WOODSIDE**

**Auto burglary report:** Power and hand tools valued at several thousand dollars stolen from pickup truck, Park and Ride at Woodside Road and Interstate 280, Oct. 5.

**PORTOLA VALLEY**

**Theft report:** Unauthorized use of credit card to spend \$6,000 on airline tickets, 100 block of Palmer Lane, Oct. 3.

*Continued from previous page*

tained while invading Okinawa.

After military separation in April, 1946 he attended graduate school at the University of Washington. He married Evelyn Ruth Smith on March 21, 1948. Following his master's thesis research on volcanic rocks of Utah, he was hired by the USGS in 1949.

His work took him to many mountainous regions in the United States and Indonesia. He was among the first explorers to map unnamed areas of Alaska and Antarctica. Nelson Peak in the Pensacola Mountains of Antarctica bears his name. Results of his field mapping projects have been published in USGS reports and maps, as well as scientific journals. He retired in 1985.

Mr. Nelson and his wife loved to dance, say family members. They belonged to local square dance and ballroom groups in Palo Alto and Redwood City.

He is survived by his wife, Evelyn, of Los Altos; daughter Nancy Moody of Watsonville; sons William Nelson of Santa Cruz and James Nelson of Sunnyvale; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorial services for late October are pending.



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**JANICE BERING**

Janice, a long time resident of Woodside, Ca. passed away on Friday, September 24th. She was 83 years old at the time of her death.

Janice Margaret Mitoff Bering was born in San Francisco on April 15, 1927. She graduated from Lincoln High School and went on to a long career as a ballet dancer. Janice started her ballet career in San Francisco with the San Francisco Ballet, and moved to New York to pursue her passion in 1948. She found work that first year in New York with the American Ballet Theatre. The next year Janice auditioned for, and was hired into the New York City Ballet, under the direction of George Balanchine. With the NYCB, Janice enjoyed performing throughout the United States and Europe. If you were lucky enough to know Janice, she had many interesting tales of life in New York in the 1950's, and the magic of the culture at that time. Following her career in New York, Janice moved back to San Francisco, where she taught ballet at the San Francisco Ballet.

In 1961, Janice married Donald Bering, also of San Francisco. Janice and Don lived in the city until their children were old enough to attend school. Beginning in 1968, they moved to Woodside and Pebble Beach, Ca. She started Ballet Woodside, a non profit, and enjoyed her life and her family and friends and her garden to the fullest.

Janice was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Bering, and her brother, Stephan Mitoff of New York and Florida. She is survived by her daughters, Gretchen Bering (Jon Schink) of Palo Alto, Karin Bering-Friedrichs (Oliver) of Woodside, her twin sister Elsa Morrison, of Bellevue, Wa., and many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and of course her friends, who will all miss her greatly. Her daughters, Gretchen and Karin, will most miss her spirit, her positive attitude and the inspiration that she gave them each day. Always the optimist, Janice would much prefer a party to a service, so friends and family are invited to share in a celebration of her life at her home on Saturday, October 9 at 4pm.

PAID OBITUARY

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



**WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?**

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## Endorsements

### Menlo Park City Council

During the next four years, the Menlo Park City Council will make decisions that will shape the city's future for years to come. Here are the high points:

After they explain it to residents, council members will need to sell the already controversial downtown visioning plan to merchants and property owners; continue the major effort to reduce the local impact of the high-speed rail project; balance the budget without raising the utility tax; adopt a hard line on staff salary and pension increases; and oversee planning upgrades in the industrial M-2 zone, as well as oversee the Menlo Gateway project if voters approve it.

This is an agenda that cries out for a council that is up to speed and ready to go to work immediately to bring these high-profile tasks to fruition.

In our view, no matter how tempting it might be, this is not the time to take a broom to City Hall. Mayor Rich Cline and council member Heyward

Robinson have spent hundreds of hours with these issues and many others. While we have serious questions for both men, we respect their dedication and believe both are sincere in wanting to do the best they can for Menlo Park.

As chair of the Peninsula Cities Consortium for high-speed rail, Mr. Cline is playing a major leadership role in making sure that the rail authority understands the needs of Menlo Park, Atherton and Palo Alto as they make final plans for the project.

And just as critical, in our mind, is the role Mr. Cline and Mr. Robinson must play as the downtown visioning plan works its way through the public approval process later this year and early next year. True leadership will be needed to wade through the thicket of opposition from downtown merchants and property owners who believe they will suffer with the changes suggested in the plan.

It will also take delicate negotiations to resolve differences of neighbors and some residential property owners about the vision for El Camino Real, which hopefully will spell the end of the abandoned car dealerships south of Middle Avenue.

Our third choice was the most difficult, but we believe Peter Ohtaki, now chairman of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District board, has the business and budgeting skills that are badly needed on the council. With the unfortunate departure of John Boyle, who decided not to seek re-election, the council lost a perspective that we believe will be filled by Mr. Ohtaki.

Our endorsements should not reflect badly on Kirsten Keith and Chuck Bernstein, who we rate as highly qualified, although we gave the edge to the incumbents. We urge them, as well as Russell Peterson, to stay active in city affairs and consider another run for the council.

### Measure L, the pension initiative

The current down economy has intensified interest in the often bloated salaries and pensions received by public employees, including in Menlo Park, where residents gathered more than 3,000 signatures to put a pension reform measure on the ballot.

Measure L would increase the retirement age from 55 to 60 for new rank and file employees (not police officers) and reduce the pension calculator from 2.7 to 2 percent per year for each year worked up to 30 years. Measure L also would restrict pension increases by the council without a vote of the people.

As we have said here before, Measure L does not change benefits of current workers or of current or newly hired police officers. It only will

apply to new non-police employees, so it will not have a significant impact on the city's budget for years.

But like its proponents, we agree that Measure L sends a message to other communities and to the public employee unions that enough is enough. Local governments need to pay reasonable wages and pensions and remain competitive with private industry. But long ago private employers gave up defined benefits and converted to defined-contribution — such as 401(k) — plans, which are managed by the workers. In addition, many small communities have discovered that they cannot sustain their current salary and pension commitments without drastic budget overhauls.

Ultimately, the problem must be solved at the state level, but for now, vote for Measure L. It is a good start.

### Measure T, the Menlo Gateway project

The Almanac supports this massive office and hotel project that will be built on the city's eastern border by David Bohannon, a local resident whose family has owned the property for several generations.

Detractors have trotted out a slew of environmental arguments, but the same could be said for any project of this size. Two intersections, Marsh and Willow roads at Middlefield, are expected to experience the most impact from the project, but downtown streets will be relatively unaffected. It is also expected that tenants in the buildings will provide shuttle service from Caltrain to the offices.

Mr. Bohannon has done a good job in minimizing the project's impact, including making a substantial effort to reduce greenhouse gases and make a commitment to build the offices and the hotel to the highest green building specifications.

The timing is uncertain, but when built-out, Menlo Gateway will contribute millions of dollars to the city in one-time fees. The hotel is expected to add \$1.5 million a year in transit occupancy tax revenue. And the Belle Haven community has given strong endorsement to the project, in the hope that many of construction and other jobs will go to local residents.

Certainly Measure T, one of the largest projects in the city's history, has its drawbacks. But in our opinion, on balance, Menlo Gateway is a good deal for the city, and deserves a Yes vote.



### Atherton City Council

When they are seated, the three winning candidates for Atherton City Council will face the huge job of hiring a new city manager and city attorney who can bring in a workable budget, provide a clear direction for city staff members, and work to resolve several legal matters that continue to attract far too much attention.

Of the four candidates running, we endorse incumbents Jerry Carlson and Jim Dobbie and newcomer Bill Widmer, a high-tech business executive who has wide experience in working at the top of large companies and who has volunteered on the budget and audit committees.

All three have deep business backgrounds, skills that are sorely needed as the town attempts to prepare a break-even budget. And all agree that employee compensation must be controlled to balance the budget. Mr. Carlson said he is ready to look at all options to bring down the cost of police services, including outsourcing or sharing coverage with other communities. And he agrees that any change must be approved by the city's residents. Mr. Dobbie said he has identified several town positions that could be eliminated, but added such a move would have to be taken with care.

In addition to his business skills, Mr. Widmer promises to push hard to make the council's business much more transparent, including digitizing many public records and streaming video of council meetings on the Web. He also suggests that council meetings be shortened and held on Tuesday and Thursday if necessary.

All the candidates have major concerns about the high-speed rail project and would only support building a new town hall if it was primarily paid for with private donations.

Atherton desperately needs experienced council members to lead it out of the current leadership crisis. Jerry Carlson, Jim Dobbie and Bill Widmer are the most qualified candidates in this race.

## Menlo Park City School District

Three of four candidates stand out in the race to fill three slots on the Menlo Park City School District board. Laura Linkletter Rich, Joan Lambert and Terry Thygesen would bring a wealth of skills to the board, skills that are sorely needed as the district embarks on a major renovation and rebuild of Hillview Middle, the largest of its four schools. Ana Uribe-Ruiz also filed in this race.

The K-8 district continues to achieve high test scores and parents and residents of the district consistently approve parcel taxes and bond issues to help the schools keep pace with growing enrollment.

Already a legend in the district, Ms. Linkletter Rich is in the running for her fourth four-year term, even though her children left the schools long ago. First elected in 1998, she has served on PTAs, site councils, and school board associations, and is the voluntary website designer for the district and two of its schools. She was a trustee when class-size reduction was implemented, when the academic program was redesigned at Hillview and when Superintendent Ken Ranella was hired.

With one child each in elementary, middle and high school, Joan Lambert still had time to work on the Measure C parcel tax campaign and now serves on the board of the district's education foundation. Saying the district does a good job preparing students to be critical thinkers and good citizens, she believes more could be done to teach students research skills and how to write more coherently and effectively. A former practicing attorney, Ms. Lambert said her legal skills and training in mediation will be an asset during negotiations with the unions.

Terry Thygesen is no stranger to the board, having served two terms from 2000 to 2008. Her focus this time around is to "improve educational equity" for all students. The district has made progress in closing the achievement gap for special education students, and now needs to focus on students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

With her finance and planning background, Ms. Thygesen helped develop the district's long-range plan that helped the district build up its financial reserves. She also supports the drive to bring technology to the district, but says such services don't replace "the need for live interaction."

The Almanac endorses Ms. Rich, Ms. Lambert and Ms. Thygesen for the Menlo Park City School District board of trustees.

## Los Lomitas School District

Although its students finished with the highest test scores in the state, earlier this year the K-8 Las Lomitas School District had to struggle with teachers to reach a new contract, and its small class size could be threatened by lower funding and growing enrollment in the years ahead.

Four well-qualified candidates are in the running for three seats on the Las Lomitas school board and the top three finishers will play a key role in sorting out these issues in the four years ahead, which likely will include voting to place a parcel tax on an upcoming ballot.

The Almanac endorses Jay Siegel, Mark Reinstra and Ann Jaquith in this race, which will bring a nearly complete slate of new faces to the board.

Mr. Siegel is an incumbent but was appointed to the board less than a year ago to fill the term of David Baillard, who resigned. Besides his board experience, Mr. Siegel has served on the board of the education foundation and has volunteered at Las Lomitas School and has a daughter at La Entrada middle school.

Mr. Siegel believes his experience in financial research and economic forecasting will help as the board takes on the upcoming financial challenges. He said he would increase communication with residents and families about the district's financial issues, and help negotiate "a fair and just contract" with teachers that would not increase the district's deficit. He does support a new parcel tax, although no decision has been made to put it on the ballot next year.

With a doctorate in education from Stanford and a master's from Harvard, Ms. Jaquith has a background that is superb for a position on the board. She is a former middle school teacher and an assistant elementary and middle school assistant principal. With two children in district schools, she has spent time on the Las Lomitas site council, and has been a classroom volunteer and an AYSO coach and referee.

She said the district can "strengthen how our schools support the development of our teachers," and she would like to see more emphasis in the classroom focused on performance assessments and assignments that require students to "think deeply."

Candidate Mark Reinstra is a parent who is active in the education foundation and as a volunteer in the classroom. He sees finances as the main challenge facing the district in the coming years, and believes a combination of a new parcel tax and spending cuts will be needed in the years ahead.

He said the tension created during contract talks with the teachers during the last school year is a concern, adding that the difficulties facing the district can best be addressed "if we are all pulling together."

The Almanac endorses Mr. Siegel, Ms. Jaquith and Mr. Reinstra for the three open seats on the Las Lomitas School Board.

## 14th Congressional District

Rep. Anna Eshoo, sworn into her first term in 1993, has gone on to become a key player in Washington while she continues to provide excellent service to her constituents. We endorse her candidacy and fully expect she will be returned to Congress.

Over the past year Ms. Eshoo has done a lot to keep the district informed about major national issues. She held phone-in town hall meetings about President Obama's health care bill, and lately has been monitoring federal involvement in the high-speed rail project.

She sits on major congressional committees, including the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee, and is a senior member of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet and the Subcommittee on Health.

In our view, Rep. Eshoo is doing an excellent job of playing a major role in setting national policy, and serving local residents. We endorse Anna Eshoo for the 14th Congressional District.

## The 21st Assembly District

Our choice in this race to fill Assembly seat held by Ira Ruskin is Rich Gordon, who has served 12 years as a county supervisor and has a superb track record as an able legislator. His main opponent, Atherton businessman Greg Conlon, has served eight years on the Public Utilities Commission and ran unsuccessfully for state treasurer in 2002 and U.S. Congress in 2008.

We believe Mr. Gordon is far more qualified than Mr. Conlon to join the state Legislature, which sorely needs members who have the skills necessary to end the gridlock in Sacramento. Over the years, Mr. Gordon has proven that he can bring opposing sides together and accomplish legislative goals that some thought impossible. He has also served two years as president of the state Association of Counties, where colleagues from both parties have endorsed his candidacy.

Rich Gordon has union support but backs reform of public employee pensions and supports repealing the two-third requirement for approving the state's budget. He also supports backing off term limits and tightening the initiative process that takes away responsibility from the Legislature.

We recommend Rich Gordon for state Assembly.

## San Mateo County supervisor

Former County Sheriff Don Horsley and coastsider April Vargas are in a runoff for county supervisor and present an interesting contrast between a consummate insider and an environmentalist and small business owner who came in second in the primary.

The Almanac endorsed Mr. Horsley in that race, and we are doing so again, although Ms. Vargas is running a strong, grass-roots campaign that we expect will attract support despite her small constituency on the coastsider. It has been 40 years since a coastsider candidate has won a board seat.

The key issues in this race are the county's overblown budget, which supervisors had to balance using \$90 million in reserves this year. Neither candidate identified \$90 million in budget savings — the expected deficit in 2014 if current trends continue.

Mr. Horsley's suggestions included cuts in public safety and health care, and a plan to consolidate county fire-fighting agencies and save about \$8 million.

Ms. Vargas agreed with the firefighting cuts, and said she would raise the retirement age for county workers and increase their contributions to health care and pensions, as well as cap pension benefits for the highest wage earners. She also said the county has too many managers, averaging one for every 5.6 employees, compared to about nine in other nearby counties.

Mr. Horsley's many years of experience in county government, along with his service on the Sequoia Health Care District board, gives him the nod in this race. We support Don Horsley for county supervisor.

## County treasurer-tax collector

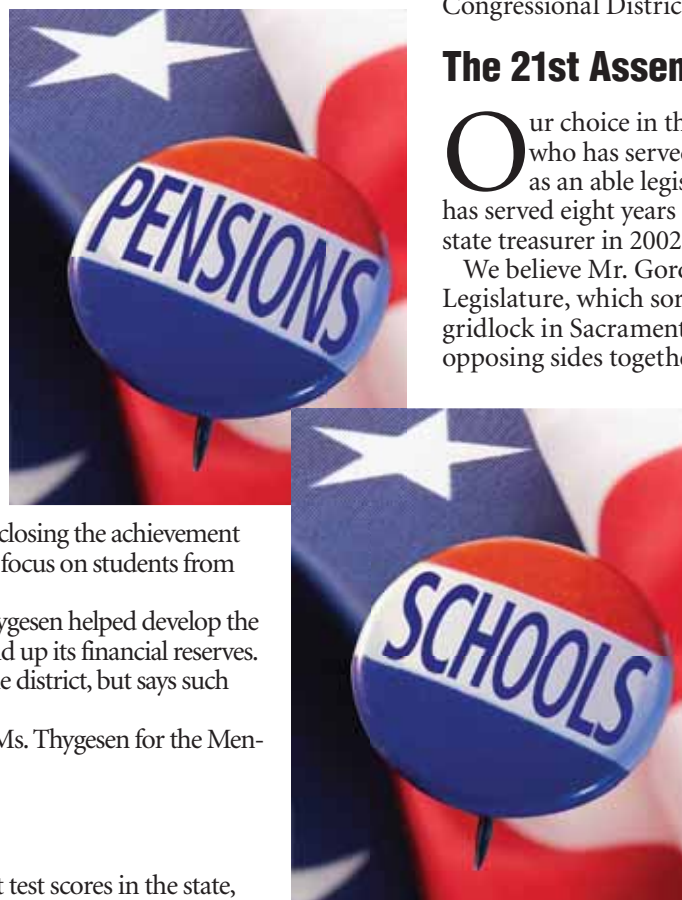
In the race for treasurer-tax collector, we endorse entrepreneur and community college board member Dave Mandelkern, who is in a runoff with Sandie Arnott, the deputy county treasurer.

The treasurer oversees a portfolio of about \$2.4 billion, which is made up of deposits from county agencies and school districts. Former treasurer Lee Buffington, whose investments in Lehman Brothers cost the county \$155 million in September 2008, resulted in losses of \$6.5 million at the local high school district and \$2.5 million for the Menlo Park City School District.

A major issue in the race is how the county can avoid repeating this scenario. Both candidates say they support tighter investment policies, adding that they will seek outside advice in investing the 20 percent of the portfolio not required to be in government securities.

Mr. Mandelkern knows the financial markets, having worked as an entrepreneur for many years. He suggests the county should pool its assets with a larger fund to lower transaction costs and gain access to fund-management software.

The Almanac supports Dave Mandelkern for county treasurer-tax collector.



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