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The Almanac

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

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Woodsider honored for D-Day action

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

In the 4 a.m. darkness on the morning of June 6, 1944, about 67 years ago, Woodside resident Floyd Carley, a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, stood on the deck of the destroyer USS Satterlee, waiting, along with soldiers and sailors on 5,000 other Allied ships, to begin the coastal bombardment of Normandy and the invasion of France.

Above them, Allied gliders ferrying invading paratroops did not escape the notice of German anti-aircraft guns. "Some of them exploded in mid-air. It was a terrible sight to see," Mr. Carley said in a recorded interview. "Brave men up there dying. Two of those were hit and they lost everybody."

Mr. Carley, now 89, related his experiences on D-Day in a 1998 DVD recording provided by his daughter Linda Rosen. (For health reasons, he was not available for an interview for this story.)

As radar officer, Mr. Carley recalled spending much of D-Day inside the Satterlee's command information center (CIC), the inner sanctum of a combat ship. His role: help coordinate the shelling of shore defenses in support of Allied soldiers scaling the 100-foot cliffs of Pointe du Hoc with the assignment of neutralizing the German guns overlooking the key invasion points of Omaha and Utah beaches.

On July 1, 2011, at the French consulate in San Francisco, the government of France, by decree of the president of France, will recognize Mr. Carley as a Chevalier of the National Order of the Legion of Honour.

The award is "a sign of France's true and unforgettable gratitude and appreciation for your personal, precious contribution to the United States' decisive role in the liberation of our country during World War II. ... The French people will never forget your courage and your devotion to the great cause of freedom," Francois Rivasseau, a charge d'affaires in the French Embassy in Washington D.C., said in a Dec. 27, 2010,



Photo by Jeanne Carley

Floyd Carley, shown here in a 2003 photo at his home in Woodside and in 1943 as a midshipman training to be an officer. Mr. Carley will be recognized in July with a high honor by the government of France for his service in the U.S. Navy while off the French coast during World War II.

letter to Mr. Carley.

Fighting ship

With a college degree from Columbia University behind him, the Navy inducted Mr. Carley as an enlisted man in 1943 and immediately sent him to midshipman's school, followed by radar school and an assignment to Norfolk, Virginia, to board the Satterlee as

out and started throwing hand grenades and shooting down on them," Mr. Carley recalled.

In response, the Satterlee, a couple of hundred yards offshore, trained its anti-aircraft guns on the cliff top "and just swept the Germans off," he said, allowing the soldiers to continue their climb.

When the Rangers reached the top, the Germans were waiting for them with a machine gun nest, which the Satterlee then destroyed with a couple of rounds from the 5-inch guns, Mr. Carley said.

"We blew that thing right into the water," he said with a big smile. "The whole machine gun nest, by the third salvo, was hit and fell off into the water."

The shore-fire crew on board the Satterlee would relay map-grid coordinates to the ship's command information center, which would give range and bearing information to the gun-control crew "and they'd throw the salvo," Mr. Carley said. "And we did that all day long, all day long, just supporting them."

"Those poor fellas," he said of the Rangers. "They suffered great losses, about half of them were killed or wounded."

"German resistance was stiff" and the Satterlee stayed just off the Normandy coast for 40 more days, the ship's historical account says.

Next stop was southern France, where the Satterlee joined another invasion force at St. Tropez, the account says. Mr. Carley concurred in the DVD, with his report of the sinking of a German torpedo boat and the Satterlee's crew picking up the 10 or 12 survivors and tending to their medical needs in the ward room.

Back on the East Coast in October 1944, the Satterlee escorted President Franklin Roosevelt in the cruiser Quincy from Norfolk to Bermuda, the first leg of Mr. Roosevelt's trip to Yalta in the Ukraine to confer with Allied leaders Winston Churchill of Britain and Josef Stalin of the Soviet Union. During the Satterlee's two or three week layover in Bermuda, the crew had the golf courses to themselves. "(It was) just paradise," Mr. Carley said. ■

France's honor refers to his 'personal, precious contribution' to the U.S.' 'decisive role in the liberation of our country.'

its radar officer.

"To get on a capital ship, to be an officer on a fighting ship" was a great privilege, Mr. Carley recalled on the DVD. "You're 21 years old and you're an officer and there are guys going around saluting and you really think you're something."

The Satterlee and destroyers of its class measured 348 feet long by 36 feet across, carried a crew of 276, and had armaments that included four 5-inch guns and four 40-millimeter anti-aircraft guns. The Satterlee escorted two convoys to Casablanca, and in April 1944, escorted the battleships Texas and Arkansas to Northern Ireland, according to an official history of the ship from the Naval History and Heritage Command.

On D-Day, on station off Pointe du Hoc, Satterlee officers watched as soldiers from the U.S. Army Second Ranger Battalion began scaling the cliffs. "As they went up the cliffs there, the Germans came

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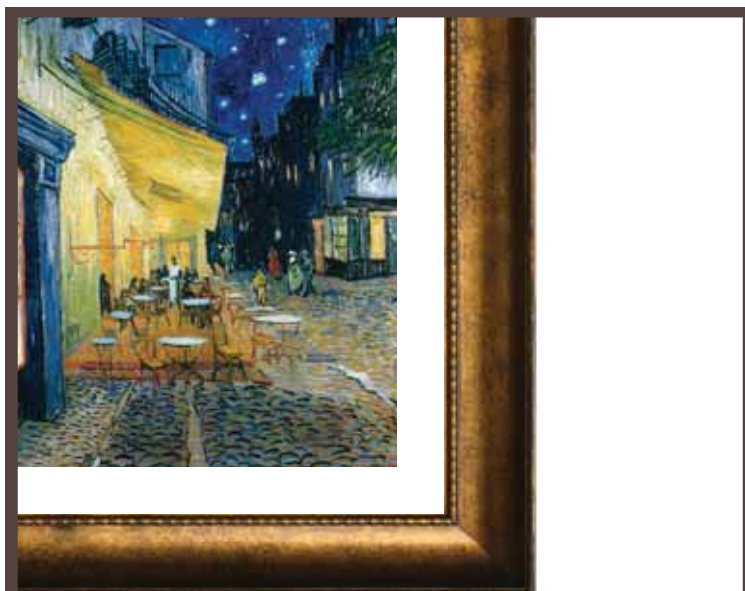
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WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT - Information Bulletin

Serving our Community Since 1902

Introduction

Following a recent decision by U.S. District Court Edward Chen in the pending lawsuit by San Francisco Baykeeper against West Bay Sanitary District, a blog was posted on the Baykeeper website by its Executive Director Deb Self, claiming West Bay chose to spend funds on legal fees to defend the Baykeeper lawsuit “rather than investing in needed repairs to upgrade its sewer pipes and stop polluting waterways.” This bulletin attempts to respond to some of the misinformation about the case being disseminated by Baykeeper and set the record straight.

The Recent Court Decision

In the recent decision, Judge Chen determined that, of the 162 sewer system overflows (SSOs) alleged in the Complaint over a five year period for which Baykeeper was seeking to hold West Bay liable, and the 68 SSOs raised in its motion for summary judgment, just 21 reached local creeks or tributaries, and therefore each spill constituted unpermitted discharges under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The case remains pending for the other 47 SSOs not ruled upon in the Court’s recent decision.

Clean Water Act Backdrop

Although the U.S. Congress passed the CWA in 1972, current regulations that apply to sewer agencies like West Bay did not go into effect until 2006. These new state regulations require agencies to adopt detailed sewer system management plans designed to reduce the number and severity of sewer overflows, and to report all SSOs to the State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards. Information about SSOs reported to the State and Regional Water Boards is available online at the local Regional Water Board’s website (www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2).

West Bay’s Efforts to Reduce SSOs

Since these new regulations have been implemented, West Bay has worked diligently and aggressively to update its sewer system management plans, improve system performance, and reduce the number of SSOs in its 100-plus year old sewer system. In the 2010-2011 fiscal year alone, West Bay budgeted almost \$3.5 million for capital improvement projects, like pipeline replacements and pump station upgrades. And the District’s long-term budget projections call for steady increases in capital expenditures for the next several years.

When a sewer line blockage inevitably occurs, West Bay’s response team is on standby 24/7 to clear the obstruction, contain and return any spillage to the sewer main, and clean and disinfect the streets and storm drains where the SSO occurs. As a result, the vast majority of West Bay’s SSOs over the past five years have not reached local creeks or waterways.

Baykeeper Exploits Laws Intended To Protect the Environment For Monetary Gain

The CWA provides ample fodder for opportunistic lawyers and organizations like Baykeeper and its lawyers to exploit well-intentioned environmental regulations for monetary gain. Due to requests from environmental entities, the state requires all of the information Baykeeper needs to file suit to be self-reported to regulatory authorities by sewer agencies when an SSO occurs, so this information is easily accessible to them when filing lawsuits. A CWA violation is a “strict liability” offense, meaning that a violation occurs any time an SSO causes an unpermitted discharge to waterways, regardless of the amount of the spill or the circumstances that caused it. And once a violation is established, a prevailing plaintiff is automatically entitled to recover its attorneys’ fees, no matter how minor the violation or insignificant the volume of the SSO.

Baykeeper’s “One-Molecule” Theory

The CWA’s citizen suit provisions encourage Baykeeper to file suit over SSOs that clearly had no affect whatsoever on the environment or the health of the San Francisco Bay, so as to inflate the amount of legal fees it can extract in settlement or after trial. And to further its objective of securing larger payments, it seeks to hold West Bay liable for the vast majority of SSOs that were fully contained and cleaned up before reaching surface waters based on its so-called “one molecule” theory.

In the vast majority of cases, West Bay locates and tracks how far the spill has flowed in the street or storm drain and places barriers to stop the flow before it reaches a creek or waterway. It then vacuums the spill and returns the liquid to the sewer main at a manhole. Finally, West Bay’s trained response crew hoses and retrieves the water from the spill area, returning the SSO and wash water to the sewer system. Baykeeper seeks to hold West Bay liable for such SSOs based on the testimony of its “expert,” who theorizes that some microbe or minute particle of sewage will inevitably be missed in the cleanup process, and then will ultimately be picked up and flow into the Bay during the winter rains—thereby establishing a separate “discharge to the waters of the United States” prohibited by the CWA.

West Bay Seeks Its Day In Court

Faced with the enormous advantages afforded to Baykeeper under the CWA’s citizen suit provisions, and the expressed promise that Baykeeper will seek millions in legal fees and penalties at trial, most agencies have acquiesced and accepted the stringent and costly settlement terms dictated by Baykeeper. After initially attempting to negotiate a reasonable settlement, West Bay chose to seek its day in court, for a number of reasons. Among them:

- A decision to settle at the outset would have required an immediate payment by West Bay of several hundred thousand dollars in attorney’s fees. While the actual amount demanded by Baykeeper is confidential under the Court’s mediation rules, in other cases brought by Baykeeper against other agencies that settled relatively early on, payments ranged between \$500,000 and \$960,000.
- Baykeeper’s recent settlements (and standard settlement terms) include payments of between \$200,000 and \$500,000 to “The Rose Foundation,” an Oakland-based advocacy organization that, like Baykeeper, purports to support grassroots initiatives “to inspire community action to protect the environment, consumers and public health.” In turn, The Rose Foundation funnels donations back to organizations like Baykeeper that engage in environmental advocacy. Indeed, although plaintiffs are not entitled to recover damages or direct payments from a CWA suit, a recent report disclosed that since 2005, the Rose Foundation has funneled approximately \$350,000 back to San Francisco Baykeeper for “watershed protection” (i.e., lawsuits).
- Baykeeper’s recent statements warning of West Bay’s liability exposure at trial are based upon the assumption that the Court would impose the maximum penalty allowed by law, \$37,500 for each day that an SSO occurred in the District since late 2004. West Bay hopes that the actual amount of any penalties the Court will impose, if any, will be substantially less—particularly for the vast majority of spills that were contained before reaching receiving waters, even if the Court were to give credence to Baykeeper’s absurd “one molecule” theory.

To date, no agency that has fallen within its clutches has had the wherewithal to stand up to Baykeeper. West Bay expects to be the first. A trial date has been scheduled for early 2012.

For more information on West Bay Sanitary District please visit our website at www.westbaysanitary.org or call the District office at 650-321-0384.

SERVING AREAS IN MENLO PARK, PORTOLA VALLEY, ATHERTON, EAST PALO ALTO,
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Employees offer concessions to save their jobs

■ Former Atherton mayors urge council to give residents choice before outsourcing services.

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

The union representing 13 Atherton employees who were given pink slips May 31 will meet with town representatives on June 9 to try to save its members' jobs by offering about 12 percent in compensation concessions.

The employees of the building and public works departments, some of whom have worked for

the town for decades, are in line to lose their jobs on July 1, and the town plans to outsource those departments.

Although Interim City Manager John Danielson had made clear in early May that job and service cuts were almost certain as he tried to erase a projected budget shortfall in fiscal year 2011-12, the scale of the planned cuts took many staff members and the community by surprise. Two former mayors, Malcolm

■ AHERTON

Dudley and Jim Janz, wrote an open letter (See Page 19) urging the City Council to survey the community on its willingness to pay more in parcel taxes before taking the drastic measures planned by the town.

Mr. Danielson told the Almanac that notices to employees were "intent to lay off," and that the town is taking seriously this week's talks with the union. But, he added, 12 percent in employee concessions "would amount to about \$165,000 ... and I have an

\$856,000 shortfall" to address.

Because requests for proposals (RFPs) to provide services have only recently been issued, Mr. Danielson said he can't say how much outsourcing the building department and public works department — which includes street and park maintenance — will cost the town. But based on his past experience, he estimated that contract services would cost between 70 percent and 80 percent of what the town pays for services provided by in-house staff.

Cuts in services are likely to reduce town spending beyond

employee costs, he said. And the town will look at cost savings in its largest division — the police department — as it reviews health and pension contributions for those employees, he said.

At a special May 9 meeting, the City Council gave Mr. Danielson the green light to do what he believes needs to be done to balance the budget. There have been no public meetings where specific options on which staff positions or public services might be eliminated were dis-

See LAYOFFS, page 8

Parish stunned by pastor's leave, incident with teen

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

St. Raymond parishioners said they felt hurt and betrayed by the actions of their pastor, Father William Myers, after the revelation that the pastor has been on administrative leave since May 27 following an incident with a 17-year-old boy.

More than 100 people attended a meeting June 1 at the Menlo Park church, led by Bishop William Justice, to share concerns and ask questions.

Describing the incident as a "boundary violation" that involved no physical contact, the archdiocese said San Francisco police determined there was no criminal activity and that the archdiocese's independent review board will also evaluate the situation.

The boy's father asked store staff to call police after watching Father Myers follow the teenager

into a dressing room at a Ross Dress for Less on 16th Street in San Francisco on April 19, according to the archdiocese.

Police spokesman Sgt. Michael Andraychak said the case remains open. Investigators are still following up with the boy, his father, and the district attorney's office.

More than a month passed before the church found out about the incident. Director of Communications George Wesolek said a source tipped off the archdiocese on May 26.

"We don't know," he said when asked why the delay. "If we had been notified on April 19, we would've taken action on April 20."

Since the police found no criminal activity, Mr. Wesolek said, no policy required notification, but the delay was not in the church's best interest.

See PASTOR, page 8

Menlo Park nixes cell tower in Nealon Park

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

You can't hear me now: Menlo Park has yanked T-Mobile's application to mount a cell phone antenna on a light pole in Nealon Park.

"After further reviewing the potential value and impact of an antenna in the park, the City determined to no longer authorize T-Mobile's application, mak-

ing the use permit application null and void. A representative of T-Mobile has been notified of the City's decision," project planner Kyle Perata wrote in an email to the City Council and other interested parties on June 1.

City Manager Glen Rojas said aesthetics and safety were the main concerns about allowing an antenna in park within a residential area.

"We talked at the department

head level about the pros and cons of putting cell towers in parks, and felt that was not an appropriate place to put it," Mr. Rojas said.

A representative of Nealon Neighbors Against Cell Towers (NNACT) said the news delighted the group.

Joshua Hart, describing the proposed antenna's location near a playing field and a nursery school as "about the most inappropriate location imaginable," said he

didn't believe it was coincidence that the decision came a day after the World Health Organization released a report labeling cell phones as possible carcinogens, a ranking shared by coffee, gasoline, and pickled vegetables.

Mr. Hart sees Menlo Park's decision as a sign of things to come. "As residents and elected officials become more aware of the health threat posed by wireless radiation, including cell phones, towers, wi-fi and smart meters, we expect that this is just the beginning of a widespread backlash

against wireless technology," he said.

Members of NNACT, along with other community activists, peppered the city with letters asking officials to deny T-Mobile's application.

According to T-Mobile spokesman Rod De La Rosa, the company didn't know why the city decided not to lease the proposed antenna site, but he said that T-Mobile would reassess the situation and look for other opportunities. "We still need coverage in the area," he said. ■



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

Homeless vets

Former homeless veteran Kim Yee, left, wheels himself, as current homeless veteran Oddie Birden, right, is aided by recreation therapist Leanne Young, at the start of the Veteran Affairs 2K walk to end homelessness, held at the VA campus in Menlo Park on June 2. The event was one of many taking place all over the country. Donations for homeless veterans were encouraged. For more information, go to va.gov/homeless.

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Store robbed at gunpoint

The Tri-E-Z convenience store on El Camino Real in Menlo Park lost cash and alcohol during an armed robbery on May 30.

Menlo Park police said two suspects entered the store in the 1800 block of El Camino Real, near Spruce Avenue, around 10:30 p.m.

One man, carrying a gun, forced an employee to empty \$400 out of the cash

register while the other suspect stuffed six bottles of hard liquor into a backpack before the pair fled, heading south.

A witness described the first man as either a Hispanic or white man standing between 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet tall, weighing about 180 pounds, and wearing a black ski mask, dark hoodie, jeans, and gloves.

The second man appeared to be a light-skinned black man of similar height, weighing about 200 pounds, wearing a dark ski mask, dark hoodie sweat shirt, jeans, gloves, and carrying a black backpack, according to the police report.

Teen flasher arrested

A 16-year-old boy allegedly approached two groups of women and exposed himself, leading the women to make rapid exits from his vicinity. He

shoved one into a fence, but she was not hurt, according to Sgt. William Dixon of the Menlo Park Police Department.

The women, in their 30s, were walking in Belle Haven near the 1200 block of Sevier Avenue. The officer who took the reports recognized something familiar in their descriptions, and contacted a woman who'd been flashed back in February. She reportedly also

identified the teen, who was arrested.

Thefts

A string of thefts in Menlo Park continued without missing a beat last week. A burglar crept in through an unlocked backyard door in the 1000 block of Creek Drive on May 31, and left with \$2,200 in stolen goods that included a laptop and digital camera, police said.

On June 1, a woman discovered \$20,000 worth of diamond jewelry missing from her bedroom in the 2300 block of Crane Lane. The unidentified thief pulled off the caper sometime during the past two months, according to police.

Finally, a UPS package containing \$20,000 in endoscopes vanished from a front porch in the 800 block of Laurel Avenue between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., according to the police report.

Language Exchange holds grand opening

ABC Language Exchange has opened a school in Menlo Park, providing group, private, and virtual lessons (via Webcam) in 10 languages, said Rachel Meyer, owner and founder of the company.

ABC Language Exchange will hold a grand opening for its

Menlo Park facility on Friday, June 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. at 585 Glenwood Ave. Attendees can sit in on 15-minute sample classes and mingle with ABC staff and other language students.

Visit abclanguagesf.com/penninsula for more information about the company.



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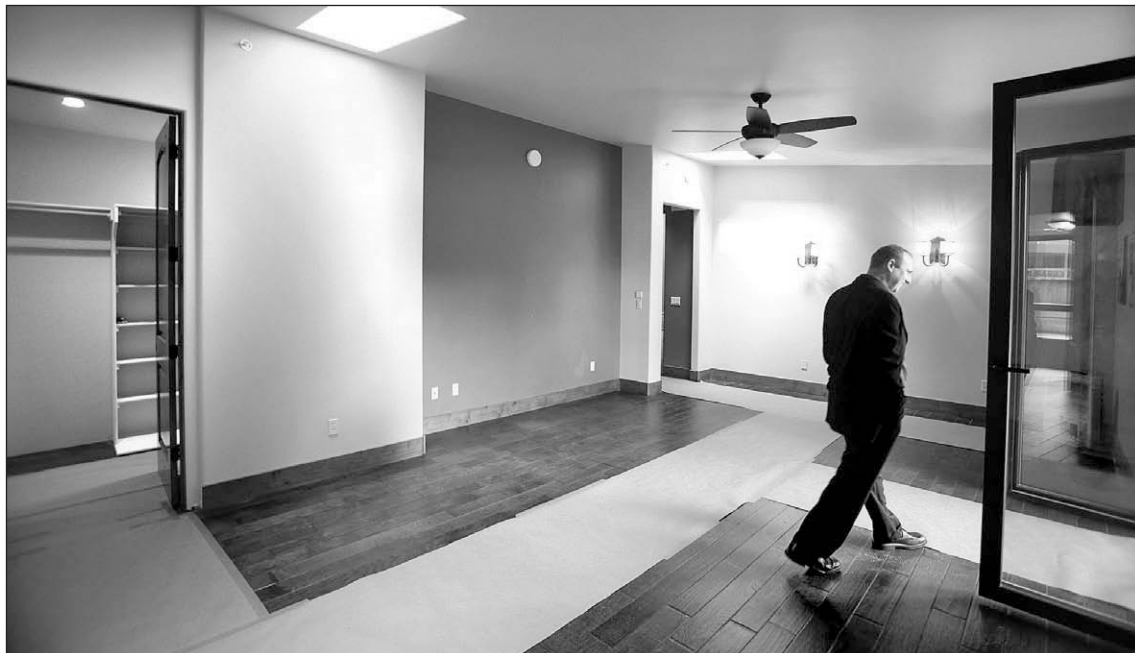
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high-index, polycarbonate, and Trivex lenses are inherently able to block UV light, the CR-39 plastic lenses commonly used for most prescription lenses have limited ability to do so. Thus, ordering the transparent UV-blocking coating for this type of lens is recommended.

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



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

Broker Bryan McVay takes a tour of Clarum Homes' new low-energy home in Menlo Park.

Clarum: Home cuts energy use 90%

By Caitlin Moyles

Special to the Almanac

Insulation, airtight window frames, solar power, and a heat-recovery ventilation system helped Clarum Homes earn its first certification for building a passive house that the company says cuts energy use by 90 percent.

Several hundred guests, including architects and engineers, toured the home, located at 1206 North Lemon Ave. in Menlo Park, and asked about its environmental and health benefits on June 2, five days before the 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath house goes on the market.

John Suppes, CEO of Clarum Homes, along with Director of Construction Sean Misskelley and consultant Katy Hollbacher, guided visitors through the 3,300-square-foot, Mission-style home and answered questions, while visitors mingled over a sandwich buffet.

The airtight, energy-efficient home needs 90 percent less energy annually for heating than the average U.S. household, Mr. Suppes said. He added that although the California-based company has built passive-inspired houses in the past, this is its first home to meet all standards — set by Passive House Institute US (PHIUS) — for space-heating demand and total energy use per square foot, as well as airtightness.

Structural insulated panels retain heat by using the same material as Styrofoam coffee cups, and triple-glazed windowpanes from Austria create a thermal envelope that reduces heating costs, he said. Sealants and a liquid barrier applied to the outside of the panels maintain airtightness.

Air inside the house goes through a heat recovery ventilator that keeps temperature and humidity constant by exchanging the air nine times every 24 hours, and recovering 90 percent of the heat from air exhausted to the outside of the house, said Matt Groves, an engineer for the company that supplied the ventilator.

The home also cuts energy costs by using three solar panels on the roof to provide 90 percent of the power needed to heat water, and 40 percent to heat space, according to Clarum. In addition, solar tubes replace ceiling lights in dark areas such as closets.

Although the passive house cost 4 to 5 percent more to build than normal Clarum homes, which also feature sustainable technologies, energy savings will recapture the cost, Mr. Suppes said. He plans to build and retrofit several passive houses for clients in Menlo Park and Palo Alto in the near future.

Ms. Hollbacher emphasized

that a home earns certification from PHIUS as a passive house based on the building's performance, rather than prescribed features.

"Something that's really nice about the standard is that there are three absolute numbers for heat demand, energy use, and air tightness. It doesn't matter if you're in Germany, or if you're in Minnesota, Truckee, or (Menlo Park), you have to meet them," she said, adding that because the passive house standards were developed in Germany, they're relatively easy to achieve in California's mild climate.

Although passive house regulations don't include a standard for water efficiency — an area which Clarum addressed in its Menlo Park house with structured zone plumbing, a recirculating hot water system that reduces time spent waiting for water to heat, and drought-resistant plants — Mr. Suppes and Ms. Hollbacher said they believe the passive house standard is currently the most advanced standard for green building.

"There's just no reason not to do this," Ms. Hollbacher said.

Visit menlopassive.com for more information about the Menlo passive house.

Visit passivehouse.us to learn more about the construction standards.

arrest him, according to police.

He was booked into county jail, where he faces robbery charges. The German tourist's purse was returned to her without anything missing. No injuries were reported, police said.

— Bay City News Service

Teens catch alleged purse snatcher

A Menlo Park teenager was chased down Saturday, June 4, and held for police by two 17-year-old Good Samaritans after he allegedly snatched a tourist's purse, according to East Palo Alto police.

Joshua Wallbank Mahoni,

18, allegedly grabbed the bag at about 3:15 p.m. from a 20-year-old German woman at the Ravenswood 101 Retail Center at 1771 East Bayshore Road in East Palo Alto, police said.

Two youths ran after him and helped responding officers

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



What Most Buyers Want

Dear Monica: I am about to list my older character home and I know that it needs some work; e.g., fumigation for termites, some foundation work, and other incidental work. Would you recommend I do this work before putting the house on the market?

Julie H.

Dear Julie: The majority of buyers now want properties that are in good condition and updated. This is especially true if the property is older because buyers will be concerned that not only would the obvious work need to be done but that there would likely be additional work that hasn't come to light yet. Most of them will be too concerned that the scope of work will be too great and too expensive. You can eliminate much of

their concern by taking care of the major items that need attention. If you have owned the property a long time, this work should have been done along the way. If you don't do any work on the house, any buyers who make offers will want to offer a much lower price in order to cover the cost of the work they know must be done.

The exception to this would be if the property is very well located and on a good-sized lot and thus its value is primarily in the lot. Then you don't have to do much work at all to the property because the buyer will probably tear it down and build new. Once you determine whether the value is in the house or just in the lot, you will be able to decide what to do.

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

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PLANNING COMMISSION

June 15, 2011

7:30 PM

PUBLIC HEARING

2. Greg and Nancy Serrurier CEQA2009-0002, SDES2011-0001, GRAD2011-0004 & MERG2007-004
503 Old La Honda Road Planner: Deborah Dory

Review and approval/denial of a Mitigated Negative Declaration, a Lot Merger to merge all underlying lots into a single 13.2 acre property in the SCP-7.5 zoning district, grading in excess of 1,500 cubic yards pursuant to WMC 151.22, the demolition of the existing buildings onsite, and construction of a new 5,804 square foot main residence with a 592 SF attached garage, an 879 square foot pool house, a swimming pool, a new septic system, a new driveway, and associated landscaping on a property, and located in the Western Hills. The proposal includes the vacation of a private access easement and public utilities easements that are not in use.

3. Dan Stoddard CEQA2011-009 & LLA2011-012
1020 Godetia Drive Planner: Sage Schaan

Review and approval/denial of a Mitigated Negative Declaration and a Lot Line Adjustment (LLA) between two properties in a Suburban Residential (SR), one acre minimum zoning district. Proposed Lot A (Portion of Lot 7) would become 2.57 acres, and proposed Lot B (Portion of Lot 8) would become 2.15 acres. The proposed project does not include any grading or construction.

All application materials are available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 – 10:00 AM and 1:00 – 3:00 PM, or by appointment. For more information, contact the Woodside Planning and Building Department at (650) 851-6790.

Atherton employees offer concessions to save jobs

LAYOFFS

continued from page 5

cussed.

Peter Finn of Teamsters Local 856, which represents the employees, said they are offering compensation concessions “to help the town deal with the budget challenges while maintaining services the citizens of Atherton expect.”

Although a number of public agencies have, over the last few years, asked employee unions to reopen contract talks in an effort to gain money-saving concessions, Atherton did not do so, Mr. Finn said. “Is this really about money for the city manager, in terms of solving the budget problem, or is it philosophical, because he’s (in favor of) outsourcing? That’s an open question.”

Parcel tax increase?

In their open letter, Mr. Dudley and Mr. Janz acknowledged that there may be some cost savings with outsourcing services, “but there are many offsetting disadvantages.”

Mr. Dudley told the Almanac that he surveyed a number of cities that have outsourced some services, and learned that sometimes anticipated savings didn’t materialize, or they were less than expected.

He noted that, after the 1978 passage of state Proposition 13, the town surveyed residents about whether they wanted to see their services reduced or to pay more in taxes; 85 percent responded that they would support higher taxes.

If the town raised the current annual parcel tax by \$350, he said, it could deal with the budget shortfall. The current parcel tax is \$750 per year.

“Just \$30 a month (per household) solves the problem,” Mr. Dudley said, and would allow the town to avoid “this wholesale firing of people.”

“I just cannot believe we can be this insensitive (in a matter) this important,” he said. “I think of our employees as our family. ... How can we treat people in such a way? That never was a part of the character of this community.”

Although he said that not all outsourcing is bad, having staff in house in many situations is better. In addition to the “institutional memory” current employees possess, “these are people who care about the town — they care about us.”

In a letter to City Council

■ ATHERTON

members, Diane Aiello, the wife of building inspector Joseph Aiello, pleaded with the council to “reconsider and not let my husband go from his position. ... If you let him go, our family will be devastated both financially and medically.”

The couple and their three children live in Paradise, California, and during the workweek Mr. Aiello lives in “a small trailer, on the outskirts of Atherton in a not so nice neighborhood,” Ms. Aiello wrote. The depressed economy and real estate market have prevented the family from moving, and “any kind of job is hard to come by” in the area, she said.

Self-sustaining?

Mr. Aiello, who has worked for the town for nearly three years, spoke to the council at its May 18 meeting, reflecting the uncertainty among the staff that had grown over the months of bleak budget discussions. He warned that outsourcing may in the end cost the town more, and noted that the building department, “when it’s run correctly,” is supposed to pay for itself with revenue generated by fees.

So if the department is self-sustaining, why is it being outsourced? Mr. Danielson said that during slow times, “building departments tend to lose money. In good times, they hope to break even or better.”

Mr. Aiello said that, except for a “brief pause” in November 2008, the department has been extremely busy, and as a result, plan-check and building inspection fees “should have been covering costs.”

In fiscal year 2009-10, the building department generated about \$901,500 in revenue, but cost the town about \$1.2 million, according to finance director Louise Ho.

In the current fiscal year, the department has brought in about \$1.3 million as of May 31, she said. Projected costs through June 30 are about \$1.5 million.

The department has had a reserve of more than \$1 million since June 30, 2010, Ms. Ho said.

One explanation for costs exceeding revenue might be that the town arborist and code-enforcement services are attached to the building department, an unusual situation. Neither service is revenue-generating, unlike services typically provided by cities’ building departments. ■

President of community college to retire

Thomas Mohr, the president of Canada Community College in Woodside, said he will retire at the end of June after six years of heading the two-year college’s administration.

James W. Keller, the executive vice chancellor for finance and operations for San Mateo County Community College District, will stand in as interim president.

Mr. Mohr came to Canada as interim president in 2005, leaving the San Mateo Union High School District, where he was superintendent. He was named president two years later. His retirement brings to a close a public education career of more than 50 years.

During his time at Canada,



Photo courtesy of Canada Community College

Thomas Mohr, the president of Canada College in Woodside, is retiring after more than 50 years of public education.

transfer programs, including introducing an honors

program — “a rigorous exploration of academic, intellectual, cultural and social issues,” according to the school’s website.

“My time at Canada has been absolutely wonderful,” Mr. Mohr said in the announcement. “Canada is a treasure and it’s been an immense privilege for me to be part of it.”

Mr. Keller has 35 years of public education experience, including positions in the Palo Alto Unified School District and other Silicon Valley community college districts. He has a bachelor’s degree in economics from Stanford University, a master’s degree in business from Santa Clara University, and a law degree from Concord Law School, an online program of Kaplan University.

Should city survey Willows on traffic?

As anyone who tracks letters to the Menlo Park City Council’s email list knows, the topic of the Willows traffic plan study comes before the council on Tuesday, June 7 — not the plan itself, but the question of whether to survey those living within the study area about the plan, i.e., the question of whether to question. Again.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Civic Center (701 Laurel St.)

Kelly Park grand re-opening

Or “re-grand opening,” as the city of Menlo Park’s announcement put it. Either way, the event takes place on Saturday, June 11, at Kelly Park (100 Terminal Ave.) in Menlo Park. The opening ceremony begins on the park’s new synthetic sports field at noon.

PASTOR

continued from page 5

“It’s one of those things, we have learned that we cannot step back, and if there is something like this that’s gone to police, we have to take action immediately and put our process into play,” he said.

Mr. Wesolek said that to his knowledge, no other allegations were made against the priest in

■ MENLO BRIEFS

Sports demonstrations and “open play time” round out the activities. Free Menlo Park Community Services frisbees go to the first 100 visitors. Admission is free, and the fun stops at 2:30 p.m.

Downtown specific plan meetings

The public comment period for Menlo Park’s downtown specific plan environmental impact report closes June 20. Before that deadline passes, city officials will share their perspectives. This week the Planning Commission on June 6 and the Transportation Commission on June 8 will discuss the report.

The Transportation Commission meeting starts at 7 p.m. on Wednesday in council chambers at

the Civic Center at 701 Laurel St.

Simitian announces sidewalk office hours

Meet and greet state Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, at the Menlo Park Farmers’ Market on Sunday, June 12. No appointment required and all questions are welcome, according to the senator.

He’ll be available from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the parking lot on Chestnut Street, between Santa Cruz Avenue and Menlo Avenue.

Visit senatorsimitian.com or call 688-6384 for more information.

Chamber mixer

Marsh Manor Shopping Center plays host to the next Chamber of Commerce mixer on Wednesday, June 15. Located at the corner of Florence Street and Marsh Road, the center kicks off the party at 5:30 p.m.

the past.

Father Myers is now seeking treatment for a sexual addiction to adults, the archdiocese said, a condition he revealed to church officials when confronted about the dressing room incident. He joined St. Raymond in 2007, transferring from St. Brendan Church in San Francisco.

According to those who attended the June 1 meeting, Father Myers also told officials he’d previously received therapy for sexual identity

issues while serving in the Diocese of Stockton.

The archdiocese asked that any allegations of sexual abuse involving Father Myers be reported to the police and to its victim assistance coordinator, Barbara Elordi, at 415-614-5506 or elordib@sfarchdiocese.org.

Staff at St. Raymond directed questions to the archdiocese. Monsignor Michael Padazinski has been appointed to take over administrative duties at the parish. ■

Teen charged with murder in infant's death

By Sue Dremann

Palo Alto Weekly

Two teenage boys, a 17-year-old and a 16-year-old, have been arrested, one charged with murder in connection with the fatal shooting at 12:50 a.m. Sunday of a 3-month-old boy in East Palo Alto, police announced at a noon press conference Monday. The second youth was arrested on weapons-violation charges.

The police did not identify either youth because they are minors.

The infant's parents also were injured in the hail of bullets that pierced their car as they were leaving a baby shower in the 400 block of Wisteria Drive.

Police described the shooting as an act of retribution for a May 31 attack in Redwood City on the 17-year-old by members

of the Surenos gang. However, in what is being called a case of mistaken identity, the victims of Sunday's shooting were not involved in the May attack and were not the people whom the teens thought they were, police said.

The two teens were picked up Sunday after a manhunt that had police going door to door in East Palo Alto interviewing known gang members and parolees.

The pair were arrested in the 400 block of Larkspur Drive. Officers found three weapons at the home. In the process of the interrogations, the 17-year-old made statements implicating himself in the shooting, police said today.

The department is continuing to gather evidence to determine whether the 16-year-old or any-

one else will also be charged with the homicide and shootings. Police would not say if the two teens are members of a gang.

The infant's mother, Ivonne Garcia Lopez, was released from the hospital so she could attend the press conference. She appeared using a walker.

Police Chief Ron Davis had announced a \$25,000 reward for any information that could lead to the suspects' capture. Police chaplains conducted a vigil on the block where the shooting occurred Sunday afternoon.

Anyone with additional information about the triple shooting is encouraged to call or send a text message to East Palo Alto police at 650-409-6792.

Witnesses can also send tips to epa@tipnow.org.

Arborist questions logic of SFPUC fears about oak tree

■ Granny's roots pose no threat, report says.

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

An arborist has disputed the San Francisco Public Utility Commission's assertion that the roots of a centuries-old oak tree in North Fair Oaks threaten the utility's water pipelines.

"There is no reason that the pipeline can't be installed, leaving the tree intact and without killing the tree," wrote Barrie Coate, an arborist for the city of Saratoga, in a report commissioned by the owner of the property the tree overlooks.

His report called the commission's concern "simply not logical," as roots tend to stretch toward the soil's surface for oxygen and water, rather than down to the depth of the pipeline.

"I can certainly say that considering the many pipelines including those carrying high octane airplane fuel as well as water and sewage that exist in the ground in California and the many trees including species with far more aggressive roots than a valley oak that the likelihood of damage to this pipeline are so small as to be irrelevant,"

Mr. Coates concluded in his May 25 report.

The SFPUC sent a contractor last week to start excavating soil around the two pipelines already installed next to the tree to see whether the roots pose a threat. In an email obtained by a public records request, on May 17 Hetch Hetchy operations manager Kent Nelson told the commission's spokeswoman that condensation on the outside of pipes attracts roots, which then corrode the surface as they wrap around, leading to "premature (potentially catastrophic) pipeline failure." Therefore, the commission recommended removing the tree.

The 65-foot oak, dubbed "Granny," dodged the ax in May when a coalition of neighbors protested the SFPUC's short-notice announcement that it planned to get rid of the tree. Granny sits in the middle of a site at 827 15th Ave. in North Fair Oaks that's designated for a pipeline meant to carry water from the Hetch Hetchy as part of a \$4.6 billion SFPUC seismic improvement project.

Mary Ann Mullen said 95

percent of households contacted in the area signed a petition to save the tree. The challenge, she said, may be maintaining public interest over time. According to Ms. Mullen, residents received a letter from the commission last week suggesting the pipeline installation might be delayed until fall.

"If this is an attempt to delay movement on this issue until things die down, the coalition will be here in six months as clearly focused as now," she said.

Relations between the SFPUC and Granny's neighbors remain strained. As two of the tree's advocates attempted to view the exploratory trench on June 6, commission arborist Matt Horowitz reportedly blocked access, first requiring them to wear hard hats, then saying they had to contact the company that owns the job site when the pair returned 45 minutes later, hard hats in hand.

Ms. Mullen said that makes it impossible for their own consulting arborist to reach an independent conclusion about the test results, particularly if the trench gets filled in.

SFPUC spokeswoman Maureen Barry said she was looking into the situation and thought it may be a matter of only allowing authorized personnel onto construction sites, but that it may be possible to schedule visits.

Woodside's Kyle Felix named to All-America team

Woodside resident Kyle Felix, a senior at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, was named to the D3baseball.com All-America Second Team for the position of catcher in May, according to Trinity Univer-

sity Athletics.

Felix, who attended Bellarmine College Preparatory in San Jose, finished the season with a tie for the Trinity single-season record of 14 home runs. He also hit 24 doubles, scored

51 runs, and had a .365 batting average with 61 RBI.

Felix, who is now Trinity's all-time leader in home runs, RBI, and doubles, helped push the Tigers to a 34-win season.

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Waschura makes history at CCS finals

By Caitlin Moyles

Special to the Almanac

Woodside High School's Chris Waschura was the first junior to win both the 1,600- and 800-meter races in the Central Coast Section Track and Field Championships, held at Gilroy High on May 27. He won with times of 4:19.00 and 1:56.61, respectively, beating the Woodside High record for both events.

A Portola Valley resident, Waschura became the fifth fastest mile runner in the state at the California state championships in Clovis on June 5. He finished the boys 1,600-meter race with a time of 4:08.29, setting a new personal record and making him the ninth fastest high school runner in that event in the nation.

Waschura was among the top six finalists to be awarded medals after the event, said Nick Carr, who coached him in cross country and track during his freshman and sophomore years.



Photo by Jon Feuerhelm

Chris Waschura in the 800-meter race at the CCS finals in Gilroy. He finished fifth in the 1,600-meter event at the state championships.

All six finalists had times under 4:10, while winner Jantzen Oshier's 4:00.83 mile time placed

SPORTS

him at No. 1 in the nation.

"California's track and field runners are the best in the nation this year," Carr said. He added that it is quite an accomplishment for Waschura to continue to set personal records below the 4:15 time range.

"It's real tough to make it to the next level," he said.

Although Waschura qualified for the 800-meter race, he decided to drop it so he could focus on the 1,600-meter race, one of the premier races in track and field, Carr said.

Waschura advanced to the finals after placing third in the state preliminaries with a time of 4:10.44. The preliminaries were held on June 4.

He will compete in the New Balance Outdoor Nationals in North Carolina on June 17-18, Carr said.

"Chris has a lot of potential," he said. "It was amazing watching everything come into fruition."

Cyclist severely injured in solo accident

Richard Kadet, 67, of Redwood City crashed his bicycle and was unconscious when he was admitted to Stanford Hospital with a severe brain injury that required emergency surgery on Sunday, May 29.

Mr. Kadet crashed about 12:30 p.m. while headed east on Wood-

side Road near the intersection with Northgate Drive in Woodside in what a witness said was a solo accident, according to a San Mateo County Sheriff's Office report.

He was in the bike lane when his bike began to wobble and he fell over into the lane of traffic, the witness told deputies, adding that she had seen the accident through her rear view mirror.

The witness had traveled about 100 feet past Mr. Kadet, Lt. Ray Lunny told the Almanac. "She was shocked because the bicyclist appeared to be in control of his bike," he said.

Mr. Kadet was wearing a helmet, deputies said. He and his riding

partner had a regular Sunday morning routine of a 25-mile-to-40-mile bike trip, deputies said.

The partner returned to the scene after discovering Mr. Kadet's absence when stopped at the Alameda de las Pulgas, deputies said.

Deputies are estimating Mr. Kadet's speed at the time of the accident as having been between 30 mph and 40 mph, deputies said.

The Sheriff's Office has no details on Mr. Kadet's condition.

Medics from the Woodside Fire Protection District treated Mr. Kadet at the scene and took him to the hospital.

Ladera bank robbery suspect arrested

A suspect in the April 4 robbery of the Chase Bank in Ladera was arrested Wednesday, June 1, in Santa Barbara, Lt. Ray Lunny of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office said.

Detectives from the San Mateo and Santa Clara county sheriff's offices, in coordination with their counterparts in Santa Barbara County, made the arrest.

In custody on robbery charges is Raymond Donald Davenport, 51, a transient who is also a suspect in a Santa Barbara bank robbery, Lt. Lunny said.

"Our guys went down there and did a great job," Lt. Lunny told the Almanac.

The Chase Bank in the Country Shoppermall in Ladera was robbed at about 9:15 a.m. on April 4. The suspect reportedly told the bank teller

that he was armed and then fled with an undetermined amount of cash.

Deputies took Mr. Davenport into custody at about 4 p.m. at a Santa Barbara residence, Lt. Lunny said.



Photo courtesy of San Mateo County Sheriff's Office
Raymond Davenport





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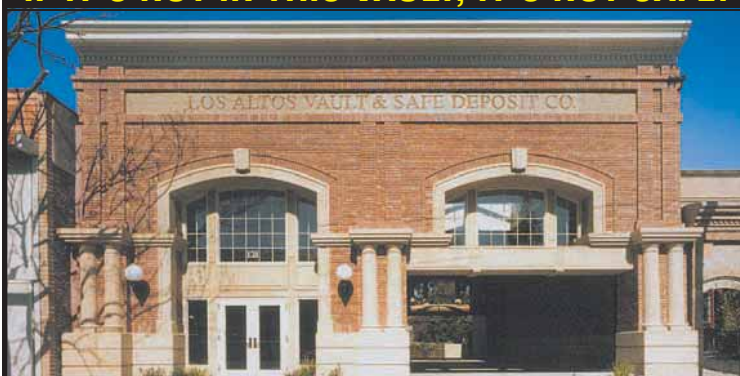
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John and Vicki Ioimo of Redwood City, California, announce the engagement of their daughter, Courtney Elizabeth Ioimo to Taylor Lyon Kiel, son of Robert Kiel of Sonoma and Judi Kiel of Woodside California.

The couple were engaged July 4th in the lighthouse on Martha's Vineyard. Ms. Ioimo is a graduate of Notre Dame de Namur University where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies and Elementary Education. Courtney currently teaches Kindergarten at North Polk Elementary in Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Mr. Kiel is a graduate of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University where he received a Bachelors Degree in Aerospace Engineering. Taylor is currently a Warrant Officer in the United States Army serving as a Medevac Pilot at Fort Polk, Louisiana. A fall wedding is planned in October 2011 at Ralston Hall Mansion, Belmont, California.

Menlo school district board to appoint new member

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

District residents hoping to win a seat on the Menlo Park City School District Board will be assessed on a range of criteria, including their understanding of public school law, curriculum, financing and challenges, and of the district's specific challenges, according to criteria crafted by the school board on May 31.

The board voted unanimously to appoint a member to replace Mark Box, who has resigned from his post, effective June 30, to move to Spain. The board rejected the option of allowing voters to choose the new member in November, an election that would have cost the district an estimated \$45,000, according to Superintendent Ken Ranella.

District residents wishing to serve out Mr. Box's term — from July 1, 2011, to early December 2012 — have until 4:30 p.m. Friday, June 17, to submit an application to the district office at 181 Encinal Ave., Atherton, 94027.

The board will interview the candidates on Tuesday, June 21, during a public meeting. It will choose the new member at the same meeting, after the interviews.

Mr. Ranella said he will hold a meeting for potential candidates at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 8, in the district office board room. During the meeting, he will "explain the

level of commitment that board service requires" and answer questions about the application process, he said in a written notice. He can also meet with potential candidates by appointment, he added.

One district parent who has already expressed her interest in the appointment is Ana Uribe Ruiz, who ran for a seat last November. She received about 2,250 votes, or about 16 percent, in the four-person race for three open seats.

To apply for the open seat, a district resident must be a registered voter, and must submit a candidate statement of no more than 400 words that includes a "statement of purpose and description of qualifications along with any other relevant information for board consideration, according to the district.

In addition to an understanding of public school law and challenges, candidates will be asked to state, among other things, their degree of "leadership experience in their profession or within public service with particular emphasis on previous contributions within the Menlo Park City School District," according to the superintendent's notice.

Go to <http://district.mpcsd.org> and scroll down on the home page to review all the criteria the board plans to use to review candidate qualifications, and for complete information on applying for the position. ■

Workshop: County district boundaries

A workshop to discuss adjusting San Mateo County supervisorial district boundaries based on new census data is set for 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 13, in the Menlo Park Senior Center, 100 Terminal Ave. in Menlo Park. The workshop, the first of five to be held countywide, will be facilitated by the League of Women Voters.

The county has five supervisorial districts; each district has its own representative on the Board of Supervisors, although all voters in the county can vote in each district race. After each census, the county is required

to adjust district boundaries to make them nearly equal in population, according to a county press release.

The workshops are held to give the public information about the process, and a chance to comment on the boundary changes. There will also be workshops in Half Moon Bay, Millbrae, Foster City, and Daly City.

Members of the public who are unable to attend a workshop can send their comments via email to DistrictLines@co.sanmateo.ca.us.

Go to www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/districtlines for more information.

BIRTHS

Atherton

■ Stacy and Brent Gullixson, a daughter, May 16, Sequoia Hospital.

Menlo Park

■ Evelyn and John James, a son, May 13, Sequoia Hospital.
■ Sherry and Doyle Rundell, a daughter, May 25, Sequoia Hospital.

Woodside

■ Barbara and Allan Costa, a daughter, May 23, Sequoia Hospital.

Emerald Hills

■ Sara and Giovanni Leoni, a son, May 24, Sequoia Hospital.



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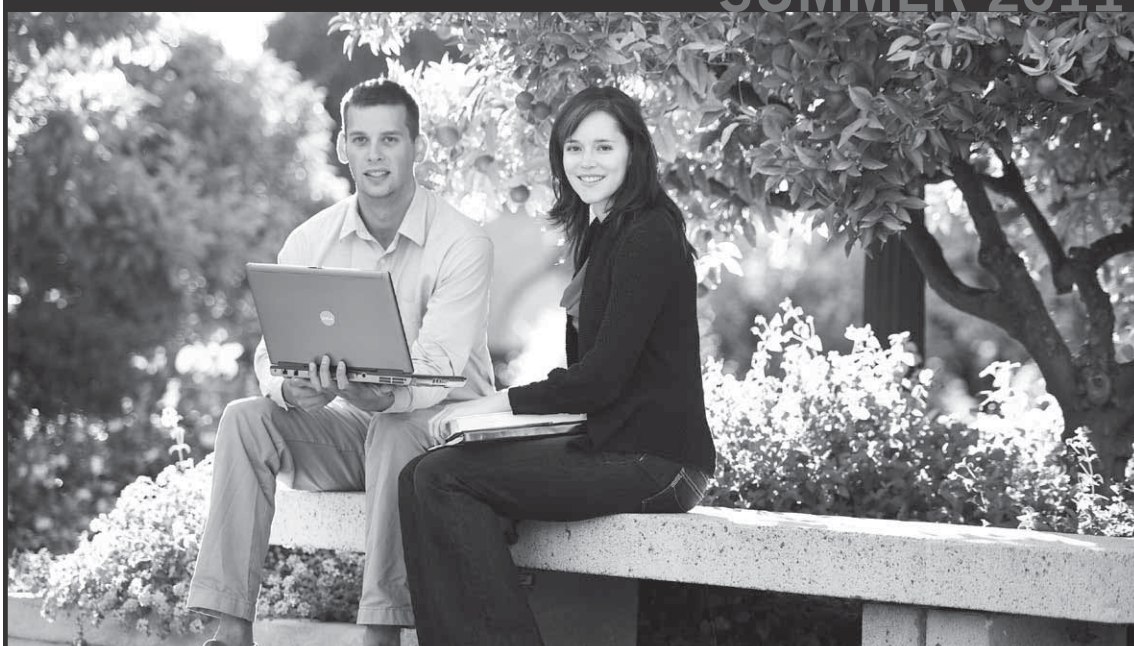
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Terrence James Donohoe

On February 11, 2011, surrounded by his loving wife and family, Terrence James Donohoe, took his last breath. Terrence was a devoted husband, a caring brother, a loyal friend, and a remarkable son.

Terrence was born March 4th, 1971. He was the youngest of 5 children raised by Lani and John Donohoe in Sunnyvale, California. Lani revered Terrence as her prettiest baby. Terrence, along with his siblings, always and hastily agreed.

Growing up Terrence attended St. Cyprian Catholic School in Sunnyvale and St. Francis High School in Mountain View.

Terrence was eternally curious about everything and everyone. His whole life he displayed a desire and an ability to connect with people of all backgrounds... electricians, baristas, engineers, plumbers, surgeons, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers. He forever wanted to know how it all worked.

Medicine and surgery naturally fascinated Terrence from boyhood. By the time he was in high school, he was volunteering at Stanford Hospital.

He attended UC Berkeley – and while there sought out hospital work in Oakland at a hospital the military uses to train surgeons to handle gunshot wounds.

After graduating from college in 1993, he found work in a laboratory at UCSF researching the developmental genetics of fruit flies. He was the lead author on a paper in the journal *Nature*, on the flies' eye development. At least one friend recalls receiving fruit fly larvae in the mail – in a container, with the necessary nourishment so one could witness the flies' development for themselves.

After a few years of research, a career in medicine became his ultimate focus. He applied to several universities – was turned down by all, but was still waiting to hear from Boston University so he moved there and found a research job. He spotted the Dean of the BU Medical School walking across campus. He told the Dean that his application would be crossing his desk any day – and that he wanted to meet him personally. Before this meeting had ended, the Dean offered Terrence admission to the medical school, on the spot, application unseen.

After medical school Terrence made his way into a surgical residency at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Early on a surgeon told him that he didn't think Terrence had what it takes to make it through residency. But Terrence was in his element and he knew it. He was ever determined, solving problems, and making things work better.

If you asked him why he liked surgery he'd tell you it was because he liked to fix things. He never congratulated himself with the fact that he wanted to help people, to save lives, but this was ultimately at the root of it all. He became known for that ability of his, to connect – with scared and difficult patients. He would give them his personal phone number, nap in the empty bed beside them. He wouldn't say this might "pinch" or "sting a little" he would say straight out "This is going to hurt". He was honest with them.

When he was assisting on a surgery and a fire broke out on the table – apparently it happens sometimes – Terrence quickly and calmly did exactly the right thing. The same surgeon (to whom Terrence was assisting coincidentally) who'd said he wouldn't make it praised his calm reaction, and admitted he'd been wrong about his earlier judgment.

One day at Mercy Hospital, a young nurse named Angel was handling a particularly difficult patient – who happened to be a Department of Health Surveyor whose job is to assess patient care, and who'd already gone through three nurses.

Angel saw Terrence striding down the hall and asked for help with the patient. "Please be careful," she said – "She's a Surveyor."

Terrence won over the patient – convincing her to relax her demands, charming her, and adding that she was very lucky to have this particular

nurse, Angel, coming up with this story that she'd recently won the "Nurse of the Year" award and had the plaque to prove it.

In the process, he won over Angel as well. And as far as Terrence and everyone who loved him was concerned -- though none of us could know it at the time -- Angel would become the "Nurse of a Lifetime".

Half a dozen years ago – in March of that first year of his surgical residency at Mercy Hospital -- Terrence was diagnosed with the Primary Progressive form of Multiple Sclerosis. He was then just 34 years-old.

The disease made him unable to complete his residency and so Terrence poured himself into those he loved – Angel and her young son, Doug. Terrence and Angel married the next Spring, in April 2006. He became a devoted husband and father and computer geek. He home-schooled Doug, and took on massive home remodeling projects

They had another son, Diego, in June 2009.

All this while the disease was eating away at his body, but not his mind. Terrence would say, "We live like kings!"

Keeping busy was of paramount importance to Terrence. He wrote an on-line ordering program for the pizza delivery business. He ran a laptop repair service from his home. At one point Terrence became physically unable to perform work tasks and with his eyesight weakening, everything became a blur. He kept at it by having computers brought to his bedside where he would instruct Doug – then 9 – and Angel on how to perform the repairs.

He kept working with tradesmen to improve the house. He was still connecting with people, the way he always did – now in part because he was totally honest about his own disease.

Terrence devoted his last years to the people he loved. Getting it all in order. Thinking through every detail. Making how-to and advice lists for his family, for after he was gone. Preparing. Without remorse. He never once complained about this disease that made him blind and left him in agonizing pain for years.

He wouldn't take serious pain medication. He knew it would blunt his thinking. If you closed your eyes and talked with him, you wouldn't know he was sick.

When he felt he'd prepared as well as he could, he finally decided to ease all of that pain and bring in hospice care. After nearly six years it was too much. His breathing was incredibly labored at this point. He could manage short conversations – bursts of speech, really.

He was constantly exhausted but his mind was as sharp as ever. He'd say, "Somebody say something funny – it's too sad in here." About his eulogy he directed "...make it funny". He told a joke the day before he died "Why was Jesus born in a manger? Because he had Kaiser-Permanente"

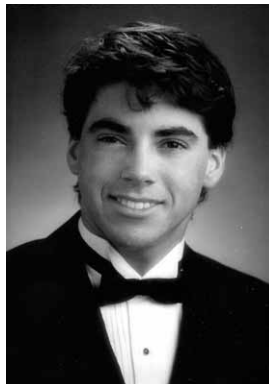
Hospice arrived.

But Terrence was ready to go. He was at peace. These were his exact words: "I've lived a rich life. And I have no regrets."

He was surrounded by family and friends in the last days of his life. We recalled childhood stories, argued about PC's vs. Macs, told more jokes, and said countless I love you's.

In his last hours Terrence lay in the arms of Angel and Doug. At 1 in the morning, Angel carried Doug to his bedroom, and returned to Terrence's side. And at 3am on the morning of February 11th, Terrence died in the arms of his Angel.

We love Terrence and we will forever miss him.



PAID OBITUARY

Mayor: Time to get serious about bike safety in town

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

Among the significant topics scheduled for the June 8 Portola Valley Town Council meeting, Mayor Ted Driscoll has prepared a 1,000-word analysis on the issue of bicycle safety in town. Mr. Driscoll's object: to engage the council and the public in a discussion leading to a regular forum, perhaps a bicycle committee, for dealing with the issues.

The council meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road. The bicycle discussion is the first item on the regular agenda.

Other items: a review of the proposed budget for

the fiscal year that begins July 1, and possible adoption of a new ordinance to regulate commercial activity on Town Center property.

Mr. Driscoll begins his paper by noting the international renown of the Alpine-and-Portola-Road loop, which was included in a bicycle touring guide he found in a London bookstore.

Go to tinyurl.com/Driscoll-bikes and turn to Page 28 to review the paper.

While bike traffic on this loop has risen significantly over the past decade and the demographic of the riders has changed, the roads are as they were, he said.

Case in point: No bike lanes. Both roads have fog lines to mark the edges of the traffic

lanes, and the distances to the edge of the pavement are inconsistent, as is their potential to be dangerous to cyclists.

As Mr. Driscoll understands the law, he said, no vehicle can be required to travel to the right of a fog line, though bike traffic could have a mandate to be over there if there were designated bike lanes.

Many bicyclists are acutely aware of this distinction and take advantage of it, to the frustration of many motorists who think that the white

line indicates a bike lane. In a situation in which motorists and cyclists collide, the cyclists always lose, and "the

cyclist's loss is great," Mr. Driscoll added.

Also aware of the fog line niceties are deputies from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Lacking the resources to address the nuances of this issue, they concentrate on ticketing cyclists who blow through major stop signs, Mr. Driscoll said.

The town has easements that "extend well beyond the current edge of pavement," he said; perhaps an incremental approach to widening the roads is what's called for.

All the parties need to meet and talk, Mr. Driscoll said. "The goal should be to reduce tensions with the cycling community and seek to maximize safety and minimize conflict." ■

'The goal should be to ... maximize safety and minimize conflict.'

MAYOR TED DRISCOLL

Bayer Ballet performs in Atherton

The Bayer Ballet Academy youth company will present "Springtime Novelettes," including a recital of variations from "La Bayadere" (The Temple Dancer) and "Swan Lake," on Sunday, June 12, at the Performing Arts Center at Menlo-Atherton High School in Atherton.

The program includes folk-inspired Russian and Moldavian character dances, and an original retelling of Little Red Riding Hood, among other dances.

The two performances start at 1 and 4 p.m. at the high school campus, 555 Middlefield Road in Atherton.

Professional dancers, including Maykel Solas, a principal at Ballet San Jose, will join the Bayer Ballet Company for the recital.

The Bayer Ballet Academy was founded by Inna Bayer in 2005 to teach the Vaganova method of classical ballet to young students from the Bay Area. Ms. Bayer started the ballet company in 2010 to provide her dancers with pre-professional performance opportunities. She produces a spring and winter show each year.

Visit bayerballetacademy.com or call 800-838-3006 to buy tickets at \$20 each.

— Caitlin Moyles

Planners examine proposal to divide Shorenstein estate

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Portola Valley's traditions of environmental stewardship and rule-based consideration of homeowners' plans were on display Wednesday evening, June 1, as the Planning Commission began its review of a proposal to subdivide the 11.6-acre Westridge neighborhood estate belonging to the heirs of real estate magnate Walter Shorenstein.

The proposal before the commission would initiate preparation and approval of a map subdividing the property at 1260 Westridge Drive into three parcels. The proposal will return for further discussion and comment from the public, probably in July and after a mid-June review by the Architecture and Site Control Commission.

The spacious main house was reportedly a getaway for Mr. Shorenstein, who was a generous friend of the Democratic Party, an ardent fan of Portola Valley's character, and a not infrequent host of notable politicians. Mr. Shorenstein died in June 2010.

The proposal would allow a future owner to subdivide the property and either sell the parcels for separate residences or develop them, such as by adding a guest house.

In considering the estate's future, town officials will be dealing with features that, under current law, are either questionable or not allowed. For example, the property is now in violation of maximum square-footage limits for floor area and impervious surfaces, such as tennis courts and driveways.

Such structures would be allowed to stay, but if signifi-

50th anniversary of church sanctuary

The Woodside Village Church will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its large sanctuary building at its 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 12.

The sanctuary was dedicated on Pentecost Sunday in 1961.

The service will begin with a rededication of the sanctuary, followed by a dedication of a new young tree. There will be a catered buffet and opportunities to share memories from the past 50 years.

The church is at 3154 Woodside Road in Woodside. To RSVP or get more information, call the church office at 851-1587.

— Caitlin Moyles

■ PORTLOA VALLEY

cantly altered, they would be subject to the updated regulations, including town scrutiny of the plans. A kitchen remodel would likely not be problematic, but something like an additional bedroom would be because it would change the home's exterior, Town Planner Tom Vlastic said.

Corte Madera Creek borders the property, which has two wells within the creek setback, both 80 feet deep. The commissioners wondered whether all three parcels could use the well water, and whether the wells have a role in a reported phenomenon: Water is seen flowing in the creek as it nears the Shorenstein property but

has "no flow visible" leaving the property, noted Commissioner Leah Zaffaroni.

Some of the property's fencing would not be acceptable today, but because it is covered with foliage that screens neighboring properties, it should probably stay, Mr. Vlastic said.

During the public comment portion of the discussion, former mayor Jon Silver argued that the proposal "seems non-committal on historic preservation," and advocated for an unambiguous statement about the house's historic value. He also spoke of a priority to restore it.

"It does seem to me that there ought to be an improvement to the status quo," he said.

"I think the assumption is that (the house) would be preserved," Ms. Zaffaroni said.

While the house is not officially listed as historic, Mr. Vlastic said, the town would not take lightly a plan that would seriously change it. ■

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Austra Anderson

July 28, 1920-May 19, 2011

Palo Alto, CA

Austra Anderson, 90, passed away peacefully surrounded by her children on May 19, 2011, in Palo Alto, California. She was predeceased by her loving husband of 53 years, Marvin B. Anderson. She is survived by a son, Edgar B. Anderson of Los Angeles, and three daughters, Lila Hillard of Larkspur, CA, Lydia (LJ) Anderson of Menlo Park, CA, and Lisa Kelley, also of Menlo Park, and seven grandchildren.

Austra was born Austra Udris, to parents Janis and Alise Udris, in Riga, Latvia, on July 28, 1920, and was a graduate of the University of Latvia School of Dentistry. In 1944, along with hundreds of thousands of other Baltic people, she and her mother, father, and brother Oskars fled to the West in order to escape a second brutal Soviet occupation of their homeland. In 1946 they immigrated to the United States and settled in Los Angeles. Austra met her soon-to-be husband Marvin at a dance at USC, and they were married in 1948. They lived in Pasadena from 1951 until his death in 2002. The next year she moved to Palo Alto to be near her daughters.

Austra was active as a leader in politics--as President of the East Pasadena-Sierra Madre

Republican Women's Club and Vice President of the Los Angeles County Federation of Republican Women. She was an enthusiastic golfer and a longtime member of the Eaton Canyon Golf Club.

Austra was a strong and courageous woman, a loving and devoted wife and mother, and a refugee from Communism who was eternally grateful to have had the opportunity to live out her dreams in a free country.

Burial was private at Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills. A public memorial service and celebration of Austra's life was held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, 2011, at Pitcairn House on the campus of Westridge School, 324 Madeline Street, Pasadena.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the Latvian Center of Southern California, 1955 Riverside Drive, LA, 90039; or Spiritual Care Service, Stanford Hospital & Clinics, 300 Pasteur Drive, Stanford, CA 94305.



PAID OBITUARY



Photo by Kate Daly

Pride of Woodside

Merilee Raynor, a sixth-grader at Woodside Elementary School, poses with Pedro, her new big pet, the Peninsula Pride Steer she has been raising as a Canada 4-H Club project for the upcoming San Mateo County Fair. Pedro arrived at her Woodside home on Thanksgiving Day weighing 780 pounds. Since then, she and Cole Alves, Mikayla Arvin and Jeanette Masari have taken turns feeding him loads of hay and grain to get him ready to be exhibited at the fair from June 11 to 19. Visitors may guess his weight to win cash prizes. Toward the end of the fair, the 1-year-old Red Angus will be auctioned off as market beef. The girls are also entering goats, sheep and pigs in competitions at the fair. The fairgrounds are located at 1346 Saratoga Drive in San Mateo.

■ Visit SanMateoCountyFair.com for more information.

Nativity holds 31st annual Carnival

Nativity School in Menlo Park will kick off summer with its 31st annual Nativity Carnival fundraiser on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 10-12, on the school's grounds at the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and Laurel Street.

Patrick O'Hare, who is co-chairing the event, expects the carnival rides, food vendors, silent auction, and free live entertainment to draw thousands of people. Event hours are Friday from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday from noon to 11 p.m., and Sunday

from noon to 6 p.m.

More than 175 silent auction items range from \$35 gift cards to Buck's of Woodside to one month of boot camp at Menlo Fit. The raffle grand prize is a Toyota Prius or \$15,000.

Steve Machado is the other co-chair of the event, which is run by Nativity Parish volunteers. All proceeds benefit Nativity Catholic School.

Visit nativitycarnival.org for more information.

— Caitlin Moyles

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING TO COLLECT ASSESSMENTS AT THE EXISTING FEE RATES FOR THE SIDEWALK AND TREE ASSESSMENTS FOR THE CITY OF MENLO PARK LANDSCAPING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-12

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park will hold a Public Hearing on adoption of a resolution overruling protests, ordering the improvements, confirming the diagram and ordering the levy and collection of assessments at the existing fee rates for the sidewalk and tree assessments for the City of Menlo Park Landscaping Assessment District for Fiscal Year 2011-12.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN, that the City Council will hold this Public Hearing on Tuesday, the 14th day of June, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Menlo Park City Council Chambers, Civic Center at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard.

Any person interested may appear at the public hearing and be heard on any matter related to this matter.

Visit the City's website for City Council, public hearing, agenda, and staff report information at www.menlopark.org.

Dated: May 26, 2010

MARGARET S. ROBERTS, MMC, City Clerk

Published in THE ALMANAC on June 1, 2011 and June 8, 2011

■ 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

Auto burglary report: Window smashed and purse and wallet stolen, Stockbridge Ave., May 30.

Fraud report: Unauthorized use of name and Social Security number to file tax return, Clay Drive, June 2.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Theft report: Loss estimated at \$4,600 in theft of Cartier watch, Westridge Drive, June 4.

WOODSIDE

Identity theft reports:

■ Fraudulent tax return requested \$95,000 be credited to bank account unauthorized by victim who had not yet filed 2010 tax return, Canada Road, May 27.

■ Loss estimated at \$300, Woodside Road, June 1.

Vandalism report: Loss estimated at \$500 in shattering of classroom window, Woodside Elementary School at 3195 Woodside Road, June 2.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary report: Loss of \$387 in theft of two unlocked bicycles from side yard, 1300 block of Mills St., May 31.

Fraud reports:

■ Fraudulent money orders used to pay for services, 1600 block of El Camino Real, June 1.

■ Identity theft, 900 block of Rose Ave., May 27.

Indecent exposure and attempted rape report: 1200 block of Sevier Ave., June 2.

Spousal abuse report: 1200 block of Carlton Ave., May 27.

Auto burglary report: Two vehicles broken into, 700 block of Woodland Ave., June 2.

At Portola Art Gallery

This 18-inch bronze sculpture, "Greeting the New Day," by Nancy Stevenson of Palo Alto is part of her "Echoes from Life" exhibit on display through June at the Portola Art Gallery at Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park. A reception for her and painter Jared Simes, who also has an exhibit



at the gallery, will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 11.

■ OBITUARY

Halina T. Kiesig

Halina T. Kiesig, a longtime resident of Menlo Park and Portola Valley, died peacefully while asleep on May 27 in Menlo Park.

She was 84.

Born in Poland on July 22, 1926, she became a U.S. citizen in 1995.

She was well known from her daily walks on Santa Cruz Avenue and will be fondly remembered, a friend said.



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING TO AUTHORIZE COLLECTION OF A REGULATORY FEE AT EXISTING RATES TO IMPLEMENT THE LOCAL CITY OF MENLO PARK STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-12

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park will hold a Public Hearing to authorize collection of a regulatory fee at existing rates to implement the local City of Menlo Park Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) for Fiscal Year 2011-12.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the City Council will hold this Public Hearing on Tuesday, the 14th day of June, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Menlo Park City Council Chambers, Civic Center at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard.

Any person interested may appear at the public hearing and be heard on any matter related to this matter.

Visit the City's website at www.menlopark.org for City Council, public hearing, agenda, and staff report information.

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Why the hurry in Atherton layoffs?

We know there is a sense of urgency in Atherton to bring some stability to the city's growing budget problems. The town has made horrendously bad management and legal decisions in recent years, which has resulted in an out-of-balance budget that city officials say will mean a nearly \$900,000 deficit in the 2011-12 fiscal year.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of The Almanac

But the City Council's recent decision to outsource the entire workforce of its building and public works departments on the advice of interim city manager John Danielson, with virtually no public discussion, strikes us as short-sighted and certainly not fair to the town's residents and the 13 employees who will be out of work July 1.

On May 26, the town told a Teamsters official and two shop stewards that 13 of 16 union-represented employees would receive their pink slips the following week. Mayor Jim Dobbie told the Almanac: "I am very, very sad that this was necessary to help bring the town into financial viability. We take no pleasure in laying off these employees whatsoever, but if we don't take these steps, everybody's going to lose their jobs because we'll go under."

The road to the decision began just one month ago, at a lightly attended 8 a.m. meeting on Monday, May 9, when council members gave Mr. Danielson carte blanche to look for cuts in staff and services. There was no mention of terminating entire departments, or anywhere near one-third of the city's workforce. (The layoffs represent closer to two-thirds of the town's staff if police department personnel are not part of the equation.)

Since that meeting, the council has not discussed the issue or taken any public votes. No staff reports have been issued and no public notices posted.

So why was there no public discussion of the options? What about the public safety department, which eats up more than 50 percent of the town's expenses? Surely there were other paths the city could have taken, perhaps presenting the union with a specific roll-back demand rather than

axing entire departments. This strategy has been used in other communities with some success, when unions are given the option of rolling back wages and benefits or seeing a certain number of members laid off. As it happened, employees were never even asked to reopen their contract to renegotiate terms, according to the Teamsters' representative.

Another mystery is whether the town considered income generated from fees for service that traditionally have paid most if not all the expenses of the building department. In the past, it has been a goal of the town to make these departments revenue-neutral, and the building department had a large reserve.

Another impact of this precipitous action is the huge loss of institutional memory when these workers walk out the door. We expect that Atherton residents will be less satisfied with the services they are accustomed to receiving from longtime workers in these departments. Certainly contract employees can fill some straightforward jobs, but we suspect there will be a rocky transition.

Finally, it is far from clear how much — if any — savings will be accrued by this outsourcing. In testimony before the council on May 18, building inspector Joseph Aiello said outsourcing may not save the town money at all, and could in fact, cost more. He said he compared his time and compensation with that of a contract employee working in the building department, and found that the consultant cost one-third more than he did.

At this point, it is not clear if the city will find services for comparable costs in its bid to outsource. Apparently requests for proposals were issued before the affected workers received their termination notice. Mr. Dobbie said last week that he expects new contract employees can be on board in time to take over July 1.

Nevertheless, it is extremely disappointing that this action was taken so hastily and without any public input. There is no question that the town's expenses must be reduced, but to do it in this way, without any public discussion, may do more harm than good.

LETTERS
Our readers write

Former candidate seeks school board seat

Editor:

I would like to be considered a candidate to replace Mark Box on the Menlo Park City School District board.

I agree with the fiscally responsible decision to conserve taxpayer money by appointing a trustee rather than having a full election to fill the vacant seat. However, I want to emphasize the important opportunity we have to do so in an open process with an open selection of candidates that may come forward.

As I understand it, our board will be complying with the

See **LETTERS**, next page



Atherton Heritage Association

Our Regional Heritage

Early Atherton settlers Mary Tutt Eyre and Colonel Edward E. Eyre smile with pride at the collection of family lined up behind them in this undated photo. They are, from left, Perry Eyre, Nina Macondray, Charles Baldwin, Belle Eyre Pinckard, Edward Lilburn Eyre, Linie Ashe McClaren, Margaret Eyre Girvin, Florence Atherton Eyre, George Pinckard and Robert Eyre.

LETTERS

continued from page 18

California School Board Association's recommendation to advertise in the local media to solicit applications or nominations. I would like to state that as a candidate for trustee on the ballot in the last election, I am still interested in serving. Other than a sitting or past board member, I am the only person who has been proven to have widespread support — I received over 2,700 votes in the last election.

An appointment rather than an election puts the decision entirely in the hands of the current trustees during a transition time. Doing so just one week before a new superintendent takes the helm is questionable. Perhaps it might have been in the best interest of our school district and a sign of respect for incoming superintendent Maurice Ghysels to time this differently.

We have an opportunity to make sure the important decisions we make are done openly and inclusively. The changes and new challenges faced by the district should be addressed in a way that represents the whole population of students and the diverse community of people who live in Menlo Park. I feel that I am in the best position to do so based on my background in business and law plus my stated objectives of balanced representation for all students.

Ana Uribe Ruiz

Lexington Drive, Menlo Park

New leadership for high-speed rail?

Editor:

On June 1, the state Senate passed SB-517, a bill sponsored by Sen. Alan Lowenthal, which if passed by the Assembly and signed by the governor will lead to a change in the governance of the high-speed-rail project. The bill passed on a 26-12 vote.

If signed into law, the bill would replace the present rail authority board with new members, who will be professionals, not politicians and developers, and the new appointees will have to be approved by the full state Senate. At present, the governor effectively controls the authority's board, since he can appoint five of the nine members.

The present project is an utter disaster and at the very least needs a complete restart. That certainly will never happen with the present board.

Morris Brown
Stone Pine Lane, Menlo Park

Downsizing not the answer for Atherton

By Malcolm Dudley
and James Janz

We are deeply concerned about the proposal to downsize our Atherton government, which can only result in a decreased level and quality of service.

Already the town has reduced the size of our police department from 25 to 16 sworn officers. This has greatly increased response time. In the past the town had three sworn officers on patrol 24 hours a day, which is now down to only two sworn officers, and we have fewer traffic and school resource officers serving our needs.

Public safety should be and has always been a top priority for the town. Only two officers on the street can easily leave us short-handed. For example, when one of the officers on patrol stops a driver, who has an outstanding warrant for his or her arrest, the law requires that the officer book the driver in jail, a process that can take up to an hour and a half.

During this time there is only one other officer on patrol, which means that that officer would have to call in assistance from another city in the case of an emergency, a reported burglary, or another instance requiring a second officer to respond. A portion

of the town's special tax is intended to provide funds for maintaining our police department at the highest level.

Now the town is considering further downsizing, including outsourcing our building and public works departments. There are potential serious consequences resulting from these changes.

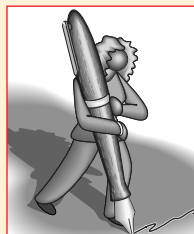
There may be some savings to outsourcing, but there are many offsetting disadvantages. Some of the problems experienced by other municipalities with outsourcing include:

- Outsourcing adds a level of rigidity because contracts are binding and vendors may choose not to accommodate last-minute changes or requests.

- Vendors tend to become complacent once contracts are in place.

- Some vendors were unable to fully absorb losses, leaving the city responsible for paying the bill.

- Some cities found that their vendors did not have the capabilities to provide the expected



GUEST
OPINION

level of quality or provide any cost savings, resulting in the cities' decision to bring the service back in-house.

- Some paid additional costs for services they believed were included in their contracts.

We acknowledge that the town faces a significant budget deficit, but feel strongly that there are better ways to deal with this deficit. Two major factors have impacted our town budget — legal judgments (hopefully not recurring) and property reassessments resulting in decreased property taxes.

Temporary income reductions are not a good reason for poor long-term decisions. While the economy is slow in its recovery, there are improvements in general municipal revenue collections. For example, the state of California has collected \$2.3 billion more from income taxes this fiscal year than was projected. Our revenues are likely to increase in the future with a real estate recovery. Projecting revenue is part science, part art, part philosophy and part luck. The town is projecting a deficit of \$856,000 in the 2011-12 budget, but that number will depend upon a number of variables, both expense and revenue.

About 30 years ago the town faced a similar major budget

deficit as a result of the passage of Proposition 13. The town surveyed the public for their response to this deficit, reducing services or increasing revenues to maintain the same high level of services. Eighty-five percent of the community responded that they preferred to maintain services, and preferred to pay a special parcel tax to fund these services. The town has not increased the special parcel tax for many years. One hundred percent of the special parcel tax funds go directly to Atherton, compared with approximately 10 percent of our regular property tax.

We believe a town survey would demonstrate the town's support for an increase in the level of the special parcel tax in order to be able to restore our former level of police protection and preserve other essential town services. For example, an across-the-board increase in the parcel tax of about \$350 per parcel annually would completely eliminate the projected deficit. We would urge the council to consider surveying the community before making any decisions to drastically reduce staff.

Malcolm Dudley and James Janz are both former Atherton mayors.

Menlo Park's curious position on high-speed rail

By Brielle Johnck

With every Menlo Park City Council election, there has been a noticeable shift in the political direction of our city's policies. The November 2010 election is no exception.

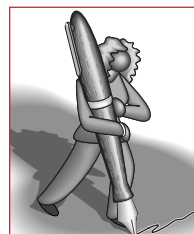
The California High Speed Rail (HSR) issue met controversy in Menlo Park even before the project (Measure A1) passed in November 2008. Three full months before the voters in our city voted to approve the project by 57 percent, the council voted (2-1) in a midnight closed session not on the agenda to join Atherton in a lawsuit against the rail authority. That was a definite shot across the bow and the ship had barely come into sight.

Two and a half years later, the city has formed a subcommittee, drafted a statement of guiding principles, joined the Peninsula Cities Consortium, retained a lobbyist, approved a \$200,000 expense in the 2010-2011 budget for high-speed rail activities, filed a second high-speed rail lawsuit, and watched council member Kelly Fergusson travel to Washington, D.C., to allegedly represent Menlo Park's position on high-speed rail.

What's missing? The answer: A full council discussion that would result in an official policy regarding high-speed rail. On April 1 of this year Mayor Rich Cline stated at a Peninsula Cities Consortium meeting that the Menlo Park City Council needed to bring its two new members up to speed *before* the city can formulate its position on high-speed rail.

Our new City Council members Kirsten Keith and Peter Ohtaki are in their sixth month on the council and both have shown keen instincts for fiscal responsibility and accountability. During the May 24 council budget discussions, a proposed \$100,000 expenditure for high-speed rail lobbyist Ravi Mehta was reduced to \$50,000 after the two questioned the expense and the need for his services.

These are the same concerns raised by former council member



GUEST
OPINION

John Boyle in 2009 and 2010. Mr. Boyle expressed surprise in March 2009 that the two-member subcommittee (Mr. Cline and Ms. Fergusson) had retained a lobbyist without full council approval. Again in October of 2010, Mr. Boyle questioned a \$200,000 budget item for high-speed rail activities, which included lobbyist Ravi Mehta. Mr. Boyle argued for a more positive use of this large amount of money, such as designing grade separations in Menlo Park.

Had Mr. Boyle, who had expressed conceptual support for the project, been appointed to the subcommittee in January 2009, we could have had a more balanced, open and reasonable approach to the city's interaction with the high-speed rail authority. When Mr. Cline and Ms. Fergusson voted to sue the rail authority in August of 2008, they put the city of Menlo Park in an adversarial position, which may have led to their believing a lobbyist was needed. As it stands now, we share the cost of a lobbyist with three other cities, one of which is south of San Diego (Pico Rivera) and may have interests completely different than our community.

Mr. Mehta's contract is up for renewal in July of this year. Before then, the council needs to place on the agenda a discussion of a city policy regarding high-speed rail, which includes its benefits, impacts, and our design preferences for how it moves through Menlo Park.

At a minimum, if the city is to extend the contract with Mr. Mehta, there needs to be an open meeting between representatives of the Menlo Park, Atherton, Pico Rivera and Menlo Park councils to discuss what our joint position is regarding high-speed rail. How else can our highly paid lobbyist represent us?

Are all four cities in lockstep agreement about the benefits and the impacts of the project? Or shall we save the money and leave the leadership up to Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, State Assembly member Rich Gordon and State Senator Joe Simitian? Their approach has a more positive tenor and we can save our money for something more beneficial to the Menlo Park community, such as saving Flood Park.

Brielle Johnck is a Menlo Park resident who lives in the Willows.

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