

# The Almanac

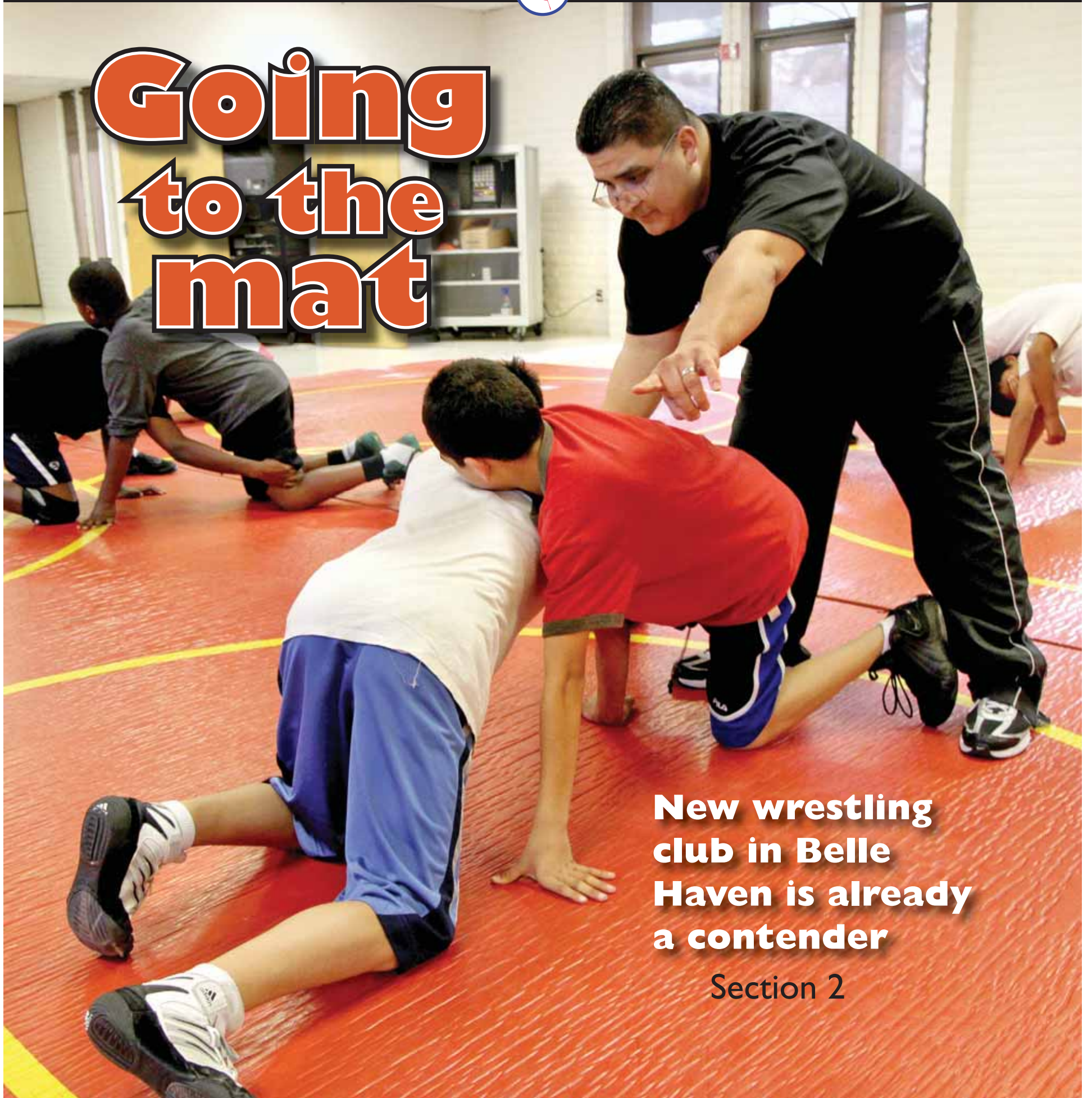
THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

JUNE 22, 2011 | VOL. 46 NO. 43



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Section 2

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Photo by L.A. Cicero

Atherton's Harry W. and Mary Margaret Anderson with their daughter Mary Patricia Anderson Pence.

## Andersons give Stanford 'core' of art collection

The university plans to build Anderson Gallery to house 121 works given by the Atherton couple

by **Rebecca Wallace**

Embarcadero Media

A veritable arts district is burgeoning at Stanford University, with a new building slated to be built to house a major donation of 20th-century American art. Harry W. and Mary Margaret Anderson of Atherton and their daughter Mary Patricia Anderson Pence have announced that they're donating 121 works by 86 artists including Jackson Pollock, Richard Diebenkorn, Willem de Kooning and Mark Rothko.

The university plans to open the Anderson Gallery in late 2014, near the Cantor Arts Center, the under-construction Bing Concert Hall, and the planned McMurtry Building for Art and Art History on campus, said Lisa Lapin, assistant vice president for university communications.

She described the art collection "as one of the most valuable and significant to be donated to any university."

Of the new gallery, she said: "The site plans are still being worked out. We need to retain an architect and do a design, so we don't know the cost yet."

Harry and Mary Margaret, who are known as "Hunk" and "Moo," have been assembling their collection for almost 50 years, Ms. Lapin said. It contains work by a variety of modern and contemporary artists, representing such movements as abstract expressionism, California funk art and Bay Area figurative art.

Works slated to be donated — indoor sculpture and paintings — include the 1947 painting "Lucifer" by Jackson Pollock, Wayne Thiebaud's 1962 oil "Candy Counter," the 1973 painting "Ocean Park #60" by Richard Diebenkorn, and the 1985 painting "Before, Again IV" by Joan Mitchell.

"The Andersons' contribution is historic and their desire to share this remarkable collection with the world reflects their philosophy that art can inspire all of us," Stanford President

John Hennessy said in a press release.

In the same release, Harry and Mary Margaret were quoted as saying, "Throughout our adult lives, we have always been closely associated with colleges and universities, and in making this gift to Stanford we anticipate the students, the public and the entire art community will have the opportunity to fully engage the collection."

The Andersons described the donated pieces as the core of their collection. Some will come from the array that has been exhibited for years at the Quadrus office complex off Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park.

The couple have been collecting art since the mid-1960s, starting with such early modernists as Picasso and Matisse and then concentrating on post-World War II American art. They have lent their works to special exhibitions at the Cantor Arts Center, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and other museums. ■

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**THE ALMANAC** (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, The Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. Subscriptions for \$60 per year or \$100 per 2 years are welcome. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Copyright ©2011 by Embarcadero Media, All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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*The Almanac READERS' CHOICE 2011*

# THE ALMANAC READERS' CHOICE

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In this year's Readers' Choice we serenade the businesses that make Menlo Park groovy — the rockin' restaurants, retailers and services in or around town.



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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## State funding loss imperils daytime squad car

■ Budget deficit to mean smaller staff at Town Hall.

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Nighttime law enforcement in Woodside consists of two deputy sheriffs in two squad cars. During the day, there is at least one full-time deputy in a squad car, one part-time deputy on a motorcycle, and one more in a squad car and shared with Portola Valley—and funded in part by the state.

That state funding, \$100,000 for each town, is in jeopardy. If it goes away, the towns may resort to replacing a shared deputy in a squad car with a more affordable alternative: a shared deputy on a motorcycle. Funding for this deputy was one of several items

### ■ WOODSIDE

discussed on June 14 as the Town Council reviewed the proposed budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year that starts July 1.

With projected general fund revenues of \$5.46 million and expenses of \$5.82 million, the town will have to address the \$334,000 deficit with several cost reductions, which Town Manager Susan George outlined in a detailed and comprehensive cover letter introducing the budget. If the council approves these steps, the budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year is expected to have a surplus of \$113,000, Ms. George said.

The town would save \$296,000 in the 2011-12 fiscal year by not filling the positions of four retiring staff members: the building official, a project manager, the geologist and an accountant. By keeping the first

two of these positions vacant and having their duties covered by other staff members, and by eliminating the other two positions, the town would save another \$416,500 in 2012-13 and \$305,000 annually after that, Ms. George said.

“We will continue to look for ways to reduce costs without impacting service,” Ms. George wrote. “I expect to be involved in related discussions with the Town Council for the balance of my tenure as town manager as we monitor and evaluate the town’s fiscal condition.”

Ms. George has said she is planning to retire in January 2012; a recruiting effort is under way to find her successor.

Go to [tinyurl.com/WS-budget2011-12](http://tinyurl.com/WS-budget2011-12) to view the budget cover letter and the budget itself.

The council is set to approve the budget at its Tuesday, June 28, meet-

**Related story:** Portola Valley budget would impact daily traffic patrol. **Page 8.**

ing in Independence Hall at Woodside and Whiskey Hill roads.

### Library remodel delay

Staff recommended delaying the library remodel by at least a year. The project estimate, set at \$2 million in October 2010, is now \$2.4 million, Ms. George wrote in her letter.

The remodeling plan includes better patio access, a self-help holding area, a new information desk, a living room-like area, and glassed-in rooms for teens and quiet study.

The town would be responsible for \$1.8 million drawn from its \$2 million reserve set aside for library maintenance. The county library administration, which oversees

such reserves for libraries throughout the county, has offered to bridge the gap by diverting Woodside’s 2011-12 annual replenishment.

But after expenses, that scenario would leave Woodside’s reserve at \$137,000, Ms. George noted, with no replenishment until the 2012-13 fiscal year.

“I feel that this is too close a margin, given current economic circumstances,” she wrote. “I... would rather have enough money already in the bank to support it before we award a construction contract.”

“The library is perfectly acceptable as it stands today,” Ms. George added in remarks to the council.

Also in the budget: an upgrade to the in-road lights at the crosswalks for the elementary school, and a plan to repair or replace bridges on Portola, King’s Mountain and Mountain Home roads. ■

## Four candidates seek seat on school district board

By Renee Batti  
Almanac News Editor

Four applicants for a vacant seat on the Menlo Park City School District board will be interviewed by board members on Tuesday, June 21, at a special meeting that begins at 6 p.m. The board will deliberate and appoint one of the candidates at the end of the meeting.

Ana Uribe Ruiz, who unsuccessfully ran for the board last November, has applied for the seat, as has former board member Jeffrey Child. The other applicants are Pam Larkin and Ivan Montoya.

The appointment will be for the remainder of Mark Box’s term, which expires in December 2012; Mr. Box has resigned from the board, effective June 30, to move to Spain.

Residents of the district, which

serves parts of Menlo Park and Atherton, had until 4:30 p.m. Friday, June 17, to apply for the position. Each candidate was required to submit a written statement with the application. The following information is from the statements.

### Jeffrey Child

Mr. Child was elected to the board in 2006, and didn’t seek re-election when his four-year term ended last year. He was a board member and the treasurer of the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation, which supports the K-8 district, from 2004 to 2008.

He has been a board member of the Menlo-Atherton High School Foundation for the Future since last year, and is a member of the city of Menlo Park’s Finance and

See **BOARD**, page 8



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

## Deconstructing history

A worker uses a hose Thursday to control dust created by the demolition of the old gymnasium at the Menlo Park Civic Center. A new gymnastics center will rise on the site, and is due to be completed by January.

## Menlo Park police commander pay bump passes on split vote

■ The raise is part of the new city budget approved by the Menlo Park council.

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

Although City Manager Glen Rojas characterized it as a restructuring instead of a pay raise, the end result of a 3-2 vote by the Menlo

Park City Council on June 14 was to bump up the salary for each police commander by approximately \$14,000 a year.

“A rose by any other name,” said pension reform advocate Ned Moritz during public com-

ment. “It doesn’t matter whether we call it a pay increase or a restructuring. It’s still a pay increase.”

Council members Kirsten Keith and Peter Ohtaki dissented. Vice Mayor Keith asked to postpone voting on that specific budget item to allow time for further analysis, a move her colleague agreed with. “It’s not

going to hurt us to review and make sure,” Mr. Ohtaki said. But that motion failed 2-3.

### Finding balance

The raise passed as part of the city’s budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year, which the council approved.

The new budget closes a \$571,675 gap between revenue and expens-

es through a combination of measures such as paying off \$7.16 million of unfunded public safety pension liability for an immediate savings of \$828,000, and \$3.6 million in interest overall; boosting fees; converting two sworn police officer positions to non-sworn slots; outsourcing some maintenance services; and spending less. Despite talk of raising the utility users tax, the budget assumes that

See **POLICE**, page 8

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—PORTOLA VALLEY—

**SATURDAY 6/25 at 2:30 PM**

## Wine and Spirits

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\*The above wines assort for a 10% discount on 6, or more, bottles

## Willows crime meeting

### ■ BRIEFS

After another spate of burglaries in the Willows neighborhood, the Menlo Park police department will hold a community meeting on Tuesday, June 21, to share crime statistics and discuss prevention efforts. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Civic Center at 701 Laurel St.

meeting, which will start at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Civic Center at 701 Laurel St. The ordinance is also expected to return to council that night.

### Council on hiatus

The Civic Center will be quieter than usual on Tuesday nights as the Menlo Park City Council interrupts its regularly scheduled meetings with a four-week hiatus.

The council doesn't plan to meet again until July 19, at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, 701 Laurel St.

### Council delays green building standards

The first phase of implementing new green building standards in Menlo Park was delayed after the City Council on June 14 unanimously asked staff to revise the proposed ordinance.

The ordinance would require new construction currently subject to California's green building standards to exceed the state's required energy efficiency by 15 percent. Builders would need to test heating and cooling ducts for leaks and install cool roofs that meet certain standards for reflecting sunshine and releasing absorbed heat. The council wants the ordinance to state that alternative methods could be used for cool roofs on residential homes.

The state energy commission must approve the ordinance before it goes into effect, a process expected to take approximately three months once the city adopts it.

The ordinance would fulfill a goal stated in the city's climate action plan to exceed the state's green building standards.

According to the staff report, the City Council will review the climate action plan at its July 19

### Labor board hearing

The state Public Employee Relations Board hearing over union complaints of unfair labor practices in the Menlo Park Fire Protection District is expected to finish on Friday, June 24, said fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman.

He said they expect a ruling by the end of this year.

"At this point, that is all that we are prepared to say since the hearing is not over," the chief said.

John Wurdinger, vice president of the Menlo Park Firefighters Association, said the union had amended its complaint as a result of a contract imposed on the firefighters in April. Negotiations first broke down in 2009. He said both sides will have four to six weeks to file closing briefs after transcripts become available, and then the judge will render a decision.

## Wednesday: Block party, free concert

The Groove Kings, dogs on parade, and outdoor dining; what more could a Menlo Park resident want on a summer evening? The Chamber of Commerce hosts its Fifth Annual Block Party on Wednesday, June 22, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. on downtown Santa Cruz Avenue.

The Groove Kings will play classic rock covers starting at 6:30 p.m. in

Fremont Park, at University Drive and Santa Cruz Avenue. It's the launch of an eight-week summer concert series running on Wednesday evenings through Aug. 10.

Preparations for the block party include closing Santa Cruz Avenue at 3 p.m. between El Camino Real and University Drive. The street will re-open by 11 p.m., according to the chamber.

## Downtown Alliance hires law firm

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Putting its money where its mouth is, the Menlo Park Downtown Alliance hired a law firm to evaluate the environmental impact of the proposed downtown specific plan, and won't dismiss the possibility of a lawsuit. "We'll keep all options open," said co-founder Nancy Couperus. The group asked Shulte, Mihaly &

Weinberger LLP to take a look at the draft environmental impact report (DEIR). The law firm found the report lacking in eight areas.

The main criticisms focus on the lack of analysis regarding environmental impacts if the downtown and El Camino Real corridors are built out to the maximum allowed by the proposed specific plan, and lack

See **DOWNTOWN**, next page

## Portola Valley town manager to retire

■ She sets a goal to find a spot for below-market-rate homes.

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Angie Howard, the town manager of Portola Valley, said she hopes that before April 2012, the town will find a location suitable for several below-market-rate (BMR) homes and thus fulfill a longstanding state mandate.

Ms. Howard set the April deadline for herself because that's the month she plans to retire after 21 years in Town Hall, including 11 years leading the staff.

The BMR homes could go on two parcels the town owns in the upscale Blue Oaks neighborhood — part of the deal in creating that subdivision — or in another loca-

tion. "We're still looking," she said in a phone interview.

And her focus between now and April? "I'm going to continue to keep things running smoothly," Ms. Howard replied. As for her successor, the Town Council will likely begin to address recruitment plans at its July 17 meeting, she said.

### Truly a team

Ms. Howard came to Portola Valley 21 years ago as a deputy town clerk. She advanced through positions of increasing responsibility, and, after several years as town administrator, was named town manager in 2008.

Ms. Howard said she has hired everyone on the staff but Senior Maintenance Worker Skip Johnson and Planning Manager Leslie Lambert, who is on medical leave.

"This truly is a team and I am really honored and privileged to

work with each and every one of them. It's just an amazing group," Ms. Howard said.

Asked whether her management style tended toward the hierarchical or the horizontal, Ms. Howard did not hesitate. "It's flat," she said. "We truly work as a team. I am the boss and ultimately I get to pull that word out, but everyone here knows they have a say in what goes on."

Ms. Howard said she had no specific plans for after she retires. "I hope to be able to travel, because I love to travel, and to find a volunteer project to keep me interested and feeling useful," she said.

Asked to comment on Ms. Howard's announcement, Ms. Lambert replied in an email: "Angie and I worked closely together for the past 20 years. I will miss her terribly. We are very close and have a good deal of history together. Town Hall won't be the same without her." ■

## Nathalie Cooper, longtime local teacher, dies at 87

This obituary was submitted by friend and colleague Mary Anna Matsumoto.

Nathalie Cooper, who lived many years in Portola Valley and devoted her life to educating the children of Portola Valley, died peacefully on May 31. She was 87.

She was born in St. Francisville, Illinois, and grew up there on the farm of her parents. She often spoke of the beauty of the countryside, the closeness of the community, and the satisfaction of enjoying food grown on the farm.

She moved to California, attended the University of Southern California, and began teaching in Portola Valley in 1948 while her husband, John Cooper, attended Stanford Law School.

At that time, Portola Valley was a farming community with two small school buildings, a gas

pump, a Catholic church, and a bar across from the school, where the patrons made way for the children to have lunch.

Transportation to school was on foot, horseback and car pool.

The school was the center for community gatherings. Generations of children began their formal education in Nathalie Cooper's kindergarten class. Although she had many opportunities to travel and to live abroad with her husband John, who became head of the legal department for Varian, teaching children was her main joy.

After her retirement in 1982, she continued to live in Portola Valley. Her former students remained



Nathalie Cooper

devoted to her and would visit her home, sometimes bringing their own children. She remembered every one and would tell stories of their days in kindergarten.

The Coopers were gracious and generous hosts. Their beautiful home, with a view of the western foothills, was the venue for many memorable events for friends and colleagues.

In 2008, after the death of her husband, Nathalie returned to live at her family farm in St. Francisville, Illinois, to be close to her nephew, his wife and their sons. The Brooke family cared for Nathalie in her last years and especially during her final bout with cancer.

Gifts in memory of Nathalie Brooke Cooper may be made to Windmill School (a preschool), 4141 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028; and Wabash Cemetery Bureau Association, 11188 North 2300 Blvd., Allendale, IL 62410. ■

### DOWNTOWN

continued from previous page

of project-level review for items such as a parking garage. The law firm also questioned the DEIR's reliance on mitigation measures that aren't guaranteed to happen.

The law firm didn't skimp on details; it even dug into the history of parking plazas in Menlo Park and suggested that replacing a plaza with a garage would destroy a piece of history. "Indeed, Menlo Park's parking plazas served as models to California and the Nation," said Shulte, Mihaly & Weinberger.

An attorney with the firm,

Heather Minner, told the Almanac that there have been times when a review uncovers only minor deficiencies, but that the specific plan DEIR contains serious omissions and flawed analyses that need revision.

Planning Commissioner Henry Riggs called the possibility of a legal challenge unfortunate. "This will cost us all, and for what purpose?" he said, noting the open forum for discussing the plan continues. "Some just do not want change under any circumstances."

Mayor Rich Cline and Vice Mayor Kirsten Keith, along with senior city staff, met with Downtown Alliance members on June 2. Both councilmembers said they

didn't know the group planned to have lawyers review the DEIR before the meeting.

"But the concern is understandable," said Mayor Cline. "This is a big deal and a big change and it can have very positive impacts, but also negative impacts. I still maintain this makes the plan better in the long run. We can have a good open public discourse and find common ground in the end."

The Planning Commission begins its review of the specific plan and the DEIR this summer. Thomas Rogers, associate planner for Menlo Park, said if the report requires extensive revisions, the city may need to hold another 45-day public comment period. ■

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### Real Estate is Stronger Here than In Other Markets

Dear Monica: Is the Bay Area real estate market showing signs of weakness as real estate markets in other parts of the country are?

Jim L.

Dear Jim: No; the real estate market on the Peninsula is very strong in some locations and moderately good in others. Several Silicon Valley companies are hiring and some are being bought or planning an initial stock offering. Many of the employees, service providers, and investors in these companies need homes to buy. The communities with

good schools and amenities are their first choice, which means that all of the communities that surround Stanford University are being affected to a greater or lesser degree by these buyers. Interest rates are amazingly low and trending downward.

If you are looking for a home to live in for at least the next five years, you would do well to buy now. The growth that is projected for this region is good and this means that the number of houses available to buy may be even less in the future.

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

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# Portola Valley budget would impact traffic patrol

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Portola Valley residents and drivers passing through town may, in coming months, experience a new presence on the side of the road: a deputy sheriff on a motorcycle.

The town has long had two squad cars on patrol during the day, but an anticipated loss of \$100,000 in state funding would undercut the town's ability to pay for the extra car being there.

The Town Council discussed the matter with Town Manager Angie Howard in a review of the proposed budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year, which begins July 1. The council will revisit the budget as a topic and likely approve it at its June 22 meeting.

The decision to retain a second day-shift squad car is complicated by the involvement of

Woodside. The two towns shared the \$480,000 expense of fielding that deputy over the previous 12 months, and have been sharing it since 2001. If the state's \$200,000 is no longer available, what should be done with the other \$140,000 from each town?

A majority on Portola Valley's Finance Committee recommended trying to do without the extra deputy, but the two town managers prefer a shared motorcycle patrol. The Portola Valley council appears open to that.

"To pull the plug now without alerting the citizens about this, I think, is not a good play," Councilman Steve Toben said.

"If you drop (the shared deputy) entirely, we'll have a much better feel of how it affects us," Councilman John Richards said.

But Mayor Ted Driscoll expressed reservations, noting a recent string

of "unusual crimes." Councilwoman Ann Wengert, acknowledging Mr. Driscoll's concern, mentioned the May home-invasion robberies in Menlo Park.

**'To pull the plug now without alerting the citizens about this, I think, is not a good play.'**

COUNCILMAN STEVE TOBEN

**Related story:** In Woodside, state funding loss imperils daytime squad car. Page 5.

## Balanced budget

The town expects general fund revenues and expenses of right around \$3.86 million, with a slight surplus of about \$3,000, according to the proposed budget.

Spending will be down about 6.4

percent from the previous fiscal year, Ms. Howard said in a budget cover letter.

One new expense, though not part of the general fund budget, is \$1.5 million to upgrade one mile of hiking trail along Alpine Road from the town's border at Ladera to Arastradero Road.

The town is paying this money up front, but will be reimbursed by Stanford University, which is funding this project as part of a complex transaction involving its development plans in Santa Clara County.

Tax revenues are on an upswing, the budget shows. The anticipated \$1,880,000 in property tax revenues is an increase of 4 percent from the previous year and 22 percent above 2007-08 revenues, when the current recession began in earnest.

Projected sales tax revenues

of \$146,000 would represent an increase of 9 percent over the previous year.

Law enforcement expenses of \$598,145 represent a 9 percent jump in this last year of a three-year contract with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. These contracts tend to rise with each passing year, and spending for 2011-12 is up 43 percent from 2007-08.

The town will spend \$21,000 on an analysis of fees for building permits and related staff work and whether the fees reflect the cost of the work. The last such study was done in 1999, Ms. Howard wrote.

The town's road resurfacing budget will be \$500,000, including \$82,500 from a county vehicle registration fee of \$10, passed by voters in November 2010.

The Historic Schoolhouse is scheduled for repainting at a cost of \$15,500. ■

## BOARD

continued from page 5

Audit Committee. He currently sits on the board of the Amerigroup corporation.

## Pam Larkin

Ms. Larkin has three children who attend or formerly attended district schools. She's a nine-year member of the district's Strategic Planning Committee, and has chaired and co-chaired the Encinal Site Council for the last two years. She also has volunteered in classroom math, reading, library, and science programs.

Among her previous experience, Ms. Larkin lists having designed and implemented science curriculum and instruction based on state standards and research on how children learn best. She also has provided professional development for teachers.

## Ivan Montoya

Mr. Montoya has four children who attend or have attended district schools. He served on the Oak Knoll Site Council from 2003 to 2009, chairing the group during his final two years.

He has a master's degree in education, as well as an MBA,

from Stanford, and during graduate school worked at an educational software startup. He recently began work at Teachscape, a company that develops tools and provides services to help teachers improve their skills. He leads the company's work with the Gates Foundation on the Measures of Effective Teaching project.

## Ana Uribe Ruiz

Ms. Uribe Ruiz has a child with special needs at a district school, and has had to "emerge myself in understanding how the school system works and how that relates to the education that my son gets." As she did during her November 2010 run for a seat on the school board, she stresses the need for a "balanced representation for all students."

A banker for more than 25 years, Ms. Uribe Ruiz is a member of HISPAA, a group of Latino professionals who serve as role models within their educational communities, with the goal of increasing the number of Hispanic students who graduate from high school.

The June 21 board meeting will be held at the district office at 181 Encinal Ave. in Atherton. ■

## POLICE

continued from page 5

will remain at 1 percent through the fiscal year, which starts July 1.

The 2011-12 budget estimates both revenue and expenses at \$37.4 million, compared to the adjusted revenue of \$36.8 million and expenses of \$37.2 million seen during the previous fiscal

year. The staff report acknowledged that revenues could again fall short of projections.

"I think what gets lost is that we have a balanced budget tonight," said Mayor Rich Cline before casting his vote of approval. Referring to the new two-tier pension system and long-term projects that may bring more revenue to the city, he continued, "There are a

lot bigger things going on than \$14,000 in salary."

You can't compare police work to regular employment, Mayor Cline said, and the data showed the commander earned less in some situations than the sergeants being supervised.

Staff reported that without the pay increase, the salary for a commander fell mid-range

compared to other similar cities, while the pay for police officers ranked second, and for sergeants, third.

## Labor

Labor negotiations remain key to balancing the new budget. The sergeants union recently agreed to a two-year pay freeze, among other concessions, and the city

hopes other unions follow suit.

That could be a rocky road. Rene Morales, speaking on behalf of Service Employees International Union (SEIU), told the council it was "just plain wrong" to give raises while laying off people, and asked the council to decide against contracting out grounds and street maintenance. Outsourcing stayed in. ■

## Sixty-eight seniors graduate from Woodside Priory

Submitted by Sean McInain Brown, director of communications, Woodside Priory School.

Sixty-eight seniors received diplomas June 11 at Woodside Priory School's 51st commencement. Corey Cheung was the student speaker. Tina Seelig, executive director of Stanford University's Technology Ventures Program, gave the commencement address.

Valedictorians were Corey Cheung, Veronique Filloux, Grant Lin, Aran Nayebi, Katie Taylor, Emma Wrenn. Salutatorian was Arturo Ferrari. The Saint Benedict Award was given to Travis Johnson.

## Graduates

One asterisk is for Dean's Honors (GPA of 3.5 to 3.8). Two asterisks are for Head of School Honors (GPA of 3.81 to 3.99). Three asterisks are for Benedictine Honors (GPA of 4.0 and above).

**B-D:** Lauren Janice Barkmann, David Bernard Beleson\*, Brian Andrew Bevilacqua\*, Ariana Gabriella Bickell, Gregory Donald Biles, Alexander John-Hubert Brugger\*\*, Clayton Braque Cadwell,



Photos by Jim Kirkland of Copperline Multimedia

The procession begins for Woodside Priory School 51st commencement ceremony on June 11.

Kendra Marie Carano, Kimberly Elizabeth Carlisle\*, Vanessa Kye-Ting Cheng, Corey Kai Cheung\*\*\*, Yen-Ting Chung\*, Andrew Jacob Clark\*, Melanie Ann Conde, Nicole Kathrin Dancer, Nurdidagen Guimba Dilangalen\*

**E-H:** Devon Elaine Errington\*, Alexandra Frei Fabbro, Arturo Ferrari\*\*, Evan Alexander Filipczyk, Veronique Marie Filloux\*\*\*, Keyra Yasmin Galvan\*, Paul Hailey, Cary Betts Hampton\*, Matthew James Hill\*\*

**J-L:** John Gabriel Jernick, Jiachen Jiang\*\*, William Travis Johnson\*, Dong Yong Kim, Jae Hwan Kim\*\*, Mina Kim\*\*, Ui Chan Kim, Arnaud Kodjo Kpachavi\*, Rachel Alexandra Landers, Rachel Esme Lazarus\*, Seoung Jin Lim, Seoung Won Lim, Hao-Wei Lin\*\*\*

**M-P:** Connor Lee Mather, Kyle Thomas Montgomery\*\*, Aran Nayebi\*\*\*, Joeeun Park\*, Caroline Anne Pillsbury, Elena Rosalia Poetsch, Colton Robert Francis

Purvin\*, Matthew Christian Putnam\*

**Q-S:** Alexandra Maria Quinby, Ashley Karina Reyes, Danielle Rinat, Anne Rachel Schaffer, Alexandra Marie Schnabel, Colin Fields Schreiner\*\*, Elizabeth Marie Somers, Zandalee Springs, Marcus Laszlo Stromeyer\*\*\*, Da-Eun Suh\*

**T-W:** Guillermo Talancon, Katherine Claire Taylor\*\*\*, Alix Jeanne Traeger, Jimmy Tran\*\*, Seaira Rain Truppelli\*\*, Justin Tse, Chun Che Tseng\*, Michael Allen Wan, Katharine Poole Wick, Brandon Lloyd Willhite, Rebecca Lauren Wilson\*, Emma Dorothy Wrenn\*\*\*



Corey Cheung

## Garbage cans in the street: Residents complain of eyesores and obstructions

■ Atherton cracks down on abuses.

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Atherton residents who leave their garbage cans out on the street for longer than a designated period will be subject to a warning, then a fine, under terms of an ordinance given preliminary approval by the City Council on June 15.

The council, in response to “numerous complaints from residents,” approved new rules that prohibit customers of Recology waste collection service from moving their waste containers to the street any sooner than 24 hours before the scheduled collection time. The ordinance also requires customers to remove them from the street within 24 hours of collection service.

The vote was 4-1, with Councilwoman Elizabeth Lewis opposed. The ordinance must be approved in a “second reading” next month before becoming law.

Residents have complained at earlier council meetings and to individual council members about the eyesore and street obstructions caused by neighbors leaving their waste containers out too long. Some neighbors

wheel the carts away from the curb, but leave them for the entire week in highly visible areas, they noted.

“I have probably gotten more complaints about (this issue) than any other” from residents contacting him in frustration, Mayor Jim Dobbie said.

In a staff report, Interim Building Official Dennis Lockard wrote: “In many cases the carts are left out, on or near the right-of-way or in public view all week and are filled with refuse where they are left. This creates a public nuisance and constitutes a danger to pedestrians and motorists and diminishes the quality of life in the neighborhood.”

Town officials are preparing to launch an informational campaign, with the help of Recology, about the new ordinance. Interim City Manager John Danielson said he hopes warnings issued will solve much of the problem, and if yet-to-be-determined fines are levied on residents who ignore the warnings, the penalty can be appealed.

Staff will work with Recology “to initiate outreach to

### ■ ATHERTON

Atherton residents” about the new rules, according to Mr. Lockard’s report. The town will print notices or stickers to affix to waste containers with the information as well.

The ordinance as presented to the council also requires that containers be placed “so that they do not obstruct the right-of-way of street traffic,” causing Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen to ask for a revision to account for times when Recology crews are responsible for the violation.

In opposing the ordinance, Councilwoman Lewis said she believes the town would be “crossing a line and becoming more of a police state.”

The cost to the town of putting the ordinance in place, including staff time and enforcement, is estimated at about \$20,000 annually. “These costs may be offset by citation revenues issued for non-compliance after proper notification and continued violation of the ordinance,” the staff report said. “As compliance increases the cost and revenues will be reduced.” ■

## Atherton wrestles with donations to police department

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Is it legal for the Atherton City Council to require that private donations to the police department be made anonymously?

That question has caused Vice Mayor Bill Widmer to ask that a discussion of the matter by the City Council be postponed until City Attorney Bill Connors can do more research.

The council had planned to discuss on June 15 whether it should require that private donations to the police department be made anonymously, through the city manager or city attorney’s office.

Mr. Widmer had noted that recent donations to the police department have raised concerns by some residents that the contributions “may result in favoritism.”

Mr. Widmer, who made the

request to place the matter on the council agenda, said a last-minute concern that a donation would be a public record — and therefore the donor legally could not remain anonymous — prompted him to ask that the discussion be postponed.

City Attorney Bill Connors will do further research and report on options for creating a structure, possibly a nonprofit foundation, to accept donations, Mr. Widmer said. ■

## Police find stolen stereo in two hours

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

A car stereo system pried out of a locked car returned home within two hours, according to Menlo Park police.

After the owner reported the theft around 7 a.m. Wednesday, June 15, police set off to track down the culprit. Along the way they found the stereo, worth an estimated \$1,000, police spokeswoman Nicole Acker said.

The car was parked in the 1200 block of Carlton Avenue in Menlo Park. While investigating, officers received a call about

a trespasser at an apartment on Willow Road. Those present in the apartment were either unsure as to whether they lived there, or were unwilling to be truthful about who did. Finally verifying that one person did, indeed, live there, police got permission to look around and came across the car stereo, identified by serial number.

Police escorted both the stereo and Daniela Ortega, 18, of Menlo Park, from the apartment. She went to jail for allegedly receiving stolen property, while the stereo went home to its owner. ■

### New date for gala

The InnVision garden gala benefit has been rescheduled to Sunday, June 26, from 2 to 5 p.m. at a private home in Atherton. The benefit will feature a high tea, musical entertainment, croquet, surprise guests, and a live auction.

InnVision helps people break the cycle of poverty and move toward self-sufficiency.

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## Where should Atherton's new library be built?

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Should Atherton's planned new library be built in the town's only park, the spacious and generally tranquil Holbrook-Palmer? Residents will have a chance to join the discussion on that question and other options being considered for the planned facility at community meetings on June 25 and 28.

The town is hosting the meetings to allow the public to review and comment on a citizen advisory committee's choice of six possible sites — five of them in the park and the sixth at the library's current location in the Town Center. The council-appointed Atherton Library Building Steering Committee (ALBSC) created a list of criteria to evaluate each site option during the workshops, set for 10 a.m. Saturday, June 25; and 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 28.

A needs assessment study presented to the City Council in February 2010 determined that the existing 4,790-square-foot library is far too small to meet the public's needs, and that a new facility of up to about 11,000 square feet should be built to increase the library's collections and provide more reading, study and meeting space.

The project would be "fully paid for by the library fund," derived from property taxes specifically allocated for the library, but which Atherton's branch has not needed in full for its operations, according to resident Denise Kupperman, who serves on the ALBSC. The

### MEETINGS

Community meetings to review options for a new library are set for Saturday, June 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Tuesday, June 28, from 7 to 9 p.m. The Saturday meeting begins at the Carriage House in Holbrook-Palmer Park with a walk to the sites under consideration. Tuesday's meeting is in the Pavilion in the park.

money can't be used for purposes other than the library, she said.

Park sites identified by the committee as options for the library are: the front lawn near the entrance of the park on Watson Avenue; the Main House site; the Pavilion site; the North Meadow/parking lot; and the preschool site, near the southern boundary of the park.

After the two community meetings, the committee plans to present a report to the Parks and Recreation Commission on July 6, and ask the council to approve a site on Aug. 17.

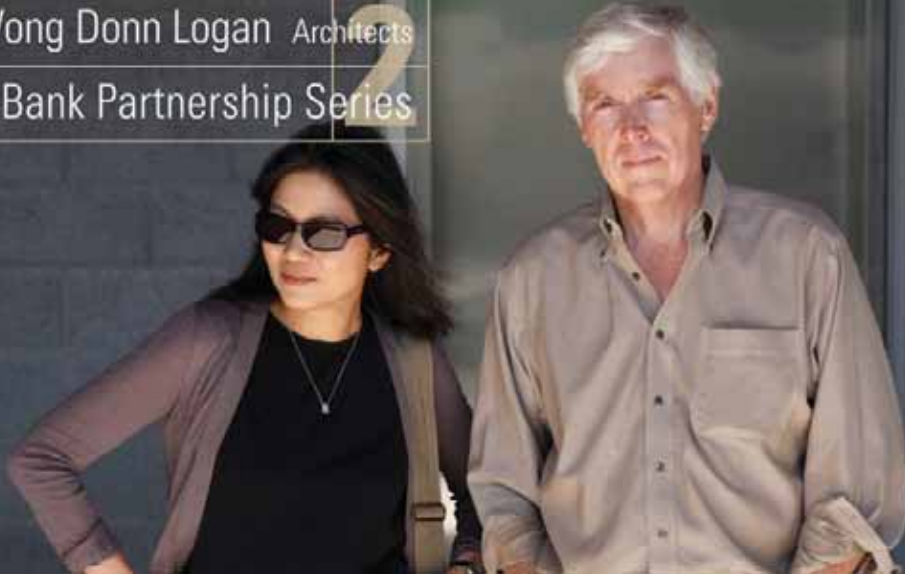
### Moving too fast?

A divided council on June 15 approved the committee's site-selection criteria that will be used to assess the options during the two workshops.

Councilwoman Elizabeth Lewis urged a slow-down in the process to give the town a chance to develop a master plan for the park before committing to building the library there. "It would be in the town's

See **LIBRARY**, page 12

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## Ex-mayor may go to voters in dispute over outsourcing; council OKs interim budget

By Renee Batti  
 Almanac News Editor

■ **ATHERTON**

In the face of the possible layoff of 13 town employees and elimination of in-house building and public works services, former mayor Malcolm Dudley said he and other citizens will launch a ballot initiative

drive if the town won't survey residents to see if they're willing to pay a higher parcel tax to balance the budget.

Mr. Dudley, speaking for himself and former mayor Jim Janz, urged the City Council at its June 15 meeting to ask residents whether they would pay an additional \$350 annually to avoid the extreme measures being considered: the layoff of more than half the town's non-police staff, and the outsourcing of services they had provided.

"I don't agree there's a fiscal crisis," he said. "Any time you can solve the problem for \$1 a day, it's not a crisis."

Later in the meeting, the council unanimously passed an "interim bridge budget" that reflects the layoff of the employees, who were given pink slips on May 31, but the question of whether they will actually lose their jobs has yet to be resolved.

The town two weeks ago delayed the planned layoff — originally to be effective June 30 — to July 15 while talks with the union continue. Employees had offered about 12 percent in concessions, which represented about \$167,000 in savings to the town, but on June 9 increased proposed concessions to about

*Continued on next page*

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### LIBRARY

*continued from page 10*

best interest to take a breath," she said. "I don't want to go about this (through) piecemeal planning."

She also complained that two community meetings at the end of June, when many people are out of town, won't be adequate to let residents know and comment about the project.

Councilmen Jerry Carlson and Bill Widmer also complained about the speed with which the committee was moving, and urged more public outreach before decisions were firmed up about the site and other aspects, such as the size of the new facility.

Mayor Jim Dobbie and Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen noted that the council was being asked only to approve site-selection criteria and the two community meetings that would allow public outreach — not decide on the location or size of the new library; Mr. Widmer then joined them in approving the motion. ■

Continued from previous page

\$300,000, according to union representative Peter Finn.

The interim operating budget approved last week assumes a balanced budget, which means that spending cannot exceed projected revenues of \$10.53 million. But because the town hasn't made a final decision over outsourcing the building and public services departments, how the balance will be struck has yet to be determined.

Before the budget vote, the council heard from a number of union representatives, town employees and residents about the plan to outsource services.

Rudy Gonzalez, a representative from Teamsters Local 856, warned the council that even if private contractors initially agree to low rates for their services, "eventually those costs go up," and the town will be stuck without in-house services for which it can control costs.

He also praised public employees as "dedicated to the community they serve," contrasting them with private contractors who "will be dedicated to the bottom line."

Building inspector Joseph Aiello, one of the employees handed a pink slip, cited figures indicating that the building department "is busy and getting busier." Noting that the department is designed to operate as a self-supporting enterprise fund, covering costs from fees charged for plan checking and inspections, he said "there's no legitimate reason to lay off staff."

Residents who spoke included Peter Carpenter, who praised the

council and interim city manager for "coming to grips" with the town's financial problems and moving Atherton "in the right direction"; and Melinda Tevis, who stated that "a town is more than just a business."

Loren Gruner said she was disturbed to hear about pending layoffs and "the fact that we are just wiping so many people off the board." She suggested looking at other ways, perhaps some way to generate sales tax, to balance the budget.

"I hate to see us outsource everything," she said, adding that she fears a drop in service level if the town does so.

### Negotiations

The town is set to meet again with union representatives on June 27, according to Mr. Gonzalez, the union representative.

Mr. Finn, a union representative involved in negotiations, said he hopes the town will accept the \$300,000 worth of concessions employees are offering, noting that Interim City Manager John Danielson had estimated the planned outsourcing of the services to save the town about \$276,000.

The town's savings projections won't be firmed up, however, until bids from private firms interested in providing the services come in. They are due in Town Hall on June 24.

After the question of how town services will be delivered next fiscal year is resolved, Mr. Danielson will come back to the council with a revised budget. The council asked that the final budget be brought back in 90 days or less. ■



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# Menlo to county: Maybe we'll take Flood Park

■ City compiles list of needed repairs.

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Let the wheeling and dealing begin. The Menlo Park City Council voted unanimously on June 14 to start negotiating with the county for Flood Park, a 21-acre community gathering spot that made San Mateo County's short list of assets slated for closure to save money.

The transfer is not a done deal, however. The city first wants to know exactly how much the park's maintenance would cost. The county estimated \$205,000 annually, but now Menlo Park has found that essential repairs are needed, driving up the expense.

Community Services Director Cherise Brandell provided the Almanac with a "to do" list for Flood Park that ranged from painting fences to pulling weeds to resurfacing four cracked tennis courts. She said the city's survey of repairs continues. Located at 215 Bay Road, the park saw about 75,000 visitors last year, according to county data.

Mayor Rich Cline attended a "Save Flood Park" community meeting at Cafe Zoe on June 13, along with about 25 other people, and proclaimed it "good" during his report to the council.

A grassroots group dedicated to keeping Flood Park open orga-

nized the Cafe Zoe meeting, and has gone on to form a 501(c)3 nonprofit to collaborate with the city on solutions. "Friends of Flood Park," according to co-founder Jill Olson, who will serve as treasurer, can now accept donations. Kristin Cox as president and Amy McGarghan as secretary fill the remaining spots on the board.

San Mateo did set aside enough money to keep the park open until April in its 2011-12 budget, buying the city time to figure out whether it should take over if the budget passes the Board of Supervisors at the end of this month. Flood Park remains closed until Sept. 30, regardless, while the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission installs a water pipeline. ▀

## ■ OBITUARIES

### Robin Winslow Smith

Longtime Atherton resident

A memorial celebration will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, June 24, at Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton for Robin Winslow Smith, a 47-year resident of Atherton who died at home June 15 surrounded by family after outwitting cancer for nearly five years.

In a memorial notice on the Almanac website, her family describes her as "a strong, independent woman with a sharp wit and a broad sense of humor, proud mother of four, dedicated special education teacher, engaged citizen, avid birder, world traveler, voracious reader, passionate environmentalist, dog lover, story teller, and a supportive friend and

## ■ INFORMATION

Visit [AlmanacNews.com/obituaries](http://AlmanacNews.com/obituaries) to see the *Lasting Memories* memorial site, where you can find more information and post remembrances.

confidant to many. "

A 10th generation American of the Winslow family, she was born in San Francisco in 1934, raised in Saratoga and Palo Alto, and attended Palo Alto High School. She graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from UC Berkeley as a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

She married Gordon Dean Smith Jr. in 1956, settled in Palo Alto and taught elementary school.

She raised four children in an "inviting 1906 Atherton home where music and art were a rich part of everyday life," the family says.

As her children grew, she returned to teaching and focused on special education, receiving a master's degree from San Jose State University. She taught for more than 20 years, primarily in the Fremont Unified School District.

Once retired, she pursued her love of birding, serving as president of Sequoia Audubon and organizing many Christmas bird counts.

She visited all 50 states, including a drive up the Alaska Highway before it was paved. She explored all continents, including snowmobiling above the Arctic Circle, traveling by train to Mongolia, going on safari in Africa, and weathering Antarctica.

She worked for habitat protection including the conservation of Bair Island and the protection of Bedwell Bayfront Park as open space.

Survivors include her four children, Mallory, Colin, Evan and Alison; and a granddaughter.

The family prefers memorial contribution to a local environmental organization of the donor's choice.

### Avery William Rogers

USGS veteran in Menlo Park

Avery William

Rogers, a resident of Menlo Park since about 1961 who had a 37-year career with the U.S. Geological Survey, died June 14 after a long illness. He was 86.

A celebration of his life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 25, at the Elks Club, 4249 El Camino Real, in Palo Alto.

Born in Paso Robles, California, he and the family later moved to Concord, where his father was a golf instructor, beginning Avery's life-long passion for the game. The family subsequently moved to Berkeley, where Avery was on the Berkeley High School golf team.


After graduating from Berkeley High in 1943, he served in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946, primarily in the South Pacific. He was promoted to the rank of staff sergeant and helped build and manage a water treatment tank on the island of Morotai.

Directly after arriving back in the U.S., he enrolled at the University of California at Berkeley and completed his degree in business administration in three and a half years.

The Monday after graduation, he began his 37-year career with the U.S. Geological Survey. He started out with the Water Resources Division and then spent 25 years as the management officer for the Western Region, headquartered in Menlo Park.

In 1981, he received the Depart-

See OBITUARIES, page 16



## EYE CARE NEWS

Presented by **Mark Schmidt**  
Licensed Optician

**BIFOCALS MAY CURB CHILDREN'S MYOPIA**

With levels of nearsightedness (myopia) reaching even higher levels, it comes as real news that bifocals may be a better corrective choice than standard corrective lenses. Not only are myopia rates increasing worldwide, the National Eye Institute reports that rates among Americans ages 12-54 rose 66% over the past three decades. This finding helped prompt researchers to explore the notion that treating nearsighted children with bifocals might ultimately reduce the long-term

severely of the condition. Researchers found that, after two years, nearsighted children fitted with bifocals experienced slowed progression of their myopia by 38% compared with children wearing single-vision lenses. Bifocals may curb myopia progression by enhancing both near vision and distance vision, as well as by reducing eyestrain.

June is *Child Vision Awareness Month*. If your child needs eyewear, bring the prescription to MENLO OPTICAL at 1166 University Drive, on the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and University Drive. We offer durable lenses, frames, and accessories that meet the lifestyle of active children. We ensure that the frames fit properly and comfortably. Call us at 322-3900 if you have any questions about eyewear.

P.S. It is thought that prolonged focusing on near objects, such as books and computer screens, may be behind the rise in myopia in today's children.

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

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7/9 Bill Charlap and Renee Rosnes	7/28 Yosvany Terry Quartet
7/10 Marcus Shelby Orchestra	7/30 Tribute to Electric Miles featuring Wallace Roney
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7/6	Cocktail Monkeys	Rock, Pop, Funk
7/13	The Distractions	Rock & Roll
7/20	The Bell Brothers	Country
7/27	Brain Andres & The Afro-Cuban Jazz Cartel	Salsa
8/3	The Touch of Class Band	Jazz
8/10	The Sun Kings	Beatles Tribute

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**OBITUARIES**

continued from page 14

ment of the Interior's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award from then Secretary of the Interior James Watt.

On Oct. 25, 1981, he married Irene, and after they retired from the USGS in 1986, they worked part-time delivering cars for the John Anderson dealerships and traveled extensively throughout the world, making friends and visiting periodically, family members said.

He and Irene loved to play

golf together and with friends. He was a long-time member the Elks Club, the Shriners and the Masons.

He is survived by his wife, Irene of Menlo Park; daughters Lynn Rogers of San Jose and Diane Greenwood of Santa Barbara; stepchildren Saul Jimenez of Redwood City and Naomi Silva of Santa Cruz; and nine grandchildren.

The family expresses thanks to the many caregivers who took care of Mr. Rogers, in particular, Ricky Clemente. The family prefers memorial donations to a favorite

charity in Mr. Rogers' name.

**Harriet Pollins Johnston**

Longtime Peninsula resident

Harriet Pollins Johnston, a long-time Peninsula resident, died June 6 at The Sequoias in Portola Valley. She was 87.



**Harriet Johnston**

A memorial service is planned for noon Saturday, June 25, at St. Mary's by the Sea Episcopal Church at 146 12th St. in Pacific Grove.

A native of Peoria, Illinois, she married Bruce F. Johnston in 1944 in Wilmington, North Carolina. After living in Japan, she and her husband came to Stanford.

She and her family lived in France from 1952 to 1954, and returned to Stanford in 1954 when Dr. Johnston joined the Stanford faculty.

She enjoyed extensive traveling and lived in Japan, France, Uganda, Kenya and Austria. She also loved their retirement home in Pacific Grove, California, family members say.

She was an active volunteer, including with the Stanford YWCA and Hospital Chaplaincy as well as Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA) with St. Mary's by the Sea, in Pacific Grove.

Survivors include her husband, Bruce; her son, Bruce C. Johnston of Steamboat Springs, Colorado; her daughter, Patricia C. Johnston of Denver; and a granddaughter.

The family suggests donations to Pathways Hospice Foundation at 585 N. Mary Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94085; or to St. Mary's by the Sea Church (put "Social Concerns Fund" in the memo line) at 146 12th St., Pacific Grove, CA 93940.

**Woodside theologian gets honorary degree**

A theologian and historian from Woodside, Rebecca Lyman, recently received an honorary degree from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSPP) in Berkeley.

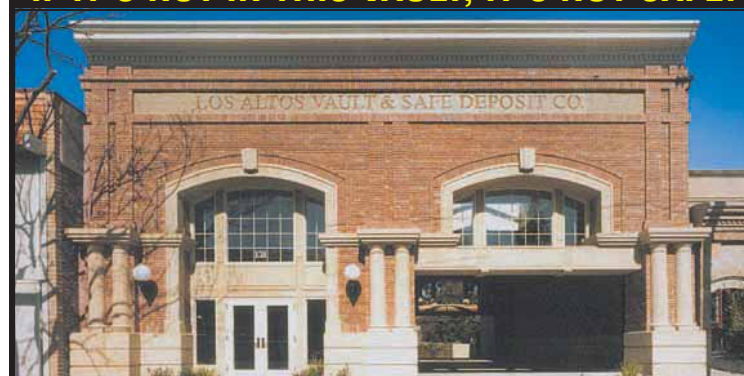


**Rebecca Lyman**

Ms. Lyman holds a doctor of philosophy from the University of Oxford, with a specialty in ancient Christianity. As a scholar, she's contributed to the department of religious studies at Stanford University, among others. Her publications include "Early Christian Traditions" and numerous journal articles.

She has taught at CDSPP for 21 years, according to the school, which is a graduate-level seminary of the Episcopal church.

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The City of Menlo Park invites qualified contractors to submit sealed bid proposals for the construction of the PARKING PLAZA 2 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. The Work required as part of this project, in general, consists of the removal and disposal of existing concrete curb, gutter, sidewalk, valley gutter, asphalt concrete materials, traffic signs, as well as other features as noted to be removed on the plans followed by the installation of asphalt concrete, new concrete curb, gutter, sidewalk, curb ramps, driveways, bioswales including planting new trees, installation of irrigation system, parking lot lighting system, striping, and slurry work, and other incidentals as necessary to complete the work as shown on the Plans and as specified in the Special Provisions. Performance of this work requires a valid California Contractor's License Class A. Project documents and copies of the prevailing rate of wages can be obtained from the Menlo Park Engineering Division, located in the Administrative Building at 701 Laurel St. Sealed bid proposals will be received at the Engineering Division office until 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 7, 2011, at which time they will be opened and publicly read. Additional information can be obtained on the City's website: [www.menlopark.org/departments/pwk/bidlist.html](http://www.menlopark.org/departments/pwk/bidlist.html)

# M-A wins top prize in climate competition

Menlo-Atherton High School has been awarded the top prize in the statewide 2011 Climate Generation competition.

Climate Generation is an annual competition sponsored by the California Air Resources Board that challenges high school students to address climate change, clean energy and sustainability with innovative outreach projects.

Menlo-Atherton students developed "Behavior Change or Climate Change," a school-wide education campaign to teach students how simple lifestyle changes can reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition to giving a series of presentations, the students obtained funding, and gained the support of the parent-teacher association. They also surveyed

students before and after the presentations to measure the success of their efforts.

Arroyo High School in El Monte was awarded second prize for creating an on-campus composting system, while the third-place winner, Ukiah High School in Ukiah, led a city-wide campaign to reduce the use of plastic shopping bags.

# Tribute to the Duvenecks

By Caitlin Moyles

Special to the Almanac

The Los Altos History Museum will pay tribute to local educators and philanthropists Josephine and Frank Duveneck with a commemorative movie night at the Bus Barn Stage Company Theater in Los Altos on Thursday, June 23.

The Duvenecks were the proprietors of Hidden Villa, a 1,600-acre farm and wilderness preserve in Los Altos Hills that they used for educational summer camps and organic food production.

Two short films will highlight the Duvenecks' lives and accomplishments and complement the museum's current exhibit, "Touching Lives: The Duvenecks of Hidden Villa," on display through Sunday, June 26.

The museum will kick off the evening by serving light refresh-



Josephine and Frank Duveneck

ments during extended museum hours from 6 to 7:30 p.m., according to spokesperson Paula Tuerk. Attendees will then proceed to the Bus Barn Stage Company Theater for the film viewing at 7:30 p.m. The theater is located at 97 Hillview Ave., one block from the museum.

Both the extended museum hours and the films are free to the public.

The Los Altos History Museum is located at 51 South San Antonio Road. Call 650 948-9427 for more information. ■

## Portola Valley: Corte Madera School graduates 73

Submitted by Corte Madera School in Portola Valley.

Seventy-three eighth-graders in Corte Madera School's Class of 2011 graduated from middle school and the Portola Valley School District on Friday, June 10, during a traditional ceremony in the school's multi-purpose room.

The school band of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders played "Pomp and Circumstance," under the direction of band teacher Jason Braun.

Student co-presidents Macklan Badger and Sadie Bronk led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed students, families, teachers and guests.

Interim Principal Don Cox gave a brief message before four eighth-grade students gave their speeches.

The speakers and the titles of their talks were: Anna Brett, "The Game of Life"; Caitlin

Christin, "The Best Years of Our Lives"; Aimee Lynch, "I'm Going to Miss This Place"; and Anastasia Vlassova, "Time."

Winston Wang performed "First Arabesque in E Major" by Claude Debussy on the piano.

A number of eighth-grade students received special awards. Student Council co-vice presidents presented the Eighth Grade Gift to the school.

Superintendent Tim Hanretty presented the "Anne Campbell Community Service Award." Board President Bill Youstra presented the graduating parents and gave a brief message.

Mr. Cox presented the diplomas. An outdoor reception, hosted by the seventh-graders was held after the ceremony. The graduates celebrated graduation with a party, planned by their parents at the Portola Valley Town Center. ■

### Graduates

**A-C:** Charles Andre, Sophia Androlowicz, Macklan Badger, Craig Bianchi, Cameron Bonora, Julia Brandman, Mackenzie Brandman, Anna Brett, Sadie Bronk, Zakiya Bryant, Kyle Calado, Celisia Cerrillo, Caitlin Christin, Jamie Corley, Andrew Cox, Nia Craig

**D-G:** Jackson Dalman, Daniel DeFilippo, David Duff, Rajan Dutta, Maxwell Falore, Kathryn Fast, Laki Fonua, Katherine Friel, Adellyn Geenen

**H-L:** Jamie Han, Catherine Hoffman, Kenzie Humphries, Rahman Humphries-Hodge, Ane Hunt-Dusse, Alexandra Iverson, Luis Jauregui, Arnold Jimenez, Simran Kashyap, Carolina Khouri, Colin Kloezeman, Colby Kosling, Nathan Kovacs, Margaret Law, Nathan Lee, Thomas Lopez, Eric Lorenzen, Aimee Lynch

**M-P:** Kate Marra, Michael Mendelsohn, Erin Miller, Vanessa Morfin, Alison Myers, Sohail Notaney, Daniel Parker-Sleator, Ricardo Pena, Chris Perez, Kelsey Plough, Nariman Pournajat

**R-T:** Maxwell Reines, Maxim Rinker-Davis, Alexander Rubin, Madison Schmidt, Aaron Schneider, Jennifer Scott, Nicholas Seidl, Nicholas Shafran, Ajay Shah, Juliana Soltys, Cameron Steck, Savana Tejada, Jessica Thorson, Madeline Trinkaus

**U-Z:** Anastasia Vlassova, Terry Wang, Winston Wang, Connor Williams, Gordon Williams

## CALENDAR

Visit [AlmanacNews.com/calendar](http://AlmanacNews.com/calendar) to see more calendar listings

**'Comedy for People Who Read'** Will Durst and friends lead an evening of comedy. June 25, 8-10 p.m. \$20 (general admission). Menlo Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Call 650-330-2200. [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com)

**Vintage Affaire** Fine wines, gourmet foods and auction items. Event benefiting Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

June 25, 3-9 p.m. \$195-\$400. Menlo Circus Club, 190 Park Lane, Atherton. Call 650-858-0202. [www.vintageaffaire.org](http://www.vintageaffaire.org)

**'[title of show]'** TheatreWorks presents the new musical "[title of show]" written by a pair of undiscovered writers about a pair of undiscovered writers writing a new musical. Through June 26, with evening and matinee performances. \$24 (for students)-\$42. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. [www.theatreworks.org](http://www.theatreworks.org)

## POLICE CALLS

### MENLO PARK

#### Grand theft reports:

■ Theft in house being remodeled and estimated loss of \$25,000 in stolen clothing and jewelry, Sharon Heights neighborhood, June 10.

■ Loss estimated at \$1,300 in theft of laptop computer from purse unattended on front porch of residence, 1200 block of Crane St., June 15.

■ Loss estimated at \$800 in theft of laptop computer, watch, camera and CD player from unlocked vehicle, 1300 block of Carlton Ave., June 15.

#### Auto burglary report:

Loss estimated at \$500 in break-in and theft of stereo system, 1200 block of Carlton Ave., June 15.

#### Hit-and-run report:

Loss estimated at \$650 in damage to parked vehicle and fence, 800 block of Creek Drive, June 15.

#### Identity theft report:

Potential loss of \$239 in unauthorized use of victim's name for hospital bill, 900 block of Willow Road, June 10.

#### Elder abuse report:

700 block of Live Oak Ave., June 16.

### ATHERTON

#### Fraud reports:

■ Unauthorized use of resident's name, Rittenhouse Ave., June 14.

■ Unauthorized use of resident's name to open mobile phone account, 100 block of Fair Oaks Lane, June 16.

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## William Williams

Dec. 4, 1924-June 10, 2011

Columbus, NC - Bill Williams, 86, of Tryon Estates, Columbus, NC, passed away on June 10, 2011 at the Hospice House of the Carolina Foothills.

Bill was born on December 4, 1924 in Johnstown, PA; to Raymond Eugene Williams and Emaline Shaver Williams. He was a graduate of Westmont High School. Bill was a Marine Corps Sergeant during World War II participating in both the Guam and Iwo Jima invasions.

After returning home he began his career with Household Finance and married his bride of 64 years, Jean Mattern Williams. His career spanned 35 years until he retired in 1984 as a Vice President.

Bill and Jean retired to Fairfield Bay, AR where he became a respected voice in the community. He was founding partner and board member of a new local bank. He was part of the committee that built the beautiful Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church in the Bay. As an active member of the Fairfield Bay Shrine Club, he helped guide the celebrity golf to raise funds for the Shriner Children's Hospital. He also enjoyed 15 years of volunteer work with the Fairfield Bay rescue squad driving an ambulance.

Throughout his life Bill was a religious man, loving husband and wonderful father. Survivors include his wife, Jean Mattern Williams; daughter, Cathy S. Berlin of Tryon, NC; son, William B. Williams Jr. of Mills River, NC; grandson, Bryan J. Williams of San Mateo, CA; and sister, Jane Williams Lambing of Pacific Grove, CA.

Memorial services were held at 3:00pm June 20, 2011 at Tryon Presbyterian Church, Tryon, NC.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations in Bill's name be sent to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, Office of Development, 2900 Rocky Point Dr. Tampa, FL 33607 or to the Hospice of the Carolina Foothills, 130 Forest Glen Dr. Columbus, NC 28722

PAID OBITUARY

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

**Newsroom: (650) 223-6525**

Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

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

Advertising Fax: (650) 854-3650

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captions to:

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

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

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



**WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?**

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

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**CALL** the Viewpoint desk at 223-6507.

## Police pay raises hackles in Menlo

In May, the Menlo Park City Council unanimously approved a contract that included a two-year pay freeze for eight police sergeants, ending a previous contract that gave these mid-level managers an average 3 percent increase every six months since January 2009. No one spoke against the pay freeze. The move also helped the city balance its budget.

But last week, few focused on the pay freeze or the balanced budget before the City Council. Instead the talk of the meeting was a provision buried in the budget that would raise the pay for two police

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

commander slots by approximately \$14,000 a year each, in order to pay them more than any of the sergeants they supervise.

The budget, and therefore the measure, passed, but only by a 3-2 vote. Council members Kirsten Keith and Peter Ohtaki dissented after making a failed motion earlier to postpone voting on the pay increase. In supporting the raise, Mayor Rich Cline said that the balanced budget, a new two-tier pension system, and potentially lucrative long-term projects were much more important for the city than the \$14,000 salary increase.

The resulting brouhaha proves once again that despite their best efforts, city officials did not anticipate the potential upset triggered by what City Manager Glen Rojas believed was a necessary restructuring of the commanders' pay scale.

As some residents have pointed out, the increase will bring a commander's top pay level to \$174,000 a year, and could cost the city thousands of dollars in pension costs over the next 30 years.

The city appears far too willing to lather on salary and benefit increases that, when coupled with the rule that allows an officer to

retire at 50 with 30 years' service and earn 90 percent of his or her highest pay for life, cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars over time.

This is a Cadillac pension benefit that has long been gone from private industry and is unsustainable in the years ahead, even for small cities like Menlo Park that have healthy reserves. Today's rotten investment climate hit the state retirement system hard, which means that Menlo Park and most other cities that depend on CalPERS to fund retirements are forced to make up the difference when state payments fall short. In other words, decisions on pay and benefit increases today drive the costs of a city's ongoing commitment to its employees for years to come.

It's critically important for the City Council and the administration to look beyond current budget costs, and understand that until the runaway growth of employee compensation is halted, the city will be more and more hard-pressed to live within its means.

While Menlo Park's hefty reserves appear to insulate the city from a financial crisis, look at San Jose, the Bay Area's largest city, which just last week laid off 106 police officers due to skyrocketing pension costs. Other Peninsula communities are consolidating police services, or farming them out to the Sheriff's Office. Public safety employees aren't the only ones losing jobs; Atherton just announced a plan to lay off its building and public works staffs and replace them with contractors.

While it may have made administrative sense to increase the pay for police commanders, it was also in line with the long-standing tradition of local government to rarely push back on employee contracts. But the tradition can't be sustained. The sooner City Council members understand that, the better.

**LETTERS**  
*Our readers write*

**Stanford pushing Alpine Road trail again**

Stanford is again apparently trying to pressure San Mateo County into agreeing to a wide, paved, partly cantilevered, bi-directional "trail" across the front of residents' driveways along Alpine Road.

This is instead of complying with its obligation under its General Use Permit to build a trail across its own land in Santa Clara County. The prior Alpine Road plan also involved eliminating almost 100 mature oaks and armoring the creek. The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, largely on the basis of the inherent dangers of this plan, roundly rejected the offer a couple of years ago, and suggested that the money be given instead to Santa Clara County to provide recreational facilities in that county.

One of the biggest dangers, and possibly the worst detrimental factor for the environment, is the truck traffic to and from Stanford. This morning (Monday June 13), I was out by the road and in less than one hour, in addition to regular traffic, I counted 42 double tractor-trailer rigs go past my driveway. This is

**Our Regional Heritage**

The meadow just south of The Sequoias retirement community on Portola Road was the site of this Hatfield flax barn in the last half of the 19th century. It stood until 1963.

This painting is by former Portola Valley mayor Bob Anderson's mother.



Portola Valley Archives

likely to increase with the hospital expansion.

Not only is this intolerable in a medium-density residential neighborhood that is home to several hundred people, but a truck route is not an appropriate site for a recreational "trail."

Furthermore, there appear to be no limits on the type of cargo that can be transported, whereas freeways and expressways appear to have restrictions on hazardous materials, and the size of truck. There has already been one woman

killed recently by a truck in this stretch of road.

Gigantic double, through-traffic trucks need to be eliminated from Alpine Road, and proposing that Alpine be the site for a recreational "trail" is ludicrous in the extreme. It is especially egregious since Stanford owns all of the land on the other side of Alpine Road and could easily — if it truly wanted a decent trail — construct a hiking route from the Buck Estate to and under Interstate 280 that could connect with the Portola Valley trail.

Janet Davis  
Alpine Road, Menlo Park

**Rancor over Planned Parenthood misses point**

*Editor:*

The appeal, by a group of residents and activists, against Planned Parenthood in Redwood City is unconscionable.

Orange County Catholic Attorney Gregory Weiler claims it would be

See **LETTERS**, next page

## LETTERS

Continued from previous page

“a necessary evil ... considered by a growing majority as an anathema.”

Is it evil to provide health care to those who can't afford it? Is it anathema to offer cancer screenings?

More than 90 percent of Planned Parenthood health services are preventive. Every year it provides over 1 million cervical cancer screenings, 830,000 breast exams, and 4 million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted diseases — including HIV.

Abortion is legal. Abortion foes should be grateful that Planned Parenthood services prevent more than 612,000 unintended pregnancies each year. Only about 3 percent of services relate to abortion.

Weiler claims those appealing the clinic include “people who just don't want the disruption in the community.”

Would these people consider a doctor's office or hospital disruptive? Is it disruptive to provide essential health care to men and women — especially young people — who couldn't otherwise afford it?

We don't need an Orange County lawyer to deprive local residents of affordable medical services.

## Property owner sees faults in downtown plan

By Robert Lico

My family and I have been downtown property owners and residents of Menlo Park since the 1940s. There were cars in the 1940s, and there are even more cars now.

Everyone is proposing that cars will be eliminated from downtown, so parking spaces should go, too, because mass transit is the answer. Wrong!

Cars will be converted to clean-running fuel or battery power, but cars will never go away. As a matter of fact, the city should make room for more cars because cars and their ability to take us where we want to go are not going away.

I will give you an example: The city is planning a hotel in the parking lot behind Walgreens. I recently saw a couple in excess of 90-years-old pull up to within 10 yards of the rear entrance of Walgreens and conveniently get their much-needed prescriptions, shop, and easily go on their way. That will not happen if a

hotel displaces the parking behind Walgreens.

The city is completely wrong in thinking that they have a right to take property from the commercial property owners (assessment district) and put the profits into the city coffers only to be wasted on further studies. My grandfather, along with other prominent concerned and passionate Menlo Park property owners, paid for the public parking lots, and even promoted parking garages back in the 1970s, but that never flew.

So what is the problem, parking or lack of money in the city coffers from poor planning? In my view, the fact that more than \$1 million was spent on the overblown downtown study shows the lack of business skills within the City Council.

The council should quit thinking beyond tomorrow and address the issues at hand. The downtown needs more parking for current owners, employees, patrons, medical access, fire access, events and so on. The city should

leave well enough alone and improve on what we have.

Yes, the El Camino corridor should be expanded to conform to the nearby mass transit route, but save the downtown. Just make it more patron- and work-friendly by giving the existing businesses a place where people can easily park, shop, pay their city sales tax, and move on.

Also, I am concerned that emergency services will be greatly hampered due to road closures, built-out parking lots and parks. And by the way, are the police, hospital, school services and other public services going to be expanded in order to deal with all the new structures?

I can't recall seeing any provision for that in the Precise Plan.

**Robert Lico is president of Live Oak Properties and vice president of Giannotti Inc. He has lived and owned property in Menlo Park since the 1940s.**

We do need Planned Parenthood.

**Pat Marriott  
Los Altos**

*Editor:*

The Department of Agriculture's new MyPlate dietary logo illustrates graphically the shrinking role of meat and dairy products in our national diet. It replaces meat with a tofu loaf, and shunts dairy off the

plate.

The new logo provides a fitting conclusion to a 30-year record of the Dietary Guidelines recommending replacement of animal products and other fatty foods in our diet with vegetables, fruits, legumes, and whole grains (see [health.gov/dietaryguidelines](http://health.gov/dietaryguidelines)).

The recommendations reflect widespread concern with the growing epidemic of obesity, high blood

pressure, heart disease, and other killer diseases.

There is an historic reason why health authorities have not taken a stronger stand against meat and dairy, as they did with tobacco products three decades ago.

In 1977, the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs published Dietary Goals for the United States, recommending reduced meat consumption. The

meat industry forced the committee to destroy all copies of the report and to remove the offending recommendation from a new version. It then abolished the committee, voted Chairman George McGovern out of office, and taught government bureaucrats never to challenge meat consumption again.

**Malcolm Davidson  
Encinal Avenue, Menlo Park**



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