



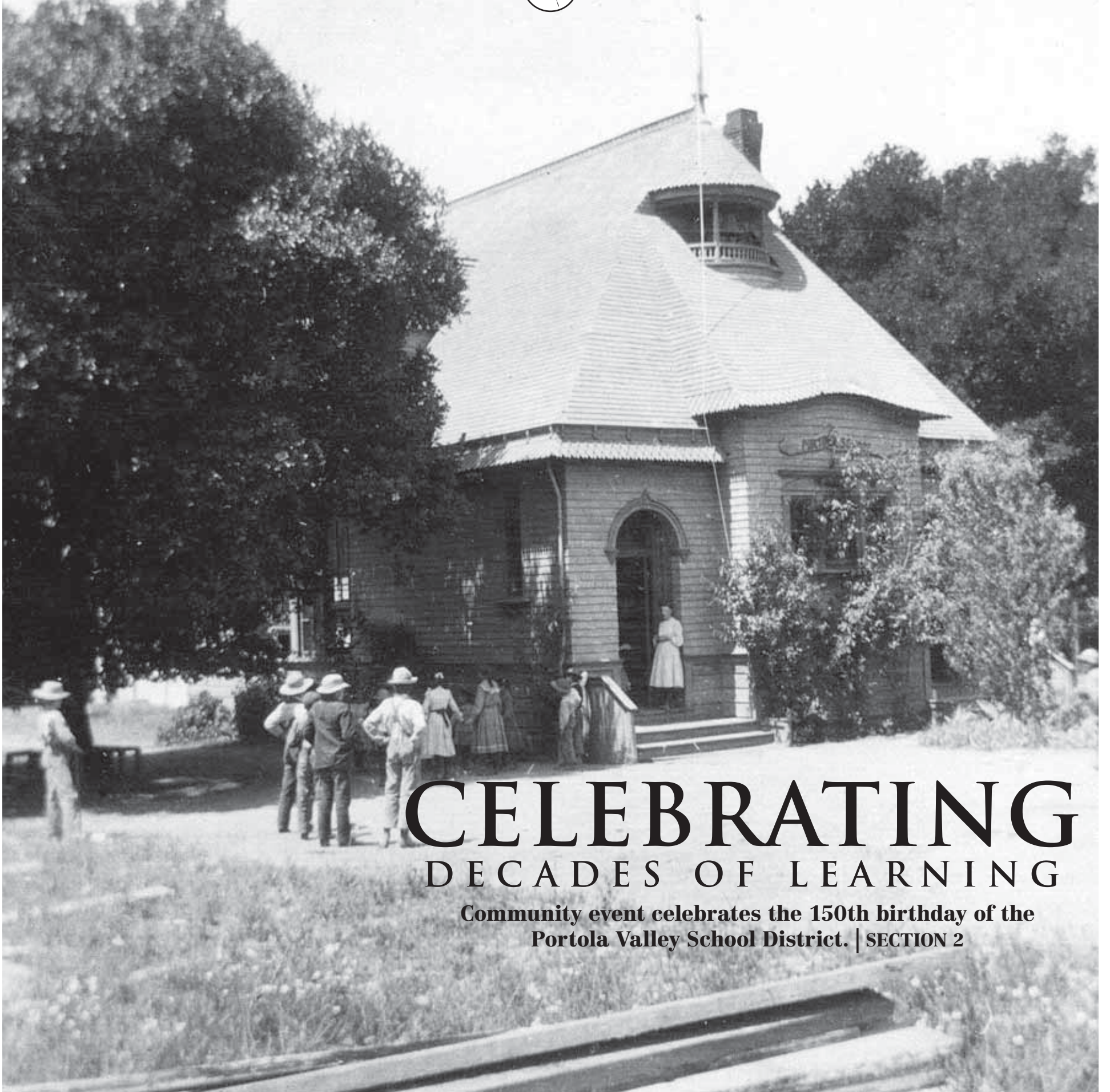
ERNST AND BETTY MEISSNER honored
for community service. Page 5

The Almanac

SEPTEMBER 28, 2011 | VOL. 47 NO. 5



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File photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac.

The rights, responsibilities and safety of bicyclists, as well as a new forum for bike-related issues, is coming to Portola Valley as the Town Council seeks applicants for the newly chartered Bicycle, Pedestrian & Traffic Committee.

Rights, responsibilities and interests of cyclists are key in new committee

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The question “What’s in a name?” could not be more relevant in the matter of the Portola Valley Town Council’s deciding recently, by a unanimous vote, to change the name of the all but moribund Traffic Committee to the Bicycle, Pedestrian & Traffic Committee.

“The interactions between bicycles and cars is really one of the more important issues in this town,” Mayor Ted Driscoll said to open the discussion at the council’s Sept. 14 meeting.

Indeed. To say that Alpine and Portola roads, the town’s two arterials, are popular with cyclists is to significantly understate the situation. Cyclists in ones and twos are an ongoing presence, as is a knot, similar to a racing peloton, of anywhere from 30 to 100 cyclists speeding by at least once a day when the weather is good.

But incidents over the past few years, not to mention a scattering of cycling fatalities, tell a story.

■ A water bottle, with water in it, thrown by a cyclist at an elderly pedestrian woman, hitting her in the face and leaving

it black-and-blue;

■ Sheriff’s Office deputies camped out on weekends at a right-turn stop sign to ticket right-turning cyclists rolling through after a long uphill climb;

■ A rock allegedly thrown by a cyclist at a boy walking his dog on the roadside — there are no bike lanes or sidewalks — and hitting him in the chest;

■ Drivers who loom ominously behind pelotons traveling at maybe 30 mph in a 35 mph section and which acquire certain privileges to use an entire lane when bike lanes are absent;

■ Two equestrians crossing Portola Road who became engulfed by a peloton that scared one horse into dumping a rider and both of them into galloping along with the cyclists, some of whom are alleged to have heard but ignored the remaining equestrian’s plea to slow down.

Councilwoman Ann Wengert, a cyclist and veteran of crossing the United States by bike, reminded Mr. Driscoll of his suggestion made in June that the committee be renamed and that the new name start with the word “bicycle.”

“My own views are that we should be moving that to the fore. I would hate to encumber a newly chartered committee,” Ms. Wengert said. “We recognize that a lot of these issues being created right now are related to bicycles.”

Councilwoman Maryann Derwin said she was fine with the name change provided the committee steers clear of advocacy.

Go to tinyurl.com/PV-apply to fill out an application and be considered for membership on the committee. The filing deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28. The first meeting is likely to be in early 2012.

Like the town’s 16 other committees staffed by volunteers, this one will offer the Town Council advice on matters that come under the purview of its name.

As was done in 2010 with the Trails Committee, which had developed a reputation for not representing the interests of all trail users, the new Bicycle, Pedestrian & Traffic Committee membership will be based on applicant interviews by a council subcommittee with a mission of obtaining balanced representation. ■

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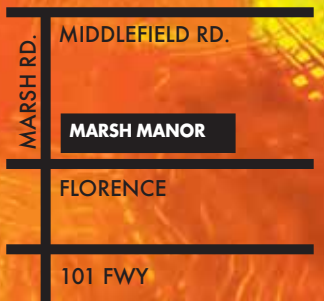
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Local News

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No last call yet for Menlo Park downtown plan

■ Council extends review timetable; next meeting Oct. 4.

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

It was, perhaps, an optimistic schedule — three meetings to evaluate the draft downtown/El Camino Real specific plan, then on to other business. And indeed, the Menlo Park City Council found that three meetings weren't nearly enough during what was to be the final discussion on Sept. 20.

The plan aims to describe the types of new development and building dimensions allowed downtown and along El Camino Real for the next 30 years. Given the complexity, the plan will continue to

grace the agenda during October so that the council can hone its vision, continuing to build on the work carried out this summer by the Planning Commission.

Many of the 22 people who addressed the council during public comment, including educator Chuck Bernstein and former Planning Commissioner Patti Fry, seemed to agree there was a lot left to discuss.

Bike lanes

That is not to say, however, that nothing was accomplished at the Sept. 20 meeting as it stretched past midnight. At least a dozen bicycle and pedestrian advocates appeared delighted by the outcome of the council's decision to accept many of the nine suggestions made by

the Bicycle Commission, in particular, concentrating on bike lanes rather than bike routes through downtown and El Camino Real.

Adina Levin, founder of the Drive Less Challenge, told the council she was excited to see bike parking stuffed full outside council chambers. During a presentation co-authored by Andrew Boone, she laid out a way to add 13 miles of bike lanes on eight streets, compared with the specific plan's one mile on two streets, through strategies such as restricting street parking between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and adding shared lane markings called "sharrows."

She asked the council to reconsider the specific plan's option to widen El Camino Real to six lanes. "One of the real risks with transit-oriented development is if

transit-oriented development is in little pockets separated by wide car avenues, then people wind up getting in their car to cross the street and you don't get the benefit of vibrancy, the benefit of a walkable, ride-able community," she said.

However, the council opted to keep the six-lane option open, while city staff said that implementing any changes would require a full public review. "Just to make it clear that it's not a done deal," said Associate Planner Thomas Rogers.

Bulb-outs also remain controversial. The Planning Commission recommended removing sidewalk extensions, which provide safe havens for pedestrians attempting to cross a street, from the spe-

See **DOWNTOWN**, page 6

Pool user group selection, using closed process, ruffles the waters

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

The city's way of selecting commissioners has its drawbacks — for starters, volunteers are scarce for the less glamorous posts — but has the advantage of public transparency. Not so for the way Menlo Park decided to choose members of the aquatics users group, a panel charged with providing annual reports on customer satisfaction among those using the city's swimming pools.

Team Sheeper, which won a contract to privately manage the city's public pools, first selected possible members from each subgroup of swimmers, such as lap swimmers and participants in the Sheeper-sponsored Masters program, and provided those names to the city, which will make the final determination. SOLO, a nonprofit youth program that also uses the pool, was asked to choose its own representative. Forming the users group is required under the terms of the new contract.

The size of the users group has yet to be finalized, according to Cherise Brandell, community services director.

Recreation Services Manager Katrina Whiteaker said that personal contact with the contractor instead of advertising the positions to the public seemed more likely to lead to volunteers who were really willing to serve. "The self-elected representative may not be enough of a 'regular user' of the pool in

Editor's Note: As the Almanac went to press on Sept. 26, Recreation Services Manager Katrina Whiteaker said the city has now added more options for general pool users to be included in the Aquatics Users Group. Fliers were posted at Burgess Pool and the city posted a request for volunteers on its Twitter account. Interested residents should submit their request to Ms. Whiteaker before Oct. 10. Contact her at 330-2208 or kmwhiteaker@menlopark.lrg

order to interview other sub-group members or gather sufficient feedback from other users," she said, adding that unlike a commission, the users group is meant to provide customer feedback, not governance.

Although the Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously approved the process on Sept. 21, the methodology still troubles some swimmers.

"It has been my observation that Advisory Boards morph from sounding boards into echo chambers when the management — rather than users — selects its members," Erin Glanville wrote in an email to the City Council.

Drawing on her professional background working with user groups, she said, "To use an analogy, if my relationship with the owner of a restaurant motivates him or her to ask that I serve on a panel reviewing the quality of that restaurant's overall service, I may

See **POOL**, page 6



Photo by Kimihiro Hoshino

Friends of the community

Ernst and Betty Meissner, shown in their Menlo Park home, were honored last week for their volunteer community service by the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce with a Golden Acorn Award. Ms. Meissner, a retired teacher, is an energetic force in the local literacy community, playing key roles with Friends of the Menlo Park Library, the Library Foundation, and the Project Read adult literacy program. Mr. Meissner, a retired architect, is the man behind the tree lighting project in downtown Menlo Park; he's also been involved in other downtown beautification efforts.

Fire consumes home in Portola Valley

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

A two-alarm fire completely destroyed a home at 35 Valencia Court in Portola Valley on Friday evening, Sept. 23, Chief Dan Ghiorso of the Woodside Fire Protection District said Monday.

The homeowners and residents are Ross and Nancy Bardwell, Mr. Bardwell confirmed in a brief phone conversation. There were no injuries.

Fire Marshal Denise Enea said she is looking at the garbage enclosure or something near the garage

as the place of the fire's origin. The two vehicles in the garage were destroyed.

The loss of the 3,000-square-foot home and all of its contents may total as much as \$1.5 million, Ms. Enea said. "They ran out of the house with their lives," she added.

One or more explosions in the garage were reported; they may have been caused by cans of paint, but probably not gasoline in the vehicles, Chief Ghiorso said.

A 911 call came at about 8:40 p.m. The incident drew around 10 firefighting vehicles (each typically staffed with three firefighters), plus four battalion chiefs to direct the

crews, the chief said. In addition to local firefighters, crews came from Menlo Park, Redwood City and San Mateo County.

By the time crews arrived, the house was fully engulfed by fire, so firefighters "went defensive" to prevent injuries to the crew and fought the blaze from outside the house, Chief Ghiorso said. "In about half an hour, they had a real good knockdown on it," he added.

The structure that remained standing was so weakened by the conflagration that investigators had to do their initial work from outside the house, Chief Ghiorso said. ■

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Town may support trail upgrade through unincorporated areas

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

The Portola Valley Town Council on Wednesday, Sept. 28, will discuss and possibly approve a letter to the county supervisors recommending acceptance of an offer of up to \$10.2 million from Stanford University to upgrade a trail along Alpine Road.

In what has become an annual fall event, the council will change its normal start time and venue and meet at 7 p.m. in Hanson Hall at The Sequoias retirement community at 501 Portola Road.

The so-called C-1 trail passes through the unincorporated communities of Ladera and Stanford Weekend Acres. At the Ladera border, the trail continues into Portola Valley and workers, at Stanford's expense, are in the last stages of completing an upgrade to a one-mile stretch of it.

Stanford's 2006 offer included both sections of trail, but only Portola Valley accepted it. Vocal opponents in Ladera and Weekend Acres rejected it, in part out of concern that a "suburban sidewalk" would traverse their

laidback and arguably rural communities.

The offer, which expires in December, would fulfill a condition in the university's use permit with Santa Clara County. The environmental group Committee for Green Foothills argued in court that the trail should run on the Santa Clara County side of the creek, but the state Supreme Court decided that Green Foothills missed a statutory deadline with its lawsuit.

In view of the December deadline, and after two round-table community discussions held in Ladera earlier this month, Dave Holland of the county manager's office in San Mateo County is compiling round-table comments for posting online. A follow-up session that will include an open microphone is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4, in Ladera.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors is set to vote on Stanford's offer at its Oct. 18 meeting.

DOWNTOWN

continued from page 5

cific plan to avoid obstructing bike and bus lanes. The council agreed, but advocates argue that the law requires bulb-outs to be installed in a way that doesn't interfere.

The council expects to continue its specific plan review

on Tuesday, Oct. 4, with a focus on El Camino Real. It may also revisit how to incorporate public benefits from new development and fire district concerns, before voting on their final package of recommendations.

Go to tinyurl.com/plan-163 to review the draft specific plan and associated reports. ■

POOL

continued from page 5

be reluctant to mention that I don't really like the food and have had problems with poor service."

Ms. Glanville volunteers with SOLO, but emphasized that she was speaking independently of the group.

Concerns about transparency have dogged the city's handling of the pools since it first elected to turn

over management to a private contractor five years ago. The previous council awarded Team Sheeper the contract to operate the \$6.8-million, publicly funded facility without charging rent or asking other vendors for bids.

The contract's renewal did go through a formal bid process earlier this year that culminated in a revised

agreement with Team Sheeper. The contract requires Team Sheeper to pay \$3,000 a month to lease the Burgess pools; be responsible for all operating costs; and operate the Belle Haven pools for at least three months a year.

'It has been my observation that Advisory Boards morph from sounding boards into echo chambers when the management — rather than users — selects its members.'

ERIN GLANVILLE

It was not untroubled waters, however; halfway through the bid evaluation the city changed the process without notifying the public or the

Parks and Recreation Commission. When requesting proposals in August, staff members initially said they would present their recommended choice of provider to the City Council and let the council decide whether to start negotiations. But negotiations started in December without involving the council. ■

Menlo Park picks legal battles

■ Will defend Measure L, but won't fight redistricting, council decides.

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

There's no shortage of opportunities for a city like Menlo Park to see some legal action in the courtroom, but the City Council decided to pick its battles.

During the closed session at the Sept. 20 meeting, the council voted 5-0, according to Mayor Rich Cline, to defend the city against a lawsuit filed by two labor unions challenging the legality of Measure L, the pension reform initiative passed last year by a 72 percent vote.

Measure L raised the minimum retirement age for new Menlo Park public employees, excluding police officers, to 60, and decreased maximum pension benefits to 2 percent of their highest annual salary averaged over three years.

It also requires voter approval for all benefit increases, a decision that used to rest with the City Council. That policy is the foundation of the lawsuit filed by Olson, Hagel & Fishburn, the firm representing Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

How much the city will have to spend on the defense remains to be seen. "We are determining the estimated costs and will bring it back to [the City Council] for a budget adjustment when those costs are determined," said City Attorney Bill McClure, adding that there's no public number to share at this point.

Part of the expense will entail hiring lawyers, as Mayor Cline said the council decided

to seek representation from an outside firm.

Redistricting

The Measure L lawsuit appeared to sate the council's desire for legal warfare. On the advice of the city attorney, Menlo Park won't sue over the state's redistricting plan, which splits the city down the middle using U.S. Highway 101 as the border between congressional districts.

The plan reassigns representation of Belle Haven to Rep. Jackie Speier, D-San Francisco, instead of retaining the neighborhood within the district represented by Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park.

"We are in violent disagreement" with the new boundaries, Mayor Cline reported during the Sept. 20 council meeting, but images of an expensive uphill battle convinced the council to vote 5-0 to stay out of court. ■

Thieves burglarized cars while hikers walked the Dish

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Of the five vehicles broken into and burglarized on the morning of Thursday, Sept. 22, at the informal dirt parking area at the Alpine Road intersection with Piers Lane, every case involved a purse left on a seat, according to incident reports with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

The losses included broken

windows on all the vehicles as well as the theft of two iPhones, credit cards and an undetermined amount of cash, Lt. Ray Lunny told the Almanac.

The log shows five separate phone calls made between 8:30 and 10:54 a.m. to report auto burglaries to the Sheriff's Office, with two officers dispatched to the scene, Lt. Lunny said.

In a separate incident reported the same day on Balsamina Way in Ladera, someone broke into a

locked vehicle and stole a gym bag, but that is believed to have happened earlier in the week.

The lot at Piers Lane is convenient for people hiking the trails near the Dish, the radio-telescope antenna on undeveloped Stanford University land that overlooks Interstate 280.

Jeff Jonker, one of the victims, told the Almanac that none of the broken windows in the burglarized vehicles faced the street, which was busy with weekday morning traffic.

Of the five victims, one noted that a stolen purse contained a passport, a set of keys and at least \$1,000 in various forms of cash. ■

Council to discuss city manager job profile

Menlo Park's City Council will take a brief break from the draft downtown/El Camino Real specific plan to return to regular business.

Several items are up for approval: the job profile for a new city manager; paying the state \$3.5 million to keep the redevelopment agency open; and the two-year work plan proposed by the Transportation Commission.

The council meets on Tuesday, Sept. 27, for a closed session at 5:30 p.m. to discuss a real estate transaction involving 2.7 acres of land in Belle Haven, followed by the regular meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Civic Center at 701 Laurel St.

■ MENLO BRIEFS

Foreclosure fair

About to lose your home? The county wants to help. Drop by the free foreclosure resource fair in Menlo Park on Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center at 700 Alma St. between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Not just for homeowners, the fair also provides resources for apartment dwellers in danger of being displaced and for anyone having trouble getting a home loan modified.

Email SMCDistrict4@smcgov.org or call Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson at 363-4570 to

learn more. Walk-ins are welcome. Participants need to bring copies of their mortgage and financial documents.

Pancake breakfast

Pancakes and fire trucks are on the menu for Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Menlo Park Fire Protection District at 300 Middlefield Road.

A joint endeavor of the fire district, Stanford Park Hotel, and the Junior League, the 11th annual pancake breakfast benefits the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation. Diners can also tour fire trucks and bid in a silent auction. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids.

Breakfast is served from 7:30 to 11 a.m.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



A Tree Falls

Dear Monica: A few days ago a large branch of my neighbor's tree snapped off and fell on the fence that separates our properties, causing damage. So far the neighbor has not done any clean-up or repairs to the fence. I am concerned that the tree is in poor condition and that other branches that hang over my property may fall. May I trim the tree myself?

James R.

Dear James: Your neighbor is responsible for the tree and any damage it causes. He should pay for any clean-up and repairs and maintenance that are needed. If he does not do this promptly and you know he is not likely to do so, you can contact the

town arborist to look at the tree and evaluate its condition. The arborist will direct the neighbor to do what is needed for the tree and for the safety of others.

In general, you are allowed to trim any branches that hang over your property as long as you do not endanger the overall health of the tree. You should also maintain trees on your own property, especially those that affect any adjacent properties. If you have large trees they should be pruned every two to five years by an expert arborist. The best time to prune many tree species is during the winter when they are dormant. You should plan now to have this done in December or January.

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The state of Menlo Park: Good — for some

■ Mayor calls on residents to fight social injustice.

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park Mayor Rich Cline found himself doing something he'd never expected on Sept. 22—delivering the annual state of the city speech for the second year in a row.

A small crowd gathered at the Stanford Park Hotel on Thursday night to hear the speech before the Golden Acorn Awards ceremony began.

"We [usually] switch mayors every year," Mayor Cline told them. "I figured someone else would be stuck with the promises I made."

He won re-election to the City Council last year, then rapidly found himself also re-elected as mayor after colleague Kelly Fergusson resigned the position in the wake of a Brown Act scandal.

He acknowledged Menlo Park's accomplishments during the past year: passing a balanced budget, maintaining a healthy reserve, welcoming Facebook to its new campus in the city, fighting to keep redevelopment funds out of the state's coffers, and paying down debt.

"Things are really good," Mayor Cline said. "But not for everybody. They should be good for everybody."

He described a city fractured by social injustice — "take a 10 minute drive across the freeway" — and kids in east Menlo Park

who attend schools ranked worst in the state, while those on the west side go to schools ranked best. "I'm pleading for people to look beyond their home value and do something about it."

Facebook's arrival on the east side heralds a new era of revitalization for the Belle Haven neighborhood, but only if school boards and other community leaders step up. "Otherwise we're quietly sweeping social injustice under the rug, saying 'if we don't even go there we won't see it.' That's not good enough."

The mayor touched on other key issues, for instance, saying that the high-speed rail authority hasn't provided enough valid information to let the city make informed decisions. "Give us answers so we can make informed decisions. Until then, we're worried. That's our position."

He also reminded listeners that the budget, while balanced, is not yet sustainable. Further cuts to expenses and services lie ahead, he said.

Mayor Cline finished by thanking community volunteers past and present for making the city what it is today, singling out Ernst and Betty Meissner, recipients of a 2011 Golden Acorn Award for community service, and fellow council member Peter Ohtaki for creating a state-certified emergency preparedness plan that the mayor hopes leads to a "choreographed system" of response by residents when disaster strikes. ■



Photo by Kelsey Kienitz

All downhill from here

A skater carves down the hill using skids to slow himself down at the Sept. 18 Menlo Park Skateboard Jam on Valparaíso Hill in Menlo Park. The event was sponsored by Ladera Longboards and Black Diamond Sports in Palo Alto.

Ongoing reassessment of spending a priority for council candidate

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Horseman, investment banker and longtime Woodside resident Tom Shanahan is running for an open seat on the Woodside Town Council in November.

Four seats are open and four candidates are running. Barring a write-in candidate's winning on Nov. 8 in District 3, currently represented by soon-to-retire Councilwoman Sue Boynton, Mr. Shanahan will take her place.

"My interests are in maintaining the rural character of Woodside, especially as it relates to horses," Mr. Shanahan told the Almanac in an email message asking him for his priorities as a council member.

Among his other priorities: strict, courteous and timely enforcement of zoning laws, competitive bidding for government projects, outsourcing as an option to keep in mind for some government functions, and a budget process that regularly questions a program's existence, not just whether to increase or decrease its share of revenues.

"You do not assume that a program, in its entirety, is viable," Mr. Shanahan said in a telephone interview. The question: "Do we need this entire function?" needs to become a routine inquiry, "sort of an ongoing reassessment," he said.

This question defines "zero-based budgeting," Mr. Shanahan said, a notion he said he has used

as a business executive "to offset the natural tendency of all organizations to expand in programs, staff and spending."

So governments should be run like businesses? "I'm not sure I'm in love with that concept," he said. "Governments have a broad set of responsibilities to taxpayers. A single-minded focus on the bottom line is not appropriate."

Asked whether Town Hall has demonstrated expansive tendencies, Mr. Shanahan replied that when he moved to Woodside 30 years ago, there were three or four people on staff. "We have expanded and built a bigger organization. I'm not aware that the (town) boundaries have changed."

Whether the current staffing is "good or bad" in terms of numbers and functions are questions he said he is not ready to address.

Outsourcing will be an option on his mind, though. He said he has been reading about Atherton, which by the end of September will have laid off its entire building and public works departments staffs and will have brought in contractors to do their jobs, the intent being to reduce the cost of government for a cash-strapped town.

Cash-strapped does not describe Woodside, with its healthy and longstanding reserve. "Consis-



Tom Shanahan

tent with what we're reading about other towns, services can be performed on a contract basis and sometimes (can be cheaper)," Mr. Shanahan said when asked to elaborate. "We have an obligation to the taxpayers to consider all the options. I see it as something to be continually considered."

In replying to a question about how he came to run for a council seat, he mentioned with some admiration Councilwoman Boynton's 12-year tenure and the need for someone to take up her role. "I don't want to say that I was drafted," he said. "I think I was contacted as part of a search to see if I would be interested. Doing something for the community on a voluntary basis is a good thing for everybody."

He has attended five to 10 Town Council meetings since 1980, he said. He has also served on the Trails Committee, is longstanding member of the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County, a search-and-rescue organization, and is a board member and treasurer of the Horse Park at Woodside at 3674 Sand Hill Road.

"I wish I had more experience on the town committees," he said. "I think my neighbors thought that in District 3, with my education and business background, I would at least be a quick study and a source of fresh thinking on the council. I hope they're right."

Continued on next page

Caroline Walsh

May 4, 1962 – Sept. 18, 2011

Caroline Walsh, born in Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in NYC., daughter of William D. Walsh and the late Mary Jane Walsh. Caroline passed away on Sunday, September 18th at Sonoma Developmental Center's Acute Care Unit. She was born May 4th, 1962. Along with her father, she is survived by three sisters Deborah Hirsch of New Jersey, Suzi Tinsley of Menlo Park and Tara Jane Arnold of Los Altos; and two brothers Michael Walsh of Texas and Peter Walsh of Atherton.

Caroline was a long time resident of Sonoma Developmental Center and received excellent and loving care. She had a loving spirit and always had a smile on her face. She will be very deeply missed by her entire family including numerous nephews and nieces.

Private family services will be conducted at the Sonoma Developmental Center.

In lieu of flowers please send donations Sonoma Developmental PHA P.O. Box 122, Eldridge, CA 95431.

PAID OBITUARY

Neither cyclist nor truck driver found at fault in fatal collision

■ DNA evidence led to conclusion but not closure in the Alpine Road accident.

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The full and final report on the death of Lauren Ward, 47, of Los Altos Hills will likely remain unavailable to the public, but the California Highway Patrol investigative team has concluded that Ms. Ward was not responsible for her death on Nov. 4, 2010, when her bicycle and a tractor trailer truck collided on westbound Alpine Road at Interstate 280.

That finding overturns an earlier conclusion that placed the blame for the collision on Ms. Ward.

The report also did not blame the truck driver. The truck and bicycle came into contact "while the bike was still in an upright position," a CHP statement said.

The truck, which has an extended front end, had "very significant" blind spots for a "significant time that they were in proximity," CHP Capt. Mike Maskarish said in a telephone interview. "In this case, we just can't determine which party is more at fault."

After discovery of a "very, very minute" amount of DNA found under the left side of

the truck cab near the front axle, the investigation by the CHP's Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team and a forensics team from the San Mateo County crime lab concluded that the rear tire of Ms. Ward's bike collided with the front bumper of the truck, Mr. Maskarish said.

Investigators concluded that the DNA was human, but because the sample was so small and because months of time had passed, it had become impossible to type the DNA and identify it as belonging to Ms. Ward, Mr. Maskarish said.

The investigation included a re-enactment/reconstruction of the accident, a task complicated by a lack of witnesses and of any physical evidence, not even paint flecks from Ms. Ward's pink bike, he said.

A massive chrome truck bumper and an insubstantial rubber bicycle tire "were not surfaces that would really lend themselves to a really good transfer (of materials)" in a collision, Mr. Maskarish said. "It's not going to take much for the rider to lose control."

The original speculation held that Ms. Ward had turned into the left side of the truck cab, perhaps because she got hemmed in by another vehicle. It is not uncommon for bikes and vehicles to be next to each other in the three lanes of this

freeway underpass.

Cyclists run a 100-yard gauntlet that includes stark and sudden darkness when passing under I-280. In trying to regain the right side of the roadway headed west into Ladera, cyclists and drivers must negotiate two merges that cross each other: Vehicles at the stop sign may be aligned with the southbound freeway but want to go west, or vice versa.

"This is just such a horrific tragic accident," Mr. Maskarish added. "It's taken a tremendous amount of time to put this whole thing into place and get this reconstruction together. There has been a very high quality of attention that this department has put into this in fairness to everyone involved."

For the truck driver, Gabriel Manzur Vera, this was the third fatal accident involving his truck since 2003, but in none of them was he found to be at fault, CHP Officer Art Montiel said.

(Ms. Ward's relatives launched a wrongful death lawsuit in January against Mr. Vera and the trucking company, Randazzo Enterprises Inc. of Castroville.)

It seems an unusual number of fatal accidents. "I'm sure it's happened before but I'm not aware of it," Mr. Maskarish said. "It was a coincidence and nothing but that in this particular case." ■

Four weeks of free training for green jobs

Canada Community College in Woodside is starting a free four-week jobs program that includes a promise to make its graduates "heroes," as in preparing them for careers in Home Energy Retrofit Occupations.

Classes include concepts of sustainable living, basic interior sketching, and standards for green-point checklists for both residential and commercial projects, according to a statement from the college.

Classes start at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 10, and end at 2:30 p.m., and will be held weekdays, Tuesdays excluded, until Nov. 4 on the Menlo Park campus of the college at 1200 O'Brien Drive.

The program, called "Energy-Efficient Homes, Green Remodeling & Marketing," is co-sponsored by the San Mateo County Workforce Investment Board. "The green economy is here and (this program) can prepare you

for careers in retrofitting homes to make them more energy efficient and sustainable," the statement said.

Funding is from a job-training grant from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration.

To qualify, applicants must have a high school diploma or its equivalent, the right to work in the United States, at least a year of residency in California, and passing grades on an English and math assessment test.

Write to HERO@smchsa.org to enroll.

Write to mooney@smccd.edu or call Julie Mooney at 325-6936 for more information.

that occupies two of his horse stalls at home, he said.

He is the head of West Coast investment banking at Needham Asset Management, LLC, on Sand Hill Road and is a general partner. He was the chief financial officer and co-founder of Agile Software Corporation and the CFO at SBT Corp., DG

FastChannel, Inc. and Sherpa Corp., according to his bio at Needham's website.

He has degrees from Stanford University and the Harvard University business school, where he was a Baker Scholar, and served as an officer in the First Infantry Division in Vietnam, according to the bio. ■

Continued from previous page

Polo player

Mr. Shanahan, 65, is married and the father of three children, the youngest of whom is 17. He owns five polo horses and has been playing polo for about 10 years, he said. He also shoots clay pigeons and has a model railroad

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When Doug isn't teaching or coaching, he loves to work on his house, play softball, and golf. He considers being a father and raising a close and loving family his greatest accomplishment.

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"Take care of the little things and the big things will take care of themselves" - Anonymous

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'Rodin by Moonlight' Oct. 1

AROUND TOWN

"Rodin by Moonlight," the biennial fundraiser for the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, will be held Oct. 1 at the center.

The gala, which has been named the "best black-tie event in the Bay Area," is limited to 400 guests. It begins at 6 p.m. with cocktails in the museum, including a preview of the exhibition, "Rodin and America: Influence and Adaptation 1876-1936," followed by dining in the Rodin sculpture garden.

The dinner will be created by Chef Mark Sullivan of Spruce restaurant, working with Paula LeDuc Fine Catering. The evening will continue with dancing to David Martin's House Party.

Charlene Cogan and Lisa Mooring are chairmen of the event. Honorary chairs are Shirley and Duncan Matteson and Melissa and Jim Badger. The Koret Foundation is the presenting sponsor.

Guests in past years have included Nobel Laureate Paul Berg, former Secretary of State George Shultz, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, and Congresswoman Anna Eshoo.

Tickets to 'Rodin by Moonlight' are \$1,000 and \$1,500. Cantor Art Center is located on the Stanford campus, off Palm Drive at Museum Way. Visit www.museum.stanford.edu or call 736-1667 for more information.

Fine Arts in Portola Valley

A gallery show featuring nine Portola Valley artists will be on display at the Kriewall-Haehl Gal-

lery at the Woodside Priory, 302 Portola Road, in Portola Valley from Oct. 3 to Nov. 5, 3 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Cultural Arts Committee of Portola Valley is sponsoring the inaugural gallery show with an artists' reception to be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15. Hors d'oeuvres and wine from the Thomas Fogarty Winery and Portola Valley Vineyards will be served. The public is invited to attend.

Portola Valley musicians Angela Schillace and Kari Rust will provide music for the afternoon.

The Portola Valley artists include: Foster Beigler, wall sculptures; Brigitte Carnochan, photography; Deirdre Clark, paintings; Nina Else, ceramic sculptures; Kalani Engles, paintings; Candace Gaudiani, photography; Bonny Novetsky, acrylic prints; Adele Seltzer, monotypes; and Roger White Stoller, sculptures.

Taylor Eigsti concert in Los Altos Hills

Jazz pianist and composer Taylor Eigsti, who grew up in Menlo Park and graduated from the Woodside Priory, is flying out from New York to present a concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2, in the vineyard at the home of John and Lydia Vidovich, 12260 Kate Drive in Los Altos Hills.

The concert is a benefit for Listen for Life, an organization of music

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teachers, performers, producers and listeners working to change the world through music, according to founder Donna Stoering, a concert pianist who also will perform. Suggested donation is a minimum of \$75 per person; the event includes a wine reception, which begins at 3 p.m.

The Oct. 2 concert will also include performances by Vanessa Van Anh Vo, Patrick Landeza, and Ricky Garcia.

For reservations, call 510-540-8136, or email events@listenforlife.org.

Italian table etiquette talk at Beltramo's

How to dine properly with Italians will be the topic of a talk by Valentina Cirasola at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, at Beltramo's Wines and Spirits in Menlo Park.

Ms. Cirasola, the owner of Valentina Interiors & Designs in Sunnyvale and a native of Italy, will explain what is acceptable and what is not while sitting at the Italian table. Her talk will be followed by a tasting of wines from Italy and light treats from La Biscotteria in Redwood City. The wine tasting fee is \$30 per person.

Ms. Cirasola, who founded Valentina Interiors & Design in 1990, previously owned Atelier Valen-

tina, a fashion company in Italy.

Reservations are required and may be made by calling 325-2806.

Library program features speaker David Laws

"Silicon Valley Roots & Shoots," an insider's travel guide phone application to the companies, people and products of the area, will be the subject of a lecture by David Laws at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Menlo Park City Council chambers, 701 Laurel St., in Menlo Park.

Mr. Laws, semiconductor curator of the Computer History Museum in Mountain View and a former Portola Valley resident, created the iPhone/iPad travel guide in 2010. It provides a guide to over 125 locations and resources in the southern San Francisco Bay Area, including the birthplaces of the computer chip, disk drive, video games and video recorder. Each location includes descriptions, maps and links to additional information.

The program, presented by the Menlo Park Library, is free and open to the public. There is free van service for Menlo Park seniors and people with disabilities. Call 330-2512 to schedule transportation.



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



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

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Car flees after hitting girl walking bike

A 14-year-old girl walking her bike across the street in a cross-walk had a too-close-for-comfort encounter with a car that then fled the scene on Wednesday, Sept. 21, according to Menlo Park police.

The hit-and-run occurred at

about 9 a.m., the girl's father told the Almanac.

The car, described as a newer model maroon sedan driven by a woman possibly 30 to 40 years old, struck the girl's bike while making a right turn at Middle Avenue and

El Camino Real.

Police spokeswoman Nicole Acker said the girl's ankle hurt where the bike collided with her foot after being struck by the car's bumper, and the teen turned to a parent for medical care.

■ 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.

WOODSIDE

Residential burglary report: Total loss estimated at \$24,000 in entry of unlocked residence and theft of woman's watch and wedding ring, valued at \$22,500, Fox Hollow Road, Sept. 23.

Theft report: Unauthorized utility billing to Woodside address ongoing since 2002, Fox Hill Road, Sept. 15.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary reports:

■ Losses estimated at \$5,800 in break-in and theft of two laptop computers, an Apple iPod, cameras and two TVs, Madera

Ave., Sept. 20.

■ Losses estimated at \$355 in entry through open window and theft of miscellaneous items, including coins, bills, watch, iPod cable and headphones and set of keys, O'Keefe St. and Menalto Ave., Sept. 16.

Auto burglary reports:

■ Losses estimated at \$2,120 after window smash and theft of gym bag containing clothes, shoes, class ring, earrings and wallet with \$50 in cash, 2800 block of Sand Hill Road, Sept. 16.

■ Losses estimated at \$670 in break-in and theft of laptop computer, messenger bag and lab coat, 900 block of El Camino Real, Sept. 22.

Theft reports:

■ Loss estimated at \$1,000 in and theft of locked bicycle in carport, Middle Ave., Sept. 21.

■ Loss estimated at \$500 for lost phone,

Bayfront Park in 1600 block of Marsh Road, Sept. 20.

Spousal abuse report:

Barton Way, Sept. 18.

Child abuse report:

Carlton Ave., Sept. 22.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Fraud report: Counterfeit \$50 bill passed, 4000 block of Alpine Road, Sept. 16.

WEST MENLO PARK

Vandalism reports:

■ Word “backwoods” sprayed on company truck, 3000 block of Alameda de las Pulgas, Sept. 20.

■ Tire slashed, Monterey Ave., Sept. 15.

Auto burglary report: Loss estimated at \$450 in window smash and petty theft, Bellair Way, Sept. 17.

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Invites interested citizens to apply for a School Board Vacancy

A seat on the Portola Valley School Board is currently available. The term of this seat is four years beginning in December 2011, and ending in December 2015. Residents of the Portola Valley School District who are registered voters are eligible to apply to serve on the Board.

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

Application materials may be found in the “Headlines and News” section of the PVSD web site www.pvdsd.net or by calling 851-1777, ext. 3001. Completed applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on October 7, 2011, and should be sent to:

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

Candidates will be interviewed by the Board during the week of October 10, 2011. Final selection will be made by a majority vote of the Board Members at the regular Board meeting on October 19, 2011. The new trustee will take office at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on December 7, 2011.

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

OBITUARY

Marion "Betty" Suttle

Resident of Atherton

Marion Elizabeth "Betty" Suttle died in Atherton on Sept. 11 at the age of 92.

Ms. Suttle graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1941. She met her husband, Jack, while working at Glacier National Park in the summer of 1939. They were married in 1941, and she worked as a librarian in the chemistry department at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland while her husband completed his doctorate.

After starting a family in 1944, Ms. Suttle was a stay-at-home mom until 1970, when she began to work in the physics library at UC Berkeley. In 1973,

the Suttles moved to Taos, New Mexico, in retirement. In 1982 they returned to California, where Ms. Suttle helped her son, John, raise his three children. She also did volunteer work at Rosener House in Menlo Park and at the Palo Alto Clinic.

In 1999 Ms. Suttle had a heart valve replacement that forced her to curtail volunteer work. She remained vital and involved with her children and grandchildren until 2010, when a pacemaker was installed, say family members.

She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Jack; her four children, John Suttle, Richard Suttle, Peter Suttle, and Susan Rojas; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her brother, Milton Balcome, sisters Ruth Brom and Jean Murray, and grandson, Damien Suttle.

Truant iPads go back to Hillview school

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Twelve of 26 iPads stolen from Hillview Middle School have gone back to class, according to Principal Mike Melton.

Mr. Melton announced in a newsletter on Sept. 20 that the adult suspect in the Sept. 9 burglary — 20-year-old Jaime Loya Maldonado, of Menlo Park — cooperated with police, leading to the return of the equipment.

"We plan on having 26 fully functional iPads back in the hands of our students within the next couple of weeks," Mr. Melton's announcement said. He also praised the cooperation between the Menlo Park and Atherton police departments and the school district.

Menlo Park police ask that anyone who comes across an iPad bearing a "San Mateo County School District" logo call 330-6300 to turn it in.

Mr. Maldonado remains in custody on \$50,000 bail. The court scheduled a preliminary hearing for Sept. 29; the case includes charges of theft from the German-American International School and Laurel Elementary School as well as the \$16,000 worth of iPads stolen from Hillview.

Already on probation for possession of stolen property in Santa Clara County, he also faces charges for somehow acquiring 10 laptops stolen from the Palo Alto Unified School District, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office. ■



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Viewpoint

Ideas, thoughts and opinions about local issues from people in our community. Edited by Tom Gibboney.

Right decision to defend Measure L

We are happy to see the City Council stand with the Menlo Park voters who approved Measure L last November by agreeing to pay for whatever legal costs are incurred to defend the measure against a challenge filed by the city's primary labor unions.

The suit is the second attempt by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) to negate the impact of Measure L, which passed with 72 percent of the vote last year. In the prior suit, the unions failed to keep Measure L off the ballot.

This time, as before, the unions seem to be homing in on the part of Measure L that requires any pension increase to be approved by a

simple majority of voters, taking a key bargaining chip out of the hands of the City Council. The lawsuit claims Measure L errs by

"usurping the authority the Legislature has exclusively delegated to the City Council and purporting to impose terms and conditions of employment in a manner contrary to state labor relations."

Measure L supporters had a good reason to give voters authority over any pension increases. Four years ago, the council passed a huge (35 percent) pension increase retroactive to a worker's first day on the job. The pension bump was given in return for the union's giving up a 5 percent pay raise, which then-City Council member Heyward Robinson said saved the city \$200,000. But critics said the deal cost the city \$6.3 million in additional pension liabilities that wiped out any savings to the city.

This time around, the council had little trouble agreeing to defend Measure L, which it did in an executive session last week. An outside firm will take the case, which in an earlier estimate City Attorney

William McClure said would cost between \$25,000 and \$60,000.

Last year, Superior Court Judge George Miram turned down the unions' request to take Measure L off the ballot, saying in his decision that the government code that allows voter input on pension systems "raises serious doubt as to whether the Legislature intended to foreclose voter involvement in pensions as the petitioners (unions) argue."

The judge did not agree with the contention that only the City Council has the power to change pension compensation, saying that the unions did not prove that voters are not allowed to "instruct their city representatives," on pension issues, but he left open the possibility for review after the election, which the union is seeking now.

Given Judge Miram's decision last year, and the city's commitment to mount a vigorous defense of Measure L, we do not think it is likely that the court will overrule a decision backed by 72 percent of Menlo Park voters.

And in fact, the City Council voted unanimously last May to adopt a two-tier pension system, with the same benefits provided to the city's SEIU members by Measure L. There is a caveat, however: The change in SEIU benefits will take effect only if the city can negotiate the same deal with AFSCME, which represents the city's midlevel managers.

Clearly a majority of Menlo Park voters and the City Council are eager to change compensation policies for many of the city's employees going forward. It is the right thing to do at this time, when the economy is faltering and many residents see their pensions evaporating in 401(k) plans while government employees are sheltered by a defined benefit plan that guarantees them a steady income for life, often with health benefits.

Regardless of the outcome of the lawsuit, the City Council should adopt the Measure L rollbacks, and then begin to think about ways to revise its police union contract, where there is the potential for far greater savings.

EDITORIAL*The opinion of The Almanac***LETTERS***Our readers write*

Children, not trains, are the noisemakers at library

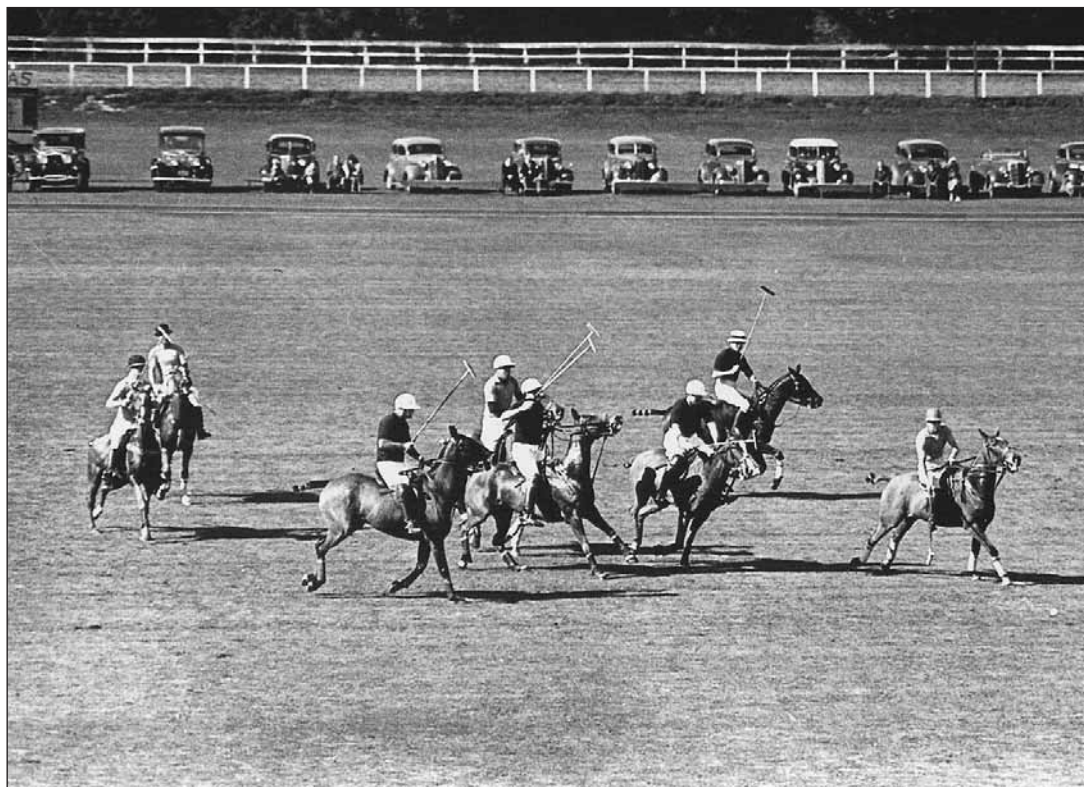
Editor:

Your editorial last week, "Library an opportunity for Atherton," contains what I consider to be a blatant falsehood that serves the political stance of the Almanac — that the next library should be in the park.

You say, "when trains speed past — all conversation in the library must stop." I visit our library at least once and often many times each week. Trains are noisy but not much. Conversations are not stopped. Far noisier are children's groups staged by the library. The only conversations are between customers and staff. Ask the staff. Conversations are not stopped.

You also say there is adequate parking in the park. Not true. I visit the park almost daily, and often find every spot taken. Were it not for my disabled placard, I would be turned away. Weddings and special occasions use all parking and drivers must park off-pavement, risking a ticket.

Tom Croft
Moulton Drive, Atherton



Menlo Park Historical Association

Our Regional Heritage

Menlo Park and Atherton residents loved the popular sport of polo, seen here in an undated photo at the Menlo Circus Club. Competition was hot among players, who needed a string of six or more horses to take part. Regular play began in 1915 and continued until the Depression hit in the 1930s; it resumed in 1954, when Atherton resident William Gilmore revived twice-a-week contests at the Circus Club.

Time for Menlo to move on redesign

By Mary Gilles

I recently attended a City Council meeting to speak in favor of the Planning Commission's recommendations on the Downtown Specific Plan (DSP). While there were several folks who opposed the plan, there was one speaker who stood out from the fray: a vibrant, articulate woman who gave a refreshing presentation on the "Menlo Park Renaissance" that imagines a sophisticated and prosperous downtown. What a concept!

My patience has worn thin with the disgusting decade-long blight on El Camino and high vacancy and turnover rate in the Santa Cruz corridor. Some of the decrepit buildings should be leveled and rebuilt in a style that is village-like in character so that we can maintain our small town feel. Pacific Peninsula Group constructed a beautiful building on Oak Grove that perfectly illustrates

what can be done.

Naysayers to the plan are creating fear over potential increased traffic. The proposed DSP will attract quality restaurants, commercial and retail tenants that will likely increase traffic at certain times of the day or night while people come to Menlo Park to **spend money**. This money translates to sales tax revenues which keep our services alive. Maintaining our services is why we want vibrant commerce in Menlo Park.

The DSP allows a reasonable expansion of density to construct mixed-use buildings that include 1-2 bedroom/1 car residential apartments or condos for singles, downsizing empty nesters and seniors. As a local real estate agent, I see a growing need for this type

of housing. These people will walk to buy groceries at Draeger's, Trader Joe's and the Farmers' Market, dine in downtown restaurants, grab dessert at the Sugar Shack or Miyo, and buy essentials at Walgreens and the hardware store.

Another word about the sinister and evil traffic. When I served on the Menlo Park Transportation Commission, I discovered a distinction between what may appear to be too much traffic and traffic flow. Traffic flow in our downtown and especially on El Camino Real is horrific at times. When traffic flow is impaired by bad signal timing, train crossings, merging lanes, stop signs or reduced lane size, the sense we have is that we have too much traffic when it is really an issue

of bad flow.

Whatever we design for El Camino and the downtown, it is vital that we structure the roads with **ease of flow** in mind. We need to design roads that will move cars through our downtown and along El Camino as fast as possible. I believe we can achieve a smooth flow of traffic and create a downtown that also encourages cycling and walking. We should be careful not to sacrifice design for good traffic flow for cycling and walking space.

Finally, I sadly recall the beautiful Derry Project that was shut down a few years ago by a few powerful naysayers who played on fears of density and traffic issues. It is an absolute travesty this project never came to fruition. Are we going to let this happen again? If you truly believe in moving forward with this plan that has gone through four years of public process, please write to the City Council.

Mary Gilles lives on Sharon Park Drive and is a Menlo Park Realtor



Cargill: If you build it, the roads will clog

By Malcolm Dudley

After years of debate, just about everybody has heard of Cargill's hugely controversial proposal to build a new city on Redwood City's bayfront mudflats.

These undeveloped, restorable salt ponds occupy two square miles east of Highway 101, between Marsh and Woodside roads. Reflecting significant alarm about the proposal, many city councils around the region passed a formal resolution opposing the project early last year. I am one of over 150 former or current elected officials, representing every level of government from the federal to the local, who have asked Redwood City to reconsider its consideration of this environmental boondoggle.

Whatever you may think about protecting open space, building in San Francisco Bay, or importing drinking water from the parched Central Valley, for those of us who live in the area, a central issue has to be traffic. Initial estimates are that the Cargill project, with 32,000 residents in 12,000 units of housing, will bring 80,000 or more new car trips every day to our area of the Peninsula — with as many as 10,000 trips an hour during the morning rush!

This is in an area where our streets and freeways — Marsh, Woodside, Whipple, 101, and others — are all under intense pressure from existing traffic, even during this recession, and getting failing grades. Can you

even imagine 10,000 more cars at Marsh and Woodside at rush hour?

We all know that the Bay Area needs housing, and that there will be growth on the Peninsula. But growth must be managed and smart, based in places with existing infrastructure, near transit, businesses, shopping and schools, so that residents stay out of their cars as much as possible. The Cargill

site fails this test, hands down.

There are only two roads onto the Cargill property, and they are both freeway interchanges. Clearly the pull of the freeway would be overwhelming. Redwood City has reported that the "freeway is currently at capacity" near the site, and that "there will be traffic increases." That's putting it mildly.

What is the developer's plan to address this? In a word, they are being misleading.

For years, Cargill's developer has pointed to the 40,000 people who commute into Redwood City each weekday, and claimed that they will take those people "off the freeway." They have made this claim in mailers, full-page ads and presentations. At one prominent area business, they even offered \$100 to the worker with the lon-

gest commute story — presumably the winner is the person currently featured in a video on their website. But handing out cash for anecdotes to support your PR is one thing; addressing the actual traffic problem is a lot more expensive.

The fact is that the number cited by the developer is every single person who commutes into Redwood City to work. A look at the data demonstrates that a very large percentage of these are close-in commuters, coming from neighboring communities like Belmont, Menlo Park, San Carlos and others. The developer makes it sound as if all 40,000 are coming from the Central Valley! That is just nonsense.

Even more striking, the city's data also show that just 15 percent of Redwood City's own residents work in Redwood City. Similarly, many if not most residents of any future Cargill development would also be commuting out of Redwood City — in their cars, on the freeway, because the salt pond site is right next to 101 but over a mile from Caltrain.

You don't have to be an expert to know that a new city isolated from downtown and next to a clogged freeway is a traffic nightmare. Cargill and its developer must be aware of this, and that is probably why they are working so hard to obscure the facts with anecdotes and misinformation.

Malcolm Dudley is a former chair of the San Mateo County Transportation Authority



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EYE CARE NEWS

Presented by Mark Schmidt
Licensed Optician

CONTACT CAUTION

As the availability of disposable and overnight contacts has risen along with the ease of Internet ordering, researchers have noted a decided increase in the incidence of ulcers of the cornea (the clear outer layer of the eye). In fact, a study shows that corneal ulceration may be twice as common in the United States as previously thought, and contact lens wearers were about nine times more likely to develop the condition than non-contact users. Corneal ulcers are sores that are usually caused by bacterial or

viral infections, often due to minor scratches in the cornea. Contact lens wearers sometimes misguidedly wear their contacts for weeks or months without taking them off, which can lead to corneal ulceration.

Many people purchase products, including contact lenses, online. Since contact lenses are worn on the eyes, they affect the way your eyes function. Protect your eyes by having professional eye examinations and wearing prescription lenses that meet your needs. Bring your contact lens prescription to MENO OPTICAL at 1166 University Drive, on the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and University Drive. We carry hard, soft, and bi-focal contact lenses and provide instruction on how to wear and clean the lenses to ensure your eyes remain healthy. Call us at 322-3900 if you have questions about eyewear.

P.S. The above-mentioned study on corneal ulceration shows the need to have an eye care professional properly fit contact lenses and provide follow-up care.

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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