



GRANNY SAVED: Utilities commission agrees to tunnel under oak tree. *Page 5*

The Almanac

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

OCTOBER 5, 2011 | VOL. 47 NO. 6



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Finding a place at life's table

Former restaurateur
Donia Bijan describes her
family's journey of exile
and quest for belonging
Section 2



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Woodsider races across Sahara Desert

By Kate Daly

Special to the Almanac

Call it ironic or somewhat insane, but a 20-year-old Woodside resident and college student is willing to race for days across the Sahara Desert, braving sandstorms and temperatures of over 110 degrees Fahrenheit, to raise money for water.

Trevor Nibbi, a Menlo School graduate and a junior at Dartmouth, is taking this quarter off to train for the 4 Deserts Sahara Race, a 150-mile competition that starts near Cairo, Egypt, on Oct. 2 and ends at the Pyramids of Giza on Oct. 6.

Time magazine calls the race one of the top 10 endurance competitions in the world due to the harsh conditions and the fact that it is self-supporting. Water rations are provided, but all the racers run and walk over the sandy terrain carrying their own supplies of food, gear and clothing on their backs.

They are expected to cover close to 25 or 50 miles in a day to get to the next group campsite,



Photo by Chloe Teeter

Visit tinyurl.com/Nibbi-193 to see updates on Trevor Nibbi's progress in the race. The competitors are expected to cover close to 25 to 50 miles in a day to get to the next group campsite, where they will sleep together in tents and have access to a fire tended by Bedouins.

where they will sleep together in tents and have access to a fire tended by Bedouins.

Mr. Nibbi says he is excited to

be meeting so many people from different countries. Out of 157 racers, he is one of nine Americans, and one of the youngest competitors this year.

He has run ultra marathons before, and has spent these past few months getting race-ready by running long distances in Huddart Park up to Skyline Boulevard, as well as surfing, cycling, backpacking and lifting weights.

As a geography major, Mr. Nibbi has studied current international issues. That focus helped him select a cause that could benefit from his efforts. He says his goal "is to use the race to raise money for Water.org — an international non-profit that works on water security and sanitation in the developing world."

So far, he has raised more than \$2,000.

Visit tinyurl.com/Quench-593 for information on donating to the cause.

Visit 4deserts.com/sahararace to watch his progress during the race.

Woodside celebrates 'Day of Horse' this Saturday

The Woodside-area Horse Owners Association (known as WHOA!) will hold the seventh annual Woodside Day of the Horse on Saturday, Oct. 8, with a horse fair and progressive trail ride. Proceeds benefit the local equestrian community, says spokesperson Nan Meek.

The horse fair, at the Woodside Town Hall complex at 2955 Woodside Road, will have activities, entertainment and information about horses and local riding programs for kids and adults.

There will be Wells Fargo Stagecoach rides, a petting zoo, a puppet show, and an opportunity to listen to a horse's heartbeat. Visitors can drop by the Woodside Museum, and hear live gypsy jazz music by Doug Martin and the Avatar Ensemble.

Equestrian organizations will answer questions about riding programs, and educational exhibits will shed light on the relationship between horses and the environment.

"Hundreds of riders will gather

for California's largest progressive trail ride," Ms. Meek said. Donations are \$75 (cash only) on the day of the ride for riders who have not

'Hundreds of riders will gather for California's largest progressive trail ride,' says spokesperson Nan Meek. Riders from all equine disciplines participate, she says, many dressed in costume.

yet registered.

Riders from all equine disciplines participate, she said, many dressed in costume.

Riders travel the Woodside town trail system via their "ticket to ride" map, with treats for horses and riders at ride stops along the way. Riders costumed in this year's Mardi Gras theme will receive spe-

cial recognition at the Paparazzi Ride Stop.

Concluding the ride is an end-of-the-trail celebration held at the grounds of the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County.

Among the sponsors are the Woodside-area Horse Owners Association, the town of Woodside, Wells Fargo, Until There's a Cure, the Village Pub, UC Davis Center for Equine Health, Alan Steel & Supply Co., the Davidow Family, Thomas Fogary Winery & Vineyards, and many more.

Visit whoa94062.org for more information.

Horse trial

Nine years have passed since the Horse Park at Woodside last hosted an international horse trial, but on Oct. 7-9 internationally sanctioned eventing competition will return. The Event at Woodside will offer CIC divisions at the three-star, two-star and one-star levels.

Visit horsepark.org for more information.

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Local News

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Granny saved: SFPUC agrees to tunnel under tree

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

After months of concern over Granny's fate, the heritage oak tree will survive the construction of a new water pipeline.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) announced on Oct. 3 that it would tunnel under the tree, thanks to San Mateo County's proposal to create a new park to let the public enjoy the tree.

"San Mateo County is always identifying creative opportunities that expand

our public open spaces," said Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson, who represents Menlo Park. "We believe we have all successfully identified a way forward that preserves the oak tree and allows the continuation of this important regional water pipeline."

The commission initially planned to cut down the centuries-old tree in May on short notice, which inspired Granny's neighbors to fight back. After negotiations opened this summer, the SFPUC asked the neighbors to form a nonprofit to handle maintenance,

liability insurance, and public access in exchange for the commission deciding to dig a \$269,000 tunnel under the tree for a pipeline meant to carry water from Hetch Hetchy as part of a \$4.6 billion seismic improvement project.

At that point the county stepped in with an offer to provide the insurance and liability coverage. The coalition working to save Granny then got 85 percent of neighborhood residents, whose properties adjoin the SFPUC right-of-way at 827 15th Ave. where the tree lives, to agree to

provide public access to the tree.

"This is welcome news," said coalition member Ron Van Thiel in a press release about the SFPUC's decision to tunnel. "The neighbors who have worked long and hard during the last four months had one ultimate goal: To identify the least invasive option to preserve this irreplaceable natural resource, Granny, while ensuring water for this important project. We believe that this result is a win/win that will benefit the entire community as well as future generations." ■

Customers rescue Ladera's Round Table Pizza restaurant

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

With the help of the community, a crisis has passed at the Round Table restaurant on Alpine Road in Ladera.

Longtime customers aiming to do what they could to continue the 24-year presence of this pizza place in the Ladera Community Shopper shopping center contributed a total of some \$4,500 in recent days to help restaurant owner Jim Meola pay off old debts.

"Apparently, there was a grass roots effort to keep me here in the community and they made it work," Mr. Meola said in a telephone interview. "It was really amazing, what the community has done. You feel so appreciated and loved."

Nino Gaetano, a Coldwell

Banker real estate agent who collected the checks at his Portola Valley office, said he counted 90 donors over the four days of the campaign, including some who went over the recommended \$45 per person. "The community rose up and did it," he said. "It was awesome."

Mr. Gaetano, a third-generation Portola Valley resident, got involved "to keep Main Street going in Ladera," he said. "We just want to help (Mr. Meola) out. He's a vital member of our community."

The property management company was "very gracious" in working to keep the restaurant open, he added.

Mr. Meola's debts were a legacy of his pizza place at 3550 Alameda de las Pulgas in unincorporated

See PIZZA, page 10

Should local towns ban plastic bags?

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Someday, that plastic bag you carried home from Safeway might be worth something on eBay. OK, probably not, but it may become an endangered species in San Mateo County.

The Board of Supervisors decided on Sept. 27 to ask local cities whether they'd support banning plastic bags throughout the county.

Needless to say, Save the Bay thinks that's a great idea. The nonprofit organization estimates Bay Area residents throw away more than 100 bags per second after using each for about 12 minutes. One million of those bags end up in the Bay, damaging wetlands and wildlife, according to the nonprofit.

"What is remarkable about this particular policy is that the San Mateo County supervisors would like to encourage county-wide collaboration, and are considering different ways of bringing all the county's cities into the process," said Amy Ricard, spokesperson for Save the Bay. "In fact, the county is considering completing an EIR in such a way that would apply to all the San Mateo County cities, with the goal to have the cities pass their ordinances simultaneously."

Then there's the Save the Plastic Bag Coalition, fighting for the survival of plastic bags everywhere on behalf of merchants and manufacturers. Its data shows that plastic bags

See PLASTIC BAGS, page 10



Photo courtesy of the Woodside History Collection

Architect George Washington Smith designed the 17,000-square-foot home of Daniel and Virginia Jackling, completed in 1926, in the Spanish Colonial Revival style he was famous for, with thick stucco walls arranged around a courtyard and fountains.

Former Jackling home focus of exhibit

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

The former home of copper baron Daniel C. Jackling may have been demolished, but in Woodside it is not forgotten. A new exhibit, opening this week at the Woodside Community Museum, is devoted to Mr. Jackling and the home.

"Days of Grandeur: The Jacklings and their Woodside Estate" can be seen starting Saturday, Oct. 8, during the Day of the Horse Events in Woodside (10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.), and on following Sundays, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the museum, 2961 Woodside Road.

Featuring architectural details salvaged from the home, the exhibit attempts to show visitors how the Jacklings

lived as well as inform them about the home's architect, George Washington Smith, the copper industry in which Jackling made his fortune, and the opulent manner in which he spent it.

The home was demolished by the current owner, Apple Computer co-founder and Palo Alto resident Steve Jobs, earlier this year after a lengthy legal battle with historic preservationists who attempted to stop the demolition or have the home moved to another location.

Mr. Jobs agreed to let the town and other interested history groups salvage items from the home including the 50-foot flagpole, which will be installed in front of the museum, its copper mailbox, roof tiles, woodwork, fireplace

mantles, light fixtures and moldings. Many of those items are part of the exhibit.

While the museum is tiny, the exhibit tries to give a feeling of what some of the rooms in the Jackling house felt like, using items such as the living room chandelier, stair banisters, wall tiles and the servant's call box along with photos and drawings. Reproductions of some of the artworks owned by the Jacklings, and copies of his meticulous records of items he owned, are on display.

Mr. Jackling was born in Missouri in 1869 and raised by relatives from the age of 2 after his parents were killed in a fire. As a young engineer, Mr. Jackling developed a way to extract copper from low-grade

See JACKLING, page 10

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Search party finds girl, 5, lost at Huddart County Park

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Night-vision goggles and a glow-stick necklace were instrumental in a search-and-rescue team locating and rescuing a 5-year-old girl who disappeared from a family outing on Saturday night in the rugged forested hills west of Woodside.

The girl walked away from a large overnight camping trip at Huddart County Park, which covers around 900 acres of woodland, ravines and dense forest.

The girl was playing with friends at about 7:15 p.m. when she ran away from the area, San Mateo County sheriff's deputies said. Her parents were unable to find her and the child's mother called 911.

More than 75 officers and volunteers from the Sheriff's Office, the county parks department, a helicopter crew from the California Highway Patrol, and a search-and-rescue K-9 team joined the search effort, deputies said.

The helicopter crew — CHP

officers Lennis Pope, the pilot, and Al Romero, the flight officer — saw a "faint light" in the woods, noted the location with GPS, and left the area to refuel the helicopter, Officer Jeff Moring said in a telephone interview.

When they returned, they could no longer see the faint light and so directed volunteers on the ground to that location, Mr. Moring said.

The girl was rescued around 11:30 p.m. that same night, deputies said. She had apparently become disoriented and was heading into a steep gorge, but was not injured and was taken to a hospital to be monitored for exposure.

A glow stick visible from a helicopter? The night vision goggles made the difference, Mr. Moring said. "Any light at all, (the goggles) are going to amplify," he said.

Lt. Ray Lunny of the Sheriff's Office disagreed, saying that the surrounding darkness of the park would have been sufficient to see the glow stick. ■

Bay City News contributed to this report.

Menlo Park woman busts teen burglars; three arrested

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Around 3 p.m. on a quiet, sunny Sept. 26 afternoon, a 41-year-old Menlo Park woman noticed something peculiar in her backyard: Two teenage boys testing whether a sliding glass door, or possibly a bedroom window, might let them enter her house uninvited.

The pair left the Windermere Avenue property after discovering the answer was, "No." According to the crime log, police greeted the 16-year-olds a short distance away and escorted them to Hillcrest Juvenile Hall for attempted burglary and possession of marijuana.

The teen reportedly told police that earlier that Monday, they had broken into a home via a garage door in the 1200 block of Henderson Avenue and ransacked two bedrooms. A third suspect, a 15-year-old boy from East Palo Alto, was also arrested in connection with those cases, police

spokesperson Nicole Acker said.

Other burglars were equally unsuccessful. The owner of a maintenance shop in the 1300 block of Willow Road told police around 8:30 a.m. the same day that someone had been in the shop without permission during the weekend, but didn't take anything or force entry.

Continuing a losing streak, burglars struck at least twice more in Menlo Park on Tuesday, Sept. 27, but only stole once.

An alarm at a home in the 1000 block of Atkinson Lane scared away whomever tried to pry open the door, the owner reported to police shortly after 10 a.m.

Some residents living in the 100 block of Cornell Road weren't so lucky. They lost jewelry, a laptop, and two digital cameras during the early afternoon, thanks to unidentified suspects who removed the screen from a rear window for an all-access pass to the home. ■



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Atherton to unveil visions of new Town Center design

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Two visions of what the civic heart of town might look like if Atherton decides to revitalize its Town Center will be unveiled at a community meeting set for Wednesday, Oct. 12, in the Holbrook-Palmer Park Pavilion.

The meeting, from 6 to 9 p.m., will allow residents to examine designs by two firms that participated in a conceptual design competition spearheaded by the Atherton Town Center Task Force, a group of residents, and council members Elizabeth Lewis and Jerry Carlson. That group, formed in March 2010, has explored possibilities for rebuilding the

Town Center, located on Ashfield Road next to the Caltrain station.

The two firms, Nichols Melburg and Rossetto, and Siegel & Strain Architects, drew up their designs at no cost to the town.

Town officials have long talked about replacing the 46-year-old buildings that now constitute the Town Center, citing inadequate space for the police department and the fact that building and planning services are administered from trailers that were supposed to be temporary. There are also health and safety code violations that must be corrected if the existing buildings remain, according to the town.

The town now has about \$1.8 million set aside for beginning the project, but the task force is counting on residents opening up their wallets, as Portola Valley residents did, to pay for the bulk of the work.

One complicating question will be the location of the town's planned new library, which has become a contentious issue among residents. Many people would like to see a new library built in Holbrook-Palmer Park, and say that the library's existing home in Town Center can be put to good use housing the building and planning departments.

Others argue that the library belongs in Town Center, and that renovating and seismically retrofitting the existing facility will be cheaper than building a new library elsewhere.

Contact Deputy City Clerk Theresa DellaSanta at 752-0529 for more information. ■

Town OKs model-plane flight trial at Town Center

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

Portola Valley residents' views tend toward the inimical concerning things that noisily cross their skies without moving their wings, whether it's the growling whine of a wide-bodied jet coming in for a landing at San Francisco International Airport, or a buzzing personal plane out of the airport in Palo Alto.

But the Town Council gave its nod to smaller, less obtrusive aircraft at its Sept. 14 meeting. After a discussion that considered noise and fair use of the recreational facilities, the council approved a six-month trial allowing certain quiet types of radio-controlled model airplanes to fly three mornings a week above the baseball field at Town Center.

The hours are from dawn to 9 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Fliers describ-

ing the rules are posted at the tennis courts, the drinking fountains at the maintenance building and behind the baseball field backstop, and near the mailbox, Public Works Director Howard Young told the Almanac.

Former mayor George Comstock, a model-plane pilot who introduced the proposal, outlined for the council some limits for the baseball field's air space: Only "park flyers" will be allowed, meaning planes with electric engines — no gasoline-power — but no turbines and no cylindrical shrouds around propellers, called ducted fan propulsion.

In addition, pilots must be members of or under the instruction of members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA). Flight beyond the baseball field is not allowed, nor is the buzzing of other

people. Plane-eating trees are the pilot's problem, not the town's.

While recreation is an obvious purpose to this program, there is another: education in the ways of science and technology, said Mr. Comstock, a member of the Nature & Science Committee and a principle organizer for Flight Night, a model-plane air show held at the Town Center in May.

Flying a model plane means coping with the problems of launching an object into the air, keeping it there and bringing it down in a controlled landing. "It gets kids more interested in dealing with the real world instead of sitting in front of the TV playing (video) games," Mr. Comstock said.

"We're sliding behind," he said, possibly referring to the grasp of U.S. youth on science and technology in an era of global competition. "It's a big struggle we're facing trying to do this." ■

Motorcyclist killed near Woodside identified by coroner

A man who was killed riding his motorcycle Sept. 27 through a county park near Woodside has been identified as Stewart Sutter, 32, of San Mateo, according to the San Mateo County coroner's office.

The California Highway Patrol reported he was speeding north on Kings Mountain Road, north of Huddart Park Road in Huddart County Park, around 7:56 p.m. when he apparently lost control of his motorcycle when trying to slow down.

He braked hard, and the motorcycle left the roadway and traveled up a sloped shoulder. The rider and motorcycle were launched into the air and collided with a tree. He was then ejected from the motorcycle and landed in the roadway, officials said.

He suffered fatal injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene, the CHP said.

On a Facebook page that was made by Motion Pro Inc. staff where Mr. Sutter appears to have

worked as a motorcycle specialist, an online memorial has been set up, with pictures and prayers for his family and friends.

"It was easy to tell when he was around because laughter and merriment would soon follow ... he will be greatly missed by all here, and never forgotten," staff at the San Carlos-based company wrote.

The CHP asks any witnesses to contact CHP Officer W. Torr at (650) 369-6261.

— Bay City News Service

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Offer – Who Has To Be Inconvenienced?

Dear Gloria,

We have an offer on our house after having it sit on the market for four months. The problem is the offer is for a three week close. We have been here for 12 years and there is no way we can move that quickly. Even if we could our new house won't be ready for six or seven weeks. This buyer is insistent upon moving in immediately. What would you suggest?

Evelyn M., Menlo Park.

Dear Evelyn,

A. That is a situation that often arises but it sounds like the most logical option is not available to you. That option is to close the escrow and then rent back from your new buyer at his cost of PITI (principal, interest, taxes and insurance). I will take your word for it that the buyer is insistent upon occu-

pancy but it does seem that there is always an incentive that might make sense. This would include taking a price lower than what you might want to. There are many reasons to get an escrow closed as soon as possible, especially in today's market. There are many properties for sale and several of them are vacant. If you don't work with this offer the buyer has a variety of houses to choose from. While most sellers really balk at the idea, I would suggest you roll up your sleeves, hire the best movers you can, get a dumpster and move out! Take a short term rental at one of the executive rental places and store your furniture. One of you has to compromise and given that your house has been on the market as long as it has, I would speculate that it is you.

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

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Ladera school site likely to go to highest bidder

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

— a step required by the state when school districts want to set terms and conditions on the lease of property.

Ladera resident Lennie Roberts, who co-chaired the advisory committee, said she was disappointed that the board has apparently changed course after “the district went through the process (to proceed with an RFP), and citizens gave their time and effort to the community meetings, and putting together the (required) report.” The board, she said, seems to have “backed off from that, without any real explanation.”

But Superintendent Eric

“is going to want to hear about what the community concerns are before it gets to the point of developing a bid document.” And, he added, “we still don’t have a formal decision to go out to bid” — a decision likely to be made at the board’s November meeting.

Meanwhile, the district has set up a meeting for Oct. 24 with the Ladera community to address issues of concern.

Woodland and some Ladera residents have also criticized the district for dragging its feet on choosing a lessee once Woodland’s 30-year lease, which was extended by a year, expires in July 2013. Woodland officials for more than a year have urged the district to move forward with the process so that it could compete for the site in an RFP

process. The matter is urgent, they have argued, because the school must be able to plan for its future, and finding a new site, if it must, will take much time and effort.

In June, when it still appeared that the district would follow the RFP process, the board indicated it would expedite the process so that a lease would be signed by June 2012.

“We’re still committed to that timeline,” Mr. Hartwig said in late September.

Woodland, a preschool-through-eighth-grade school with about 275 students, now pays \$650,000 a year for the site it has occupied since 1981, and has offered to pay more than \$8 million to renovate and upgrade the campus if its lease is renewed. Being a small school, it might be at a disadvantage in an open bid process. Will it compete for the site in open bidding? “It depends on how long it takes them to get to that point,” Mr. Ora said. ■

The Las Lomitas School District has set up a meeting for Oct. 24 with the Ladera community to address issues of concern.

Hartwig said the board does have a good reason for changing direction: It has a responsibility to maximize the financial benefit of surplus property, the proceeds of which will bolster the programs at the district’s remaining two schools, Las Lomitas in Atherton and La Entrada in Menlo Park. And it appears that the open bid process will lead to just that.

Ms. Roberts and many in the Ladera community want to see Woodland School remain at the site because the school and residents have a good, cooperative relationship that includes joint use of fields and buildings, and similar views on how to minimize traffic and parking problems in the neighborhood.

Mr. Hartwig said the board

In a move that surprised the Ladera community and officials of the private Woodland School, which leases the former Ladera School site, school district officials have indicated that the district will launch an open bid process, rather than a more restricted process, to choose the next lessee of the school site.

The Las Lomitas School District board has yet to make a final decision, but at a recent meeting appeared to come to a consensus to follow the open bid process, which limits the district’s control over what the lessee can do with the property. The open bid process also means the district must lease the property to the highest bidder, with few exceptions.

The apparent change in course has raised concerns among Woodland School officials and members of the Ladera community, which has been strong in its support for the private school. The switch “was a little confusing for us,” said John Ora, Woodland’s head of school. That’s because the district was preparing to launch a “request for proposals” — or RFP — process that would give the district significant control over whom it would allow to occupy the property, and for what purpose.

To prepare for launching an RFP, the district some time ago formed a committee of Ladera residents and the Las Lomitas community to advise it on property-use issues at the site

Holidays on High Note at Menlo Circus Club on Oct. 17

The Foothill Auxiliary to Peninsula Family Service will hold its 12th annual “Holidays on a High Note” benefit from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17, at the Menlo Circus Club, 190 Park Lane in Atherton.

The event will feature a presentation by floral designer Natasha Lisitsa of Waterlily Pond Design Studio. The benefit will include holiday table settings and floral displays from Bay Area designers, a floral auction, and boutique marketplace.

One of the newest participants in the event is Jenna Bayer of Jenna Bayer Garden Design, who plans to have a table theme of “La Dolce Vita,” featuring an outdoor garden setting evoking a still life

■ AROUND TOWN

painting of a harvest party.

Tickets to “Holidays on a High Note” are \$95 per person, including lunch. For tickets or to request an invitation, call Leigh Ann Bandet at 323-5445.

Aging-in-place open houses

Peninsula seniors are invited to attend two open houses at Avenidas senior center, 450 Bryant St. in Palo Alto. The open houses, one from 2 to 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24, the second from 10 a.m. to noon, Thursday, Oct. 27, will provide information on how seniors can

successfully stay in their own homes, rather than move to a retirement community.

The open houses are a celebration of national aging-in-place month and the fourth anniversary of Avenidas Village, a membership program run by Avenidas, the nonprofit senior services organization. The open houses will include information about the program’s services, including transportation assistance, daily check-in phone calls, home safety checkup, medical advocacy program, and social and cultural activities.

Refreshments will be served at the open houses and each guest will receive a free gift. Call 289-5405 to R.S.V.P.

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Council 'neutral' on Alpine trail

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

The Town Council of Portola Valley on Sept. 28 rejected the advice of George Mader, the town planner for 40 years and currently a planning consultant for the town, and has instead taken a neutral stance on an offer by Stanford University to improve a trail on Alpine Road, in part because the trail is not in Portola Valley.

Mr. Mader had advised the council to recommend to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors that they accept an offer of \$10 million from Stanford University to upgrade the trail.

The issue is complicated by a right-of-way that is a) crazily inconsistent in width and topography, and b) located along a heavily traveled artery into the university and its hospital, and c) passes by Stanford Weekend Acres, a tight-knit unincorporated community suspicious of Stanford and whose residents run a gauntlet every day trying to join the traffic on Alpine Road. An improved trail that invites pedestrians, cyclists, kids and dogs could add significantly to their headaches, they say.

A comment from the Portola Valley council is important to residents of Weekend Acres and of Ladera, an unincorporated community just east of Portola Valley where this trail is not as complicated and where many residents support an improved path into Menlo Park. The council's view could influence supervisors one way or the other in a local game of wits with a powerful land-holding university known for flexing its muscles.

Public comment at the meeting reflected the divide, with proponents noting the importance of a new trail to making journeys safe for children, and opponents saying that the route cannot be made safe. About 40 people attended.

In what evolved into a consensus, the council agreed to send a neutral statement to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, which rejected Stanford's offer in 2007 and 2010 and may vote again on Oct. 18 on whether to finally reject \$10 million in these hard economic times. The statement would include a positive note on the town's experience with Stanford on upgrading a section of trail in town.

Stanford's offer specifies that the project must address all of the trail, not part of it. The offer

expires in December, but the board can get a two-year extension if it decides to explore a trail design, which Stanford

Public comment reflected the divide, with proponents saying a new trail would make travel safer for children, and opponents saying the route cannot be made safe.

would pay for out of the \$10 million.

The initial majority — council members Steve Toben, Ann Wengert and John Richards — supported a neutral statement.

Councilwoman Maryann Derwin, while feeling "very sympathetic" to Weekend Acres residents' concerns, said she preferred the letter's recommendation but reluctantly agreed to neutrality. The council has previously spoken out on external matters, she said in an interview, and the greater good is at stake.

Mayor Ted Driscoll did not participate, having recused himself because his wife works at Stanford.

Mr. Mader, the letter's author, noted to the council that an upgraded trail could help reduce traffic congestion on Alpine Road after Stanford expands its hospital, that the

eroding bank of Los Trancos Creek could endanger a section of Alpine Road and will eventually need attention, and that a multi-use path could transfer slower bikes out of the bike lanes.

Mr. Toben, who saw the issue as outside the council's purview, said initially that he preferred no letter at all. He said it bothered him to have Portola Valley residents weighing in on a project that won't affect them where they live. That the trail is proximate to the town was irrelevant and that it could reduce greenhouse gas emissions was unimpressive, he added.

Biking to Stanford

Bicyclists are ubiquitous on Alpine Road between Portola Valley and Stanford, but the vast majority travel on the road's side, where they navigate freeway intersections and heavy commute traffic, particularly through Weekend Acres.

A lot of bikes, but very few piloted by children.

"I would love to be able to ride to a Stanford football game with my 12-year-old daughter," Portola Valley resident Ray Villareal told the council, a sentiment expressed by several other speakers. "At least use a portion of Stanford's money to come up with a trail design."

Between 2006 and 2010, that stretch of Alpine Road between I-280 and Junipero Serra Boulevard shows typical speeds of 41 mph and about 18,000 vehicle trips per day, according

See **TRAIL**, page 12

Community meeting on trail

As the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors weighs a third vote on whether to accept \$10 million from Stanford University to upgrade a trail that runs along Alpine Road, the county manager's office is hosting a follow-up session on Tuesday, Oct. 4, to discuss the results from two round-table discussions held in September.

(The supervisors rejected Stanford's offer in 2007 and 2010, echoing opinion aired in the communities of Stanford Weekend Acres and, to a lesser extent, Ladera, where opinion seems to have shifted.)

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Ladera Oaks Swim & Tennis Club at 3249 Alpine Road.

Comments from the recent

sessions have been posted on the county website for about a week. The results, not a scientific sample, weigh heavily in favor of the county accepting Stanford's money.

Of the 153 comments posted, 96 urge the supervisors to accept Stanford's offer, 48 urge rejection and nine appear to be undecided.

Of those participants who clearly stated where they lived, 37 live in Ladera, 25 in Stanford Weekend Acres, and five in Portola Valley. The remaining 73 could not be determined.

Of the 37 Ladera residents, 34 expressed support and 3 opposed, compared to 8 and 16 from Weekend Acres and 49 and 24 from the unidentified group. All five Portola Valley residents supported the offer.



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Photo: Marc Silber

Former Jackling home focus of exhibit in Woodside

JACKLING

continued from page 5

ore, which allowed the copper industry to supply the copper needed to string electric wiring across the county.

Mr. Jackling formed the Utah Copper Company in 1903, and within 10 years was successful enough to purchase his first yacht, the Cyprus. The 231-foot yacht, which he later extended to 267-feet, accommodated 30 guests in addition to a crew of 48.

The Utah Copper Company eventually became part of the Kennecott Copper Company.

Mr. Jackling's first wife, Jeanne Sullivan, died in 1914. Their only child had lived just a year.

In 1915, Mr. Jackling moved to San Francisco, where he leased the entire top floor of the St. Francis Hotel. He married San Francisco socialite Virginia Joliff that year. In 1922, the Jacklings purchased just less than 194 acres in Woodside and hired architect George Washington Smith to design what Virginia Jackling described in a letter to Mr. Smith as "a simple farm house."

Mr. Smith had earlier designed a home in Pebble Beach for Maud and Arthur Vincent, daughter and son-in-law of Filoli owners William and Agnes

Bourne, who the Jacklings knew socially.

Construction of the Jackling's 17,000-square-foot, 14-bedroom Spanish-revival-style home was completed in 1926. Among the amenities was a pipe organ that could be played manually or by using music rolls. The original organ, with 19 sets of pipes, was expanded to a 71-pipe organ in 1938, with an addition to the house constructed to contain it. The Jackling organ is now owned by the Friends of the Jackling Organ, whose members plan to restore and preserve it.

The home had thick stucco walls that mimicked adobe, a red tile roof, custom-made wrought iron lighting fixtures and railings, and was built around a courtyard. It was furnished with treasures the Jacklings had collected in extensive travels around the world.

Virginia Jackling was one of the founders of the Woodside Trails Club in 1923. In 1928, a meeting was held in the Jacklings home to discuss the incorporation of Woodside, which did not take place until 1956.

Mr. Jackling retired in 1942, and died in Woodside in 1956. Virginia Jackling died a year later.

The home was sold in 1958 and the land surrounding it



Photo courtesy of the Woodside History Collection

The interior of Daniel and Virginia Jackling's Woodside home featured heavy dark beams, stucco walls, custom tiles and wrought iron fixtures and was decorated with treasures they had brought back from extensive world travels, most on their own luxury yacht.

subdivided. It had three other owners before it was purchased by Steve Jobs in 1984, with the listed price of \$3.5 million.

The exhibit was designed by history committee members Cutty Smith and Gretchen Tenenbaum, and consultants Jeanne Thivierge and Stepha-

nie Scheafer. Artifacts for the exhibit were loaned by Sonja Davidow, the Jobs Estate, Virginia Anderson (a great-niece of the Jacklings who still lives in Woodside), and Dr. John Felstiner, who had once lived in the home.

Copies of the new book on Woodside's history, "Images of America: Woodside," will be available for purchase at the Day of the Horse. The book tells the

story of the town in photos and was a project headed by Thalia Lubin, Bob Dougherty and the Woodside History Committee. It will sell for \$21.99 with a portion of the sales price going to the museum. ■

Barbara Wood is a freelance writer, photographer and gardener from Woodside, and a former member of the Woodside History Committee.

PLASTIC BAGS

continued from page 5

don't deserve their bad reputation. Environmental research, according to the group's website, shows that paper bags actually do more damage by increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

And not all customers opt for re-usable bags over paper: A 2008 survey of 25 stores by the ULS Report found that the majority of observed San Francisco shoppers chose paper bags instead of re-usable totes a year after that city's ban took effect.

While plastic bags are a popular environmental issue in many communities, not all towns within the Almanac's coverage area need to jump on the bandwagon — Atherton has no retail. Portola Valley and Woodside,

meanwhile, seem to be taking a wait and see approach.

"In Portola Valley we have very few retail establishments. If the county asks its cities to join forces to adopt a plastic bag ban, we would likely look to the Town

A Menlo Park commission will meet Oct. 5 to discuss banning the bag.

Council for guidance as our approach in the past has been to encourage rather than regulate," said Brandi de Garreaux, the town's sustainability and resource efficiency coordinator, in an email. "Currently, we are working with the one or two vendors who use expanded polystyrene and/or plastic bags to find more environmentally friendly products."

She said that for a small town with limited retail, like Portola Valley, bans can foster ill will against the town and make it more difficult to work with local businesses to adopt additional environmentally friendly practices, such as energy- and

water-efficiency upgrades. So the town uses encouragement and assistance instead of adopting ordinances that would force retailers to participate.

Woodside's assistant town manager Kevin Bryant said that the town has no plans to look into banning plastic bags.

That leaves Menlo Park. The Environmental Quality Commission is scheduled to discuss a ban on Wednesday, Oct. 5, with a focus on prohibiting the city's 251 food vendors from using plastic bags. That meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center at 701 Laurel St.

Data provided by Save the Bay shows that nine cities in the Bay Area have either banned plastic bags or are researching a ban. Several, such as Berkeley and Fremont, are waiting for the results of an environmental impact report (EIR) from Stopwaste, a public agency in Alameda County. While an EIR has usually been required to implement a bag ban, the California Supreme Court ruled this summer that a full report may not be needed before implementing an ordinance prohibiting stores from giving the bags to customers. ■

PIZZA

continued from page 5

West Menlo Park, which closed in April 2009 after 25 years.

Asked if this infusion would end his worries, he said it would, adding that it was hard to accept such a gift. "The generosity of the community," he said. "I'm speechless. I'm so overwhelmed by it."

The restaurant serves about 2,000 customers a month, seats 40 and employs 18 people, Mr. Meola said.

The effort reminded campaign coordinator Trish McBride of "It's a Wonderful Life," the popular 1946 movie in which a

small-town community rallies to rescue a savings-and-loan bank from its debts.

"It's kind of like everybody's pitching in," she said. "In general, it's been a very positive thing."

Comments on an online forum suggested replacement by an upscale establishment, such as a restaurant "with wine and all that fancy foodie stuff," Ms. McBride said. "I think we need to preserve this. We need somewhere that will serve our kids' community."

This Round Table tracks the order history of its phone-in customers, allowing them to call and order "the usual," she said. ■

■ BIRTHS

Atherton

■ Miranda Zhai and Carl Gonzales, a son, Sept. 1, Sequoia Hospital.
■ Anne Marie and Alex McGraw, a daughter, Sept. 19, Sequoia Hospital.

Menlo Park

■ Reiko MiuraKo and Albert Ko, a

son, Sept. 19, Sequoia Hospital.

Portola Valley

■ Rosemary and Christopher Hintz, a son, Aug. 31, Sequoia Hospital.

Emerald Hills

■ Erica Rowse and Juan Gamez, a son, Sept. 7, Sequoia Hospital

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RAIN OR SHINE

Council may vote on downtown plan Tuesday

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

There's only one item of regular business on the Menlo Park City Council agenda for Tuesday, Oct. 4: the downtown/El Camino Real specific plan. The council is expected to vote on whether to approve the draft plan. If past discussions are any indication, expect passions to run high during public comment, followed by council debate continuing past midnight.

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

Facebook wants fries with that

Facebook's quirky additions to its new Menlo Park headquarters at 1601 Willow Road continue. The social networking giant has asked the city for permission to build a roadhouse-style “BBQ House” and a “Burger Shack” with a drive-in diner motif on the 57-acre campus.

They're also hoping to add two security checkpoints, possibly to avoid drive-by dining.

■ MENLO BRIEFS

Geron taps new CEO

Geron, a biopharmaceutical company based in Menlo Park, has selected a new CEO. Dr. John Scarlett arrives with at least 20 years' experience in the biotech world, most recently as president and CEO of Proteolix, according to a biography posted on the Geron website. He replaces David Greenwood, who filled in as interim president and chief financial officer starting in February; Mr. Greenwood will remain in position until the transition is finished by the end of the year.

Chamber mixer

Members of the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce will gather and make merry at the Three Great Lights Masonic Lodge on Wednesday, Oct. 12, for the monthly mixer.

The lodge is at 651 Roble Ave. and the party starts at 5:30 p.m. Bring a business card to enter a drawing for prizes donated by Chamber members.

‘Save Every Slave Freedom Walk’

Menlo-Atherton High School's Save Every Slave Club will host a Freedom Walk at Burgess Park at 701 Laurel St. in Menlo Park on Saturday, Oct. 15.

Led by high school seniors Sydney Young and Elizabeth Sherwin, the club strives to raise awareness of human trafficking and fair trade issues. Organizations scheduled to attend include the Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition, Trade as One, International Justice Mission, Freedom House, and Not for Sale. Lutticken's will provide a free lunch.

Visit freedom-walk.eventbrite.com to register online. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for students and \$30 for adults, and team members will receive a reduced price of \$15 and \$25, respectively. Participants registering online get a complimentary bag bearing the Save Every Slave logo.

Email saveeveryslave@gmail.com or visit saveeveryslave.webs.com for more information.

TRAIL

continued from page 9

to county data.

Weekend Acres resident Diane Gerba said she sometimes adds 10 to 15 minutes to her departure plans to allow for the difficulty of making a left turn onto Alpine Road from Weekend Acres.

“Come down during commute hours and walk to Stowe

Lane,” she said to the council. Ask yourselves: “Is this really feeling recreational? Can it ever feel recreational?”

(An agreement Stanford has with Santa Clara County around this project cites “enhanced recreational opportunities for the Stanford community” and the region if the trails are upgraded.)

Ladera resident Ted Huang cited a study by Harvard University's

school of public health concluding that multi-use paths are safer for cyclists than bike lanes.

Ladera resident Rob Decker acknowledged Mr. Huang's citation, but noted that 70 other studies have concluded that multi-use paths that traverse vehicle intersections are more dangerous than bike lanes.

This path crosses two tennis club entrances, five roads into and out of Weekend Acres, about 20 driveways and two freeway off ramps, Mr. Becker said.

The off ramp from northbound I-280 that merges with eastbound Alpine Road is particularly dangerous, Mr. Becker said. Drivers heading into Menlo Park are looking west for Alpine Road traffic and may be oblivious to travelers on the two-way path who are headed west. ▀

Local agents rank among top in U.S.

Sixteen Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage agents are among the top 1,000 Realtors in the United States, according to the Wall Street Journal and REAL Trends, a real estate consulting company.

The sixteen named include the following local agents: Tom LeMieux and Keri Nichols from the Menlo Park-Santa Cruz office; the Kristin Cashin Group from the Menlo Park-Valparaiso office; the Kavanaugh team from Portola Valley; and Scott Dancer and Erika Demma from Woodside.



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Woodside Day of the Horse

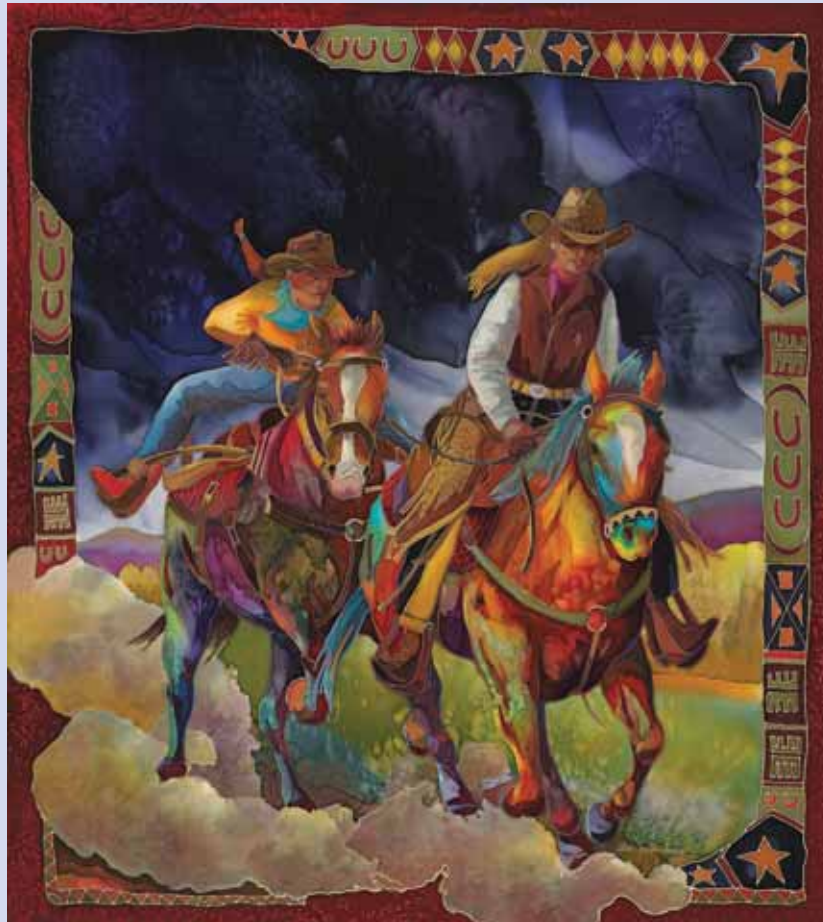
The first horse came to Woodside and Portola Valley in 1769 with Gaspar de Portola.

They camped in a nearby valley and discovered the Bay. Now the Woodside horse population is by far the largest of any Peninsula town.



The San Mateo County Sheriff's Mounted Search and Rescue Unit consists of

civilians who volunteer their own time, money and horses for search and rescue operations work as a team with the Sheriff's Office and other emergency agencies.



© Nancy Dunlop Cawdrey

Founded shortly after Pearl Harbor to help guard our rugged coast, the **Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County**

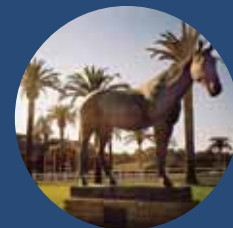


evolved into a community service organization which participates in rodeos, equestrian events, charitable activities and assists the Sheriff's search and rescue team.

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Community Health Education Programs

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October 2011



For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures and health education resources, visit: pamf.org/healtheducation.

Lectures and Workshops

Innovation in Health Care

A Conversation with...Lecture Series

Presented by Albert Chan, M.D., M.S., Chief Medical Information Officer, PAFMG Medical Director, David Druker Center for Health Systems Innovation
Wednesday, October 5, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Sunnyvale Public Library
665 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale, 650-934-7373

Be a part of the solution as we discuss changes in the way patients access health care, the way it is measured and funded, and how technology is changing the way it is delivered.



Precocious Puberty: Guidance for Families

Presented by Nancy L. Brown, M.A., Ph.D., Ed.S., PAMF Education Division and Kelly Troiano, M.D., PAMF Pediatrics
Tuesday, October 11, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
795 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, 650-853-4873

Between the ages of 8 and 14 rapid changes occur in the body and it is not unusual for a youth to gain up to 60 pounds and grow up to 10 inches. Come learn about early puberty and ways to help reduce the social consequences for your children. Parents and youth ages 8 and older are welcome.



Advances in Cataract Surgery **Senior Center Lectures**

Presented by Karen Shih, M.D., PAMF Ophthalmology
Tuesday, October 18, 1 to 2 p.m.,
Sunnyvale City Senior Center

550 E. Remington Drive, Sunnyvale, 650-934-7373

What is a cataract? How has the treatment changed? When should I consider surgery?

Innovations in Podiatry

For Your Health Lecture Series

Presented by Nicholas Todd, DPM, PAMF Podiatry
Wednesday, October 19, 7 to 8 p.m.
701 E. El Camino Real, Mountain View 650-934-7373

Join us as we examine new health claims in footwear and discover what might be helping us and what might be causing more problems.

Cancer Care

- Eating Tips During Cancer Care Treatment
- Exercise for Energy – men and women's group
- Expressions
- Healing Imagery
- Healthy Eating After Cancer Treatment
- Look Good, Feel Better
- Qigong
- When Eating is a Problem, During Cancer Treatment

Childbirth and Parent Education Classes

- Baby Safety Basics
- Breastfeeding
- Childbirth Preparation
- Feeding Your Young Child
- Infant and Child CPR
- Infant Care
- Infant Emergencies and CPR
- Introduction to Solids
- Mother-Baby Circle
- New Parent ABC's – All About Baby Care
- OB Orientation
- PAMF Partners in Pregnancy
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- Sibling Preparation
- What to Expect with Your Newborn

Living Well Classes

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School district helps raise money for girl killed by car

The Ravenswood Elementary School District is helping raise money for a memorial service for a student who was struck and killed in an East Palo Alto crosswalk Sept. 28.

Superintendent Maria De La Vega said the district is taking up a collection at each school and has put out a call for donations to help pay for services for 6-year-old Sioreli Torres.

Sioreli, a Green Oaks Academy student, was crossing Bay Road at Gloria Way on her way to school shortly after 8 a.m. when she was struck by an eastbound car, according to police. Her mother and two younger sisters were a few feet behind her in the crosswalk.

The driver, Alisha Whitepark-

er, 49, of East Palo Alto, was on her way to teach at Costano Elementary School. Ms. De Le Vega said Ms. Whiteparker is on administrative leave following the accident.

The district brought in around 30 counselors to speak with students Thursday, and those who need it will receive follow-up counseling. District staff members are struggling with a great deal of grief over the death, Ms. De La Vega said.

Services are expected to be held at Jones Mortuary in East Palo Alto. Donations can be sent to Zamorra Funeral Expenses for Sioreli, c/o Chase Bank, 2300 Broadway St., Redwood City, CA 94063, account #980072078.

— Bay City News Service

Murder charge in other fatal crash

A driver who struck and killed a motorcyclist in East Palo Alto on Sept. 28 while fleeing police will be charged with murder, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

Eric Banford, a 46-year-old East Palo Alto resident, will be charged with second-degree murder, vehicular manslaughter, felony evading a police officer and felony hit-and-run, District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said.

Mr. Banford has two prior strikes for felony convictions. He was convicted of manslaughter in 1991, and of robbery in 1987, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

The murder charge is justified, in part, Mr. Wagstaffe said, by the fact that he was allegedly using drugs at the time of the crash, which killed 50-year-old East Palo Alto resident Danny Lee Dixon.

Mr. Banford was allegedly trying to evade police when the Land Rover he was driving struck Mr. Dixon's motorcycle at Bay Road and University Avenue at 5:25 a.m., according to police. Mr. Dixon was declared dead at the scene.

The incident was the first of two fatal crashes in East Palo Alto on Sept. 28. Sioreli Torres, 6, was struck and killed in a crosswalk on Bay Road at Gloria Way shortly after 8 a.m. by a car driven by teacher Alisha Whiteparker.

Mr. Wagstaffe said police were still investigating that incident, and would turn it over to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office for review to determine if any charges were appropriate.

— Bay City News Service



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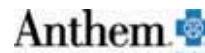
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Korean BBQ
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CITY OF MENLO PARK ORDINANCE 975 SUMMARY NOTICE OF ADOPTION

The City Council of Menlo Park adopted Ordinance No. 975 at its regular City Council meeting of September 27, 2011. The Ordinance was introduced on September 13, 2011, and adopted on September 27, 2011, by a 5-0 vote. The ordinance is effective thirty days after its adoption, and is summarized as:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK ENACTED PURSUANT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 34193 TO ELECT AND IMPLEMENT PARTICIPATION BY THE CITY OF MENLO PARK AND THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK IN THE ALTERNATIVE VOLUNTARY REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO PART 1.9 OF THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT LAW

The full text of the ordinance and all exhibits are available at the Office of the City Clerk and/or may be viewed on the City of Menlo Park website at www.menlopark.org

Margaret S. Roberts, MMC
City Clerk

Dated: September 28, 2011



WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT NOTICE OF VACANCY

Due to the resignation of former Director Harry Harrison effective September 29, 2011, a vacancy exists on the Board of Directors of the West Bay Sanitary District.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 1780, a copy of this Notice of Vacancy is being posted in three or more conspicuous places in the District, and a provisional appointment to fill the vacancy may be made by the Board of Directors fifteen (15) days after such posting.

The Board of Directors will consider making an appointment at its meeting on October 26, 2011. If an appointment is made, the appointee will fill the balance of Director Harrison's term of office, which will expire after the next regular election of the West Bay Sanitary District in November, 2013.

Anyone interested in serving on the Board for the duration of this term is encouraged to submit a brief statement of interest and qualifications, which should be submitted to the District no later than October 19, 2011 in order to be included in the agenda packet for the October 26, 2011 meeting.

Eligible candidates for the position must reside in and be registered to vote in the West Bay Sanitary District. Please contact the District office if you have any questions.

Phil Scott, District Manager
500 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Tel: (650) 321-0384
Fax: (650) 321-4265
www.westbaysanitary.org

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TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY SEEKS APPLICANTS TO SERVE ON THE BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



The Town Council seeks applicants for appointment to the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee. The "BPTS" Committee is to advise the Town in ways and means for safer conditions regarding bicycles, pedestrians and motor vehicles. To encourage proper traffic enforcement. To encourage safe and enjoyable bicycling in Portola Valley as a means of transportation and recreation.

- Respond to and meet with citizens who have expressed their concerns over traffic safety
- Recommend to the Council policies that improve traffic safety in Town
- Inform and advise the Town Staff, Town Council, Commissions and Committees on traffic and bicycling matters
- Evaluate General Plan Policies relating to bicycle, pedestrian and traffic safety and to make recommendations for changes in and/or implementation of these policies
- Promote and support local programs for bicycle, pedestrian, and traffic safety, such as the coalition for the "Safe Routes to School" program
- Promote safety through public education. Educate children and the general public in State law pertaining to bicycling and traffic safety practices
- Make recommendations for signage that improves safety
- Coordinate regional planning of Town bicycling facilities and programs with surrounding communities and San Mateo County

Applications may be downloaded or submitted on-line at <http://www.portolavalley.net/index.aspx?page=193>. The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 28. Interviews will be conducted the week of November 7th by two members of the Town Council (Ted Driscoll and Ann Wengert). Final recommendations for appointment to the committee will be presented to the Town Council for action on December 14. The term of appointments will be one year, starting January 1, and appointments are renewable.

Meals on Wheels dine-out benefit

Peninsula Volunteers Inc. is sponsoring its second annual "Dine Out" fundraiser for Meals on Wheels on Tuesday, Oct. 4.

Participating restaurants will donate a portion of the day's proceeds to Meals on Wheels. In addition, diners may make

AROUND TOWN

donations at each restaurant. Local restaurants taking part in the program include: Alice's Restaurant, Amici's East Coast Pizzeria, Amigo's Grill, Ann's Coffee Shop, Bistro Vida, Bona Restaurant, British Bankers Club, Carpaccio, Cedro Ristorante, Celia's Mexican Restaurant, Chantilly, Copenhagen, El Cerrito Mexican Restaurant, Gambardella's, John Bentley's, Luttickens After 5, Menlo Grill Bistro & Bar, Oak City Bar & Grill, Parkside Grille, Ristorante Mataro, Round Table Pizza, Trelis, and Woodside Bakery & Cafe.

Since 1978, Peninsula Volunteers has provided Meals on Wheels service in San Mateo County, delivering hot meals to eligible seniors and disabled adults who are unable to prepare food. Each year more than 150,000 meals are prepared and delivered by staff and volunteers, the organization says.

Woodside woman holds financial roundtables

Woodside resident Teresa Dentino, CEO of The Financial 411, which provides financial education for women, says she will be conducting roundtable presentations in Menlo Park to help women with personal finance and investing.

The roundtables will be on Oct. 5 and 19.

It cost \$25 to attend. Proceeds benefit the Women's Achievement Network and Development Alliance, which works to increase financial literacy and economic self-sufficiency among low-income single mother in San Mateo County, Ms. Dentino said in an announcement.

Ms. Dentino said she selected the Deggelman/Parker Group, an investment advisory firm in Menlo Park, as the host organization.

Visit tinyurl.com/6yzcuqa for more information.

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Driver arrested after allegedly trying to run down worker

A Menlo Park man was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon on Sept. 29 after he reportedly aimed his car at a traffic control worker who was directing traffic at the intersection of Emilie Avenue and Park Lane during an event at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton.

Police arrested Stephen Peckler, 61, after witnesses said he intentionally tried to run over the worker, according to Atherton Police Lt. Joe Wade.

Mr. Peckler, who was driving a silver 2009 Honda Civic through the area, "basically didn't want to wait, and accelerated" his car toward the person conducting traffic control, Lt. Wade said.

The worker "felt he was in danger" and quickly moved out of the car's path, he said.

Mr. Peckler was taken to county jail after the incident, Lt. Wade said.

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.

MENLO PARK

Stolen vehicle report: Witness sees man pushing 1995 Harley Davidson Sportster motorcycle in attempt to push-start it but fails, abandons it in road and flees with bike's disc brake lock, 2100 block of Santa Cruz Ave., Sept. 26.

Residential burglary report: Loss estimated at \$5,080 in break-in and theft of three cameras, lens, jewelry, laptop computer and cash, Sonoma Ave., Sept. 23.

Auto burglary report: Loss estimated at \$1,050 in break-in and theft from three vehicles GPS units, eyeglasses, binoculars and cell phone, Alma St., Sept. 23.

Theft reports:

■ Loss estimated at \$1,050 in theft of construction tools from unlocked vehicle, Sharon Park Drive, Sept. 29.

■ Loss estimated at \$100 in theft of locked bike from bike rack, Pierce Road, Sept. 26.

Fraud report: Driver of older model Ford SUV flees after gas station attendant discovers driver's attempt to obtain change for counterfeit \$20 bill, Sharon Park Drive, Sept. 24.

Child Protective Service report: 300 block of Laurel St., Sept. 23.

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Paul J. Wang, MD, FACC, FHRS

Professor of Medicine

Director, Stanford Arrhythmia Service

For more information:

www.stanfordhospital.org/afib-event



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Walk to end Alzheimer's disease set for Oct. 15

Now in its fourth year, the Silicon Valley Walk to End Alzheimer's disease is hoping to attract 2,500 walkers to Arena Green Park in San Jose on Saturday, Oct. 15, says Peter Daly of Woodside, chairman of the Northern California and Nevada chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

The association helps stage hundreds of walks across the country to raise money and awareness about the disease.

The goal for this event is to raise \$450,000 toward care, support

and research. An estimated half a million people are living with Alzheimer's disease in California, the association says.

Visit walk@alzncorcal.org for information on how to sign up, form teams, and find sponsors. Walkers may also register the day of the walk starting at 8:30 a.m. There is no entry fee.

Free parking will be available at HP Pavilion. Peet's coffee and Hobee's coffee cake will be handed out, while entertainers such as Grupo Folklorico Los Laureles perform.

The walk is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The course is flat and three miles long, with a one-mile shortcut.

Afterward, speakers will talk about their experiences with Alzheimer's disease. The band, Men Behaving Loudly, will play rock and roll. A bounce house and crafts center will be set up for children.

Walk to School Day

More than 3,000 schools in the United States are taking

part in International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, Oct. 5.

One-third of the elementary and middle schools in San Mateo County, including schools from Atherton, Menlo

Park, and Woodside, are participating.

For information about Walk to School Day events in San Mateo County, contact Doris Estremera at 573-2208.

Marion Elizabeth Suttle

1919-2011

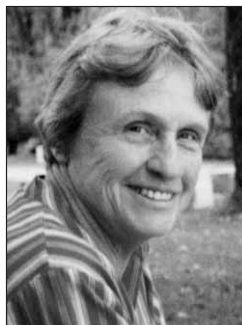
Marion Elizabeth Suttle passed away peacefully in Atherton on September 11, 2011 at the age of 92. Known affectionately as Betty, she is survived by her husband of 70 years, Jack; her four children John (wife Mojdeh), Richard, Peter, and Susan Rojas (husband José); five grandchildren Katrina Rojas, Annie Rojas, Eileen Rojas, Jessica Suttle, and J.J. Suttle; and one great-grandchild, Alejandro Jacobs. She was preceded in death by her brother Milton Balcome and sisters Ruth Brom and Jean Murray, and her grandson Damien Suttle.

Betty attended Macalester College in St. Paul, MN, from 1937 to 1941, where she graduated with a degree in sociology. She met her loving husband Jack while working at Glacier National Park in the summer of 1939. They married in 1941, and Betty became the Chemistry librarian at Case Western Reserve while Jack finished his doctorate. Starting a family in 1944, Betty became a stay-at-home mom, a job which she continued until 1970 when she began work at the Physics library at U.C. Berkeley. In 1973, Betty and Jack moved to Taos, NM to retire. In retirement, Betty volunteered

to organize the library at the Millicent Rogers Museum in Taos, and became its first librarian. In 1982, they returned to California, and Betty helped her son John raise his three children. She also did volunteer work at Rosner House in Menlo Park and the Palo Alto Clinic.

Betty had a heart valve replacement in 1999 that forced her to curtail her volunteer work. But she remained vital and involved with her children and grandchildren until 2010 when a pacemaker was required to be installed to keep her alive. She remained gracious and loving to the end. She had a wonderful caretaker for the last three years, Mele Fine. Betty was loved by everyone who knew her and will be missed by all.

A memorial service will be held on November 13, 2011. Contact John at (415) 844-1211 or email at Suttle7232@aol.com after October 25 for details.



PAID OBITUARY

Joan O'Donnell (aka Mrs. O'D., Joan, Joanie)

July 16, 1931 - September 22, 2011

Joan ("Mrs. O'D") passed away peacefully in her Sebastopol home surrounded by family and dear friends.

Joan was born in San Francisco in 1931 to Paul and Helen Neuer and graduated from Mission High School in 1949. After graduating, Joan worked at the Grant Market in San Francisco and eventually met and married the love of her life, Charles. After the birth of their son, Matthew, and living in South San Francisco for a decade, the family (including Joan's daughter, Annie, from a prior marriage) moved to Menlo Park in 1963. For years, Joan and Charles enjoyed coaching the students at St. Raymond's School. Eventually, Mrs. O'D became the P.E. teacher and athletic director. She was devoted to the students and was loved by all. After moving to Sebastopol in 1987, Mrs. O'D drove to Menlo Park every week and stayed with a dear friend (Iris) in order to continue teaching. As one parent shared with her daughter a few years ago, "Your mother was the heart and soul of St. Raymond's School."

In addition to her students, Joan was also devoted to the family animals and loved being on the golf course and laughing with her dear

friends and extended families of Menlo Park and Sebastopol. She also had a passion for cooking and was famous for her raviolis.

Joan leaves behind her husband of 57 years, her son Matthew and daughter-in-law Ellia, 3 grandsons (Kellan, Aidan and Brennan), her daughter, Ann (Leishman), granddaughter Sarah (Barbeau) Reuter (Andy) and great-grandchild, Emma Lee (Reuter). She also leaves behind several nieces and nephews who will miss their Auntie Joanie. [Her siblings, Gertrude and Paul Neuer of Santa Rosa predeceased her.] The presence and love of our mom and our children's Grammy will always be remembered and forever treasured. A memorial mass is Saturday, Oct 8, at 1 p.m. at St. Sebastian's Catholic Church in Sebastopol. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael.



PAID OBITUARY

Zlata Postich

Zlata Postich, loving wife of Dimitrije Mita Postich, a resident of Portola Valley since 1972, died peacefully on the 23rd of September, 2011. Zlata was born on the 4th of July, 1945 in Salzburg Austria, grew up in Morocco, came to San Francisco at age 12, and later earned her degree in Chemistry from San Jose State University. She was a loving mother and grandmother, an avid gardener, a gourmet cook, president of the Saint Sophia Sisterhood, and participated in many charitable causes.

Along with her mother, Vera Solovkov, she is survived by her husband, sons Mark and George, daughter-in-law Jenny and grandchildren, Natalia and Alexander. She had a loving spirit, generous heart, and always had a smile on her face. She will be deeply missed.

A private memorial gathering was held in San Francisco for family and friends. Donations may be made in her memory to the Saint Sophia Sisterhood, 900 Baker Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.

Sullivan's Funeral Home (415) 621-4567

PAID OBITUARY

Richard Stanley Frankel

Sept. 3, 1924 - Sept. 23, 2011

Richard (Dick) Stanley Frankel, 87, passed away peacefully in his Woodside home on September 23, 2011. He was born September 3, 1924 in New York City to Hungarian immigrants, Joseph and Sophia Frankel. At a very young age, Dick loved to sketch and draw which continued throughout his life.

After graduating from the University of Michigan he served in the U.S. Army in World War II as a map maker. After he was discharged from the Army, he worked on the Nautilus, the first U.S. nuclear sub-marine. He moved to San Francisco where he fell in love and married Sydney Paton on May 29, 1961 and together they raised seven children. Dick was known for his intelligence and keen mind.

He was asked by the Santa Clara University to be Regent where he served for 10 yrs. Dick was an entrepreneur and philanthropist and started numerous companies such as Kevex Corp, (which made detectors used in the Pioneer X and X1 satellites), Provisdom and Mydax. In retirement, Dick continued his passion of painting and building miniature ships. Dick loved his family, his home in Woodside and the beauty in nature.

He is survived by his wife of 50 yrs., Sydney; his daughter, Susan Frankel, his son, Brad Frankel, his son, Todd Frankel, his daughter, Robyn Frankel, his son and daughter-in-law, Marvin and Audrey Lynn Frankel, his daughter, Kimberly Frankel, his daughter, Krista Frankel; four grandchildren, Brittany, Karly, Kyle, Asher and Stella Lynn; his brother and sister-in-law, Marvin and Carole Frankel of San Francisco, CA.

Dick is interned at Cypress Lawn in Colma, CA.

The family requests in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to the American Heart Association, heart.org

PAID OBITUARY



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occasionally on the Town Square forum.**TOWN SQUARE FORUM**Post your views on the
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223-6507.

Viewpoint

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

New investigation clears cyclist

No matter which direction they go, the thousands of cyclists who ride the loop around Alpine and Portola and Sand Hill roads have to cross over or under Interstate 280, and in the process, they also must cross traffic lanes that lead from on- or off-ramps, where drivers in a hurry may not see them.

It is a perilous situation, but the scenery, gentle hills and the relatively safe bike corridors that await them beyond the freeway make the risk worthwhile, at least for those that never crash or run afoul of the laws enforced by San Mateo County Sheriff's Office deputies.

But as the number of cyclists grows, the number of accidents increases, including the Nov. 4, 2010, crash that took the life of Lauren Ward, a Los Altos Hills cyclist who died in a collision with a tractor-trailer rig on Alpine Road as she was heading to Portola Valley under I-280.

Until a few weeks ago, CHP accident investigators believed Ms. Ward was at fault, saying it appeared she turned into the truck that was heading for the southbound on-ramp of 280. Now, after recreating the scene a second time, the investigators concluded Ms. Ward was not at fault in the crash, saying the cyclist and truck came together "while the bike was still in the upright position."

Another factor in the changed conclusion was a tiny sample of DNA evidence found under the left side of the truck cab, near the front axle of the truck, CHP Capt. Mike Maskarish told the Almanac. "In this case, we just can't determine which party is

more at fault," he said.

Although investigators were able to determine that the DNA came from a human, the sample was too small, and because the analysis was done so long after the accident, it was impossible to decide if it belonged to Ms. Ward, Mr. Maskarish said.

The tragedy of Ms. Ward's death is that there are better ways to direct bicycle and vehicular traffic through this and other similar intersections up and down I-280.

For example, at Sand Hill Road and I-280 westbound cyclists are given a dedicated bike lane that is clearly delineated with wide white lines. It is sandwiched between a dual-purpose right lane that brings traffic from an off-ramp toward Woodside that then becomes an on-ramp to southbound I-280. The left lane carries through-traffic that, like the cyclists, is headed to Woodside.

Although it may sound complicated, the beauty of this lane configuration is its simplicity, which gives drivers and cyclists a sense of security.

A similar lane configuration is planned at Alpine Road and I-280, but has been held up due to lack of funding. A spokesperson for the San Mateo County Public Works Dept. told the Almanac a first effort at a grant was turned down, but she is hopeful that another source of funds can be found in time to complete a repaving and restriping of the intersection by the end of next year.

That would be good news for the cyclists and drivers who use this busy intersection, and it would be a fitting tribute to Lauren Ward, whose death unfortunately was the catalyst to move this project forward.

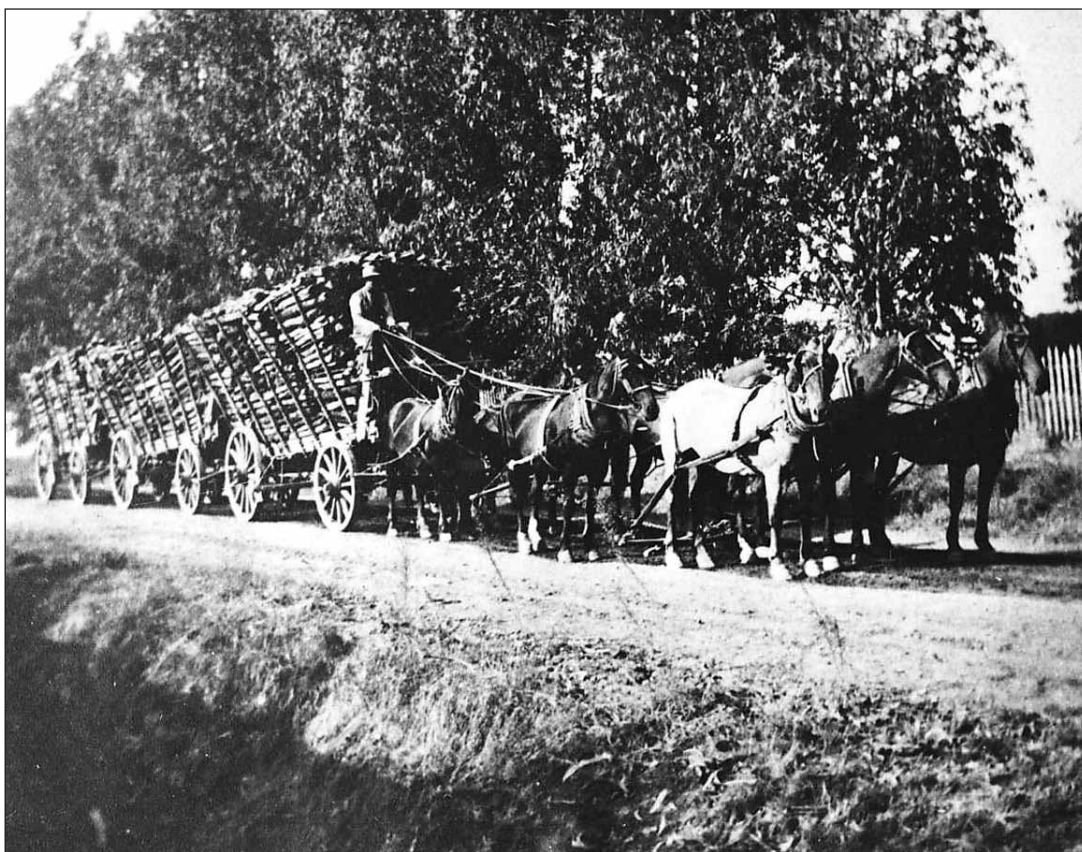
EDITORIAL*The opinion of The Almanac***LETTERS***Our readers write***Praise for fire prevention teamwork in Alpine Hills***Editor:*

I would like to acknowledge the wonderful teamwork that prevented the recent house fire in Alpine Hills from becoming a more extensive blaze that could have spread to surrounding hills and homes. Both the careful fire prevention practices of the homeowners and the quick response of the fire department enabled the quick containment of the blaze to a single structure.

Ross and Nancy Bardwell, whose home on Valencia Court was destroyed by the fire, were praised by the fire marshall for their careful and extensive clearing of brush and other flammables around their property and the installation of a fire retardant roof. In addition, the Bardwells, working in tandem with the fire district, had identified and removed dead trees on a neighboring vacant property just weeks before the fire.

Without these measures, the

See **LETTERS**, next page



Woodside Library Collection

Our Regional Heritage

Nine horses were used to pull a triple set of tanbark wagons over the hills to Woodside, as seen in this undated photo. The wagon is stopped at what was known as the Tole House on Kings Mountain Road.

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

spread of the fire in this rugged terrain with difficult access would have been far more likely. The family made these efforts in order to protect their home from the danger of a wildfire, but found that their own precautions protected their neighbors. I am hopeful that their efforts at preventing loss will serve as a model for us all and a reminder to be proactive in our efforts to keep the hills a safe place to live.

The Bardwells feel deeply appreciative of the quick response of the first responders, multiple fire companies, kind, generous friends and neighbors and the outpouring of expressions of caring and offers of assistance from the community as a whole.

Barbara White
Golden Oak Dr., Portola Valley

Waiting long enough for the downtown plan

Editor:

I join Mary Gilles' festering impatience in wondering what the heck is stopping action — any action — with Menlo Park's "Downtown Specific Plan."

Sometime in the mid-90's, I joined several other enthusiastic Menlo Parkers to spend a Saturday walking the streets of our city, prepping for a "redesign" of El Camino Real and Santa Cruz Avenue. That was followed by synopsis, meetings, presentations and, well, you know the rest: The results were never heard from again.

How many city councils and mayors ago was that? How many planning commissions? How many consultants, and their costs? How many plans, council meetings, and letters to the editor?

Is the "Downtown Specific Plan" the third-rail of Menlo Park politics? Or perhaps just symptomatic of something much larger: the growing inability of government — local, state or federal — to get things done.

Former mayor and council member Chuck Kinney once told me that getting things done in government is "glacial." I would now add biblical, as in the no-end-in-sight struggle between the Arabs and the Jews.

Perhaps it's the title: "Downtown Specific Plan." Maybe too many "specifics." What if we just start with El Camino Real.

Turn those empty car dealerships, blighted theater and empty lots into attractive housing, commerce and revenue-production for Menlo Park?

That's what my little touring group concluded — 15 years ago.

Dan Dippery
Santa Rita Ave., Menlo Park

Now is the time to move on downtown plan

Editor:

"If not here, where? If not now, when?" This is a quote from an Almanac editorial which appeared Sept. 18, 2002. The article made reference to several affordable housing projects that were thwarted by community pressure.

The editorial ends with the following statement: "Whatever the answer, it is time for city officials to work much harder to get at least a few larger and affordable housing projects approved in the city."

It is almost 10 years later with even more vacant land along El Camino. Now is the opportunity to create the kind of Grand Boulevard we would all like to see.

We have many excellent examples of outstanding architecture and placements along our 1.7 miles of El Camino. The fact remains that housing is missing with the exception of two structures. By placing 1-2 bedroom condominiums in strategic places along El Camino, we could provide workforce housing for enterprises near by such as Facebook and Stanford Medical Center.

The younger generation would bring vibrancy and dollars to Santa Cruz Avenue merchants. The older adult population interested in downsizing would have an opportunity to live in a walkable environment with less dependence on their cars.

Transportation modes would broaden to include shuttles, buses, bicycles and walking, leading to a reduction in auto use and green house gas emissions. The downtown village atmosphere would become more diverse and prosperous. It's time for our City Council to plan for the future decades, starting now.

Patty Boyle
Menlo Park Resident

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