



**Holiday Fund** amplifies your seasonal giving *page 16*

# The Almanac

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

DECEMBER 7, 2011 | VOL. 47 NO. 15



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## Re-imagining ATHERTON'S TOWN CENTER

Architectural firms propose two very different concepts

Page 5





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# Deciding where to deliver your baby?

Obstetricians Karen Shin and Mary Parman spend their days caring for patients and delivering babies. When each doctor became pregnant with her first child, the choice of where to deliver was clear: right here where she delivers her patients' babies — Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

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# Inside look at college admissions

Christine VanDeVelde discovers it's more logical, sane, positive than expected

By Jeff Carr

Special to the Almanac

Speaking with Portola Valley writer Christine VanDeVelde, who co-authored a new book on the college admission process, is comforting and reassuring. She has gathered dozens of experts to share elusive insights such as these:

■ "More than three-quarters of students are accepted by their first-choice college."

■ "Colleges look for the great basketball player and the star scientist, but they're also looking for a kid who makes the dorm a nice place to live."

Such insights are common fare in "College Admission: From Application to Acceptance, Step by Step," a 400-page tome co-authored by Ms. VanDeVelde and Robin Mamlet, Stanford's former admissions dean.

"College Admission" attempts to infuse a calming dose of reality into a process Ms. VanDeVelde said is unnecessarily fraught with misinformation and anxiety. She knows how many get-me-into-Harvard books are on the shelves, perpetuating and playing off of the angst.

The plan, therefore, wasn't to reproduce them. The plan was to go in a different direction by tapping into the perspective of a group rarely consulted for such books: the people who actually make admission decisions. Ms. Mamlet says she alone has made more than 100,000.

Her credentials are outlined on the book's cover: former dean of admissions at Stanford, Swarthmore, and Sarah Lawrence. Ms. VanDeVelde is billed more simply as a journalist and parent. She has written on higher education and other topics for USA Today, the Los Angeles Times and others, but it was her role as a parent that prompted her to take action.

"I started out writing the book I wanted to have when my daughter was going through the process," she said.

Her daughter Roark, a 2008 Castilleja graduate, is now in her senior year at Vanderbilt University. In the book, Ms. VanDe-



Christine VanDeVelde, left, of Portola Valley and her co-author Robin Mamlet.

Velde directs her calming, positive brand of insight at parents, as well.

As the subtitle says, it covers each step of the journey, from application to acceptance.

Ms. VanDeVelde grew up in Sterling, in northwestern Illinois. After majoring in journalism and political theory at Boston University, she returned to Chicago, where she entered a management training program at a bank. Just like today, journalism jobs were hard to come by then, she said, but she gained real-world business exposure working with the assets of high-value, hard-to-categorize clients such as Muhammad Ali and Ted Turner.

After marrying, she followed her husband and his tech-sector job to Menlo Park in 1987, and she became a full-time parent soon thereafter.

The family settled in Portola Valley in the mid-1990s.

She had been writing on the side since college, but once her daughter left home, she began looking to get back into the business full-time.

She vented to Ms. Mamlet, whom she had befriended through interviews as a journalist, that she hadn't seen any truly honest, useful admissions resources during

her daughter Roark's process.

Ms. Mamlet responded that she had already been thinking of putting her years of inside insight down on paper. Soon thereafter, the pair began work on a book proposal.

Through interviews with more than 50 deans of admission, the two debunk numerous unforgiving myths, like the one that says a prestigious high school and a breadth of extracurricular activities are vital.

Likewise, the deans said they can easily spot applications that are "overpackaged," or padded with accolades and activities pursued simply for the sake of the application, rather than a student's true interests. That generally doesn't reflect well, Ms. VanDeVelde said. Good grades, challenging classes and authenticity do.

The authors also devoted significant space to the oft-overlooked aspect of the application process that Ms. VanDeVelde said should be the most important: helping students decide which institution is actually the best individual fit. She insisted that the media and stressed parents inflate not only the perceived requirements for getting into the most selective schools, but the importance of attending those schools.

The book contains a section, complete with a lengthy introspective questionnaire, aimed at helping students determine where they'll actually be happiest and most likely to succeed. Still, Ms. VanDeVelde said, it takes an act of will to throw out prestige as a criterion.

"It's not where you go — it's what you do when you get there," she said. Indeed, the book cites a landmark study demonstrating that students who are capable of getting into a Stanford or a Princeton are equally successful in life no matter where they ultimately enroll.

Ms. VanDeVelde said she now spends most of her time on the book's website, which provides timely advice and tools for appli-

See COLLEGE, page 7



Presented by  
**Mark Schmidt**  
Licensed Optician

HERE'S THE RUB

If you wear soft contact lenses, you should know that recent research suggests that rubbing and rinsing your lenses before soaking them overnight is the best way to rid them of germs and avoid eye infections. This recommendation holds true even if you use a "no-rub" disinfection solution. Moreover, the study pointed out that rubbing and rinsing contacts (in conjunction with soaking) was found to be the most effective cleaning regimen with all multipurpose lens-care solutions used with any type of

contact lens. The take-away message here is that it is better to be safe than sorry. Failure to rub contacts prior to soaking is more likely to leave germs adhering to the lenses, where they are less susceptible to disinfection.

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P.S. Don't cut corners when it comes to cleaning contacts and using fresh cleaning solution.

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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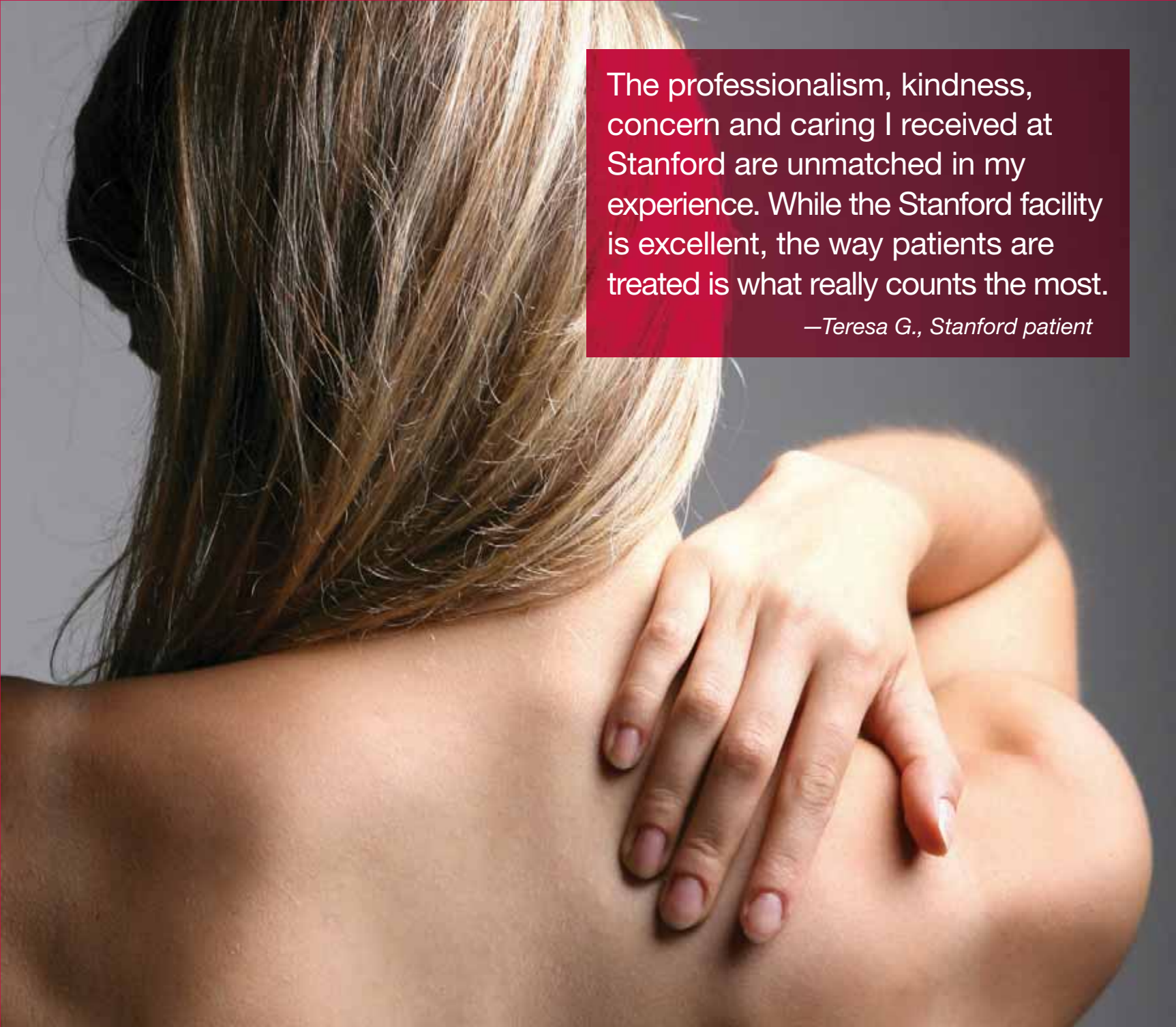
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# Local News

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## Audio recordings could tell what happened at party

■ Each police officer wore a recording device.

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Evidence that may be hard to refute could answer questions about whether there was misconduct by police in their response to a complaint about alleged underage drinking at a party in a Menlo Park home Nov. 25.

Personal recording devices captured the conversations of each of the six officers and one sergeant who responded to the complaint, Commander Dave Bertini of the Menlo Park Police Department told the Almanac.

When asked if any of the alleged behavior by police rang true, Cmdr. Bertini said, “not at all,” adding that he was precluded from commenting on the specific allegations because it is a criminal case in progress.

The party took place in the

1200 block of Woodland Avenue at the home of Stanford University assistant professor William Burnett, who was arrested and booked into jail on 44 counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Mr. Burnett, 54, was released the next morning. A court date is set for Jan. 3 if San Mateo County prosecutors decide to proceed to a trial.

Police also arrested Cynthia Benjamin, 48, who is married to Mr. Burnett, but then “un-arrested” her to allow her to look after the couple’s teenage son and because of her medical condition, Cmdr. Bertini said. Ms. Benjamin is recovering from back surgery and was using a walker, her family said.

Police have requested prosecution of Ms. Benjamin as well, Cmdr. Bertini said.

Mr. Burnett’s defense attor-

ney, Jeffrey Hayden of Redwood City, has not yet responded to an interview request.

Overseeing the police response at the scene was Sgt. Ed Soares, Cmdr. Bertini said.

Audio recordings may be particularly relevant in this case. Allegations of misconduct, provided to the Almanac in an email from Eliza Burnett, Mr. Burnett’s 21-year-old daughter, center on verbal exchanges at the party and alleged harsh and discourteous behavior by police.

Mr. Burnett later said that his daughter was not at home at the time of the incident, but he confirmed the accuracy of her statements.

Among Ms. Burnett’s allegations:

■ That police handcuffed Ms. Benjamin and took her outside into the night air, allegedly after she asked police to tell her why they were arresting her hus-

band. Ms. Burnett also alleged that police made disparaging remarks to her mother about her parenting skills.

■ That police did not tell Mr. Burnett why he was being arrested and did not read him his Miranda rights, including the right to remain silent and the right to an attorney.

■ That police told Ms. Burnett’s younger brother, in tears after seeing the treatment of his mother, to “shut up and get back in line” with some 40 other teens queued up for police interviews.

■ That police did not inform the teens of their rights regarding police interviews.

■ That police detained a 22-year-old woman passing by the party, accused her of bringing drugs for the teens, and threatened her with arrest if she tried to leave.

■ That police did not witness underage drinking and erred in

not using breathalyzer tests to prove their contention that the teens had been drinking and were inebriated.

### Police response

While proof of inebriation such as through breath analysis data would seem critical to the prosecution’s case, it is not, Cmdr. Bertini said. An officer’s observations, photographs and interview recordings are sufficient, he said.

As for detaining a passerby, that is legal if police have a “reasonable suspicion” that criminal activity is taking place and that the person being detained is connected to that activity, Cmdr. Bertini said.

Police are not required to inform people of their Miranda rights if they are being detained as opposed to arrested. If during the course of an interview,

See **ARREST**, page 8

## What effect has the Tinsley program had on students?

By Barbara Wood  
Special to the Almanac

When students from the Ravenswood school district transfer to other Midpeninsula schools through the Tinsley program, they learn things that can’t be measured on achievement tests, such as how to negotiate in very different social contexts, Stanford researcher Kendra Bischoff told the Menlo Park City School District board on Nov. 29.

In addition to board members, Ms. Bischoff spoke to the district’s leadership team and about 30 members of the public at a special meeting in the district board room held to discuss her doctoral research on the Tinsley Voluntary Transfer program.

Ms. Bischoff did look at the academic records of students in the Tinsley program, which came about as the result of a lawsuit filed in 1976 by parents in the Ravenswood City School District and neighboring districts. The suit was settled in 1985 by requir-

ing Peninsula school districts to transfer some minority students from the Ravenswood district into their districts each year.

The Peninsula districts include Menlo Park, Las Lomas, Woodside, Portola Valley, Palo Alto, Belmont-Redwood Shores and San Carlos.

Each district has a maximum number of Ravenswood students it must take each year. If more than the maximum apply, students are chosen by lottery.

**Researcher Kendra Bischoff said ‘... in science and history I find large positive effects’ ... with ‘smaller positive effects’ in math and English language arts.**

Ms. Bischoff compared students who had participated in the program with students who applied but were not chosen in the lottery.

Using the results of state achievement tests from 2003 to 2010, Ms. Bischoff said, “in science and history I find large positive effects” for the Tinsley transfer students with “smaller positive effects” in math and English language

See **TINSLEY**, page 8



This rendering by the architectural firm Nichols Melburg & Rossetto shows the entry loggia to a rear garden. **On the cover:** The Nichols Melburg concept is on top. On the bottom is the concept by two architectural firms that designed the Portola Valley Town Center: Siegel & Strain and Goring & Straja.

## Re-imagining Atherton’s Town Center

By Barbara Wood  
Special to the Almanac

Atherton residents are being asked to weigh in on a decision that could affect the public face of the town for decades to come: How should the town’s new Town Center complex be designed?

Members of the Town Cen-

ter Task Force want Atherton residents to look at the designs and qualifications of the firms competing for the job and share their opinions with the task force.

Two design concepts for a new Town Center have been presented by architects as part of a competition sponsored by the town. While the public is

being asked to comment on the designs submitted, once an architect is chosen, the firm or firms will come up with a new design for the Town Center based on input from the community and town staff.

These firms have submitted the two proposals:

See **TOWN CENTER**, page 8

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## Two killed by trains identified

Two of three people who died on Bay Area railroad tracks on Saturday, Dec. 3, have been identified.

Within a little more than one hour, two people were struck and killed by trains in Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

A man died at Palo Alto's California Avenue station; the second person, a woman, was struck and killed just north of the Menlo Park station.

Their deaths were preceded by a third man, who was struck and killed by an Amtrak train in Fremont.

Gary Carter, 47, of Fremont, was killed by Amtrak train number 727, a westbound Capitol Corridor train, around 10:20 a.m., Danelle Hunter, an Amtrak spokeswoman said.

At about 11:10 a.m., northbound train No. 801, a Baby Bul-

let express train, hit an unidentified man at the California Avenue Caltrain station in Palo Alto, spokeswoman Christine Dunn said.

At 12:13 p.m., southbound train No. 428 struck and killed a woman on the tracks just north of the Menlo Park station, she said.

The victim in the Menlo Park incident has been identified as Jayne Cox, 27, of Folsom, according to the San Mateo County Coroner's Office.

The identity of the Palo Alto victim has not yet been released, according to the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner's Office.

There have been 16 fatalities on the Caltrain right of way this year, Ms. Dunn said. The highest number of deaths in one year in the Caltrain right of way—20—occurred in 1995, she said.

## Celebration of life of Emil Magrin

A celebration of the life of Emil Magrin, a resident of Woodside for 43 years, will be held at noon Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Redwood City Elks Lodge at 938 Wilmington Way. Mr. Magrin died Dec. 4

at age 84 after complications from a fall.

Visit [tinyurl.com/Magrin](http://tinyurl.com/Magrin) to see an obituary and to leave a remembrance on the Almanac's Lasting Memories website.

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Photo: Marc Silber

# Facebook issues economic-impact study

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

With all the fanfare over Facebook relocating to Menlo Park, the question of why that was such a boon to the city sometimes led to hazy answers: "This is fantastic!" "Why?" "Because it's Facebook, and fantastic!" But now there are some concrete answers in the form of an economic impact study commissioned by the social networking giant.

The study, conducted by Brion & Associates, calculated the potential number of new jobs, retail spending, and other activity spawned by Facebook's arrival both in Menlo Park and San Mateo County, based on 2009 economic data. The company's campuses at 1601 Willow Road and nearby Constitution Drive give it enough room for up to 9,400 employees, although Facebook's director of global real estate, John Tenanes, said there's no timeline for filling all those seats.

Joanne Brion, an urban economist, led the analysis. The study examines direct impacts as well as what she described as an "economic multiplier" effect that evaluates economic activity for a business as a combination of what happens on site and related activity that happens elsewhere.

On the city level, the analysis predicted 2,441 temporary jobs related to construction on the new campuses over four years. That could drop \$366 million into the county's economy, with \$250 million directly spent on construction costs.

## A room for the night

Retail spending and lodging contribute to ongoing economic benefit. It turns out that being a

social networking company online leads to lots of social networking offline.

"One of the unique things about Facebook is that they hold a lot of events," Ms. Brion said. "So they generate quite a bit of demand for lodging. We worked with staff (to estimate) how many events, how long people stay, and how many visitors." That includes job candidates who go through an average of six face-to-face interviews before being hired.

According to the study, Facebook needs an additional 14,000 hotel room nights per year to accommodate all those visitors, generating \$1.95 million a year in Menlo Park and \$3.0 million county-wide, with \$300,000 in transient occupancy tax annually. That figure may be on the low side; Ms. Brion said the analysis didn't take into account vendors and potential advertisers who travel to Facebook headquarters because no department had tracked those visits.

The company hopes this encourages the hotel planned as part of the Bohannon Menlo Gateway project to open sooner, rather than later. Ms. Brion said she ended up staying in Redwood City several months ago after a search for a hotel room in Menlo Park proved fruitless. If the city can't accommodate Facebook's guests, that revenue also leaves.

Critics have suggested that Facebook's lack of taxable product and the on-campus amenities — everything from burgers to haircuts — make the company not so great for Menlo Park's coffers. However, the economic analysis also predicted an annual \$28.9 million bump to retail spending, thanks to visitors as well as Facebook employees. That's about \$293,000 in sales tax for local cities,

including Menlo Park.

"Part of our culture is about going out and socializing after work," Mr. Tenanes said. Facebook plans to launch a new program in February that gives employees "Facebucks," specialized credit cards good for use at local restaurants, bookstores, and other businesses. A trial run of 50 employees hit the streets in November. He said the company is also working hard to bring local vendors on campus; for example, they're currently talking with a Menlo Park optometrist about providing on-site services.

Ms. Brion noted that the analysis considered campus facilities. She said national survey data estimates an average \$40 spent per day per employee. "In our case we reduced that figure significantly, because Facebook provides food and some amenities, and also because of the location of the campus," she said. "We're using about \$12 per workday per employee."

## Like-minded company

A more ephemeral benefit of Facebook's arrival in Menlo Park is that the cachet could lure other high-profile companies to relocate here. "We know from Google and Apple and Electronic Arts that (these businesses) do change the economy in the cities they choose," Ms. Brion said.

The timing of the study's release is no coincidence. The draft environmental impact report (EIR) for the company's planned campus development will be released on Dec. 8, along with the city's own fiscal impact analysis, which focuses on Menlo Park's general fund. "It's a different analysis" Ms. Brion explained. "What we're focused on are broader economic benefits." ■

## Reports on Facebook project released

Draft environmental and fiscal impact reports on the Facebook campus project will be available for review starting Dec. 8 online and at the library and Community Development Department in the Menlo Park Civic Center.

Go to [tinyurl.com/Facebook-145](http://tinyurl.com/Facebook-145) to see the project Web page.

The documents will be available for public viewing at the Community Development Department, 701 Laurel St. in Menlo Park, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday (the office is closed on alternate Fridays).

The review period runs from Dec. 8 through Jan. 23. Written comments should be submitted to the Community Develop-

ment Department no later than 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23.

The Menlo Park Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing on the Facebook project for Monday, Jan. 9. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 701 Laurel St.

In addition to the draft impact reports, the commission will consider a proposal to remove the cap of 3,600 employees at Facebook's "East Campus," at 1601 Willow Road. The cap would be replaced with vehicular trip limit of 2,600 during any two-hour period and 15,000 per day.

Visit [tinyurl.com/Facebook-145](http://tinyurl.com/Facebook-145) for more information on the Facebook project.

## COLLEGE

continued from page 3

cants. In the near future, she said she hopes to form partnerships to get copies of "College Admission" into the hands of under-resourced students, such as those with special circumstances and those without access to guidance counselors.

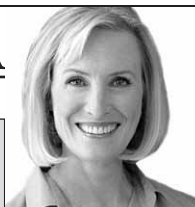
"People operate better with the truth," she said.

■ Visit [colletheadmissionbook.com](http://colletheadmissionbook.com) for more information.

■ Jeff Carr, the author of this story, has a bachelor's degree from Utah State University and a master's from Stanford. He is well-versed with the college-admission process. He has worked on university staffs and consulted students on essays and strategies. ■

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### The Condo Market is Coming Back

**Dear Monica: I bought a condominium in 2005 and its value has dropped eighteen percent, in spite of being in a good location, with a private garage and a deeded garden. It has been a rental property since I bought it. I don't know whether I should sell it and take the loss or wait until the market improves. What would you recommend? Kelly T.**

Dear Kelly: There are good indications that the condo/townhouse market, which has lagged behind the single family home market, is beginning to rise. The properties that are in the strongest locations, e.g., close to shops and transportation, and that are in good condition with decent amenities, are the ones showing signs of market improvement.

Without knowing the details of your financial situation, I would recommend a few things you should do. First, ask your real estate agent to give you an appraisal of value in the current market. Then ask your accountant what the financial ramifications of selling it at a loss would be. You may want to take a loss to offset other gains. Finally, talk to your lender about modifying your loan. Because the property is held for investment, you may have to add significantly more cash to the property in order to do this. But the lower payments may result in positive cash flow which you can enjoy until you decide to sell sometime in the future. Rents have risen substantially in this area and your condo may be worth holding on to, at least for now.

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

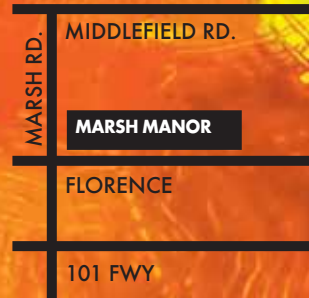


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# What effect has the Tinsley program had on students?

## TINSLEY

continued from page 5

arts.

Students are also, she said, “more proficient in English than if they remained in the Ravenswood district.” She said 65 percent of those who applied for Tinsley transfers in 2008 were Latino.

Tinsley transfers are available only to kindergarteners and students in first and second-grades who may then stay in the district until they graduate.

To try to gauge the non-academic aspects, Ms. Bischoff conducted 130 in-depth interviews with Tinsley students who were in sixth to 12th grades and their parents, plus a group of parents just applying for the program. She ended up with 4,000 pages of interview transcripts.

“The biggest sentiment that came from most students is that it’s a lot of work to negotiate two different social contexts,” Ms. Bischoff said.

Learning that skill, however, gave them an important advantage. “Students feel confident about their ability to interact in a broader world,” Ms. Bischoff said. Students, especially those in high school, told her “they weren’t afraid to have a conversation with anybody.”

“I think students value the fact that they’re learning how to operate in these multiple contexts,” she said. “Certainly parents do.”

Something else that came up, Ms. Bischoff said, “is that students talked about the pride they have in the schools they attend.” They talk about how difficult their schools are and what types of problems they have, she said.

“Students talk a lot about how they feel they are doing work above grade level,” she said.

Tensions do arise from the fact that students are not attending school in the community they live in. While the Tinsley program provides bus transportation, transportation for other activities, including those beyond school, can be a problem, she said.

But students talked a lot about riding the bus, “and not in a negative way,” she said. They do have

to get up early, “but at the same time it’s a social environment as well.” Many students form friendships on the buses, she said.

Ms. Bischoff said parents told her their reasons for applying for the program included helping their children gain English-speaking skills, and preparing them for college and other academic opportunities. “Most parents won’t say just for interracial contact, which is what the lawsuit says,” she said.

Ms. Bischoff said she has some recommendations for the schools. “There are still a lot of students in the (Ravenswood) district,” she said. The Tinsley settlement also talked about making improvements in the Ravenswood District. “I do think that needs to be brought back into the conversation,” she said.

She suggests that the Peninsula districts try to have some activities for parents of transfer students in the Ravenswood district so parents there can network and meet each other and not have to worry about transportation.

Students also need more assistance in being able to stay after school and take part in activities. A mentor program for Tinsley students could be a big help, she said, with students working with the same adult or older student throughout their time in a school.

Teachers could use some help in learning how to deal with students from different backgrounds. “I think that it’s important,” she said, “that students not feel like outsiders.”

“Everyone needs to be aware of subtle biases that happen.”

Students would also benefit from schools starting to talk about college at a young age, “to really set up expectations that are really high,” she said.

Ms. Bischoff said that although she has received her doctoral degree, she is continuing to refine her Tinsley research and hopes it may some day be published as a book. She is currently doing post-doctoral research at Stanford on the ethics of education equity. ■

## ARREST

continued from page 5

police decide that an arrest is appropriate, at that time the Miranda warnings would be required, Cmdr. Bertini said.

## Recordings encrypted

The officers’ audio recordings are kept for at least a year, longer if they’re needed as evidence for a trial or an internal investiga-



A concept for the new Atherton Town Center building proposed by two architectural firms, Siegel & Strain and Goring & Straja.

# Re-imagining Atherton’s Town Center

## TOWN CENTER

continued from page 5

■ Two firms — Siegel & Strain Architects and Goring & Straja Architects — proposed two one-story buildings totaling about 12,000 square feet, with an uncovered walkway in between. The design singled out the majestic oak tree in front of the current administrative building as the centerpiece of the redesigned civic center.

■ The firm Nichols Melburg & Rossetto proposed two, two-story buildings connected by an arched loggia and including a community center with a rooftop terrace. The buildings would total about 20,000 square feet, according to architect Les Melburg.

In January, the task force plans to make its recommendation to the City Council and ask the town to spend some of the \$1.8 million it has set aside for new department offices to begin the design process with public outreach.

The funds won’t go far toward the construction. A

few years ago it was estimated that the new complex will cost a minimum of \$10 million. Atherton officials hope to raise most of the money through private fundraising.

## The architects

Nichols-Melburg & Rossetto is a 44-year-old firm with 62 employees and offices in Redding, Chico and Sacramento. The firm has designed public buildings for the cities of

Monterey, Temecula, Shasta Lake, and Redding.

Locally, the firm has worked on a master plan for the NASA-Ames Research Park, the Palo Alto Arts Center, the Sacred Heart Schools campus, and more than 200 projects for Stanford University.

Siegel & Strain, founded in 1985 and based in Emeryville, has a staff of 17. The firm has designed city halls, libraries, community centers, visitor centers, fire and police stations, emergency operation centers, and schools.

Goring & Straja, founded in 1995, has offices in Berkeley with seven employees, and in Milan, Italy, with 24 employees. “Our goal is to create buildings that are down-to-earth but not ordinary,” the firm’s presentation says. “Aesthetics and sustainability are given equal weight.”

Projects the two firms have designed include the Portola Valley Town Center, Yountville Town Center, Orinda City Hall, Yosemite Environmental Education Center, and the Yosemite Institute. ■

## WHAT’S YOUR VIEW?

Atherton residents are invited to:

■ Visit [tinyurl.com/Concept-145](http://tinyurl.com/Concept-145) to see the design concepts online.

■ View the concepts at the Atherton City Council Chambers, 94 Ashfield Road in Atherton, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, through Dec. 30. Town offices, and the chambers, will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26.

■ Visit the web link above to let the town know what they think.

tion, Cmdr. Bertini said. Officers download the recordings to a secure police station server, where they are stamped with ID information, including date, time and the name of the officer.

A trial could be months away. Considering the centrality of the recorded conversations as evidence, the recordings might be a target for editing or other forms of hacking. Could they be hacked?

Not very likely, said Stephen Gaskins, a sales support representative for Riverside-based Versatile Information Products, the vendor for the recorders in use by Menlo Park police.

Deletion of a word or sentence in the original recording is next to impossible because the audio files, once downloaded to the server, are encrypted more strongly than online banking records, Mr. Gaskins said in a

telephone interview.

Were someone to log in, extract a copy of an original recording, edit it offline and return it to the server, a tracking system that registers all activity on the server would tell the story and would resist being covered up, Mr. Gaskins added.

“You never want to say impossible, but (hacking) is very unlikely,” he said. “It’s pretty locked down.” ■

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## Woodside sues resident for building without permits

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

More than three years after the town of Woodside cited Gregory Smith of 37 Upenuf Road for the construction of a two-story building on the property without having acquired the necessary permits, the town has taken Mr. Smith to court.

A complaint filed Nov. 9, 2011, at San Mateo County Superior Court alleges that Mr. Smith ignored requests by the town in the late summer and fall of 2008 to stop work, contact the town and acquire the necessary permits for construction and site development, including grading and the installation of utilities.

Attempts to reach Mr. Smith or his attorney for comment have been unsuccessful.

In October 2008, after no response to an order that the

improvements be removed, the complaint said, the town's community preservation officer recorded a code violation notice, which is supposed to halt all development on the property. A code violation also complicates any attempt to sell the property.

In the complaint, Woodside refers to the violations as "a public nuisance" and asks the court to order Mr. Smith to remove the building, return the property to its pre-construction condition, obtain the necessary permits and have the town inspect the resulting construction.

The town also asks Mr. Smith to reimburse the town for its legal fees and pay a fine of \$5,000, the maximum allowed. The town is demanding penalties that would exceed \$25,000, according to a filing by Town Attorney Jean B. Savaree of the firm Aaronson, Dickerson, Cohn & Lanzzone in San Carlos. ■

## House fire damages bedroom

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

A woman suffered a minor burn and a deputy from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office was examined for smoke inhalation in connection with a two-alarm structure fire on the afternoon of Thursday, Dec. 1, in a one-story house at 214 Eleanor Drive in Woodside.

Medics took both victims to a hospital as a precautionary measure, Chief Dan Ghiorso of the Woodside Fire Protection District said in a telephone interview. The burn, on the woman's hand, was "not very serious at all," he said.

Battalion chiefs called for a second alarm in view of the medical evacuations, but the extra equipment turned out to be unnecessary to extinguish the fire, Chief Ghiorso said. The fire was all but out in about 12 minutes, he said.

The cause of the fire, which firefighters contained to a single bedroom, is under investigation and estimates of damage to structure and contents are not yet available, the chief said.

The agencies participating included one unit from Woodside — the district was also engaged in an incident on Skyline Boulevard, the chief said — and Redwood City, Menlo Park, San Carlos and the Sky Londa station of the state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

At one point, three firefighters were up on the flat roof and removed one skylight for access and ventilation.

The fire did not damage vegetation and presented no danger of spreading beyond the house, Chief Ghiorso said. "Luckily, there was no wind," he added.

During the firefighting, the gas and electrical utilities were shut off, firefighters said. ■

## Last-second loss derails Vikings

Victims of a heartbreaking last-second 12-6 loss on Saturday, Dec. 3, the Menlo-Atherton Vikings Pee Wee squad prepared to take on the Mount Hope, Rhode Island, Cowboys for consolation honors on Tuesday, Dec. 6, in the Pop Warner National Football Championships in Orlando, Florida.

The Vikings battled from behind Saturday in a Division II classic against the powerful Raiders from College Station, Texas, and tied the game 6-6 with 2:23 remaining on a short pass from Blake Stenstrom to Jack Devine.

But on a grinding march from

midfield, the Raiders scored on a questionable touchdown pass with 0:06 on the clock as the receiver squeezed near the corner of the end zone.

In another contest involving a local team, the Redwood City 49ers fell to the Stanley Blue Devils (NC) 22-0 in the first round of Division II Junior Pee Wee competition at the 55th annual Pop Warner Super Bowl at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

Go to [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com) for more sports news.



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## Supervisors face the music on Stanford trail offer

■ The issue returns to the supervisors Dec. 13.

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Moments of truth have come and gone for the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, Stanford University and the residents of Ladera and Stanford Weekend Acres in the five-year odyssey to determine the fate of a rickety asphalt path along the south side of Alpine Road that passes by both communities.

Another moment, perhaps the moment, is coming Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 9 a.m. when the supervisors meet to weigh in a third time on a 2006 offer from Stanford to pay millions of dollars to upgrade the roadside path that leads east from Portola Valley to Menlo Park as well as Palo Alto and Stanford.

The board, which rejected Stanford's offer in 2006 and 2010, meets in the Hall of Justice and Records at 400 County Center (corner of Bradford Street and Hamilton Avenue) in Redwood City.

Stanford's offer expires Dec. 31 unless the supervisors ask for an extension and agree to have various path options studied at Stanford's expense. And there is the rub. The supervisors in November added three options to Stanford's original three.

Stanford has offered up to \$10.4 million (inflation adjusted) to study three options, then building one of the two that involve actual construction and paying for it with the remaining funds.

Those three options are:

■ Move sections of Alpine Road

north to make room for an adequate trail on the south side of the road.

■ Leave Alpine Road alone and make do without the extra space.

■ Do nothing because the trail cannot be made safe.

A majority on the Board of Supervisors added three more options on Nov. 1:

■ Build a trail that hugs the north side of Alpine Road into Menlo Park after crossing at Piers Lane (to avoid Weekend Acres).

■ Build a trail that crosses Alpine at Piers Lane, hugs the north side of the road and re-crosses at Stowe Lane to continue into Menlo Park (to avoid Weekend Acres).

■ Upgrade the existing trail on

See **ALPINE**, page 15



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## William D. Sauers

June 18, 1926-Nov. 16, 2011

Bill Sauers: Attorney, author, board member, horseman, theater lover, friend, family man, and catalyst passed away in his home in Ashland, Oregon on November 16, 2011.

Bill imagined Big. He made things happen.

He was born in Santa Cruz, CA to Myrl Melvin Sauers and Helen Fightmaster (Bill's birth name – Dale Gilbert Sauers). He became self-sufficient at an early age after his mother's death when he was nine, and abandonment by his father at age fourteen. He worked as a ranch hand in Aptos, CA, went to Holy Cross High School in Santa Cruz, CA, graduated early and joined the U.S. Army Air Corps two months after turning age 17. He entered Basic Training in Wichita Falls, TX in August 1943, was promoted to Second Lieutenant at age 18 in November 1944 and was honorably discharged as Second Lieutenant, Navigator of B-24 Liberator, October 1945.

Bill and his new bride (May 1945) returned to Fresno, CA where he attended Fresno State College and worked for one of the major construction firms, Taylor and Wheeler, building new housing following the War. In 1949 he entered Stanford University Law School, graduating in 1952. The San Francisco Peninsula would become his home until moving to Ashland, Oregon in 2001.

Bill's law career began with a position as an Assistant Secretary of the State Bar in San Francisco. He joined the District Attorney's office in San Jose in 1955 working as a trial attorney. In 1957 he started a private practice in Palo Alto, California. Starting in 1962, Bill found his legal passion as a Corporate Attorney when he joined the firm Howe Finch and Glass, later Finch, Sauers, Player and Montgomery. He worked for 24 years with the firm representing many major corporations and institutions such as; Hewlett-Packard Company, Watkins-Johnson Company, Granger Associates, Varian Associates, Menlo School and College, Micro Electronics and many others. Bill also taught Law at Santa Clara University and Stanford University law schools

From the late 1980's thru 2000, Bill worked with several law firms in the South Bay Area bringing his corporate skills to start-up companies. He was appointed Of-Council by Mount and Stoelker (now Mount, Spelman and Fingerman) in December 2000 and moved to Ashland, Oregon.

Bill's association with Ashland began in 1973 when he and wife Barbara first visited the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Avid theater goers, they spent weeks in Ashland seeing each season's play multiple times. Bill served on the OSF Board of Directors, 1989-1995. Eventually purchasing a house in Ashland, for eight years they offered it

to the Festival for actor housing. After moving to Ashland in 2001, Bill was a catalyst in the creation of Oregon Stage Works. He

also served on the Ashland Community Hospital Foundation Board. He kept an office at the Armory until 2009.

Bill loved to write. He was a regular contributor to the *Rancheros Visitadores* daily trek and annual newsletter, with his column, *Sauers' Grapes*. He authored plays, four of which were produced or read. The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival produced *Did Not I Dance with You?* in 1994 and *A Fork in the Road* in 1995. Play readings of *Lynch Mob Hunt* in 2006 followed by *Reluctant Strangers*, were produced by Oregon Stage Works.

Bill was an ace at Dominoes. He played doubles tennis, was a skier, fly fisherman and horseman. He was member of the San Mateo County Mounted Patrol, serving a term as President of the organization. He owned and rode horses. He was also a decades-long member of the *Rancheros Visitadores*, Los Picadores camp. He remained friends with his riding buddies participating in an annual event in Visalia, CA in March 2011.

Bill served on a number of Boards including: Secretary of the Urban Coalition of Palo Alto, 1969-72; Chairman, American Red Cross, chapter Palo Alto, Calif., 1973-76; Family Service Association, 1973-76; Senior Council Affiliates, Palo Alto, 1981-85; Chairman, Board of Trustees, Menlo College, Atherton, Calif., 1984-88; Director, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, OR, 1989-95; President, San Jose Repertory Theatre, San Jose, CA, 1994-98; San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Oregon Stage Works and Ashland Community Hospital Foundation Board.

Bill was social and outgoing. He was loyal and trusting and optimistic. He made friends and kept them for a lifetime. He would often refer to people, as "my good friend" and mean it.

Bill is preceded in death by his wife of 65 years Barbara Gean Cole (of Fresno, CA) Sauers in July 2010.

He is also preceded in death by his parents Helen in 1936 and Myrl in 1973 and his brother Myrl Melvin Sauers, Jr., Pfc USMC, who was killed in the battle at Tarawa on November 20, 1943.

Bill is survived by daughters, Kathleen Helen Sauers McCarty, Susan Patricia Sauers Reeves, Deborah Lane Sauers Nelson, son-in-law Peter Carl Nelson and grandchildren Andrea Elizabeth Nelson and Emmett Samuel Nelson.

Memorial contributions may be made to the organizations on whose Boards Bill served with passion.



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PAID OBITUARY

## Nancy A. DiSanto

Nov. 18, 1963-Nov. 19, 2011



Nancy A. DiSanto passed away at Stanford Hospital on November 19, 2011 due to complications arising from metastatic breast cancer. She died peacefully, surrounded by family, relatives and friends. Nancy was born in the Philippines in 1963 and was raised in San Diego, CA. She received her RN and BSN degrees from San Diego State in 1989. Nancy was an avid volleyball player, both on the beach and on the court, a talent that she shared with her two daughters, Jennifer (14) and Jacqueline (12).

Nancy met Jim DiSanto, a naval officer and F14 pilot, in 1988 at the Miramar Naval Air Base, San Diego, CA, and they married in June 1991. Nancy and Jim settled in Ladera in 1993 and have lived there ever since. Nancy took a position as an RN in the ICU at Stanford Hospital and eventually worked as a nurse in the Stanford Neurosurgery Department. From 2008-2010, Nancy worked as the study nurse coordinator for a Stanford melanoma prevention trial.

Nancy played many roles in her life as an active community member, a regular Ladera bake-off Best in Show winner, and a frequent school volunteer. Nancy served as coach and assistant coach for her daughters' volleyball teams at La Entrada Middle School and during her tenure won every match including the league championship. She took particular pride

in training her daughters in the sport. Both Jacqueline and Jennifer played in the June 2011 USA Volleyball National Tournament in Atlanta, GA.

Nancy's greatest legacy, though, is her children, Jennifer and Jacqueline, who meant the world to her and Jim. They are remarkable young women because of Nancy and the best job she ever had - being a mother.

A memorial service for Nancy will be held Saturday, December 3rd (10am viewing, 11am mass) at St. Denis Church, 2250 Avy Ave., Menlo Park. Nancy will be laid to rest at El Camino Cemetery in San Diego.

The DiSanto family, with the assistance of friends, medical professionals, and our community, is establishing a non-profit Foundation in honor of Nancy. Gifts to the Foundation will be donated in support of breast cancer research. More details will be available on the forthcoming website for the Nancy DiSanto Memorial Charity Foundation for Breast Cancer Research.

PAID OBITUARY

## Mansfield (Gary) White Garratt

July 1, 1947-Nov. 21, 2011



Mansfield (Gary) White Garratt III died Monday, November 21st, 2011 at his home in San Martin, CA surrounded by his family. He was 64 years old and died from the progression of brain cancer.

Gary was born July 1, 1947 in Oakland, CA to Mansfield and Phyllis (Lindholm) Garratt Jr. After a short time living in Walnut Creek, Gary spent his childhood in San Mateo. He loved to build things and take them apart with his brothers Peter and Robert. He attended Highlands Elementary School and Borel Middle School before leaving to New Hampshire to attend high school at Holderness School. While at Holderness, Gary developed a passion for hockey and excelled on the school's team. It was a passion he carried with him all his life, continuing to play in competitive leagues until age 63.

Gary graduated from the University of Denver in 1970 with a BA in Economics. While there he helped start the lacrosse program and was the team's leading scorer in 1966.

After college Gary was a successful homebuilder and wheat farmer in Steamboat Springs, CO. He was an innovator in fertilization and crop placement and within a few years had the highest yielding crops in the area. He met his wife, Elizabeth (Betsy) Hobson, while in Colorado and they were married March 24, 1973 in Cincinnati, OH. Gary and Betsy had two children in Steamboat Springs. Tyler was born in 1975 and Jenny in 1978.

Gary brought his family back to the Bay Area in 1978 to help run Garratt-Callahan Co. (water treatment), a business his great grandfather founded in 1904. Gary's responsibilities at Garratt-Callahan included serving as Chief Financial Officer and a member of the Board of Directors upon his retirement. He enjoyed working alongside his father, Mansfield Jr., his uncles, Bill and Dick, and his cousins, Jeff and Matt. Gary and his family settled in Woodside where he lived for 20 years.

Gary constructed his family's home, became more interested in building and flying airplanes and enjoyed family vacations skiing, river rafting, creek walking and surfing.

Upon retiring from Garratt-Callahan and after the end of his marriage, Gary moved to San Martin, CA to live one mile from the San Martin (South County) Airport. He built a workshop larger than his house to build airplanes and do any manner of construction, welding and go-cart repair. He volunteered at the Wings of History Air Museum helping restore vintage planes. He especially enjoyed introducing children to aviation by taking them for a ride in his plane. His crowning achievement was a Lancair IV P that he built from start to finish.

Gary was an active entrepreneur throughout his life focusing on hydro-electric and methane power plants. He started and ran three of these environmentally friendly projects.

Gary was known as a daredevil who enjoyed helicopter skiing, skydiving, motorcycle riding across the U.S., Europe, and Baja, Mexico. He had a laid back, but adventurous spirit. Gary made people feel comfortable around him and always had a big smile for everybody. He participated in many activities, but his favorite was telling stories with friends and family.

He is survived by his children: Tyler (wife Monika) Garratt, and Jenny (husband Brian) Hayden; grandchildren: Cole Garratt, Carter and Caitlin Hayden; his mother, Phyllis; brothers: Peter and Robert, and special friend Mary Ellen Carlin.

Memorial was held December 1st, at Hiller Aviation Museum, San Carlos Airport.

PAID OBITUARY

## Council to pick new mayor

The Menlo Park Council will decide on Tuesday, Dec. 6, which among its members will serve with the title of mayor for the next year.

First, the council will meet in closed session at 5 p.m. to review city manager applications. Then, during the regular meeting that starts at 7 p.m., the council will select a new mayor and vice mayor.

Kirsten Keith and Peter Ohta-

ki, as the newest members of the council, are first in line for those positions, since the council's policy proposes that those who have yet to hold the offices have priority. However, the council can choose to ignore its own policy.

Also on the agenda is recognition of the outgoing mayor, Rich Cline. Then the council will adjourn to a reception in the back of the Council Chambers.

## Books for sale at Selby Lane School

Discounted books for all ages will be available to the public at the Selby Lane School Scholastic Warehouse Book Sale on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 9-11, at the school, 170 Selby Lane in Atherton.

Books are 25 percent to 80 percent off retail prices, with most at least 50 percent off. Hours are: Dec. 9, from 3 to 8 p.m.; Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## HunterDouglas

### Celebrate the Season



**Style for your windows, savings for you.** With their beautiful colors, fabrics and designs, Hunter Douglas window fashions are always a smart choice for creating inviting, attractive spaces. And now through December 12, mail-in rebates let you enjoy select styles at a savings of \$25 to \$300 per unit.\* Purchase and install their energy-efficient Duettes® Architella® Honeycomb Shades before the end of this year, and you may qualify for a federal tax credit of up to \$500.\*\* Ask us for details.

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**■ POLICE CALLS**

*This information is from the Atherton and Menlo Park police departments and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.*

**PORTOLA VALLEY**

**Residential burglary report:** Losses estimated at \$25,800 in theft of bicycle from unlocked garage and break-in of metal cargo container and theft of stereo equipment and construction tools, Santa Maria Ave., Dec. 2.

**Commercial burglary report:** Losses estimated at \$2,700 in damage to locks on doors in failed attempt to break in, Corte Madera Middle School at 4575 Alpine Road, Nov. 25.

**Theft report:** Loss estimated at \$3,200 in theft of several power tools from work site, Arapahoe Court, Nov. 28.

**MENLO PARK**

**Residential burglary reports:**

■ Losses estimated at \$3,390 in entry through unlocked kitchen window and theft of four laptop computers and video game console, Madera Ave., Nov. 25.

■ Losses estimated \$2,500 in break-in by removing window and theft of backpack, laptop computer and jewelry, Windermere Ave., Dec. 1.

■ Loss estimated at \$750 in entry through unlocked front door and theft of TV, camera and \$300 cash, Market Place, Nov. 28.

■ No losses in attempted entry by removing plastic spacer for window-mounted air conditioner, Noel Drive, Nov. 30.

**Commercial burglary reports:**

■ Rene Angelramirez, 30, of San Francisco arrested on suspicion of burglary in theft of hardhat, work vest, lock and set of keys from Caltrain locker room, Campbell Ave., Nov. 25.

Ave., Nov. 25.

■ Suspect interrupted in use of large screwdriver to attempt forced entry into office building, 2700 block of Sand Hill Road, Nov. 27.

**Auto burglary reports:**

■ Laptop stolen after window smashed but later recovered with arrest of juvenile suspect, Oak Court, Dec 1.

■ Loss of \$7 in cash after window smashed, Willow Road, Dec. 1.

**Fraud reports:**

■ Victim sent \$2,800 via Western Union for vehicle but with no actual vehicle received, Woodland Ave., Nov. 29.

■ Purchase valued at \$143 from unauthorized use of debit card, Willow Road, Nov. 28.

**Stolen vehicle report:** Yellow 1986 Jeep Cherokee, Sharon Park Drive, Nov. 28.

**Spousal abuse report:** 1100 block of Windermere Ave., Nov. 30.

**ATHERTON**

**Burglary report:** Oakwood Boulevard, Dec. 1.

**More news online**

Visit [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com) for more on these and other stories.

**Police impersonator in Atherton**

After a young woman from Atherton was pulled over last week by what turned out to be a police impersonator who stole her car keys, Atherton police advise that there are several things that can be done to make sure the driver of an unmarked vehicle is really a police officer.

**Ladera School site**

A decision on starting the bid process for leasing the Ladera School site, which was put off last month so Las Lomas Elementary School District board members could consult with their absent

attorney, is scheduled for the board's Wednesday, Dec. 14, meeting, starting at 7 p.m. at the La Entrada School Multi-Use Room, 2200 Sharon Road, Menlo Park.

**Toxic chemicals**

A meeting to discuss a report on ways San Mateo County can control weeds without toxic chemicals has been postponed until January. The meeting of the county Board of Supervisors' environmental quality subcommittee had been scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 6. Last week, however, county residents who have been pushing the county to halt roadside spraying of herbicides were told the meeting has been postponed until Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 2 p.m.

**ALPINE**

*continued from page 13*

the south side of the road between Portola Valley and Piers Lane and stop (to avoid Weekend Acres).

The common theme in those last three options — avoiding Stanford Weekend Acres — is at the heart of what adds controversy to what might otherwise seem a welcome infrastructure investment from a wealthy neighbor, particularly in hard economic times.

Supervisor Dave Pine introduced the alternative options, adding that the trail cannot be left as it is. Board president Carole Groom and supervisors Adrienne Tissier and Rose Jacobs Gibson made it fairly clear that they would oppose accepting Stanford's offer if Stanford does not agree to fund the study of Mr. Pine's three additions.

Asked for a reaction at the time, Stanford spokesman Larry Horton smiled and said, "We'll see in December."

A recent poll of 180 Weekend Acres residents regarding a trail between Piers Lane and Menlo Park showed opposition by 165 respondents, or 83 percent. The poll, which the Almanac has seen, involved visits to 128 of the 130 total households, of which 106 responded, said resident Ginger Holt, who surveyed the community.

Space is scarce for a two-way trail on Alpine Road as it passes Weekend Acres, and residents talk of long waits to pull in and out of the neighborhood. County Public Works studies show 18,000 vehicle trips daily on Alpine Road running by Weekend Acres. Residents worry that an improved trail would draw cyclists and pedestrians and make things worse.

The trail's right-of-way is a) wildly inconsistent in width and topography, which could affect heritage trees and what remains of Weekend Acres' secluded lifestyle; b) located along a twisting, heavily traveled two-lane artery where speed limit violations may get worse if the project straightens part of Alpine Road; and c) is unsafe, according to practically everyone.

But an improved trail for pedestrians, cyclists, kids and dogs could add to headaches for Weekend Acres who have to cross it to get into and out of their community.

Ladera residents, by and large, tend to support the proposal to upgrade the path. The right-of-way in Ladera is relatively uncomplicated by comparison: it is flat, straight, wide, not so near the creek, and not running alongside heavy commute traffic in and out of Stanford, Menlo Park and Palo Alto twice a day. ■



**WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the District Board of West Bay Sanitary District will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday evening, January 11, 2012 in conjunction with its regularly scheduled meeting which commences at 7:00 p.m. The location of the meeting is at the District's offices, 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California 94025.

The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to consider a proposed increase in Sewer Connection Fees for all District customers. The proposed rates are as follows:

**Connection Fee Dollars**

	District	Authority	Total
Residential Unit	\$2549.00	\$5,596.00	<u>\$1,740.20</u> \$4289.20 \$7,336.20
Supplementary Connection Fee	\$347.70	\$763.20	\$237.30 \$585.00 \$1,000.50 (c)
Non-Residential Use Equal or Less than 325 mg/l BOD and/or SS	\$11.59 +\$347.70	\$25.44/gpd \$763.20	<u>\$7.91/gpd</u> <u>+\$237.30</u> \$19.50 \$33.35/gpd <u>\$585.00</u> +\$1,000.50
Greater than 325 mg/l BOD and/or SS	\$11.59/gpd \$25.44		Ratio(a) Total(b)

- (a) The connection fee for Authority expansion costs is calculated by multiplying \$7.91/gpd times the average daily flow in gpd, times the ratio of the highest of the BOD and SS concentrations to 325 mg/l subject to a minimum connection fee \$7.91/gpd plus \$237.30 per connection.
- (b) The total connection fee is the sum of the District and Authority connection fees subject to a minimum connection fee of \$19.50 \$33.35/gpd plus \$585.00 \$1,000.50 per connection.
- (c) The connection fee for a supplementary connection(s) to the same building shall be \$585.00-\$1,000.50 per connection. [Amended by General Regulation No.2012-01]

At the Public Hearing, any interested person may address the District Board. Written comments may be submitted at or before the Public Hearing by addressing them to the District Board at the address indicated above.

/s/ Phil Scott  
Phil Scott  
District Manager

Dated: November 14, 2011



**Environmental Quality Award Nominations Needed!**

The City of Menlo Park's Environmental Quality Commission requests your help to nominate people, projects, efforts or property designs that contribute to environmental quality improvement in Menlo Park. Award winners receive a plaque from the Mayor at a City Council meeting.

*Award Categories:* Climate Action, Educational, Heritage Tree Preservation, Sustainable Landscape, Resource Conservation and Sustainable Building.

Nominations Due: **Monday, January 16, 2012**

For more award details, visit [www.menlopark.org/commissions/com\\_enviro.html](http://www.menlopark.org/commissions/com_enviro.html) (nomination form located on the left side of the page). For questions, contact Regina Wheeler at (650) 330-6740 or email [rmwheeler@menlopark.org](mailto:rmwheeler@menlopark.org).





**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Menlo Park, California is scheduled to review the following item:

**CONDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT REVISION, DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW/ FACEBOOK, INC./1601 WILLOW ROAD (EAST CAMPUS), AND 312 AND 313 CONSTITUTION DRIVE (WEST CAMPUS) - FACEBOOK CAMPUS PROJECT:**

1. Conditional Development Permit Revision for the East Campus to amend the existing land use approvals to eliminate the maximum employee cap of 3,600 individuals, and substitute vehicular trip caps. The proposed AM and PM two-hour peak period trip caps of 2,600 vehicular trips and the proposed daily trip cap of 15,000 vehicular trips would accommodate an increase in employees at the site beyond the 3,600 employees currently permitted to occupy the site;
2. Development Agreement for the East Campus to define the long-term land use intentions, specific terms and conditions for the development, and public benefits that would apply, and create vested rights in project approvals; and
3. Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project for the East Campus and to analyze the maximum development potential for the West Campus consistent with the M-2 (General Industrial) maximum Floor Area Ratio for office use of 45 percent, but in excess of the M-2 maximum building height of 35 feet.

In addition, a Draft Fiscal Impact Analysis (FIA) has been prepared for the proposed project.

The Draft EIR prepared for the project identifies potentially significant environmental effects that can be mitigated to a less than significant level in the following categories: Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology and Soils, Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use, Population and Housing, Public Services, Utilities and Services Systems, and Wind. The Draft EIR identifies potentially significant environmental effects that are significant and unavoidable in the following categories: Air Quality, Noise, and Transportation. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires this notice to disclose whether any listed toxic sites are present at the location. The project location does contain a toxic site pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code; specifically, the West Campus is considered a toxic site pursuant to this section of the Government Code.

Copies of the Draft EIR and the Draft FIA will be on file for review at the City Library and Community Development Department, located at the Civic Center, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025, as well as on the City's website at [http://www.menlopark.org/projects/comdev\\_fb.htm](http://www.menlopark.org/projects/comdev_fb.htm), as of Thursday, December 8, 2011. The review period for the Draft EIR and the Draft FIA has been set from Thursday, December 8, 2011 through Monday, January 23, 2012. Written comments should be submitted to the Community Development Department no later than 5:30 p.m., Monday, January 23, 2012.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on this item in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California, on **Monday, January 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park during the public review period for the Draft EIR or at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Documents related to these items may be inspected by the public on weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, with alternate Fridays closed, at the Community Development Department, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park.

Please call Rachel Grossman, Associate Planner, if there are any questions or comments on this item. She may be reached at 650-330-6737 or by email at [rmgrossman@menlopark.org](mailto:rmgrossman@menlopark.org). Up-to-date information on the project can be found on the project webpage: [http://www.menlopark.org/projects/comdev\\_fb.htm](http://www.menlopark.org/projects/comdev_fb.htm). To receive future email bulletins from the City, please subscribe to the project page.

*Si usted necesita más información sobre este proyecto, por favor llame al 650-330-6702, y pregunte por un asistente que hable español.*

DATED: December 1, 2011 Deanna Chow, Senior Planner  
PUBLISHED: December 7, 2011

If there are any questions, please call the Planning Division at (650) 330-6702.

# Holiday Fund

■ *Helping increase your donations to local charities*



**Maria** with her four children.

## When you are at the end of your rope

By *Maleah Choi, development consultant, Ecumenical Hunger Program.*

In 2008 Maria received the devastating news that her husband had been deported to Mexico. At that time, Maria was 30 years old, a mother of three children, and pregnant with her fourth child.

During her husband's eight-month deportation, Maria was left alone without any means of financial support. She applied for government assistance but received only minimal assistance.

Maria needed urgent and immediate help and a social worker referred her to the Ecumenical Hunger Program for emergency assistance.

When she first came to EHP, she was unaware of all of the services that EHP had to offer. She thought that EHP only provided food resources. She was thrilled and grateful to find out about all of the safety net services that EHP could provide, particularly for her children and unborn son.

After her son was born, Maria relocated to East Palo Alto and she began coming to EHP on a more consistent basis. She would walk over, carting her children in the red wagon that she received from EHP at Christmas.

She was regularly able to receive food, as well as clothing

### ■ HOLIDAY FUND

Gifts to the Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit the Ecumenical Hunger Program and nine other community-service organizations.

for herself and her children, furniture and other household necessities. She also participated in the children's summer lunch program, Family Harvest, Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions.

She is extremely grateful for the support that EHP has provided and because of EHP, she feels a renewed sense of hope for the future.

EHP is not just a place to come and receive food. It has become a community center of sorts, where many come just to talk and see a friendly face. Maria has become one of our regulars, always smiling, sometimes just coming by to say "thank you" and to enjoy the garden on a beautiful day.

Recently, staff noticed that she had not visited for a significant period of time and became concerned. When she came to EHP some time later, she was wearing a black eye and a bruised lip with cuts and stitches on her face. She revealed to us that she had become a victim of domestic violence and she did not know what to do or where to go.

EHP staff contacted a few

community partners and she was referred to a domestic violence service agency. She received counseling and a new place to live. Like many domestic violence clients, Maria had her life uprooted, leaving all of her belongings behind, having to start from square one again.

EHP was there to support Maria by providing food, clothing and furniture for her new home, which is currently a single 12x12-foot room that she shares with her four children.

Maria is a fighter and refuses to give up on life and holds onto the hope for a better future. She is pursuing a divorce from her husband, who is making things very difficult for her. She has no contact or support from his family and without her husband's financial support, life is very difficult.

She continues to come to EHP for food but also visits regularly for emotional support and because it is a safe haven.

Maria looks ahead with cautious optimism. She knows that it will be a long and arduous journey but she continues to fight for a better quality of life for her children. She still comes in to EHP every day with an open smile on her face and hope in her heart, and she never forgets to say "thank you." ■

Visit [EHPcares.org](http://EHPcares.org) for more information on the Ecumenical Hunger Program.

## Libby has new lease on life due to local health center

By Kathleen Alexander, communications director, Ravenswood Family Health Center.

Like many uninsured, Libby Adibi delayed seeking medical care even when she knew what was wrong. She had a tumor in the sinus cavity, like one removed 12 years earlier.

She let it go for two years even though it was difficult to breathe and a "slow depression" made it difficult to keep up with her firewood business, her livelihood.

She finally sought help at Ravenswood Family Health Center, where she was assigned to Dr. Justin Wu, associate medical director at the Belle Haven Clinic.

"When I saw her the first time, she was having severe headaches on a daily basis," he says. "Without insurance, without a primary care home, she had no way to get specialty care or to know about resources available to her. Once I saw how serious her situation was, I was able, through our referral system, to get her into specialty care at Stanford."

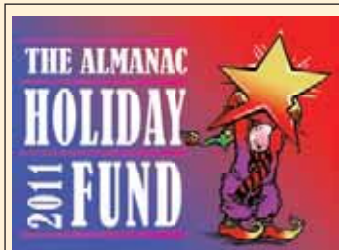
On Oct. 25, Libby underwent a surgery that removed a tumor the size of an orange. She recalls coming to and realizing that the depression had lifted.

"It was amazing," she says. "I was in and out the same day."

Sitting amidst the firewood she's selling, she says with a hearty laugh, "Now when friends ask me what are you doing, I say, 'I'm sitting here quietly and breathing.'"

Ravenswood Family Health Center's Belle Haven Clinic provides a medical home for 2,300 of the 10,300 patients estimated to be seen at Ravenswood in 2011.

It offers comprehensive health care for all ages, includ-



Donations to the Holiday Fund benefit Ravenswood Family Health Center and nine other community-service organizations.

ing primary medical care, behavioral health and dental care services, serving low-income and uninsured families living in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and Redwood City.

Ninety-five percent of its patients are Latino, African American and Pacific Islanders; 90 percent earn incomes at or below the federal poverty level.\*

In the past two years, with a major boost from a Sequoia Healthcare District grant, Belle Haven increased staffing.

"We've been able to extend services to more people and to include behavioral health and chronic disease management, and open up access for the patients to utilize our new dental clinic," Dr. Wu says.

Access to primary care leads to early intervention, thereby reducing expensive emergency care and hospitalization. This is a cornerstone in health care reform.

As a nonprofit, federally qualified health center, RFHC ensures that everyone who seeks care receives compassionate, quality comprehensive health care.

Visit [ravenswoodfhc.org](http://ravenswoodfhc.org) or call (650) 330-7418 for more information about the Ravenswood Family Health Center.

\* The federal poverty level is annual income of \$22,350 for a family of four.



Libby Adibi can breathe freely and work again.

Giving to the

# Holiday Fund

Your gift helps children and others in need



Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers contributed more than \$95,000, and with available matching grants, \$138,678 was raised for 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous com-

munity corporations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. No administration costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed below.

#### Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula

Provides after-school and academic support and activities for 1,100 youths each day, ages 6 to 18. Operates clubhouses in Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood, East Palo Alto, and Redwood City and after-school programs at schools in these communities designed to extend the learning day and supplement the schools's curriculum.

#### Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 1,500 households.

#### Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides comprehensive primary medical, dental, behavioral and preventive health care for all ages at clinics in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto. Of the more than 30,000 registered patients, over 97 percent are low-income and uninsured from the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

#### St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week in a social and friendly atmosphere to anyone in need. Funded entirely by voluntary contributions from the community, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers groceries to take home and distributes clothing to families.

#### Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributes 45 million pounds of food each year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to some 250,000 people each month through more than 650 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

#### Project Read Menlo Park

Provides free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. Trained volunteers work one to one or in small groups to help adults improve their basic reading, writing and English language skills so they can achieve their goals and function more effectively at home, at work, and in the community.

#### Shelter Network

Provides short term-shelter and transitional housing services to more than 4,500 homeless men, women and children each year. Offers a range of housing and support programs for families and individuals to become self-sufficient and return to permanent housing.

#### Teen Talk

Provides educational programs for youth and adults to help teens make healthy choices that will result in lower rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Its iTeen Talki program serves more than 3,500 youth at public school sites in San Mateo County.

#### StarVista

Formerly Youth and Family Enrichment Services, StarVista provides many programs to help people who struggle with substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health, relationship and communications issues. Helps strengthen youth, families, and individuals to overcome challenges through counseling, education, and residential services.

#### Fair Oaks Community Center

Provides housing assistance, childcare programs, older adult nutrition, emergency shelter referrals, legal services for low income tenants and loc-cost exercise programs for youth and adults.

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I wish to contribute anonymously.  Don't publish the amount of my contribution.

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TO DONATE ONLINE GO TO: [siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund](http://siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund)

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The organizations named below provide major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.

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SERVING SAN MATEO AND SANTA CLARA COUNTIES  
[www.siliconvalleycf.org](http://www.siliconvalleycf.org)

The William and Flora  
Hewlett Foundation

The David and Lucile  
Packard Foundation



Rotary Club of Menlo Park

The Almanac will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2011, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

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Tom Gibboney

**Editorial**

**Managing Editor** Richard Hine

**News Editor** Renee Batti

**Lifestyles Editor** Jane Knoerle

**Staff Writers**

Dave Boyce, Sandy Brundage

**Senior Correspondents**

Marion Softky, Marjorie Mader

**Contributors** Barbara Wood,

Kate Daly, Katie Blankenberg

**Special Sections Editors**

Carol Blitzer, Sue Dremann

**Photographer** Michelle Le

**Design & Production**

**Design Director** Raul Perez

**Designers** Linda Atilano,  
Gary Vennarucci

**Advertising**

**Vice President Sales and Marketing**

Tom Zahiralis

**Display Advertising Sales**

Adam Carter

**Real Estate Manager** Neal Fine

**Real Estate and Advertising**

**Coordinator** Diane Martin

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Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

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

Advertising Fax: (650) 854-3650

Email news and photos with  
captions to:

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

Email letters to:

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

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**WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?**

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

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Editor at the Almanac,  
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## Parenting in the age of wide-open alcohol

The arrest of William Burnett and what some describe as the harsh treatment of his wife when police came to his home to break up a party of teenagers who were said to be under the influence brings into focus the difficulty of parenting in an age when the pleasures of alcohol are splashed across the very media channels that attract this impressionistic audience.

Mr. Burnett learned a tough lesson on the night of Nov. 25 when he was arrested by police for allowing his house to be used for a party of teenagers celebrating a Menlo-Atherton High School football victory and, police said, consuming alcohol.

But that did not save Mr. Burnett from the embarrassment of being handcuffed and hauled off to county jail, where he stayed for eight hours. Formal charges have not been filed, but the Burnetts have retained an attorney to plead their case.

Mr. Burnett's daughter, Eliza, who was not there at the time, wrote a blistering critique based on what she was told of the conduct displayed by the officers on the scene that night, which included a claim that her mother, who had recently undergone back surgery, was forced to stand outside in the cold weather without the walker she was using at the time.

She also claims police exercised little restraint as they pulled teenagers from the house and lined them up outside for questioning and then forced them to call their parents for a ride home.

The case is a perfect example of the dilemma parents face when it comes to the use of alcohol by their sons and daughters.

Should teenagers be allowed to drink at home under parental supervision, or should youngsters be left to their own devices to find and consume alcohol at unchaperoned parties, often at homes where unsuspecting parents might be away.

Given the Menlo Park police reaction on Nov. 25, it may be a fool's choice for parents to supervise and provide alcohol for teenage parties in their own home. So despite the best of intentions to educate teenagers about the dangers of illegally consuming beer and wine and other alcoholic beverages, the reality is they see multiple brands for sale in supermarkets and convenience stores, and promoted during coverage of most college and professional athletic competition.

In the case of Mr. Burnett, who is a Stanford professor and hardly a flight risk, it appears that officers may have overreacted. This was not the first or the last house party in Menlo Park or Atherton attended by teenagers with alcohol present, so the city should set a protocol to make sure everyone's rights are protected. Nevertheless, Mr. Burnett and the teenagers should have known that they were breaking the law. It is one thing for parents to expose their own children to an occasional alcoholic beverage at home, but when more than 40 teenagers are hanging out and drinking heartily in celebration, the line has been crossed.

Perhaps Mr. Burnett did receive harsh treatment, and booking him into jail seems excessive, but we doubt if the family will be able to mount a successful protest against the officers involved. The bottom line message from the Menlo Park police: large house parties attended by underage teens who are consuming alcohol will be shut down and the adults responsible for the home will be cited. That is the law.

**EDITORIAL**

*The opinion of The Almanac*

**LETTERS**

*Our readers write*

### Second big mistake by Board of Supervisors?

*Editor:*

In December 1961, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, under pressure from business interests, voted to withdraw our county from the Bay Area Rapid Transit District. The result is that we are not in the system that serves most of the Bay Area.

What a shortsighted decision by our then Board of Supervisors this turned out to be. Those of us on the Peninsula are at a great disadvantage from the board's bowing to a minority interest without regard to the broader public interest.

Now, our Board of Supervisors has an opportunity to do better than its predecessor. The board has a \$10 million offer from Stanford University to study and perhaps solve a county problem at no cost to the county.

The proposed two-phase C-1 trail project would focus on the congested Alpine Road corridor from Junipero Serra Boulevard south to the Portola Valley town limits. The first phase would



Atherton Heritage Association

### Our Regional Heritage

The entire Atherton police force stands before Town Hall in 1950. From left are Dick Lowe, Charles DeMar, Shurden Flanders, David Silva, Malcolm Nie and Chief Leroy Hubbard.

study existing problems and possible solutions. While the focus would be on the deteriorated county bicycle path along Alpine Road, it should also address the

problems Stanford Weekend Acres residents have to access Alpine Road, including provision for appropriate traffic signals.

The construction phase would

occur only upon concurrence of the Board of Supervisors. In other words, the board would

See **LETTERS**, next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

have the final say. We need our Board of Supervisors to look ahead, consider the broad public interest and not make a short-sighted decision. If the study does not move ahead, a major opportunity will have been lost. Our board needs to have the courage to look at the broad public interest and be a leader.

**George Mader**

*The author lives in Ladera and is a planning consultant to Portola Valley.*

**Town should vote on library location**

Editor:

Implying a lack of respect for the intellect of Atherton residents, the City Council would not vote to allow its citizens to be involved in determining placement of the new library building project.

A seven-person committee and three council members decided where \$7 million in tax money should be spent. Something is rotten in the town of Atherton.

**Earl Nielsen**

*Burns Avenue, Atherton*



Isabel Marant  
Vanessa Bruno  
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# Alpine Road trail would do more harm than good

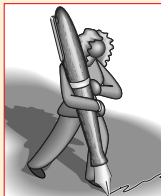
By Rob Decker

I am a cyclist and hiker, a former executive responsible for risk management at a company that builds roads, sidewalks, and bicycle facilities, and past president of the Ladera Community Association. After studying the proposed Lower Alpine Trail from the perspective of a cyclist, risk manager, and community advocate I must urge the Board of Supervisors to say "NO" to Stanford's offer of \$10 million to expand the modest footpath along Alpine Road.

The previous two times this issue was before the supervisors they unanimously rejected it. Why? Because they understood that the proposed sidewalk expansion would endanger those who might use it, particularly where it crosses the Interstate 280 off-ramps and at Stanford Weekend Acres.

This was a wise decision. Research evidence overwhelmingly demonstrates that **inexpe-**

**rienced bicyclists and young people** experience greater risk of accident and injury when riding on two-way bike/pedestrian trails that cross driveways, roads, and freeway off-ramps, especially if traveling in the opposite direction to auto travel.



**GUEST OPINION**

From Bikeway Planning and Design, CA Highway Design Manual:

"For children cycling, risk of colliding with a motor vehicle is almost three times higher at intersections with a bike path than at road-only intersections. Risk was highest when traffic signals were present."

"The most dangerous bicycle facility is a path beside the roadway ... it presents the dangers of riding on sidewalks: a potential crash scene at every road crossing and at every driveway."

Former Menlo Park Mayor and cyclist Steve Schmidt said: "The County of San Mateo has already established a strong commitment to bicycle safety by marking bike lanes on Alpine Road. Not only would the

Lower Alpine Trail be redundant with this effort, the trail would ironically diminish safety by combining a multi-use path with two freeway off-ramps, five road crossings and multiple private driveways."

Alan Wachtel, consultant to the Berkeley, San Francisco, and Palo Alto bicycle plans, and chair of the CA Bicycle Advisory Committee, stated: "Bike paths immediately adjacent to roadways create serious wrong-way travel and intersection conflicts that decrease safety, rather than promoting it. ... By building this facility, Stanford and the County run the risk of creating a dangerous situation, especially for children and inexperienced cyclists, that is far worse than the status quo."

It would be irrational and dangerous to spend \$10 million on a facility that would be more dangerous than what now exists. On Dec. 13 the Board of Supervisors should reject Stanford's offer.

**Rob Decker is a cyclist who lives in Ladera.**



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OFFERED AT \$2,375,000

**SOLD**



**1323 American Way, Menlo Park**

Impressive new construction with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths

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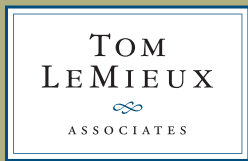


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