



Women in Business
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The Almanac

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

JANUARY 25, 2012 | VOL. 47 NO. 22



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New city manager for Menlo Park

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Alex McIntyre, the city manager in Lake Oswego, Oregon, and a former town administrator in Portola Valley, will replace Glen Rojas as city manager of Menlo Park, the city announced Jan. 18. He starts March 5.

Mr. McIntyre is one of the first new hires to fall under the city's revised "2 percent at 60" pension structure.

His proposed three-year contract awards an annual salary of \$199,000, plus a monthly \$320 car allowance, along with insurance benefits, according to a statement issued by the city. As with his predecessor, the city will loan money to Mr. McIntyre if he buys a home in Menlo Park — \$1.35 million with interest at 3.5 percent. To ease the pain of relocation expenses he'll be paid \$2,500 a month for nine months.

City Attorney Bill McClure said the new city manager will also receive \$9,500 per year in contributions to a 401-A retirement plan because of the new pension structure and to compensate for similar benefits at his current position in Lake Oswego, Oregon. Staff calculated the total of Mr. McIntyre's annual benefits and salary at \$256,400

— \$40,770 less than Mr. Rojas's.

One pension reform leader, Ned Moritz, said that the 401-A retirement plan is a form of defined contribution that reform advocates would like to see the entire pension system use, as the city is no longer on the hook for further payments once the employee retires.

Should Menlo Park decide Mr. McIntyre's not working out, the city owes him 30 days notice

manage the town of approximately 36,000 for \$157,000 a year.

His educational background includes a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California-Irvine and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California.

Mr. McIntyre said in a press release that he is excited and up for the work ahead.

"Working thoughtfully, hand-in-hand with the City Council, staff and the community, the City of Menlo Park can bring about the positive results and quality that the community is looking for. I can help in that effort and I am proud to be part of the team."

The council is scheduled to vote on the new city manager's contract during its Jan. 24 meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center at 701 Laurel St.

In the city's statement, Mayor Kirsten Keith described Mr. McIntyre as "a proven leader who brings with him excellent qualifications for this position" and praised his "creativity and sound fiscal management."

Former city manager Glen Rojas retired in July, then worked through December as a contractor, while earning approximately \$220,428 annually. ■

Alex McIntyre served as town administrator in Portola Valley from 1997 to 2000.



Courtesy city of Menlo Park

and six months severance pay, under the new contract. They also can't fire him until at least three months after any general or council election.

Having previously served as town administrator in Portola Valley from 1997 to 2000, Mr. McIntyre, 50, has some local roots. He also worked for the town of Tiburon and Marin County in administrative capacities.

He will leave a position as city manager of Lake Oswego to take the job in Menlo Park. According to the Portland Tribune, Mr. McIntyre was hired in 2008 to

Hattie Bostic honored by Menlo council

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

All five of Hattie Bostic's sons were there on Jan. 10 when their mother, who died on Dec. 9 at the age of 76, was honored with a proclamation by the Menlo Park City Council.

The proclamation, presented by Mayor Kirsten Keith, took a whole page to document just some of the impacts of Dr. Bostic's life on the community.

"The breadth of Dr. Bostic's passion, tireless efforts and good works have positively impacted the Belle Haven neighborhood, the Menlo Park community and beyond by championing a

better life for all by fighting crime, improving schools and educational opportunities for all, affordable housing and shelter for the homeless," it said, in part.

"I think she was inspirational for Menlo Park," Mayor Keith said after the meeting. "I feel so genuinely sad for our loss."

Dr. Bostic co-founded the Mount Olive Apostolic Original Holy Church of God in Belle Haven and served as its pastor. Her son Teman, who



Hattie Bostic

also lives in Menlo Park, will take over as pastor.

In 1968 Dr. Bostic began the Crime Prevention Narcotics Drug Education Center, a community based organization dedicated to the eradication of crime and drug abuse that has served as a prototype for hundreds of similar programs across the nation.

The proclamation concluded that the city wants to "remember and honor Dr. Hattie L. Bostic for her generous contributions toward uplifting the Belle Haven neighborhood and the Menlo Park community, and that her exemplary works will be remembered for years to come." ■

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

School foundation scrambles to meet deadline

■ Grants totaling \$300,000 depend on meeting goals by Feb. 15.

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

The nonprofit foundation that supports Menlo Park City School District schools has always set ambitious goals. But this year, the word “ambitious” seems a bit inadequate, given the foundation’s goal to boost its donation to the district to \$4 million this year.

That goal, if met, will exceed by \$1.4 million the donation made last year by the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation. But what may be even more of a challenge is meeting the Feb. 15 deadline to achieve

goals set by donors offering two grants that total \$300,000 — one a matching grant.

Several families in the foundation have offered up to \$250,000 to match donations from families joining the foundation, and from increased donations by families that are already members. If those donations reach \$250,000, the foundation will be a half-million dollars closer to its overall goal.

Another family is dangling \$50,000 on a hook as incentive for more families to join the foundation. Currently, 53 percent of district families are foundation members, according

to co-president Alison Leupold. If the foundation is successful in raising that figure to 70 percent — about 300 more families — it will receive the \$50,000.

“We’re so thankful to these

Several families have offered up to \$250,000 to match donations.

families for their contributions,” Ms. Leupold said. As the district and its families struggle to plug the holes left by state funding cutbacks, “It’s nice to feel like we’re not alone in this,” she said.

Ms. Leupold and co-president Theanne Thomson admit the challenge of meeting the fund-

raising and membership goals by Feb. 15 is great, but they are moving full speed ahead.

The foundation’s role in keeping the district’s programs strong and class size low has been growing steadily with the state’s funding cutbacks and growing enrollment. State cuts will total \$1.4 million this year — a deep burden on a budget already strained by years of funding cutbacks.

Where does the foundation’s annual contribution go? “We now fund 21 teachers and other educators, plus enrichment programs — all the music, all the arts,” Ms. Thomson said. The money also funds the library and science programs, innovation grants for classroom proj-

ects, and other programs.

The foundation got a boost last fall from an anonymous donor who is not part of the district community, but who contributed \$50,000 through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, to be divided equally among the foundation and each of the district’s four schools.

The gift was given as a direct result of recent collaborative efforts made by the foundation and the four schools’ PTOs to fund school programs, according to Valerie Ambwani of the foundation.

Go to mpaef.org, call the foundation office at 325-0100, or email mpaef@mpaef.org to learn more or to donate to the foundation. ■

Woman sentenced for Portola Valley crimes

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

County jail, not state prison, is ahead for San Francisco resident Jennifer Leigh Prince, who was arrested in December 2010 in connection with five Portola Valley property crimes, including two auto burglaries and three thefts in the Brookside Park neighborhood.

Superior Court Judge Lisa Novak sentenced Ms. Prince, 41, a nine-time inmate in state prison, to three years of incarceration. Prosecutors had asked for five years.

But with a new state law enacted in 2011 reserving prison for violent offenders, local courts now have options that were unavailable under the old system, prosecutors said.

In the case of Ms. Prince, Judge Novak on Jan. 6 split her three-year sentence into two years and eight months in jail, with the potential to serve that time in a residential treatment program, and four months of parole-like supervision by the county, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney’s Office.

Such a split would not have been possible under the old system, Assistant District Attorney Al Serrato said in a telephone interview. The court is

doing “things we’ve never done before,” he said.

Ms. Prince had pleaded no contest to three felony counts: possession of stolen property, identity theft, and burglary. She is subject to fines totaling \$430, restrictions on weapons possession, abstention of alcohol and drugs, testing for substance abuse, and the loss of Fourth Amendment rights regarding search and seizure, and restitution to victims, prosecutors said.

As a reward for good behavior, Ms. Prince will receive credit of 757 days, leaving her about 7

months of incarceration, which she may serve in residential treatment if the judge agrees. Inmates can earn credit for activities such as working while in jail, pursuing a high school diploma, and undergoing counseling.

The case unfolded after an incident on Dec. 23, 2010, shortly before 6 a.m., when sheriff’s Deputy Todd Finato walked over to investigate a green Jeep Cherokee occupied by two women and parked on Crescent Avenue in Portola Valley’s Brookside Park neighborhood.

Deputies had been called about an auto burglary on Canyon Avenue a few blocks away.

Jennifer Leigh Prince had pleaded no contest to three felony counts.

See **SENTENCED**, page 8



Photo by Michelle Le

Hellen Hsieh prepares to hang artwork by members of Abilities United at Cafe Zoe in Menlo Park. Ms. Hsieh is the nonprofit’s volunteer art curator.

Artists showcase works at Cafe Zoe

Cafe Zoe in Menlo Park is displaying 40 original works by artists from Abilities United until Feb. 10.

All of the art is for sale, with proceeds going directly to artists. Each Friday during the exhibit, Cafe Zoe, at 1929 Menalto Ave., will donate a percentage of food purchases from breakfast, lunch, and coffee to Abilities United.

The artists, all of whom have

developmental disabilities, display a variety of techniques, using different media. Many have received instruction at Art for Well Beings and the Pacific Art League in Palo Alto, and the Community School of Music and Art in Mountain View.

The artwork has sold to collectors for \$50 to \$500 per piece.

Cafe Zoe’s owner, Kathleen Daly, is enthusiastic about the

exhibit. “I am forever grateful to Abilities United for helping me when I relocated my brother, who has a developmental disability, to Palo Alto. This is my way of expressing my gratitude, plus the art is just so spectacular and looks so beautiful on our walls.”

Abilities United recently presented Hellen Hsieh of

See **CAFE ZOE**, page 8

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Interim manager asked to stay another year

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

■ **ATHERTON**

Interim City Manager John Danielson has been given the green light to remain on part-time duty in Atherton Town Hall one more year, but may choose not to if the state's public retirement agency rejects the town's appeal to allow him to continue collecting his pension.

The City Council voted Jan. 18 to extend Mr. Danielson's contract until Jan. 3, 2013, at the same monthly salary of \$15,000.

A state Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) rule prohibits a retired public worker from collecting a pension after working a specified number of hours up to one year for another public agency — a threshold Mr. Danielson, a retired city manager, has crossed during the past year.

The council sent a letter to CalPERS asking for an exemption to that rule, but the agency has not yet responded.

Mr. Danielson has not returned the Almanac's phone calls for comment as to whether he will return the town's money, or forego his pension, if CalP-

ERS rejects the appeal for an exemption.

Mr. Danielson asked the council for authority to spend up to \$25,000 for a recruitment firm to find the town's permanent manager. At the urging of Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen, the council rejected the idea of hiring a firm — at least for now.

Ms. McKeithen said the council has had better luck in recent years when it conducted its own search for a town manager and a town attorney, rather than hiring a search firm. She convinced the council majority to go that route.

The council voted 4-1, with Mayor Bill Widmer dissenting, to authorize spending of up to \$10,000 to launch its own recruitment effort. Mr. Widmer could not be reached for comment.

That direction may change, however, if CalPERS rejects the town's request, and Mr. Danielson decides to resign. When Mr. Danielson was hired in January of 2011, one of his key duties was to help the town recruit a permanent manager. ■

Colbie Caillat performs at benefit

■ **AROUND TOWN**

Grammy Award pop singer and songwriter Colbie Caillat will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Fox Theatre, 2223 Broadway, in Redwood City in a concert to benefit the Children's Health Council.

The 26-year-old artist from Malibu made her debut in 2007 with the album "CoCo," which went platinum and spent more than a half year in the top 20 in Billboard's Top 200 albums chart. The album included hits "Bubbly" and "Realize."

Her second album, released in 2009, was nominated for the best pop vocal album.

Children's Health Council in Palo Alto has a 54-year tradition of presenting top entertainment to the community with its annual benefit concert, Summer Symphony. This is the first time CHC has presented a winter benefit.

The concert committee includes Bren Leisure, Lulu Frye, and Eve Jaffe of Atherton; Sandy Katzman of Menlo Park; and Merrilee Harris of Woodside.

Tickets range from \$150 for reserved floor or balcony seating

up to \$750 for a package that includes a pre-concert cocktail party and post-concert party at Club Fox.

Visit chcbenefit.org for more information and tickets.

Alisa Clancy talks jazz in Menlo Park

"The Power of the Horn: Charlie Parker to John Coltrane" will be the theme of a talk by Alisa Clancy at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, in the Menlo Park Council Chambers at 701 Laurel St. in Menlo Park.

Ms. Clancy is co-host of "Morning Cup of Jazz" on KCSM-FM (91.1).

The lives and music of Charlie Parker, Coleman Hawkins, Chu Berry, Lester Young, John Coltrane and others will be featured.

The program is supported by the Friends of the Menlo Park Library. Free van service for Menlo Park seniors and those with disabilities may be scheduled by calling 330-2512.

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Councilwoman cites harassment

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

■ **ATHERTON**

The difficult job of serving on the Atherton City Council for the past 11 years has been made nearly intolerable by incidents including vandalism at her home, an unexplained incident of police cars driving around her property, and “abuse by a fellow council member,” Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen declared during the Jan. 18 council meeting.

The method in which Ms. McKeithen delivered her stunning message was unusual: She made her statement from the City Council dais during oral communications, although she offered to step down and speak from the podium.

Although she didn’t single out any of her council colleagues by name during her statement, she told the Almanac in an interview that she was referring to Councilwoman Elizabeth Lewis when speaking of abuse and insults directed her way.

Ms. Lewis could not be reached for comment before press time.

“I’m a favorite stalking horse for her,” Ms. McKeithen said in the interview. “We should be able to act like civil human beings. That’s what the town’s people want us to do, and that’s not what we’re doing.”

Ms. McKeithen said the abusive behavior was particularly bad during the council’s Dec. 21 meeting, “and I’ve had enough.” The behavior has included quietly uttered snide comments, threats, untruthful remarks, demeaning references, and general “cattiness and nastiness ... and backbiting,” she said.

She wanted to make her statement at the beginning of the meeting rather than wait until the “council reports” agenda item near the end “to make it an embarrassment if it’s done again,” she said.

During her public statement she called on Mayor Bill Wid-



‘We should be able to act like civil human beings.’

COUNCILWOMAN
KATHY MCKEITHEN

mer to use his authority to maintain civility among council members. “I’m asking the new mayor to enforce our rules of conduct,” she told the Almanac. “He’s new, and I’m ticked.”

Mayor Widmer could not be reached for comment before press time.

Regarding references she made during her statement to problems she’s encountered outside the council chambers, Ms. McKeithen told the Almanac that “odd things are happening.”

One example: Multiple incidents of vandalism to her irrigation system. The system’s hoses were “cut up into 12 or 15 pieces,” and hers is the only residence in the neighborhood to experience such vandalism, she said.

Although she said she suspected the incidents were occurring while she was away at Wednesday council meetings, police department records show that the two occasions that officers were called out happened on

July 22, a Friday, and Aug. 22, a Monday, according to Lt. Joe Wade. The reports say that it was unknown when the vandalism occurred.

Lt. Wade said that on the second call to the McKeithen home, officers were told that there had been a third incident as well.

Officers had offered to begin patrol checks around the house after the first call, but the offer was declined. In August, the patrol checks were requested, he said.

There are no suspects or leads in the case, Lt. Wade said.

Ms. McKeithen said her concern over police cars “on at least one occasion totally circling my house” stemmed from an incident reported

by a family member after she returned home. When she called the police department and was told officers hadn’t been at her house, she called other jurisdictions and was told none of their officers had been in the area.

She questioned whether the incident had actually occurred until neighbors asked her what the police were doing at the house that day, she said. But “no one in the police (department) will own up to that happening,” she added.

Another incident involved “two people dressed in black in my backyard, with knapsacks,” she said. Suspicions of being targeted led to her hiring a professional to check for eavesdropping “bugs” in her house, she said.

When asked who she thought might be vandalizing and trespassing at her home, she said, “I have no idea.”

Interim Police Chief Ed Flint could not be reached for comment for this report. ■

Council gives nod to town center architectural firm

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

The choice of an architectural firm to design and manage the Atherton Town Center building project has been made, but the City Council has delayed officially hiring the firm until several key questions about the proposed project are answered.

The council on Jan. 18 agreed with the advisory Town Center Task Force that Nichols Melburg & Rossetto is the preferred firm to take on the project.

The task force, headed by City Councilwoman Elizabeth Lewis, was asking the council to authorize a meeting with NM&R

architects, but questions arose about how the firm would be paid, given that no budget has been approved for the project.

Another question pertains to the new center’s size: With the layoff of 13 of the town’s 16 general employees last year, will the town’s space needs be less than the ballpark figure the architects were working with when they participated in a design competition in 2010?

Ms. Lewis and Councilman Jerry Carlson, who is also on the task force, urged their council colleagues to allow the process — including the meeting with NM&R — to go forward, but after a council discussion about

the uncertainties, voted with their colleagues to endorse the choice of firms but have the task force come back to the council with more information, including a new estimate of space needs, before bringing in the professionals.

Councilman Jim Dobbie noted that the town has only 29 employees, 21 of whom are in the police department. And, he noted, “no more than 30 percent of the police are on duty at one time.”

The proposed center would be built with donated funds, but the residents who will be asked to contribute need to be assured that the town isn’t “building a monolith we don’t need,” he said.

Councilman Carlson stressed the need to take some action to “demonstrate we’re serious” about building a center — both

See **TOWN CENTER**, page 16

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Wait To Sell?

Dear Gloria, We would like to wait for at least two years when we retire to sell our house. However, we have heard that there will be an additional 3.8% capital gain tax on housing sales after this year. Is that true and if so, it seems as if we should sell this year.

Patsy M.

Dear Patsy, As might be expected with a new government tax, it is not simple and straight forward. It applies to certain income brackets as well as a certain amount of gain as well as certain kinds of property and investments. It is interesting that the government sees fit to hit the housing industry whenever they decide it would be beneficial to institute

another social program. This particular tax, although not limited to gains on property, is to pay for the massive health care program. Another “tax” on housing comes to pay for the federal government’s proposal to pay for the recently extended payroll tax by increasing guarantee fees on Fannie and Freddie mortgages and FHA mortgage insurance premiums. Both of these taxes mandate that home buyers and/or sellers pay for the cost of government spending that is not tied to housing.

This seems particularly bad timing to put yet more expenses on an industry that is struggling. I can forward to you what the National Association of Realtors has published if you send me your e-mail. You can then determine for yourself if this tax will apply to 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.

Eloise Lancestremere

Eloise was a lifetime resident of San Mateo County. Eloise was born in San Mateo May 7, 1909 to William and Mary Rahtje. She died at home with her love ones at her side on January 14, 2012. She was an amazing centenarian.

Her maternal grandparents were William and Mary Stanton pioneer settlers of Portola Valley and Menlo Park.

Eloise was raised in Menlo Park. She attended Central School in Menlo Park. She lived in San Mateo and attended San Mateo schools for a short time. She graduated from Sequoia High School 1927.

Eloise and her husband Laurent owned the Menlo French Laundry from 1945 to 1980.

Upon her husband’s death she continued to run the Laundry until 1990.

Eloise was a member of the Church of Nativity. She was a member of the Native Daughters of the Golden West for over 75 years. Eloise joined the Menlo Parlor, Menlo Park in 1931. She later transferred to Bonita Parlor No. 10, Redwood City. She was also a member of the Native Daughters of the Golden West Past Presidents Association No. 26. She was a member of the Menlo Park Historical Association. Eloise was given a lifetime membership in the Sequoia High School Alumni Association on her 100th birthday.

She was preceded in death by her husband Jean Laurent Lancestremere and brother William Rahtje.

She is survived by her daughter Martha Lancestremere and son Peter Lancestremere. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews in California, Ohio, Colorado, Florida, France and Denmark.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated January 18, 2012 at the Church of Nativity, 210 Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park. Interment at Holy Cross Cemetery, Menlo Park.

We would like to give special thanks to her caring and wonderful caregivers.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Pathways Hospice Foundation, 585 North Mary Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94085 or a charity of your choice.

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PAID OBITUARY

Barn OK, but no vineyard for meadow preserve

■ Town Council likely to hear the case on appeal.

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

The bell has rung, Round 16 is over, and the advantage seems to be with the applicants, Dr. Kirk Neely and Holly Myers. After almost three years of deliberations, the couple won approval from the Planning Commission for a proposal that includes building a barn in a scenic Portola Valley field, a part of their 229-acre property at 555 Portola Road.

The field, or meadow as the general plan refers to it, offers observers and Westridge neighborhood residents a much admired and tranquil scene. Starting with 100 yards or so of deep grass, often grazed by deer, the eye travels up across ridges of seasonal greens and browns to the 1,900-foot peak of Windy Hill, an open space preserve.

The Planning Commission unanimously rejected a similar plan a year ago but on Jan. 18, and bucking significant community opposition, they voted 4-1 to approve the couple's request for a permit to add, elsewhere in less visible locations, a cabana and pool, greenhouse, guest house and artist's studio.

Commissioner Leah Zaffaroni cast the dissenting vote.

A 17th round — an appeal to the Town Council — is likely,

either from protesting neighbors or from the applicants. While the commission's approval did include permission to grow fruits and vegetables near the barn, it disallowed a vineyard. But eliminating the vineyard eliminates the project's economic viability, Dr. Neely told the commission.

Supporting the vineyard were Commission Chair Nate McKitterick and Commissioner Arthur "Chip" McIntosh, but the votes weren't there. In a 3-2 vote on a separate motion, commissioners Leah Zaffaroni, Denise Gilbert and Alexandra Von Feldt killed the vineyard, for now.

The general plan designates the field a "meadow preserve" that is "visually important to the entire quality of the valley." Resolving the question of whether a vineyard is acceptable in a meadow preserve is a matter for the council, not the Planning Commission, Ms. Gilbert noted.

For Ms. Zaffaroni, a meadow is low lying land covered with grass, and this is a meadow preserve. She said she could find accommodation with some agriculture if the scale is right.

In voting against the project as a whole, Ms. Zaffaroni said she

opposed a cabana higher up, on land zoned as residential open space. The general plan calls for "clustering" of residential structures so as to preserve the natural beauty of views; the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has called the plan "highly dispersed," Ms. Zaffaroni said.

Beauty, the classicists say, is in the eye of the beholder. "To me, agriculture is preserve," Mr. McIntosh said. "It's interesting, it's attractive, it's been in the town for 150 years."

"I'm glad we're not facing a residential development proposed in the meadow," he added. "I think the Neelys have been terrific stewards of the land."

Mr. McKitterick, an attorney, opted for another classic: the reasonable man's view. "Reasonable minds are going to differ," he said. "The application is largely consistent with a reasonable interpretation of the general plan. In its current form, it is reasonable enough to pass my muster."

Public sentiment

Of the 25 or 30 people in the audience, only two spoke at any length in support of a barn in the field.

"I think the barn is consistent with other buildings in the scenic corridor," said Danna Breen, who said in an interview that she was speaking as a private citizen.



Photo by Sheldon Breiner

This meadow is a step closer to being home to a barn and crops after the Planning Commission approved the proposal.

Ms. Breen is a member of the town's Architectural and Site Control Commission, which has weighed in on this project many times.

"I think we can hardly say that our town is moving in a sustainable direction if we don't allow the Neelys to produce food," Ms. Breen said. "Change happens," she added. "I think having local food would really be an asset."

Steve Toben, a former planning commissioner and former council member, said he sees no conflict with having row crops near open space or a barn near row crops in a town that proclaims its rural ethos.

Jon Silver disagreed. "Good stewards (of the land) don't put

barns on agricultural land," said Mr. Silver, a former town mayor and county planning commissioner. "On 229 acres, there have got to be better locations for the building."

"Is a meadow still a meadow if there's a vineyard on it?" asked resident and project opponent Bev Lipman. "Do fruits and vegetables fit in a meadow?," she asked. "I say, 'Let there be hay.'"

"I don't think haying is a benign use of this land," said resident Annaloy Nickum. Agriculture in Portola Valley had its day in the mid-20th century, she said, and added that farming of fruits and vegetables means pest control, and that means wildlife such as deer being reclassified as pests. ■

SENTENCED

continued from page 5

Deputy Finato obtained the identity cards of the two women and happened to notice a piece of property similar to one reported stolen in the Canyon Avenue incident. At that point, the driver put the Jeep into gear and fled the area, deputies said.

Deputy Finato gave chase but lost sight of the Jeep, which had no license plates, deputies said. Three Brookside Park thefts

and another burglary were later reported to have occurred on Dec. 23, 2010.

San Mateo police happened to stop Ms. Prince at 3:40 a.m. on Dec. 24, 2010, for a traffic matter, and she gave the police an ID card later found to have been stolen in Grass Valley, deputies said.

Investigators from the San Mateo Police Department consulted with Sheriff's Office investigators and determined that Ms. Prince had been driving the Jeep in the Dec. 23 case. ■

CAFE ZOE

continued from page 5

Mountain View with the organization's President's Volunteer Award for her 200 hours of service as the organization's art curator. Ms. Hsieh, proprietor of Design Loft in Mountain View, frames the artwork with donated materials, helping the art sell more quickly and demand higher prices, according to Wendy Kuehnl, Abilities United marketing director.

Abilities United (formerly Community Association for Rehabilitation, or C.A.R.), which is based

in Palo Alto, is a nonprofit organization for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Each year more than 2,500 people use its eight services.

Cafe Zoe is a community cafe located at the intersection of Menalto and Gilbert streets in the Willows neighborhood of Menlo Park. The cafe serves coffee, espresso drinks, and a selection of pastries, bagels, scones and oatmeal. The lunch menu features sandwiches and salads. Weekly specials include soup and quiche.

The cafe is a gallery for local artists. Live music is featured most Friday nights.

RDA shutdown crunches Menlo Park budget

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff

A clearer picture is emerging of how the redevelopment agency (RDA) shutdown will impact Menlo Park's budget.

After the California Supreme Court ruled on Dec. 29 that the governor did have the power to shut down the nearly 400 RDAs in the state and also nixed a plan that would have let cities pay to keep the agencies open, Menlo Park staff started analyzing what that decision meant for the city.

The agency's non-housing assets will be turned over to a successor agency and fund controlled by San Mateo County; housing assets will be reassigned to a successor housing agency run by the city. Some aspects of the impact have already been discussed — the city's code enforcement, narcotics enforcement, graffiti abatement, and housing programs relied heavily on RDA funding.

Now it looks like the effect of losing almost \$3.1 million in agency money will ripple through other programs as

well, including the city's midday shuttle bus line, which received \$70,000 in RDA money annually, according to the staff report.

The agency also partially funded 37 staff positions. Capital improvement projects on the chopping block include Belle Haven pool upgrades (\$128,269); Kelly Park improvements (\$1.3 million); and other items for a total of \$7.4 million in now unfunded projects.

The San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority will also need \$100,000 from the city's general fund — the main source for making up the budget gaps created by the loss of RDA money — to continue its flood control measures.

The debate over what to do with the RDA's housing assets has taken shape since the announcement of the court's decision. Former councilwoman Lee Duboc sent out an email asking the council to prevent the general fund from covering any housing costs, saying in part that the department was unproductive and that no one wants below-market-rate (BMR) housing in

Menlo Park, leaving the department sitting on funds the county could put to better use.

However, architect Sam Sinott disagreed. In an email to the council on Jan. 21, he wrote, "There are immediate opportunities for BMR housing in Menlo Park. Doug Frederick, Menlo Park's housing manager, and I have been exploring the possibility of a 100% BMR housing project at 1258 El Camino Real, next to Jason's Cafe. Because this narrow, difficult site is not well suited for most uses, it works for Below Market Rate housing."

Menlo Park has come under fire during the past two years for accepting in-lieu fees instead of BMR units from developers of new housing projects. The city's current stock of 57 affordable housing units isn't sufficient to meet demand, according to the Housing Commission.

The City Council will examine the impacts on Tuesday, Jan. 24. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Civic Center at 701 Laurel Street.

Go to tinyurl.com/6p5owdb to read the staff report. ■

Women in Business 2012



Erin turned the traditional view of standard jewelry stores into something completely different with her dramatic and creative flair. Decades later, Erin is still creating masterpieces of jewelry that are more bold than polite, and more enduring than timid.

Drawing inspiration from sources as varied as Buddhists, pirates, the Beatles, and her loved ones; Erin's pieces are made for the enjoyment and expression of the woman wearing them.

If you're a woman who wants to ride horses, wrangle snakes, swim in the ocean, walk the red carpet, or just challenge life and come out on the other side with your jewelry still intact and as brilliant as ever, come see Erin create a masterpiece which is as beautiful and extraordinary as you.

Erin MacGeraghty, Owner
Erin Mac Jewelry
Sharon Heights Shops, Menlo Park
650.854.4740
www.erinmacjewelry.com



Natalie Richardson's idea for what was to become LuLu's Restaurants originated in Michoacan and Tayoltita, Mexico, back in the 1960's. Head chef, Lourdes Lopez, "Lulu" comes from Michoacan and her history is steeped in the preparation and enjoyment of her native cuisine. Natalie's husband grew up in Tayoltita.

The match was simple – Natalie's creativity, energy and LuLu's, talent and quality-oriented approach to creating wonderful family dishes. The recipe of these two individuals combining their talents resulted in the creation of LuLu's on the Alameda in 2005 and opening this month in Los Altos, LuLu's on Main Street.

Natalie Richardson, Owner
LuLu's Mexican Food Restaurants
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650-854-8226 650-327-8226 650-596-8226 650-559-8226
www.LuLusmexicanfood.com

Visit Menalto Corners

I am incredibly fortunate to be able to say that Café Zoë can be defined as a true community coffee café with the entire Peninsula as its community. We meet new people everyday and yet remain incredibly grateful to our morning regulars. Customers have become friends and family, friends and family have become customers. Our roots are in the vibrant and diverse Willows neighborhood but our community now reaches across Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Atherton and beyond. We buy from local artisanal bakers and chefs, display local artists, and feature performances from local musicians. Café Zoë – a community coffee café.



Kathleen Daly, Owner
Café Zoë
1920 Menalto Avenue, Menlo Park
(650) 322-1926



Visit Menalto Corners

Part of the thriving Menalto Station business district located in the Willows, Habibi's Salon has become a neighborhood mainstay in the 18 months since Ines Acosta opened for business. The full-service hair salon caters to local families and business-people. Acosta and her team of stylists specialize in women's styling, straightening, and coloring, men's haircuts, and children's cuts (done in a race car, jeep, or Sponge Bob chair).

Loyal customers appreciate Habibi's punch cards (after 10 haircuts, the next one is free) and the fact that they can walk in for a haircut -- although appointments are recommended, especially on the weekends.



Ines Acosta, Owner
Habibi Salon
1925 Menalto Ave., Menlo Park
(650) 847-1815



Women in Business 2012



Sweet Dreams, that's what founder Suzi Tinsley had in mind when opening the Sugar Shack five years ago. The Sugar Shack is Menlo Park's ultimate candy destination and "go to" place for goodie bags, party favors, care packages, and custom gift baskets for any occasion.

The Sugar Shack was created to be a "sweet spot" for children and families to gather and a place to get favorite treats to sweeten every event.

Suzi has combined her vast event planning experience with her favorite food – Candy – to make any occasion more memorable. The Sugar Shack has hosted many law firm socials, holiday gatherings and birthday parties. The candy goes mobile for sweet-16 parties, proms and grad nights.

Suzi Tinsley, Owner
Sugar Shack

816 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park
(650) 325-0800
www.Sugarshack.com

Edith Schneider's philosophy of design is simple: less is more, and balance is always the end goal.

Hailing from Munich, Germany; Edith has been working with art and design since she began studying at Ludwig-Maximilian University in 1988.

After obtaining her Master of Art degree in Munich, she continued to train at 'Karin Hunkel in Farbgefuehl', Germany where she became a certified Consultant of Color and Style.

She now owns her own studio at the Allied Arts Guild, where she designs beautiful jewelry and clothing and teaches private classes, and is a professor of Fashion Merchandising at Redwood City's Cañada College.

If you desire a delicate harmony to pervade your outer style as well as your inner self, Edith Schneider is the designer for you.



Edith Schneider, Owner

Edith Schneider Gallery
Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park
(650) 327-2545



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Pacific Hearing Service

Menlo Park Office
3555 Alameda de las Pulgas, Suite 100
(650) 854-1980
www.PacificHearingService.com



I received my teaching credential in 1974 from CSU Hayward, about the time my beloved mother, Patricia Roberts, founded The Roberts School. I taught the Kindergarten program for 20 years, and I absolutely adored teaching. I'm still in touch with a few of my first students. The Roberts School philosophy is that of Piaget – we develop the whole child with a balance of age appropriate academics and diverse enrichment activities. We now offer Young Fives rather than Kindergarten. School Director Elisa Barrett, and the staff of Roberts School, carry on the legacy of my Mom who was highly respected and loved by all.



Brenda Roberts

The Roberts School
641 Coleman Avenue, Menlo Park
(650) 322-3535
www.robertsschool.com

Women in Business 2012



I grew up on the grounds of a mental hospital where my father was an administrator. From an early age, I was interested in how we learn, and finding methods to help people reach "their" potential. This resulted in studying Educational Psychology at McGill University (Montreal) and working with a wide range of students with learning differences. I find such JOY in knowing students are accepted, honored and encouraged to discover and fulfill their individual gifts. Many years of working with students and parents led me to my wonderful, present job of Director of Admissions at Mid-Peninsula High School in Menlo Park, a school that embodies my beliefs.



Marsha Blair, Director of Admissions
Mid-Peninsula High School
1340 Willow Road, Menlo Park
(650) 321-1991

Carpaccio



Photo Rick Saal

Ask anyone in Menlo Park the way to Carpaccio's and they will not only point you in the right direction, but ask to join you as well!! Ciya Martorana and her staff welcome you. "As we enter our 25th year, I have fond memories of all of you who have made Carpaccio your dining choice. Customers have become friends and it has been a joy to celebrate great food and wine with you, your friends and your families." Carpaccio's tradition of genuine Italian cuisine in an unforgettable atmosphere continues. From the asiago oysters and signature Carpaccio appetizer to ravioli farciti di zucca and gnocci so perfect you'll think nonna is in the kitchen, Carpaccio will make you feel at home.

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Elyse@ElyseBarca.com
ElyseBarca.com

John Inglis, community activist and volunteer

A memorial service for John Inglis, part of Menlo Park community life for more than 55 years, will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 3, in Courtroom A at the San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway in Redwood City. Mr. Inglis died Dec. 6 at the age of 82.

Growing up on the Peninsula, Mr. Inglis graduated from Burlingame High School, as did his future wife, Joan. The couple was married in 1955.

Mr. Inglis attended the College of San Mateo and served in the Korean War. After his service, he was employed by Wells Fargo Bank and helped open its first branch in Redwood City. He also worked as a stockbroker for many years.

A former board member of the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce and onetime president of the board of the West Bay Sanitary District, he was "very involved in the life of our hometown, Menlo Park," says Ms. Inglis.

The Inglises moved to Menlo Park in 1955. Mr. Inglis helped out at the first Friends of the Library Book Fair and continued volunteering every year through 2010.

He was a member of the Menlo Park men's club, the Jolly Boys Club, co-founded by Cab Burley of the old Menlo Park Recorder newspaper, whose "members continue to this day having lunch together," says Ms. Inglis.

She recalls when he served as a juror on a "particularly sensational murder trial way back in the late 1950s when murder was most unusual." He also was appointed to the grand jury.

Mr. Inglis was a domino player at the Sequoia Club in Redwood City for many years. The 50th and final Children's Health Council Domino Tournament in February will be dedicated to him. He was also an avid stamp

OBITUARIES

collector and a member of the Sequoia Stamp Club.

Watching his five grandchildren take part in sports and other activities at Woodside and Sequoia high schools brought him great joy, even though he was co-chair of the United Menlo-Atherton High School Bear Bench athletics support group, say family members. He also served on the Burgess Gymnasium committee, the board of the San Mateo County Historical Society, and was instrumental in the revival of the old San Mateo County Courthouse.

Mr. Inglis is survived by his wife, Joan; sons Christopher Inglis of Menlo Park and James Inglis of San Carlos; and five grandchildren. His sister, Marcia Inglis Sayre, preceded him in death.

Donations in Mr. Inglis's name may be made to Pathways Hospice Foundation, 585 N. Mary Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94085; or to the San Mateo County Historical Association, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City, CA 94063.

Opal Henney

Registered nurse

Opal Wages Henney, who lived in Woodside for nearly 50 years, died Nov. 20. She was 90.

Ms. Henney was born in Taylor County, Florida, and grew up in Perry, Florida. She earned her degree in nursing from the University of Virginia, where she was enrolled in the Cadet Nurse Corp. At the university she met her future husband, James Edward Henney. They were married in 1949.

After the couple moved to Woodside in 1954, Ms. Henney earned her California nursing license by completing refresher courses at Stanford University. A member of the California Nurses Association, she was employed by Kaiser Hospital in Redwood City for 26 years.

Ms. Henney was active in the

Woodside Village Church's rummage sales, where she was noted for her expertise with donated jewelry. One of her greatest joys was her grandchildren and being able to participate in their lives, say family members. In 2002, she sold her Woodside home and moved to San Mateo.

She is survived by her daughters, Patricia Hamann and Joan Tornai; sisters Ruth and Martha, brother Norman; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services have been held. Donations may be made to a favorite animal charity or charity of choice.

Myrna Robinson

Psychotherapist

Myrna Robinson of Menlo Park, a psychotherapist who practiced in Palo Alto for 41 years, died Dec. 21 of advanced melanoma. She was 64.

Ms. Robinson was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Vassar College in 1969. After college, she moved to the Bay Area, where she knew no one, as a way of changing her life, say friends. She went on to receive a master's in social work from UC Berkeley in 1974.

During her practice as a psychotherapist, she pursued many interests including individual, couple and collaborative divorce counseling, say friends. In 2011, she received an honorary doctorate from the Sanville Institute in Berkeley, which offers a Ph.D. program for mental health professionals. She married in 1981 and was divorced in 1998.

Ms. Robinson served as chairman of the board of the Cleo Eulau Center in Mountain View. The center works to support caring and emotional interaction between teachers and students, especially those who are at risk, say friends.

Ms. Robinson also enjoyed interior design, helping friends redecorate their homes, and bridge. She is survived by her son, Eric.

A memorial service has been held. Contributions in Ms. Robinson's name may be made to the Cleo Eulau Center, 2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite 208, Mountain View, CA 94303.

Rakesh Rajani joins foundation board

Rakesh Rajani, an expert in international development, has joined the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation board of directors.

From Tanzania, Mr. Rajani founded Twaweza, an East African-based civil society initiative promoting change in Eastern Africa through citizen partnerships and governmental

accountability.

"Rakesh brings a wealth of hands-on experience in what it takes to make a difference in the developing world," said Foundation President Paul Brest in a statement.

His experience also includes starting education advocacy and children's rights organizations in Tanzania while serving

as a consultant for the Hewlett Foundation, Google.org, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Ford Foundation's Office for East Africa, and UNICEF, among others.

He is currently a fellow at Harvard University in the field of human rights. He earned his bachelor's degree in from Brandeis University in 1989 and a master's degree in theological studies from Harvard in 1991.

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West Bay Sanitary District Settles Lawsuit with Baykeeper

After hours of tough negotiations throughout an afternoon and evening (1-11-2012), West Bay Sanitary District (WBSD) and San Francisco Baykeeper reached a settlement to end the wasteful continuance of a lawsuit Baykeeper filed against West Bay in late 2009. In return for a \$1.4 million payment to cover Baykeeper's costs, high-priced lawyers and "experts," Baykeeper will dismiss its suit.

Baykeeper's Executive Director, Deb Self, wasted no time posting a statement on Baykeeper's website making claims that are not based on fact. The WBSD Board of Directors is sincerely disappointed in Ms. Self's attempt to "spin" the settlement. Ms. Self was present during the settlement negotiations, and while it was agreed that recommendations made by expert witnesses for both parties during the litigation resulted in improvements to the WBSD sewer system, Ms. Self makes a number of claims that falsely imply that without Baykeeper's lawsuit, there would have been no improvement in West Bay's sewer spill record. She claims:

"After Baykeeper brought suit under the Clean Water Act in 2009, West Bay initiated major upgrades to its antiquated sewer system in order to significantly reduce its sewage pollution to the Bay."

"West Bay used to be one of the worst-polluting sewage agencies in the Bay Area, but they have reduced their sewage spills by two-thirds since we brought suit."

"As a result, more than 60,000 gallons of sewage flowed into local creeks, sloughs and city drains connected to San Francisco Bay."

Over two years of negotiation and litigation, an extensive record of evidence was constructed that tells a different story. It is a fact that State regulations adopted in 2006 required all wastewater agencies statewide to report all sewage system overflows (SSOs) to the State Water Resources Control Board within hours of the event happening, and then a public record of the spills is made available to everyone on a special web site. All sewer systems statewide were also required to implement Sanitary Sewer System Management Plans to improve system performance. These new requirements and the availability of this data were the impetus for WBSD (as well as most other wastewater agencies) to increase efforts to reduce SSOs. When Baykeeper filed its lawsuit in December of 2009, the plans and efforts of WBSD were already underway and bringing substantial performance improvements. Metrics are available to show the significant improvement from 2007 through 2009, and those performance metrics have gotten better right through the end of 2011.

Calling WBSD "one of the worst performing sewage agencies in the Bay Area" may be useful for Baykeeper's attempt to justify its lawsuit, but it simply is not true. Although West Bay's system transports millions of gallons of wastewater to the treatment plant every day, at the point of settlement, the proven volume that overflowed and was not cleaned up before entering streams and the Bay, based on evidence presented to the Federal Court, was approximately 40,000 gallons. That was over a seven-year period between 2004 and 2010. During over two years of litigation Baykeeper produced no evidence that any sewer overflow from West Bay's system had a measurable effect on recreation areas or fish spawning. No evidence was presented indicating that any sewer overflow from the WBSD system caused environmental harm or posed any health risk to humans or wildlife.

It is also worth keeping the 40,000 gallons spilled over the course of several years in perspective. In 2010 alone, wastewater agencies throughout the Bay area reported sewer spills that, combined, totaled tens of millions of gallons. Compared to West Bay's less than 40,000 gallons over seven years, it's hard to understand Baykeeper's claim that West Bay represents one of the worst offenders.



Moreover, the Bay Area receives its first significant rain this season, runoff containing tons of pollutants and fecal material from horses, dogs, cats, squirrels, skunks, rabbits, deer, mountain lions, etc., etc. living in our geographic region will flow into the Bay. While that is no excuse for WBSD not striving for a zero spill rate, this perspective is useful. It's also useful to realize there is no benefit in suing these animals. They have no money.

The work done at West Bay actually advances the objective that Baykeeper preaches. No one wants sewer overflows and West Bay does its best to operate the system to peak performance. West Bay collects and transmits millions of gallons of sewage every day and conveys more than 99.9% of the sewage to the treatment plant without incident. But, as computer owners know every time their machines crash, there are few engineered systems built by humans that work perfectly. And we also work within the economic reality of balancing cost-of-service against the cost of absolute perfection. It is also a fact that West Bay's sewer system is designed to overflow from manholes into the street when a blockage occurs, just like every other sanitary sewer system in the United States and most of the world. This is to prevent a blockage from causing raw sewage to back-up into nearby houses and buildings. West Bay works hard to minimize the number of overflows that occur, and to capture and clean up affected areas when they do. The result has been no sewer spills to local waterways in more than a year.

People may say the amount paid by West Bay was enormous for activity that had minimal environmental consequences. Absolutely!!! It is more than any member of the community we serve, WBSD employees, or Board of Directors would like to have paid. But the Clean Water Act prohibits any discharge of pollutants into "waters of the United States," and provides a vehicle for Baykeeper to file suit and have its legal fees covered by the residents and ratepayers of the city or district being sued, even when the amount of sewage that reaches receiving waters is miniscule and causes no perceptible harm. Indeed, Baykeeper claims that virtually all sewer overflows violate the Clean Water Act, even when they are completely contained, returned to the sewer, and affected areas are cleaned and disinfected, if there is a possibility that "one molecule" of effluent could be left in a storm drain and eventually make its way into the Bay.

Unfortunately, the Clean Water Act's citizen suit provisions and EPA regulations don't meaningfully distinguish between major sewer overflows and minor spills that have no environmental consequence. Groups like Baykeeper can file suit and have their attorneys' fees paid by the public agencies or other entities that they sue in either case. This reality forced West Bay to pay Baykeeper's fees to settle this case, even though the litigation only succeeded in proving that 21 spills reached receiving waters in seven years, of the nearly 200 spills claimed in Baykeeper's initial court filing.

The WBSD Board has often expressed frustration as to why Baykeeper didn't just give them a call and come down from San Francisco and meet with West Bay instead of having its first meeting be to announce its intent to file a lawsuit. Just like Baykeeper purports to be, West Bay is an entity concerned about the environment, and truly wants to protect it. Working together would have been a better, less costly solution. From this experience, West Bay can only conclude that Baykeeper's focus rests more on monetary rewards for its cadre of lawyers and experts than on clean water.

One statement by Ms. Self's press release that will be interesting to follow will be:

"The settlement also requires West Bay to pay \$1.4 million to reimburse Baykeeper's attorneys' fees and expert costs and to fund third-party projects to benefit Bay water quality."

While Baykeeper may dedicate some amount of this lump sum settlement for clean water projects, the lion's share will go to Baykeeper's 3 teams of lawyers (Lawyers for Clean Water, Environmental Advocates, and in-house at Baykeeper itself).

In total, this lawsuit cost WBSD over \$2 million (including our costs to defend our case). This equates to about 2.5 miles of new pipe we could have put in the ground..... if only Baykeeper had taken the telephone-and-talk route rather than the lawsuit and lawyer fee route. And all that money comes from West Bay's customers / rate payers at a time when the economy is not at all strong.

As mentioned, an extensive record has been created in this case. West Bay refused to accept an early and unreasonable settlement demand (unlike most other jurisdictions) to avoid having non-engineers review and comment on every decision that West Bay's elected Board of Directors must make concerning operation of its system. West Bay also challenged Baykeeper's novel legal arguments and stopped Baykeeper from trying to extend state law into federal courts. We encourage the public (including board members and constituents of Baykeeper) to review the arguments from both sides. This is the first time the tactics and arguments of Baykeeper have been challenged. Transparency is healthy.

The WBSD Board of Directors is pleased to have this distraction behind us, and to be able to go back to work without having to report to the Baykeeper at every turn as many other agencies that have suffered a similar suit now do. We are pleased with the record of progress and improvement that West Bay is making due to its own efforts. We are proud of our management and employees who have worked professionally to achieve the current operating record that is better than many other systems in the state. We are committed to bringing our customers / ratepayers uninterrupted, cost effective service and to continue improving our performance record. We are committed to protecting the environment, and to representing the fiduciary well-being of our constituents.

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



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Two women now on architecture review board

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

The gender ratio on Portola Valley's five-member architecture review board has changed to three men and two women from a male-heavy ratio that has prevailed for much of the panel's history.

The Portola Valley Town Council voted unanimously Jan. 11 to reappoint architect Jeff Clark to another four-year term on the Architectural and Site Control Commission (ASCC), and to appoint Margot Koch, an interior designer to her first four-year term?

Ms. Koch, who is also a yoga instructor, has served for a year on an architecture review board in Squaw Valley, and has involved herself in depth with the construction of her home in the Westridge neighborhood, she told the council.

"I'm very passionate about the building process," she said. "I enjoy working in the system and figuring out how to make things work."

Mr. Clark and Ms. Koch were chosen from among five applicants, including general contractor Ralph Lewis, computer scientist and architecture major Thomas P. Moran, and businesswoman Darci R. Reimund, who said in her application letter that she has a deep background in construction and design.

The council interviewed everyone but Ms. Reimund, whose husband Todd Reimund represented her since she was out of town, he said.

Councilman Ted Driscoll was absent from the proceedings.

Council members had to think out loud about candidate qualifications with several candidates in the room.

"I felt like any of them would fit in," said Councilman Jeff Aalfs, who suggested streamlining the discussion by first reappointing Mr. Clark. The council agreed.

During his interview, Mr. Clark responded to a question on difficulties faced by the ASCC. Neighbors too often do not com-

'I'm very passionate about the building process.'

NEW COMMISSION MEMBER
MARGOT KOCH

municate with each other, either because they're not talking or because there's animosity, he said.

The ASCC advises the Planning Commission and the Town Council and reviews significant remodeling and building projects in town. Its mission is to preserve the "visual character" of the town by preventing

"unsightly or obnoxious" structures, indiscriminate clearing of land, and destruction of trees, according to the town code.

Portola Valley fences, for example, tend to allow animals to pass under or through them, a sign of the town's ethic of blending in with the natural world around it.

Residents have been known to tell the ASCC they won't do something inappropriate to that ethic and then do it anyway. Mr. Clark commended the Portola Valley Ranch neighborhood for taking steps to prevent this practice.

Diversity

As to the second seat, Councilwoman Ann Wengert paused for several seconds before bringing up the topic of diversity, particularly with respect to women.

Ms. Reimund probably had to be taken out of consideration because she had not been present for an interview, Ms. Wengert said.

"Would two women make a difference?" asked Mayor Maryann Derwin, who in 2006 joined a council of four men. (Ms. Wengert came to the council in 2007.) "I felt (the council) was a little unbalanced," Ms. Derwin said. "I actually felt it was a little better when Ann came aboard."

Laura Chase served on the ASCC between 1991 and 2006, including concurrently with Danna Breen, who has served since 2003. Alexandra Von Feldt was appointed to the ASCC in 2008, joining the Planning Commission a year after her appointment.

Except for Adeline Jessup in the early 1970s, that was it for ASCC women, according to a semi-official town record that lists at least 30 men.

Until 2006, ASCC members could continue to serve indefinitely without reapplying. In 2006, the council instituted four-year terms. ■

Gift funds innovation institute

Atherton residents Mike and Renee Child, who both attended the University of California at Davis, have donated \$5 million to their alma mater to fund a new interdisciplinary institute devoted to education, research and outreach, the Child Family Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The Childs graduated from UC Davis in 1976, Mike Child with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and Renee Child with degrees in psychology and German. One of their daughters is now a UC Davis student, and the other

a recent UC Davis graduate.

Both Childs volunteer for the university, Mike Child as a trustee on the UC Davis Foundation board and Renee Child as a member of the College of Letters and Science's Deans' Advisory Council.

The Childs recently made several other gifts to UC Davis, including an endowed scholarship fund for the school of nursing; an endowed research fund at the Center for Mind and Brain; and research support to help engineering faculty and students bring ideas to market.

Girl Scouts provide shoes for homeless kids

Portola Valley sixth-grade Junior Girl Scout Troop 6174 delivered new shoes to 275 homeless children through the San Mateo Shelter Network during the holiday season.

The troop of seven girls — Ava Collat, Madison Lamar, Jennifer Buja, Lauren Kastanis, Amy White, Calista Malaird, and Kianna Cagan — visited the shelters, arranged to have the children's feet measured, then organized Girl Scout troops from Portola Valley, Menlo Park, Woodside and beyond to shop for each child.

The shoe project is in support of the girls' Bronze Award, the first step toward earning the Gold Award, the Girl Scout equivalent of the Boy Scout Eagle award.

The Portola Valley Girl Scout service unit has a goal this year of having every troop do a project to support Shelter Network, says spokesman Gayle Collat. The fifth-grade junior troop collected toiletries, and assembled and delivered the kits to the adult shelters in November.

Fourth-graders held a drive to provide Halloween costumes for kids in October. The second-



Photo by Sherry Cagan

Members of Portola Valley Girl Scout Troop 6174 are, from left, Jennifer Buja, Ava Collat, Madison Lamar, Calista Malaird, Lauren Kastanis, Kiana Cagan and the Troop Leader†Cathy Lamar (in the hat). Amy White, not in this photo, is also a Portola Valley sixth-grader in the troop who helped with the shoe drive.

grade Brownie troop donated new pillows with custom-de-

corated pillow cases to Redwood Family House.

■ BIRTHS

Atherton

■ Jill Hockemeyer and Robert Prendergast II, a son, Dec. 31, Sequoia Hospital.

Menlo Park

■ Samantha and Michael Stacey, a daughter, Dec. 5, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Lois-Lorena and Hadriel Abdallah, a son, Dec. 7, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Stefanie and Brooks Henderson, a daughter, Dec. 10, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Angela and Chad Harding, a son, Dec. 13, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Melissa Prado and Luther Parker, a son, Dec. 13, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Sarah Jayne and Christopher

Couhault, a son, Jan. 7, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Michele and John Kavanaugh, a son, Jan. 11, Sequoia Hospital.

Emerald Hills

■ Samira Nikaiein and Ali Mobasser Lashgari, a daughter, Nov. 11, Sequoia Hospital.



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WOODSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT Woodside Preschool Registration 2012

Please join us for a Woodside Preschool Orientation and Visitation, **Monday, January 30th from 8:30-10:00 a.m.** (parents only).

Woodside Elementary School District will be accepting applications for the **Fall 2012 Preschool Classes February 1st through February 17th, 2011.**

Woodside Preschool is a half-day, fee-based program running from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Children must be at least 2 years, 9 months old as of September 2nd, 2012 in order to apply. Preschool students are placed in either the 2-Day, 3-Day, or 5-Day based on age and availability. Priority is given to children living within the Woodside School District boundaries.

Interested families are encouraged to attend our Orientation and fill out an application. Applications will be available for pick up at the elementary school office or download online beginning February 1st. For more information regarding Woodside Preschool please contact **Lisa at ldayeh@woodside.k12.ca.us, (650) 851-1571 ext 251** or visit our website at **www.woodside.k12.ca.us.**

Flood Park, RDA on council agenda

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Sandwiched between the City Council's scheduled consideration of how to adapt to losing the city's redevelopment agency and the proposed contract for the new city manager is another topic that's preoccupied city officials for months — what to do about Flood Park.

The 21-acre park on Bay Road currently belongs to San Mateo County, which tried to give it to Menlo Park as a cost-saving measure. The city, however, can't quite decide whether to accept.

The proposal on the table entails the city paying the county \$150,000 for one year in exchange for exclusive rights to earn money from the baseball field. The county would still be responsible for park maintenance and opera-

tion, estimated to cost \$60,000 after the city's payment.

Options the city wants to explore, according to the staff report, include leasing up to a quarter of the park land. Entities that have expressed interest at community meetings include a private school and sports teams.

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

Downtown forum

The Menlo Park Presbyterian Church hosts a forum on Thursday, Jan. 26, on Menlo Park and El Camino Real: Past, Present, and Future.

It includes opening remarks by Mayor Kirsten Keith, and presentations on incorporating health initiatives and green transportation programs into the development of a "grand boulevard" along El Camino Real.

Go to greenbelt.org and click on the events calendar to RSVP. The forum runs from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at 700 Santa Cruz Ave.

Kepler's transition

After Clark Kepler announced his retirement from day-to-day operations at Kepler's Books in Menlo Park, the eight-member team steering the local landmark's transition into a new era surfaced: Clark Kepler; Praveen Madan, a partner of Booksmith and Berkeley Arts and Letters; former mayor Gail Slocum; publisher Steve Piersanti; investor Robert Kyle; Kepler's Chief Financial Officer Mitch Slomiak; Director of Community Relations Jean Forstner; and public relations consultant Patrick Corman.

As the Almanac reported on Jan. 10, the team is putting together a business plan that may blend a nonprofit arts and event space with a for-profit bookstore. Further details will be released as the team finalizes negotiations with future partners. ■

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

Residential burglary reports:

■ Losses estimated at \$15,000 after break-in and theft of furniture, tools, automotive parts and building supplies, Hollyburne Ave., Jan. 19.

■ Losses estimated \$9,500 after bicycle storage locker was pried open and three bicycles were taken, Sharon Park Drive, Jan. 18.

■ Unknown losses after forced entry into tool shed and theft of power gardening tools and box of nails, Terminal Ave., Jan. 13.

■ Piece of metal siding removed from shed, but no losses, Willow Road, Jan. 16.

■ **Embezzlement report:** Losses estimated at \$95 after UPS seasonal workers did not return issued uniforms, Adams Court, Jan. 13.

Theft reports:

■ Losses estimated at \$17,000 in theft of several pieces of jewelry, Buckthorn Way, Jan. 16.

■ Losses estimated at \$2,200 in theft of laptop computer, headlamp, headphones, potted plant and backpack from unlocked vehicle, Bay Laurel Drive, Jan. 16.

■ Loss estimated at \$700 in theft of bicycle locked to street-sign post, Market Place, Jan. 13.

■ Loss estimated at \$250 in theft of cell phone left behind in restaurant, El Camino Real, Jan. 16.

■ Loss estimated at \$250 in theft of ring, Del Norte Ave., Jan. 18.

■ Unknown losses after minor damage to fence and theft of alloy wire from fenced-off storage area, Memry Corp. at 465 Campbell Ave., Jan. 19.

Fraud reports:

■ Losses of \$2,150.27 in unauthorized use of resident's bank card number to make several online purchases, Cornell Road, Jan. 15.

■ Loss estimated at \$1,500 in unauthorized use of credit card, Seminary Drive, Jan. 19.

■ No loss after check bounced in attempted sale of wedding dress, Coleman Ave., Jan. 16.

■ **Child Protective Services report:** 100 block of El Camino Real, Jan. 13.

WEST MENLO PARK

■ **Dog bite report:** While lacking county permit to sell door-to-door, salesman of home cleaning fluids bitten on ankle by dog that ran out after resident opened door and "would not let go," Altschul Ave., Jan. 13.

ATHERTON

■ **Theft report:** Plants stolen, Atherton Ave., Jan. 17.

TOWN CENTER

continued from page 7

to the architectural firm and the residents who will be asked to donate. Assurances from council members Dobbie and Kathy McKeithen appeared to smooth to way forward.

In the design competition, NM&R proposed two, two-story buildings connected by an arched loggia and including a community center with a roof-

top terrace. The buildings as drawn would total about 20,000 square feet, according to architect Les Melburg.

But the conceptual design and size are expected to evolve in the next phases of the process. Councilwoman Lewis noted that public outreach meetings would be held to gather feedback from residents, and "input from the architectural firm will be valuable" to shaping and organizing that process. ■

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



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

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Post your views on the Town Square forum at www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

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Avoiding appearance of wrongdoing

The conduct of community college board members during the recent Nov. 8 election raises questions about how deeply involved elected representatives should be in passage of huge bond measures, in this case an issue of more than a half billion dollars.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

In recent weeks, the Almanac has found that San Mateo Community College District board members, who are subject to the state's open meeting law, joined a nine-member committee in charge of getting the bond issue passed. While the law allows these board members to meet privately as part of such a committee, they are forbidden to discuss expenditure of bond issue funds.

It's a fine distinction but since the committee kept no minutes, there is no way to know if violations occurred. The committee, which also included presidents of two colleges, the district chancellor and the communications director, oversaw expenditure of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions, including many from contractors likely to bid on the massive projects forthcoming if the bond issue passed. But Measure H did not pass, just missing the 55 percent voter approval necessary, which would have saddled district taxpayers with a \$564 million debt in the midst of a serious economic downturn.

If the five board members "discussed, heard, debated or took action" on how to spend the bond money at the committee meetings, they would have violated the state's open meeting law, "by virtue of their participation as a (legisla-

tive) body," said Jim Ewert, an attorney for the California Newspaper Publishers Association. But we can't know for sure what they said, a strong argument for keeping college district board members from working as a group to promote a measure that they themselves decided to put on the ballot.

Brad Senden, a campaign consultant who has worked for the Las Lomas and Menlo Park City elementary school districts, and the Sequoia Union High School District, described such situations as problematic. "We go out of our way to make sure (board members) are never on an executive committee," he said.

"The temptation to talk about district stuff is too great. Don't do it," Mr. Senden said. "Perception problems are worse than legal problems because there's nowhere to go to adjudicate it and (have someone) say it's OK," Mr. Senden said.

We can understand the enthusiasm of well-meaning district board members who want to improve colleges whose campus buildings are in many cases 30 or more years old and need to be replaced. Local bond issues are the only way such districts can raise money for capital projects, unlike the UC and CSU systems, which can use state funds.

Good intentions do not justify questionable behavior. Technically, board members may not have violated the law when they served on this committee. But it was not the right thing to do and it opens the board to needless criticism. Elected college board members should stand clear of bond campaigns in the future to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest. And voters should take notice.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Vendetta against Jack Hickey unwarranted

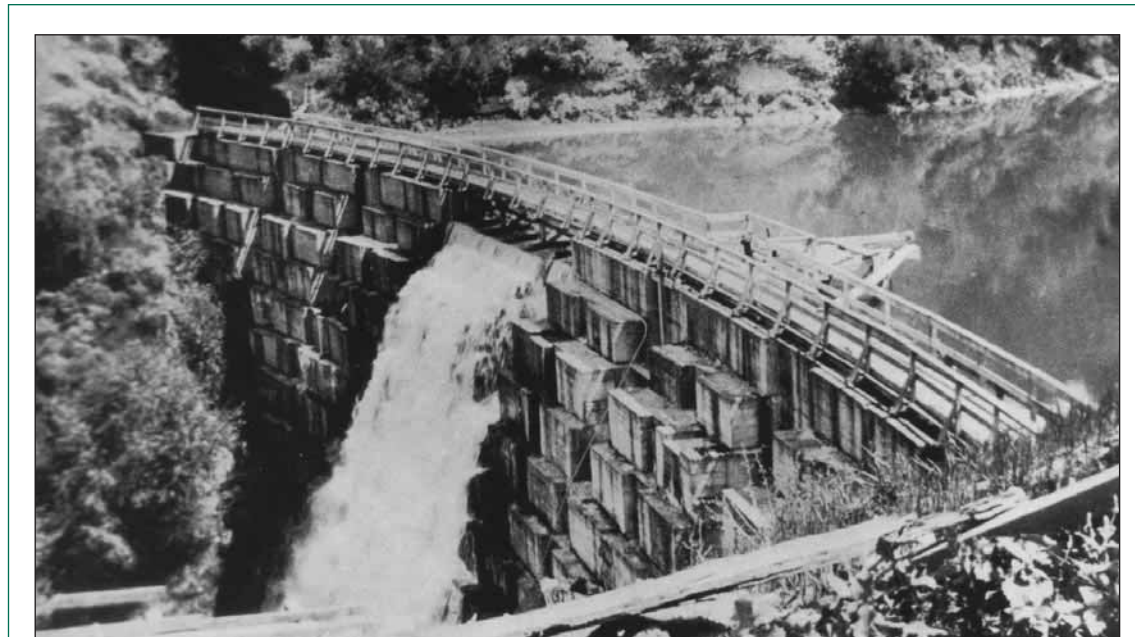
Editor:

The Almanac is perhaps the premier venue for debate in the South Peninsula, and diverse opinions on city planning and high-speed rail have been, for the most part, argued in guest opinions with courtesy and respect.

How sad, then, that Sequoia Healthcare District board chair Kim Griffin should use this page for a personal vendetta against a fellow board member.

While many do not agree with Jack Hickey's libertarian viewpoints, or perhaps what he has said in other discussions, his guest opinion arguments on the redundancy of the district are nonetheless thoughtful and reflect concern for us, the taxpayers. The "sarcasm" Ms. Griffin reads into his words (which she apparently was given in advance to write her own) are in her own, visibly angry eyes.

Ms. Griffin should be free to



Portola Valley Archives

Our Regional Heritage

The logging town of Searsville disappeared in 1891, the year the Searsville Dam was completed by the Spring Valley Water Co. Flooding from the dam displaced all the homes in the logging town, and plans to supply water captured by the dam to San Francisco were later abandoned. A portion of the water piped to Stanford was too clouded and foul to be used for anything except watering campus lawns, a Stanford official said at the time.

defend a bureaucracy she represents, but her arguments should stand on their own. I hope her

diatribe does not reflect her performance as a board chairperson of a taxpayer-funded agency,

redundant or not.

Henry Riggs
Callie Lane, Menlo Park

Where is James Bond?

By Mikhail A. Rakov

In the 1985 James Bond movie "A View to a Kill," the heinous villain and former KGB agent Max Zorin devises a terrible plan to destroy Silicon Valley by a mega-earthquake triggered by a huge underground bomb located near the San Andreas Fault. Fortunately, his plans are discovered and thwarted by a valiant Bond, who ultimately blows up the villain's blimp in a fierce battle atop the Golden Gate Bridge, and sends him down in the cold waters of the Pacific.

I wonder if something similar to Zorin's plan is possible in real life? To be sure, I have in mind the High-Speed Rail Authority's plan to cut a bleeding wound through Peninsula communities and cities.

It is common knowledge that railroads, traditionally and firmly, have set golden standards for a lack of openness, honesty and fair play. More than 100 years ago, O. Henry wrote about the "schemes of money-getting so fraudulent and high-financial that they wouldn't have been allowed in the bylaws of a railroad rebate systems."

Actually, on the surface there is nothing especially complicated about the high-speed rail plan. But this simplicity is deceptive. Quoting O. Henry once more, "It was beautiful and simple as all truly great swindles are."

The main idea is really primitive: to get access to taxpayers' money, and then to channel it into private pockets, having practically no responsibility for the results of the project. The trick is to do all this in open view, using as a cover noble phrases about

technical progress, public needs and conveniently stretched laws and statistical data.

This is a real art: creating something like a concept of perfect crime, without any risk for personal freedom and finances. How much smarter it is than the unsophisticated Ponzi scheme of Bernie Madoff, who will never leave his prison cell.

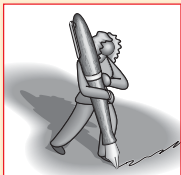
To tell the truth, I have a suspicion that there is a bit more system to this madness. There is a possibility that the High-Speed Rail Authority purposely designed this totally crazy project as a backup that will allow them to claim innocence by reason of insanity in the case of its inevitable collapse. They have nothing to lose. For them the process of milking public funds is more important, not the achievement of some specific result.

Until they are paid, they will continue to fight to the very last moment, and to the very last penny. There is no room for compromise. The only way to finish this pseudo project is to cut their financing.

The question is, will we wait for the arrival of a new James Bond? Or maybe some of our elected legislators will finally admit to obvious facts and will have the courage to blow up this dark balloon that is hovering over our heads, diverting resources from real needs of California?

I hope that its empty shell and misleading logos will be soon washed away in the cold waters of the Pacific Ocean.

Mikhail A. Rakov lives on Alma Street in Menlo Park.



GUEST OPINION



CITY OF MENLO PARK ORDINANCE 977 SUMMARY NOTICE OF ADOPTION

The City Council of Menlo Park adopted Ordinance No. 977 at its regular City Council meeting of January 10, 2012. The Ordinance was introduced on December 13, 2011, and adopted on January 10, 2012, 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 AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK AND THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM PROVIDING FOR A REDUCED 2% AT 60 PENSION BENEFIT BASED ON AVERAGE OF THREE-YEAR FINAL COMPENSATION APPLICABLE TO LOCAL MISCELLANEOUS PLAN MEMBERS WITHIN A NON-POOLED PLAN ENTERING MEMBERSHIP FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A MISCELLANEOUS CLASSIFICATION AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT

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: January 11, 2012



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MOUNTAIN VIEW \$1,138,000
Lovely 3bd/2ba home with formal LR/DR and separate FR. Large MBR with vaulted ceiling. Detached office.

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