



Residents protest
catalog deluge | Page 5

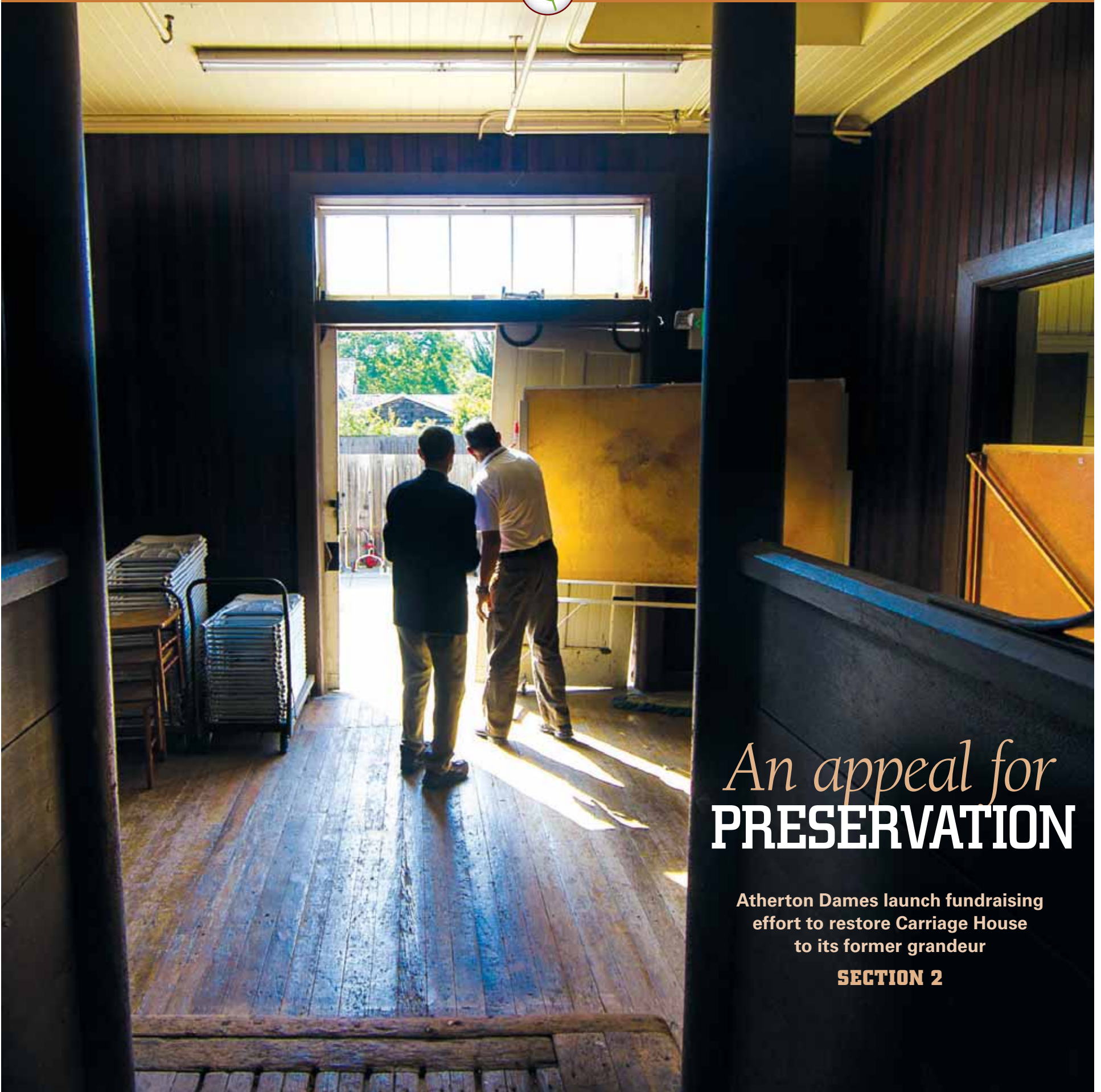
The Almanac

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

JUNE 25, 2014 | VOL. 49 NO. 42



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Photo by Brandon Chew/The Almanac

Fast finish

Steven Toyoji, right, a member of the nationally ranked wheelchair rugby team sponsored by the Riekes Center in North Fair Oaks, took second place in the 1,500-meter run at the Paralympics Track & Field National Championships, held June 20-22 at the College of San Mateo. Toyoji also finished third in the 200- and 400-meter dash, fourth in the 100-meter dash, and fifth in the 800-meter run. A rugby teammate, Nick Smith (not pictured) competed at the paralympics event for the first time in the discus throw.

PV School District graduates 69

Submitted by the Portola Valley School District.

Sixty-nine local eighth-graders completed their educational careers in the Portola Valley School District on Friday, June 13. Commencement activities were held in the Corte Madera Multi-Purpose Room with more than 300 staff members, families, and friends on hand.

The graduation was kicked off by the co-presidents of the Student Council, Sarah Scandalios and Lucas Andrighetto, who led the flag salute. The evening had many student performances,

including the school's "Panache 8" performers who sang "Vienna" by Billy Joel.

After an hour and 15 minute ceremony, Principal Michael Corritone presented the Corte Madera Class of 2014 to the community. Also honored were the 38 sets of parents who also graduated out of the Portola Valley School District with their children.

Graduates

A-D: Jack Allen, Lucas Andrighetto, Mary Andrighetto, Michael Araiza, Gregory Barth, David Behrakis, Fiona Belk, Weston Bourgeois, Diana Brownell, Janet Brownell, Jennifer Buja, Kiana Cagan, Lauren Chambers, Eric Chang, Zinovii

Doukhanine, Easton Doyle, Megan Duff

E-K: Sean Eckstein, Cole Gabrielson, Sawyer Giampa, Luca Gillespie-Brown, William Grech, Rosio Guzman, Andrea Halsted, Shea Hardin, Ella Heald, Isaac Hewett, Riley Howard, Kalisi Huhane, Salvador Ibarra, Lauren Kastanis, Matthew Kerr, Andrew Kubicka

L-P: Madison La Mar, Alec Letteroff, Cynthia Lupercio, Chet MacArthur, Henry MacArthur, Calista Maillard, Joseph Miller, Nicholas Ozden, Isaac Parker-Sleator, Beckler Patrone, Lily Perryman, Edgar Pineda, Anneke Power

Q-S: Ryan Quinn, Jesse Reynolds, Levi Rutherford, Sarah Scandalios, Sofia Schillace, Cole Schmidt, Sebastian Seidl, Brett Sterns, Lauren Sterns, Alexandra Strehlow, Mercer Stronck,

T-Z: Carmen Thomas, Robert Thompson, Charles Tilney-Volk, Shane Turner, Isabella Urdahl, Cameron Vaughan, Alexander Waddell, Diedrich Welling, Garrett White, and Jamie Wojtowicz.

Woodside School graduates 48

Submitted by Woodside Elementary School.

Forty-eight eighth-graders at Woodside Elementary School took part in the school's graduation and received diplomas in the school's amphitheater on June 13.

Commencement exercises began with the Woodside School Band, directed by Amy Higgins, playing the processional, and eighth-grade Student Council presidents Sheera Eskenazi and Stefan Sujansky leading the salute to the flag

and the national anthem.

Beth Polito, the Woodside School superintendent and principal, welcomed parents, guests and students before the eighth-grade students performed songs and gave addresses.

The class of 2014 chose and sang as its class song, "Never Grow Up," with music and lyrics by Taylor Swift.

Woodside School parent Dr. Eric Weiss gave the commencement address. Ms. Polito presented the class of 2014 to the Woodside school board.

Graduates

A-D: Nicholas Alftin, Bryant Arinaga Hernandez, Sophia Ashworth, Nicole Bonner, Christian Canellos, Emma Claytor, Katherine Claytor, Jack Cooper, Isabelle Couch, Will Crandall, Tyler Davis, Devon Diller, Elizabeth Donaville

E-K: Cleveland Edwards, Ayla Elam, Sheera Eskenazi, Lucille Freidenrich, Jeffrey Frenkel-Popell, Gabriel Goldberg, Brendan Green, Michael Gunn, Zachary Hage, Zia Harvey, Ryan Hodge, Nikolas Kehrberg, Anika Khakoo, Abigail Klein

L-P: Talia Matityahu, Emma Miller, Anita Mokkaapati, Macie Nessi, Evan Nichols, Annie Nielsen

Q-S: Desiree Rawls, Kaitlin Raynor, Jacobo Rodriguez, Alexa Ruelas Chavez, Talia Schonberger, Benjamin Shaw, Quinlin Soto, Chloe Stearns, Stefan Sujansky

T-Z: Lavenita Vaea, Ashton Velleguette, Taylor Viner, Lucy Weiss, Matthew Wright and Aric Zieger.

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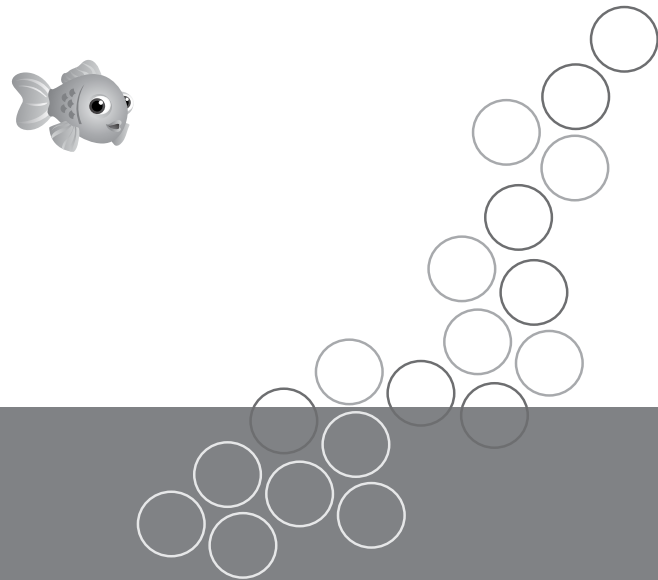
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Menlo council passes \$72 million budget

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Responding to pleas for mercy from the city's staff in the face of a deluge of planning projects, the Menlo Park City Council unanimously passed a budget for the upcoming 2014-15 fiscal year that allows the city to convert two temporary employee development-related positions to permanent ones.

The council noted that it hopes the move helps stem a high rate of turnover. During the June 17 meeting, Vice Mayor Cat Carlton said she was concerned to learn that the city was going through a temporary employee almost every other month. Menlo Park recently saw its sixth contract worker in the community development

department leave to accept a permanent job elsewhere.

"That's a lot of effort and a lot of money and a lot of staff time training to do every other month," she said, and added that the larger question was whether using contract labor was saving Menlo Park money in the long run.

According to the city staff, the planning department is beleaguered by the number of residential and commercial projects in the works — and now potentially another, with Facebook's purchase of an additional 59 acres off Constitution Drive (which the company said it has no immediate plans to develop).

"We are completely unprepared to take that one," City Manager

See **MP BUDGET**, page 8

Storm drains a concern in preparing for wet winter

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Chances are reportedly good for a wet winter in 2014. Estimates from the U.S. National Weather Service put the chances of a moderate El Niño climate pattern to 70 percent during summer and fall, and 80 percent in the fall and winter.

Woodside has taken notice. The town's landscape is steep, wooded, largely undeveloped and not served by a dedicated urban storm-drain system, with the exception of a few neighborhoods. To direct runoff water to San Francisco Bay, the town relies on creeks and swales and about 450 culvert

WOODSIDE

or pipe-like entry points in varying states of repair.

The state of the town's "critical" infrastructure was topic No. 1 for the Town Council in discussing the budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year, which starts July 1. The proposed \$6 million budget allocates \$150,000 for the design of a new pump station for the neighborhoods with sewers, \$122,175 for an ongoing analysis of the condition of three old but beloved bridges, and \$150,000 for an analysis of the storm drainage system, such as it is.

This storm drain analysis is likely to be the first step in a five-year rehabilitation program, with annual allocations

of at least \$100,000 per year — on top of the routine \$500,000 annually allocated for road maintenance. Because drainage rehabilitation costs may increase once the analysis is complete, the \$100,000 allocations are placeholders, Town Manager Kevin Bryant said.

Revenues are generally up, and Woodside is expected to have a surplus of about \$650,000 as the fiscal year begins. The surplus will bring the general fund reserve to \$3 million, or 47 percent of the town's annual operating expenses, well above the 30 percent required by the council.

If infrastructure costs "exceed

See **STORM DRAINS**, page 10

Menlo Park's city hall remodel almost approved

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

The three members of the Menlo Park City Council attending its June 17 meeting tiptoed up to the edge of proceeding with a \$1.2 million remodel of city hall, only to decide at the last minute to delay the vote until all five council members could vote.

With Mayor Ray Mueller in China and Councilman Rich Cline out of town, the remaining three members of the council delved into the details of why they should approve the city staff's recommendation for a more expensive remodel.

Initially the council said OK to spending \$300,000 on the remodel, which would reconfigure workspace for efficiency as well as add kiosks for better customer service. The 15-year-old carpet would also be replaced for \$400,000. Then the staff eventually preferred a floor plan that would group departments by similarity, such as putting building next to planning, adding \$500,000, for a total cost of \$1.2 million.

The council balked when first presented with that total in March, and asked staff to come back later with a more

detailed rationale for pressing ahead with the more expensive option.

During a presentation on June 17, interim Public Works Director Jesse Quirion pitched the plan as a longer-term solution than that provided by the lower-cost option, which would not create enough workspace for the planning employees the city expects to hire in the near future.

"We're trying to maximize everything under one roof," he told the council. "This is the best approach we were able to come up with without moving plumbing or elevators or physical structures."

Not only does installing new carpet at the same time trim costs, Mr. Quirion said, the \$500,000 is already available thanks to other projects that came in under budget.

While Vice Mayor Cat Carlton and colleague Kirsten Keith were still not thrilled with the price tag, Ms. Carlton eventually came around to Councilman Peter Ohtaki's way of thinking, which was that it was better to plan now for the future needs of a build-

See **CITY HALL**, page 8



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Nancy Reyer, left, and Seldy Nelson watch as Peter Marsden pulls a dolly full of Restoration Hardware catalogs from Ms. Reyer's house to load on his truck.

Residents protest catalog deluge

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

Nancy Reyer and six other volunteers from Woodside and Portola Valley made a delivery to the Restoration Hardware store in Palo Alto last week that they hope might send a message to the home furnishings store's corporate headquarters.

Using two pickup trucks and

four hand trucks, the volunteers returned nearly one ton of the catalogs the company recently shipped to local residents, protesting the waste the unwanted catalogs represent.

Via UPS, Restoration Hardware has been delivering to each home a bundle of as many as 13 large catalogs, wrapped in plastic and weighing up to 17 pounds.

With the catalog drop-off at

the Palo Alto store, Ms. Reyer included a letter asking the corporation to "consider taking a stand as the first truly 'green' retailer by eliminating the printing and mailing of any catalogs."

Ms. Reyer who in 2013 was named an "Environmental Champion" by Woodside's Sustainability and Conservation Committee, wrote that "the most environ-

See **CATALOG PROTEST**, page 8

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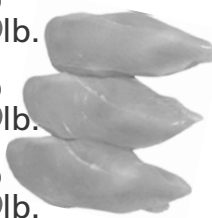
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Tangy Dijon
Chicken Breast..... \$6.98 lb.

Boneless Skinless
Lemon Chicken Breast ... \$6.98 lb.



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24 oz \$2.49

Macy's Cheese Crisp
4 oz \$1.99

Tofutti Cuties Frozen Dessert
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Teas' Tea Plus
16 oz - Plus Calif. Redeem Value \$1.29

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{ www.robertsmarket.com }

Specific plan initiative qualifies for ballot

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Save Menlo celebrated the news over the June 21 weekend that its grassroots initiative to change sections of Menlo Park's downtown/El Camino Real specific plan had enough signatures to qualify for the November ballot.

The measure needed approximately 1,780 registered voter signatures to qualify. During the July 15 council meeting, the city staff will present a report confirming certification of the signatures. The council must then decide whether to adopt the initiative as is or put it on the ballot for the Nov. 4 election.

Initiative co-sponsor Patti Fry told the Almanac that the group estimated that they had submitted at least 40 percent more signatures than required. "Registered voters signed from every Menlo park neighborhood, and (signers) include scores of new voters," she said.

Save Menlo, organized to protest the specific plan in light of large mixed-use projects proposed along El Camino Real by developers Stanford University and Greenheart Land Company, notified the city in February of its intent to get the initiative on to a ballot.

The city's summary of the initiative states that it would

make these restrictions in the specific plan area: restrict office space for individual project to 100,000 square feet; limit total new office space to 240,820 square feet; and cap overall new, non-residential development to 474,000 square feet.

The proposed changes would cut the amount of office space allowed in the Stanford and Greenheart developments by 50 percent.

The initiative would also redefine open space to mean only areas no higher than 4 feet tall. Save Menlo has stated that one of its goals is to prevent balconies from counting as open space.

In addition, voter approval would be required to revise any aspects of the ordinance besides exceeding the cap on residential development.

Lisa Wise Consulting is working under a \$148,420 contract with the city to independently analyze what impact the initiative's changes would have on future development. The council is expected to hear a presentation of the findings on July 15.

Save Menlo has stated that the group wants the council to adopt the initiative, rather than putting it on the ballot.

Meanwhile, another grassroots group — Menlo Park Deserves Better — has formed to fight the initiative. ▀

Locals win ribbons at county fair

Submitted by Nancy Cook

The Canada 4-H Club of Woodside was well represented at the recent San Mateo County Fair, from entries in cooking and sewing to photography and livestock projects, including lamb, pigs, poultry and rabbits.

Warren Cook, 10, of Woodside won the reserve class champion award for his market poultry. A first-year member of 4-H, Warren was supported at the Fair's livestock auction by local business owner Mark Sweyer of the Woodside Bakery & Cafe. He attended the live auction and bought the champion birds from Warren.

Other awards given at the fair: In group events, Andrew Weiss and Ilana Lindsay of Woodside, and Kristoffer Sjolund of Redwood City, placed second in



Warren Cook of Woodside with a rooster, one of his reserve class champion birds, purchased by Mark Sweyer of the Woodside Bakery & Cafe.

the Avian Bowl; and Kristoffer Sjolund, Andrew Weiss, Ilana Lindsay and Cody Cochran placed second in the Rabbit Bowl.

Andrew Weiss received several ribbons for his photography.

Gas main leak kept residents inside for hours

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

Conditions are back to normal in terms of gas-system safety and residential gas supplies in the vicinity of 5 Valley Oak street in Portola Valley Ranch, a Pacific Gas & Electric spokesman told the Almanac.

A resident had called 911 at about 11:20 a.m. Wednesday, June 18, and told dispatchers of a hissing sound coming from a rupture in the asphalt. When firefighters arrived, they confirmed the hissing, noted that the asphalt had a visible “bulge,” and cordoned off the area, said Battalion Chief Rob Lindner of the Woodside Fire Protection District.

Around noon, working with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, firefighters went door-to-door to inform residents who were at home on Valley Oak, Acorn and Bayberry streets to shelter in place. Firefighters would have evacuated residents in the immediate vicinity of the leak, but none were home, Mr. Lindner said.

The shelter-in-place order was lifted around 3:20 p.m. PG&E crews had the 3-inch low-pressure gas main repaired by 9 p.m. that night after a day of digging, repairing and checking for methane leaks elsewhere in and around the neighborhood, said company spokesman Jason King. The areas checked included Corte Madera School, Los Trancos Road, and across Alpine Road around Canyon Drive, according to a PG&E map.

Crews found no leaks and there were no reported injuries, Town Manager Nick Pegueros said.

Firefighters remained on the scene for about four hours, Mr. Lindner said.

An investigation is underway. The leak is thought to have come from the “weld” of a plastic joint located several feet away from the asphalt rupture, Mr. Pegueros said. PG&E crews repaired the joint after having dug up the street and installing a temporary bypass to allow homes to receive gas while the line was being repaired, he added.

The area around the joint showed no indications of seismic movement or damage by construction equipment, Mr. Pegueros said.

The joint is probably 30 to 40 years old, as old as the subdivision, he said. If it is determined to have caused the leak, a key question will be whether there are other joints of the same vintage elsewhere in the system.

“What we know is (that) we’re completely up to date on our inspections,” Mr. King said.

People should not be drawing comparisons between this incident and those involving “large mains at high pressure,” Mr. King added.

Danger posed?

Gases need to be in a contained space to be vulnerable to explosion. This leak had been venting gas to the air, but wind was sending it toward residences, Mr. Lindner noted. And it was a main, not a 1-inch residential line.

“That’s a significant amount of gas,” Mr. Lindner said in explaining the shelter-in-place order. “It could pose a threat to an immediate area.”

“It’s difficult to assess” the danger, said Mayor Ann Wengert. But the rupture in the road “from a lay perspective, would cause concern and from my perspective, (should cause PG&E) to jump it up to the top of the list.”

Mr. Pegueros did not hesitate. “There was clearly enough pressure to bubble the road,” he said. “I would say that yes, there was a danger to the community. We were very fortunate that the incident was discovered. ... There were multiple possibilities — a tossed cigarette, a weed whacker, a vehicle passing over — that could have sparked or ignited the gas. We’re lucky that didn’t happen.”

What about such scenarios? “I can’t really speculate on what possibly could have happened,” Mr. King said, noting that he is a company spokesman and not a gas-line expert. Could he make an expert available? “It’s not our company policy. We need to be working to keep our system safe. Again, the investigation is ongoing.”

And the pavement rupture? “Part of (the investigation) is looking at what caused the pavement deformation,” Mr. King said.

PG&E will be contacting some 200 customers in the



Town of Portola Valley

The red circle indicates cracks in the road surface in the vicinity of 5 Valley Oak in Portola Valley and led to an hours-long shelter-in-place order from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Natural gas is thought to have leaked from a 3-inch main several feet away — where the crew is digging — and ruptured the road.

vicinity, Mr. Pegueros said. A robo-call? “It better not be,” he added. “There should be an opportunity for a dialogue.”

In a letter to Mayor Ann Wengert, PG&E local govern-

ment relations representative Scott Hart said PG&E’s “customer care team” called 220 households. Of those, there were 66 live conversations and 107 voice mails, he said. Forty-

seven calls did not connect and the company received one return call.

Residents with concerns can call Austin Sharp at PG&E at (650) 730-4168, Mr. King said. ■

**TOWN OF WOODSIDE
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD
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**PLANNING COMMISSION
July 2, 2014
7:30 PM**

PUBLIC HEARING

1. California Water Service Company CUSE2014-0002
17907 Skyline Boulevard Planner: Sean Mullin, Assistant Planner

Review and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a proposal to construct two (2) 77,000 gallon, steel water tanks; pumps; and associated equipment. A Conditional Use Permit is required pursuant to WMC 153.026.

2. David Brett GRAD2014-0006
180 Farm Road Planner: Sean Mullin, Assistant Planner

Review and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a Grading Exception for grading in excess of 1,500 cubic yards associated with the construction of a previously approved new main residence, accessory living quarters, swimming pool, and landscape and site improvements (ASRB2013-0043).

3. SV Projects LLC SDES2014-0002
360 Mountain Home Road Planner: Sage Schaan, Senior Planner

Review and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a revision to an approved Demolition Plan (SDES2013-0004).

All application materials are available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Center, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 – 10:00 AM and 1:00 – 3:00 PM, or by appointment. For more information, contact the Woodside Planning and Building Department at (650) 851-6790.

CATALOG PROTEST

continued from page 5

mentally friendly approach, by far, is not to create and ship these unnecessary, unwanted, and wasteful catalogs.”

She also has sent the company a spread sheet with the names of more than 120 people who want to be taken off Restoration Hardware’s mailing list.

After the volunteers began bringing stacks of catalogs through the store’s front entrance, store employees quickly asked the volunteers to move the rest of their delivery to the store’s back door. At least four employees with handcarts immediately hustled the stacks of catalogs out of sight.

Employees handed out fliers with what appears to be the company’s pre-printed response to complaints about the environmental effect of the catalog deliveries.

“Heavier load = lighter carbon footprint,” the fliers say. “Our 13 source books now come to you just once a year, all together in one package. Combined with our carbon-neutral shipping practices and our responsibly sourced paper, that adds up to a significantly reduced impact on the environment.”

Ms. Reyerer and the other volunteers — Peter Marsden, Lauren Mang, Erin Broderick and Seldy Nelson from Woodside and Brad Peyton and Laura Stec from Portola Valley — were not buying the explanation.

“They’re counting on people having really busy lives and not really thinking about it,” said Ms. Reyerer, who is on the town’s Architectural and Site Review Board and the Open Space Committee.

“I think this is crazy,” said Ms. Broderick, a high school student. “Grocery stores aren’t allowed to give us paper bags!”

Ms. Broderick said that her neighborhood appears to be

just receiving the Restoration Hardware catalogs and she will volunteer to return them to the store for her neighbors.

“What if every business did the same type of marketing?” asked Ms. Stec.

At the Palo Alto store, Restoration Hardware employees said they were not allowed to comment to the press, and said they could not find a phone number for public affairs at corporate headquarters. When contacted via email, a company representative simply emailed a press release and a link to the company’s website and ignored questions about the delivery.

The protest unfolded after Ms. Reyerer received a 15-pound delivery of unwanted catalogs at the end of May. Incensed, she posted on a community website that she would collect unwanted catalogs from others and return them to the store.

The response was overwhelming, as local residents dropped off at her home nearly 2,000 pounds of the catalogs, including 120 unopened packages. She heard from at least 80 other people who said they had already recycled the catalogs or returned them to the store on their own.

“Having to take the time away from (a new baby) to get rid of that stupid catalog was really annoying,” one person wrote to her. “I am not sure RH realizes how much they have wasted people’s time in addition to wasting the Earth’s resources.”

Others refused the delivery at their homes and had the package of catalogs returned to the store. (To refuse a UPS delivery and schedule a pickup of a package, call the UPS toll-free number, 800-742-5877, push zero, and ask for a customer service representative.)

Ms. Reyerer said she finally had to cut off the project because people brought more stacks of catalogs each day and she was



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Stacks of Restoration Hardware catalogs at Nancy Reyerer’s house in Woodside.

having trouble getting in her front door. She said her UPS deliveryman told her he had made 85 deliveries of the catalog packages in one day. Ms. Reyerer did have plenty of assistance, though; so many people volunteered to help with the return to the store that she had to turn down 14 of the 20 who offered.

One explanation for the chain’s sending out so many catalogs may be that it pays off in sales. An article on the Motley Fool investment advice website says: “As the catalog shipments from Restoration Hardware have grown larger over the years, the retailer’s revenue has risen dramatically as well.”

The article says that Restoration Hardware has received complaints in the past about the size and number of its catalogs, but the deliveries “did succeed in getting the retailer the attention and the customers it wanted.” Last year the com-

pany’s revenues increased by 33 percent, the website says.

While Ms. Reyerer says she has not heard back from Restoration Hardware, her protest has received a lot of attention. By Friday, June 20, she had been contacted by two television stations and the online story had received dozens of comments on both the Almanac and Palo Alto weekly websites.

“I think the reason it’s hit a nerve is that people are tired of junk mail. It’s not just Restoration Hardware. It’s the phone book ... it’s the monthly catalog from places no one shops,” she said.

She said she hopes that even if Restoration Hardware does not stop sending catalogs that it will send them only to those who request them. “Sure there are people who want this stuff,” she said, “but they should have to take the step to opt in.”

Restoration Hardware is not the only culprit, she said. “Think about all the stores that send us

the one catalog a month,” she said. “The wastefulness on every level is appalling.”

Those interested in unsubscribing from future Restoration Hardware mailings can do so on the company’s website or by calling customer service at 1-800-910-9836.

At dmachoice.org, consumers can opt out of all types of unwanted junk mailings.

Ms. Reyerer said she hopes her protest inspires many people to unsubscribe from junk mail lists. “If that’s true I can die happy,” she said.

She said she has also been hearing a lot about people who are inundated with unwanted telemarketing calls. “We’ll work on that next,” she promised.

Go to tinyurl.com/Tips-619 for information on how to reduce unwanted mailings, credit cards offers, and telephone solicitations.

MP BUDGET

continued from page 5

Alex McIntyre told the council, noting that he said as much to Facebook. While he was happy with Councilman Peter Ohtaki’s suggestion to convert two of the seven temporary employee positions in the budget, Mr. McIntyre said, “three or four or five (would be) even better.”

The council stuck with two for now, voting 4-0 (with Rich Cline absent and Ray Mueller calling in from China) to pass the budget, including the proposed conversion.

Mr. McIntyre told the Almanac on Wednesday that the conversion comes at no added cost to the city, as both permanent and short-term employees receive the

same salaries and benefits.

“Where there might be a difference is in who we are able to attract into the position,” he said, as people generally want permanent employment.

“Additionally, there is a misperception that somehow we cannot downsize permanent staff. That assumption is outright wrong. We can and we do,” Mr. McIntyre said.

Since staffing levels depend on the amount of work available, the city sheds employees when work decreases, as Menlo Park did after losing a dispatch contract for San Carlos a couple years ago, he explained.

Other details

The \$72.1 million budget for the next fiscal year, which starts

July 1, includes:

- \$59.1 million for department operations, broken down into \$33.7 million for personnel, \$17 million for expenses and \$8.4 million for services.

- \$8.3 million for projects such as updating zoning in the M2 industrial district, completing the transition to an electronic payroll system for city employees, and creating more online services for items such as business license applications and renewals.

- \$2.1 million for payments on the library and Measure T recreation bonds.

- \$2.4 million in a transfer from the general fund into the capital improvement plan fund to support the start of approximately 30 new projects, includ-

ing the remodel of city hall and the preliminary design of restrooms to be constructed at Jack Lyle and Willow Oaks parks.

For the general fund overall, which pays for most of the city’s services as well as projects prioritized by the council, Menlo Park projects nearly \$46.5 million in both revenues and expenditures, with revenue slightly outpacing expenses by \$29,408.

The utility users tax for garbage, water, electrical and telecommunications services will stick around for another fiscal year. The council opted to leave the tax, an ever popular item of discussion, in place while continuing its rate at 1 percent, which was first approved in 2007. The tax delivers about \$1.13 million in revenue annually. ■

CITY HALL

continued from page 5

ing already overstuffed beyond the seams.

Still, the decision could wait until July for a vote by the entire council, they decided, despite City Manager Alex McIntyre’s caution that the delay would have a domino effect on the staff’s ability to hire and expand projects they had the capacity to undertake in a timely manner.

The July meeting “will be consumed with the (downtown/El Camino Real specific plan) initiative,” Mr. McIntyre also noted.

“But this won’t take that long,” Ms. Keith responded. ■

Tarlton finishes Race Across America

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park businessman John Tarlton left Oceanside, California, on June 10 around noon, his bicycle headed in an easterly direction. Eleven days, 21 hours and 17 minutes later, on Sunday, June 22, he arrived in Annapolis, Maryland, having ridden 3,020 miles in completing the 2014 Race Across America.

His was a solo race, meaning he was not part of a racing team, but he did have company. A nine-person crew made the trip as well, in a motor coach and a van, to provide mechanical help, food, spare bicycles, sleeping quarters, and support and guidance on where to turn next and the distance to the next time station.

The race was a time trial in that cyclists raced against the clock rather than each other. The clock kept running while the racers slept. Mr. Tarlton clocked in at 55 time stations in 12 states.

His average speed was 10.59 mph, with a high of 18.66 mph in the flat lands south of the Salton Sea, and lows of less than 5 mph in Arizona and Kansas, according to statistics at the Race Across America website.

The 3,020-mile route con-



Photo courtesy of David Johnson

John Tarlton, a Menlo Park businessman, relaxes with a bottle of water after completing the 2014 Race Across America. For most of 11 days, 21 hours and 17 minutes, Mr. Tarlton was on a bike pedaling east as he raced the clock between Oceanside, California, and Annapolis, Maryland.

He spent nearly 12 days on a bike, racing for 3,020 miles.

fronted the cyclists with 170,000 vertical feet, including a 10,000-foot point in a lengthy trek over the Rocky Mountains. The Appalachian Mountains represented

another vertical challenge, but only to about 3,000 feet.

Had his race extended into a 12th day, he would have been categorized as “did not finish,” crew chief David Johnson said after arriving back home in California. “It was a grueling ride overall, but the last two days took it all out of us to get him to the line as a rookie finisher. Quite an achievement.” ■

City names consultant for general plan, M2 district

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO BRIEFS

Menlo Park’s facelift of its M2 industrial district, as well as the city’s overall “constitution” for development, has taken the first step on the long road toward completion.

PlaceWorks was awarded the \$1.65 million contract by a 3-0 vote of the City Council during its June 17 meeting, with Mayor Ray Mueller and Councilman Rich Cline absent. The consultant is not new to Menlo Park; the company also worked on the downtown/El Camino Real specific plan visioning process as well as the housing element update.

The M2 district roughly spans parcels wedged between the San Francisco Bay, University Avenue, Marsh Road and U.S. 101. The area has seen a jump in development activity during the past four years with

the arrival of Facebook headquarters and the approval of the Bohannon Menlo Gateway project.

The contract includes a series of community workshops to be held in 2015, and the formation of an advisory committee composed of three at-large community members, two City Council members, and one member each from six commissions to guide the zoning update process.

The timeline presented to the council estimates that the final updates should be completed by June 2016.

Transportation

With Jesse Quirion’s promotion to interim public works director for Menlo Park, the city was left with a vacant transportation manager posi-

tion. The city announced that Nikki Nagaya, a senior transportation engineer for the city, has been appointed as interim transportation manager, effective June 20.

Ms. Nagaya, who joined the city in 2013, previously worked for Fehr & Peers for seven years with a focus on bicycle and pedestrian transportation planning in the South Bay. ■

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Storm drains a concern in preparing for wet winter

continued from page 5

what the Town's finances will bear," the council may have to look into other ways to fund the work, including bonds, low-interest loans or grants, Mr. Bryant said in his annual message included in the draft budget.

"We need the (drainage analysis) as fast as we can get it," Councilman Dave Tanner said at the council meeting. "Real soon, because we're going to have a nasty winter."

Budget highlights

It's been four years since the council looked at plans to renovate the interior of the public library. Over the years, property tax revenues automatically earmarked for the project have grown. By July 1, the town is expected to have over \$3 million available.

The project was to have gotten off the ground in 2010 when the council approved the preparation of construction documents, but a seismic study and retrofits of the building has added delays.

Among the changes to the interior outlined in the original plans: relocate the self-checkout area, create a study room and

separate areas for children and teens, and design a more welcoming bookstore-like appearance. The changes would also add an environmentally conscious element to the building.

Two other delayed projects, painting Town Hall (\$35,000) and rehabilitating the deck (\$13,500), are scheduled for the coming year.

It's been busy at the planning desk in Town Hall. The Fees and Permits section of the budget shows significant increases in building permit revenues (up 8 percent for 2013-14), plan-check revenues (up 28 percent) and grading and site development revenues (up 58 percent).

The budget allocates \$207,000 for consultant help: \$100,000 to work on aligning the municipal code with the general plan; \$15,000 to complete the climate action plan, as required by the general plan; and \$72,000 for assistance to Planning Department staff in coordinating with the Architectural and Site Review Board and the Planning Commission. With much of the extra work associated with residential design and construction, the town may bring in a consulting architect.

"What are we looking at,"

Councilman Tom Shanahan asked of Planning Director Jackie Young about the overworked planning staff. "Ten hour days, 12 hour days?"

Ms. Young paused for a long moment. "They can exceed that," she said.

The council seemed content with allowing town management to figure out what their needs are. "None of us want to impose on the good will of our employees," Mr. Shanahan said.

The budget includes \$20,000 for expenses for the Town Center Area Plan, including two community meetings in the fall led

by Town Hall staff and intended to find consensus on next steps. Key issues are a scarcity of parking during peak hours and difficulty of moving in and around the area, regardless of the means of travel.

Getting to school

The town will be spending \$215,600 in grant money and about \$50,000 from town finances to improve safety and transit for people, horses and bicycles on the north side Woodside Road between the elementary school and Canada Road. The work includes more visible crosswalk warnings, narrower traffic lanes

to make room for a pedestrian path, and improved drainage.

In related work on the south side of the road, the town will seek bids in July for road rehabilitation, dig-outs and improving the pedestrian path and drainage. The budget allocates \$263,000 for this project.

Other priorities noted for future funding include crosswalks on Canada Road at Glenwood Avenue, a path from Cedar Lane to Woodside Road via the fire district station, and pedestrian warning signs and pavement markings on Mountain Home Road near Roberts Market. ■

Write-in candidate for sheriff gets 997 votes

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The votes are in. Deputy Sheriff Juan Lopez received 997 votes in his write-in campaign to unseat incumbent San Mateo County Sheriff Greg Munks in the June 3 election.

Mr. Lopez received 1.43 percent of the vote and Sheriff Munks 98.57 percent, or 68,530 votes, according to the county

Elections Office.

"I've been getting a lot of people telling me that they voted and wrote my name down," Mr. Lopez told the Almanac.

And the total of 997 votes? "It is what it is and I wanted to say 'Thank you' to everyone who wanted a change," he said. "It was an uphill battle."

Mr. Munks had this to say about the updated numbers: "I'm proud to have received this strong mandate from the voters and plan to

continue working on their behalf to make San Mateo County the safest county in California."

The official and final tallies from the election are due July 1.

Mr. Lopez's campaign was not meant to be a write-in campaign, he said, but the logistics of acquiring 20 signatures on his nomination papers in the last hour of the last day of the filing period complicated his efforts. He arrived at the Elections Office after it had closed. ■



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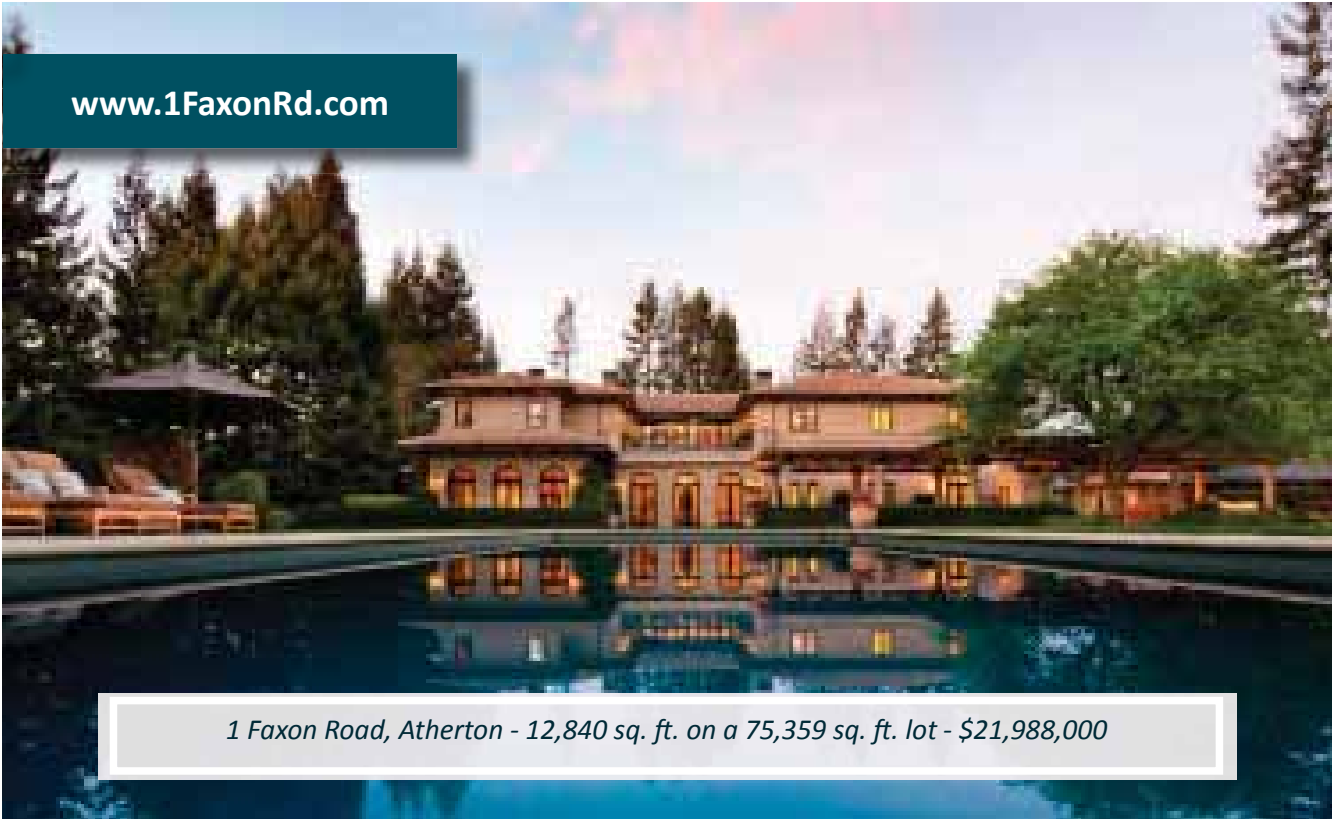
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Clyde De Benedetti, Woodside horseman

OBITUARY

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, July 13, at the Woodside Village Church for Clyde Carl De Benedetti, a longtime Woodside resident and horseman. Mr. De Benedetti died at his home on Tuesday, June 10. He was 88.

Mr. De Benedetti was a native of Oakland and grew up in San Mateo. He served as a flight officer in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He married Barbara Jean Kunz of Houston and in 1955, the couple moved to Woodside. Mr. De Benedetti's career was in real estate development.

As a member of the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County, Mr. De Benedetti enjoyed trail-riding events. He was

also a member of the San Mateo Elks Club and Horseman's Association. Among his other interests: playing tennis and riding a bike.

For a time, he was a director for the Woodside Fire Protection District.

Mr. De Benedetti is survived by his wife, Gaye; his sister, Joan Hunt; his sons Tom and Rick; his daughters Linda Boelsems and Cynthia; two stepchildren; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The family is asking that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to RedWhiteandCure.org or a charity of choice.

Council OKs maximum parcel tax

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

ATHERTON

Attherton property owners will pay the maximum rate — \$750 annually for most of them — in parcel taxes for the next fiscal year, the City Council decided at its June 18 meeting.

The action was signaled earlier this month during a council study session, with three council members agreeing that it would be premature to lower the rate now, and Councilman Bill Widmer arguing for a 25 percent reduction. But even Mr. Widmer supported the vote last week, noting that council members seemed willing to reconsider reducing the rate in the future after several key studies are completed.

The parcel tax, which raises about \$1.86 million annually for public works projects and police services, was set to expire next month, but was renewed by voters in 2013 for four years. The council must approve charging the tax rate each year, and can set it lower than the voter-approved maximum. The tax has always been charged at the maximum rate.

At the study session, Councilman Widmer said that even with conservative projections on the town's surplus revenues — which this year are estimated at about \$6 million and projected to grow as high as \$11 million in five years — the town should be able to lower the parcel-tax rate this coming year without promising reductions in the future.

Councilman Rick DeGolia was sympathetic to lowering the rate, but ultimately sided with Mayor Cary Wiest and Councilwoman Elizabeth Lewis, who argued that the town hasn't yet completed its review of alternative revenue sources, and that studies are still in progress that may identify needs for high-cost projects that taxpayers would be willing to support.

At last week's meeting, Mr. DeGolia noted that four master plans are being developed, including for capital projects and for the park, and that "staff is doing an excellent job moving them along." Once they are completed, he said,

"I want (the town) to go to residents to hear what their priorities are."

Councilwoman Lewis noted that the town must focus on deferred maintenance for infrastructure and "significant capital projects" in the future, and keeping the tax rate at its current level would allow it to accelerate some of the work. Referring to the town's study of alternative revenue sources, she said, "Hopefully we won't have to pass another parcel tax in four years."

Pay raise

Also at the June 18 meeting, the council approved a 1.5 percent salary increase for City Manager George Rodericks and the town's unrepresented employees, and an adjustment in their health insurance plans to make them consistent with those of police officers, who are represented by a union.

The council also approved changes in Mr. Rodericks' contract that provide a \$250 monthly auto allowance and a \$3,000 allowance for the new contract year for technology costs. ■

Capital improvements focus of budget

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

PORTOLA VALLEY

The Portola Valley Town Council will be considering a \$4.5 million budget at its June 25 meeting.

The new fiscal year starts

July 1, and the work plan laid out for the next 12 months is a multi-front effort. Among the major focuses: capital improvements, effective communications between Town Hall and the community, preparing for natural disasters, saving water, and ending the role of consultants in running the Planning Department.

The council meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road.

Also on the agenda is a proposal by staff to approve a 5.58 percent "special rate adjustment" for GreenWaste Recovery Inc., the San Jose firm that collects the town's compostable and recyclable materials.

The budget projects a surplus of \$347,791, but it will be spent to cover street maintenance (due to inadequate gas tax revenues) and \$448,400 in general capital improvements and equipment purchases. The net result: the general fund balance will drop by \$257,159. "While this amount is technically a budget deficit, the deficit arises from capital purchases fully funded by operating surpluses from prior fiscal years," Town Manager Nick Pegueros said in his budget message.

Under the category of staff excellence, the budget includes a team-building retreat for planning staff.

In another Planning Department item, the budget allocates \$40,000 to renovate the interior of Town Hall, in part to improve the joint viewing, by staff and residents, of planning documents laid out for analysis.

Other capital improvement highlights include:

- \$100,000 to upgrade the emergency generator at the Town Center to more fully connect the facilities there.

- \$50,000 for audio-visual equipment in the Community Hall.

- \$40,000 for an F-150 EcoBoost 4x4 pickup truck.

- \$15,000 for a new roadside radar trailer.

The budget includes \$201,000 for an in-house planning director, and \$65,000 for a part-time person to handle public communications and record management.

Steps to encourage greener lifestyles will include looking into funding for a school bus, encouraging staff to commute with fuel-efficient vehicles, and adding to Town Hall's paperless office practices "where feasible."

Go to tinyurl.com/PV-budg23 and turn to Page 38 to see the proposed budget. ■

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Mary Madison, journalist, Menlo Park resident

Mary Massey Madison, a veteran reporter and longtime resident of Menlo Park, died of heart failure on May 1 at Stanford Hospital. She was 82.

A memorial service will be held on July 22 at 2 p.m. at St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park. A reception will follow.

Born on June 2, 1931, at the then Palo Alto Hospital (later Hoover Pavilion at Stanford), she was raised in Burlingame and then attended Stanford University, earning a bachelor's degree in journalism.

While at Stanford she served as an editor of the Stanford Daily newspaper with her future husband, James Madison.

They married soon after graduating in 1953 and were married for 60 years. They moved to Menlo Park in September 1956, and she lived there for the rest of her life.

Her time as a journalist, which lasted 40 years, included reporting roles at the Palo Alto Times, the Redwood City Tribune and the Peninsula Times Tribune, as well as work as

■ OBITUARY

a correspondent for the San Francisco Examiner, United Press International and the San Francisco Chronicle.

She also served as an adjunct instructor of journalism at Stanford. She retired in 1997.

Her reporting work garnered her a few awards, including a Pulitzer Prize honorable mention and a first place award from the California Newspaper Publishers Association for her coverage of an apartment fire in Redwood City.

She is survived by her husband, James Madison of Menlo Park; her son, Michael Madison of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Matthew Madison of Denver, Colorado; and Molly Caouette of Sacramento; and three grandchildren, Kate, Dave and Carly.



Mary Madison



Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

Moving to music

The music was from the 1960s, when dances had names, but for the first hour of this free June 19 concert to celebrate Portola Valley's 50th anniversary, only the children danced, and they probably did not know of the Twist or the Mashed Potato, the Monkey or the Frug. The band "Up and to the Right" played at Town Center for 300 to 400 people.

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Scam targets Menlo Park businesses

By **Sandy Brundage**
Almanac Staff Writer

A caller posing as a Pacific Gas & Electric employee has threatened at least three Menlo Park businesses with shutting off their power in one hour if a supposedly late bill is not paid, according to the police.

The first business reported the call on June 16. One of the three targets did pay up, to the tune of \$500, police said.

The caller asked for different methods of payment during each conversation — one business owner was asked to pay by money order; another to purchase two gift cards through Green Dot; and the third, by buying a Visa gift card.

The Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce sent out a warning on Friday, June 20, and described the legitimate steps that will occur should a business owe payment on an outstanding account balance.

According to PG&E, a letter will be sent seven days before any disconnection, followed by a 24-hour notice and an automated phone call.

At no time will a live operator contact the business demanding payment. Acceptable forms of payment include credit cards, debit cards, prepaid gift cards, and electronic checks, according to the utility company, but never money orders or fund transfers to a PayPal account. ■

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7/30	Jessica Johnson	Soul / Jazz
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College fund provides more than scholarships

By Emma Marsano

Special to the Almanac

Among low-income students who are the first in their families to go to college, less than 50 percent graduate from college in six years, according to the Peninsula College Fund.

Such a statistic makes the work of the college fund, whose mission is to help underserved Midpeninsula youth graduate from college, that much more important.

Beyond giving a \$12,000 scholarship to each of its recipients, the fund provides one-on-one mentoring, summer internship support, and training to help its students succeed in college and their careers.

This year, the fund chose 20 students from nine local high schools to receive scholarships and support. That's the largest group of students to date, says college fund spokesperson Carole Melis.

Here are the recipients, listed by high school, and followed by

the colleges they plan to attend:

■ Menlo-Atherton High School: Kevin Maravilla, Notre Dame De Namur University; Xochilt Silva, California State University, Chico; and Talmay Soto Abarca, Dominican University of California.

■ Woodside High School: Mayte Aguilar Cruz, U.C. Merced; Lizette Cuevas, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo; and Jordan Gomez, U.C. Santa Barbara.

■ Summit Preparatory Charter High School: Ingrid Avila, Wil-

lamette University; and Alexis Straiten, Loyola Marymount University.

■ Eastside College Preparatory School: Andre Gomes, Boston College; Amanda Russell, U.C. Santa Cruz; and Erik Ortega, U.C. Berkeley.

■ Gunn High School: Araceli Castaneda-Ramirez, San Francisco State University; and Brigitte Yerena, San Jose State University.

■ Palo Alto High School: Jose Torres, University of Redlands; and Dalia Lopez, Cal State Uni-

versity, Dominguez Hills.

■ Sequoia High School: Paul Santiago Chavez, U.C. Merced; Carol Joselyn Murguia Hernandez, U.C. Merced; and Carla Paredes, U.C. Riverside.

■ Aspire East Palo Alto Phoenix Academy: Miguel Cornelio, San Francisco State University.

■ East Palo Alto Academy High School: Mayra Garcia Adame, U.C. Riverside.

On June 19, an awards ceremony was held for the scholarship recipients at Sacred Heart Preparatory in Atherton.

Go to the PeninsulaCollegeFund.org for more information. ■



City of Menlo Park's Annual of July Parade & Celebration

Parade 11:45am

Starts at the Wells Fargo parking lot on Santa Cruz & Chestnut. Come dressed in red, white, & blue and decorate your bike or wagon to participate in this fun-filled people parade!

Celebration Noon-2:30pm

Located at Burgess Park (Alma & Burgess Ave) and is the end point for the parade. Activities include: carnival games, jump houses, rock wall, crafts, face painting, laser tag, food & more!

Music by:



Event sponsor:

facebook

\$7 wristband is required for some activities and is sold at the event & parade.

Buy wristband in advance at the Arrillaga Family Gymnasium at 600 Alma Street; M-F 8am-5pm.

www.menlopark.org/events

(650) 330-2220



RESOLUTION NO. 1884 (2014)

RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE

Lands of Ciancutti

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

- A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR"), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.
- B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the "Parcel") to the District's On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the "Zone"). The Parcel is described in Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit "B" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.
- C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes "real property" for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:
 - X All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or
 - Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit "B" and are incorporated by reference.
- D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.
2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: July 9, 2014
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices
 500 Laurel Street
 Menlo Park, CA 94025

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i).
4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.
5. The District Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

Exhibit A

ANNEXATION TO WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT

Being Lot 26 and a portion of Lot 27 as designated on the map entitled "TRACT NO. 608 STONEGATE SUBDIVISION OF A PORTION OF CORTE MADERA RANCHO SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA," which map was filed in the Office of the Recorder of the County of San Mateo, State of California on September 29, 1948 in Book 20 of Maps at Pages 31, 32, and 33. Said property lies within the Rancho Corte De Madera.

Beginning at a point in the northeasterly line of lands annexed to West Bay Sanitary District by Resolution No. 1137 (LAFCO File No. 09-11), said point also being on the line of Grove Court and lying North 24°43'42" East, 40.00 feet from the center of the cul-de-sac

- Thence (1) North 25°33'00" East, 119.12 feet;
- Thence (2) North 2°00'00" West, 54.13 feet;
- Thence (3) North 41°29'00" East, 1 92.1 5 feet;
- Thence (4) South 41°07'00" East, 1 08.89 feet;
- Thence (5) South 4°48'00" East, 130.91 feet;
- Thence (6) South 12°02'00" East, 33.11 feet;
- Thence (7) South 54°39'47" West, 138.54 feet;
- Thence (8) South 88°19'12" West, 132.17 feet to the easterly line of Grove Court;

Thence (9) northwesterly along a curve, cnpca'e.:o:the southweste center of which bears 88°19'12 West, having a radius of 40.00 feet, .a central angle of 46°21'00", and length of 32.36 feet to the Point of Beginning.

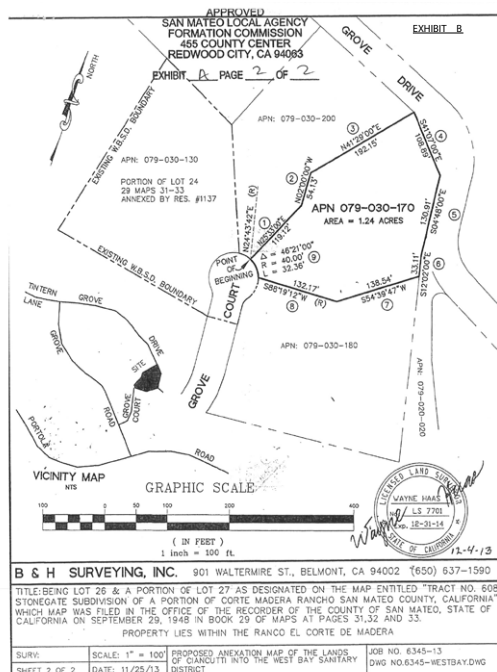
Containing 1 .24 acres, more or less.

For assessment purposes only. This description of land is not a legal property description as defined in the Subdivision Map Act and may not be used as the basis for an offer for sale of the land described.

Wayne Haas
12-4-13



Exhibit B



Carol Hastings, 60, Woodside resident

OBITUARY

This is an excerpt of a personal memorial to Carol Hastings posted on the Almanac's Lasting Memories website by her friend, Maggie Mah of Woodside.

Carol Hastings died suddenly in the early morning hours of May 10 at her home in Woodside. She was 60.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Carol was the eldest of four children born to James and Nancy Worthington Hastings. After graduating from the University of Cincinnati, Carol left the Midwest and eventually settled in the Bay Area.

In 1984 she joined Chambers & Chambers, a distributor of premium domestic and imported wines in San Francisco. She became a partner and acted as import director for the company until her death.

Through her work in the wine industry, she met Michael Michaud, then the winemaker at Chalone Vineyard in Monterey County. They eloped in June of 1989, and were married in Bovernier, Switzerland, the ancestral hometown of the Michaud family. Their son, James, was born in 1991.

With Jamie about to start

school, they decided to leave San Francisco and put down new roots in The Glens neighborhood of Woodside. Moving to the Peninsula also allowed them to live closer to Michaud Vineyard in Monterey County, which they established in 1996. Michaud produces fine wines, primarily chardonnay and pinot noir.

She was most at home in her garden, where she kept bees and a small flock of chickens. Friends coveted her jars of dark amber honey, tomato plants started from her private heirloom seed collection, and fresh pastel-colored eggs, which she gave away freely.

She and her big brown dog, an Australian Shepherd named Bear, were a familiar sight on early morning walks around town. She delighted in the small things she encountered along the way,



Photo by Paul Kalis
Carol Hastings

Continued on next page

Marylou Taylor

December 26, 1923 – June 5, 2014

The Rev. Marylou McClure Taylor died on June 5, 2014, with her daughter and one of her sons by her side. In 1923 she was born to Colonel Lowe Abeel McClure and Mary France McDermott in Oakland, and raised in Los Gatos, the 3rd generation of her family to reside in Northern California. An avid Girl Scout, Marylou had a lifelong love of the outdoors, especially at her beloved Lake Tahoe. She was an Alpha Phi sorority member and student body vice president at Stanford University, from which she graduated in 1946.



Professionally, Marylou was an elementary school teacher, puppeteer, and later, an ordained deacon in the Episcopal Church. She served as a chaplain to the children of Trinity School in Menlo Park, and to the elderly of the Sequoias, where she lived her later years. Marylou's lifelong interests included gardening, golfing, music, spirituality, and traveling. She was well-educated in the life and customs of Northern California Native Americans, and taught about them in elementary schools and other settings.

"Moo," as she was nicknamed in college and called throughout her life by friends and family, was pre-deceased by her husband William F. Taylor, and is survived by her children Laura, Brian, and Topper, 7 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

The Rite of Burial will be held at St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo Park, at 10am, Thursday July 3.

Memorial gifts in her name may be sent to the scholarship fund of Trinity School, 2650 Sand Hill Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Marylou Taylor, chaplain and teacher

The community of St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Menlo Park will be gathering on Thursday, July 3, for a Rite of Burial and to say goodbye to the Rev. Marylou McClure Taylor, who died June 5 at The Sequoias retirement community in Portola Valley. She was 90.

Marylou McClure was born in Oakland and grew up in Los Gatos. She was a Girl Scout and loved the outdoors, particularly at Lake Tahoe, and graduated in 1946 from Stanford University. At Stanford, she was student-body vice president and a member of the Alpha Phi sorority.

In choosing a profession, she settled on teaching and taught elementary school and specialized in the lives and customs of the Native Americans of Northern California. Her many interests



The Rev. Marylou Taylor

included gardening, golf, music, spirituality and traveling.

She was a chaplain at Trinity School in Menlo Park after being ordained a deacon in the Episcopal Church.

She is survived by daughter Laura, sons Brian and Toper, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Gifts and memorials in her name may be made to the scholarship fund of Trinity School at 2650 Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park, 94025.

James J. Harrington

October 7, 1921 – May 31, 2014

James J. Harrington, a long time resident of Menlo Park, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 31, 2014. Jim was born in Butte, Montana in 1921. He was the son of James Harrington, the County Clerk and Recorder and Amelia Harrington, who ran The Harrington Grocery store. With his sister, Fran, the family had deep Irish and Italian roots. His early life was consumed with his love of sports, from football, to baseball to basketball. After graduating from Butte Central High School Jim received an Industrial Engineering degree at Montana State University in Bozeman MT. There he met the love of his life, Louella LaVelle, also from Butte. His first employment after college was with Westinghouse in Pittsburg and Baltimore. He then joined the Army and graduated from officer training as a first lieutenant and infantry instructor. In 1945, while on a brief leave, Jim and Lou married in Butte. And at the end of World War II he spent a year as part of the U.S. occupation forces in Korea. After returning home he joined Pan American World Airways in San Francisco. It was the beginning of a wonderful 33-year career. He did take a 3-year hiatus from PanAm with Lockheed Aircraft in Sunnyvale but then rejoined the airline as Director of Reservations and Ticket offices in San Francisco where he spent the last 15 years of his Pan Am career.

Jim's life with Pan Am opened up the world for he and Lou. They traveled the world, from the exotic to the mundane and enjoyed every minute of it. They were particularly fond of their yearly stay in Kailua-Kona on the Big Island in Hawai'i.

After moving to the Bay Area in 1946 Jim and Lou began a family in Menlo Park and raised five wonderful children, Bill, Joanne, Dan, Beth and Claire in their 69 years of marriage. They were devoted Catholics with strong ties to St. Raymond Parish. But their true love of church grew even stronger at Nativity Parish. When he retired Jim and Lou were daily mass attendees at Nativity.

An ardent San Francisco 49er fan, Jim had season tickets to the Niners games for over 50 years. He was a true 49er Faithful. His love of woodworking resulted in a large addition to the house to accommodate his growing family. And he was a voracious reader, never without a book beside him.

After retirement Jim spent a great deal of time in service to others. He was a tutor at OICW in Menlo Park, helping the disadvantaged with reading and math. And he was a long time volunteer at St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room in Redwood City, giving back to the community by feeding the hungry. In addition he volunteered with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which provided food and living assistance to those in need.

Jim is survived by his wife, Louella, his sons Bill, Dan (Debra) and daughters Joanne, Beth and Claire (Rick), as well as a grandson Zeb (Lacey) and granddaughters Omeara, Ashley and Michelle, and great granddaughters Abigail and Madison.

A Celebration of Life will be held at The Church of the Nativity, 210 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park CA 94025 at 11am on June 27, 2014. A private interment will follow.

Remembrances may be made in Jim's name to:

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room, 3500 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park CA 94025

St. Vincent de Paul Society, c/o The Church of the Nativity, 210 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park CA 94025

Funeral arrangements by Spangler Mortuaries, 799 Castro St., Mountain View CA 94041

PAID OBITUARY

Clyde Carl De Benedetti

August 29, 1925 – June 10, 2014

Clyde Carl De Benedetti passed away peacefully Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at his home in Woodside. He is survived by his wife, Gaye, sister, Joan Hunt, sons; Tom (Trudy), Rick (Kerry), daughters; Cynthia and Linda (Jim) Boelsems, stepchildren; Christine Ebert and Dean (Elizabeth) Ebert. He is also survived by grandchildren; James (Stacy), Nicole (Tony) Silva, Miles (Beth) and Alan, Blake, Ashton, Alexandra, Lauren and Nathan, great-grandchildren; Abigail, Hailey, Sidney and Eli.

Born in Oakland, August 29, 1925, Clyde was the son of Carl and Louisa De Benedetti and was raised in San Mateo. Clyde served in the United States Air Corp as a Flight Officer. He married Barbara Jean Kunz of Houston and moved to Woodside in 1955. Clyde was a successful real estate developer.

An avid horseman all of his life, he was a member of the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County and enjoyed trail riding events. Other hobbies included, tennis and bike riding. He served as director of the Woodside Fire Protection District, a member of the San Mateo Elks Club and Horseman's Association.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Sunday, July 13, 2014, 1:00 pm at the Woodside Village Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to RedWhiteandCure.org or a charity of choice.

PAID OBITUARY

Neville Antony Hedger Holt

Neville Antony Hedger Holt, a thirty-five year resident of Palo Alto, California, died on May 21, 2014 of Mesothelioma, a form of asbestos poisoning to which he was exposed in the early 1960's in England. He was a leader and mentor in his field for Advanced Fossil Generation Technology. Neville was born and grew up on the Isle of Wight, England, to Leonard and Mona Holt on August 23, 1936. His father had served in the British Royal Navy for World Wars I and II; his mother was



the island's local historian. Neville graduated from Peterhouse, Cambridge University 1957 with a degree in Chemistry. He came to the United States in 1964. After working for C. F. Braun and Citgo Oil in New Jersey, he joined the Electric Power Research Institute in 1974 shortly after it was founded. His expertise was used by the U.S. Department of Energy, industry, and governments of many countries. Neville was named a Technical Fellow preceding two Lifetime Achievement Awards, the first in 2004 for his many accomplishments in gasification projects to enhance the future of clean fossil fuels throughout the world, and the second from the Gasification Technologies Council in 2006. Neville wrote and edited many publications in his field, continuing to work three days a week until April 2013. Jazz, history and philately were his interests, and he talked about retirement, but not until his illness did he fully stop working. Always a gentleman, Neville is remembered for his pleasant demeanor, his charm, his collegial spirit, his wit and for making puns. He leaves his wife of 32 years, Christine Holt, sons Iain Holt, Jason Holt by their mother Pamela Holt, and step-son Richard Kiernan, grandchildren Fiona and Ethan. A Celebration of Life will be held at the Stanford Faculty Club, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California on July 11, 2014 from 4 - 6pm. Donations may be made to the Mesothelioma Foundation or the American Cancer Society.

PAID OBITUARY

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Continued from previous page

always stopping to admire a perfect spider web, pluck a handful of ripe blackberries, or find trees with the sweetest wild plums.

Her pockets were stuffed with treats for canine friends she might meet along the way, and everyone with whom she stopped to chat was sent off with a cheery, "Have a good one!"

As much as she loved being home, travel was another passion. Her passport was heavily stamped and impressive. She also loved traveling and hiking in California and the West, particularly with her Woodside cadre, "The Seven Sisters."

She made a yearly pilgrimage to Fresno with her dear friend, Mary, to pick loads of peaches from a tree Mary adopted as a way to preserve heirloom varieties. She and her friend, John, always looked forward to salmon season, a rite marked by heated debate between them over bragging rights for the biggest catch.

Her warm personality, infectious laugh and down-to-earth manner touched everyone she met. Her enthusiasm and determination were an inspiration to her family, friends and colleagues. She was intelligent, worldly, and sophisticated without a drop of pretension.

She is survived by her husband, Michael Michaud, and their son, James, of Woodside; and brothers John Hastings and James Hastings, and sister Joan Hastings, all of Cleveland, Ohio.

A private memorial service was held for immediate family and close friends. Memorial donations may be made to the Marine Mammal Center (marinemammalcenter.org).

Go to tinyurl.com/Carol-952 to see the memorial on the Almanac's Lasting Memories website.

Menlo School students win dance titles

By Leyla Boissonnade,
director, Bay Area Dance School,
Los Altos.

Brandon Rabaria and Jessica Fry, students at Menlo School in Atherton, were awarded the titles of Mr. and Ms. Dance of Northern California at the recent All Solo Title Scholarship competition, sponsored by Dance Masters of California, at the Santa Clara Convention Center.

Brandon performed a lyrical solo to the song, "No Bravery" and Jessica performed a lyrical solo to the song, "Bring Him Home."

Aurora Vaughan, a student at Gunn High School and a Hillview Middle School graduate, performed a lyrical solo to the song, "Letter to a Playground Bully," and won the title of Teen Miss Dance of Northern California. She has been dancing since age 3, dances daily, and will be attending Ballet West's Summer Intensive in Utah for the second year.

Brandon, Aurora and Jessica, who are students of Leyla Boissonnade's at Bay Area Dance School in Los Altos,



From left: Aurora Vaughan, Leyla Boissonnade, Jessica Fry, Brandon Rabaria

were evaluated in four styles of dance: ballet, tap, jazz and acrobatics.

They will compete for national titles at the Dance Masters of America Solo Competition in Orlando, Florida, in July.

Jessica has studied dance since age 3. In addition to dancing seven days a week during the school year, she had the opportunity to study at the Juilliard School in New York City last summer.

Brandon started studying dance outside of school only 18 months ago. Now also dancing seven days a week, Brandon studied at the Nutmeg Conservatory of the Arts in Connecticut last summer.

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Read and post reviews, explore restaurant menus, get hours and directions and more at [ShopPaloAlto](#), [ShopMenloPark](#) and [ShopMountainView](#)

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■ POLICE CALLS

This information is from the Menlo Park Police Department. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent unless convicted. Police received the reports on the dates shown.

MENLO PARK

Commercial burglary report: Someone smashed the side door of the LB Steak House at 898 Santa Cruz Ave. and used a tank of carbon dioxide to force open a locked door inside. Stolen were several bottles of alcoholic beverages and a meat slicer. Estimated loss: \$550. June 20.

Auto burglary report: Two toolboxes and tools, a radar detector and scanner were stolen from a locked vehicle parked on Haven Avenue. Estimated loss: \$1,600. June 17.

Theft reports:

- Two laptop computers, two Apple iPads, a Kindle reader, earphones, headphones, a cell phone and luggage were stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 500 block of El Camino Real. Estimated loss: \$7,565. June 19.
- Ten bottles of wine were stolen in a hand-basket from the Safeway supermarket at 525 El Camino Real. Estimated loss: \$650. June 16.
- Someone stole a wallet, gym bag containing shoes and sunglasses and clothing, and a watch from an unlocked vehicle parked on Hobart Street. Estimated loss: \$270. June 16.
- Two visitors to the CVS Pharmacy at 700 El Camino Real were caught on a video surveillance camera stealing 21 containers of makeup. Estimated loss: \$178.50. June 19.

- A car battery was stolen from a vehicle parked in the 100 block of Independence Drive. Estimated loss: \$150. June 17.
- Someone stole a surveillance camera from the exterior of Stack Plastics at 3525 Haven Ave. Estimated loss: \$150. June 19.
- A handbag left unattended inside the Subway sandwich shop on Santa Cruz Avenue was stolen. Estimated loss: \$89. June 19.
- Someone stole a purse left inadvertently at a location in the 200 block of El Camino Real. Estimated loss: \$25.

Fraud reports:

- Police arrested a man, without incident, who allegedly attempted to cash a fraudulent check at Citibank on Santa Cruz Avenue. No loss. June 17.
- Someone claiming to be a utility worker called on an individual on Doyle Street demanding \$498.95 to pay off an account balance or lose electric power within the hour. The individual bought a gift card as directed and paid the amount. June 17.
- A resident of Middle Avenue received voice mails threatening the resident with "legal ramifications" if an outstanding account balance with the IRS were not paid. No loss. June 17.
- Someone used stolen credit card information to extract money from the PayPal account of a Durham Street resident who sold products online. PayPal made the resident whole. No losses. June 18.
- Two people used counterfeit bills to buy gift cards at the Safeway supermarket at 525 El Camino Real. Estimated loss: \$430. June 18.

CALENDAR

Go to AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more local calendar listings

Community Events

July Fourth Celebration Menlo Park's celebration will include a downtown parade and a festival in Burgess Park. Decorate a bike, tricycle, wagon, golf cart, or float and parade down Santa Cruz Avenue from the parking lot on Chestnut Street at Santa Cruz Avenue (behind Wells Fargo bank) to Burgess Park. Parade starts promptly at 11:45 a.m. At Burgess Park, there will be music, food, jumpies, games, crafts, face painting, rock walls and laser tag. Musical group Mustache Harbor will perform. Sponsored by Facebook. July 4, 11:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Free; \$7 wristband for some activities. Burgess Park, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2220. www.menlopark.org/events

Mt. Olive A.O.H. Church 51st Year Celebration Mt. Olive Apostolic Original Holy Church of God will celebrate 51 years in the Belle Haven community. July 6, 11 a.m.; July 8, 7 p.m. Free. Mt. Olive A.O.H. Church of God, 605 Hamilton Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-853-0355.

St. Bede's Charity Rummage Sale Clothes, books, CDs, household items, toys. Proceeds benefit Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance's nursing scholarship in Malawi. June 28, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. www.stbedesmenlopark.org

Lifetree Cafe Menlo Park hosts hour-long conversation called "A Family Divided" to explore how families cope with and heal after conflict. June 25, 7-8 p.m.; June 26, 9:15-10:15 a.m. Free. Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-854-5897. www.facebook.com/LifetreeCafeMP

Little House Fourth of July celebration American lunch and traditional New Orleans jazz by St. Gabriel's Celestial Brass Band. Lunch includes hot dogs, hamburgers, macaroni salad, beans and watermelon. July 2, 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. \$7. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025 ext. 222. www.penvol.org/littlehouse

Kids & Families

Old Fashioned Fourth Children will be invited to hand-crank homemade ice cream and take a taste. They can make traditional Independence Day crafts to take home. Activities coincide with Redwood City Independence Day parade. July 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$2.50 adults; \$1.50 student/senior. San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.historysmc.org

Babies and Books Storytime Story time events for children from birth to 18 months old with rhymes, songs, short stories. June 30 and July 7, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org

Drummer Onye Onyemaechi from Nigeria will share an African village celebration, a drumming performance for all ages. July 2, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-0147. www.smcl.org

Family Movie Night Atherton Library will screen the movie "Epic." The library holds screenings of family-friendly films the last Friday of each month. Popcorn will be provided by the Friends of the Atherton Library. June 27,

7-8:45 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 328-2422.

Fratello Marionettes As part of its Summer Learning Program, Atherton Library will host the Fratello Marionettes with their show of the classic, "Peter and the Wolf." June 30, 3-3:45 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org

Music on Monday This event will give children ages 3 and under a chance to sing and dance. The program, sponsored by Friends of the Portola Valley Library, will take place the first Monday of each month. July 7, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org

Native California Boatmaking At this Peopleologie event for children ages 6 and older, participants will learn how Miwok and Ohlone indigenous peoples used plants to make nets and toys. Then kids can try knot tying, weaving and making a floating boat. Please contact the library to register. June 25, 4-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org

Ninja Story Time with Arree Chung Author and illustrator Arree Chung will read from and share his children's book "Ninja!" at this family event. June 29, 11 a.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/ninja-story-time-arree-chung

Paws for Tales Atherton Library hosts a program — in partnership with the Peninsula Humane Society and the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals — where children ages 5 and up can read to a trained service dog, with the goal of improving reading skills and building confidence. Time slots are available the fourth Saturday of each month. Through June, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org

Playing with Blocks party Families are invited to come play and build with blocks, an activity which helps children develop hand-eye coordination and math and science skills. June 28, 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-0147. www.smcl.org

Toddler Storytime Story time for children ages 18 months to 3 years will be held each Tuesday at the Portola Valley Library. On the third Tuesday of each month a craft activity will follow story time. Tuesdays, June 3-July 29, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org

Film

Movies on the Square 2014 Sixteen movies will be shown outdoors at the Courthouse Square, with many in high definition and with surround sound. Chairs and tables are limited. See website for more info. Thursdays, through September 25, 8:45 p.m. Free. Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.redwoodcity.org/events/movies.html

Food and Drink

Portola Valley Farmers' Market Thursdays, year-round, 3-7 p.m. (summer hours). 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. www.portolavalleyfarmersmarket.com

Woodside Farmers' Market Sundays, through Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 3195 Woodside Road, Woodside. www.woodsidefarmersmarket.com



A scene from last year's "Step Back in Time" event.

'Step Back in Time' at Filoli estate

Fans of Downton Abbey who also happen to be fans of Woodside's Filoli can combine their loves at a Thursday, July 17, fundraiser for the historic estate and gardens, where guests are invited to come in 1920s costume, if they chose, and explore Filoli in the moonlight.

The "Step Back in Time" event will run from 5 to 8 p.m. at Filoli, 86 Canada Road in Woodside.

Catered hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served by Filoli staff and volunteers in period dress reminiscent of Filoli's 1920s household staff.

Live music will be provided by the Magnolia Jazz Band, which performs jazz classics from the 1920s through the 1940s. Also performing will be Andrea Shippy and Flip Casey, playing early jazz favorites,

including the Charleston, and pianists Martha Girdlestone and Sue Mattias, playing early 20th century melodies.

Tickets go on sale June 16 at \$50 for members and \$60 for others. They must be purchased by 4 p.m. Tuesday, July 15.

Go to filoli.org or call 364-8300, ext. 508, on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to buy tickets.

Live Music

Music on the Square 2014 Twelve concerts will be held at Courthouse Square, with local and national groups performing rock, blues, pop, Latin music and more. Concerts are free and family-friendly. Fridays through Aug. 29, 6-8 p.m. Free. Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.redwoodcity.org/events/musiconthesquare.html

On Stage

'The Farnsworth Invention' Palo Alto Players stage play written by Aaron Sorkin ("West Wing," "The Social Network") that involves scientific discovery, deception and corporate espionage. Thursday-Sunday, June 13-29, 8-10:30 p.m. \$23-\$45. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-0891. www.paplayers.org

Talks & Authors

'Eye on India - Words on Water' A panel of women from India and the Bay Area will talk about their involvement in technology and visual arts, as well as challenges facing women today. A screening of the film "Scattered Windows, Connected Doors" will follow the panel. June 28, noon-5 p.m. Free. Menlo College, 1000 El Camino Real, Atherton. Call

425-736-1779. eyeonindia.com

Author Aaron Hurst discusses his new book, "The Purpose Economy: Lessons from the Front Lines of the New Economy," which discusses the role of meaning in markets. June 26, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/aaron-hurst

Author Alan Furst discusses his latest book, "Midnight in Europe," which follows spies and operatives in Paris, New York, Warsaw and Odessa on the eve of World War II. June 25, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/alan-furst-0

Author K.D. Keenan shares her debut urban fantasy novel, "The Obsidian Mirror," which draws on traditions, mythologies and folk tales from the New World. June 28, 2 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/kd-keenan

USGS public lecture: 'Into the Abyss' For National Oceans Month, Nancy Pruty, a U.S. Geological Survey research oceanographer, will give a lecture entitled "Into the Abyss: Living without Light" about deep-sea corals, their history and their positive effects on ecosystems. June 26, 7-8 p.m. Free. USGS Menlo Park Campus,

345 Middlefield Road, Bldg. 3, Conf. Room A, Menlo Park. Call 650-329-5136. online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar

Teen Activities

Summer Lovin' Tour The following authors will be at Kepler's to discuss their young adult books: Deb Caletti with "The Last Forever," Jody Casella, "Thin Space," C.J. Flood with "Infinite Sky," Sara Ockler with "Scandal" and Suzanne Young with "The Treatment." June 27, 7 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-856-0978. www.keplers.com/event/ya-summer-lovin-tour-deb-caletti-jody-casella-cj-flood-sarah-ockler-and-suzanne-young

Tinkering Teens event At this upcoming Tinkering Teens event, children ages 13 to 18 can take part in bag and T-shirt decoration projects. Registration is required. 4-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org

Et Alia

Crossways Bible Study Pastor Tom Norris gives weekly lessons on how the Gospels and Acts are put together. Tuesdays through July 1, 7-8 p.m. Free. Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-854-5897. www.bethany-mp.org/crossways

Name: Rudi Weber

Position: Sales

Last Book Read: The Art of Racing in the Rain

Last Movie: The Icemen

Last Ride: Highway 9, across Skyline Blvd., down Page Mill Rd, and into work.

Favorite Epic Ride: Mt. Revard via Chambery to Aix-les-Bains... amazing!

Bike: LeMond Tete de Course



Enjoy the ride.

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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, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

Town Square forum

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

Email

your views to: letters@almanacnews.com and note this it is a letter to the editor in the subject line.

Mail

or deliver to: Editor at the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Call the Viewpoint desk at 223-6507.

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

Governor has clout on high-speed rail

The political sleight of hand pulled off last week by Gov. Jerry Brown with the help of Democrats in the Legislature deftly outmaneuvered opponents of the state's beleaguered high-speed-rail project in a questionable deal that funds the train while draining dollars from environmental projects that truly could reduce greenhouse gases in the state.

The plan materialized in the final hours of budget negotiations last week and will steer \$250 million in cap-and-trade revenue to high-speed rail. At the same time, to recoup the money they pay to the cap-and-trade fund, oil companies are expected to raise prices that could mean a jump of 10 to 20 cents per gallon at the pump. Cap-and-trade income is supposed to be used by 2020 to reduce greenhouse gases according to AB32, the enabling legislation.

This is a terrible deal for everyone in the state except for Gov. Brown, who apparently wants to make the high-speed train his legacy project, and the construction unions that helped him in the last election. More important, it is another attempt by the rail authority to somehow keep the project alive when all available evidence shows there simply is not enough money to even begin to build the Madera-to-Fresno segment, let alone the entire project, whose latest price tag is \$68 billion.

No one believes that high-speed rail will be running in six years without a plan to make up a deficit of more than \$20 billion just to get the first segment completed in the Central Valley. Sacramento Superior Court Judge Michael Kenny ruled last November that the rail authority acted in violation of Proposition 1A, which included the \$9.95 billion bond measure voters approved in 2008. Judge Kenny told the rail authority to rescind its business plan and in a

separate order, denied the authority's request to validate \$8 billion in bond expenditures.

The authority's current plan would use \$3.3 billion in committed federal funds and \$7 billion of the \$9 billion in Proposition 1A funds, of which \$4.2 million has already been allocated. But the plan would be \$21 billion short of the estimated \$30 billion cost of the first segment.

In addition, the rail authority's hope of attracting private investment has not resulted in any offers and there is little likelihood that the present Republican Congress will ante up any funds for a Democratic governor's favorite boondoggle.

In our view, it is sheer political trickery to assign 25 percent of the cap-and-trade income, which has been earmarked for projects that will cut greenhouse gases within the next six years, to high-speed rail. Certainly there are more appropriate projects for the Legislature to consider that actually would lower pollution. A possible breakdown of how the state will allocate cap and trade funds now earmarks 25 percent for high-speed rail, 15 percent to local transportation projects, 20 percent to affordable housing, and the rest to energy and natural resources projects.

With \$250 million a year, high-speed rail will have funding to keep the rail authority alive and perhaps write other business plans. But the chances of it ever being built continue to shrink and estimated costs of completing the project continue to rise. Our hope is that enough members of the Legislature have the courage to buck the governor and the construction unions and say goodbye to this grandiose idea that the voters passed with the best of intentions in 2008, but had no idea of its true cost. ■

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Specific plan will not impact schools

Editor

Opponents of SaveMenlo's initiative claim that the measure will increase the number of students attending local schools.

This argument is a red herring. The downtown specific plan already includes provisions for increasing housing density. SaveMenlo's initiative does not affect this in any way. The initiative's opponents supported this housing increase and its disingenuous for them to now attempt to scare parents by falsely claiming that the initiative creates more housing.

What SaveMenlo's initiative does do is fix a gaping loophole in the specific plan that allows a single developer to build a project full of enormous office buildings. Passing SaveMenlo's initiative will close this loophole, restoring balance to the specific plan and the development it allows. But it won't affect our schools. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

Heyward Robinson
Menlo Park

Approved plan a better choice

Editor:

Traffic! It is a concern of every city in the Bay Area, and Menlo Park is no different.

But we can't allow fear to get

in the way of progress. Menlo Park has been caught up in a debate for the last 10-plus years as to how best to develop our downtown area and end the blight that plagues us — however traffic concerns are always a major stumbling block.

The downtown specific plan, which took over six years to develop and included an environmental impact report, hundreds of hours of public meetings, and a tremendous amount

Continued on next page



Portola Valley Archives

Our Regional Heritage

This 1930 photograph shows busy students at one of two one-room Portola Valley School buildings that stood at today's Town Center site. The school shown was built in 1894. Facing the camera at the nearest table is a young Walter Jelich.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Continued from previous page

of analysis by Menlo Park staff, paid consultants and city planning experts, is being threatened by a small minority of residents who want you to believe that they know what is better for Menlo Park.

While I appreciate the passion the Lanza/Fry (Save Menlo) group has for our city, I cannot believe that their initiative — formulated behind closed doors without any public input or analysis — can be in our best interest.

Their initiative does nothing to guarantee less traffic and, in reality, it may well result in dramatically higher traffic. The Lanza/Fry initiative seeks a low cap on office space, the net effect of which will be to shift development toward smaller office projects, like medical office, with very high traffic demands, away from larger, mixed use development that purposefully balances retail, office (non-medical), and housing.

The fact that their initiative ignores this intention, and all the analysis that went into it, is very scary and will no doubt end up with a lot of unintended consequences, including potentially worse traffic.

I urge Menlo Park voters to take the time to consider all aspects of this debate and join me in rejecting this ill-conceived initiative. It is a deeply flawed, “keep-it-vacant” effort in disguise.

*Kimberly LeMieux
San Mateo Drive, and 11 other
Menlo Park residents*

Time to rid city of downtown blight

Editor:
Menlo Park deserves better. We are writing as concerned citizens of Menlo Park frustrated by the continued blight on El Camino Real and its impediment to increased vibrancy of our downtown area.

This blight of our downtown deprives our community of a vibrant central gathering place, as well as additional tax revenue to support our schools, fire district and other civic benefits.

The downtown specific plan (DTSP), which included six years of very open public participation and environmental impact analysis, was approved by the City Council as a framework for thoughtful development and improvement of these blighted areas. A small group of residents seek to derail the approved plan by way of a deeply flawed initiative, without any

transparency or involvement from the city’s decision-makers or the community at large.

In 2006, the City Council approved a development plan for the north end of El Camino. A small group of neighbors drafted a petition calling to overturn that council approval, again in private and without any involvement from the council or Planning Commission.

Nearly eight years have passed and we still have that land sitting empty and blighted. Had the original project been built, our community stood to col-

lect millions of dollars in taxes and fees and contributions to the below-market-rate housing stock.

The people living and working there would be spending money in our downtown, helping our small business owners, creating vibrancy, and generating additional sales tax revenue, jobs and other benefits.

We hoped the very open, very public specific plan process would finally rid our city of this blight. Sadly, it looks like 2014 might be “deja vu all over again.” Menlo Park deserves better.

*Jason and Charlotte Pfannenstiel, and 18 other
Menlo Park residents*

Vote Smart, a database of politicians

Editor:

Almanac readers should know about “Project Vote Smart,” a nonpartisan group of students and volunteers from all over the country who have put together a massive factual database on politicians.

Vote Smart gathers the voting records, biographies, public statements (issue or even key

word searchable), issue positions, who gives candidates money, even the ratings done by over 200 competing special interests on every candidate and official. They make it so you don’t need to listen to all the self-serving nonsense of campaigns anymore.

You can just get the facts on Vote Smart’s website (votesmart.org) or even call them on their toll-free hotline (1-888-Vote-Smart) and one of their researchers will look up anything you need to know.

*Marilyn Walter
Coyote Hill, Portola Valley*



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