



**Handmade, original gifts
for the holidays** | Page 24

The Almanac

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

NOVEMBER 12, 2014 | VOL. 50 NO. 10



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MacNivens to be honored at 'Sillycon' Valley event

By Kate Daly
Special to the Almanac

'Fun, informal laugh therapy' is how Becky Witter of Woodside describes her "brainchild," Sillycon Valley LOL, a fundraiser to benefit Alzheimer's Association research.

She has helped organize "a cabaret evening of musical parody with zany comedy and fun surprises" for Nov. 16 at 7:45 p.m. at Woodside High School Performing Arts Center, 199 Churchill Ave.

During the event, a tribute will be paid to Jamis and Margaret MacNiven for their community service and contributions.

The MacNivens live near Page Mill and Skyline, but much of their focus has centered on Woodside, where they have run Buck's restaurant for 23 years. Ms. MacNiven was involved in the PTA at Woodside School and Woodside High School when their sons attended, and is active with Friends of the Woodside Library.

The MacNivens have supported many local organizations and events, such as May Day Fun Run, Woodside Day of the Horse, Tour de Peninsula, and Sand Hill Challenge.

Mr. MacNiven is known for wearing loud, colorful shirts and boasts a collection of over 100 of them. Ms. Witter is encouraging

People are encouraged to honor Jamis MacNiven, known for wearing loud, colorful shirts, by wearing 'outrageous shirts a la Jamis.'

people to honor him at the show by wearing "outrageous shirts a la Jamis"

Another local couple is expected to take the stage to talk about their experience with



Jamis and Margaret MacNiven are being honored at Sillycon Valley LOL.

Photo by Kate Daly

AROUND TOWN

Alzheimer's. "This disease is being diagnosed in so many people, we need to get to the bottom of this and turn it around," Ms. Witter says.

The other Woodside residents on the Sillycon Valley LOL committee are: Erin Morra, Marsha Bondurant, Karen Peterson, and Kerry DeBenedetti who also serves on the board of the Northern California and Northern Nevada chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. Lisa Stahr of Menlo Park, Donna Losey of Redwood City, and Cheryl Basin of San Carlos are committee members, too.

Donors include Woodside Bakery, Espresso Lane and Beach Blanket Babylon.

The event is being run through the nonprofit Woodside Community Foundation.

Go to brownpapertickets.com or call (800) 838-3006 for tickets, which range from \$60 to \$100.

For more information, contact Mrs. Witter at (650) 851-9008 or rwitter@pacbell.net.

Big Band Dance

The Big Band Dance, Menlo-Atherton High School's annual music program fundraiser, will be held Saturday, Nov. 22, in the Ayers (old) Gym on the high school campus.

M-A music teacher Kent Kurus will be conducting student musicians from the concert band, orchestra and jazz bands. Free dance lessons will be included in the event.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and music will be performed from 8 to 11 p.m. Admission is free those 65 and over (but donations are welcome), \$10 for students and \$25 for general admission. Light food and beverages will be for sale.

Go to tinyurl.com/band117 for tickets and more information. Tickets are also available at the door. ☐

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

After voters reject Measure M, what's next?

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

In recent years no issue has been at the center of such a maelstrom as Measure M, the resident-sponsored initiative to change the downtown/El Camino Real specific plan. In the Nov. 4 election, 62 percent of the voters said no to M. What comes next for a divided city?

Mayor Ray Mueller joined in the call for collaboration going forward. "I am grateful and appreciative to voters," he said after the election. "I take no pleasure or satisfaction in Measure M's defeat. Rather tonight my thoughts are focused on rebuilding our city's sense of community that was so badly damaged during this election cycle."

Referring to the council race, which saw six candidates split into two camps by Measure M, he added: "I offer my congratulations to council members Keith, Ohtaki, Cline, and extend my hand in an offer of collaboration to Ms. Duriseti, Mr. Combs, and Ms. Ferguson."

As of Nov. 10, the vote count is 4,331 against Measure M and 2,694 in favor. Some ballots have yet to be counted, including

mail-in ballots dropped off at the polls on Election Day and provisional ballots.

Former councilman John Boyle, who supported the "No on M" coalition, said he was very excited by the outcome.

"It was a very challenging campaign for a number of reasons. The issue itself was complicated, and it wasn't made any easier by some of the campaign rhetoric that would have people believe that it was as simple as 'residents vs. developers' or that 'you can't trust city hall,'" Mr. Boyle said. "Neither of those statements, of course, is true. The reality is that land use policy is complicated."

What land use policy comes down to is building consensus and balancing competing factors such as traffic and vibrancy, according to Mr. Boyle. The right balance changes over time, but with the defeat of Measure M, the council will be able to continue revising the specific plan, hopefully with support from both sides of the debate, he said.

Former planning commissioner Henry Riggs, who also urged voters to say no to M, commented that he hoped the city would be spared torch-



Photo by Natalia Nazarova/The Almanac

Discussing the returns on election night at a No on M party in Sharon Heights are, from left, Dana Hendrickson, John Boyle, Peter Carpenter and Mickie Winkler.

and-pitchfork politics, petitions and lawsuits for a while. While not everyone is happy with the specific plan, everyone has to compromise and move on, he said.

"Save Menlo's aggressive style may have worked against them — an emotional pitch works in politics, but voters also had access to facts that just didn't support M," he said.

Yes on M

Although their ballot measure didn't seem to have a chance of approval once the first votes were posted, a crowd of Measure M supporters who gathered at a Menlo Park home on election night was remarkably upbeat.

They vowed to keep pushing the city to take their issues into consideration.

"What happens next?" asked

measure co-sponsor Patti Fry. More work, she concluded. "I think that depends on what we all collectively decide to do. I think there are things we can come together and push."

Planning Commissioner Vince Bressler said that the campaign had changed people's ability to speak out about issues

See **MEASURE M**, page 8

Mandarin charter school asks district to provide facilities next year

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Under state law, if a charter school has more than 80 students from a school district it can ask that district to provide classrooms and other facilities for those students. The Menlo Mandarin Immersion Charter School has done exactly that, asking for 10,000 square feet of space for the 2015-2016 school year.

Saying they have 84 in-district students who have indicated they will attend the yet-to-be approved charter school next fall, backers of the Menlo Mandarin Immersion Charter School on Oct. 31 asked the Menlo Park City School District to provide classroom and other facilities for the school.

The 10,000 square feet the school has requested includes a multipurpose room for hosting whole-school gatherings, a library, a teacher work room, an administrative office, a kitchen,

Charter school backers says they will have more than 80 in-district students.

storage rooms, a custodial room, a playground, and restrooms; two 1,350-square-foot kindergarten class areas including restrooms, storage, teacher preparation and wet and dry areas, and two 960-square-foot first grade class spaces; plus space for a resource specialist program for special education.

Proposition 39, adopted in 2000, requires school districts to provide facilities for a charter in-district students if at least 80 students are from that district. The law says the facilities must be irreasonably equivalent to other district facilities.

The Menlo Park City School District is currently so short on space, due to a more than 40 percent increase in enrollment over

the past decade, that it plans to build a new school that will open in 2016.

The charter school's facilities request says it wants to open with its first day of classes on Aug. 19, 2015.

Go to tinyurl.com/request117 to download a PDF document containing the facilities request.

The district's board is scheduled to vote on whether to authorize the Menlo Mandarin Immersion Charter school to operate in the district at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 12 in Encinal School's, Multi-Use Room, 195 Encinal Ave., Atherton.

The school board is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, Nov. 12, to vote on whether to authorize the Menlo Mandarin Immersion Charter school to operate in the district. Consideration of the charter petition is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in Encinal School's Multi-Use Room at 195 Encinal Ave. in Atherton. ■

Board set to vote on proposal for Mandarin charter school

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

It has been almost two months since a petition to start a Mandarin immersion charter school in the Menlo Park City School District was presented, and on Wednesday, Nov. 12, the school board will have to make a decision on whether or not to authorize the school.

The board is scheduled to take up the matter starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Encinal School Multi-Use Room at 195 Encinal Ave. in Atherton.

The proposed Menlo Mandarin Immersion Charter School would begin operations in the fall of 2015 with

two classes each of kindergarten and first grade with a total of 100 students. The charter has asked the district for 10,000 square-foot of classrooms and other facilities.

While a large number of district parents and teachers have expressed opposition to the school, the board is limited by state law on the grounds on which it can turn down the charter.

If the charter is not approved by the district, it could still end up operating there because a denial can be appealed to the county school board, and if the county board turns it down, to the state board of education. ■

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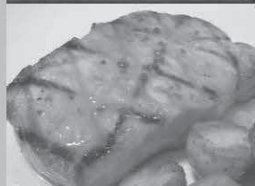
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Facebook starts planning process for third site

By **Sandy Brundage**

Almanac Staff Writer

Facebook may make use of the 59 acres it bought earlier this year from TE Connectivity sooner rather than later, according to city documents.

As first reported by the Silicon Valley Business Journal, Facebook has started the planning process for making changes to 300 Constitution Drive, a site adjacent to its upcoming "west campus" designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry.

In June, Facebook said it had no immediate plans to develop the property. But according to city planner Kyle Perata, the

company applied for a use permit and architectural control to convert an 185,000-square-foot warehouse and distribution building on the site to "general offices and ancillary employee amenities."

No applications have been submitted for the remaining nine buildings on the site at this time, Mr. Perata said.

A Facebook representative confirmed that the process has started, but no actual project has been submitted to the city. One option under consideration is construction of a fitness and health center, but nothing has been finalized yet, the spokesperson said. ▀

Atherton asks 5 architects for civic-center designs

By **Barbara Wood**

Almanac Staff Writer

With council member Rick DeGolia saying the move is a "huge step forward," Atherton has asked five architects to submit proposals for designing a new civic center for the town.

Atherton's City Council on Nov. 5 unanimously approved, with Bill Widmer absent, a request for proposals that will go out to five architects who have been chosen by the Civic Center Advisory Committee to compete for the job of designing the new civic center.

The huge step forward, Councilmember DeGolia said, "is making a decision to go out and interview the architects."

Mayor Cary Wiest agreed. The document that will be sent to the five architects, he said, is a foundation for what will be the "town's biggest investment now and in the future."

The five firms, chosen from 16 that asked to be considered, are Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, Harley Ellis Devereaux, Siegel & Strain, Swatt/Miers and WNS Studio.

The document approved by the council was prepared by the town staff and the consultants who have been hired to manage the civic center project, Mack5, and then modified by the Civic Center Advisory Committee.

Steve Dostart, chair of the advisory committee, said he thinks the document, which carefully lays out a schedule, expectations and measures to keep costs in control, "is very well thought-through," adding: "This will become the road map to get our project done."

The firms must return their proposals by Dec. 10 and will be interviewed in mid-January by the advisory committee. The council is scheduled to interview the finalists chosen by the committee on Jan. 27.

The new civic center will be funded mostly with privately raised money, and while no commitments of funds have yet been publicly acknowledged, by the time the town hires an architect, the town will need to have private funds in hand to pay the firm.

Go to tinyurl.com/request118 view the request for proposals. ▀

Thursday: State of the city event

Breaking with tradition, Menlo Park's state of the city event this year will take place downtown, at a temporary paseo created at 1080 Chestnut St., between Santa Cruz and Menlo avenues.

The free event will include dance and musical performances by local youth before Mayor Ray Mueller gives his take on the state of Menlo

Park. It starts at 6:30 p.m.

The good ol' days

The Menlo Park Historical Association invites the public to attend its annual meeting on Sunday, Nov. 23, when Jack Jorgenson, who worked as the city attorney from 1961 to 1985, will give a keynote

Continued on next page

Consultant paid to draft talking points, letters on specific plan

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

Invoices released by the city on Wednesday, Nov. 5, show that the city of Menlo Park paid \$5,125 to a consultant for tasks that included drafting talking points and letters to the editor as well as writing website content related to Measure M, the specific plan initiative.

The Almanac requested on Monday, Nov. 3, copies of the detailed invoices, the contract and any copies of the materials produced by consultant Malcolm Smith on the city's behalf.

Prior to the election, and in a story on the Almanac website on Monday, Nov. 3, City Manager Alex McIntyre said a consultant's proposal to take a proactive role in swaying public opinion with regard to the specific plan was rejected. He also said the only piece of work the city hired the consultant to do was write content for the city's website about the specific plan and the initiative.

Asked why Mr. Smith had done more work than was originally disclosed, Mr. McIntyre said the talking points and letters were ultimately rejected. News releases initially written by the consultant were re-done by staff, according to the city manager.

"He had said here's a bunch of things I can do for you. At first we said, sure, let's see what you have in mind. We looked at them, read them and said it doesn't make sense to use them," Mr. McIntyre said, because the materials veered over the line between education and advocacy.

"The only product we used was the website content. Because we didn't use the (other materials), I didn't think they were relevant because they never entered the public purview. When he drafted them, we said no, this is not how we want to handle this."

Mr. Smith billed for the time

spent drafting the materials, according to the city manager. He appeared to carry out the work from April through August, with the majority of the tasks completed by June 1. The specific plan initiative qualified for the ballot on June 19.

"The website was the first effort. That's the one I remember most," Mr. McIntyre said. "The news releases, I had forgotten about. When I looked at the bills, I realized we did pay him for this work, but asked where's the product? We didn't keep copies. I remember throwing away the editorials."

One of the council's goals set earlier this year had been improving communication with the public, according to

City manager says talking points and letters to editor were ultimately rejected; mayor expresses concern about dealings with consultant.

Mr. McIntyre. "People were calling us to ask about the initiative and since staff had spent so long working on the specific plan, we decided to go to a third party that had no stake in (the outcome)" to provide information on a complex land-use issue.

Mayor's concern

Mayor Ray Mueller, who along with the rest of the council took a stance against Measure M, said he remained concerned about the city's dealings with Mr. Smith, and expected "to meet with my colleagues to discuss appropriate action upon my return to the country on Nov. 10." He has been in China on a work-related trip. EeAll meetings with a majority of the council must be publicly noticed.

The Almanac did not find any council members or groups that campaigned against Measure M who said they were given talking points by the city or asked to meet with the press.

"Everything we put out, we wrote," said former councilman John Boyle, who advocated against the measure as part of Menlo Park Deserves Better.

The consultant's work came to light as part of a records request made in August by former councilman Heyward Robinson, who was campaigning on behalf of Measure M. In a blog post for Save Menlo, he said, "These revelations, if true, call into question the integrity, judgment, and candor of senior City Staff, including the City Manager, as well as the overall fairness of the campaign to defeat Measure M."

Mr. Robinson's position appeared to remain the same following the expanded information relayed by the city manager. He also asked, "How does one discard something in the era of electronic communications?"

Drafts are not considered public records under the California Public Records Act, but an agency that claims an exemption from disclosure must specify the reasons for withholding a record.

Initiative advocates have challenged whether the city's website, as well as information presented in its Menlo Focus newsletter, is truly impartial. Once a measure has qualified for the ballot, state law requires that public funds be spent only to provide balanced information that does not advocate a partisan position.

The state attorney general "declined to get involved" after Mr. Robinson filed a complaint over the newsletter, Mr. Robinson said, but he has also made complaints to the Fair Political Practices Commission, the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office and the grand jury. ▀

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speech about "Menlo Park ... the good ol' days." Light refreshments will be served.

Call 208-4530 for more information. The free event starts at 2 p.m. at the public library at 800 Alma St.

ABC grant

The state has awarded \$25,000 to the Menlo Park

Police Department for alcoholic beverage control activities, the city announced on Nov. 6.

The department will use the money to fund seminars for employees of businesses that sell alcohol as well as for enforcement activities, including operations that use minors as decoys.

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Council incumbents speak of bringing city 'back together'

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Healing the rifts in the community is a common refrain following a divisive election that saw the three council incumbents — Peter Ohtaki, Kirsten Keith and Rich Cline — re-elected.

"I heard loud and clear the chief concerns and traffic stands atop the list. We need to come together to get it done," said Rich Cline, who was elected to a third term. "We disagreed and now we need to get to work."

"I'm grateful," Mr. Ohtaki said on election night. "It'll be important to bring the city back together."

As of Nov. 10, the election count was Mr. Ohtaki, 3,698; Ms. Keith, 3,212; and Mr. Cline, 3,037.

Among the challengers, the vote count was: Planning Commissioner Drew Combs, 2,737; former council member Kelly Fergusson, 2,469; and Kristin Duriseti, a member of the city's Environmental Quality Commission, 2,369.

"Of course, I'm disappointed," Ms. Duriseti said, "and I wish that I had been more effective at achieving my goal to inform voters about what I and the other candidates would do moving forward, not only with respect to Measure M and the sorely needed changes to the specific plan, but also regarding other important issues facing Menlo Park, like the general plan update and managing our water resources."

She added that she hopes the council doesn't interpret the

election results as acceptance of the two current mixed-use proposals from Greenheart and Stanford, and that they "work diligently to respond to the legitimate concerns of residents."

With traffic as a key concern, Ms. Duriseti said providing local housing options for employees working at those two sites is the only way she sees to mitigate the impact. "Fortunately, because of the nature of the two developers, this is a synergistic possibility, provided that the council negotiates the appropriate conditions for project approval."

Mr. Combs laughed as he described walking to more than 4,000 homes in Menlo Park to leave a personalized, handwritten note for the registered voters at each address. "You think it's a little quaint city until you walk it," he said. "Then it seems a lot more massive."

He wasn't sure what he would have done differently, saying that to some degree his failing was not getting more people excited about his candidacy. Although he wanted to win — "very much so" — Mr. Combs said he wasn't completely disappointed in the outcome.

"There were lots of residents that I connected with and that saw me as someone who would be a good leader in the community. That's humbling and something that I'm very proud of."

Will he run again? Maybe. He and wife Alexa would like to start a family soon, and he doesn't think that running again is something he has to do. "(But) I certainly wouldn't close the door to a future run." ▣

Menlo Park police officer follows nose to pot bust

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

A Menlo Park police officer following the scent — literally — one sunny afternoon reportedly discovered 101 marijuana plants and 14 pounds of processed pot.

At 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 4, the officer was patrolling along the 1100 block of Madera Avenue in Menlo Park when he "noticed a strong odor of marijuana in the area." He then decided to talk to a group of people standing in front of

a house, and found that the homeowner, who was among them, was on probation.

A search of the home "located a large quantity of both processed and unprocessed marijuana as well as an elaborate marijuana growing operation," according to police. The San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force assisted.

The homeowner, 50-year-old Byron Johnson Sr., was arrested and booked into county jail for allegedly violating probation, selling marijuana and cultivating marijuana plants. ▣



Photo by Barbara Wood/The Almanac

"Yes on M" supporters were upbeat at their election night party despite the measure being behind from the first election results.

What's next after Measure M?

continued from page 5

that are important to them.

"Something has changed in this town," he said. "A lot of this is about giving people permission to stand up and say, this isn't what I want."

Perla Ni, who helped create the grassroots coalition behind Measure M, said those who worked on the issue are not going to disappear. "We've been woken up and we're not sheep anymore," she said.

While at least one person at the gathering said she was considering leaving Menlo Park, Ms. Ni said she loves her city. "I couldn't be luckier to have found this place to live. We're talking about things

that really matter to us."

Former councilman Heyward Robinson said precinct walking and talking to neighbors has been an energizing experience. While Measure M lost, he said, the backers still can have input on projects.

"There is the possibility of a referendum," he said. "We certainly need to put pressure on this City Council."

He said he also feels the campaign has been good for getting more information to the public. "We're getting a little transparency in government."

Council candidate Drew Combs, who had backed Measure M, told the Almanac that he felt like a lot of the sentiment leading up to election

was exasperation that the community had come to this point. Noting Menlo Park's history of land-use battles, he said: "It seemed like just another chapter in this battle that was never going to end. I think in large part they were reacting to this revulsion to this continuing battle. I think they wanted it to be over."

Mr. Combs said he hopes that respect from all parties for the results of the election, coupled with everyone's common goal of making Menlo Park a better place, "will allow some chipping away of past differences." ▣

Almanac reporter Barbara Wood contributed to this report.

Helping youths in emotional distress

The San Mateo County Health System is offering a free 8-hour training course for adults who work to help young people, ages 12-24, in emotional distress.

School staff, in all capacities, from classroom teachers to crossing guards, can play a critical role in getting students the help they need, says Robyn Show of the Health System. Program participants are introduced to the risk factors and warning signs of mental

■ BRIEFS

health problems in adolescents and the importance of early intervention.

To attend a free Youth Mental Health first-aid course, call Lauren Getuiza at (650) 372-8548.

'Nutcracker' at Menlo Park Library

The Western Ballet Company will present a free dress rehearsal of Tchaikovsky's "The Nut-

cracker" at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, at the Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St. in Menlo Park.

The dancers will weave the tale of a girl who dreams her Nutcracker doll becomes a prince who takes her on a royal visit to the Land of the Sweets.

College grad

Victoria Denholm was one of 1,622 students awarded academic degrees from Boston University in September. She is a resident of Atherton.

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Two incumbents elected; third seat too close to call

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

ATHERTON

Both Atherton incumbents were re-elected to four-year terms on the City Council on Tuesday, Nov. 4, but the race for the third open seat was still too close to call as of press time Monday.

With all precincts reporting, Rose Hau led Mike Lempres by only six votes in the final election-day report. But with 44,000 uncounted votes in the county, mostly from mail-in ballots turned in on election day or received just before election day, that total was bound to change. On Nov. 7, Mr. Lempres had swung ahead by 18 votes, with 1,010 votes to 992 for Ms. Hau.

Rick DeGolia, who was elected to a one-year term last year to fill the seat left vacant when Jerry Carlson moved from Atherton, was the top vote-getter with 1,345 votes as of Nov. 7. Bill Widmer, who is completing his first four-year term, came in second with 1,074 votes.

San Mateo County Elections Manager David Tom said they hope to have all ballots counted by Thanksgiving week. Mr. Tom said that because the

county does not keep track of uncounted votes by jurisdiction it is unknown how many votes remain to count in Atherton.

The next updated count will be posted at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 12, on the county's website and will also be reported on the Almanac's website.

If a recount is requested, which Mr. Tom said any voter may do, the process will stretch out even longer. The person requesting the recount must pay for it, with the cost depending on how long the recount takes. The cost is \$956 per day for a manual recount or \$300 per hour for a computer recount. The request must be made within five days of the county certifying the final election results.

While recent Atherton elections, especially the one held four years ago, have been contentious in Atherton, this year the election was quiet. Mr. DeGolia said he thought the campaign conduct "was extremely respectful" among the candidates.

Ms. Hau said she really was

not surprised at the outcome. "I've always predicted this would be a close race," she said.

She also said that Atherton will be in good shape, whatever the final count turns out to be. "Whatever happens, happens," she said. "I think we're both good candidates." To make waiting for the results less stressful, she said she is trying to get back into her routine. "After three months of doing this I can't even remember what my routine was," she said.

Mr. Lempres said he, too, is waiting. "I want the process to play out fully, with everyone's vote counted," he said. "I'm trying to not make any assumptions and not really think about it until we know more."

Mr. Lempres said he enjoyed campaigning, especially going door-to-door to meet voters. "It's in many ways a great experience," he said. "You get to meet a lot of people, which is just wonderful." Many residents shared Atherton history with him, he said. "I got in some great conversations with people."

"I'm very proud of the campaign we ran, but also of everybody's campaigns," he said. ▀

Hassett re-elected to open space district seat

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Larry Hassett, who has served for 14 years on the board of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, was re-elected Nov. 4 with 69 percent of the vote.

Mr. Hassett, 65, the retired owner of Hassett Hardware, ran for the Ward 6 seat against Brandon Lewke, 29, a project analyst

and accounts receivable manager for the Tech Museum in San Jose. Ward 6 includes Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley and Woodside, as well as Redwood City, San Gregorio, La Honda, Loma Mar and Pescadero.

As of Nov. 10, the vote count was 8,606 for Mr. Hassett and 3,843 for Mr. Lewke.

Mr. Hassett said he is looking forward to working with the dis-

trict to manage the proceeds of the \$300 million bond measure voters approved in June. "It is rewarding to be able to oversee how that money gets spent over the next 15 years or so," he said. "There's just incredible opportunities for the district," including adding more public access and more trails, he said.

Mr. Lewke, who was running for public office for the first time, said he hopes to continue to work with the district. "I hope to volunteer to build new trails or maintain existing trails," he said. ▀

Council to consider wider, safer trail along Alpine

Safety on the trail along the south side of Alpine Road between Saddleback Drive and Hillbrook Drive has long been an issue in Portola Valley. The trail is not wide enough for a multi-use but it is sometimes used as if it were.

The stretch across from Roberts Market can bring children on bikes into close encounters with equestrians in narrow spots enclosed by a fence on one

side and a steep embankment down to the road on the other.

The Town Council, at its 7 p.m. meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 12, will be considering a proposal that would require moving the fence in from the road, and relocating and widening the trail, according to a staff report.

The town would need the cooperation of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, which owns the fence and

the adjoining property. Town officials met with open-space district officials in September to discuss options, Town Manager Nick Pegueros said.

The council meets Nov. 12 in Hanson Hall at The Sequoias retirement community at 501 Portola Road.

Also on the agenda: The council is expected to change the daily schedule with the start of the new year to begin the workday at 8 a.m. and the one-hour lunch break at noon. Town Hall has been opening at 8:30 a.m., with lunch starting at 1 p.m.

June R. Chapin

May 19, 1931 – September 22, 2014

June Chapin, Educator and Textbook Author

Dr. June R. Chapin passed away on September 22, 2014. She was born in Chicago, Illinois, and during childhood developed a life-long love of reading.

June attended the University of Chicago, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts followed by a Master's degree in the Social Sciences.

While at the University of Chicago, she met her future husband, Dr. Ned Chapin, her spouse for over 60 years.

June taught at various grade levels and obtained a doctorate in education from Stanford University. June lived in Menlo Park for over 58 years.

She was a professor at Notre Dame de Namur (formerly the College of Notre Dame) in the Education Department for 29 years and was the author/co-author of over a dozen social studies textbooks ranging from the 4th grade level to the university level.

Even after retirement from university teaching, she kept active writing college textbooks for preservice teachers such as "Elementary Social Studies: A Practical Guide" (2013), in its 8th edition plus a recent 4th edition of "A Practical Guide to Middle and Secondary Social Studies" (2015).

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Ned Chapin; her sister, Marie Comiskey; her two daughters, Dr. Elaine Chapin and Suzanne Chapin; and one grandchild.

She especially enjoyed hiking annually around the Lake Tahoe area, along with other extensive travel outside the United States. Other favorite activities included baking (winning ribbons at the San Mateo County Fair for her cakes) and swimming daily in her pool for about six months of the year.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks contribution to the Hydrocephalus Association, 4340 East West Highway, Suite 905, Bethesda, MD 20814-4447 www.hydroassoc.org, or a charity of the donor's choice.



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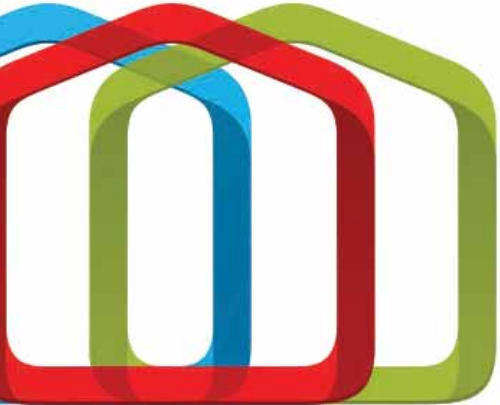
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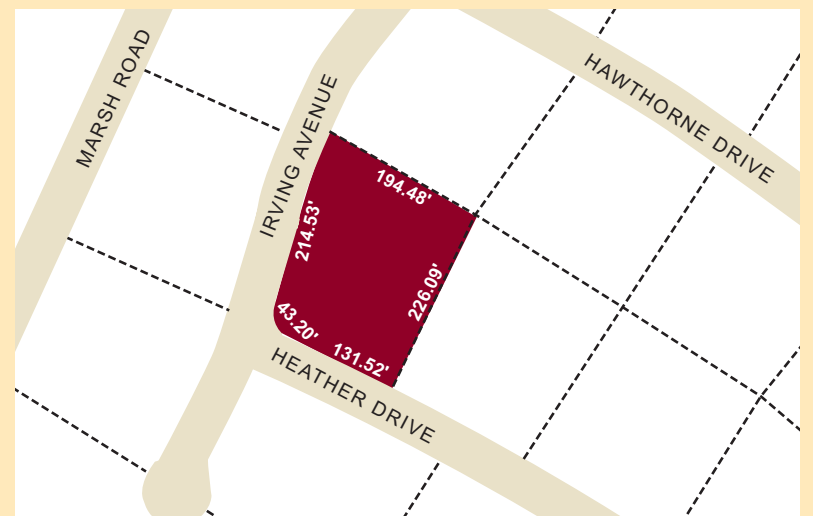
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PetSmart employee, boyfriend sentenced to 29 years in prison

A former San Carlos PetSmart employee and her boyfriend have been sentenced to a total of 29 years in prison for a series of break-ins at homes they learned were vacant when the residents' pets were boarded at PetSmart, San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said.

The charges included the theft of a silver Porsche 911S from a Portola Valley home.

San Jose residents Ashley Lynn Kirk, 24, and Juan Carlos Ortega-Ramos, 25, pleaded no contest to 11 counts of residential burglary in exchange for no more than 20 years in prison for Mr. Ortega-Ramos and no more than 10 years in



Juan Carlos Ortega-Ramos and Ashley Lynn Kirk.

prison for Ms. Kirk, according to the district attorney's office.

On Nov. 6, Judge Susan Etezadi sentenced Ms. Kirk to 10 years in state prison and Mr. Ortega-Ramos to 19 years in state prison.

They were first arrested in September 2013 for the burglaries but were released with-

out charges until a warrant was issued for their arrest in January, according to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. They were arrested again in Discovery Bay on Jan. 13.

Ms. Kirk would learn of vacant homes when pets were checked in at the PetSmart at 1225 Industrial Road in San Carlos and the couple would then ransack the homes, stealing electronics, jewelry and even the Porsche, prosecutors said.

In addition to the burglary charges, Mr. Ortega-Ramos also pleaded no contest to a gang enhancement for being a Norteno gang member, prosecutors said.

Deadly assault suspect skips court

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

A bench warrant was issued after a 66-year-old man accused of backing a pickup truck into a Menlo Park police officer didn't show up for a court hearing on Tuesday, Nov. 4, according to the District Attorney's Office.

Jerry Aaron Jenkins was

arrested in July for alleged assault with a deadly weapon. He reportedly said he had not seen the officer, who was at the residence in the 1300 block of Henderson Avenue to investigate a code violation complaint.

Police said he had been previously cited for illegal car repairs, and the code enforcement officer had gone to take

photographs of continuing violations. She was treated at the hospital for non-life-threatening injuries after being struck by the truck.

After the no-show, the court forfeited his \$25,000 bail and issued a warrant for his arrest with new bail set at \$50,000. Mr. Jenkins is represented through the public defender program by Tom Kelley. ■

Health care district: Hickey elected, but others in his slate fall short

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

A longtime plan by Sequoia Healthcare District board member Jack Hickey to have voters decide on the future of the district met with failure again on Nov. 4, although Mr. Hickey and two other incumbents — Dr. Gerald Shefren and Art Faro — were re-elected to the board.

Mr. Hickey had asked voters to elect him and two challengers — Mark De Paula and John McDowell — so that as a board majority, they could submit to the voters the question of whether the district should exist at all.

The district was created as the Sequoia Hospital District in 1946. But in the mid-1990s, the district sold the hospital and under enabling state legislation became a health care district.

Its mission became more like a community foundation, but it distributed tax revenues to health organizations and ser-

vices, including nonprofits — \$9.5 million in the current fiscal year. Beneficiaries included school nurses, nurse education and clinics that serve communities in need.

Mr. Hickey and the challengers thought the voters should have a say about this mission and pledged that, if elected as a slate, they would put the question to the voters. The slate failed, but Mr. Hickey was re-elected to another four years as a lone voice of protest.

"We offered a clear choice and a new direction, but the results were not in our favor," said Mr. McDowell, a member of the slate.

Mr. Hickey spoke with the Almanac the day after the election. He had just come home from collecting some 20 campaign signs he had placed on the Alameda de las Pulgas, in his hometown of Emerald Hills, and elsewhere. "That helped me walk off a funk," he said. "I beat Art Faro. He should feel embarrassed."

"I can't imagine why in the world I would feel embarrassed," Mr. Faro said in an email when asked to comment. "I have devoted 50+ years to Sequoia Hospital and Sequoia Healthcare District doing what I could to help improve the health care of our District residents, and I keep getting re-elected."

The vote count as of Nov. 10 was: Dr. Shefren, 19,997; Mr. Hickey, 16,909; Mr. Faro, 15,391; Mr. McDowell, 13,896; and Mr. De Paula, 11,211.

Annual report

The healthcare district mailed voters an annual report a week or so before the election, a document usually mailed in the first two weeks in November, Mr. Hickey said. "That's electioneering, and the Supreme Court has defined it as such," he said.

Dr. Shefren said via email that the report is mailed in the fall, that he doesn't know exactly why, and that the district CEO

See **HICKEY**, page 16

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Community college district can raise \$388M more for facilities

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The San Mateo County Community College District will get to borrow up to \$388 million in the bond market to finance new and updated facilities and equipment on its three campuses, including Canada College in Woodside, as a result of the Nov. 4 election.

Measure H, the community college bond measure, passed handily with 65 percent of voters approving it. Fifty-five percent or more of voters must approve the measure for it to pass.

District Chancellor Ron Galatolo was not available for comment.

A critic of Measure H, Maxine Turner, a former member of the city of San Mateo Planning Commission, said in an email: "It will be important that voters get what they were told they were voting for on the ballot & in the numerous political mailers. We hope that the press & local officials who endorsed Measure H will join us to insure that this happens."

Ms. Turner, who set up a website and wrote letters to local government officials, said the district misleads the public by citing general goals rather than specific projects that will be funded by the bond measure.

The district spent \$57 million, for example, on a health and wellness center that includes an

The measure's vague descriptions of projects the bonds would fund 'gives the district a blank check,' says Measure H critic Maxine Turner.

athletic club used, for a membership fee, by the public. The building includes classrooms for nursing, dental assistance and skin-care, district records show.

The building was funded by a \$468 million bond measure approved by voters in 2005. But there was no mention of this building on the project list for

the measure. Ms. Turner said she concluded that it was this entry on the project list that likely covered this building: "Reconstruction/renovation of existing facilities for nursing, anatomy and other science laboratories & classrooms."

"So what the voters think they are voting for is essentially meaningless," she said. "This gives the district a blank check."

The state constitution requires school districts to list "specific projects" that will be funded by a proposed bond measure. But school districts, including this college district, instead provide broadly worded lists of goals. Mr. Galatolo has said school districts need flexibility in spending the money because conditions change.

Construction and architectural firms and unions gave a total of \$234,100 to the Measure H campaign between July 1 and Oct. 22, according to finance reports from the county Elections Office. The San Mateo Community College Foundation gave \$50,000.

The vote count as of Nov. 7 was 75,777 yes and 40,101 no. ■

School district's phones crash at all four schools

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Modern technology got the better of the Menlo Park City School District on Tuesday, Nov. 4 when all the district's phone lines in and out of its four schools — Hillview, Oak Knoll, Encinal and Laurel — and the district offices, went down.

Internal phones continued working, but on Wednesday morning, Nov. 5, the district sent out an email to parents asking them to communicate via email with the district. By a little after 9 a.m., the district had emergency lines to each school and the district offices working.

Superintendent Maurice Ghysels said the district has three separate circuits for its phones and that all three failed on Nov. 4.

"Our telephone lines are routed through three of AT&T's Primary Rate Interface lines (PRI) for carrying multiple voice and data transmissions, and their underground and aerial cabling were compromised by moisture," Superintendent Ghysels said in an email. "Nothing was defective inside MPCSD."

AT&T told the district the problem was centered in a box the lines pass through near Middlefield Road and Menlo-Atherton High School, the superintendent said.

Inside the district's schools and offices, where Internet phone service is used, the phones continued to function as did other Internet services.

By Thursday, Nov. 6, the phone service was back to normal, he said. ■

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■ POLICE CALLS

This information is based on reports from the the Menlo Park Police Department and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent unless convicted. Police received the reports on the dates shown.

WOODSIDE

Theft: Someone stole saddles and other equestrian equipment from an unlocked shed on La Questa Way. The shed door had been closed and secured with a clip. Estimated loss: \$3,780. Oct. 28.

Fraud: A resident of the 100 block of Churchill Avenue, who had been called on the phone by someone claiming to be an officer in the county sheriff's office, went out and bought prepaid debit cards from a drug store and transferred money to the "officer" to avoid a threat of being arrested and taken to jail. The resident did not realize that he'd been the victim of a scam until he called the county court to follow up. Estimated loss: \$3,000. Nov. 3.

Trespassing: A deputy responding to a report of a trespasser in the 3000 block of Woodside Road arrested a San Carlos man who allegedly had a suitcase in his possession containing "a large quantity" of marijuana. Oct. 31.

WEST MENLO PARK

Residential burglary: Someone entered a home on Harkins Avenue and stole an electric guitar, a flat-screen TV and a device for connecting a TV to a wireless network. Estimated loss: \$835. Nov. 4.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary: Someone tried but failed to break into an apartment on Madera Avenue, leaving behind a dent in the knob of the apartment door. Nov. 6.

Auto burglaries:

■ A locked car parked in the 1300 block of El Camino Real was found with its side window smashed and several items stolen from inside, including a

suitcase and a computer case containing a laptop, headphones, and personal belongings. Estimated loss: \$2,065. Nov. 7.

■ A thief pried open a vehicle roof rack and stole a bicycle mounted there, and smashed a rear window on the vehicle to steal a bike wheel that was inside. Estimated loss: \$2,000. Nov. 8.

■ Someone broke the front passenger window of a locked vehicle parked in the 700 block of El Camino Real and stole a shoulder bag containing a notebook, sunglasses and personal papers. Estimated loss: \$300. Nov. 7.

■ A thief stole a wallet containing credit cards and \$10 in cash from an unlocked vehicle parked on Del Norte Avenue. A bicycle in a carport across the street was also reported stolen. Estimated loss: \$282. Nov. 9.

Thefts:

■ A thief entered an unlocked vehicle parked on O'Keefe Street and stole a backpack containing two laptop computers, a cellphone, driver's license, passport and \$2,500 in cash. Estimated loss: \$7,152. Nov. 8.

■ An unlocked vehicle parked on Ringwood Avenue was robbed of a cellphone and three checks. Estimated loss: \$1,360. Nov. 5.

■ A man living in an apartment on San Antonio Street had his adult tricycle stolen from a covered parking area. Estimated loss: \$750. Nov. 5.

■ Someone stole cash from two purses left unattended on Crane Street. Estimated loss: \$40. Oct. 31.

Accident report: A bicyclist traveling on a sidewalk in the vicinity of El Camino Real and Roble Avenue collided with a blue 2013 Subaru on the way out of a parking lot. Medics took the cyclist to the hospital with complaints of foot and ankle pain. Nov. 1.

HICKEY

continued from page 14

said the 2014 mailing was going out at "about the same time as last year."

Referring to this mailing, Mr. Hickey said that during a district board meeting in August, he tried to stop "public rela-

tions" efforts ahead of an election by proposing a 60-day moratorium on mailings. He did this by proposing an amendment to a motion on the table; it failed because the motion's author, Mr. Faro, chose not to accept it, according to an audio tape of the meeting that Mr. Hickey provided. ■

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Photo by Travis Rummel

Portola Valley's Matt Stoecker preparing to shoot underwater photos below the former Elwha Dam in Washington state.

'DamNation' screening, discussion

Matt Stoecker of Portola Valley, the subject of an Aug. 6 cover story in the Almanac, will answer questions from the audience after a free screening of the documentary he helped to produce, "DamNation," the history of dams and dam removal, on Thursday, Nov. 13, in Portola Valley.

The screening will be at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Center Community Hall at 765 Portola Road in Portola Valley.

Light refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Portola Valley Library and the Friends of the Portola Valley Library.

Matt Stoecker and fellow

filmmakers Travis Rummel and Ben Knight have been nominated by National Geographic as one of 10 "Adventurers of the Year 2015."

Go to tinyurl.com/choice117 to vote for the "DamNation" filmmakers for the People's Choice Award.

Go to tinyurl.com/matt113 to see the cover story.

June Chapin, educator, textbook author

June R. Chapin, a resident of Menlo Park for more than 58 years, died Sept. 22. She was 83.

She was born in Chicago and graduated from the University of Chicago with a bachelor of arts degree in liberal arts, followed by a master's degree in the social sciences. While at the university, she met her future husband, Ned Chapin, her spouse for more than 60 years.

She obtained a doctorate in education from Stanford University.

A professor at Notre Dame de Namur University (formerly College of Notre Dame) in Belmont for 29 years, she was the

OBITUARY

author of more than a dozen social studies textbooks, ranging from fourth-grade to university level. After retirement, she continued writing college textbooks, such as "Elementary Social Studies: A Practical Guide" (2013), which is in its eighth edition.

Ms. Chapin enjoyed hiking around the Lake Tahoe area and extensive travel outside



June Chapin

the United States. Other favorite activities were baking (she won ribbons at the San Mateo County Fair for her cakes) and swimming daily in her pool for about six months of the year, say family members.

She is survived by her husband, Ned Chapin; sister Marie Comiskey; daughters Elaine Chapin and Suzanne Chapin; and one grandchild.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Hydrocephalus Association, 4340 East West Highway, Suite 905, Bethesda, Md. 20814-4447 | hydroassoc.org; or a charity of the donor's choice.

Menlo, SHP meet in Valpo Bowl on Friday

By **Kate Daly**
Special to the Almanac

For the 12th year in a row, Menlo School and Sacred Heart Prep football teams are facing off in the Valpo Bowl. This year's contest will be on Friday, Nov. 14, at the lighted field at Woodside High School, 199 Churchill Ave.

The junior varsity game starts at 4 p.m. and the varsity at 7 p.m.

All proceeds benefit the Peninsula Bridge program, which provides free summer classes for

underserved middle school students on the Peninsula to help them succeed in high school and college. The program is expanding its support to high school and college students.

Both Menlo and SHP are located on Valparaiso Avenue in Atherton and both host Peninsula Bridge students on their campuses during the summer.

Tickets to the games will be sold at the gate and cost \$5 for students and \$10 for adults. As in years past, the Old Pro in Palo Alto is donating burgers, hot dogs, pulled

pork and brisket sandwiches, Caesar salads and drinks to sell at a concession stand.

Menlo parent volunteer Bettina Pike is hoping for a huge turnout at the games now that Peninsula Bridge's needs are even greater. "Peninsula Bridge is going to begin supporting its students year-round as opposed to just during the summer months," she said. "This will require additional fundraising and support from strong communities such as Menlo and Sacred Heart." ▣

Inspirations

a guide to the spiritual community



WOODSIDE VILLAGE CHURCH

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

with Sunday School and Nursery Care

Pastor Mike Harvey
Rev. Dorothy Straks

3154 Woodside Road Woodside
650.851.1587
www.wvchurch.org

To include your Church in **Inspirations** Please email Blanca Yoc at byoc@paweekly.com or call 650-223-6596

Community Services Department presents....

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July - December 2014

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@ 6:30pm

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Watch the story of two turkeys from opposite sides of the tracks put aside their differences and team up to travel back in time to change the course of history and get turkey off the holiday menu. **Rated G.**



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WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

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Call the Viewpoint desk at
223-6528.

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

Consultant's election-year work needs hard look

Menlo Park's divisive Measure M initiative may have been settled at the ballot box earlier this month but, regrettably, newly surfaced facts about the city's dealings with a consultant hired to "inform and educate" the community on the issues that led to the ballot initiative continue fanning flames that might otherwise be dying into embers by now. The \$5,125 taxpayers doled out to consultant Malcolm Smith certainly won't bust the city's budget, but the city's handling of the contract and staff's seeming inability to explain questionable elements of it have further eroded the public's trust of City Hall.

City Manager Alex McIntyre signed off on the agreement with Mr. Smith in March — a contract that cited the "strong likelihood" of a ballot measure that would revise the downtown specific plan, passed in 2012. The consultant had proposed an extensive contract that would "refute the issues raised by the initiative's sponsors, and gain a more positive public profile of (the city's) position on the Plan by educating and informing the community about the value and importance of continuing with the existing Plan..." He would do that, he proposed, by developing "key messages and talking points" to state the city's position and refute pro-initiative arguments, drafting letters to the editor and opinion pieces for local media, and creating content for an informational page on the city's website, among other things.

To his credit, Mr. McIntyre scaled back the work before signing a contract, but based on invoices submitted to the city that came to light just after the election, he didn't go far enough. In addition to providing information on the city's website, Mr. Smith wrote multiple drafts of "talking points" and news releases that were to be distributed to area newspapers and other news sources. He also billed the city for drafting letters to the editor, an "op-ed," and a comment for the Almanac's online forum. Those last services were not spelled out in the amended contract signed on March 19, and according to

Mr. McIntyre, the drafts were rejected and never used. But they were nonetheless reviewed by staff and paid for by the public.

The contract and the work performed raise a number of questions and concerns. Among them: Although Mr. McIntyre was allowed to hire the consultant without council approval, why didn't he inform council members that he intended to do so given that the work pertained to such a volatile political issue? And, how can city officials hope to maintain credibility and the public trust when

they even consider hiring someone to write what would amount to bogus letters to newspaper editors, and opinion pieces deceptively ghostwritten by a consultant? Such deceit has no place in Menlo Park government and politics, and the city should

have rejected the very suggestions of them. The fact that they weren't used is not an excuse. They apparently were allowed by the contract, and if they weren't, why did the city pay for the drafts?

How troubled should residents be by payments to a consultant totaling just over \$5,000? Troubled enough to demand a full public airing of the matter. Mr. McIntyre has done a poor job in explaining various aspects of the contract and the work, even telling the Almanac before the election that the only role Mr. Smith was hired to perform was to write neutral, educational content for the city's website about the specific plan and the initiative. The city manager's claim that he didn't remember the consultant's other roles over the five months of his employment pushes the boundaries of credibility. But if it's true, it's fair to ask why he didn't consider contracted work involving such a consequential election issue worth keeping track of.

Mr. McIntyre should make every effort to produce drafts of letters to the editor and opinion pieces that he said he discarded to prove to residents that they weren't in fact used. And the City Council should put on its next agenda a hearing to shine light on this troubling matter. ■

EDITORIAL
The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS
Our readers write

Vote a rejection of Hickey's platform?

Editor:

Now that the Sequoia Healthcare District election is over, it is clear that the voters do not support (Jack) Hickey's platform to destroy the district and penalize thousands of our citizens out of health care and illness prevention. He has tried and failed for many years and not contributed anything positive while a member of the district board.

Perhaps, with luck, he will work with the rest of the board to help the community rather than just being a thorn and an expensive foe.

I am pleased that Dr. (Jerry) Shefren (an excellent board member) and I will be able to continue to work with the other board members to be a positive force in the community.

Thank you to the voters for their support.

Arthur Faro
Board member, Sequoia
Healthcare District



Menlo Park Historical Association

Looking back

Menlo Park's first City Hall, seen in this undated photo, was a single building located at 1036 Doyle St., between Santa Cruz and Menlo avenues. The building housed all city services, including the police department, which was separated from other departments by a partition across the back of the building, and the library, according to the Menlo Park history book "Beyond the Gate," by Michael Svanevik and Shirley Burgett. City Hall remained at this location until around 1939, when staff and services moved to a bank building at El Camino Real and Santa Cruz Avenue — now the shuttered British Bankers Club, according to the book.

Give to The Almanac Holiday Fund

Your gift helps children and families in need



Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$152,000 for the 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community corporations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

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

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



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The Almanac will make every effort to publish donor names for donations unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula

Provides after-school and academic support and activities for 1,750 at-risk K-12 youth at nine locations in Menlo Park and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City. Members attend at least twice a week during the academic year and receive essential tutoring, mentoring, and academic support.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.†

Project Read

Provides free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. Trained volunteers work one-on-one to help adults improve their basic reading, writing and English language skills so they can achieve their goals and function more effectively at home, at work and in the community. Volunteers also help students acquire basic keyboard and computer skills.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinics in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto. It also operates a mobile clinic at school sites. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded entirely by voluntary contributions, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers emergency food and clothing assistance.

Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 52 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to more than 250,000 people each month through more than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

InnVision Shelter Network

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

StarVista

Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people, families with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education, and residential programs. StarVista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

St. Francis Center

Provides services for families in need with the goal of helping them live in dignity and become self-supporting community members. The center assists 2,400 people each month with such services as low-income housing, food and clothing, shower and laundry, counseling, community garden, and education.

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Provides training and job placement services for those at risk, including the long-term unemployed, homeless, marginalized youth, returning parolees and those recovering from drug and alcohol abuse.

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