



The Portola Valley Post

Fall 2005

The Changing Face of Portola Valley

By Marti Tedesco

For the last decade it seems that no street or lane in our town has escaped its share of construction trucks, material deliveries, laborers and earth movers. It appears that nearly every residence has had some sort of remodel within the last 20 years. Not true however for much of the town's commercial infrastructure. But now there are big changes taking shape at lots of the places that many of us often frequent.

From one end of town to the other, change is happening. Why now? Can we achieve the modernization that is needed and maintain the heritage and feeling of our favorite local spots? When asked, many local townspeople and business managers say yes.

Two large projects are underway in the heart of the town; the addition of an assisted living space at the Sequoias and the rebuilding of the Por-

tolta Valley Town Center. Mel Matsmoto is the Vice President of Operations for the Northern California Presbyterian Homes and Services (NCPHS), the long time owner of the Sequoias. According to him, the changes underway at the retirement community are the result of a happy convergence of the needs of the residents and the organization. "The residents of the Sequoias have recognized for a long time that mixing patients with cognitive difficulty in with residents with physical issues is a



The Alpine Road Chevron Station in the mid to late 1960's

challenge for everyone. No one wants change just for change's sake. We learn as we go along and we know a lot more about dementia than 25 or even 5 years ago," he said.

All told, NCPHS will spend close to \$23M to redevelop the retirement community. The first phase of the Sequoias renovation came about 2 years ago when they added a 21,500-square-foot structure for physically frail residents. The second phase focuses on building a facility specifically for Alzheimer's and dementia related residents. Nothing major had been done at the home since its opening in 1961, so there was a great need to bring it into the current century.

While ground has not yet been broken at the Portola Valley Town Center, much analysis and review has gone into how to best renovate the Center in light of its proximity to the San

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Bill and Jean Lane —Together

By Marti Tedesco

Growing up, Bill and Jean Lane to me were my friend's parents, which when you are in middle school, makes them, simply "the parents". But even in my disinterested pre-teen state, I remember their involvement and impact on the community of Portola Valley and their love of the west. Years later, things that I and others took for granted about this couple and about Portola Valley have taken on new meaning for me and for the community that the Lanes helped to create and preserve. When asked by *The Post* to do an article about them, it seemed impossible to find a new way to describe these two local treasures that have made Portola Valley their home for nearly half a century. So much has been written about their extensive contributions and vast personal resumes, I needed a quiet opportunity to explore their connection to this town – what Bill referred to as "a sense of place" - a term he borrows from his friend and author Wallace

Stegner.

What drew them here as young people? What made them get involved? How did their experiences shape the result? Portola Valley is what it is today partly as a result of their very active, personal involvement. What emerged from our conversation was satisfyingly simple: an abiding passion for open space, a deep love of family and heritage, and a selfless devotion to community involvement and volunteerism.

We've traveled all over the world and there is no other suburban area like ours near a large metropolitan development

When Bill and Jean Lane met in the lobby of *Sunset Magazine* in 1954, both were transplanted Mid-westerners; Bill came in 1928 from Des Moines, Iowa and Jean from Illinois. Jean's family owned farms near Lincoln, Illinois, until recently. Bill was raised on a small farm with his brother, Mel. Their father was an executive with *Better Homes & Gardens Magazine*. Bill often refers to his brother with respect and admiration as a partner and leader at *Sunset Magazine*. When looking for

What's Going on at the Jelich Ranch?

By Nancy Lund, Town Historian

For most of the twentieth century, the Jelich Ranch stood beside Portola Road. Its tank house was a landmark.

Generations of school children and residents can remember stopping at the fruit stand to buy apples and have a chat with Walter Jelich. After Walter's death in 2000, Phil and Cindie White bought the ranch, and a new era began.

Instead of turning the fourteen acres into a small housing development, the Whites are in the process of restoring the ranch. In fact, they are retaining its historic name. As a first act, they rebuilt the tank house, damaged by a runaway truck several years ago and partially dismantled, using photographs of the original for authenticity.

They have restored the apple orchard, planting over 400 new trees and donating some 20,000 pounds of apples to Second Harvest Food Bank.

This September, the 1915 Jelich home and fruit stand were razed. Soon a modified replica of the house and fruit stand will begin to rise. The new "fruit stand" will serve as a garage and will have the original siding with "Jelich Ranch" and the same antlers above the doors.

The Chilean Woodchopper's house, the little white house close to the road near Springdown, has been offered to the Town, if we move it. Meanwhile, it's being protected from the weather.

And Cindie White, who grew up in town, has plans for a program for children, who can come to the Old Jelich Ranch and get a "living history" sample of farm life in the Portola Valley that existed long before there was a town.



The tank house needed restoration after a runaway truck damaged it several years ago.

Karen Vahtra photo

A Special Holiday Gift: The Legacy of Open Space

The holidays are approaching. . . . a time when we acknowledge and celebrate the people who make a difference in our lives. Likewise, it is a time for reflection on the many benefits we experience being surrounded by open space.

Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to Portola Valley Open Space Acquisition Fund (PVOSAF) in honor or in memory of someone special or think about adding a bequest to PVOSAF in your will. This gift will last forever! PVOSAF Town Hall 851-1700 x 19.

Thank you from Portola Valley Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee.

The Post Adds Contributor Liaison

The Post announces that Jeanette Thorpe has joined our staff as Contributor Liaison. The challenge of this role is to coordinate article submissions to the Post, and end up with a full and interesting newsletter.

Jeanette and her husband Alan Beltran moved to Portola Valley from Burlingame last spring to be closer to their two horses. Kayla, their Portuguese Water Dog, was added to the family picture soon thereafter. Originally from the east coast, Jeanette likes the small town feel of Portola Valley. In addition to her role with the Post, Jeanette is a software marketing consultant and volunteers at NCEFT and with Environmental Volunteers.



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From The Mayor

I recently had the pleasure of attending a very special Town event. It was a celebration of the opening of our temporary library and occurred only a few months after the county determined that the library building located at Town Center presented too great an earthquake risk to its employees to remain open.

Our community pulled together and used a creative solution to "solve the problem." The School district offered a building that was being used for storage at the Corte Madera School. The County did all they could to supply services to our community during the transition and to support this new location. The Friends of the Library offered money and a great deal of personal energy. Residents contributed to the fund.

The Town Council approved, and Public Works Director and members of the Town staff enabled a rapid upgrade of the building. The opening of the temporary library was a celebration of a wonderful, high energy, "get it done", community partnership and achievement.

As I stood with the school and Town management and staff, with the library management, with the Friends of the Library, with the members of the Town Council and with my fellow residents, I thought about those who are arguing that libraries are no longer required in the age of the Internet - that those who support libraries are just too nostalgic.

I spend more time on my computer than with my loved ones. But the Internet is cluttered with information that is often false – indeed, sometimes just plain junk; it presents every page of information as being equally valid. Libraries, like museums, are custodians of knowledge. Our libraries have collections honed and developed by dedicated and identifiable experts; although not perfect this is a reasonable guarantee of quality and veracity. Of course, Google is a tool available at our library.

Thank you, Portola Valley!

Cable Franchise Renewal Underway

From the Cable TV Committee

A town committee is renewing the cable TV franchise which also provides high speed Internet to much of the community. Since the original fifteen-year franchise in 1991, a host of improvements have arrived from cable modems to HDTV to local programs. The team will look ahead to the next 15 years to plan what should be in the new franchise.

Please help capture community needs by completing and returning the survey in this edition of the Post

In this edition of the PV Post is a survey to help capture community needs. At the same time is an invitation to join the committee – whether for these autumn negotiations or for long term participation. Whether your passion is technology, programming or good customer service, please contact the committee at ca-bletv@portolavalley.net to join in. They meet at 8:30 in the mornings on the second Monday of the month at the old schoolhouse.

Helpful Reminders from Woodside Fire District

Spring forward and fall back; while you take time to change your clock, take time to change the batteries in your smoke/carbon monoxide detectors. Form a habit of doing this whenever you change your clocks; it's a simple task that could end up saving your life.

As we begin preparing and decorating for the holidays, stay conscious about fire safety. Never leave burning candles unattended, and don't place them too close to anything that could catch on fire, or knock the candle over. Replace old Christmas lights with brand new ones, and make sure they are UL listed. Throw away any old decorations, as they tend to be more flammable than newer ones.

Remember, fire season isn't over. It is not too late to ensure that your roof and gutters are clear of debris, and that you have created a "defensible space" around your home. Also, have your chimney cleaned by a licensed professional, creosote build-up can combust, so ensure that your fireplace is clean before you spark it up.

Have a safe fall, and take the necessary steps to prevent any unnecessary fires. Contact Public Education Officer Selena Brown at 650-851-1594 or stop by Station 7 located at 3111 Woodside Road for more info.

Grandparents Day at Woodside Priory

By Carolyn Dobervich, Woodside Priory

Some 130 grandparents visited the Woodside Priory School campus on October 17 for an annual and beloved tradition – spending the morning with their grandchild /children.

Following Chapel, visits, and academic presentations, they shared lunch served outdoors on a patio and in a small redwood grove. Alice Jones, grandmother of Portola Valley resident and Priory freshman Dan Berman, won the prize for coming the longest distance—from Falmouth, Maine.



Prize winners Alice Jones and Dan Berman, a Portola Valley freshman

C. Dobervich photo

Bill and Jean Lane—Together

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a place to settle, it was Jean who found the lot in Westridge, where they live today. They later bought two more lots, when “land was cheap”. Perhaps it was destiny – as Bill recalls camping as a Boy Scout near a still existing spring just above the property he and Jean would one day own. “Back in those days, Westridge was part of the old Mac-Donough Ranch,” Bill said, “I remember when our neighbor, Harry Conley, leased a portion of Jasper Ridge from Stanford for grazing cattle. I helped him round them up.” His family moved to Palo Alto from Burlingame in 1934. Bill later went to Paly High and Stanford.

Jean grew up with an innate appreciation for the natural world. “When I moved west, there was a whole new group of native trees and plants to learn about.” said Jean with an enthusiasm that remains sharp even after years of study. From their living room window, she points to a beautiful Coastal Live Oak outside. “My father chose that tree for us when we first moved into the house. ‘You’re going to need some shade in the patio’ he said, and purchased a native tree that he thought would do well there.” The tree stands now in the perfect spot to shade the house without blocking the view. Only a naturalist’s eye could have envisioned how it would look 50 years later.



They shared what was once the view from only their front yard and worked to ensure that it is a view for all of us to enjoy

Marti Tedesco photo

For Bill and Jean, their love of open space and the western hills is almost palpable. “Open space for us was not a crusade,” they both agreed, “It is a way of life to share with our whole community.” Plans are now underway to create a Conservation Easement on their property, thus permanently preserving more open space in the Town.

The Lanes then set out to build a family home with a spectacular view of Windy Hill. They worked with famed designer, Cliff May -- who had designed the award-winning headquarters for *Sunset* Magazine, Books, and Films in Menlo Park. Their home is a residential icon blending into the western hills. In January, 1957 they moved in when their first child was three months old. Two more children soon followed. Their family was influenced by Bill and Jean’s parents who instilled in them their love of the home and family, and protecting the environment. Outdoor activities such as camping, gardening and horseback riding were a part of the Lane family lifestyle. In the early days, they took their kids swimming at Searsville Lake, where Bill swam as a young boy. They consider themselves lucky that their children remain close by. Two of them live in the area and one in northern California. Bill and Jean have four horses on their property and Bill recently rode with the color guard to open the beautifully restored Red Barn Equestrian Center at Stanford. Bill led the campaign to save The Red Barn in the early 1980s. “Horses have always been important to the town of Portola Valley. As a post-

Gold Rush ranching community, they were critical for transportation when “horse power” was just that, and later as a way to get to the railroads, and to move people and goods.

Today the riding and walking trails throughout the Town act as a system of linear parkways that run all over the Valley connecting with Woodside’s trail system and helping to preserve open space and rural, natural beauty,” said Bill. “We are not a gated community. We are more like a regional environmental asset – a place where hikers, bikers, church goers, and team sport enthusiasts all come to play.” Back at home, their garden grows corn, berries, pumpkins and citrus fruits that thrive under Jean’s guidance. The grandchildren like to join her at harvest time.

The extension of the nuclear family to the world outdoors makes Bill and Jean Lane unique. Their connection to nature is so organic that their property has been designated an official Wildlife Habitat by the World Wildlife Federation. This easy association to the natural world has complimented the Lanes’ involvement with numerous organizations including Filoli and the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve.

At both places Bill and Jean have held executive board positions and Jean has been a docent for many years. Jean’s knowledge of the native plants and animals of Jasper Ridge is extensive.

As a part of Stanford University land, it is clearly one of her favorite places.

“We docents study the natural environment and its history so that we can share it with others. The best season is spring because there are so many native species,” she explained. Bill added, “Stanford’s vast 8,200 acre Palo Alto Stock Farm still sets an example for preserving open space.”

Jean derived a lot of her experience and satisfaction through the years as a founding member of the Westridge Garden Club. Over 45 years ago, she founded the club with Bill’s mother Ruth Lane, Louis Curtis and three others to teach people about the native plants and what they can do for the environment.

With their family and the town of Portola Valley growing, Bill saw an opportunity in those early days to protect the land that he had grown up knowing so well. I asked him if he knew what he was getting into when he joined others in the effort to incorporate the town of Portola Valley later in 1964.

“We all wanted more local control over the town. Our vision was for a town governed by people who live here and are committed to maintaining the open space and the rural

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Andreas Fault. As most locals know, the Town Center was the site of the former Portola Valley School, which was closed in 1976. Current plans focus on maintaining an open space feeling with a group of buildings in the northwest corner of the 11+ acre site. The new plan includes a town hall, an expanded library, activity rooms, and a community hall of about 4,000 square feet. These buildings are grouped around a central plaza. The Town Center will also keep its baseball and soccer fields and paved courts for tennis or other sports. Like many other local public spaces, not much has been done to the facility in the last 50 years. As such, much thought, discussion and analysis are going into the renovation process to ensure that the Town does the right thing for the next half century.

These projects come after significant renovations at both Corte Madera and Ormondale Schools. Two bonds totaling \$23M have been passed in recent years to fund retro-

Finally, another large project underway is the reconstruction of the Ladera Shopper – the southern gateway to Portola Valley. While it does not lie within the town’s borders, it is an important stopping place for many in the



Residents and strangers offered lots of suggestions and advice for improving the Ladera Shopper

Karen Vahtra photo

A newly constructed portion of Portola Valley School in the late 1950s



fitting, new roofs, heating and ventilating systems, interior finishes, restrooms, electrical systems and exterior paint at both sites. Corte Madera also received a new library-technology center, a classroom building for fourth and fifth grades and dedicated classrooms for art, science, Spanish, music and a conference/meeting room. A new classroom wing also was added at Ormondale to house two classrooms, art, science, meeting rooms and student restrooms. Both schools now look beautiful and construction is complete. Finally, both of our local athletic clubs Alpine Hills Swim and Tennis Club and Ladera Oaks are in the process of updating or improving their facilities as well.

Valley. “There is no record of any significant upgrades to the buildings of the Shopper since it was built,” said Eric Willis of Willis Management Group, the new owner and manager of the Center. “My partners and I looked at the Shopper as having a long term, stable future. All that was needed was to make sure we got the buildings and parking lot into good physical shape,” he said. Yet this project is unlike any other property Willis has ever managed. From the very beginning of the project he was approached by community members and strangers offering suggestions and advice. “It was clear that any architectural change (to the Center) was sacrilegious. People want improvements but they are anxious to keep the sense of community and familiarity of the Shopper.” While inconvenient at the moment, the Shopper looks to be headed in the right direction to achieve a delicate blend of heritage and renewal.

By upgrading our schools, businesses, retirement center, government center and libraries it seems that we have covered the major areas needed to ensure a solid footing for the future. Why the change? Well, all things age, and the infrastructure of our town is old enough to deserve some care and attention. Have we done the right thing? Only time will tell, but after thorough, thoughtful planning, it seems likely then that these new facilities will serve us just as well or better than their predecessors.

Join the Community Events Committee

Did you enjoy the Town Picnic, Blues & Barbecue, and the Volunteer Holiday Party? Want to help make next year's events even more fun? Do you have ideas for new events? Then join the Community Events Committee!

We're a small group of volunteers - but we like to put on a good party. This year the Town Picnic was attended by at least 600 members of our community - and Blues & Barbecue drew a crowd of almost 1,000 while raising a record-breaking \$65,000 (approx.) for open space.

This is an opportunity for you to meet your neighbors, have fun and at the same time benefit your community. If you are interested in participating or you have questions, please contact Community Events Committee chairs, Liz Sweeney (851-4553) or Sharon Driscoll (529-1569).

A Brief History of the Town Center Project

By Nancy Lund, Town Historian

The history of the Town Center project is a shining example of the volunteer spirit that has long animated Portola Valley. The process that led to the current decisions about Town Center actually began ten years ago, in 1995. It has involved thousands of hours of discussions among the Town Council, Planning Commission, Architecture and Site Control Commission (ASCC), standing Town committees, *ad hoc* committees and town-wide meetings.

When the Town Council realized that remodeling and maintenance were needed at the aging buildings of Town Center in 1995, they created an ad hoc Town Center Facilities Committee. This group made recommendations about necessary improvements such as Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and space allocations. A master plan was created for such changes as adding ADA restrooms and building an emergency services/shop facility.

Then in 1998, *el niño* demolished upper Alpine Road, and Town Center plans were put on hold as all energies were directed to that \$9 million reconstruction project.

In 1999, with the road secure, a new ad hoc committee of residents again called the Town Center Facilities Committee evaluated four separate ideas, and it was decided to rebuild the buildings in two phases but basically in the same locations. This plan involved demolishing several buildings and rebuilding them. At this point, before finalizing the plan, the Town Council ordered geologic reviews of the site and created an *ad hoc* Fault Setback Committee. The studies made the determination that the site of the buildings was far more dangerous than anyone had realized. Thus, back to the drawing board.

In 2002 the ad hoc Town Center Location Committee evaluated eleven possible sites for a town center. After extensive study and town-wide hearings, the current location was determined best. Resident/geologist members of the Town Geologic Safety Committee concurred with the results of the

geologic studies and that the site at the tennis courts was safe from ground rupture.

On April 8, 2003, a Town Center Project Public Workshop provided information, heard concerns and led to the creation of the Town Center Citizens' Advisory Committee. Everyone who wished to join was made a committee member. Subcommittees researched issues of possible locations and financing and filed individual reports.

After digesting all this information, the Town Council determined to rebuild Town Center at the tennis court site and reproduce all the existing features, e.g., the library and classrooms. Then in the summer of 2004 came the "Community Design Charrette" process, a series of four planning sessions to which all residents were individually invited; more than 200 community members participated at some point. From that came guidance for the architectural team.

Since then residents have continued to provide input at countless meetings. A Landscape, Open Space and Athletics Committee, consisting of members of the Conservation and Parks and Recreation committees, has met to discuss site development. Another group of residents has met to discuss the "green" environmental features of the plans. Friends of the Portola Valley Library have participated in planning the new library. The Planning Commission and ASCC have held joint meetings to be updated and offer comments to the Council and architects, most recently October 10, 2005.

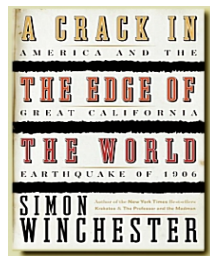
Opportunities to participate continue to exist for residents as planning continues. For more detail, go to the Portola Valley website, www.portolavalley.net and click on "Town Center Improvement Project." There you will find the site plan, a detailed timeline, and numerous documents that have led to Town Council decisions. Everyone, as always, is welcome. You may always contact any councilmember for a one-on-one discussion. Or check with the chairperson of your neighborhood association to see if or when a discussion session is scheduled.

Opportunities to participate continue to exist for residents as planning continues

PV in the National Spotlight for Dubious Reasons

Portola Valley was highlighted in an article by George F. Will in the Washington Post on October 11. In "Whistling Past the Fault Line" Will spotlights a new book, "[A Crack in the Edge of the World: America and the Great California Earthquake of 1906](#)" concluding that author and geologist Simon Winchester is actually reminding us that Americans should be concerned about the "incurably unstable ground" on which many of us live. Winchester cites Portola Valley as an example and states that he is fasci-

nated by "humankind's insistent folly in living in places where they shouldn't."



In response to Mr. Winchester, we point

out that (1) large numbers of PV residents have organized community disaster response teams and regularly rehearse disaster scenarios, (2) Town staff, elected officials, and interested members of the public have just done a three-day intensive training (10/13-15) on emergency response, and (3) we've done the responsible thing of getting the library and Town Hall off that segment of the San Andreas Fault that runs through Town Center. We're getting ready for the big one.

Bill and Jean Lane—Together

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nature of the Valley,” he replied. With that began a lifetime of work to incorporate the town and to help pass numerous ordinances that protected homeowner’s rights and the rural character of the Valley. “There were many late nights at town council meetings.”

One of our first actions was to adopt a slope density ordinance which gave us the open space needed to continue to permit riding trails on private land. It also recognized that we live on or near the San Andreas Fault and that steep hillsides are prone to slides in earthquakes,” he explained. While his name is often associated with the founding of the town and its basic principles, Bill is quick to clarify that nothing happens without an extensive group of volunteers and involved citizens. “Volunteer governments need back up” he said. “Behind the public faces of town council members and mayors are all the volunteers who support them.”

“Behind the public faces of town council members and mayors are all the volunteers who support them.”

He also stressed the importance of working with neighboring communities like Woodside, Stanford University and San Mateo County. “Woodside and Portola Valley have both had a major influence on the entire area with our vision for open space.

We are blessed that we are surrounded by open space with Stanford land and Jasper Ridge wrapping around a large portion of our common boundary. The POST (the Peninsula Open Space Trust) protected Windy Hill, private ranches and other large land holdings insulate us from the west. We’ve traveled all over the world and there is no other suburban area like ours near a large metropolitan development. It takes many people who share a passion for maintaining open space to do this. At the same time, we recognize that there will be changes. Some of these changes come merely with the passage of time and generations,” he concluded.

From The Schools

By Anne Campbell, Superintendent

The new school year is off to a rousing start, with 673 students attending Ormondale and Corte Madera. Principals Joel Willen and Eva Gal report that students and staff have had a great beginning to a school year that promises to be a busy one!

A major focus for this year will be developing a new strategic plan for the school district. A planning committee composed of parents, staff, and community members is hard-at-work developing the new strategic plan. To learn more about this important work, visit the District’s web-site at www.pvsd.net and click on the “Strategic Planning” link. Your thoughts about future directions for the school district are most welcome and can be shared by visiting the web-page’s e-forum link.

The Lanes also look to educate younger generations about both the natural world and history. They want to share a sense of heritage with younger people. As Westerners, they thought their kids were missing an opportunity in elementary school to learn more about our country’s roots in Colonial America and the western expansion in the 1800s. Thus, they sent three local teachers to Colonial Williamsburg to study colonial life, the Lewis & Clark expedition and early clipper ships from the east coast. From that effort, the Portola Valley schools instituted Colonial Days many years ago which continue today. “At one point, kids could ride their horses to Ormondale School once a year,” Jean mentioned. Bill is quick to follow by adding, “It is important that the next generation understand and appreciate our history. It fosters a community feeling and in this case, helped our kids to tie the American West to the Colonial East.”

After many years together, many experiences and many travels, Bill and Jean Lane’s mutual resume is long and

impressive. Sitting with them was both an honor and a privilege. After sharing a few stories about growing up with their kids and places and people we knew in Portola Valley, it was time to go.

But what I really wanted to know as we began to close our interview was this “What was their all time favorite place in Portola Valley?” They looked at each other briefly and said “Well, right here, this view of Windy Hill from our family home!” Such a simple, obvious answer for two people who have built a life and a vision that is the envy of many. They still live in the house they built some 50 odd years ago, and they have protected that place in a way that helped to shape a culture, a town enjoyed by others, and a family that embodies their most basic passions and beliefs.

They shared what was once the view from only their front yard and worked to ensure that it is a view for all of us to enjoy. Their effort provides for an ecology that can sustain

October brings the traditional Gold Rush week for Corte Madera fourth graders as well as the annual Halloween Parade at Ormondale. November brings a new event to the school district – the First Annual Turkey Trot – a 5K and 10K Walk/Run event slated for Saturday morning, November 19th, at Ormondale. Contact the Ormondale office for race registration details.

The District is pleased to report that the Annual Performance Indicators (API) for California’s schools were recently released and our local schools have performed admirably. Based upon a perfect score of 1,000, the API measures performance levels of California’s schools. Ormondale received an API of 949 and Corte Madera’s was 935. This places them among California’s top-performing schools. Students and staff are to be congratulated for a job well done!

Sheriff Pinpoints Some Hot Spots

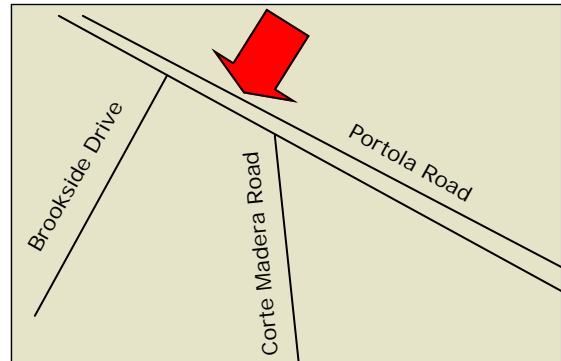
From The Traffic Committee

Help us keep the roads of Portola Valley as rural as the vistas. Several places pose problems as folks try to speed, pass on the right or accelerate through neighborhoods, especially during the commute hours.

One danger area occurs along Portola Road during the morning hours as students cross at the crosswalk, but some drivers have been passing on the right on the shoulder and through the crosswalk. The Sheriff is ticketing all violators to prevent a fatality. Please don't pass on the right. You may also see some traffic cones out as we try to calm down this spot. Drivers accelerating up Corte Madera Road also endanger pedestrians and cyclists so the deputy will be on patrol here as well both by car and on motorcycle.

This stretch of Portola Road will get even more challenging with construction ahead for the Priory, Sequoias and side streets in this area. If alternate routes are available such as taking Portola Road to Sand Hill/280, that may ease the morning crunch on traffic. If this path is the only route, please allow extra time.

Established by the Town Council in 1969, the Traffic Committee meets on the first Thursday at 8:15 am in the Historic Schoolhouse and works with the Sheriff's Department, the Public Works Director and residents to advise the Council about automobile, bicycle, equine, and pedestrian traffic issues and solutions. Visitors and prospective committee members are welcome to participate any time. For questions, please email traffic@portolavalley.net



The annual Holiday Party in appreciation of the wonderful committee volunteers we have here in Portola Valley will take place on December 9th. Please mark your calendars-details will follow.



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