

## EAST PALO ALTO

### Ravenswood High site under dispute

The abandoned Ravenswood High School site in East Palo Alto, once envisioned as a city center and community park, may be converted to housing.

However, a dispute between the city and the Sequoia Union High School District could prevent development.

After rezoning the 30-acre site as open space, the city bought it in January 1986, for \$1.8 million, intending to build a civic headquarters.

At last Tuesday's City Council meeting, City Manager Stan Hall presented the council with a plan to offer Sequoia an additional \$1.2 million to gain the right to build housing on the site.

The additional payment would compensate the district for the loss of a \$3.7 million offer it had from a developer before the site was rezoned for open space.

Council members balked.

"We already bought it once — now they want to hold us up for another \$1.2 million," Councilwoman Barbara Mouton said. "We will not pay one more cent."

Councilwoman Pat Johnson said, "It was a bad buy, a bad decision. The victims are the taxpayers of East Palo Alto."

Hall stressed that the money — to be paid over several years — should not be considered part of the purchase price.

The school district filed a suit after East Palo Alto rezoned the site in December 1983 and would proceed with the suit if the city now attempts to build on the site, said Sequoia Superintendent Merle Fruehling.

### Vines new mayor in East Palo Alto

After operating for seven weeks without a mayor, the East Palo Alto City Council selected Bill Vines as mayor last Tuesday night.

Vines, who was the top vote-getter in April, became mayor after less than five months on the council.

"I guess they had confidence in what I was doing and wanted to continue that," Vines said.

"Two people have confidence that I can do a reasonable job, and I suppose the other people will at some point have that confidence," he said after the meeting. "At least that's my hope."

Former Mayor John Bostic, who was ousted from the mayoral post in July after pleading no contest to misdemeanor election fraud charges, was elected vice mayor.

It was an anti-climactic ending to a stormy saga that began July 18 when the council ousted Bostic and former Vice Mayor Warnell Coats before a packed council chambers.

About 80 people attended the meeting, but it was not marked by the angry exchanges that accompanied the ousters.

Council members did not discuss the votes, and the whole process was over in five minutes, as both Vines and Bostic were elected by 3-2 margins.

Council members Barbara Mouton, Bostic and Vines voted for Vines; council members Pat Johnson and Coats voted against him.

## WOODSIDE

### One year given to find new offices

Trustees of the Woodside School District have given town officials one year to seek a new location for