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# Park Theater alternative rejected

### Menlo Park resident not giving up

BY BANKS ALBACH

As the Menlo Park City Council considers its only standing option to restore the Park Theater a controversial proposal

requiring a heap of city funds the wings for a chance to buy the theater and restore it himself.

Tom Hilligoss' brief attempt in early October to counter the pro-

a longtime resident is waiting in asking the city to buy the theater for \$1.4 million, was shot down two weeks after the owner, Howard Crittenden, refused to negotiate with Hilligoss.

But that hasn't deterred Hilligoss

"I fully intend to keep a close watch," he said last Monday. "If a chance comes up to buy the property and fulfill my vision, I will

Hilligoss says he would restore the 60-year-old El Camino Real landmark without public funds and turn it into a community theater faster, which is a prerogative for the city council. The 40-year Menlo Park resident said he has fond memories of watching movies at the Park Theater.

He envisions a theater capable

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**ABOVE:** The man responsible for the Silicon Valley Code Camp, Peter Kellner, discusses a new Microsoft technology and the code it requires during the second annual camp Sunday at Foothill College in Los Altos. RIGHT: Dirk Fuchsius, left, a Bay Area developer and entrepreneur, talks with Chris Sims, a speaker at the Silicon Valley Code Camp. Fuchsius was discussing with Sims and others at the camp his new product, a do-it-yourself computer engineering kit contained in the briefcase in front of him.

Ali Sajjadi / **Daily News** 



## City may name plaza after Kings

#### Proposal to honor civil rights icons

BY BANKS ALBACH

After months of discussion and debate, the Palo Alto City Council tonight is poised to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his wife, Coretta Scott King, by naming City Hall's front plaza after the legendary civil rights family.

"It's a good opportunity to keep our values out there and visible in the community,' Mayor Yoriko Kishimoto said Sunday. "Their legacy (has) created a foundation that Palo Alto is definitely proud to build on.

Originally proposed by council members LaDoris Cordell and Peter Drekmeier in February, the move will come before the council tonight as a consent item -- meaning no debate is scheduled -- and is expected to easily move through the nine-member body. In order to discuss the matter, two members would have to pull the item from the consent calendar.

The city's Policy and Services Committee, composed of four council members, voted unanimously in late June to move ahead with the commemoration. If the committee had been split on the idea, it would have come before the council as a regular business item, public comment included.

Already designated a free speech zone since 1968, the plaza is an ideal location to commemorate the Kings' struggle against

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Elections

Look for Candidate Profiles and Stories Running for Your Local City Council and School Board on Sunday Oct. 28th and Sunday Nov. 4th