

PALO ALTO

## Council campaigns get going

Candidates hold kickoff parties, walk streets as wide-open race commences

BY WILL OREMUS

Daily News Staff Writer

Campaign season isn't waiting for the Labor Day weekend to pass in Palo Alto, where candidates in the wide-open city council race are already holding kickoff parties, creating Web sites and walking the streets to meet voters.

Fourteen candidates are angling for five open seats on the nine-member council, and only one of the candidates, Larry Klein, is an incumbent.

Three candidates were scheduled to hold kickoff events this weekend. Karen Holman had hers Friday night and Klein and Dan Dykwel have their parties planned for this afternoon. Gail Price and Nancy Shepherd have announced parties on Sept. 12 and 13, respectively.

Other candidates will eschew kickoff events but are

CANDIDATES, page [A5](#)



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CANDIDATES

ramping up their campaigns in other ways. Leon Leong is one of several candidates with a Web site already online, and he has been walking the streets of the Charleston

Gardens neighborhood to introduce himself. Cory Levens said he's working on a Web site and hopes to have it up sometime next week.

Brian Steen also has an up-to-date Web site, while Tim Gray and Dykwel have sites left over from their 2007 campaigns.

Neighborhood groups have also been setting up events to allow residents to get to know the candidates. The Midtown Residents Association has invited them to its ice cream social at Hoover Park on Sept. 13 from 1 to 4 p.m.. And on Oct. 7, Palo Alto Neighborhoods will hold a candidates forum at the Palo Alto Art Center's auditorium from 7 to 9 p.m.

The election will be Nov. 3. Council members Jack Morton and Yoriko Kishimoto are termed out, and Mayor Peter Drekmeier and Council Member John Barton decided not to run for re-election. Pat Burt, Sid Espinosa, Greg Schmid and Yiaway Yeh have two years remaining in their terms.

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### **MORE INFORMATION**

Palo Alto Neighborhoods, an umbrella group that works with local residents associations, has set up a Web site with information about each of the candidates, including their Web sites and the times and dates of their kickoff events. Visit [www.paneighborhoods.org/](http://www.paneighborhoods.org/) and click on the link for city council candidate information.

From page **A1**

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