



**Atherton's CiCi Bellis, 15, says U.S. Open was 'mind-blowing' experience** | Page 3

# The Almanac

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Section 2



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Catherine "CiCi" Bellis speaks to the press after her first-round victory at the U.S. Open.

## CiCi: 'Mind-blowing' experience

**T**his whole experience has been unbelievable, like mind-blowing," said CiCi Bellis, 15, of Atherton about her becoming the youngest player to win a U.S. Open match since 1996. "It's been crazy. It's been the best couple of days of my life."

On Aug. 26, she stunned the tennis world with a first-round victory over 12th-seeded Dominika Cibulkova at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, N.Y.

In a second round match on Aug. 28, Bellis fell to the No. 48-ranked Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan but it was quite a show for the national media. Bellis won seven straight games in the 6-3, 0-6, 6-2 loss to the 20-year-old Diyas.

In the first-round victory, Bellis rallied from being down a break in the third set for a 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 win. With an overflow crowd at a cozy side court roaring, she broke Cibulkova's serve to clinch the match as she converted six of 11 break points.

**'Believing was the No. 1 thing that I had to do today.'**

CICI BELLIS

Bellis, who earned a wild card as the USTA Girls' 18s national champion, came into the match ranked No. 1,211 in the world.

"Believing was the No. 1 thing that I had to do today," Bellis said in a post-match interview. "Just go out there and believe that you can win. If you do believe, there's two options — you can either believe and lose or believe and win, but if you don't believe, you're going to lose anyway."

Bellis won the USTA Girls' 18s National Championship earlier in August — defeating Tornado Alicia Black in straight sets — to earn a wild card into her first tour-level main draw. She was the youngest champion of that event since Lindsay Davenport also won it at 15 in 1991.

There were plenty of hugs for family and friends after her victory match as Bellis herself appeared to be in disbelief about her accomplishment. She became the youngest player to win a main-draw match at the U.S. Open since Anna Kournikova in 1996, when the then-15-year-old Russian reached the fourth round as a qualifier.

Bellis, who is home-schooled and essentially a high school sophomore, was ranked as the No. 2 junior female tennis player in the world in June. She started the year on a 30-1 tear in the juniors and soared up the rankings after winning two of the most prestigious junior events held in the U.S. — the International Spring Championships (two days before her 15th birthday) and the Easter Bowl (five days afterward).

Bellis played a few futures events in 2014, going 2-4 in the main draw and earning \$799 in winnings (though she's not a professional).

— Palo Alto Online Sports/  
USOpen.org

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## 'They turned my world upside down'

By Barbara Wood

Almanac Staff Writer

James Kristofferson, the Atherton man who in July was barred by court order from his Redwood Way home for a year after town officials had it declared a "drug house," has lost the home in a foreclosure sale, he said.

Mr. Kristofferson said the house, valued on the Zillow real estate website at \$2.4 million, sold at auction on his 57th birthday, Aug. 12, for \$1.9 million. That was slightly over the \$1.8 million he owed the bank. He said he thinks the house, with a little work, could sell for \$3 million.

"They turned my whole world upside down over someone selling \$20 worth of drugs," he said on Thursday, as he worked to salvage as many of his possessions as he could from his home of 11 years.

"It's not anything like they're saying," he said. "I surely didn't deserve to lose my home."

Mr. Kristofferson, his longtime girlfriend Yvette Simmons, and others living in the house were first ordered to move out in a preliminary court ruling on April 25. On July 16, San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Joseph Scott barred Mr. Kristofferson from the house for a year, and ordered him to pay a \$25,000 penalty and \$26,223 in legal fees and abatement costs to the town.

Mr. Kristofferson said he will

appeal the ruling even though he has lost the house because he can't afford the fine.

The town had claimed the home was a "drug house" and the judge's actions are one of the remedies in the law referring to such public nuisances. Atherton City Attorney Bill Connors said a "drug house" is defined in the Health and Safety Code as "a place where illegal drugs are sold, served, manufactured, stored, used, kept, distributed, or given away."

Mr. Kristofferson said he had been in the process of refinancing the house when he had to move out. Since he had been relying on income from renters with whom he was sharing the property, when he could no longer rent out rooms, "I wasn't able to qualify for the loan," he said.

Mr. Kristofferson said his troubles began when a business deal with a Chinese manufacturer of tankless water heaters went sour. He had spent years, and made more than 50 trips to China, getting the water heaters certified for sale in the U.S. and Canada, he said. He was finally ready to begin importing them when the Chinese company told him it would not ship the product unless he renegotiated the contract. "They were using my first order to extort me," he said.

Mr. Kristofferson said he is now deep in a lawsuit against the Chinese company, which he



Photo by Natalia Nazarova/The Almanac

James Kristofferson and his girlfriend Yvette Simmons expressed shock at the condition of their home. They said police left a mess after a warrant search.

is confident he will win. In the meantime, however, to cover his mortgage, he decided to take in renters.

He acknowledges that he had six renters, and since all of them often had overnight visitors, there were as many as 14 people in the house.

One of those renters, who Mr. Kristofferson said had lived for five months in a small guest unit behind the garage, was accused of selling drugs to a police informant while on Mr. Krist-

offerson's property. That led to a raid on the house by the San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force, after which Mr. Kristofferson was arrested on felony charges including possession of methamphetamine for sale and maintaining a house for narcotic use.

The charges against Mr. Kristofferson were reduced to three misdemeanors alleging possession of methamphetamine, concentrated cannabis and drug-use paraphernalia. "The

evidence was not sufficient to prove for Kristofferson or any of the other three defendants that the drug possession was for sale rather than for personal use," San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said.

Mr. Kristofferson and his girlfriend say the drugs they were charged with possessing was medical marijuana a visiting friend had left behind. They had found the paraphernalia buried

Continued on page 6

## Menlo tightens water belt, adopts new restrictions for customers

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

New water restrictions took effect on Thursday, Aug. 28, for all customers of the Menlo Park Municipal Water District.

Complying with the state's mandate, the City Council voted during its Aug. 26 meeting to implement a plan that prohibits:

- Washing noncommercial vehicles unless the hose has an automatic shut-off valve or the washing is done at a facility that uses recirculated water.

- Filling new swimming pools.

- Running ornamental fountains unless the water is recirculated.

- Installing or expanding irrigation systems.

- Creating new water service connections without public works approval.

- Using potable water for dust control.

While the goal is to see a 30 percent reduction in water use as compared to the previous year, residents, as well as several council members, pointed out that requiring everyone to reduce water use by the same percentage could unfairly burden those who already conserve water.

"How are people who are already doing the best they can going to conserve even more?" asked one Louise Street resident.

But the city is also working on revising its water contingency shortage plan and may opt for phased reduction targets instead of a set percentage, according to the staff. The public will be notified of any changes, which would take effect in 90 days.

Penalties for violating the new regulations range from a warning on the first violation to fines of \$50 to \$500 and possible discontinuation of water service upon subsequent violations.

City Attorney Bill McClure said the emphasis will be on penalizing wasteful use rather than failures to meet the reduction target. The plan is "to use the kinder, gentler informative

approach." Staff will also create an outreach plan to educate the public about the new water policies and track enforcement.

While residents questioned the urgency of enacting the new restrictions, the city itself would face fines from the state had the council not implemented the restrictions by Aug. 28, Mr. McClure said.

The state mandate is in effect through the end of April, and may be extended if the drought continues, according to the city's staff.

These changes apply only to the estimated 14,100 customers of the Menlo Park Municipal Water District, although all agencies are required to imple-

ment restrictions. Customers of other water providers, such as Cal Water, may have slightly different regulations to follow.

### Drought-tolerant yard

Anyone looking to keep some greenery in their yard may want to attend a free seminar on drought-tolerant gardening at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, in the council chambers at the Civic Center at 701 Laurel St.

Led by Alane O'Reilly Weber, a longtime master composter and owner of Botanical Arts in San Mateo, the seminar will cover the basics of plants, planting, care and maintenance for a water-efficient garden. ■

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(Woodside location only)



# 'They turned my world upside down'

continued from page 5

in their yard, and it was still covered with dirt from being dug up, they said.

Two of those arrested at the home, Lauren Weil and Robin Vaka, were charged with felony possession counts. The cases are scheduled to be tried in September and October.

Mr. Kristofferson said in addition to losing his home, he will have to abandon many of his belongings because he has been living in a motel and can't afford

much storage space. On Aug. 28, he packed into a rented truck the most valuable of his large collection of art-

works, many passed down from his father, keepsakes such as family photos, and tools from his garage.

While the house was in disarray, which Mr. Kristofferson blamed on the police search, and showed signs of a rodent infestation while sitting empty, it appears to have recently been an upscale dwelling complete with leather furniture, a full wine rack and a dining room with china and crystal ready to be set out.

Mr. Kristofferson said he will probably sell some of his artworks so he can rent a house.

A number of things disappeared from the house while it was empty, Mr. Kristofferson said, including several computers, a large-screen television, a humidor full of fine cigars and many collectibles.

When he was initially kicked out of his home, he said, "we had no clothes, we had no toothbrushes; we had nothing."

A lawsuit against Mr. Kristofferson by the town of Atherton includes a number of allegations in addition to those regarding drugs. It says more than 120 police calls were made to the property, and lists unsafe condi-

tions that caused the house to be red-tagged as unlivable.

Mr. Kristofferson said he had let an old childhood friend move in, and most of the police calls came about after it became apparent that the friend was mentally ill. The friend was asked to move out, he said.

The home was red-tagged, Mr. Kristofferson said, because his power was turned off when he could not pay the bill. He was using car batteries to power a few things through an inverter and extension cords. Other work was under way on the prop-

**'It's not anything like they're saying. I surely didn't deserve to lose my home.'**

erty, including repairing the swimming pool and adding a guest unit to the garage. Most of the items the town

had asked to be repaired were already fixed when he was kicked out of the house, he said.

"I was doing everything they wanted me to do," he said.

Mr. Kristofferson said he has been a licensed contractor since he was 26, but he has not been able to take on many contracting jobs recently because he has to keep traveling to China to deal with the lawsuit.

Hanging on a wall in his former home is a newspaper article from the May 13, 1990, Santa Rosa Press Democrat. The article shows a 32-year-old Mr. Kristofferson standing in front of a home he had built, which was at the time one of the most expensive in Sonoma County. The headline reads: "The House That Jim Built — 21 rms, mtn view, \$2.6 million."

Mr. Kristofferson said he always had good relationships with his Atherton neighbors. "Two of my neighbors are partners in my corporation," he said. "The one across the street I built a house for."

Now, he says, all that has changed.

"Everything's gone," he said. "They just took my world and turned it upside down." ▮

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Photos courtesy Sheldon Breiner

This photo, taken after the 1906 earthquake, shows damage that was caused on Alpine Road in what is now Portola Valley.

## Portola Valley earthquake expert shares his knowledge

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

Portola Valley's Sheldon Breiner, a geophysicist and long-time member of the town's Geologic Safety Committee, hopes local residents were shaken up a little by the Aug. 24 earthquake in Napa County.

That's because Mr. Breiner predicts that a larger earthquake is very likely headed our way.

He says that there is a 60 to 70 percent chance of an earthquake on the San Andreas fault, the one that runs through Woodside and Portola Valley, within the next two decades.

That quake, he says could be as powerful as 8.0 on the moment magnitude scale, which Mr. Breiner explains has replaced but is similar to the previously used Richter scale. Both scales are logarithmic, which means that a 7.0 earthquake is 10 times as powerful as the recent 6.0 Napa County earthquake, and an 8.0 earthquake is 100 times as strong.

Mr. Breiner will share some of his knowledge about earthquakes at a free public talk on Tuesday, Sept. 9, at the Historic Schoolhouse in the Portola Valley Town Center, at 7:30 p.m. The talk is titled "Earthquakes: all you ever wanted to know but were too shaken to ask."

Mr. Breiner says he will explain what causes earth-

Sheldon Breiner will answer questions at a talk in Portola Valley.

quakes, what will happen in an earthquake and why, how earthquakes are observed and measured, and what, if anything, we can do about them.

"If you ever had questions about this important California phenomenon, be there," he says. "Some will get answered."

Mr. Breiner says that modern seismic codes mean many local buildings should escape major damage in an earthquake. Older buildings can be retrofitted to be safer, including by adding things such as triangular bracing, which can withstand the type of shaking caused by an earthquake.

The way that the earth shakes in a quake leads to another of Mr. Breiner's earthquake tips: how to tell how far away the epicenter of a quake is. The first shock in an earthquake is sharp and travels at 2.5 miles per second. The secondary shock travels more slowly, at 1.5 miles per second, he says. Counting or timing the number of seconds between the two shocks and multiplying by 5 results in a rough estimate of how many miles away the earthquake's center is, he says.

Mr. Breiner's tips for pre-

paring for an earthquake, which he has written about in a blog he calls "Fault Lines," include the following:

- Have an emergency first-aid kit, water, food, flashlights, spare batteries and a radio as part of an emergency preparedness kit.

- To avoid tied-up local phone lines, as soon as possible report your status to someone who lives outside the area, and who your friends and family know to also check in with.

- Make sure your water heater is strapped in and a turn-off tool is attached to the outdoor gas meter.

A precaution reinforced by the early morning timing of the recent earthquake is to safeguard your bedroom, where most people spend at least eight hours a day, Mr. Breiner says. "You are more likely to be in bed than any other single place at the time of an earthquake."

Avoid glass-framed or heavy pictures and heavy vases near a bed. Fasten heavy bookcases firmly to the studs in the wall.

Seismic waves, he says, can abruptly move the walls of the room, leaving an unattached bookcase or other heavy object momentarily stationary in space. The abrupt return of the walls could then slam the bookcase across the room causing serious damage.

Keep a flashlight handy near the bed, he says. ■

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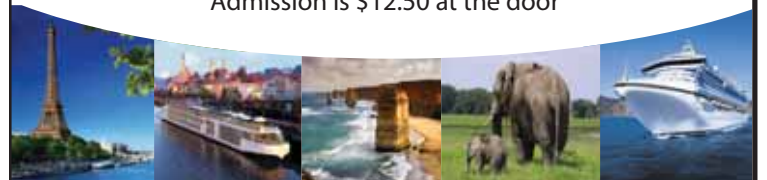
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# Firefighters, too, seek to reduce water use

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

In fighting wildland or structural fires, it's hard to overstate the value of water to firefighters. The drought, of course, is making water more precious than ever, but firefighters say they fight fires in 2014 as they were trained to: using only as much water as necessary.

Firefighters have felt the drought's effect when they're not fighting fires. Training exercises are now using less water, accord-

ing to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Woodside and Menlo Park fire protection districts. Water use is also down at fire stations.

## Woodside district

At Station 8 at 135 Portola Road in Portola Valley, the Woodside fire district recently replaced its grass front lawn with mostly native drought-tolerant and fire-resistant plants. The project budget ranged from \$20,000 to \$35,000, Battalion Chief Jerry Nave told the Almanac.

Had they considered artificial grass? "The reason we did not pursue artificial turf was because of the discussion/disagreement that transpired with the turf proposition at Woodside Priory (in Portola Valley)," Fire Chief Dan Ghiorso said in an email. "I/we felt it was not worth even looking at that option. Staff all agreed that we needed to reduce our water consumption, and at the same time keep the 'look' of the neighborhood we share."

Chief Ghiorso was referring to a contentious 2013 plan to install artificial grass at the soccer field of the Priory, a private Catholic boarding school for grades 6-12. The Planning Commission OK'd the idea by a 3-2 vote, but it was overturned by the Town Council, also on a 3-2 vote. With strong environmental arguments to be made for and against artificial grass, and in a town known for its green ethic, passions were high.

Drought-tolerant fire-resistant landscaping will also replace the lawn at district's Woodside headquarters at 3195 Woodside Road, where irrigation has ended, Mr. Nave said.

The Woodside district, which

serves Portola Valley, Woodside and neighboring unincorporated communities, has cut way back on training exercises that use water, Mr. Nave said. If training does involve water, it's done with recycled water or in an area that needs a good soaking. Water suppliers, including the California Water Service

Company, have told the district not to open fire hydrants for training, he said.

The headquarters has long had a fire-safe garden planted with drought-tolerant and fire-resistant

native plants suitable for home landscaping. It's there to show residents what's possible, Mr. Nave said. The garden was replanted recently, and a smaller fire-safe garden will be going in at the Portola Valley station, he said.

## Menlo Park district

In the Menlo Park fire district, the lawns at five fire stations are green but plastic. Replacing the grass with drought-tolerant plants was considered, but visits by children who like to play on the grass, sometimes with pets, and the need to lay out equipment for cleaning led to the decision to use plastic, Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman and Battalion Chief Frank Fraone said.

Artificial lawns "make the stations look nice," Mr. Fraone said. The district serves Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Atherton and the nearby unincorporated communities. "We have lots of kids at the stations all the time," he added. "We're very pleased with the (new lawns)."

At the main station on Middlefield Road, the plastic grass will be bordered by drought-tolerant plants and crushed rock, Mr. Fraone said. Some previous vegetation, including hydrangeas, has been pulled out and irrigation is limited to survival needs.

As in the Woodside district, Menlo Park has reduced training that relies on water. Exercises that do use water use less of it, Mr. Fraone said. Many exercises are held using a tank system that captures the runoff and recycles it.

In a July report to the board, Chief Schapelhouman recapped water conservation measures. Sightings of spanking clean fire



Photo by Natalia Nazarova/The Almanac

**The grass** is gone from the front of Fire Station 8 in Portola Valley. In its place, to save water and fit in with the environmental ethic in town, are drought-tolerant, fire-resistant, mostly native plants.

engines and staff vehicles will be fewer. No more washing of personal vehicles or concrete at fire stations, and no more fire hydrant flushing.

Hydrant checks must be done with water conservation in mind. The same is true for personal showers, laundry and dish washing. Water use is monitored by station.

## Logging water use

Many steps taken locally are

also in effect at Cal Fire stations around the state, said Scott McLean, a battalion chief for the Northern California branch of Cal Fire. Real grass is out, drought-tolerant vegetation is in, equipment cleaning is less frequent, and personal water use at stations is down.

At one Cal Fire station, firefighters reduced the flow from a storage tank to the point at which bacteria that prefer still water found conditions in the tank

favorable, Mr. McLean said.

During training, firefighting aircraft drawing water from a pond return it to the pond when dumping it.

During wildland firefighting, all water use is monitored and logged, regardless of its source, Mr. McLean said. Nozzle sizes are smaller. In mopping up operations, the emphasis is on digging up soil and adding "a little water" as necessary, he said. ▀



Photo by Natalia Nazarova/The Almanac

**Water will** not be needed to keep this artificial grass green at the headquarters of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District on Middlefield Road in Menlo Park. Water conservation has become a priority for the district, extending deep into daily operations.

# HelloStartups aims to be an incubator and an accelerator

By Tiffany Lam  
Special to the Almanac

HelloStartups, which opened offices in Menlo Park in June, provides office space for about 15 startups at 68 Willow Road, the company says.

The company is a joint venture between BootUp Ventures, which provides business services and advisers, and SOMAcentral, a company that provides office space, according to Mukul Agarwal and Marco ten Vaanholt, managing partners of BootUp Ventures.

The 23,000-square-foot building has 47 private offices that go for \$2,000 to \$4,000 a month. Half of the private offices are already full, Mr. Agarwal said.

But the company wants to provide more than just space, according to Mr. Agarwal and Mr. ten Vaanholt.

“We’re building an ecosystem — a long lasting network,” said Mr. ten Vaanholt, who referred to HelloStartups as not just a startup incubator, but also a full-service “accelerator.”

“We want to provide access to talent, services, partners, customers, and capital,” he said. “The best spaces have teams

surrounding themselves with other teams of the same caliber,” said Mike Dorsey, co-founder of DataFox, a client of HelloStartups and a tenant at 68 Willow Road. “HelloStartups gives us communal space to develop those networks.”

HelloStartups is a complement to BootUp Ventures, which didn’t previously offer office space for its companies, said Mr. Agarwal.

The company also wants to involve companies from outside Silicon Valley.

“We hope to help foreign companies from outside of the U.S.,” said Mr. ten Vaanholt, who referred to the Silicon Valley as a “secret walled garden.”

“HelloStartups will play an important role in enhancing Menlo Park’s already distinguished business community,” said Jim Cogan, economic development manager of Menlo Park. “As we seek to create a diverse and sustainable tax base full of great jobs for Menlo Park residents, these are the types of companies that we need to come here and grow here.”

Given its location between Sand Hill Road and Facebook, the city is expecting great things, said Ray Mueller, mayor of Menlo Park.



Photo by Natalia Nazarova/The Almanac

Mukul Agarwal, left, and Marco ten Vaanholt, managing partners of BootUp Ventures, hold a meeting at the HelloStartups offices in Menlo Park.

Willow Garage, a robotics research lab, formerly occupied the building. Property owner Greenheart Land Company, a development and investment firm, brought in HelloStartups to attract growing companies.

Greenheart is currently seeking approvals for a mixed-use project at 1300 El Camino that would include about 210,000 square feet of office space.

All three companies — Greenheart, Willow Garage and HelloStartups — have the financial backing of former high-level Google employee Scott Hassan. ■

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Photo by Natalia Nazarova/The Almanac

“Telepresence” robots cruise around the HelloStartups building, talking to people and to each other.

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# Belle Haven residents praise changing face of neighborhood

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

I cannot tell you the number of people who tried to persuade me not to buy a house in the neighborhood," Joellen McGruder, who bought a home in Belle Haven in 2011, told the Menlo Park council on Aug. 26. "And indeed within a month after I'd been there, there was a drive-by shooting and at least two gun incidents within a two block radius. But now, she has seen the community change "tremendously."

Those changes are coming about thanks to a collaboration between residents, the city and local nonprofits and other business partners as the Belle Haven action plan kicks into high gear.

Even after only six months of action, Belle Haven is experiencing a rejuvenation of spirit as the plan, first approved by the council one year ago, has shifted from identifying goals to reaching them.

As might be discerned from Ms. McGruder's comments, improving public safety is a top

priority.

The new police substation and neighborhood service center on Hamilton Avenue opened in April. The city also launched a youth diversion and truancy program under the coordination of a police officer based at the substation. According to Community Services Manager Derek Schweigart, 25 families have already been referred for help through the diversion program.

The residents have also stepped up, finding 11 neighborhood watch captains and forming a public safety action team, which has tackled projects such as creating a "who to call for city services" list and fixing problems with street lighting.

Dennis Bower, who has lived in Belle Haven for about four years and now serves as one of the 18 members of the public safety team, said the recent infusion of resources has helped his community feel like a part of Menlo Park despite being on the other side of U.S. 101.

"I've seen many changes, most of them in the last year,"

Mr. Bower told the council. "All of these are beginnings" with room to grow, he said. "With the City Council's continued support, I see only good things for our community ahead."

The city has also convened 32 gatherings in Belle Haven during the past six months, according to Mr. Schweigart, prompting complaints of "too many meetings," although residents seem pleased at the results. The events included three neighborhood cleanups and four community dialogues involving city staff, police officers and residents.

While Menlo Park has allocated \$253,000 in funding for the first two years of the Belle Haven action plan, other community partners have chipped in as well: Facebook funded the full-time police officer position at the substation, and the Belle Haven Community Development fund awarded \$13,000 in mini-grants to 18 residents, who proposed projects from improving the "curb appeal" of their homes and neighborhood to hosting events such as

National Night Out.

The Rotary Club has come forward with a proposal to create a community garden, and Mr. Schweigart said the lease agreement should go to the council for approval in September.

Belle Haven resident Vicky Robledo said that thanks to all of the community engagement, she's "seeing neighbors become friends. ... We've had a lot of meetings and we've complained, but we've also developed a lot of relationships."

After listening to the update on the action plan during their Aug. 26 meeting, council members expressed their gratitude for the community's "inspiring" participation and hoped that the momentum continued.

The new and improved Belle Haven may even set the standard for other Menlo Park neighborhoods. Councilman Peter Ohtaki said he wants to replicate the action plan across the city to create that "sense of belonging" in every community. ■

## Cafe Zoe holds uniform drive

By Tiffany Lam  
Special to the Almanac

Cafe Zoe in Menlo Park is holding its annual school uniform drive to help provide uniforms for students at Willow Oaks School on Willow Road.

The school has 613 students enrolled in kindergarten through the eighth grade. Every year for about five years, Cafe Zoe has accepted donations to purchase school uniforms, which are required, for students without the financial resources to buy them.

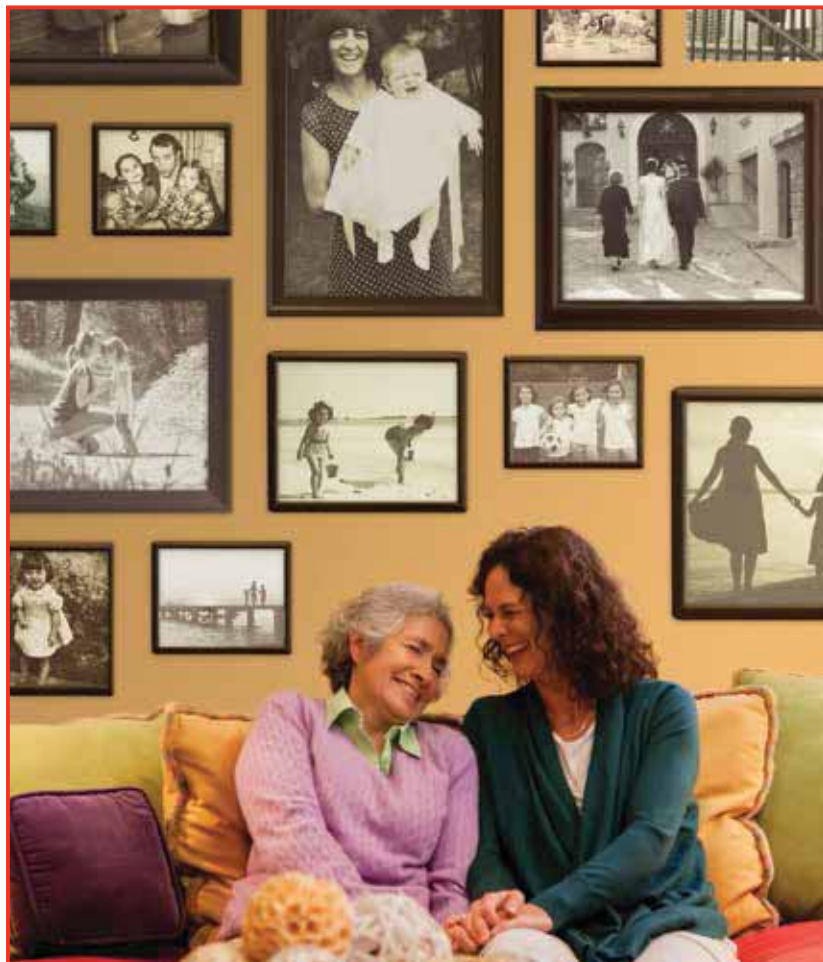
"The school found it to be a hardship for some kids to have

a uniform or maybe just a second shirt," said Kathleen Daly, the cafe's owner. "The extra closet of uniforms purchased made a difference."

Willow Oaks School is a few blocks from the cafe, which is at 1929 Menalto Ave. "And the cafe community is one of the most generous groups of people I have ever known," Ms. Daly said.

A donation of \$20 buys one uniform. The drive has raised \$980 so far, and will continue until mid-September, according to Ms. Daly.

"But if they need more, we will keep going," she said. ■



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## Your Child's Health UNIVERSITY

### ✍ Mothers of Sons: The Joys and Challenges of Guiding Your Son through Adolescence

Tuesday, October 7: 7 – 8:30 pm — Robert Lehman, MD, co-creator of the “Heart to Heart” program will host an evening just for mothers of adolescent sons. This seminar is a primer for mothers on the changes a boy experiences in adolescence and how mothers can help guide them.

### ✍ Preventative Hip Care for Children and Adolescent Athletes

Wednesday, October 8: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm — Please join us as Dr. Stephanie Pun, Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Stanford Medicine discusses the impact of muscle and tendon pulls on hips and walking and the warning signs of a hip at mechanical risk for failure. This is a free seminar however spaces are limited. RSVP's are recommended and can be made at [www.classes.stanfordchildrens.org](http://www.classes.stanfordchildrens.org).

### ✍ Pediatric Weight Control Program

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Call (650) 724-4601 or visit [calendar.lpch.org](http://calendar.lpch.org) to register or obtain more information on the times, locations and fees for these and other courses.



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Woodside Elementary School's new principal, Pamela Duarte, greets Laura, on the first day of school on Aug. 27.

## Woodside Elementary adds new principal

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

Beth Polito, hired by the one-school Woodside Elementary School District three years ago as its superintendent as well as its principal, will have one less role to juggle this year.

Superintendent Polito has now taken principal off her title. This summer the school's governing board approved promoting Steve Frank from assistant principal to principal of Woodside's grade 6-8 middle school, and the hiring of Pam Duarte as principal of transitional kindergarten to fifth grade at the school.

Woodside Elementary has 440 students from transitional kindergarten to eighth grade.

Ms. Polito was given a new contract by the district this year, noting the change in title but with no change in salary from the contract approved by the board last year. Her salary this year will be \$203,262.52. The new contract goes through 2017 and includes a minimum 3 percent increase each year.

Mr. Frank is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, with a master's degree in educational administration from Santa Clara University. He was a Woodside middle school social studies teacher

for nine years and has been an assistant principal for five years. In addition to his middle school duties, Mr. Frank will continue to oversee school safety and assessments for the entire school.

Ms. Duarte is from the Cupertino Union School District, where she had worked for 23 years in numerous roles, most recently as a kindergarten to grade 5 assistant principal. She has a bachelor's degree from Bethany College, a master's degree from Santa Clara University, and an administrative services credential from National University in San Jose.

Superintendent Polito said that Mr. Frank did not receive a raise with his new title and that Ms. Duarte will be paid a \$120,235 salary prorated to 11 months, plus benefits, for a total cost to the district for the additional administrator in 2014-2015 of \$140,605.

“I feel like everyone's going to get the attention they deserve — the teachers, the students, the families,” Ms. Polito said. “We were just spread way too thin.”

Other administrators at Woodside include Robin Wasco, chief business official, and Katherine Peterson, student services director.

Go to [tinyurl.com/chart827](http://tinyurl.com/chart827) to see the district's new organization chart in a PDF document. ▀

## Council opts for yield signs on Wallea

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Despite the strong recommendations of transportation staff and the majority of the Transportation Commission for stop signs, the Menlo Park City Council voted 3-2 to install yield signs on Wallea Drive instead.

During the Aug. 26 council meeting, several residents who live near the street's two intersections with San Mateo Drive, where the signs will go up, argued in favor of the yield signs on the basis that there had never been an accident to justify requiring a full stop.

As far back as 2007, transportation staff had recommended stop signs. Limited visibility into the intersection made yield signs inappropriate, according to the staff report, which concluded: "Even though there were no reported collisions at these two intersections for the three-year period between September 2003 and September 2006, there had been reports of near collisions at the southerly end of Wallea Drive at San Mateo Drive from residents as well as from drivers."

Interim Public Works Director Jesse Quirion told the council that the recommendation had not changed over the years. "It's still a stop sign," he said.

The council briefly discussed

and quickly discarded a suggestion that both stop and yield signs be installed, which Mr. Quirion noted would be "too confusing."

Vice Mayor Catherine Carlton, who said she'd originally leaned toward yield signs, changed her mind, asking how drivers could yield without a clear view of what they were yielding to. Ms. Carlton and Mayor Ray Mueller cast the two dissenting votes.

Councilman Rich Cline, vot-

ing with the majority, noted that he had heard the issue discussed before, and said he thought there wasn't the same lack of visibility now as in 2007.

A few days after the meeting, interim Transportation Manager Nicole Nagaya said installation of the yield signs should occur within a few weeks. "The decision was the City Council's to make, and while staff's recommendation differed, we respect their decision and are moving forward." ■



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#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING and NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT THE

#### INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION and 2014 - 2022 HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Atherton Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider recommending City Council adoption of a Negative Declaration and recommending City Council adoption of an amendment to the Atherton General Plan, Housing Element Update 2014-2022.

**Description:** The Project is an update of the Atherton General Plan Housing Element for the planning period 2014-2022. The Housing Element revisions include update of population, employment and housing data, update of inventory of land suitable for residential development, analysis of constraints to the provision of housing, analysis of groups with special housing needs and proposed programs to facilitate the development of new housing.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that an Initial Study and draft Negative Declaration have been prepared for the above described project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. A copy of these documents is available for public review at the Atherton Town Hall, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA beginning August 27, 2014. The public review period is from August 27, 2014 to September 16, 2014.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that said application is set for hearing by the Planning Commission at a special meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall of the Town of Atherton, at which time and place all persons interested may appear and show cause, if they have any, why the Negative Declaration should not be recommended to the City Council or why the General Plan Amendment (Housing Element Update 2014-2022) should not be recommended to the City Council.

**IF YOU CHALLENGE** the Negative Declaration or General Plan Amendment in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

For further particulars, reference is made to the application on file. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0560 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

ATHERTON PLANNING COMMISSION

/s/ Lisa Costa Sanders  
Lisa Costa Sanders, Town Planner

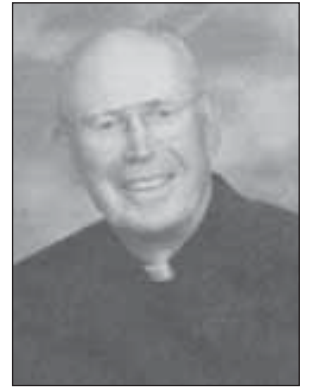
## Rev. Clement A. Davenport

August 19, 1924 - August 19, 2014

Ordained to the priesthood on  
December 18, 1948

Services As Follows:

Vigil (Rosary) Sunday 8/24 at  
6:30 pm - Nativity Church  
Funeral Mass Monday 8/25 at  
11 am - Nativity Church  
Burial Tuesday 8/26 at 10 am -  
Holy Cross Cemetery, Colma



As many of you are aware, Fr. Clement Arthur Davenport died on August 19, 2014, on his 90th birthday.

He was born in Oakland to Clement Joseph and Mina Poston Davenport. He and his brothers William and Walter attended Saint Joseph Grammar School in Berkeley. Art went on to Saint Joseph's College in Mountain View before entering Saint Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. Fr. Art was ordained by Archbishop John J. Mitty on December 18, 1948 at Saint Mary's Cathedral, and celebrated his First Solemn Mass at Saint Joseph's Church in Berkeley. Initially assigned to Holy Name of Jesus Church, he was commissioned a Chaplain with the U.S. Army on June 6, 1950, and was called to active duty in Korea with the 820th Aviation Engineer Battalion in 1952. Fr. Davenport completed a year in Korea, serving the men of the Forty-Fifth Division, 279th Infantry Regiment and returned to the Archdiocese and an assignment at Saint Bernard Church in Oakland. Fr. Davenport was appointed to Saint Philip Church in San Francisco in 1958, and later that year began two years of service as Chaplain at Saint Mary's Hospital in San Francisco. On June 17, 1960, Fr. Art was appointed as Associate Pastor of Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park where he served for five years until being assigned to Saint Thomas the Apostle Church, where he also served as Chaplain at the Veteran's Administration Hospital at Fort Miley. In September, 1966 Fr. Davenport was recalled to active duty in the Army with the rank of Major, and was stationed in Vietnam as Brigade Chaplain for the First Infantry Division. He and his nine assistant chaplains ministered to approximately 30,000 men. Fr. Davenport was awarded the bronze star with three oak leaf clusters for acts of bravery, two air medals, two Army commendations, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He retired from the military in February 1971 as an Army Chaplain with the rank of full Colonel, remaining in the Active Reserve. In April, 1971, Fr. Davenport was given his first pastorate, at Saint Peter Parish in Pacifica.

Fr. Davenport was named Pastor of Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park in 1976. During his years there, he also ministered as Adjunct Chaplain to the San Francisco 49ers. In 1999, after serving at Church of the Nativity for 23 years, Fr. Davenport retired. He resided at Saint Matthew Parish for six years and then returned to live in retirement at Church of the Nativity. In 2013, Father moved to Nazareth House in San Rafael.

Your letters of condolence may be sent to the Davenport family in care of Father Art's niece, as follows:

Mina Davenport  
c/o Church of the Nativity  
2100 Oak Grove Avenue  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

If you wish to make a donation in Fr. Davenport's memory, contributions can be made to the Archdiocese of San Francisco's Priests' Retirement Fund or to Nativity Church.

Arrangements entrusted to John O'Connor Menlo Park Funerals. - See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sfgate/obituary.aspx?n=clement-davenport&pid=172216023#thash.2LlrlcVg.dpuf>

PAID OBITUARY

## Mike Scanlon plans to retire

After 15 years leading San Mateo County's transit operations, Michael Scanlon has decided to retire.

"Mike saw all of the possibilities and challenges facing SamTrans as it made the leap from a smaller operator to an important component of the Peninsula commute," said state Sen. Jerry Hill, a former member of the SamTrans and Caltrain boards who participated in hiring Mr. Scanlon.

"He was instrumental in the creation of Caltrain's Baby Bullet express service and the reauthorization of Measure A, to fund roads, highways and public transportation projects throughout the county."

Mr. Scanlon has more than 50 years' experience in the public transportation industry. The date his retirement will take effect remains to be determined, according to SamTrans.

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**“February at Allied Arts”** by Carolyn Jones (oil on gessoed board, 12x16”, 2011) is an example of the transparent oil technique, capturing the stimulating mood of a cold February morning. It is one of the landscapes in her September show at the Portola Art Gallery.

## Artist shows landscapes

The Portola Art Gallery will exhibit oil paintings by Menlo Park resident Carolyn Jones through September. The exhibit is titled “Recent Works” and includes landscapes from California and the artist’s recent travels.

The gallery is located at the Allied Arts Guild at 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park and is

open Monday through Saturday, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be a reception for the artist from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6.

Ms. Jones is known for her oil paintings of landscapes, focusing on Midpeninsula scenes, including the Baylands, the Pacific Coast and the coastal mountains.

## Taste of Woodside Sunday

The Rotary Club of Woodside/Portola Valley is holding its annual Taste of Woodside wine tasting event from 5 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, at the Village Church at 3154 Woodside Road.

The event will have food from local restaurants and silent and live auctions on items such as vacations in Bali (Indonesia) and Antigua (Guatemala). Tickets are \$150 per person, with group discounts: four tickets for \$500 and eight for \$800. Proceeds benefit local and international Rotary projects.

It’s been a busy year for the club. Local activities included gifts of illustrated dictionaries to third-graders in “less affluent” school districts and scholarships based on essays by high school students, Rotary Club member Kenneth Broome told the Almanac.

Internationally, the club helped

build a birthing center in the West Bank in Palestine. Also participating were clubs in Nazareth and Ramallah, and five in the San Francisco Bay Area, including in Menlo Park, Mr. Broome said.

Built at a cost of more than \$40,000, the birthing center makes it unnecessary for women in remote areas and in need of a hospital to have to go to Ramallah, a trip that passes through several checkpoints.

A project in planning stages would upgrade 35 cable bridges in Nepal at a cost of about \$100,000, Mr. Broome said. The bridges are vital during the monsoon for children getting to school, the sick getting to medical centers, and farmers getting to their markets.

Go to [tasteofwoodside.com](http://tasteofwoodside.com) for more information on Taste of Woodside.

## Poet laureate launches contest

Caroline Goodwin, San Mateo County’s first poet laureate, has announced a contest open to all county residents.

Go to [tinyurl.com/oayeqcj](http://tinyurl.com/oayeqcj) for instructions.

A poem may be in any form or language and up to 40 lines long. Use the name of the town where

the poet resides in the title.

Poems may be submitted throughout September. A selection committee will judge the entries and invite some contestants to give readings at the “Poetry Is” celebration on Oct. 30 at the Belmont public library.

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■ POLICE CALLS

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

**WOODSIDE**

**False ID report:** A deputy stopped a man on a bicycle on suspicion of running a stop sign at the intersection of state highways 35 and 84. The man allegedly gave the deputy a false name, address and date of birth, and was arrested, cited and released. Aug. 24.

**MENLO PARK**

**Commercial burglary report:** Someone pried open a locked window at an art gallery at the Allied Arts complex, entered the gallery and stole several pieces of custom jewelry. Estimated loss: \$7,500. Aug. 25.

**Residential burglary reports:**

■ Someone removed the screen from an open window and entered an apartment on Windermere Avenue and stole a ring, a necklace and \$30 in coins. Estimated loss: \$3,030. Aug. 22.

■ A miter saw, table saw and skill saw were stolen from a residential construction site on Avy Avenue. Estimated loss: \$1,000. Aug. 28.

■ Someone broke a front window, unlocked the front door of a residence on Almanor Avenue and stole two buckets of primer paint and three cans of paint. Estimated loss: \$555. Aug. 26.

**Theft reports:**

■ Someone stole an unlocked bike from the parking area of an apartment complex on Santa Cruz Avenue. Estimated loss: \$720. Aug. 25.

■ A Caltrain passenger who had parked and locked a bike in the 1100 block of Alma Street before getting on the train

reported the bike stolen upon returning to the station that evening. Estimated loss: \$650. Aug. 28.

■ A resident of the 1900 block of El Camino Real reported that she had gone on an errand and when she returned, found that her laptop had been stolen. Estimated loss: \$500. Aug. 23.

■ Someone stole a locked bike from an open parking garage under an apartment building on East Creek Drive. Estimated loss: \$400. Aug. 25.

■ Someone stole an unlocked bike from a carport in front of a garage on Wood Lane. Estimated loss: \$250. Aug. 28.

■ A resident of Sharon Park Drive reported stolen prescription medications and cash after having her carpets cleaned. Estimated loss: \$180. Aug. 22.

■ Safeway supermarket employees intercepted someone who had filled a shopping cart with merchandise and was leaving the store without paying for it. The employees recovered the merchandise but the suspect fled. No loss. Aug. 27.

■ Someone stole clothing from two dryers at a coin-operated laundry in the 900 block of El Camino Real. No estimate for losses. Aug. 26.

■ A cellphone was reported stolen from an unlocked locker at Burgess swimming pool and later found inside a clothes spinner and returned to the owner. Aug. 25.

■ A customer at Walgreens on Santa Cruz Avenue reported her car keys stolen from a counter top. The incident was captured on in-store video and an investigation is in progress. Aug. 25.

**Fraud reports:**

■ A resident of Brandon Way bought prepaid cash cards and provided the card numbers to someone claiming to

*Continued on page 18*



September 2014

## Community Health Education Programs

For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures and health education resources, visit [pamf.org/education](http://pamf.org/education).

**Mountain View Center**

701 E. El Camino Real  
Mountain View  
(650) 934-7380

**Sleep and Your Child**

**Sept. 9, 6:30 – 8 p.m.**

Nancy Zises (Barnett), M.D., PAMF Pediatrics

**Dr. Tom McDonald Memorial Lecture Series at the Palo Alto Center**

**Palo Alto Center**

795 El Camino Real  
Palo Alto  
(650) 853-4873

**Breast Cancer Updates**

**Sept. 9, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

Expert panel of PAMF physicians

**Sunnyvale Center**

301 Old San Francisco Road  
Sunnyvale  
(408) 730-2810

**Dementia Caregiver Education: The Basics of Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease**

**Sept. 18, 1 – 2:30 p.m.**

Pauline Martinez  
Alzheimer's Association education services manager

**San Carlos Library**

610 Elm Street  
San Carlos  
To register, call (650) 591-0341, extension 237

**Don't Turn Green, Live Green**

**Sept. 22, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

Barbara Erny, M.D., PAMF Health Education

**Sunnyvale**

**Public Library**  
665 W. Olive Avenue  
Sunnyvale  
No registration required.

**Supplements, Vitamins and More**

**Sept. 23, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

Ravin Agah, M.D., PAMF Internal Medicine

**Foster City Library**

1000 East Hillsdale Blvd.  
Foster City  
No registration required.

**Celebrate National Kale Day**

**Sept. 29, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

Linda Shiue, M.D., PAMF Internal Medicine

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[pamf.org/education](http://pamf.org/education)

CALENDAR

Go to [AlmanacNews.com/calendar](http://AlmanacNews.com/calendar) to see more local calendar listings

**Harvest Dinner** celebrates food from local farm and ranches while raising funds for

La Honda Elementary School. Dinner, live music, silent auction, raffle. Sept. 13, 5-9 p.m. \$75 adult; \$10 donation for child care. La Honda Gardens, 8865 La Honda Road, La Honda. [lahondaschools.org](http://lahondaschools.org)

**Dragon Theatre** hosts fundraiser Sept. 13, 7-11 p.m. \$50-\$100. La Honda Winery, 2645 Fair Oaks Ave., Redwood City. Call 650-493-2006, ext. 2. [www.dragonproductions.net/](http://www.dragonproductions.net/)

[activities/dragonfest14.html](http://activities/dragonfest14.html)

**Wine, Croquet & Music Fundraiser** Rho Delta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority holds fundraiser. Attendees encouraged to wear all-white attire, in the style of "The Great Gatsby." Sept. 13, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$65. Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave., Atherton. Call 805-705-7214. [www.rdoaka.com](http://www.rdoaka.com)

**'Water-Efficient Gardening 101'** class. Sept. 6, 11 a.m. Free. Menlo Park City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. [www.menloparklibrary.org](http://www.menloparklibrary.org)

**Genealogy class** Thursdays, Sept. 4-Oct. 23, 10 a.m.-noon. \$86; \$15 drop in. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025 ext. 222. [www.penvol.org/littlehouse](http://www.penvol.org/littlehouse)

**Atherton Dames** tour Runnymede Sculpture Farm. For info about joining Atherton Dames, email [membership@athertondames.org](mailto:membership@athertondames.org). Sept. 4, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. \$50. Runnymede Sculpture Farm, Woodside. Call 503-801-1080. [www.athertondames.org](http://www.athertondames.org)

**Bass soloist Jean Baudin** performs concert at Woodside Library. Sept. 13, 2-3 p.m. Free. 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 851-0147. [www.smcl.org](http://www.smcl.org)

**Organist Rani Fischer** gives recital. Sept. 14, 4-6 p.m. \$10 general; \$6 senior; free for students. St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-854-6555. [www.stbedesmenlopark.org](http://www.stbedesmenlopark.org)

**10th annual Atherton Arts Exhibition** Atherton Arts Foundation hosts annual exhibit. Sept. 5, 4-7:30 p.m. Free. Holbrook-Palmer Park, Jennings Pavilion, 150 Watkins Ave., Atherton. Call 650-234-8287.

**'Modernism' docent lecture** on works by Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Rauschenberg and others who are part of exhibit at de Young Museum, "Modernism from the National Gallery of Art." Sept. 6, 2-3 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. [www.smcl.org](http://www.smcl.org)

**Author Lan Cao** discusses her book, "The Lotus and the Storm," which focuses on one Vietnamese-American family during the Vietnam War. Sept. 8, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. [keplers.com/event/lan-cao](http://keplers.com/event/lan-cao)

POLICE CALLS

continued from page 18

arrested for unpaid back taxes. Estimated loss: \$4,450. Aug. 26.

■ A resident who happened to have an outstanding debt to a business reported falling victim to someone who called from a fictitious company and demanded payment. The resident believed the call to be related to the unpaid debt. Estimated loss: \$491. Aug. 28.

**Illegal dumping report:** Someone left a large piece of machinery near a dumpster outside Cella's restaurant at 1850 El Camino Real. Aug. 28.



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**Name:** Rudi Weber  
**Position:** Sales  
**Last Book Read:** The Art of Racing in the Rain  
**Last Movie:** The Icemen  
**Last Ride:** Highway 9, across Skyline Blvd., down Page Mill Rd, and into work.  
**Favorite Epic Ride:** Mt. Revard via Chambery to Aix-les-Bains... amazing!  
**Bike:** LeMond Tete de Course



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**Newsroom Fax:** (650) 223-7525

**Advertising:** (650) 854-2626  
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The Almanac, established in October 1965, is delivered each week to residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside and adjacent unincorporated areas of southern San Mateo County. The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued December 21, 1969. ©2014 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved.

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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](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com), and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

### Town Square forum

Post your views on the Town Square forum at [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com)

**Email** your views to:  
[letters@almanacnews.com](mailto:letters@almanacnews.com)  
and note this is a letter to the editor in the subject line.

**Mail** or deliver to:  
Editor, The Almanac  
3525 Alameda de las Pulgas  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

**Call** the Viewpoint desk at  
223-6528.

## Heading back to school — outfitted with attitude

By Erin Glanville

Khan Academy sent an email out recently with a tremendous video message that every student heading back to school this fall should embrace: You can learn anything.

It sounds simple, but it couldn't be more profound. As they head back to school, we outfit our kids with new clothes, shoes and school supplies. What we really need to arm them with is an open mindset: "You are going to face some obstacles this year, but just hang in there because you really can learn anything."

I've written before about Carol Dweck's book, "Mindset," which emphasizes that the human brain is like a muscle that is capable of learning anything — especially through brain connections formed in the course of making and correcting mistakes.

Research shows that we aren't born with a finite set of mental capabilities; the possibilities are limitless but require grit and perseverance through the stumbling blocks. It is therefore critical to develop a family or classroom culture of an open (i.e. "Anyone can learn calculus — it just takes perseverance!") vs. closed ("You are either born with

a good 'math mind' or not.") mindset.

For some students, class work (or learning) comes easily. For others, not so much. While it might be hard for those kids for whom things don't come easily now to see it,



### GUEST OPINION

Menlo Park resident Erin Glanville is an Almanac blogger. You can read more of her commentary by going to [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com) and clicking on "Blogs" in the menu bar.

learning how to work through hard stuff is a true gift. Eventually everyone hits a wall, and having honed the ability to apply grit and perseverance in order to get through it is what will make all the difference.

My littlest guy, who had his very first day of kindergarten a couple of weeks ago, seems to have picked up a great habit. When he faces something he finds really hard (like riding his two-wheeler up any grade over 1 percent), he says out loud over and over to himself, "just hang in there." It's become a running source of joy in our house. My husband can

be breaking up rock-hard clay in the yard (sweating profusely and making no progress) and my youngest will walk by and say, "You just hang in there, Dad!" He's got the right mindset at 5.

This summer, my daughter received a major gift. She swims competitively, and despite her dedication in swimming upwards of three hours a day, kept missing time standard goals by a hair (and by "hair," I am talking about by tenths and hundredths of a second). She saw her teammates obtaining their goals and was happy for them, but was deeply frustrated for herself. "All I can do," she said, "is to get back in the water tomorrow and work as hard as I can." During the last two meets of the season, she didn't just hit her time standard goals, she smashed through them.

It didn't come easy. It took longer than she ever thought it would, and at times, it seemed every bit of bad luck seemed to come her way. But she never thought for a second about quitting and kept at it until she earned a crushing victory.

That is a life lesson she's armed herself with. That's a life lesson she is taking into the classroom.

## LETTERS

Our readers write

### Measure M wouldn't limit growth, former mayor says

Editor:

There is major problem with your guest opinion, "Bigger isn't always better" (The Almanac, Aug. 20). However profound the bigger-isn't-always-better thought may be, Measure M does nothing to constrain growth.

Measure M does not change the total amount of square footage for total commercial or retail uses. Nor does it change the number of housing units. Nor does it change building height. I wonder whether the writer would still support Measure M if she understood that with or without M, size will be the same.

Mickie Winkler

Menalto Avenue, Menlo Park

## What's the word on Town Square?

Check out what your neighbors are saying on Town Square — and add a comment of your own.

Find the forum at:  
[AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com)



Woodside History Committee

### Looking back

Lurline Matson Roth, who competed nationally and won many awards for her equestrian skills, and My Joy pose in this 1920s photo. Ms. Roth's father, William Matson, built a 38-room Tudor-style house on 70 acres along Woodside Road near Bear Gulch Creek, which was eventually named Why Worry Farm, according to a history of Woodside by Thalia Lubin and Bob Dougherty. Lurline bred and trained American saddlebred and harness horses at the farm. She married William Roth, and in 1936 they bought the 125-acre Filoli estate in Woodside from the William Bourn family, moving there soon after. Lurline lived there until 1973, and the estate was donated to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1975, according to the local historians.

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