

# The Almanac

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

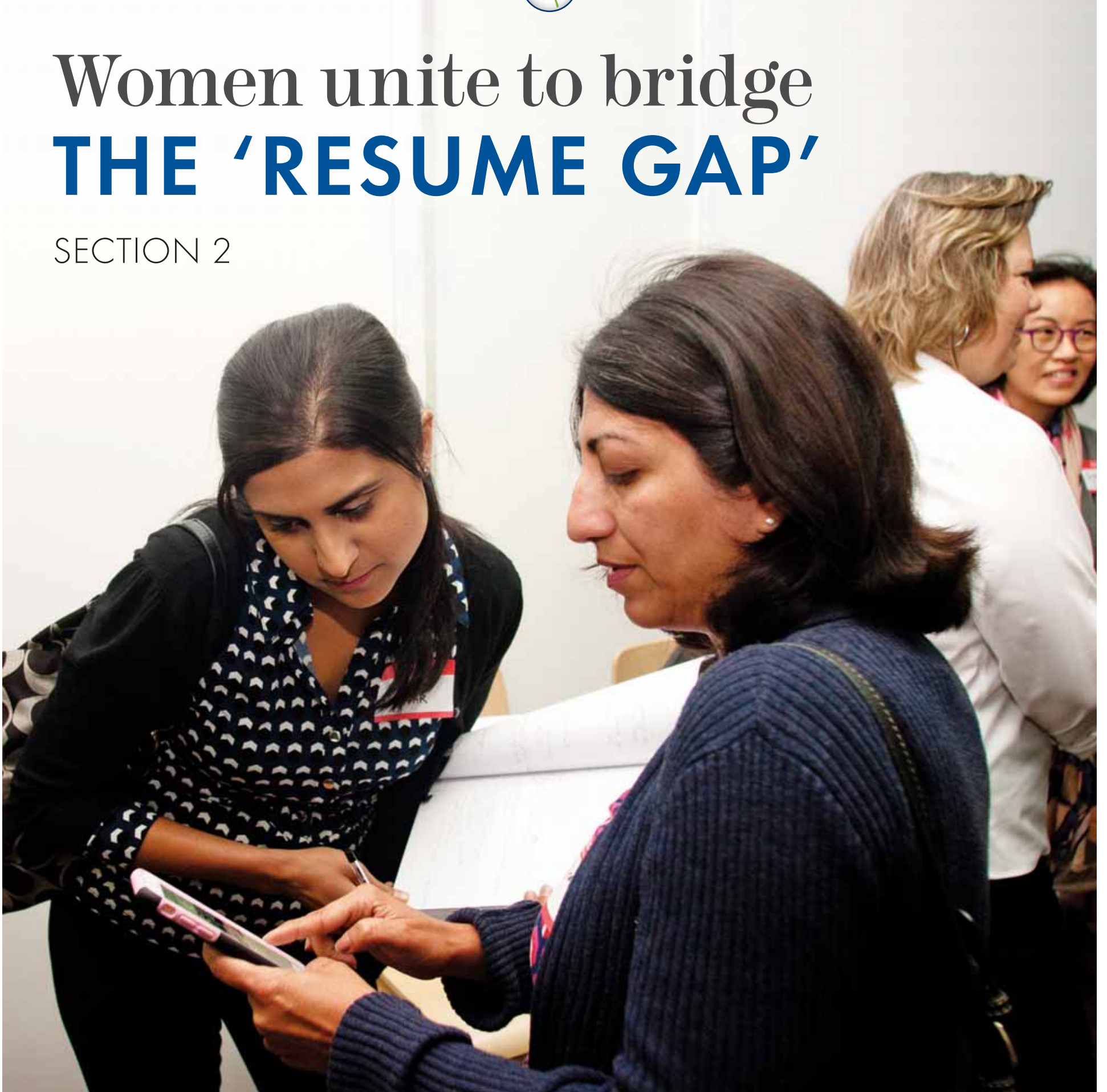
JUNE 3, 2015 | VOL. 50 NO. 39



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## Women unite to bridge **THE 'RESUME GAP'**

SECTION 2



# HOME STARTS HERE



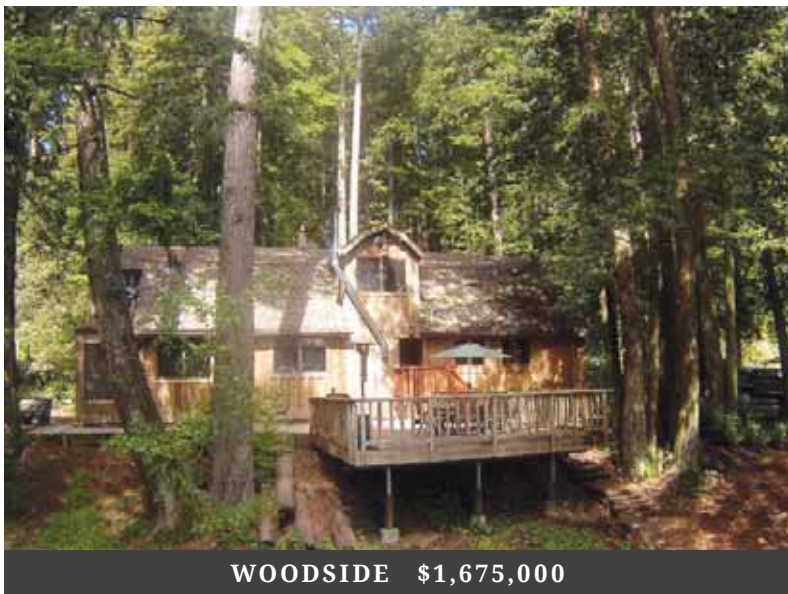
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Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

**Taylor thanks** a vendor for selling her a duct tape flower at the Ormondale Elementary School second-graders' Farmers' Market on May 29.

## Mini-marketers combine enterprise with learning and old-fashioned fun

By **Barbara Wood**  
Almanac Staff Writer

Even the weather cooperated on May 29 by providing a sunny afternoon for second-graders at Ormondale School in Portola Valley as they held their school's third annual Farmers' Market.

Students of Kristin Wong, Debbie Grech, Adam Ahlbach and Kristin Bouman set up and staffed booths selling items they had designed and created.

During the three years of the market, the second-graders' creations have included birdhouses, paper, birdseed cookies, garden signs, planter figurines, ceramic pots, life-sized scarecrows, gargoyle drain spouts, pinwheels,

paintings, greeting cards, mosaic tiles and stepping stones. Large projects have included painting a handmade garden bench and building lemonade stands from recycled pallet wood.

Funds raised though the project go to "The Butterfly Valley," Ormondale's school garden, as well as to nearby community gardens that need assistance.

Community involvement has included food trucks that share some of their sale proceeds, middle school musicians, and fresh produce donated by Farm Fresh to You and Shasta Produce, plus supplies and volunteers from Henry's Place, a local floral company.

The Farmers' Market, which won a J. Russell Kent award for innovation from the San Mateo

County School Boards Association this year, is not just fun for the students. Teachers says they are incorporating a wide array of learning into the annual project, including math concepts ranging from shapes and fractions to counting change, measuring, and tallying surveys.

The children incorporate reading and writing into the Farmers' Market by marketing the event, and writing how-to books, thank-you notes and a gardening manual. They make budgets and purchases, research competitive pricing and learn life skills such as collaboration and time-management.

And, yes — as could be seen at the market — they do also have some fun. ■

## It's summer party time at Menlo Park Library

The Menlo Park Library will host the onset of the summer reading season with a free outdoor party, featuring music and snacks, from 6 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, on the lawn outside the library at 800 Alma St. in Menlo Park.

Derek Smith's Pankind Quar-

ter will play Caribbean-style music, while Cafe Zoe provides snacks and beverages. Guests are invited to bring blankets or low lawn chairs to relax and enjoy the performance.

Library staff will be on hand to share information about the library's summer reading pro-

gram, which will be launched on June 10 for children, teens and adults. The reading program will include games and prizes.

The June 11 party will include a cooking demonstration, puppetry, storytelling, music, poetry, and a wildlife presentation. There will also be balloon-twisting and free bottles of bubbles.

The festivities are sponsored by Friends of the Menlo Park Library and Cafe Zoe in Menlo Park.

### CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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■ E-mail news, information, obituaries and photos (with captions) to: [editor@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:editor@AlmanacNews.com)  
■ E-mail letters to the editor to: [letters@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:letters@AlmanacNews.com)

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## New mandatory water-use restrictions begin

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

Mandatory restrictions on water use went into effect in California on June 1, and, as could be expected with something brand new, some bugs remain to be worked out.

The California Water Service Company (Cal Water) mailed details of the company's drought restrictions to Bear Gulch District customers on May 28, but announced on Monday that some of the mailer's information, on days on which irrigation is allowed, has already been changed. A new postcard was mailed with the correct information. The postcard's changes in irrigation days affect only those who live outside Menlo Park and have addresses ending in even numbers, who can irrigate only on Tuesdays and Saturdays (not Thursdays and Saturdays as announced in the mailer).

### Customers will receive their water budget for the current and upcoming month with their water bill.

At Calwater.com customers can see their water budget allocations through February and their water use history as far back as 2011, as well as appeal for an increased allocation.

Details of the appeals process that customers can use to ask for an increased water budget allocation are also on the company's website. Reasons that can be used to appeal for a higher allocation listed on the website are:

- Change in household size.
- Large animal care (e.g., horses).
- Medical need.
- Significant water savings

achieved since 2011 (e.g., if average monthly consumption has dropped since 2011 by at least 36 percent).

■ Low water use in 2014: Average monthly consumption in 2014 was less than half the district's average.

The appeals form is also available at the district office, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park.

A two-page mailing with details of the drought restrictions scheduled to go into effect this month was sent out on May 28, according to Bear Gulch District Manager Dawn Smithson. Customers will also receive their water budget for the current and upcoming month with their water bill.

The Bear Gulch District includes Atherton, Portola Valley, most of Woodside and parts of Menlo Park and Redwood City.

The water use budgets are based on a 36 percent reduc-

tion from the amount of water used by the same customer in the same month in 2013, with a minimum of 600 cubic feet (6 CCF or 4,448 gallons) per month. They apply to all customers, residential and nonresidential.

Customers who did not live at their address in 2013 will be given an allocation based on the average water use in the district. Ms. Smithson said the district average water use per month in 2013 was 39 CCF for June, 38 CCF for July, 40 CCF for August, 40 CCF for September, 31 CCF for October, 31 CCF for November and 17 CCF for December.

The website shows the water use history and budget through February in a graph, with use information available as far back as 2011. While the company had promised to have the information available in gallons as well as in hundreds of cubic feet (CCF), on June 1, the company has posted on the budget and

history page only the information that 1 CCF equals 100 cubic feet, or 748 gallons, of water.

If a customer does not use the water budget allocation one month, it can be "banked" and used in any subsequent month. No surcharge will apply to the use of banked water. Water use above a customer's allocation will come with a surcharge of \$10 per 100 cubic feet.

Cal Water has also announced a toll-free Drought Call Center at 844-726-8579 to answer questions about appeals, to report water waste or for other drought-related issues.

Just what days of the week irrigation is allowed has been especially confusing, with the company changing the information at least three times

According to the postcard sent by Cal Water on Monday, outdoor irrigation is limited to two days a week between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.

In Menlo Park residents will be

See **RESTRICTIONS**, page 6



Photo by Barbara Wood/The Almanac

This section of lawn at Corte Madera School will be allowed to die this summer, to be replaced once the rains start in the fall with drought-tolerant plantings.

## Portola Valley School District pondering how to cut water use

Officials say they need to reduce usage by 1.2 million gallons next year

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

If homeowners are panicking about how they can possibly cut their water use by 36 percent, just imagine being the two-school Portola Valley School District, where the share they are expected to cut equals about 1.2 million gallons over the next fiscal year.

Lisa Gonzales, the district's superintendent, recently sent district parents a note detailing some of the changes the district will have to make in order to cut its water use by the amount that it, and everyone else in the Bear Gulch District of the California Water Service Company (Cal Water), must do.

Superintendent Gonzales said the school district is working

with Cal Water to monitor the district's progress. "We have already instituted conservation measures and will expand those efforts in the coming weeks, then tighten the spigot ever further this summer to minimize use and maximize waste prevention," she said.

Irrigation is where the dis-

See **PORTOLA VALLEY**, page 6

## Trial changes underway to Ravenswood Avenue and Alma Street intersection

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

A six-month trial of changes to the Alma Street-Ravenswood Avenue intersection starts this week, according to the city of Menlo Park. The changes are being put in place in an attempt to improve safety at the street-level railroad crossing where a woman in an SUV was struck and killed by a train in February.

On Tuesday, June 2, work crews are scheduled to begin installing temporary medians from the Ravenswood Avenue railroad crossing to Noel Drive, along with a curb extension to block left turns from northbound Alma Street onto Ravenswood Avenue, according to Transportation Manager Nikki Nagaya. Right turns from Ravenswood to head south on Alma Street will also be blocked. The installations are expected to be finished later this week.

The council voted 3-0 on May 5 to let the trial proceed, while granting staff the flexibility to adjust the temporary installations as needed. The city is also

studying options for creating a separation between the road and the railroad tracks; the study is expected to take at least 18 months.

Navigating around the trial changes will entail making a left turn from northbound Laurel Street instead of Alma Street onto Ravenswood Avenue, Ms. Nagaya said, or using a combination of Laurel Street and Oak Grove Avenue.

She acknowledged that the changes will take some getting used to. "All city employees use those intersections, so it affects us as well," she said.

Ms. Nagaya told the Almanac that the city will compare collision rates and near-accidents before and after the installation at the intersection and railroad crossing to assess how well the changes are working. The city will also record video of the crossing to track how often vehicles get stuck on the railroad tracks.

There's also community feedback to consider. She said anyone wishing to comment should call the transportation division

See **CHANGES**, page 6

# 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).

**All our lectures and events are free and open to the public.**

## June 2015



### Survivorship Celebration Day and Art Show

**June 6, 9 a.m. to noon**

No registration required. Learn more about this free event at [pamf.org/cancerevent](http://pamf.org/cancerevent) or by calling **(650) 934-7380**.

#### PAMF Mountain View Center

701 E. El Camino Real, Third Floor, Mountain View

### Rejuvenation Products and Procedures

**June 9, 7 to 9 p.m.**

Bryan Cho, M.D., and Sandra Odenheimer, N.P., PAMF Dermatology

#### PAMF Mountain View Center

701 E. El Camino Real, Third Floor, Mountain View • **(650) 934-7380**



### Dr. Tom McDonald Memorial Lecture Series Honoring Your Wishes

Advanced Care Planning for the Chinese Community

**June 13, 2:30 to 5 p.m.**

Chinese American Coalition for Compassionate Care

#### PAMF Palo Alto Center

795 El Camino Real, Third Floor Conf. Center, Jamplis Building, Palo Alto • **(650) 614-3200**



### Mindful Eating

**June 16, 7 to 8:30 p.m.**

Toni Toledo, MPH, R.D., and Erika Deshmukh, M.S., R.D.  
PAMF HMR Weight Management Program

#### Sunnyvale Public Library

665 W. Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale • **No registration required**

### Healthy Brain Habits for a Healthier You

**June 18, 1 to 2:30 p.m.**

Edie Yau, Director of Diversity, Alzheimer's Association

#### PAMF Sunnyvale Center

301 Old San Francisco Road, Second Floor, Sunnyvale • **(408) 730-2810**

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**Outdoor Irrigation Schedule for California Water Service's Bear Gulch District**

California Water Service has updated the irrigation schedule for our Bear Gulch District to be spread more evenly throughout the week. We apologize for any confusion this may cause and thank you for observing the following watering schedule:

Even Street Addresses	CUSTOMERS IN THE CITY OF MENLO PARK						
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Even Street Addresses							
Odd Street Addresses							
No Street Addresses							

Even Street Addresses	ALL OTHER BEAR GULCH DISTRICT CUSTOMERS						
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Even Street Addresses							
Odd Street Addresses							
No Street Addresses							

No watering between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Exemptions: hand-watering, drip irrigation, and microspray irrigation. Please visit [www.calwater.com/drought](http://www.calwater.com/drought) for more information. Rev 9/13

Graphic courtesy Cal Water

**This postcard** with the days of week on which Cal Water customers are allowed to water was sent out on June 1, correcting information in an earlier mailer.

#### RESTRICTIONS

*continued from page 5*

on the schedule that Cal Water announced at a May 19 meeting: Addresses that end in odd numbers, and properties with no address, will be allowed to water only on Mondays and Thursdays; addresses ending in even numbers, on Tuesdays and Fridays.

In the rest of the Bear Gulch

District, addresses that end in odd numbers may water on Sundays and Wednesdays; addresses ending in even numbers and those with no street address may water on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Those who use only drip irrigation and micro-sprayers or hand water will be able to water at any time on any day of the week, however. ■

#### PORTOLA VALLEY

*continued from page 5*

tract uses the most water “and, therefore, offers the largest conservation gain by modifying our consumption,” Ms. Gonzales said. Last summer, after some neighbors of Corte Madera School complained that the district was wasting water, the district made a number of changes in the irrigation of playing fields and landscaped areas at both schools, she said.

The superintendent said the district has cut the frequency of watering in half — from four times per week to twice a week — reduced the duration of watering, and now waters at night instead of during the day.

The school district also plans to let many of its grassy areas go brown. “The field is the one large place that we’ll keep healthy,” Ms. Gonzales said. “It is used year-round, including for summer camps, and has to be maintained to ensure student safety.”

The district has also searched for and repaired leaks in its entire water system, and now monitors for leaks so they can be repaired quickly.

Superintendent Gonzales said the district is also exploring changes that could save even more water, including capturing runoff water to reuse to irrigate playing

fields. Renovating 20-year-old restrooms with low-flow fixtures, ultra-low flow toilets, waterless urinals, and motion sensors on sinks to prevent them from being left on is also an option.

The district is also looking at drought-resistant landscaping, with help from some of their neighbors, including Corte Madera School neighbor and landscape designer Danna Breen, whom Ms. Gonzales thanked for “her assistance and sound guidance.” The school will put in more drought-tolerant plants in the fall, when they can benefit from winter rains before they need supplemental water.

The district is getting advice from Portola Valley town officials as well.

“Like families throughout our state, we recognize that every drop of water makes a difference and all water conservation is vital as reservoir levels drop statewide,” Chief Business Officer Jonathan Barth said. “PVSD will continue to cut its water usage, react quickly to any report of water leaks, and deploy water-saving technology and landscaping wherever possible during California’s drought.”

Mr. Barth said that the district will need to cut water use by at least 1.2 million gallons during the 2015-16 fiscal year, which starts July 1. ■

#### CHANGES

*continued from page 5*

at 650-330-6770 or email [transportation@menlopark.org](mailto:transportation@menlopark.org).

“We’re sure it’s going to be a learning experience,” Ms. Nagaya said. “We’ll try to make it as painless as possible.” ■

# Police body camera policy may let people request deletion of video

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park may amend its police body camera policy to allow the deletion of videos with no investigative relevance upon request if the recorded individuals sign a waiver of liability.

City Councilman Ray Mueller, who has raised concerns about the current minimum two-and-a-half-year retention time for all

videos, said he and Police Chief Bob Jonsen had worked out the compromise.

"I believe this balances residents' privacy rights with the department's desire to monitor its police force and protect itself from false accusations," Mr. Mueller told the Almanac, adding that he commends the police chief for working on the issue with him.

"I think having a release waiver available for individuals who

are not part of any investigation, complaint or lawsuit is fair for everyone," Chief Jonsen said.

The police department had based the retention time on the statute of limitations for filing a lawsuit over civil rights violations — two years in federal court and one year in state court. Officers may be held personally liable in the event of a lawsuit, leaving the department wary of deleting any recordings when a complaint

may not immediately surface.

Policy changes were proposed by the Menlo Park Police Department after the fatal shooting of a burglary suspect by three Menlo Park police officers was not captured by a police body camera. Revisions that will be presented to the City Council on Tuesday, June 2, include:

■ Officers will be expected to turn on the cameras while responding to the scene of a

crime in progress or a high-priority call (unless they are unable to do so), as well as at the start of any citizen contact.

■ They will also need to document the existence of a recording of the encounter, and if the camera had not been activated, state why not in the report.

■ The camera would stay on continuously until the officer is no longer directly involved in an incident or contact.

However, amending the policy to allow video deletion will have to wait until the city attorney has sorted out the legal issues to protect all parties from future litigation, according to Chief Jonsen. ■

## Basement limits for Woodside homes beginning to take shape

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The Woodside Town Council was back at the drawing board on May 26, talking about basements at a second study session on whether to establish rules to regulate their size and location.

A conventional basement is confined within the footprint of the building above it. In a community of flat, uniform parcels, uncomplicated terrain and limits on a resident's spending, such a basement might be the norm. But Woodside has steep, woody terrain; parcels of a half acre to more than 30 acres, often with limited areas suitable for construction; and many residents for whom expense is no concern.

The town's current regulations have no size limits on basements. While critics of new regulations noted that no one has yet proposed a basement encompassing a parcel's entire buildable area, there's nothing on the books to prevent it, council members said.

The council took on this issue in response to a staff report noting an increase in the number and complexity of basement proposals in 2015. Current regulations are few, which has been complicating project reviews for members of the Architecture and Site Review Board and the Planning Commission as they attempt to implement a 2012 town general plan that emphasizes a rural ethic and living lightly on the land.

In 2013, a resident of Mountain Wood Lane got approval for a nearly 14,000-square-foot basement with a six-car garage, three bathrooms, a bunkroom, two powder rooms, a family room, a media room, an exer-

cise room, a massage room, an office, a pantry, a wine cellar, storage area and inside-outside courtyards, according to a staff report.

A 9,500-square-foot basement going in on Mountain Home Road will have a garage, three mechanical rooms, a wine cellar, an audio-video equipment room, a laundry, a lounge, two powder rooms, a storage room, a bowling alley, a sitting room, a recreation room and a sunken courtyard with an exit stairway.

The council considered recommendations from a three-person council subcommittee: general contractor Dave Tanner, attorney Ron Romines, and architect Peter Mason. The council addressed four issues: the relationship of basements to property-line setbacks, the relationship to the structures above, grading, and the technical analysis of the site.

There were extended discussions on basement size and location, and on site technical analysis.

### Outside the footprint

On size, the subcommittee recommended that basements be allowed 100 percent of the square-footage limit for a maximum sized residence on a given parcel. Fifty percent of that basement allocation should be allowed under open ground.

A home on a property with a 3,000-square-foot maximum for the residence, for example, could accommodate a 3,000-square-foot basement, with 1,500 square feet allowable under open ground. Basements under open ground would require a 3-foot-deep covering of soil.

The 50 percent figure troubled Councilwoman Anne Kasten, who imagined a house surround-

ed by open ground and 3 feet of soil above an unseen basement. Perhaps parts of a basement outside the footprint should be located under structures or impervious surfaces, she said.

The 50 percent rule, Mr. Mason said, would allow basements on properties with existing houses without having to excavate under the house. For new homes, basements outside the house footprint would be unlikely, he said. "Unless you've got a really good reason for putting it outside, you're not going to do it," he said. "It's so much more expensive."

Terrain can be an issue, Mr. Tanner said, and flexibility is needed because it's not possible to foresee every situation.

During public comment, resident Richard Draeger suggested that a basement size limit of 150 percent of the maximum is reasonable. The council should emphasize the aesthetic benefits of relocating things underground, he said.

Resident Greg Raleigh, a critic of the regulations, told the council that about a dozen residents have engaged a consultant to prepare a separate basement study.

Councilman Ron Romines called the recommended limits "pretty generous" and evidence of the council's appreciation for the real benefits of basements.

Councilman Dave Burow disagreed. "I think that we're taking away a perceived right of the property owner by putting any restriction on it beyond what we're at presently, and that we should be careful that we do it in a way that doesn't devalue people's property rights," he said.

"I know a lot of people talk about property rights," said resident Thalia Lubin, "but we also have community rights. ... The regulations are what's kept

Woodside really special."

The council consensus: With some tweaking, the staff should go ahead and craft language for a draft ordinance for review at another study session in July.

### Experts for hire

Limits are needed, Mr. Burow said, for protecting significant trees and for basements proposed in terrain determined to be unsuitable. "I think we ought to be tough about just telling the applicant, 'Forget it. You can't build a basement,'" he said.

Subsurface water occurs in Woodside, and a bore hole may encounter water just beneath the surface, Mr. Tanner said. "Sometimes when you disturb a spring, you just ruin (it)," he added.

An engineer may find a solution, but if it's not thoughtful, that solution may not work, Mr. Romines said.

Perhaps the town should

require engineers who are insured, Mr. Tanner said. To do so, he said, would "restrict it to people who really know what they're doing. ... It'll help it quite a bit because there are a lot of idiots out there who'll write their name down to anything for a dollar and try to engineer around it."

Planning Director Jackie Young proposed requiring findings as to what technical attributes a basement should have.

The town should provide an outline for the site technical report, and it should include significantly more detail than ordinary site reports, Mr. Mason said. Mayor Tom Shanahan and Mr. Mason added that tests of soil should be similar to what is done when installing a septic tank.

Mr. Tanner suggested that soil testing require multiple bore holes, not just two or three. ■

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

### Condos For Adults 55 Plus



**Dear Monica: I would like to sell my house and downsize to a condo but the prices have soared. I have seen better pricing in condo complexes reserved for older adults and wonder if this is a good option for me. I am 65 years old. What do you think? - Marie G.**

Dear Marie: Yes, I think you should definitely look at condos in age-restricted complexes. Generally these prices are more attractive than comparable condos in non-age restricted developments. If

these "adult only complexes" are well located and well-managed, they can be great value for the money, as well as providing an enjoyable place to live.

The 55-plus age group is growing rapidly and as demand increases, these properties could see very good appreciation. You would be smart to consider "moving down" to this kind of property.

For answers to any questions you may have on real estate, you may e-mail me at [mcorman@apr.com](mailto:mcorman@apr.com) or call 462-1111, Alain Pinel Realtors. I also offer a free market analysis of your property. [www.MonicaCorman.com](http://www.MonicaCorman.com)

# Tax Issues Relating to Real Property

Thursday, June 18, 2015  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



Please join DeLeon Realty at our June Seminar. Gain insight into tax issues relating to real estate from Michael Repka, the Managing Broker and General Counsel of DeLeon Realty. In addition to a Juris Doctorate (J.D.) Michael holds a graduate law degree in taxation (L.L.M.) from NYU.



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To RSVP, please contact **Lena Nguyen** at 650.543.8500 or by email at [lena@deleonrealty.com](mailto:lena@deleonrealty.com)

**Seminar is for prospective clients only, no outside real estate professionals permitted.**

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# DELEON REALTY SUMMER SPLASH

**DeLeon Realty is excited to announce the July Summer Splash.**

Buyers often want to buy homes during the summer so they can get settled before the new school year. However, real estate agents have traditionally advised sellers to wait until the fall because the low inventory causes buyers to lose focus.

In response to what buyers and sellers want, DeLeon Realty is breaking with tradition and releasing some of the year's best listings between July 13th and July 26th.

There will be special incentives for anyone who buys a DeLeon listing during the Summer Splash, including a **\$5,000 gift** certificate to Flegel's Interior Design & Home Furnishings. That's right, DeLeon Realty will attract more **BUYERS** by giving them \$5,000 to spend at one of Silicon Valley's best furniture stores.

Check out the next issue of The DeLeon Insight or visit [www.DeLeonRealty.com](http://www.DeLeonRealty.com) for more information.

**Give us a call at 650.488.7325 if you would like to list your home during our Summer Splash.**

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## A place to sip coffee in the new Atherton civic center?

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac staff writer

Atherton, which now has no commercial zoning, may soon change that so locals can buy a cup of coffee when the town gets its new civic center.

The plan is far from firm, but City Council members endorsed the idea when they met on May 20, and also gave the go-ahead to exploring a teaching kitchen for the new library.

"I feel strongly that one of the biggest draws for our new civic center is to make a new center to Atherton, for people to come to," said Mayor Rick DeGolia.

"I think the idea of a cafe could be a huge attraction to the civic center," he said. "Personally I'd love to come to Atherton and have my cup of coffee."

Mr. DeGolia said he had visited Ada's Cafe in Palo Alto's Mitchell Park library, which has only a few tables, inside and outside; it also has a very small kitchen. "It was a lovely, lovely experience," he said.

Council member Mike Lempres said, "I would, too, love to come here and have a cup of coffee."

Council member Bill Widmer lent the only note of dissent. "I'm in favor of the teaching kitchen," he said. "I think it would add a lot of value to the library." However, he said, "I'm very cautious about having other commercial or other stand-alone commercial activities."

Atherton planner Lisa Costa Sanders said the town would have to change zoning to allow

a cafe. An addition to the environmental report on the civic center master plan might also be required, and an amendment to the town's general plan, but that all could be done in less than six months' time, she said.

City Attorney William Connors said allowing the cafe would not open the town to other business ventures. "There's other quasi-commercial things going on" in Atherton, he said, such as the Circus Club. "It is a little different, but it's not precedential," he said.

The staff report[said that most details, including "location, vendors (if any), conditions of use, hours, and land use issues" would be decided later.

In other business, the council continued until next month the discussion of changes to the town's special events ordinance that will allow the town to recover costs of providing police, public works or other services to a special event.

A divided council also agreed to move forward with a plan to transfer the town's planning and building activities temporarily into Holbrook-Palmer Park. Council members Bill Widmer and Mike Lempres voted against the move.

"I am not in favor of putting something next to the city manager's house" in the park, Mr. Widmer said, adding that he preferred to find a place in the town center for the offices.

The offices are currently located in deteriorating temporary buildings that will need work if they are to last through another winter, town staff said. ■



Images courtesy of Stanford University

### Planning the plaza

Organizers said about 150 people attended workshops on May 28 and May 30 to participate in redesigning a public plaza planned for Stanford University's proposed mixed-use complex at El Camino Real in Menlo Park. To be located north of the Middle Avenue and El Camino Real intersection, the plaza is now projected to be 21,000 square feet, about double the size of the public plaza in front of Cafe Borrone and approximately the same as Redwood City's courtyard square, according to Stanford spokeswoman Jean McCown. The entry into the mixed-use complex's underground parking garage is now planned to be on the side of the property nearest to the railroad tracks, rather than running under the plaza as had earlier been contemplated — a plan that had earned protest from some residents who do not consider vehicle traffic a desired feature of public open space.

## Master plan envisions off-leash dog park and amphitheater in Atherton's only park

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

A master plan for the future development of Atherton's Holbrook-Palmer Park was adopted by the Atherton City Council on May 20. The plan envisions adding features such as an amphitheater, a rain garden and an off-leash dog park, and moving the preschool to the existing Gilmore House near the park entrance.

The plan includes a five-year capital improvement budget, which the council will consider separately, along with the rest of the town's capital budget. Items in the plan for the next five years add up to a little over \$558,000 in costs, and include studying the relocation of the town's corporation yard and the preschool, a new turn-around in the parking lot for the Jennings Pavilion, and improving the entrance to the park by removing an unused driveway and the barriers that now block its use. The five-year plan also includes renovating the park's shrub plantings, repairing and improving park paths and adding lighting near paths.

Council members suggested that when they consider the

capital improvement budget they may make some changes to the Park and Recreation Committee's five-year spending plan. Mayor Rick DeGolia said he wanted to add some items, such as moving the corporation yard. Mr. DeGolia said he wants "to be more aggressive than is stated in this master plan."

"I agree with you on that," said council member Elizabeth Lewis.

The issue of moving the preschool is one that will need to be addressed quickly by the town, because the council on May 20 also approved a plan to move the town's building and planning offices temporarily into the park until their new offices are ready when the planned civic center is built.

Town officials say the temporary trailers now used as offices for building and planning won't last through another winter without some work, and the offices should be relocated to the park as quickly as possible.

Council members said they want whatever structure is used in the park for the temporary building and planning offices to be suitable for use by the relocated preschool, but they also said they want them to look

good. "We want something that looks like it belongs in the park," said City Manager George Rodricks.

Space now used by the preschool, next to the park's historic carriage house, is designated on the plan as "potential parking" for as many as 20 vehicles and "potential open space."

The council approved creating a master plan for the park in spring of 2013, and the work began in September of that year. Town residents, organizations and park users were surveyed and several public hearings held.

The master plan says the 22-acre park was given to the town in 1950 by Olive Holbrook-Palmer, but not accepted by the town until 1964 "with the provision that the development of the property would be funded by donations."

Before it became Holbrook-Palmer Park, the property was known as Elmwood.

The vote on the master plan was nearly unanimous. Council member Bill Widmer said he offered less than a full vote of approval. "I am for everything but moving the play-school, so partial approval for me," he said. ■

### We're Hiring Full-Time News Reporter

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The Almanac

# City looks at \$8.7 million in projects for 2015-16

By Jason McCormick  
Special to the Almanac

## ■ MENLO PARK

Menlo Park's City Council will consider finalizing a catalog of proposed capital improvements that prioritize public projects and goals for the community over the next half-decade when it meets this week. (The June 2 meeting takes place after the Almanac's press time.)

A draft of the city's 2015-2020 capital improvement plan, tentatively approved May 19 by the council, lays out dozens of potential investments, proposing significant upgrades of water and stormwater systems, renovations of municipal landscapes, replacement of old and possibly noncompliant structures at the Belle Haven Youth Center, initial efforts toward an underground utility district, more research on parking downtown, and improvements of several routes throughout the city for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

The draft CIP projects spending of about \$48 million from grants, taxes and fees for 69 planned projects, 34 of which are proposed for the 2015-16 fiscal year at a cost of about \$8.7 million. The document also notes insufficient capital for several dozen other proposals.

Menlo Park Public Works Director Jesse Quirion told council members May 19 that the draft CIP, a working document, estimates the city's staffing and budgetary needs of non-discretionary, essential and discretionary projects.

"Typically, a CIP for a city of our size would be about 25 projects coming in and 25 projects ending every year," said Mr. Quirion. "We're pushing about 100 projects, including both new and backlogged plans."

Among the proposals previously discussed by the council is a study on possible locations for a proposed parking structure in the downtown area, Mr. Quirion said. For an estimated cost of \$250,000 during the 2015-16 fiscal year, that study would also develop a complementary plan to identify public-space amenities, and pedestrian and bicycle routes to improve commutes in the city, according to the draft CIP.

The document also calls for the installation of sidewalks along Chilco Street and Santa Cruz Avenue: While the Chilco Street project would require \$50,000 for landscaping, lighting, signing modifications, and pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements, the Santa Cruz Avenue project carries an estimated cost of \$1 million in the next fiscal year for the construction of sidewalks along the avenue between Johnson and Olive streets.

The draft CIP also proposes improvements to the bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure along Valparaiso Avenue-Glenwood Avenue, El Camino Real and Middlefield Road in Menlo Park and Atherton, building on the Valparaiso Corridor Safe Routes to School plan.

The Menlo Park-Atherton Bike/Pedestrian Improvements Project carries an estimated cost of \$900,260 for the 2015-16 fiscal year. Mr. Quirion said that \$797,000 of that amount will be paid by One Bay Area Grant funds, and the remaining \$103,260 will come from Menlo Park's transportation impact fees (TIF).

"The project is half in the town of Atherton, and half in Menlo Park, so we partnered on

the grant application," he said in an email. "But the city of Menlo Park is leading the grant, and therefore we added the additional TIF fees from Menlo Park to cover enhancements to some of our pedestrian crossings that are specific to Menlo Park."

The draft CIP also proposes substantial street resurfacing, with funding coming from highway-use taxes and construction-impact fees. Projected costs total \$12.7 million, includ-

ing \$5.5 million from July 1 through June 2016.

"This ongoing project will include the detailed design and selection of streets to be resurfaced throughout the city," the draft CIP says. "This project will utilize the city's Pavement Management System (PMS) to assess the condition of existing streets and assist in the selection process."

The draft CIP proposes automated water-meter reading and emergency water supplies, includ-

See **CITY PROJECTS**, page 15

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## Meetings on Atherton budget, tax and civic center set for June 3

Second civic center presentation on June 4

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

Two public meetings are scheduled in Atherton on Wednesday, June 3: a City Council study session on the 2015-16 town budget and the town's parcel tax; and a presentation and discussion on the plans for a new Atherton civic center.

The study session will be in the Atherton council chambers at 94 Ashfield Road from 4 to 6 p.m. The civic center meeting will be in the Jennings Pavilion in Holbrook-Palmer Park from 6 to 8 p.m.

For those who can't make the first civic center meeting, a second meeting is scheduled in the park's Carriage House on Thursday, June 4, also from 6 to 8 p.m.

The budget study session is the last before the council is scheduled to adopt the budget at its June 17 regular meeting.

The council will also discuss the town's parcel tax, which was approved in 2013 and runs through the 2017-18 fiscal year. Each year the council must set the tax rate based on the town's budgetary needs. The parcel tax rate will also be adopted on June 17.

City Manager George Rodricks has recommend that the parcel tax be set at the maximum rate to help pay for more than \$1.6 million in capital improvement projects for the coming year.

The meetings on the civic center design allow WRNS Studio to present its preliminary design concepts and take public comment.

More meetings are planned in Atherton neighborhoods as the design is refined. ■

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## District veteran headed for Hillview principal's office

Willy Haug, Hillview Middle School's associate principal, has been chosen to replace Erik Burmeister as Hillview's principal, Menlo Park City School District Superintendent Maurice Ghysels announced on June 1.

Mr. Haug, a 19-year veteran of the district, must be formally approved by the school board at its June 9 meeting. Mr. Burmeister will be the district's new assistant superintendent.

“Over his years in MPCSD, Willy has proven himself to be

knowledgeable about effective teaching practices, willing to coach and mentor colleagues, committed to equity and diversity, and devoted to the mindsets that allow systems to innovate and people to evolve,” Superintendent Ghysels said.

He was chosen from 12 applicants for the position in a process that involved teachers, support staff, parents, site and district administrators, and board members.

## City manager's contract, budget on council agenda

The June 2 meeting of the Menlo Park City Council will be a busy one. The agenda includes:

■ A new contract for City Manager Alex McIntyre that includes a 9 percent base salary raise.

■ A public hearing on the city's budget and capital improvement plans for fiscal year 2015-16.

■ Designs for expanding outdoor dining along Santa Cruz Avenue.

### ■ MENLO PARK

■ Updates on the installation of sidewalks along Santa Cruz Avenue and on the police department's body camera policy.

Go to [tinyurl.com/pb4uqm8](http://tinyurl.com/pb4uqm8) to review the agenda and staff reports. The council meeting is scheduled to occur after the Almanac's print deadline. Check [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com) for updates.

## Picnic to have soccer aimed at small players

There will be soccer at the annual Portola Valley picnic on Saturday, June 6, but small-

sided soccer, according to a town statement. This variety of the beautiful game is geared toward small kids playing on small fields on small teams, sometimes with three players per side and no goal keepers.

The picnic begins as usual, with the Zots-to-Tots foot, scooter, and bike race from Ros-sotti's/Alpine Inn at 3195 Alpine Road to the Town Center at 765 Portola Road, a distance of about 2 miles. Race registration opens at 9:30 a.m. and the race begins at 10:30 a.m.

The picnic, which also begins at 10:30 a.m., will include a carnival by the Cub Scouts, barbecue by the Boy Scouts, and a cake walk and concessions by the Girl Scouts, the town says. There will be a strolling magician, an obstacle course, and an inflated room for jumping.

Volunteers from among the town's 16 committees will be on hand to talk about their work.

Music is set for 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and there will be a bar offering beer and wine, with the picnic's end set for 2 p.m.

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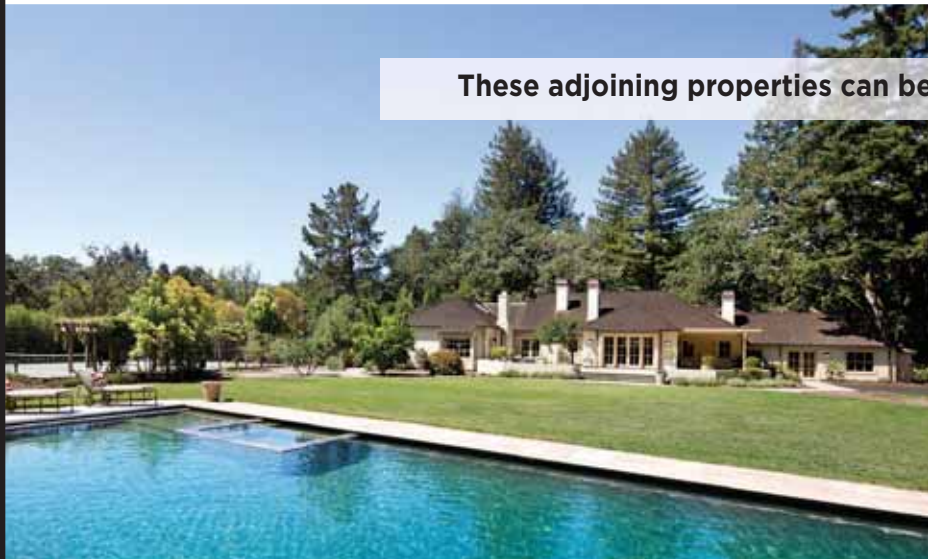
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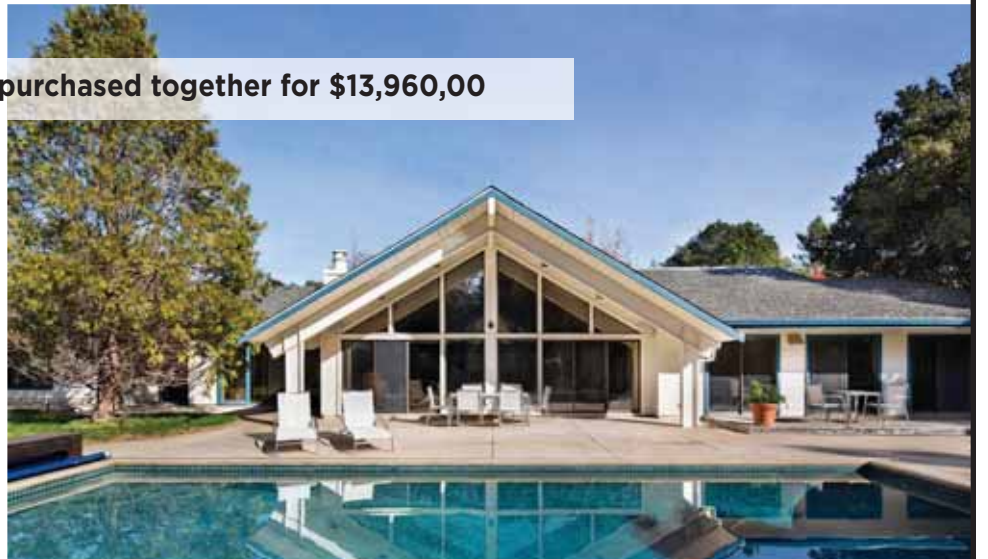
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### Gordon Alex Moore

Toy store owner and traveler

Woodside resident Gordon Alex Moore spent his working life as the owner of a toy store, and his free time enjoying the outdoors with his family at their cabin in Butte County, in the north country, and on walking tours of Europe. Mr. Moore died on May 18 at the age of 88.

Mr. Moore owned Talbot's Toyland, an independent toy store founded in San Mateo by his father-in-law, and now a Bay Area destination for toys, bicycles and



Gordon Moore

hobby materials. The family-fun website Red Tricycle calls Talbot's "the mama of all indie toy stores," and "super-duper legendary."

Mr. Moore was a native of Chico, California, and went to high school in North Sacramento. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1946. He had a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of California at Berkeley, where he met his future wife, Joan Talbot.

Joan's father, Wilburn "Lank" Talbot, founded Talbot's Toyland in 1953 and turned it over to Gordon in 1967. In 1995, Mr.

### OBITUARY

Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.

Moore's sons, Gary and Steve, took over store management. What is it like to own a toy store? "It's a matter of having fun and making a profit at it," Gary Moore told the Almanac. "That is a fine line."

Gordon Moore was a past president of the Greater Downtown San Mateo Association. In 1999, the Western Toy and Hobby Representatives Association honored Mr. Moore with the Retailer of the Year award.

He liked the outdoors. He fished Chico Creek as a youth, and he and Joan skied and golfed, and traveled in the West, Canada and Alaska.

The family spent summers at a cabin in Jonesville in Butte County.

With a group of 16 to 18 alumni of UC Berkeley, the same people every year, the Moores went on walking tours in England, Switzerland, northern Italy and France, Gary Moore said. The hikes were casual — three days here, three days there, so as to absorb the local culture, he said.

Mr. Moore is survived by his wife, Joan; his sons Stephen and Gary; his brother Gilbert; four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

The family requests that memorial donations be made to Warriors and Quiet Waters in memory of Gordon Alex Moore. Go to [warriorsandquietwaters.org](http://warriorsandquietwaters.org).

### ■ POLICE CALLS

This information is based on reports 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.

#### WEST MENLO PARK

##### Thefts:

■ Three residents in the 300 block of Vine Street reported three cases of theft from

parked vehicles. All three incidents were discovered in the morning, with vehicle doors open or ajar. Losses included \$25 in cash and various cards, \$10 in loose change, and \$35 in cash. May 18.

#### LADERA

**Residential burglary:** A neighbor reported seeing someone holding a pillow case run from a home on S. Castanya Way, then leaving the scene in a black Nissan Sentra. A gardener discovered a broken window on a rear door into the home. Deputies searched the area and the home, but found nothing that would lead to naming a suspect. May 23.

#### MENLO PARK

##### Residential burglaries:

■ Jewelry, an Apple iPhone, a computer and \$1,000 in coins were stolen from a residence in the 3800 block of Alameda de las Pulgas. The burglar entered via an unlocked sliding door on the side of the house. Estimated loss: \$15,900. May 26.

■ A slightly open bedroom window allowed a burglar to break into a house on Laurel Avenue and steal a laptop computer, a bike computer, jewelry, three cameras, lenses, a mini table computer, Bose speakers and \$1,000 in cash. Estimated loss: \$9,051. May 29.

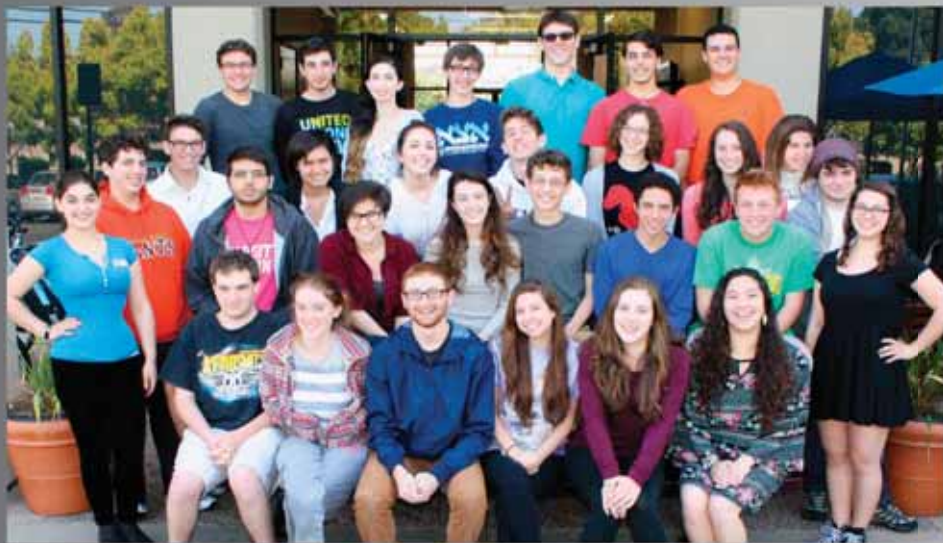
**Auto burglaries:** Thieves smashed windows of vehicles parked in the 100 and 700 blocks of El Camino Real, the 1600 block of Marsh Road, and the 3500 block of Haven Avenue. The stolen items were a GPS device and three purses, all of which contained cash and various personal cards. In one incident, nothing was taken. Estimated losses: \$940. May 22, 23, 28 and 31.

##### Thefts:

■ Thieves hit a home on Grayson Court and stole a ring, a necklace and a bracelet. Estimated loss: \$1,400. May 29.

Continued on next page

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**CITY PROJECTS**

*continued from page 11*

ing the initial development of as many as three emergency standby wells as secondary supplies for

the Menlo Park Municipal Water District's eastern service area.

For the 2016-17 fiscal year, the draft CIP's plans include the design and construction of upgrades to the aging equip-

ment of the Chrysler Pump Station, costing an estimated \$6.2 million for proposed improvements of pumps, motors, electrical systems, heaters, fans, flap gates and a generator. ▣

*Continued from previous page*

■ A woman left her purse on the back of a chair at Cafe Borrone and discovered that her wallet had been stolen. Estimated loss: \$1,086. May 27.

**Traffic accident:** A 78-year-old man drove his vehicle onto a soccer field at Willow Road and Coleman Avenue and collided with two fences, which caused his vehicle to spin before coming to a rest. Medics took him to a hospital for injuries that were non-life-threatening. May 25.

**Fraud:**

■ A business owner in the 700 block of El Camino Real paid \$500 in response to a phone call from someone who, claiming to be a PG&E employee, threatened to shut off gas service to the business unless payment was made. May 27.

■ Using purchased debit cards, a resident of Stanford Avenue transferred \$7,000 to a caller claiming to be an Internal Revenue Service agent who had threatened to have her arrested by the Menlo Park police. May 27.

## Margaret "Peg" Chandler

Margaret "Peg" Chandler, a 50+ year resident of Menlo Park passed away on Sunday, May 24, 2015. Peg was a long time member at the Church of the Nativity and very much committed to acts of kindness and service to others. Peg served many years on the Board of St. Vincent de Paul Society, making a difference in so many people's lives.

Peg is predeceased by her late husband Frank Chandler. A rosary and mass celebrating Peg's life will be held at 10:30 AM on Thursday, June 4 at Church of the Nativity, Menlo Park. A reception will immediately follow.

PAID OBITUARY

## John Jessup

Born in Roslyn, New York, son of Everett and Helen Jessup, he attended St. Paul's school, New Hampshire, and Princeton University. John died peacefully at home with his family in Atherton, California.

John was married to Elizabeth (Lee) Anderson of Princeton, New Jersey and is survived by their three children, Deborah, John (Toby) and David. The couple moved to California in 1948 where they lived in San Francisco, Redwood City and Atherton. Following Lee's death in 1981, John married Carolyn Havre (Fox) of Berkeley and Woodside, California (died 2013).

John was brother of Richard Jessup of Mill Valley (died 2012). Surviving sisters are Mary Amonette of Ross and Joan Eddy of Boston, Massachusetts.

John's residential construction career included many years as a general contractor building notable homes designed by architect Cliff May. He continued designing his own additions and upgrades for many clients.

John enjoyed winemaking and caring for his vineyard. He was an avid skier and tennis player. John was a faithful and generous friend to many throughout his long life. His words and poetry will be long-remembered.

A memorial service will be held at Christ Church in Portola Valley on June 5th, 2 PM.

PAID OBITUARY

## Gordon Alex Moore

*March 22, 1927 - May 18, 2015*

Gordon Alex Moore of Woodside, CA passed away on May 18, 2015 after a long illness.

Gordon was the long-time owner of Talbot's Toyland in San Mateo. Talbot's Toyland is known and loved throughout the Peninsula by generations of families.

Gordon was born in Chico, CA on March 22, 1927 to Gail and Imogene Moore. After graduating from Grant Union High School in North Sacramento in 1944, he joined the U.S. Navy in 1945 and honorably discharged in July 1946. Attending the University of California, Berkeley, he joined the Sigma Phi fraternity and also met Joan Talbot. After graduating in Business Administration, he and Joan married on May 22, 1948 in Carmel, CA.

In 1953 Talbot's Toyland opened in San Mateo. Joan's parents, Wilburn "Lank" and Betty Talbot, founded the store, later assisted by Gordon and Joan. Over the years Talbot's grew from a small corner shop to a premier destination toy, hobby and bicycle shop for the San Francisco Bay Area. It remains as one of the largest independent toy stores in the country.

Enjoying the outdoors, fishing and travel were important to Gordon. Growing up fishing Chico Creek and summers at the family cabin in Jonesville, CA cultivated a love of nature that was later reflected in their Woodside home where they enjoyed forests, wildlife and views high on Skyline Ridge as well as "forest gardening" which required use of their tractor, wood chippers and multiple chainsaws.

As avid skiers, golfers and fishers Gordon and Joan traveled the West, Canada and Alaska. They toured Europe with their European Walking Tours group, a collection of friends from UC Berkeley who spent many summers together.

Gordon was preceded in death by his parents and older brother, Gail Moore Junior. He is survived by his wife, Joan; sons Stephen T. (Shirley) Moore and Gary E. (Terri) Moore; younger brother Gilbert L. (Susan) Moore, four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and their sweet dog Tizzy.

At his request no services were held. The family suggests contributions to Warriors and Quiet Waters. <http://warriorsandquietwaters.org>



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# PROPERTY SHOWCASE BY HUGH CORNISH



NATURAL BEAUTY IN PORTOLA VALLEY

**4 Portola Green Circle, Portola Valley**

4 bedrooms, 3 baths; desirable cul-de-sac; moments to Town Center  
Offered at \$2,150,000



STUNNING NEW RESIDENCE

**214 Atherton Avenue, Atherton**

7-bedroom, 8+ bath main residence, guest house and pavilion  
Offered at \$19,750,000



MAGNIFICENT ESTATE PROPERTY

**75 Almedral Avenue, Atherton**

6 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, guest house and pool cabaña  
Offered at \$17,888,000



SPECTACULAR WINDY HILL VIEWS

**737 Westridge Drive, Portola Valley**

4-bedroom, 4-bath hilltop estate, pool, spa, equestrian facilities  
Offered at \$7,795,000



SOPHISTICATED SHARON HEIGHTS HOME

**2315 Tioga Drive, Menlo Park**

3 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, art studio, beautiful gardens  
Offered at \$3,650,000



DESIRABLE WOODSIDE HEIGHTS

**205 Eleanor Drive, Woodside**

4 bedrooms, 3 baths, guest house, patio, and pool  
Offered at \$3,349,000



## HUGH CORNISH

[www.HUGHORNISH.COM](http://www.HUGHORNISH.COM)

650.566.5353

[hcornish@cbnorcal.com](mailto:hcornish@cbnorcal.com)

CalBRE# 00912143

#1 Agent, Menlo Park – El Camino Office, 2014  
Ranked #53 Nationally by *The Wall Street Journal*, 2014  
Over \$1.5 Billion in Sales

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