



**Drought, disease  
claiming pine trees** | Page 3

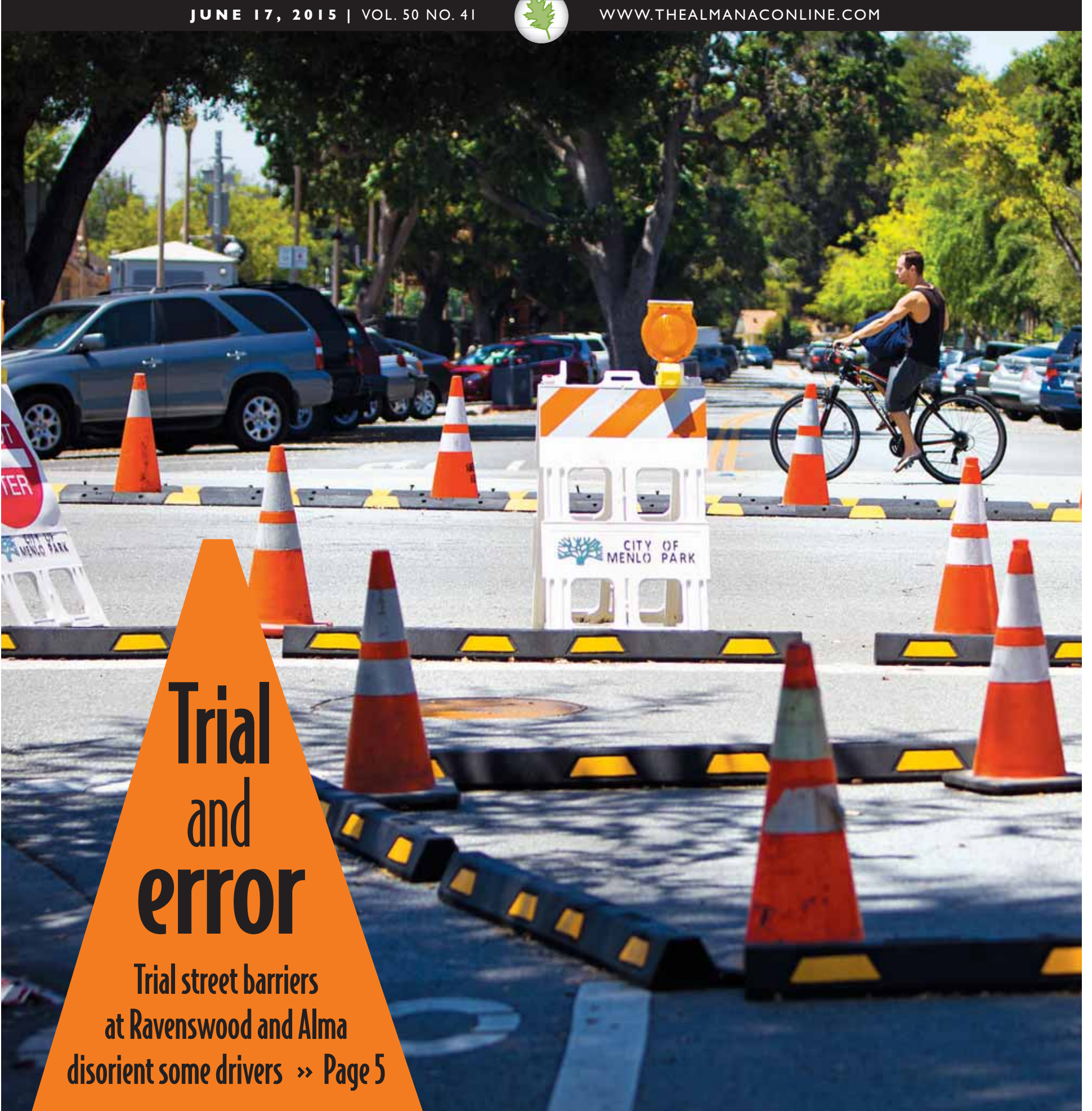
# The Almanac

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

JUNE 17, 2015 | VOL. 50 NO. 41



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## Trial and error

Trial street barriers  
at Ravenswood and Alma  
disorient some drivers >> Page 5

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# Drought, disease claim pines

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Pine trees are not native to Portola Valley, Woodside and the Woodside Fire Protection District in general, and large numbers of them are suffering from the drought.

“Overwhelmingly, pine trees have been hit the hardest,” said fire district Fire Marshal Denise Enea. “Some of our pines were already infested with bark beetle and the drought has compounded the health issue. ... We are seeing hundreds of pines die within the fire district.”

Pines are native to the Monterey Peninsula, said arborist Kevin Kielty. In addition to the drought, their decline can be attributed to pine-pitch canker and bark beetle, he said.

Oak debris in parks and open spaces is largely an aftereffect of sudden oak death syndrome, Ms. Enea said.

The fire district is working with Pacific Gas & Electric Co. to remove trees on public land that endanger power lines. Such trees on private property are the responsibility of property owners, who should hire a contractor certified to work near power lines, Ms. Enea said.

Any dead tree that endangers a structure, road, power line or public trail should come down, she added.

Native trees appear to be faring better. At the Portola Valley Town Center, for example, the oaks and redwoods are not showing sign of stress yet, said Public Works Director Howard Young. They must be finding water on their own. “We don’t water trees,” Mr. Young said.

The town’s right-of-way is home to stressed trees, and 90 percent of them are pines, he said. If a tree dies, it will be taken down, he said.

## Caring for trees

Trees in need of supplemental irrigation are good candidates for grey water — recycled



Courtesy Woodside Fire Protection District

**This dead pine tree is typical in the Woodside Fire Protection District, where pines are not native and are under assault from drought, pine-pitch canker and bark beetle.**

**‘We are seeing hundreds of pines die within the fire district.’**

FIRE MARSHAL DENISE ENEA

water from showers, bathtubs and washing machines, Ms. Enea said.

Trees most in need may be located where concrete restricts where their roots grow, for example, next to a house or driveway or in a median. Also vulnerable are trees with roots injured by construction work, she said.

A layer of mulch at least 4 inches thick around the base of the tree will conserve moisture, she said. Good mulching materials include wood chips, shredded bark, leaves and evergreen needles.

Fertilizers are not appropriate, she said, as they contain damaging salts and could stimulate leaf growth, which would increase moisture loss.

Other stress factors making the drought worse for a tree include construction work nearby, dead and weakened limbs, untreated diseases, and lawn-oriented herbicides in the vicinity, she said. **A**

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**NOTICE IS GIVEN** pursuant to Sections 5473, et. seq. of the California Health and Safety Code that the District Board of West Bay Sanitary District has, by general regulation, elected to collect its charges for sewer services for FY 2015-2016 on the tax roll in the same manner as general taxes and will cause to be filed with its Secretary a written report containing a description of each parcel of real property receiving sanitary sewer service from the District and the amount of the charge for each parcel.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that on Wednesday evening, June 24, 2015 at the hour of 5:30 p.m. at the meeting room located at the District’s offices, located at 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA the District Board will conduct a Public Hearing to hear and consider all protests and objections, if any, to the report.

Anyone wishing to address the District Board concerning these matters may do so in writing at or before the date of the Public Hearing or may be heard at the time of the Board’s meeting.

Dated: May 27, 2015

/s/ Phil Scott  
Phil Scott  
District Manager

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Trial street barriers lead to unusual driving

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

After Menlo Park installed barriers to limit turns at the Ravenswood Avenue and Alma Street intersection, some drivers went berserk.

Kicking off a six-month trial, the city during the week of June 2 installed a temporary median from the Ravenswood Avenue railroad crossing to the Alma Street crosswalk, along with a curb extension to block left turns from northbound Alma Street onto Ravenswood Avenue. Right turns from Ravenswood to head south on Alma Street are also blocked.

Some drivers appeared to regard the barriers blocking right turns on to southbound Alma Street as a personal challenge, calling for dodging cones, barricades and pedestrians trying to cross the street and driving the wrong way into the northbound lane.

Others treated the at-grade railroad tracks at the intersection as a great spot to pause or change direction.

"A gray minivan heading south on Alma came to a stop at Ravenswood," one witness told the Almanac. "While the driver's intentions could not be known, it was pretty clear that the intent was to turn east (left) on to Ravenswood and that the new structures made that impossible. The minivan sat there for maybe 60 seconds, perhaps waiting for traffic, then quietly turned right onto Ravenswood, started across the Caltrain tracks, turned south and followed the tracks for a bit in between the crossing gates, then turned left again at Ravenswood to head east."

In case this isn't clear:

"Those are really not safe maneuvers to do," said Nikki Nagaya, the city's transportation manager. "It puts everyone at risk, whether you're walking or biking or driving. There's a lot of kids and families using the crosswalks. We just ask for everybody's patience and to keep everybody's safety in mind."

The Menlo Park Police Department was busy during the first week after the barriers went up. Between June 2 and June 10, officers handed out:

■ Seven tickets for failing to

Disgruntled drivers are asking why the city decided to block right turns onto southbound Alma Street.

obey traffic signs.

■ Five tickets for failing to yield to pedestrians.

■ Four tickets for driving on the wrong side of the road.

■ Two tickets for failing to stop at the railroad crossing and/or stopping on the tracks.

■ Two tickets for crossing the double yellow lines on the road.

■ As well as a few tickets for driving while talking on a cell-phone, expired registration and missing license plates.

The extra enforcement attention at the intersection is expected to continue. "It's an expensive ticket and includes points on your license," Ms. Nagaya said. "It's not something we want to see a lot of people getting."

The city is tweaking the barriers to discourage the stunt driving. The work crew extended the barrier blocking off southbound Alma to make right turns from Ravenswood harder, and lengthened the median running along the center of Ravenswood down past Alma Lane to eliminate drivers using that side street as a bypass to the turn restrictions.

The trial changes came about after a 35-year-old woman died on Feb. 23 when a bullet train struck her westbound SUV at the Ravenswood Avenue railroad crossing.

The Ravenswood crossing has seen trains clip cars on the tracks twice before, but the Feb. 23, 2015, crash was the first fatality, according to Caltrain's data. A train clipped the rear of a car in April 2012; both passengers survived. In November 2014 a train knocked the bumper off a car, with no one injured.

### Unhappy drivers

Disgruntled drivers are asking why the city decided to block right turns onto southbound Alma Street when that's the most direct route to the public library and gym. The crosswalks are the real problem, some said, as pedestrians can unexpectedly



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

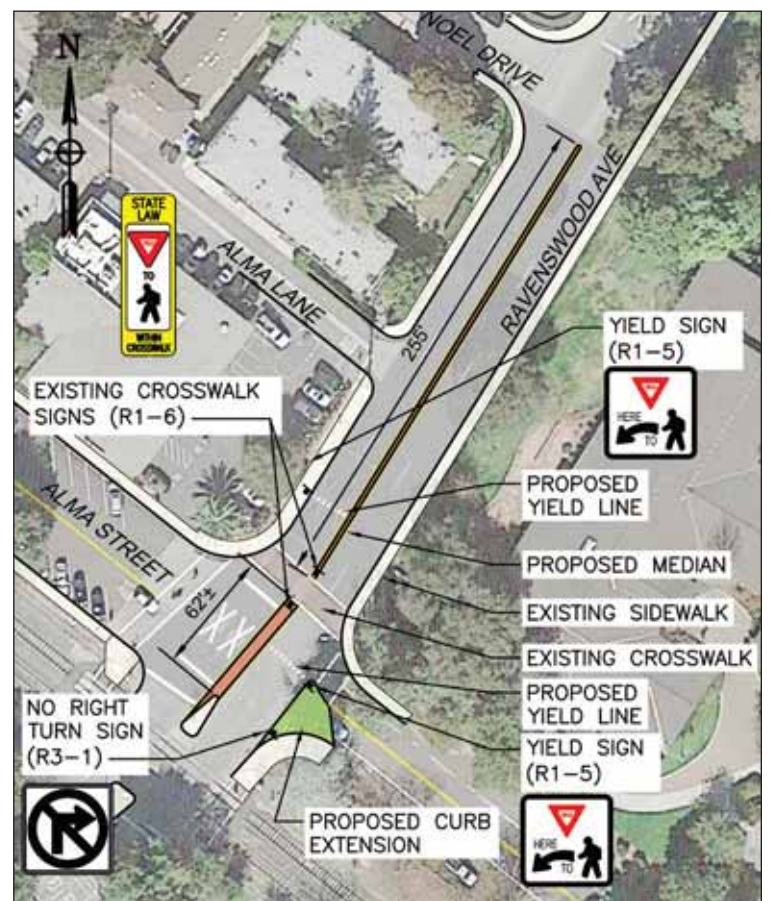
Menlo Park experiments with street barriers to reduce hazards at Ravenswood Avenue and Alma Street, near the train tracks, but use of the crosswalk still leads to traffic backups around the tracks. **On the cover:** This is the view northbound on Alma Street at Ravenswood Avenue. The city is adjusting street barriers to block right-turns onto Alma from eastbound Ravenswood. The cyclist is riding east on Ravenswood toward the train tracks. (Photo by Michelle Le.)

cause traffic to back up on to the railroad tracks, and anyway, the fatal accident in February had nothing to do with that right turn. So why not move the crosswalks, they asked.

Echoing the frustrations of many, former councilman John Boyle in an email to the city wrote: "So to get to the gym parking lot (or library parking or baseball/soccer parking, etc.) I now have to drive all the way around on Laurel to Burgess to Alma and back up toward Ravenswood?"

He said the changes add driving time, frustration and traffic, not to mention confusion for anyone unfamiliar with alternate routes, and that the real issue is the crosswalk on Ravenswood Avenue, "i.e. traffic that is going STRAIGHT, not the traffic turning right. The death on the tracks was truly tragic, but I ask you to reconsider this over-reaction and, in my opinion, ill-conceived 'solution.'"

Ms. Nagaya explained the rationale behind the changes. "We've had five incidents at the Ravenswood crossing in the last 10 years," she said. "Luckily most haven't been fatal. But we have also had 15 vehicle-



City of Menlo Park graphic

The city is experimenting with temporary street barriers in an effort to reduce hazards at the Ravenswood Avenue and Alma Street intersection near the train tracks. The current trial blocks left turns from Alma onto Ravenswood, and right-turns from eastbound Ravenswood onto Alma. Some drivers oppose the changes and have even made the right turn by driving in the wrong lane.

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## Atherton leader Phil Lively dies at 86; service Saturday

Philip D. Lively of Atherton, whose public service to his community over the last 25 years was wide-reaching and consequential, died Friday, June 12, after suffering complications from a recent stroke. He was 86.

A service will be held for Mr. Lively at Trinity Episcopal Church, 330 Ravenswood Ave. in Menlo Park, at 3 p.m. Saturday, June 20. It will be followed by a reception.



Philip D. Lively

Mr. Lively, who enjoyed bipartisan support and respect as a community leader, was still going strong as a participant in town affairs before his stroke: He was chairman of the Planning Commission, and a member of the Rail Committee and the Civic Center Advisory Committee.

A more detailed obituary will be published in next week's Almanac.

Go to [tinyurl.com/Lively612](http://tinyurl.com/Lively612) for information submitted to the Almanac's Lasting Memories page by his family and to check on any update on services.

## La Entrada graduates 149 eighth-graders

### GRADUATION 2015

La Entrada Middle School in Menlo Park held its graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 11, in the school gym.

Grace King, Associated Student Body president, was the master of ceremonies. Dillon Galvin, ASB treasurer, led the flag salute. Walker Seymour, ASB community service liaison, introduced the student speakers. Superintendent Lisa Cesario of the Las Lomitas Elementary School District welcomed the students, their families and guests.

The program featured speeches by students Cecilia Hanna, Grace King, Cole Pritchard and Trystan Uphoff. There were also short, recorded reflections by each of the 149 eighth-graders.

Principal Shannon Potts announced student awards in a variety of categories.

Cooper Gran, eighth-grade student coordinator, presented the class gift, which this year is a podium.

Assistant Principal Sonya Dineen announced the names of the graduates. Richard Ginn, president of the governing board and Ms. Potts presented the graduates to the Las Lomitas Elementary School District board members: William Steinmetz, John Earnhardt, Christy Heaton and Diane Honda.

A reception was provided by the PTA parents immediately following the graduation. The graduates celebrated later at a party, planned by their parents, in the school's Jensen Hall.

#### Graduates

**A-C** Isabella Abarca, Emerald Adair, Imanol Angulo Sainz, Klara Astrom,

Beckett Avary, Amelia Bailey, Giselle Ball, Molly Banks, William Beasley, Timothee Berthier, Amrita Bhasin, Baylie Bofenkamp, Saarth Bonde, Brice Buathier, John Canessa, Xavier Carrou, Caroline Casolo, Alexander Castile, Sydney Cheek, Hannah Chew, William Colbert, Alexander Coleman Stavridis, Kai Conley, Anna Crousore

**D-J** Finnegan DePuy, Katherine Derrough, Jonathan Dicks, Natalie Dicks, John Dillabough, Luke DiMartino, Lauren Dineen, Christopher DiSibio, Nicole Dundas, Jessica Eagle, Annika Ebert, Ben Eisenstat, Tara Ellingson, Kaitlin Marie Espiritu, Oron Estes, Lata i Finehika Fetu u, Giselle Fierro, Erica Fischer, Erick Flores, Miguel Flores, Alec Friedsam, Danielle Gafni, Dillon Galvin, Ariana Gaxiola, Sophia Giarrusso, Nils Glader, Cooper Gran, James Guillen, Lauren Gursky, Sandra Gutierrez, Mayra Gutierrez Lucatero, Cecilia Hanna, James Harshman, Greta Hoffman, Takeshi Inoue, Luca Johnson, Siri Joustra

**K-P** Thomas Kelly, David Kelmar, James Kinder, Alexander King, Grace King, Rhys Krappe, Kiran Kruse, Miyu Kuboi, Conrad Kuhlmann, Mason Lau, Matthew Le, Anna Blanca Leake, Zoe Levitan, Heriberto Lombera, Sophia Longo, Hector Maldonado, Karina Maldonado, Margaret Malecek, Lindsey Marcus, Valery Marin Revolorio, Cole Mediratta, Andrew Min, Gabriella Molano, Lauren Moltz, Maxine Moss, Emilie Mueller, Karen Mueller, Miranda Mueller, Lakshmidurga Murahari, Mahalakshmi Murahari, Marquise Nelson, Eva Neumann, Matthew Neumann, Ashley Nguyen, Erin Noble, Madeline Oliver, Joseph Olshausen, Jessica O'Neill, Priscila Palafox Duran, Haley Patane, Hannah Perez Parsons, Caitlyn Perkocha, Elizaveta Pertseva, Mitra Pezeshki, Charlotte Plewman, Cameron Plume, Aashka Popat, Veronica Pratt, Henry Price, Cole Pritchard

**Q-Z** Thomas Rehor, Julien Reid, Alejandro Romero Ruiz, Alejandro Ross, Tae Rugh, Sierra Sakrison, Giovanni Saldivar Zetina, Noah Savelson, Luke Scandlyn, Kumali Schoen, Matthew Scopazzi-Beatty, Robert Seiguer, Walker Seymour, Allen Shahshahani, Charles Smith, Maxim Sokolov, Austin Stern, Thomas Sullivan, Katherine Summers, Kostantino Sweezy, Cole Taylor, Alexandra Thanassi, Amelia Threatt, Kathryn Thurston, Samuel Timm, John Tully, Trystan Uphoff, Thomas Vesely, Xaime Vina Patino, Anshul Vinayak, Anthony Waller, Olivia Weil, Abigail Weiss, Matthew Westly, Weston White, Max Wong, Jonathan Woodland, Zoe Zaharias

# Menlo Park looks at 'worst case scenario' for M2 development

■ If you study it, will they build it?

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

As Menlo Park continues to work on revising the zoning regulations for the city's M2 industrial zone, one question repeatedly popped up: Once the maximum amount of potential new development is set, does that mean the area will actually see that much construction? Or is that only a worst case scenario that will never come to pass?

The question inspired some thoughtful discussion on June 8 as the Planning Commission made recommendations on how much development the environmental impact report for the zoning update should analyze.

Existing regulations don't allow residential or hotel uses without variances within the M2 area, roughly located between the Bay and U.S. 101. That needs to change, however, as a number of apartment complexes are under construction in the zone, along with larger developments such as Menlo Gateway and Facebook's ongoing expansion.

After holding a series of community workshops, the city is considering creating two "live/work/play" areas in the zone, one along Jefferson Drive and the other along Willow Road, according to the staff report.

Also coming out of the work-

## ■ INFORMATION

Check [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com) for updates.

shops, as well as the General Plan Advisory Committee, were suggested caps on new development:

- 2.1 million square feet of new nonresidential buildings.
- 4,500 new housing units.
- 5,500 new jobs.
- 600 new hotel rooms.

The Planning Commission on June 8 voted 5-0-2, with Katherine Strehl absent and Drew Combs recused, to support those caps. They emphasized that this probably does not represent the actual amount of development that will occur.

"It's important to, dare I say, slightly inflate" the amount of development to be studied to ensure that mitigations are in place for the worst case scenario, said Chair John Onken. He compared it to taking out more money from an ATM than you plan to spend on a night out, just in case unexpected expenses pop up.

The commission also talked briefly about how to mitigate the impacts on those already renting housing in Belle Haven, near the M2 zone. Commissioner Katie Ferrick raised the idea of rent control by capping annual increases to help prevent current residents from being forced out by landlords hiking rent as demand for

housing in the area grows.

Consultant Charlie Knox, speaking on behalf of PlaceWorks, the company contracted to oversee the general plan update, suggested a combination of rent control and regulations to prohibit the eviction of tenants simply to get higher rent.

"Like Prop 13 for renters," he said.

He noted that Menlo Park is short on housing for all income levels. "Even tech workforce will have a variety of needs (for housing). The more we can build, the better. ... The nonprofit advocates are saying 'we are really going to have to build ourselves out of it.'"

During public comment, Belle Haven resident Vicky Robledo spoke about other concerns, including traffic — "It can take an hour to get from Chilco to Willow (now)" — in addition to keeping housing affordable for everyone.

Ms. Robledo asked how new residents will be integrated into the diverse, deeply rooted community. "Once you build on the west side of Willow, it's going to be a whole different community. ... I don't want kids to go to the 'west side of Willow' and be profiled as suspicious."

On Tuesday, June 16, the City Council is expected to review the commission's recommendations for the scope of the environmental impact report.

Check [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com) for updates. That meeting occurred after the Almanac went to press. ■

# Santa Cruz Ave. closes for block party

Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the ninth annual Menlo Park Block Party on Wednesday, June 17, will close Santa Cruz Avenue to traffic for a night of local shopping, live music, classic cars, food and more. The free event runs from 5 to 9 p.m.

Also on Wednesday, the free summer concert series kicks off with a performance by Beatles tribute band The Sun Kings. Catch the music from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Fremont Park, located at the intersection of Santa Cruz Avenue and University Drive.

## ■ MENLO BRIEFS

### Stanford complex

In addition to revamping the design for a public plaza at Middle Avenue, Stanford University is looking at adding housing units and reducing the amount of office space in the approximately 430,000-square-foot mixed-use complex it plans to build at 500 El Camino Real in partnership with developer John Arrillaga.

The revisions are still in process, Stanford spokeswoman Jean McCown said, and the

tweaked proposal may be submitted to the city of Menlo Park by the end of summer.

The plaza is now projected to be 21,000 square feet, about double the size of the public plaza in front of Cafe Borrone. It would be located just north of the Middle Avenue and El Camino Real intersection, according to Ms. McCown. The entry into the complex's underground parking garage has been shifted to the side of the property closest to the railroad tracks instead of running under the plaza as the initial design had proposed.

and had no pulse," said Chief Ghorso.

Detective Salvador Zuno, public information officer for the San Mateo Sheriff's Office, said numerous witnesses were interviewed and there is no evidence of foul play.

# Man, 20, dies in Emerald Hills pool drowning

A 20-year-old man died due to an apparent drowning in a pool during a party at an Emerald Hills home on Sunday, June 7, officials said.

Paramedics arrived to a chaotic scene at the California Way home two minutes after receiv-

ing a 911 call at 8:48 a.m. They found Brandon George-Flores of Gilroy out of the pool receiving CPR, said Woodside Fire Protection Chief Dan Ghorso.

"Our crews did the assessment, realized that he is in full arrest, so he wasn't breathing

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

### Seeing Your House As Buyers See It



Dear Monica:

**My home is on the market but not getting any showings. It is a nice property and I don't understand why in this very active market, it is not getting any interest. What would you suggest?**

Sarah B.

Dear Sarah:

I agree that in this market you should be getting showings. It may be that the price is too high for the kind of property it is. To sell in this market, properties need to seem good value to buyers. If your house

is older and doesn't meet present buyers' tastes and styles, and it is priced at the high end of its range, buyers will pass it by because they will consider it is too expensive to remodel.

When you put your home on the market, it is important that you see it from the viewpoint of the buyer. It doesn't matter how much you have loved the property. What matters is that a buyer loves it and that the price reflects the quality and function of the property. Consult with your agent to find out what buyers want and make changes that will attract them.

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The Almanac

# How did human remains end up in backyard?

By Barbara Wood

Almanac Staff Writer

## ■ ATHERTON

The caller told the Atherton Police Department she found a bucket filled with bones in an Atherton backyard.

When Atherton Police Department Sgt. Sherman Hall arrived at the Toyon Road home on Tuesday, June 9, he said he was sure he'd found a crime scene. He saw an old metal bucket, filled with human bones, with a shovel and a garbage bag nearby.

Sgt. Hall said the call came from a woman who noticed the bucket and its contents when she was picking up items from a home being cleaned out to be turned over to new owners. The caller hadn't told the owner of the home that she was calling the police, he said.

"She was concerned," Sgt. Hall said. "Obviously it got my attention."

The crime lab was on the way to do an excavation, he said, when he noticed that one of the skulls had writing on it. He spoke to the woman who had recently sold the home, and she "volunteered that her father had, to the best of her recollection, gotten them from the Palo Alto Junior Museum." The woman said she thought her father, who is deceased, had been given the bones by someone named Merle.

Sgt. Hall said he shared that information, along with the fact that one of the skulls clearly said "Willougy" on it in black marker, with John Aikin, current director of the museum. Mr. Aikin said the museum found in its records that someone named Willougy or Willouby had donated an "Indian skull" in 1973. Records said those bones had been uncovered in the East Berryessa region of San Jose, he said.

Mr. Aikin also said Merle Carson had worked at the museum until 1990, when he retired. Mr. Carson is also

deceased, Sgt. Hall said.

Sgt. Hall said if the bones turn out to be the ones that the museum had once had in its collection, they are 200 to 300 years old.

The bones have now been turned over to the San Mateo County coroner to photograph and examine, Sgt. Hall said.

In the meantime the staff of the museum is continuing its own investigation, Mr. Aikin said. He plans to have museum staff members scour the archives looking for photos and records connected to the bones. "Then we'd know they were actually here once," he said. "We're going to need more evidence."

Mr. Aikin said he has found a connection between the deceased owner of the home and the museum. Someone of the same name, he said, appears to have been "a trusted adviser" to the former museum director. "I'm not surprised that bones ended up there," he said.

If it can be proved the museum previously possessed the bones, they will be returned to the museum, he said. Then the museum will have to follow a complicated set of state, federal and local laws that govern such anthropological finds, he said.

Museum employees will need to comb their records for evidence linking the bones to a tribal group, and then notify that group that they have the remains. If the tribal group wants the remains, they will be turned over, he said. If not, the museum can keep them, he added.

This sort of mystery is one reason that he loves his work, Mr. Aikin said. "We have to try to piece it all together."

"I don't think there's anything wrong here," he said, except for the fact that "these bones were put in a place they shouldn't have been." Now, he said, he wants "to find where these bones belong." ■

**'She was concerned. Obviously it got my attention.'**

ATHERTON  
SGT. SHERMAN HALL



Photo by Magali Gauthier

Cecilia Wong in her new jewelry store in downtown Menlo Park.

## Ribbon-cutting for Ceci Wong jewelers

By Jane Knoerle

Almanac Lifestyles Editor

With its vibrant purple sign and bright interior, Ceci Wong jewelers is a colorful addition to downtown Menlo Park. Opened quietly last December, the store is having its grand opening Saturday and Sunday, June 20 and 21, at 611 Santa Cruz Ave.

The Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony there at 10 a.m. Friday, June 19. Council members Kirsten Keith and Ray Mueller will attend.

Located at the site of the former Lego store and next door to Coldstone Creamery, Ceci Wong is named for its co-owner, Cecilia Wong, who has

been in the jewelry business for several years. She formerly owned Lustre Pearls & Gems at Valley Fair. Her daughter Chloe is her business partner in the new venture.

The grand opening will feature a trunk show by jade expert David Lin of T.S. Lin Company. Ceci Wong carries the largest collection of Mr. Lin's A-grade Burmese jadeite pieces in the Bay Area.

The new store also offers such high-end treasures as Tacori and Benchmark wedding rings, Swiss time pieces, and works by Armenian designers Alishan and Buccellatti. Cecilia Wong will also design custom jewelry for her clients.

A native of Hong Kong, Ms. Wong attended school in Lon-

don and worked in New York at a law firm before moving to the Bay Area. She earned a degree from the Gemological Institute of America and worked at Tiffany & Co and Neiman Marcus at Stanford Shopping Center before opening Lustre Pearls & Gems jewelry store at Valley Fair six years ago.

Her daughter, Chloe Lee, is also a Gemological Institute grad. She, too, works the sales floor and travels the world on behalf of her mom's business.

In the ever-changing downtown business scene, Menlo Park has lost one prestige jewelry store with the retirement of Tom Wing & Sons. Ceci Wong, its partnership of mother and daughter, offers a vibrant replacement. ■

## BARRIERS

continued from page 5

pedestrian collisions at the Alma and Ravenswood intersection. It's more than just the rail crossing, although that's the primary concern."

When the city evaluated video data from Caltrain as well as its own recordings of the intersection, the staff found that traffic heading eastbound on Ravenswood Avenue led to a lot of near misses as vehicles "fouled the tracks" — i.e. got stuck sitting on the railroad tracks.

"That happens much more frequently in the eastbound direction due to three causes — vehicles turning right on to

Alma, the pedestrian crossing at Ravenswood and the pedestrian crossing at Alma," Ms. Nagaya said.

The city opted to test a couple quick solutions, in the form of turn restrictions, while continuing to evaluate whether the crosswalks should be relocated, she said. Moving the crosswalks involves pulling up all the lights that indicate when the crossing is in use, which costs a lot more than the \$12,000 spent to date on restricting the intersection, and also entails a lot more public education.

"If we move the crosswalk to Noel, for example, and we don't make provisions to guide pedestrians there as opposed to where they cross today, we'd see people continuing to cross at the

current location anyway," the transportation manager said.

Community outreach remains an ongoing effort. Caltrain has been promoting its rail safety campaign during the month of June. The city of Menlo Park is evaluating whether to create web-based surveys to collect community feedback about the trial changes, according to Ms. Nagaya. People can currently pass along comments by contacting the transportation division at (650) 330-6770 or transportation@menlopark.org.

More permanent changes are on the horizon. The city is also studying options for designing a separation between the road and the railroad tracks; the \$750,000 study is expected to take at least 18 months. ■

The Almanac  
AlmanacNews.com

### LET'S DISCUSS:

Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues on Town Square at AlmanacNews.com

# Tech failed to show up to take blood samples in MP shooting

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

After three Menlo Park police officers shot and killed a parolee at large last November, a lot needed to happen, including the collection of blood samples from the officers. But no technician from the county's contracted phlebotomy service ever showed up.

It's not the first time Specimen Specialists of America Inc., which was awarded a \$290,000 contract with San Mateo County in August 2012 to collect evidentiary blood samples, failed to follow through.

If the phlebotomy technicians don't show up — or arrive late, with someone's metabolism continuing to process whatever drugs may be present — evidence that may bolster the case for either innocence or guilt is lost.

In the case of the Menlo Park shooting, the District Attorney's Office found that the police officers were justified in shooting in self-defense. Blood samples could have supported

that conclusion by objectively establishing, for example, that none was under the influence of any substance that interfered with their judgment at the time.

The county contract states that lab technicians are to respond within 40 minutes of a service call to take blood from: those arrested or incarcerated, those involved in a motor vehicle collision who agree to have blood drawn, and public safety personnel involved in critical incidents, such as officer-involved shootings and vehicle accidents.

The phlebotomy service is called out 1,764 times a year on average, according to the county. From mid-2012 through April 2014, the San Mateo County Forensics Laboratory, which has oversight of the contract for phlebotomy services, tracked at least 24 complaints about the service from Peninsula law enforcement agencies.

The complaints included technicians not showing up, arriving without the necessary kits, and failing to appear in court to

testify. Explanations given by the contractor ranged from car breakdowns to scheduling conflicts; in other cases, technicians were fired for ignoring calls.

The county forensics lab also noted 76 late responses — i.e., when the technician exceeded

## County working to resolve issues with blood evidence collection.

the 40-minute response time set by the contract.

The exact number of complaints to date is unknown. When complaints came in "somewhat regularly" in 2012 and 2013, documentation was kept for quality control and to make sure service improved, according to the forensics laboratory director, Alex Karagianes. The laboratory stopped keeping a "complaint file" in early 2014 because the complaints "were all but non-existent" by that time, he said.

"Now every three to four

months, I'll get something from a commander or captain saying, it took them 90 minutes to get here," he said.

The laboratory had no documentation related to complaints made about the response to the November 2014 shooting in Menlo Park.

Mr. Karagianes noted that the service has come a long way, although there's still work to be done — to improve response times, for one, perhaps by making a technician available in the field during peak call hours.

"We're not complacent as a department," he said. "I'm working with the company, and every time I get a complaint, I engage them."

Specimen Specialists did not respond to interview requests from the Almanac.

## Menlo Park case

Mr. Karagianes went to the scene of the Nov. 11 shooting in Menlo Park, as did District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe. According to the lab director, no one told them there was a problem getting a phlebotomy technician.

Menlo Park Police Cmdr. Dave Bertini, who was out of town at the time of the shooting but had oversight of the police department's part in the

investigation after returning to work, said no one knew whom to complain to. After learning about the problem, he called the forensics lab to find out who was responsible for the contract.

Jurisdiction over the phlebotomy contact had bounced around between county divisions before settling at the forensics lab, adding to the confusion. Had someone at the scene of the shooting reported the problem to him, Mr. Karagianes said, "there were other options we could have put in place."

Urine testing would have been one option. Another would have been asking the staff at the Keller Center, a facility at the county hospital that handles emergency care and evidence collection in abuse and sexual assault cases, to take the blood samples.

A blood draw is the common procedure, according to Cmdr. Bertini. "In the end, I think the simple answer to this specific incident is (that) no one considered a urine test as an alternative after the lab folks failed to show." Similarly, turning to the Keller Center was not on anyone's radar since the police department doesn't use that facility for blood draws. Taking an officer to another location

See **BLOOD DRAW**, page 12

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

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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.

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# Schools, neighbors face off over Sunday use of field

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo School and Menlo College, which share use of the athletic field known as Cartan Field, want Atherton to allow them to continue to use the field on Sundays, as they say they've been doing for decades.

But neighbors say a use permit granted to the school and college in 1965 prohibits use of the field on Sundays and they want it

stopped.

The matter will come before the Atherton City Council when it meets Wednesday, June 17, starting at 7 p.m. in the town's council chamber at 94 Ashfield Road. Also on the agenda is approval of the town's budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year; setting the amount of the parcel tax for that year; and changes to the town's special events regulations.

For the school and college to continue to have athletic events on Cartan Field on Sun-

## Neighbors want Sundays to be 'a day of rest' with no organized athletic events on the field.

days, the use permit governing the two campuses must be modified. The school and college applied for such a modification, but their application was unanimously denied by the Planning Commission, with Mary Widmer not par-

ticipating, on May 27.

Late in 2013, the town asked Menlo School and Menlo College to stop using Cartan Field on Sundays for games or summer camps, but representatives of the school and college admit the use continued through 2014. After the town again asked for the Sunday use to stop in 2015, the school and college responded by asking to have the use permit amended.

They originally asked that the permit allow games and sports

campus on Sundays, but opposition from neighbors reduced the request to simply permitting up to five baseball games a year on Sundays if games were rained out or stopped due to darkness on an earlier day of the week.

Neighbors say they want Sundays to be "a day of rest" with no organized athletic events at all on the field.

The town has also asked that the use of public address systems, also prohibited in the use permit, be discontinued. ■

## Graphic Designer

Embarcadero Media, producers of the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac, Mountain View Voice, Pleasanton Weekly, PaloAltoOnline.com and several other community websites, is looking for a graphic designer to join its award-winning design team.

Design opportunities include online and print ad design and editorial page layout. Applicant must be fluent in InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator. Flash knowledge is a plus. Newspaper or previous publication experience is preferred, but we will consider qualified — including entry level — candidates. Most importantly, designer must be a team player and demonstrate speed, accuracy and thrive under deadline pressure. The position will be approximately 32 - 40 hours per week.

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## County creates veterans commission

Veterans of military service who live in San Mateo County will have a representative body that speaks directly to the county Board of Supervisors on issues that affect them. On June 2, the board voted unanimously to approve a resolution to establish the Veterans' Commission.

The new commission is "near and dear to my heart," said supervisor and Vietnam veteran Warren Slocum. "It's our job and it's our duty" to help veterans, he said.

The county estimates there are about 33,000 veterans in San Mateo County, many of whom are employed and live stable lives. The commission will work mainly on behalf of veterans with unmet needs.

Among those needs, according to a study by the county manager's office and the county's Human Services Agency, are safety-net services, mental and behavior health services, and affordable housing for veterans and their families.

The commission aims to expand veterans' awareness of available benefits and services, focus on issues affecting women veterans, and address the needs of homeless veterans, officials said.

The commission will have nine voting members appointed by the supervisors for three-year terms, with a requirement to meet at least six times a year and to report to the board at least once a year.

The county is expected to begin accepting applications for the commission in July.

### BLOOD DRAW

*continued from page 9*

to give a sample is also not common practice, he said.

Mr. Karagianes said he learned of the problems a day or two later via email, and the issue was resolved — everyone now knows he's the one to complain to.

"I think sometimes people don't like making phone calls to

complain," he said. "I like when they call. Otherwise, it festers. If I don't know about it, I can't fix it."

### Contract up in June

The county contract with Specimen Specialists expires on June 30. Mr. Karagianes said he has prepared a request for bid proposals.

"There's not a lot of people doing this work," he said. "Three years

ago, we had two bidders, this company and one other. The downside to opening it up is always, what happens if no one applies? Now what do I do? I guess I'd be taking classes on the weekend to learn how to do (blood draws)."

Should a provider not be chosen by June 30, the current contract allows a temporary extension for up to \$25,000 in services.

Why not use the county's healthcare workers? The staff had an ethical conflict about collecting samples that could be used to prosecute a client rather than for medical treatment, according to Mr. Karagianes.

Previous providers ran over budget by \$100,000 a year, and also had personnel issues — at least one suspect avoided prosecution because the technician who took the sample was facing criminal charges. Two employees with criminal backgrounds transferred over to Specimen Specialists, Mr. Karagianes said, but were both fired. He said he was not aware of any cases not being charged by the district attorney due to problems with Specimen Specialists.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors does not have to approve soliciting bids, although it does have to approve the final contract. Asked for comment on the current phlebotomy service, the supervisors either failed to respond or referred inquiries to the Sheriff's Office, which in turn passed the requests to the forensics lab. ■

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Rendering by Bob Waterman

**This overhead** rendering of the proposed schoolhouse entrance shows two wooden L-shaped benches located on tan decomposed granite, and planted areas bordered by stones, with a tree on the left side.

## Redesigning entrance to Historic Schoolhouse

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

To a group of Portola Valley residents, the unremarkable character of the patch of land in front of the town's meeting hall, known as the Historic Schoolhouse, represents an opportunity to add charm, improve safety and plant new landscaping appropriate for a semi-arid environment.

The Town Council on June

### ■ PORTOLA VALLEY

10 agreed on the concepts of a proposal by these residents to upgrade lights on the paths into the schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road, add stone borders to the planted areas on either side, and add benches to each side. The council will reconsider the proposal when project cost estimates are available.

The proposal, presented by Portola Valley-based residential

designer Bob Waterman and Conservation Committee Chair Judith Murphy, would also redesign the shallow steps leading up to the schoolhouse porch so as to minimize the risk of missteps.

New drought-tolerant landscaping would be designed by the Conservation Committee and Danna Breen, a resident and landscape consultant.

The plan calls for benches of recycled redwood, with no backs and arranged so as to be condu-

cive to conversation, Mr. Waterman said. The standard bench is 18 inches high, but these would be 16 inches high, "for kids and shorter people," he said.

The unpaved surfaces will be identical to the tan decomposed granite used throughout the complex of new buildings that opened in 2008 behind the schoolhouse. Like the rest of Town Center, new concrete surfaces will be colored tan and decorated with imprints of the leaves of local plants.

Other residents involved with the proposal were Joyce Shefren of the Trails & Paths Committee, Nona Chiariello of the Open Space Acquisition Committee, Sue Chaput and Elizabeth Popodopolus of the Cultural Arts Committee, Danna Breen of the Architecture and Site Control Commission, town historian Nancy Lund, and other residents who participated in discussions held during the weekly farmers markets. ■

## Town gives Stanford habitat award

In Woodside's fourth year of recognizing residents who allow their properties to be open and accessible to wildlife, the town has honored a non-resident for erecting a fence on land not within town boundaries.

A unanimous Town Council voted to give Stanford University an honorary Backyard Habitat Award for choosing to replace a deteriorating wooden post-and-wire fence in a grassy meadow with another such fence using recycled posts rather than aluminum posts as had been planned, according Nancy Reyerling of the town's Open Space Committee.

The award recognizes the presence of native plants, areas allowed to revert to a wild state, permissive fencing, unobstructed stream beds, and wildlife corridors.

"This gesture will have positive ramifications both for the Backyard Habitat Program, as this



Photo by Nancy Reyerling

**This fence** earned Stanford University an honorary Backyard Habitat award from Woodside after Stanford decided to use wooden rather than aluminum posts.

fence line is so long and visible, but also to the community as a whole, as it sets a standard that is embodied in our General Plan and Residential Design Guidelines," Ms. Reyerling said in a letter.

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## Priory graduates 65

Sixty-five seniors from the class of 2015 at Woodside Priory School in Portola Valley graduated on June 6 at the Father Christopher Field on the Priory campus. Brian Schlaak, head of the upper school, presented the class, and Tim Molak, the head of the school, handed out diplomas.

The class salutatorian was Junye Chen. The valedictorians were Sonya Jillian Nikolich and Patrick James Tornes.

### Graduates

**A-E** Mayra Aileen Barriga, Milla Nicholle Bevans, Cabot Forbes Bigham, Cameron Daniel Bonora, Elizabeth Kristina Boyle, Anna Katherine Brett, James Mitchell Calbert, Junye Chen, Michael James Chiu-Schaepe, Caroline Malia Elliot Clark, Benjamin Boyd Clock, Alberto Giuseppe Coppola, Ross Thomas Corey, Timothy Joseph Dannis, Chris Gerard Delos Santos, Meagan McCabe Donovan

**F-I** Christian Alexandre Filloux, Gabrielle Marie Filloux, Clinton Wallace Finney, Siddharth Raju Gandhi, Siobhan Alexandria Gillis, Caroline Elizabeth Hickman, Kimberly Anne Ho, Ashley May Ishibashi, Andy John Isokpehi

**J-M** Ashley Buder Jones, Julie Kyra Joyce, Edward Lewis Lansing, Jiayu Lin, Nien-Chieh Lin, Natalie Grace Magnuson, Sasha Morgan Malek, Bailey Stephen Marsheck, Julien Anthony Morgan, Ansel Smith Morris, Thomas John Mudge IV

**N-R** Katie Meghan Nachtsheim, Grant Alexander Narasin, Sonya Jillian Nikolich, Megan Patricia O'Neill, Olayinka Ogunleye, Caroline Mathilde Pavlov, Olivia Lorraine Peek, James Kilmer Phelps, Elizabeth Christine Putnam, Neil Vikram Ragavan, Maxwell Jerome Reines, Christopher Dakota Risley, Ameyalli Rocha Coronel, Jane Hamnett Ross, Nariko Ruiz-Murillo

**S-V** Elizabeth Hamilton Schilling, Amelia Celine Schreiner, Nicholas James Souter, Katherine Lily Sze, Julia Mary Teymourian, Jessica Charlotte Isabelle Thorson, Patrick James Tornes

**W, X, Y, Z** Terry Z. Wang, Garrett Rowell Weber, Dominic Eugene Willoughby, Tyler Alexander Woods, Julia Nadine Wu, Shengyang Xu, Ziyi Zeng.

## Woodside youth is All American swimmer

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

His name is Karl Arvidsson, his hometown is Woodside and his list of athletic accomplishments, were one to be compiled, would now include All American swimmer.

Karl, a junior at Woodside High, swam the 100-yard breast stroke in 56.13 seconds in a preliminary heat at a swim meet in Santa Clara on May 15 and 16, according to records from the event. His time led to his All American status and ranks him as one of the fastest swimmers in the United States, said his coach, Joe Perez.

Karl also excels in the relay, Mr. Perez said, a race that includes the freestyle, butterfly and backstroke. "He's pretty



**Karl Arvidsson**, a junior at Woodside High, achieved an All American time of 56.13 seconds for the 100-yard breast stroke at a recent swim meet, according to his coach.

much fast in every stroke," Mr. Perez said.

He comes from an athleticly accomplished family. Karl's father, Par Arvidsson, won a gold medal in the 100-meter butterfly in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, according to records at sports-reference.com.

Karl's parents are not pushing him to focus on swimming, Mr. Perez said. "They're giving him the space and time and figure things out," he said.

Karl pushes himself somewhat. "He is a fierce competitor," Mr. Perez said. "He's a racer. He's somebody who does not like to lose."

The breast stroke is the most demanding of the four strokes, Mr. Perez said, in that every movement of the arms, legs and torso takes places under water, where resistance to bodily movement is greatest. The breast stroke also burns the most calories of the four, he said. ■

## Clinton H. Coddington

July 8, 1939 – June 4, 2015

Loving, devoted husband, father, grandfather and exceptional trial attorney, Clinton Hays "Bud" Coddington, of Menlo Park, California, passed away on June 4, 2015, in Palo Alto, California. Born July 8, 1939 in Honolulu, Hawai'i, he is survived by his beloved wife of 44 years, Marty, son Clint (Kristen), daughter Cathy (Tiki), and five grandchildren, Grace, Claire, Clinton (aka "Buddy"), Elena, and Belen, and his sister, Carol Lynn Coddington of Jacksonville, Florida. Bud's family was everything to him. Bud adored his wife, treasured his children and when his grandchildren came along, he was enthralled.

Bud was a Pearl Harbor survivor. His father, L. Clinton Coddington, who was a Captain in the Army Air Corps stationed at Hickam Field at the time of the attack, later became a general in the Air Force. His late mother was Patricia Richer Coddington. As a young man Bud loved the Boy Scouts and became an Eagle Scout.

Bud graduated from the United States Military Academy West Point, and was proud to be a member of the Long Gray Line. At West Point, Bud was a member of the Debate Team and traveled across the country participating in collegiate debate tournaments. After service in the United States Army, Bud attended the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law (Boalt Hall), and graduated in 1969.

Bud started his legal career at the venerable San Francisco law firm of Bronson, Bronson & McKinnon. He then joined the Redwood City law firm of Ropers Majeski where he later became a partner.

In 1977, Bud founded the firm that would become Coddington, Hicks & Danforth. In his four and a half decade career as a trial attorney, Bud proved a gifted advocate and respected aviation law attorney. Nationally he served as chief trial counsel for the target defendants in many mass air disaster cases, three of which

were tried to verdict, including Pan Am in the litigation that arose out of the bombing of Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Often Bud would be asked to serve as trial counsel at the eleventh hour, just before the commencement of trial. He was a member of many legal organizations including the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Equal measures dialectician, tactician, wordsmith and performer, Bud had a particular and rare comfort in the courtroom. He was equally at ease speaking to the aeronautical engineer who was his client and the transit operator who was his juror. With charm, grace, a keen intellect (and a subtle resemblance to Spencer Tracy), judges and jurors alike found themselves wanting to hear what Bud had to say. And he was never, ever, at a loss for words. His words could be prophetic, irreverent or humorous. But they were inevitably chosen with much precision and skill. Nor was Bud starved for strongly held views. Yet he could always appreciate and persuasively advocate the position in tension with his own.

Over the years, Bud served on a variety of boards and charitable organizations. Blessed with keen intuition and an innate ability to solve nettlesome problems, Bud was urged into positions of leadership where he would serve with distinction. Bud was a lifelong Episcopalian and served often as a Vestry member or senior warden in the parishes where he worshipped. Bud viewed both Ludwig van Beethoven and Johnny Cash as iconic. And perhaps that, as much as anything, is illustrative of the complex, talented and loving soul we have lost.

Funeral services will be held on June 12th, at 11:00 a.m. at Christ Church Episcopal, 815 Portola Road, Portola Valley. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Christ Church Episcopal – Portola Valley or your favorite charity.



## James E. Jervis

James E. Jervis, 79, lost his two-year battle with melanoma on Sunday, May 31, 2015, passing peacefully at home in Atherton with his wife and children at his side.

Jim was born in San Francisco, but grew up in Palo Alto and Menlo Park. He was a Phi Beta Kappa BSME and MBA graduate of Stanford, and an early employee of Raychem, where he held various positions over 38 years, earning numerous significant patents. After retiring from Raychem he went on to work at General Surgical Innovations, AgileTV, and Xoft.

Jim was an Eagle Scout, and much of what he learned while earning badges led to future hobbies. A former member of the Saint Francis Yacht Club, he loved to sail and counted memories of crewing on Trans Pac races close to his heart. He also took up fishing, taking trips to Patagonia, the Amazon, and the Caribbean, and every summer he brought back wild king salmon from Alaska to share with neighbors and friends. He had a full workshop for woodworking and designed and built classical Chinese furniture, but his greatest joy was crafting items for his grandchildren (Adam Jervis, Natasha Epstein, and Elliott Epstein), like a red wagon for Adam and a little kitchen for Tasha, and bedroom furniture for all.

Jim married his wife Sally in 1962. Not long after son John was born in 1966, he and Sally spent two years in England and Belgium with Raychem, returning home in 1969 in time to welcome daughter Amy (Kevin Epstein). They built their home in Atherton in 1977, where Jim filled the garden with fruit trees, camellias, and many maples.

Jim leaves a sister, Julia Jervis (O.L. Kirkpatrick) of Napa, and a brother, Lloyd Denney (Cathy Denney) of Sacramento, as well as many cousins and extended family members.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to the Stanford Cancer Institute in memory of Jim for melanoma research.



PAID OBITUARY

PAID OBITUARY

# 68 graduate from Corte Madera middle school

Sixty eighth-graders in Corte Madera School's class of 2015 graduated from the middle school and the Portola Valley School District on Friday, June 12, during a 5 p.m. ceremony in the school's multi-purpose room.

The school's Panache singers and musicians performed under the direction of Jason Braun and Juliet Green.

Student body co-presidents Allison Asborn and Rayan Riz-

## PORTOLA VALLEY

vi led the pledge of allegiance. Principal Cyndi Maijala, in her first PVSD graduation, presented the principal's message that focused on 21st century learning and the world we are preparing students for.

### Awards

These awards were given:

- Anne Campbell Community Service

Award: Madison Horn.

- Principal's Awards: Stephany Llanes and Owen Crevelt.

- Serge Morgan CARRE Awards: Emily Hong, Kellen Riley, Keaton Mackey and Connor Nelson.

- Scholar Athlete Awards: Grace Carlson, Kelley Levaggi, Jake Davison and Sam Utrecht.

- Academic Honors Awards: Catie Cassani and Emily Hong.

- Outstanding Student Awards: Beatty Fann and William "Buzz" Fann.

Catherine Cassani and Keaton Mackey presented the class of 2015's gift to the school: trampolines, giant soccer

balls, and a new set of pinnies for the PE Department.

Trustee Caittha Ambler, along with Principal Maijala, Dean Kristen Shima and Superintendent Lisa Gonzales presented the diplomas.

### Graduates

**A-D** Adam Alston, Allison Asborn, Ryan Bair, Anna Beaver, Olivia Beriker, Peter Bui, Grace Carlson, Catherine Cassani, Jane Chaudhry, Trevor Cook, Melissa Crane, Owen Crevelt, Nicole Dalton, Jacob Davison, Samuel Davison

**E-J** Nadia Eizadi, Bardin Fabian, Beatty Fann, William Fann, Samantha Fogelberg, Ross Fulkerson, Emily Hong, Madison

Horn, James Inenaga, Katherine Jahraus, Cameron Jones

**K-R** Claudia Kister, Solveig Knapstad, Liam Lee, Kelli Levaggi, James Lewis, Stephany Llanes, Sofia Luna-Ramos, Keaton Mackey, Enrique Maturino, Darian Mohsenin, Philip Moissis, Michelle Morfin, Sean Moriarty, Owen Mulleneaux, Codey Nahmens, Connor Nelson, Daniel Pas-tushkov, Justin Paulsen, Nicholas Pinelli, Clayton Ramsey, Ian Ramsey, Esmee Reed, Kara Reiss, Kellen Riley, Rayan Rizvi, Holly Rusch

**S-Z** Alexandra Seidl, Annabelle Smith, Ethan Steinmetz, Charlotte Swisher, Maliyah Thomas, Samuel Utrecht, Alec Ver-cruysse, John Willard

## Harry Gabriel Whelan, MD

June 3, 1922 – May 31, 2015

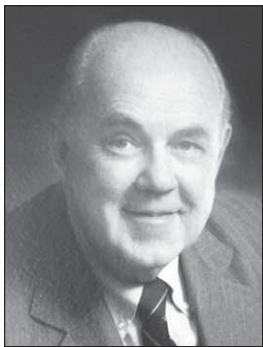
Resident of Menlo Park

Harry Gabriel Whelan, MD, lovingly called "Chief" by his family and friends passed away on Sunday, May 31, 2015, three days shy of his 93rd birthday. A third generation San Franciscan, he was born to Harry and Ruth Degnan Whelan on June 3, 1922, and moved with his family in 1926 to Atherton, CA, where he grew up. He attended St. Joseph's School, Bellarmine College Prep and graduated from Stanford University in 1943. After college he entered Loyola Medical School (now Stritch School of Medicine) in Chicago, IL, as a naval midshipman graduating in 1947. While in Chicago he met his beloved wife, Joanne "Jodie" Roberts of Wichita, KS whom he married on November 3, 1948. Harry did his medical internship at Stanford's San Francisco hospital in 1947 and his residency in San Diego, CA from 1948 to 1952. During the Korean War he was a Captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps stationed at Fort Lawton Hospital in Seattle, WA. In 1955, he and Jodie moved their young family to Menlo Park. He practiced general and colon-rectal surgery in Palo Alto, CA from 1955 until his retirement in 1992. During that time he also served as an Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery at Stanford University Hospital.

Harry was a member of the Menlo Circus Club, Menlo Country Club, Profits Unlimited, and the Common Sense Club. He loved the game of tennis and for decades played twice weekly. He also enjoyed golfing, gardening, skiing, playing bridge, traveling with Jodie and their friends and spending time every summer at his family cabin in Clear Lake. He had many hobbies during his lifetime including photography, wine-making, sailing and tutoring his children and grandchildren in math.

Chief was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Jodie, and daughter, Sally, his brothers John "Jack" Whelan and Joe Whelan and sister, Alice "Sis" Lussier. He leaves his sons, Gabe (Harry G. III) (Debbie) Whelan and Robert (Linda) Whelan and daughters, Anne (Steve) Englert, Pat (Phil) McDonnell, Mary (Steve) O'Neill and Sophie (David) Kirk, thirteen grandchildren, Jennifer (Josh) Alfaro, Harry IV, Natalie and Abby Whelan, Steve, Sophia, Hilary and Bobbie Englert, Philip (Kate Libby) McDonnell and Erin (Jake) Foxcurran, Lauren O'Neill, Libby and Laura Kirk and two great-grandchildren, Dylan Alfaro and Ellie Foxcurran. The family is grateful to Tenisi Guttenbeil, Chief's wonderful caregiver, for her help in making the last four years of his life more comfortable and joyful.

A Rosary will be said for Chief on Monday, June 22 at 7 pm at St. Denis Church, 2250 Avy Avenue, Menlo Park. A Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, June 23 at 1 pm at St. Denis Church. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Family Service Agency of San Mateo County.

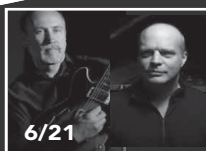


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6/21

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7/11

Tommy Igoe  
Groove Conspiracy



6/27

Regina Carter



7/18

Pete Escovedo



6/28

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Generations



7/25

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8/8

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- 7/22 Ruth Davies Blues Night featuring Barbara Morrison
- 7/26 Anat Cohen Quartet
- 8/1 John Santos
- 8/2 Guitar Night with Julian Lage and Peter Bernstein
- 8/3 Jimmy Cobb's Mob
- 8/4 Taylor Eigsti and Friends, w Julian Lage and Eric Harland
- 8/5 James Farm w/Joshua Redman
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# Roadwork closes Atherton streets

Road work will close parts or all of Atherton Avenue, Fair Oaks Lane and Middlefield Road in Atherton from Monday through Friday, June 22-26.

Contractors will put a new surface on the three streets. Middlefield Road will continue to have traffic in both directions, but will not have a lane for left turns from June 24 to June 26.

The streets will get new pavement markings and striping starting July 6.

Roadwork is scheduled to take place on the following dates:

- On June 22, eastbound

**The streets will get new pavement markings and striping starting July 6.**

Atherton Avenue, from Alameda de las Pulgas to Stern Lane and from Elena Avenue to El Camino Real will be closed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ On June 22, Fair Oaks Avenue from the Atherton train station to Middlefield Road will be closed eastbound from 8 a.m. to noon and westbound from noon to 5 p.m.

■ On June 23, westbound Atherton Avenue from Stern Lane to Alameda de las Pulgas and from Elena Avenue to Alameda de las Pulgas will be closed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ On June 23, Fair Oaks Lane will be completely closed between the train station and El Camino Real.

■ On June 24, the northbound lane of Middlefield Road will be closed from Ringwood Avenue to near Encinal Avenue from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ On June 25, the southbound lane of Middlefield Road will be closed from Ringwood Avenue to near Encinal Avenue from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ On June 26, the center lane and left-turn pocket lane of Middlefield Road will be closed from Ringwood Avenue to near Encinal Avenue from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## ■ POLICE CALLS

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

### PORTOLA VALLEY

**Residential burglary:** A burglar smashed a glass sliding door in the rear of a home on Golden Oak Drive and ransacked the master bedroom and a second bedroom used as an office. Stolen items include a collectible book, digital camera and semi-automatic pistol. Estimated losses: \$13,124. May 26.

**Theft:** A man locked his vehicle and, before going on a run, apparently left his keys under the small door that covers his vehicle's gas cap. When he returned, he discovered that his phone and his wallet had been taken from inside his vehicle, with no evidence of forced entry. May 26.

**Fraud:** A resident of N. Castanaya Way received a check in the mail for \$2,100 from the Internal Revenue Service even though she and her husband had requested an extension and had not yet filed their return. The couple later received a letter from the IRS about the possibility of identity fraud. May 28.

### ATHERTON

**Auto burglary:** Someone smashed a window on a blue Mercedes Benz SUV parked at Menlo School at 50 Valparaiso Ave. and stole a purse containing credit cards, a gift card, a wallet, sunglasses valued at \$300 and a pen valued at \$450. Estimated losses: \$3,410. May 31.

**Theft:** A locked bike was stolen from the campus of Menlo-Atherton High School. Estimated loss: \$140. May 29.

### WEST MENLO PARK

**Fraud:** A resident of Sharon Road told deputies that someone had used her husband's identity to rent an apartment in Irvine and that the tenant owed \$9,000 in unpaid rent. An investigation is underway. June 11.

### MENLO PARK

#### Residential burglaries:

■ A burglar entered a home in the 2000 block of Santa Cruz Avenue through an open window and stole jewelry, credit cards, papers and \$100 in cash. Estimated losses: \$2,800. June 8.

■ Someone forced open a garage door of a home on Warner Range Road, walked through the vacant house and opened two closet doors, but apparently took nothing. June 11.

#### Thefts:

■ Three cellphones and \$3,500 in cash were stolen from a bedroom dresser in a home on Henderson Avenue. Estimated losses: \$5,300. June 10.

■ Someone stole a bike locked to a bike rack in the 700 block of Santa Cruz Avenue. Estimated loss: \$850. June 11.

■ A resident of Crane Street told police that her diamond wedding ring is missing, possibly lost. No estimate on losses. June 9.

■ An unlocked bicycle was stolen from an unsecured area in the backyard of a home on O'Connor Street. Estimated loss: \$250. June 8.

■ Someone stole a tire from one bicycle and damaged another, both of which were locked to a bike rack in the carport of an apartment complex on Crane Street. June 10.

■ A bike was stolen from the side yard of a home on Terminal Avenue. Estimated loss: \$150. June 6.

■ Someone stole two boxes containing computer charging cords from the front porch of a home on Sunset Lane. Estimated loss: \$50. June 5.

■ A woman who left her wallet in a laundry basket at a laundromat returned a short time later to find it gone. No estimate on losses. June 11.

**Stolen vehicle: A black 2006 Nissan Altima 4D from Lorelei Lane. June 8.**

### WOODSIDE

**Auto burglary:** Someone broke the rear window of a vehicle parked at the Park-and-Ride parking lot at Woodside Road and Interstate 280 and stole a duffel bag containing gym clothes and a wallet. Estimated losses: \$1,260. May 25.

**Traffic accident:** A motorcyclist headed west on Highway 84 west of the intersection with Portola Road attempted to pass two slower vehicles and collided with the left front of the lead vehicle as it was turning left. Medics took the motorcyclist to Stanford Hospital with injuries. The motorcycle was towed. June 6.

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# Filoli holds sculpture exhibit

The second sculpture exhibit by local artists is now open at Filoli and will continue through Sept. 13.

The collection of metal, stone and wood sculptures is displayed throughout the historic estate in Woodside. Visitors may tour the works on their own or make advance reservations for a guided walk. The artists include Karen Cusolito, Paul Cheney, Daniel Good, Peter Hanson, Marilyn Kuksht, Payson McNett, Roger Stoller, Adon Valenziano and Ruth Waters.

Guided sculpture walks will be held on Saturdays from June 20 to Sept. 12 and on these Thursdays: July 23, Aug. 6 and Sept. 10. Time: 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Evening walks will be held from 6 to 7:15 p.m. on three Thursdays:

## AROUND TOWN

June 18, July 16 and Aug. 20.

A reception for the artists will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13. Admission is free, with reservations required. Reservation deadline is Friday, Aug. 7.

The sculpture exhibit fee is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Non-member admission includes access to the house and garden.

Visit [filoli.org](http://filoli.org) or call Filoli at (650) 364-8300, ext. 508, for more information.

## Ty Cobb

The San Mateo County History Museum will present Norm Colman, who will portray the life and times of baseball leg-

end Ty Cobb at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 11, in Courtroom A of the museum, at 2200 Broadway in Redwood City.

Mr. Cobb, who lived in Atherton for many years, was in professional baseball from 1905 to 1928. Mr. Colman will describe his relationships with other stars including Babe Ruth and Lefty O'Doul.

The museum has an exhibit depicting baseball stars of the Peninsula that includes one of Ty Cobb's baseball bats. The presentation is free with admission to the museum: \$6 for adults and \$4 for seniors and students.

## Music for Minors

Ben Taylor, director of education for the Santa Rosa

Symphony for the past 12 years, has been named education director for Music for Minors, a nonprofit that provides music education for elementary school students in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

He will monitor curriculum development and lead educators working with 21,000 students in the music education programs.

Mr. Taylor, who has a teaching and administrative background, created a variety of music educational activities for children and adults in his role as director of education for the Santa Rosa Symphony.

He is a composer in various genres, including rock, jazz and chamber music.

## Children's Hospital

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Foundation has

launched its first annual fundraising campaign for Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

Organizers have set a goal of raising more than \$300,000 in the eight-week raffle, which continues through July 12. Tickets at \$2 each may be purchased from any Coldwell Residential Brokerage agent or from any Coldwell Banker office in the Bay Area.

## College grad

MacKenzie Mills Masten graduated from Dickinson College May 17 with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology. A graduate of Notre Dame High School, she is the daughter of Davis Masten and Christopher Ireland of Atherton. Dickinson College is a private liberal arts college in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, with a student body of 2,400 students.



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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.

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

# Drivers, stay calm — give plan a chance

After a woman in a vehicle was struck and killed by a train at the Ravenswood Avenue tracks in February, the clamor for the city to “do something — now” to fix the complex of roadway hazards in the Ravenswood-Alma Street area was pronounced. To their credit, Menlo Park city staff acted quickly with a trial plan of new restrictions and visual elements put into place early this month.

As with any problem involving interrelated components, where any “solution” is bound to have unintended consequences, the solution to this engineering challenge was seen as a work in progress, to be studied, reviewed, tweaked and finalized over a six-month period.

The city’s action has triggered another clamor that might be categorized under the heading: “What on earth could you be thinking?” Complaints have streamed into City Hall over the few weeks the trial has been in place, but that’s not necessarily a bad thing. The trial cannot be successful without the full process playing out, and that includes the public’s reaction so that realistic changes can be put in place where needed. Reactions from the people who must navigate the roadway are valuable, and can include ideas for improvement that the city’s staff might not have thought of.

Unfortunately, not all the reaction has been helpful. In addition to those who have contacted City Hall with complaints and ideas, the ranks of an unwelcome brigade of ill-tempered road warriors has swelled, with drivers inventing their own rules of

the road as they dodge cones, ignore barricades, zip into lanes for oncoming traffic, and generally menace everyone else in their way, including pedestrians.

During the first week of the trial, according to an article by Sandy Brundage in this week’s Almanac, police issued tickets to these warriors for violations including failing to yield to pedestrians, driving on the wrong side of the road, crossing the double-yellow lines, and ignoring traffic signs. Extra enforcement in the area is expected to continue, for which those of us who value our lives and those of our children and neighbors should be grateful.

Before designing the trial plan to improve safety in an area that in the last 10 years has seen five incidents on the train tracks

and 15 vehicle-pedestrian collisions, members of the city’s transportation staff looked at the problem spots and possible solutions. Although some of the strategies put into place may be fine-tuned or jettisoned altogether by the end of the trial period, drivers need to remember that the changes are part of an experiment. If they perceive problems, or if they have ideas on how to improve the components now in place, they can — and should — contact the transportation department at 330-6770, or [transportation@menlopark.org](mailto:transportation@menlopark.org).

And to the road warriors among you, the police are on the alert. May the ticket you sign be at a cost to you alone, and not another driver or, worse, a child walking to the library. ■

## EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

# Be aware; be deliberate. The environment’s at stake

By Natalie Silverman and Delilah Kline

We recently surveyed California adolescents to learn about student awareness of environmental issues and their impact on the environment through their daily actions. This project was inspired by our participation in an advanced placement (AP) environmental science class at Menlo-Atherton High School. Having collected data from over 200 students, we hope to provide community members with suggestions on how to address current environmental issues.

Recycling and composting are two major ways that people interact with the environment and contribute to its overall improvement and preservation. The majority of students confirm that they recycle both at home and at school. However, almost a quarter of the students who took the survey do not engage in composting. This is a problem, as excess material that could be reused and turned into fertilizer or mulch for gardens is going to a landfill. Composting is an easy action that could become ingrained in society, as recycling is. People should make composting a habit by keeping a composting bin or bucket in an easily accessible place, such as under the sink or next to the trash can.

According to our survey results, almost half of our participants admitted to showering for more than 10 minutes. Also, nearly 12 percent of the students said they take a bath more than once a week. This type of

water usage is prevalent throughout California, even though our survey results have shown that about 98 percent of people are aware of the severe drought.

A majority of adolescents claim, however, that they are taking actions against the drought. One example is turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth, which nearly 88 percent of participants do.

Nevertheless, there seems to be a lack of knowledge regarding daily water consumption. The average person uses between 80 to 100 gallons of water a day, while more than half of the people believe they use way less water per day. The reality is that people use a lot more water than they think. So maybe if people knew how much they used they would opt to take shorter showers, and fewer baths.

In regard to overall climate change, there is a general consensus (over 97 percent agreeing) that global warming does exist and that humans play a major role. Almost all people surveyed acknowledge that their actions have an impact on the environment. However, simply admitting this is not enough; we must consciously do things to lessen our impact, and protect the environment.

There are many small steps that the average adolescent can take to lessen their negative mark on the world around them. For example, about half of those surveyed admitted to consuming meat at least once a day. Not only does it require massive amounts of energy to process, package, and transport meat, but the

livestock itself produces emissions. Opting to eat meat less often, or making a meat-free night once a week, could be beneficial for the environment and help cut back on carbon emissions. However, there are other ways to cut back on how we negatively influence the environment that do not involve giving up eating meat.

Our choice of transportation can also have a lasting impact on the environment. About half of the students surveyed own or have access to a car they drive every day. Only very small numbers of respondents said they use public transportation or non-vehicular transport. Realistically, using a car to get to work or school is unavoidable for a large portion of the population. Despite this, purchasing an electric or partially electric car, carpooling, and taking public transport once a week (or more) can help.

Overall, our daily use of resources can be excessive, especially if we do not deliberately regulate our usage. Cutting back even slightly on meat and water consumption could make a crucial difference. If more people take the time to think about using the amount of resources that are necessary, versus what they are currently using, our environment’s current and future condition could be greatly improved.

*Natalie Silverman is a rising senior at Menlo-Atherton High School, co-editor-in-chief of M-A’s newspaper, and financial director of Grab Bag Theater. Delilah Kline is a rising senior at M-A, and plays on the school’s girls’ basketball and softball teams.*



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