

# The Almanac

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

MARCH 1, 2017 | VOL. 52 NO. 26

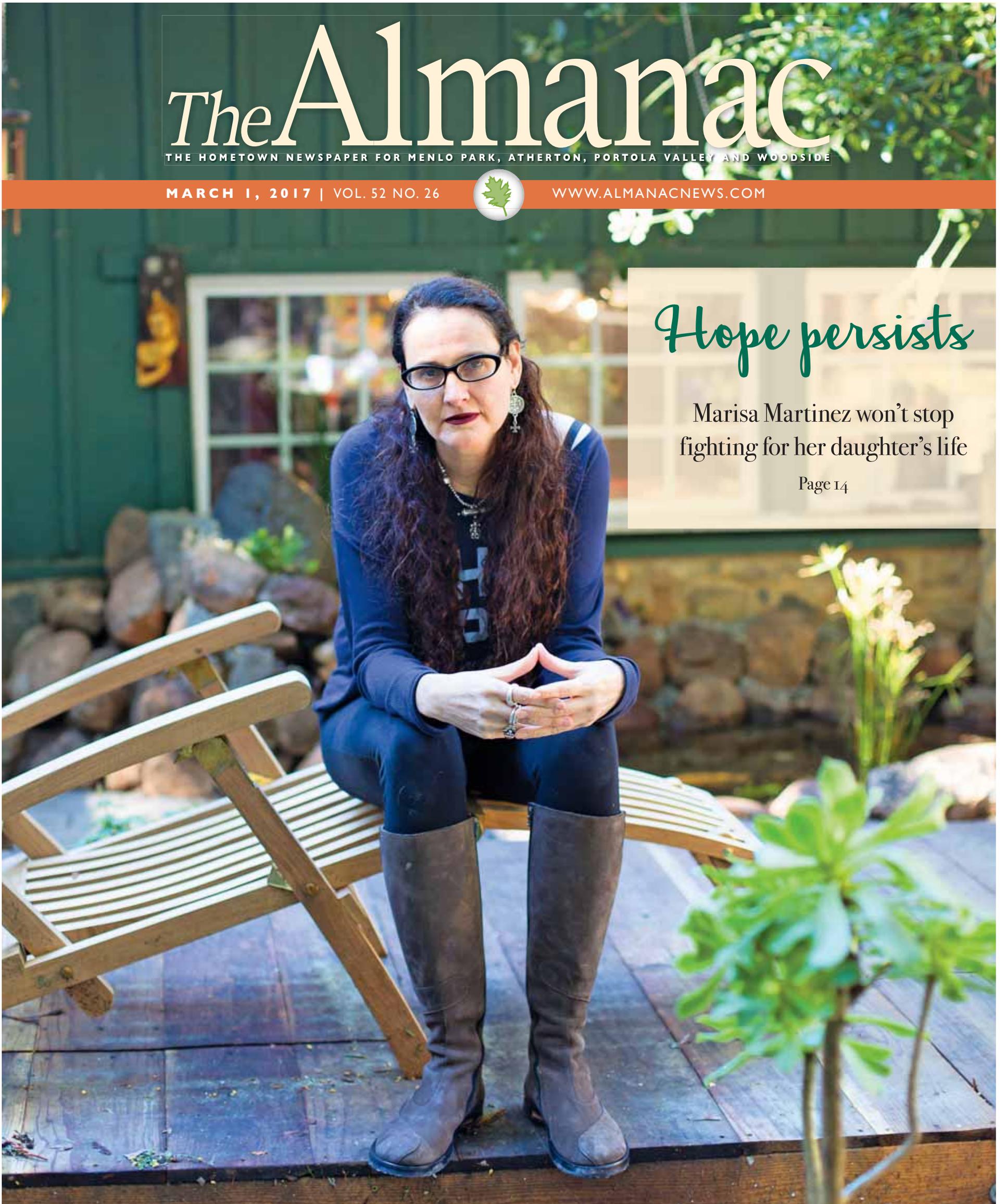


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## Hope persists

Marisa Martinez won't stop fighting for her daughter's life

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**Report: Rapid growth takes its toll on region** | Page 5

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To request free delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call 854-2626.



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF ATHERTON

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the Town of Atherton will introduce an ordinance for proposed decreases in residential garbage cart rates at their regular meeting held on Wednesday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the **Council Chambers, 94 Ashfield Road, Atherton.**

All property owners/tenants and other interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and be heard on the proposed rate increase.

For a complete copy of the staff report and draft ordinance that will be heard at the meeting, please contact City Clerk Theresa DellaSanta at [tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us) or 650-752-0529.

Those wishing to comment on the proposed ordinance may either attend the Public Hearing or submit written comments to the City Clerk, to be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday March 10, 2017. (Written comments are to be submitted to the City Clerk, Town of Atherton, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027 or by email at [tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us))

/s/ Theresa DellaSanta  
City Clerk  
Feb 22, 2017



## TOWN OF ATHERTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City Council will hold a public hearing to review modifications to Chapter 17.52 “Second Dwelling Units” of the Town’s Municipal Code in accordance with Chapters 17.06, 17.18 and 17.52.

**Description:** Modifications to the Second Dwelling Unit Ordinance are proposed in accordance with amendments to California Government Code Section 65852.2 mandating greater flexibility for the creation of secondary dwelling units (referred to as “accessory dwelling units” or “ADUs”), in both new and existing structures, with the goal of increasing available housing statewide. The Planning Commission considered these amendments on February 22, 2017 and recommended City Council approval.

The proposal has been determined to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.17 and Section 15282(h) of the CEQA guidelines.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that modifications to the Second Dwelling Unit Ordinance are set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on **March 15, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Town Council Chambers 94 Ashfield Road in the Town of Atherton, at which time and place all persons interested may appear and show cause, if they have any, why the Second Dwelling Unit Ordinance should or should not be approved.

**IF YOU CHALLENGE** the modifications to the Second Dwelling Unit Ordinance in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. For further particulars, reference is made to the project on file.

If you have any questions on the item please contact Stephanie Davis, Senior Planner, at [sbertollo-davis@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:sbertollo-davis@ci.atherton.ca.us) or 650-773-7249. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

**Date Posted:** March 1, 2017

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL

/s/ Stephanie Davis

Stephanie Davis, Senior Planner

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Report: Rapid growth takes its toll on region

By Gennady Sheyner  
Palo Alto Weekly

As the economic engine of Silicon Valley continues to churn out jobs, mint millionaires and attract new employees, the region is increasingly buckling under the strain of the recent success, with longer traffic commutes, a soaring cost of living and a steep housing shortage frustrating business leaders and residents alike.

That's the overarching message of the 2017 Silicon Valley Index, a comprehensive look at the region (defined as San Mateo County, Santa Clara County, Scotts Valley, Fremont, Newark and Union City) that the nonprofit Joint Venture Silicon Valley released Feb. 16.

The report shows that the area's economy, despite a slight slowdown from 2015, continues to chug along and serve as a magnet for people from all over the world. It also indicates, however, that the region's economic inequality continues to grow and that its infrastructure is grossly inadequate.

In that sense, the report is a tale of two regions. On one hand, Silicon Valley continues

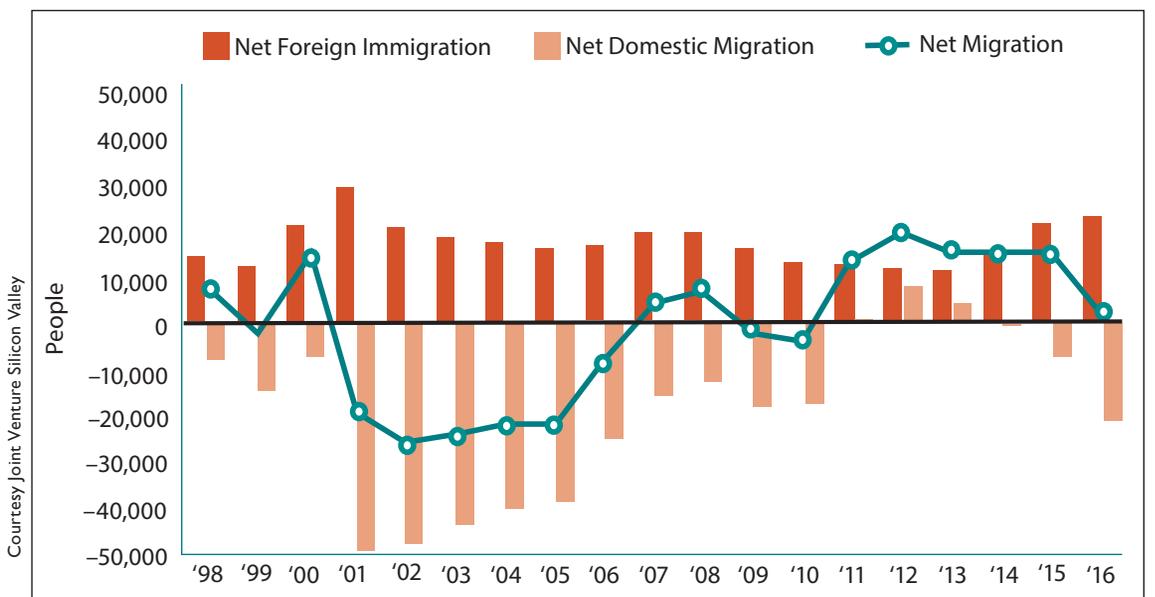
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to experience job growth and a declining unemployment rate (which hit a low of 3.1 percent last May and stood at 3.3 percent in November). Since emerging from the Great Recession in 2010, the Valley has added 297,000 jobs, including 45,621 in 2016. The number of tech jobs, which make up the largest share, increased by 5.2 percent last year.

While the sectors of biotech, internet and computer design enjoyed the most growth, they weren't the only ones experiencing a boom. According to the report, the region added 6,864 new construction jobs and 6,829 new health care jobs. The Valley's average annual earnings reached their highest level to date last year (\$125,580) and per capita income was also at an all-time high (\$86,976). All these figures, the Index notes, "dwarf those of the state and the nation."

**Inequality**  
At the same time, inequality in the region is as bad as it's ever

**Housing shortages, income inequality, traffic woes accompany fast job growth.**



The region is seeing growing immigration of people from other countries and an exodus of local residents to other parts of California and the United States. Data from the California Department of Finance; analysis by the Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies.

been, with some ethnic groups actually losing ground. While white, Asian and black residents saw slight improvements in per capita incomes, Hispanic and Latino residents and those identifying as "multiple and other" saw their earnings dip.

The Index also noted that one out of every 12 residents now lives below the federal poverty threshold and one in 11 children lives in poverty. And even as incomes continue to rise, median

wages in service occupations have actually declined by 8 percent since 2010, when adjusted for inflation.

Put in more concrete terms, 29 percent of the households in Silicon Valley "do not earn enough money to meet their basic needs without public or private, informal assistance, and this share jumps up to 59 percent for those with Hispanic or Latino householders."

Indeed, the report documents

widening disparities between ethnicities, genders and residents with different educational attainments. The gap between the region's highest- and lowest-earning racial and ethnic groups increased by 40 percent in the past decade (in 2015, it amounted to about \$47,000).

Even for those who don't occupy the lowest economic strata, the dream of home ownership

See **RAPID GROWTH**, page 8

## Backers raise more than \$80K to campaign for school parcel tax

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

The group formed to support the March 7 parcel tax measure in the Menlo Park City School District had raised more than \$80,000 by Feb. 14, far surpassing the \$32,000 raised in last year's unsuccessful attempt to pass two other parcel tax measures.

No committee has registered to oppose the measure.

The largest donation to the Committee to Support MP Schools, Yes on Parcel Tax Measure X was \$7,500 from Jeffrey Weiner of Menlo Park. The largest donor in the 2016 campaign was Facebook executive Sheryl Sandberg, who gave \$10,000.

This year's campaign committee had reported spending less than \$7,000 as of Jan. 21.

Here is a list of donors of \$500 or more. Those with an "n/a" did not provide an occupation or employer.

Tinyurl.com/ALM-donors also has a list of those who donated between \$100 and \$500.

■ \$7,500, Jeffrey Weiner, Menlo Park, n/a.

■ \$3,000, Amy Thornborrow, Menlo Park, n/a.

■ \$2,500, Calla Griffith, Atherton, n/a; Jody Buckley, Menlo Park, community volunteer; Kathleen Orciuoli, Atherton, n/a; Molly Kardwell, Menlo Park, n/a; Ward Bullard, Menlo Park, business development for Verizon; Jessica Gilmartin, Menlo Park, CMO for Lighthouse; Jamie Delessandro, Menlo Park, real estate for Windy Hill Property Ventures; Al Ko, Menlo Park, n/a; Stace Wueste, Atherton, n/a.

■ \$2,300, Jennifer Webb, Menlo Park, n/a.

■ \$2,000, California Association of Realtors, Sacramento.

■ \$1,500, Andrea Potishman, Menlo Park, n/a.

■ \$1,031, Brian Yick, Menlo Park, investment banking for Barclays.

■ \$1,000, Keith Flaum, Menlo Park, attorney for Weil, Gotshal; Molly Ashworth, Menlo Park, martial arts instructor for Z Ultimate Self Defense; Charlotte Pfannestiel, Menlo Park, n/a; Jennifer Bartle, Menlo Park, n/a; Menlo Builders, Menlo Park, n/a; Kateryna Polyakova, Menlo Park, n/a; Allan Thygesen, Menlo Park, president, Google Marketing Solutions, Google; Lisa Hammond, Atherton, n/a; Valerie Frederickson, Menlo Park, CEO for Frederickson Pribula Li; Stephanie Chen, Menlo Park, n/a; Suzanne Yonkers, Menlo Park, n/a; Marty Arscott, Atherton, CFO for Compass Technology Group; Michelle Box, Menlo Park, n/a; Greg Mrva, Menlo Park, investment banking for Morgan Stanley; Jill Kispert, Atherton, n/a; Katie Rottier, Menlo Park, self-employed digital marketing; Kateryna Polyakova, Menlo Park, n/a.

■ \$525, Robyn Wheeler, Menlo Park, n/a.

■ \$500, Alicia Baker, Menlo



Photo by Barbara Wood/The Almanac

While backers of Measure X have campaign signs up and have distributed multiple fliers, there is no organized opposition to the measure.

Park, n/a; Mark Roos, Los Altos Hills, Realtor for Sereno Group; Courtney Charney, Atherton, Realtor, Alain Pinel; PJ Honerkamp, Menlo Park, executive for Jazz Pharmaceuticals; Philip Deutch, Menlo Park, investor for NGP ETP; Kate Kennedy, Menlo Park, n/a; Paige Ariata, Atherton, manager for Right Hand Estate

Management; Maria Kavel, Menlo Park, vice president engineering for Oracle; Kimberly Schnell, Solana Beach, n/a; John Freund, Atherton, venture capitalist for Skyline Ventures; Tamara Russel, Menlo Park, n/a; Ana McDevitt, Menlo Park, n/a; David Wagstaff, Menlo Park, financial services for HSBC. ▀

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## New high school may not open until 2019

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

The opening of a new magnet high school in Menlo Park will be delayed by a year if the board of the Sequoia Union High School District agrees with the views of district Superintendent Jim Lianides and of the committee that's been involved in planning the school.

Given the recent pattern of the district's major projects running past their projected completion dates, an opening in August 2019 instead of August 2018 would make it unnecessary to open a temporary campus

that could "negatively impact recruiting efforts and restrict full implementation of the tech/design curriculum," Mr. Lianides said in a brief staff report.

A delayed opening would also allow prospective freshmen, during the 2018-19 school year, to tour the facility at 150 Jefferson Drive in the light industrial zone of Menlo Park east of U.S. 101, Mr. Lianides said. The school will focus on technology, design and engineering, will be open to all district students, and will eventually enroll about 400 students chosen by lottery.

The board is interviewing candidates for the school's principal and is expected to announce its decision when it meets Wednesday, March 1, at the district office at 480 James Ave. in Redwood City. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.

Naming a principal more than two years ahead of the school's

opening is necessary "because of the extensive planning involved in preparing to open a new school with an innovative curriculum," Mr. Lianides said. The district will pay the principal's salary from the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant, he said.

District staff are recommending that the board name the school TIDE Academy. TIDE stands for technology, innovation, design and engineering. The name reflects the school's focus and its location near the Bay, Mr. Lianides said.

Among the 21 names suggested by a branding consultant in December 2016, only TIDE received positive comments from board members, including a comment on the ease with which the name would fit into a school cheer, as "Roll Tide!" does for the University of Alabama's Crimson Tide.

The school will be unique in its combination of technical focus, community-college teachers on staff working part time and teaching classes for transferable college credit, and partnerships with nearby high-tech corporations and startups "to promote real-world education and career preparation," Mr. Lianides said.

Prospective students should be interested in a small-school setting; have a "strong inclination" for courses in science, technology, engineering and math; and be thinking about careers in technical fields, Mr. Lianides said. ■

**The principal of the tech-oriented magnet school may be named this week.**

## Parcel tax election is March 7

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

Tuesday, March 7, is Election Day in the Menlo Park City School District. Voters will decide whether to approve an annual parcel tax of \$360 per parcel. Authorization for the tax would expire in seven years.

Following the failure in May 2016 of two parcel tax measures to win the necessary two-thirds voter support, the district held many public meetings before the school board proposed the new measure.

With a \$207 parcel tax expiring June 30, the new tax would result in a net increase of approximately \$153 a year per parcel. Again, passage requires support

by two-thirds of the voters.

Added to the district's three other parcel taxes, which have no expiration date, total district parcel taxes would be \$1,078 per parcel, plus this year's increase in the Bay Area consumer price index. Those 65 and older may ask for an exemption from the district's parcel taxes.

If adopted, Measure X would raise an estimated \$2.83 million each year. The tax rate is adjusted annually based on the Bay Area consumer price index.

ShapeTheFuture.org has more information.

Tinyurl.com/ALM-parcel has the Almanac voters' guide story on the measure.

Tinyurl.com/ALM-Xed has the Almanac's editorial recommendation. ■

# Stanford updates plans for El Camino development

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

## ■ MENLO PARK

Stanford University submitted to the city of Menlo Park this week updated plans for its 8.4-acre "Middle Plaza" mixed-use development at 500 El Camino Real.

Stanford's plans for the complex of housing, offices and retail reflect some architectural changes, such as the shape and location of some buildings, according to Stanford officials.

"To the casual observer, the current project will look very similar to the images we showed in September 2015," said John Donohoe, associate director of planning and entitlement at Stanford.

The development, which will run along El Camino from the Stanford Park Hotel (100 El Camino Real) in the south to Big 5 Sporting Goods (700 El Camino) in the north, will still contain about 215 rental housing units, 144,000 square feet of

Check AlmanacNews.com for updates. The plans were posted online after the Almanac's presstime.

office space and 10,000 square feet of retail space.

Also unchanged from the plans submitted in September 2015, the project will not include medical office space. About 48 percent of the apartments will be one-bedroom, and 52 percent will be two-bedrooms, according to Mr. Donohoe.

A large plaza, also expected to be named Middle Plaza, will remain part of the development. It will be publicly accessible but privately owned and maintained, and will have landscaping, outdoor seating and shops, according to the plans.

The plans also factor in the presence of a bike and pedestrian crossing at the Caltrain tracks and Middle Avenue. While the crossing is a city-sponsored project, Mr. Donohoe said, "Stanford stands by its previous commitment to make a significant contribution toward the cost of the crossing, and we have designed our Middle Plaza to integrate with the crossing when it is ultimately constructed."

**Stanford will hold an open house on the project March 16 in Menlo Park**



Image courtesy Stanford University

**An updated rendering** of the public plaza Stanford has proposed in Menlo Park at 500 El Camino Real.

Residents who participated in Stanford public events on the project "overwhelmingly endorsed the idea of a significantly expanded public plaza that serves the community as an asset and vibrant gathering place," said Steve Elliott, Stanford's managing director for development, land, buildings and real estate, in a press

statement. "Beyond the plaza, residents also made it clear that they want to see more restaurants featuring a diversity of cuisines, more open space and more rental housing to support the City's growth."

The city of Menlo Park is expected to release its draft environmental impact report on the development later this week,

Stanford officials said.

Stanford will hold an open house for the public to learn more about the project on Thursday, March 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. The informational event will be at Little House at 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park. Staff will answer questions and explain the changes on a drop-in basis. ■

## DA: No charges against man arrested on suspicion of rape

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

No charges will be filed against a Menlo Park man who was arrested Feb. 16 in connection with the alleged rape and robbery in December of a woman in Menlo Park, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

"We just couldn't prove this case beyond a reasonable doubt," Chief Deputy DA Karen Guidotti said with regard to the arrest of Cedric Mark Williams, 56, of Menlo Park.

She said that prosecutors heard different narratives about what happened from the woman and the man. While there was some evidence to support an arrest,

meeting the "probable cause" standard, she said, the DA's office determined that the evidence did not rise to the "beyond a reasonable doubt" standard.

The man and the woman knew each other, Ms. Guidotti confirmed.

Menlo Park detectives learned of the incident on Feb. 14 and interviewed the woman.

Investigators interviewed Mr. Williams at the police department on Feb. 16. Following the

interview, he was arrested and booked into San Mateo County jail. ■

## Students raise funds for Syrian refugees

Students at Menlo College in Atherton, working with Associate Professor Marianne Marar Yacobian, are raising funds for the International Rescue Committee to work with Syrian refugees.

Ms. Yacobian and the Menlo College Student Government Association began raising funds and awareness for the Syrian refugee crisis in 2015, but recently redoubled their efforts when a ban on immigration into the U.S. was put into effect. (After several lawsuits the ban was put on hold.)

Ms. Yacobian, who teaches global studies, has done ethnographic research on Middle Eastern refugees.

## ■ BRIEFS

At [tinyurl.com/Menlo-Syria](http://tinyurl.com/Menlo-Syria) information on the fundraising effort.

The rescue committee says it provides emergency relief, refugee relocation, and disaster recovery assistance in 42 countries.

### La Entrada School math team advances

A team of La Entrada Middle School students is advancing to the state championships in the MathCounts competition at Stanford University on March 18.

The "Mathmagicians" team finished sixth out of 34 schools in a regional competition on Feb. 4 at Google headquarters in Mountain View, thus qualifying for the state competition.

Four of 10 team members will advance: Darren Shen, Bill Li, Nicholas Chang and Georgia Wluka. Other team members are: Nicholas Way, Jee-Hyun (Roy) Kim, Mateo Weiner, Karan Bhasin, Adrian Deutscher-Bishop and Sarah Ryu. Coach is Gerald Wluka.

The top four individual competitors from each state competition receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the national competition, which takes place in May.

## MONTHLY REAL ESTATE UPDATE WITH MANDY MONTOYA February 2017



Low inventory continues to impact our local real estate market. Multiple Listing Service data for January showed relatively similar year-over-year number of active homes for sale in our neighborhoods. However, February has seen about a 30% decline in the number of homes for sale vs. last year.

One potential explanation is our unusually wet weather. It's possible many homeowners are managing issues caused by the rains, such as leaks and flooding and are ensuring their homes are in prime condition before putting them on the market. So while the primary factors contributing to low inventory, including lack of affordable move-down alternatives, are still in play we will closely monitor the remainder of the spring market to see if inventory rebounds somewhat from February. In the meantime, there are many buyers competing over even fewer homes so if you're contemplating selling, this is a good time to do so.

	February 2016	February 2017	February 2016	February 2017
	# of Active Homes for Sale	# of Closed Sales	# of Active Homes for Sale	# of Closed Sales
Atherton	29	2	17	1
Woodside	18	3	14	3
Portola Valley	12	2	6	2
Menlo Park	38	19	31	16

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REAL ESTATE

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ALAIN PINEL REALTORS

# Menlo Park police report drop in violent crimes

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

The good news is that reports of violent crime fell by 7 percent in Menlo Park in 2016, compared with 2015, according to Menlo Park Police Department data released Feb. 10.

The better news may be that there are relatively few violent crimes in Menlo Park so the 7 percent may not be statistically significant. A total of 30 violent crimes (homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) were reported, down from 32 in 2015 and the lowest according to data since 2004. No homicides were reported in either year.

Property crime is much more frequent, and that rose by 1 percent. A total of 626 cases of property crime (larceny, burglary, stolen vehicles and arson) were reported in 2016, up from 620 in 2015.

In that category, burglaries actually dropped by 29 percent to a total of 101 reported cases.

Larceny (auto burglary, shoplifting, pickpocketing, stealing bikes and car parts) rose 9 percent to 492 cases.

Domestic violence also rose, up 13 percent to 128 cases.

There were 10 cases of rape reported in 2016, up from nine in 2015; four cases of arson, up from one in 2015; seven cases of robbery, up from six in 2015; and one case each of an assault on an officer and a violent crime against seniors. In 2015, there were four reported cases of a civilian assaulting an officer, and zero reported cases of violent crimes against seniors.

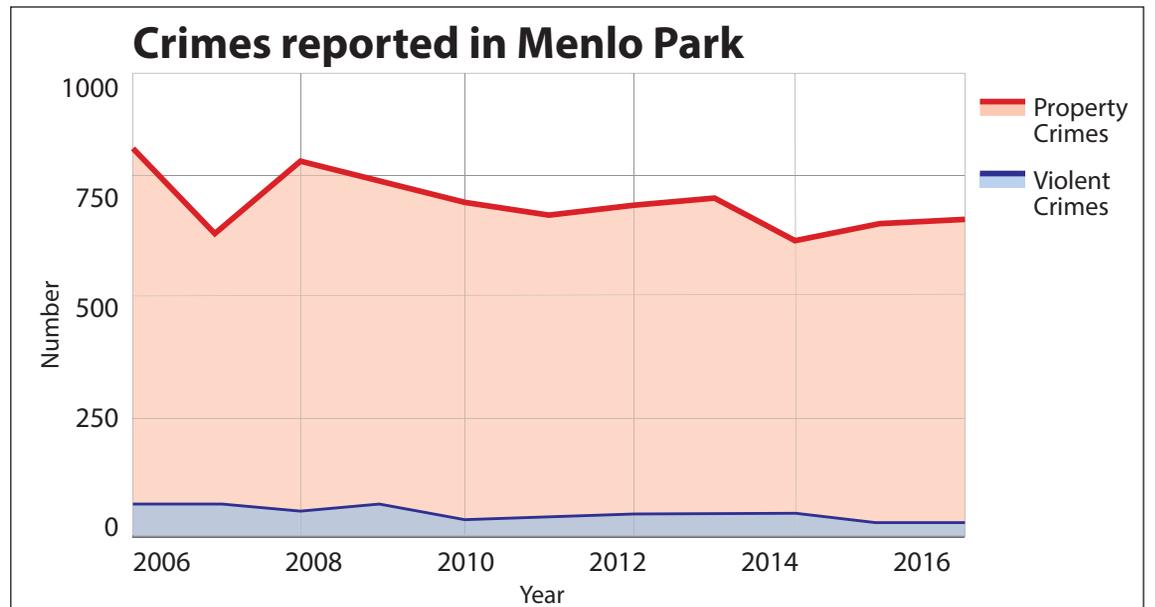
## Citizen complaints

In 2016, there were 26 complaints filed against personnel in the police department, up from 24 in 2015.

According to a police department report, five complaints were sustained; in six cases, the person was exonerated; four complaints are still under investigation or pending; three were found to be unfounded; one was not sustained; one was frivolous; three were withdrawn; and in four cases, there was not enough information to continue the investigation.

That's right, in addition to the cases under investigation, there were seven different outcomes.

Of the sustained complaints, three were for discourtesy and two were for procedural errors, the report says.



Data: Menlo Park Police Department

**Trend line** for property and violent crimes reported since 2006. Violent crimes are homicides, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults. Property crimes are burglaries, larceny, auto thefts, stolen vehicles and arson.

Twenty-six complaints a year is “an acceptable number, but we will always strive toward zero,” the police department said a statement.

Officers made 38,032 contacts with people during 2016, the department says.

## Crimes by area

The top three geographic areas with the most crimes were the

area from the Caltrain tracks to University Drive, between San Francisquito Creek and Watkins Avenue, with 209 incidents reported; Belle Haven and the Bohannon industrial park area east of U.S. 101, with 119 crimes reported; and the area from Middlefield Road to the Caltrain tracks, bordered to the north and south by the creek and Encinal Avenue, with 110 crimes reported.

Fewest crimes (four, to be exact) were reported in the Vintage Oaks area surrounding St. Patrick's Seminary in 2016.

Crimes at the Menlo Park Veterans Affairs campus are not reported through the Menlo Park Police Department, but through the federal government, the report says.

Go to [tinyurl.com/crime558](http://tinyurl.com/crime558) to access the 2016 report. ■

## Rapid growth takes its toll on region

continued from page 5

is growing increasingly out of reach. The Index notes that Silicon Valley's housing costs are “crippling huge swaths of our population,” with those in the lowest-paying professions suffering the most.

## Home prices

“The median sale price of homes in Silicon Valley reached \$880,000 in 2016, a price fewer than 40 percent of first-time homebuyers can afford,” the Index states. “Furthermore, only a small share of recent housing permits were affordable for low-income residents.”

According to the Index, the percentage of new residences designated as “affordable” has dipped over the past year. In 2015, there were 1,758 such homes approved, making up 16 percent of the total number of new residential units. In 2016, the percentage dropped to 7 percent, with only 1,404 residences across the region designated as “affordable.”

## Income and education

The report also indicates a growing gap between residents with graduate or professional degrees and those without them.

While the median income for those on the highest strata of educational attainment went up by \$3,578 between 2014 and 2015, it actually went down over the same period for those with lower levels of education.

As a result, those at the highest tier earned about \$86,000 more (or 4.8 times as much) as those at the bottom. This disparity is somewhat higher in Silicon Valley than in San Francisco (where the ratio is 4.5) and significantly higher than across the nation (3.2).

## Gender gap

The gender-income gap also remains a persistent source of shame for the politically liberal region.

Men in Silicon Valley with bachelor's degrees earn 50 percent more than women with the same degrees. This means that a woman with a bachelor's earns 67 cents for every \$1 earned by a similarly educated man.

While the gap narrows slightly for those with graduate or professional degrees (in which case, a woman earns 71 cents for every dollar earned by a man), the Valley's ratio for all women working full-time (74 cents per dollar) is worse than either in San

Francisco (77 cents) or California (79 cents).

## Immigrants

The report also underscores the outsized role that immigrants play in the region's economy, a particularly topical finding at a time when the White House is pursuing more restrictive immigration policies.

Forty-six percent of the region's employed residents are foreign-born, according to the Index. This includes 62.8 percent of the employers in “computer and mathematical” fields and 60.5 percent of those in “architectural and engineering.”

“Historically, immigrants have contributed considerably to innovation and job creation in the region, state and nation,” the Index states. “Maintaining and increasing these flows, combined with efforts to integrate immigrants into our communities, will likely improve the region's global competitiveness.”

The numbers are particularly high when it comes to women who are between the ages of 25 and 44 years and who are employed in computer, mathematical, architectural and engineering occupations. About 76 percent of these women are foreign-born,

according to the Index.

Furthermore, the percentage of residents who speak a foreign language at home rose from 48 percent in 2005 to 51 percent in 2015 (in San Francisco it actually went down from 46 to 44 percent).

## Population

Even with the high number of immigrants, the overall population of Silicon Valley remains relatively stable. In fact, one of the more striking findings in the new report is the growing number of people who left the Valley last year.

The “out-migration” in the Valley was greater in 2016 than in any other year since 2006, the report notes, with about 20,000 people departing for other parts of the state and country last year. This is a sharp break from just three years ago, when the region was showing more people coming in from other parts of the country than leaving.

And birth rates in Silicon Valley have declined by 13 percent since 2008 (in California at large the drop was even more significant at 14 percent), dropping to their lowest levels since the mid-1980s.

While population continues to grow, the rate slowed markedly last year. From 2010 to 2015, Silicon Valley had experienced population growth of about 34,000 per year. Between July 2015 and July

2016, it slowed to a gain of 19,000, according to the Index. With more people leaving the Valley than coming in, the growth was almost entirely due to natural growth (births minus deaths), according to the Index.

## Traffic

The report highlights one key problem that continues to unite people of all backgrounds: worsening traffic.

According to the new report, since 2005 there has been an increase of 228,000 Santa Clara and San Mateo County residents who commute to work, along with 57,000 additional commuters who come into Silicon Valley from San Francisco and Alameda counties. As a result, commute times have risen by 17 percent.

According to the report, the worsening commute since 2015 has added 35 hours of driving time per commuter annually (or 40 minutes weekly).

The growing congestion comes despite the slight drop in commuters who drive alone to work (which went from 75 percent in 2010 to 73 percent in 2015) and an small uptick in the number of people who relied on public transportation (which increased from 5 percent to 6 percent between 2010 and 2015).

See **RAPID GROWTH**, page 19



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Mary & Brent are ranked the #13 team in the nation  
 (and #5 team by average sales price)  
 in The Wall Street Journal report of the Top Residential  
 Real Estate Professionals (published on June 24, 2016).



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# Fire district considers revenue-raising measures

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

On the same night the governing board of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District heard it is expected to end the year with a surplus of \$6.7 million more than had been projected, the board moved forward two measures designed to bring even more revenue into the district.

The district's board on Feb. 21 gave preliminary approval to a revised fee schedule for things such as plan reviews, inspections, annual permits, code enforcement and weed abatement. It also gave the go-ahead to more work on creating "community facilities districts" that would tax developers of new commercial and multi-family projects.

Fire board President Peter Carpenter explained after the meeting why he supports the measures. The fire district uses its property tax revenues to provide the same fire and other emergency services to all residents of the district. When it "provides a service that uniquely benefits an individual or an organization, then the costs of providing that service should be borne by the beneficiary rather than by the entire community," and paid for with fees, not property taxes, he said.

Similarly, he said, if a new development requires the district to put money into new equipment or facilities to service it, the owners of that property should pay that capital cost, rather than asking all of the

property owners in the district to share the cost. "The property taxes from that parcel then pay the cost for the ongoing fire district services to that parcel," he said.

## New fee schedule

State law allows agencies to charge fees to recover the costs of providing "private benefits" to individuals or groups, but not for services that benefit the public as a whole. A study by Wohlford Consulting found the district was spending \$3.1 million a year on such services but receiving less than half that amount in fees.

The current fee schedule was approved in 2012.

Most of the fees will be set to recover 100 percent of the costs the consultant attributed to the activities, but a few of the activities will be partially or fully subsidized by the district.

The district also has a procedure to apply for fee waivers, which mostly applies to nonprofits.

The new and increased fees are estimated to bring in an additional \$232,000 a year to the district.

The costs used to determine the fees include hourly rates for employees ranging from a low of \$151.27 an hour for an administrative assistant's time to \$490.42 for an hour of the district's chief's time. The consultant's report says those hourly rates include overhead, operating expenditures and indirect costs as well as salary and benefits.

Among the fees the district is waiving are those for fire sprinkler permits for one- and two-family homes. Fire sprinkler permits for existing commercial buildings would be half the calculated rate. New commercial buildings would pay the full cost for a sprinkler permit, a minimum of \$1,662.

Other activities that would not involve fees are public education and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes.

One suggested fee the board members asked to have lowered was the \$200 that was to be charged to anyone who wrote a bad check to the district.

Fire board president Peter Carpenter said he likes using fee subsidies "as a mechanism for encouraging things that will improve the overall safety of the community" such as fire sprinklers.

The board unanimously approved the introduction of the fee ordinance and will take another look at it on March 21. Board members say they hope the public will weigh in before that meeting with opinions about the proposed changes.

The new fees are scheduled to take effect on July 1.

At [tinyurl.com/Fire-fees](http://tinyurl.com/Fire-fees) the proposed fees are posted.

the district is looking to form a number of single-property districts, each of which would have only one landowner, who would cast the sole vote to form the district.

The staff report says the fire district "currently does not have the cooperation of a property owner and without it, formation of the CFD might not be feasible."

Fire district attorney Lauren Quint said the fire district has identified a few candidates but hasn't yet found one willing to cooperate.

The board unanimously agreed to have the consulting firm NBS go ahead with the project once a willing property owner is found. Cost of the next phase of NBS's contract will be \$22,500, in addition to the \$10,000 the district has already agreed to pay NBS.

## Tax revenues rise

With the 2016-17 fiscal year now half over, the district's mid-year budget review shows the district expects to end the fiscal year on June 30 with a surplus of \$6.9 million rather than the \$109,000 that had been budgeted.

The difference is a combination of additional revenues and less than expected spending. The district estimates that during this fiscal year it will receive about \$42.8 million in property tax revenues, about \$3.7 million more than it had budgeted.

The update shows projected spending on wages and benefits is \$16.6 million, \$3.5 million less than budgeted. Spending on the district's share of retirement contributions is expected to be \$6.1 million, \$2.2 million less than budgeted.

Some costs have gone up. Projected spending on overtime is estimated to be \$4.7 million, which is \$2.7 million more than had been budgeted. The district will make a one-time payment of \$6.2 million into the state employees retirement system to reduce its long-term pension liabilities. That amount had not been budgeted.

The district has budgeted \$5.3 million for replacing equipment and apparatus, with plans for two new fire engines, a ladder truck, light and heavy rescue equipment, an air boat and command vehicle.

The fire district plans to spend \$5.2 million from its capital improvements projects fund by year's end (leaving it with \$25.5 million). The budget report says the rebuilding of the district's Fire Station 6 and a district museum in downtown Menlo Park is fully funded. ▣

When the fire district 'provides a service that uniquely benefits an individual or an organization, the costs of providing that service should be borne by the beneficiary rather than by the entire community.'

PETER CARPENTER, FIRE BOARD PRESIDENT

They asked to have it set at \$25, as it is in many neighboring jurisdictions.

Board member Virginia Chang-Kiraly said that the district does receive a lot of property tax revenues and should perhaps use some of that instead of charging fees. "I think some of the tax dollars should cover some of this," she said.

But Fire Marshal Jon Johnston said most of the fees are charged to for-profit businesses, and those that affect individual taxpayers have mostly been reduced.

## Tax districts

The board also gave the go-ahead to more work by the consulting firm NBS on creating community facilities districts.

The staff report on community facilities districts says "future growth threatens to strain and eventually reduce the (fire) District's service levels as it relates to staffing levels, response times and the District's ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating."

Rather than hold an election to create a district-wide community facilities district, however,

## Walter Powers Weber

March 27, 1927 - February 7, 2017

Walter passed away peacefully on February 7th in Palo Alto surrounded by his family. He was born in Chicago, Ill. After high school, he served in the U.S. Army in WWII. He graduated from Northwestern with degrees in Civil Engineering and business. He enjoyed a successful career in financial management for over 40 years. He was Controller of Bell & Howell in Chicago and relocated to Menlo Park in 1963 to become CFO of Ampex. He ended his career as CFO of a worldwide engineering consulting firm specializing in computerized traffic control signal systems. He also taught evening Management courses at San Mateo community colleges for a number of years.

He is survived by his loving wife, Vivian, his three sons, Walt (Martha) of Monte sereno, Jim (Jana) of Campbell, Jack (Kim) of Newtown, CT. grandchildren Jean Benassi (Mike), Caitlin Cashbaugh (Sean), Andrew (Lindsay), Michael Bachand, Kirsten Blount (Josh), Patrick, Lindsay, Jacqueline Bachand, Emily, Tim and Mark. He was preceded in death by his daughter Joan Bachand (Ed). There will be a memorial mass at St. Denis Church, 2250 Avy avenue, Menlo Park, on Saturday, March 4th at 11:00 AM.



PAID OBITUARY

## Barbara Fox Felix

May 11, 1924 - February 10, 2017

Beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Barbara was born in Caro, Michigan. She studied at the University of Michigan where she met and married Charles Reis Felix (1923 - 2017), her life's soul mate. They then moved to California where Barbara became a kindergarten teacher at several schools including Oak Knoll in Menlo Park.

For 66 years of their 70 years of married life Barbara and Charles lived in the redwoods on Skyline. After retirement she enjoyed her horses at the Williams Ranch in La Honda, correspondence with family and friends around the world and the success of Charles's writing career.

*I know what it is to live entirely for and with what I love best on earth. I hold myself supremely blest — blest beyond what language can express: because I am my husband's life as fully as he is mine.*

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

PAID OBITUARY

# Raise for chief still leaves him making less than his deputy

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park Fire Protection District Chief Harold Schapelhouman was given a \$15,000 raise — to \$265,000 a year — by the district's governing board on Feb. 21, a move the chief said was needed so the district's deputy chief didn't make more than the chief.

It turns out, however, that, counting a \$12,000 a year stipend he receives for living within 10 miles of the fire district's boundaries, Deputy Chief Don Long still makes about \$7,000 a year more than the chief.

The chief and deputy chief each make more than the city managers of Menlo Park, Atherton or East Palo Alto, as well as the fire chiefs in Palo Alto and the Woodside Fire Protection District.

If Chief Schapelhouman relocates into the fire district, which includes Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto and some adjacent unincorporated areas, he would be given an extra \$24,000 a year, which would bring his base salary up to \$289,000 a year.

The chief, who has worked for the district for 36 years and been in his current position for 10 years, also has a specially equipped van that he can use for business or personal use. He receives 372 hours a year (more than nine 40-hour weeks) of personal time off that includes vacations, sick leave and other paid

## ■ FIRE DISTRICT

time off. In addition, the district has 12 paid holidays a year.

At a Feb. 21 meeting of the fire district's governing board, where the raise was unanimously approved (with board member Rex Ianson absent), Chief Schapelhouman said he thought it important his position was paid more than the deputy chief's.

"What I didn't want to have happen is the deputy making more than the chief,"

Chief Schapelhouman said. "That's the reason this is all going on." He said if the chief's position becomes vacant, the deputy chief needs a financial incentive for wanting that job.

Chief Schapelhouman's contract ends in June 2018, but he said he has not announced any plans to retire. "It's a little early for that," he said. "We're not there quite yet, but after 10 years as the fire chief and 36 years with the organization, my goal would be to have a seamless transition with no drama when that needs to occur," he said.

District documents show Deputy Chief Don Long and other chief officers (not including the chief) are also due to get a 3

percent raise in July.

The fire district has the full-time equivalent of 125.5 employees.

In Palo Alto, fire chief Eric Nickel's salary for 2016 was \$234,000 with 114 full time equivalent employees.

In Menlo Park, City Manager Alex McIntyre's base salary is \$221,800. He received a \$15,000 bonus in 2016. In 2015 the city had 531 employees.

East Palo Alto City Manager Carlos Martinez makes a base salary of \$197,300. In 2015 East Palo

Alto had 126 employees.

Atherton City Manager George Rodericks' base salary is \$208,682 with 37 employees on staff and 18 contract employees.

Woodside Fire Protection District Chief Dan Giorso has a base salary of \$246,000 a year with 63 employees. The assistant chief in the Woodside District makes \$219,440 a year. ■

**Fire district board unanimously agrees to give the fire chief a 6 percent raise of \$15,000 a year.**

**express**

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## Kids turning trash into art

For the fifth year, third- to fifth-grade students and classrooms are invited to enter a "Trash to Art" contest sponsored by Rethink Waste, also known as the South Bayside Waste Management Authority.

Students in the ReThink Waste service area, including Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley, North Fair Oaks and part of Woodside, can enter as a classroom or individually.

The winning classroom receives \$500 and a pizza party, and the winning individual receives a \$200 gift card. Second- through fourth-place winners also receive cash awards or gift cards.

Deadline to submit entries is March 24.

At [tinyurl.com/Rethink-TTA](http://tinyurl.com/Rethink-TTA) are contest rules and an entry form, or you can ask for more information by sending an email to [tours@rethinkwaste.org](mailto:tours@rethinkwaste.org).



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF ATHERTON

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the Town of Atherton will introduce amendments to the following ordinance at their regular meeting held on Wednesday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the **Council Chambers, 94 Ashfield Road, Atherton.**

An Ordinance of the City Council of the Town of Atherton amending Title 15 of the Atherton Municipal Code to modify and ratify the fire regulations as adopted by the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

For a complete copy of the staff report and draft ordinance that will be heard at the meeting, please contact City Clerk Theresa DellaSanta at [tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us) or 650-752-0529.

Those wishing to comment on the proposed ordinance may either attend the Public Hearing or submit written comments to the City Clerk, to be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday March 10, 2017. (Written comments are to be submitted to the City Clerk, Town of Atherton, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027 or by email at [tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us)

/s/ Theresa DellaSanta  
City Clerk  
Feb 22, 2017

## Clem Marcus Wiser

Clem Marcus Wiser, age 93 died peacefully surrounded by family, Friday February 3rd 2017 at his home in Palo Alto, California.



Clem was born in 1924 in Pikeville, Kentucky, to parents Clem Marcus (Bud) and Nell (Sword) Wiser. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps in December, 1942 and attended boot camp at Parris Island, SC. He transferred to Pioneer Construction Battalion, Engineering School (Surveying and Drafting) at Camp LeJeune, NC, and on to N.O.B. Marine Detachment, Norfolk, Va for further schooling. He was then transferred to Islais Creek Supply Depot, Department of the Pacific Headquarters in San Francisco, Ca where he met and married the love of his life Olga (Livvie) Diaz De Leon on June 8, 1944.



Clem was discharged at Treasure Island, Ca on May 25, 1946 and entered San Francisco State University in September of the same year. Clem Graduated with a BA in 1949 and a MA in Secondary Administration in 1950. Clem taught English and coached Football at Polytechnic High School in San Francisco from 1950 to 1951. He taught track and basketball and was a counselor at Aptos Jr. High School, also in San Francisco from 1951-1955. He moved to Palo Alto and accepted a position at Palo Alto Senior High School (Paly) as Varsity Basketball Coach and then Athletic Director from 1955 until his retirement in 1991. Clem was named California Coach's Association State Coach of the year for Basketball in 1983 and inducted into the California Coach's Association State Hall of Fame in 1992.

A former Marine with a screaming Eagle tattoo on his forearm, Clem was a relatively reserved man with a cigar in one hand and a crossword in the other. He coached hundreds of young men and women during his time at Paly and taught scores of Paly youth to drive. Clem was often approached throughout the years by generations of players with fond memories of their times together. Clem was the kind of man, husband, father and grandfather that you always knew would be there for you. He was, and continues to be, loved and respected by so many throughout the nation and you all give us strength. In his later years he became a teacher of Genealogy to anyone interested. He was a decent and respectable man who adored his wife and loved his family. He never forgot a face or a name (or a jersey number). He will be missed.

Clem, (known to his players as Coach, to old friends as Sandy) is preceded in death by his beloved wife of 65 years Olga (Livvie) Diaz De Leon, January 2nd 2010... sister June Wiser Justice and Nephew Jay Justice of Wesley Chapel Fla.

Clem is survived and remembered with love by his four children, John Wiser (Harriet) Portland, Or, Yvette Custer (William) Fremont, Ca, Clem Wiser (Julie) Morgan Hill, Ca, Mark Wiser Palo Alto, Ca.

Clem is also survived by his dear sister Marguerite Wiser Polley, Sarasota Fla, Niece Karen Polley Cramer, Nephew Paul (Bud) Polley, Niece Melinda Joe Justice, Nephew David Justice.

Six Grandchildren, Ryan Wiser (Maureen), Morgan Wiser (Sydelle), Catherine Custer (Michael), Eric Custer (Sarah), Michael Wiser, Nicole Plata, and Faith.

Five Great Grandchildren Lindsey, Finley, Madison, Sadie and Ava-Olivia.

Clem leaves his family of many players that span generations and are forever a part of the Wiser Family.

Private Interment Alta Mesa Cemetery  
Memorial Service Pending



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Opulent yet inviting, this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom home consists of approximately 4,000 sq. ft. (per county) on a property of over 10,000 sq. ft. (per county) and showcases prestige with vast living spaces, an attached three-car garage, an additional finished attic, and wood flooring throughout. Stunning features such as soaring ceilings and must-have amenities grant luxury while large windows flood the interior with natural light. Nearby are attractions like Stanford Hills Park, Stanford Golf Course, Sharon Heights Shopping Center, and world-renowned Stanford University. It also boasts close proximity to exceptional schools such as Las Lomas Elementary (API 943), La Entrada Middle (API 963), and Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).



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Lunch



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# Hope persists

Marisa Martinez won't stop fighting for her daughter's life



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

**Marisa Martinez**, shown here with daughter Xavia outside their home in the Kings Mountain neighborhood of Woodside, decided in January that traveling to and from Europe for 9-year-old daughter Zamora's brain cancer treatments was too hard on the sick child, so the family is temporarily living in London. Zamora is shown on the opposite page in the London Hospital on Feb. 23. **On the cover:** Marisa Martinez at home in Woodside. (Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac.)

**By Barbara Wood**  
Almanac Staff Writer

Marisa Martinez is the type of person who, when told something is impossible, instead of giving up, simply redoubles her efforts and recruits more allies to help her fight.

So, a few months ago, when an oncologist told Ms. Martinez that her 9-year-old daughter's brain cancer had metastasized, spreading to her spine and cranial nerves, and the end was near, she refused to abandon hope.

"It was devastating," said Ms. Martinez, a kindergarten teacher from Woodside, whose daughter Zamora was diagnosed with an inoperable brain cancer 19 months ago. The family was told then that Zamora had six to nine months to live.

But just as Ms. Martinez had done then, she refused to accept the doctor's prognosis.

She turned out to be right. "The doctor misread the scan, and the tumor board hadn't looked at it," she said. Zamora's brain tumor "has never metastasized," she said.

Zamora Moon Martinez-Lusinchi, who plays the violin, loves art and pretending to be a fairy with her 7-year-old sister and friends, has a diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma tumor, known as DIPG. According to the DIPG Registry website, these tumors grow out into healthy brain tissue, making it "impossible to surgically remove DIPG tumors without damaging healthy tissue." They grow near where the spinal cord joins the brain, where breathing, balance, bladder control and sleep are regulated.

Fewer than 150 children a year are diagnosed with DIPG, and only 10 percent live more than two years beyond diagnosis, according to the DIPG Registry website.

Treatment is difficult because the brain protects itself against intrusion from outside agents through what is called the "blood/brain barrier," meaning most drugs never reach the tumor.

When Zamora was diagnosed, her family — which also includes father Marc Lusinch and sister Xavia — was advised

to concentrate on the quality of what remained of Zamora's life.

## Fighting for her life

Instead, Ms. Martinez has spent the past 18 months fighting the cancer with everything she can find, including several experimental treatments in far-flung parts of the world.

"I'm not trying to give her a couple more months to live," said Ms. Martinez, who is on leave from her job as a kindergarten teacher at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy in San Francisco's Castro District. "I'm trying to save her life."

"I want to see her graduate from high school."

Zamora has received the treatments given to most children with DIPG — radiation therapy and steroids — and took part in a clinical trial at the University of California, San Francisco, where the tumor was biopsied to help determine what drugs might fight it.

In Germany, Zamora has had several rounds of an experimental combination of virotherapy, immunotherapy and hyperthermia.

The little girl, who was

diagnosed when she was about to enter second grade in the school where her mother works, was injected with Newcastle disease virus. Newcastle, a form of bird flu, does not affect humans but does attach itself to cancer cells. Zamora's own cells were used to create a vaccine to go after the Newcastle, and the cancer cells it had attached itself to, after her body temperature was boosted to weaken the cancer cells.

Zamora is also part of a clinical trial in England of an experimental method of injecting chemotherapy drugs directly into the brains of children with DIPG. She has had a hole drilled in her skull and a port put in so drugs can bypass the blood-brain barrier.

In addition, Ms. Martinez said, after the Almanac ran a story about the family, who live in the Kings Mountain neighborhood off Skyline Boulevard, they were contacted by a local scientist who shared an unconventional medical treatment with them that she credits with keeping Zamora's tumor from growing.

All the treatments, Ms.

Martinez said, are "like puzzle pieces, and each one has to be put together to complete the picture."

"I'm going to do everything I can to save her," she said.

## A death bed

She repeatedly has been told Zamora was about to die. In August, when Zamora began having trouble swallowing, a supporter built a deck, a pond and a lounge chair for Zamora in the garden right outside her home, under the redwood trees. "If she passed away, I wanted her to pass away outside with the trees," Ms. Martinez said. "It's like a mom creating a death bed for a kid," she said.

"It's been hard."

After another round of radiation therapy, however, Zamora began improving. The treatment was supposed to gain her only another four or five months, but she has gone beyond that point, and Ms. Martinez said that gives her hope. "She has a fighting chance," Ms. Martinez said.

Ms. Martinez has also worked constantly to raise money to pay for the treatments, airfare,



Photo by Marisa Martinez

**Zamora Moon Martinez-Lusinchi**, right, with her younger sister Xavia on Feb 23 in the Harley Street Clinic Children's Hospital in London. Zamora was diagnosed 19 months ago with an inoperable cancer and given nine months, at the most, to live.

hotels and taking time off work, almost none of which will be paid for by insurance.

#### A difficult childhood

What keeps her going?

"I think it's how I grew up," she said. "There are things in my past that made me not want to give up."

Ms. Martinez said she overcame a lot of hardships as a child, a time that she really doesn't like to talk about.

At 17, she left her home in New Mexico and moved to New York City, where she worked as a model for two years. Her big break was working in a national Coca Cola ad, but instead of pursuing modeling as a career, she took the cash she'd earned and went back home to go to college, where she got a degree in special education.

She said she chose the field so she could help other children with difficult lives.

At 20, Ms. Martinez decided to find the father she'd never met. Told it was an impossible task, she responded: "I'm going to meet my dad. I don't care what any of you say."

"It's a kind of drive within me," she explains. "You tell me no, and I say yes."

Armed only with her father's name and age, Ms. Martinez traveled to his home country of Spain, put up fliers and sent out letters, and called everyone in the Madrid phone book with his last name.

Finally, she found him, in Barcelona, with the help of

some of those she'd met during her search. "My whole family in Spain is so supportive now," she said. "It was amazing."

#### The hard way

At times, Ms. Martinez has chosen the most challenging path.

For 17 years, she practiced her stressful career as a special education teacher in one of the poorest areas of San Francisco, Hunters Point, before moving to Harvey Milk and becoming a kindergarten teacher.

Ms. Martinez said she's asked herself: "Why does my kid get cancer? I already paid my dues. But life doesn't work like that."

Ms. Martinez is used to "overcoming obstacles," she said. "It takes somebody with that kind of core" to fight the battle she's fighting, she said.

"I'm not going to dwell on feeling sorry for myself — that never worked out," she said, but added: "I miss being a teacher. It's really hard on me." ■

#### More information

- At [tinyurl.com/GFM-ZMoon](http://tinyurl.com/GFM-ZMoon), donations can be made to help pay for Zamora's medical care and expenses. Donations can also be made through PayPal using Ms. Martinez's email address: [Catzmartinez@aol.com](mailto:Catzmartinez@aol.com)
- [DIPGResistry.org](http://DIPGResistry.org) has information about the disease, research and resources.
- [Facebook.com/ZamoraMoon](https://www.facebook.com/ZamoraMoon) has updates on Zamora's condition.

## TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

*"It is often said that you get out of life what you give. Through volunteerism, we not only provide support for our Town; we obtain the rich rewards of friendship and of truly making a difference, while setting a meaningful example for future generations."*

- Bill Lane, former mayor and founding father of Portola Valley



#### Bicycle, Pedestrian & Traffic Safety Committee

Meets first Wednesday of each month, 8:15 a.m.; appointed for a one-year term.

The objectives of this committee are to foster a community for all users of the public roads. To advise the Town in ways and means for safer conditions regarding motor vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians and road conditions. To encourage proper traffic enforcement. To encourage safe and enjoyable bicycling in Portola Valley as a means of transportation and recreation.

#### Cultural Arts Committee

Meets second Thursday of each month; appointed for a one-year term.

Increase cultural awareness among residents of Portola Valley by sponsoring and supporting local cultural activities in the areas of art, music, science and nature, history, horticulture, drama, literature, photography and dance.

#### Emergency Preparedness Committee

Meets second Thursday of each month, 8:00 a.m.; appointed for a one-year term.

This Committee works with Town Staff to ensure that neighborhoods and Town government are ready to respond to possible emergencies such as earthquakes, wildfires and flooding. Other duties include maintaining emergency supplies and equipment, planning response to emergencies and educating Town residents.

#### Historical Resources Committee

Meets as announced; appointed for a one-year term.

To procure, organize, preserve, and make available for review and/or display archival materials likely to be of significant, general interest over a prolonged period of time to residents of the Portola Valley region.

#### Nature and Science Committee

Meets alternate even-numbered months 2nd Thursday, 5:00 p.m.; appointed for a one-year term.

The objectives of this Committee are to increase appreciation for Portola Valley's natural environment by providing opportunities for residents and visitors to observe and study local natural history, encourage scientific dialog and promoting scientific literacy in the community and provide information to the community about science, technology and natural history.

#### Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee

Meets as announced; appointed for a one-year term.

This Committee supports preservation of the Town's rural environment by advising the Town Council on open space acquisitions and uses.

#### Parks and Recreation Committee

Meets first Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m.; appointed for a one-year term.

This Committee meets to develop, promote and maintain quality recreational and community enrichment programs, recreational facilities and park areas in the Town of Portola Valley.

#### Public Works Committee

Meets as announced; appointed for a one-year term.

The Portola Valley Public Works Committee acts as the liaison between the citizens of Portola Valley, Public Works Staff and members of the Town Council on the Town's need of public works nature.

#### Sustainability & Environmental Resources Committee

Meets first Monday of each month, 10:30 a.m.; appointed for a one-year term.

This is a newly formed Committee that will develop, recommend and champion policies and programs that promote the Town's sustainability, environmental and ecological goals.

Applications are available on-line at [www.portolavalley.net](http://www.portolavalley.net) on the homepage under the Town Committees tab. Hard copies are available at Town Hall.

Town Clerk Sharon Hanlon  
Town of Portola Valley  
765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028  
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Phone: (650) 851-1700 ext. 210

# Proposed law could halve fines for right-turn-on-red violations

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

Frank Viggiano of Palo Alto was recently slapped with a \$490 fine when a red-light camera caught him turning right at a red light from El Camino Real onto Ravenswood Avenue in Menlo Park.

He and his wife had been driving their daughter home to her Menlo Park apartment around 9 or 10 p.m., he said in an email to the Menlo Park City Council.

At that time, he said, there was very little traffic and no pedestrians or bicycles around.

He told the council the fine was “absurd” and that he planned to boycott all Menlo Park businesses until the fines are reduced. After learning that cities don’t control the fines, he said he is no longer planning to boycott the city.

“While I support the need to enforce traffic rules, and even agree that such a system (referring to the red-light cameras) can be a very effective way to do it, I think that the \$490 fine is far more than the amount necessary to act as a deterrent. Half that amount would already be quite painful and serve as a lasting reminder to be more careful,” he said.

Mr. Viggiano may just get his wish.

California Sen. Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo County, has introduced a bill that would reduce the fines drivers pay if they get caught turning right at a red light without first coming to a complete stop.

Senate Bill 493 would reduce the base fine to \$35, down from

the \$100 current fine.

The base fine is only a part of the total amount one pays with a moving-violation ticket, but it determines the cost of other fees that must be paid to the state and county.

Currently, a ticket with a \$100 base fine actually means the driver would pay about \$540 in fees, including traffic school costs, and about \$490 without traffic school. Reducing the base fine to \$35 would mean the total

fees collected would be about \$290 with traffic school, or \$240 without — roughly half of the current cost.

Turning right on a red light without first coming to a

complete stop would still be illegal and would add a point to a driver’s record, Sen. Hill’s office said.

Sen. Hill said in an interview that the fines for red-light traffic violations were hiked in 1997, but the intention then wasn’t for right-on-red violations to have the same penalty as more dangerous offenses — such as driving straight through, or turning left, on a red light.

Other moving violations that carry a \$100 base fine are driving more than 25 miles per hour over the speed limit, and failing to yield to an emergency vehicle. The author of the 1997 bill later said raising the penalties for right-on-red violations was a mistake, Sen. Hill’s office said.

“The fine doesn’t fit the crime,” he said. In recent years,

the state senator has been contacted by constituents more than 50 times about the costly fines, his office said.

## Revenue generator

Exacting hefty fines for right-on-red traffic violations should not be a revenue generator, Sen Hill said. “I believe it has turned into one.”

Cities with red-light cameras, such as Menlo Park and San Mateo, are generating revenue from these citations, he said.

In 2013 in Menlo Park, he said, Redflex, the company that is contracted to operate the city’s red-light photo enforcement program, captured data that resulted in the police department issuing fines for red-light violations that added up to \$1.3 million. Fine and fee revenues are split into state, county and local funds. That year, there were a total of 2,802 red light-violations reported in Menlo Park, and 395, or about 14 percent, came from right-on-red violations, according to Redflex data obtained from Sen. Hill’s office.

Reducing the base fine could result in an annual loss of about \$7.5 million to various state funds, a legislative analysis of the bill reports.

This is the fourth time Sen. Hill has tried to pass the bill. In 2010, the bill was vetoed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who said it would send the wrong message regarding the state’s tolerance for these types of offenses, according to a legislative analysis of the bill. Sen. Hill tried again twice last year to pass it.

This year, he said, he is optimistic it will pass. ▀

Cities with red-light cameras, such as Menlo Park, are generating revenue from these right-on-red citations, Sen. Jerry Hill said.



Photo by Susie Bors

## After the rain ... rainbows

One nice thing about rain — it can be followed by rainbows. Woodside resident Susie Bors took this photo Feb. 21 at the BOK Ranch Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center at the Horse Park at Woodside, looking toward Interstate 280.

## Burglar ransacks home

A burglar or burglars forced open a kitchen door and ransacked a home on Santa Maria Avenue in Portola Valley on Thursday, Feb. 23, according to the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office.

Several “personal items of value” were taken from the home, located in the 1 to 100 block of Santa Maria, Sheriff’s Office Detective Salvador Zuno said.

The burglary took place sometime between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. that day when the home was unoccupied, he said. Deputies

responded to a report of the burglary at 5 p.m. that day.

The Sheriff’s Office reminds residents to “fully secure their homes” and report any suspicious persons or activities: “See something, say something.”

The Sheriff’s Office asks anyone with information about this incident to call Detective Jonathan Sebring at (650) 363-4057 or email him at jsebring@smcgov.org. Those who choose to be anonymous can call the Sheriff’s Office anonymous tip line at (800) 547-2700.

The Almanac  
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LET’S DISCUSS:  
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and talk about the issues on Town Square  
at AlmanacNews.com

## Man sentenced for gun possession with prior conviction

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

A 29-year-old Menlo Park resident was sentenced Feb. 22 to 60 days in county jail and three years of supervised probation after pleading no contest to the felony crime of possessing a gun within 10 years of being convicted of a violent misdemeanor.

On April 24, 2015, Isileli Lolohea was arrested after allegedly discharging a handgun near Chilco Street and Hamilton

Avenue at about 4:30 a.m.

Prosecutors said police responded to calls of gunshots and found him on Modoc Avenue with a beer in his hand. He was asked to put down the beer, and when he did, the officer saw a handgun on the ground nearby. The gun was found to be empty, with four casings found nearby, prosecutors said.

In 2009, District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said, Mr. Lolohea had been convicted of a misdemeanor assault of a peace officer, which comes with the

penalty of being forbidden from possessing a firearm for 10 years.

After his 2015 arrest, Mr. Lolohea proceeded to serve 50 days in the county jail before being released on bail of \$25,000.

The jury trial date was pushed back eight times over about 20 months before Mr. Lolohea pleaded no contest on Feb. 22.

With double credit for time served on good behavior, he will not have to serve any more time.

He may be eligible, halfway through his probation, to have

the felony reduced to a misdemeanor, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Mr. Lolohea will have to pay \$100 a month for probation, receive chemical and genetic marker testing, abstain from alcohol and drugs, be subject to search and seizure, and pay \$400 in fees.

People who have been convicted of a felony are not allowed to ever possess a firearm, Mr. Wagstaffe said. Even though this law will apply to Mr. Lolohea, the judge still ordered him to complete a firearm safety class. ▀

### BIRTHS

#### Menlo Park

- Blanca and Jorge Serrano, a daughter, Jan. 13, Sequoia Hospital.
- Adeline Cabral and Shane Finley, a son, Jan. 19, Sequoia Hospital.
- Cristy and Jordan Davis, a daughter, Jan. 28, Sequoia Hospital.
- Cherie and Issac Collin, a son, Jan. 30, Sequoia Hospital.

#### Emerald Hills

- Mary and George Millionis, a son, Feb. 1, Sequoia Hospital.
- Kimberly and Ryan Caldbeck, a son, Feb. 6, Sequoia Hospital.



## 375 Walsh Road, Atherton

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## Should Airbnb-type rentals be allowed in Atherton?

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

As services allowing the easy short-term rental of part or all of a home have become common, Atherton has maintained that renting anything for fewer than 30 days is an illegal commercial use of property, and has fined those found doing so.

But acting Police Chief Joe Wade admits in a report to the City Council that it is hard for the town to figure out where and when such activity is taking place. During the past year, he said, the town's code enforcement officer has opened cases against eight people offering short-term rentals, but that a recent look at the Airbnb site listed 13 available rentals in Atherton.

On Wednesday, March 1, the City Council will look at what, if anything, the town should do about short-term rentals. The meeting starts at 4 p.m. in the town's council chambers, 94 Ashfield Road.

The report from Chief Wade offers three options: allowing short-term rentals, but requiring licenses and registration and possibly occupancy tax collection; giving conditional permits to allow limited short-term rentals; or continuing to prohibit short-term rentals.

### Fallen trees

The council is also set to discuss another potentially controversial matter — how to respond to City Attorney Bill Conners' contention that the town must charge homeowners when it removes a privately owned tree that has fallen into the public right-of-way, even if it's blocking a public road.

### Also on agenda: Who should pay to remove fallen trees in public right-of-way?

A memo from Mr. Conners says that while the town has long had a practice of absorbing the costs of removing fallen trees from town streets, it should not have been doing so.

The memo says that a tree that has fallen from private property still belongs to the homeowner, and if it is blocking a public road it is a public nuisance the homeowner must pay to remove.

If the town removes the tree in an emergency, the homeowner should be billed for the service, his memo says. Not to do so is making a "gift of public funds" to the homeowner.

The meeting begins with a joint study session with the town's Park and Recreation Committee to discuss a plan to upgrade Holbrook Palmer Park's system of paths and roadways. ■

## Kids cheer peers at hospital

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

It took only a half hour recently for a group of about 200 adults and kids from Menlo Park and East Palo Alto to assemble 500 care kits for patients at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, event organizer Jen Smith said.

The project was an exercise in community service for parents and students at three schools: Oak Knoll Elementary in Menlo Park, Costano Elementary in East Palo Alto, and the San Francisco 49ers Academy, a middle school that shares a campus with Costano.

"We thought it'd be great to do something as a community," said Ms. Smith, whose four children attend Oak Knoll. She said students at the three schools don't have much chance to interact with each other.

The care kit assembly project was the culmination of a three-week supply drive that had been conducted at all three schools.

Each classroom was tasked with supplying 100 items, or about five items per kid for a 20-student classroom, Ms. Smith said. Following guidance from the hospital, the students gathered the materials and assembled kits containing baby care items, art supplies, games and activities, and teen care items.



(Photo courtesy Jen Smith.)

**Students gather** supplies to make care and activity kits for children at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital

"It was pretty amazing," she said of the quantity of supplies the students gathered.

The costs of the project were borne primarily by the students and their families, she said. Schools contributed some printed materials.

She knows the value of such kits. Her own son spent a lot of time at the hospital while receiving treatment for a brain tumor.

"It's such a small thing to

do for people who are putting it together, and such a big reward for the person who's receiving it," she said.

Anne McCune, chief operating officer of the hospital, and Sherri Sager, chief government and communications officer, attended and accepted the donation on behalf of the hospital, Ms. Smith said.

Go to [tiny.cc/lpch322](http://tiny.cc/lpch322) to watch a short video of the Feb. 12 event. ■



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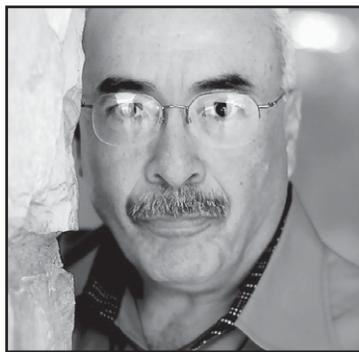


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## Menlo Park offers new way to dispose of unwanted medicines

A secured kiosk has been set up in the main lobby of the Menlo Park Police Department where people can drop off unwanted or expired medications from their households.

Drop-off times are during the city's business hours: Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (city offices are closed on alternate Fridays). The police department is located at 801 Laurel St. in the Menlo Park Civic Center.

### Giving buses priority passage

The San Mateo County Transit District has received a \$3.4 million grant to install a system that will give buses priority at traffic lights on El Camino Real between Daly City and Palo Alto.

### ■ BRIEFS

The Traffic Signal Priority system will extend a green light for a bus or shorten the time a bus waits at a light on El Camino between the Daly City BART Station and the Palo Alto Caltrain Station.

A final design is expected to be finished by June 30, 2018, and the system could be operating in 2020 or 2021.

A similar system was installed on El Camino Real in Santa Clara County.

San Mateo County Transit District officials said the system will result in a 10 percent increase in on-time performance.

The grant was made by the San Francisco-based Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

**■ 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.*

**MENLO PARK**

**Residential burglaries:**

■ Someone broke into a home on Christopher Way by smashing a front window, then stole three laptop computers, a keyboard and mouse, a camera and lens, four cellphones, headphones, a drone, three wallets, gift cards, jewelry and "other household and personal items." Estimated loss: \$31,300. Feb. 17.

■ Burglars entered an unlocked home in the 200 block of University Drive and stole a TV, cosmetics and a lighter. Estimated loss: \$1,060. Feb. 22.

**Commercial burglary:** A surveillance video showed two people loitering and looking inside the Enjoy Tech headquarters on Constitution Drive. One of the suspects used a rock to break through a glass door, entered the building, stole three cellphones

and left the building, all in about 30 seconds, police said. Estimated loss: \$3,000. Feb. 17.

**Auto burglaries:**

■ A thief smashed a side window on a vehicle parked on the first block of Bay Road and stole a wallet, two jackets and a backpack. Estimated loss: \$282. Feb. 24.

■ Someone smashed a window of a vehicle parked on Constitution Drive and stole a passport and briefcase. No estimate on losses. Feb. 13.

**Thefts:**

■ A thief stole an unlocked bicycle from in front of a business on Sharon Park Drive. Estimated loss: \$3,500. Feb. 15.

■ A laptop computer supposed to be delivered to a house on Adams Court was "routed to an alternate location" and stolen. Estimated loss: \$2,000. Feb. 21.

■ Someone stole unattended tools, including an air compressor, nail gun, saw, all-purpose saw, planer, power adapter and electrical cord, from a construction site on Haven Avenue. Estimated loss: \$1,925. Feb. 15.

■ Thieves stole three bikes from homes on Waverley Street, East Creek Drive and Noel Drive. One was locked, one was unlocked and police did not note the status of the

third. Estimated losses: \$520, \$350 and \$300. Feb. 22, 21 and 16.

■ Someone stole a woman's wallet from her purse as she was shopping at the Safeway supermarket at 525 El Camino Real. Estimated loss: \$215. Feb. 23.

■ A man and woman walked out of the deli exit at the Safeway supermarket on El Camino Real with baskets of goods for which they had not paid. When an employee loudly reminded them of the need to pay, the man replied that he had a receipt and the couple kept walking. Police were unable to find them. Estimated loss: \$200. Feb. 21.

■ Someone stole a handheld music player from an unlocked vehicle parked in the first block of Willow Road. No estimate on losses. Feb. 16.

■ Thieves stole packages from front porches of a home on Laurel Avenue and a home in the 600 block of Willow Road. In the packages were men's shoes in the first case and a dog crate in the second. Estimated losses: \$125 and \$30. Feb. 13 and 22.

■ A man carrying a package of smoked salmon and a container of ice cream walked past the checkout stand at the Willow Market on Middlefield Road and left the store without paying for the merchandise.

Police describe the man as white, about 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighing about 180 pounds and wearing a green jacket. Estimated loss: \$16. Feb. 14.

■ Police arrested and booked into county jail a Menlo Park woman on suspicion of theft. A woman had been seen walking out of the Alys Grace clothing store on Santa Cruz Avenue with clothing she had not paid for. Employees retrieved the clothing from the woman's bag, and police located a suspect a short distance from the store. Police are also looking into a connection with a theft of a purse, also recovered, as seen on a surveillance video at Village Stationers on Santa Cruz Avenue. Feb. 14 and 23.

■ At the request of the management at Staples in the 700 block of El Camino Real, police released a man allegedly in possession of Staples merchandise he had not paid for. Police found the man screaming to himself and looking into parked cars in the 300 block of El Camino Real. Feb. 23.

■ Confronted by an employee at BevMo at 700 El Camino Real, a woman gave up an unpaid for bottle of Remy Martin cognac that had been in her purse. No loss. Feb. 17.

**Fraud:** A cashier at Safeway supermarket, using technology designed to spot counterfeit money, detected two fake \$100 bills a woman handed off to pay for about \$170 in merchandise. After being confronted by the cashier, the woman left the store empty handed and drove away in a blue Chevrolet. Police describe her as white, between 25 and 30 years old, about 5 feet 5 inches tall with blonde hair. Feb. 15.

**WEST MENLO PARK**

**Theft:** Someone stole a laptop computer and soccer gear from a vehicle parked on Menlo Oaks Drive. Estimated loss: \$1,000. Feb. 10.

**Vandalism:** A vehicle with four tires slashed was found parked on Mills Avenue. Estimated loss: \$1,100. Feb. 12.

**RAPID GROWTH**

*continued from page 8*

**Job growth**

Joint Venture CEO and President Russell Hancock said in an introduction to the Index that the pace of growth in 2016 slowed down "ever so slightly," with the region losing a percentage point in the rate of job growth.

He noted that the market has made "necessary corrections to some overvaluations" and the region saw fewer IPOs this past year (nine in 2016, compared to 16 in 2015 and 23 in 2014).

Yet he also pointed out that there is "no talk of a bubble bursting." If anything, he wrote, "the

talk is about the toll our growth is taking on the region as we move into robotics and artificial intelligence."

Mr. Hancock also acknowledged that the region's growth "has its perils."

"It strains our infrastructure, decreases our quality of living and puts housing out of reach for too many," he wrote. "Growth can also be troubling when it isn't widely shared. Unfortunately, our report shows that income disparities are more pronounced than ever, changing the character of our region and raising profound questions about community and cohesiveness."

While the report highlights the

steep challenges facing the Silicon Valley, Mr. Hancock pointed to the "growing recognition that these challenges ultimately erode our innovation ecosystem and threaten the very foundation of our prosperity."

He alluded in his introduction to Measure A and Measure B, which Santa Clara County voters approved last fall to support new housing and transportation improvements, respectively.

"Our region's storied innovation has served us so extremely well in the commercial realm," he wrote. "Now, with the stakes so high, we need to apply that same spirit of innovation to our social and civic challenges."



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

**Storm damage**

Storms uprooted two trees along the north bank of Los Trancos Creek in Ladera in early February. Erosion of the bank by the diverted water nearly reached Alpine Road. A white tarp covers the erosion area. Crews from the West Bay Sanitary District stabilized the area with a stitch pier — seven 20-foot-deep concrete pilings located 4 feet apart, according to District Manager Phil Scott.



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\* 7th year participant in the Business Partner Program

## Visiting pastor helps Valley Pres in transition

By Kate Daly  
Special to the Almanac

Hal Taussig, a retired United Methodist Church pastor from Philadelphia, said he is excited to be arriving on Ash Wednesday (March 1) to start his month-long turn as a “spiritual catalyst” at Valley Presbyterian Church in Portola Valley.

The “Spiritual Catalyst” series is a program launched by an interim leadership team at the church while it searches for a new pastor. The program has invited different speakers to lead services, workshops and classes.

“I take seriously that they are in an important transition in the life of their congregation,” he says.

As a consultant for United Methodist churches with declining membership, Mr. Taussig has a lot of experience working with other churches.

He recently retired after 17 years as a professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York and travels a lot for speaking engagements.

Since he will be in Portola Valley for the bulk of the 40 days of Lent, he has picked a central theme for his four sermons: “deepening belonging to church, world and society.”

“You’re supposed to do something for Lent that’s inward and thoughtful,” he says.

His stay, he says, is “long enough to get the hang of it, but short enough so you don’t feel like a failure.”

His goal is “to think with (the congregants) about how they might have certain practices that will deepen their participation.”

In his opinion, “hardly anybody chooses their churches by denomination any more. They choose by the congregation.”



**Pastor Hal Taussig:** “I take seriously that they are in an important transition in the life of their congregation.”

He also attributes the breakdown of denominations to secularism.

Mr. Taussig will be preaching during the regular services at 10:45 a.m. on four Sundays: March 5, 12, 19 and 26. For an hour starting at 9:15 a.m. on all four mornings, he will also teach an adult education class in the Fireside Room of the church, which is located at 945 Portola Road in Portola Valley.

He plans to focus on one of the 14 books he has worked on, “A New New Testament.” The book combines the existing New Testament texts with 10 new texts selected by an interdenominational council Mr. Taussig chaired.

Some of the texts were unearthed in Egypt over the last century or so and are believed to be early Christian scriptures, such as the Gospel of Mary (Magdalene) and the Gospel of Thomas.

Mr. Taussig also will be leading workshops on four Mondays: March 6, 13, 20 and 27, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. ■

## Storm damage reports sought

Homeowners, renters and businesses in unincorporated areas who suffered significant storm-related damage are being asked by San Mateo County to report the damage to the county’s Office of Emergency Services.

If the county has enough collective damages it may be able to get assistance for through the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration. The information is also needed in case of a presidential disaster declaration, which would trigger assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Reports of storm-related damage to private property,

buildings, homes, businesses and vehicles can be made to the Office of Emergency Services (OES) by phone from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at (650) 363-4099, by email at SHERIFFS\_disaster@smcgov.org or via fax at (650) 363-1868.

Reports should include the following: email address, name, phone number, address (including city and ZIP code), approximate date the damage occurred, if it is a primary or secondary residence, a description of the storm-related damage, whether the report is about a home, rental or business; type of structure damaged, and if the property is insured.

## WHS stages ‘Anything Goes’

By Kate Daly  
Special to the Almanac

Right now dozens of Woodside High School students are mastering Broadway show tunes and perfecting their tap dance moves to get ready to mount the classic Cole Porter musical comedy “Anything Goes.”

The five performances start on March 10 at Woodside High School’s Performing Arts Center.

“With a cast of 50, our stage will be transformed to a bustling ship deck from the vintage 1930s, with larger-than-life personalities, dazzling costumes, soaring music from our full orchestra, and blow-your-socks-off dance numbers,” producer Karen Petersen says.

The plot revolves around a nightclub singer, gangster and other colorful characters crossing the Atlantic on an ocean liner. The story line includes a love triangle, blackmail and mistaken identities.

“You’re the Top!” “It’s De-Lovely,” “I Get a Kick Out of You,” are some of the signature songs written by Cole Porter. The script was written by Guy Bolton & P.G. Wodehouse, and



Photo by Maria Carter

**Woodside High School** players in Cole Porter’s “Anything Goes” are, from left, Derek Smith and Sofia Constantini of Emerald Hills, and Stefan Sujanski of Woodside.

revised by Howard Lindsay & Russel Crouse of “Sound of Music” fame.

Barry Woodruff, an alum and longtime Woodside High theater arts teacher, is directing this production.

There will be four performances at 8 p.m.: Friday, March 10; Saturday, March 11, Friday, March 17; and Saturday, March 18. A 2 p.m.

matinee will be held Sunday, March 12.

The theater is located at 199 Churchill Ave. in Woodside.

Go to whsdramaboosters.org or call (650) 367-9750, ext. 43706, for tickets. The prices are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors 65 and up, and \$10 for staff and students in college and under. Group tickets can be arranged. ■

## Company says device help tots learn more words

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

A startup with offices in Menlo Park has created a device that measures the number of words a baby hears and says, and via an app, makes it a game for parents and caretakers to increase an infant’s exposure to words.

The business, named VersaMe, sells the device, which is in the form of a clip-on plastic star, for \$199.

Nicki Boyd, one of the company’s three co-founders, oversees the company’s Menlo Park offices on Oak Grove Avenue. The other two founders, Jon and Chris Boggianno, live in North Carolina.

The three met while pursuing Sloan Fellowships at Stanford University, a program connected with the university’s Graduate School of Business. During their studies, they learned about research showing that hearing many words in the first few years of life is important for brain and language development.

The device is designed to filter out background noise, such as from the TV and radio, and only measure words spoken



Photo: VersaMe

**The “Starling,”** in the form of a clip-on plastic star, counts the words an infant hears and says.

### ■ BUSINESS

directly to the child, Ms. Boyd said. It quantifies the babbling, or “protowords,” that a baby says, she added. It does not differentiate between languages or track word complexity.

Based on what she’s learned in developing the device, Ms. Boyd has advice for parents: It’s never too early to start exposing a baby to language. Read together. Talk

about what you’re seeing as you make dinner. Speak in the language you’re comfortable with.

“It doesn’t have to be complicated,” she said.

The company has 18 employees at its two offices, and plans to do product development and engineering at the Menlo Park office and marketing, customer service and finance in North Carolina.

Go to versame.com for more information. ■



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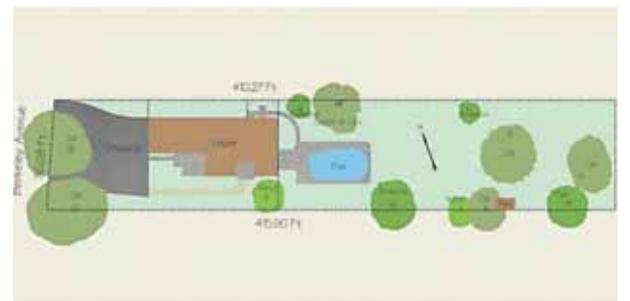
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We would prefer to meet you in person, so please stop by 27 University Ave. after 4:30 PM to fill out an application. If you cannot stop by, please e-mail your resume to [betina@macpark.com](mailto:betina@macpark.com). Put the position you are applying for in the header of your e-mail. We look forward to meeting you!

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## Public Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

COMPASSIONATE CARE REGISTRY  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 272113  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Compassionate Care Registry, located at 1765 Michigan Ave., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
CLARENCE JACKSON  
1765 Michigan Ave.  
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303  
This business is conducted by: Married Couple.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 23, 2017. (ALM Feb. 8, 15, 22, Mar. 1, 2017)

WHITE EAGLE CONSULTING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 272232  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
White Eagle Consulting, located at 903 Theresa Ct., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
JOHN S. WILLIAMSON JR.  
903 Theresa Ct.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on February 1993. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 31, 2017. (ALM Feb. 8, 15, 22, Mar. 1, 2017)

File No. 272274  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
The following person(s) is (are) doing  
business as: SAN MATEO FOOT AND  
ANKLE CARE, 101 S. San Mateo Drive,  
Suite #212, San Mateo, CA 94401,  
County of San Mateo  
Registered Owner(s):  
COMPREHENSIVE FOOT & ANKLE CARE,  
INC., 2483 Paddock Drive, San Ramon,  
CA 94583  
This business is conducted by:  
a corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact  
business under the fictitious business  
name or names listed above on: N/A.  
I declare that all information in this  
statement is true and correct. (A regis-  
trant who declares as true information  
which he or she knows to be false is  
guilty of a crime.)  
Signature of Registrant:  
Kenneth J. Passeri  
Print name of person signing. If corpora-  
tion, also print corporate title of officer:  
Kenneth J. Passeri, President  
This statement was filed with the  
County Clerk of SAN MATEO COUNTY on  
February 02, 2017.  
Notice - In accordance with subdivision  
(a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name  
Statement generally expires at the end  
of five years from the date on which  
it was filed in the Office of the County  
Clerk. Except, as provided in subdivision  
(b) of Section 17920, where it expires  
40 days after any change in the facts  
set forth in the statement pursuant to  
Section 17913 other than a change in the  
residence address of a registered  
owner. A New Fictitious Business Name  
Statement must be filed before the  
expiration.  
The filing of this statement does not of  
itself authorize the use in this state of  
a Fictitious Business Name in violation  
of the rights of another under Federal,  
State, or Common Law (See Section  
14411 et seq., Business and Professions  
Code).  
Original  
MARK CHURCH, COUNTY CLERK  
SAN MATEO COUNTY  
BY: ANSHU NAND,  
Deputy Clerk  
CN933657 Feb 15,22, Mar 1,8, 2017

File No. 272272  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
The following person(s) is (are) doing  
business as: EVgo, 1250 Jefferson Ave.,  
Redwood City, CA 94062, County of  
San Mateo  
Registered Owner(s): EVgo Services LLC,  
1000 North Post Oak Road, Suite 240,  
Houston, Texas 77055, Delaware  
This business is conducted by:  
a limited liability company.  
The registrant commenced to transact  
business under the fictitious business  
name or names listed above on:  
1/29/2013.  
I declare that all information in this  
statement is true and correct. (A regis-  
trant who declares as true information  
which he or she knows to be false is  
guilty of a crime.)  
Signature of Registrant: Terry O'Day  
Print name of person signing. If corpora-  
tion, also print corporate title of officer:  
Terry O'Day, V.P.  
This statement was filed with the  
County Clerk of SAN MATEO COUNTY on  
February 02, 2017.  
Notice - In accordance with subdivision  
(a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name  
Statement generally expires at the end  
of five years from the date on which  
it was filed in the Office of the County  
Clerk. Except, as provided in subdivision  
(b) of Section 17920, where it expires  
40 days after any change in the facts  
set forth in the statement pursuant to  
Section 17913 other than a change in the  
residence address of a registered  
owner. A New Fictitious Business Name  
Statement must be filed before the  
expiration.  
The filing of this statement does not of  
itself authorize the use in this state of  
a Fictitious Business Name in violation  
of the rights of another under Federal,  
State, or Common Law (See Section  
14411 et seq., Business and Professions  
Code).  
Original  
MARK CHURCH, COUNTY CLERK  
SAN MATEO COUNTY  
BY: ANSHU NAND,  
Deputy Clerk  
CN934024 10205199 SO Feb 15,22, Mar  
1,8, 2017  
SKEETER JONES JANITORIAL SERVICE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 272304  
The following person (persons) is (are)  
doing business as:  
Skeeter Jones Janitorial Service, located  
at 655 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park, CA  
94025; Mailing address: P.O. Box 603,  
Menlo Park, CA 94026 , San Mateo  
County.  
Registered owner(s):  
REGINALD E. JONES  
1110 Eucalyptus St.  
Manteca, CA 95337  
This business is conducted by: An  
Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact  
business under the fictitious business  
name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the  
County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo  
County on February 6, 2017.  
(ALM Feb. 15, 22; Mar. 1, 8, 2017)  
BETI IN HOMECARE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 272360  
The following person (persons) is (are)  
doing business as:  
Beti In HomeCare, located at 2200  
Menalto Ave., East Palo Alto, CA 94303,  
San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
SOKOPETI VIMAH  
2200 Menalto Ave.  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
This business is conducted by: An  
Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact  
business under the fictitious business  
name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the  
County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo  
County on February 8, 2017.  
(ALM Feb. 15, 22, Mar. 1, 8, 2017)  
DODGE WILLIAMS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 272372  
The following person (persons) is (are)  
doing business as:  
Dodge Williams, located at 1502 Stafford  
St., Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo  
County, USA.  
Registered owner(s):  
BRIAN CLIFFORD  
2950 Briarfield Ave.  
Redwood City, CA 94062  
This business is conducted by: An  
Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact  
business under the fictitious business  
name(s) listed above on 2-9-17.  
This statement was filed with the  
County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo  
County on February 9, 2017.  
(ALM Feb. 15, 22; Mar. 1, 8, 2017)

THE COAST RIDGE GROUP  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 272132  
The following person(s) is (are) doing  
business as:  
The Coast Ridge Group, located at 91  
Hillbrook Drive, Portola Valley, CA 94028,  
San Mateo County.  
Is (Are) hereby registered by the follow-  
ing owner(s):  
JAMES R LUSSIER  
91 Hillbrook Drive  
Portola Valley, CA 94028-7933  
This business is conducted by: An  
Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact  
business under the fictitious business  
name(s) listed above on 01/03/2011.  
This statement was filed with the  
County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo  
County on January 24, 2017.  
(ALM Feb. 22; Mar. 1, 8, 15, 2017)

ESTILO BEAUTY SALON  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 272476  
The following person (persons) is (are)  
doing business as:  
Estilo Beauty Salon, located at 377  
Grand Ave., So. San Francisco, CA 94080,  
San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
OMAR GONZALO LOPEZ RANGEL  
1716 Bermuda Way  
Antioch, CA 94509  
This business is conducted by: An  
Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact  
business under the fictitious business  
name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the  
County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo  
County on February 17, 2017.  
(ALM Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2017)

ANDRES GONZALEZ GARDEN  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 272308  
The following person (persons) is (are)  
doing business as:  
Andres Gonzalez Garden, located at 120  
Grace Ave., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San  
Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
ANDRES GONZALEZ TORRES  
120 Grace Ave.  
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303  
This business is conducted by: An  
Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact  
business under the fictitious business  
name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the  
County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo  
County on February 6, 2017.  
(ALM Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2017)

File No. M-258320  
STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF  
THE USE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME  
Name of the person(s) abandoning the  
use of the Fictitious Business Name:  
NRG eVgo  
Name of Business: NRG EV Services LLC  
Date of original filing: 10/30/2013  
Address of Principal Place of Business:  
211 Carnegie Ctr., Princeton, NJ 08540  
Registrant's Name: NRG EV SERVICES LLC  
Residence Address: 211 Carnegie Ctr.,  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
The business was conducted by: limited  
liability company.  
Signed by owner: Glen Stancil  
This statement was filed with the  
County Clerk of San Mateo County on  
February 15, 2017

MARK CHURCH, Assessor-County Clerk-  
Recorder & Chief Elections Officer.  
BY: DIANA SIRON, Deputy Clerk  
CN934026 10205199 SO  
Mar 1,8,15,22, 2017

File No. M-250389  
STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF  
THE USE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME  
Name of the person(s) abandoning the  
use of the Fictitious Business Name:  
eVgo  
Name of Business: NRG EV Services LLC  
Date of original filing: 5/14/2012  
Address of Principal Place of Business:  
211 Carnegie Ctr., Princeton, NJ 08540  
Registrant's Name: NRG EV SERVICES LLC  
Residence Address: 211 Carnegie Ctr.,  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
The business was conducted by: limited  
liability company.  
Signed by owner: Glen Stancil  
This statement was filed with the  
County Clerk of San Mateo County on  
February 15, 2017  
ARK CHURCH, Assessor-County Clerk-  
Recorder & Chief Elections Officer.  
BY: DIANA SIRON, Deputy Clerk  
CN934025 10205199 SO  
Mar 1,8,15,22, 2017

R A TILE AND STONE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 272223  
The following person (persons) is (are)  
doing business as:  
R A Tile and Stone, located at 1410 Hess  
Rd. Apt. #5, Redwood City, CA 94061,  
San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
ELDER ROCAEL ALVARADO MARROQUIN  
1410 Hess Rd. Apt. #5  
Redwood City, CA 94061  
This business is conducted by: An  
Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact  
business under the fictitious business  
name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the  
County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo  
County on January 30, 2017.  
(ALM Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2017)

PIX & PIECES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 272528  
The following person (persons) is (are)  
doing business as:  
Pix & Pieces, located at 325 Sharon Park  
Dr., Ste. 731, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San  
Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
DEBORAH MAUFER  
350 Sharon Park Dr. Apt. 5 26  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
This business is conducted by: An  
Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact  
business under the fictitious business  
name(s) listed above on 12-30-2011.  
This statement was filed with the  
County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo  
County on February 23, 2017.  
(ALM Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2017)

GABCIN TRUCKING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 272472  
The following person (persons) is (are)  
doing business as:  
Gabcin Trucking, located at 1390 Bay  
Rd., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo  
County.  
Registered owner(s):  
ELDER EDUARDO MEJIA MORALES  
1390 Bay Rd.  
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303  
This business is conducted by: An  
Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact  
business under the fictitious business  
name(s) listed above on 2-16-2017.  
This statement was filed with the  
County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo  
County on February 16, 2017.  
(ALM Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2017)

SINCARE MEDICAL TOUR CONCIERGE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 272432  
The following person (persons) is (are)  
doing business as:  
Sincare Medical Tour Concierge, located  
at 1670 S. Amphlett Blvd., 214-19#, San  
Mateo, CA 94402, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
JACKIE RESIDENTIAL SERVICE FACILITY  
INC.  
1670 S. Amphlett Blvd., 214-19#  
San Mateo, CA 94402  
CA  
This business is conducted by: A  
Corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact  
business under the fictitious business  
name(s) listed above on 3/2016.  
This statement was filed with the  
County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo  
County on February 14, 2017.  
(ALM Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2017)

SORIA'S AUTO MOBILE DETAIL  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 272467  
The following person (persons) is (are)  
doing business as:  
Soria's Auto Mobile Detail, located at  
1837 Clarke Ave., #21,  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo  
County.  
Registered owner(s):  
JUAN SORIA  
1837 Clarke Ave., #21  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
IVAN SORIA

1837 Clarke Ave., #21  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
This business is conducted by: A General  
Partnership.  
The registrant commenced to transact  
business under the  
fictitious business name(s) listed above  
on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the  
County Clerk-Recorder of  
San Mateo County on February 16, 2017.  
(ALM Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2017)

**997 All Other Legals**  
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER  
ESTATE OF:  
BETTY JOYCE BURGESS  
Case No.: 17PR000131  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors,  
contingent creditors, and persons who  
may otherwise be interested in the will  
or estate, or both, of BETTY J. BURGESS,  
BETTY J. HENDRIX, BETTY J. TUCKER.  
A Petition for Probate has been filed by:  
JOSEPH PERCY LEE TUCKER JR. in the  
Superior Court of California, County of  
SAN MATEO.  
The Petition for Probate requests that:  
JOSEPH PERCY LEE TUCKER JR. be  
appointed as personal representative to  
administer the estate of the decedent.  
The petition requests the decedent's  
will and codicils, if any, be admitted to  
probate. The will and any codicils are  
available for examination in the file kept  
by the court.  
The petition requests authority to  
administer the estate under the  
Independent Administration of  
Estates Act. (This authority will allow  
the personal representative to take  
many actions without obtaining court  
approval. Before taking certain very  
important actions, however, the per-  
sonal representative will be required to  
give notice to interested persons unless

they have waived notice or consented  
to the proposed action.) The indepen-  
dent administration authority will be  
granted unless an interested person files  
an objection to the petition and shows  
good cause why the court should not  
grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held  
on March 13, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.:  
28, of the Superior Court of California,  
County of San Mateo, located at 400  
County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.  
If you object to the granting of the peti-  
tion, you should appear at the hearing  
and state your objections or file written  
objections with the court before the  
hearing. Your appearance may be in  
person or by your attorney.  
If you are a creditor or a contingent  
creditor of the decedent, you must file  
your claim with the court and mail a  
copy to the personal representative  
appointed by the court within the later  
of either (1) four months from the date  
of first issuance of letters to a general  
personal representative, as defined in  
section 58 (b) of the California Probate  
Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of  
mailing or personal delivery to you  
of a notice under section 9052 of the  
California Probate Code. Other California  
statutes and legal authority may affect  
your rights as a creditor. You may want  
to consult with an attorney knowledge-  
able in California law.  
You may examine the file kept by the  
court. If you are a person interested in  
the estate, you may file with the court  
a Request for Special Notice (form  
DE-154) of the filing of an inventory  
and appraisal of estate assets or of  
any petition or account as provided in  
Probate Code section 1250. A Request  
for Special Notice form is available from  
the court clerk.

(ALM Feb. 15, 22; Mar. 1, 2017)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE  
OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY  
OF SAN MATEO  
Case No.: 17CV00335  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: LESLIE LEE BUCHALTER filed  
a petition with this court for a decree  
changing names as follows:  
LESLIE LEE BUCHALTER to LESLIE LEE  
HERLEIKSON.  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons  
interested in this matter appear before  
this court at the hearing indicated  
below to show cause, if any, why the  
petition for change of name should not  
be granted. Any person objecting to the  
name changes described above must  
file a written objection that includes the  
reasons for the objection at least two  
court days before the matter is sched-  
uled to be heard and must appear at the  
hearing to show cause why the petition  
should not be granted. If no written  
objection is timely filed, the court may  
grant the petition without a hearing.  
NOTICE OF HEARING: Wed. March 22,  
2017, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ, of the Superior  
Court of California, County of San  
Mateo, located at 400 County Center,  
Redwood City, CA 94063.  
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE  
shall be published at least once each  
week for four successive weeks prior to  
the date set for hearing on the petition  
in the following newspaper of general  
circulation, printed in this county:  
THE ALMANAC  
Date: February 6, 2017  
/s/ Susan Irene Etezadi  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Feb. 22; Mar. 1, 8, 15, 2017)

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expires this year. Then call Alicia Santillan (650) 223-6578  
or email her at: [asantillan@pawebly.com](mailto:asantillan@pawebly.com),  
for assistance in refiling. It's inexpensive and easy.

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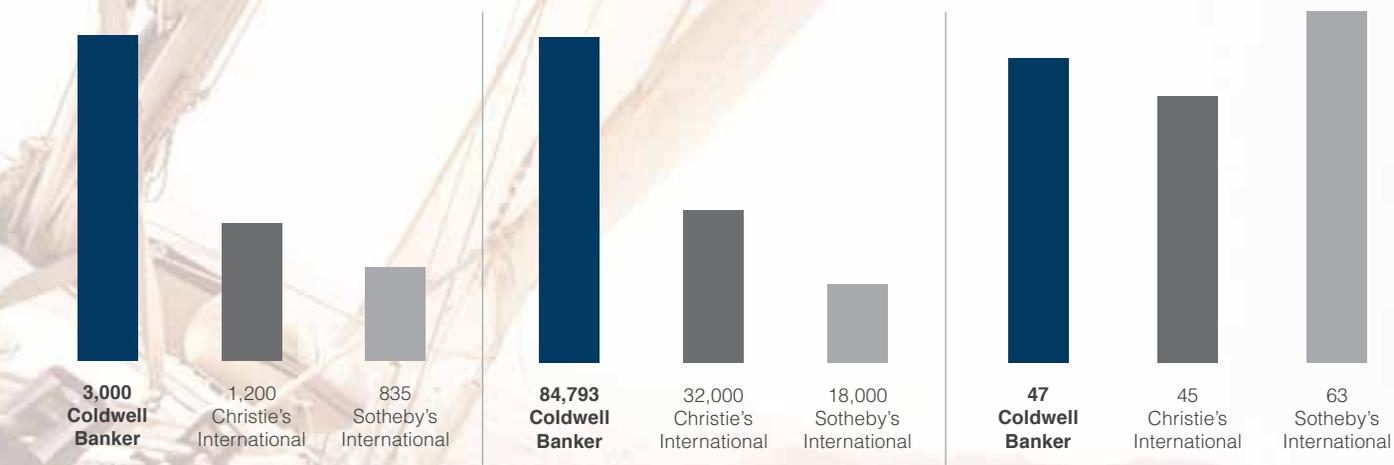
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\*\*Cayman Islands consists of the islands of Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. \*\*\*British Virgin Islands consists of the islands of Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke, plus an additional 50 smaller cays and private islands. \*\*\*\*U.S. Virgin Islands consists of the main islands of St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix.