

# The Almanac

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

MARCH 11, 2020 | VOL. 55 NO. 27



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century on  
Earth

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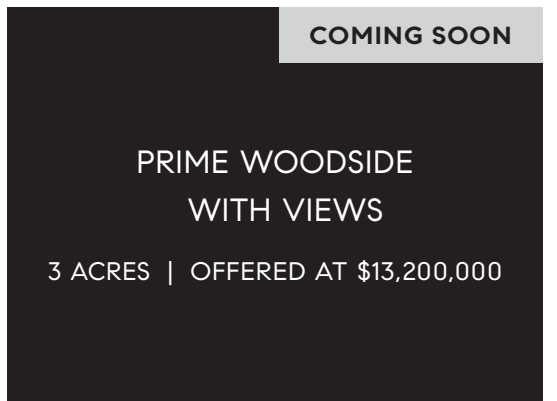
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"Seagull Side Eye" by Debbie Cooper 2019 Best In Show

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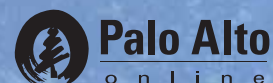
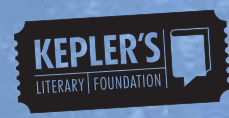
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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Senate race: Becker, Glew lead in preliminary count

Top two vote-getters, regardless of party, move forward to the November elections

By Kate Bradshaw

With tens of thousands of ballots still left to count in state Senate District 13 race, early election results indicate that Democrat Josh Becker and Republican Alex Glew are leading in the seven-candidate contest.

As of the most recent results available Monday, March 9, Becker and Glew held 22.9% and 19.1%, respectively, of the votes counted — about 202,000, according to election results reported by the secretary of state.

Democratic candidates Sally Lieber and Shelly Masur have 16.6% and 15.4%, while Annie Oliva and Mike Brownrigg are at 12% and 11.7% respectively. John Webster, the sole Libertarian candidate, has about 2.2% of the vote.

In California, the top two vote-getters, regardless of party, move forward to the November elections.

The large number of viable Democratic contenders for the seat appears to have split the primary vote in a district that leans strongly Democratic. As of the most recent count in mid-February, among registered

voters in the district, 51.5% are Democrats, 14.9% Republican and 28.5% have no party preference.

Glew, a Los Altos resident, expressed surprise at being an early front-runner. In a phone call, he told the Mountain View Voice that he was especially surprised at the outcome, given how little his campaign spent, particularly compared with the Democratic candidates.

Among Democratic candidates, Becker raised the most at \$1,063,936, followed by Brownrigg, who raised \$947,931.

Masur raised \$575,532; Oliva raised \$438,613; and Lieber raised \$255,920.

Glew's campaign, by contrast, raised \$4,149.

"It's gratifying," he said. "The political machinery has a lot of influence on the elections."

He said he suspected his campaign resonated with voters because he represented a more moderate choice. "I think to the extent that candidates are moving farther to the left, that may be problematic to the people of California and their campaigns," he said.

Becker, a Menlo Park resident, noted that a lot more results



Photo by Magali Gauthier

**State Senate District 13** candidate Michael Brownrigg addresses the crowd of supporters at his election results gathering at New England Lobster Market & Eatery in Burlingame.

still had to come in, and he was going to be keeping a close eye on them.

"I'm glad I'm doing well in San Mateo and Santa Clara (counties)," he said, regarding his early lead as the Democratic front-runner. "It's better than a sharp stick in the eye."

Throughout his campaign, he said, he worked to distinguish himself from the other candidates on climate issues, housing,

transportation, child care and education.

Next in the early rankings are Sally Lieber, from Mountain View, and Shelly Masur, from Redwood City. In the initial count of early voters, Lieber received the most votes in Santa Clara County. She and Becker have gone back and forth in the lead in the early hours of vote counting.

"It's been a great race," Lieber

said in an interview. "I'm excited to see what the final totals are."

Lieber, in particular, has been targeted by a series of attack ads by an independent expenditure committee in the last few weeks. She said it wasn't yet clear whether the attack ads would boost her name recognition or damage to her campaign.

She said she'd observed that

See **SENATE RACE**, page 17

## Two council members oppose Atherton's split from fire district

Council majority forges ahead with process that may result in separation

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

Although two council members have now come out against the idea of the town of Atherton separating from the local fire district, the City Council majority appears to be intent on pursuing the possibility, directing staff last week to send out informational material and conduct two community meetings on the topic.

Mayor Rick DeGolia has joined Councilwoman Elizabeth Lewis in voicing opposition to Atherton's detachment from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, an idea town officials have been considering after a study by a consultant hired by the town showed a substantial disparity between the fixed percentage of tax revenues the

town's property owners pay for emergency response services and how much it actually costs the district to provide those services.

The council met for a 4 p.m. March 4 study session to discuss possible detachment, hearing from sometimes dubious community members and the head of the county agency that oversees the setting of district boundaries for public agencies.

Martha Poyatos, executive director of the San Mateo County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo), urged the council to have backup services in place before initiating a process through LAFCo to separate from the fire district.

"Make sure you have a path forward before you engage a consultant," Poyatos advised the

council. It would cost between \$25,000 and \$35,000 for a consultant to assist in the process, and about \$7,750 for associated legal costs, according to a staff report prepared for the meeting.

**'I think that it is a waste of time and money to pursue detachment from the fire district.'**

ATHERTON MAYOR RICK DEGOLIA

A 2016 fire services study, released in 2018, found that Atherton taxpayers pay more than twice as much as what fire services to the town cost, contributing about \$7 million more a year than the cost of services. The study shows that in the 2015-16 fiscal year, Atherton, which has 8% of the residents in

the fire district, provided 31.7% of the fire district's total property tax revenues.

Figures released by town officials in a newsletter being sent to all residents indicate that the figure has risen to 34% this fiscal year.

At the Feb. 19 council meeting Vice Mayor Lewis urged her colleagues to end consideration of a town split from the fire district. "We should be partners in our safety of the town. ... Neither the town nor the fire district have the ability to modify the basic tax amount Atherton pays," she said.

Although Rick DeGolia said he doesn't support detachment from the fire district, he acknowledged that the town has a "tax problem" on its hands and said it's a "very hard issue."

In an email to The Almanac after the March 4 meeting, DeGolia wrote: "I don't think that we can renegotiate the taxes

that Atherton residents pay to the Fire District without going through detachment, but I don't think that there is a realistic opportunity to renegotiate those taxes because I don't believe that LAFCo will approve a detachment application.

"I think that it is a waste of time and money to pursue detachment from the Fire District because I believe that detachment (1) would not be beneficial to Atherton residents and (2) is very unlikely to be approved by LAFCo. I don't think that detachment would benefit to Atherton residents because I believe that we get better service from MPFPD than we could get from any alternative service provider given MPFPD's delivery of service from five fire stations that surround Atherton, as well as their knowledge of

See **FIRE DISTRICT**, page 17



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# Housing, transportation and climate are the top council priorities in 2020

By Tyler Callister  
Almanac Staff Writer

Three major themes emerged when the Menlo Park City Council discussed goals for 2020 at a special Jan. 30 meeting: Improving housing, improving transportation, and reducing the city's impact on climate change.

The three-and-a-half-hour meeting also took in comment from the public, as well as project priorities from city staff.

With the image of a bulldozer and the words "2020 Goal-Setting Workshop" projected on the screen hanging above the dais, Mayor Cecilia Taylor spoke at the meeting's outset. "We have four hours scheduled today to identify projects and initiatives that are important to the community and to City Council members, and also for all of us to actively participate in the discussion," she said.

"I envision this as the first step in goal-setting," she continued. "And I hope that as we leave today we will have a firm understanding of everyone's interests, and how we will prioritize requests collaboratively."

Each council member successfully presented his or her top priorities at the meeting, speaking broadly about major topics facing the city.

## Housing

Housing was top of mind for many on the council and in the audience in attendance, with special attention paid to affordable housing. "I think we should quickly take action that will lead to more housing in Menlo Park," said council member Betsy Nash. "Housing development, particularly affordable housing, is essential to maintaining quality of life in Menlo Park and preventing state mandates replacing local control. We must examine all the tools in our toolbox, from administrative measures to updating zoning ordinances, that will have tangible benefits in promoting Menlo Park housing."

On a similar note, Councilman Ray Mueller emphasized a need to address an imbalance between jobs and housing.

Meanwhile, Vice Mayor Drew Combs suggested the need to address residential zoning rules, as well as changes to rules concerning accessory dwelling units, or ADUs, also known as second units. "We will get some liberalization on that with secondary dwelling units from the state, but I do think there are

other things that the city could do improve people's housing options and better align them to stay in the city," he said.

## Transportation

Transportation, in particular how to deal with traffic, was mentioned by several council members. Councilwoman Catherine Carlton asserted that the traffic problems plaguing Menlo Park are intricately linked to affordable housing issues. "The reason we have a traffic problem is because people aren't living here and they're having to commute in and out," she said. "If we fix the housing, the traffic will follow."

In a similar vein, Nash suggested the need for non-car transportation options. "On transportation we should take effective action to provide safe, comfortable transportation infrastructure throughout our city, for people of all ages," she said.

"We need to take action to promote walking, biking, scootering, shuttles, trains, and other alternatives to driving, and we need to take a special look at circulation in the Bayside community, and how we can support the housing that's going in there."

## Climate

Mueller, Carlton, Nash and Taylor brought up the need to address environmental concerns. References were made to the city's Climate Action Plan, first adopted in 2009, the purpose of which is reduce Menlo Park's greenhouse gas emissions, according to the city's website.

Carlton emphasized that she is "hugely passionate about the environment," and suggested that issues facing Menlo Park are connected to issues facing the region and the world. "Cities need to not plan just for themselves," she said. "We have to understand that we're part of a system — we're part of an ecosystem."

Taylor mentioned some "low hanging fruit" in the realm of action. "If we're going to have climate action, are we going to stop using gas leaf blowers at the city level? Are we going to continue using single-occupancy vehicles?" she asked. "We need to look at our practices before we tell anybody else what to do."

Following the council's initial discussion, staff laid out its specific project priorities, which include the proposed Belle Haven Community Center and library,

# School parcel tax measure trailing

About 48% of votes counted as of Monday morning

By **Angela Swartz**  
Almanac Staff Writer

Preliminary election results show Measure P, a parcel tax measure for the Portola Valley School District, falling short of the votes needed to pass.

With 47.98% of the votes counted by March 9, 63.7% of voters supported the measure, which requires a two-thirds, or 67%, voter majority, county election officials reported.

"Although this is not yet at the 2/3 support level required for passage, there are thousands of ballots that have not yet been counted and we anticipate that support for Measure P will continue to climb," Superintendent Roberta Zarea said in a March 4

email to parents.

"We will wait for every last vote to be counted before drawing any conclusions. Regardless of the outcome, this is a community that supports its schools and I am so proud of our teachers, staff, parents and especially our students."

Semi-official election results released at 4:30 p.m. on March 6 show Measure P with 1,554 votes of support and 884 opposing votes (36.26%).

Those results include vote by mail ballots received in the mail by the Monday before Election Day, on March 3, vote by mail ballots returned at vote centers and drop boxes by the Sunday before Election Day,

and a portion of votes cast at vote centers on Election Day, according to county elections officials. Results will be posted at 4:30 p.m. each weekday until all ballots are counted.

The numbers have shifted only slightly from the final results released in the early morning hours of March 4, when the measure had 63.46% voter approval. There were only 413 more ballots counted between then and the afternoon of March 6.

Measure P would update the district's Measure O parcel tax, which expires in June 2021. It would continue the tax at its current rate of \$581 per parcel in its first year, then increase it by 3% in each following year for the duration of the tax, which would expire in 2028.

# Menlo Park eases rules on granny units

Ordinance meant to comply with state's attempts to ease housing crisis

By **Tyler Callister**  
Almanac Staff Writer

In an effort to comply with a batch of new state laws, the Menlo Park City Council passed a new ordinance that will make it easier for homeowners to build accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on their property.

ADUs are built on the lot of a larger home, and are often called granny flats or second units.

The intent of the new state laws, which became effective Jan. 1, is to help ease the housing crisis by providing more affordable living spaces in the form of ADU's.

The council passed the ordinance by a 4-0 vote on Feb. 25. Council member Ray Mueller left the meeting before the voting took place due to illness.

City staff explained in a report to the council that "cities are expected to update their local

ordinances to comply with the state legislation. If cities fail to conform their local ordinances, applicants are permitted to develop under the state legislation."

Assistant City Attorney Cara Silver explained that the new state laws — AB 68, AB 881, SB 13, AB 670, AB 671, and AB 587 — implement major changes to encourage more ADUs. The most significant changes include:

- A new category of junior accessory dwelling unit (JADU) was created. These are dwellings no more than 500 square feet in size and contained entirely within an existing single-family structure.

- In single-family zones, one detached ADU plus one ADU or JADU are permitted.

- In multi-family zones (such as apartment buildings) two detached ADUs are allowed and

one uninhabited space (such as laundry rooms) can be converted into an ADU.

- Cities cannot enforce a minimum lot size requirement.

- Requirements have been relaxed for ADU setbacks, which are minimum distances by which a building or other structure must be set back from the street, rear and sides of a property.

- ADU permits must be processed in 60 days, rather than the previous 120.

- No short-term rentals (such as Airbnb) are allowed for newly created ADUs and JADUs (this rule ends Jan. 1, 2025).

The council's vote approved an urgency ordinance, meaning it will not have a second reading at the next council meeting.

Silver explained that the reason it was brought before the council as a urgency ordinance is that the state laws are already in effect, and there are currently 10 pending ADU applications in Menlo Park. ▀

## 2020 GOALS

continued from page 6

the ongoing development of the city's Transportation Master Plan, the Middle Avenue pedestrian and bicycle rail crossing,

the city's current Information Technology Master Plan, and implementing changes necessitated by housing bill SB 330.

As a next step, staff will return to the council at a later date, at which point the council may hear

additional public comment, and either provide clarifying direction to staff or adopt a 2020 work plan. The city currently lists "2020 work plan prioritization study session" at the top of its list of tentative future agenda items. ▀

## Unlimited access to AlmanacNews.com

In order for all area residents to have important local information on the coronavirus health emergency, AlmanacNews.com is providing unlimited access to its website, effective immediately. Until further notice, visitors to the website can follow the news without the normal seven-story limit per month for nonsubscribers.

"At a time of heightened anxiety and a high demand for accurate and highly localized information, we want to make our reporting as widely available as possible," Embarcadero Media President Bill Johnson said. "Our editorial staff is working overtime to follow and report on every aspect of this ongoing story. During such emergencies

our policy is to suspend the pay meter as a public service"

The Almanac and its sister publications, the Palo Alto Weekly and the Mountain View Voice, which also are suspending their online pay meters, have been working together on local coverage of their Midpeninsula cities since the outbreak of the coronavirus.

The current parcel tax generates about \$1.2 million annually for Portola Valley School District classroom programs and teaching staff. The yearly boost in the tax would amount to an additional \$17 to \$21 per parcel annually, said district Chief Business Officer Connie Ngo.

In addition to Portola Valley residents, the district includes Woodside residents who live in the Skylonda and Skywood Acres neighborhoods and off Philips and Family Farm roads, and part of Mountain Home Road.

The current tax funds advanced math, science and technology

programs; reading and writing programs; art and music programs; reduced class sizes; and retention of teachers for the district's two schools, Ormondale and Corte Madera, according to the district website. District staff asserts that the measure "must be renewed" to maintain these programs.

Measure O passed in 2013 with 69% of the vote. It consolidated two expiring measures: Measure C (with an annual tax of \$290 per parcel) and Measure D (\$168 per parcel), and increased the rate by \$123 per parcel to \$581, Ngo said. ▀

## REAL ESTATE REVIEW WITH MANDY MONTOYA



Looking at data for the past 12 months (March 2019-February 2020) vs the previous 12 months (March 2018-February 2019), overall prices over the past year are down in Atherton, Portola Valley, Menlo Park and Woodside. Data samples are small but the trajectory aligns with prices throughout the Peninsula.

Right now with so much news and information changing daily, if you're considering buying or selling a home, strategic guidance is invaluable. Contact me for more information.

	Past 12 Months (\$)	Number of sales	Previous 12 Months (\$)	Number of sales	Price Difference
Atherton	6,175,000	72	6,600,000	67	-7%
Portola Valley	3,060,000	53	3,317,500	60	-8%
Menlo Park	2,400,000	327	2,550,000	296	-6%
Woodside	2,550,000	67	3,650,000	60	-43%

Source: MLS data; median sales prices for single family homes

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## TOWN OF ATHERTON NOTICE INVITING BIDS

The Town of Atherton will accept bids for construction of the following public work:

### 2020 OVERLAY PROJECT

Removal and replacement of 2 inches of asphalt concrete pavement on Polhemus Lane (between Selby Lane and Alameda de Las Pulgas). Crack sealing and grind and replace approximately 5,000 square feet of asphalt to a 4-inch depth of pavement failures and placement of thermoplastic/paint striping. Some hand work around utility access-hole covers will be necessary.

Plans & Specifications may be obtained at <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/bids.aspx> at no cost. The Contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the Town's website.

SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027, **until 2:00 p.m.** Pacific Standard Time on **Wednesday, March 25, 2020**, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for **2020 OVERLAY PROJECT**", along with date and time of bid opening.

# Schools on the lookout for coronavirus risks to students

Menlo School reopens, local district staff members asked to stay home over coronavirus concerns

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

School officials throughout the Bay Area are on the alert for indications that students and staff may be at risk because of contact with a person potentially carrying the coronavirus.

Reports of new cases and cancellation of school classes and public events surface at a steady clip, and are likely to continue doing so. As of press time on March 9, The Almanac was aware of the following coronavirus-related closures and precautionary actions on school campuses.

Menlo School closed from March 4 to 6 after a staff member interacted with a relative who tested positive for the coronavirus, known as COVID-19. The school said that work crews did a “deep clean” of the entire campus.

The same week, staff members and a student in the Menlo Park City School District were asked to stay home after learning they may have been exposed to COVID-19.

The respiratory disease has infected more than 100,000 people globally.

Menlo School officials at this point don't know the health status of the employee and don't have an estimated time of the employee's return, said Alex Perez, the school's director of communications in a March 4 email to The Almanac. The employee is a staff member who doesn't have contact with students, he noted.

All school-related activities were canceled, including classes, athletics, arts, clubs and planned field trips, Head of School Than Healy wrote in an email to parents on March 3. The school reopened on Monday, March 9, Perez said, but is preparing to offer online

learning — through a platform called Haiku — in the event of a future closure.

“Our goal is to maintain as much normalcy in classroom learning as possible,” he said.

Meanwhile, in a March 5 evening email to parents, Menlo Park City School District Superintendent Erik Burmeister said two district staff members have children who attend San Jose preschool Action Day Primary Plus, which closed March 5 after a teacher tested positive for COVID-19, KTVU reported.

At least one district parent works at a company that sent employees home due to a COVID-19 diagnosis, and the district asked the parent's child to stay home too. None of the three individuals who were possibly exposed to the virus is experiencing any cold or flu-like symptoms, he said.

District officials asked the staff members to stay home until the district can determine whether further quarantine or medical testing is necessary.

Burmeister noted that Dr. Scott Morrow, chief public health officer of the San Mateo County Health Department, and county Superintendent of Schools Nancy Magee said that it is too soon to close schools, but that “widespread school closures may be just around the corner,” urging people to prepare for that possibility.

The Menlo Park district's schools underwent cleanings as a precaution, but remained open, school officials said.

Morrow recommended the cancellation of “all non-essential gatherings.” The Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation, which supports the Menlo Park City School District, canceled its



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

**The Menlo School** campus was empty on March 4 and remained closed for the rest of the week after a staff member interacted with a relative who tested positive for the coronavirus in Atherton.

March 7 fundraising auction.

## Other actions

Officials at other local schools say they've started to prepare for what to do if their schools close due to a more widespread transmission of the virus. Preparations include planning for online learning options.

There are four confirmed COVID-19 cases, and five “presumptive positive” cases pending confirmation tests from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in San Mateo County as of March 9, according to the website for San Mateo County Health, the county's health department. There are 37 confirmed cases of the virus in neighboring Santa Clara County.

Menlo College President Steven Weiner said in a March 5 email that the Atherton private school's pandemic planning team is adhering to CDC recommendations.

“Those include the posting of notices in all campus restrooms about sanitation, distributing alcohol wipes throughout campus, and recommending travel restrictions,” he said “Given the speed with which the situation is evolving, we are closely monitoring the updates provided by CDC and other authoritative sources.”

The school has a contingency plan that will allow it to continue instruction, if classes are canceled, through its existing Menlo's Online Learning Environment (MOLE) platform, he explained.

Woodside Priory School officials emailed parents on March 4 that, as a precaution, they have canceled the Portola Valley school's upcoming service week, said Kelly Sargent, director of communications. The week, planned for March 16 to 20, was set to include student visits to a variety of destinations such as Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto, Second Harvest Food Bank and San Carlos Adult Day Services. It also included two service trips to Guatemala and Costa Rica.

Due to the likelihood of international flight cancellations, the

school is opting to keep both the girls and boys dormitories open for Easter break — April 6-13 — to give boarding students the option to remain on campus if they choose not to travel.

Woodside Priory's spring musical, “We Will Rock You: School Edition,” was staged as planned last week, said John Sugden, head of the Performing Arts Department.

Las Lomas Elementary School District Superintendent Beth Polito said in a March 5 email that her district, which has one school in Menlo Park and one in Atherton, has begun preparing distance learning options for both long- and short-term scenarios through platforms it already uses such as School Loop and Google Hangouts.

Woodside Elementary School District staff are “working hard” to put together distance learning programs using technology if in-person classes are canceled, said Superintendent Steve Frank in a March 5 email. For grades 2-8, they are looking at using the Google Classroom platform, and for students in lower grades — transitional kindergarten through grade 1 — they are looking at Seesaw, a shared learning platform that is tailored to younger children, he said.

District officials will need to decide on whether to cancel an eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C., that is planned for the first week of April, he added.

In a March 4 email to district families, Portola Valley School District Superintendent Roberta Zarea said officials “will continue to follow recommended hygiene and health prevention measures.” For example, school campuses will remain vigilant in cleaning common areas such as bathrooms, water faucets, classrooms, playground equipment and cafeterias to minimize the spread of germs, she explained.

Sequoia Union High School District officials continue to plan for all possible scenarios, including using an online learning platform called Canvas, said its

spokesperson Ana Maria Pulido in a March 5 email. No district events have been canceled except for district-sponsored international travel, she noted.

## Advice on the spread of transmission

San Mateo County Health issued a public statement on March 5 that signaled a turn toward an aggressive approach to minimizing residents' risk of contracting the coronavirus.

Morrow, the chief health officer, said that it's a good idea to prepare supplies beyond the typical earthquake kit (which usually includes water, canned food and basic first aid items) and advised people to obtain a couple of months' supply of critical medications. He also advised planning how to care for loved ones at home if they, or you, are sick and how you would limit spread within the family.

He advised frequent hand-washing, using a paper towel or tissue to avoid direct contact with commonly touched surfaces, such as door handles or elevator buttons; and urged people to stop shaking hands.

Under all circumstances, he said, people should not touch their face, eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands. He said wearing a surgical mask offers some protection, but is most helpful to people who are already sick.

“Surgical masks and masks offering higher levels of respiratory protection are already in short supply and should be prioritized for use in health care settings,” he said.

All nonessential gatherings should be canceled, postponed, or held remotely, he said.

He advised increasing the amount of remote working or “teleworking” to the extent possible, especially for those who appear at higher risk for developing the disease, such as those over the age of 60 and those with underlying medical conditions, which include: cardiovascular disease, heart disease, diabetes, chronic lung conditions, cancer and compromised immune systems. ■

## StarVista fundraiser March 20

The nonprofit StarVista, which offers counseling, skill development, educational and crisis prevention programs to more than 32,000 San Mateo County residents, will host its 28th annual Starting Line Breakfast fundraiser on Friday, March 20.

The event is headlined “Compassion Driving Action: A Panel Discussion on Youth Homelessness,” and will take place at the Crowne Plaza in Foster City from 7 to 9 a.m.

The panel will include mental health and community-building experts who will discuss youth homelessness and other difficulties

facing the greater community, according to the nonprofit.

StarVista's youth residential programs support young people by “providing services to prevent homelessness, provide safe and stable housing, and support long-term housing stability,” according to a press release from the nonprofit.

Individual tickets for the fundraiser are \$100, and can be purchased at [star-vista.org/slb2020](http://star-vista.org/slb2020).

The Crowne Plaza is at 1221 Chess Drive in Foster City.

Go to [star-vista.org](http://star-vista.org) for more information about the nonprofit.

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238 McKendry Drive  
Menlo Park



Listed at \$1,995,000

Sold over asking price

# County supervisors adopt ban on noncompostable foodware

By Rick Radin  
Almanac Staff Writer

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance on Feb. 25 banning restaurants from using noncompostable containers, plastic utensils and other environmentally harmful items beginning a year from now.

The ordinance targets plastic straws, stirrers, utensils and cocktail toothpicks, as well as plastic plates, bowls, cups, food trays, clamshells or boxes and other

nonrecyclable containers.

According to the county Office of Sustainability, restaurants that use these items will have to find alternatives, such as natural fiber-based products made from paper, sugarcane, wheat stalk, wood, bamboo or other natural materials.

The county has provided an exemption allowing customers to request and be given plastic straws, and for restaurants to provide paper sleeves and plastic lids for coffee cups, according to

Eun-Soo Lim, a sustainability specialist with the county Office of Sustainability.

“California has a rule that plastic straws can only be supplied on request, and we’re just building on that,” Lim said.

Supervisor Don Horsley, who oversees the Office of Sustainability, said that the idea started with a desire to get rid of plastic straws, but grew into a larger objective of eliminating plastic entirely.

“We wanted to get rid of plastic

straws, (an idea) which was based on the picture of the tortoise with a straw in its nose,” Horsley said. “Plastic straws end up in the ocean, they don’t dissolve.”

The sustainability office has worked with the county’s 20 cities throughout the drafting of the ordinance, and many, including Menlo Park and Portola Valley, are expected to adopt it within 90 days of the county’s approval, said Brae Hunter, a legislative aide for Horsley.

Horsley said that while unincorporated county areas don’t have fast-food businesses, if the cities adopt the ordinance, it will require a major adjustment by those businesses, which use large amounts of plastic products.

The ordinance builds upon a ban on polystyrene containers that used to be popular with food trucks that the county adopted a few years ago, Lim said.

The Office of Sustainability will be responsible for educating businesses and enforcing the ban, according to a county release.

“This would affect anything involved with preparing and selling food,” Hunter said. “We are trying to coordinate to make sure the economic impact is as low as possible for the businesses that are going to be affected.”

Food facilities will need to keep records of purchase of acceptable items and present them to the Office of Sustainability and the county is looking into publishing

a resource guide with information about acceptable items that restaurants can purchase, Lim said.

The year’s lapse in putting the ordinance into effect would give the restaurants a chance to use up their current goods that would be banned under the ordinance, Horsley said.

Several San Mateo County restaurants contacted on Feb. 26 said that such an ordinance would be a minor problem or no problem at all for them if cities choose to adopt the county rules.

Vinney Ortega, manager of the Dutch Goose in Menlo Park, said the restaurant will have to find a substitute for the plastic knives, forks and spoons it currently uses if the city follows the county’s example, although he wasn’t aware of a replacement that could be used.

Larry Inuram, the owner of Redwood City BBQ, that he said does a brisk take-out business, said the restaurant was moving in the direction of using all-recyclable materials anyway.

The only plastic the restaurant uses is in half-ounce sauce cups, and it has also ended the use of paper cups in favor of reusable plastic cups that are washed after every use.

“We were moving in the direction of being more environmentally friendly anyway, so we think it’s going to be beneficial for our business,” he said. ▣

## Need extra help?

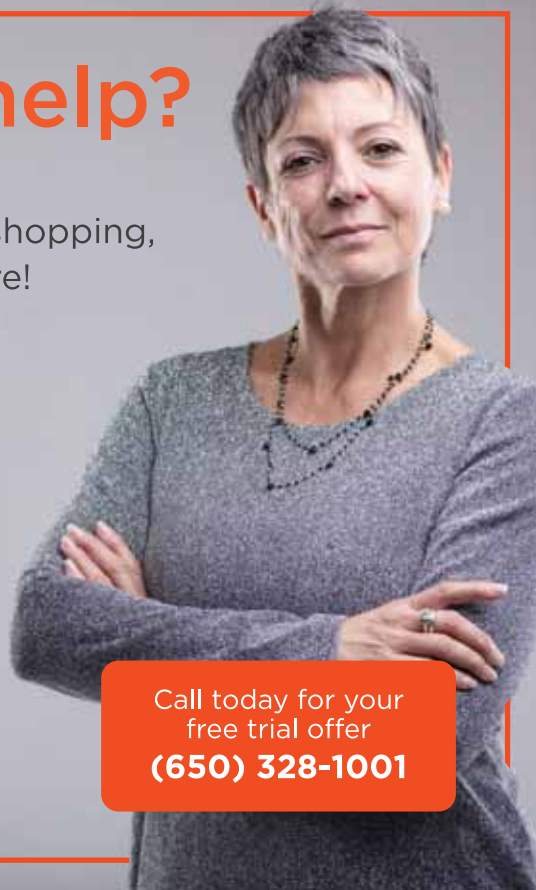
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## Atherton: Two women shaken by mid-day armed robbery

By Tyler Callister  
Almanac Staff Writer

Two men — one of whom brandished a gun — robbed two women in Atherton, assaulting one of them, on the afternoon of March 3, Atherton police reported on March 4.

According to a police department bulletin, the two victims, aged 64 and 75, were walking on Park Lane between Santiago Avenue and Elena Avenue at approximately 12:15 p.m. when the men reportedly drove up from behind them.

The men got out of the vehicle and approached the victims. The driver allegedly snatched a cell-phone from one woman’s hand, then shoved the second victim to the ground and took her cell-phone as well.

The men also tried to take the first victim’s purse, but was unable to wrest it from her, according to police.

The attackers then got back

into their vehicle — described as a dark-colored, possibly early 2000s Ford Explorer — and the passenger pointed a dark-colored handgun at the victims, police said. They then drove off west-bound toward Park Lane.

One man was described as male between 25 and 35 years old, with slicked-back hair and wearing a gray or black hoodie. The other man was simply described as male.

The victims lost two smartphones, a green Apple iPhone 11 with a black case, and a white Apple iPhone 10 with a pink and orange case.

Robberies in Atherton are rare, according to recent crime statistics from the Atherton Police Department. In 2018 there were only two robberies, in 2017 there were none, and in 2016 there was one.

The Atherton Police Department has asked that anyone with information regarding the incident call the department at (650) 688-6500. ▣



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[headsups.org](http://headsups.org)

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[harker.org/summer](http://harker.org/summer)

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[castilleja.org/i2camp](http://castilleja.org/i2camp)

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[explore.stanford.edu](http://explore.stanford.edu)

[explore-series@stanford.edu](mailto:explore-series@stanford.edu)

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[stratfordschools.com/summer](http://stratfordschools.com/summer)

[pa@stratfordschools.com](mailto:pa@stratfordschools.com)

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[castilleja.org/summercamp](http://castilleja.org/summercamp)

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[arts4all.org](http://arts4all.org)

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[letsgocrafting.org](http://letsgocrafting.org)

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[paloaltojcc.org/Camps](http://paloaltojcc.org/Camps)

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PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades 1st to 6th, a wide variety of engaging opportunities. We are excited to announce all of your returning favorites: Leaders in Training (L.I.T.), Camp YOUUnique, F.A.M.E. (Fine Arts, Music and Entertainment), J.V. Sports, Operation: Chef and Chef Jr.! Periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the variety of offerings at PACCC Summer Camps. Open to campers from all communities. Register online.

[paccc.org](http://paccc.org)

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[stanfordjazz.org](http://stanfordjazz.org)

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### TheatreWorks Silicon Valley

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

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[danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps](http://danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps)

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### Palo Alto

## ATHLETICS

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[ussportscamps.com](http://ussportscamps.com)

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[runforfuncamps.com/summer-camps-and-school-holiday-camps/camp-overview](http://runforfuncamps.com/summer-camps-and-school-holiday-camps/camp-overview)

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[stanfordbaseballcamp.com](http://stanfordbaseballcamp.com)

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[stanfordwaterpolocamps.com](http://stanfordwaterpolocamps.com)

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## Top Menlo Park Real Estate Agents & Teams by Sales Volume

Ranking	Agent/Team	Brokerage with which they are Affiliated	Total Listing Volume in Menlo Park	Total Volume in Menlo Park*	SP/OP on All MLS Listings**
1	DeLeon Team	DeLeon Realty	\$110,161,000	\$160,581,000	101.0%
2	Judy Citron	Compass	\$44,451,000	\$105,030,500	98.5%
3	Billy Mcnair	Compass	\$28,175,000	\$64,330,000	100.6%
4	Keri Nicholas	The Parc Agency	\$29,894,700	\$58,939,700	95.8%
5	Hossein Jalali	Coldwell Banker	\$23,425,000	\$45,483,000	99.2%
6	LeMieux Associates†	Compass	\$37,843,000	\$43,343,000	99.9%
7	Nancy Goldcamp	Coldwell Banker	\$15,625,000	\$18,825,000	98.3%
8	Liz Daschbach	Compass	\$13,507,000	\$17,707,000	100.4%
9	Jami Arami	Compass	\$12,725,000	\$16,323,000	98.2%
10	Mary & Brent Gullixson Team	Compass	\$13,330,000	\$13,330,000	88.5%

Our Menlo Park sellers work directly with Michael Repka, who is committed to you and the sale of your home. As the head of our listing team, Michael works with a talented group of in-house professionals, including an interior designer, licensed contractor, attorney, graphic artist, photographer, international marketing specialist, and many more. These full-time employees assist our clients at no additional charge.

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Search criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: February 1, 2019 - January 31, 2020, Menlo Park, Residential Property (Single Family Home, Condominium, Townhouse, Manufactured Home, Floating Home, Duet Home, Multiple on Lot, Farm/Ranch, Other Residential, Double Wide Mobile Home, Duplex)

\* Total volume includes both the buyer and seller sides in Menlo Park (listing and selling) \*\*Sale price to Original Price (aka List Price) Ratio on all MLS Transactions from February 1, 2019 - January 31, 2020

†Tom LeMieux operates similarly to a team, but splits the team's sales amongst the members when reporting sales to the MLS. For accuracy, we combine the sales of the individual members of the LeMieux team

Michael Repka | Managing Broker | DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com  
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\*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Menlo Park, All Residential Properties.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: [www.3330Alameda.com](http://www.3330Alameda.com)

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# ROCKETMAN AT 100

Aerospace pioneer David Altman has lived an extraordinary life during his century on Earth

By Maggie Mah

Special to The Almanac

**D**avid Altman just celebrated a monumental milestone in his life — his 100th birthday. An internationally renowned and respected scientist, he is also a quiet, dapper man with a twinkle in his eye and a sly sense of humor.

Upon meeting him in his Menlo Park home, one learns quickly that he loves tennis and considers his decision not to have knee replacement surgery 10 years ago the biggest regret of his life. It takes a bit of prodding to get beyond Altman's modest demeanor, but the tale that unfolds is that of a man whose life's work has made him a towering figure in the science of rocketry.

His contributions to America's space program, which stretch back to its earliest beginnings, his extraordinary life and the remarkable people he has met along the way are worthy of a Ken Burns-style documentary.

Altman was born in 1920. At the time, life expectancy for the average American was 47 years. Prohibition had just begun and the Treaty of Versailles had just taken effect, bringing an official end to World War I. Ironically, the world was grappling with a global influenza pandemic.

Although Einstein had published his Theory of General

Relativity five years earlier, rockets and space travel were only starting to emerge from the realm of science fiction. In January 1920, just a month before Altman's birth, the New York Times ran an editorial ridiculing aerospace pioneer Robert Goddard for his theories that rockets would one day enable man to photograph the moon and travel to distant planets. (A retraction was issued in 1969 following the successful mission of Apollo 11.)

Altman, it seems, entered the world at exactly the right time.

## Journey West

His story starts quietly enough on Feb. 13, 1920, in Paterson, New Jersey. He was the youngest of three children born to Herman and Frieda Altman, Polish immigrants who came to America in 1907. His father and uncle operated a mill in the region's burgeoning silk industry.

Altman entered Cornell University and obtained his undergraduate degree in chemistry in 1940. One of his professors suggested going elsewhere for graduate study. "There was a lot of anti-Semitism at the time," Altman explained. "I was advised to seek an appointment at U.C. Berkeley, where they thought I would be more comfortable."

His acceptance notice to U.C. Berkeley in hand, Altman broke the news to his parents. "They weren't too excited about me

moving 3,000 miles away," he recalled. "But my mother was a fatalist."

After three short years at Berkeley, Altman had earned a doctorate in chemistry. Along the way, he met several people who would figure prominently in his life. One was a music student named Beverly Adlis, the woman who would later become his wife. Reflecting back on that meeting, Altman says his greatest joy came from his marriage. "I made a good decision."

Another person he encountered at the university was Albert Einstein. The legendary physicist made a lasting impression on the young Altman, and his likeness is still on prominent display in Altman's home office.

The third person was one of Altman's professors and none other than J. Robert Oppenheimer, the theoretical physicist who is often referred to as "the father of the atomic bomb." Oppenheimer would ultimately have multiple impacts on Altman's life. "He was a brilliant lecturer," Altman said. "He paced back and forth and smoked the whole time."

Oppenheimer became a key figure in the Manhattan Project, the multinational effort during World War II that led to the creation of the first nuclear weapons. Oppenheimer was also the director of the Los Alamos Laboratory, the top-secret



**Top:** David Altman, 100, chats with his daughter Jody Altman in his Menlo Park home last month. Photo by Sammy Dallal/The Almanac. **Above:** David Altman, center, and two colleagues on the JPL test site circa 1950. Photo courtesy of Altman family archive.

facility that was created as part of the Manhattan Project.

After obtaining his doctorate, Altman was recruited by Oppenheimer to work on the Manhattan Project. Altman and his colleagues worked at Berkeley, and initially were not told they were working on a bomb. “We thought we were working on a nuclear energy project. We couldn’t figure out what the big fuss was about,” he recalled. “Later, we figured it out. But by then it was either them or us.”

Altman’s education in chemistry, physics and math, along with his experience of working on the Manhattan Project, congealed into the perfect set of skills and expertise to launch a career in the budding aerospace industry. In 1947, Altman left Berkeley for the Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, where he would spend the next 10 years as JPL’s chief chemist, conducting scores of scientific studies on rocket propulsion.

### Victim of ‘Red Scare’

Several years into his tenure at JPL, Altman came under scrutiny by the House Un-American Activities Committee. Although never a member of the Communist Party, his prior association with two Berkeley “Rad Lab” scientists, both of whom were Oppenheimer acolytes, evidently caught the attention of the FBI. Being somewhat of an outspoken liberal evidently didn’t help his case.

Of that time, Altman noted, “Cockiness can be a real hazard.”

Jody Altman, the eldest of the three Altman children, recently obtained the FBI records pertaining to her father’s investigation. “It took over two years to get them. They were tailing you at one point, Dad!” she said during the interview with *The Almanac*.

During the investigation, Altman was suspended from his job at JPL and had his security clearance revoked. He was advised to solicit people who could attest to the fact that he was not a communist.

Acting on that recommendation, he contacted his former boss, Robert Oppenheimer. Oppenheimer, who was by then surrounded by controversy, was not in a position to help. He said to Altman, “I’m sorry. I have problems of my own.”

David and Beverly Altman traveled to Washington to appeal his case. The charges against him were dropped, but Altman recalled a parting shot. “One of the committee members asked my wife a question at the end. He asked her if she spoke Russian.”

With the cloud of suspicion lifted, the Altmans returned to Pasadena, and David to JPL. His job and clearances were

reinstated and the months of lost salary were repaid.

Altman’s experience of the anti-communist crusade and other events of that era are detailed in “Escape from Earth, A Secret History of the Space Rocket,” a 2019 book by Scottish author Fraser MacDonald.

In 1959, Altman became vice president of Chemical Systems Division, a subsidiary of United Technologies, which was then based in Sunnyvale. The new position precipitated a move to Menlo Park and the community Altman has called home for 61 years.

At CSD, Altman was at the center of the effort to build and test rockets, rocket boosters and fuel systems for America’s space program. Altman’s work on the moon landing earned him NASA’s Apollo Achievement Award in 1969.

On the home front, the Altman family had grown to five with daughters Jody and Jan and son, Rick. Jody Altman recalls that preparation for family meals wasn’t just about food. “We had to be ready for physics and chemistry questions at breakfast and dinner,” she laughed.

An aspect of America’s involvement in Vietnam in the late 1960s became a source of conflict between Altman and his wife. Each held differing opinions over the use of the controversial substance, Napalm. Beverly Altman was very much opposed to the practice, but given her husband’s professional affiliations in the chemical industry, overt protest might have proven to be problematic. Shaking his head and laughing, Altman recalled, “She expressed her opposition by bringing coffee to the protesters marching outside SRI.”

After 20 years in the Bay Area, it was announced that CSD’s operations were moving to Connecticut. The news was accompanied by the offer of a promotion for Altman. “I turned it down because I wanted to stay in California so I could play tennis year round,” Altman noted with a chuckle.

After CSD moved to the Northeast, Altman retired officially in 1981. He played tennis until the age of 90, when one of his knees became too painful. “I think it was my ‘American Twist’ serve that did it,” he observed.

### Probing a disaster

In 1986, Altman became involved in yet another defining moment in American history: the Challenger Shuttle disaster.

In the aftermath of the catastrophe that killed seven crew members, Altman was asked to participate in the investigation into the cause of the explosion

that destroyed the shuttle. The assembled panel of experts concluded that weather was a key factor.

“It was very cold,” Altman recalled. “I made calculations about velocity and friction in the cold, dense air. The ‘O’ rings weren’t flexible,” he explained. This factor allowed hot gases to escape and led to the explosion.

Another, and far less technical, factor came down to politics and human frailty. According to the findings of the Rogers Commission, the panel charged with overseeing the investigation, NASA knew about the implications of cold temperatures but concluded that further delays would be “bad PR.” Altman said: “It was all set up. They gambled.”

Altman also served on the board of Stanford’s Industrial Affiliates, a program that encourages upstream interaction between academic researchers and business leadership. Brian Cantwell is the Edward C. Well professor at Stanford’s school of engineering. He worked closely with Altman for a number of years, and says Altman was instrumental in helping to shape the program, and that he brought a unique perspective.

“He was a rocket company executive, but very few people in that position have the kind of academic rigor that he has,” Cantwell said. “When he would speak in his quiet authoritative voice, heads of industry would listen. He is a giant in the field — a leader in industry and a leader of thought.”

Altman’s determination to make rockets and propellant systems better, safer, more efficient and more environmentally friendly led to the creation of Space Propulsion Group. The company, which was co-founded in 1999 by Altman, Cantwell, Arif Karabeyoglu and aerospace veteran John Wilson, is in operation today, and continues its work in rocket propulsion and clean energy systems with clients that include NASA, the FAA, and the U.S. Navy and Air Force.

The complete list of Altman’s professional accomplishments and accolades is a long one — and impressive. Apart from his prodigious intellect, what other qualities contributed to his success? With genuine modesty, Altman says his ability to adapt helped him deal with whatever situation presented itself.

“I was always an independent thinker,” he said. To wit, although Altman was raised in an Orthodox Jewish family, his views on religion have changed over the years. The culture of the Jewish religion remains part of his family’s tradition, but Altman says he no longer



Photo courtesy of Altman family archives

David Altman circa 1924.

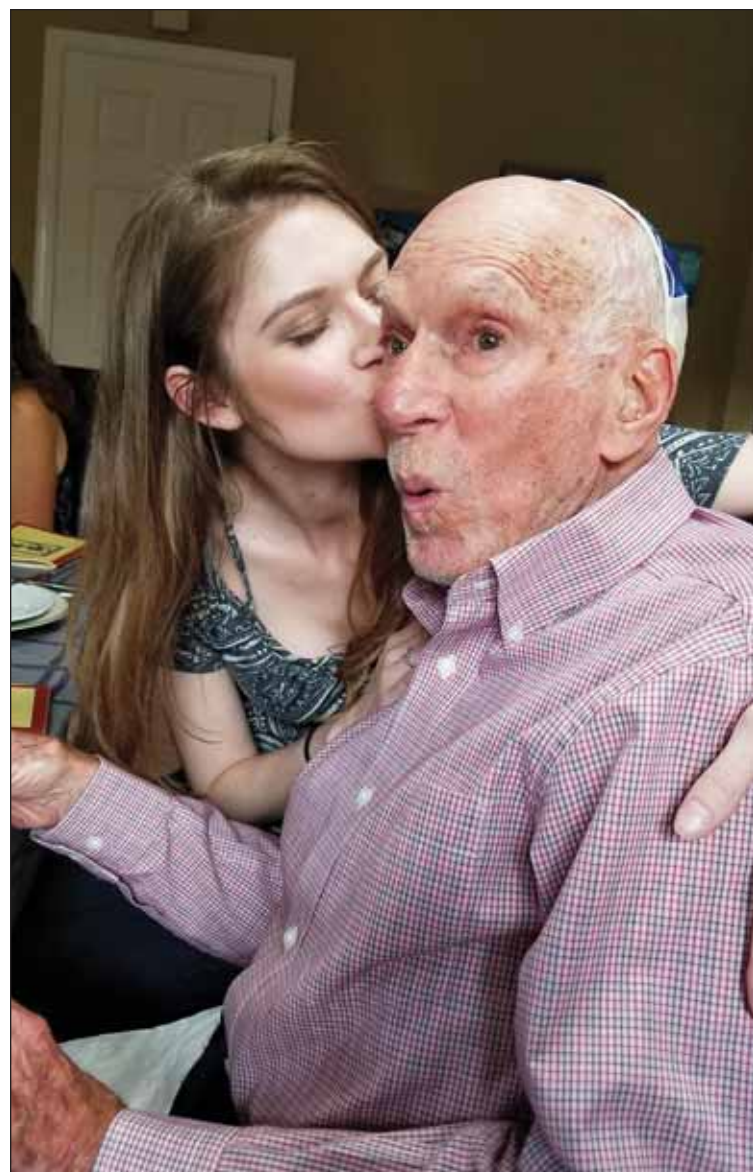


Photo courtesy of Altman family archives

A big smooch for Granddad from granddaughter Erica.

See **ROCKETMAN**, page 16

## ROCKETMAN

continued from page 15

believes in God, and declared, "I believe in what he stands for: righteousness."

Altman's ability to adapt was put to the test five years ago with the sudden passing of his wife after 68 years of marriage.

Supported by his family and devoted caregivers, he continues to enjoy his life. He is a regular player at Little House senior center's bridge games, but says he doesn't like the current scoring system. Another highlight is "Happy Hour," an Altman

family tradition that takes place daily at 5:30 p.m. Altman's drink of choice is appropriately named "Gin and Sonic," a combination of gin, tonic and soda.

No interview with a centenarian would be complete without a few Proust-inspired questions and this one is no exception. Here are the questions posed by *The Almanac* to Altman, followed by his replies:

**The Almanac:** To what do you attribute your longevity? **David Altman:** "I didn't do a lot of galavanting. I also tried to 'go with the flow' and not get too upset about things."

**TA:** Were you ever a smoker?

**DA:** (laughing) "Yes! I smoked pipes and cigars until I was 40. My father smoked the occasional cigar throughout his whole life." (Note: Altman's father lived to the age of 101.)

**TA:** What person from history do you most admire and why? **DA:** "Einstein, because of his insight and depth of thought."

**TA:** What or whom do you most despise? **DA:** "The Nazis."

**TA:** You've lived through some momentous times. Are things better or worse than they were 100 years ago? **DA:** "There were different problems then. On the

whole, I think things are better now because more people are educated."

Altman's children and two granddaughters, Erica and Jamie, all live close enough to visit on a regular basis. The occasion of Altman's 100th birthday, however, brought family and friends from as far away as Turkey to celebrate.

Altman's youngest granddaughter, Jamie, observed, "It's because he always tried to do the right thing and he takes the relationships in his life seriously."

She says that her grandfather has influenced her in many

ways, but she often thinks about one of his sayings: "Don't get into too much mischief — just enough mischief to have fun." ■

**On the cover:** David Altman, who worked on the Manhattan Project, was investigated on suspicion of being a communist during the Red Scare, and was called in to help NASA after the Challenger disaster, poses for a portrait in his Menlo Park home. Photo by Sammy Dallal/ *The Almanac*.

## Wilfred "Bill" Harry Bentham

August 18, 1938 – February 11, 2020

Veterinarian, avid horseman and longtime resident of Woodside, Bill Bentham, 81, died unexpectedly February 11, 2020, while vacationing in the British Virgin Islands. Bill was born August 18, 1938, in Oakland, California to Wilfred Sylvester and Edith Ernestine (Mueller) Bentham.

Bill is survived by his wife Erin Lynn (nee' Morra); his children, Sally Ann (Joseph) Ferreira, daughter of Bill and first wife Jessie E. Bentham; Ryan Jeremiah Bentham and Jeremiah David Bentham (Leeann), sons of Bill and second wife Linda Gallaher; stepson Justin Macedonio; 3 grandchildren, Justin, Jordan and Jaden Ferreira; 1 step-grandchild Greyson Macedonio and 1 great grandchild, Jake Ferreira. He is predeceased by Wilfred Norman "Billy" Bentham son of Bill and Jessie E. Bentham; his brother David and his parents Wilfred and Edith.

Bill graduated from San Ramon High School, Class of 1956. He attended both UC California, in Davis and Colorado State University, Fort Collins, School of Veterinary Medicine earning his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1965. He joined his father Wilfred's existing practice at Central Veterinary Hospital in Fremont, California, mainly focusing on large animal veterinary services. Bill initiated the concept of 24-hour care for hospitalized pets in the area. Primary interests in pet medicine included surgery, dermatology and pet weight control. He owned and operated this thriving practice with a team of devoted employees for 55 years until the time of his death.

With a Veterinarian for a father and a mother with exceptional equine skills, Bill had an avid interest in horses. He became involved in endurance riding in the 1970's serving as President and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Endurance Ride Conference, a national organization dedicated to the sport. Over the years, he completed well over 4,000 miles of 50 and 100 mile competitions finishing as one of the top 10 riders in two of those years. He worked and participated in many endurance rides and ride and tie events as both head veterinarian and staff veterinarian over a span of 40+ years. In his veterinary capacity, he worked to develop criteria for evaluating horses under stress when participating in endurance events and also lectured on the topic. Bill was past Captain, 8 year board member and standing member of the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County for over 37 years; part of the staff veterinarians of the Rancheros Vistadores



annual trek with upward of 800 horses; Director of the Woodside Trail Club, Shack Riders and involved in the Tevis Cup and Ride and Tie. Bill was on the Board of Directors for The Wine Country Marines helping to raise funds for wounded warriors. When not on a horse, he enjoyed calvary history — primarily civil war of which he amassed an extensive collection of memorabilia. His hobbies included; collecting classic cars; building models, specifically radio control aircraft; travel, fishing, hunting and other outdoor activities. Bill was an animal rescue advocate, dynamic storyteller and a generous and inclusive friend.

The family would like to offer a special thanks to Sir Richard and Lady Joan Branson and the staff of Necker Island in the British Virgin Islands for their compassion, kindness and support.

There will be a private family funeral service to be followed by a Celebration of Life reception at the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County 521 Kings Mountain Rd., Woodside, CA. 94062 on Saturday March 14th at 2pm. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to:

Colorado State University School of Veterinary Medicine -  
<https://advancing.colostate.edu/CVMBMEMORIALFUND>  
 Or Pay to the order of: CSU Foundation  
 Memo: CVMB Memorial Fund in honor of Bill Bentham  
 PO Box 1870  
 Fort Collins, Co 80522-1870  
 The National Wildlife Foundation  
<https://support.nwf.org/page/8844/donate/1?locale=en-US>  
 The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy - <https://www.parksconservancy.org/donate/tributes-memorial-gifts>

PAID OBITUARY

## More mail thefts in Atherton

By Angela Swartz  
 Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton police are investigating the nighttime theft of mail from numerous mailboxes on Feb. 26 and during the early morning hours on March 1. And they are warning residents to take precautions to secure their mail.

Police department news bulletins on Feb. 27 and March 1 reported that stolen mail from residences on Melanie Lane, Stockbridge Avenue, Patricia Drive, Ralston Avenue, Almen-dral Avenue, Selby Lane, Glenwood Avenue, Fenwood Drive, James Avenue, Laburnum Avenue and Isabella Avenue, and Serrano Drive was retrieved by authorities.

So far, officers have found stolen mail from 22 separate Atherton addresses, said Cmdr. Joe Wade in a March 3 email.

Other cities in the county have

also reported mail thefts, according to the Feb. 27 bulletin.

"The offenders are targeting mailboxes in order to obtain checks and personal information that can be used for identity theft," police said.

The police department is advising residents to:

- Use a mailbox that can be secured with a locking device.
- Collect mail daily.
- Deposit outgoing mail at a post office.
- Pick up checks in person.

"Residents can also place a hold on mail deliveries when leaving for vacation and are encouraged not to leave mail in their mailbox overnight," the bulletins note.

Mail theft victims can report identity theft to the Federal Trade Commission and freeze their credit by contacting a major credit bureau such as Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. ■

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**Peninsula Foodist**  
 BY ELENA KADVANY

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**FIRE DISTRICT**

*continued from page 5*

Atherton residences and their professionalism.”

DeGolia also noted that he believes the relationship between Atherton and the fire district “can be resolved. It takes political will and operational attention.

“Our police department works closely with the Fire District to protect our schools and our residents. It is a shame that there has been this lack of collaboration between the Fire Board and the Atherton Council,” he wrote. “I would like to see that change, but it will be difficult so long as some council members are seeking to end the relationship and some people associated with the Fire Board continue to falsely insist that Atherton is somehow trying to take tax dollars from the Fire District.

“I believe that we should partner together at the Board and Council and administration levels because our goals are the same: to protect Atherton residents and schools.”

Some community members at the March 4 meeting urged the council to drop the separation

discussion, including former fire board member Peter Carpenter, a Menlo Park resident and past Atherton resident. Carpenter stated that detachment would be based on “faulty and incomplete analysis” and that separation would be “seriously damaging” to Atherton’s neighbors.

“Take a look at this process: many people cannot attend a 4 p.m. meeting on a Wednesday (to provide input on detachment),” he said. “This is really a sham.”

One Atherton resident asked if town officials could spend more time editing the newsletter the town is sending all residents because he wants council members to all be comfortable with it before it is sent. He noted that the tax issue is a “multimillion dollar problem” and should be given the time and thought it deserves.

Should the town pursue separation from the district, it would need to include in its application a plan for providing fire services to its residents and a five-year projected operational and capital budget for fire services, according to the staff report. Staff estimates pursuing detachment through LAFCo

would cost \$50,000. The application itself costs \$7,250.

The council directed staff to contact other local fire districts, such as the Woodside Fire Protection District and Redwood City Fire Department, to begin talks regarding those districts’ ability and willingness to offer their services to Atherton.

The council also voted 3-1 to mail the informational newsletter that had been reviewed at a previous meeting; the newsletter focusing on the fire services study, noting the disproportionate amount Atherton residents pay to fund the district.

DeGolia voted against sending the newsletter, and urged the town to change some of its content if it is sent out; Lewis was absent.

Council member Mike Lempres said that the review of services has dragged on for several years, and he doesn’t want to delay two upcoming community informational meetings on the topic to continue to make edits to the newsletter.

“At some point we have to put a stake in the ground,” he said.

Lewis said at the February meeting that she’d like the document to be redrafted with

a more “neutral tone.”

It will take about five to seven days to print and mail the newsletter after approval, Rodericks said in an email. Staff emailed a digital version to residents on March 5.

The council has scheduled community meetings for 6:30 p.m. on March 24 and April 1 in Holbrook-Palmer Park’s Main House to discuss the 2016 fire services consultant’s review.

The council in January voted to initiate a two- to three-month process of gathering community input on the review after deciding in

December to consider the following options:

- Complete an application to LAFCo for detachment from the fire district. Should the town proceed with a detachment process through LAFCo, that process would include various public meetings and could ultimately include a public vote.

- Discuss possible legislative relief with county and/or state legislators.

Fire district officials did not attend the March 4 meeting.

Watch a video of the meeting at [bit.ly/athertonfireservices](http://bit.ly/athertonfireservices). ▣

**SENATE RACE**

*continued from page 5*

the early March primary this year catching voters off-guard, combined with the voter population’s strong education credentials, likely led many people to hold onto their ballots in the days leading up to Super Tuesday.

“This is a wonky district, where people do game out the math of when and who they should give their vote to,” she said.

Mike Brownrigg, from Burlingame, said he too observed many voters still making up their minds in the weekend leading up to Super Tuesday. “I think there will be a lot of ballots that come in at the end,” he said.

“The early numbers don’t rattle my faith in the strength of the campaign we ran,” he said. “Early results came in before endorsements were even made. I think things have changed a lot over the last few weeks.”

He said he felt that in his campaigning there wasn’t anything specific about his message — focused on affordability, climate and education — that didn’t resonate with voters. The larger

challenge was making “100,000 new friends,” he said.

Oliva, a Democrat from Millbrae, declined to comment. In an email, Masur said she was “just waiting to see what shakes out in the final count.”

**It’s still early**

The votes that have been reported in San Mateo County represent ballots received in the mail and returned at vote centers and drop boxes by the Saturday before Super Tuesday, and a portion of ballots submitted at vote centers.

It’s still not yet known how many registered voters have submitted a ballot. In an election comparable to this year’s — the June 2016 primaries — 51.8% of registered voters in San Mateo County and 54.7% of registered voters in Santa Clara County ended up casting ballots.

All-mail elections tend to increase voter turnout. In the 2018 general election, voter turnout in San Mateo County rose to 72.6% of registered voters. However, it took nearly a month to call some races due to mail-in ballots submitted on Election

Day or received by mail afterward, particularly for close elections at the city level.

The San Mateo County election office has since acquired new technology that allows ballots to be processed and counted much more efficiently, which was put to the test in 2019, according to Jim Irizarry, chief elections officer for San Mateo County. The county has two new scanners that can each process 18,000 ballots an hour, he said in an email.

Since switching to all-mail elections, he said, many mailed ballots have arrived on election day or afterwards, in some cases more than 40%.

“While we prioritize accuracy over speed, I do believe we will be providing voters with results much faster than in 2018 or 2019,” he said. ▣

*Former Almanac reporter Kate Bradshaw writes for the Mountain View Voice, The Almanac’s sister publication.*

**LEHUA GREENMAN**



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# Food & Drink

## Meet the Midpeninsula's Swedish home baker



### Pop-up bakery offers a taste of Sweden's traditional treats

Story by Lloyd Lee  
Photos by Magali Gauthier

In Emerald Hills, Denise Touhey, a proud Swedish American, churns out trays of pastries each week for her small, “one-woman show” bakery.

Aptly called Something Swede-ish, a homonym playing off the name of the recipes’ origin and the characteristic taste of the baked goods — “just the right amount of sweetness,” she said — Touhey’s pop-up is not only filling a specific niche on the Midpeninsula, including at the Village Hub in Woodside, but also a lifelong desire of Touhey, who’s baked since she was 10 years old.

“I’m literally going off of my heart here,” Touhey, 54, said. “My

little dream has come true.”

Outside of her contemporary wood-sided house, a V%olkommen sign (“welcome” in Swedish) and a boisterous Rottweiler greet visitors. Inside, a warm and sweet aroma fills the entire space. It’s home base not just for her four kids and husband, but for Something Swede-ish’s headquarters, office and kitchen.

Touhey bakes under California’s cottage food law, which was passed in 2012 to allow people to run food businesses out of their homes and sell food to consumers either directly or indirectly through third parties, such as grocery stores. For Touhey, there’s no overhead cost of running a brick-and-mortar store,

no need to hire employees and no commercial-grade equipment or rows of racks that one might see at a bakery.

Instead, Touhey’s main workhorses are a few KitchenAid mixers, an oven, her hands and occasionally her kids, who guide her through Google Drive or social media posts to promote the pop-up.

From Tuesdays to Sundays, Touhey will pack up her car and drive anywhere from Woodside to San Carlos to set up her pop-up bakery and help Midpeninsulans experience their own “fika” — a simple but essential Swedish tradition of winding down with a cup of coffee and a small treat.

“It’s not just about taking coffee to go,” said Touhey, a first generation Swedish American. “It’s about just enjoying that cup of coffee and enjoying that pastry.”

The home baker’s mission

statement is all about sharing Swedish culture. Growing up in Belmont with her grandmother — the “original Swedish home baker,” who hails from northern Sweden — and with English as her second language, Touhey was always reminded to keep in touch with her Swedish roots.

By baking the recipes she’s collected over the years through cookbooks and family traditions, sometimes tweaking them to satisfy her Swedish and non-Swedish customers, she finds that she can preserve the memories of her family’s past generations and share them with her local community.

“There’s a lot of Swedish out there and a lot of interest,” she said.

Touhey is one of the only providers of Scandinavian baked goods on the Peninsula. (The other “competitor” is the Copenhagen Bakery & Cafe in Burlingame.) Staying small is the way Touhey prefers it, with a flexible schedule that allows her to cater a companywide event with 400 pastries or spend time with her family.

“I’m able to have this great little business that’s doing really well, but at the same time keep my priorities of being a wife and mother, and daughter to my mom,” she said. “Having a storefront would require employees and overhead — it would take everything from me.”

The menu from each pop-up can vary day to day, ranging from cakes, cookies, tarts and date bars to classic Swedish pastries like the cardamom bun, known in Sweden as kardemummabullar, a not-too-sweet, knotted roll

lightly sprinkled with sugar.

And, like a careful and nurturing mom, Touhey can cater to her customer’s nutritional demands and make gluten-free or vegan variations of her products. Though some items, like the cardamom bun or the Swedish cinnamon bun, kanelbullar, she leaves be.

“I would never change that,” she said. “That’s full gluten, full tradition.”

Other baked goods blend Swedish and American culinary heritage. Her lemon tarts are made with a lemon custard found in everyday American pies and cakes, but the crust comes straight from a Swedish cookbook.

On a recent cold Thursday afternoon at Woodside cafe The Village Hub, scones, almond tarts, Swedish dream cookies (which use ammonium bicarbonate to achieve a delicate and light texture similar to a Mexican wedding cookie), date bars, gluten-free almond cakes and the cardamom and cinnamon buns were just some of eight dozen baked goods on that day’s menu.

For Michelle, a retired teacher who visits the Woodside community center to do yoga with her friends, the pop-up bakery was a pleasant surprise to her as a Norwegian with few local options for Scandinavian pastries. For others, like Santina Campi, a Redwood City resident who found Touhey’s bakery through neighborhood website Nextdoor, coming to Something Swede-ish has become a morning routine — her own fika of sorts.

“I made it my little Thursday,

See **BAKERY**, page 21



**Top:** Lemon custard and Swedish almond toska tarts for sale at a Something Swede-ish pop-up at The Village Hub in Woodside on last month. **Above:** Denise Touhey, Something Swede-ish owner and baker, processes a payment from regular customer, Lauren Fritts, at the bakery’s pop-up at The Village Hub in Woodside on Feb. 6.



Photo courtesy of Shady Lane

Shady Lane moved to the Sharon Heights Shopping Center in 2015.

## Gift shop celebrates 45 years

Shady Lane, the popular gift shop and boutique located in the Sharon Heights Shopping Center and known for its eclectic and one-of-a-kind items, is celebrating 45 years in business.

Originally located in Palo Alto, the shop moved to 325 Sharon Park Drive in Menlo Park in 2015.

Owner Alice Deutscher said she chose this Sunday, March 15, to celebrate the anniversary because

that's the date of Shady Lane's grand opening in its current location five years ago. The "party" is set from noon to 5 p.m.

Almost everything in the story will be 15% off during that time, and some items will be sold at 45% off, Deutscher said. In addition, there will be drawings and giveaways that day, she said.

For more information about the shop, go to [shadylanegallery.com](http://shadylanegallery.com).

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The public rooms flow easily from one to the other, as well as to the grounds where the pleasant patio setting awaits for entertaining and outdoor living. The community pool and beautiful gardens are meticulously maintained in this small development of only six homes.

The location is superb, just two blocks from Santa Cruz Avenue for shopping and dining, as well as close proximity to Stanford University, Silicon Valley tech companies and near some of the areas most renowned private schools & excellent public schools.



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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT  
500 LAUREL STREET  
MENLO PARK, CA 94025**

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that the District Board of West Bay Sanitary District will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. The hearing will be held in the District's Board Room located at 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider a proposed increase in sewer services charges for fiscal year 2020/2021. Additional information is available through the District's website at [www.westbaysanitary.org](http://www.westbaysanitary.org) and on the official notice that was mailed to every parcel address that pays District rates.

The annual sewer service charge will increase from \$1,177 per single family residence to \$1,224 in fiscal year 2020/2021. Approximately 79 homes in the Portola Valley area (located within the On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone) who pay higher charges for the maintenance of their STEP or Grinder Sewer Collection Systems will increase from \$1,497 per single family residence to \$1,694 in fiscal year 2020/2021 in order to realign charges with the cost of service, charges for the maintenance of the STEP/Grinder Sewer Collection Systems. Non-residential rates will increase proportionately according to loading characteristics. The increased charges are required to fund needed maintenance and reconstruction to the sewer system and to the Silicon Valley Clean Water regional wastewater treatment plant.

Protests against the proposed rate increase must be submitted in writing by 4:00pm on April 22, 2020, and signed by the property owner, must identify the owner(s) of the property for which the protest is entered, and must include the property address and assessor's parcel number (APN).

/s/ Phil Scott

Phil Scott, District Manager

**TOWN OF WOODSIDE  
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD  
WOODSIDE, CA 94062**

**PLANNING COMMISSION  
MARCH 18, 2020 6:00 PM**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Munish Gupta & Sangeeta Chakraborty  
ASRB2020-0002; VARI2020-0001

95 Roan Place Planner: Sarah Filipe, Associate Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a proposal, requiring Formal Design Review, to construct an addition and remodel to an existing single-family main residence. The project includes the review of a Variance to allow the addition within the required 50-foot side yard setback.

2. 331 Greer, LLC PCDR2019-0002; LLAJ2019-0001; GRAD2019-0003; CEQA2019-0005

331 Greer Road (APNs 072-052-260 and 072-052-020) Planner: Sage Schaan, Principal Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a proposal for a Lot Line Adjustment (LLAJ) changing the lot lines of two existing parcels of record at 331 Greer Road (072-052-260 and 072-052-020). The proposed Lot Line Adjustment would adjust a portion of the South Lot and add it to the North Lot. The project also includes Formal Design Review of a proposed 1,500 square foot accessory dwelling unit (ADU) and a 409 square foot detached guest bedroom and bath, identified as a "bed shed" on the project plans. The structures would be constructed south of the main residence. The project includes reconfiguration of an existing driveway that requires revisions to a previously approved Grading Exception. Prior to acting on the project, the Planning Commission will consider the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A CEQA document was required because Lot Line Adjustments for lots with an average slope exceeding 20% do not qualify for CEQA Exemption 15305.

All application materials are available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 – 10:00 AM and 1:00 – 3:00 PM, or by appointment. For more information, contact the Woodside Planning and Building Department at (650) 851-6790.



**Flegel's** has moved from its longtime location on Santa Cruz Avenue to 1010 El Camino Real, Suite 90, in the space adjacent to Kepler's Books

## Flegel's makes its move to new El Camino Real home

Flegel's Home Furnishings, a 65-year-old family-owned furniture and interior design store that's long been a Santa Cruz Avenue fixture in downtown Menlo Park, opened this week at its new El Camino Real location, next to Kepler's Books.

The new store is at 1010 El Camino Real, Suite 90, in space once occupied by Kepler's Books before the bookshop downsized.

The opening was set to

happen on Monday, March 9; business manager Brian Flegel, the grandson of the store's founder Art Flegel, could not be reached for comment before press time.

Flegel told *The Almanac* last year that the Flegel family had decided to sell the Santa Cruz Avenue building, but planned to continue the business.

"Nothing is happening to the business. Everybody is going to stay employed. The business is

fine," he said at the time.

"We've been paying rent to the family trust. Now we'll pay it to someone else," he added.

The two-story, 22,500 square-foot building on Santa Cruz Avenue was listed for \$22.75 million last fall, down from \$25.75 million when it was first listed online in May.

Meanwhile, Flegel's has announced a 50%-off sale on floor items that remain in its old location. ■

## Woodside High stages 'Addams Family' musical

By **Kate Daly**

Special to *The Almanac*

**T**hing, Morticia, Gomez, Wednesday, Pugsley, Uncle Fester and Lurch will all come to life in "The Addams Family," the musical comedy being staged by Woodside High School's Theatre Arts Department for two weekends starting Friday, March 13.

Friday the 13th is a fitting beginning for a production featuring a ghoulish cast of characters, who are based on the same Charles Addams cartoons from the 1930s that spawned a popular TV series and a movie.

The musical's plot revolves around the Addams family's reaction to the news that daughter Wednesday is involved with a so-called normal boy.

The musical debuted on Broadway a decade ago. The same collaborators from "Jersey Boys," Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, wrote the book. Andrew Lipka wrote the lyrics.

In Woodside High's show, 40 students are performing



Photo by Sam Ayoob

**Hazel Griffin and Mason Hughes** play Morticia and Gomez in "The Addams Family" at Woodside High.

onstage, more than a dozen are working behind the scenes, and nine are playing in the live orchestra.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on March 13 and 14; 2 p.m. on March 15; and 7:30 p.m. March

20 and 21.

Tickets are on sale at [whs-dramaboosters.org](http://whs-dramaboosters.org). They range from \$10 to \$20 for reserved seats at the Woodside High School Performing Arts Center, 199 Churchill Ave. in Woodside. ■

# Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES

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

## Theater

**'The Addams Family'** Woodside High School's drama program presents a new musical comedy based on Charles Addams' classic cartoon characters, "The Addams Family." Through March 21; dates and times vary. \$10-\$20; discounts available. Woodside High School Performing Arts Center, 199 Churchill Ave., Woodside. [whsdramaboosters.org](http://whsdramaboosters.org)

**'The Baltimore Waltz'** Troy Johnson directs Paula Vogel's play about a woman in desperate search of a cure after she's diagnosed with a deadly disease. Through April 4; dates and times vary. \$15-\$39; discount for seniors and students. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway, Redwood City. [dragonproductions.net](http://dragonproductions.net)

**'Confession'** Directed by Robyn Braverman, "Confession" is the story of two estranged brothers in the 1980s indelibly connected by the memories of a traumatizing childhood and a desire to find redemption. Through April 5; times vary. \$30-\$175; discount for seniors and students. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway, Redwood City. [dragonproductions.net](http://dragonproductions.net)

**'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'** Based on the novel by Mark Haddon, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" is directed by Melinda Marks and tells the story about a young boy and his journey to uncover the mystery behind the death of his neighbor's dog. Through April 4; dates and times vary. \$20-\$37; discount for seniors and students. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. [thepear.org](http://thepear.org)

**'The Mystery of Edwin Drood'** Based on the unfinished Charles Dickens novel, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" is a unique musical with multiple endings about a choirmaster who is madly in love with one of his students. Through March 12-15; times vary. \$15-\$36; discount available. Lohman Theatre, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. [foothill.edu](http://foothill.edu)

**'Peter and the Starcatcher'** Menlo-Atherton High School Drama presents "Peter and the Starcatcher," a story about a young orphan and his friends who go through an unexpected journey filled with pirates, mermaids and more. March 13-15 and 20-22; times vary. \$10-\$15; discount for students and seniors. Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. [madrama.org](http://madrama.org)

**'They Promised Her The Moon'** Directed by Giovanna Sadelli, "They Promised Her the Moon" tells the true story of the world record-holding female aviator, Jerri Cobb, and her pursuit to be an astronaut during the space race of the '60s. Through March 29; dates and times vary. \$25-\$100; discount available. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. [theatreworks.org](http://theatreworks.org)

## Music

**Angela Kraft Cross** St. Bede's choir presents an evensong service featuring organist Angela Kraft Cross' 2017 "Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis,"

her new anthem "For Your Love's Sake," and a recital of works by Bach, Buxtehude, Mozart, Mendelssohn, as well as her own compositions. March 15, 4 p.m. Free; donations accepted. St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. [stbedesmenlo-park.org](http://stbedesmenlo-park.org)

**'Don Giovanni'** The chamber opera company Pocket Opera stages Mozart's two-act opera based on the legends of Don Juan, "Don Giovanni." March 15, 5 p.m. \$25-\$50; discounts available. Albert and Janet Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. [paloaltojcc.org](http://paloaltojcc.org)

## Festivals & Fairs

**Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival** The Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival is a 13-day celebration of film and filmmakers, filled with screenings, talks, performances and more. Locations for each event varies. All festival events after March 8 have been postponed. Originally scheduled to run through March 15, the second half of the festival has been rescheduled for Aug. 16-30. Century Redwood City Downtown 20 and XD, 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City. [payments.cinequest.org](http://payments.cinequest.org)

## Talks & Lectures

**Climate Change and Adaptation in San Mateo County** San Mateo County Supervisor Dave Pine addresses the annual meeting of the League of Women Voters of San Mateo County on climate change and adaptation. March 14, 9:30-11:15 a.m. Free. Woodside Village Church, 3154 Woodside Road, Woodside. [my.lwv.org](http://my.lwv.org)

**Coexisting with Cougars** Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's resource management specialist Matt Sharp Chaney provides an overview of mountain lion biology, habitat and current research. March 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. [hiddenvilla.org](http://hiddenvilla.org)

**'The Doctor is in...the Kitchen'** Pediatrician, chef and mother Julia Nordgren shares how to raise a healthier family through cooking and serving simple but nourishing food. March 14, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. [gamblegarden.org](http://gamblegarden.org)

**Erin Brockovich** Famed consumer advocate Erin Brockovich tells inspiring stories of how bringing people together to address environmental issues can have an impact. March 17, 8 p.m. \$23-\$43; discount for students. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. [tickets.mvcpa.com](http://tickets.mvcpa.com)

## Lessons & Classes

**Basic Computer Class for Spanish Speakers** JobTrain conducts an introductory class for Spanish language speakers on basic computer skills like using Microsoft Word, opening an email account and using the internet. March 11, 6-8:30 p.m. Free. JobTrain, 1200 O'Brien Drive, Menlo Park. [eventbrite.com/e/basic-computer-class-for-spanish-speakers-tickets-94544129035](http://eventbrite.com/e/basic-computer-class-for-spanish-speakers-tickets-94544129035)

**English Conversation Club** Volunteer tutors help students practice their English speaking

skills and learn about American culture, U.S. history and more. March 11, 13 and 18, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. [menlopark.org](http://menlopark.org)

**Understanding Medicare** EducateU provides an unbiased look into Medicare, exploring and comparing the available healthcare options that best fit each individual's needs. March 12, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

## Outdoor Recreation

**Birds of Bedwell Bayfront Park** During this one- to two-hour hour beginner's bird walk, visitors may see wintering ducks, shorebirds, egrets, hawks, and little brown birds. Bring binoculars. Through March 14, 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Bedwell Bayfront Park, 1600 Marsh Road, Menlo Park. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com)

## Community Groups

**Belle Haven Mini-Grant Application Assistance** The Belle Haven Community Development Fund provides assistance for applying to the 2020 Belle Haven Mini-Grant Program. March 11 and 31; times vary. Free. Onetta Harris Community Center, 100 Terminal Ave., Menlo Park. [sites.google.com](http://sites.google.com)

**Mystery Readers Group** The Mystery Readers Group meets up to discuss medieval mysteries from the 10th to 15th centuries. March 18, 7-9 p.m. Free. Learning Lab A, Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. [menlopark.org](http://menlopark.org)

## Author Events

**Adam Hochschild** Social historian Adam Hochschild writes the life story of Rose Pastor Stokes, a Russian immigrant and socialist reformer who went from pauper to high society, then back to poverty. March 16, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$10-\$40. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. [keplers.org](http://keplers.org)

**Judd Winick** New York Times best-selling author Judd Winick talks about his latest addition to his "Hilo" book series, "All the Pieces Fit." March 12, 6-8 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. [keplers.org](http://keplers.org)

**Patrice Caldwell** Patrice Caldwell — editor of an anthology, "A Phoenix First Must Burn," which features stories that blend African American and gender-nonconforming experiences with fantasy and science fiction — talks about diversity in speculative fiction writing. March 14, 2-4 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. [keplers.org](http://keplers.org)

## How to add events to calendar

Go to [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com) and see the Community Calendar module at the top right side of the page. Click on "Add your event."



**Touhey pulls a rye bread out of the oven in her home kitchen in Emerald Hills.**

Carlos, which her mother owns. Touhey has no plans to expand in the future. Her only goal at the moment is to get her website live so she can post her menu and let customers know how to reach her.

"For right now," she said, "this is perfect."

Updates on Something Swede-ish's pop-up locations can be found at [facebook.com/somethingswedeish/](http://facebook.com/somethingswedeish/) or [instagram.com/somethingswede-ish](http://instagram.com/somethingswede-ish). ■

*Lloyd Lee is the editorial assistant for the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac's sister publication.*

## BAKERY

*continued from page 18*

go-to morning outing," Campi said. "I have my dog, we come over here, we buy pastries, get a good coffee, give some apples from my house to the horse across the street and then head home and get back to reality."

Now scheduled to be a regular Thursday fixture at The Village Hub, Something Swede-ish donates 10% of the proceeds to Woodside Village Church. When she's not there, the pop-up can often be found at consignment store The Perfect Rose in San

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# Employment

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# Public Notices

## 995 Fictitious Name Statement

LIGHT ARCHER STUDIO  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 283884

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Light Archer Studio, located at 1075 Curtis Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
WILLIAM J. FRIMEL  
189 Hawthorne Drive  
Atherton, CA 94027

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 10, 2020.  
(ALM Feb. 26; Mar. 4, 11, 18, 2020)

ROYAL TLC  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 284025

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Royal TLC, located at 656 Walnut St. Suite 100, San Carlos, CA 94070, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
NANTAWAT CHINKULWONG  
657 Elm St. #4  
San Carlos, CA 94070  
APISAK RUANGPIPHOP  
657 Elm St. #4  
San Carlos, CA 94070

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 26, 2020.  
(ALM Mar. 11, 18, 25; Apr. 1, 2020)

## 997 All Other Legals

\*\*\* NOTICE OF LIEN SALE \*\*\*  
NOTICE OF LIEN SALE is hereby given pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the California Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of the UCC, and Section 535 of the Penal Code. The undersigned, Menlo-Atherton Storage Storage ("MAS") in Menlo Park, CA, will sell via online public sale by competitive bidding the personal property of Finau, Pauli. Property to be sold: Plastic and cardboard containers — contents not known and coolers.

The auction will be held online at [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com). The sale will begin March 25, 2020 at 11am and end on March 31, 2020 at 11am. Goods must be paid for in CASH at MAS and removed at completion of the sale. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between MAS and obligated party. Menlo-Atherton Storage, 3757 Haven Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025 650.366.3757. Please refer to [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) for all other terms and conditions governing the bidding and auction process.  
(ALM Mar. 11, 18, 2020)

Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578 or email [asantillan@paweekly.com](mailto:asantillan@paweekly.com) for assistance with your legal advertising needs. The deadline is Thursday at 5pm.



## REAL ESTATE TAX SEMINAR FOR HOMEOWNERS

Tax changes have had a profound impact on the real estate market. Learn what these changes mean for you and your future at DeLeon Realty's spring tax seminar. Featuring Michael Repka and special guest, Santa Clara County Assessor Larry Stone.

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**Seating is limited, so RSVP today and secure your spot for this great event!**



Haymarket Theater  
Palo Alto High School  
50 Embarcadero Rd,  
Palo Alto, CA 94301



Saturday, March 21, 2020  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



Enjoy complimentary refreshments starting at 9:30 AM. Program begins at 10:00 AM.



Michael Repka, Esq.  
CEO, Managing Broker, & General Counsel of DeLeon Realty  
LL.M (Taxation)  
NYU School of Law  
DRE #01854880



Larry Stone  
Santa Clara County Assessor  
MBA, Washington Graduate School of Business  
Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government

Seminars are for prospective clients only. No outside real estate professionals permitted.

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Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

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THE WALL STREET  
JOURNAL, 2019  
REPORT OF THE  
TOP RESIDENTIAL  
REAL ESTATE  
PROFESSIONALS  
(Published in June 2019).

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