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## March 2010 Newsletter

Your source for news and updates about adopting environmentally sustainable practices in our homes, schools, businesses and government.

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### Monthly Community Meeting

The GreenTown Los Altos monthly community meeting will be on March 16, 7:30 p.m. at the Hillview Community Center, Room 17.

We are delighted to have Laurel Standley, PhD as our guest speaker on the topic of “Reducing Your Exposure to Toxic Household and Environmental Chemicals.” In this presentation you will learn about the health effects of toxic environmental exposures and simple actions that you can take to reduce your exposure to toxics in food, household and personal care products, in both indoor and outdoor environments.

Dr. Standley is Principal of [Clear Current, LLC](#) and is an environmental consultant with over twenty years experience in environmental chemistry and policy. At Clear Current, she helps clients achieve sustainable water and energy use, reduce impact of operations on water resources, create healthy household and office environments, and transition toward green alternatives in product use and manufacturing.

### Contribute Your Ideas for Downtown Los Altos Revival

*What’s your vision for downtown Los Altos?*

Have your say at a public forum Monday, March 8, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Los Altos Public Library. The event, part of the League of Women Voters’ monthly Hot Topics discussion series, will offer an update on the downtown revitalization proposals under consideration by the city council. Presenters will include:

- Forrest Linebarger, Chair of GreenTown Los Altos’ sustainable land-use group and CEO of Vox Design Group will present GreenTown Los Altos’ ideas for restoring vibrancy to downtown.
- Anne Stedler, economic development coordinator for the City of Los Altos, will offer an overview of the projects that the Los Altos City Council has approved to stimulate downtown development.
- Robin Abrams, a lawyer and Chair of the Vision 2025 group, will speak regarding some key data and the economics of downtown redevelopment.

A question-and-answer session will follow the presentations. The meeting will be in the library's program room with seating limited to 100. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The forum on downtown Los Altos is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Los Altos-Mountain View, The Los Altos Public Library, and GreenTown Los Altos.

## Good News on the Waste Service Contract Renewal

On Tuesday February 23, the Los Altos City Council voted 5-0 to go forward with all of city staff's recommendations for the new waste service. These reflected many recommendations that GreenTown Los Altos made to the Environmental Commission and City Council over a year ago. We at GreenTown are very pleased with this outcome and we commend city staff and others involved in producing an excellent outcome! Thank you to all of you who contributed to this result. Highlights of the City Council selected vendor and services are available as a [downloadable PDF](#) on the GreenTown Los Altos website, or go to the [City Council website](#) for meeting minutes.

## Freiker Bike To School Program – Three New Schools

The Freiker Bike To School program is bustling with activity. March will see three new schools launch – Santa Rita and Springer Elementary Schools and Egan Junior High. A variety of activities are supporting each launch.

- Springer held a parent education night on February 25 and will hold a school-wide bike skills rodeo on March 18th.
- Earlier that week, on Monday, March 15, Almond School will be celebrating its first birthday as the first Freiker school in California. With balloons, bagels and hot chocolate, the school will toast the kids, sponsors and supporters and sing a rousing round of Happy Birthday.
- At Egan Junior High, the Freiker team will be teaching bike safety to every Egan student in PE classes – all 533 students.

With four schools up and running, Los Altos School District will have the most systems in any school district in the nation. This program has drawn interest from around the valley, with inquiries from Berkeley, San Jose and Santa Cruz.

Be on the lookout – there are sure to be more kids on bikes this Spring!

Did you know: The bicycle is the most efficient machine ever created: Converting calories into gas, a bicycle gets the equivalent of 3,000 miles per gallon!!

Want to help? We could use 3-4 hot chocolate servers at Almond on Monday March 15 from 7:45 - 8:20 a.m. Please contact [suzanne.ambiel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:suzanne.ambiel@sbcglobal.net) if you'd like to pitch in.

## Redwood Grove Restoration – Earth Day Celebration on April 24

Earth Day at Redwood Grove is shaping up to be an exciting and enriching event, celebrating the little wild place right in the middle of town and explaining the upcoming restoration.

GreenTown Los Altos is working with the city of Los Altos and Acterra to plan an informative and engaging event on Saturday April 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The day will feature demonstrations, tours, planning work days, and more.

We need 6 to 10 volunteers to greet and guide visitors. If you're interested, please contact [schlanskers@yahoo.com](mailto:schlanskers@yahoo.com)

## Earth Day Presentation – April 21

To help celebrate Earth Day 2010, Stanford University Professor Robert Dunbar will present:

### **Global Climate Change in the Decades Ahead: Fact vs. Fiction**

April 21, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Los Altos Library, 13 South San Antonio Road

Professor Dunbar will discuss the current state of climate change and what we can expect in the future. This scientific perspective is based on his research in the Antarctic, the global ocean and the Americas, as well as his participation in the 2009 UN Copenhagen Climate Conference.

For more information about this presentation, please go to the [Events tab](#) on our website.

Sincerely,

Kacey Fitzpatrick  
Executive Director

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