drivers take note: 15-mile-per-hour speed limits may be coming to a school near you.

The City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to lower speed limits near 15 schools in Mountain View, though some of the more dangerous locations are left out of the plan. In June, new speed limit signs will go up at all of the city’s public and private schools, except for six schools. The schools where the speed limit won’t go down include Graham Middle School, where several students were hit by cars in late 2012.

By Daniel DeBolt

Council OKs 15 mph speed limits for schools

The police have yet to release much information about the case, but Sgt. Saul Jaeger, public information officer with the Mountain View Police Department, confirmed that the bust was made on Jan. 10.

Police were aided in the operation by the MVPD’s K9 officer, Zeus — a black Labrador. Using his olfactory powers, Zeus sniffed out 2.3 pounds of meth in a vehicle at about 6:30 p.m., in southern Santa Clara County.

Zeus, one of the department’s narcotics dogs, is currently assigned to the Santa Clara County Specialized Enforcement Team. Police posted a photo of Zeus posing with his discovery on the department’s Facebook page.

The suspects, who included one 17-year-old, “were mainly from Fresno and Mountain View,” Jaeger said. The juvenile was booked into Juvenile Hall and the adults were booked into San Jose Main Jail.

A department spokeswoman said the police are planning to release more information on the case soon. Updates to the story will be posted on the Voice website, www.mv-voice.com.

—Email Nick Veronin at nveronin@mv-voice.com

Tough year for victims of flu

By Nick Veronin

The county has had 13 severe cases of flu this season, meaning 13 people under the age of 65 have been hospitalized because of the flu or complications of the flu, she said.

“We are seeing more severe cases earlier this year,” Cornell said. The county does not keep track of the victim’s home cities. However, Cornell said, they do keep track of the victim’s ages. Those who have died this season have been 41, 56, 61 and 62, respectively. At least one of the victims had an underlying health issue.

“We want to let people know that it’s not too late to get a flu shot,” Cornell said. Part of the reason county...
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Voices
AROUND TOWN

What is your biggest challenge in conserving water?

“Making sure every tap in the house is closed.”
Maria Padilla, Mountain View

“At home, we do our best at conserving water. We’re trying to make sure we use bottled water that we purchase for drinking and cooking.”
Stacy Avalos, San Jose

“Not watering my plants as much.”
Chau Pham, San Jose

“Giving up long hot baths. I know they use more water than showers, but they’re much more relaxing.”
Emily Henderson, London

“My approach to being more conservative with water? I would say take faster baths.”
Welington Desan, Brazil

Have a question for Voices Around Town? Email it to editor@mv-voice.com
DIRTY DANCING

Three men told police that they had their pockets picked by one of two women on the dance floor of Molly Magges in the early hours of Sunday morning.

A 40-year-old man from San Jose, a 33-year-old man from Daly City, and a 22-year-old man from Sunnyvale each had similar stories to tell officers when they responded to a call from the Castro Street bar at 12:38 a.m. on Jan. 12, according to Shino Tanaka, public information officer for the Mountain View Police Department.

All three of the men told police they had been dancing with the same two women earlier in the night, only to realize that their wallets had gone missing later in the evening, according to Tanaka.

The youngest of the victims told police that he had been standing by the DJ’s booth when one of the women beckoned him to dance with her, Tanaka said. After dancing he went to buy a drink but discovered his wallet was gone.

Police interviewed the two women that the men identified, but none of their wallets were found, Tanaka said. No arrests were made.

POT DEAL GONE BAD?

According to Sgt. Saul Jaeger, public information officer with the Mountain View Police Department, the suspect pulled a pellet gun and held it by his side during what may have been a drug deal gone bad with the Sunnyvale man.

Police apprehended Jerome Love, a 37-year-old local man, near the location of a reported robbery, around 10:30 p.m. that night, Jaeger said.

Love was accused of stealing cash, various small bags and marijuana from the Sunnyvale man.

Love was booked into jail for robbery and destroying the Sunnyvale man’s cell phone, in an attempt to prevent him from calling for help.

The victim was not arrested, although he allegedly had been in possession of the marijuana prior to the robbery. “He previously possessed it, but he didn’t possess it at the time” of the encounter with police, Jaeger said.

SUSPICIOUS FIRE

A suspicious fire that burned behind an auto body shop in Mountain View early Monday morning destroyed three cars, a fire department spokeswoman said.

Firefighters responded to reports of a fire at Pedro’s Auto N

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State budget no boon to local schools
By Nick Veronin

Though Gov. Jerry Brown is calling for big increases in education spending, Mountain View schools aren’t likely to benefit all that much from his recently proposed budget, according to local school officials.

The superintendents of Mountain View’s two school districts agreed that the governor’s proposal is a step in the right direction. However, each noted that the increases called for in education spending aren’t likely to amount to much locally, as the majority of those funds will be earmarked to pay back money deferred from other districts during the recession.

“It doesn’t have a big impact on our school district,” said Barry Groves, superintendent of the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District. “We will only see incremental increases for our district.”

Craig Goldman, superintendent of the Mountain View Whisman School District, seconded Groves, saying he does not expect his district’s general fund to get a big boost from Brown’s proposed budget.

“We will see very little benefit from it,” Goldman said.

According to a press release from the the governor’s office, Brown has proposed allocating about $10 billion in new funding for schools. That breaks down to “an increase of more than $2,188 per student in 2014-15 over 2011-12 levels,” the release said.

While it is promising that Brown is allocating more money to state schools, both Groves and Goldman said it will be some time before California students are getting the amount of funding they truly need.

“The 2015-2016 California Governor’s budget proposal is much better for California’s kids than past year’s reductions,” Groves said. “However, on average, California will remain in the bottom 10 percent of states in funding per child. Our higher education and other services for children also remain woefully underfunded.”

A skateboard with only one wheel
MV INVENTOR USES KICKSTARTER FUNDING TO GET PROJECT ROLLING
By Daniel DeBolt

A Mountain View company may have developed the simplest electric vehicle yet.

Designed by Faraday electric bicycle designer and former IDEO employee Kyle Doerk- sen (he left his design job there in July to focus on this), the Onewheel self-balancing skateboard is a study in simple vehicle design.

It has only one moving part: its wheel. It has a custom-made 500-watt electric motor inside it, and a surprisingly “ideal” tire from a high-performance go-kart wrapped around it. A tiny gyroscopic sensor taken out of a smart phone senses your lean angle as you stand, adjusting the motor’s speed to keep you from doing a face plant on the sidewalk. Onewheel’s older cousin, the Segway scooter, used expensive sensors and gears to do that job.

In the Old Middlefield Way parking lot of his company headquarters, Future Motion CEO Doerksen floated around like Marty McFly in “Back to the Future” on a Onewheel prototype, which he’s been working on for four years. The trick, he said, is learning to trust it as you lean forward to make it go — up to 12 miles per hour — and lean back to slow or stop.

The prototype doesn’t like nervous movements, though. Doerksen said improvements may soon make it more beginner-friendly. Twice this reporter was sent flying off the front when its nose dug into the ground, though thankfully not to meet the asphalt. Others have apparently mastered it, as evidenced in a video of posted in OneWheel’s Kickstarter campaign. Doerksen says that most people can learn to ride it in a few minutes.

Onewheel has proven a very nimble scooter, showing off quick turns, tight curves, and even a climb over a low brick wall.

Lithium batteries power the Onewheel, which uses tiny gyroscopic sensors for self-balancing.

It has only one moving part: its wheel.

MV INVENTOR USES KICKSTARTER FUNDING TO GET PROJECT ROLLING
John Acord didn’t start out as an appliance repairman. He was working on oil rigs in Saudi Arabia for Standard Oil when he and his wife decided to move back to California for the sake of their young son’s schooling. Fixing broken washing machines and the like was a sideline he’d picked up overseas, filling a need and teaching himself as he went along.

Acord says a friend gave him the idea of starting his own repair business when he returned to the United States, and that’s exactly what he did. In 1963, he set up shop on Calderon Avenue in Mountain View, took out a few newspaper ads (he’d missed the deadline for the Yellow Pages) and put up his card in local laundromats. For the next 50 years, Acord’s Appliance Service did a steady business from referrals and repeat customers, he says. His motto: “All of your appliances in Acord.”

“‘When you get to be 85, it’s time to stop,’” he says. “I started doing a considerable amount of business for apartment owners, and it grew and grew,” he said.

Now, after half a century in Mountain View, he’s retiring. “I started doing a considerable amount of business for apartment owners, and it grew and grew,” he said. “When you get to be 85, it’s time to stop,” he says.

A long-time member of the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce, his business has always been based in Mountain View, although he lives across the border in Los Altos. He gave up his office space a few years back, but kept his Mountain View business license.

“She loves the work, but it’s gotten harder since his back surgery, he says. An inveterate tinkerer, he says he’ll probably still take on a job or two. “I love fiddling,” he says. Acord and his wife Charlene have a motor home and a love of state parks, he says, and plan to put his newfound free time to good use.

He contacted the Voice about his retirement because he wanted a way to say thank you to his customers. “It’s been a good business. We never got rich, but the good Lord will supply,” Acord says. “Mountain View has been very good to me.”

—Email Andrea Gemmet at editor@mv-voice.com

Helen Walker, a Mountain View resident, died Jan. 7 at her son’s home. She was 77.

Born to Helen and Irving Thrall in Wisconsin, she moved to the Mountain View area in 1955, and married Leonard Dow Walker in 1960. She was known for her red hair and pink cheeks, and enjoyed fishing, bingo, playing cards and walking through the neighborhood with her grandchildren, her family said.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Leonard and two siblings. She is survived by her son David Walker; six siblings; and grandchildren Isaac and Chantel.

A memorial service is set for 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 18, at Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary, 96 West El Camino Real, Mountain View. A reception will follow, with the location to be announced at the service.
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POLICE STATION RENOVATION OK'D

After a survey found that voters were hesitant to approve a bond measure to fund large city projects, including a new police station costing as much as $65 million, the City Council quietly and unanimously approved a $971,300 renovation Tuesday, Jan. 14.

The 33-year-old police and fire department headquarters at 1000 Villa Street will see a slew of refinements, according to the approved plans.

There are thorough renovations set for the building's kitchen and upper bathrooms. There will be new lockers, including refrigerated lockers, while a larger booking area for detainees addresses security concerns police have had. There's new flooring, lighting, a new projection screen and flat screen monitors for the station's heavily used auditorium, and new cabinetry and fixtures for its kitchenette.

A new conference room will be built in place of a little-used courtyard near the front entrance where two large conifer trees will be removed, to be replaced by four new trees on the station's grounds. After some regrading of the entry way, police officials hope there will no longer be puddles at the front door after it rains.

The renovation was approved on the City Council’s consent calendar without discussion.

—Daniel DeBolt

ASSEMBLYMAN SEEKING INTERNS

Assemblyman Richard Gordon is seeking college students for part-time spring internship positions at his Los Altos district office. Applications are accepted now through Wednesday, Jan. 22.

The Assemblyman's office is looking for motivated, independent interns with a basic knowledge of state government and local issues, strong writing and research skills, and computer and Internet knowledge.

The internships are part-time with an expected start date of Feb. 3 and approximate end date of June 13. The positions are unpaid but may be eligible to receive school credit.

Interns will learn about state government and the legislative process, network with professionals, and serve their community, according to a statement from Anna Ko, Gordonís senior field representative.

For more details on the internship and the application process, contact Anna Ko at 650-691-2121, or by email Anna.Ko@asm.ca.gov.

—Katie Straub

BIKE SHARE EXPANDING

Bay Area Bike Share has logged more than 100,000 trips made by people using its bikes in the first four months of the pilot program, a spokesman for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District said today.

The 100,000 trips were made between Aug. 29, when the program started, and Dec. 29. The cities participating so far are San Francisco, Redwood City, San Jose, Mountain View and Palo Alto, air district spokesman Tom Flannigan said.

When the program began, there were 700 of the seven-speed bikes available at 70 kiosks scattered throughout the participating cities.

By the end of this year, the number of bicycle stations in those cities will expand to 100, and there will be a total of 1,000 bikes in the system, Flannigan said.

The bikes are intended for short trips of 30 minutes or less. A daily pass costs $9 and allows the user to make unlimited short trips on the bike. If the bike usage exceeds 30 minutes, the user is charged a $4 fee.

Three-day passes cost $22, and an annual membership costs $88.

The $11.2 million project is a partnership between the air quality district, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Caltrain, SamTrans, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, San Mateo County, San Francisco and Redwood City.

WATER LINE BREAKS

A fire water service line broke Monday night and prompted public works crews to briefly shut down a connected main water line, a water department supervisor said.

The break in the line that fire officials use was reported around 9:30 p.m. Monday at 505 Cypress Point Drive, water department supervisor Will Medina said.

To get to the broken valve that was spilling water onto the street, the water main that runs along Cypress Point Drive to Moffett Boulevard had to be shut off around 11 p.m., Medina said.

The main line was turned back on around midnight, he said.

Some of the nearby residents’ water service was affected during the brief shutdown, he said.

There was some damage to the road and sidewalk where the line broke, but those repairs will not be made until Thursday, which is when the fire line is expected to be fixed, Medina said.

In the meantime the fire line is turned off.

—Bay City News Service
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Stanford panel: economy, not war on poverty, failed

By Chris Kenrick

The U.S. economy’s failure to deliver jobs has left the country with persistently high rates of poverty and income and wealth inequality, a panel of experts convened at Stanford University said Monday.

Growing gaps in educational achievement and health — including life expectancy — reflect the income and wealth disparities, panelists said.

Six years after the start of the Great Recession, the proportion of 25-to-54-year-olds who hold jobs, the so-called “prime-age employed,” was nearly 5 percent lower than it was at the recession’s beginning in December 2007, New York University sociologist Michael Hout said.

“What we see is an upstream economy that’s failing to deliver jobs and then generates much poverty, which places unrealistic demands on our schools, our penal system and health-care system,” said Stanford sociologist David Grusky, who directs the university’s Center on Poverty & Inequality.

Grusky convened fellow sociologists, economists and political scientists from Stanford, New York University, University of Michigan, Columbia University and the Federal Reserve Board to present what he said is the center’s first annual report on poverty and inequality.

“It’s definitely not sexy, but what we’re committed to is making sure the general public has the data, information and facts they need to participate meaningfully in discussions about poverty and inequality,” Grusky said.

The nation’s official poverty rate increased from 12.5 percent in 2007 to 15 percent in 2012, with child poverty rising from 18 percent in 2007 to 21.8 percent in 2012, the report said. The increase would have been significantly larger had it not been for aggressive safety-net programs, the report said.

Grusky assembled a panel of experts to discuss what he called the “downstream” effects of joblessness.

Those include disparities in health outcomes and life expectancy and a widening income-related educational achievement gap even as progress is measured on the racial achievement gap.

Because the income-related educational achievement gap is already large when children enter kindergarten and grows only modestly thereafter, “there are reasons to think a lot of these trends don’t have to do with the quality of schools but with the quality of early childhood environments,” Stanford Professor of Education Sean Reardon said.

But Reardon reported that recent testing of kindergartners found some narrowing of an income-related achievement gap after a long period of widening. Reasons for the progress are not yet clear, he said.

“Vast social disparities” persist in health outcomes, including life expectancy, despite U.S. health spending that exceeds that of other developed nations, University of Michigan epidemiologist Sarah Burgard said.

Since 1960, American men have gained 10 years of life expectancy and women eight years, but most of those gains have occurred to people above median income, Burgard said. The increase in life-expectancy was greatest for higher income brackets and “stagnant for lower income brackets,” she said.

Despite continued growth in U.S. health spending, the proportion of Americans who have any health insurance has declined since 1999. As of 2012, slightly less than 85 percent of all Americans were insured, but the proportion of children with insurance increased by more than 3 percent between the late 1990s and 2012, attributable to the 1997 Children’s Health Insurance Program, Burgard said.

The Great Recession increased the amount of income inequality, but not the amount of consumption inequality or the share of total income going to the top 1 percent, the report said.

But after the recession ended in 2009, income and consumption inequality increased, “resuming what has been a nearly relentless growth in inequality over the last 30 years,” the report said.

In 2012, the bottom 20 percent secured 3.4 percent of total income.

Former University of Michigan economist Sheldon Danziger, now president of the Russell Sage Foundation, refuted the idea that safety-net programs enacted 50 years ago by President Lyndon B. Johnson have failed.

“We did set in motion a safety net that’s much broader than it was 50 years ago, but it’s the economy that failed,” Danziger said. “If we counted all the safety net programs, poverty would be lower — it would not have fallen from 19 percent to 15 percent, but from 19 percent to 11 percent.

“There’s been a failure of economic growth to benefit not only the poor but also the middle class,” he said.

Founded in 2006, the Stanford Center on Poverty & Inequality is one of three national research centers on poverty, said Ajay Chaudry, deputy assistant secretary in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The other two are at the University of California at Davis and the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

“Diminished opportunities for economic mobility is the defining challenge of our time and the focus of President Obama’s second term,” Chaudry told the assembled Stanford crowd of more than 150 Monday.

—Email Chris Kenrick at ckenrick@embassadropublishing.com

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January 17, 2014 Mountain View Voice MountainViewOnline.com
School’s Haiti club needs community’s help

By Nick Veronin

A student club at Los Altos High School is gearing up for trip to one of the poorest and most dangerous countries in the world — and they need the community’s help to make it happen.

The school’s Haiti Solidarity Club is raising funds to travel to the embattled island nation, to continue work on LAHS’ sister school. The students leave in early February, and they are looking for donations from local individuals and companies to help finance the trip, as well as the other humanitarian and charity work the club does year-round.

Seth Donnelly, adviser to the school’s Haiti Solidarity Club, said he is excited at the chance to get back to a country he’s grown to love over the past decade, and lead his students on an excursion they are likely to remember for the rest of their lives.

Since the summer of 2010, when Donnelly began taking groups of LAHS students to Haiti, the club has made eight trips — roughly two each year. On Feb. 16, the club will embark on its ninth trip to Haiti.

While in the country, Donnelly and the high schoolers have worked “shoulder to shoulder” with local Haitians building the SOPUDEP school. The Society of Providence United for the Economic Development of Petion-Ville is a Haitian grassroots organization working to provide free education, support women’s rights and empower the country’s poorest citizens.

The kids take in Haitian culture, gain a more worldly perspective and learn about ways U.S. foreign policy can help the developing world. During their stay the students will stay with Haitian families — not in a hotel.

“Think that’s what makes this experience distinct from other charity work,” Donnelly said.

It not only introduces the students to the kinds of conditions this world’s least fortunate live in on a daily basis, it also shows them that people can live a meaningful life without all the creature comforts to which even the least-fortunate LAHS student is accustomed, according to Donnelly.

“No matter what somebody’s background, I think the level of poverty in Haiti really is quite shocking,” he said. “That, of course, deepens a sense in our students to not take for granted the resources we have here, like drinking fountains with water that doesn’t make us sick, tutors and computers.”

The U.S. Embassy in Port au Prince, Haiti,_warns Americans to be very cautious when visiting the country, and according to the head of the high school district, the group is very careful when in the country.

“We take significant precautions in taking students there,” said Barry Groves, superintendent of the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District.

Groves traveled with the club last February and said that the risks of traveling to Haiti are worth the rewards that both the students and SOPUDEP school get in return.

“It was the most impactful educational experience I’ve had in my 35-plus years in education,” Groves said. “To see the outpouring of support and empathy of the students was incredibly impressive.”

Groves said that the Haitians he’s met really appreciate the help and support, and that they want to ultimately transition into building their country themselves.

In order for the Haiti Solidarity Club to continue supporting the society, it needs support from the local LAHS community, Donnelly said.

On Jan. 26, from 2 p.m. to 2:40 p.m., the group plans to hold a fundraiser at First & Main Sports Lounge in Los Altos. The event will feature a silent auction where members of the community can bid on different projects the club wants to tackle — like the installation of a 70,000-gallon clean water cistern at the school, or the construction of a new classroom.

Those interested in tickets or information on the fundraiser can email haiticlub.lahs@gmail.com. You can also contribute to the cause by visiting 32auctions.com/sopudep.

More information about SOPUDEP can be found at the organization’s website, sopudep.org.

Email Nick Veronin at nveronin@mvvoice.com
As of Jan. 13, 2014, 156 donors have contributed $113,658 to the Mountain View Voice Holiday Fund.

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Reese T. & Kathleen Cutler .......................... *

In Memory Of
Sandy Bates .......................... 25
Herbert E. Rauch .......................... *
Evon C. Rauch .......................... *
Ron Santo, Chicago Cubs .......................... 50
Third Baseman .......................... 50
Kate Wakerly .......................... 560
George & Mary Hoffman .......................... 250
Henry C. Hennings Jr .......................... 25

In Honor Of
Gerald & Jane King .......................... 250
Glen & Linda Eckols .......................... 250
Foundations, Businesses & Organizations
Wakerly Foundation .......................... 12,000
Google Foundation .......................... 15,000
Mountain View Mom’s Cookie Party .......................... 1,145
William & Flora Hewlett Foundation .......................... 8,333

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Sunday, January 26 2014
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Preschool Presentation at 12:30 PM
Special Kindergarten Presentation 1:00 PM
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or from any Mountain View Rotarian

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITIES
situation,” said one resident. “People are talking about whether it’s time to move.”

“I strongly encourage you to allow a few hundred housing units there in North Bayshore,” said resident Chris Carpenter, addressing the council’s rejection of plans to build 1,000 homes in North Bayshore for tech employees. “We have a very serious housing problem. San Francisco is going to get on our case if we don’t provide housing for people that work here.”

In contrast to all the job growth planned, the city’s new general plan allows up to 6,539 home units, the city’s new general plan, Consultant Matt Raimi said such ideas were being considered for the draft North Bayshore precise plan to be presented to the council in June.

Council member Margaret Abe-Koga said it was comforting to know that a North Bayshore traffic study will be presented to the council in April to help determine what will be needed to manage the area’s traffic. “How many more shuttle buses can you even accommodate?” she asked, referring to the scores of white buses that bring Google employees from all over the Bay Area to Mountain View.

City planners say a large array of options will have to be utilized to fix North Bayshore’s traffic problem, from new pedestrian and bike paths to dedicated shuttle lanes and new transit lines.

“We have the numbers (of commuters) to increase or improve our transportation system as is,” Abe-Koga said. “The real crux is how do we get the investment to do that? Maybe we have to require that investment up front.”

“Where did the 3.4 million square foot number come from?” said council member Ronit Bryant. “The new five story office on Middlefield Road and Logue Avenue — that’s really, really big. We will run out of development space really, really quickly. I think it’s silly.”

Bryant said she wanted North Bayshore to look like Stanford, a place where “there is actually a lot of development” though it doesn’t feel that way. Oth- ers noted how streets inside Stanford were closed to car traffic and where bicycles are the norm, and expressed a desire that such be duplicated in North Bayshore.

“The idea of tall towers in wide open spaces has been tried and has failed because people don’t like living like that,” Bryant said. Projects “left open green spaces” are “absolutely awful. I don’t want to look across the (Shoreline) lake and see eight-story buildings there.”

The plan so far includes a walkable “core” along Shoreline Boulevard north of the highway with ground floor retail, although council members questioned its viability, given the number of restaurants and other business in North Bayshore who say they haven’t been able to compete with Google’s free food and other amenities.

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“The chances for retail not being particularly good right now makes the idea of the walkable area not really credible,” Bryant said, “Do we really even need a core?”

“Four of the employees out there, it is more convenient for them to go out to the cafeteri-a than to get in their car and drive downtown, plus it’s free,” Raimi said. “We believe there are many people who would happily leave the confines of the campus if (retail and restaurants) were easier to get to.”

Google’s John Igoe had brief comments about the planning effort.

“We are very much in favor of most of the principles of the precise plan,” said Igoe, real estate director for Google. “It’s our belief the precise plan be as consistent with the general plan as much as possible. A lot of community input and a lot of hard work went into it. We look forward to continuing to work with the city.”

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A Crittenden Middle School student runs across Rock Street on her way to school on Jan. 15. Speed limits will drop to 15 miles per hour by the school.

**SCHOOL SPEEDS**  
*Continued from page 1*

have speed limits above 30 miles per hour. 

Resident Christian Hilty said his daughter “almost got hit twice” on Rock Street in front of Crittenden Middle School, one of the streets to get the new speed limit. 

“People on Rock Street are going way to fast,” Hilty said. “I’ve never once seen a police officer there. Because of the glare from the sun, it’s very hard to see the kids. And people are doing 30 to 35 miles per hour down there.”

Another resident questioned the effectiveness of simply lowering the speed limit, saying that flashing yellow lights would be more effective in letting drivers know about the presence of kids. Council members said that was an expensive solution, but that the city might be able to partner with schools to pay for it. The 15 mile-per-hour signs will cost the city $137,000.

“I don’t want to create speed trap, that’s not why we are doing this,” said council member Jac Siegel.

Traffic engineer Sayed Fakhry said that lower speeds “reduces the severity of the injury” when collisions happen. According to the National Highway Traffic safety administration, only 5 percent of people die when hit by a car going 20 miles per hour or less, while the chances of death jump to 40 percent at 30 miles per hour or more. Council member Ronit Bryant said there was no need to complicate the issue.

Flu officials are worried, according to Cornell, is that the H1N1 strain of the virus — also known as “swine flu” — is the “predominant strain this year.”

“What we’re seeing is that H1N1 is affecting normally healthy people and making them ill,” Cornell said.

One of the most recent deaths — the first in Solano County this season — came after a 40-year-old Vallejo man was infected with H1N1 and died. In Sonoma County, a 23-year-old died from the flu earlier this season.

Cornell advised anyone who believes they have the flu to stay home and limit contact with others — unless the symptoms become severe, in which case, people should seek medical attention.

“If people have severe symptoms and they feel very sick, it’s best to get checked out by a doctor rather than not,” she said. 

The website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identifies the main flu symptoms as: fever, chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue, and vomiting and diarrhea in some people (especially children). 

Many of the symptoms associated with the influenza virus are similar to symptoms associated with the common cold. However, Cornell noted, with the flu, severe cases can lead to complications, such as bronchitis, ear and sinus infections, and pneumonia. Complications from the flu can lead to death.

Cornell said her department wanted people to know that flu vaccination shots are readily available through the public health department at the Adult Immunization Clinic, located on the first floor of 967 Lenzen Ave. in San Jose. Vaccine is also available at multiple locations in Mountain View, including the free RotaCare Clinic on the El Camino Hospital campus, Palo Alto Medical Foundation’s Mountain View Center, Kaiser, Safeway and various chain drug stores.

Although there have been reports of temporary shortages at various flu shot providers, overall there’s a good supply of vaccine. Health officials all over the Bay Area are urging everyone 6 months and older to get vaccinated. The vaccine takes about two weeks after inoculation to be fully effective.

— Bay City News contributed to this report
Quest for fresh food a boost for gardens

W

hat could be more fun and educational for you and your children than growing your own food? It is an activity that more and more city residents are craving, but there is not enough space to accommodate everyone seeking one of the city’s small plots.

The popularity of the city’s community garden has generated a long waiting list of possible gardeners who are eager to work the soil. If the sign-up list for plots is any indication, there are a lot more gardeners in Mountain View than there is space to accommodate them. There are now 84 plots being worked at the Willowgate community garden on Andsbury Avenue, with a long list which means it could be a five-year wait for an opening to start gardening.

Now, as a result of the 1.22-acre parcel that the city recently purchased from resident Frances Steiper for $3 million, there is another possibility that a community garden, open to anyone who wants to pitch in, could be created amid the fruit trees already in place at the city’s new holding at 771 North Rengstorff Ave. More people could take part in such a large garden, which could produce enough food to share.

An online petition calls on the city to support the community gardening effort, although it does not specify support for small plots over larger gardens, and large shared gardens could potentially involve many more people. The petition closed this week and was to be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission Jan. 15, after the Voice went to press.

We hope the city can find ways to meet this renewed interest in gardening by local residents who lack a place to grow their own produce. After all, long before tech firms were the city’s major industry, Mountain View was known for its orchards and extensive growing season. Although a dry spell has left some crops without adequate water, smaller plots are thriving due to the attention of gardeners who make sure every plant is getting quality care.

The city should assess its land holdings to see where small or even large plots could be set aside for one or more community gardens. Resident Kieran Gonsalves, who is promoting a community garden in the Steiper property, told the Voice: “Studies have shown that with a community garden in a neighborhood crime goes down, neighborhood pride does up, people come together and talk about things of community interest. And they share,” he said. All of these are positive outcomes that could contribute to a richer neighborhood experience for many more residents.

Another way to go might be a shared garden organized like a demonstration farm, such as Full Circle Farm in Sunnyvale or Veggielution in San Jose. Both of these gardens are supported by nonprofit organizations.

With more than 272 signers by Jan. 14, the online petition should have received some attention at the Parks and Recreation Commission Jan. 15. We hope it ushers in at least the start of the city expanding its gardening potential to the Steiper property or to other unused property around town.
801 El Camino project is highly flawed

By Konrad Sosnow

Mountain View has an opportunity to upgrade El Camino Real, and in particular, the southwest corner of El Camino and Cuesta. The current empty lot and strip mall does not represent the best economic or esthetic use of the land. However, the 801 El Camino Real Project, as it stands, is not the solution, as it is highly flawed.

The quality of life section of the 2030 General Plan states that the goal is preserving the land uses within most neighborhoods and establishing policies to help enhance and support their distinct characters, with high density development focused along transit corridors in the El Camino Real, East Whisman, and San Antonio Road areas.

The project at 801 El Camino Real will be built primarily along Castro Street and not El Camino Real. Thus, it should not be considered as being located along a transit corridor but as being primarily located along Castro Street in the Cuesta Park neighborhood. The high-quality Cuesta Park environment should be maintained by preserving the land uses within the neighborhood.

The development at 801 El Camino Real will add 176 cars to the already congested El Camino Real, which is four stories next to single-story residences. How would you like this mammoth project next to your home? How would you like your neighbors to be able to look into your backyard?

Gochi’s Japanese Fusion Restaurant will be excluded from the development and forced to close or relocate. While there are plans to temporarily relocate Rose Market during the two-year construction phase, there is no guarantee that they will not be adversely affected by the relocation and permanently move or even close.

Let’s not ruin this opportunity to make 801 El Camino Real a development that is not only economically and esthetically pleasing, but one that contributes to the quality of life in the Cuesta Park neighborhood.

Konrad M. Sosnow
lives on Trophy Drive
There's a generally held perception that the Peninsula dining scene is dead.

But a walk through downtown Palo Alto on any given day at dining hours will tell you otherwise: The local dining scene is booming.

On hot summer nights, hordes of people stand in a blocks-long line for close to an hour to eat ice cream sandwiches. Throughout the year, hungry diners put their name on a waiting list at an Israeli hummus shop owned by a local tech entrepreneur. It's nearly impossible to get a reservation at 18-year-old Greek classic Evvia, unless it's made way in advance or diners are willing to eat after 9 p.m. Parking is notoriously difficult.

Palo Alto is undergoing a dining renaissance of sorts, with a host of niche, casual eateries leading the way.

"There's an evolution," said local restaurant consultant Frank Klein. "A base has been built, and now people are understanding that other (restaurants) can be successful."

That base remains, with some longstanding restaurants like Evvia holding their own amidst the change. But newcomers to the scene indicate a move away from the city's higher-end roots and toward casual eateries that fill a specific dining need in Palo Alto.

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That base remains, with some longstanding restaurants like Evvia holding their own amidst the change. But newcomers to the scene indicate a move away from the city's higher-end roots and toward casual eateries that fill a specific dining need in Palo Alto.
Campo Pizzeria, a sort of farm-of-the space’s previous tenant: year under the same ownership Sam’s opened in November of last Moon Bay seafood restaurant. the second location of a Half home to Sam’s Chowder House, University Ave., which is now Blocks away from Oren’ s is 185 everyone can make it work. Though it seems simple, not first time into the mainstream.” quick, casual, healthy idea for the American dining. And bring that Burger hopes — reshape some of we hope, LYFE hopes, Umami Cohen said. “It’s going to — concepts get bigger and bigger,” “You’re going to see these things get bigger and bigger,” Cohen said. “It’s going to — we hope, LYFE hopes, Umami Burger hopes — realign some of American dining. And bring that quick, casual, healthy idea for the first time into the mainstream.”

Finding the right recipe Though it seems simple, not everyone can make it work.
Blocks away from Oren’s is 185 University Ave., which is now home to Sam’s Chowder House, the second location of a Half Moon Bay seafood restaurant. Sam’s opened in November of last year under the same ownership of the space’s previous tenant: Campo Pizzeria, a sort of farm-to-table Italian restaurant with pizza, pasta, small plates and the like cooked by well-established San Francisco chef Sean O’Brien. Campo closed after less than nine months in business.
“As much as we love Campo, there are eight Italian restaurants and 10 pizzerias in contiguous downtown Palo Alto, and there aren’t any seafood restaurants like Sam’s,” a goodbye note on Campo’s website read when it closed in September of last year. “So we thought it was time, and we think this is the perfect spot.”
Owner Julie Shenkman said it was the pressure to open another Sam’s that drove their decision to close Campo but acknowledged that the restaurant concept might not have been different enough to make it.
“We knew there were other Italian restaurants in the neighborhood, but in a year, from when we first opened Campo to when we opened Sam’s, the dining scene did change,” she said. “A lot of new restaurants (were) opening and in a similar vein, to the point where it did get to be a crowded market for that type of concept.”
185 University also reportedly has the highest restaurant rent in downtown Palo Alto at $32,000 per month. Rents are an increasingly significant force within the Palo Alto dining scene, many within the industry say.

“IT was rumored that Campo was paying between $30,000 to $35,000 (per month),” said local restaurant consultant Klein, who also owns Asian Box in Town & Country Village. “That was what the space was offered to me at. That’s just astronomical. That’s astronomical. You need to do $5 million a year to make that economically viable.”
“‘He’s the most challenged guy on the street,’ said long-time Silicon Valley restaurateur Bruce Schmidt of lessee Paul Shemenk.
Schmidt knows what it’s like to be that guy. He opened Lavanda, an upscale Mediterranean-Croatian restaurant, at 185 University in 2002. He too entered the market with the goal of filling a gap in the downtown dining scene, and did so for 10 years until his lease came up and he couldn’t renegotiate, he said. This is a common, cyclical pattern in Palo Alto. As years-long leases expire, waves of restaurants come and go.

“You just can’t say, ‘OK, I’m opening up now and I feel good about now.’ You have to say, ‘What are the economics?’ Not just your business, but what are the costs of your operation in years one, two and three? I imagine it’s going to be a hell of a lot more than people are expecting. And so if you’re paying rents — high rents — and you’re paying more to operate, that can be a death note, even for a good concept in Palo Alto.”

Klein used Mantra, an upscale California-Indian restaurant that opened on Emerson Street in 2006, as an example.
“We were very successful as a restaurant, but it was tough as a business,” said Mantra owner Ashwani Dhawan, citing not only rent but also labor and the cost of food as challenging. Tellingly, Dhawan decided to forego the risk of niche-fine dining for the commercial success of a mainstream concept, opening SliderBar Cafe on University as his next venture.
Signing on to pay high rents, on top of all the other costs of sustaining a business in an already challenging industry, is a significant financial investment — and a risk, especially for independent operators making

Continued on next page
The expansion of San Francisco restaurants like Tacolicious and Delfina to Palo Alto inevitably invites comparison between the two cities’ dining scenes.

"From my point of view, there’s still a lot lacking in terms of restaurants (in Palo Alto)," said Bulk of Howie’s Artisan Pizza. "When we really want to go on a food safari or we really want to entertain people or do an upscale dinner, we still eat in the City. And our best eating experiences are still in San Francisco."

Why is that? Simply put, San Francisco has many things that Palo Alto doesn’t: a longstanding tradition of fine dining and cutting-edge chefs, urban (versus suburban) demographics, a wider labor pool, a booming bar and cocktail scene and a strong tourism industry. All those elements make for a steady stream of eaters and drinkers all over the City, Bulk said.

"When we decided to expand, Palo Alto was our first choice of places," Stoll said. "Outside of San Francisco, it’s one of the more densely populated areas with a really great, well-traveled, sophisticated dining public who is really diverse as well, from tech to professors and families. ... It’s the public most similar to people in San Francisco who already appreciate the food we cook."

In the shadow of the City

The expansion of San Francisco restaurants like Tacolicious and Delfina to Palo Alto inevitably invites comparison between the two cities’ dining scenes.

"I don’t think that exists here. Even downtown Palo Alto pretty much rolls up the carpets at 8:30, 9 o’clock. And with us, Friday and Saturday night we have a long wait list, but by 9 o’clock, it’s all over."

Palo Alto restaurants draw business from the many families in the area as well as the university, which means they’re dependent on those demographics’ schedules, Bulk said.

"Whether it’s a homogenous demographic or not, it’s a fairly homogenous eating pattern (in Palo Alto). So they go on vacation at the same time. They don’t eat out after 9 o’clock. They generally have kids in the car when they’re going out mid-week. ... There’s down months and up months because of school schedules, things like that. It’s hard to run a tight-margin cash business on that basis, where you can have up and down cycles month to month."

The influx of San Francisco restaurateurs trying to bring a piece of the City to Palo Alto diners, though on the rise right now, is not a new trend.

In the 1990s, many notable San Francisco chefs and restaurateurs expanded south. Renowned chef Jeremiah Tower opened an outpost of his San Francisco restaurant, Stars, on Lytton Avenue in 1995. When Stars didn’t make it, investors brought in Puck to run a new restaurant, Spago, in the same space. Zibibbo also opened in the late 1990s as a sister restaurant to San Francisco’s Restaurant LuLu.

"We went to open Zibibbo because Palo Alto was like the next fashion — the next fruitful territory where we could open a similar restaurant," said Tacolicious owner Hargrave, who worked at Restaurant LuLu at the time.

Though many have tried, both then and now, it seems that no restaurateur can fully replicate the San Francisco dining experience in Palo Alto.

"What they’re trying to do is they’re trying to save you the trip," said restaurateur Schmidt, of Delfina Pizzeria as well as Sam’s Chowder House (in Half Moon Bay). "But it’s not the same, and I’ll tell you why. When you go up to the City, you get the whole package. When you go to Sam’s on the coast, you’ve got otters frolicking in the kelp. You’re not going to get that in Palo Alto."

However, for restaurateurs, there are some downsides to doing business in San Francisco, and Palo Alto can become an attractive alternative.

"San Francisco has become the single most expensive city in the United States to own a restaurant," said Tim Stannard, founding partner of Bacchus Management, which operates Mayfield Bakery and Cafe at Town & Country Village, The Village Pub in Woodside and Spruce in San Francisco, among others. "It’s prohibitively expensive now."

San Francisco has the highest minimum wage in the nation ($10.44 per hour) as well as increasingly expensive real estate, on top of costs such as payroll taxes and expenses mandated by the city’s Board of Supervisors, Stannard said.

"I think that you will see more and more and more flight of restaurateurs away from San Francisco as long as San Francisco continues to make the city more and more expensive," he added.

"People like me will continue to look to communities like the Peninsula that have everything we need."

But what does the Palo Alto dining scene itself need? Many in the industry say there are still holes to be filled and much room for culinary innovation.

"I still think there’s a couple things that are needed in Palo Alto that aren’t being served, and those are small, chef-driven restaurants," Klein said. "Where are the other Mayfields that are off University?"

Bulk said he’s fond of the saying, "There’s a whole lot of restaurants and nowhere to eat."

"It still strikes me as bizarre how little proprietorship there is and how little really cutting-edge things and quality and most contemporary trends you might point to (there are)," he said.

"But perhaps it’s this current dining renaissance, more than any previous time, during which those kind of restaurants will finally emerge — and succeed — in Palo Alto."
The Nut Job ★★½

(Cinema 16, Cinema 20) OK, so you didn't plan ahead, but don't worry. The new animated flick "The Nut Job" has squirreled away enough lamo nut puns to get you through the winter. More than enough. Opening shortly after anyone who would want to see it has gone back to school, "The Nut Job" feels for all the world as if it's being dumped into the marketplace because, well, it had to come out sometime. And while it's not aggressively bad, the picture doesn't distinguish itself in any way. Given the animation boom we're seeing, it's probably the kiss of death. Who will want to see "The Nut Job" when they could go to the screen next door and see "Frozen"? That said, there's no accounting for the taste of 7-year-olds, and this could well become their instant favorite movie... until they see another one and forget this one ever existed. Set in the late '50s in the fictional town of Oakton, "The Nut Job" concerns one Surly (sitcom star Will Arnett), a ruthless rodent self-described as "just a squirrel trying to get a nut." For participating in a nut-gathering incident gone disastrously wrong, Surly gets banished from the city park where a comical squirrel trying to get a nut. For participating in a Looney Tunes vibe, lacks creative energy. But if y'know, a tough nut to crack. Meanwhile, a human drama — actually, a human noir — is playing out among the denizens of the nut store: crooks using the shop as cover to plan and execute a bank heist. This would seem to be enough material for an 86-minute movie, but before long, it's apparent that the screenwriters have enough to sustain interest for about half that length. It should come as no surprise, then, that the budget for "The Nut Job" has been expanded from director Peter Lepeniotis 2005 short film "Surly Squirrel." Like many rodents, the plot runs in circles, covering over and over again the same ground of whether or not characters can be trusted or redeemed until finally delivering the (obvious) answers. During all that storyline stuttering, one can enjoy the decent animation (offered up in 3D) that specializes in facial expressiveness. But, with the exception of the story's inciting event, the action is pretty dull, and the comedy, despite striving at times for a Looney Tunes vibe, lacks creative energy. But if you go, go armed with the knowledge that this is a Canadian-Korean production. That way, you won't be thrown for a loop by the bizarrely out-of-left-field animated cameo or the closing credits by Korean pop star Psy, who parties like it's 2012. Rated PG for mild action and rude humor. One hour, 26 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

MOVIE REVIEWS

LONE SURVIVOR ★★½

Above all an action movie, "Lone Survivor" buck's the trend of recent thought-provoking tales of survival like "All is Lost," "Gravity" and "12 Years a Slave." The fireproof-filed film based on Marcus Luttrell's nonfiction book (co-written with Patrick Robinson) takes for granted the simple psychological drive of survival and doesn't pause to consider philosophical implications. The main impression "Lone Survivor" leaves is of bodies taking incredible punishment and dying to a life while under constant attack. Producer-star Mark Wahlberg plays Luttrell, one of a four-man SEAL team tasked with locating and assassinating senior Taliban commander Ahmad Shah (Yousuf Azami). Dispatched as a part of 2005's Operation Red Wings, Luttrell's colleagues include team lead Lt. Michael P. Murphy (Taylor Kitsch), Danny Dietz (Emile Hirsch) and Matthew Axelson (Ben Foster). Based in Bagram, the men hunker down in the Hindu Kush mountains of the Kunar province to take out Shah and plan their move. Rated R for strong bloody war violence and pervasive language. Two hours, one minute. — PC.

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

Based on Tracy Letts' Pulitzer-prize winning drama (also Best Play at the Tonys), "August: Osage County" probably isn't for most boxing or MMA enthusiasts. But it'll be raw meat for theater fans or anyone who enjoys seeing a dysfunctional family strap on the gloves and go a few rounds. The Weston clan is, by design, the mother of all post-Greek tragedy dysfunctional families, and since that "mother" is Meryl Streep, hold on to your popcorn. Streep plays Violet Weston, who reluctantly plays host to her three grown daughters (and their significant others) when their ailed father Beverly (Sam Shepard) goes AWOL. The mystery of Beverly's disappearance serves as little more than a catalyst for the movie. The drama — actually, a human noir — is playing out among the denizens of the nut store: crooks using the shop as cover to plan and execute a bank heist. This would seem to be enough material for an 86-minute movie, but before long, it's apparent that the screenwriters have enough to sustain interest for about half that length. It should come as no surprise, then, that the budget for "The Nut Job" has been expanded from director Peter Lepeniotis 2005 short film "Surly Squirrel." Like many rodents, the plot runs in circles, covering over and over again the same ground of whether or not characters can be trusted or redeemed until finally delivering the (obvious) answers. During all that storyline stuttering, one can enjoy the decent animation (offered up in 3D) that specializes in facial expressiveness. But, with the exception of the story's inciting event, the action is pretty dull, and the comedy, despite striving at times for a Looney Tunes vibe, lacks creative energy. But if you go, go armed with the knowledge that this is a Canadian-Korean production. That way, you won't be thrown for a loop by the bizarrely out-of-left-field animated cameo or the closing credits by Korean pop star Psy, who parties like it's 2012. Rated PG for mild action and rude humor. One hour, 26 minutes.

MOVIE CRITICS

S.T.: Susan Tavarneti, P.C. Peter Canavase, T.-Tyley Hanley
ART GALLERIES
Portraits of Jamestown, Ghana Exhibit: Photographs of Bayeux Baskets Bill Sicil will be on display at Gallery 9 through Feb. 1. The exhibit includes portraits from Jamestown, a fishing village in Ghana in West Africa. Gallery 9 hours: Tues.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., noon-4 p.m. Free. Gallery 9, 183 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9losaltos.org

**AUDITIONS**
Silicon Valley Boychoir spring auditions The Silicon Valley Boychoir auditions for boys ages 12-17 will be held near downtown Palo Alto by appointment. The multi-level choir is held for boys and girls during the performing arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.mvalumcschool.org anunciamento.natural/
documento.fm

**BENEFITS/FUNDRAISERS**
MVLA Community Scholars MVLA Community Scholars will screen “Documented,” a movie by journalist Jose Antonio Vargas, Mountain View High School graduate and first recipient of the MVCLA Community 4-Year Scholarship. MVLA will present four events at the event, Jan. 27, 7-9 p.m.; Family YMCA, 3412 Ross Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-903-6330. www.mvalumcschool.org

**CLASSES/WORKSHOPS**
*She’s Geeky* - Bay Area 2014 Conference "She's Geeky" Bay Area 2014 is a networking conference for women in science, technology, engineering and math. Jan. 24, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; $340 for all three days; $85/day; until Nov. 30; $200 and $75. Microsoft Silicon Valley, a.m.-6 p.m. $240 for all three days; $90/day; until Jan. 17, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Family YMCA, 3412 Ross Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-903-6330. www.siliconvalley.shambhala.org

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**
Young Meditators Night This night is designed specifically for meditators ages 18-40, hosted every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. From the movies and original pieces written especially for her, Jan. 17, 7:30-9 p.m.; $15 donation encouraged. Lundmark Education Center, 2481 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View. Call 650-739-3024. www.lundmarkeducationcenter.org

**CONCERTS**
Audra McDonald Performance Actress and singer Audra McDonald’s “Ragtime.” “Rain in the Sun,” “Porgy and Bess.” will perform showcases, classic songs from the musicals written especially for her, Jan. 27, 7:30-9 p.m.; $10. Bing Concert Hall, 2740 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-326-6000. www. stanford.edu/calendar/
concerts

**ENVIROMENT**
Tree Planting - 8th Anniversary of MVLA Trees is hosting a tree planting event to celebrate its 8th anniversary and Tu B’Shevat supplemental planting event. All are welcome; children OK with an adult. No experience necessary - instructions, trees and tools and refreshments provided. Gardening clothes. Jan. 10; 10-11:30 a.m. Free ($15 donation encouraged). Un landscaped lot at corner of Shoreline Drive & Trestle Glen Drive, Mountain View. Call 650-454-1227. www.mountainviewtrees.org

**EXHIBITS**
"Revealing the Unseen" Exhibit Paintings by Andy Gosse and drawings by Drew McHerry are on exhibit through Jan. 26, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.csma.org

**FAMILY AND KIDS**
Annual LEGO Holiday Extravaganza A variety of LEGO creations made by members of Bay Area LEGO User Group and Bay Area LEGO Train Club, featuring train layouts, Bay Area landmarks, castles, miniature cities, and more. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times in the exhibit. Open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until Jan. 19, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. $2 per person; BayULC and MOAH members are free. Free. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. www.moh.org


Nature Games and Crafts at Hidden Villa Hidden Villa is offering an introduction to nature for pre-school aged children. Activities will teach children a few games and crafts especially designed to bring them closer to nature. Jan. 25, 1-3 p.m. $12 per person; Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-948-6326. www.hiddenvilla.org/calendar-of-events

**ON STAGE**
Mushroom hike at Hidden Villa Learn to identify a variety of mushrooms in this hike in Hidden Villa, led by a naturalist guide from the Mycological Society of San Francisco, who will discuss both edible and poisonous varieties. Hikes are limited. No cooking. Camera are not allowed. Ages 10 and up. $12; 25% off for groups of 6 or more. $12 per person. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-948-6326. www.hiddenvilla.org/calendar-of-events

**RECREATION**
Yoga on the Labyrinth Stanford hosts a class at its new center in the layout of Memorial Church. Attendees should bring their own yoga mats. Jan. 3, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Memorial Church, 540 Santa阿拉女士，在Mountain View, 650-732-7382. www.events.stanford.edu/events/1401/4071

**SENIORS**
Community Services Agency Info Session Community Services Agency’s senior case managers will discuss services for adults over age 60, employment advocacy and legal rights. Jan. 21, 10-11 a.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Espada Avenue, Mountain View. Call 650-594-5987. www.mysenior.org/city/hall_comm/seniors/senior_center

Legal Planning Basics Workshop The ‘Plan Your Legacy’ Project of the Silicon Valley Legal Assistance (SALA) is sponsoring a presentation with Mitsuhiro Fuji-White, an estate planning attorney in private practice and volunteer attor ney at SALA. Jan. 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Espada Avenue, Mountain View. Call 650-594-6330.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**
‘Step Out for Choice!’ Roe v. Wade Anniversary This year marks the anniversary, marking the landmark case Roe v. Wade, will be preceded by a program featuring Dr. Sylvia Yen from Mountain View’s Center for Adolescent Health, Dr. Ellen Suffer (a reproductive health specialist) and Liz Kiss, San Mateo County Supervisor. There will also be a performance by the Raging Grannies. The event is sponsored by the Los Altos/Mountain View Religious Community and the American Association of University Women and by the Santa Clara County Pro-Choice Coalition. Jan. 22, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 1 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 650-968-8467.

**LECTURES & TALKS**


Japanese Art from the Larry Ellison Collection First in a series presented by the Asian Art Museum, this exhibit will focus on 80 works of Japanese art spanning 1,300 years from Larry Ellison’s private collection. The program will be presented by document Michelle Villas. Jan. 22, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library (4160 El Monte Road, Los Altos. Call 650-948-7683. www.scd.org

Talk: Safety and Security in a Trans-national Environment Vitamin C. Greg, sociologist, will present a fascinating new example for Google, will speak at this talk, hosted by the Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISC) Stanford. Jan. 23, 3-4:30 p.m. Free. Tressider Memorial Union, 2nd Floor, 459 Llaguna Drive, Stanford. Call 650-736-4014. www.cisc.stanford.edu/events/students/lecture_sali $$security_i$$a$$transnational_environment/$
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INDEX

- BULLETIN BOARD 100-199
- FOR SALE 200-399
- KIDS STUFF 400-499
- MIND & BODY 500-599
- JOBS 600-699
- BUSINESS SERVICES 700-799
- HOME SERVICES 800-899
- FOR RENT / FOR SALE REAL ESTATE 900-999
- REAL ESTATE / LEGAL NOTICES 995-997

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140 Lost & Found
145 Non-Profits
150 Volunteers
152 Research Study Volunteers
3 Pets POODLE WANTED
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202 Vehicles Wanted
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**Royce...and the art of Real Estate**

**Mountain View’s Condo Weekly Update**

**Available Listings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
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**Pending Sale**

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<td>615</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>$375,888</td>
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**46 Starlite Court**

Mountain View

2 bed | 1.5 ba | 1,174 sq ft

Updated townhome end unit with multiple windows, fireplace, private yard & 2 car garage

**List Price** $599,000

Received multiple offers!

**83 Devonshire Avenue**

Mountain View

3 bed | 1.5 ba | 1,164 sq ft

Two story townhome with fireplace, inside laundry plus garage

**List Price** TBD

**500 W Middlefield Road**

Mountain View

2 bed | 2 ba | 1,158 sq ft

Spacious top floor condo/townhome end unit with generous size bedrooms, fireplace & private balcony

**List Price** TBD

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*This information was pulled from MLS Listings, Inc. as of 1/14/2014. If you would like further information, please contact Royce.*

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Cell (408) 888-7748

BRE# 00978793

jgonzalez@interorealestate.com

Team BRE# 70000637

yvonneandjeff@interorealestate.com

www.yvonneandjeff.com

**Power of Two**

**April’s Condo Weekly Update**

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**COMING SOON**

**500 W Middlefield Road**

Mountain View

2 bed | 2 ba | 1,158 sq ft

Spacious top floor condo/townhome end unit with generous size bedrooms, fireplace & private balcony

**List Price** TBD
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– Theresa Kinane, prospective Midpeninsula home buyer

“

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## 2014

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### LOS ALTOS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sales</th>
<th>Med. $</th>
<th>Avg. $</th>
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### LOS ALTOS HILLS

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<th>Avg. $</th>
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<tr>
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<td>110</td>
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### MOUNTAIN VIEW

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<th>Avg. $</th>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>$1,100,000</td>
<td>$1,128,850</td>
<td>105%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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BRE#01903224
It’s no surprise that our local Real estate market was strong this past year, but what is surprising is how “high” our values accelerated!

What to expect in 2014... Well, if December is any indication, we are off to a strong start for 2014: More multiple offers, more value increases. The one possible wrench being; when, and how high, interest rates are increased. The higher the rates the less buyers can afford [and pay] for properties, which will result in fewer offers/bids on properties.

Thinking of selling? I highly recommend doing so early this year, before our annual inventory increase occurs, and before higher interest rates reduce the buyer pool. Call me if you would like to discuss market strategy and/or timing that can best serve you.
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MOUNTAIN VIEW

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Los Altos | Palo Alto

Coldwell Banker #1 IN CALIFORNIA

SAN JOSE | Sat: 1:30 - 3:30 $349,000
175 W Saint James St #402 1 BR 1 BA Downtown living at its best!
Close proximity to San Pedro square, SAP center, & more.
Jim & Kasee Galli CalBRE #00944554, 01925901 650.941.7040

REDWOOD CITY | Sun: 1:30 - 3:30 $360,000
472 3rd Ave  1 BR 1 BA Builders Delight or Fixer: Studio & storage shed on property.
Geraldine Amund CalBRE #01328160 650.325.6161

EAST PALO ALTO | Sat/Sun: 1 - 4 $505,000
121 Mission Drive  2 BR 2.5 BA/W of 101 LR/FRs/gated secure complex new wood flrs, carpet & paint, Pet's allowed, est.
Trish Eby CalBRE #001920615 650.941.7040

SUNNYVALE | Sat/Sun: 1:30 - 4:30 $719,000
693 Borregas Ave  4 BR 3 BA, master bedrooms, separate FR, hardwood floors, updated kitchen & bath, approx. 1520 sqft
Bonnie Kahn CalBRE #00896243 650.941.7040

REDWOOD CITY | Sat/Sun: 1:30 - 4 $749,000
332 G Street  Charming 3 bedroom, 1 bath in Redwood City
DiPal Shah CalBRE #01249165 650.325.6161

BELMONT | Sat/Sun: 1 - 4 $979,000
1224 Lane St  3 BR 1.5 BA A gorgeous bay view, spacious LR, lovely patio ideal for entertaining or dining al fresco.
Parvin Parwez CalBRE #01879258 650.941.7040

LOS ALTOS | Sat: 1:30 - 3:30 $1,038,000
1525 Elwood Dr  3 BR 2 BA Beautifully remod home in a great neighborhd. Spac LR w/frplc. Open flr plan in FR & kit.
Steven Ho CalBRE #1234462 650.941.7040

OS ALTOS | Do not miss! $1,799,000
4 BR 2 BA Large C-D-S lot. Beautiful hardwood flooring throughout. Updated kit/Fresh paint in & out.
Lindy Latham CalBRE #01906589 650.941.7040

PALO ALTO | Sat: 1:30 - 4:30 $1,800,000
3405 Bryant St  3 BR 1 BA Beautiful, updated Midtown expansion. Hardwood floors, Cathedral ceilings.
Ken Morgan & Arlene Gault CalBRE #00877457 & 01242236 650.328.5211

MENLO PARK | Sat/Sun: 1:30 - 4:30 $1,198,000
1030 Lucky  3 BR 2 BA Great floorplan w/hardwd flrs, AC, 2 car garage, Las Lomitas schools, desirable location
Diana Summer CalBRE #01434566 650.325.6161

CUPERTINO | Sat/Sun: 1 - 5 $1,088,000
10000 Dove Oak Ct  3 BR 2.5 BA This End unit townhome is the one you have been waiting for! Featuring over 1,700 SF.
Shelly Potvin CalBRE #01236885 650.941.7040

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Trish Eby CalBRE #001920615 650.941.7040

SAN MATEO COUNTY | By Appointment Only $4,998,000
Pristine Mountain Top Views 39 Ares with well, septic, electricity, phone and gated entry
Jan Strohecker CalBRE #00620365 650.325.6161

ATHERTON | By Appointment Only $5,250,000
5 BR 4 Li BA + 2 half Beautifully renovated 5+ bedroom home w/ custom accents, charming landscape & guest house.
Susie Dew & Shena Hurley CalBRE #00781220 & 01152002 650.325.6161

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BURLINGAME | By Appointment Only $4,998,000
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LOS ALTOS | By Appointment Only Call for price
680 Riverside Drive  4 BR 2.5 BA Sought after street and location, sep FR, updated kitchen, remodeled baths.
Terri Couture CalBRE #01090940 650.941.7040

Los Altos | Palo Alto

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