Drama teacher sent packing despite student outcry  

By Kevin Forestieri

Students and parents showed up en masse Monday at the Mountain View-Los Altos school board meeting to oppose the district’s decision not to rehire Mountain View High School drama teacher Rob Seitelman. One by one, students from Seitelman’s classes gave tearful testimonials in front of a crowd of more than 150 people. Students said he improved the theater department, changed their outlook on life and gave them a renewed sense of confidence. But the board, following more than an hour of comments, decided it was the right decision not to rehire Seitelman as a teacher next year.

“It was a huge defeat last night,” said parent Martha Dehn in an email to the Voice following the meeting.

State education code allows school districts to not rehire a probationary teacher, in a process called non-renewal. This can be done without a hearing, and there’s no need for district officials to give any cause or reason.

The decision by district officials had little interest in space or science. NASA officials’ noses are usually found at waist-level near these committee staffers.

Mountain View city officials are lamenting the loss of Worden, as they recalled that other center directors weren’t always so understanding when residents and city staff had concerns about Ames operations, like flight traffic noise, the possibility of cargo flight operations on the airfield, or the long-stalled plan for a massive new research park at Ames, with over 1,000 homes and a major college campus.

“Whether it was council members or city staff, he never made any of us feel like any of our local concerns were either trivial or unimportant, and that’s not easy to do,” said former city manager Kevin Duggan, who regularly met with Worden for four years after working with several other Ames directors. “Worden never gave the impression that the concerns were parochial or inconsequential or unimportant — he was very good about that.”

Last week, City Council member Lenny Siegel described Worden in a similar way when the council discussed what sorts of topics would be raised with federal officials in a visit to Washington, D.C., saying that it would be important to advocate for the hiring of a new director who would also be a good partner with the city.

While it may not have been evident to the public, Duggan recalled that Worden and his office staff worked hard to preserve the iconic Hangar One at Moffett Field, which Navy officials had wanted to tear down instead of simply removing it...
10590 Chardonnay Lane, Los Altos Hills

Stunning Home with Sweeping Views

Presenting contemporary and traditional appeal, this spacious home is beautifully appointed, freshly finished, and filled with natural light. Secluded at the end of a private lane, the home benefits from sweeping views of San Francisco Bay and Silicon Valley. Towering cathedral ceilings, expansive windows topped with angled transoms, and an open flow of rooms combine for a sense of volume and a seamless connection with the views – dazzling by day and by night. Adding to the appeal are Santos Mahogany floors, all remodeled bathrooms, a recently updated chef’s kitchen, and a tremendous wrap-around deck overlooking the views. With 5 bedrooms plus a large family room, this home offers ample space for a variety of lifestyle needs, all at a location that puts Silicon Valley within easy reach.

Located on a quiet cul-de-sac, this extensively renovated home offers classic designer appeal with an open and flowing floor plan. Enjoy California living at its best with multiple access to the elegant rear yard featuring a sparkling pool and spa. Elevated ceilings expand the dimensions, numerous skylights add natural light, and perfectly selected finishes evoke timeless style. The open and flowing floor plan features elegant formal rooms plus an open concept kitchen and family room that is certain to be the home’s central gathering place. Hardwood floors unify the living areas and extend into the master suite. Extensive millwork includes fluted detail at room openings. Traditionally arranged in one wing, the home’s 4 bedrooms are highlighted by the master suite which opens to the gorgeous rear grounds and spa. A vast terrace provides ample space for dining as well as relaxation in a very private setting.

Adding the finishing touch is the home’s ideal location, around the corner from Oak Elementary and Mountain View High, minutes to El Camino YMCA/Hospital, numerous parks, Highway 85 and other commuter routes for easy access to all of Silicon Valley.

• Spacious and updated with contemporary and traditional appeal
• Recently renovated kitchen, open to family room
• Complete privacy at the end of the lane
• Sweeping views of the Bay and Silicon Valley
• Two-level home with 5 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms
• Approximately 4,400* square feet of living space
• Towering cathedral ceilings and walls of view windows
• Wrap-around rear deck with peaceful views
• Approximately one acre* private lot
• 2-car attached garage
• Ideally located within minutes to Rancho San Antonio Park, minutes to Loyola Corners/ Rancho Shopping Center and 280 freeway access
• Top-rated Los Altos schools: Loyola, Blach, and Mountain View High

Offered at $2,995,000

1531 Awalt Court, Los Altos

Extensively Renovated with Classic Designer Appeal

Located on a quiet cul-de-sac, this extensively renovated home offers classic designer appeal with an open and flowing floor plan. Enjoy California living at its best with multiple access to the elegant rear yard featuring a sparkling pool and spa. Elevated ceilings expand the dimensions, numerous skylights add natural light, and perfectly selected finishes evoke timeless style. The open and flowing floor plan features elegant formal rooms plus an open concept kitchen and family room that is certain to be the home’s central gathering place. Hardwood floors unify the living areas and extend into the master suite. Extensive millwork includes fluted detail at room openings. Traditionally arranged in one wing, the home’s 4 bedrooms are highlighted by the master suite which opens to the gorgeous rear grounds and spa. A vast terrace provides ample space for dining as well as relaxation in a very private setting.

Adding the finishing touch is the home’s ideal location, around the corner from Oak Elementary and Mountain View High, minutes to El Camino YMCA/Hospital, numerous parks, Highway 85 and other commuter routes for easy access to all of Silicon Valley.

• Extensively renovated with classic designer style in 2008
• One level with 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms
• Approximately 2,700* square feet of living space
• Hardwood floors in the main living areas and master suite
• Elevated ceilings and numerous skylights
• Attached and finished 2-car garage with abundant cabinetry, ideal for bonus room
• Beautifully landscaped with pool, spa, lawn area, majestic trees and lush plants and flowers
• Spacious cul-de-sac lot size with approximately 11,400* square feet
• Prestigious neighborhood around the corner from Oak Elementary and Mountain View high, minutes to El Camino YMCA/Hospital, numerous parks, Highway 85 and other commuter routes for easy access to all of Silicon Valley
• Top-rated Los Altos schools: Oak Avenue Elementary, Blach Junior High, and Mountain View High (buyer to verify enrollment availability)

Offered at $2,595,000   |   www.1531Awalt.com
Voices AROUND TOWN

 Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Rachel Lee.

What animal would you choose to represent yourself?

“A dog. I grew up with dogs and I used to have a lot of German Shepherds and they make good company, so I love them.”
Mimi Aung, Mountain View

“A horse, because horses are muscular.”
Cnirag Gupta, Sunnyvale

“A deer because it’s crazy, happy, and prancy, and it’s also calm when sitting and eating grass.”
Jenny Erwin, Stanford

“I like to say my spirit animal is an octopus. I love the aquarium and I used to go stand and stare at them for hours … Octopuses are very smart, but very calculating and then they can do crazy things like climb out of their tanks.”
Hannah Herson, Sunnyvale

“I would say a bear because I was Winnie the Pooh when I was in high school.”
Kevin McBride, Mountain View

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

Three Redwood City men were arrested last week after they were caught allegedly stealing from a Walmart in Mountain View, according to police.

Walmart security reported to police that three men were inside the store at 600 Showers Drive on Thursday, March 5, stealing items from the store a little after 4:30 p.m. Although one was able to leave the store before police arrived, security was able to point out all three suspects. The value of the items stolen was about $1,385, and included electronics, a television, speakers, audio equipment, personal hygiene products and DVDs.

Police arrested 24-year-old Edgar Garcia, 18-year-old Erick Figueroa and 20-year-old Javier Martinez, and booked them into San Jose Main Jail. Garcia and Figueroa were booked on charges of grand theft, and Martinez was booked on charges of grand theft as well as possession of a controlled substance.

WARRANT ARREST

Police say a Mountain View woman with outstanding charges for vandalism allegedly resisted arrest, struggling with and striking police officers.

When police confronted 33-year-old Amy Mathews March 6 at 8 p.m. on the 2000 block of Montecito Avenue to arrest her for prior charges, she allegedly pulled away and tried to shut the door.

ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON
200 block Castro St., 3/7

AUTO BURGLARY
500 block Cypress Point Dr., 3/9

BATTERY
100 block Escuela Av., 3/5
200 block Castro St., 3/6
200 block Castro St., 3/7

BRANDISHING WEAPON
2000 block Latham St., 3/6

GRAND THEFT
600 block Showers Dr., 3/5

MISSING PERSON
300 block Escuela Av., 3/7
2000 block W. El Camino Real, 3/8

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY
500 block W. Middlefield Rd., 3/6
1900 block Limetree Ln., 3/9

THREATENING A POLICE OFFICER
2000 block Montecito Av., 3/6

VANDALISM
300 block Escuela Av., 3/4

EVELYN STATION CLOSING MONDAY

VTA light rail trains will no longer stop at the Evelyn Station in Mountain View starting on Monday, March 16. The station will be permanently closed. The VTA will redirect Evelyn station users to either the Mountain View or Whisman stations.

The Evelyn Station has the lowest ridership in VTA’s light rail system and is scheduled to be demolished and removed as part of the Mountain View Light Rail Double Track Project. The $63 million project intends to add a second set of tracks between the Mountain View and Whisman stations, according to VTA officials. The Evelyn Station stands in the way of creating a second track that runs through downtown Mountain View. The additional track aims to provide more reliable connections with the Caltrain service in Mountain View, better service for events at Levi’s Stadium, and the future prospect of running an express service to the BART station being built in Milpitas, according to the VTA’s Headways blog.

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Residents: Keep city’s newest park unique

**PASSIONATE DISCUSSION ABOUT DESIGN OF STIEPER PARK AT COMMUNITY MEETING**

By Daniel DeBolt

In a community meeting last week, residents made a strong push for a new park on the Stieper family's former property that preserves the land's natural wooded environment, with new gardens and the city's historic Immigrant House.

Over 50 people attended the meeting at the Senior Center the evening of March 5, and there appeared to be agreement that the 1.2-acre park at 771 North Rengstorff Ave. should not have the parking lots and grass turf that is typical of the city’s parks. Even adding a children’s playground didn’t seem like a particularly popular idea.

Instead, residents said it would be better — even for their children — to preserve the fruit trees and gardens on the property, while adding more garden elements like benches and other features that would not detract from the place as a “wooded sanctuary.” Parents at the meeting said they’d rather take the opportunity to educate their children about history and the way food is grown.

And many said they wanted to save the bees — the Stieper family left many hives on the property, which are still active, city staff said.

Instead of a playground, residents said they’d rather focus on the way food is grown.

> See STIEPER PARK, page 13

Los Altos school bond plans still up in the air

By Kevin Forestieri

Anyone looking for a definitive answer on how the Los Altos School District plans to spend $150 million in bond money is going to have to wait. District board members showed little interest in many of the options presented last week by a committee, and some questioned whether they should pursue a plan for Bullis Charter School to get a new school site.

The Facilities Master Plan Committee, tasked with weighing the pros and cons of plans to handle growing enrollment in the district, presented seven ideas that included shifting students around, closing schools, or consolidating kids at new campuses by grade level, essentially changing the entire layout of the district. The Measure N bond passed by the district in November would pay for these facilities changes.

Many of the options focus on closing down or relocating schools, which the community has been staunchly opposed to up to this point, according to board member Sangeeth Peruri.

“The big takeaway from the meetings (is) we’ve heard loud and clear that the community does not want to shut down a school,” Peruri said.

Jill Jene, a parent representative on the task force, said it’s important for the district to open at least one more school to take on the district’s housing shortage and rising rents were center stage, the pendulum has swung the other way. Council members want more homes in the city to balance the city’s exploding job growth.

> See SCHOOL BOND, page 10

Million-dollar row houses to replace 32 apartments

By Daniel DeBolt

On Tuesday Mountain View’s newest City Council members balked at displacing 32 households in an apartment complex at 333 North Rengstorff Ave. in order to make way for 29 large, expensive row houses.

After expressing their hesitancy, council members eventually voted 5-1 in favor of the project, with newly elected Pat Showlater opposed and Mayor Chris Clark absent, after the developer promised to increase relocation assistance for tenants to a rate beyond the city’s usual requirements.

“I don’t want new projects to come forward that are basically going to displace people,” said Lenny Siegel, also a new council member. He said he ended up voting in favor of the project because of its long history with the previous council. “That’s not how we solve our housing crisis; that’s how to make it worse.”

Proposals for the site have been brought before the council since 2006. The reactions to the proposals highlight the pendulum swings every eight years from a pro-residential-growth to a slow-residential-growth philosophy among the council majority. In 2006, council members supported a high-density condominium project for the site. It was cut nearly in half the next year, from 102 units to 64 units, when Jac Siegel, Ronit Bryant and Margaret Abe-Koga took seats on the council.

Things are different in 2015. After a November election in which the city’s housing shortage and rising rents were center stage, the pendulum has swung the other way. Council members want more homes in the city to balance the city’s exploding job growth.

> See HOUSES, page 13

The apartments at 333 North Rengstorff Ave. has 32 households. The City Council approved a plan to redevelop the property as 29 row houses.
SOFIA

Continued from Page 1

factor of location,” Marasco said. “You can do (measurements) way up in the atmosphere.”

The SOFIA Science Center is based out of the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, but the observatory itself is stationed in the Southern California city of Palmdale. SOFIA makes about 25 trips per year, meeting only a portion of the demand from researchers who would like to use it to study comets, atmospheres and star formation, according to a NASA audit report.

Marasco and Burns applied to tag along with scientists on SOFIA as part of “ambassadors,” or educate-ride-along programs, as part of the outreach, not necessarily who has the best science background. Art and English teachers have an appeal,” he said.

The flight marks a second chance to ride in a flying observatory for Burns, a former aerospace engineer for Lockheed Martin who said he had to pass up the opportunity the first time. Burns said he had been working as a student teacher at Independence High School in San Jose around the time that the Kuiper Observatory, the predecessor to SOFIA, was taking to the sky in the late 1980s and early 1990s. His teacher was the woman in charge of the educator-ride-along program, which gave him an easy way into the program. But he had to turn it down, he said, because of other things going on in his life.

“I just started teaching and we had a baby at home and another on the way. I couldn’t take anything else on,” Burns said.

But when things started to settle down for Burns, Kuiper was mothballed and NASA started investing in SOFIA, he said. SOFIA took much longer to get up and running after a number of delays and setbacks, and eventually Burns stopped thinking about it until Marasco brought up the idea of riding along this year as a team.

“It’s kind of like an opportunity that I missed that came back 20 years later,” Burns said.

Observing the unseen

SOFIA measures infrared light in space to observe what normally goes unseen. Marasco said plenty of objects in the night sky have achieved fusion and are very hot, but plenty of phenomena are too cold or obscured by dust and gas to observe.

That's where infrared comes in. By measuring a wide range of infrared wavelengths outside of the visible spectrum, scientists can see through obstructions and observe anything from the formation of distant solar systems to characteristics of planets here in our own solar system. The Kuiper Observatory, for example, helped discover that there are rings around Uranus.

While infrared telescopes provide useful information, the technology is tricky to use. Infrared is almost impossible to detect by observatories on the ground, Burns said, because water vapor in the atmosphere absorbs infrared radiation. Placing observatories in dry climates and on top of mountains can help, but the best way to get around this problem is to bring the telescope up into the stratosphere, above 99 percent of the water vapor. “SOFIA can see regions of infrared no other telescope can see right now,” Burns said. “It gives us a window into the universe that, without SOFIA, would be shuttered.”

The other alternative, launching infrared telescopes into space to make observations, has its own host of problems as well, Burns said. The instruments aboard the telescope need to be cooled down to around the same temperature as the things they’re observing, which means about 4 degrees Kelvin — or -452 degrees Fahrenheit — to operate properly.

Burns said the telescope relies on what he described as a plumbing system for liquid helium and other cold substances to keep the temperature down, and once a space telescope runs out of coolant, its own infrared radiation starts to obscure the results and limit its usefulness for research. Launching a satellite also requires committing billions of dollars of funding towards technology that, when finally launched, is already several years old, Marasco said.

“As soon as it gets put on that rocket, that is what you’re going to get,” Marasco said. “Instruments on (SOFIA) can be replaced, and we don’t have to care about the weight of instruments on a 747.”

Spreading the word

Once Marasco and Burns complete the as-yet unscheduled 10-hour flight, it's up to them to take their experience aboard SOFIA and bring it to the rest of the community.

That shouldn’t be a problem for Marasco, who helps to put on a physics show for thousands of students in the Bay Area each year. Marasco said the show, which is done at Foothill’s 1,000-seat Smithwick Theatre, is very popular and frequently sells out. There, students can see live experiments on stage, learn about things like inertia and angular momentum, and watch Marasco get hit with a sledgehammer while sandwiched between two beds of nails.

Half of the show’s proceeds go

Continued on next page
toward renting school buses to give schools with a large population of low-income students a free trip to the show.

“A lot of them might have parents that haven’t even graduated high school,” Marasco said. “We’re very happy to do this outreach.”

Burns, on the other hand, runs a special workshop for teachers in the Bay Area that are new to physics, and may not know how to use all the gadgets and equipment at their disposal. The program, called “Physics Teacher SOS,” provides more than $10,000 in teaching equipment each year, and Burns, along with other experienced physics teachers, explains teaching methods and how to conduct experiments in the classroom.

“David (Marasco) comes and sits in the back and offers suggestions. He doesn’t really learn anything from the workshops, he just likes to help the teachers, too,” Burns said.

Marasco called Burns one of the preeminent physics teachers in the Bay Area, and said that he has quite the audience for some of his YouTube videos. One video where Burns showed how objects in space interact with one another in space-time accrued close to 10 million views.

“Once it comes down to implementing this we will be in contact because he’s a really bright guy,” Marasco said.

**WORDEN**

Continued from page 1

toxics-laden siding after leaving the 200-foot tall Hangar One, along with the rest of Moffett Field, to NASA in 1994.

Under Worden’s watch, a controversial deal was made in 2008 with the founders of Google to allow the use of Moffett’s airfield and Hangar 211 for the the executives’ private fleet of business jets, two Boeing airliners, a helicopter and a Dornier fighter jet. Around the same time, Google subsidiary Planetary Ventures also got permission under Worden’s watch to build a 1.1 million-square-foot campus at Ames. The controversial partnership — for which NASA faced accusations of favoritism — may have paid off for the public when Google’s founders submitted a winning bid to save and restore Moffett’s Hangar One as part of a deal to lease and operate Moffett’s entire 1,000-acre airfield, saving NASA millions of dollars annually in airfield operation costs.

Environmental sustainability appeared to be a focus under Worden at Ames. During his time there the “Sustainability Base” office building was constructed at Ames using NASA technology to create the federal government’s most environmentally-friendly building. In 2009, Worden was named “Laboratory Director of the Year” by the Federal Laboratory Consortium for his “GreenSpace” initiative at Ames that brought remote sensor technology developed at Ames to use on the study of climate change. The initiative put data-gathering sensors to work on NASA aircraft, as well as on the Google planes and the Zeppelin Eureka airship, the commercial airship based at Moffett until owner Airship Ventures closed its doors for financial reasons.

Worden said he was proud of Ames’ work on the International Space Station, its pioneering work in quantum computing and the launch of dozens of small satellites, some based on smart phone components, which has created a small industry of startups along with many other private businesses that have partnered with NASA and are housed at Ames.

“Most important of all” the accomplishments during his tenure, Worden says Ames helped inspire a new generation’s interest in space, with “more than 1,200 students at Ames in 2014!” In a 2009 tweet, he expressed similar interest in inspiring youth: “Great MoonFest today at NASA Ames - 10K people - many kids. They are our future - their faces tell me - we WILL settle the solar system!”

Settling the solar system doesn’t seem to just be a dream to Worden, but a real possibility. “Ames’ people have revitalized space biology and begun to apply the new field of synthetic biology,” he said in an email. “The latter will enable us to live and thrive on other worlds.”

“Our current course (at NASA) promises to answer mankind’s greatest questions: Are we alone? How did life begin? And most importantly, what is our future?”

“Our human exploration program will result soon in an expansion of humanity into the universe with people living on Mars and elsewhere in our solar system,” Worden wrote. “NASA people and programs have immeasurably improved life on Earth. Our airlines fly safer and better with NASA technology; we understand the Earth’s environment better than ever. And, we have developed technology that has enabled us to lead the global aeronautics industry and begin a vibrant space economy.”

Contact Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

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Drama Teacher

Drama Teacher

Continued from page 1

administrators was a “complete surprise,” according to Rob Seitelman, who declined to speculate on reasons for why the district decided not to rehire him. He said there was no indication that his work in any way was in question.

When asked why Seitelman would not be rehired, Mountain View High School Principal Dave Grissom declined to comment.

Seitelman was on the verge of finishing his second year of working in the district, and a decision to keep him would have granted him tenure.

To Dehnov, it appeared as if the school board had already made the decision before the meeting, and wouldn’t budge following public comments.

“It was a travesty and acted as a complete waste of many people’s time and effort. It appeared to be a complete sham having all of us speak. Their minds were already made up to rubber stamp the principal’s recommendation,” Dehnov said.

Upon announcing the 5-0 closed-session decision not to hire Seitelman for another year, there was an immediate outcry from parents in the audience demanding an explanation.

“What! How could you do that? What’s wrong with you?” shouted one parent. Some accused the board of worry only about money and the investment associated with accepting a teacher as a tenured, permanent employee, while others felt the board hadn’t listened to the passionate testimonies of the students.

After Seitelman’s supporters refused for more minutes to allow the board to move on to the next agenda item and ignored requests by board president Susan Sweeley to end the discussion, board member Phil Faillace shouted over the protests and pointed out the board had to make a very difficult decision.

The easy thing to do, he said, would be to accede to the speakers’ requests. “The difficult thing to do is to evaluate all of the evidence; that is what we have pledged to do.”

Faillace explained that if the board publicly discussed why it decided not to rehire Seitelman, it would be violating state law, which requires confidentiality in personnel matters.

“I really don’t want to have to call the police. It’s time to move on,” Sweeley said as parents continued to prevent the board from continuing to the next agenda item.

Superintendent Barry Graves explained in an email to a parent that teachers go through a rigorous process to attain permanent status with the district, complete with recommendations by the principal, the superintendent and the board, and observations by professional educators.

“Permanent status is not granted lightly,” Graves said in the email.

Daniela Gonzalez, a senior, wrote on her Facebook page that the board’s decision represents more than an “unjustifiable loss of an invaluable teacher and mentor,” but is an example of how democratic systems are flawed and the voice of the public is undervalued. She encouraged students to fight to have their voices heard, whether through civil disobedience or policy reform.

“Join me in ensuring that one day, students’ voices will be heard, respected, and acted upon without a doubt. Even if we weren’t able to change tonight’s decision, we have already started a movement,” Gonzalez said.

Student Support

When word got out that the board would be voting on a resolution to not rehire Seitelman, students put together a 10-minute YouTube video explaining why Seitelman has been an integral part of improving the high school’s mission statement.

“Upon announcing the 5-0 decision, we have already started the process to attain permanent status,” she said.

“Toward ending,” she said.

One student at the meeting admitted that at one point she was struggling with depression and thoughts of suicide, and that Seitelman, his class and his passion helped her get through it.

Chloe Howard, a senior, read the high school’s mission statement to the board; it mentions learning environment, focus on the intellectual and emotional well-being of students, and critical thinking. Howard said she could think of no better person to fit that description than Seitelman and his class.

When the police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, was in the news, Howard said, Seitelman allowed students to express their grievances and talk about the issue. When reading Shake- speare, she said, they would go over ways that the play relates to their own lives.

“If the decision is not changed, it would be devastating,” she said.

Following the meeting, Seitelman told the Voice in an email that despite the school board’s decision, he was “overwhelmed” by the support from students, faculty, parents and the community.

“Though the outcome is not what we hoped for, my heart is full of gratitude,” Seitelman said.

Emil Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

The City of Mountain View is seeking properties in residential neighborhoods, primarily north of El Camino Real, for possible acquisition and development of neighborhood parks. The ideal site is one or more properties totaling greater than 17,500 s.f. of land area. For more information, please contact Dennis Drennan at (650) 903-6633, or by e-mail at dennis.drennan@mountainview.gov.

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SCHOOL BOND  ▶  Continued from page 5

split” solution if the district can’t find a site large enough to house the entire charter school.

Bullis board president John Phelps said he wasn’t aware of any members who have said that; he said the Bullis community is united in the desire to have one campus for the “integrated K-8 model.”

Bullis parent Martha McClatchie said she believes charter school parents fully expected that the Measure N plans would include consolidating Bullis at a single site. “With the passage of the bond, parents are very hopeful BCS will be one campus,” she said.

Other options

The seven options also included some out-of-the-box ideas such as merging the two junior high schools into a “mega” middle school. In that option, the middle school would house all the students between sixth and eighth grade at a single site, and Bullis would move into a vacated junior high campus, according to Katie Kinnaman, principal at Gardner Bullis and one of the committee leaders.

The mega middle school idea, according to the committee report, would preserve the small size of neighborhood elementary schools in the district, but would also bring in a host of traffic problems and greater commute times for students, and would likely be difficult for the community to accept.

Another idea from the committee is to move students in grades kindergarten through third from two elementary schools to a current junior high school site, and house the remaining fourth-through sixth-grade students on a single school site. This would allow Bullis to move into the vacated site, according to the committee report, but would also be disruptive to families and would worsen traffic.

Both the mega middle school option and the grade-level-split option would involve some level of moving or closing a school down, which would fly against what the community wants, according to board member Peruri. He said that he also opposes closing down a school.

Logan suggested that district staff look at other possibilities regarding the Covington campus, which was not affected by the options presented. Because Covington is a particularly large site — about 16 acres — there’s a possibility it could house two schools simultaneously.

She said it might also be a good idea to explore another Bullis option: Instead of consolidating the school, the board might consider breaking the charter school into three sites.

CRIME BRIEFS  ▶  Continued from page 4

door on officers, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department.

She continued to struggle with the face, Jaeger said. Both officers were left with cuts and scratches on their hands. Mathews was arrested and booked into San Jose Main Jail.

—Kevin Foresteri

FATAL CRASH

A male driver was killed early Wednesday morning on Interstate Highway 280 near Los Altos when he lost control of his car and slammed into a center divider, and another car crashed into him, according to the California Highway Patrol.

At 1:46 a.m. on March 11, CHP officers were called to the crash scene on northbound 280 north of the on-ramp to Foothill Expressway, CHP Officer Moises Escoto said.

The driver of a BMW sedan traveling in a northbound lane of the highway crashed the car into the center divider and ended up back in the roadway, where the male driver of a Honda Household collided with him, Escoto said.

The BMW driver’s name had not yet been released by the Santa Clara County medical examiner’s office as of the Voice’s press time Wednesday.

Wet weather conditions did not appear to have been a factor in the crash, and investigators do not yet know whether the use of drugs or alcohol contributed to it, Escoto said.

—Bay City News Service

COMMUNITY BRIEFS  ▶  Continued from page 4

Y C I S  S C H O L A R S H I P

Yew Chung International School of Silicon Valley (YCIS) is offering a new scholarship for middle school students this fall. The Hatsue Tsatsos Global Citizen Scholarship will be a three-year scholarship awarded to an applicant entering sixth grade, ideally one living in the Mountain View area. The scholarship will contribute to the cost of annual tuition for grades 6-8, based on the financial need of the participant, and not including a minimum tuition charge of $1,000.

Tuition for the 2015 to 2016 school year is $16,500, which includes the $5,000 Founding Families Discount offered to every family enrolling a student in sixth grade. The regular tuition is $21,500. The deadline for the scholarship application is Friday, May 15.

YCIS Silicon Valley offers bilingual preschool, elementary, and middle school education in Mountain View. The schools promote fluency in both English and Mandarin and embraces diversity, according to YCIS Principal Annette Hansen. The scholarship was named after Hatsue Tsatsos, a founding member of the school.

Participants who are not awarded the scholarship may qualify for financial aid, Hansen said.

More information is at ycis-sv.com/admissions or by contacting YCIS at (650) 983-0986 or admissions@svycf.com.

—Rachel Lee
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www.csma.org/summer
650.917.6800 ext.0

Environmental Volunteers Summer Camp
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www.envolows.com/Explore
650.493.8000

Foothills Summer Camps
Palo Alto
In this historic, popular, traditional day camp your child will play on miles of trails, woodlands, fields, streams, Boronda Lake, and enjoy spectacular views of the bay area. Transportation to and from Foothills Camp is provided each day.
www.cityofpaloalto.org/foothills/summercamps

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Palo Alto
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www.paloaltoccj.org/summercamp
650.223.8622

Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC)
Palo Alto
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www.theaterworks.org/learn/young/summercamps

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650.328.3160

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www.santacruzmountains.com
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Atherton
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www.menlesschool.org
650.330.2001 ext. 2758

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650.362.4100

Academics

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www.alexadigitalarts.org
650.877.2600

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www.IDTech.com
1.888.709.8324

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Get immersed in technology at this 2-week, pre-college summer camp. Teens aged 13-18 code apps, program with C++ and Java, mod with Minecraft, engineer robots, build websites, produce movies, and more. Kids meet new friends and gain a competitive edge.
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To advertise in this weekly directory, call: 650-326-8210
STIEPER PARK  
Continued from page 5

I teach my daughter about all the trees” in the park. The property is largely shaded by 164 trees, including those bearing apricots, figs, avocados, peaches, apples, oranges and plums.

After working to preserve the historic structure that once housed her grandparents when it was located downtown on Bryant Street, Marina Marinovich was relieved that no one suggested using the tiny Immigrant House as anything but a period-correct display of 1880s life for Mountain View’s migrant workers. The structure is currently in a city storage yard and is slated to be restored and moved into the new park. She suggested it go to the rear of the site, facing north.

“I find a lot of wisdom in the way they laid out the property,” Marinovich said, in a sentiment echoed by many others. “This is going to be the easiest park you’ve ever designed, because it’s already there.”

Many residents said similar things. “I would love to just go here and meditate,” said one participant. “This site would be so precious a jewel.”

Neighbors whose apartments over- looked the park said they enjoy the fact that is a haven for wildlife. Marinovich suggested that the park be certified as wildlife friendly by the National Wildlife Federation.

A restroom was a popular idea with several people. “This site would be so much better with a restroom,” Henigson said.

Several others said that a potting shed would be needed for the garden as well. A few suggested that the Stieper house not be torn down and instead be re-used somehow in the new park. But few people voted to keep it.

After many people had already voted, somebody decided to address the lack of clarity by adding “demonstration garden” to the “botanical garden” option (that drew 60 points).

Other features included the most popular, which someone simply wrote in as “Sanctuary! wooded” (75 points). That was followed by “Immigrant House” (51 points), “bench/pathway seating” (44 points), “agrarian/unstructured play” (22 points) and “restroom” (16 points).

David Ruben of Callander Associates is managing the park’s design, and presented several images of potential new park features, which included tables for playing chess, a picnic area, bocce ball courts, whimsical children’s play structures, aesthetically-pleasing botanical gardens and an “indoor room” with benches surrounded by “walls made of trimmed hedges.”

The homes are expected to sell for around $1 million each. The 2006 proposal estimated that the condos would sell for $400,000 each.

“This isn’t an easy decision,” said new council member Ken Rosenberg. “The displacement is really troubling to me. It’s upsetting that there’s just not enough help to the people being displaced.”

In 2006, council members also said they were concerned about displacing residents.

“We haven’t really seen the development of anything affordable; at the same time we are erasing anything affordable,” said then-council member Nick Galietto about the condo proposal.

As part of the row house project, the 1.72-acre site will see 88 new trees planted, while 38 large “heritage” trees are to be cut down.  

ROW HOUSES  
Continued from page 5

“It seems like a nice project, but it needs to be denser,” Snowalter said, reflecting the new majority’s emphasis on housing. “I want to send a signal that’s what we are looking for. I wish it had 10 to 12 more units in there.”

Council member John Inks said the project has been “whipsawed through several different council philosophies, and we have what we have here.”

Member Mike Kasperzak added that the “developer is getting whiplash” from the shifting position of the council on housing.

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THE ACAI-BOWL CRAZE HITS THE PENINSULA

FOOD FEATURE

STORY BY ELENA KADVANY
PHOTOS BY MAGALI GAUTHIER

Above: Mountain View’s Bowl of Heaven menu of acai bowls includes, from left, the North Shore original, the paradise bowl and the Popeye.

Right: The gorilla bowl at Palo Alto’s Bare Bowls is topped with banana slices, hemp seed and granola.

On a recent afternoon, a young boy waited in line at a new acai-bowl shop in Mountain View. Full of hope, he asked his mother, “Do they have any milkshakes?” and moaned in disappointment when she responded, “No, but they have ... fruit shakes.”
Let’s face it: Not everyone has hopped on the açai-bowl bandwagon. But the increasing popularity of these blended “superfruit” concoctions is hard to deny, with açai bowls popping up in dedicated shops and on menus throughout the Bay Area.

The purple fruit commonly known as an “açaí berry” is in fact a small stone fruit that comes from the Brazilian açaí palm. It’s packed full of vitamins, minerals, protein and antioxidants, making it a popular ingredient in juices and smoothies. The açai bowl trend has touched down in the Peninsula over the last several months with the opening of Bare Bowls in downtown Palo Alto and Bowl of Heaven and Nekter Juice Bar in Mountain View. Vitality Bowls, a franchised chain based in San Ramon, is on its way to California Avenue in Palo Alto this spring. Even Los Altos’ Voyageur du Temps, an upscale French-Japanese cafe, now has an açai bowl on the breakfast menu.

There seem to be two types of açai bowl purveyors in the area: independent businesses such as Bare Bowls, and larger chain locations like Nekter and Bowl of Heaven.

Bare Bowls, Palo Alto’s inaugural açai-bowl shop, opened at 530 Emerson St. (next door to Mac’s Smoke Shop) in November. It’s the brainchild of two friends — Menlo Park native Sarah Lipps and Bridget Corson, originally from Minnesota — who met at Pepperdine University in Southern California and share a love of health and entrepreneurship.

Their health-centric bowls are made from frozen, pure açai (no added sweeteners or other ingredients). They blend açai with other fruits (often banana, berries or dates) and nut butters, then top it all off with an artful arrangement of banana, strawberries, blueberries, goji berries, coconut and hemp seed. Their nut butters and nut milks (including cashew and almond) are made in-house and are offered for sale in uber-hip mason jars. Bare Bowls has their own blend of granola, plus some from San Francisco-based Worthy Granola and locally made Ladera Granola.

“We’re just really focused on pure ingredients and people knowing what they’re getting,” Lipps explained before the shop opened. “It’s just a handcrafted bowl all together.”

This reporter’s standby Bare Bowl is the “gorilla,” made from açai blended with strawberries, banana, date, cashew milk and peanut butter and topped with granola, banana, hemp seed and a drizzle of honey. It’s not overly sweet and has the added boost of protein from the peanut butter. The “omni green” sounds somewhat ominous — among its ingredients are kale, spinach, broccoli and avocado as well as apple, banana and dates. The result comes out bright green but happily tastes nothing like the veggies packed inside. It’s sweet, and you taste apple over any of the other ingredients.

At Bare Bowls, a regular bowl goes for $12 and a small for $8. The regular is a generous serving; share one or go for the small if you’re not starving. Get caffeinated with drinks from Verve Coffee Roasters in Santa Cruz. There are also smoothies and a small selection of grab-and-go healthy snacks and drinks (not made by Bare Bowls, but all as local as possible). (Pro tip: When Bare Bowls gets busy, service slows down. If you’re in a rush, order your bowl ahead using the OrderAhead smartphone app.)

Ragan Ludwig puts toppings on a North Shore açai bowl at Mountain View’s Bowl of Heaven.

Continued on next page
A very different açai bowl is on the menu at Voyage du Temps in Los Altos, where the larger focus is not on açai at all but on fresh-baked breads and pastries (plus breakfast and lunch items). Voyageur’s açai bowl ($11) is actually more yogurt than açai. The unequal proportions were disappointing at first glance but delicious at first bite. Farm-fresh yogurt is a nontraditional but welcome complement to the açai. There’s toasted granola buried at the bottom and fresh fruit and honey on top, so make sure to dig and mix around to get all the flavors.

The bowl is large enough to be satisfying, but small enough that you could order it with another breakfast or lunch item if you wanted to.

The 288 1st St. café has to be one of the most pleasant places to enjoy an açai bowl. Voyageur occupies a 3,000-square-foot craftsman-style building that used to be a train station, complete with a large front porch and outdoor patio. If you opt for a spot indoors, grab a seat by the glass-encased bakery and watch Voyageur bakers knead pastry dough.

A few miles south down El Camino Real in Mountain View is Bowl of Heaven, the first Northern California location of a Southern California-based chain. Dan McCormick opened the first Bowl of Heaven in Rancho Santa Margarita four years ago, inspired by trips to visit three of his daughters attending college in Oahu, Hawaii, where he and his wife would often eat açai bowls. McCormick teamed up with his son-in-law, Brandon Beazer, to start the company. McCormick, who has long worked in anti-aging and nutrition, brings a love of health to the business. In his words: “Our mission is to delight and nourish and satisfy our customers and bring superfruits from around the world that will allow them to feel fabulous.”

Bowl of Heaven Mountain View, tucked away in a corner of the Grant Road Shopping Center at 1040 Grant Road, does not add any sugar to its frozen-fresh açai (direct from Brazil) but does blend in the company’s own proprietary “Maq7” juice: a blend of seven superfruits, from goji berries and açai to prickly pear and maqui, a Chilean berry. Their bowls are thus sweeter than others.

This reporter found their standard “North Shore Original Bowl” — açai blended with apple juice, Maq7, banana, blueberries and strawberries, topped with granola, slices of banana and honey — overly sweet with no distinct flavors coming through. The “Paradise” bowl, however, lived up to its name. Prickly pear, Maq7, mint, papaya, pineapple and banana make up the base; toppings are granola, coconut, sliced strawberries, kiwis and honey. The crowning flavor was the mint. The bowls are served in two sizes: regular (about $9) and large (about $11) except for the most-popular North Shore Original, which you can also get in a small for $3.99. Portions are enormous. Bowl of Heaven also serves smoothies and fresh fruit and veggie juices. With limited seating inside, this might be the choice for someone looking to grab a bowl on the go.

On its way to California Avenue in Palo Alto this spring is another franchised chain: Vitality Bowls, which began four years ago with one location in San Ramon and has spread throughout the Bay Area. Three Stanford University graduates are running the Palo Alto franchise, which took over a space previously occupied by Cho’s Mandarin Dim Sum at 233 California Ave. Tara Gilad opened the first Vitality location after coping with the challenges presented by her young daughter’s severe food allergies.

“She was so limited in what she could eat; I wanted to get her those berries every day,” Gilad said, declaring, “Açaí is the healthiest food on this planet.”

All Vitality Bowl outlets have non-cross-contamination kitchens, meaning “people with nut allergies, berry allergies, dairy allergies, on a paleo diet, or a vegan diet, flax allergy — you name it” can eat there without any concern of getting ill, which happened to Gilad’s daughter frequently when they ate out. Vitality Bowl focuses on açai, but also separates itself from the pack by serving other food items like panini, soups and salads. They’re aiming to open toward the beginning of May, Gilad said. □
**MOVIE TIMES**

**'71 (R)**  
Aquarius Theatre: 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 & 9:55 p.m.

**A La Mala (PG-13)**  
Century 20: 11:55 a.m., 2:40, 5:10, 7:45 & 10:20 p.m.

**American Sniper (R)★★★★**  
Century 16: 9:50 p.m.  
Century 20: 7:25 p.m., Fri & Sat 1:55 p.m.

** Bringing Up Baby (1938) (Not Rated)**  
Stanford Theatre: 7:30 p.m., Sun 5:05 p.m.

**Chappie (R)**  
Century 16: 12:10, 2:45, 5:25 & 7:35 p.m., Fri & Sat 1:05 & 3:15 p.m.

**Cinderella (PG)★★★★**  

**Cinderella (PG)★★★★**  
Century 16: 10:30 a.m., noon, 12:40, 2:20, 2:50, 3:30, 4:10, 5:40, 6:40, 7, 8, 8:30, 9:10 & 9:50 p.m.

**The DUFF (PG-13)★★★★**  
Century 16: 9:45 p.m.

**The DUFF (PG-13)★★★★**  
Century 20: 11:50 a.m., 2:30, 5:20, 7:55 & 10:30 p.m.

**Fifty Shades of Grey (R)★★★★**  
Century 16: 4:20, 7:25 & 10:25 p.m., Fri & Sun 10:30 a.m. & 1:25 p.m.

**Focus (R)**  
Century 16: 11 a.m., 1:50, 4:25 & 7:10 p.m.

**King of the Jungle (R)**  
Century 20: 12:10, 2:45, 5:25, 8:10 & 10:45 p.m.

**Met Opera: La Donna del Lago (Not Rated)**  
Century 16: 11:55 a.m., 2:30, 4:30, 7:45 & 10:45 p.m.

**McFarland, USA (PG)**  
Century 20: 10:40 a.m., 1:45, 4:45, 7:45 & 10:40 p.m.

**Palo Alto (PG)**  
Century 16: 12:10, 2:45, 5:40 & 7:50 p.m.

**Pillow Talk (1959) (Not Rated)**  
Century 20: 12:30, 3:35, 7:10 & 10:10 p.m.

**The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG)★★★★**  
Century 20: 10:50 a.m., 1:50, 3:10, 4:40, 6, 7, 8:30 & 9:55 & 10:25 p.m., Fri & Sun 12:15 p.m., Sat 12:10 p.m.

**Polaroid (PG)**  
Century 16: 10:40 a.m., 1:40, 4:40, 7:40 & 10:40 p.m.

**Unfinished Business (R)**  
Century 16: 3:05, 5:30 & 8 & 10:20 p.m., Fri & Sun 12:35 p.m.

**What We Do in the Shadows (Not Rated)★★★★**  
Guild Theatre: 2:30, 4:40, 7:15 & 9:40 p.m.

**Walt Disney Pictures**

**Rags to riches**

**DISNEY’S NEW ‘CINDERELLA’ SURE IS PRETTY**

★★ 1/2

**Century 16, Century 20**

Give Disney this much: In revisiting “Cinderella” for a new live-action incarnation patterned after the 1950 animated film, the studio hasn’t skimped. The reins of the pumpkin coach have been handed to Kenneth Branagh, under whom have been assembled two-time Oscar winner Cate Blanchett (as the Wicked Stepmother), three-time Oscar-winning producer designer Dante Ferretti and three-time Oscar-winning costume designer Sandy Powell. They don’t disappoint: this “Cinderella” is a lavish, classy affair.

But while long on beauty, Branagh’s film falls short on whimsy, coming across as bit of the retelling of how the country lass turned “ragged servant girl” turned princess (Lily James of “Downton Abbey” does the dismayingly tiny-waisted honors) turns the head of the dashing Prince (Richard Madden of “Game of Thrones”), turns, turn, turn: “Cinderella” remains, unavoidably, a fashion show with a prototypical Barbie and Ken escaping an archetypal diva with some cunning costume changes of her own (perched strikingly on a staircase, Blanchett succeeds in conspiring with Brangan and Powell to evoke Joan Crawford’s flamboyant old-school intimidation factor).

As much as Brangan relishes the opportunity to celebrate Old Hollywood (as with his neo-noir “Dead Again”) and old-world pageantry (as with his “Hamlet”), the fact that he’s been there and done that helps to explain why this “Cinderella” never quite rises to the level of urgent or compelling. The director’s camera twirls and tracks and swoops, and one can easily play Easter-egg hunt for the colorful splashes of mid-20th century movie style: 1940s American movie palace, 19th century European palace. But it’s telling that the film’s most affecting emotional moments — a dying mother (Hayley Atwell) here, a dying father (Branagh’s mentor Hayley Atwell) here, a — stand apart from the story’s central conflict.

And what will it all mean to the 2015 audience? After the welcome rehabilitation of Disney princesses and the tiresome revisionism of so many unimaginative “reimagings” (“Snow White and the Huntsman,” “Maleficent”), there’s something refreshing about Brangan’s take-the-story-as-it-is approach. Of course, this “Cinderella” is careful not to lose sight of its heroine’s class-divide triumph and pure-of-heart essence, pitched against the cruel villainess’ hungry selfishness. Thankfully, neither Brangan nor screenwriter Chris Weitz (“About a Boy”) feels compelled to stick a sword in James’ hand, and they waste no time pretending the story runs any deeper than the tag line they brand it with here: “Have courage and be kind.”

“Cinderella” has just enough buoyant touches to keep it afloat: Helena Bonham Carter fleetingly getting her Johnny Depp oversized teeth, Blanchett’s robust nasty laugh, bursts of girlish glee (a dizzy waltz) and boyish energy (a sudden infusion of courtly fencing), and the ball-booking sequences of pixie-dust-by-the-pound magic. Ultimately, though, this version of the fairy tale isn’t joyful enough to supplant Disney’s first take, or sophisticated enough to surpass it in speaking to today’s girls.

**Rated PG for mild thematic elements. One hour, 52 minutes.**

— Peter Canavese

**Lily James and Kate Blanchett in “Cinderella.”**

**FIND THE SCHOOL FOR YOU**

**College Tour**

**EL CAMINO YMCA**

Choosing a College or University is a very important decision. This unique College tour will help teens make more informed choices. High school students will visit several state and private Universities in California, where guided tours and informational sessions will be offered. Participants will also enjoy a trip to Disneyland or Universal Studios.

**For more information contact:**
Grace Ihn • 650 429 1312 • gihn@ymcasv.org

**Express**

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**Weekend**

**MOVIE OPENINGS**

**Century 20:** 1:15, 3:40, 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.

**Century 16:** 11:55 a.m., 2:20, 4:45, 6:50 & 9:15 p.m., Sat 1:55 & 4:20 p.m.

**McFarland, USA (PG)**  
Century 20: 10:40 a.m., 1:45, 4:45, 7:45 & 10:40 p.m.

**The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG)★★★★**  
Century 20: 10:50 a.m., 1:50, 3:10, 4:40, 6, 7, 8:30 & 9:55 & 10:25 p.m., Fri & Sun 12:15 p.m., Sat 12:10 p.m.

**Polaroid (PG)**  
Century 16: 10:40 a.m., 1:40, 4:40, 7:40 & 10:40 p.m.

**Unfinished Business (R)**  
Century 16: 3:05, 5:30 & 8 & 10:20 p.m., Fri & Sun 12:35 p.m.

**What We Do in the Shadows (Not Rated)★★★★**  
Guild Theatre: 2:30, 4:40, 7:15 & 9:40 p.m.
Goings On About Town

**OUR COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- **Linkages Timebank Orientation**: This event will introduce community members to Linkages Timebank, a neighborhood service-exchange network that enables people to share interests and skills and help one another. March 19, 6:30-9 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View, Call 650-526-7020. www.mountainview.gov/library

- **Mountain View Arbor Day Festival**: The City of Mountain View will host its annual Arbor Day celebration at Pioneer Park, where there will be a book reading for children at the library, arts and crafts activities, and booths staffed by public libraries, school libraries, different community groups, including UC Master Gardeners, a tree planting ceremony with the mayor, a tree walk, and community groups like Friends of Ancient Hillside. March 19, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Pioneer Park, 1146 Church St., Mountain View, www.mountainview.gov/dept/ parks/arborday/day

**CONCERTS**

- **Three Greats B: Bach, Beethoven, and Bartók**: Jeffrey Leifer will perform all of his concerts with commentary at the Ohanian Family KC called “Three Greats B: Bach, Beethoven, and Bartók” March 19, 7:30-9 p.m. $25 member, student; $30 general, $35 at the door. Schutz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-8664. paloaltojc.org/CulturalArts/Music

- **Schola Cantorum: ‘Lift Every Voice’**: The Schola Cantorum will kick off its 32nd season with “Lift Every Voice – A Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr.” The program will include the world premiere of “A Beloved Country” by T Alsop, with spoken word solos performed by Singer Luckey of the Palo Alto Children’s March. March 15, 7 p.m. Free. Palo Alto United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Mountain View, Call 650-254-1700. scholacantorum.org/9th-every-voice

**DANCE**

- **Smuin Ballet: ‘Untamed’**: In “Untamed,” Smuin Ballet presents seven of its most popular public talks on “Cosmic Microwave Background Polarization and Life at the South Pole.” The observatory will be open after the meeting until 11 p.m., weather permitting. Attendees should park in lot B. March 13, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Free; $3 parking. Football College, 201 Castro St., Mountain View, Call 650-934-3556. timebank.org, linkages.com/component/dtregister/

**ENVIRONMENT**

- **Debunking Solar Myths**: At this Greenpeace Lunaltalk, Tom Wormer, president and CEO of SunPower, will debunk negative myths about solar power. PG&E will also provide information about its solar programs. March 18, 7-9 p.m. Free. Los Altos, 135 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 650-383-5740. greenpeace.org/locals

- **Introducing Bryophytes: The Other Land Plants**: For this California Native Plant Society event, Ken Kallmann will give a presentation on Bryophytes — small plants including mosses, liverworts and hornworts — and their unique evolutionary relationship to flowering plants. March 13, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Los Altos, 135 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. www.cnps-cs.org

- **A Spring Tree Walk**: In conjunction with Mountain View’s Arbor Day festivities, arborists will lead a walk through the awakening trees of Pioneer Park. The event will be held rain or shine, and all ages are welcome. Pets should be on leashes. March 19, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., $15 per couple, $10 per adult, $25 adult. Mountain View, www.mountainview.gov/parks

**FAMILY AND KIDS**

- **‘Froggy’ story time and special appearance**: Linden Tree Books will host a special story-time event, best suited for ages 3 to 7, to celebrate the new picture book “Froggy’s Birthday Wish” by Jonathan London. There will be birthday treats, and Froggy will make an appearance. Those interested should call to RSVP. March 19, 4 p.m. Free. Linden Tree Books, 265 State St., Los Altos, 650-949-3390. www.lindentreebooks.com

- **Chen and Goodman at ‘Mei-Mei’s Lucky Birthday Noodels’**: Author Shan-Shan Chen and illustrator Heidi Goodman will come to Linden Tree Books to share and sign their book “Mei-Mei’s Lucky Birthday Noodles” March 18, 4-5 p.m. Free. Linden Tree Books, 265 State St., Los Altos, 650-949-3390. www.lindentreebooks.com

- **Sarasota: ‘The Emerald Isle’**: TheatreWorks will put on a production of “The Emerald Isle,” a new drama based on the life of Ralph Joseph and directed by Juan Carlos Sarabia in which the grown-up children of an Indian restaurant owner consider the legacy of their family’s组建ed family business. See website for specific times and dates. March 4-29, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $19-$54. Luce Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-663-1900. theatreworks.org

**LECTURES & TALKS**

- **Pear Slices 2015**: The Pear Slices website is featuring an eclectic variety of original short plays written by members of the Pear Playwrights Guild from March 19, 8 p.m. to March 22, 3-5 p.m. Free. The Pear Theatre, 1355 S. 25th Street, Santa Clara. Call 408-258-1122. peartheatre.org/calendar-of-events/day705-13-14

**RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY**

- **Kirtan and meditation sessions**: BookBuyers in Mountain View will host a session of meditation and Kirtan song each Saturday morning. All are welcome. Saturday, March 7, 4-8 a.m. www.bookbuyers.com, 317 Castro St., Mountain View, Call 650-968-7233. bookbuyers.com/events/next-kirtan-meditation-3091

**SENIORS**

- **CSA Referral: Nutrition**: Community Services Agency (CSA) managers will visit the Mountain View Senior Center to provide information and resources on healthy eating, subsidized meal programs and meal delivery options — as well as answer questions. Those interested can make an appointment by calling or visiting the center’s front desk. March 10, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mountain View Senior Center, 2665 Escuela Ave., Mountain View, Call 650-903-6330. www.mountainview.gov/seniors

- **Day Worker Center info session**: The Mountain View Senior Center will host an event presenting the Day Worker Center’s work to members of its senior communities. March 11, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 2665 Escuela Ave., Mountain View, Call 650-903-6330. www.mountainview.gov/seniors

- **Digital photography workshop**: This Mountain View Senior Center workshop will teach students how to download pictures from a digital camera, as well as how to organize and share them using online services. Basic computer skills are required, and space is limited. Participants should bring a digital camera and connection cord. March 18, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 2665 Escuela Ave., Mountain View, Call 650-903-6330. www.mountainview.gov/seniors

- **Senior Center Talent Show**: The Senior Center Talent Show in Mountain View is an annual event where anyone who wants to perform is welcome: applications are due by Friday, March 13. 2:30-4:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 2665 Escuela Ave., Mountain View, Call 650-903-6330. www.mountainview.gov/seniors

**SOUND CHECKS**


- **Heifer International CEO at Hidden Villa Farm**: Ted Eidson, CEO of Heifer International, will speak about the role of women in helping families around the globe become more self-reliant. He will also discuss the nonprofit’s work to help local communities contribute. March 14, 4-6 p.m. Free. Hidden Villa, 2880 Moody Road, Los Altos. Call 650-949-9702. hiddenvilla.org/programs/calendar-of-events/day705-13-14
As the daylight lengths and the foliage returns to the trees overhead, we regain the spring in our step and look forward to new things. Don’t let that energy go to waste; this is the perfect season for meeting that fitness goal, finding the inspiration to finish writing that short story or painting that picture — or simply trying something brand new. Whatever route you go, your community is here to help, with a crop of classes offered by local residents and organizations.

The Class Guide is published quarterly by the Mountain View Voice, the Almanac and the Palo Alto Weekly.

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS**

**Flex Los Altos** 4600 El Camino Real, Suite 201, Los Altos 650-947-7742 www.flexcollegeprep.com Flex College Prep assists high school students with college applications and essays and preparing for SAT, ACT and AP tests. It also offers tutoring in a variety of high school subjects.

**Zenith Tutoring** 1674 N. Shoreline Blvd., Suite 136, Mountain View 650-822-4703 grayson@zenithtutoring.com www.zenithtutoring.com Zenith Tutoring holds in-person SAT preparation classes throughout the spring. The company also offers online classes, private tutoring and coaching through the college application process.

**FOR THE DANCER**

**Alberto’s Salsa Studio & Ultra Lounge** 736 W. Dana St., Mountain View 650-968-3007 clubalbertos@gmail.com www.clubalbertos.com Alberto’s holds lessons throughout the week for salsa (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays), bachata (Wednesdays) and tango (Sunday) styles of dancing for beginners and those more experienced.

**Bayer Ballet Academy** 2028 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View 650-988-9971 info@bayerballetacademy.com www.bayerballetacademy.com Bayer Ballet Academy is a school of Russian ballet that teaches the Vaganova method beginning with children at age 3. The academy offers a variety of classes to prepare students for the professional level, as well as adult classes that introduce or reintroduce participants to the art form.

**Cassand Ballet** 223 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View 650-861-0650 cassandballet@gmail.com www.cassandballet.org This ballet school and company follows the classical French tradition and teaches boys, girls, teenagers and adults starting at age 3.

**For the Love of Dance** 2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite B, Mountain View 650-861-0650 forthe love of dancedmv@gmail.com www.forthe love of dancedmv.com For the Love of Dance provides training in ballet, jazz, tap and other styles of dance. The family-owned studio teaches children and adults at all levels.

**L’Ecole de Danse** 740 Sierra Vista Ave., Unit G, Mountain View 650-365-4596 www.lecolededanse.net L’Ecole de Danse teaches a Cecchetti style of ballet, including creative dance and classes for various levels of experience. Classes are open to children starting around age 4, as well as adults.

**Modern line dancing**

with Julia Wetzel

Marti’s Dance Studio, 1140 Riverside Drive, Los Altos 650-938-3455 julialinedance@gmail.com www.julialinedance.com Julia Wetzel leads modern regular line dancing classes — both beginning and more advanced — set to popular music.

**Western Ballet**

914 N. Rengstorff Ave., Unit A, Mountain View 650-968-4455 info@westernballet.org www.westernballet.org Western Ballet holds ballet classes that draw from the Vaganova method and the modern, “open” classical method. Classes are available for teens and adults, as well as newcomers and those pursuing professional careers.

**The Lively School**

www.thelivelyschool.html The Lively School offers private and small group classes for adults in all levels of contemporary dance, ballet, yoga and meditation, as well as ballet and creative movement and storytelling classes for youngsters.

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**HEALTH & FITNESS**

Bikram Yoga Mountain View

1910 W. El Camino Real, Suite E, Mountain View
650-967-2968
info@bikramyogamountainview.com

bikramyogamountainview.com

Yoga is Youthfulness

Yoga is Youthfulness offers classes for students of all levels daily, including early in the morning and in the evenings. Classes teach ashtanga, iyengar, and vinyasa/hatha styles of yoga, among other subjects like prenatal yoga.

**JUST FOR SENIORS**

Mountain View Senior Center

266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View
650-903-6330

Senior.center@mountainview.gov

Mountain View Senior Center offers a wide array of classes exploring topics and activities such as art, music, language, dance and exercise. Jean Evins, a certified Feldenkrais practitioner, also teaches a regular course at the center.

**MIND AND SPIRIT**

Silicon Valley Shambhala Meditation Center

2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite 110, Mountain View
650-352-1499

svshambhala@yahoo.com

siliconvalley.shambhala.org

The Silicon Valley Shambhala Meditation Center holds regular practice meditation sessions each week. The center also organizes courses, retreats and contemplative art activities.

**MUSIC, ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Build It Again With Bricks

398 Main St., Los Altos
650-935-2166

www.builditagainwithbricks.com

The offerings of this store include after-school Lego classes at local schools, seasonal Lego camps, workshops, team-building exercises and birthday parties.

Community School of Music and Arts

Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View
650-917-6800

www.artsc4all.org

info@artsc4all.org

The Community School of Music (CSMA) offers classes year-round in music, visual and digital arts, with courses suited for adults and children as young as preschool-age. Financial assistance is available.

Custom Handweavers

2263 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View
650-967-0831

webemit@sbcglobal.net

www.customhandweavers.com

Ongoing classes, both day and evening sessions, are offered in weaving, knitting and spinning for beginner and intermediate students.

Peninsula Youth Theatre

2500 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View
650-988-8798

info@pytnet.org

www.pytnet.org

Peninsula Youth Theatre (PYT) offers drama classes in musical theater, comedic acting and other arts to children of various abilities and ages. It also puts on a variety of productions featuring youth at local venues.

Turnovos Fine Art Studio

823 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View
415-490-8925

www.turnovosfineart.com

The studio offers art classes in painting, drawing, ceramics and some metalworking. There will also be a spring camp from March 31 to April 15, for kids ages 5 and up.

West Valley Music

262 Castro St., Mountain View
650-961-1566

info@westvalleymusic.com

www.westvalleymusic.com

In addition to private lessons, West Valley Music teaches group classes for students with various abilities on piano, guitar, ukulele, violin, cello and brass and wind instruments. It also offers courses in music theory.

Yoga is Youthfulness

Yoga is Youthfulness offers classes for students of all levels daily, including early in the morning and in the evenings. Classes teach ashtanga, iyengar, and vinyasa/hatha styles of yoga, among other subjects like prenatal yoga.

**PARENTS ONLY**

Childbirth and parenting classes at El Camino Hospital

2500 Grant Road, Mountain View
650-940-7302

www.elcaminohospital.org/womens_health/pregnancy_childbirth

El Camino Hospital holds classes specifically for expecting mothers, mothers, their spouses and children. Subjects include childbirth preparation, breastfeeding preparation and infant safety. Support groups are also organized.

**SCHOOL DAYS**

Action Day Primary Plus

333 Eucine Ave., Mountain View
650-967-3780

mtnviewpc

ActionDayPrimaryPlus.com

www.actiondayprimaryplus.com

Action Day Primary Plus in Mountain View serves infants to children in kindergarten and their families. The facility is spacious and the curriculum focuses on social, physical and language developmental as well as positive self-concept and reading and math readiness.

Building Kidz

Building Kidz School

250 E. Dana St., Mountain View
650-967-8000

www.buildingkidzschool.com

Building Kidz School provides infant, preschool and kindergarten care and gives individual attention to kids.

German International School of Silicon Valley (GISV)

310 Easy St., Mountain View
650-903-0986

info@svycfel.com

www.ycis-sv.com

YICIS provides multicultural and bilingual (English and Mandarin Chinese) education to children from preschool to 5th grade, and a new middle school program will open for the 2015-16 school year. No prior Chinese experience is required.

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**

Mountain View-Los Altos Adult Education

333 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View
650-940-1333

adulted@mvla.net

www.mvla.net

The MV-LA Adult School offers paid classes and professional development opportunities in a variety of fields, including English language arts, math, music, computers, arts and crafts, and more. For more information, visit their website or contact them directly.

Mountain View Senior Center

650-254-0748

310 Easy St., Mountain View

www.buildingkidzschool.com

Mountain View Senior Center serves infants to high school students. The facilities are spacious and the curriculum includes musical theater, comedic acting and other arts to children of various abilities and ages. It also puts on a variety of productions featuring youth at local venues.

**SPRING CLASS GUIDE**

Continued from previous page

Mountain View Voice  MountainViewOnline.com  March 13, 2015

EMERSON SCHOOL

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• Thinking Skills & Personal Values
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2800 West Bayshore Rd., Palo Alto
650-424-1267
info@emersonpaloal.com

www.EmersonPaloAlto.com

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Child Development Centers

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• International Curriculum (Chinese, Spanish)
• Focus on Thinking Skills & Personal Values
• Cultivation of Gifts & Talents

2800 West Bayshore Rd., Palo Alto
650-424-1221
info@headsup.org

www.headsup.org

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Marketplace

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READ THE BACKSTORY

THE TROYER GROUP

650 • 440 • 5076
david@davidtroyer.com
davidtroyer.com
PALO ALTO  Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30  $3,498,000
2619 Cowper 4 BR 2.5 BA 4 yrs new; 4 BR + office, within walking
distance to all Midtown facilities.
Judy Shen  CalBRE #01272874  650.325.6161

LOS ALTOS  Sat/Sun 1 - 4  $2,498,000
454 Orange Ave 3 BR 2 BA Approx 1,465sq ft. on an approx 650sq ft.
Terri Couture/Trish Eby CalBRE #01099040, 01920615 650.941.7040

LOS ALTOS  Hidden Treasure!  $2,228,800
1716 Morton Ave 3 BR 2 BA A traditional ranch styl hm is adjoined
by a sep parcel of creekside property.
Kathryn Tomayo  CalBRE #00948257  650.941.7040

PALO ALTO  Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30  $1,895,000
990 Amarillo 5 BR 2 BA Well maintained Eichler near Greer Park.
Ready to move in!
Anne Wilson  CalBRE #001325803  650.941.7040

SUNNYVALE  Beautiful Updated Home  $1,548,000
104B Huckleberry Ct 4 BR 2 BA Sought after Cherry Chase
neighborhood. Top rated schools, bright, open flr plan; hardwood flrs
Cindy Mattison  CalBRE #01052018  650.941.7040

LOS ALTOS  Sophisticated Condo  $949,000
4388 El Camino Real #209 2 BR 2 BA Condo in upscale Peninsula
Real. Front “Great Room” incorporates LR, DR & Kit.
Dana Willson  CalBRE #01292552  650.941.7040

SAN JOSE  Sat/Sun 1 - 5  $1,198,800
538 Brooks Ave 5 BR 4 BA Complete remodel in 2013! Nothing but
the best! Gleaming floors, wonderful kitchen.
Aileen La Bouff  CalBRE #01392043  650.941.7040

SUNNYVALE  Beautiful Updated Home  $1,584,000
1048 Huckleberry Ct 4 BR 2 BA Sought after Cherry Chase
neighborhood. Top rated schools, bright, open flr plan; hardwood flrs
Cindy Mattison  CalBRE #01052018  650.941.7040

SAN JOSE  Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30  $698,000
1658 Salamoni Ct 3 BR 2.5 BA Beautifully remodeled 10 yrs new; 3 BR
remodeled home. Open flr plan. Great Location.
Clara Lee  CalBRE #01723333  650.325.6161

EAST PALO ALTO  Sat/Sun 1 - 4  $985,000
2881 Drew Ctr 3 BR 1 BA This unique lot meets the City’s
requirements for a detached 2nd dwelling unit.
Jane Jones  CalBRE #01847801  650.941.7040

Boulder Creek  Sun 1:30 - 4:30  $650,000
245 Sylvan Way 3 BR 2 BA Very convenient, off Hwy 9, close to
downtown Boulder Creek. Open flr plan, hardwood flrs.
Jamie Carmichael  CalBRE #01496996  650.941.7040

EAST PALO ALTO  Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30  $400,000
2291 Ramro Ave 2 BR 1 BA Charming 2br/1ba home w/ great flr
plan. Prime opportunity to renovate as is or expand.
Dan Ziony  CalBRE #01380339  650.325.6161

LOS ALTOS  Beautiful Updated Home  $1,584,000
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Dana Willson  CalBRE #01292552  650.941.7040

SUNNYVALE  Pulte Danbury Place Twinhm  $881,000
572 Loeve Ter 3 BR 2.5 BA Desirable Pulte Danbury Place. Open flr
plans. Gleaming wood flrs, high ceilings & more!
Aileen La Bouff  CalBRE #01392043  650.941.7040

EAST PALO ALTO  Sat/Sun 1:30 - 4:30  $500,000
2291 Ralmar Ave 2 BR 1 BA Charming 2bd/1ba home w/ great floor
plan. Prime opportunity to renovate as is or expand.
Dan Ziony  CalBRE #01380339  650.325.6161

LOS ALTOS  Hidden Treasure!  $2,228,800
1716 Morton Ave 3 BR 2 BA A traditional ranch styl hm is adjoined
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Kathryn Tomayo  CalBRE #00948257  650.941.7040

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